

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

- f /TheRichmondSentinel
- (iii) @TheRichmondSentinel





m richmondsentinel.ca Download our app

VOL. 6 ISSUE 11

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

JUNE 21 - JULY 4, 2022



File photo by Chung Chow





richmondsentinel.ca June 21 - July 4, 2022 CITY | 3

Steveston Salmon Festival returns with a twist

By **MATTHEW CHEUNG**Reporter

Steveston Village will host the 75th annual Steveston Salmon Festival this year.

Having been hosted virtually for the last two years, the event returns in-person, with a twist. This year there will not be a parade, but the festival will be stretched out across a number of zones: Garry Point zone, Steveston Village zone, Steveston Community Centre zone, and Britannia zone.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the festival on foot, bicycle, scooter, or wheelchair.

There are two main goals for this year's event, says Steveston Salmon Festival committee chair

"The first was to create a family-focused event that features a variety of accessible and inclusive activities," he says. "The second was to reflect on the past 75 years of the festival, the spirit of Steveston, and the important role the fishing industry has and continues to play in the community."

The Steveston Salmon Festival will run from June 25 through July 1. Activities include the 51st annual horticulture show, a Japanese culture show, the Pacific Rim Kite Festival, an art show, and a fun zone with a multitude of activities for children to participate in.

"A first-time Steveston Salmon Festival-goer can expect to see lots of families having fun outdoors. There will be plenty of great entertainment



Photo by Kim Bellavance

Visitors to the 75th anniversary Steveston Salmon Festival on July 1 will experience live music, performances, hands-on activities, and more.

and delicious food from local vendors. We hope that people will get a chance to bump into neighbours, old and new, and that people will feel safe and comfortable gathering (for) this year's in-person event," says Sakai.

The main event will take place on Canada Day, July 1. It will feature live music, exhibitions, demonstrations, and a variety of food options.

There will also be volunteer opportunities available for those who want to help out with the festi-

val. Volunteers will assist in the overall production of the event, and can also help through supporting the art show, info booth, video booth, children's area, and more.

An in-person or online volunteer session will be provided. Volunteers can sign up at steveston salmonfest.ca/volunteer/

For more information, visit stevestonsalmon fest.ca/

•matthewc@richmondsentinel.ca

City receives prestigious award for community facility

The City of Richmond has received the 2022 Bill Woycik Outstanding Facility Award from the Recreation Facilities Association of British Columbia (RFABC) for the Minoru Centre for Active Living.

The prestigious award, presented annually, recognizes a new or relatively new recreation, sport, or leisure facility that meets a demonstrated community need through innovations in design, energy management, operations, revenue generation, and services.

"Since being fully open to the community in 2020, the Minoru Centre for Active Living has become a recreational, social, and cultural hub for the community that showcases the city's commitment to innovation, design, and environmental efficiency," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The Minoru Centre for Active Living serves as an important place where Richmond's diverse and intergenerational community can come together to be active and create connections."

The Minoru Centre for Active Living (7191 Granville Ave.) houses one of the province's premier aquatic centres, along with a seniors centre, event centre, and a 790 square metre (8,500 square foot) fitness centre. Accessibility was a key focus during the design, resulting in features such as automated doors, transfer edges for easy and comfortable access to the pools, universal change rooms, high contrast signage, and lower counter heights.

Extensive engagement with the community, stakeholder groups, and other facility operators helped to ensure the facility included best practices in design, access, and efficiency. For example, the centre's design aims to reduce indoor water use by 39 per cent and outdoor water use by 100 per cent compared to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) baselines, thanks to water conservation strategies such as low-flow plumbing fixtures, efficient pool filtration systems, and the use of greywater for landscape irrigation.

The Minoru Centre for Active Living is equipped with energy saving equipment such as high performance windows, demand control ventilation, and LED lights with occupancy sensors that, together, help to reduce the building's energy consumption by 49 per cent compared to similar but more conventional facilities elsewhere.

"The Minoru Centre for Active Living is not only an aesthetically stunning facility in design, but has incorporated impeccable energy efficiencies and sustainability initiatives in its construction," said Jenna Stevens, RFABC president-elect. "The Recreation Facilities Association of B.C. is a leading industry resource for the recreation sector, supporting municipalities in their provision of quality recreation experiences for their communities. We are pleased to award the City of Richmond with the 2022 Bill Woycik Outstanding Facility Award."

The Minoru Centre for Active Living is the second City of Richmond facility to receive the prestigious Bill Woycik Outstanding Facility Award in recent years. The City Centre Community Centre (5900 Minoru Blvd.) received the honour in 2017.

The 2022 award was presented to the City of Richmond by RFABC at last week's council meeting.

Garry Point Park hosts 2022 ALS walkathon

By MATTHEW CHEUNG Reporter

une is ALS Awareness Month, and this year the ALS Society of B.C. hosted its 17th annual Move to Cure ALS event.

With multiple events taking place across the province, Richmond was one of 13 host cities. This was the first in-person walkathon event since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ALS stands for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease or motor neuron disease. It is a neurological disease that slowly shuts down the communication between the brain and the muscles. As time goes on, those who live with ALS lose the ability to do everyday tasks like walking and eating, and eventually lose the ability to breathe.

Most commonly diagnosed in middle to late adulthood, this disease affects not just people who have been diagnosed with ALS but also those around them.

ALS currently has no cure. Eighty per cent of those diagnosed succumb to the disease within two to five years. Ten per cent might live 10 years or longer, while the other 10 per cent may only live for a few months.

"The sad reality of it is that as one (person) is diagnosed with the disease, another one passes away, so the number (of people with ALS) remains static," says Navin Autar, communications and social media coordinator of the ALS Society of B.C.

Participants registered for the recent event as an individual, group, or company, and pledged the amount of money they wanted to donate. Participants received T-shirts and took on a twohour walk.

Donations accumulated from the annual walkathons are used to support programs including patient services, mobile clinics, and research through PROJECT HOPE at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

"The services are available to patients living with ALS in B.C. and Yukon with no charges or fees. The only requirement to access is registration with the ALS Society of B.C.," says Autar.



Photo by Navin Autar

Richmond volunteers supported the recent ALS walkathon at Garry Point Park.

Thanks to contributions from the province, UBC, and other donors, phase one of PROJECT HOPE was achieved by March 2020. The ALS Society of B.C. then moved on to phase two, with a new goal.

"(The next goal is) to raise \$20 million to build the team to lead research, clinical trials, and staff at an ALS clinic at UBC," says Autar.

This goal allows research to continue, as well as creating a new clinic for people diagnosed with ALS. Currently the ALS Society of B.C. has partnered with Vancouver Coastal Health and the ALS Centre at GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre to provide mobile clinics to those who can no longer visit the main ALS centre.

"(So far) \$2.4 million of the \$20 million goal has been raised and will be used for PROJECT HOPE research, clinical care, and support," says Wendy Toyer, executive director of the ALS Society of B.C.

With a donation goal of \$135,000, Richmondites supported the local event with their generosity.

"The (Richmond) event was extremely successful," says Toyer. "We had over 300 people that participated in the event and raised over \$105,000, (and) there are still funds coming in."

Despite the event's success, Toyer says there is still more to be done.

"People with ALS do not have the luxury of time, and it is my dream that we will be able to have an effective treatment for ALS as fast as the COVID-19 vaccine was developed," says Toyer.

Although the fundraising event has passed, the society is still welcoming donations. To donate to the Move to Cure ALS fundraising event, or to make a general donation, visit movetocureals.ca

For more information about ALS Society of British Columbia, visit alsbc.ca

•matthewc@richmondsentinel.ca



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

Advertising & Sponsorship

marketing@richmondsentinel.ca 778-325-1297

Newsroom

newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca 778-297-5005

Editor - Don Fennell dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



Download our app from the App Store or Google Play Store.











richmondsentinel.ca June 21 - July 4, 2022 COMMUNITY | 5

Summer reading program launches

The Richmond Public Library is marking the return of summer with the launch of its annual summer reading program.

New for 2022 is the Richmond Reads: Summer Reading Club for Adults, running from July 4 to 31. Community members are invited to read and talk about *Mindful of Murder*, a newly released, humorous mystery novel by award-winning B.C. author Susan Juby, suitable for adults and teens.

There will be a discussion group on Facebook, print and digital copies of the book available to borrow, in-person and virtual book chats, and clues posted on social media every week in July. The first lucky person to find the book can keep it as a prize. On July 27, author Juby will join readers for an online event.

Kids can maintain and improve their reading skills over the summer by joining the library's annual Summer Reading Club, presented in partnership with the B.C. Library Association. The theme is All Together Now, celebrating community. Stop by any RPL branch to pick up a free reading booklet, or participate online at bcsrc.ca/

Participants choose their own reading goal and use the booklet to record their progress. Visit the library to collect weekly stickers or go online for digital badges. The library is also offering weekly prize draws, a callout for book reviews, and free programs including an art club, science programs, and kids book clubs.

There's also a Summer Reading Club for youth aged 12 to 18. Write and post book reviews on the RPL Teen Blog for a chance to win book prizes. The library will host programs including a chess club, a book club, and a Smash Brothers tournament. Budding teen artists can also submit their own artwork for a chance to be featured in next year's Teen Summer Reading Club.

For details, visit yourlibrary.ca or call the library at 604-231-6413.





6 | COMMUNITY June 21 - July 4, 2022





Learn more about flood protection in Richmond

The City of Richmond is inviting the public to a series of inperson and virtual events to:

- Learn about what Richmond is doing for flood protection and growing climate change risks
- Share your thoughts and feedback

To get started on learning and to obtain registration details for events visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca/floodprotection.

All information presented at the events and on LetsTalkRichmond.ca will be in English. A translated Chinese flyer is available at LetsTalkRichmond.ca/floodprotection.

Upcoming Events

In-person

(registration req'd)

Tuesday, June 21, 2022 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Event ID# 163658

Community Conversation (Dike Master Plan Phase 4) located at Hamilton Community Center

Virtual

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Noon-1:00 p.m. Event ID# 163674

or 6:00-7:00 p.m. Event ID# 163675

Virtual Community Conversation

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Noon-1:00 p.m. Event ID# 163676

or 6:00-7:00 p.m. Event ID# 163678

Virtual Community Conversation

If you can't make it to an event:

Visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca, to learn more, answer a poll and ask questions.

For more information

Tel: 604-276-4026

Email: FloodProtection@richmond.ca Online: Richmond.ca/floodprotection

www.richmond.ca







Airport upgrades lighting

More than 20,000 lights throughout the Vancouver International Airport terminal have been upgraded with new LED bulbs.

The upgrade is expected to decrease the airport's electricity use by 2.8 gigawatt hours per year, which is the equivalent of powering 255 B.C. homes.

Vancouver International Airport is committed to becoming the world's greenest airport, having recently shared its plans to become net zero carbon in terminals by 2030. Its lighting efficiency project is among the first steps to be completed.

The lighting project is a partnership with BC Hydro. With the investment from BC Hydro, the project is expected to pay itself off in just over three years.

Musqueam owned and operated construction firm Delta Tritec Group is another partner on the project.

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 LOCAT	TION 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).

www.richmond.ca f







richmondsentinel.ca June 21 - July 4, 2022 | **7**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!

Let's come together and celebrate this day filled with happiness and zeal.

Let's celebrate the most amazing country in the world!

Contact me for any provincial concerns.



TERESA WAT
MLA | RICHMOND NORTH CENTRE
604-775-0754
Teresa.Wat.MLA@leg.bc.ca

1 /Teresa.Wat3



Seniors share stories through community project

By HANNAH SCOTT Reporter

Ceniors have countless stories to tell. And for Bea Martin, a local artist and member of the Community Arts Council of Richmond (CACR), finding a way to share those stories was imperative after the isolation of the pandemic.

"I thought during the pandemic, (seniors) were the ones who suffered the most in terms of isolation. I always had in the back of my mind that I wanted to listen to more seniors' stories," says Martin. "At the same time, I love making portraits (and) find it fascinating, especially older people the living history is in their face, and I love how every single line tells a story."

Martin always hoped to work on a project like this, where she would speak to people and paint their portraits, and she applied to take part in a CACR exhibition that was cancelled due to the pandemic. But she went back to the CACR team and proposed a new idea, giving it the name Faces of Richmond. A volunteer team was formed in October 2021, meeting virtually to organize interviews.

"We first did a call for seniors and a call for artists, and we waited. We didn't want to say 'no' to anybody, that was our goal," says Martin.

In the end, 10 artists worked on 12 portraits. Interviews were approached as informal conversations to help seniors feel more comfortable. Photographs of the seniors were taken and given to artists for their paintings. The finished portraits will be given to the seniors.

The intention is to build community by connecting younger and older people. Seniors were asked what they want to tell young people and what gives them joy, among other questions. The goal is to repeat the project annually, and Martin anticipates there will be a lot of interest next year given the success of the inaugural efforts.

"My hope is that this project is made for (se-

My hope is that this project is made for (seniors) to feel that they belong, and to look back with pride and feel that their contribution matters, that they're a pillar in the community.

- Bea Martin



Photo by Hannah Scott

Jim Kojima was one of 12 Richmond seniors interviewed for the Community Arts Council of Richmond's Faces of Richmond project.

niors) to feel that they belong, and to look back with pride and feel that their contribution matters. that they're a pillar in the community," says Martin.

One interviewee was 84-year-old Jim Kojima, who has lived in Richmond for 75 years.

"I was born in Richmond, evacuated to Alberta during the war years, came back to Richmond in 1951 and have been (here) ever since," says Kojima.

He learned about the project through the Minoru Seniors Centre, where he is a director and treasurer. Kojima has also been involved with a number of Richmond organizations over the years, including 70 years with the Steveston Judo Club. He also spent time fishing, and both his father and grandfather were fishers.

Over his lifetime in Richmond, Kojima says the hardship faced by Japanese people prior to and during the Second World War stands out.

"The resilience and the people, the first-generation people, how hard they worked and didn't complain and in some cases came with nothing," says Kojima."(They) got everything taken away in 1942 and came back with nothing, and basically started their lives two or three times over from scratch. They lived their lives in a way that (they) always thought of contributing back to the city or the country that they now lived in."

Kojima was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1983 for his contributions to judo in Canada. He was an international referee and involved with six Olympic Games and multiple World Judo Championships. Later he was president of Judo Canada and director of the International Judo Federation Referee Commission.

"I had many opportunities to serve the judo community but also bring back to the Steveston Judo Club my experiences," says Kojima.

He hopes the Faces of Richmond project leaves people with a better understanding of each other, "because (people of many ethnicities) live in Richmond and that's what makes our community vibrant, and I hope we can all live together in peace and harmony."

Kojima also looks forward to the completion of the new Steveston Community Centre, which will replace the current 1957 building. The current community centre was paid for by Steveston residents, resulting in extra taxes for 20 years.

"The Japanese people were going to build their own community centre and they were asked to join the community centre for everyone. The Japanese contributed \$15,000 of money they had (from) pre-war years," he says.

"I'm happy and proud to be a Richmond resident. I just hope we can live a harmonious life, all of us, in the future."

The Faces of Richmond project was sponsored by CACR, the City of Richmond, Minoru Seniors Society, Richmond Photo Club, Minoru Centre for Active Living, and Phoenix Art Workshop. In addition to Martin, the organizing team included Mell D'Clute, Jimmy Ho, Susan Ness, and Susan Stolberg. Martin also expressed gratitude to Sonja Pickering and Omar Rajan for their help.

Art and audio recordings of stories are available online through July 6 at richmondartscouncil.ca/ faces-of-richmond-virtual-gallery/

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond's strength is its people - First Nations who have lived here since time immemorial and more recent newcomers to this land. We care for our home, we care for each other, and we experience joy in community.

It's great to be together again.

Join us in building a B.C. where no one gets left behind.



Aman Singh, MLA Richmond-Queensborough Aman.SIngh.MLA@leg.bc.ca 604-664-0700

Kelly Greene, MLA Richmond-Steveston Kelly.Greene.MLA@leg.bc.ca 604-241-8452

Henry Yao, MLA Richmond South Centre Henry.Yao.MLA@leg.bc.ca 604-775-0891

In their own words...

After 50 years of service, I bid farewell



Harold Steves Councillor

After 50 years as a Richmond Councillor, the time has come for me to step away. This is my final column and I look back with various emotions at the issues we fought, battles we won, and those we lost.

In the mid-60's Wil Paulik and I asked Council to swap the Richmond Garbage Dump for federal bog-land. The Richmond Nature Park was born.

In 1968, I was elected to Council as a candidate from Canada's first environmental group, the Richmond Anti-Pollution Association. Richmond planned to dump raw sewage in the river. We won secondary sewage treatment in Richmond, but lost at lona Island.

In 1969, we stopped a supertanker port near Steveston, started the first trail system in BC along the west dike, and had Sturgeon Banks declared a Conservation Area.

In 1972, I became Richmond MLA, drafting the policy to enact the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) a year later. ICBC had ALR land in Richmond. It became BC's first Allotment Gardens and today is part of Richmond's newest park, Gardens Agricultural Park, on No. 5 Road near Steveston Hwy. In 1974 I organized a week long Alternate Energy Show at the PNE. Today Richmond is a world leader in Geothermal District Energy.

In 1976, Richmond laid charges against a hundred families, mostly South Asian, for living in illegal suites. I got them a lawyer and they won.

When Richmond Council approved seven-storey apartments on Garry Point, citizens organized the Garry Point Defense Committee. In 1978, we took the City to court and won. Today we have Garry Point Park.

In 1988 Council voted 5-4 to take Terra Nova out of the ALR and develop the land. Citizens organized the Save Richmond Farmland Society, voted in a new council, then passed a \$26 million referendum to buy the remaining land. That's how we got Terra Nova Rural Park.

In 1990 developer Robbie Johnson offered to trade 10 acres of three-storey apartments for two tall buildings on two acres to save the Steveston waterfront. At a Steveston meeting people voted 197-1 for the project, giving us Britannia Shipyard National Historic Site and Park.

In 1999, the Steveston Fisheries Alliance fought to save the Imperial Cannery for a Seafood Market. We lost. BC Packers gave the City the Phoenix Gillnet Loft instead. In 2006, the Canadian government



proposed 11-storey apartments on the Garden City Lands. Council voted 8-1 to comply. Citizens formed the Garden City Lands Conservation Society and convinced Council to buy the land. That's how we got the Garden City Lands Park and North America's first Farm School. In 2012, we banned GMO's and cosmetic pesticides.

Through the decades there were many issues where residents spoke out to make Richmond the Greenest City in Canada. I supported them. Perhaps that's why they call me Mr. Richmond?

There have been many highs and some lows through my decades on Council and in Provincial Government. It has been a pleasure and honour to serve the people of BC and I am appreciative of the faith you all placed in me to create a better community.

But the greatest reward has been the positive impact my work has had on Richmond—the place I always have—and always will—proudly call home.

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.

June 22 | 4:00 p.m.

Public Works & Transportation Committee

June 27 | 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

June 28 | 4:00 p.m. Parks, Recreation

& Cultural Services
Committee

June 29 |3:30 p.m.

Development Permit Panel

July 4 | 4:00 p.m.

General Purposes Committee followed by Finance Committee

July 5 | 4:00 p.m. **Planning Committee**

July 11 | 7:00 p.m. **Council Meeting**July 12 | 4:00p.m.

Community Safety Committee

July 13 | 3:30 p.m.

Development Permit

July 18 | 4:00 p.m. General Purposes Committee

July 18 | 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing



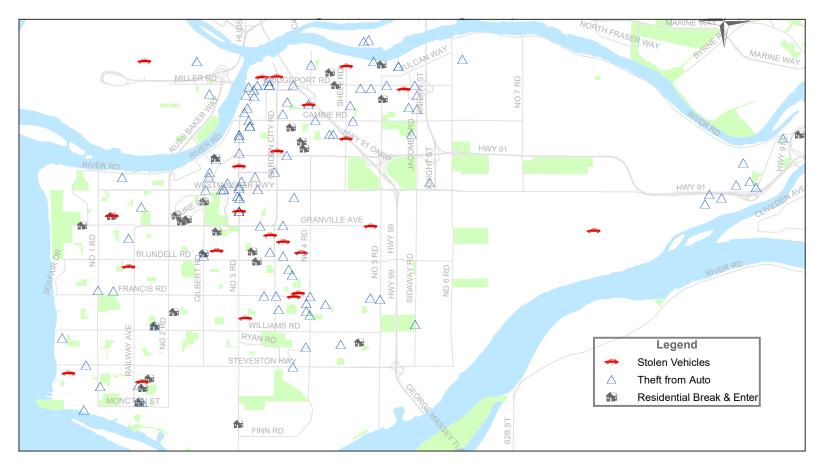
For meeting agendas and reports, visit www.richmond.ca/CityHall. ww



richmondsentinel.ca June 21 - July 4, 2022 RCMP | '



Crime Map May 1 - 31, 2022



Four unlicensed ride-hail operators caught and fined

Richmond RCMP's road safety unit recently caught four unlicensed ride-hail operators, fining each one nearly \$1,800.

The effort was a partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and took place in late May.

"This was a very successful targeted enforcement project. By coordinating efforts with our counterparts at the ministry, the Richmond RCMP road safety unit was able to identify four passenger vehicle operators whose entrepreneurial endeavours were unlicensed, unsafe, and unwelcome in our community," says Cpl. Ian Henderson of the Richmond RCMP. "Richmond RCMP is committed to promoting public safety on our streets and roadways. Given the success of this project aimed at unsafe ride-hail operations, the public can expect to see similar targeted enforcement projects in the future."

Each of the unlicensed ride-hail operators were fined under the following charges:

- Operating a commercial passenger vehicle without a permit, contrary to section 57(1) of the B.C. Passenger Transportation Act (\$1,150)
- Operating a commercial passenger vehicle with the wrong class of drivers license, contrary to section 24(1) of the B.C. Motor Vehicle Act (\$276)
- Operating a commercial passenger vehicle without a certificate of inspection, contrary to section 25.07(1) of the B.C. Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (\$357)

As well, each of the operators received a notice and order requiring an immediate inspection of their vehicle. Officers towed one of the vehicles from the scene.

"Safety is the ministry's highest priority, and that includes protecting passengers against the dangers of illegal ride-hail," says Perry Dennis, deputy registrar

with the ministry's passenger transportation branch. "We have increased our enforcement activities to address illegal ride-hail, and we are stepping up our education of drivers who may not be aware they are working for illegal ride-hail companies, as well as potential passengers of these unlicensed services."

Anyone with information on unlicensed ride-hailing operations in Richmond is asked to contact Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212, or the ministry's passenger transportation branch at 604 527-2198 or passengertransportationbr@gov. bc.ca. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).



Photo by Jaana Björk

A partnership between Richmond RCMP and the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure resulted in four unlicensed ridehail operators being caught and fined nearly \$1,800 each.

12 | SPORTS June 21 - July 4, 2022

RICHMOND SENTINEL

Pickleball gaining popularity in Richmond

By **SAMUEL CHENG**Reporter

A cross North America, pickleball is rapidly gaining popularity among people of all ages.

With indoor courts available at various community centres in Richmond and nine newly built outdoor courts (six at Hugh Boyd Park and three at South Arm Park), it's easy to give this new sport a try.

Pickleball was invented in Bainbridge Island, Washington in 1965 by Joel Pritchard and Bill Bell. Later, they invited their friend Barney McCullum to join as a partner. Together, the three were credited with the creation of the game as well as coming up with the first set of official rules.

The creation of pickleball was nothing more than a spontaneous idea. It all started during an afternoon when Bell and Pritchard returned to Pritchard's home after a golf outing.

Looking to alleviate the boredom, the two dads wanted to play badminton on an old backyard badminton court, but struggled to find the proper equipment. They improvised by using table tennis paddles and a Wiffle ball.

There were no set rules to the newly-invented game until the two decided to introduce the game to their family friend McCullum. From then on, the trio utilized a combination of tennis, badminton, and table tennis and transformed what was then a family pastime game into a globally growing sport.

Pickleball got its name from the pickle boat in rowing—a team made up of the leftover members of other boats—after Pritchard's wife Joan said the game reminded her of that situation.

Since then, the dimensions of the paddle, ball, and court, as well as playing rules, have been re-



Photo courtesy Gordon Farrell

Richmond BC Pickleball Association players did well at the recent tournament in Kamloops.

vised and made official.

The USA Pickleball Association states that the length of the paddle cannot exceed 60.96 centimetres (24 inches).

The ball has to be made of a smooth molded material, with 26 to 40 evenly spaced holes. The official rules also lay out the requirements for the ball's diameter, weight, hardness, colour, and the height of its bounce.

A pickleball court is 13.4 meters (44 feet) long and 6.1 meters (20 feet) wide, which is approximately the same size as a badminton court and one third of the size of a tennis court. However, it is possible to play pickleball on a tennis court with

adjustments made to the height of the net and the court's outer boundaries.

Numerous international, national, and local pickleball organizations have established themselves. Richmond is host to the Richmond BC Pickleball Association (RBCPA). Outdoor courts are built in Richmond with support from the RBCPA and the city.

"Currently, the RBCPA has grown to over 480 members," says its president Gordon Farrell. "The number of new members has more than doubled in the past year. RBCPA is working with the City of Richmond to try and identify suitable locations for additional new dedicated pickleball courts. It is a process that takes time for decision-making, budgeting, and parks engineering planning."

With over 60,000 active players in Canada and more than 4.8 million in the United States, the average age of players is going down.

"There is a common misconception that pick-leball is a seniors' game," says Farrell."Originally—and prior to COVID—it was. The majority of pickleball players are still seniors over 55 years (old). But since COVID, pickleball has caught fire with young people of all ages and 11 per cent of the RBCPA members are now under (age) 30."

At the most recent tournament held in Kamloops, the increased number of younger contestants was clear.

"At the sanctioned Kamloops Pickleball Open Tournament (recently), RBCPA's younger pickleball players had impressive winning results. This indicates the impact that younger players are going to have on the sport, and vice versa," says

Pickleball also became the official state sport of Washington on March 7, 2022.



Photo via Wikimedia Commons

While pickleball is gaining popularity among players of all ages, the majority of players are still seniors over age 55.



Artist's inaugural picture book encourages creativity

By **HANNAH SCOTT** Reporter

Richmond artist Jeni Chen is embarking on a new adventure: she's just published her first picture book, *Emet's Box*.

"I've always liked to draw. When I was a kid I would do comics and read manga and copy them; I would also copy Garfield, Peanuts, drawing random things or drawing my text-books," says Chen.

But focusing on academics during her schooling—in Taiwan, then in Richmond after moving at age 14—took Chen away from art. Her family didn't see art as a career choice, so she studied science at the University of B.C. She started working in research, but developed an allergy to the chemicals and had to switch her career path.

"Then I had a son, my first child, so I was home for a while," says Chen. "When he was growing up I (thought), 'Oh my God, he's so energetic,' he woke up so excited and then at night didn't want to go to bed. It made me

think about what I want to do for the rest of my life."

She was further spurred on by reading a Joseph Campbell book about not looking for the meaning of life, but the feeling of being alive. Realizing art was her passion, Chen started taking art classes in 2013. In 2018 she took a picture book class at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

Emet's Box is about a boy who loves to paint. It was inspired by both Chen's son, who likes to colour, and Chen herself. Chen found her publisher (Little Press) in 2020 through a Twitter picture book pitch event.

During the pandemic, she found inspiration in books she was re-reading, letting them lead the way in her creative process. But the last two years haven't come without their challenges: in February, her son got COVID. His friend's sister, age 10, developed diabetes after having COVID. Initially, Chen felt angry.

"Then I thought, you know what, maybe that's what they have to go through to develop compassion for other people," she says. "Our generation, we want to be independent, we want freedom. The newer generation, it's not just about them anymore, it's about everyone as a whole. That's why they went through

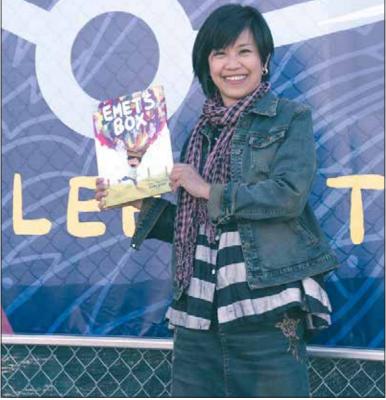


Photo courtesy Jeni Chen

Jeni Chen in front of one of her public art pieces, holding her book Emet's Box.

something so that when they're older they have a deeper understanding."

In addition to her recent book, Chen has also worked on several public art projects for the city. She's compiled over 100 comic strips based on funny things her son said as he was learning to talk. And she's currently part of the CreateSpace Public Art Residency—a nationwide program for BIPOC artists—which has inspired her to try sound and more experiential public art.

"I wanted to join because I can meet other artists and know what their experiences are creating public art," says Chen." (We) also have different mentors that we can contact and ask questions."

The collaborative aspect of the residency has been beneficial for Chen, who says she loves to throw ideas around with artist peers. Her culminating project will take place during BC Culture Days this fall.

"My idea was to have people record their deepest fears, or any fears. Then I would make a dark cave peo-

ple can walk through with sound coming out. When they open the blinds and walk out and see all these trees and expansive sky, I hope they will have a different kind of perception."

People can write their hopes, wishes, and dreams on ribbons that will be hung on trees and left for a little while. Then Chen will take the ribbons down and weave them into a tapestry.

She wants to remind others, especially kids, to trust and remember their own creativity and spark.

"I was volunteering at Richmond Art Gallery, (seeing) kids who are so creative and know what they want," she says. "Sometimes I see parents tell kids they shouldn't draw things the way they want to (and should) do it another way, (and) I can feel the light kind of go out of the kid. I want to remind kids that they have this spark inside, and never forget it I don't want my son to ever forget what he has—the energy, the passion for life and for stuff that he loves."

To read more about Chen and Emet's Box, visit jenichen.com

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond Heritage Award recipients announced

The 2022 Richmond Heritage Awards recipients were announced at last week's council meeting.

The five 2022 award recipients are:

- Ken Chow (Interface Architecture), for his work on the mixed use building at 3755 Chatham St
- Christine McGilvray (president, Friends of the Richmond Archives), for her contribution as a host of the "Journey Through Time" online and

telephone history sessions.

- Tonari Gumi (Japanese Community Volunteers Association) and the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, for Gumi's latest book From the Sea and Shore.
- Cornerstone Christian Academy, for raising awareness about Richmond's and Canada's diverse heritage through the school's Heritage Fair Program.
- The Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society and the

Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies, for the community-based *Fish Tales* storytelling project.

Richmond has a unique and significant heritage, which includes buildings, landscapes, artifacts, residents, and their histories. The city recognizes people and organizations for their heritage efforts through the annual Richmond Heritage Awards, organized by the Richmond Heritage Commission.

News anchor speaks on career with CHEK

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

Joe Perkins is a longtime CHEKTV news anchor and co-host of the podcast *MicCHEK* whose outstanding stories have earned him awards regionally and nationally.

Perkins recently sat down with the *Our City To-night* team to discuss his media experiences and his love of Vancouver Island.

You've been involved in the media industry for a lot of years. How did you navigate the last eight years and end up at CHEK News?

I've been working in the news industry on Vancouver Island since 2011, starting out with CTV where I was a reporter and anchor as well as a radio host.

When I was at CTV anchoring the news, it was always in the back of my mind that if I wanted to stay on Vancouver Island, there was one place to be and that was at CHEK. It's an independently owned local station that really leans into local news. That's what it's all about and what I love.

There's so much to talk about and that's why CHEK does so well. I wanted to be at CHEK and when (their team) came knocking a few years ago, I could not turn down the opportunity, and the rest is history.

A lot of people don't realize that CHEK is (an example of) a diminishing thing in modern media. There are only three independent stations in all of Canada, CHEK being one. What is great about CHEK is that it's a local network with a national reach. (It's) not mandated by Toronto, allowing CHEK to focus a lot more on local stories. You and (producer KC) Kyle have a great podcast called MicCHEK, (which has) been re-



Joe Perkins on the set of CHEK TV.

Photo courtesy CHEK Media Group

cently nominated for a broadcast award, Best Podcast in the West for 2022. Can you tell us about MicCHEK?

MicCHEK is really a branch of CHEK in an effort to get modern. CHEK has been around for 66 years now, and (the station) wanted to get into podcasting. (CHEK) built a beautiful podcast studio and (has) developed a great family of content. We talk about quirky island stories and island people, truly just light listening as well as watching on CHEK's late night news.

We also have a political show with our legislative correspondent, Rob Shaw. Mo Amir out of Vancouver does a show, (Don Taylor and Rick

Dhaliwal) have their own two-hour live show on CHEK every weekday.

The podcast is the next chapter of the evolution of CHEK, and *Our City Tonight* is part of that family. If CHEK lost its streaming service, (*Our City Tonight*) is on there, and *MicCHEK* is on there to provide another way for people to get more local content—and it's still free.

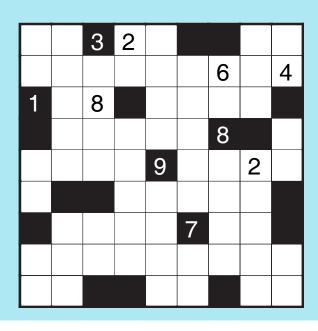
Watch Joe Perkins on the 6 p.m. CHEK newscast every night, and on the *MicCHEK* podcast.

For the full video interview, go to richmond sentinel.ca/videos

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

STR8TS

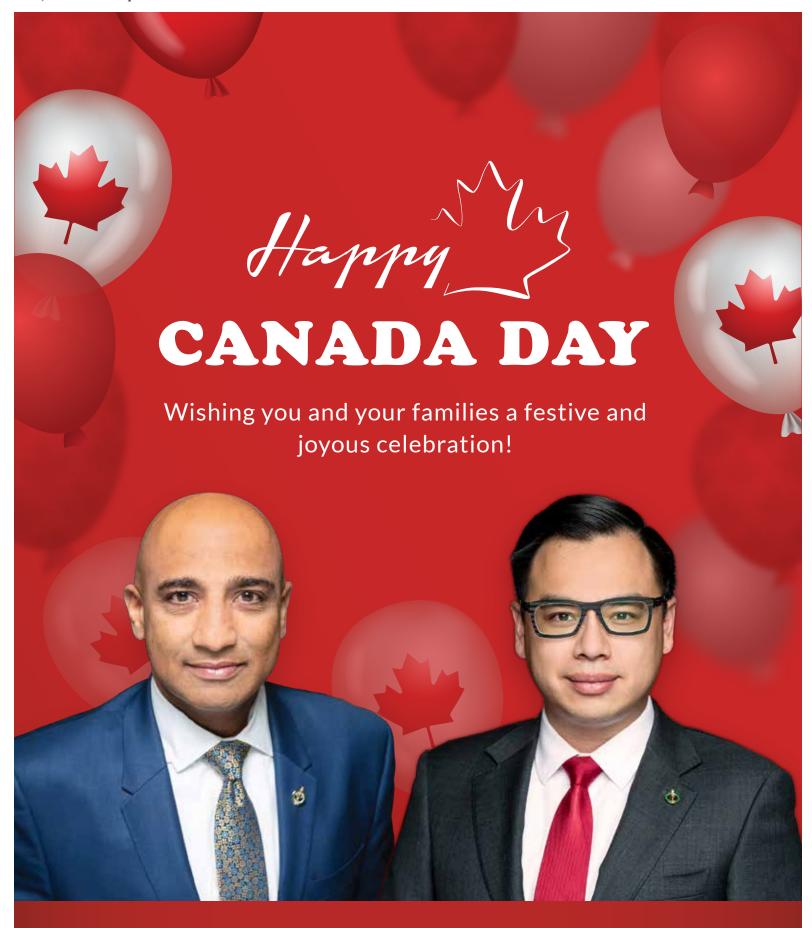
No number can be repeated in any row or column. Rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must contain a 'straight,' a set of numbers with no gaps in any order, eg. [4,2,3,5]. Numbers in black cells are not part of straights but also cannot be repeated in their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



SUDOKU

3	1		9	7	5		4
7							
		8			2		
6			4		7		
4	9					6	2
		7		6			8
		1			8		
							5
5		9	1	8		7	6

16 | June 21 - July 4, 2022 RICHMOND SENTINEL



PARM BAINS, M.P.

STEVESTON-RICHMOND EAST Parm.Bains@parl.gc.ca

WILSON MIAO, M.P.

RICHMOND CENTRE Wilson.Miao@parl.gc.ca