File #1-37

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School

COPY

January 13th, 1944.

The Wartime Housing Limited,
North Vancouver,
B. C.

Dear Sirs:-

With reference to your request to be furnished with information regarding the school accommodation and costs of education necessary to take care of the children of the families which you intend to bring in to the Municipality of Richmond, I beg to point out that you are the proper source of information yourselves as to the number of families you intend to bring in to the Municipality and as to the average number of school pupils in each family. The Municipality has no information on this point.

The Municipality, however, can furnish you with information which I think you will find very useful in considering the education project for taking care of the pupils you intend to bring in to the Municipality. The Minimum size of class rooms is 24' X 31'. The maximum number of pupils in any class room is as follows;-

Elementary pupils, Grades 1 to 6	-	40
Junior High pupils, Grade 7 to 9	-	30
High School pupils	-	30

No departure from the above will be allowed.

There will have to be supplied one teacher for each room. The average salaries of the teachers as existing December 1943 is as follows;-

High School Teachers	-	$185.60
Junior High School Teachers	-	140.41
Public School Teachers	-	129.92

You, of course, know that it would be necessary to acquire sites and erect school buildings, instal furniture and make provisions for heating, caretakers etc.

From the foregoing, you will be able to work out to your complete satisfaction, I feel certain, the approximate cost of education for the settlement you propose to bring in to the Municipality.

The gross per capita cost of education in the Municipality is $71.30 which is reduced by Government grants etc. to the net per capita costs of $42.60. Those are the figures for the year 1943 and they may be higher for 1944.

(Over)

TOM REID, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

COPY

I must point out to you that the school accommodation in the Municipality is filled to capacity at present and there will be no room for any pupils of families which you intend to bring in to the new settlement and you will have to provide accommodation, teachers and other things necessary for their education.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) AM&S

TOM REID, M.P.

(Over)

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

COPY

Ottawa, March 20th, 1944.

Chairman,
The Wartime Housing Limited,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

I am appealing to you on behalf of the Municipality of Richmond, and in regards to the Wartime Housing Scheme constructed at Sea Island. I understand, that under the scheme 150 houses were built, which I believe are mostly, if not all, are already occupied.

The municipality of Richmond due to this scheme is faced with extraordinary expenditures, and which expenditures they should not be called upon to assume as the scheme is one brought about due to war requirements. The people will look to the municipality for education for their children. School accommodation will be demanded, and it is hardly fair that providing school accommodation for at least 300 children should be thrust on the municipality. Police protection, fire protection and other services will have to be provided by the municipality and the municipality have no way of increasing their revenue to pay for all these added expenditures.

I am appealing to you in all seriousness that every possible help be given the municipality of Richmond in the matter. A school building adequate to take care of all the extra pupils should be provided them. This request in the light of all the circumstances is a most reasonable request, and it is my opinion, that no precedent would be established as similar services have been given other districts where Wartime Housing Schemes have been constructed. The wartime houses at Sea Island have been built in a district remote from schools.

It would be appreciated if in the light of this request the entire matter would be looked into with a view of having a satisfactory financial settlement arrived at as between the municipality of Richmond and Wartime Housing Limited.

In closing may say that information has been given me that approximately $4,500.00 per month is being collected by way of rentals. Would appreciate your letting me have the exact rentals being received now, and if all the houses are not finished and occupied, you might give me the further information as to what the further rentals will be when all the houses are occupied.

Yours very truly

(SGD.) TOM REID, M.P.

TOM REID, M.P.

File #37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

COPY

Copy 66

D

15/8

Vancouver, B. C., July 8, 1944.

Post Office Service, Ottawa.

Reference is made to your communication of the 12th ultimo, file 40-71, in connection with representations received for the establishment of a Post Office to serve the residents of the Wartime Housing Project, on Sea Island, B.C.

Mr. W. S. Houlgate, representative of the residents committee of the Housing Project on Sea Island, has been interviewed on several occasions in regard to Postal Service. He advises that there has been no allowance made in the housing project for stores or accommodation for a Post Office. In addition he advised that there is no person available at present to act as Postmaster.

The Northern limit of the housing development, which is situated on Sea Island, is approximately six-tenths miles from the Eburne Post Office and about one mile from the limit of Letter Carrier Delivery of Vancouver. The development, as previously stated, is on Sea Island, which must be reached from Vancouver City by crossing a bridge over the North Arm of the Fraser River.

Enquiries in regard to Postal Service to the development have not been completed and Mr. Houlgate promised to submit further information and advised that a petition was also being prepared by the residents. A further report will, therefore, be furnished as soon as possible.

(signed) G. H. Clarke

District Director.

TOM REID, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

COPY

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED
55 YORK STREET
TORONTO

March 28th, 1944.

Tom Reid, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
O T T A W A.

Dear Mr. Reid:-

Your letter of March 20th received.

I attach hereto a memorandum in regard to the Municipality of Richmond. You will note that we obtain no services from this municipality, and because of that are under the expense ourselves of securing them, either directly or from others. We think that when you have read the memorandum you will agree that there is no reason why the Crown should pay when they are receiving nothing in return.

There is one item only which deserves some consideration, and on this we might be able to do something for you. The Township was in receipt of an income from this property before we secured it, amounting to $700.00 per year. We will look further into this feature and see if anything can be done to give them consideration on these grounds.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) Joseph M. Pigott
President

TOM REID, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #-37

COPY

March 28th, 1944.

MEMORANDUM RE THE MUNICIPALITY OF RICHMOND, B.C.

The facts relative to the services are as follows:-

WATER:

We purchase water from the Municipality of Richmond on a gallonage basis, at the rates agreed upon by them in their letter to me of October 19th, 1943. Moreover, as there were no water mains from the Richmond system serving the location upon which our houses are built, our Company had to expend the sum of approximately $25,000.00 on a system for these mains.

SEWERS:

There is no sewerage system on Sea Island and the cost to Wartime Housing Limited of providing this, which included a pump house, equipment and man-holes, approximated $94,000.00.

SCHOOLING:

No school accommodation for elementary pupils is available in the Township and we therefore entered into an arrangement with the City of Vancouver in which it was agreed between the two parties, that the children of our tenants at Sea Island requiring education in the elementary schools would be accommodated at Maple Grove School, Vancouver, up to June 30th, 1944, at a rate of $6.00 per pupil per month. The children of the tenants who require High School education of which there are only a very few, must attend the High School in the Municipality, for which the parents of the children pay the School Board of Richmond.

GARBAGE COLLECTION:

The Township does not provide garbage collection. Both Mr. Tate and myself are endeavouring to find a solution for this difficulty for which, no doubt, our Company will have to pay probably at least $300.00 per month.

FIRE PROTECTION:

The Municipality does not provide fire protection except through an A.R.P. Patrol. Our Company through an arrangement made by Mr. Nicol Thompson, Chief Fire Marshall, with the Reeve, is assisting in supplying a fire shed and equipment.

TOM REID, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

POLICE:

The Municipality does not maintain its own Police Force, the necessary protection being provided by the Provincial Police under an agreement with the Municipality whereby the latter pay to the Provincial Government $9,200.00 per year plus extras. It may be that through the addition of the 300 houses, another two constables from the Provincial Police will be required to give effective protection, which will, of course cost the Municipality some additional in salaries.

ROAD REPAIRS:

The Municipality provides repair of its own roads, but the road running to the Airport, which is the main road for servicing this particular area (on each side of this road our houses are located), is regarded as a Federal Highway; the other main roads as Provincial Highways and are not maintained by the Municipality.

STREET LIGHTING:

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED IS PROVIDING THE STREET LIGHTING AT AN ESTIMATED PRELIMINARY COST OF $9,757.32.

TOM REID, M.P.

File #37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

COPY

Ottawa, March 30th, 1944.

Mr. Joseph M. Pigott,
President,
Wartime Housing Limited,
55 York Street,
TORONTO, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Pigott:-

In the absence of Mr. Tom Reid, M.P. I am acknowledging receipt of your letter of March 28th together with memorandum re the Municipality of Richmond, B.C.

Mr. Reid, M.P. left last night for his home on the Coast for the Easter Recess but I am today forwarding your letter together with memorandum to him at his home address. Mr. Reid will be pleased to hear from you again when a decision is made regarding item referred to in the last paragraph of your letter.

Yours very truly,

Secretary
To T. Reid, M.P.

TOM REID, M.P.

File #37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

, Ottawa, April 26th, 1944.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Municipal Hall,
Richmond, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

I am writing you with reference to the appeal which you made to me in regards to the trouble which you have been having with the Wartime Housing Limited in connection with matters arising out of the housing programme in Sea Island, and with particular reference to the school situation there.

For your information may say that representations were made by me to the Minister following my arrival in Ottawa, and am just in receipt of information from him that Wartime Housing will assume the cost of transportation for children attending schools in the City of Vancouver. The Company, I understand, will also assume the cost of garbage collection. Details of both arrangements will be worked out with the Municipality. This has been decided upon meantime, but instructions have been given to Mr. J. M. Pigott, President of the Wartime Housing Limited, to go into this whole question when he is out at the Coast and endeavour to work out a solution which will meet the entire needs of Richmond Municipality.

Having just received this information thought I should write and let you know the result of the representations made so far, and assuring you of my continued interest in this matter.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

TOM REID, M.P.

File #37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.
May 3rd, 1944.

A

Tom Reid Esq., M.P.
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Can.,

Dear Mr. Reid:

I have been instructed to forward to you copy of the following resolution which was unanimously passed at a regular meeting of the Richmond Council held on Monday last, and would ask you to take this matter up with the proper Department Official.

RESOLVED

That this Council recommends to the Land Settlement Board that all properties now registered under Japanese ownership be retained under the direction of the Custodian of Enemy Equipment until such time in a period of re-construction when returned men and women may have an opportunity to bid on said Japanese properties.

Carried.

I am

Yours very truly,

R. C. Palmer

R. C. Palmer,
C.M.C.

RCP/BF

TOM REID, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

Ottawa, May 5th, 1944.

Mr. R. C. Palmer,
C.M.C. of Richmond Municipality,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

Dear Mr. Palmer:-

This will acknowledge receipt of your Air Mail communication of May 3rd in which you forwarded me a resolution passed at the regular meeting of the Richmond Council recommending that all properties now registered under Japanese ownership be retained under the direction of the Custodian of Enemy Equipment until such time in a period of re-construction when returned men and women may have an opportunity to bid on said Japanese properties.

For the information of the members of the Richmond Council may say that following the entry of Japan in the War all Japanese properties in British Columbia were surveyed by the Veteran's Land Board and a decision arrived at by them as to what properties should be taken over and held by them for returned men and women following cessation of hostilities. There were other properties such as small lots, some houses in Vancouver, New Westminster, Steveston and elsewhere, likewise halls, churches and hospitals, which were not taken over as these were not deemed to be properties, which would be required in any Soldiers' Settlement Scheme. The properties above mentioned such as houses, some very small lots, etc. were retained under the jurisdiction of the Custodian of Enemy Property, and are being sold to the general public.

If the members of the Richmond Council have in mind something different from the steps already taken will be pleased to hear from you on the matter.

As most of the Japanese lands are being held by the Veteran's Land Board felt I should outline to you the exact situation in regards to these properties, and trust that what has been done meets with the views and wishes of the members of the Richmond Council.

Yours very truly,

TOM REID, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

, Ottawa, May 12th, 1944.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Municipal Hall,
Richmond, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

You will perhaps remember my speaking to you personally in regards to having the fishermens' floats at Steveston lighted up, pointing out how necessary it was that this be done. Was wondering if any steps had been taken in the matter, and so would appreciate hearing from you regarding this.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

File #-37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

May 17th, 1944.

Tom Reid, M.P.
Parliament Buildings,
OTTAWA, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 5th, with reference to property registered in Japanese ownership under the direction of the Custodian of Enemy Property.

At the regular meeting of the Richmond Municipal Council held on the 16th instant, your letter was considered and I was instructed to point out certain important facts which should have a bearing on the reason for holding these properties until a period of rehabilitation of returned men.

I would point out that a number of Steveston boys are now serving in His Majesties Forces Overseas, (Air Force, Army and Navy) who were formerly fishermen on the Fraser River, and when these lads return, theywill naturally resume their former vocation. These boys would certainly not consider being placed on land with an acre or two far away from the river, nor would it be desirable to put them on the land, but it would be in the best interest of all concerned if they could obtain two or three lots with a house erected upon it. This would give them sufficient for a garden to supply their household needs and they would be in close proximity to the river to go fishing when the season opens.

Will you kindly see what you can do to support my Council in this matter.

I am

Yours very truly,

R. C. Palmer

R. C. Palmer,
C.M.C.

RCP/BF

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

May 17th, 1944.

Tom Reid, Esq.,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I have been instructed to forward to you copy of a resolution passed by Richmond Municipal Council at the regular meeting held on May 16th last.

RESOLVED

That this Council hereby endorses the resolution submitted by the City of Welland of April 24th, 1944 re the attitude of the Federal Government regarding the responsibility of rent collection in houses occupied by the Armed Forces and returned men, and that copies of this resolution of endorsation be forwarded to Mr. Tom Reid M.P. and to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

Will you kindly do all in your power to support the resolution submitted by the City of Welland.

I am

Yours very truly,

R. C. Palmer,
C.M.C.

RCP/BF

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #-37

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.
May 17th, 1944.

Tom Reid M.P.,
House of Commons,
Parliament Buildings,
OTTAWA, Ont.

Dear Tom:

I received your letter of May 13th, and my Council has passed a resolution asking for this flood light to be put on the Fishermen's wharf. We also had a letter back from the B. C. Electric Railway stating they would be out in the near future to see what amount of light would be suitable. We hope this light on the Fishermen's wharf will be put in in the near future.

I suppose you are a busy man and you have your troubles as well as we do in the Municipality, but I would like to say that I have not seen anyone from the Wartime Houseing yet, re building school, and time is getting along that this work should be commenced. Hoping you can speed it up for the fall term.

You will also receive a letter from my Council which I do not approve as to holding Japanese houses in Steveston for our boys when they come back. I feel that these houses are not fit for our young men to rehabilitate themselves when they come back, and would suggest that if the Government wants to help these young men, there are lots of vacant lots in Steveston Town Site which could be built up, and not have our young men living in Jap houses. This is my opinion, but my Council overrules my opinion, and are sending you a letter asking you to hold property for our boys that come back from overseas. I only point this out to you to show you that I am not in accord with the recommendation of my Council, and knowing you as I do, you would be in the same opinion that you would not want your son to come back and live in a Jap house and feel that he was getting something.

Thanking you for your services and your co-operation at all times.

Yours,
R. M. Grauer,
Reeve.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #-37

, Ottawa, May 23rd, 1944.

Mr. R. C. Palmer,
Clerk Municipal Council,
The Corporation of the Township of Richmond,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

Dear Mr. Palmer:-

Mr. Tom Reid, M.P. has instructed me to acknowledge receipt of communications of May 17th enclosed with resolutions having to do with property belonging to Japanese at Steveston as well as resolution submitted to the Richmond Municipal Council by the City of Welland.

Mr. Reid, M.P. would like you to know that he intends to interest himself in these matters and along the lines suggested in the communication sent.

Yours very truly,

Secretary,
To T. Reid, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #37

, Ottawa, May 24th, 1944.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
The Corporation of the Township of Richmond,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

Just a note acknowledging receipt of your personal letter of May 17th, and to say first of all, I am pleased to hear that the B.C. Electric Railway have been asked to attend to flood light for the fishermen's wharf.

Was surprised to hear that no one from the Wartime Housing had yet interviewed you. This I will attend to immediately.

Note what you say regarding the property at Steveston.

Many thanks for your letter.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

File #37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

AIR MAIL

, Ottawa, June 2nd, 1944.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
The Corporation of the Township of Richmond,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

I am writing you with further reference to the difficulties between the Municipality of Richmond and Wartime Housing.

It appears that Mr. Pigott, President of Wartime Housing Limited, has been ill, but according to information just received he expects to leave for the Coast on Sunday June 4th, and has informed the Minister of Munitions and Supply, that he will meet the officials of the Richmond Municipality and yourself at the first opportunity with the view of straightening out the question to your satisfaction.

Having just received this further information thought I should write and let you know.

Will be pleased to hear from you following the interview with Mr. Pigott.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #-37

AIR MAIL

PERSONAL

Ottawa, June 2nd, 1944.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

Dear Reeve:-

I am writing you with reference to the controversy which took place between the potato men and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board Officials regarding the price of potatoes and with particular reference to the meeting held between those interested and Donald Gordon in January of last year, and at which meeting you took quite a leading part in on behalf of the potato men.

Following the above mentioned meeting with Donald Gordon, Les Gilmore made a statement to the press in which he stated, "Donald Gordon had told the meeting he was not interested in the cost of production, his duty being to keep the prices down". That definite statement appeared in the 'Vancouver Sun' dated January 27th, 1943.

Perhaps you will remember you and I discussing the matter when I visited Richmond, and at which time you assured me of the accuracy of that statement by Donald Gordon.

The other day in the House of Commons, when strawberries were being discussed I mentioned the fact, and yesterday Donald Gordon wrote me personally saying he did not recollect any such statement. I reminded him of his meeting with the potato growers in Vancouver, and of the press statement given out by Les Gilmore to that effect, informing him at the same time that both yourself and Les Gilmore had informed me personally of his having made that statement.

Thought I should mention this to you because Donald Gordon may write you on the matter, and if he does you will know the reson for him doing so.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File #-37

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED
131 East 2nd St.,
North Vancouver, B. C.

June 9th, 1944.

P.O. Box 2379.

Reeve R.M. Grauer,
Township of Richmond,
B. C.

Dear Mr. Reeve:

For some time you have been asking for revenue from the housing which Wartime Housing Limited has constructed in the Township of Richmond to help you finance your municipality and in particular you have been requesting the construction of a school to accommodate the children.

The situation in the Township of Richmond is unique and is not paralleled, as far as I know, by any other project we have. There were practically no services available to us in Sea Island. We had to take farm land and construct drainage ditches, roads, install sewers and water and electric light and power facilites. You had no facilities in the Township for collecting garbage and we had to set up our own. You had no accommodation in your schools for our children and we had to fall back on the available accommodation in the City of Vancouver and pay for it. It will be clear to you therefore that while you may have felt that it was unfair that we should place three hundred houses in your municipality and provide you with no revenue whatever, on the other hand it has been very difficult for us to see why we should pay anything in view of the fact we were almost entirely taking care of ourselves.

Our conversation of yesterday morning has served to bring us to some extent to see each others point of view.

The pressing need is for school accommodation. We are, as stated above, working up to the present with the School Board of Vancouver but it is doubtful if we can continue with this arrangement and in any event, as you have pointed out, the houses we have erected at Sea Island will be there indefinitely and a more permanent solution of the problem of education is very necessary.

Vanc School Doubtful

You wish the erection of a school to commence immediately. It is our opinion that a six room school is indicated and we would estimate the cost of this at $50,000.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944 - 1945
File 44-37

Reeve R.M. Grauer

Our agreements across Canada with various municipalities are for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. When that time comes there will be municipalities where we will be removing our houses under our agreement and there probably will be more where the municipality will wish the houses to remain. Where the houses remain new conditions have to be set up and these new conditions will probably involve the payment by the Government, through this Company, of sums in line with the normal taxation which would be levied on private property. This is, of course, just my own view. No definite policy has been laid down.

I have endeavoured to look ahead and to consider our project at Sea Island as at that point, six months after the cessation of hostilities. Presumably our houses remain. Presumably you will have to receive a revenue from them. I would be willing to recommend to our Minister at Ottawa that we anticipate that day and proceed with the erection of the school which is so badly needed and depend on a plan in regard to payments which will permit us to recover a substantial proportion of the cost of the school;

Note

According to the figures that you produced for me, it is your view that our assessment might come as high as $2,000 per unit on the average and since your mill rate is 22 mills, the annual taxes, in the houses were owned by private persons, would be about $44. At present we pay nothing. The Corwn has expended very substantial sums of money which otherwise would have had to be found by the Municipality of Richmond. As I suggested to [illegible]u it would be my idea that in any a[illegible] payment of sums per year per house in l[illegible]flect two things. (1) The fact that we[illegible]ed the cost of the necessary works i[illegible]at we had constructed a six room school. We[illegible]to our Minister that in connection withthe p[illegible] should be placed at $1,600 a unit on th[illegible]proximately $35 per house per year. In th[illegible] fair payment in view of the services re[illegible]e do have projects in certain mu[illegible]ces are furnished us where the ordinary no[illegible]uld not be any more than the sum we me[illegible] to St. Catherines and Windsor. The mu[illegible]over all our services, and cost of op[illegible]ctions and schools. That would provide a [illegible]isfactory to us and I hope would be sa[illegible]ction with construction of the school, if [illegible]s tax credit to return to us the cost of the [illegible] the whole problem would be fully covered.

what

what

Last paragraph of your letter dated March 20th not answered in Mr. Pigott's letter.

Mr. James Erskine, R.#1, N.W. gave you the informations about rentals being approximately $4,500.00 per month

I would be prepared to submit this and recommend its acceptance to our Minister if it was agreeable to you and to your Council and if you could let me have a letter to that effect.

Yours very truly,

Joseph M. Pigott,

President- Wartime Housing Ltd.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944 - 1945

File #3

Reeve R.M. Grauer

Our agreements across Canada with various municipalities are for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. When that time comes there will be municipalities where we will be removing our houses under our agreement and there probably will be more where the municipality will wish the houses to remain. Where the houses remain new conditions have to be set up and these new conditions will probably involve the payment by the Government, through this Company, of sums in line with the normal taxation which would be levied on private property. This is, of course, just my own view. No definite policy has been laid down.

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Note

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We wou ur Minister that in connection withthe
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the av imately $35 per house per year. In
the wr ir payment in view of the services
rendered and privileges enjoyed. We do have projects in certain municipalities where complete services are furnished us where the ordinary normal tax, if we were assessed, would not be any more than the sum we mentioned. Reference might be made to St. Catherines and Windsor. The municipality would, of course take over all our services, and cost of operations, including garbage collections and schools. That would provide a plan of payment that would be satisfactory to us and I hope would be satisfactory to you. Then in connection with construction of the school, if we were to be given four years tax credit to return to us the cost of the school the whole problem would be fully covered.

I would be prepared to submit this and recommend its acceptance to our Minister if it was agreeable to you and to your Council and if you could let me have a letter to that effect.

Yours very truly,

Joseph M. Pigott,

President- Wartime Housing Ltd.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944 - 1945

File #3

Reeve R.M. Grauer

Our agreements across Canada with various municipalities are for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. When that time comes there will be municipalities where we will be removing our houses under our agreement and there probably will be more where the municipality will wish the houses to remain. Where the houses remain new conditions have to be set up and these new conditions will probably involve the payment by the Government, through this Company, of sums in line with the normal taxation which would be levied on private property. This is, of course, just my own view. No definite policy has been laid down.

I have endeavoured to look ahead and to consider our project at Sea Island as at that point, six months after the cessation of hostilities. Presumably our houses remain. Presumably you will have to receive a revenue from them. I would be willing to recommend to our Minister at Ottawa that we anticipate that day and proceed with the erection of the school which is so badly needed and depend on a plan in regard to payments which will permit us to recover a substantial proportion of the cost of the school;

Note

According to the figures that you produced for me, it is your view that our assessment might come as high as $2,000 per unit on the average and since your mill rate is 22 mills, the annual taxes, in the houses were owned by private persons, would be about $44. At present we pay nothing. The Corwn has expended very substantial sums of money which otherwise would have had to be found by the Municipality of Richmond. As I suggested to you it would be my idea that in any arrangement that was made for the payment of sums per year per house in lieu of your right to tax would reflect two things. (1) The fact that we had found the capital and carried the cost of the necessary works involved in our project and (2) that we had constructed a six room school. We would be prepared to recommend to our Minister that in connection withthe postwar period that our assessment should be placed at $1,600 a unit on the average which would produce approximately $35 per house per year. In the writer's opinion this is a very fair payment in view of the services rendered and privileges enjoyed. We do have projects in certain municipalities where complete services are furnished us where the ordinary normal tax, if we were assessed, would not be any more than the sum we mentioned. Reference might be made to St. Catherines and Windsor. The municipality would, of course take over all our services, and cost of operations, including garbage collections and schools. That would provide a plan of payment that would be satisfactory to us and I hope would be satisfactory to you. Then in connection with construction of the school, if we were to be given four years tax credit to return to us the cost of the school the whole problem would be fully covered.

what

what

sums

I would be prepared to submit this and recommend its acceptance to our Minister if it was agreeable to you and to your Council and if you could let me have a letter to that effect.

Yours very truly,

Joseph M. Pigott,

President- Wartime Housing Ltd.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File A-57

C O P Y

13th June 1944.

Wartime Housing Ltd.,
131 East 2nd Street,
North Vancouver.

Joseph M. Pigott Esq. President

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 9th and after giving considerable thought to same I cannot understand certain paragraphs in which you state that you feel you do not owe the Municipality anything as you have put in all services which you did not have to do in other Municipalities. Let me point out to you that you have done only what we require the ordinary land owner to do under our Bylaws governing subdivisions.

1. All plans to be approved by the Municipal Council and Engineer.

2. Building permits must be taken out.

3. That any person subdividing land must construct and hard surface all roads required, instal water mains, construct drainage ditches and culverts at the expense of the owner and they in turn become the property of the Municipality.

Note

Now, referring to your letter, you mention that you have done all these things (which is only the common practice): you also state that you did not have any facilities such as water, light and power. This is absolutely wrong as far as water is concerned, the water main was brought to your property, all you had to do was to tap into it. As far as electric light and power is concerned, it also was brodering your property and that has nothing to do with the Municipality as you are dealing with the B.E. Electric Railway Company, the same as any other ratepayer. In regard to fire protection you are amply accommodated by the volunteer fire department, which we have in the Municipality and I can truthfully say that it is one of the best in Canada. With reference to garbage collection, we do not collect garbage in this Municipality and we connot see why you should be

File A-37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

given any service additional to the ordinary ratepayers. If that is required I cannot see why they persons benefitting by the collection should not pay for same.

Hospital Costs

You are receiving at the present time hospitalization, which costs this municipality 70 cents per day for each patient going to the hospital whether they pay their bill or not. This is the law in the Province of British Columbia that the municipality must pay 70 cents per day as a grant for every patient attending hospital. We have provided you with a baby clinic in that particular locality at a considerable cost to this Municipality. We have built roads giving you access to your property, also you have built 26 houses along Miller Road which has saved you a considerable sum of money. We also had to put on an extra police officer which with transportation cost the municipality in the neighbourhood of $2,400 per year.

School

The only argument you put up is that we have no school accommodation. Let me tell you that we are taking care of your junior and senior high school pupils at the present time, but we have no accommodation for the elementary school children, for whom we are asking you to build a six roomed school. This only conforms with what you have done for our neighbouring municipalities. You have done everything and more for other municipalities than you have done in the Municipality of Richmond, including schools.

Your company have not lived up the regulations in our Bylaws, never consulted the Council re an invitation to come in here as you did in other municipalities. You wne right ahead and started building without having your plans approved or having a building permit of any kind, nor has the municipality ever asked you to start a wartime housing scheme in the municipality, nor have you offered the municipality any sound agreement such as other municipalities have.

We have co-operated in every respect with your contractors knowing that there was a war on, and we felt that by doing so we would be able to obtain a just agreement to offset the burden that you areplacing on this municipality.

As I understand it, you said that you did not intend to remove these houses at the termination of the war or six montsh after which is stated in other agreements but intend to leave them there and dispose of them in the open market. Then if that is the case, where you make the arrangements with other municipalities that you will dispose of all houses and schools after the war, and only receive the salvage

File #37
Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

value, I cannot understand why you should penalize the Municipality of Richmond where you are going to receive the full value of your holdings and penalize the municipality with having a housing scheme to look after when the war is over. All we are asking for is the construction of a six roomed elementary school on this site to accommodate the children of the people you have brought in to the Municipality. This is what you have done for other municipalities and even if the war ceases tomorrow you should still build that school to conform with other projects in this Province at the cost of the government. It will increase the value of your housing scheme and satisfy the needs of the residents there.

I might say that the Municipality of Richmond feels that all these schemes are for one purpose and that purpose is for the successful prosecution of the war by the Government, and the people that are buying bonds in the municipality are paying not only for the municipality of Richmond but for the whole of Canada, and rightly so; then why should we be approached in the manner expressed in your letter? We have tried to live up to the every request made by the Government in War Savings certificates, bond drives, Red Cross, Civilian Protection (A.R.P.) and I can assure you we have done our part in this Municipality and are willing to carry on but we do feel very sincere about the Government carrying out its part and that the Municipality should not be burdened with any taxation belonging to this scheme or to any other project that is for the benefit of the whole of Canada.

Coming back to schools and other services, I want to point out to you that if the Government paid us $60 per house per year, it would not cover the whole cost which we would be obliged to pay. As you understand and I have pointed out to you in some of the paragraphs in this letter, that we are supplying services such as fire protection, hospitalization, police protection, highway accommodation, water to the border of your property, outlets for your drainage running along your property, baby clinic, health inspectors, school accommodation for your junior and senior high school pupils at the present time, and receiving nothing so far. What we are prepared to do if the Government will build a six roomed elementary school on the site laid out for this purpose, with furnace, blackboards and accessories and turn the property over to the Municipality, we will equip same with desks, supplies that go with the education of elementary school children, provide teachers, janitor service and fuel, and educate all the children that come to your school and supply all the services mentioned above for a payment of $45. per house per annum for the duration and six months after the war

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944 - 1945 File 4-37

ceases and then they will come under the ordinary taxation of the Municipality.

When the Government has everything completed according to our Bylaws, such as roads, ditches, watermains, etcetera and wish to subdivide the dispose of this property, no doubt my Council will approve your plans in the same manner as an ordinary taxpayer.

I may say that our contribution to the school would be approximately $1,000 per room to equip with seats, desks, maps and other equipment.

I would also like to say that we have gone as far as to gove you commercial rates for water and up th the present time your highest bill for one month is $395 gross less 20% discount bringing the amount to approximately $316 net. If you were charged the same as any other ratepayer you would be paying $2.00 per month per house net, which is $600.00. All these are facts, which I have given you and if you consider you cannot accept our offer you have the alternative of paying for all these services yourself.

I am,
Yours,

R. M. Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond Municipality.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944 - 1945
File #-37

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.
June 14th, 1944.

Tom Reid, M.P.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Tom:

I had Mr. Pigott to see me for an hour and we had quite a long talk over the situation on Sea Island. I may say through our conversation it was quite clear that the man did not know the circumstances and was not fully aware of conditions there, as you can readily see in his reply to our conversation. When you read his letter over carefully and see the suggestion he had made in the last paragraph, "The Municipality to pay the cost of the school", he must have thought we were all dumbells in this Municipality.

My reply to him will point out to you the facts, and as you have seen the ground yourself, you will readily agree with me that I have asked for nothing more than what is coming to the Municipality, and a man with the experiences you have had in Municipal Affairs will readily know that by building the school and paying $45.00 per house will not cover all the services that we will have to render to this project. When I stated $60.00 would be more like it, I am sure when you diagnose my letter to him you will see that I am very fair.

Now Tom, I do not want to cause any friction between the Government and the ratepayers in this Municipality, as they have definitely stated that they will not consent to be burdened with any additional cost through this Wartime Housing being placed in the Municipality. I am sure that I have not asked for anything out of the way as we know that the war is being fought for the benefit of Canada and not for individual Municipalities. We have done our part in everyrespect in this Municipality, and will continue, but will not stand for any discrimination whatsoever. I am waiting for a reply from you before we take our next step.

Yours,

R.M. Grauer,
Reeve.

RMG/BF

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945
File R-3

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

, Ottawa, June 16th, 1944.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
The Corporation of the Township of Richmond,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

Just a note acknowledging receipt of your Air Mail letter of June 14th with copies of communications, which have passed between you and the President of the Wartime Housing Limited.

Have read your letter and the enclosed correspondence over very carefully, and quite agree with you that the matter can not rest there. In the light of the position taken by the President of the Wartime Housing Limited, intend to make every possible protest to the Minister of Munitions and Supply, and in the hope that some better results may yet be obtained.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.

September 19th, 1944.

Tom Reid M.P.,
Parliament Buildings,
OTTAWA.

Dear Tom:

I still have had no settlement with the Wartime Housing. They have offered to build a six room school costing $50,000.00 for the Municipality and want the Municipality to waive taxes to pay for this school. As I have pointed out to you in my letter which I sent to Mr. Piggott and you received a copy, I still maintain that the Government should either build a school, or give me the money to build a school and then pay the Municipality sufficient funds to operate the said school.

In other Municipalities they have built schools and are willing to take salvage value at the end of the war. In this Municipality they do not want to pay taxes, nor do they want to build a school on the same basis, they want the Municipality to pay the full cost of the school. This Municipality is the only project that they have got that they will receive the full value of the money expended on their houses, as they intend to sell them to private owners at the close of the war.

Now Tom if you will read my letter to Mr. Piggott carefully you will agree with me that it is high time that something is done, as the people in this Municipality will not tolerate such a setup as he is trying to put over on us.

Hoping you can get this straightened out before it is too late,

Yours,

R. M. Grauer,
REEVE

RMG/BF

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

45 Per Pupil

No 300

13500

Offer $50,000 School

Boeing 5,000

Wartime 2500

7,500 This to go as payment for the $50,000 School

Mr. Sheppard. Rodger B'ld.

Solicitor. Wartime Housing

Paid for Junior & Senior to Vanc.

Now only want to pay for Elementary.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944-1945

29th September 1944

J.M.Piggott Esq.,
Wartime Housing Ltd.

Dear Sir,

Re School, Sea Island project.

Talking to Mr.Shepherd, your representative, re school on Sea Island project and his offer suggested by you that the Municipality should pay for the capital outlay of this school I do not agree with this. You cannot expect the ratepayers of this Municipality to make a capital outlay for a school to take care of the Wartime Housing in this locality as we do not know whether these houses are going to be kept after the war or whether they are going to be torn down. As you know yourself, this is a war project and it should be all developed on these lines, schools included, to take care of the population which you have brought in to this Municipality for the prosecution of the war.

You have developed in other municipalities housing schemes and school accommodation, which is right and proper, and the capital outlay was made by you irrespective of the salvage value you will receive at the conclusion of the war. I cannot see why you cannot do the same for the children which you have brought into this Municipality.

Our schools are all overcrowded and we have no accommodation for any of your,prople after the end of this year, and a number of your children are not going to school as the transportation is too far for them to travel.

Now Mr.Piggott, it is up to your and your department to see that this school is ready by the 1st January 1945. You are the people who brought these families into the Municipality and you must see that accommodation is provided for the education of their children.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

29th September 1944

Hoping you will look into this matter at once as it is very urgent,

I am,
Yours very truly,

R.M.Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond

READ OCT 2 1944
COMMUNICATION No. 9
RESOLUTION No.
FILE No

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED

55 York Street

TORONTO

October 2nd, 1944.

Mr. R. M. Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B. C.

Re: School - Sea Island Project

Dear Mr. Grauer:

Your letter of September 29th received. There are two special features in connection with the Sea Island Project that place it apart from usual treatments.

(1) We look upon this project as more or less permanent. In this respect it differs from houses which we have erected to serve an end in such places for instance as Prince Rupert.

(2) While schools have been built in certain projects, they were built at the time when the end of the present conflict could not be forecast with an accuracy. To-day, when the end of the conflict appears to be a matter of months at the most, we could not justify the expenditure of $50,000.00 for a school.

We have endeavoured to plan a solution to the trouble that would be fair to you and fair to the Dominion Government, and since the cessation of hostilities appears to be in sight, as we stated in previous letters, we propose trying to settle our affairs on a Post War Basis.

When you take the position that you want full taxes from our houses and at the same time require the Federal government to provide the capital, not only for this school, but for other services that have been installed, we do not think that you are being fair. As we pointed out to you in previous letters, rather than submit to that kind of treatment, we will recommend to the Government that the properties should be submitted for proper assessment and tax subject to the usual appeals allowed by law.

In order to bring this matter to a conclusion, if you are willing to agree to the payment per house of $35.00 a year by way of taxation (which we think is very fair considering our investments in public services), then we would be willing to stand one-half the cost of the school.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

This offer is without prejudice to the merits of the question and is only made as a compromise offer because the War is not actually over although the end is now clearly in sight, and to facilitate an early settlement.

Yours very truly,

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED.

(Signed) Joseph M. Pigott.
President.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

October 5th, 1944.

Tom Reid, M.P.,
Newton, B. C.

Dear Mr. Reid:

I have been instructed by Reeve Grauer to forward to you further copies of correspondence between Reeve Grauer and Mr. Pigott of Wartime Housing Limited, on Sea Island school project in order that you may be fully conversant with all matters relating to this subject.

I am

Yours very truly,

R. C. Palmer,
C.M.C.

RCP/BF

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

5th October 1944

J.M.Pigott Esq.,
Wartime Housing Limited,
55 York Street,
Toronto.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 2nd instant received re School, Sea Island project.

You suggest in paragraph one that this project will be more or less permanent and it differs from all other projects; realising this to be true, then your department will receive the full value of the amount they put into this project instead of receiving only salvage value.

You admit you have built schools in other municipalities and that the same has been paid for by your department and it would appear to me that these schools would be in the same category, which, in your agreement, states they have to be torn down and receive only salvage value the same as the houses.

Now Mr.Pigott, I resent your remarks that I have been unfair. I have never been unfair in all my dealings with the Dominion or Provincial Governments nor with any individual; I only feel that the rights of this municipality should be upheld. If the war should cease tomorrow it would not change the picture one iota. That school should be built by your department as you did for other municipalities and paid for by the Government as part of the prosecution of this war.

I am willing to make you an offer which I think is a fair one that we would be willing to accept $35 per house per year for the duration of the war and six months after providing you build the school as you did in other municipalities and equip the same. This offer to commence from July 1st 1944 which would be half of the present year, or $17.50 per house for 1944 and $35 per house per year thereafter until six months after the war has ceased.

This offer is without prejudice and it is very urgent that the school be constructed before the end of the year.

Yours very truly,

R.M.Grauer
Reeve

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

COPY

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED

55 York Street

TORONTO

October 11, 1944

Mr. R. M. Grauer,
Reeve of the Corporation of the
Township of Richmond,
Town Hall,
Brighouse, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 5th received.

We have done everything possible to solve the difficulty in regard to the schooling in your Municipality and have failed to make any headway. That is the position at the present time and there is nothing more that we can see that can be done about it.

Yours very truly,

J. M. Pigott,
President.

JMP/MH

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

R. 4, New Westminster, B.C.,
October 12, 1944.

Mr. R. C. Palmer, C.M.C.,
Town Hall,
BRIGHOUSE, B.C.

Dear Mr. Palmer;

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 5th with copy of communications enclosed and which have passed between Reeve Grauer and Mr. J. M. Pigot, Wartime Housing Limited in regard to the suggested school project for Sea Island.

In acknowledging receipt of these would appreciate your sending me a copy of any reply received from Mr. Pigot in answer to the last communication sent out by the Reeve, which I note was on October 5th.

Assuring you of my interest in regard to this matter,

Yours very truly,

Tom Reid, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. C. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

October 14th, 1944.

Tom Reid, M.P.,
NEWTON, B. C.

Dear Mr. Reid:

Re: School, Wartime Housing
Sea Island

The reply to Reeve Grauer's letter of October 5th to Mr. Piggott was received this morning and I enclose copy of his letter.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would take up this matter direct with Hon. C.D. Howe immediately, as you will see from Mr. Piggott's reply that he intends to do nothing further.

I am

Yours very truly,

R. C. Palmer

R. C. Palmer, C.M.C.

RCP/BF

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

R. 4, New Westminster, B.C.,
October 18, 1944.

Personal and
Confidential

Mr. R. C. Palmer, C.M.C.,
Town Hall,
BRIGHOUSE, B.C.

Dear Mr. Palmer;

On instructions from Mr. Tom Reid, am acknowledging receipt of your further communication of October 14th in regard to the matter of school conditions for children on Sea Island.

Mr. Reid wants you to know that he is making further representations to the government on the matter and in the hope that more favourable settlement may arrived at.

Yours very truly,

(Miss) L.Pollard
Secretary, Tom Reid, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

R. 4, New Westminster, B.C.,
October 23, 1944.

Personal and
Confidential

Hon.C. D. Howe,
Minister of Munitions and Supply,
O T T A W A, O N T A R I O.

Dear Mr. Howe;

I am again appealing to you in regard to school accommodation at Sea Island.

You will remember my taking the matter up with you personally during the Session on behalf of the Municipality of Richmond, pointing out that under the Wartime Housing Limited three hundred families had been placed in this sparsely settled district at Sea Island and that the burden of taxation had been thrown on the Municipality.

Considerable correspondence has passed between the Reeve of the Municipality and Mr. J. M. Pigot. A deadlock, however, has been reached, and in the light of this deadlock am appealing to you in the matter and in the hope that better consideration may be given the Municipality than it would appear Mr. Pigot has so far suggested.

the .....

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

The Municipality is willing to accept $35.00 per house per year in lieu of taxation for the duration of the war and six months after providing Wartime Housing build the school similar to what has been done in other municipalities and equipped the same.

Mr. Pigot takes the view that the project there is a permanent one and so differs from houses which have been erected elsewhere. Mr. Pigot is willing to agree to the payment of $35.00 per house per year in liew of taxation but is only willing to stand half of the cost.

It was understood before I left Ottawa that Wartime Housing would undertake the building of the school An empasse has been reached due to the stand taken by Mr. Pigot and this empasse is creating considerable unfair criticismoof the government and of myself in particular. The reason for this being is as you know the representative of the Riding on the government side is held responsible although the matter is not under his jurisdiction in any way, shape or form.

I am afraid that if a school is not built by Wartime Housing it might mean that the brunt of this may fall on myself, as it is there are plenty criticisms to answer for before election time without having one like this ....

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

this placed upon my shoulders.

I am, therefore, appealing to you and urging that instructions be given

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

this placed upon my shoulders.

I am, therefore, appealing to you and urging that instructions be given Mr. Pigot to proceed with the building of the school as promised before the Session ended.

Appreciating, very much indeed, your interest and help in this matter,

Yours sincerely,

Tom Reid, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

MINISTER OF MUNITIONS & SUPPLY
OTTAWA, CANADA

October 30th, 1944.

Personal and Confidential

Dear Mr. Reid,

Your letter of October 23rd with further reference to the matter of school accommodation at Sea Island was received after Mr. Howe had left for the International Air Conference at Chicago. I will therefore be glad to bring your letter to Mr. Howe's attention on his return.

Yours very truly,

(T. M. Bryson)

Thos. Reid, Esq., M.P.,
R. 4,
New Westminster, B.C.

Sea Island

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

CANADIAN PACIFIC COMMUNICATIONS

C.D. 1R

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

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366 85 DL 1/60

VANCOUVER BC 24 919A

1944 NOV 24 PM 12 56

TOM REID MP 479

OTTAWA ONT

HAD MEETING WITH MISTER PERRY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND WARTIME HOUSING MISTER RODSON AND SHEPPARD RE SCHOOL ON SEA ISLAND PROJECT COULD GET NOWHERE WINCH HAS TAKEN THE MATTER IN HAND TOM GET BUSY ON THIS SCHOOL AS SOME CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO GO TO PRIVATE SCHOOL IN MARPOLE AS WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR THEM AND THE REST HAVE

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

CANADIAN PACIFIC COMMUNICATIONS

C.D. 1R

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

RAA366/2 TOM REID OTTAWA 25

TO GO TO STEVESTON WHICH IS SEVEN MILES AWAY DO WHAT YOU CAN
TO HAVE THIS MATTER STRAIGHTENED AT ONCE AS IT IS VERY URGENT
REEVE R M GRAUER

1944 NOV 24 PM 12 56

Re

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Ottawa, Nov. 27th, 1944.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Municipal Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

Dear Reeve Grauer:-

Just a note in the midst of the present crisis to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of November 24th, and to assure you of my doing everything possible here in the matter in accordance with the contents of your telegram.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

OFFICE OF
THE MINISTER OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY
OTTAWA, CANADA

Personal

November 6th, 1944.

Dear Mr. Reid,

On my return to Ottawa I have your letter of October 23rd with reference to the school situation at Richmond.

I fear that I cannot share your view that Mr. Pigott is being unreasonable in his attitude. As a matter of fact, I have been in fairly close touch with the discussions and have given my approval of the final position taken by Mr. Pigott. While we are anxious to be helpful, I do suggest that the Federal Government should not be expected to bear the entire burden, particularly in the matter affecting schools, which of course comes under provincial jurisdiction. Owing to the special nature of the situation, this Department is prepared to do its share. I suggest that if a final settlement is to be reached, some further co-operation from the municipality or possibly from the province will have to be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Howe

Thos. Reid, Esq., M.P.,
R. 4,
New Westminster, B.C.

pb

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

R. 4, New Westminster, B.C.,
January 23, 1945.

Hon. C. D. Howe,
Minister of Munitions and Supply,
O T T A W A, O N T A R I O.

Dear Mr. Howe;

I am writing with further reference to the school situation at Richmond, and in doing so am not overlooking your communication to me of November 6th, last, following my letter of October 23rd.

The other day the Reeve of the Municipality had a conference with me to discuss the latest offer forwarded to him on behalf of Wartime Housing by a lawyer in Vancouver. Whilst the Reeve is now in the frame of mine to accept the offer made, there is one clause in the Agreement which, I believe, is objectable and should not be insisted upon. The offer by Wartime Housing is to pay the Municipality $24.00 per year in lieu of taxes for two hundred and thirty-three houses, and $30.00 per year in lieu of taxes for the remaining sixty-five. Coupled with this is the offer to build a Fifty thousand Dollar school, the Municipality to furnish teachers, equipment and all other accessories.

In the Agreement as set forth, one clause stipulates that this financial arrangement will be carried on for ten years following the conclusion of the War, and

following .....

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

following the end of the ten year period, the government will pay $35. per house per year. It is this later clause that is objected to, and I must say, I agree with him in that it is hardly fair to ask the Municipality to agree to a period of time ten years following the conclusion of the War, and then stipulate that after that another arrangement of $35. per year will be in effect.

Surely the government is not going to carry on Wartime Housing ten years after the end of hostilities, as that is just what this clause emplies.

In the light of this, am appealing to you to have the clause deleted, and so that this matter may be finally settled.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Reid, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

24 - 233 Houses
30 - 65 "
50000 School
arraingement for
10 yrs. at end of that
Period 35 Per yr

e District of Burnaby

MUNICIPAL HALL
EDMONDS, BURNABY
VIA NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

February 6th, 1945.

Postal Deliveries, etc.

meeting of the Council held
a small Committee was set up to
nection with the extension of mail
Marine Drive in this Municipality
of a sub-Post Office in the Murrin

lirected therefore, to ask you to
arrange a time when this Committee
elf. Any Monday or Thursday after-
to the members of our Committee.

Yours truly,

Charles B Brown

Clerk.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Corporation of the District of Burnaby

TELEPHONES:
NEW WESTMINSTER
1094 - 1095 - 1096
DEXTER 1037 - 1038
Private Exchange to all Departments

MUNICIPAL HALL
EDMONDS, BURNABY
VIA NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

February 6th, 1945.

Tom Reid, M.P.,
Newton, B. C.

Dear Sir:- re: Postal Deliveries, etc.

At a meeting of the Council held February 5th instant a small Committee was set up to interview you in connection with the extension of mail delivery service on Marine Drive in this Municipality and also the matter of a sub-Post Office in the Murrin District.

I am directed therefore, to ask you to to be good enough to arrange a time when this Committee could meet with yourself. Any Monday or Thursday afternoon would be suitable to the members of our Committee.

Yours truly,

Charles B Bonn

Clerk.

CBB/DS

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

R. 4, New Westminster, B.C.,
February 12, 1945.

Mr. Charles B. Brown,
Clerk,
Corporation of the District of Burnaby,
Municipal Hall,
Edmonds, B.C.

Dear Mr. Brown;

This will acknowledge receipt of your communication of February 6th in which you write on behalf of a small committee set up by the Municipal Council asking to arrange a time when it would be possible for me to meet with this committee and discuss postal matters affecting certain districts in the Municipality.

Note you suggest either Monday or Thursday afternoon, and so am suggesting Thursday afternoon of the present week at 2 0'clock.

Looking forward to meeting the members of the committee on that occasion,

Yours very truly,

Tom Reid, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Corporation of the District of Burnaby

TELEPHONES:
NEW WESTMINSTER
1094 - 1095 - 1096
DEXTER 1037 - 1038
Private Exchange to all Departments

MUNICIPAL HALL
EDMONDS, BURNABY
VIA NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

February 13th, 1945.

Tom Reid, M.P.,
R.R. # 4,
New Westminster, B. C.

Dear Mr. Reid:-

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 12th instant and would advise that the time suggested by you, namely 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday, February 15th instant, is suitable to the Council Committee.

Yours truly,

Charles B Bonn

Clerk.

CBB/DS

offer of the Wartime Housing to us is that they build a school, (6 rooms) at an approximate cost of $30,000, they pay the Municipality $24 and $30 per house per annum which is $7,602 per annum, a net loss on educational costs of $1,200 alone. We also have to provide policing, fire protection, health services and relief. You must realize that in the Province of British Columbia the Municipality must pay 70¢ per day for every person who attends hospital, irrespective of the fact that they pay their account infull. That is the law in this Province and

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

28th March 1945

To The Honourable C.D.Howe,
Minister of Munitions and Supply,
Ottawa.

Sir,

Re Sea Island Project and
Wartime Housing Limited

I have been trying to have an agreement entered into between Wartime Housing Limited and this Municipality for the past year but find it impossible to deal with Mr.Pigott who is in charge at Toronto.

First, let me point out to you that Wartime Housing came into the Municipality without even asking my Council or myself and acquired land to build some 300 houses, which, up to the present, is nontaxable acording to Federal law. Ifbthey were taxable, according to the rate which is set up in this Municipality this housing scheme would bring in a revenue of approximately $49 per house. As the land has not been subdivided and registered as a subdivision in the Municipality according to our subdivision bylaw we feel that a very unjust housing scheme has been placed upon the Municipality and a very heavy burden has been imposed upon us.

They have brought in with them some 168 children to be educated, and according to the numbers that are going to be required to be educated will amount to some 210. The educational costs alone in this Municipality is $45 per capita net; this, you will see, would be approximately $9,000 per year. Now the offer of the Wartime Housing to us is that they build a school, (6 rooms) at an approximate cost of $50,000, they pay the Municipality $24 and $30 per house per annum which is $7,602 per annum, a net loss on educational costs of $1,200 alone. We also have to provide policing, fire protection, health services and relief. You must realize that in the Province of British Columbia the Municipality must pay 70¢ per day for every person who attends hospital, irrespective of the fact that they pay their account infull. That is the law in this Province and

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

is amounting to a great deal. We have also had to pay for an extra policeman $1,860 per year. Our fire protection is voluntary but we feel that we have a very efficient fire department as we have seven trucks at the disposal and service of your housing scheme which cost in the neighbourhood of $30,000.

At first, I asked the Wartime Housing that they pay $45 per house and build the school as this project was forced upon us, secondly I agreed to accept $35 per house and Wartime Housing build the school. Thirdly, I accepted $24 and $30 per house and Wartime Housing build the school, this was to run 10 years and in other Municipalities the agreement was to run for six months after the conclusion of the war.

At the present time, the Wartime Housing is paying for the education of some of the children of junior grades at $45 per capita, and the balance who are going to junior and senior high schools are being educated free of charge at the expense of the Municipality, some 38 pupils. At the present time children are being transported to a school some 7 miles away at Steveston. This is causing a great deal of unrest among the parents as some of them are only 6 years old and have to leave home at 7.30 a.m. and do not return until about 5 in the evening. Do you think, as a leader of our great Dominion, that this is a proper way to treat people.

The whole argument between Wartime Housing and the Municipality is that they have installed a sewerage system and want the Municipality to maintain and operate same. As we have no sewage system in this Municipality and our Bylaws call for septic tanks which places the onus on the owner of the property to maintain same, we feel that we cannot accept the sewage system until the property is put on the assessment roll and taxed the same as any other privately owned property, then there would a a sewage charge for the maintenance and operation of this system to that particular group and such levy would be made under the provisions of the Municipal Act of this Province.

Now Mr.Howe we feel that we have done a great part in this Municipality as not only the Wartime Housing has caused us a lot of grief but the roads in this Municipality have been badly abused and some taken away for airfields without the courtesy of asking, and so on but I am not holding any spite in any way, I am just pointing out the facts to you as I know a man in your position is big enough to realize just what is going on although it might not have been brought to your attention.

We have no accommodation to look after the children of the Wartime Housing after June 30th and it will be a vital

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

necessity to have this school built by September 1st. As we have to pay some $10,000 to equipthis particular school if built on top of all the other services which we have given for nothing for the past year, I feel sure that after reading this letter you will see that this school building is constructed and the very fair terms which I have offered the Wartime Housing will be adhered to. The terms are that the Wartime Housing build a $50,000 school on the site set aside for that purpose and turn this site over to the Municipality who will maintain same and educate all the children in that vicinity. We will accept $24 and $30 per house until such time as the Government feels they want to dispose of these houses. We will also give you hospitalisation, health services, police protection and fire protection but we will not take over the sewage system.

Hoping you will look into this matter at once as it is very urgent.

I am,
Yours very truly.

R.M.Cramer
Reeve of Richmond.

P.S.
Tom get busy. before it is to late for your own
Good.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

To T.Reaid Esq. M.P.

OTTAWA, ONTARIO,
April 2nd, 1945.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond Municipality,
Municipal Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

Just a note acknowledging receipt of copy of letter sent to the Hon. C. D. Howe with further reference to the school question at Sea Island.

Have read over this letter very carefully, and am attending to the matter right away. Every possible effort will be made by me so that the matter may be settled in accordance with your letter to the Minister.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

To T.Reaid Esq. M.P.

4th April 1945

The Honourable Ian McKenzie,
Minister of Pensions & National Health,
Ottawa.

Sir,

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you and your colleagues for the wonderful co-operation we have had from your department with our Civilian Protection Committee.

As you know, we have built one of the greatest organizations in Richmond along these lines in Canada and it is very gratifying for me to have this opportunity of thanking you for the splendid co-operation we have received in every manner from your Department.

I also have a great idea in mind and I know that you will agree with me that it will be a great asset to our returned men and to the health of our community when I explain this matter to you and that you will do all you can to help us.

I have in mind the building of a Richmond Living Memorial Centre which I estimate will cost in the neighbourhood of $300,000.00. This will consist of a concrete building including skating rink, bowling alleys, rifle range, reading room and anything which we think would be of benefit to our returned boys and their families to recuperate and re-establish themselves after this war is over.

Now sir, I understand than the Soldier Land Settlement Board is establishing 1,000 homes in this Municipality and have purchased the property for same and have already started to build same of these homes. In my opinion, it would be a great gesture on the part of you and your Government if they would make us a grant of, say, 50% of the cost of this great project which will be a living memorial to those young men who served so faithfully overseas, we in turn would put up the other 50%.

I do not think this would be asking too much as

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

we, in the Municipality of Richmond, have done a great deal, and a great deal more than any other municipality, owing to the location and size as your Government has seen fit to take over some 2,500 acres of land for airports which has been taxed for bonded indebtedness in future years, and now we receive no benefit or taxes. They have also taken parts of our highways for which we have received no remuneration. We feel that if we do not receive any taxes or remuneration for the parcels of highways and the improvements thereon that this would be a good way to straighten this matter up and at the same time erect a wonderful building for the benefit of the returned boys and their families and also the boys that have gone from the municipality and their families.

Knowing you as I have in the past, I know you will do everything possible to start this great Richmond Living Memorial for the Municipality.

Hoping to hear from you in a very favourable manner,

I am,

Yours very truly,

R.M.Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

OTTAWA, ONTARIO,
April 5th, 1945.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond Municipality,
Municipal Hall,
Brighouse, B.C.

Dear Reeve Grauer:-

This will acknowledge receipt of copy of communication sent to the Honourable Ian McKenzie, in regards to your proposal of having the Government contribute towards a Memorial Centre in Richmond.

Intend to discuss this matter with the Minister and in the light of your communication to him.

Yours very truly,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

AIR MAIL

OTTAWA, ONTARIO,
April 10th, 1945.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond Municipality,
Municipal Hall,
BRIGHOUSE, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

I am writing you with further reference to the dispute between yourself on behalf of the Municipality and the Wartime Housing Board.

For your information may say, that in a conference with the Minister and Mr. Piggot today, am afraid with the end of the war in sight it might be advisable to reconsider the question of maintenance of the pumping system. The reason, I say this, is because if the matter is not settled, and an election takes place with the war in Europe over, by that time your Municipality might be faced with having to build the school out of Muncipal monies. It was with this thought in mind, that I deemed it advisable to send this note of warning to you by Airmail although in doing so I quite realize the merit of your stand regarding the pumping and sewerage system.

If you deem it advisable to reconsider, would advise you immediately contact the Wartime Housing Board, setting forth any amended views you may have, the future being so uncertain.

I write this in the best of faith to you, and spirit, and in doing so want you to know that I am sorry indeed that the representations made by myself have not obtained all that was asked for.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

AIR MAIL

House of Commons
Canada

OTTAWA, ONTARIO,
April 10th, 1945.

Reeve R. M. Grauer,
Reeve of Richmond Municipality,
Municipal Hall,
BRIGHOUSE, B.C.

My dear Reeve:-

I am writing you with further reference to the dispute between yourself on behalf of the Municipality and the Wartime Housing Board.

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I write this in the best of faith to you, and spirit, and in doing so want you to know that I am sorry indeed that the representations made by myself have not obtained all that was asked for.

With kind personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

TOM REID,
MEMBER FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

The Corporation of the Township of Richmond

R. M. PALMER
CLERK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 1024

TOWN HALL
BRIGHOUSE, B. C.

WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FILE No. _____

12th April 1945

Tom Reid Esq., M.P.

Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter of April 10th in which you maintain it would be better for us to consider taking over the pumping and sewerage system and take what we can get as there might be an election when the war is over in Europe. This might be true and cannot come too fast as far as this Municipality is concerned as we would not be worse off with a new Government than we are with the present one.

I have instructions from my ratepayers that they will not go any further than what I have stated in my letters and I am going to leave the balance to the election which you anticipate and I am sure it will voice their opinion backing the stand that I have taken.

Yours,

R.M.Grauer,
Reeve.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

CANADIAN PACIFIC
TELEGRAPHS
World Wide Communications

74 VR ON 166 NL APR 18 PM 11: 17

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HON C D HOWE MINISTER OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

OTTAWA, ONT 1535

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN YOUR WARTIME HOUSING CORPORATION AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF RICHMOND IS CAUSING MY DEPARTMENT DEEP CONCERN IN REGARD TO PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION IN SEPTEMBER FOR INCREASED SCHOOL POPULATION DUE TO WARTIME HOUSING PROJECT IN THAT MUNICIPALITY STOP WARTIME HOUSING HAS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER AND I RESPECTFULLY URGE IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEM STOP THEY HAVE PAID FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS ELSEWHERE BUT IN RICHMOND BUILT THREE HUNDRED HOUSES AND MADE NO PROVISION FOR EDUCATION AND HAVE PAID NO TAXES TO DATE BUT PAID ONLY FOUR FIFTY PER CHILD TO RICHMOND FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WHILE THEY PAID SIX DOLLARS FOR CHILDREN SENT TO VANCOUVER FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND HAVE PAID NOTHING WHATEVER TO RICHMOND FOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION PROVIDED SAID CHILDREN WITHIN RICHMOND DISTRICT STOP AS WARTIME HOUSING CORPORATION ADOPTS THE ATTITUDE THAT IT IS IN SAME POSITION AS THE CROWN REGARDING TAXATION THOUGH I PERSONALLY DO NOT ADMIT THIS THE SITUATION HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DRIFT BUT SOME ACTION IS IMPERATIVE IMMEDIATELY

H G PERRY MINISTER OF EDUCATION

1117PM

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

OFFICE OF
THE MINISTER OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY
OTTAWA, CANADA

April 20th, 1945.

Dear Tom:

I believe Mr. Pigott, the President of Wartime Housing Limited, has explained to you our position with respect to the agreement with the Municipality of Richmond.

Mr. Pigott advises me that you have consented to see the Reeve in an endeavour to bring about a reconcialition of the differences between the Company and the Municipality. In this connection, I am enclosing a copy of a telegram I have received from Honourable H. G. Perry, Minister of Education of the Province of British Columbia, and a copy of my reply.

Yours sincerely,

C D Howe

Thomas Reid, Esq., M.P.,
R.R. #4,
New Westminster, B.C.

fs

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

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RECEIVER'S NO.	TIME FILED	CHECK

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Ottawa, April 20th, 1945.

Honourable H. G. Perry,
Minister of Education,
Victoria, B.C.

AT MY REQUEST J M PIGOTT PRESIDENT WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED HAS DISCUSSED RICHMOND AGREEMENT WITH THOMAS REID M P UNDERSTANDING THAT MR REID WOULD SEEK TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES AS BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE MUNICIPALITY stop AM SENDING COPY OF YOUR WIRE AND MY REPLY TO MR REID

C. D. Howe

Charge: Minister of Munitions & Supply

fs

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Copy to Tom Reid M. P.

4499

June 4th, 1945.

Wartime Housing Limited,
NORTH VANCOUVER, B. C.

Attention Mr. Pigott

Dear Sir:

Re: Sea Island Project

Your letter of December 19th, 1944. After taking this matter up with my Council, they are willing to accept proposal No. 2, which states that you are willing to make cash contribution of 25,000.00 towards the school, or in lieu of taxes and that you will agree upon payment of $35.00 per unit for 300 units until such time as you dispose of the house.

We in turn also will agree to approve of your subdivision when it conforms with the bylaws of this Municipality and at that time will consider taking over the pumping system.

You will also give the Municipality the site laid out for a school, and we will build the school ourselves, and equip same and educate the children from then on. As you can readily see we cannot spend money on private property until the subdivision is properly registered and approved by this Municipality, but as this is urgent we are willing to accept your cash contribution of $25,000.00 and the site and go ahead at once with the preparation of the school, until such time as you are ready to bring forward your subdivision plans.

Yours,

R. M. Grauer,
REEVE OF RICHMOND.

RMG/BF

M. Cameron (Mrs)- "
S. King (Mrs) - Trustee and Secretary

/2

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

R.R.4,
New Westminster, B.C.
June 12th, 1945.

AIR MAIL

Mr. Jos. M. Piggott,
President, Wartime Housing Limited,
55 York Street,
TORONTO, Ont.

Dear Mr. Piggott:-

I am again appealing to you in regard to the controversy between Wartime Housing Limited and the Municipality of Richmond.

Understand that the Reeve of the Municipality forwarded to you on June 4th a communication making an amended offer. They, I believe, are now prepared to accept a cash contribution of $25,000. towards the building of a school, and in lieu of taxes will agree to accept $35.00 per unit for the 300 houses built by Wartime Housing Limited. The other conditions are that the Municipality will agree to approve of the Burkville subdivision when the same conforms with the by-laws of Richmond Municipality, and they will consider taking over the pumping system. In agreeing to the offer it is understood the Municipality would be given the site for the school. They are asking this on account of the fact that before expending monies the same must be on property owned by the Municipality.

In view of the long drawn out controversy, and in view of the amended offer now made by the Reeve of the Municipality, am of the opinion this offer should be accepted.

May I point out it is extremely important from the school point of view that the offer be accepted speedily, so that steps can be taken to have the school constructed before the Fall term commences.

Appreciating your reviewing the matter in the light of this offer.

Yours very truly,

TR/H.

M. Cameron (Mrs)- "
S. King (Mrs) - Trustee and Secretary

/2

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

Eburne, B. C.

June 29th,1945.

Messrs Locke,Lane,Guild and Sheppard

ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS RESIDENT IN BURKEVILLE
ATTENDING RICHMOND SCHOOLS

Gentlemen :

1. Your letter dated 28th June,1945.

2. The Board have instructed me to inform you that it will have neither the teaching staff nor the accommodation nor the transportation available to educate the above referenced children after the summer holidays.

3. During the past few months many classes were far too crowded. The Board has prepared and is implementing a Zoning scheme to obviate this next term.

4. The scheme was prepared after extensive investigation and study,and based on the understanding that Wartime Housing and the Municipal Council of TRichmond were reaching an agreement,the terms of which would include a school being built on Sea Island and ready for use in September,1945. This new school would have enabled us to accommodate the Burkeville pupils. The building they now occupy is required to accommodate the present Grade Six Pupils from Lord Byng School,Steveston,who will become Grade Seven in September,1945.

5. It appears that an agreement has not yet been reached and is unlikely to be, the consequence is the Board cannot accommodate the Burkeville Pupils any lomger.

6. The Board admits that all children are entitled to an education,but if the Board cannot obtain the facililties necessary,it is unable to give them the education.

7. It cannot but be admitted by all that the responsibility of providing the requisite facilities for the Burkeville children falls to a very large extant on the Wartime Housing authorities,who have themselves tacitly acknowledged same by their conditional moffers of building a school on Sea Island and by paying fees for the Elementary children last year.

8. It must be pointed out that this Board has months past stated definitely its inability to accommodate the pupils concerned in September,1945. and that this fact is definitely known by the parties conducting the negotiations and that the responsibility for there being no facilities must rest on them and them alone for delaying the issue to the extant they have.

9. This Board is of the opinion that it is highly unreasonable for it to be expected to provide educational facilities(even if they were available) for what amounts to a small town,which though geographically situated in the Municipality,was a sudden Dominion War Time Project,which pays no taxes and increases the school attendance far above the maximum increase which would

M. Cameron (Mrs)- "
S. King (Mrs) - Trustee and Secretary

/2

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

be caused by any private building boom.

10. The Board feels that the action of the Wartime Housing authorities in refusing to pay fees last year for High School pupils when they had done so for the Elementary pupils was mean and quibling. The Reeve of Richmond, without consulting the Board, asked the principal of the High School to admit a few pupils Six pupils from Burkeville were understood to be the number involved, in a very short time the taxpayers of Richmond were educating Thirty Three pupils at the High School free. When this matter was taken up with the Wartime Housing they refused to accept the same responsibility for these High School pupils as they did for the Elementary.

11. This Board is already placed in a difficult position, its difficulties in coping with the normal residential increase is bad enough, the Pontius Pilate attitude, as manifested in your letter of June 15, 1945, on top of the dilatory, protracted negotiations on the Sea Island School question make its position almost intolerable.

12. In order that our position can be once and for all TIME clear to you, I am instructed to tell you that this Board will NOT (because it CANNOT) accommodate the Burkeville pupils in <u>Any</u> School in this Municipality when schools re-open in September, 1945, unless, which appears unlikely, the negotiators will come to an immediate agreement and rush the construction of an adequate school and complete same before September 1st, 1945.

12 A. The Board feel that this question has long been treated like a ball, thrown from one party to the other. The interests of education are paramount and the impression has been given us that the negotiations can be allowed to continue indefinely till the war is over and then the problem will solve itself, but in the meantime the School Board will muddle through.

For and by the instructions of the School Board

S. King (Mrs)
Secretary,
Richmond School Board

S. King (Mrs) - Trustee and Secretary

/2

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944 - 1945

407 Blundell Road,
R.R.2. Eburne, B.C.

June 30th, 1945.

Mr. Tom Reid,
Member of Parliament,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS RESIDENT A BURKEVILLE,
SEA ISLAND, AT RICHMOND MUNICIPALITIES SCHOOLS

1. The undersigned is desirous of drawing your attention to and soliciting your co-operation in the matter of reaching an amiciable, just and above all speedy solution to above referenced long outstanding question.

2. This communication is addressed to you, (a) because you are the M.P. representing the riding in which the Municipality is situated. (b) It is known that this "Sea Island School" question has, at least in part, been previously brought to your attention.

3. Our School Board has been placed in an extremely difficult position. By law, we are obliged to provide education for all school aged children in our district. In fact, we are only able to do so if the other authorities whose duty it is to provide the facilities carry out their obligations.

4. During the coming school year, we can only just accommodate the increase from the families of our normal residents. The extra Burkeville children are an impossible load unless a new school, as so often promised, is provided.

5. It would appear that the Municipal Council as represented by Reeve R.M. Grauer and the War Time Housing Authorities after very protracted negotiations have been unable to come to any agreement and the possibility of one being reached in the near future is more remote now than it ever was.

6. It should be noted that as far as the undersigned is aware no attempt has been made to settle the question by arbitration which might appear to have been the logical way to overcome the differences as soon as they became manifest.

7. It may also be pointed out that our School Board realizes full well that our Municipal Council are naturally conducting their negotiations in what they consider their best interests and that should the School Trustees and Councillors positions be reversed it is possible that we also would be adopting the attitude they are. However, we are School Trustees with a clearly defined duty to carry out and we need the school.

8. Though I have heard you speak from public platforms, I personally have not yet had the pleasure of meeting you, though I understand one of our Trustees has. The following is a nominal roll of our School Board as at present constituted:

F.P.R. James	-	Chairman
P. Van Baggen	-	Trustee
H. Smith	-	"
M. Cameron (Mrs)	-	"
S. King (Mrs)	-	Trustee and Secretary

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Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
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9. Attached for your information are:-

(a) copy of letter dated June 19th from the agents of the War Time Housing.

(b) copy of our reply dated June 29th.

Copies of the above mentioned letters have also been sent to the Minister of Education at Victoria.

10. In conclusion, Sir, I wish to state that in my opinion we have every right to call upon you, our M.P., for immediate and effective support in this matter and that I personally feel you will be willing to give it.

I am, Sir,

Yours Faithfully,

F.P.R. James

(F.P.R. James) Captain,
CHAIRMAN
RICHMOND BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

R. 4, New Westminster, B.C.,
July 17, 1945.

Capt. F. R. James,
Chairman,
Richmond Board of School Trustees,
417 Blundell Road,
R.R. No. 1,
Eburne, B.C.

Dear Capt. James;

Have just received your communication of June 30th with enclosures regarding the school situation at Burkeville which had been addressed to me at Ottawa and only reached me at my home this morning.

The situation, I realize, is a serious one. Although the controversy or disagreement between the Municipal Countil and the Wartime Housing has been conducted over a long period of time, everying possible has been done by me as Federal Representative to bring about a satisfactory settlement, but up to the present time without any definite agreement being reached.

I presume Reeve Grauer has kept your Board fully posted from time to time regarding what the government was prepared to contribute and likewise, the Reeve, acting for the Municipality was prepared to accept.

As probably you are aware Wartime Housing in December last made two proposals, one of which seemed to be acceptable by letter dated June 4th of this year. The proposal which seemed to be acceptable to the Council was that Wartime Housing make a cash contribution of $25,000. towards a school and agree to pay $35. per annum for each of the 300 units at Burkeville until such time as they would be disposed of. Between December and June considerable correspondence took place the chief point of issue being as to whether the government would take over the present pumping system. This, Wartime Housing was not prepared to do.

In the communication of June 4th sent on behalf of the Municipality by Reeve Grauer, he pointed out that the Municipal Council was willing to accept the $25,000. for the school plus $35. per year for the 300 houses but stipulated that they would not agree to the approving of the subdivision until they conformed with the by-laws of the Municipality. If the subdivison conformed with the By-laws of the Municipality, the Municipality would then consider taking over the pumping system. Following this letter to Wartime Housing I again made pepresentations to Ottawa, but Ottawa pointed out that they were not prepared to hard surface all the roads in the subdivision as required by the terms of the proposals made by Reeve Grauer.

Wartime .....

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School 1944-1945

Wartime Housing, I understand, is prepared to make this contrinution feeling that as they had to construct all drainage ditches, make the roads, instal sewers, water, electric light facilities are of the opinion their offer to contribute $25,000. towards a school plus $10,500. per years is a reasonable and fair one.

An uhfortunate impasse has been reached and whilst I agree with you that perhaps the matter might have been settled by arbitration, the question which I am not quite clear on is whether the Municipality is prepared to agree to have it settled by arbitration. The matter, I quite realize, has reached a deadlock after long negotiations. It is my opinion that the Dominion government will not accept the responsibility for education, negertheless, are prepared to contrinute $25,000. as well as a contribution of $10,500. annually.

For the information of your Board, believe it only fair to say that on June 12th last I addressed a letter to the General Manager of Wartime Housing appealing to him to have the matter settled immediately so that a school may be constructed before the Fall term commences, but in a communication from him he infirmed me that in the light of the demand by the Municipality that the Wartime Housing comply with the subdivision by-laws thereby compelling Wartime Housing to hard surface all the roads in the subdivision, they were of the opinion that this was asking too much and were therefor not prepared to proceed with their contribution as proposed.

As Federal representative for the District am extremely anxious that some agreement and settlement be made as soon as possible and am prepared to do everything possible in the matter to help bring about this. The only thing left for me to do, however, is to make a further appeal to the government itself. Whilst doing so, however, it would be appreciated if you would let me know, as soon as possible, if the Municipality is prepared to have the matter arbitrated, as in that event, and they being agreeable to abide by arbitration proceedings, will endeavour to have the same put into effect.

Assuring you of my continuing interest and help in this matter,

Yours very truly,

Tom Reid, M.P.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

SECRETARY:
MRS. S. KING.
PHONE: RICHMOND 1233

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
RICHMOND MUNICIPALITY

OFFICE:
RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL
299 SEXSMITH ROAD
R. R. 1. EBURNE, B. C.

June 19th, 1945

The Srcretary,
Richmond School Board
R.R.#1.
Eburne B. C.

COPY

Dear Sir,

RE: PUPILS ATTENDING RICHMOND SCHOOLS
FROM BURKEVILLE

In reply to your letter of the 15th instant to Wartime Housing Limited, we are instructed by this Company to inform you that the responsibility for the education of these children rests exclusively upon your School Board, and this Company will therefore expect that your Board will make available the necessary facilities for the education of these children for the term commencing September 1945, and thereafter.

Yours truly,

Locke, Lane, Guild and Sheppard.

Per F.A.S.

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945

WARTIME HOUSING LIMITED
55 YORK STREET
TORONTO

19th June, 1945.

Mr. Thomas Reid, M.P.,
R.R. 4,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Dear Mr. Reid,

I have your letter of June 12th addressed to Mr. J.M. Pigott. Mr. Pigott, as you no doubt know, has resigned from the presidency of Wartime Housing Limited after serving over four years, and we regret very much that he has terminated his services.

It is true that Reeve Grauer of the Township agreed to accept the cash contribution of $25,000.00. A stipulation was that they would assume responsibility for the pumping station, etc., if and when the plot plan was registered. On enquiring as to what we would have to do to bring the plot plan into shape to have it registered, we find that it would be necessary to put a 2" hard surface on all of the roads. This, of course, is out of the question and I have so advised our solicitors to advise Mr. Grauer.

It would appear to me from looking over the correspondence between Mr. Pigott and the Municipality that they do not seem to want a solution to their problem.

Apparently the municipality yesterday notified our solicitors that other arrangements would have to be made with respect to the education of the children, in an attempt to force our hand. Our solicitors replied that the education of the children was the responsibility of the municipality.

It seems too bad that this municipality is not receiving the benefit of a contribution from the Dominion Government towards their school problem. I feel that Mr. Pigott has gone a long way towards ~~accepting~~ settling this problem but apparently their is no answer to it until the township changes their attitude.

Yours very truly,

Thomas Gray

Thomas Gray
General Manager.

TG/AM

Wartime Housing at Sea Island School
1944 - 1945