

Burnaby's Documentary Heritage

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF RECORD KEEPING AND REFLECTION

Young Burnaby

1911-1943



Second Municipal Hall, 1911.

Staff pose proudly on the steps of the newly completed hall, which marked Burnaby's transformation to a modern suburb.

(Burnaby Community Archives)



Official Opening Celebration of the Second Municipal Hall, 1911.

Past Reeves pose with invited guests and officials, and mascot "Indian boy".

(Burnaby Community Archives)



Burnaby Welcome Arch, 1912.

Burnaby proclaimed its civic identity when it constructed an arch to welcome the Duke of Connaught, Canada's Governor General, at Edmonds and Kingsway in 1912.

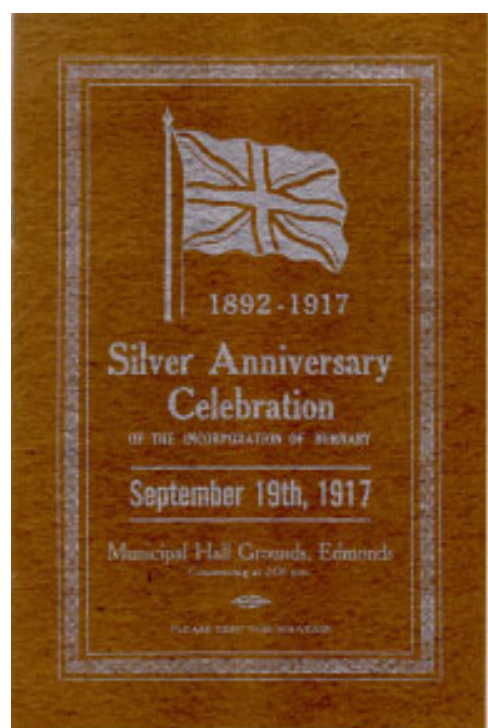
(Burnaby Community Archives)



Municipal election card for Hugh Fraser as Reeve, January 19, [ca. 1916].

Although printed in abundance as campaign literature, such cards rarely survive from this period. Curiously, this card was found in an unrelated file used as scrap paper.

(City of Burnaby Archives)



Booklet to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Burnaby's incorporation, 1917.

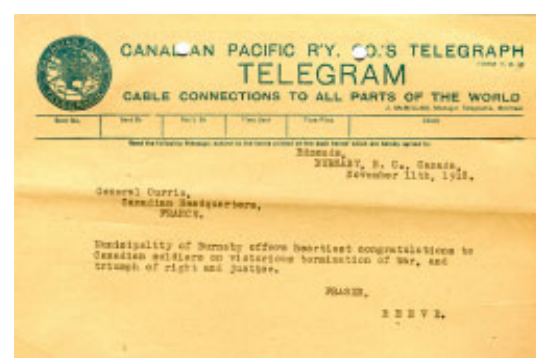
This documents Burnaby's early civic pride in reaching a milestone anniversary. The program of events includes a tug of war between West Burnaby and Edmonds, three-legged races, and a Grand Ball held in the Public Hall.

(City of Burnaby Archives)

In the years that marked the initial growth of the municipality, its character changed from a sparsely settled agricultural district to a complex municipality that realized tremendous residential, industrial and commercial development. The expansion of the administrative structure for the municipality mirrored this change, as Council directed the growth of departments and the addition of Council Committees to serve the interests and needs of the community.

The volume of Burnaby's records during this period reflected these changes. By 1911, a second municipal hall was constructed adjacent to the first hall at Kingsway and Edmonds. Not only did the new building provide additional space for Burnaby's growing staff, but it also provided the records with greater protection against fire through its concrete and brick construction and vaults.

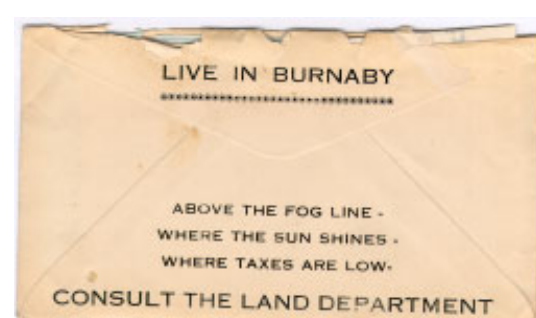
The Great Depression marked a significant change in the business of the municipality. In 1932, when Burnaby faced financial crisis, the Provincial Government took control of the municipality's affairs by replacing an elected Council with an appointed Commissioner. As a result, the minutes and records created by Commissioners between 1932 and 1943 do not reflect the local political and community voices during this period.



Telegram, November 11, 1918.

Sent by Council to General Currie at the Canadian Headquarters in France to congratulate soldiers on the end of the Great War.

(City of Burnaby Archives)



Municipal envelope, 1926.

Burnaby used every opportunity to promote itself as the ideal suburb in the years following World War I in order to sell its surplus land and boost the municipal tax base.

(City of Burnaby Archives)



View of Burnaby, 1936.

This view taken from Douglas Road, now Canada Way, and Stanley Street overlooking Burnaby Lake reveals the suburban yet sparsely settled nature of Burnaby.

(Burnaby Village Museum)