



Interview with John Kirbyson by Kathy Bossort September 28, 2015 - Track 5

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory560>

Repository:	City of Burnaby Archives
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about John Kirbyson's description of how the 1995 agreement to transfer land from SFU to the City of Burnaby impacted the Parks Dept. He talks about the issues addressed in developing the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan and the limited knowledge about Burnaby Mountain's natural resources.
Date Range:	1995-2005
Length:	0:08:49
Name:	Simon Fraser University Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department
Subject:	Geographic Features - Parks Planning
Geographic Access:	Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area
Interviewer:	Bossort, Kathy
Interview Date:	September 28, 2015
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with John Kirbyson conducted by Kathy Bossort. John Kirbyson was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about John Kirbyson's education and career as parks planner for the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and the development of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan. The interview explores how parks management balances environmental and recreational values and safety, and the importance of good guidelines and public input in the parks planning process. John Kirbyson also talks about recreational activities and various developments on Burnaby Mountain in the 1990s, such as the Kamui Mintara sculptures.
Biographical Notes:	John Kirbyson was born in Vancouver in 1954, to Arnold and Winnifred Kirbyson. After several years spent in Winnipeg and Calgary, the Kirbyson family moved to Hunter Street in Burnaby in 1969 where John remembers living near the City's nursery. John earned his BSc degree at SFU in Physical Geography (1973-1978) and then worked for the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services between 1978 and 2005, where he moved from labourer to management positions. Supported by the City, he returned to SFU to earn his Masters degree in the School of Resource and Environment Management in 1991, his thesis being on restoration of Deer Lake. He was Manager of Parks Planning, Design and Development in the 1990s at the time that land on Burnaby Mountain was transferred from SFU to the City of Burnaby, and had the opportunity to direct the development of the first management plan for the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. From 2005 to 2010 John was Manager of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Dept. in Penticton, after which he has worked as an environmental consultant for Lees & Associates Landscape Architects and Planners. He is married to wife Linda and has three children: Linnaea, Jeremy and Colin.
Total Tracks:	7
Total Length:	1:33:43
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	Kirbyson, John W.
Interview Location:	John Kirbyson's son's home in Langley
Interviewer Bio:	Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.
Collection/Fonds:	Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds
Series:	Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series
Item No.:	MSS196-002_Track_5

Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track five of interview with John Kirbyson](#)



Interview with John Kirbyson by Kathy Bossort September 28, 2015 - Track 7

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory562>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview is about John Kirbyson's beliefs about the value of public input, broad vision statements, and principles in guiding parks planning and management. He talks about the meaning of conservation and the idea of the traditional landmark character of Burnaby Mountain, and changing public perception about the mountain.

Date Range: 1974-2015

Length: 0:18:37

Name: [Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area](#)
[Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department](#)

Subject: [Geographic Features - Parks Planning](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain](#)
[Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area](#)

Interviewer: [Bossort, Kathy](#)

Interview Date: September 28, 2015

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with John Kirbyson conducted by Kathy Bossort. John Kirbyson was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about John Kirbyson's education and career as parks planner for the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and the development of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan. The interview explores how parks management balances environmental and recreational values and safety, and the importance of good guidelines and public input in the parks planning process. John Kirbyson also talks about recreational activities and various developments on Burnaby Mountain in the 1990s, such as the Kamui Mintara sculptures.

Biographical Notes: John Kirbyson was born in Vancouver in 1954, to Arnold and Winnifred Kirbyson. After several years spent in Winnipeg and Calgary, the Kirbyson family moved to Hunter Street in Burnaby in 1969 where John remembers living near the City's nursery. John earned his BSc degree at SFU in Physical Geography (1973-1978) and then worked for the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services between 1978 and 2005, where he moved from labourer to management positions. Supported by the City, he returned to SFU to earn his Masters degree in the School of Resource and Environment Management in 1991, his thesis being on restoration of Deer Lake. He was Manager of Parks Planning, Design and Development in the 1990s at the time that land on Burnaby Mountain was transferred from SFU to the City of Burnaby, and had the opportunity to direct the development of the first management plan for the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. From 2005 to 2010 John was Manager of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Dept. in Penticton, after which he has worked as an environmental consultant for Lees & Associates Landscape Architects and Planners. He is married to wife Linda and has three children: Linnaea, Jeremy and Colin.

Total Tracks: 7

Total Length: 1:33:43

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Kirbyson, John W.](#)

Interview Location: [John Kirbyson's son's home in Langley](#)

Interviewer Bio: Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.

Collection/Fonds: [Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds](#)

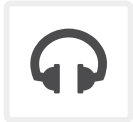
Series: [Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series](#)

Item No.: MSS196-002_Track_7

Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track seven of interview with John Kirbyson](#)



Interview with Henry de Jong by Kathy Bossort November 6, 2015 - Track 1

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory609>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview is about Henry deJong's 25 year career with the City of Burnaby's Park, Recreation and Cultural Services, and a discussion of off trail park use on Burnaby Mountain, including tobogganing and geocaching.

Date Range: 1954-2015

Length: 0:09:56

Name: [Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department](#)
[Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area](#)

Subject: [Education](#)
[Geographic Features - Parks](#)
[Recreational Activities](#)
[Regulations](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain](#)
[Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Park](#)
[Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area](#)

Interviewer: [Bossort, Kathy](#)

Interview Date: November 6, 2015

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with Henry deJong conducted by Kathy Bossort. Henry deJong was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about Henry deJong's work designing, developing and maintaining trails in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area as Park Design Technician for the City of Burnaby's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. He provides a history of trail development after the transfer of SFU land to Burnaby and the creation of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Plan. He also talks about monitoring and managing the forest environment, rehabilitating damaged areas, working with park users and stakeholders, and his favourite trails.

Biographical Notes:	Henry G. deJong was born 1954 in Newmarket, Ontario, to Harmen and Griet deJong. He came west to enjoy outdoor recreation in BC and lived in Smithers for several years before marrying and moving to the Vancouver area, where he obtained a diploma in landscape design & horticulture from BCIT. Henry began working for the City of Burnaby in the Engineering Department in 1985, moving to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services in 1990, and currently has the position of Park Design Technician. His focus on trail design and construction on Burnaby Mountain began in 2000 after the development of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Plan. Henry lived in Burnaby for about 8 years in the Capital Hill and Edmonds area between 1983 and 1995 before moving to Cloverdale in Surrey. He belongs to the BC Mountaineering Club, the Willoughby Community Church and is a Boys Club volunteer.
Total Tracks:	7
Total Length:	1:22:41
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	deJong, Henry G.
Interview Location:	City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services meeting room
Interviewer Bio:	Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.
Collection/Fonds:	Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds
Series:	Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series
Item No.:	MSS196-009_Track_1
Media Type:	Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track one of interview with Henry deJong](#)



Interview with Henry deJong by Kathy Bossort November 6, 2015 - Track 2

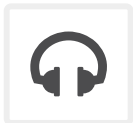
<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory610>

Repository:	City of Burnaby Archives
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Henry deJong's explanation of how the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Plan guides work priorities in the conservation area. He gives a history of trail development since 2000, and describes how new trails are developed. He talks about discovering fish in a tributary of Stoney Creek and closing trails to protect the area.
Date Range:	1995-2015
Length:	0:16:30
Name:	Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area
Subject:	Geographic Features - Parks Geographic Features - Trails Recreational Activities Planning
Geographic Access:	Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Park Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area
Interviewer:	Bossort, Kathy
Interview Date:	November 6, 2015

Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Henry deJong conducted by Kathy Bossort. Henry deJong was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about Henry deJong's work designing, developing and maintaining trails in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area as Park Design Technician for the City of Burnaby's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. He provides a history of trail development after the transfer of SFU land to Burnaby and the creation of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Plan. He also talks about monitoring and managing the forest environment, rehabilitating damaged areas, working with park users and stakeholders, and his favourite trails.
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Total Tracks:	7
Total Length:	1:22:41
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	deJong, Henry G.
Interview Location:	City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services meeting room
Interviewer Bio:	Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.
Collection/Fonds:	Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds
Series:	Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series
Item No.:	MSS196-009_Track_2
Media Type:	Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track two of interview with Henry deJong](#)



Interview with Henry deJong by Kathy Bossort November 6, 2015 - Track 4

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory612>

Repository:	City of Burnaby Archives
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Henry deJong's description of construction of the Velodrome Trail, how trails are named, approaches to balancing user demands with what is best for park ecology, and how trail design provides recreational value and decreases visitor impact.
Date Range:	2000-2015
Length:	0:12:00
Name:	Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department

Subject: [Geographic Features - Parks](#)
[Geographic Features - Trails](#)
[Recreational Activities](#)
[Planning](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain](#)
[Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area](#)

Interviewer: [Bossort, Kathy](#)

Interview Date: November 6, 2015

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with Henry deJong conducted by Kathy Bossort. Henry deJong was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about Henry deJong's work designing, developing and maintaining trails in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area as Park Design Technician for the City of Burnaby's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. He provides a history of trail development after the transfer of SFU land to Burnaby and the creation of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Plan. He also talks about monitoring and managing the forest environment, rehabilitating damaged areas, working with park users and stakeholders, and his favourite trails.

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Total Tracks: 7

Total Length: 1:22:41

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [deJong, Henry G.](#)

Interview Location: [City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services meeting room](#)

Interviewer Bio: Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.

Collection/Fonds: [Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds](#)

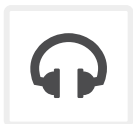
Series: [Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series](#)

Item No.: MSS196-009_Track_4

Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[🔊 Track four of interview with Henry deJong](#)



Interview with John Kirbyson by Kathy Bossort September 28, 2015 - Track 4

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory559>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview is about John Kirbyson's impression of the dispute between SFU and the City of Burnaby over land use and control on Burnaby Mountain, and Parks Dept. interests in the negotiations and agreement. He talks about how changing public values and perception of safety issues affects parks management.

Date Range: 1980-2005

Length: 0:14:23

Name: [Simon Fraser University](#)
[Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department](#)
[Mancinelli, Stephen J. "Steve"](#)

Subject: [Geographic Features - Parks Planning](#)
[Recreational Activities](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain](#)
[Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area](#)
[Burnaby - Central Park](#)

Interviewer: [Bossort, Kathy](#)

Interview Date: September 28, 2015

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with John Kirbyson conducted by Kathy Bossort. John Kirbyson was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about John Kirbyson's education and career as parks planner for the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and the development of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan. The interview explores how parks management balances environmental and recreational values and safety, and the importance of good guidelines and public input in the parks planning process. John Kirbyson also talks about recreational activities and various developments on Burnaby Mountain in the 1990s, such as the Kamui Mintara sculptures.

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Total Tracks: 7

Total Length: 1:33:43

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Kirbyson, John W.](#)

Interview Location: [John Kirbyson's son's home in Langley](#)

Interviewer Bio: Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.

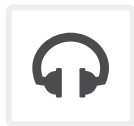
Collection/Fonds: [Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds](#)

Series: [Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series](#)

Item No.: MSS196-002_Track_4

Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks



Interview with Alekxos Sarter by Kathy Bossort October 16, 2015 - Track 2

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory578>

Repository:	City of Burnaby Archives
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Alekxos Sarter's first years of employment with Parks, her sources of knowledge about Burnaby Mountain, and the department's activities in Burnaby Mountain Park. She talks about the loop trail planned for Burnaby Mountain Park in 1958, the Trans Canada Trail project, events and issues at the Pavilion, and keeping track of trails on SFU lands.
Date Range:	1958-1992
Length:	0:12:40
Name:	Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Burnaby Mountain Park Kamui Mintara Trans Canada Trail
Subject:	Geographic Features - Parks Geographic Features - Trails Planning Recreational Activities
Geographic Access:	Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Park
Interviewer:	Bossort, Kathy
Interview Date:	October 16, 2015
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Alekxos Sarter conducted by Kathy Bossort. Alekxos Sarter was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about the history of setting aside parkland on Burnaby Mountain from Alekxos Sarter's perspective and experience as employee in the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. The interview provides an excellent explanation of the history and function of kinds of park dedications used by the City of Burnaby; an overview of issues around including the Trans Mountain tank farm in the conservation area; and the background to the land use and ownership disagreement between the City of Burnaby and Simon Fraser University, its resolution, and the subsequent development of SFU's UniverCity. Alekxos Sarter talks about Richard Bolton, Burnaby's Acting-Commissioner who was responsible for dedicating the first park on Burnaby Mountain in 1942, and the creation of a park named after him in UniverCity.
Biographical Notes:	Alekxos Sarter was born in Vancouver in 1961, to Daine and Kasandra Sarter. She grew up in North Vancouver and since 1994 has lived on a sailboat in False Creek. After attending UBC where she studied landscape architecture, she was hired by the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services in 1986. Working first in parks design, Alekxos quickly moved into parks planning, her preferred career. As Research Officer she covers research, planning, public consultation, parks and facility inventory, parkland acquisition, among other duties.
Total Tracks:	9
Total Length:	2:20:47
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	Sarter, Alekxos T.
Interview Location:	City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services meeting room

Interviewer Bio: Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.

Collection/Fonds: [Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds](#)

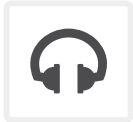
Series: [Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series](#)

Item No.: MSS196-005_Track_2

Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track two of interview with Alekxos Sarter](#)



Interview with Alekxos Sarter by Kathy Bossort October 16, 2015 - Track 9

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory585>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview is about Alekxos Sarter's story about the naming, planning and development of Richard Bolton Park at SFU's UniverCity.

Date Range: 2000-2015

Length: 0:14:42

Name: [Bolton, Richard](#)
[Simon Fraser University](#)
[UniverCity](#)
[Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department](#)

Subject: [Public Services - Municipal Services](#)
[Geographic Features - Parks](#)
[Planning](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain](#)
[Burnaby - Richard Bolton Park](#)

Interviewer: [Bossort, Kathy](#)

Interview Date: October 16, 2015

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with Alekxos Sarter conducted by Kathy Bossort. Alekxos Sarter was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about the history of setting aside parkland on Burnaby Mountain from Alekxos Sarter's perspective and experience as employee in the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. The interview provides an excellent explanation of the history and function of kinds of park dedications used by the City of Burnaby; an overview of issues around including the Trans Mountain tank farm in the conservation area; and the background to the land use and ownership disagreement between the City of Burnaby and Simon Fraser University, its resolution, and the subsequent development of SFU's UniverCity. Alekxos Sarter talks about Richard Bolton, Burnaby's Acting-Commissioner who was responsible for dedicating the first park on Burnaby Mountain in 1942, and the creation of a park named after him in UniverCity.

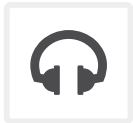
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Total Tracks: 9

Total Length: 2:20:47
Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)
Interviewee Name: [Sarter, Alekxos T.](#)
Interview Location: [City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services meeting room](#)
Interviewer Bio: Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.
Collection/Fonds: [Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds](#)
Series: [Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series](#)
Item No.: MSS196-005_Track_9
Media Type: Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[🔊 Track nine of interview with Alekxos Sarter](#)



Interview with John Kirbyson by Kathy Bossort September 28, 2015 - Track 3

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory558>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)
Summary: This portion of the interview is about John Kirbyson's memories of events in Burnaby Mountain Centennial Park and the Pavilion area around 1990, including the Velodrome, Playground of the Gods totems and the Rose Garden. He talks about balancing recreation and conservation values, and the role of the Environmental Services Division.
Date Range: 1990-2000
Length: 0:13:22
Name: [Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area](#)
[Burnaby Mountain Park](#)
[Kamui Mintara](#)
[City of Burnaby Environmental Services](#)
[Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department](#)
Subject: [Recreational Activities](#)
[Planning](#)
Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain](#)
[Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Park](#)
Interviewer: [Bossort, Kathy](#)
Interview Date: September 28, 2015
Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with John Kirbyson conducted by Kathy Bossort. John Kirbyson was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about John Kirbyson's education and career as parks planner for the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and the development of the 1999 Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan. The interview explores how parks management balances environmental and recreational values and safety, and the importance of good guidelines and public input in the parks planning process. John Kirbyson also talks about recreational activities and various developments on Burnaby Mountain in the 1990s, such as the Kamui Mintara sculptures.

Biographical Notes:	John Kirbyson was born in Vancouver in 1954, to Arnold and Winnifred Kirbyson. After several years spent in Winnipeg and Calgary, the Kirbyson family moved to Hunter Street in Burnaby in 1969 where John remembers living near the City's nursery. John earned his BSc degree at SFU in Physical Geography (1973-1978) and then worked for the City of Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services between 1978 and 2005, where he moved from labourer to management positions. Supported by the City, he returned to SFU to earn his Masters degree in the School of Resource and Environment Management in 1991, his thesis being on restoration of Deer Lake. He was Manager of Parks Planning, Design and Development in the 1990s at the time that land on Burnaby Mountain was transferred from SFU to the City of Burnaby, and had the opportunity to direct the development of the first management plan for the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. From 2005 to 2010 John was Manager of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Dept. in Penticton, after which he has worked as an environmental consultant for Lees & Associates Landscape Architects and Planners. He is married to wife Linda and has three children: Linnaea, Jeremy and Colin.
Total Tracks:	7
Total Length:	1:33:43
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	Kirbyson, John W.
Interview Location:	John Kirbyson's son's home in Langley
Interviewer Bio:	Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.
Collection/Fonds:	Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds
Series:	Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series
Item No.:	MSS196-002_Track_3
Media Type:	Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track three of interview with John Kirbyson](#)



Interview with Ron Burton by Kathy Bossort November 16, 2015 - Track 4

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory618>

Repository:	City of Burnaby Archives
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Ron Burton's description of mountain bikers' care of the mountain environment and how the various park stakeholders work together and communicate concerns.
Date Range:	2000-2015
Length:	0:08:23
Name:	Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Burnaby Mountain Biking Association Stoney Creek Environment Committee Stoney Creek Environmental Working Group
Subject:	Geographic Features - Parks Planning
Geographic Access:	Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Burnaby - Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area
Interviewer:	Bossort, Kathy
Interview Date:	November 16, 2015

Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Ron Burton conducted by Kathy Bossort. Ron Burton was one of 23 participants interviewed as part of the Community Heritage Commission's Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The interview is mainly about the founding, goals, and activities of the Burnaby Mountain Biking Association as told by one of the founders and President of the club, Ron Burton, and about the development of mountain biking and trail construction on Burnaby Mountain, both prior to and after the creation of the conservation area in 1995/96. Ron Burton also talks about his childhood, his work as a Burnaby school trustee, and the sports and recreational activities he has enjoyed on the mountain.
Biographical Notes:	Ron Burton was born in Burnaby in 1954 to Fred and Shirley Burton. He grew up in East Vancouver and attended Hastings Elementary and Gladstone Secondary schools. He worked on the waterfront for Viterra, became a member of the Grain Workers Union and joined the NDP in 1972. He and his wife moved to Burnaby's Vancouver Heights in 1982 and Forest Grove in 1988. He has served as a Board of Education Trustee in the Burnaby School District since first being elected in 1987, currently serving as Board Chair. Ron is founder and President of the Burnaby Mountain Biking Association and an active rider on Burnaby Mountain since 1988. The Association was founded in 2000, registering as a society in 2005, with the goals to build sustainable trails on Burnaby Mountain, to provide education about trail riding, and to advocate for and improve the image of mountain biking. Under Ron's leadership the Association has successfully recruited members and formed a cooperative relationship with Burnaby's Parks staff and with other park trail users.
Total Tracks:	6
Total Length:	1:01:32
Other Tracks:	View All Tracks
Interviewee Name:	Burton, Ronald C. "Ron"
Interview Location:	Meeting room at the Burnaby School District office
Interviewer Bio:	Kathy Bossort is a retired archivist living in Ladner, BC. She worked at the Delta Museum and Archives after graduating from SLAIS (UBC) in 2001 with Masters degrees in library science and archival studies. Kathy grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and, prior to this career change, she lived in the West Kootenays, earning her living as a cook for BC tourist lodges and work camps. She continues to be interested in oral histories as a way to fill the gaps in the written record and bring richer meaning to history.
Collection/Fonds:	Community Heritage Commission Special Projects fonds
Series:	Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project series
Item No.:	MSS196-010_Track_4
Media Type:	Sound Recording

Audio Tracks

[Track four of interview with Ron Burton](#)