The Friends of the Vancouver City Archives invite you to come hear Dr. Sean Kheraj present

**Inventing Stanley Park: An Environmental History**

Sunday, October 18, 2009
2pm to 4pm at

The Joyce Walley Learning Centre in
The Vancouver Museum at 1100 Chestnut Street

This event is the Friends’ annual fundraiser. Dr. Sean Kheraj, a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of History at UBC, will speak about the environmental history of Stanley Park from its deep geological past to the present. He will explore both the natural and cultural forces that have reshaped this iconic landscape over time. As the author of two scholarly articles and a dissertation on Stanley Park’s history, Dr. Kheraj argues that the perception of the park as an unchanging wilderness was produced through a historical relationship between popular expectations of idealized wilderness and Vancouver Park Board landscape policies and tourist promotion in the twentieth century that reinforced the image of the park as an ancient forest and influenced public memory of the park’s past.

**Tickets: $25.00 per person**

We gratefully accept and issue tax receipts for additional donations of $25.00 or more.

**RSVP:**

To ensure the correct abundance of post-talk refreshments, please call us at *(604) 736-8561* by October 15th. Prepayment is appreciated. Please make cheques payable to: “**Friends of the Vancouver City Archives**” c/o 1150 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC V6J 3J9.
Programme

Doors Open 1:45 pm
Presentation by Dr. Kheraj 2:00 – 3:00 approx.
Followed by Questions and Answers and Light Refreshments
catered by Emelle’s Catering
Closing 4:00 pm

More on Dr. Sean Kheraj’s Presentation

Stanley Park, a peninsula located directly adjacent to downtown Vancouver, British Columbia, is one of the largest urban parks in Canada. A powerful narrative, which characterizes this park as a preserved portion of an ancient Northwest Coast coniferous forest, dominates the current popular perception of nature in the park. Since its creation in 1887 people have repeatedly described the park as “primeval,” “virginal wilderness,” and “centuries-old.” This narrative is based on an imagined version of the park’s environmental history, one that elides both the natural and cultural agents that have shaped this landscape over time. Stanley Park encompasses an ever-changing environment that has never been free from human and non-human disturbance. For centuries, the park’s landscape has been a hybrid of natural and cultural forces from its use as a Native village prior to European colonization to its transformation into an urban park.

Thank you in a “Major Way” for your support of the vitally important work of the City of Vancouver Archives.