



File photos by Chung Chow

Though it will be in a "digital and physically-distanced manner," plans are afoot for the popular Richmond Maritime Festival to be held later this summer.

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New Richmond Hospital gets green light

By DON FENNEL
@rmdsentinel

Richmond received some long-awaited good news last week. A new state-of-the-art emergency department and intensive care unit for the community is on the way.

"People have been calling for a new tower at Richmond Hospital and our government took decisive action to make it happen," says Premier John Horgan. "We're proud to give the green light for a bigger, bolder plan for Richmond Hospital that will bring the facility into the 21st century and deliver the care Richmond needs."

Horgan says there's an added economic benefit, as the project will create thousands of jobs.

Detailed planning, currently underway, is expected to be completed in September. The project will then proceed to procurement and construction.

The province originally announced its commitment to replace the patient care tower in March 2018. At that time an eager crowd packed into the hospital atrium was told a business plan was expected to be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Richmond Hospital Foundation president and CEO Natalie Meixner has lobbied tirelessly for the upgrades. In welcoming last week's news, she paid particular homage to the many who have supported the initiative.

"Our community of philanthropic leaders will be ecstatic to learn about the additional services that will be included in the new acute care tower, and the opportunity for innovation that an expanded project scope will bring to Richmond," she says. "People across our vibrant and diverse community have made commitments to help us reach 88 per cent of our \$50 million goal, and we look forward to even greater philanthropic support and involvement from our donors in the future."

Replacing the aging hospital follows years of angst.

Opened in 1966, Richmond Hospital's operating rooms are only half the size of today's standard and at risk in a flood or tsunami. And a structural assessment of the original tower deemed it to be at a high risk of widespread damage or structural failure after an earthquake.

As the structure continues to age, so too does a growing list of associated challenges. Elevators in its acute care tower suddenly stopped working one day a few years ago, forcing administrators to think quickly. Fortunately, they were able to call on a unique source for help: the movie industry was able to supply suitable cables until the elevators could be permanently repaired.

During the 42 years the hospital has been open, Richmond's population has also more than quadrupled to over 200,000 residents. The



File photo

The province announced Thursday a "bigger, bolder plan for Richmond Hospital will bring the facility into the 21st century."

hospital also serves South Vancouver, Delta, Vancouver International Airport and BC Ferries.

The replacement of the so-called north tower also addresses other deficiencies including outdated patient care delivery areas.

Richmond Hospital currently has 240 beds, with 108 in the original six-storey north tower which houses surgical suites, in-patient units, a mammography clinic, cancer care, medical imaging and administrative, academic and support services.

The new emergency department and intensive care unit will bring more services and better care. Double the existing floor space, the nine-floor tower will include a fully-equipped medical imaging department, intensive care unit, and pharmacy. The new concept also includes renovating the south tower to create new in-patient psychiatry and psychiatric units.

"The renewed and expanded concept plan reflects our government's ongoing commitment to the people who live and work (in Richmond), ensuring that timely, quality public healthcare will be there for them now and in the future," said BC Health Minister Adrian Dix.



Dr. Penny Ballem, board chair of Vancouver Coastal Health, says taking bold steps now to increase and expand services "will allow to better service Richmond patients and clients for years to come."

In 2017, the Richmond Hospital Foundation commissioned an independent public opinion poll to better understand what citizens of Richmond felt were the most important public-funded infrastructure needs. Eighty-five per cent placed a new hospital tower among the top two projects, and 52 per cent rated it as the No. 1 need.

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Butterfly champions remain resolute

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Mitchell elementary teacher Anita Lau celebrated National Pollinator Week a little differently this year.

Two years ago, the school became part of the Butterflyway project, a David Suzuki Foundation initiative where volunteers plant habitat 'highways' for pollinators like butterflies and bees.

"Each spring we plant host and nectar plants in our schoolyard garden," says Lau. "We care for the seedlings, make observations and learn in the outdoor classroom."

The learning experience is beneficial for students, who practice butterfly identification as well as learning about the plants.

"As an educator, I've found the Butterflyway project provides opportunities for students to unplug and get outside," says Lau.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual outdoor classroom has been replaced by a virtual space. Students who returned to school in June helped with weeding and watering the garden, and all students have been meeting daily on Zoom to participate in the project.

After engaging in virtual rap lessons, students and teachers worked together on a collaborative video. Each student participated as a rapper or an artist, sending in video clips or butterfly art to be compiled by a parent who works in the film industry.

"We even managed to get Mr. Plumb, our principal, to be in the rap," says Lau. "It's about letting play take care of us in hard times."

Recently, the video was shared to celebrate National Pollinator Week.

The Butterflyway project started in BC in 2017, with Richmond and Victoria as the first cities to get involved. Since then it's grown to include Vancouver and North Vancouver, as well as pilot projects in Burnaby, Surrey, and West Vancouver.

It provides Canadians with an opportunity to get into gardening—and help sustain butterflies and other pollinators.

"We know that Canadians love the environment, but often people feel helpless," says BC project lead Winnie Hwo.

Through the program, volunteer Butterflyway 'rangers' commit to planting and nurturing a garden in their community. This year, there are 86 new volunteers in the Lower Mainland—but the program also runs as far away as Toronto and Montreal. And this year, the organizers also developed a second stream that's based in online engagement.

Prior to the pandemic, they planned to recruit 40 volun-

teers across the country who were not already involved in the existing project. But there were hundreds of applicants, and the selection committee found themselves unable to turn anyone away.

"Everybody brings their knowledge and their passion, so we said to hell with the 40," says Hwo. Now, the project has over 300 rangers, each of whom are also tasked with recruiting five friends to join them and help the planting team.

The online program brings people together through webinars and other communication channels, like Facebook groups, where they share ideas.

"It's a much bigger family now than we first anticipated," says Hwo. "COVID-19 basically expanded our program."

Among Richmond's online community members are representatives for several schools, including Lau and Richmond secondary's Eugene Harrison.

"Last year they built a pollinator garden in the back of the school, and this year the plants grew so they have more than they can imagine, so they also planted in the front of the school," says Hwo of the Richmond secondary Green Team.

But the project isn't limited to those who applied early—anyone can help out by planting things that attract butterflies and other pollinators. Then, Hwo says, those people can become part of the Butterflyway ranger program the following year if they're interested.

"This year we identified 12 Indigenous pollinator plants with our rangers, and we've been sharing that (list) with people who missed the deadline to join the project," says Hwo.

And they're also promoting the 'butterflies in my backyard' (BIMBY) project—offered through the iNaturalist website and app—to anyone who sees a butterfly and wants to contribute their discovery with the online community.

While the usual in-person 'planting parties' can't take place this year, Hwo encourages people to get out in their communities and look for Butterflyway gardens.

"They're all over the place," she says. "And right now is the most beautiful time to go."

For more information on Richmond's Butterflyway project, including a map of garden locations at davidssuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway/richmond/

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Photo courtesy Winnie Hwo
Lynda Pasacrete (centre)
was Richmond's first
Butterflyway ranger.



Photo courtesy Winnie Hwo
Mitchell elementary teacher Anita Lau appreciates the outdoor learning opportunities offered by the Butterflyway project.

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Honk 2020 salutes frontline workers, supports food bank

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Usually a blast of the horn in vehicle traffic is a sign of anger. But Honk 2020 was just the opposite.

This unique drive-by event held outside Richmond Hospital June 20—the first day of summer—was a chance for locals to show their support for frontline workers. During the coronavirus pandemic, frontline workers' efforts and dedication have been unwavering.

Organized by the *Richmond Sentinel*, *Skytalk Media* and *WesternDriver.com*, participants were also urged to further show their support by donating to Richmond Food Bank. The final tally was still being determined at press time, but the food bank says every \$1 it spends enables it to collect and distribute about \$6 worth of food for people in need.

"Like most other food banks, the Richmond Food Bank relies heavily on the generosity of corporate and individual donors," says executive director Hajira Hussain. "The Honk 2020 initiative brought community members together in support of such a meaningful cause. Many people are facing an increased hardship putting food on the table and they continue to access the food bank on a regular basis."

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Photo submitted

While saluting frontline workers, participants in Honk 2020 also donated to the Richmond Food Bank, showing their support for people in need.



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Kwantlen design student lauded for innovation

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

The Wilson School of Design at Kwantlen Polytechnic University has quickly earned a reputation as a leader. Now, one of the grads from its Richmond campus has wowed judges at a prestigious annual design contest.

Riley Scott, who graduated from the technical apparel design program last December, was recognized at the Core 77 Design Awards for his innovative ski jacket that adapts to temperature and exertion levels. Scott was student runner-up for the sports and recreation award for his creation of the Status ski touring mid-layer, which varies its insulation to the thermal needs of the user.

"The initial inspiration for this jacket came from my own ski touring expeditions and being frustrated with the amount of time and energy that was wasted while altering my layering system," Scott explained.

Those experiences inspired him to create an invisible layer that could adapt to conditions.

"To realize this goal, I took inspiration from window blinds as they transition from a two-dimensional object to a three-dimensional object," he said.

The jacket was Scott's capstone project at the Wilson School of Design. But he was quick to give some of the credit to instructors who never left any of his questions unanswered. The instructors say the jacket reflects a commitment to the design process they teach.

"Riley did a fantastic job not just in what the jacket became as a prototype, but in the whole approach to understanding the context of use, defining the problem and technical design requirements, material and construction exploration, and iterative prototyping and testing of possible solutions," said instructor Dan Robinson.

Robinson noted the jacket is also sensitive to other context-specific requirements such as carrying a backpack, providing more traditional vent zips usually absent in a mid-layer jacket, and for keeping sleeves in place during arm movements.

Robinson also praised Scott's engineering tests to show changes in in-

sulation and user tests to demonstrate the effectiveness of the jacket.

Now working at Mountain Equipment Co-Op, Scott said he felt "honoured" to have been recognized for his creation.

"I put so much time and passion into (the project)," he said. "It has been incredibly validating to realize that judges from Jacksonville, Luxembourg and Stockholm are all discussing my design as it is something I have thought about every day for months."

This marks the second time in as many years that a graduate of the design school has been recognized at the Core 77 awards. Philip Siwek's autonomous vehicle cycling jacket won the strategy and research student category in 2019.

The only program of its kind in Canada, the technical apparel design program was developed with, among others, employees at local apparel companies like Arc'teryx, lululemon, Mountain Equipment Co-Op, and Mustang Survival.

"Our graduates are amongst some of the best design grads in the world," said Andhra Goundrey, dean of the Wilson School of Design. "This program engages our students in research, design process, business and leadership skills to develop innovations that challenge boundaries to maximize human performance."

The Wilson School of Design offers seven unique programs through certificate, diploma, bachelor's degree and post-baccalaureate qualifications.



Photo submitted
Riley Scott, a graduate of the Wilson School of Design at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, has been recognized for his innovative ski jacket.

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Corcoran assumes chamber chair at virtual AGM

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce named its new chair at the first-ever virtual AGM last week.

Brian Corcoran is a partner at PLLR Lawyers and has been an active chamber volunteer for many years. Beginning in 2008, he served as a judge for the annual Business Excellence Awards—still his favourite event—and he was first elected to the board in 2014.

After living in six different provinces, Corcoran moved west in 2005.

"Richmond's diversity has always amazed me," he says. "Not only does it lead to so much amazing food, but it generates so many different and interesting perspectives that can only be present in such a diverse community."

Taking on a new role this year poses additional challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



Photo by Rob Newell

Brian Corcoran was elected the new chair of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce at its virtual AGM last week.

"Our ability to guide our members through an incredibly challenging time is critical," Corcoran says. "We must play an important role in not just their survival but hopefully their growth in the 'new normal'."

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce 2020/2021 board of directors are:

Chair: Brian Corcoran, PLLR Lawyers

Vice Chair: Carolyn Robertson, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Corporate Secretary/ Treasurer: Naomi Horsford, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Immediate Past Chair: Fan Chun, Dr. Power

Directors:

- Grant Bryan, O'Hare's GastroPub & Liquor Store
- Stephanie Howes, School of Business, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Bernard Loh, Next Environmental Inc.
- Rachel Li, Roynat Capital, Scotiabank
- Chuck Keeling, Great Canadian Gaming Corp.
- Michael McCoy, Touchstone Family Association
- Mark Rose, Layfield Group
- Lulu Shen, iTalkBB Media

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File photos by Chung Chow

Richmond Arts Coalition is putting out the call for artists, performers, artisans and storytellers for an altered version of the annual Richmond Maritime Festival this summer.

Plans afoot for modified Maritime Festival

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

The popular Richmond Maritime Festival will go ahead this summer, but like other major events during the pandemic in a modified form.

In calling for artists, performers, artisans and storytellers for the 17th annual seafaring celebration, Richmond Arts Coalition executive director Andrew Wade notes this year's event—planned for late August to mid-September—will be in a “digital and physically-distanced manner.”

“We have been fighting for this to happen, both so that this funding for local artists won't be lost this year, and to provide a unique opportunity for local artists and artisans,” Wade explained.

Singing mermaids, sailors with a story to tell, dancers with maritime-themed dance to teach people at home, film pirates and puppeteers feeling the call of

the sea as well as creators of art installations and other artisans are urged to apply at www.richmondartscoalition.com/artist-call-maritime-festival/

The deadline for artists to answer the call is July 8.

The 2020 festival is expected to feature digital displays of family-friendly performances, artisan showcases, and heritage storytelling alongside accessible art installations.

“The Richmond Arts Coalition, Anigraph Productions and the City of Richmond will be artfully celebrating our oceanside past and present here at the mouth of the (Fraser) River,” said Wade, adding that in early August, event organizers plan to set up a site studio in Steveston to film performances, demonstrations and storytellings. He said live performances may be considered if pandemic restrictions lift, but otherwise performances will be presented online.

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Alison Lok (left), 9, learning to finger weave with Angela Maggs (centre), a volunteer, and her mom Cecilia at last summer's festival.



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Photo submitted

Andrew Wong (left) with nominator Bonnie Zhang at her graduation in 2015.

Math teacher encourages students' success

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Andrew Wong is invested in his students' success. Although an "old-school" math teacher by his own description, his approach remains timeless.

"Math is process-oriented, so it demands a lot of critical thinking and showing steps," he says. "(But) I try to make it fun, lighten the moments in class and provide some fun things to do."

Bonnie Zhang, a 2015 Palmer graduate and Loran Scholar, nominated Wong for a Loran Teachers Building Leaders Award. Now working in management consulting, Zhang appreciates Wong strengthened her skills in critical thinking and creative problem solving.

"He was so invested in our success," Zhang says of Wong. "He made a mark on every student he taught. He led by example, and he showed us what it means to lead with integrity."

After learning he was an award recipient, Wong said he was "a little shocked, humbled and inspired."

"I'm just really appreciative of the award, and it's always nice to hear from a former student, especially one of Bonnie's calibre," he says. "She's a great role model for all our students."

Wong remembers Zhang as a dedicated, successful student during her time in Palmer's pre-advanced placement incentive program.

"Even in that group (of high-achieving students), Bonnie was a standout," says Wong. "For me it's really gratifying to see students take advantage of the opportunities that we provide and then have success and achieve even greater things, and Bonnie definitely did that."

Wong also encourages extra engagement outside the classroom for students who show interest—including math contests and other opportunities for thinking outside the box. He remembers Zhang as a student who strove for those kinds of opportunities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Wong says he's missing in-class interaction and discussion.

"You learn a lot from just discourse with each other," he says. "Learning is a social process, in large part"

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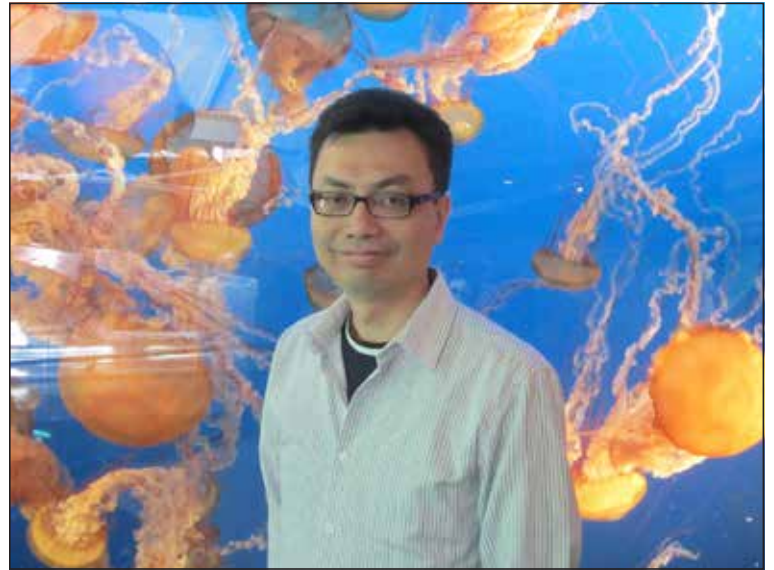


Photo submitted

John Shim is grateful to all those who've supported him.

Science teacher builds students' confidence

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

John Shim's former students remember him as a community builder. Over the course of his career, Shim has inspired and supported many former students—some of whom say they've become teachers because of the example he set. This year, Shim received a Loran Teachers Building Leaders Award after being nominated by 2015 Palmer graduate and Loran Scholar Bonnie Zhang.

"He really is someone who cares, about the community and about his students," says Zhang.

That sentiment was echoed by several other former students, who highlighted Shim's encouraging outlook and genuine interest in their lives.

Along with Palmer alumni and students, Shim founded a non-profit organization called Quantum Continuum Community Society. For over 10 years, the organization engaged all grades, as well as alumni, through encouragement, inspiration and education.

Being a science teacher doesn't prevent Shim from thinking outside the box in the classroom.

"Ultimately I look to develop the whole person: intellectual, physical, socio-emotional and spiritual," Shim says of his teaching philosophy.

And outside the curriculum, he finds joy in helping students discover their potential and feel supported to seek their purpose in life.

"It may seem corny to some, but I try to find something redemptive and beautiful every day," he says.

He has only good things to say about former student Zhang, who he calls "a rising star."

"Bonnie is one of those people who are 'superstars in disguise,'" Shim adds.

His focus on relationship building and community engagement has been challenged by remote teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. But he's found new ways to connect through polls, messaging and multimedia during online classes.

Shim was honoured and thankful to receive the award, but says he shares it with all those who have been part of his communities over the years.

"We say 'it takes a village to raise a child,' and I am so thankful for all those I have worked with since they have been part of the village raising me."

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Discipline drives Beedie scholar's passion for learning

By **DON FENNELL**

[@rmdsentinel](#)

The Oxford Dictionary defines self-discipline as the act of or ability to apply oneself, which is a pretty apt portrait of Melody Weng.

At 17 and still in the midst of her teenage years, the 2020 Steveston-London secondary grad is already preparing for the future.

"I'm very independent, and since I'm stuck inside (much of the time) because of COVID-19 I'm trying to be more conscious of my health," she says. "Some days I run or just do some weight training. I have also been learning to cook, which I enjoy. It's a life skill that I felt I should learn sooner or later."

Since the age of nine, Weng has also been training in wushu and has competed in dozens of events around the world. A complex martial art, it is a full-contact sport composed of forms and sparring.

"Wushu is not easy to master. It takes practice, dedication, and a strong mind-set as well," she says. "But I think having a wushu background and getting titles has strengthened my discipline."

That resolve to learn and succeed permeates through all aspects of her life—including the classroom.

Recently awarded a Beedie Luminaries scholarship, she says it will significantly reduce the financial burden of post-secondary studies.

"I'm extremely thankful," says Weng, who is enrolled in the sciences at UBC this fall. "It's so important to me right now, in this pandemic especially when the economy is not doing so well. And tuition can be expensive, especially if you want a degree that can take longer than four years to complete."



Photo courtesy Beedie Scholarships

Steveston-London secondary grad Melody Weng has been awarded a Beedie Luminaries scholarship.

The Beedie scholarships are awarded to "resilient BC students facing financial adversity who have the academic readiness to advance their education, achieve their dreams and inspire others."

Though still unsure what aspect of the sciences she'll eventually major in—perhaps biotechnology—Weng is anxious to get started. Trying to understand what makes things tick fascinates her.

During high school, Weng has taken a number of advanced placement courses, and is particularly interested in sciences.

"I've always been fascinated by the logic behind everything and I've always liked watching animal documentaries," she says. "I think science appeals to a lot of people who learn with their senses, plus there's a lot of benefits in the future if you want a science-related career—for example a doctor or lab technician. It's a subject that caters to so many different people and personalities."

Suggesting friends would describe her as passionate and caring, Weng seeks opportunities that reflect her personality and values. She's been a longtime air cadet and dedicated community volunteer, which have both furthered her leadership skills and confidence.

"There's quite a few people I look up to, who have a lot of self-discipline and respect," she says. "I want to become someone who has high standards and inspires others."

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John Yap
MLA, Richmond -Steveston



Richmond FC scholars embody spirit of club

By **DON FENNELL**
 @rmdsentinel

The Richmond FC scholarship selection committee faced a daunting task: choose just five individuals from an extensive field of worthy graduating players.

It wasn't enough to simply be a good soccer player. Or to be a high achiever in the classroom. As reflected by the award recipients, being well-rounded was a necessity.

"Definitely all five bring a high level of commitment to soccer, and have spent an extended amount of time as part of the club," committee member Fred Well says. "And all five have been very involved in their schools and community—but in different ways."

They're also different players, bringing their own set of talents to the patch. Some even participated at different levels. All, however, were key contributors to their teams—some as vocal leaders, others quietly making a difference.

Their efforts at school and in the community

were carried out similarly.

"They're all the kind of kids who are always there, who you can always depend on," says Well, who besides coaching an under-17 boys' team also teaches grades 6 and 7.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Richmond FC felt it was particularly essential to maintain the awards.

"It's really important to recognize these individuals for all they've contributed over the past years," explains Well. "It also reflects on us seeing ourselves as more than just a soccer club, but an organization that strives to be involved in the community."

During the pandemic, the club has hosted fundraisers in support of the Richmond Food Bank.

Well says it's been difficult for players to have to spend so much time indoors, away from teammates and friends.

"Soccer, by its nature, provides an opportunity for people to come together," he says. "I know with my under-17 team we tried to stay in con-

tact after games were cancelled. Even now as we're just getting back on the field in the first stages of re-entry, we're still only able to work on individual skills but everybody is so excited to just kick the ball and see teammates. I think the time off makes you appreciate things more."

Richmond FC board chair Rein Weber says this year, as much as ever, the five graduating players being recognized with scholarships are exceptional people.

"We are very proud to recognize these five individuals who have worked incredibly hard at school (despite losing the last term) and, at the same time, made a commitment to our community in various different volunteer roles," he says, noting they embody what the club is trying to promote.

"As a club it is important for us to engage the community—to make sure that if there is a need, we do our part and our players help lift others up and lend a hand. That's when we all become stronger."

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RFC Graduation Scholarship winners



Joel Hempel
(McMath)

Joel shows leadership on and off the field, demonstrates excellent sportsmanship and gives 110 per cent effort. He is described as a fantastic player and a great person. Joel's activities off the field include participating in the interact club, coding club and science club. This year Joel worked with Habitat for Humanity on a project in Costa Rica. In the future, Joel wants to get involved in youth soccer coaching.



Tom MacIntyre
(McMath)

Tom has been a player with Richmond FC for 12 consecutive seasons and was described as a joy to coach. He had fantastic team spirit and sportsmanship and showed a high level of commitment to his team in practices and games. Tom has been a strong all-around student who was on the honour roll every year. He has been involved in student leadership, was a peer tutor, and has been a member of the Richmond Youth Concert Band.



Will Rasmussen
(Burnett)

Will has been with Richmond FC as a player for 13 years. He has been the kind of strong and reliable player that every team needs, but whose true value is often not recognized. He received the top athlete award in Grade 8 and played on his school volleyball and basketball teams. Will has served his school community as a peer tutor, a member of the Breakers that Believe student leadership group and an orientation guide for Burnett-bound Grade 7 students.



Ryan Sadra
(Vancouver College)

Ryan has shown outstanding leadership on and off the field, and was the captain of his team for the last two years. He was an active and impassioned advocate for his teammates, motivating everyone to do their best. Ryan has been a first class honours student and a member of the honour society every year since Grade 9. In addition to playing hockey and basketball, he has volunteered in various initiatives to help the homeless. Last year he went on a trip to Peru to build a home for an impoverished family.



Ben Williams
(Boyd)

Ben has been an accomplished and dedicated player with Richmond FC for the last 13 seasons. Playing soccer has taught him how to be his best self, on and off the pitch. Ben was a field marshal at the Coastal Cup finals held in Richmond last year and has been an active participant in Richmond FC's food, sock and blanket drives. Outside of the classroom, Ben is a passionate participant in his school community and has been a part of interact club, business club, grad committee and student council.

Girls' soccer adopts new United moniker

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

The Richmond Girls Soccer Association is no more.

The local youth organization recently changed its name to Richmond United Soccer Club.

"Since 1974, we have been dedicated to helping Richmond soccer players reach their sporting potential. However, it had become clear that our name was not in keeping with the inclusive nature of our programming," said acting board president Marty Mueller. "We feel this name change will help ensure players of all abilities and identities feel more comfortable as part of



our club."

Boar directors have been taking the steps towards this name change for several months, a club news release says.

At an extraordinary general meeting of members held June 22, the vote was carried by a majority with several participants expressing their support for a change that is intended to solidify the club's connection and commitment to the soccer community in Richmond.

Anxious for safe play to return under the direction and guidance of BC Soccer and provincial health authorities, Richmond United Soccer Club is planning to offer summer soccer programs in conjunction with Fusion FC. Full details can be found at www.richmondunitedsoccer.ca



Photo by Don Fennell

Richmond City Baseball is set to return this summer, but will be limited to training and development sessions.

Chuckers introduce return of summer baseball

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

There won't be any formal games, but baseball is in the on-deck circle.

Having submitted a Return to Play plan, the Richmond City Baseball Association Chuckers hoped to begin on-field participation this week.

Not all players will be invited to take part, however. The Chuckers explained on their Twitter account that its board of directors had to make a "very difficult" decision to not include the youngest age groups (5U to 7U) due to social distancing concerns. But, they added,

they were looking forward to seeing the smiling faces return in the spring of 2021.

In adhering to Baseball BC and BC Minor Baseball Return to Play plans, all Chuckers sessions are limited to a maximum of 10 athletes, two coaches and one parent. As well, participation will be limited to training and development sessions.

"The decision to return to play was not made lightly by the board," the Chuckers' tweet reads. "Of utmost importance, of course, is the safety of our members and their families. As such, our Return to Play plan contains numerous health and safety guidelines."

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Locals earn Arthur Ashe scholar awards

Two Richmond athletes have earned Arthur Ashe Jr. scholar awards.

Natalie Cooke and Dakota Chan, both members of the University of Nebraska Huskers women's soccer team, were recognized for their outstanding achievements and efforts in the classroom and community. Cooke, a senior, had a cumulative grade point average of 3.91, while Chan, a junior, had a cumulative grade point average of 3.85.

Both were also high achievers in 2019, making the honour roll and the Tom Osborne Citizenship Team.

RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Car interiors can become fatal quickly



**Eyal
Lichtmann**

It's officially summer, temperatures are rising, and the province has loosened restrictions on mobility. A lot of us are feeling like going places.

But summer can carry a lot of risks as people and animals get outdoors more. One of the greatest risks facing dogs is how quickly the interior of a car can heat up in the summer sun. Even with open windows, car interiors can become deadly quickly.

Many dogs love tagging along even on a short jaunt to the grocery store. At this time of year, though, it's often best to leave your best friend at home.

If you witness a dog in distress due to heat, it may be tempting to break the car window. This is both illegal and dangerous. Shattering glass could harm the dog and the person involved. It could further traumatize an already upset animal.

If the situation appears to be an emergency, call the RAPS City of Richmond Animal Shelter (during business hours) at 604-275-2036 or the Richmond RCMP (or local police, depending on the location).

Meanwhile, note the license number, type of vehicle and colour. Ask nearby stores to page the owner. If you have a bottle of water in your car—keep one handy at all times in case of emergency—try to offer the dog some water to drink through an open window or even try to pour water on the dog through the window in order to reduce its temperature.

Symptoms of overheating in a dog include heavy panting, excessive or erratic heart rate, salivation or drooling, anxiety, staring, tremors, weakness and lack of coordination, convulsions, vomiting and collapse.



If you see a dog experiencing any of these symptoms, and are able to get them out of the car, take the following steps: Transfer the animal to a cooler location, ideally in the shade. Encourage the dog to drink water. Pour water on the dog—but do not use ice, as this can affect blood flow and counterintuitively prevents cooling. Fan the dog with a magazine or anything close to hand. This encourages evaporation that cools the blood and reduces the dog's core temperature.

Get the dog to a veterinarian quickly for assessment and additional treatment. (Consider contacting the RAPS Animal Hospital at 604-242-1666)

Consider keeping a pet emergency kit in your car, with a bottle of water, a small bowl and a handheld battery-powered fan, which you can buy at a dollar store.

Let's make this summer healthy and safe for all. Eyal Lichtmann is CEO and executive director of the Regional Animal Protection Society.



Photos submitted

With warm to hot temperatures, summer can be fun and relaxing. But for many dogs it can also be a time of great distress.

MY NAME IS KATARINA

Katarina came to us as a stray with her little boy who has since found a home. Katarina gets along with other cats at the shelter, especially if they have the same energy as she does; she loves playing. Her ideal family would be attentive, and another friendly cat can also be in the mix.

****Due to COVID-19, all meet and greets will be by appointment only. Please call us at 604-275-2036 to set up an appointment.****



REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (RAPS)

rapsbc.com | City Shelter: 604-275-2036

Head Office: 604-285-7724



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RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

rapsanimalhospital.com

604-242-1666

The RAPS Animal Hospital and Animal Ambulance are supported by Applewood Nissan





Photo submitted

Popular musical theatre classes resume virtually this summer.

Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! Online

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

After a quarter century of holding summer musical theatre camps at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! is going virtual.

Starting July 6, many elements of musical theatre will be offered through online courses. Founder Perry Ehrlich will lead free morning classes that will feature theme weeks, interaction between participants, and a fun, creative, and energetic environment.

Each class will run daily for two weeks—for 45 minutes each weekday. There is a 12-person minimum, with some classes possibly combined depending on enrollment.

"We intend to repeat all classes through the summer (starting July 6, July 20 and Aug. 3)," Ehrlich said. "All you need to participate is a computer with access to Zoom software, together with video and sound of a decent quality, and space in your home."

The Good Morning Show begins at 9 a.m. featuring hot topics, musical theatre tips, vocal warmups with Diane Speirs, and dance/conditioning warmups.

Then, it's on to Twist and Shout kicking off at 9:30 a.m. Exclusively for nine- to 11-year-olds, it's a virtual dance party.

The popular boot camp dance program is designed for those new to dance, or wanting to brush up on their technique.

Tune in to Rock and Roll at 10:30 a.m. The theme is the same as Twist and Shout, except it's for 12- and 13-year-olds. It's followed by Shake, Rattle and Roll for 14-year-olds at 11:30 a.m.

The Actor's Life, starting at 11:30 a.m., introduces nine- to 11-year-olds to acting. Amanda Testini will oversee the class that leads participants in basic acting skills and includes improv, acting exercises and games.

What A Character, for 12- and 13-year-olds, begins at 9:30 a.m. Creating a character is the basis of acting, and these classes with Advah Soudack will discuss how to create that character along with exercises, games and studies. It will all culminate in a final interview-like game where each participant—in costume—appears as their character and the other students ask questions.

Reserved for 14-year-olds, Acting Master Class is a class focusing on the monologue. Participants will also get to write and perform their own.

Tap Your Troubles Away is a no stress class for anyone interested in tap, while On Your Toes offers up the basics of ballet as they relate to musical theatre. Those with dance experience may also be interested in learning a range of musical theatre styles from Isabelle Maheux—everything from Grease to Fosse. Tik Tok Pop introduces you to a variety of short routines to current pop songs, while We're All In This Together and Dancing In The Street, for nine- to 13-year-olds serve up the ultimate Gotta Sing! Gotta Dance! experience.

Register for any of the classes online at www.jccgv.com

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New visitor policy introduced for care homes

Long-term care and seniors' assisted-living residents will be able to receive visitors in July thanks to new provincial protocols.

Residents will begin to be able to have a single designated visitor in a specific visiting area, including indoor or outdoor locations. This approach will be monitored through July, with an aim to expand it in August.

Individual facilities must develop written plans outlining how they will meet new requirements. All visitors must bring and appropriately wear masks.

In addition, personal service providers, including hairdressers, will be able to come into long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities if they have completed a WorkSafeBC safety plan.

Provincial funding will also enable each long-term care home and seniors' assisted living residence to hire up to three full-time equivalent staff. New staff will be responsible for ensuring infection prevention and control measures for COVID-19 are followed to support safe visitation.

The additional staff will also work to schedule visits and make sure visitors do not enter the facility if they are sick, wash their hands frequently, practice respiratory (cough) etiquette and maintain a safe physical distance of at least two metres from patients and staff wherever possible.

Further funding will address retroactive costs incurred by facilities between March 1 and June 30.



HSBC MUTUAL FUNDS INVESTIGATION

Law firm Investigation Counsel Professional Corporation is investigating a potential class action for Canadian investors, including residents of British Columbia, who invested in any of the following HSBC mutual funds:

- HSBC Equity Fund
- HSBC World Selection Diversified Conservative Fund
- HSBC World Selection Diversified Moderate Conservative Fund
- HSBC World Selection Diversified Balanced Fund
- HSBC World Selection Diversified Growth Fund
- HSBC World Selection Diversified Aggressive Growth Fund

If you owned any of these HSBC mutual funds, you might not have received adequate disclosure about the mutual fund manager's investment strategies. You also might have paid excessive fees that lowered the returns on your investment and retirement savings.

Canadian mutual fund investors pay amongst the highest fees in the world. Canadians deserve full disclosure about mutual fund investment strategies and their associated costs. Any excessive fees should be paid back to affected investors.

If you are a B.C. resident who owned one of the above HSBC mutual funds at any time since 2010, please contact the lawyers at Investigation Counsel by email or phone.

mutualfunds@investigationcounsel.com | 416.637.3152



Photo courtesy Tourism Richmond

Richmondites will showcase the city to visitors through Tourism Richmond's new ambassador program.

Tourism Richmond launching ambassador program

Tourism Richmond is launching an ambassador program for locals called "Pacific. Authentic. Locals." The program will allow residents to showcase the city to visitors from a unique perspective.

"Visitors are looking for an authentic experience. They want to do as the locals do," says Tourism Richmond CEO Nancy Small. "Now, locals have a chance to share their love of Richmond with future visitors. We're looking for residents to give a warm Richmond welcome to visitors when travel restrictions are lifted."

The program launches with two knowledge tests that cover details on Richmond and the value of tourism to the city. It will expand to include more activities to engage residents.

Participants will receive an official ambassador certificate for each test they pass and those who pass both tests will be entered into a draw to win the ultimate Richmond Ambassador Prize consisting of:

- A Pacific. Authentic. Richmond BC swag bag
- Two adult tickets for a whale watching tour with Vancouver Whale Watch
- Entry into the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
- \$50 gift card for McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver Airport

For more information about the program, and links to the knowledge tests, please visit this page: www.visitrichmondbc.com/locals/

Seizure Soldiers champion advancing cause

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](https://twitter.com/rmdsentinel)

By every definition, Marika Lopez is a champion.

Eleven months ago (with the help of friend Danielle Cosco), she spearheaded the launch of Seizure Soldiers, an initiative to increase awareness of epilepsy. Since then, she's only become more passionate about the plight.



MARIKA LOPEZ

Having now also launched a Facebook site with nearly 700 followers

and an Instagram support group chat, she's turned her attention to fundraising. She's hoping to raise at least \$250 for BC Children's Hospital this month as a way to say thanks.

"They've done a lot for me in the past 15 years," Richmond's Lopez says. "I'm turning 18 this month, and BC Children's Hospital has given me so much—from helping me after my first seizure, to giving me a neurologist who's now like an aunt to me, to giving me a medicine that has worked from the beginning."

Lopez was only 18-months-old when she experienced her first seizure. She was then diagnosed with epilepsy at age three, and must constantly be aware of her health.

She's also been burdened by ignorance. Though epilepsy is the fourth most common neurological disorder affecting people of all ages, public misunderstanding causes those living with the disorder to sometimes face challenges arguably as difficult as the seizures.

"My goal is to raise awareness and educate others about the difficulties, while also trying to establish an accepting attitude toward epilepsy," Lopez said upon starting Seizure Soldiers last summer.

That hasn't changed.

"It is my hope that through this mission, it will also inspire others who face similar obstacles to start speaking up and sharing their stories," she says. "We need to begin the necessary conversations."

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RICHMOND
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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

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Richmond man helps beautify Chinatown monument

When Benton Robertson learned that the stone lion at the Millennium Gate in Vancouver's Chinatown had been the target of racially-motivated vandalism twice in the past month, he was taken aback. Then, he decided to step up and do something positive.

Following the lead of Lindsey Taylor, who initiated a movement among young people from different ethnic backgrounds to show their concern about the incidents and intolerance of racism, Richmond's Robertson immediately recruited two friends to help decorate the monument. Robertson said he had many Chinese friends and couldn't understand why anyone would carry out such vandalism.

To the vandals he implored: "Don't do this."

The young people used their own savings to purchase flowers to beautify the statue. And on June 18, the Chinese Benevolent Association of Canada wanted to say thank you with an offering of souvenirs as a token of gratitude. Association members (led by president Yao Chongying) added these young people showed through their actions a desire to help change social prejudice and discrimination, while encouraging others to follow suit.

"The actions of these young people show that Canadians will not tolerate this kind of racial discrimination, and sets a good example for society that we can combat social prejudices and discrimination through action," Yao said. "No matter how small the act may seem, the effect it can have can be significant in the bettering of our society."

Taylor, who works in the arts industry, said she believes everyone is equal.

"It hurts me that this happens," she said.



Photo submitted

A Richmondite stepped up to help decorate the stone lion in Vancouver's Chinatown which has recently been the target of racially-motivated vandalism.

Grants to support community projects, youth

A new \$5 million program encourages youth to engage with community service projects to "build back better" from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Communities around BC—including local governments, non-profit community and environmental organizations, employer associations, chambers of commerce and Indigenous communities—can apply to fund a community service project of their choice.

Projects can include trail building, beach

clean-up, upgrading parks or working for a local charity. Unemployed young people who are between 15 and 29 can benefit from the program.

"Now, more than ever, young people are looking for ways to support themselves, while giving back to their communities," said Melanie Mark, minister of advanced education, skills and training. "Engaging in safe, physically distanced local projects is an incredible opportunity for young people to acquire new skills, earn money and contribute to building back an even

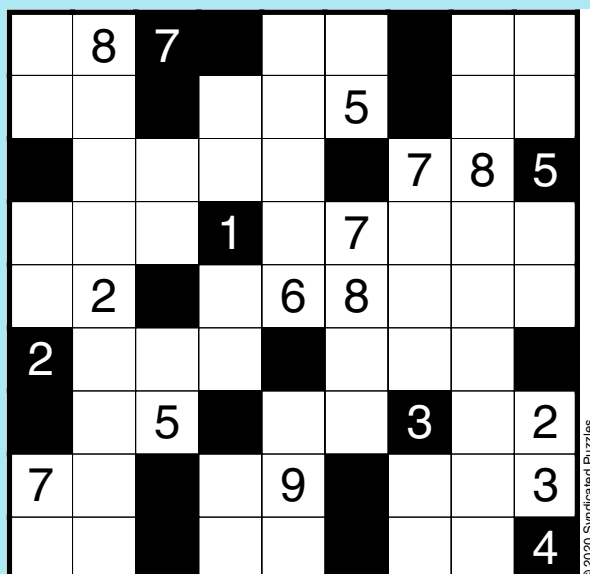
better BC."

Applicants can receive grants of up to \$10,000 per youth for projects running up to 16 weeks. The youth then receive a training stipend of up to \$2,000 per four-week period (to a maximum of \$8,000) for work between June and Oct. 31.

Participants can also receive wraparound supports like bus passes, child care, work boots and personal protective equipment for the work, which will incorporate physical distancing and include no more than 10 youth per project.

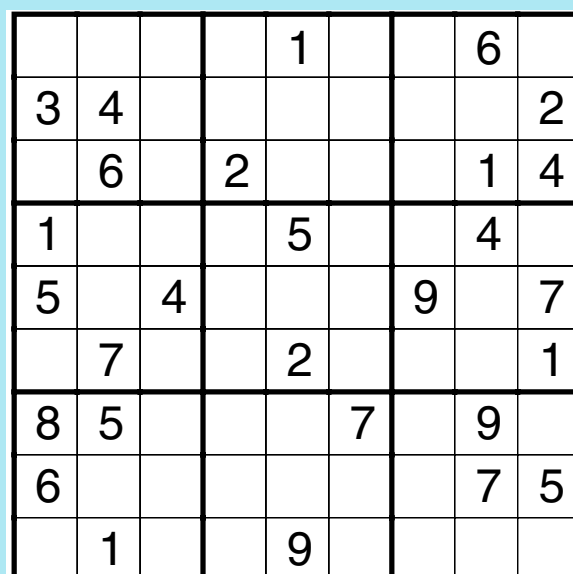
STR8TS

No number can be repeated in any row or column. Rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must contain a 'straight,' a set of numbers with no gaps in any order, eg. [4,2,3,5]. Numbers in black cells are not part of straights but also cannot be repeated in their row or column.

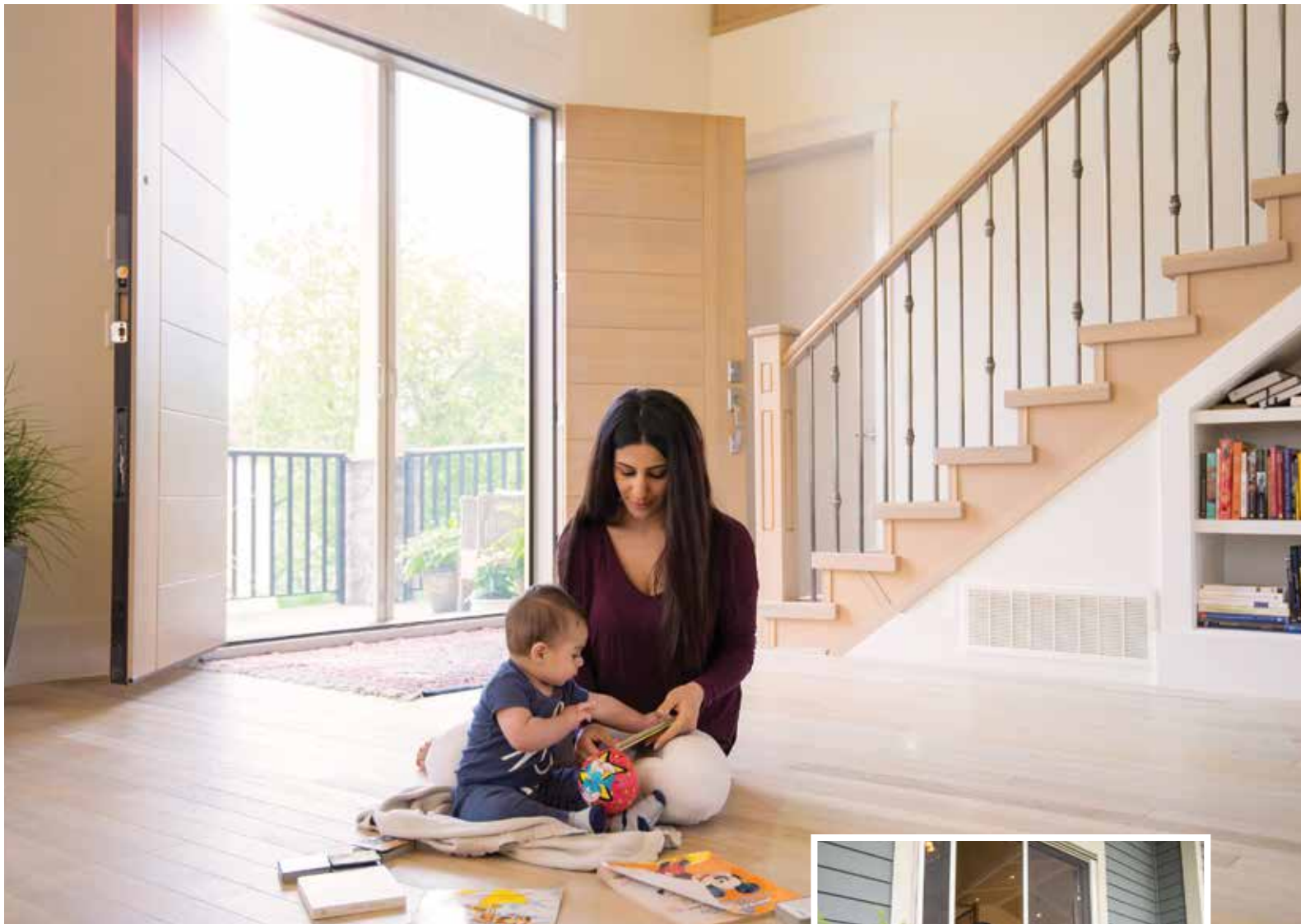


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