

## New Westminster's Neighbourhoods: Developing Historical Contexts



The City of New Westminster is in the process of conducting a neighborhood-by-neighborhood recording of its past history and heritage, noting what citizens value about of their neighbourhoods as they exist today, and listing places (such as buildings, sites, structures, objects, landscapes or districts) that are important.

The resulting Neighbourhood Historical Contexts are to be used by the City to assist with planning the future of the neighbourhoods, providing direction for evaluating and protecting significant heritage places. This includes the selection of historic and cultural sites for nomination to the Community Heritage Register. It also includes the ability to sustain the area's rich diversity of intangible cultural heritage, such as stories, festivals, celebrations, arts, sports, and other valued forms of expression and community-building.

### What is a Historical Context?

A neighbourhood historical context statement is comprised of a general history of that neighbourhood, a chronology of its noteworthy cultural, social and physically formative events, and a list of valued places, organized according to a thematic framework.

### What is a Thematic Framework?

Historic themes situate a site historically in place and time. They are ideas about a place that unite a variety of actions, events, functions, people, place and time. They are ways of describing the major forces or processes that have contributed to the history of the place. A framework of themes can help develop a broad range of resources that tell the full story of a place.

### How can residents help?

It is important to understand how a neighbourhood is valued by its own residents and visitors – the local experts about the place, and the group most concerned about caring for its future. In order to get at the issue of what is valued, the following questions are put to the neighbourhood community themselves:

- What is McBride-Sapperton's heritage? Why is it important?
- What words best describe McBride-Sapperton?
- What do you particularly value about the McBride-Sapperton neighbourhood?
- What are some of the important features of McBride-Sapperton?
- Why are they important? Where are they located?
- What are some of the big stories or historical themes of the neighbourhood?
- Do you have any concerns about changes to the neighbourhood?