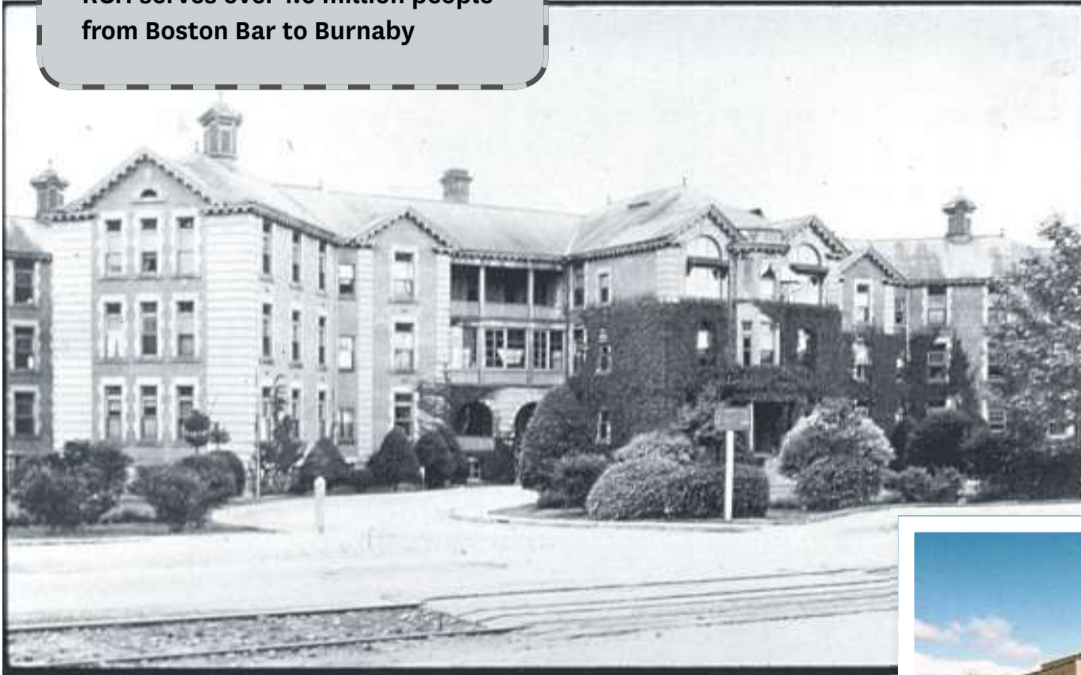


# RCH Royal Columbian Hospital

*Did You Know?*

• RCH serves over 1.6 million people from Boston Bar to Burnaby



Royal Columbian Hospital "1912 Building"  
Source: New Westminster Public Library NWPL 3437

Royal Columbian Hospital 2012  
Source: RCH Foundation



# 150

## REASONS TO GIVE

*Helping Since 1862*

All content supplied by Dale & Archie Miller, A Sense of History Research Services Inc.

## Royal Columbian Hospital

# 150 Years of excellence in care and caring

THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT of the Board of Management of the Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) in 1863 makes clear that it was to be "open to all deserving patients and free from all denominational influences". The Board of Management was elected at a public meeting on February 12, 1862 and immediately set about raising enough money to construct a building. They secured land from the Government, invited tenders based on plans prepared by Royal

Engineers, and awarded the contract for the first public hospital on the mainland of British Columbia, a building the report described as "a monument of the indomitable energy and determination of British Columbians to accomplish a noble and munificent enterprise."

Royal Columbian Hospital is now a provincial and regional referral hospital providing specialized care for trauma, cardiac services, neurosciences, high-risk maternity and neonatal intensive care for more than 1.6 million people from Fraser Health, the Lower Mainland and across the province. It has about 65,000 Emergency Department visits each year – more than 30 times the population of the entire colony when RCH began 150 years ago.

From that small gabled building on a muddy hillside in 1862, to a much larger structure looking out over the Fraser in 1889, to the hugely expanded Sapperton structure of 1912, to the modern

buildings of the current day, and into the exciting but yet unknown future, the story of excellence of care remains constant.

And one other aspect remains unchanged. When Adrienne Bakker, President and CEO of the RCH Foundation said of the opening of the Multipurpose Interventional Suite last month, "This partnership... demonstrates the power of donors to advance health care", she was echoing the words of Arthur T. Bushby, Hon. Secretary of the first RCH Board of Management in 1863 when he said, "it now remains for the public to devise some means for the maintenance and support of the hospital."

There can be no doubt about the importance of the deep commitment of the hospital to its community, or of the community to the hospital. It was there in 1862; it is there in 2012; it must be there in the future. 🏥



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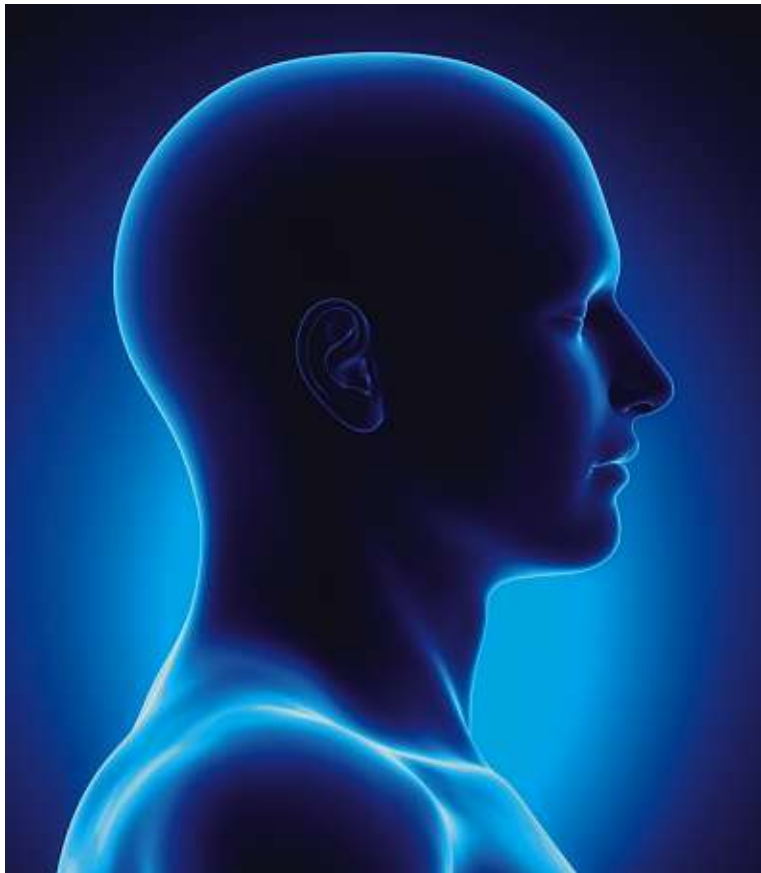
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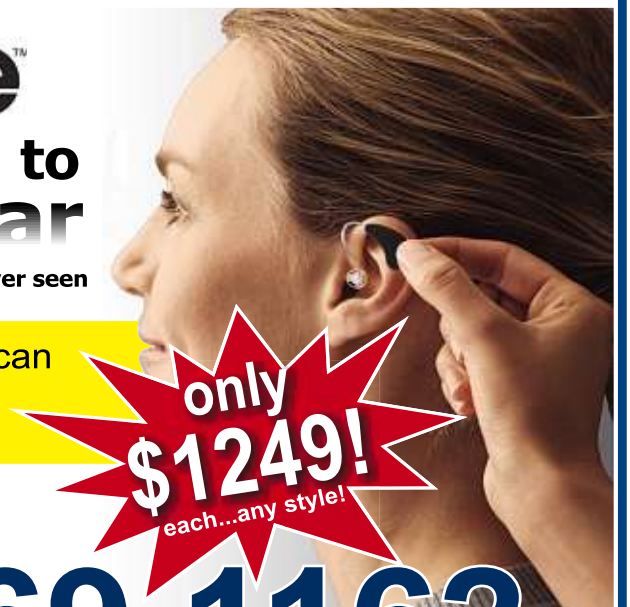
Research shows that treating hearing loss with hearing aids can help lessen common Alzheimer's symptoms, including depression, disorientation, anxiety, social isolation and general cognitive decline.



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# Royal Columbian Hospital Auxiliary

## Continuing to serve

**IN 1902**, one year after Royal Columbian Hospital was incorporated with the Women's Hospital, a Women's Auxiliary was formed to provide funds, supplies and equipment for staff and patients of RCH.

Over the next two decades, they held a variety of events and fund-raising campaigns. In 1920 the auxiliary held a 'measuring tea' at the home of Mrs. T.L. Briggs, and realized \$75. The following year they raised \$450 through tag collections. In 1922, the newspaper reported "between 90 and 100 patients at RCH will receive tasteful little boxes packed with candies and fruit on Christmas morning from the women's auxiliary to the hospital. Mrs. Wells A. Gray thanks the public for its generous donation of the candies and fruit."

In November 1925, a group of about 14 girls and young women gathered together in an effort to make student nurses a little more comfortable, especially in hours off duty and at evening study. As the Women's Auxiliary had recently stopped their work, they decided to call themselves the Girls' Auxiliary to the Royal Columbian Hospital. Officers were appointed and plans made to raise money. They soon took on the furnishing of the lounge and sitting room of the new nurses' home as well as the lounge in the probationers' home.

The local newspaper reported on some of their activities in 1932 - "Babies and Books" were the chief concerns of the auxiliary at the present moment. The nursery at the Royal Columbian Hospital was to be remodelled and renovated and tenders for the work had already been called; four dozen crib covers had been completed; a show case displaying baby garments for sale had been placed in the maternity ward and money derived from this source would go to the nursery fund. The auxiliary's library committee had been conducting a drive for books and as a result over five hundred volumes had been gathered, repaired, catalogued and would be ready for



In 1951 members of the Auxiliary visited the nursery they had completely furnished in the new wing of the Royal Columbian Hospital. The \$5,000 for the work was raised at their annual Country Fair. The group also used part of its funds to supply a Christmas gift for every patient in the hospital.

Source: The British Columbian, 1951

New members of RCH Auxiliary in 1951 are learning about their duties as members. The Auxiliary has a standing membership of 80. New members are invited to join in October and February of each year if there are vacancies.

Source: The British Columbian, Oct 13, 1951

circulation among the patients in the next weeks.

In time the work of the children's ward was taken over by the junior auxiliary (Ro-Co-Ho) which was formed with that thought in mind. The senior auxiliary in the 1940s dropped the word "girls;" from its title, becoming simply the Royal Columbian Hospital Auxiliary.

Country Fairs were the primary fund-raising events held by the Auxiliary from 1943 to 1969. In 1961, the Vancouver Sun advertised the Auxiliary's Country Fair saying "the doors of the oldest market building on the lower mainland will swing open at 7 pm. There



will be stalls of home cooking, candy, knitting, sewing, appealing gingham and felt animals, ideal for Christmas giving, dolls' clothes, superfluities, handmade novelties and, of course, items for Christmas decorating. There will be refreshments galore and a party atmosphere for every member of the family at this 16th annual event. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of a deep X-ray therapy machine for the cancer treatment department of the hospital." The fair raised \$7,334.

The Royal Columbian Auxiliary now has about 124 members, still dedicated to making life easier and safer for staff and patients

Continued on page 4 ...

**150**  
REASONS TO GIVE

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... Continued from page 3

## RCH auxiliary

of Royal Columbian Hospital. They work in the gift shop, bring the shopping cart throughout the hospital, sell lottery tickets, support visitors to the critical care ward, and make crafts to sell, or work with the off-site "new to you" thrift shop. The money that the auxiliary raises all goes back to the hospital.

In 2008, the Auxiliary raised and donated \$232,000 to the hospital for various pieces of equipment, while in March 2011, they donated \$100,000 in support of RCH Foundation's campaign to fund a second digital breast imaging machine at RCH to help reduce wait times for breast cancer diagnoses.

After 110 years, the Royal Columbian Hospital Auxiliary, the strongest and most loyal supporter of RCH from its beginning, continues to serve, providing comfort and critically needed equipment to both patients and staff. 📷



Annual RCH Auxiliary's June luncheon 2012. The Auxiliary has 124 members; 30 of whom are 'life members', each with over 25 years' service to the Auxiliary. New members are always welcome. Since 1976, the RCH Auxiliary has raised \$4.1 million for Royal Columbian Hospital.  
Source: RCH Foundation

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*Did You Know?*

- The 1912 RCH operating room was heated by an open fireplace and occasionally discharged soot and ashes into the OR.
- The nursing staff at RCH in 1903 consisted of a superintendent of nurses, two head nurses, and eight pupil nurses.
- 82% of patients cared for at RCH come from outside of New Westminister.
- During the Depression, unemployed patients who could not pay, worked on the grounds to settle their RCH bills.

Congratulations to  
the **Royal Columbian Hospital**  
on their

*150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

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# 150 years strong

FOR AS LONG AS RCH has been standing, from the first little house built on the hill with 30 beds, to the hospital it is today with 410 beds, we have been fund raising.



In 1861, even before the hospital was built, the Royal Engineers held an evening of "Theatrical Entertainment" that raised almost \$150 towards the construction costs. The following year, in early 1862, more than \$600 was raised in just under an hour by the people in Lillooet who recognized that the proposed hospital would serve the entire mainland colony.

Over the years, people have supported RCH with money, time and in-kind donations. In its first year, RCH, needing lint and flannel, put out a call for old clothes – and the entire local community responded with whatever gently used clothing they had.

Today, RCH Foundation is an independent charitable organization that raises millions of dollars each year to fund major projects, priority equipment needs, facility enhancements, research and education at RCH. In the last ten years we have raised more than \$35 million dollars, thanks to the support of our generous donors and sponsors.

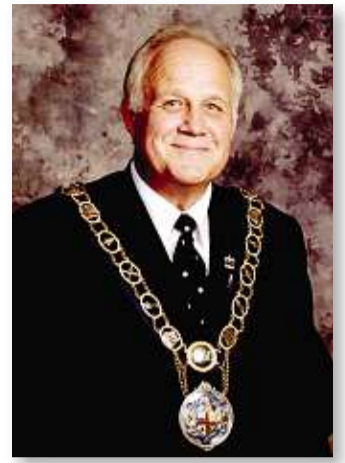
As we move forward we look towards an expansion and redevelopment that will enable RCH to meet the burgeoning needs of the population we serve and to ensure best medical care for the future.

*Adrienne Bakker*  
Adrienne Bakker  
CEO and President,  
Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation

## Did You Know?

- 10,000 trauma patients are treated at RCH each year.
- Every year, an average of 3,000 babies are born at RCH.
- RCH was declared by the provincial government to be a regional hospital in 1964.
- A new heliport at RCH became fully functional at RCH in 2003. Before the helipad, air ambulances landed at Sapperton Park across from the hospital.
- 37% of trauma patients in B.C. are cared for at RCH.
- The original 1862 RCH had one portable bath and all water was obtained from a well on the hospital grounds.
- More than 800 open-heart operations are performed annually.
- There are 5,100 heart catheterizations performed each year at RCH.
- It took a 90-ton crane to hoist the 22,000 lb MRI magnet into position when the MRI service began in 1996.

# Mayor's message



ON BEHALF OF City Council and all residents of New Westminster, I am very pleased to extend congratulations and thanks to the Board of Directors, management and staff of Royal Columbian Hospital as you celebrate 150 years of exceptional health care service to our community, our region and our province.

New Westminster is proud to have Royal Columbian in our midst and the outstanding reputation that RCH has earned through the high level of care, service and compassion that staff provide on a daily basis is well deserved.

I would like to also acknowledge the many contributions of generous donors and volunteers over the years that have enabled Royal Columbian Hospital to do what it does best, provide the very best in care for people whenever needed.

Happy 150th anniversary!

Sincerely,  
*Wayne Wright*  
Wayne Wright  
MAYOR

# 150 REASONS TO GIVE



ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL

## Thank you

to RCH staff, past and present,  
for providing excellence in health care  
to the citizens of New Westminster  
for 150 years.



# Thank You RCH for 150 Years of Caring Service to Our Communities



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**Thank you Royal Columbian Hospital for providing excellent care for 150 years!**



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# Nursing throughout the years at RCH

## An evolution in health care

IT IS TEMPTING to view the world of health care in the early days of RCH as 'primitive'. But Lavinia Dock, a pioneer leader in nursing, very astutely pointed out in an article in the American Journal of Nursing in 1950, "It is a mistake to think of the early years

in nursing as a contrast to the present. They were simply the beginning of an evolutionary movement, just as a seed is the beginning of a tree."

When RCH opened in 1862, there were no nurses at all. The staff consisted of a steward, his wife, and a doctor who visited the hospital daily. If more help was needed, a man in the community



▲ RCH Class of 1906.  
 Source: RCH Nurses Alumnae

### Did You Know?

• RCH admitted 19 patients in 1862; now it admits more than 23,000 to Acute Care.

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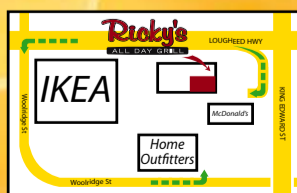
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## Congratulations!

**Royal Columbian Hospital  
 on celebrating  
 150 years**



RCH Nursing uniforms throughout its history. Source: RCH Nurses Alumnae

was hired to feed and care for the patients. If they were lucky he might have had some medical experience as a medic during a war, but that was not always the case.

By the first decade of the 20th century, there were many nursing training schools in Canada. They were under the sole control of the hospital and the students were an economic asset rather than an educational responsibility. This was an apprenticeship type of training and the students were the main work force for the nursing service of the hospital. When RCH opened its nursing school in 1901, it was the fourth hospital in BC to do so, after Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria in 1891,

Vancouver City Hospital (now Vancouver General) in 1899, and St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria in 1900.

Ethel S. Cunningham was the first RCH nursing graduate in 1903. She joined the staff of RCH as Head Nurse in the operating room. That year there was a superintendent of nurses, 2 head nurses and 8 pupil nurses. Nursing care has evolved immeasurably since the early 1900s. Esther Paulson, a 1928 RCH grad described the physical labour required in her day. "The public wards had 16 beds – eight down each side and sometimes extra beds were placed down the middle. Then it was an ordeal to manipulate those monsters, the mobile screens, which

became entangled in the wheels of the beds and the folding wings of the screen flapped about like a tent in the wind.

"There were no pre-packaged supplies and instant products, so all the dressings, swabs, plaster bandages were made – by us – from stock materials. Despite the physical inconveniences and absence of labour-saving devices, there was heroic nursing done.

"Many patients with fractured limbs and injuries came from the logging camps and sawmills along the river and streptococcal infection was a common complication. Students were known to relinquish their hours off duty and even the precious half-day

in order to keep up the unrelenting schedule of hot fomentations and arm baths to prevent the loss of a finger, a hand or even an arm."

Basic nursing education was transferred from hospitals to educational institutions in the late 1970s, followed by more specialized education to keep pace with the increasingly specialized care required. From the beginning of the 20th century, there has been a growing recognition of nurses as professionals, capable of acting on their own as well as in partnership with doctors and the entire community of care, leading to today's nurse practitioners working in primary health-care settings, including public health offices, medical clinics, residential care or other community settings.

## 150 REASONS TO GIVE

*Did You Know?*

- RCH serves over 1.6 million people from Boston Bar to Burnaby
- Microfilm processing of old medical records at RCH was introduced in 1961.
- RCH is a regional referral centre for orthopaedics, high-risk maternity and advanced kidney care.
- RCH receives more trauma patients by Air Ambulance than any other hospital in B.C.
- RCH's 3,000 sq. ft Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit is double the size of the previous one.
- In 2010, RCH received a new 256-slice CT Scanner, requiring only a fraction of the radiation dose required by the previous generation of scanners.

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# In the early years

## Providing help to those in need

WHEN THE RCH OPENED ITS DOORS in 1862, medical treatment was relatively primitive. Physicians had a good understanding of anatomy and recognized the symptoms of most of the diseases, plagues and fevers of their day. They didn't know what caused most of them or how to prevent them, and had very few tools to work with to effect a cure.

Louis Pasteur had just published a paper on the revolutionary germ theory of disease the previous year. It would be another three years before Lister would introduce the concept of antiseptic surgery, and there were recurring epidemics of cholera, scarlet fever, smallpox, typhoid fever, typhus and yellow fever throughout the world.

Rates of infant mortality and death in childbirth were high, and amputations were common using ether or chloroform for anaesthesia. Dr. Ehrlich's cure for syphilis was a long way off and there were no antibiotics.

Patients at RCH in those early years were miners, loggers, teamsters, sailors, a few clerks - men on their own in the new colony. They suffered from frostbite, erysipelas, delirium tremens, paresis, typhoid fever and the three stages of syphilis, among the various diagnoses entered in the doctors' notes. Both men and women with family or friends to care for them were treated at home. In Victorian times, hospitals were intended for "the indigent", not for



those who could pay for care. Women and children were not "excluded" - they do appear in the case notes on rare occasions - they were, however, almost always treated at home, not in the hospital.

Treatment was bed rest, usually for weeks or months, a prescribed diet (usually plenty of meat and vegetables), and various medicinal prescriptions made up at the hospital pharmacy. Brandy, gin, whisky and port wine were routinely administered as painkillers. Lead compounds, taken internally and externally, were the standard treatment for erysipelas and syphilis.

"Discharged cured, discharged relieved, discharged dead." The doctor scribbled one of these terse statements at the end of each case. In reality there wasn't too much they could do for patients. Warmth, rest, good food and the healing power of nature did as much as anything else to restore men to health. The early Royal Columbian Hospital gave them all this and, in the process, undoubtedly saved many lives that would otherwise have been lost. 📷

**150** REASONS TO GIVE


*Helping Since 1862*

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# RCH - a look back in time

## A select timeline

- 1862** - RCH opens at Agnes & Clement (now 4th) St., New Westminster with 30 beds
- 1889** - New RCH built in Sapperton with 80 beds & a separate ward for female patients.
- 1901** - RCH incorporated with Women's Hospital & opens Nursing School
- 1902** - RCH Auxiliary begins; maternity cottage opens
- 1912** - Cornerstone laid for new building to house 170 patients
- 1914** - New hospital opens on E. Columbia in Sapperton
- 1918** - Military wing opens
- 1950** - 1950 wing built; first resident doctors
- 1952** - Emergency department becomes busiest in province with 1,000 visits per month
- 1962** - RCH Centennial Nursing School opens
- 1964** - RCH declared a regional hospital
- 1965** - New 20-bed ER, 20-bed Short Stay Unit and Intensive Nursing Care units open
- 1968** - Trauma unit opens; electro-encephalograph lab opens
- 1972** - Renal unit opens
- 1975** - Nuclear medicine department opens
- 1978** - Health Care Centre opens with ICU, CCU, NICU, and Renal Dialysis units
- 1979** - Palliative care unit opens
- 1981** - Psychiatric unit opens
- 1988** - Current ER officially opens; Special Care Nursery opens
- 1992** - Columbia Tower replaces 1950 building; 5 nursing floors, 300 beds
- 1995** - Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility opens
- 2006** - New Renal centre opens centralizing services
- 2007** - New ICU replaces 1965 unit
- 2008** - Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit opens
- 2012** - Multipurpose Interventional Suite opens



This is the 1889 version of the Royal Columbian Hospital in Sapperton on the property that remains the hospital's home to this day. The land it was built upon afforded a view of the river and, when clear, out to the mountains of the valley, Golden Ears and Mount Baker. In the photograph's foreground are streetcar tracks from the early transit system. This was an important feature for the hospital as it meant that the institution was easily accessible from the other parts of the City as well as from places further afield such as Burnaby and Vancouver. The road in front was vital as well: Columbia Street.  
Source: New Westminster Public Library NWPL 155



New Westminster as it appeared with its 1862 Royal Columbian Hospital (twin gabled structure left of centre) at the corner of Agnes Street at Clement Street (4th St). The hillside is quite rugged with lots of trees down, many holes, water on the ground and plenty of mud. The business part of the city at this time was centred along a short stretch of Columbia Street and up and downstream along the waterfront from that central area. Homes of various types and sizes spread out up and across the hill. Also prominent on the hill in this mid 1860s photograph is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (today a church hall for Emmanuel Pentecostal) and the home of Captain William Irving (today's Irving House).  
Source: New Westminster Public Library, Closeup of NWPL 279

*Did You Know?*

- In the late 1800s, several churches held an annual "Hospital Sunday" during which all collections were donated to the hospital.

**150**  
REASONS TO GIVE



## Landmark Cinemas 10 New Westminster

# Congratulations

## Royal Columbian Hospital

# 150<sup>th</sup>

You have given us **more than 150 reasons** to be proud to be your new neighbour.

# The first RCH building

## Starting with the basics

**THE ORIGINAL ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL** was on Agnes Street at the corner of Clement (now 4th St.) in New Westminster.

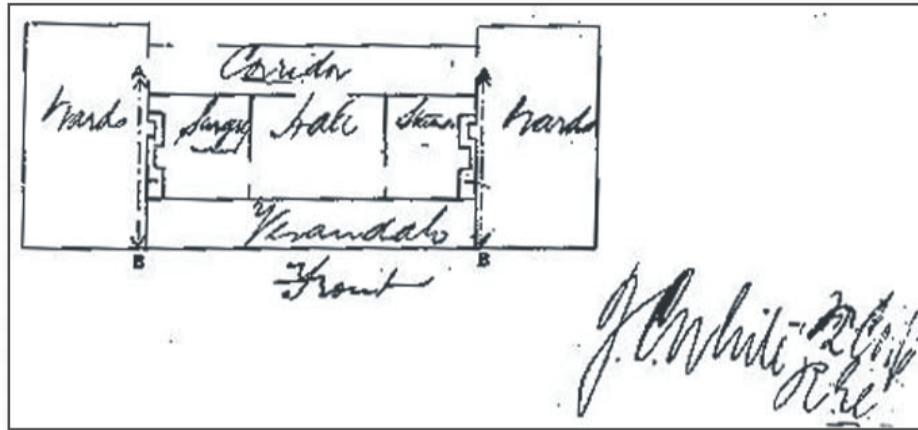
The whitewashed weatherboard structure had two 15-bed wards on either side of the building with a steward's room, center hall and surgery between them. A corridor at the rear joined the two wards and a veranda graced the front of the building. The plan drawn up by J.C. White of the Royal Engineers has the chilling notation, "Brick-hogged partition in both wards so as to keep out the sounds from the surgery, also Steward's room as marked on Plan."

There was one portable bath, and water for washing and all other purposes came from a well on the hospital grounds. Total cost for the hospital was \$3,396. Another \$495 was spent on fencing and painting, while furniture cost \$312.52.

When the Royal Engineers disbanded in 1863, Governor Douglas allowed RCH to take the furniture, bedding and supplies from the military hospital at the Camp. Colonel Moody, the Commanding Officer, also gave the hospital a "large and valuable bath with pipes and fittings" which we assume had been used at his residence.

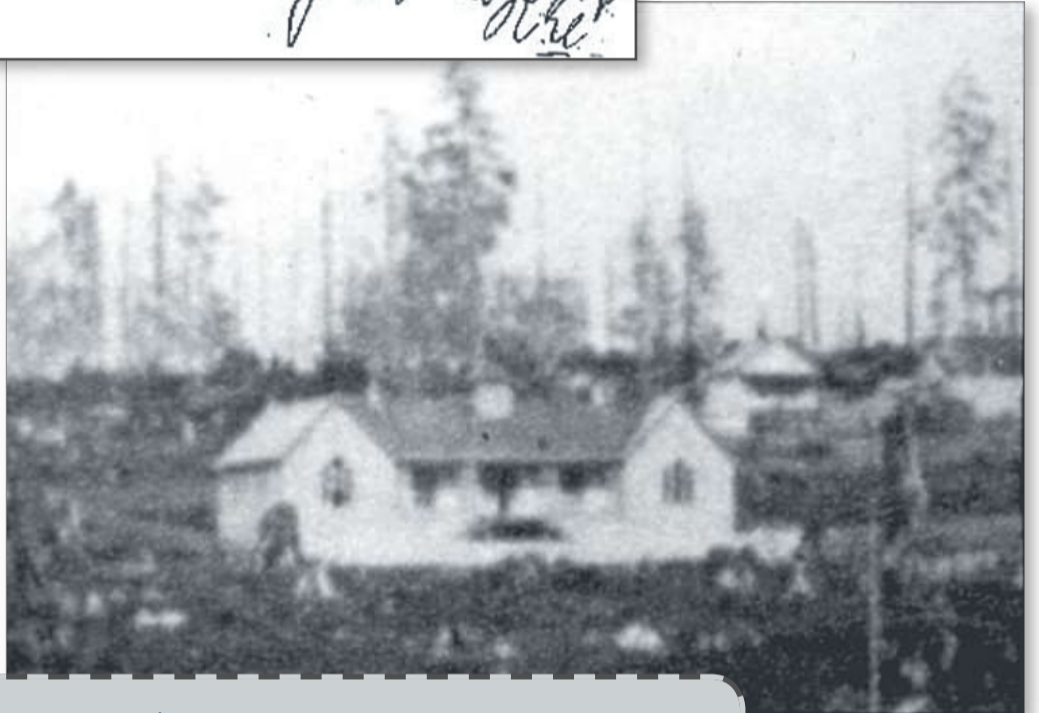
Due to the outbreak of a smallpox epidemic in the spring of 1862 a temporary structure was built for \$170, but the hospital "proper" was not completed until September of that year. Dr. Macnaughton Jones was appointed medical officer and all applications for admission to the hospital were to be addressed to him.

Even by the standards of the day, the hospital was pretty basic, but the colony finally had what the first Annual Report described as "a monument to the indomitable energy and determination of British Columbians to accomplish a noble and munificent enterprise".



Plan for Royal Columbian Hospital drawn by J.C. White, R.E.  
Source: RCH Foundation

The first Royal Columbian Hospital.  
Source: RCH Foundation



### Did You Know?

- Dr. Jones, the first Medical Officer for RCH was paid \$100 a year - when the hospital could afford to pay it.

- RCH has a medical staff of more than 700 physicians and 4,000 employees

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OR  
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2

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| SATURDAY                          | SUNDAY                            | MONDAY                            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8:00 am                           | 8:00 am                           | 8:00 am                           |
| 10:30 am                          | 10:30 am                          | 10:30 am                          |
| *12:30 pm<br>*Beginner's Friendly | *12:30 pm<br>*Beginner's Friendly | *12:30 pm<br>*Beginner's Friendly |
| 3:45 pm                           | 3:45 pm                           | 3:45 pm                           |
| 5:45 pm                           | 5:45 pm                           | 5:45 pm                           |

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## Congratulations Royal Columbian Hospital on serving 150 years



RCH, 1912 wing (1947 postcard), NWPL Historical Photograph #3174

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# Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to our friends at Royal Columbian Hospital



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