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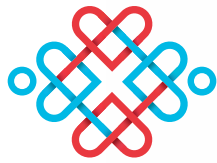


Devils defy odds,
take silver medals

12

Photo submitted

The Richmond Devils were silver medallists at the recent South Coast Women's Hockey League Provincial Championships.



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City's largest-ever community garden opens

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The city has opened another community garden, its largest to date, with 200 plots available on the Garden City Lands.

"We have a list of people wanting a garden plot that is so full, so this is such a welcome addition to the city," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

The garden is made up of self-enclosed containers, which were repurposed from an urban farm in Vancouver and filled with Richmond-sourced soil. They are raised off the ground for increased accessibility, with one metre between plots to enable those using wheeled mobility devices to reach from either side.

All 200 plots at this location have been assigned already, shortening the long and ever-growing waitlist. Richmond's community garden sites are managed by non-profit organization Urban Bounty.

Urban Bounty's urban agriculture coordinator Stephanie Mak said about 500 people remain on



Photo by Hannah Scott



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

From left to right: Ian Lai and Stephanie Mak (Urban Bounty), City Couns. Bill McNulty and Linda McPhail, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Grace Augustinowicz (Urban Bounty), and City Couns. Alexa Loo, Carol Day, Chak Au, and Andy Hobbs.

the city's waitlist for garden plots. Although apartment-dwellers don't get priority access to plots, gardeners' residence types are tracked and most live in apartments.

While Urban Bounty conducts three reviews a year to ensure gardeners are keeping their plots tidy and in use, Mak says very few people are asked to leave due to poor upkeep. Only about five per cent end up leaving by choice.

She added it's great to have a community garden in a visible site like a public park, as it prompts people to ask where their food comes from and how to be involved in building a sustainable food system. Gardening is taught as a skill, as well as creating awareness and opportunities for education.

A number of bee hives are also on-site, managed

by Urban Bounty. Councillors had the opportunity to try some fresh honey at the garden's opening.

The outside of the hive boxes were painted by local artists. Urban Bounty executive director Ian Lai said while the orange background—his favourite colour—will remain, each year the motif will change and the new designs will be painted. This year's theme is cedar silhouettes, and some of the hive boxes have First Nations-inspired art.

"We've spoken with Musqueam and (have) their permission," said Lai.

He hopes the orange hive boxes will be recognizable as belonging to Urban Bounty. They are located at several sites around the city, with further expansion planned.

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Richmond Heritage Awards nominations open

Nominations for the annual Richmond Heritage Awards are open through April 24.

The awards recognize the dedication of individuals and organizations for conservation of historic places as well as education and awareness about Richmond's diverse heritage.

Anyone can submit a nomination to the Richmond Heritage Commission by completing a one-page form describing the nominee and their contribution.

Some of the ways an individual or organization may earn recognition are:

- Restoration, preservation, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of a historic place, such as a building or structure, or conservation of a cultural heritage landscape;
- Building awareness or successfully promoting local heritage through education, outreach or advocacy; or
- Contributions to local knowledge of heritage in public history or interpretation projects.

Historic buildings, cultural and natural heritage landscapes, artifacts, and oral and written histories are all rich resources that contribute to Richmond's shared community identity today.

The nomination form is available on the city's webpage or by emailing Min-hee Park, planner of policy planning at communityplanning@richmond.ca

Submissions are to be emailed back to the same email or mailed to: Richmond Heritage Commission c/o City of Richmond Policy Planning Department, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC, V6Y 2C1

The awards jury will include members of the Richmond Heritage Commission. All decisions of the jury are final.



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The Richmond Heritage Awards recognize people and organizations who are dedicated to conservation of historic places.

Virtual Cherry Blossom Festival returns



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival has returned as a virtual celebration of spring.

The annual Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival has returned with a virtual format. This year's free programming features original video content, including how-to demonstrations with local artisans and new musical performances.

"We are thrilled to be able to present the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival virtually once more. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the vibrant Japanese-Canadian community," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The theme of this year's

festival is kizuna, which means the bonds or connections between people. It is a timely reminder that we are all in this together. The community has been able to navigate through the evolving pandemic because of strong friendships and camaraderie."

The online programming can be found at richmondcherryblossomfest.ca, and is organized into five virtual tents:

- The Sakura Tent features welcome messages

from Mayor Brodie, Consul General Takashi Hatori, the Consul General of Japan in Vancouver, and the festival directors, as well as recorded performances by taiko drummers and folk song singers.

- The Matsuri Tent offers a how-to demonstration for the perfect sushi cone.
- The Hanami Tent includes how-to videos for calligraphy, origami, a traditional tea ceremony, and crafts made by seniors.
- The Kitsuke Tent provides insight into kitsuke (kimono dressing).
- The Kuno Tent shares how-to videos for ikebana (flower arranging) and bonsai pruning.

Online visitors can also see how the cherry blossoms in Garry Point Park are blooming through weekly blossom reports. The last one will be shared through Instagram Stories on @FunRichmond on Saturday (April 16).

For those visiting Garry Point Park in person, kiosks are located at points along the cherry trees with QR codes that direct to the virtual festival.

All park visitors are asked to follow current provincial guidelines regarding COVID-19 safety and maintain physical distancing with those outside of your household.

The Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival highlights the beauty of 255 Akebono cherry trees that were donated to the city from the BC Wakayama Kenjin Kai.

For more information, follow the City of Richmond's events social media channel @FunRichmond and the hashtag #RichmondCherryBlossomFestival.

City marks Earth Week with free programs

Bird watching, invasive species pulls, and tree planting are some of the ways residents can participate in this year's City of Richmond Earth Week, which runs from April 16 to 24.

Residents can get their hands dirty or simply learn more about the local environment through more than 20 free events offered by the city and its community partners.

This year for Earth Week the city has partnered with organizations that include Birds Canada, the Lower Mainland Green Team, Urban Bounty, and the Richmond Garden Club to deliver earth-friendly programs. The unique, interactive programs offered focus on environmental sustainability, citizen sci-

ence, and garden management and are designed to be fun and informative.

For residents wanting to support Richmond's environment year-round, the city encourages individuals, groups, and business to enroll in the Partners for Beautification Program. This program promotes local citizen stewardship with volunteer options that include cleaning up litter by adopting an area in their neighbourhood and engaging in shoreline clean-ups along the many trails that line the island city. To learn more, go to richmond.ca/beautification

For a complete list of Earth Week activities and ways to register, visit richmond.ca/earthweek

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Published by
RICHMOND SENTINEL NEWS INC.
200-3071 No. 5 Road,
Richmond, B.C., V6X 2T4

Advertising & Sponsorship
marketing@richmondsentinel.ca
778-325-1297

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City extends ban on rodenticides

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Despite Richmond being ranked the sixth-“rattiest” city in British Columbia by Orkin, Canada’s largest pest control company, rodenticides will continue to be banned on city-owned property until Jan. 31, 2024.

The city assumed all general rodent management activities on city-owned and private property from Vancouver Coastal Health in March 2021. Staff developed and implemented a community-based initiative that focuses on rodent exclusion techniques, education and stewardship, and customer service. Supported services are consistent with the city’s Enhanced Pesticide Management Program and include educational resources, community support, private property assessments, and enforcement.

In July 2021, the province enacted an 18-month ban on second-generation rodenticide, with exceptions made for agricultural operations and businesses related to health services, the food industry, and transportation. At a recent city council meeting, staff recommended continuing the local ban and council members voted in favour.

The additional year beyond the provincial ban is intended to allow more time for staff to review scientific data that is expected from the province in 2023.

“Let’s face it—with the history we’ve had here, (the ban) probably will continue after January 2024,” said Mayor Malcolm Brodie during the council meeting.

According to a city staff report, typical environmental programs of this nature include three to five years of monitoring data to begin to understand trends effectively. Staff intend to focus on a number of areas including monitoring and encouraging opportunities for natural predation against rodents.

Staff have also developed Richmond-specific rodent management content for the city’s website, including non-chemical solutions for rodent management.

Runoff from areas treated with pesticides can pollute streams, ponds, lakes, and wells. Pesticide residues in surface water can harm plants and animals and contaminate groundwater. Water contamination can affect livestock and crops downstream.

Second-generation pesticides are more potent than first-generation anticoagulants and they can kill after a single feeding. The toxic compounds in the poison will remain in animal tissues, particularly the liver, so they pose greater risks to other non-target species that might feed on them.

These lethal concoctions are so strong that they could potentially kill an animal with three degrees of separation from initial contact—for example, an animal who has eaten another animal that had itself ingested a poisoned rodent. That is largely why second-generation anticoagulants are no longer widely available.

Anticoagulant poisons are a blood thinner and result in a relatively unpleasant death by inducing a state of confusion or altered mental status caused by brain haemorrhaging. First-generation rodenticides require the target animal to consume the poison for a number of successive days before irreversible damage occurs.

Although some people may find rats cute, they are generally considered to be dangerous because they harbour a number of diseases that can be spread



Photo via Wikimedia Commons

The ban on rodenticides has been extended in Richmond.

to humans. Another reason to keep a close eye on rodent populations is the depletion of resources, since rats and mice like to make their nests close to food sources such as the dumpsters of food handling facilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, rodents were forced to become bolder during the daytime because there was less food waste being produced for them to forage through at night, according to Orkin. This meant that residences at the periphery of restaurants and food handling facilities may have become more susceptible to rodent infestations.

Orkin says anecdotal evidence shows that, like humans, rodents become more aggressive and adhere to the concept of “survival of the fittest” in response to a lack of resources. Their aggression goes so far that there is evidence of cannibalism among rodent populations. Young, old, and weak rats can be eliminated by healthier adults. Bold and aggressive rats are more likely to attack other animals, including humans, and are likely to pass on aggressive genes and behaviour to their offspring, according to Orkin.

Locally, the battle between humans and rodents remains cause for concern.

“It’s extremely important that we get to people doing demolitions, to make sure that they trap the rats first,” said Coun. Harold Steves during the council meeting. “What happens is that when we knock down a house, (the rats) move next door. Two years ago we lost about six houses, all within one or two blocks, and (the rats) all headed over to our place. We’ve got resident owls, and it took about one or two years to get rid of (the rats).”

Orkin says people can prevent the growth of rodent populations by sealing any cracks or holes in a home’s foundation, keeping shrubbery trimmed back at least one metre from a home’s exterior walls, eliminating moisture sources like clogged gutters or water gathering in trash bins, and inspecting property for signs of rodent droppings and burrows.

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Richmond celebrates World Leisure Day

For the first time, World Leisure Day is being celebrated in Richmond on April 16 with more than 30 free and low-cost activities for all ages and interests.

World Leisure Day is a global initiative of the World Leisure Organization (WLO), which aims to highlight the importance of leisure in all its forms: recreation, parks, sport, education, arts, culture, and heritage. In 2017, the WLO designated Richmond as a World Leisure Community of Excellence.

The activities offered by the city and its partners include: a spring scav-

enger hunt at the Richmond Nature Park and Richmond Public Library; self-guided walking tours at Terra Nova, Sea Island and Brighthouse Park; a cycling art tour; try-it ringette at Minoru Arenas; geocaching along the Railway Greenway; music and movement story time at Thompson Community Centre; 50 per cent off public skating on April 15 at the Richmond Olympic Oval; and a family drop-in open gym at various Richmond community centres.

Find a full list of local activities online richmond.ca/leisureday

School district to upgrade ventilation

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Seventeen Richmond schools are slated for ventilation upgrades, with school board trustees voting in favour of a \$12 million package at the March board meeting.

The pandemic has highlighted the lack of mechanical ventilation in many older Richmond public schools, according to a report to the board. Ventilation can only be produced by opening windows built above radiators to warm the in-coming air.

The district's facilities services department estimated the cost based on allowances for electrical and boiler upgrades as necessary, as well as removal of hazardous materials like asbestos.

Six of the schools are already scheduled for upgrades as part of existing projects: Bridge, Ferris, McKinney, Mitchell, Tomsett, and Whiteside elementary schools. Meanwhile, Blundell, Cook, Dixon, Garden City, Gilmore, Grauer, Kidd, Lee, McKay, Steves, and Woodward elementary schools will also be upgraded as part of the project.

The topic first came up at February's board meeting. There was some concern that investing in mechanical ventilation would take away from seismic projects or affect funds earmarked to purchase a site for the future City Centre elementary school.

"Staff don't believe that proceeding with this program using local capital reserves will have a negative impact on future seismic upgrades," said the district's executive director of facilities services Frank Geyer.

He added that staff consider the program to be important and timely. While the ventilation issue has always existed, the pandemic brought it to the forefront.

Geyer said staff will work to save money, aiming to stay under the \$12 million



Photo by Hannah Scott

Grauer elementary is one of 17 Richmond schools slated for ventilation upgrades in the next 17 months.

budget by synchronizing work with other capital projects. For example, if a wall was to be opened up for seismic upgrades and then opened up again for HVAC upgrades, approval of this program enables those upgrades to be done simultaneously to save money.

Several trustees expressed a wish for the provincial Ministry of Education to provide more funding for ventilation and other appropriate improvements. Currently, provincial capital funding is uncertain, meaning that it would take over 10 years to complete a retrofit using only existing ministry funding.

Trustee Ken Hamaguchi, who chairs the facilities and building committee at which the issue was discussed, said if ministry funding for ventilation is announced in the future he will advocate for repayment. Hamaguchi added he will also advocate to the B.C. government to fund the City Centre school when it is needed.

The program and funding passed with trustee Donna Sargent opposed. The target completion date for the program is Aug. 31, 2023.

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Happy Easter

BLUNDELL CENTRE

42 Stores for Everything
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Richmond MPs shed light on experience so far

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

In last September's federal election, both Conservative incumbent MPs were unseated by first-time Liberal candidates: Wilson Miao in Richmond Centre and Parm Bains in Steveston–Richmond East.

TV host Jim Gordon recently sat down with Miao and Bains to learn about the first months of their tenure as MPs.

What made you want to run, and when did you develop an interest in politics?

Bains: I have experience as a communications officer with the B.C. government working on policy-related issues. I am passionate about issues that are important to our community. I took a break to teach at a university and then I was approached to seek public office.

Miao: Coming from an immigrant background, I know first-hand (that) being a Canadian is amazing. With a background in real estate, I understand the concern about affordable housing. It's important for us to relay to Parliament what the issues and concerns (facing) our community are. For me, the focus is serving the community and understanding what is needed. That's why I put my name forward.

What was the first day like when you arrived in Ottawa and what does a normal daily routine look like?

Bains: It's actually very surreal, to be honest with you. Ottawa is not a massive city, but Parliament is very big and historic. As you walk the halls you see images of the previous Prime Ministers. In terms of day-to-day work, there's a lot of orientation to familiarize ourselves with the system. The job consists of parliamentary work and constituency work; it's like having two different jobs. We also have (been) assigned to committees and the schedule is busy. The ultimate goal is to have the ability to bring the community's voice forward in the work we do.

Travel for MPs on the West Coast is not the same as travel for MPs in the East. Walk us through a typical week.

The ultimate goal is to have the ability to bring the community's voice forward in the work we do.

– Parm Bains



Photo by Hannah Scott

Parm Bains (left) and Wilson Miao are settling into life as MPs after winning last September's federal election in the ridings of Steveston–Richmond East and Richmond Centre respectively.

Miao: It can get quite overwhelming. For example, I'm also serving on two different committees: veteran affairs and international trade. Committee work allows us to bring the voices of our constituents to these discussions. Regarding travel, although Richmond is close to the airport, the pandemic limited flights to Ottawa. We either travel on a Sunday morning or take the "red-eye" Sunday night so we can be in the House of Commons Monday by 11 a.m.

What is it like after winning the election for your riding?

Bains: In both of our cases, we unseated the (incumbent MP) from (an) opposing party which meant finding an office and the right staff that are connected to the community as much as we are. It is quite challenging due to a labour shortage.

What were you most concerned about in terms of your riding and Richmond as a whole?

Bains: I've been passionate about a few things and affordable housing has been a big one. Affordability in general is something that we need to tackle. One of the biggest pieces of constituency work is often immigration cases.

Miao: Affordability of housing and (the) labour shortage are definitely the biggest issues in both of our ridings right now. Also, I think many seniors and youth in our community (need attention). The pandemic brought challenging times and it's important for us to create more awareness for our constituents to know where to seek assistance to access programs and grants for individuals, families, and organizations.

What are some of the challenges that you currently face—offices, for example?

Miao: My riding has been challenging because

most available spaces right now are pending development. The issue of affordability is a concern not just for us MPs, but also for local businesses.

How can the constituents reach out to you?

Bains: People (can) send me messages through Facebook or Instagram but I suggest they go to the House of Commons website. It has the most current information for our offices, phone numbers, and email addresses.

Miao: Even though I don't have an office yet, the best way to reach us is through my general email. To give you a sense of our challenges, we've been receiving 600 to 700 emails a day. Our goal is to reply to every constituent's email as soon as possible. Hopefully by this summer, we will be able to have more engagement with the community.

For the full video interview, visit richmondsentinel.ca/videos

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Affordability of housing and (the) labour shortage are definitely the biggest issues in both of our ridings right now.

– Wilson Miao

B.C. rebate helps offset higher gas prices

By SAMUEL CHENG
Reporters

The price of gas in Richmond has skyrocketed recently. Drivers have seen prices rise from \$1.77 per litre to as high as \$2.14 in recent weeks—a staggering 21 per cent increase within a month.

"People are facing increased costs through no fault of their own, but as a chain reaction that started with Putin's illegal war in Ukraine," said Premier John Horgan. "As a result of our work to fix ICBC, we're in a position to put money back in people's pockets to help a little with these increased costs."

More than \$395 million dollars has been set aside in preparation for the rebate payouts. ICBC is in a position to provide the reimbursement after its reported net income of \$1.9 billion dollars for the fiscal year ending March 31.

Most ICBC customers with an existing basic auto insurance policy will be eligible for a rebate of \$110. Most commercial drivers will receive \$165 due to the naturally higher incursion of expenses.

ICBC customers who have set up direct deposit will receive the extra cash in May, while others can expect to find a cheque in their mailbox in June.

B.C.'s carbon tax increased on April 1, driving gas prices up even further. Some people are worried that this will result in higher expenses for businesses.

"Aside from the astronomical prices we pay at the gas station for our cars, many companies that rely on transportation are also seeing an increase in



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond residents are currently facing all-time high gas prices.

cost," says Richmond resident Quintin Sim. "This added layer of cost will eventually be passed on to the consumers."

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Richmondite wins Medal of Good Citizenship

Richmondite Isabelle Tang is among those in B.C. receiving a 2021 Medal of Good Citizenship.

In all, 31 people and one group were recently honoured with the medal. The 2021 Medal of Good Citizenship focuses on honouring people who have gone above and beyond expectations in their response to COVID-19.

Tang was inspired by the people around her to give back to the community. She raised \$19,331 during the annual Children's Hospital Balding for Dollars event, as well as volunteering her time and organizing her friends to help with the Children We Care Gala and Time to Shine Gala. Tang has also given piano performances at Villa Cathay Senior Home and South Granville Park Lodge.

Tang and her family recognized a need for protective masks on the east side of Vancouver, and supplied masks to more than nine community organizations.

While the pandemic has made it difficult for high school students to participate in community-based volunteer activities, Tang has worked to find safe volunteer opportunities for her friends.

In February 2021, she delivered 500 pink masks to her high school in support of Pink Shirt Day. School staff, administration, and students were all encouraged to wear the masks.

In May 2021, Tang organized volunteers to assist in B.C. Children's Hospital's Shine Mother's Day Tea At Home, preparing packaging and organizing the delivery. This project raised \$31,000.

A June 2021 fundraiser called Villa Cathay Rejuvenation Project—Charity Dragon Boat Dumplings was initiated by Tang and her family. She assisted with organizing volunteers, packaging, and delivering the dumplings. A total sell-out, the event raised \$15,000.

In September 2021, Tang set up the Orange Youth Volunteers with the support of the principal and the administration of her school. The project created awareness of the impact of residential schools. Orange masks were provided to the staff and students on a donation basis, and all proceeds were donated to the Orange Shirt Society.

Shopping bus helps local seniors

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Accessing local services can be a challenge without a personal vehicle. But a bus service run by the Minoru Centre for Active Living offers youth, seniors, and people with disabilities affordable transportation to community programs, services, and special events.

The Community Leisure Transportation Service offers access to local shopping for a \$2 cash-only fare, with pickups and drop-offs at nine different independent senior housing locations. Scheduled stops include Seafair Centre, the Minoru Centre for Active Living Lansdowne Mall, and Walmart.

"The service allows seniors to have an affordable door-to-door service to purchase fresh produce, attend appointments, or visit the bank," says Paul Liu, community leisure transportation coordinator for the Minoru Center for Active Living. "It also promotes active and healthy aging while decreasing social isolation and loneliness for seniors by providing opportunities to socialize at a coffee shop or attend programs at the Seniors Centre at Minoru."

The shopping bus program has been made a safe service during the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing the frequency of trips to facilitate physical distancing. Masks are mandatory onboard.

"In fall 2021, service doubled from one round trip ride on Tuesdays and Thursdays to two round trips on each service day to give passengers more room to ride," says Liu. "We have also increased cleaning efforts—buses are cleaned and disinfected at least once per day, in addition to our regular cleaning schedule."

The bus schedule can be found online (minorucentre.ca/seniors-services/out-trips/) and on-request bookings can be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Riders can register for the program online at www.richmond.ca/register or by calling the registration call centre at 604-276-4300.

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Richmond's single-use plastic ban

To help reduce plastic waste and pollution, Richmond now bans:

- foam food service ware
- plastic straws (including biodegradable and compostable plastic)
- plastic checkout bags (including biodegradable and compostable plastic)

Here's how you can help

- Bring reusable bags when shopping.
- Bring a reusable cup when picking up a coffee, tea or other beverage.
- Bring your own reusable straw or simply avoid using straws.

Each year, at least eight million tonnes of plastics leak into the ocean – which is equivalent to dumping the contents of one garbage truck into the ocean every minute.

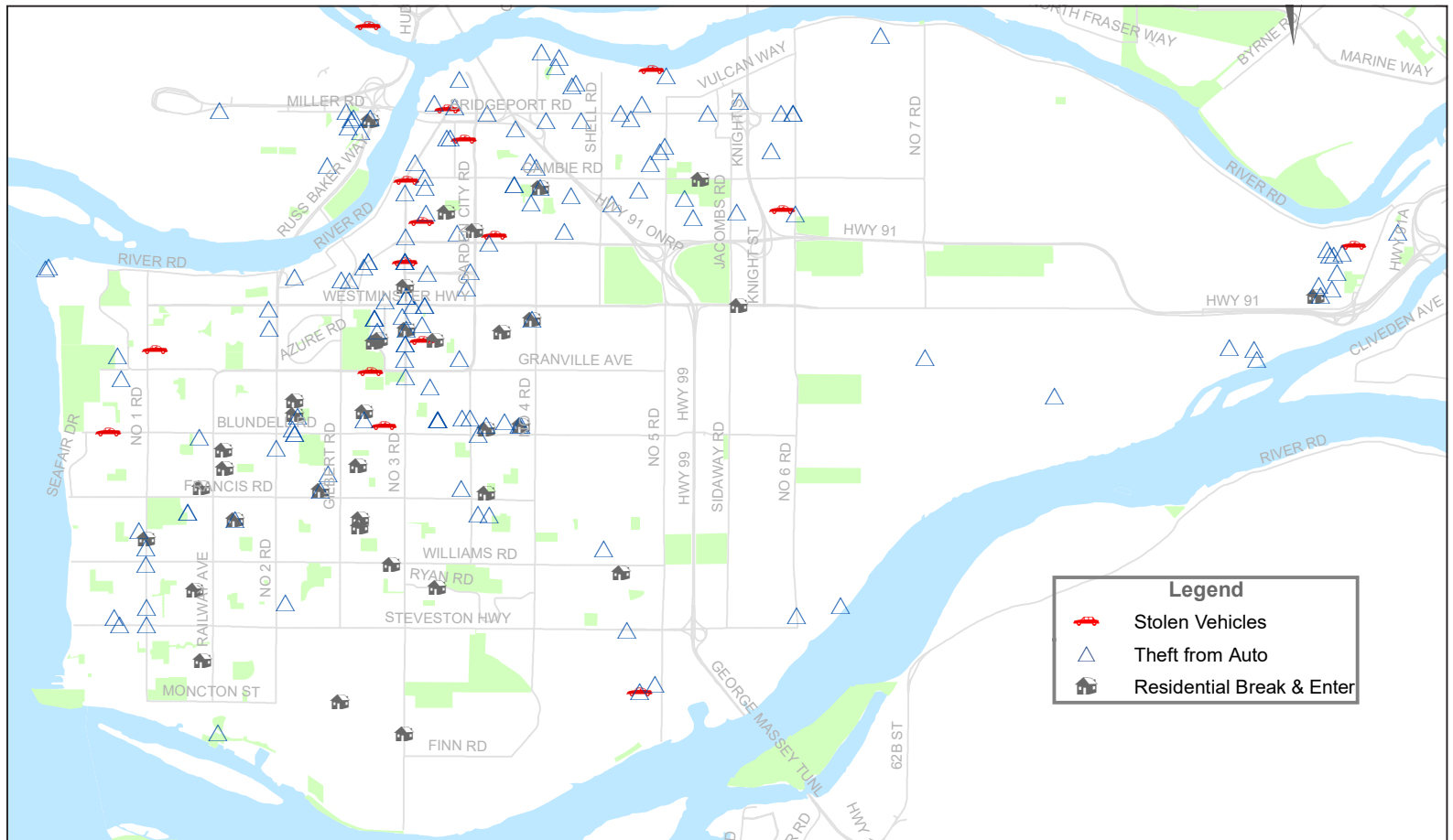
Learn more about Bylaw 10000 and how you can help reduce plastic waste and pollution.

richmond.ca/SingleUse



RCMP

Crime Map March 1 - 31, 2022



Community Police Office opens in central Richmond

Richmond RCMP Community Police Office (CPO) in central Richmond has officially opened and is now offering front counter services.

"The construction of this beautiful new facility is a reflection of the strong and effective partnership shared between the City of Richmond and RCMP," says Supt. Julie Drotar, acting officer in charge of the Richmond detachment. "We are excited with this new facility and are proud of the collaboration that went into making it."

The office officially opened its doors to the public on April 1. It was supposed to open to the public in spring 2020 but the opening was delayed due to COVID-19.

"The safety of our community remains a priority," says Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "This new facility is an important piece of infrastructure that will enable the Richmond RCMP to continue to deliver highly efficient and effective enforcement and engagement within the community. The new City Centre Community Police Office is a shining example of yet another investment by the City of Richmond to help keep our community, residents and businesses safe."

"Our success as a police service depends on strong relationships with the communities we serve," says Drotar. "This modern facility empowers us to build and strengthen our relationships with the City Centre neighbourhood and Richmond at large."

Front counter staff at the CPO are able to provide all services that are currently available at the main Richmond RCMP Detachment. Services available include fingerprinting and criminal record checks. For a full list of services currently available, visit the Richmond RCMP website.

"Our officers have been utilizing the building since it was completed in the spring of 2020," says Cpl. Adriana O'Malley, Richmond RCMP media relations officer. "And we are really excited to now be able to offer front counter services to the public in central Richmond."

The office is located at 6931 Granville Ave. Hours of operation are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Photo by Hannah Scott
The Community Police Office at Granville Avenue and Gilbert Road is now open.

In their own words...

Sparking the flame of community engagement



**Alexa
Loo**
Councillor

Everyone needs a little inspiration.

Throughout our lives, situations and opportunities arise that can shape and influence our decisions and the paths we take. It may be an event or a chance meeting with someone. It may be a longer interaction with a teacher, coach or family member.

Back in high school, I had an interest in government and the process of democracy. I was fortunate to be able to participate in the Richmond Youth Council. Sitting in then-Mayor Gil Blair's chair with the weighty binder holding the Council Agenda in front of me, I had the opportunity to learn about the topics that Council voted on and the procedures for the meeting itself. I experienced democracy from a different perspective and it had a profound influence on my life.

When a group of passionate students presented to Council last summer requesting the re-establishment of a student council, it brought back memories of my time as student at McNair Secondary



here in Richmond. They wanted a chance to learn and try out the workings of local government. Along with my fellow Councillors, I supported revamping and rekindling the earlier Richmond Youth Council program. The enthusiasm and energy of these students alone reinforced how valuable such a program would be.

The City's third Youth Civic Engagement Program gets underway this month, running until June 9. This free eight-week program will introduce 20 youth between the ages of 15-20 to the workings of our City and the governance process of Council. They will get to hear directly from the Mayor about his experiences on City Council, and present to a mock Council so they can experience the democratic process of debate and decision-making in an environment that mirrors the reality of chambers.

Council meetings can sometimes be daunting and confusing. However, the proceedings and protocols reflect processes put in place to maintain good and fair government. One of Council's strategic goals is to have an engaged and informed community, and encouraging people to participate in local decision-making is a shining example of democracy at work.

What these young members of our community learn and take away may influence their future decisions and inspire them to become leaders of tomorrow. Some may take a greater interest in politics. Others may choose careers in local government. Either way, their experience will inspire them in different ways and I encourage everyone to do what they can to enrich our already diverse and dynamic community here in Richmond.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

The City of Richmond Council and Committee Meetings are available online. Watch live or view previous meetings by visiting richmond.ca/WatchOnline.

For further information, meeting schedules and assistance in participating either virtually or in person, please visit richmond.ca/CityHall or contact the City Clerk's Office at 604-276-4007 or CityClerk@richmond.ca.

Apr 12 | 4:00 p.m.
Community Safety Committee

Apr 13 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel

Apr 19 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee

Apr 19 | 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing

Apr 20 | 4:00 p.m.
Public Works & Transportation Committee followed by Planning Committee

Apr 25 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting



For meeting agendas and reports, visit www.richmond.ca/CityHall. Meeting schedule subject to change

Visit www.richmond.ca/WatchOnline to link to live streaming or watch archived video.



Graduating Jets players celebrate at event



Photo courtesy Richmond Jets

After several years of missing out on graduation events, this year's Richmond Jets players born in 2004 were able to come together to mark the end of their time in minor hockey.

Many of the players had been in minor hockey for 13 years, creating memories along the way.

Devils win silver

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Entering the 2022 South Coast Women's Hockey League provincials seeded sixth out of six teams, the Richmond Devils may not have expected to walk away with medals.

But they did so last month in Hope, managing to advance from the round robin past the Fraser Valley Jets, then beating the Kamloops Vibe in the semifinal.

In the final, they faced the North Shore Rebels. With the game tied 2-2 until the final seconds, the Rebels managed to score and the Devils came away as silver medallists.

"Grit and determination was on display from each and every player," said Richmond Devils board member Don Barthel. "All the games were closely fought."

Barthel added that despite their heartbreaking loss, the Devils showed poise as silver medallists.

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Softball season is kicking off this month.

Photo by Don Fennell

Softball season kicks off

As the weather gets warmer, Richmond Girls Softball Association is kicking off its season.

And some tournaments are also beginning: Icebreaker tournaments for teenage players took place April 9 and 10, with six Richmond Islanders teams in the mix. More tournaments are scheduled throughout May and June.

Asphalt Paving Advisory

February 1st to November 30th, 2022

The City of Richmond has contracted Lafarge Canada Inc. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond from February 1st to November 30th, 2022:

PROPOSED 2021 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

Bridgeport Road to Knight Street	East north loop
Bridgeport Road to Knight Street	East south loop
Knight Street East South	50 m north of bridge deck
Knight Street to Bridgeport Road	Northeast off ramp
12000 - 13000 block Steveston Highway	Hwy 99 off Ramp - Palmberg Road
11000 block Bridgeport Road	Shell Road - No. 5 Road
No. 6 Road	Hwy 91 underpass - Maycrest Way
9000 block Cambie Road	Garden City Road - No. 4 Road
Great Canadian Way	Sea Island Way - Bridgeport Road
4151 Williams Road	100 m section
9000 block Francis Road	Garden City Road - No. 4 Road
Fraserwood Place	Westminster Hwy - Gordon Way
Vickers Way	Bridgeport Road - Sweden Way
Westminster Hwy	No. 8 Road - Nelson Road
Ferguson Road	Shannon Road - McDonald Road
Kwantlen Street	Alderbridge Way - Alexandra Road
Finlayson Drive	Gagnon Place - McLennan Avenue
5000 - 6000 block Granville Avenue	Railway Avenue - Gilbert Road emergency repairs
Burkeville subdivision	Roads impacted by Capital Projects only
No. 5 Road / North of Cambie Road	Mitchel Elementary School frontage
7411 No. 1 Road	South bound lanes only
Garden City Road - Cook Road	Intersection
No. 3 Road	Bridgeport Road - River Road
6000 block No. 1 Road	Westminster Hwy - Granville Avenue
3000 block Blundell Road	No. 1 Road - Seafair Drive

Work hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Night time work hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (typically).

Traffic will be reduced to a single lane and there may be temporary lane closures. Delays may occur. The use of an alternate route is strongly encouraged.

This work is weather dependent and dates are subject to change without notice.

The scope of the advertised work may be adjusted or cancelled in line with available funding.

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at 604-276-4189, or visit the City's paving program webpage at www.richmond.ca (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2021 Paving Program).

Architectural oddity inspires art gallery exhibition

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The upcoming exhibition at the Richmond Art Gallery explores the sensation of displacement through a real-life architectural oddity.

A *Minaret for the General's Wife* features works by Turkish-Canadian artist Erdem Taşdelen, inspired by a freestanding minaret located in Kėdainiai, Lithuania. A minaret is a type of tower that is generally part of or next to a mosque.

"I was immediately struck by how odd it looked to me," says Taşdelen. "I wanted to go there and see it for myself."

He originally envisioned a speculative film about the minaret, and began to write texts that featured or tangentially touched upon it. But an art installation came about instead, almost by accident.

"I initially started writing the imaginative perspective of a Turkish wife—if she existed, what would she have thought?" says Taşdelen. "(But) I became dissatisfied with the experience, and realized what I was really interested in was meaning being made simultaneously over and over (through) time by multiple people."

He says the exhibition is about thinking through togetherness in a collective sense, sharing the cultural world with others.

"I want (audiences) to think about how they consider objects and entities in their lives, how they attribute meaning to those objects that are guided by each person's individual experience," he says.

The exhibition was first shown last year at Mercer Union in Toronto, although pandemic restrictions required visitors to book a timed entry slot. The collective togetherness Taşdelen had envisioned was impossible with that



Erdem Taşdelen's *A Minaret for the General's Wife* opens at Richmond Art Gallery on April 22.

Photo by Toni Hafkenscheid

how it illuminates something about my current conditions and life," he says.

Taşdelen adds that the pandemic has changed his artistic practice in some ways, although he describes his approach as introspective.

"In the sense of things slowing down and deadlines being pushed further, really the slowness made me realize that maybe it's okay to take your time with things (and) good things can come out of that too," he says.

The exhibition is accompanied by an essay written by Suzy Halajian as part of the brochure given to viewers. The texts, including that essay, are an important element of the exhibition.

A Minaret for the General's Wife is commissioned and organized by Mercer Union and the South Asian Visual Arts Centre (SAVAC) in Toronto and was made possible with support from RBC Insurance and SAHA Association, Istanbul. The exhibition is at Richmond Art Gallery from April 22 to July 31.

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Author speaks on music memories

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS

Contributors

Canadian author and rock 'n' roll music historian Tom Locke recently chatted with the *Our City Tonight* team about memories from the golden era of Top 40 music.

Locke also spoke about his latest book, *Moments In Time: Stories About Artists and Songs of the 50s, 60s, and 70s. For Fans of Music ... From a Music Fan.*

What makes your music book so unique?

The unique selling principle is the barcode associated with each song discussed in my book. There is no book like it in the world or in the marketplace today. Every story is two pages (long) and at the conclusion of the story is a small QR (quick response) code in the left corner. Simply put your smartphone camera over (the barcode), click it, and it (takes you)

right to the song—instant gratification.

You have some great chapters about the rhythm and blues (R&B) era and how it affected Top 40 music—tell us a little about that.

That is a fascinating era to me and is my favourite because it was so eclectic in the 1950s. There is no doubt that the evolution of the "teenager," a new term recognized back then, and their ability to buy music led music producers to take R&B as well as country songs to re-record with artists who had a large following. At the time, it was all about what teenagers wanted to hear. Music became a leader in integration.

You are working on a documentary, can you share what that music project is about?

The documentary is about the evolution of rock 'n' roll as seen through the eyes of the radio disc jockey (DJ). The DJs of the 1950s and 1960s were

very powerful. They were all around, yet they were only known for (their specific) region—but they were still legends. Case in point: we have one right here in Vancouver named Red Robinson.

Let's talk about your "Moments In Time" radio segments that can be heard on Michael Godin's "Treasure Island Oldies," a weekly internet radio show with worldwide affiliates.

Michael started the show in 1997 and he is a good friend. We decided to do a two-minute segment on his show and we have been doing that now for 21 years. Every Sunday night you can hear my new "Moment in Time" and stroll down memory lane with us.

For the video interview, visit richmondsentinel.ca/videos

Jim Gordon and Leeta Liepins are contributing writers to the Richmond Sentinel.

Local company offers pleasant-smelling hand sanitizer

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

With hand sanitizer still a staple amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, many people may be tired of the sharp alcohol-based scent characteristic of many products.

Meadowfoam is a Richmond-based company that makes premium skincare products derived from high-quality natural ingredients. Among its offerings is a hand sanitizer that smells like essential oils rather than alcohol.

All of Meadowfoam's products are cruelty-free, environmentally conscious, and delight the olfactory senses while defending against harmful bacteria. Scent options include lemon meringue, grapefruit gardenia, and coconut açai.

"We like to have a variety of scents available so that people can enjoy a different experience each time they use our products," says the company's founder Joanne Wendell.

Wendell grew up in a rural Alberta town and fondly recalls her father being an avid gardener.

"My dad's passion for gardening gave me an appreciation for how things are grown, the care it takes, and the importance of knowing where things come from," says Wendell.

Before she was a burgeoning skincare mogul, Wendell served as a police officer.

"When I retired from being a police officer, I wanted to do something creative with the goal of making people happy at a reasonable price," says Wendell.

She started Meadowfoam in 2014, during the resurgence of farmers' markets and the revival of consumer interest in natural skincare products.

Like many small business owners, Wendell produced the initial product line from her home. The demand for her uniquely scented products quickly increased to the point where they took over her living space and she needed to expand to a warehouse facility.

"We're flattered that customers love our products," says Wendell. "Receiving so much positive feedback keeps us knowing we're on the right



JOANNE WENDELL



Photos via meadowfoamproducts.com
Richmond company Meadowfoam makes a hand sanitizer that kills harmful germs and smells like essential oils.

path."

Wendell currently operates out of a warehouse in Richmond with her partner and four key em-

ployees. She hopes to grow the brand to become internationally recognized while maintaining high-quality ingredients and zero waste production.

One of the unique features of her company is that she uses meadowfoam seed oil. Meadowfoam is a robust white floral that blooms early in the season and is indigenous to the Pacific Northwest.

Meadowfoam's hand sanitizers are made in small batches using vegetable-derived ethanol produced in the Okanagan Valley that is free from harmful byproducts.

The manufacturer adds an unscented compound called bitrex during production. Bitrex is the most bitter substance known and is used in alcohol-based products that may potentially harm children if ingested.

The result is a fragrant hand sanitizer that tastes awful and contains 70 per cent alcohol, ensuring it meets Canadian standards for sanitizing products.

Wendell's favourite Meadowfoam product is the hibiscus rose butter. She says a little goes a long way with natural products, and recommends starting with a pea-sized amount and working it into the skin.

"Here is a secret routine I use with the products," says Wendell. "Draw a bath and add some of our foaming bath salts. When you step in, before you sit down, take our sugar scrub and massage it all over. We worked a little body butter into the product, so it's very rich. When you're done, just sink in and enjoy. When you get out of the bath, you'll be so soft," says Wendell.

While hand sanitizer can be useful, washing hands with soap and water is still a more effective option because it removes certain germs that hand sanitizers do not, like Cryptosporidium, norovirus, and Clostridioides difficile.

Meadowfoam also makes organic soaps. More new products are in development, including balms and roller ball fragrance oils which will be released in the coming months.

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RICHMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

WE ARE HIRING!

Are you an enthusiastic individual interested in being a part of the summer team this year? Good news! We are hiring Summer Leaders to work in our Summer Daycamps!

For more information please visit
www.richmond.ca/associationcareers
or email us at associationcareers@richmond.ca



A walk down memory lane

In the fourth part of a series on Richmond's business roots, we share the story of Memory Corner restaurant.

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

With a name that is both nostalgic and descriptive, Memory Corner Taiwanese restaurant has been going strong in Richmond for three generations and counting.

The word "memory" aims to bring back thoughts of Taiwanese childhood in the 1980s. And the business's first location was on a corner, says owner Raymond Wu.

Originating in Gangshan District in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, founders Yu-Liu and Hsuang Wu originally operated a traditional Taiwanese lamb restaurant. But as a supervisor in a shipbuilding yard, Yu-Liu found his salary was insufficient to make ends meet for his family of seven.

When Yu-Liu had the chance to learn how to cook traditional lamb cuisine, he took the opportunity to study, learn, and perfect the cuisine. Eventually he refined and came up with his own special recipe that infused the ingredients of Chinese herbal medicine.

Yu-Liu later passed the restaurant down to his eldest son and daughter-in-law. After 40 years, the business is now in the hands of his grandson Raymond, who hopes to not only continue but also expand on the legacy of his grandparents.

"The name of the restaurant draws inspiration from (my) grandpa and grandma Wu, not only as an appreciation of the persistence and hard work that they endured but also as a promise and purpose to continue to promote authentic Taiwanese cuisine in Canada," says Raymond.

While the business started out by offering mainly lamb dishes, it has since expanded its menu to include other traditional Taiwanese offerings. Everything from popular street foods to a diverse range of drinks can be found on the menu.

The restaurant's interior design is another notable highlight, with decorations all custom-made in Taiwan. Memory Corner's goal is to recreate the ambience of traditional Taiwanese streets in the 1980s.

Raymond credits the business's success to its invaluable customers. Through word-of-mouth, more people can enjoy the restaurant's food and



Photo courtesy David Peng

Memory Corner Taiwanese restaurant has custom-made interior decorations that aim to recreate the ambience of 1980s Taiwan.

learn more about Taiwanese cultures and traditions.

But amid the COVID-19 pandemic, more people are opting for take-out instead of dine-in. Given the restaurant's pride in its interior decoration, Raymond feels people are missing out on the opportunity to enjoy and experience the atmosphere.

Having been open for decades, Memory Corner has also received many awards including the 2016 Chinese Restaurant Awards Diners' Choice Award for the best Taiwanese braised pork rice and the 2017 award for best Taiwanese popcorn chicken. It was crowned the best Taiwanese Restaurant/BBT Café in 2018 and 2020.

Memory Corner's success led Raymond to open a second restaurant, Sweet Memory, that serves traditional desserts and street-style snacks.

He takes pride in having high-quality food, furniture, and decorations—and aims to treat customers with the same quality.

"We always take all of our customers' feedback and reviews seriously," says Raymond. "We make note of how we can continue to improve in the future and all of our employees work as a team and are very (closely) tied with each other."

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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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