



## Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 1

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory527>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's description of the two established political parties in Burnaby in the 1960's (NPA and BCA) and the founding of a new nonpartisan political group, the Burnaby Voters Association (BVA). She talks about the issues of interest at that time, including development pressures, need to represent local community interests, the environment, and plans for a new university on Burnaby Mountain
Date Range:	1960-1970
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:05:10
Name:	<a href="#">Lewarne, William A. "Bill"</a> <a href="#">Stusiak, Victor V. "Vic"</a> <a href="#">Burnaby Citizen's Association</a> <a href="#">Burnaby Voters Association</a> <a href="#">Simon Fraser University</a>
Subject:	<a href="#">Elections</a> <a href="#">Organizations</a> <a href="#">Government - Local Government</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".
Biographical Notes:	Kathleen "Kay" Zimmerman, her husband Gordon and their young son Rick moved to Burnaby from Vancouver in 1960 to a house on Curtis Avenue near Duthie Street (a second son Bruce was born in Burnaby). Kay Zimmerman worked 12 years at Royal Columbian Hospital in the admitting office, then 4 years (1974-1979) as special assistant to Senator Ray Perrault, followed by work as a judge on the Citizenship Court before retiring. Gordon Zimmerman worked at the Shell Refinery. A member of the Liberal Party and political activist before arriving in Burnaby, Kay Zimmerman continued her involvement in national and local politics. She campaigned for Ray Perrault during the Trudeau years, and was a founder and active member of the Burnaby Voters Association (BVA). Her political activities encompassed 30 years that saw major changes in Burnaby, including the building of SFU, creation of Heritage Village, an awakening environmental sensibility, and a dramatic increase in population and development in Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_1

Transcript Available: Transcript available  
Media Type: Sound Recording  
Web Notes: Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[Track one of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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#### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 2

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory528>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview continues Kay Zimmerman's description of the BVA and the election of councillors and then mayors from the party, Dave Mercier 1979-1981 and Bill Lewarne 1981-1987. She talks about resistance to paying for the road to SFU as a "local improvement", Heritage Village as a Centennial Project, differing BVA support in north and south Burnaby, and Alan Emmott's political career.

Date Range: 1960-1987

Photo Info: Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021

Length: 00:07:50

Name: [Lewarne, William A. "Bill"](#)  
[Emmott, Alan H](#)  
[Mercier, David M "Dave"](#)  
[Burnaby Voters Association](#)  
[Simon Fraser University](#)  
[Burnaby Village Museum](#)

Subject: [Officials - Mayors and Reeves](#)  
[Public Services - Municipal Services](#)

Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".
Biographical Notes:	Kathleen "Kay" Zimmerman, her husband Gordon and their young son Rick moved to Burnaby from Vancouver in 1960 to a house on Curtis Avenue near Duthie Street (a second son Bruce was born in Burnaby). Kay Zimmerman worked 12 years at Royal Columbian Hospital in the admitting office, then 4 years (1974-1979) as special assistant to Senator Ray Perrault, followed by work as a judge on the Citizenship Court before retiring. Gordon Zimmerman worked at the Shell Refinery. A member of the Liberal Party and political activist before arriving in Burnaby, Kay Zimmerman continued her involvement in national and local politics. She campaigned for Ray Perrault during the Trudeau years, and was a founder and active member of the Burnaby Voters Association (BVA). Her political activities encompassed 30 years that saw major changes in Burnaby, including the building of SFU, creation of Heritage Village, an awakening environmental sensibility, and a dramatic increase in population and development in Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_2
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track two of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 3

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory529>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's memories of what her neighbourhood in North Burnaby looked like in the 1960s. She talks about the small farm holdings and rural nature of Lochdale, her neighbours, the gravel roads and trolleys, the local schools, and how the area began to change by mid-1960.
Date Range:	1960-1970
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:05:59
Historic Neighbourhood:	<a href="#">Lochdale (Historic Neighbourhood)</a>
Planning Study Area:	<a href="#">Lochdale Area</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

Biographical Notes:	Kathleen "Kay" Zimmerman, her husband Gordon and their young son Rick moved to Burnaby from Vancouver in 1960 to a house on Curtis Avenue near Duthie Street (a second son Bruce was born in Burnaby). Kay Zimmerman worked 12 years at Royal Columbian Hospital in the admitting office, then 4 years (1974-1979) as special assistant to Senator Ray Perrault, followed by work as a judge on the Citizenship Court before retiring. Gordon Zimmerman worked at the Shell Refinery. A member of the Liberal Party and political activist before arriving in Burnaby, Kay Zimmerman continued her involvement in national and local politics. She campaigned for Ray Perrault during the Trudeau years, and was a founder and active member of the Burnaby Voters Association (BVA). Her political activities encompassed 30 years that saw major changes in Burnaby, including the building of SFU, creation of Heritage Village, an awakening environmental sensibility, and a dramatic increase in population and development in Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_3
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track three of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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#### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 4

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory530>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Burnaby growing from “a dreamy little community” with little business to transact in council, to a municipality providing many more services and planning for and supporting industrial, commercial and residential growth. She talks about the first malls at Brentwood and Lougheed, the George Derby lands, and the return of Oakalla Prison lands to Burnaby.
Date Range:	1920-1990
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:07:37
Subject:	<a href="#">Government - Local Government</a> <a href="#">Taxes</a> <a href="#">Public Services</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view “Narrow By” terms for each track expand this description and see “Notes”.

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Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_4
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[Track four of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 5

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory531>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's discussion about the pros and cons of volunteer organizations operating public services for the municipality, in particular the Parks and Recreation Commission taking control of Heritage Village, a volunteer initiated Centennial Project
Date Range:	1967-1990
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:04:42
Subject:	<a href="#">Public Services - Municipal Services</a> <a href="#">Organizations - Historical Societies</a> <a href="#">Persons - Volunteers</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

Biographical Notes:	Kathleen "Kay" Zimmerman, her husband Gordon and their young son Rick moved to Burnaby from Vancouver in 1960 to a house on Curtis Avenue near Duthie Street (a second son Bruce was born in Burnaby). Kay Zimmerman worked 12 years at Royal Columbian Hospital in the admitting office, then 4 years (1974-1979) as special assistant to Senator Ray Perrault, followed by work as a judge on the Citizenship Court before retiring. Gordon Zimmerman worked at the Shell Refinery. A member of the Liberal Party and political activist before arriving in Burnaby, Kay Zimmerman continued her involvement in national and local politics. She campaigned for Ray Perrault during the Trudeau years, and was a founder and active member of the Burnaby Voters Association (BVA). Her political activities encompassed 30 years that saw major changes in Burnaby, including the building of SFU, creation of Heritage Village, an awakening environmental sensibility, and a dramatic increase in population and development in Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_5
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track five of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 6

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory532>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's house on Curtis Avenue, why she likes Burnaby, and her memories of going with Gordon and her children to the beach at Barnet
Date Range:	1960-1990
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:09:30
Historic Neighbourhood:	<a href="#">Lochdale (Historic Neighbourhood)</a>
Planning Study Area:	<a href="#">Lochdale Area</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

Biographical Notes:	Kathleen "Kay" Zimmerman, her husband Gordon and their young son Rick moved to Burnaby from Vancouver in 1960 to a house on Curtis Avenue near Duthie Street (a second son Bruce was born in Burnaby). Kay Zimmerman worked 12 years at Royal Columbian Hospital in the admitting office, then 4 years (1974-1979) as special assistant to Senator Ray Perrault, followed by work as a judge on the Citizenship Court before retiring. Gordon Zimmerman worked at the Shell Refinery. A member of the Liberal Party and political activist before arriving in Burnaby, Kay Zimmerman continued her involvement in national and local politics. She campaigned for Ray Perrault during the Trudeau years, and was a founder and active member of the Burnaby Voters Association (BVA). Her political activities encompassed 30 years that saw major changes in Burnaby, including the building of SFU, creation of Heritage Village, an awakening environmental sensibility, and a dramatic increase in population and development in Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_6
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track six of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 7

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory533>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's employment at Royal Columbian Hospital and the Citizenship court, her work for Ray Perrault when he was Senator, and campaigning for Ray Perrault in 1968.
Date Range:	1960-1990
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:07:47
Name:	<a href="#">Perrault, Ray</a>
Subject:	<a href="#">Occupations</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

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Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_7
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track seven of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 8

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory534>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's views about the Liberal's strength and political trends in Burnaby, including the growing lack of citizen involvement since the 1970s
Date Range:	1960-1990
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:06:51
Name:	<a href="#">Clark, Christy</a> <a href="#">Liberal Party</a>
Subject:	<a href="#">Elections</a> <a href="#">Organizations</a> <a href="#">Government</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

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Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_8
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[Track eight of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 9

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory535>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's stories about how a citizen can make a difference. Her example is her first appearance at a Vancouver Council meeting to present her case against a development proposal in her neighbourhood (Buscombe Street).
Date Range:	1957-1990
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:05:22
Subject:	<a href="#">Protests and Demonstrations</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

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Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_9
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track nine of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Kay Zimmerman by Rod Fowler [February] 1990 - Track 10

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory536>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Kay Zimmerman's explanation why she didn't join organizations not involving her number one interest politics, and about the political power of belonging to Cliff Avenue soccer.
Date Range:	1960-1990
Photo Info:	Kay Zimmerman, [1973]. Item no. 231-021
Length:	00:03:45
Name:	<a href="#">Cliff Avenue United Football Club</a>
Subject:	<a href="#">Persons - Volunteers</a> <a href="#">Elections</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	[February] 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Kay Zimmerman, conducted by Rod Fowler. Kay Zimmerman was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is mainly about Kay Zimmerman's political activities in Burnaby and her description of her Lochdale neighbourhood in the 1960s. She provides an excellent overview of the municipal political groups and important political issues in Burnaby from 1960 to 1980. She tells the story about an early and successful political action that convinced her that an individual can make a difference. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

Biographical Notes:	Kathleen "Kay" Zimmerman, her husband Gordon and their young son Rick moved to Burnaby from Vancouver in 1960 to a house on Curtis Avenue near Duthie Street (a second son Bruce was born in Burnaby). Kay Zimmerman worked 12 years at Royal Columbian Hospital in the admitting office, then 4 years (1974-1979) as special assistant to Senator Ray Perrault, followed by work as a judge on the Citizenship Court before retiring. Gordon Zimmerman worked at the Shell Refinery. A member of the Liberal Party and political activist before arriving in Burnaby, Kay Zimmerman continued her involvement in national and local politics. She campaigned for Ray Perrault during the Trudeau years, and was a founder and active member of the Burnaby Voters Association (BVA). Her political activities encompassed 30 years that saw major changes in Burnaby, including the building of SFU, creation of Heritage Village, an awakening environmental sensibility, and a dramatic increase in population and development in Burnaby.
Total Tracks:	10
Total Length:	01:04:36
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Zimmerman, Kay</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-018_Track_10
Transcript Available:	Transcript available
Media Type:	Sound Recording
Web Notes:	Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

#### Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track ten of interview with Kay Zimmerman](#)

#### Images

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### Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 1

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory472>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's parents' unsuccessful first attempt to move to British Columbia in 1934 in the Depression, being turned back by the provincial police, and the successful second attempt by bus. The interview continues with description of the family's difficulties, what Lochdale looked like in the 1930s, his father's work at Kapoor sawmill in Barnet, and Merrill Gordon's early education.
Date Range:	1934-1942
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:04:58
Name:	<a href="#">Kapoor Sawmill</a>
Historic Neighbourhood:	<a href="#">Lochdale (Historic Neighbourhood)</a>
Planning Study Area:	<a href="#">Lochdale Area</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990

Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988- ), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".
Biographical Notes:	Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.
Total Tracks:	11
Total Length:	1:31:44
Other Tracks:	<a href="#">View All Tracks</a>
Interviewee Name:	<a href="#">Gordon, Merrill</a>
Interview Location:	<a href="#">unknown</a>
Interviewer Bio:	Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.
Collection/Fonds:	<a href="#">SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds</a>
Series:	<a href="#">Centennial Oral History project series</a>
Item No.:	MSS187-020_Track_1

Transcript Available: Transcript available  
Media Type: Sound Recording  
Web Notes: Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track one of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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### Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 2

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory473>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's parents' background and farm in Saskatchewan, and how the family arrived in Burnaby in 1934 with 56 cents at the Adam's Dairy Farm near Union and Sperling.

Date Range: 1934-1942

Photo Info: Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263

Length: 00:06:11

Historic Neighbourhood: [Lochdale \(Historic Neighbourhood\)](#)

Planning Study Area: [Lochdale Area](#)

Interviewer: [Fowler, Rod](#)

Interview Date: March 19, 1990

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

Total Tracks: 11

Total Length: 1:31:44

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Gordon, Merrill](#)

Interview Location: [unknown](#)

Interviewer Bio: Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

Collection/Fonds: [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

Series: [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

Item No.: MSS187-020\_Track\_2

Transcript Available: Transcript available

Media Type: Sound Recording

Web Notes: Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track two of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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### Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 3

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory474>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's education at Templeton School (Gr. 7-9) and Grandview High School of Commerce on First and Commercial, his teachers and the courses that he took.
Date Range:	1939-1946
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:04:30
Subject:	<a href="#">Education</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

**Total Tracks:** 11

**Total Length:** 1:31:44

**Other Tracks:** [View All Tracks](#)

**Interviewee Name:** [Gordon, Merrill](#)

**Interview Location:** [unknown](#)

**Interviewer Bio:** Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

**Collection/Fonds:** [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

**Series:** [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

**Item No.:** MSS187-020\_Track\_3

**Transcript Available:** Transcript available

**Media Type:** Sound Recording

**Web Notes:** Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track three of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 4

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory475>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's career at Canadian Industries Inc (CIL) for a few years and then for Fleck Brothers until 1965, when he started his own business, Blaze Industries, which manufactured fire places and wood burning heaters. He also describes his short retirement in 1980 and going back to work for a solar panel manufacturing company, which led to building a plant in India.

Date Range: 1946-1987

Photo Info: Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263

Length: 00:06:32

Subject: [Occupations](#)

Interviewer: [Fowler, Rod](#)

Interview Date: March 19, 1990

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

**Total Tracks:** 11

**Total Length:** 1:31:44

**Other Tracks:** [View All Tracks](#)

**Interviewee Name:** [Gordon, Merrill](#)

**Interview Location:** [unknown](#)

**Interviewer Bio:** Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

**Collection/Fonds:** [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

**Series:** [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

**Item No.:** MSS187-020\_Track\_4

**Transcript Available:** Transcript available

**Media Type:** Sound Recording

**Web Notes:** Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track four of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 5

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory476>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's marriage and move to Burnaby in 1953, and settling at the house near Cliff Avenue United Church in 1956. He talks about his first encounters with volunteering at Ratepayer meetings attended by his father, and in dance and drama activities at school.
Date Range:	1935-1956
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:04:56
Subject:	<a href="#">Persons - Volunteers</a> <a href="#">Education</a>
Historic Neighbourhood:	<a href="#">Lochdale (Historic Neighbourhood)</a>
Planning Study Area:	<a href="#">Lochdale Area</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988- ), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

Total Tracks: 11

Total Length: 1:31:44

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Gordon, Merrill](#)

Interview Location: [unknown](#)

Interviewer Bio: Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

Collection/Fonds: [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

Series: [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

Item No.: MSS187-020\_Track\_5

Transcript Available: Transcript available

Media Type: Sound Recording

Web Notes: Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track five of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 6

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory477>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about the circumstances behind Merrill Gordon's founding of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club in 1956, his subsequent involvement and role as President of the club for 15 years, and the growth and history of soccer clubs in Burnaby. He also talks about his friend Mark Stockdale who was second president of the club for 16 years and creator of the rose garden on Burnaby Mountain.
Date Range:	1956-1990
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:13:27
Name:	<a href="#">Stockdale, Mark</a> <a href="#">Cliff Avenue United Football Club</a> <a href="#">Burnaby Mountain Centennial Rose Garden</a>
Subject:	<a href="#">Persons - Volunteers</a> <a href="#">Sports - Soccer</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988- ), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

Total Tracks: 11

Total Length: 1:31:44

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Gordon, Merrill](#)

Interview Location: [unknown](#)

Interviewer Bio: Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

Collection/Fonds: [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

Series: [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

Item No.: MSS187-020\_Track\_6

Transcript Available: Transcript available

Media Type: Sound Recording

Web Notes: Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track six of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 7

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory478>

Repository: [City of Burnaby Archives](#)

Summary: This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's political career and his volunteer work with Cliff Avenue soccer, the Burnaby Mental Health Association, the library board, and the New Vista Society. He talks about his association with Alan Emmott and the founding of the Better Burnaby Committee (BBC), his election to Burnaby Council in 1972 with BVA, and his membership in and work for the federal NDP

Date Range: 1956-1990

Photo Info: Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263

Length: 00:07:05

Name: [Emmott, Alan H](#)

Subject: [Persons - Volunteers](#)  
[Officials - Aldermen and Councillors](#)

Interviewer: [Fowler, Rod](#)

Interview Date: March 19, 1990

Scope and Content: Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

Total Tracks: 11

Total Length: 1:31:44

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Gordon, Merrill](#)

Interview Location: [unknown](#)

Interviewer Bio: Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

Collection/Fonds: [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

Series: [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

Item No.: MSS187-020\_Track\_7

Transcript Available: Transcript available

Media Type: Sound Recording

Web Notes: Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

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## Audio Tracks

[Track seven of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

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## Images



## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 8

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory479>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's founding and operation of the youth soccer exchange with Washington State, and the importance of soccer to the community. He discusses the problem of isolation between north and south Burnaby, planned development in Burnaby, and the contributions of Ratepayer groups and volunteers
Date Range:	1956-1990
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:10:17
Subject:	<a href="#">Persons - Volunteers</a> <a href="#">Sports - Soccer</a> <a href="#">Public Services - Municipal Services</a> <a href="#">Planning</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

**Total Tracks:** 11

**Total Length:** 1:31:44

**Other Tracks:** [View All Tracks](#)

**Interviewee Name:** [Gordon, Merrill](#)

**Interview Location:** [unknown](#)

**Interviewer Bio:** Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

**Collection/Fonds:** [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

**Series:** [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

**Item No.:** MSS187-020\_Track\_8

**Transcript Available:** Transcript available

**Media Type:** Sound Recording

**Web Notes:** Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track eight of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 9

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory480>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's work on the Parks Board and involvement in the arts community. He talks about developing an art policy for Burnaby, the conflicting views about building a theatre at Metrotown, and the establishment of the Arts Centre at Deer Lake
Date Range:	1987-1990
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:07:57
Name:	<a href="#">Burnaby Arts Centre</a>
Subject:	<a href="#">Public Services - Municipal Services</a> <a href="#">Arts</a> <a href="#">Recreational Activities - Theatre</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

**Biographical Notes:** Merrill M. Gordon was born in Saskatchewan in 1929 to parents farming north of North Battleford. After a fifth year of crop failure the family of four left the farm in 1934 to join relatives living near the corner of Union and Sperling in Burnaby. With little resources the family adapted as well as possible in the Depression years, moving often in the East Vancouver/North Burnaby area in an attempt to better their situation. Merrill's father obtained work at sawmills including Kapoor's Sawmill at Barnet, walking to work over Burnaby Mountain. After attending numerous public schools, Merrill Gordon eventually spent three years at Templeton School and then completed his education at Grandview High School of Commerce, majoring in accounting and commercial law. He worked a few years at Canadian Industries Ltd., then joined Fleck Brothers. In 1965 Merrill Gordon and his wife started their own company Blaze Industries of Canada that manufactured wood burning fireplaces, selling the company to AB Electrolux in 1980. After a short retirement, Merrill Gordon went back to work in 1981 for a company manufacturing solar panels, one project taking him and his wife intermittently to India over a four year period. Merrill Gordon helped found the political group Better Burnaby Committee, later the Burnaby Voters Association, with Alan Emmott and Bill Lewarne, ran for Burnaby Municipal Council and served one year as councillor in 1973. Merrill Gordon is well known for his over 40 years of volunteer work in Burnaby, particularly as founder in 1956 and director of the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, one of the largest soccer clubs in BC. He was also the founder of Burnaby Youth Soccer and the first youth soccer exchange with Washington State. His other volunteer work includes library trustee, Parks Commissioner (1987-1992), Director of New Vista Home for Seniors, Chair of campaign raising funds for building Shadbolt Arts Centre, and Chair of the Burnaby Mental Health Committee. In 1988 Merrill Gordon, Betty Gordon, Dean Lamont and several others formed the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, which advocated for the return of unused land to Burnaby from SFU and the subsequent creation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. Merrill Gordon and Elizabeth Balfour (nee Leitch) (1926-2012) married in 1953 and had two children.

**Total Tracks:** 11  
**Total Length:** 1:31:44  
**Other Tracks:** [View All Tracks](#)  
**Interviewee Name:** [Gordon, Merrill](#)  
**Interview Location:** [unknown](#)  
**Interviewer Bio:** Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.  
**Collection/Fonds:** [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)  
**Series:** [Centennial Oral History project series](#)  
**Item No.:** MSS187-020\_Track\_9  
**Transcript Available:** Transcript available  
**Media Type:** Sound Recording  
**Web Notes:** Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track nine of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 10

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory481>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon's views about SFU and its relations with and contributions to Burnaby. He details the founding of the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society with Dean Lamont and its work to have SFU transfer unused land to Burnaby to preserve as parkland
Date Range:	1965-1990
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:15:42
Name:	<a href="#">Simon Fraser University</a> <a href="#">Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area</a> <a href="#">Lamont, Dean</a> <a href="#">Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

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**Total Tracks:** 11  
**Total Length:** 1:31:44  
**Other Tracks:** [View All Tracks](#)  
**Interviewee Name:** [Gordon, Merrill](#)  
**Interview Location:** [unknown](#)  
**Interviewer Bio:** Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.  
**Collection/Fonds:** [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)  
**Series:** [Centennial Oral History project series](#)  
**Item No.:** MSS187-020\_Track\_10  
**Transcript Available:** Transcript available  
**Media Type:** Sound Recording  
**Web Notes:** Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[🔊 Track ten of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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## Interview with Merrill M. Gordon by Rod Fowler March 19, 1990 - Track 11

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/oralhistory482>

Repository:	<a href="#">City of Burnaby Archives</a>
Summary:	This portion of the interview is about Merrill Gordon and his wife living and traveling in India intermittently for four years starting in 1984, and their impressions of the country and its people
Date Range:	1984-1990
Photo Info:	Burnaby Alderman Merrill Gordon (second from right) following a candidates' meeting, 1973. Item no. 480-263
Length:	00:10:07
Subject:	<a href="#">Travel</a>
Interviewer:	<a href="#">Fowler, Rod</a>
Interview Date:	March 19, 1990
Scope and Content:	Recording is of an interview with Merrill Gordon, conducted by Rod Fowler. Gordon Merrill was one of eleven participants interviewed as part of the SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee's oral history series titled, "Voices of Burnaby". The interview is about Merrill Gordon's childhood in the Depression, including his story about the family's difficult trek to Burnaby from Alberta; his education, teachers and first volunteer activities at Grandview High School; his career at Fleck Brothers and the start of his own company Blaze Industries and later work in India; and his many volunteer activities in Burnaby. He describes how he started the Cliff Avenue United Football Club, the soccer club's subsequent growth and development, some of the people involved, and the founding of the youth soccer exchange. He also describes his work on the Parks Board and in the arts community, including the 1987 arts centre referendum, and involvement with the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society (1988-), and mentions his work for other groups including the New Vista Society, library board, and Burnaby Mental Health Committee. He also talks about his political career with the Better Burnaby Committee and Burnaby Voters Association, resulting in his 1972 election to Burnaby's 1973 council. To view "Narrow By" terms for each track expand this description and see "Notes".

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Total Tracks: 11

Total Length: 1:31:44

Other Tracks: [View All Tracks](#)

Interviewee Name: [Gordon, Merrill](#)

Interview Location: [unknown](#)

Interviewer Bio: Rod Fowler returned to university as a mature student in the 1980s after working about twenty years in the field of economics and computerization in business in England, Europe and Western Canada. He graduated with a BA from SFU in both History and Sociology in 1987, his MA degree in Geography in 1989, and his PhD in Cultural Geography at SFU. He taught courses in Geography, Sociology, History and Canadian Studies at several Lower Mainland colleges, before becoming a full time member of the Geography Department at Kwantlen University College.

Collection/Fonds: [SFU/Burnaby Centennial Committee fonds](#)

Series: [Centennial Oral History project series](#)

Item No.: MSS187-020\_Track\_11

Transcript Available: Transcript available

Media Type: Sound Recording

Web Notes: Interviews were digitized in 2015 allowing them to be accessible on Heritage Burnaby. The digitization project was initiated by the Community Heritage Commission with support from City of Burnaby Council.

## Audio Tracks

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[Track eleven of interview with Merrill Gordon](#)

## Images

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