



Cartoon creations

Artist excels
at caricatures

06

Art by Katie Green

Steveston-based artist Katie Green (better known as Cartoon Katie) is a caricature artist who works on events across the Lower Mainland.

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Plans afoot to replace Steveston Community Centre

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

The much anticipated replacement of the Steveston Community Centre and adjacent branch of the Richmond Public Library is a step closer to reality.

At a special meeting last month, city council adopted on consent the proposed selection of a site directly east of the existing facilities and still within Steveston Community Park.

A staff report to the general purposes committee, authored by Facilities and Project Development director Jim Young and Recreation and Sport Services director Elizabeth Ayers, also recommends hiring a full-time senior project manager to manage the development of a design concept and future implementing of the project.

On Sept. 23, 2019, council approved replacing the community centre and library branch—a program encompassing 60,350 square feet. At that time it directed staff to provide specific project cost estimates, review options to mitigate project costs, provide information on potential sites and on the transition of programming from the existing facilities, as well as review options to expand the size of proposed multipurpose rooms by 750 square feet. The report supports various aspects of council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 One Community Together, including recognizing vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection as well as celebrating Richmond's unique and diverse history and heritage.

On Dec. 12, 2016, council considered the report "Richmond Major Facilities Projects," which identified replacing the community centre and library as one of the city's priority capital projects. To ensure a successful delivery, a six-stage process was developed.

Three sites were considered for the replacement, with extension review and evaluation of each assessing cost, servicing requirements, impact on other facilities and parking among other factors. The recommended Site 3 (beside community police office) is also supported by the Steveston Community Centre concept design building committee.

The report offers a projected cost estimate for Site 3 of \$93.5 million and occupancy within five years. It also says 90 additional parking stalls will be needed to serve the new, larger facilities and advises a combination of underground



Photo by Hannah Scott

A site beside the existing community police station, within Steveston Community Park, is the recommended site for a new community centre and library branch.

and surface parking as the best "balanced solution economically and for preservation of park space."

The combination of 60 underground stalls and 100 surface parking stalls is included in the \$93.5 million project total.

The report notes that while the existing community police office is not part of the project scope, should the building be displaced due to proximity to the recommended site, a dedicated storefront space for the new police office will be incorporated into the program. The additional costs would be \$4.8 million.

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VCH says spread of COVID in schools is low

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has released data indicating there was a low rate of COVID-19 transmission in schools across its region during the first half of the school year.

Since schools reopened in September, VCH has not recorded a significant increase in COVID-19 cases among school-aged children relative to other groups. Those aged five to 17 years of age accounted for six per cent of VCH's COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic, despite representing 10 per cent of VCH's population.

"We want educators, other school staff, parents/caregivers and students to feel reassured that schools are a safe and low-risk environment for COVID-19 transmission, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our schools and school districts," said VCH medical health officer Dr. Alex Choi. "The safety plans currently in place are

robust and effective, and VCH is committed to ensuring that when students or school staff do test positive, a rigorous public health follow-up process is in place."

From Sept. 10 to Dec. 18, some 700 students or staff in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (a total population of more than 100,000 people), have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since schools reopened. Over 90 per cent of these cases have not resulted in any school-based transmission. The majority of affected students and staff contracted the virus at home or in social circumstances outside of school and links to schools were determined through contact tracing. Students and staff who get tested must isolate while waiting for test results and continue to do so if they test positive. In addition, close contacts are also asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

Choi said the data supports efforts to keep

schools open, and for students to attend in-person.

"While we have seen a moderate increase in COVID-19 cases among young people since the end of October, this is reflective of the overall increase in COVID-19 cases in our communities. Schools are an essential determinant of physical, mental and emotional development. It is our utmost priority to ensure students can continue to attend school, despite the ongoing pandemic."

When VCH is notified of a positive case in a student or school staff member, public health completes an investigation, typically within 24 hours, to identify all individuals that person was in contact with. If the person who tested positive for COVID-19 attended school while potentially infectious, public health co-ordinates with the school to notify all contacts and to offer guidance.

Gifted school on ALR seeks to expand

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A school for gifted children in Richmond is hoping to construct a new building to accommodate more students, pending Agricultural Land Commission approval.

Choice School is located on agricultural land in East Richmond, and about half of its students are what the school calls “twice exceptional,” meaning they are gifted and also have additional learning difficulties or a disability.

The matter came before Richmond city council last week, when a delegation from Choice School explained that it is one of only 15 designated special education schools in the province, and that its enrolment is essentially at capacity. The school has been on its current site since 1992.

After discussion, council referred the matter to the Agricultural Land Commission, which has final say in whether Choice School will be able to expand.

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Mayor names standing committees

Mayor Malcolm Brodie recently announced Richmond city council's standing committees and their membership for 2021.

Brodie chairs both the finance and general purposes committees featuring all members of council.

The community safety committee is chaired by Coun. Bill McNulty with Coun. Carol Day vice-chair and featuring Couns. Alexa Loo, Harold Steves and Michael Wolfe. The parks, recreation and cultural

services committee is chaired by Coun. Steves with Coun. Wolfe vice-chair and features Couns. Chak Au, McNulty and Linda McPhail. The planning committee is chaired by Coun. McPhail with Coun. Loo vice-chair and features Couns. Day, McNulty and Steves. The public works and transportation committee is chaired by Coun. Au with Coun. Loo vice-chair and features Couns. McPhail and Wolfe.

Council liaisons were also appointed to the following until Nov. 8, 2021:

- Advisory committee on the environment—Coun. Wolfe
- Child care development advisory committee—Coun. Day
- Council/school board liaison committee—Couns. Au and Loo
- Economic advisory committee—Couns. Au and Loo
- Heritage commission—Coun. Wolfe
- Major facility building/project technical advisory committee—Couns. Steves and Wolfe
- Minoru Centre for Active Living program committee—Coun. Au
- Richmond Centre for Disability—Coun. Loo
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce—Coun. McPhail
- Richmond Community Services advisory committee—Coun. McNulty
- Richmond food security and agriculture advisory committee—Coun. Steves
- Richmond intercultural advisory committee—Coun. McPhail
- Richmond public art advisory committee—Coun.



Steves

- Richmond sister city advisory committee—Coun. McPhail
- Richmond Sports Council—Coun. McNulty
- Richmond Sports Wall of Fame nominating committee—Coun. Steves
- Richmond seniors advisory committee—Coun. Day
- Steveston historic sites building committee—Couns. McNulty and Steves

• Vancouver Coastal Health/Richmond Health Services—Coun. Au

- Arenas—Coun. Wolfe
- City Centre—Coun. Steves
- East Richmond—Coun. Day
- Hamilton—Coun. Wolfe
- Richmond Art Gallery—Coun. Day
- Sea Island—Coun. Steves
- South Arm—Coun. McNulty
- Thompson—Coun. Au
- West Richmond—Coun. McPhail
- Aquatics—Coun. Loo
- Museum Society—Coun. Wolfe
- Gateway Theatre—Coun. Au
- Richmond Public Library—Couns. McPhail and McNulty

McNulty

- Britannia Heritage Shipyard—Coun. Steves
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery—Coun. Au
- London Heritage Farm—Coun. Day
- Minoru Seniors Society—Coun. McNulty
- Richmond Nature Park—Coun. Wolfe
- Steveston Community Society—Coun. Loo
- Steveston Historical Society—Coun. McNulty

Councillors were also appointed acting mayors for the following periods:

- Nov. 23, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021—Coun. Wolfe
- Feb. 1 to March 15—Coun. McNulty
- March 16 to April 30—Coun. McPhail
- May 1 to June 15—Coun. Day
- June 16 to July 31—Coun. Au
- Aug. 1 to Sept. 15—Coun. Steves
- Sept. 16 to Nov. 8—Coun. Loo

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Vacancy tax expands rental options, data shows

Data collected from the second year of the speculation and vacancy tax (SVT) year show the tax is working to increase the long-term rental housing supply.

"The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated what British Columbians have always known—affordable and safe housing is critically important to the health and safety of people, our communities and our economy," said Finance Minister Selina Robinson. "That's why our government will continue to advocate for more affordable housing options and ensure housing is used to shelter people and not money."

Mayors have recently received region-specific 2019 SVT declaration data for their communities. This data will help inform consultation with mayors and discussion on whether any changes to the tax are necessary.

Every year, the Ministry of Finance consults with mayors from areas where the tax applies. This annual consultation is an opportunity for the ministry to share data and analysis generated from the tax, providing mayors and councils with the opportunity to share how the tax is working in their communities.

"The 2019 declaration data and reports from organizations like the Canada Mortgage and Housing corporation show an increasing number of properties are being repurposed as long-term rentals, and this shift is critically important for our urban communities," Robinson said. "This change in behaviour, and the tax continuing to capture speculators while exempting almost all British Columbians, shows this tax is working for the people of our province."

Learn more about the speculation and vacancy tax at www.gov.bc.ca/spectax.

Steady hiring climate anticipated locally

Richmond is expected to enjoy a steady hiring climate during the first three months of this year.

The Employment Outlook Survey by the Manpower Group suggests 15 per cent of employers plan to expand their workforce, while five per cent anticipate cutbacks.

"With seasonal variations removed from the data, Richmond-Delta's first quarter net employment outlook of +12 per cent is a three percentage point decrease when compared to the previous quarterly outlook," said Richard Plumb of Manpower's Vancouver office. "It's also the same percentage as the Outlook reported during the same time last year, indicating a respectable hiring pace for the upcoming months."

Darlene Minatel, country manager for the Manpower Group, says with the uncertainty surrounding the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic a moderate hiring outlook for employers in the first quarter of 2021 can be seen as a positive development.

"With nine of the ten industry sectors expecting to add workers in the upcoming quarter, there will be opportunities for job seekers," she said. "All four regions of the country have positive employment outlooks for the first quarter of 2021, but it's still challenging for job seekers in Western Canada with a flat employment outlook (of only + one per cent)."

In all, the survey indicates 41 per cent of employers across Canada expect to return to pre-COVID-19 hiring levels within the next year. Employers in public administration and the transportation and public utilities sectors reporting the highest industry outlooks at +14 per cent.

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Caricature artist creates unique renderings

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Katie Green has been interested in art since she could hold a pencil.

Originally from Maryland, she describes herself as having lived “kind of all over the place.” For the last seven years she’s called Richmond home, and is perhaps best known as a caricature artist who goes by the name “Cartoon Katie.”

Green’s parents were very supportive of her desire to have a career as an artist.

“They were always getting me the little ‘how to draw Mickey Mouse’ books,” she says.

As an art student, she studied visual effects and animation, but was doing caricature art on the side. The style appeals to her partially because of its similarities to animation.

“I really like being a little sillier with the drawing,” she says. “I can take a picture of stuff, or I can spend a lot of time rendering perfect details. Mimicking life is impressive, but for me it’s not as fun, not as creative—I want (my art) to express something a little different than what you can normally see.”

After graduating with a bachelor of fine arts degree, Green worked at a Los Angeles studio as a visual effects artist. And when that studio opened a branch in Vancouver, she was moved up north, still taking caricature gigs occasionally on the side. Eventually she decided to leave the film industry and pursue caricature art full-time.

First looking up what kind of city permits she would need to be a caricature artist, Green says the City of Richmond suggested she contact the Harbour Authority. When she did, she was given a patch of grass outside the Gulf of Georgia Cannery to sell art from.

“I do a bunch of markets and things, and what I primarily do are events—like *Songs in the Snow*, or people’s birthday parties, or charity things,” says Green. “(At events) I’ll go and perform, and rather than have people pay to



Photos submitted

Katie Green is a Richmond-based caricature artist who often draws at markets and events.

get each drawing like at a market, I’m just drawing as many of the guests as I can in a set amount of time, like an entertainer.”

Now an independent business owner, Green covers events from birthday parties to dry grads to business holiday parties. Sometimes she works with other artists at larger events, and she also teaches some classes at local community centres. Many of her gigs come through networking where someone sees her at an event or market and

asks her to work their event or activity as well.

“At any kind of celebration party, caricature can fit right in because it’s a customized souvenir,” she says.

Green has a process with each drawing: she begins by imagining a person’s head shape, trying to decide how much space it will take up. But usually, while the face shape is the first thing she thinks of, it’s the last part she draws.

“People always say I start with the nose, but in my brain I’m starting with a lot of other shapes and things first,”

she says. “The nose is in the middle, so if I get it down first I don’t have to draw on top of something to get it the right shape.”

Sometimes when she sees people in public, Green imagines how she would draw them.

“It’s a thought process that I can’t turn off,” she says.

For instance, she might see someone on a bus with an interesting face, or have a conversation with someone who makes a noticeable facial expression. But because she knows she can’t whip out a sketchbook and start drawing without permission, she tries to remember shapes to recreate later.

“Inspiration strikes when I see certain faces or certain features, (even) when I’m not drawing,” says Green.

Her own personal style has changed over time, depending on what she’s interested in and what she feels like making. The COVID-19 pandemic has totally changed her style, for instance, as well as the way she’s been drawing.

“I don’t really feel like I have one specific style, I’m just always trying to be funny, I want it to look good, and I want people to like it,” she says.

Because of the humorous nature of caricature, Green says sometimes people don’t respond positively.

She describes her art as an illustration rather than a recreation of a photograph, and always tries to have samples available so people know what to expect.

“Even though I’m doing art every day, every day seems to be different, I have different challenges to



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CARICATURE

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problem-solve, I'm coming up with a new way to deal with something," she says.

One of the challenges this year was the pandemic, of course, which created a distinct lack of work opportunities for many artists.

"Everyone was out of work—we had our livelihoods cancelled for some unknown amount of time," says Green.

Some artists created virtual set-ups, including Green. She began with free virtual caricature parties, then began networking with other artists on big virtual events.

"There's been a lot of trying to keep the art community lifted up, while also trying to figure out how to keep my business going."

Virtual events have become more successful and consistent, although not without some technical challenges. Green says as well as doing art, she also provides some technical support to people who may not necessarily know how to turn on their camera, for example. After the events, she emails out drawings so people can access them.

During online drawing events, Green uses a tablet and stylus to create her art. She usually shares her screen so people can see what she's drawing as it's being created, while also seeing her face as she draws. Normally, she balances drawing on paper and drawing digitally, as she recognizes the complementary skill sets.

But despite the challenges, Green is still optimistic. She says inspiration comes from everywhere, especially laughter and "anything fun."

"I don't feel that it's making fun of somebody. I know people get that mentality with caricature, with the editorial side of it where you're usually making fun of politicians, but from a retail and event standpoint it's more a celebration of what makes people unique rather than making fun of them," she says. "When I see a unique face, it's definitely fun—but it's fun in a positive way, not in a negative way."

Over the years she's worked on some interesting projects, including children's storybooks, logos for businesses, and orders for board game or card game art design. But one project that stood out to her was an ongoing collab-



oration with a Danish man who wanted to create a book of idioms.

"They were all in Danish, so he was using Google Translate to help communicate with me," says Green. "But I had to be illustrating the imagery that would be associated with it, not the meaning."

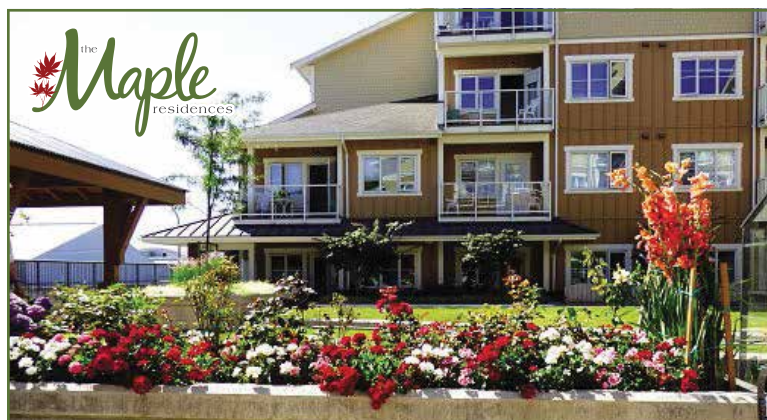
The language barrier created some communication challenges, but also yielded some fun drawings.

"That project was super fun, the guy was really nice and I work with him all the time—but it was one of those cases where every day was a different joke we were coming up with because it made no sense to the project," she says.

When she's not drawing, Green likes to play video games to hang out virtually with friends, or watch movies with her husband. As a freelance artist, she appreciates being able to work on whatever she's interested in. Recently, she's been making a lot of tutorials to help other artists.

"The cool part about being freelance and working independently is that I don't have to dream about a project—I get to work on it when I want to, as long as I don't have too much other work at the same time."

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Richmond's Downing leaves a lasting legacy

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

During each of her 105 years, Iris Downing served as a constant reminder to all: live life to the fullest.

Until her recent passing, just a week following her birthday, the longtime Richmondite embodied the fountain of youth as a keen volunteer who enjoyed spending time with family and friends and playing bridge—a game she didn't take seriously until joining the seniors' centre 32 years ago.

"The biggest thing to bridge is remembering," said Downing, who also played cribbage and whist at least one day a week until her health declined.

In a 2017 interview with the *Richmond Sentinel*, Downing expressed surprise at becoming a centenarian before adding candidly, that she frequently became frustrated not being able to complete a task she felt she should be able to.

"I get so mad when I can't do something. Then I have to remind myself 'you're not in your 80s anymore,'" she shared.

A longtime resident of Steveston's Maple Residences, the sprightly Downing was the second eldest of six children born and raised on a farm in Maple Creek, a tiny southwest Saskatchewan town on the Canadian Pacific Railway line that even today only boasts a population of 2,000 people. Prior to 1915 it was best known as the home of the Northwest Mounted Police (the precursor to the RCMP).

In her 20s when the Second World War broke out, Downing endured tough times when rationing was routine.

"Everybody was given a ration book," she remembers. "If you had teens at home, they were given one too, so your parents were able to purchase a certain amount of products. But you had to make things last because you had to wait up to a month until the next book came out."

Shortages even led to the sale of horse meat, recalls Downing of a period when goods such as rubber, gas, metal and nylon were also difficult to come by because they were needed for the war effort.

She says rationing in Canada continued until a year or two after the war ended.

"I don't know how mom and dad kept six kids living on a farm in the Dirty 30s," she says. "We grew wheat, sold eggs for six cents a dozen, and raised sheep and turkeys."

Downing, whose birth name was Hammond, was working for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool when the war began. Two of those closest to her went off to war.

Her brother, Bruce, a member of the Saskatoon Light Infantry, was sent to



Photo by Chung Chow

Iris Downing died recently, just a week following her 105th birthday.

India, while her eventual husband, Bill, who she had met at the local skating club, was sent to North Africa.

Originally a banker, Bill, who wore thick glasses, was at first denied enlistment but called up eight months later. Rising up the ranks to become a corporal in the armed forces Governor General's Horseguards, Bill remained overseas through to the end of the war and did not return home until January 1946.

"I remember going to Toronto to meet (Bill's) train," she said.

Iris and Bill (who died in 1982 at the age of 72) were married for 40 years and had one son, Bruce, who became a renowned geologist. The couple loved to dance, especially square dancing. Bill was also an accomplished sportsman who excelled at baseball and curling.

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Library readies for *Learning Together*

Richmond Public Library will be offering an online version of its popular *Learning Together* program starting Feb. 3.

The eight-week program, for parents and preschool-aged children, helps build a love of reading together and improves literacy skills using the alphabet, numbers, stories and active play. Digital and physical literacy components are also included. Participants will receive a free resource kit at the start of the program.

Learning Together is sponsored by the Ministry of Applied Skills and Technology, and will be hosted online via Zoom. Registration is very limited.

Register at yourlibrary.bibliocommons.com/.

Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library
A popular online program, *Learning Together* begins Feb. 3 through the Richmond Public Library.



Pathways, library team up for mental health

Pathways Clubhouse and Richmond Public Library are joining forces to battle mental health.

They are co-hosting a series of virtual *Beyond the Blues* education events this month that will focus on parenting during a pandemic.

This year's events are taking place against the unprecedented backdrop of a global pandemic which has disrupted the lives of British Columbians of all ages for almost a year. Organizers said the need to support the mental health of British Columbians has never been more apparent. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis response has resulted in massive lifestyle changes for families and has turned the worlds of children and teenagers upside down.

"As families grapple with an ever-changing normal, stress and anxiety can escalate", said Kate Adams, head of children and family services at Richmond Public Library. "For many families, the already significant anxiety and worry around catching the virus has been compounded by an uncertain future and the stressors brought on by restrictions on social interaction".

Children and youth are struggling with the challenges of interrupted learning and online schooling, disrupted schedules and excessive screen time, event organizers said. Many are also experiencing feelings of loneliness and isolation brought about by a lack of physical interaction with friends and extended family.



Photo submitted

Pathways Clubhouse and Richmond Public Library are hosting the mental health series *Beyond the Blues*.

The pandemic parenting series will provide parents with practical strategies to help them support their children and teens during this challenging period and help them to cope with feelings of anxiety and worry.

Beyond the Blues events are delivered free of charge and over Zoom.

Pandemic Parenting: Strengthening child and family resilience

Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m. to noon, presented by Dr. Ashley Miller

How has the pandemic changed parenting and family relationships? Many parents describe feeling

exhausted, irritable and worried about how to make life manageable for their children and themselves.

Parenting strategies for supporting your teen

Jan. 27, 10:30 a.m. to noon, presented by Dr. Gabriel Ionita

This parenting workshop will provide practical strategies to support your teen and help them manage anxiety and stress.

For more on the series, visit admin.heretohelp.bc.ca/beyond-the-blues/lower-mainland-2020.

To see all 25+ BC events, go to www.heretohelp.bc.ca/beyond-the-blues.



In Loving Memory

IRIS ROSINA DOWNING (nee Hammond)

Iris Rosina Downing (nee Hammond) was born in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan on December 15, 1915 and grew up on a farm with two sisters and three brothers, all of whom have predeceased her.

Iris is survived by her son Bruce, daughter-in-law Felicity Matthews and grand-daughter Keisha. Her husband, Bill, passed away in 1982. She also leaves behind numerous friends.

Her parents and grandparents (who were immigrants from England) were very active in the community. Being the second eldest, Iris and her sister Phyllis did a lot of outside chores from milking cows, cleaning barns, feeding animals, stooking hay, helping with the new lambs and pumping water. In her words "We made our own fun with one another and we wore hand-me-downs until we started to earn our own money. Life was not easy for my parents but we accepted the small things and accepted it as such. We went to school in Maple Creek and also a few years to the Hay Creek country school where all grades were in one room. We walked or rode horse 2-3 miles to school. At times, I drove my brothers and sister by horse and buggy to school. We were always up early, did the chores inside and out before leaving for school."

Iris left Maple Creek for Medicine Hat to attend business school and later moved to Regina to work for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. She and her sister Georgina joined the Sunday afternoon skating club where she met her future husband (William Downing) and were married May 16, 1942. They lived in North Battleford for about two months when Bill got his call to join the army and was sent overseas in the fall of 1943. Iris worked in Saskatoon while Bill was overseas for three years during WWII. Later after his return in January 1946, they moved to North Battleford, then to Toronto and Sudbury. In 1959 the family moved to Belleville, Ontario.

In 1988 she decided to move to Richmond. Iris spent her retired life doing volunteer work with the Richmond General hospital auxiliary, Rosewood Manor and other community services. She did a lot of entertaining with friends and played a good game of bridge, crib and whist on a weekly basis. At 96 she finally gave up lawn bowling.

Iris thoroughly enjoyed living at The Maple Residences in Steveston since 2012 and had very kind words for the staff. She had been a member of the Minoru Community Centre since 1989. She had an active mind, walked every day, would volunteer an opinion and was very gracious in thanking people for their kind help via a personal card or telephone call.

Thank you to the staff on the 6th floor of the Richmond General Hospital for being kind to Iris. If desired, please donate your time to help others, volunteer and always thank others for their good deeds (Iris' moto in life). Interment will be at the Masonic Cemetery in Burnaby where her husband is buried.

RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

George's happy ending—and the real meaning of 'no-kill'



**Eyal
Lichtmann**

For elderly dogs like George, who have several significant health issues, finding a loving home for their final years can be a challenge. Everyone loves a puppy (or a kitten) but the challenges associated with older dogs—and the inevitability that a final goodbye will happen sooner than one would hope—make it a very special family indeed who will adopt a senior pet.

Happily for George, a 15-year-old German shepherd-bull terrier cross with a heart condition and lingering nerve damage from being hit by a car, he found the perfect family.

When George first came to his moms Kelsy Orpen and Heather Rich three years ago, they didn't think he'd be around very long. They thought they would make his final months the best they could be. But he keeps on plugging away and, along with his little "sister" Sophia, George has fit right in with the family.

"It's just crazy how nice he is," Kelsy says. "He gets along with anyone who comes in the house, kids, puppies, cats, rabbits."

The happy ending wouldn't have been possible in many jurisdictions. Dogs that are difficult to adopt are far too often euthanized. If they have even the smallest of underlying health conditions, in many cases, euthanasia is almost inevitable at many shelters.

But the Regional Animal Protection Society is a uniquely defined no-kill organization. Since our founding more than 25 years ago, our overriding promise is that, under our care, no animal is ever euthanized due to lack of space, treatable illness, physical defect, age, behavioural or socialization



Photo submitted

George, a 15-year-old German shepherd-bull terrier, with his little "sister" Sophia, along with Kelsy and Heather.

issues.

Many organizations call themselves "no-kill," but there is no legal or regulatory oversight for use of the term. What does no-kill truly mean? What some agencies mean when they use the term "no-kill" is that they do not euthanize healthy animals. We don't think that is a true definition of no-kill. At RAPS, we don't euthanize healthy or unhealthy animals. Our approach is similar to that of Canada's medical assistance in dying regulations for human patients. Unless an animal is facing imminent death and is experiencing or likely to experience pain and suffering we opt for palliative treatments. But even that is in the most extreme cases. Most of the animals we save have no insurmountable health issues. At the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, cats with diabetes or FIV find a wonderful forever home, for

example. In too many other places, they might have been euthanized just because of a comparatively minor, manageable condition.

The "RAPS Model" of no-kill animal care combines shelter (temporary homes for stray, surrendered or homeless animals), sanctuary (permanent homes for unadoptable animals), fostering (to prepare animals for the next phases of their lives), and our not-for-profit, community-owned animal hospital. Together, these components allow us to provide a full continuum of care for every animal who comes to us no matter their situation.

To us, that is true no-kill animal care and why, we believe, RAPS is leading the sector. And that is why George's story has a happy ending.

Eyal Lichtmann is CEO and Executive Director of the Regional Animal Protection Society

MY NAME IS WARLOCK

Warlock came to us as a stray, and wasn't reclaimed. He is a bit timid at first, and may hiss upon his first interaction with you, but he does give in easily to chin scratches and nice pets. Warlock loves to lounge around and keep everyone company. Medically he is sound, but does tend to cough here and there. He is six years old so would love to go to someone who understands that as he ages, he will need more care.

****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.****



ADOPT ME!

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

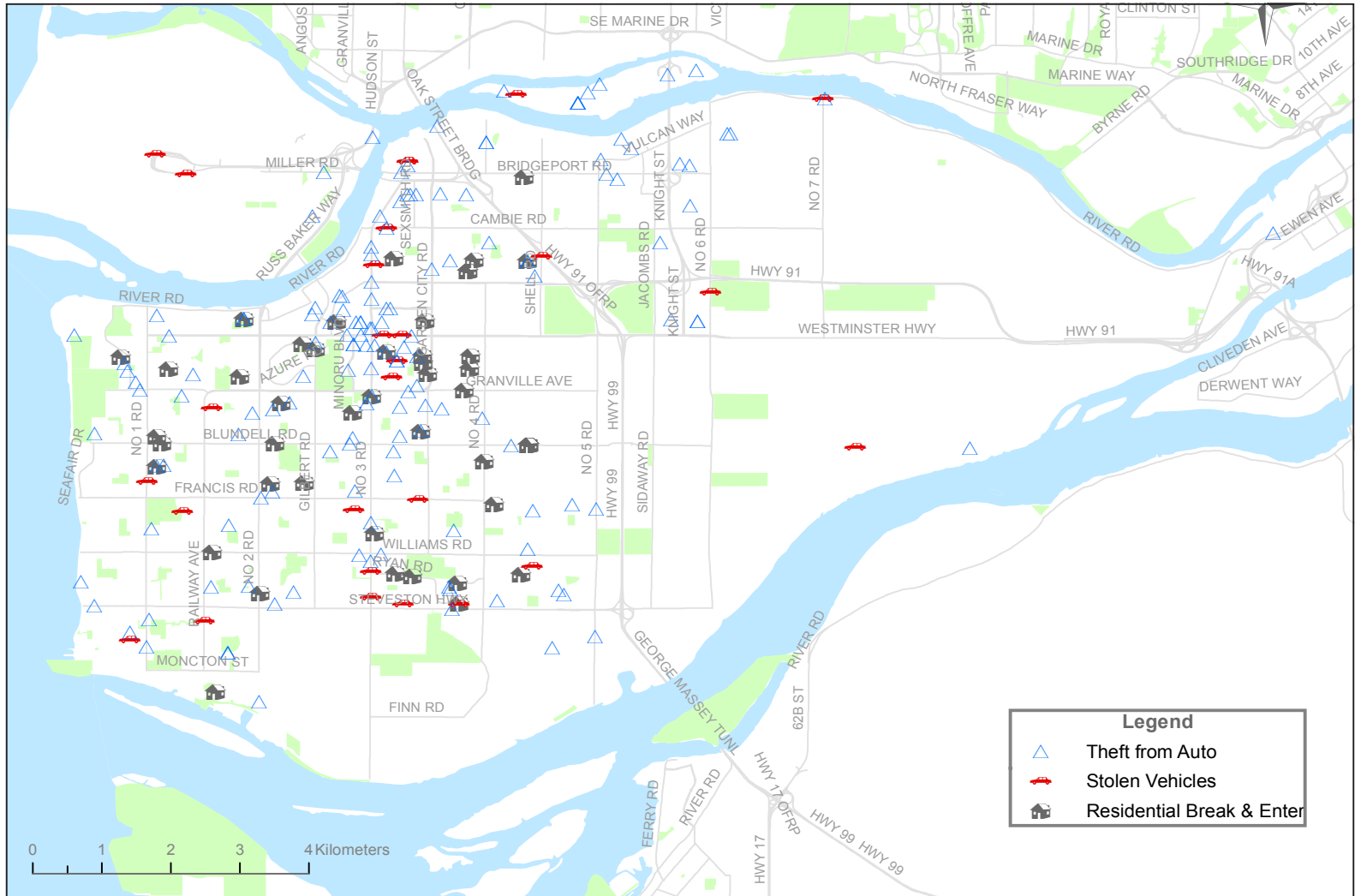
The RAPS Animal Hospital and Animal Ambulance are supported by Applewood Nissan





RCMP

Crime Map Dec. 1 - 31, 2020



Christmas Day violations lead to 32 COVID-19 tickets

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter
and LORRAINE GRAVES

Richmond RCMP officers issued 32 violation tickets for contravention of COVID-19 measures on Christmas Day.

There were 19 people attending an event at a closed commercial unit, according to Supt. Will Ng. In addition to contravening the order that prohibits mass gatherings, the people were ticketed for failure to wear masks and abusive and belligerent behaviour.

Another large gathering saw 11 people ticketed for refusing to comply with law enforcement officers. A third event was a large household party at a private residence, discovered after complaints from neighbours.

Ng added that six officers are in self-isolation due to COVID-19 exposure or quarantine due to illness. But overall, COVID-related service calls have been on the lower end.

Man arrested following Richmond break and enters

A man has been arrested following multiple break and enters at a complex on Lansdowne Road.

The first break-in happened Oct. 3. Although Richmond RCMP officers identified the suspect, his whereabouts remained unknown until early January when he was found and arrested on three outstanding warrants including assault causing bodily harm, break and enter and mail theft.

Kristopher Mino was arrested in Surrey and was charged with an additional 13 counts of break and enter.

"We are committed to identifying and arresting



anyone involved in property related offences in Richmond," said Sgt. Simon Lee, NCO in charge of Richmond RCMP targeted enforcement units. "This is an excellent example of our ability to identify, link and arrest those targeting our community."

Anyone with information regarding these incidents, is asked to contact Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212 and quote file number 2020-27005. Should you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crimestoppers by phone at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

A feel good pandemic story, because we need one

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Facing the same challenges and responsibilities as everyone else, a local group of folk singers felt compelled to write and record a song to illustrate their efforts during the pandemic.

"Wear a Mask" by the Stone Poets, Greater Vancouver's beloved modern folk trio, speaks to the months of social isolating and adhering to health department regulations after COVID-19 forced the cancelling of all the group's live concerts—including festivals and private shows. Hot off an Eastern Canadian tour in the fall, their career was literally stopped in its tracks.

Weary of watching social media and news channels showing people refusing to wear masks, and participating in freedom rallies, Cherelle Jardine, Marc Gladstone and Scott Jackson were inspired to voice their view. While they say the song steps outside their usual genre, it used their musical platform to write an upbeat, danceable song to get the message across to the majority.

"We wanna get back to the way life used to be," sings Jardine.

They also put a fun video together to inspire people to wear a mask.

Recorded at Zed Productions with Sheldon Zaharko (Juno-nominated producer/engineer and



Photo submitted

Featuring Richmond singer-songwriter Cherelle Jardine, the Stone Poets have recorded a fun song inspiring people to wear a mask.

winner of the West Coast Music Award for engineer of the year), Gladstone (keyboardist in the Canadian band Prism) along with bandmates Jardine and Jackson added a pop/funk flavour to the track with the guest appearance of internationally-renowned guitarist Brian Poulsen. The video was put together

with friends and fans that sent in their photos to support the message.

"It's such a simple task ... please wear a mask."

Watch the video on Stone Poets Youtube page at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlj2gIHyt_A.

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Apply now for emerging artist scholarships

If you're an emerging Indigenous visual artist aged 17 to 29, the YVR Art Foundation welcomes you to apply for a \$5,000 art scholarship.

The annual scholarships for visual artists in BC and the Yukon are provided to work with a mentor artist or attend a school of art.

To be eligible, you must be of BC or Yukon First Nations ancestry, reside in BC or the Yukon, and create visual art that reflects BC or Yukon First Nations culture. You must also have the goal of becoming a professional artist and have been accepted to study or work with an artist mentor or attend a school of art.

An Emerging Artist Scholarship can be awarded to an individual a maximum of two times.

The foundation also has a Mid-Career Artist Scholarship Program. Again, \$5,000 art scholarships are awarded annually to visual artists but for ages 30-plus to work with a master artist, attend a school of art, or work on a special project of cultural significance to the artist's



Photos (from left): Rueben Mack, Atheana Picha and Teresa Vander Meer-Chasse

The YVR Art Foundation provides scholarships annually to emerging Indigenous visual artists.

public presentation of their artwork

- Be able to submit a portfolio of artwork that demonstrates commitment to your practice
- Be accepted to study/work with a master artist, attend a school of art or work on a special project that is of cultural significance to your community

Mid-Career Artist Scholarship can be awarded to an individual one time only.

community.

To be eligible you must be of BC or Yukon First Nations ancestry, reside in BC or Yukon and create visual art that reflects BC or Yukon First Nations culture. You must also:

- Wish to further your visual art career and/or extend your work into a new scale or area
- Have completed art training including but not limited to formal education in visual arts, worked with an artist mentor or a combination of similar experience
- Have achieved local and/or provincial recognition through

Grants to help artists adapt during pandemic

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

The Richmond Arts Coalition is hopeful a new provincial grants program will help support artists in their time of need.

"We are delighted to see the BC Arts Council continuing to look for ways to support artists in their professional development and adaptation at a time when so many artists are unable to create performances, theatre, dance, and other works of art," says Andrew Wade, executive director of the arts coalition. "We are glad to see them acknowledging through the *Pivot For Individuals* grant program that individual artists also need support also during this time—not just organizations."

Faced with unforeseen challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many artists have been unable to work or worked less due to the temporary closures of venues and restricted audience sizes. Through the provincial government's \$500,000 program, which is being administered by the BC Arts Council, people can apply for funding—up to \$12,000—to learn new skills or adapt their practices. The program is available to professional artists and cultural workers including dancers and choreographers, visual artists, writers, actors,



Photo submitted

Andrew Wade, executive director of the Richmond Arts Coalition, is pleased to see the BC Arts Council continuing to support artists through grants.

multi-media artists, and arts administrators.

"Together with the arts sector, we are working hard to make sure that dancers, writers, painters and other artists can continue being resilient and finding innovative ways to keep creating through COVID-19," said Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. "We're building on our support for arts and culture in British Columbia by helping artists adapt their work, ensuring our province has a strong creative industry to enjoy when the pandemic is over."

According to Statistics Canada, unemployment in arts and culture is higher than average and has not recovered at the pace of other BC industries. Further, a 2006 study showed for every dollar invested through the BC Arts Council and arts and cultural organizations generate \$1.57 in gross domestic product. In all, as part of its Stronger BC initiative, the province is providing \$21 million to support arts and culture organizations' recovery through the BC Arts Council.

recovery through the BC Arts Council.

To apply, visit <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/program/project-assistance-pivot-for-individuals/>. Applications are open until Feb. 16, 2021. The BC Arts Council will adjudicate and award the grants in early spring 2021.

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LEARN TO SKATE WITH THE CONNAUGHT SKATING CLUB

Learn to skate in a fun environment with our Skate Canada certified coaches!

Our program has been updated to meet Skate Canada and B.C. public health guidelines through:

- Reduced skater limits
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- All coaches wear masks
- Wider fast track area for safer passing
- 4 certified coaches on every session
- Physical distancing guidelines followed both on and off the ice
- 30 minute sessions
- Physical distance attendant on every session
- Enhanced rink cleaning measures

- ✓ 10 weeks of Learn to Skate programming
- ✓ Register for up to 5 sessions per week
- ✓ Choose from 10 available sessions

See website for details and to register for our Winter programs. Registraton is now open!

Winter program runs January through March.
Sessions held at Minoru Arenas & the Richmond Ice Centre
Helmets and skates are required.
No rentals available.

www.connaughtsc.com

Reflections of an Icebreaker

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

Following what was deemed by organizers as a “resounding success”—borne out by the record participation—anticipation for the 2021 Steveston Icebreaker 8K and New Balance 1K Kidsrun was at an all-time high.

But as it has with so many activities in the sports realm, COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the recent event which also serves as an important annual fundraiser for the Richmond Kajaks Track and Field Club.

Last January, a cold snap that had gripped the West Coast during the latter portion of the holidays thawed just in time for race day on Jan. 19. Enjoying rather balmy conditions of 7 degrees Celsius, the region’s ardent running community quick embraced the opportunity burn off some of the holiday pounds by partaking in one of the region’s most popular events. The beauty of the course,

coupled with the focus on supporting youth, always makes for a good turnout and the 2020 event reflected that attracting 472 participants for the 8K and 71 for the Kidsrun.

As has become a popular refrain during the pandemic, supporting each other was also prominent as the community stepped up—from the city to the Kajaks to the Forever Young team to McMath Secondary’s Leadership class. And with New Balance sponsoring the 1K Kidsrun, so did the business community.

“(The event) has had a tremendous impact on the community in many ways,” said lead organizer Jared Hulme.

Dixon Elementary teacher Rachel Maika, who is also a Kajaks coach, echoed those thoughts.

“The reason we wanted to include an event just for kids is to promote a life-long love of fitness, and living a healthy lifestyle,” she said.

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Photos submitted

With this year’s Steveston Icebreaker cancelled because of the pandemic, organizers are excited for its return in January 2022.

Locals among BC’s top pros

Lee J.H. Lee of GolfTEC Richmond is among the province’s top golf professionals.

Lee finished third in the PGA of British Columbia’s 2020 top 100 professional development program. He secured the third-place standing with 76 points.

Nathan Grieve, head pro at Talking Rock Golf Course in Chase topped the standings with 99 points.

Other Richmond golfers recognized were Brian Coe of Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club, Mike Cyndros-

ki; Graham Ogden, Dan Yoon and Doug Morgan of Richmond Country Club; John Vu and Victor Vianzon of Quilchena Golf & Country Club; Christine Wong of the University Golf Club; and Stephanie Wong of Point Grey Golf & Country Club.

The players amassed the total through a combination of educational pursuits, volunteerism and participation in the PGA of BC championships, regional tour play and other association initiatives.

RICHMOND
SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

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Neighbourhood grant provides smiles all around

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Celeste Ng made the most of a community grant she received from Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG) in 2020 to put smiles on faces throughout the city.

After being provided with the \$200 responsive neighbourhood small grant, she enlisted volunteers to create handmade greeting cards for local seniors. One of the largest—500 cards in all—came from students at James Cook elementary.

RCRG then stepped up again to help get the cards in the hands of the seniors. Through its popular seniors community support services' grocery shopping program, while volunteers were filling orders at PriceSmart, they included a card for each senior.

RCRG president and CEO Ed Gavsie was elated with the results.

"A huge thank you to Celeste and the students at Cook elementary for letting seniors know that, even while we're staying apart, the community is still thinking of them and wishing them well," he said.

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



Photo submitted RCRG provided a neighbourhood small grant to Celeste Ng and then along with students at James Cook elementary watched as it grew into a show of love for our seniors.

Yaohan steps up



Photo courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation

In celebration of its 27th anniversary, Yaohan Centre made a \$3,000 donation to the Richmond Hospital Foundation recently. From left: Nick Qin (Yaohan Centre management), Jimmy Jim (Yaohan Centre Strata Council), Endora Fan (senior manager Legacy Giving, Richmond Hospital Foundation), Peter Wong (Yaohan Centre Strata Council), Walrine Wong (Yaohan Centre Management) and Aaron Leung (AA Property Management).

TD earns star

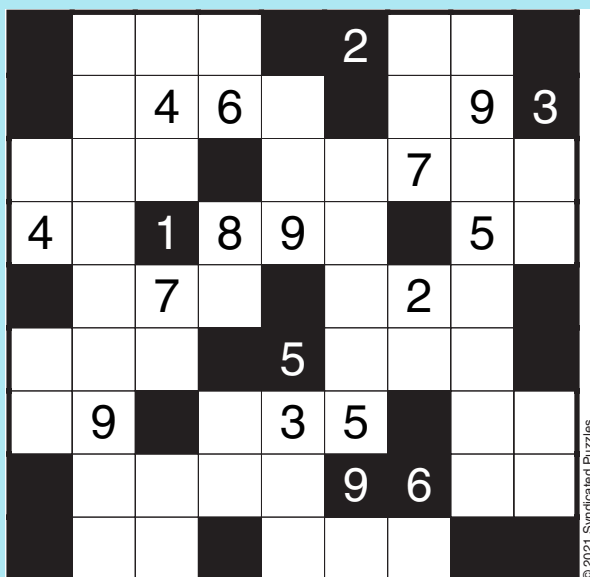


Photo submitted

The Richmond Christmas Fund presented one of its Angel Donors, TD Bank Richmond, with a certificate naming a star "Richmond One TD." Pictured from left: Shirley Chan, branch manager of TD No. 3 Road and Granville Avenue; Ed Gavsie, president and CEO of RCRG; Tony Mauro, district vice-president of TD; and Michael Chiu, co-chair of the Richmond Christmas Fund.

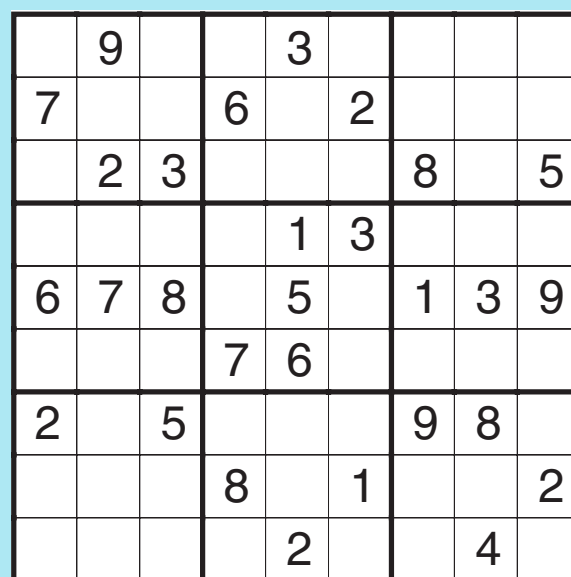
STR8TS

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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