



VOL. 6 ISSUE 14

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

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# MUSICAL MARVEL

Actors aged nine  
to 18 shine in CATS



10

Young actors take the stage in the Children's Theatre of Richmond production of CATS, on through Aug. 7.

Photo by Emily Cooper

# Reminiscing on Richmond's history

By **SAMUEL CHENG**  
Reporter

**R**ichmond, a coastal city south of Vancouver, is a unique and ethnically diverse urban municipality known for its fishing, agriculture, aviation, and tourism industries.

Richmond is made up of islands including Lulu Island, Sea Island, Mitchell Island, and 14 other smaller islands. The city has a rich and long-standing history that can be dated back to as early as the 1860s.

European farmers were the first settlers to establish their presence in the area due to the convenience of the nearby Fraser River. The river provided early pioneers with easy access to transportation and to the nearby city of New Westminster.

Prior to the arrival of settlers, Coast Salish peoples lived on the land now known as Richmond. A former Musqueam Village site in the northwest corner of Lulu Island was named "spələk'əqs," meaning "boiling point." A school near that area now bears the name "Spul'u'kwuks."

Although the area proved to be superb for agricultural growth due to its location—with rich soil from the river delta—the land was underdeveloped and work such as clearing, dyking, and draining was needed.

Once the pre-development work was completed, the agriculture industry of Richmond began to blossom. The growth of different crops ensured a diversity of grains, vegetables, and berries. Blueberries and cranberries were amongst the top berries that flourished in central and eastern Lulu Island.

In 1879, early settlers petitioned to the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council to inaugurate Richmond as a municipality in order to build dykes. Richmond was formally introduced as a municipality on Nov. 10, 1879. Following this, public roads, dykes, bridges, and other services began to be developed.

Steveston began building a name for itself as one of the top locations in the country for commercial fishing. The Fraser River and its abundance of fresh seafood were the pinnacle of Steveston's booming success.

The fishing industry attracted many skilled Japanese fisherman to the community and sparked the popularity of the boat-building industry and fishing canneries. Later, Indigenous and Chinese contract workers who were already here during the establishment of the railways were brought onboard during the fishing craze, making up the majority of the labour force. The culturally diverse population turned Richmond into the multicultural city it is today.

In the early 20th century, Lulu Island was the home to the first airport for Vancouver, originally located near Alexandra and Garden City roads. The original airport was effectively a grass field. The airport was relocated to Sea Island in 1931 and be-



*Photos courtesy Richmond Archives*

**The intersection of No. 3 Road and Granville Avenue in 1958 (top, file number 1988 18 16) and 2012 (bottom, file number 2012 30 1).**

came the Vancouver International Airport.

As the city expanded and its population grew, international corporations and large franchises have opened locations in Richmond. The first McDonald's in Canada opened at No. 3 Road and Granville Avenue in 1967, and remains there today.

Aberdeen Centre mall was built in 1989 and was the first Asian mall in the Lower Mainland. It featured Asian themed stores, herbal tea shops, restaurants, a cinema, a bowling alley, and more. It was later torn down and rebuilt in 2003 as a larger shopping centre.

"Nearly all of the businesses used to close (their doors) at 4:30 p.m.," says Richmond resident Kevin Ching. "I wanted to go to out for dinner and there was only one Chinese restaurant on No. 3 Road that was open after (5 p.m.)."

On Dec. 3, 1990, Richmond was officially designated as a city. That same year, Famous Players

opened the Richmond Centre 6 Cinema at the heart of Richmond. It was an iconic entertainment destination of its time.

In 2000, the Richmond Night Market was founded, the largest event of its kind in North America. The night market had to relocate many times within Richmond but that did not stop avid fans from attending annually.

Built in 2008, the Richmond Olympic Oval became a prime destination in the city. Not only did the venue host some events at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, it has also continued to serve as a community favourite for indoor sports and community events.

Additionally, Richmond has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world due to its moderate climate, breathtaking scenery, and cultural inclusiveness.

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# City opens new animal shelter

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Reporter

A new Richmond animal shelter opened last month, through a partnership between the city and BC SPCA that replaces the previous facility built in 1978.

There is space for up to 17 dogs and 40 cats at the new shelter, as well as rabbits and other small animals. Students from Westwind elementary and Burnett secondary schools contributed original artwork that is displayed inside the shelter.

"The new Richmond Animal Shelter integrates best practices in shelter design for the safe handling of stray and abandoned animals and we are pleased to partner with the BC SPCA on its operation," says Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "We know that many animals are more than just pets to people, so it is essential that we have a safe and comforting environment for animals while we seek to rehome them. This new shelter achieves that."

The city and BC SPCA entered into an agreement for animal sheltering and animal control services in Richmond last year. Part of that agreement is the operation of the new shelter, along with animal recovery and related services.

The new shelter includes isolation areas for sick and injured animals; separate housing areas for animals with behaviour concerns; an outdoor fenced area for farm animals such as chickens, roosters, and goats; and a separate food preparation area. The shelter also provides opportunities for adoption.

The BC SPCA recommends that all pet owners register their pets through the BC Pet Registry, so if an animal is lost it can be reunited with its owner as quickly as possible.

"Our goal right now is to build the system in



Photos by Hannah Scott

**Members of Richmond city council helped to officially open the new animal shelter last month.**

(British Columbia) and eventually we want to go national, across Canada, so that we will have one central system for all registry for animals," says Priscilla Cheung, manager of the BC Pet Registry at BC SPCA. "If an animal is microchipped, they will be easily scanned by any vet out there and can be reunited with their owner."

Cheung says every animal adopted from the BC SPCA is already registered with the pet registry. A small fee is charged (\$12 annually or \$45 for an animal's lifetime), which mainly goes towards the cost of maintaining the program. An owner's contact information is stored in the system and can be changed anytime their pet's registration

is active.

"The majority of animals that are lost are cats," says Cheung. "Dogs are more connected with owners because they're more dependent; cats are more independent. My mission is to tell all cat owners that they need to register their cats, because if they get out it's very hard to find them."

And as the new Richmond animal shelter opens, Cheung says it's a great time to increase awareness of the BC Pet Registry.

"This is a gateway to really educate the public and communities about the importance of getting permanent ID and registration for (their) animals," she says.

"Our system is 24/7, operated by the call centre that helps all animals at the SPCA. If an animal is lost (and you) don't know where to go, you can always reach us at the BC Pet Registry."

For more information about the BC Pet Registry, visit [bcpetregistry.ca/](http://bcpetregistry.ca/)

Anyone needing to contact the BC SPCA about a lost, wandering or aggressive animal, or barking nuisance, or injured animal in Richmond between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. should call 604-709-4668 or email [animalservicesrequest@richmond.ca](mailto:animalservicesrequest@richmond.ca). Any messages received outside those hours will be addressed the next business day. For urgent matters, call the RCMP non-emergency number at 604-278-1212.

For inquiries related to animal regulations, dog licensing, and fees, contact the city's animal protection services team at 604-247-4633.

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The new shelter has space for 40 cats, including some that are adoptable.

# Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub opens

The City of Richmond has officially opened its second Early Childhood Development (ECD) Hub. The Seedlings ECD Hub, located in the Brighthouse area, provides 107 licensed child care spaces for infants, toddlers, and children up to 12 years of age.

An ECD Hub is different from traditional child care centres in that it houses programs for children as well as space for family strengthening services. Along with licensed child care programs, Seedlings provides space for child development services and family-strengthening programs through the use of a large multi-purpose room, ancillary office space, commercial kitchen, and outdoor amenity area.

The Seedlings ECD Hub is located at 6380 No. 3 Rd., and is the 12th city-owned, purpose-built child care facility in Richmond. It has approximately 1,765 square metres (19,000 sq. ft.) of indoor space and 1,051 square metres (11,300 sq. ft.) of outdoor area.

Keltic Development Ltd. provided the ECD Hub space as a community amenity contribution in its Paramount mixed-use development. The City of Richmond took ownership of the facility in December 2021, and the centre commenced operations in March 2022. It is now almost fully enrolled.

Aspire Richmond, formerly the Richmond Society for Community Living was appointed as the opera-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

**City council members were on hand for the recent opening of Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub.**

tor of Seedlings ECD Hub through an open Expression of Interest process on BC Bid. The not-for-profit society received a grant to purchase furniture and equipment through the provincial ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund.

"Aspire Richmond is pleased to celebrate our 40th anniversary with the opening of Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub," said Shannon Crofton, chief executive officer of Aspire Richmond.

"This new facility will support children and their families by providing safe, accessible, and inclusive childcare—a need that is only growing in our community. Aspire Richmond is grateful for the visionary partnership that the City of Richmond has provided in making this new centre a reality."

The 12 city-owned child care centres now provide 583 licensed spaces. The next city-owned facility is expected to open in fall 2022.

## Richmond named B.C.'s most active community

Richmond has been named British Columbia's most active community in the 2022 ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge. This nation-wide physical activity initiative took place throughout June, encouraging all Canadians to get active.

The award, announced last week by ParticipACTION, recognizes the community's activity levels and the creative ways staff and community partners in Richmond motivated the community to get physically active throughout June.

"The City of Richmond is delighted to receive this honour which reinforces that we are one of Canada's most active communities," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Our commitment to providing safe, fun, and accessible recreational opportunities through initiatives such as free or low-cost events, fee subsidies, and ongoing promotion of the benefits of physical activity inspire residents to be active, connected, and healthy."

Along with winning the prestigious title, the city receives \$15,000 to be used for community programming to increase physical activity for Richmond residents while promoting confidence, competence, and fun.

With the pandemic impacting national physical activity levels as more peo-

ple either stayed indoors or halted their fitness routines, the challenge provided a unique opportunity to help Canadians return to enjoy and appreciate the unique benefits physical activity provides. Being active is not only an excellent way to achieve individual physical and mental health, but builds stronger, healthier, and more vibrant communities.

Richmond encouraged residents to register and track their exercise and activities in the ParticipACTION Fitness mobile app throughout June 2022. Among the key results from that tracking were:

- Richmond (as a community) tracked 9.7 million minutes in 2022, an increase of eight per cent over 2021
- Community members participated 37,911 times in organized community events, programs, or services
- Richmond School District 38 students participated in the Most Active Classroom Challenge in early June.

The City of Richmond's community partners received seven grants from ParticipACTION that supported 30 of the 70-plus free and low-cost activities offered in June.

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# Richmond street names: Finn Road

By ISSAC ZHAO  
High school intern

Japanese immigrants weren't the only ones who took advantage of the boom in the Richmond fishing industry.

In 1892 and 1893, a group of Finnish immigrants arrived in south Richmond. They had saved up money working as coal miners and loggers to buy land at the junction of No. 4 and Finn roads. Finn Road was named after these settlers.

Woodwards Slough, the land that they purchased, had access to the Fraser River. The Finns, who were planning to become fishers, could freely sail up the river and settle on their property.

The area was densely covered in forest, so it was cleared out before any fishing could begin. Then they built houses and fishing boats, as well as planting crops. With the fishing boats, the Finnish fishermen would take a piece of what the Fraser River had to offer: an abundance of salmon.

One of the unique things that the Finns built on their settlement was a sauna. Saunas are a very important part of Finnish culture. After an exhausting day of work, people can relax in a hot sauna and come out feeling revived.

High tides from the Fraser River would often flood local farmers' crops, so dams were built. This resulted in the Finns having to relocate their harbour to Tiffin Slough (now Finn Slough). The area had a substantial amount of space to grow a prosperous community of fishers.

The news got around about the work opportunity, and soon people's cousins, uncles, and grandfathers made the trip from Finland to work in Canada. This was largely due to the need to escape the poverty and repression of the Russian Empire.

All the fishing was done by manual labour. People would row their boats, set nets, and pull the nets back by hand.

With the world evolving into the motorized age, so did the fishing industry.



Photo via flickr.com

**Although Finn Slough is still inhabited today, it is not the busy fishing haven it once was.**

Soon fishing boats would be driven by gas motors, and fishing equipment would be able to harvest salmon more efficiently, revolutionizing the industry. The dozens of canneries in Steveston weren't able to keep up with the abundance of salmon that fishermen were bringing in.

By the 1930s, Finn Slough was packed with a fleet of fishing boats. Sometimes over 40 boats were moored in the area. The tiny fishing village was home to many people who weren't Finnish, but who worked alongside the Finns.

The abundance of salmon sadly ended, as the rapid industrialization failed to coexist with the ecosystem without destroying it. Salmon stocks declined, and so did the fishing industry, leaving the memory of Finn Slough's important role in the history of fishing in Richmond.

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# Richmondite riding to raise funds for cancer

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Reporter

When her father died suddenly from cancer on her birthday in 2017, Richmondite Andrea Lee bought a bike and signed up for the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

Now called the Tour de Cure, Lee plans to participate in the BC Cancer Foundation's event again this year, and will be riding 100 kilometres to raise awareness and funds to support cancer research. This cycling event is taking place in the Fraser Valley on Aug. 27, and offers three ride distances: 50, 100, and 160 kilometres.

"The very first year I did it, I signed up right after my dad died," says Lee. "I didn't know what to do in my grief, so I impulsively bought a bike and signed up for the ride. I really enjoy it—I think it's a great event, a great cause."

Lee's dad Martin was a cyclist, and she's kept up her biking since that first organized ride five years ago. Her favourite place to ride in Richmond is along the dyke.

"The first year I rode on a team and made a lot of friends in Richmond who were biking," she says. "I found out through training that a lot of people in my life, coworkers or friends, were into cycling too. Over the last five years I have kept up with cycling not in a training capacity but it's something I really love doing now."

Lee says after the 2017 event, she was emotional and felt proud of herself for taking on the challenge. She met other riders of varying athletic abilities, including some professional athletes.

"I'm not an athlete, I'm not a cyclist, so it was really difficult for me," she says. "The ride was 250 kilometres, (and) I joined having barely ridden a bike before."

The sense of community and companionship among riders stood out to Lee, given riders are participating for a common cause. This year, her cousin will join her for the ride.

"I think anyone, no matter what your relation to cancer is, can join. Sadly everyone probably will have a relationship to cancer at some point in their lives," says Lee. "I think we all feed off people's energy, all the bike riders. It's a really fun way to meet people, (and) it's really wonderful, really motivating to all the riders whenever we get a donation—big or small."

After several challenging years due to the pandemic, Lee is excited to be attending this event again.

"The last two years have been so terrible for everybody, (for) the health-care system, and now we're raising money for it—I can't wait," she says. "I don't know how it's going to feel; maybe it'll be different, but maybe it'll be better because we've all been apart from each other and doing it virtually."

To support Lee's Tour de Cure fundraising goal, visit [tourdecure.ca/participant/2872475/4014](https://tourdecure.ca/participant/2872475/4014)

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Andrea Lee at the 2017 Ride to Conquer Cancer.

Photos courtesy Andrea Lee



Andrea Lee (right) training on the Richmond dyke with her cousin.



# Garlic Festival returns to Richmond

By MATTHEW CHEUNG  
Reporter

The popular Sharing Farm Garlic Festival is returning to Richmond this year.

Held at the Sharing Farm in Terra Nova Rural Park, the event will take place on Aug. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the first in-person event since 2019.

Prior to the pandemic, the event attracted many people from around the Lower Mainland, with thousands of attendees each year. But when in-person events were shut down, the Sharing Farm had hundreds of pounds of garlic left untouched. Like many other festival organizers, the Sharing Farm team took a virtual approach and shared garlic with community members through online sales as well as a subscription-based program.

"We continued to share our garlic with the community through online sales and our (community-supported agriculture) harvest basket program, where members subscribe to 17 weeks of fresh, local, sustainably grown vegetables," says Rae Jampole, events coordinator at the Sharing Farm.

***We want people  
to come and  
experience this  
beautiful rural  
park where the  
farm is located.***

– Rae Jampole

The Garlic Festival is the Sharing Farm's signature event. It started more than 15 years ago when staff discovered the farm's growing conditions produced high-quality, flavourful garlic. The festival became an opportunity to teach the community about food security, the mission of the Sharing Farm, and more.



Photos courtesy Rae Jampole

A variety of garlic from the 2019 event.



Garlic Festival volunteers at the 2019 event.

"We want people to come and experience this beautiful rural park where the farm is located. We also want to inform community members of the opportunities to purchase and enjoy local food grown in their neighbourhood," says Jampole.

Newcomers to the event will be able to enjoy live music, an expanded farmers' market where over 1,000 pounds of garlic of different varieties will be sold, live birds of prey flying demonstrations, food trucks with garlic-inspired dishes, freshly roasted Sharing Farm garlic and salad, and the unique garlic ice cream.

There will also be a wide variety of educational workshops that will take people through the process of growing garlic, the equipment used for farming, a bee safari, and a native plant walk.

School of Rock Vancouver will perform at the event and will also have a booth offering children the opportunity to try playing instruments like guitars, keyboards, and drums. Children will also have their own area, where they can participate in nature inspired arts and crafts or play with the cardboard castles and water wall.

Visit [sharingfarm.ca/garlicfest](https://sharingfarm.ca/garlicfest) for more information.

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# Seniors enjoy sunny sockhop

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Reporter

Residents of long-term care facilities have been among those most impacted by the pandemic. Following several years of being unable to hold events, staff at Richmond Lions Manor aimed to bring a little fun with a recent sockhop.

"Before the pandemic, we provided a variety of rehabilitation and leisure programs that focused on cognitive function, leisure exploration, and activities of daily living," says Jennifer Sandhu, a rehabilitation leisure assistant at the facility.

Sandhu says programs offered prior to the pandemic allowed residents to

express themselves physically, emotionally, spiritually, cognitively, and socially. Activities included fitness sessions, arts and crafts, bus outings, gardening and social outings.

"Large group special events such as Hawaiian parties, Canada Day parties, Halloween, Christmas, New Year's, Mardi Gras, resident (barbeques), and cultural luncheons have always brought great joy and laughter to our residents," says Sandhu.

But during the pandemic, only small group and individual activities were allowed. The sockhop, with live music provided by Bobby Bacchus, was the first opportunity to bring people together. Sandhu says the staff team wanted to bring back a feeling of togetherness.

"In a long-term care setting, celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, cultural events, and special occasions is one simple yet priceless way older people can have meaningful engagement with life," says Sandhu. "Coming together as a community to celebrate a special event using decorations, food, and drink can create a celebration to be treasured by everyone, leaving happy memories for weeks to come. Looking forward to an upcoming special event can have an encouraging effect on a resident's well-being."

Residents, staff, and family members were invited to attend the event. Despite the warm weather, it was an opportunity to enjoy some music and sunshine in the facility's courtyard.

For long-term care residents who may feel they have lost control of their independence, events and opportunities like this "can really help residents improve their mood, reduce anxiety and help them make connections and foster positive experiences," says Sandhu.

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Photos by Hannah Scott

Residents at Richmond Lions Manor long-term care home enjoyed a sockhop with live music.

## 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](http://www.richmond.ca) (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2021 Paving Program).



# New 'Top Gun' movie blends past and present

By **SAMUEL CHENG**  
Reporter

*In the next part of a series on movies, we explore the new film Top Gun: Maverick.*

The 1986 film *Top Gun* was one of the top action-packed movies of its time. The new 2022 film *Top Gun: Maverick* not only carries on the legacy of its predecessor, but also takes its audience down memory lane.

There are many changes between *Top Gun: Maverick* and its predecessor, ranging from the cast to the storyline.

Aside from the return of Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer, the new movie brings with it new faces such as Miles Teller, Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris, and Jon Hamm.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer also returned to co-produce the movie alongside Cruise, Christopher McQuarrie, and David Ellison.

Character development is a big part of *Top Gun: Maverick*, acting as a bridge between the first and second movies. Rather than developing brand-new characters, *Top Gun: Maverick* expands and builds upon existing characters.

Modern visual effects and special effects are one of the reasons *Top Gun: Maverick* has been a box office hit. Eye-catching dogfights and action-filled cinematics set the new film apart from its predecessor.

*Top Gun: Maverick* also uses flashbacks to pay tribute to the 1986 *Top Gun*.

With revenue grossing over \$1.24 billion at publication time, the numbers alone have triumphed over the previous movie. *Top Gun: Maverick* is playing at Richmond's SilverCity Riverport Cinemas through at least Aug. 4.

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Photo by Hannah Scott

**Top Gun: Maverick** is playing at SilverCity Riverport through at least Aug. 4.



**A Great Place To Live  
A Great Way To Live**

Sechelt was home to Carol until she made the move to The Maples in 2012. *"I like the village atmosphere and being so close to the water, the location is so easy for walking and there is lots to do, have a coffee, drop into the shops or browse around the heritage sites on my doorstep."* Carol is a photographer who enjoys capturing the scenery and wildlife in the area. Some of her pictures you will see in our photo gallery.

There were many things that contributed to Carol's move here to Steveston. *"Having my family close by was most important, being able to walk into the village. I love the building. I have a beautiful corner suite with lots of windows that offers me views and lots of fresh air."*

*"I have made new friends and we enjoy lots of laughs."*



WORDS OF WISDOM

*"When moving into a new home like the Maples, be prepared to visit with people, take part in the activities and make friends."*

- Carol

**4071 Chatham Street • 604-277-4519**



# Young actors take on *Cats*

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Reporter

**C**ATS is a beloved musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, inspired by a book of poems by T. S. Eliot.

The Children's Theatre of Richmond is presenting an abridged one-hour version of the show, adapted for young actors, through Aug. 7. The cast is made up of 24 actors aged nine to 18.

"It's a nice opportunity to let everybody have a chance to shine," says director and co-producer Mark Carter. "Some kids have never been on stage before, some are not the strongest singers but maybe they're stronger as a dancer—there's room to be flexible with some of these roles, and we can have some of these characters stay on stage for (most of the show) and be highlighted even though they're a little bit out of their comfort zone."

While the show is shortened, Carter says all the best-known songs are still included. Most of the cuts involve extended dance numbers from the original musical.

Despite the actors' young age, there's a deliberate effort to treat them like adults.

"I think when you challenge young performers, they step up to the plate. That's certainly been the case with this show," says Carter. "The biggest trick is sometimes stepping back and letting them find their own comfort level. But they're very energetic and they bring a lot to the room, and they're really good at picking things up very quickly as well."

Bringing a cast together after several years of pandemic challenges has meant cast members rehearsing in masks and doing weekly COVID tests.

"Although we can't really understudy roles because we don't have enough people to go around, we've doubled up songs so if somebody does (get sick), somebody else could sing their song for them," says Carter. "All the kids, on top of their own (role), are learning other songs so that, just in case somebody has to be away, they're able to sing the songs so we can still tell the story. They've all had to do a little bit of extra work that way, (but) you tell any performer they have to learn an extra song and they get excited about that."

Performances will be in the PAL Studio Theatre in downtown Vancouver, which seats 97 people. The creative team has embraced the challenge of a small space and made the performance more intimate with characters just two or three feet away at times.

"You feel like you're immersed in this world because it's all around you," says Carter. "You usually see (CATS) on such a grand scale, on a big stage far away, and this one's a lot more up close and personal—so I think that's what makes ours unique."

For the young actors, putting the elaborate costumes and makeup on has been a transformative experience. Their movements immediately



Photo by Emily Cooper

**The cast of *Cats*, presented by the Children's Theatre of Richmond, is made up of performers aged nine to 18.**

changed as they adopted cat-like personas. But with a team of seven makeup artists taking 30 to 45 minutes per actor, it's also a time-consuming process.

"I just couldn't get over when these kids came out in their full costumes and were running and jumping around," says Carter. "(We) noticed little things like facial expressions, and how they presented themselves when they were in costume and makeup was much stronger."

He credits choreographer Ken Overbey and musical director Jeremy Hoffman for their hard work, given the fact that CATS is a sung-through musical with very little dialogue.

The most important part, Carter says, is to ensure all the performers are having fun. That's the feeling that will translate to audiences.

"Some people will be really quite impressed with what these kids have done in three weeks (of rehearsal)," says Carter. "They've stepped up and worked really hard, as I would expect any adult performer to do. They're working hard, they've got smiles and are having fun and enjoying themselves—to me that's always the most important part, whether they're nine or 90."

Richmondite Claire Torrance is performing the role of Grizabella the Glamour Cat, who sings

"Memory," perhaps the musical's best-known song.

"I'm a very musical person and I've been doing acting and theatre since a very young age," says Torrance. "As I've grown, I've become more and more passionate about musical theatre in every way. I love being able to work with others that share that same joy and passion. Seeing how all of our hard—but let's face it, very fun—work pays off is the pinnacle of it all. Sharing that joy and love for musical theatre amongst a cast, crew, and audience affects me in a way that no other thing can, so I love it very much."

She describes her character as "an old, dying cat who is being shunned by the other Jellicle cats. In her past she was a 'glamour cat,' meaning she was probably once a beautiful cat but fell on some hard times and now she just wants to be accepted by the other cats as a Jellicle cat again."

Torrance adds that performers are from all across Greater Vancouver, and as far away as Toronto. She highlights the handmade set and high-quality costumes as standout elements.

"Audiences can expect to see a heartfelt peek into the world of cats and the drama within their lives," she says.

For more information, visit [ctora.ca/](http://ctora.ca/)

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# Debut book explores inter-generational trauma

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS  
Contributors

Marsha Lederman is an award-winning Canadian journalist, a best-selling author, and the child of Holocaust survivors. She is the Western Arts Correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*.

Her debut book, the memoir *Kiss the Red Stairs: The Holocaust, Once Removed*, was published in May by McClelland & Stewart. *Our City Tonight* recently sat down with Lederman to talk about the book.

**Our City Tonight:** *There's a quote that we think really sums up the book: "The horrific past I haven't lived but I think lives in me."*

Marsha Lederman: That quote is kind of the thesis statement of the book, as my parents were Holocaust survivors. My mother survived Auschwitz, my father survived a work camp in the ghetto and escaped execution by bribing a guard. (It's) fair to say there was a large amount of trauma in their lives. At some point it was presented to me that perhaps that trauma they had experienced was somehow affecting me, my moods, the way I saw the world, and the way I dealt with people. I was a bit dismissive of that, but in recent years I've taken a really deep dive into this question of inter-generational trauma, something you haven't lived but lives in you.

**OCT:** *You didn't have many discussions with your parents about their past, but for that generation, many didn't talk much about their horrific experiences. You write about those moments they both had, pieces of humanity that allowed them to survive. A Polish official's wife takes pity on your father which saves his life, and your mother is chosen to work in a labour camp which saves her.*

ML: They did talk about it but it wasn't like they sat us kids down and said, "We're going to tell you about our horrific wartime experiences." It would come out in little dribs and drabs, often around the question of food—if we didn't want to eat something, we would hear about how little food they had during the war. It was like a cloud that lived above us that we kids didn't quite understand.

What I had to do when I was writing this book—because I didn't ask them enough questions when they were alive—I had to piece it together through what I remembered, what



Photo courtesy Marsha Lederman  
Marsha Lederman's debut book *Kiss the Red Stairs: The Holocaust, Once Removed*, was published this year.

my sisters remembered, research, documents we could find, and the odd (radio) interview my mother had done. I felt like I was a detective (looking) into my own family history.

**OCT:** *You also delved into epigenetics.*

ML: In the 1960s, there became an awareness that children of Holocaust survivors might be suffering from some problems related to what happened to their parents. The thinking was that the parents had been so traumatized that their parenting skills had been compromised, and thus the children were affected.

In 2015, there was very well publicized study that came out that looked at this subject from the biological level. It was followed by headlines saying that children of Holocaust survivors were inheriting their parents' trauma, that these children have trouble bouncing back from trauma. I thought, "Is that me? Is this why I'm having trouble in my life?" And the answer was yes.

Some studies have shown there is a mark left on the person who is traumatized by the Holocaust, or war, or many other things like residential schools, and that is passed down to the offspring—and perhaps beyond that.

**OCT:** *One of the beautiful moments in the book is how, in the midst of all this horror they had endured and then post-war chaos, your parents met and fell in love.*

ML: My mother was on a death march and was liberated by the U.S. Army on April 1, 1945. She was in a German town called Konitz. My father had survived the last two years of the war living on a farm, pretending to be a Catholic. He heard that hundreds of Jewish women had been liberated in this town of Konitz. He wanted to find his sister, Devorah; unfortunately she had been murdered at the extermination camp, Treblinka.

He met my mom in the hospital, where he was visiting a friend. My mom had been in a motorcycle accident—her face was bandaged up the whole time my father (was getting) to know her. They fell in love and finally the bandages came off and their love continued to spark. They got married in Germany and had the first of their three daughters in Germany. The family (then) immigrated to Canada.

To watch the full video interview, visit [richmondsentinel.ca/videos](http://richmondsentinel.ca/videos)

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

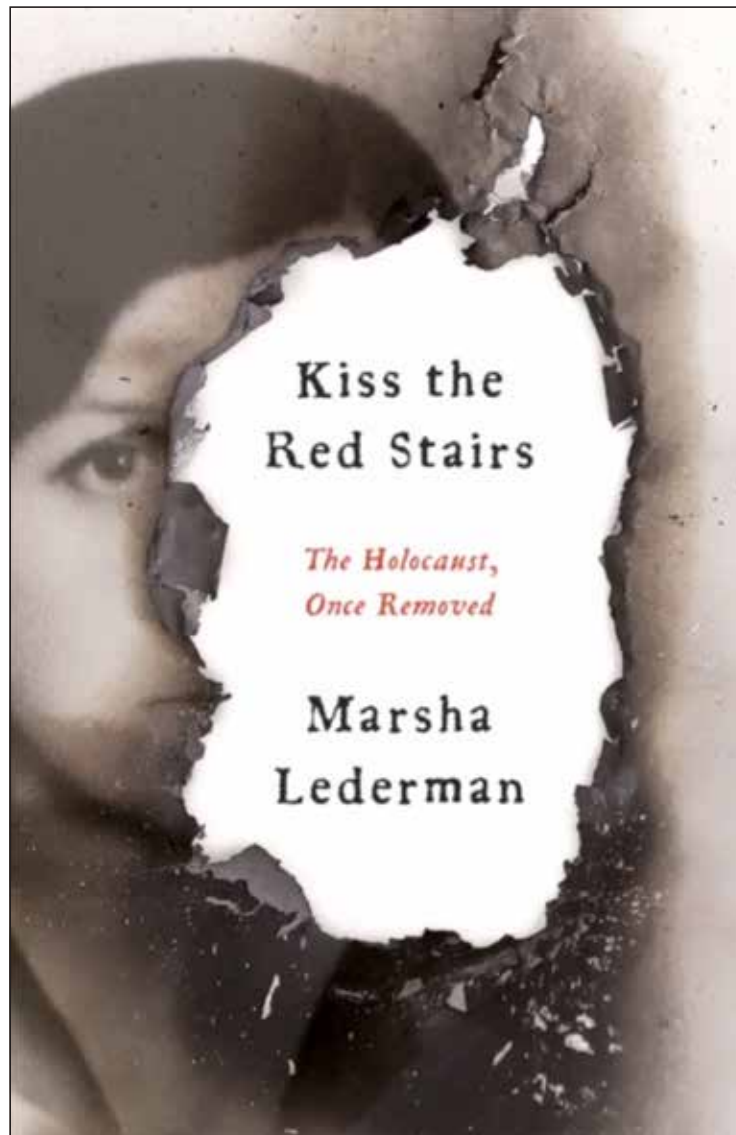






Photo courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation

From left: Bill Costain (service officer and membership chairman, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 291); Spencer Gall (Richmond Hospital Foundation campaign director), and Bob Underhill (second vice president to B.C./Yukon Command, Royal Canadian Legion).

## Legion donates to Richmond Hospital Foundation's Trio of Life campaign

When Royal Canadian Legion members from Branch 291 heard that Richmond Hospital is in immediate need of new diagnostic equipment for the cardio-pulmonary and neurodiagnostic unit, they jumped at the opportunity to support the foundation's Trio of Life campaign with a \$15,000 donation.

"Our members pitched in to support the Trio of Life campaign because they recognize that they can make a positive impact for many people in the community," says Bill Costain, service officer and membership chairman of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 291 in Richmond.

Branch 291 (which formerly existed as Branches 5 and 209) has been a generous donor of the hospital foundation since 1990, and has supported pediatrics, long-term care homes, and other important initiatives.

"Supporting this campaign will help physicians diagnose patients with updated and reliable equipment while providing patients with the best care in a timely manner," says Costain.

Richmond Hospital Foundation is raising \$580,000 to replace vital equipment for the cardiology, pulmonary, and neurology specialties, where physicians work with patients to discover, diagnose, and monitor symptoms and conditions related to the heart, lungs, and the body's nervous system—referred to here as the "Trio of Life." Existing equipment is aging, out-of-date, and in need of urgent replacement.

"The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 291 has donated to Richmond Hospital Foundation for more than 30 years, and we are extremely grateful for their ongoing support," says Spencer Gall, campaign director at Richmond Hospital Foundation. "Community contributions such as this one from the Royal Canadian Legion play a significant role in helping us improve the speed and quality of care in Richmond."

To learn more about the Trio of Life campaign, visit [richmondhospitalfoundation.com/why-give/trio-of-life-campaign/](http://richmondhospitalfoundation.com/why-give/trio-of-life-campaign/)

## B.C. encourages parents to register children under five for COVID-19 vaccine

Approximately 208,000 eligible infants and children in British Columbia between six months and four years of age will soon be able to receive vaccine protection against COVID-19.

Following Health Canada's approval of the Moderna vaccine, and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recommendation on its use, for those aged six months to four years, regional health authorities will start offering this vaccine at clinics throughout the province on Aug. 2.

"B.C. has the capacity and experience to deliver this COVID-19 vaccination campaign for this new age group," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "Since the start of the vaccination campaign in B.C., almost 12 million doses have been administered to eligible people. I encourage parents to register their kids under the age of five, so they are invited to book an appointment, starting on Aug. 2."

The COVID-19 vaccine for the six-month to four-year-olds will be available in all communities through health authority child-friendly clinics.

Parents or guardians seeking vaccinations for their eligible children under the age of five can register them in the provincial Get Vaccinated system now. Once registration is complete, parents or guardians will be invited to book a vaccination at a clinic in their community. For children who are not yet six months of age, parents or guardians should still register their child and can expect an invitation once the child reaches six months of age.

"We know that these vaccines are safe and have helped the province weather the COVID-19 pandemic so far," said Dr. Martin Lavoie, acting provincial health officer. "Although most children who are infected with this virus have no symptoms or mild symptoms, unfortunately we know that some can get very sick and these vaccines are key to keeping our communities healthy and safe."

For children who have already had COVID-19, NACI recommends waiting eight weeks after the start of COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test, before beginning or continuing the primary series. This interval may be shortened to four weeks for children who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.

"We encourage parents to register their children under five now to get vaccinated so they can get the vaccine as soon as possible when we begin the vaccine rollout," said Dr. Penny Ballem, executive lead of B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization plan.

Health Canada, NACI, and B.C.'s provincial health officer will continue to monitor the situation for this age group and will update guidance as needed.

The Moderna vaccine for infants and children from six months to four years old is a two-dose series, given eight weeks apart. This Moderna vaccine is a smaller dose of the Moderna vaccine used for older children. Younger children need a smaller dose of the vaccine to get the same protection from COVID-19.

Children can be registered through the province's Get Vaccinated system: [gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register](http://gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register)

# Kajaks athletes return victorious from Kamloops



By HANNAH SCOTT  
Reporter

Richmond Kajaks athletes returned from a recent B.C. Athletics Provincial Championship Jamboree in Kamloops with an array of medals and accolades, as well as a number of new personal bests.

The tournament is the provincial championships for track and field athletes from the U16 level up. It also serves as selection trials for the B.C. and Yukon legion team for the U16 and U18 age groups. Selected athletes will compete in the Canadian Youth Legion Track and Field Championships in Quebec this weekend.

In all, 22 Kajaks athletes competed in Kamloops, bringing home 32 medals. Those who finished first in their categories are:

- Jackson Cheung (senior 110m hurdles)
- Eric Chatten (senior high jump)
- Elise Drake (U18 shot put)
- Lawrence Man (U16 hammer throw)
- Aidan Turner (U18 decathlon)
- Levi Tuura (U18 high jump)
- Matthew Uliana (U20 shot put, discus throw, and hammer throw)
- Sofia Varma-Vitug (U16 triple jump)
- Kiran Wanniarachchi (U20 high jump)

For a full list of results, visit [kajaks.ca/post/strong-contingent-of-kajaks-athletes-rakes-in-medals-and-top-8-finishes-in-bc-jamboree](https://kajaks.ca/post/strong-contingent-of-kajaks-athletes-rakes-in-medals-and-top-8-finishes-in-bc-jamboree)

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*Photos courtesy Richmond Kajaks*  
Kajaks athlete Matthew Uliana came first in three events at the recent B.C. Athletics Provincial Championship Jamboree, including U20 shot put.



Kajaks athlete Elise Drake came first in U18 shot put at the recent B.C. Athletics Provincial Championship Jamboree.

## Junior development athletes excel at championships

Young Richmond Kajaks athletes recently attended the B.C. Junior Development Track and Field Championships in Surrey, with many medal finishes and personal bests.

The championships took place from July 15 to 17. Kajaks coaches Lee Hunter, Soleah, Danielle, and Kieran were there to support the athletes.

The following athletes placed first in their events:

- Bradley Li (2009 boys 100m and 300m)

- Laila Sandhu (2009 girls shot put)
- Jinghan Chu (2012 girls shot put)
- Zachary Chan (2013 boys long jump)
- Kayden Thomson (2013 boys high jump)

The 2009 boys 4x100m relay team (Robin Xiao, Bradley Li, Michael Xiao, and Aiden Yen) also placed first.

For a full list of results, visit [kajaks.ca/post/strong-contingent-of-kajaks-athletes-rakes-in-medals-and-top-8-finishes-in-bc-jamboree](https://kajaks.ca/post/strong-contingent-of-kajaks-athletes-rakes-in-medals-and-top-8-finishes-in-bc-jamboree)





Camryn Rogers recently won a silver medal in hammer throw at the World Athletics Championships.

Photo by Claus Andersen

## Rogers wins silver at World Athletics Championships

Richmond-born hammer throw athlete Camryn Rogers has another accolade to add to her list: a silver medal at the 2022 World Athletics Championships.

At the event, which was held last month in Oregon, Rogers also made national history as the first Canadian woman to win a medal in a field sport at the World Championships. Her best throw was 75.52 metres.

## Nations Cup return a success

By MATTHEW CHEUNG  
Reporter

Richmond hosted the Nations Cup last month. The annual tournament, which was cancelled in 2020 and 2021, was hosted at Hugh Boyd, Minoru, and South Arm parks.

Nations Cup president Jeff Wilson called the event a "very successful tournament after a two-year hiatus due to COVID."

The tournament showcased the soccer talent of people from all over British Columbia, attracting more than 1,000 participants and at least 10,000 spectators. Players were pooled together based on their ethnic backgrounds and/or countries of origin.

Players from across the province were able to put their skills on display for fans. This year saw some teams repeat as champions and new teams rise to the accession and pull off upsets.

In the men's open, Croatia upset the defending champions, India, in a 2-0 victory. In the women's open, the Canadian team repeated their 2019 results and defeated Italy by a score of 3-1.

England was able to win in both the men's over 30 and men's over 38 tournament by scores of 2-0 and 2-1. Romania defeated England 3-1 in the men's over 45 tournament, and India was able to defeat the previous tournament's defending champs, China, by a score of 2-1 in the men's over 52 tournament.

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Photos by Sherrick Williams  
Thousands of spectators watched the return of the Nations Cup in Richmond last month.



# Richmond Little League's eventful season ends

By MATTHEW CHEUNG  
Reporter

Richmond Little League players recently participated in the 2022 District 6 Majors All-Stars tournament against other local teams.

The tournament took place at the Joan & Phil Lake Diamond in Vancouver. Richmond Little League is a partner of Richmond City Baseball.

The Richmond team struggled at the tournament and ended without a win. Despite the results, coach Serj Sangara was glad to return to the field.

"It was totally exciting to get back out there and experience the real competition, and take in all that goes with those taking the road to the Little League World Series that will be televised worldwide in the month ahead," says Sangara.

Sangara says he's been grateful to Richmond City Baseball for working together with Richmond Little League for the benefit of the community, players, and the sport as a whole.

Richmond Little League returned to competitive play for the first time in three years, but the team was not able to practice as much as some other teams that had played for years. Despite the difference in skill and experience, and the results of the season, team members were able to grow as individual players and as a group.

"While we were not very successful as determined by (our) win-loss record, I think the players had a very memorable and satisfactory season," says Sangara. "They got better every game, met new friends both from within and outside Richmond, and got to learn from more developed baseball programs."

The tournament also gave several players the courage to try out for the District 6 U13 All-Star team, which will be competing in the Baseball



Photo courtesy Angie Liu

**Richmond Little League coaches instruct their team at practice.**

B.C. qualifiers at Palmer secondary from Aug. 5 to 7. Should they make the team, Hero Iverson and Jaxon Van Der Hijde will be able to represent Richmond in the Canadian and Western Championships for the District 6 Saints.

Sangara and assistant coaches Jason Tse, Mike Liu, and Shayne Van Der Hijde were able to grow in their respective roles. They also found inspiration for what they want their team to look like in the future.

Aside from playing against competition from outside Richmond and creating long-lasting bonds with their teammates, team members attended a Vancouver Canadians baseball game. During the game, the team was "recognized on the scoreboard, collectively won (the title of) 'Fans of the Game,' and received numerous autographs from many of the up-and-coming Toronto Blue Jays," says Sangara.

Heading into the offseason, coaches have seen

and understood what sets better teams apart.

"(This has) fuelled a fire, as many Richmond players have the opportunity that so many worldwide get to experience each summer," says Sangara.

Although the season has ended, players who don't have the opportunity to go to the Little League World Series will be able to work on their craft for the rest of the summer. Richmond Little League will be hosting a weekly sandlot program, Just Play Ball, at the historic Gibbons Park.

The goal of this program, in addition to continuing a strong relationship with Richmond City Baseball, is to give children of all skill levels the opportunity to learn the game. Those who have played the game before will also be able to build on their skills and have fun.

For information about the program, email [info@richmondbaseball.ca](mailto:info@richmondbaseball.ca)

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