


ETHNOBURB

Richmond is a classic ethnoburb, as defined by Wei Li in “Anatomy of a New Ethnic Settlement.” Characterized as a largely residential area with a notable cluster of (often wealthy) G1 and G2 Chinese and East Asian populations, Richmond’s globalized demographic differs substantially from classic North American Chinatowns. Due to the high degree of ethnic similarity, the area fosters cultural preservation, including a thriving “shadow economy” of goods and services rendered from private homes and disseminated through personal networks and cash payments.



Richmond, BC, 1992

Photo: Richmond Archives