



AWARD-WINNING AGENCY



**Diane Dupuis
shares experience**

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Photo courtesy Diane Dupuis

Diane Dupuis, the chief executive officer of Richmond-based health insurance agency Dupuis Langen Group, was named by Women's Executive Network as a 2022 winner of the Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards.

Neighbourhood grant program applications open

Richmond's Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program is open for applications through Feb. 26.

Richmond-based neighbourhood groups, not-for-profit organizations, local artists, Parent Advisory Committees, community associations, and student councils with a creative idea for an event that will build community connections and neighbourhood pride are encouraged to apply for a grant. The Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program provides funding up to \$2,000 to support the delivery of initiatives that will connect residents of diverse backgrounds through community events and shared experiences that can be delivered between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2023.

Examples of events that are eligible for funding include neighbourhood block parties, community picnics, and cultural celebrations. Local artists are encouraged to connect with local not-for-profit organizations or neighbourhood groups to develop proposals that capitalize on the power and potential of the arts to support community building and promote social connection.

Event submissions will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- All applicants must be Richmond-based
- Event must be held in Richmond



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The city's 2023 Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program is open for applications until Feb. 26.

- Event demonstrates alignment with the program objectives
- Event is inclusive and demonstrates engagement of community members from diverse backgrounds
- Applicants must demonstrate capacity to host the event and a realistic estimate of resources needed and total budget required

- Project demonstrates commitment to incorporate sustainability initiatives
- Event must take place between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2023

Find out more about the Richmond Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program and submit an online application at richmond.ca/celebrationgrant

The Sentinel turns six

The *Richmond Sentinel* published its first edition in February 2017 and turns six this month. The *Sentinel* team continues to work to share the community's stories

and remains grateful for readers' support.

For story inquiries, email newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca and for ad inquiries, email marketing@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond's stories shared through new video series

The City of Richmond is launching a collection of 10 compelling videos that beautifully weave archival film and photographs with new footage to tell some of Richmond's most fascinating stories. Each video was carefully crafted with input from community members, who provided first-hand knowledge of each subject.

"The *Richmond Stories* video series will bring to life the many diverse anecdotes of Richmond, from its beginnings to present day," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

"It is exciting to know that videos developed collaboratively with the community will be used as resources for local students and all lifelong learners."

Growth of a City, the first video available for viewing, is a fast-paced exploration of Richmond's meteoric growth since its incorporation in 1879. Using rarely-seen archival images, it documents the city's transformation from wetlands and waterways to today's modern metropolis.



Screen grab from City of Richmond YouTube

The city is launching a video series that tells the stories of Richmond.

Richmond Stories includes a wide-range of topics that have something for everyone. The other nine videos will be released over the coming months and include a charming love story on the Interurban tram, the fierce sports rivalry of the Packers and Colts (not of the National Football League), and the fine craftsmanship of Japanese boat-building practiced on Steveston's waterfront. Additional videos feature more hallmark stories such as how flight, farming, cultural diversity, and the growth of Steveston led to the Richmond we know today.

The *Growth of a City* video is available on the city's YouTube channel (youtube.com/CityofRichmondBC) and on the Richmond Museum website (richmondmuseum.ca/theatre/). It can also be viewed in person at the Richmond Museum, located in the Richmond Cultural Centre at 7700 Minoru Gate. The other videos in the series will be available for viewing on YouTube and at the Richmond Museum when released.

Black History Month offerings in Richmond

By HANNAH SCOTT
Senior reporter

The City of Richmond is recognizing and celebrating the legacy of Black Canadians and their contributions to Canada's history and culture during Black History Month.

To commemorate the month, programs and activities are being offered at the Richmond Public Library, and exhibitions will be on display in the Richmond Cultural Centre and the Richmond Art Gallery.

The Richmond Public Library's annual Black History Month programs are organized in collaboration with community advocate Mary Wilson, winner of the 2022 Richmond Arts Award for Cultural Leadership. This year's theme is "Black Resistance and Resilience."

"Join us to learn about Black heroes, past and present, and their contributions to Canada. I invite the community to come together, participate in thought, and be curious to learn more," says Wilson.

Programs are intended to engage all age groups, and the group setting allows for feedback, questions, and connection between participants, she adds.

"For me planning happens 365 days a year. I get ongoing suggestions and resource info from members of the Black community and community organizations previously worked with. These (are) reviewed and taken with me to the initial library planning meeting," says Wilson. "All programs share Black history (and) honour our heroes past and present through storytelling, films, and movies."

This year, guest readers from Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States will be part of children's *Storytimes*, happening throughout February at all four library branches. Community tables will feature at Brighthouse and Ironwood branches, with a member of the Black community available to talk about Black history; Wilson says these tables are planned for all library branches next year. A video presentation will feature Canada Post's new Black History Month stamp, which honours Chloe Cooley, an 18th-century Black woman who fought enslavement.

"We start working with our partner Mary Wilson in the second half of the year before each event," says community services librarian Kelly Thoreson. "It takes time to create a program series in collaboration with the local Black community that is diverse, unique, and represents the theme of the year."

Thoreson adds that some years the library uses the national Black History Month theme, while it tailors toward B.C. Black history for other years. This year more program options are focused on younger audiences, including a family trivia challenge where kids and their families can answer questions for a chance to win book prizes.

"We are also welcoming guest readers from the local Black community to family *Storytimes* throughout the month of February," says Thoreson. "To appeal to older youth, the library's Teen Ambassadors are hosting a screening of *The Hate U Give*, a film adaptation of the bestselling young adult novel by Angie Thomas."

Other program offerings include:

- Film screenings of Black-centred stories, including award-winning features and Canadian documentaries
- A special edition of the *Each One, Teach One* book club to talk about local author Chelene Knight's adult fiction novel *Junie*, set in 1930s Hogan's Alley
- *Beyond the Underground*, a discussion led by Dr. Carmencita Lake about different circumstances that led people of African descent to Canada, and



Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library

Celebrate Black History Month with program offerings at Richmond Public Library branches.

the challenges they faced upon arrival

- An in-person author event at the Ironwood branch with Canadian children's author Erica London

Some programs require registration, but community members only need a free library card to sign up and reserve a spot. Other programs are drop-in and everyone is welcome to attend.

"By offering Black History Month programs, we hope the community will come together in the library to connect, to learn, and to ask curious questions," says Thoreson.

The library also has Black History Month book lists, thoughtfully selected by library staff, available online. For a full list of Black History Month events at the library, visit yourlibrary.bibliocommons.com/events

The Richmond Cultural Centre's *Black Artists and Creators in our Community* exhibition features contemporary approaches to portrait and landscape paintings by local artists John Hall and Crystal Noir. Organized each February since 2016, the exhibition recognizes and honours the legacy, culture, and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities. This program is presented in partnership with Richmond Black History Month, led by Wilson.

The exhibition runs through Feb. 27 and is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Paintings are displayed in the Richmond Cultural Centre's upper rotunda gallery (7700 Minoru Gate).

The *Codes of Silence* exhibition at the Richmond Art Gallery features a diverse selection of multifaceted videos by artists Shirley Bruno, Aleesa Cohene, Caroline Monnet, and Cauleen Smith where the voice is muted, obscured, withheld, unexplained, or used sparingly in ways that cultivate quietness, interiority, intimacy, and community.

The exhibition runs through April 2 and is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit richmondartgallery.org/codesofsilence

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Women's resource centre hosting annual event

By HANNAH SCOTT
Senior reporter

Richmond Women's Resource Centre (RWRC) is returning to an in-person format for its annual International Women's Day event, scheduled for March 4. This year's theme is "Emerge With Us."

"This particular International Women's Day event is different from anything else that we've done before," says RWRC president Tammi Belfer. "We're doing it in a different location, we're celebrating emerging women artists—Cherelle Jardine (is) going to be our entertainment for that day."

Following two years of virtual events, Belfer says precautions will still be taken this year, including having masks and hand sanitizer available for people. Instead of a sit-down dinner, Storeys Café—run by Turning Point Recovery Society—will cater the event.

"Every dollar they earn (goes) to Turning Point, and the people that work there are people who are in rehabilitation," says Belfer. "It's a fantastic thing that we're able to work together with another organization, they've been absolutely wonderful to work with, and their food is delicious."

The different location and format, Belfer adds, provided a good opportunity for the classic event to re-imagine and re-invent itself. Holly Munn, a communications professor at the University of British Columbia, will be the master of ceremonies.

Belfer says it's exciting and nerve-wracking to be coming together in-person again. She envisions a hybrid future with some teaching, meetings, and other offerings continuing online.

"There are going to be people who are always afraid to come in a group, and there are people who need that to build our community back again," she adds. "In-person is a different dimension."

The annual silent auction will take place entirely online, but items will be brought in on the event day for people to look at. Belfer is grateful to local businesses for their support in making the silent auction happen. Among the auc-



Richmond Women's Resource Centre volunteers are preparing for this year's silent auction, which opens on Feb. 18.



Photos courtesy Richmond Women's Resource Centre
Richmond Women's Resource Centre is celebrating International Women's Day with an in-person event for the first time since 2020.

tion items, there is the unique opportunity of a private concert from Jardine's band, Stone Poets.

RWRC offers a variety of programs, including a high school committee to support young women in grades 10 to 12 who are exploring their professional futures. The organization's single moms program is expanding, currently offering a food skills workshop with childminding. Other programs help with employment, computer skills, résumé writing and English language skills.

Newcomers to Canada who drop into the centre have expressed interest in learning about the country's history, customs, and Indigenous peoples, so RWRC is developing a program to help provide this information.

"It's a very well-developed program, and that's one we're going to be starting if we can get the funding for it," says Belfer. "One thing I've noticed over the seven or eight years that I've been a member of the (RWRC) is (that) the diversity has changed and the landscape is fantastic, and everyone's getting to know each other and it's beautiful. We're a diverse, inclusive environment."

RWRC's volunteer base has grown, with more community members coming forward to help. And that's a good thing, since demand for its programs has grown rapidly since the pandemic began. Money raised goes to support programs and equipment upgrades, among other things.

"We are looking for people to just drop into our centre—we're open to women of all ages, all stages of life," says Belfer. "We're just open for help in any direction, any way, (and) we're trying to apply for more grants because we want to make sure we can keep our doors open."

Tickets for RWRC's International Women's Day event cost \$50 per person. For more information, visit richmondwomenscentre.org/2023-iwd-celebration/

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Toxic drugs claimed 28 Richmond lives in 2022

According to new data from the B.C. Coroners Service, 28 Richmonders lost their lives to toxic drugs in 2022.

This is a slight decrease from the 32 deaths recorded in 2021, but remains higher than in the previous 10 years—with the exception of 2017, which also saw 28 deaths. In comparison, just one Richmonder died due to toxic drugs in 2012.

January, February, and July 2022 each saw four deaths attributed to toxic drugs in Richmond. There was only one month, October, with zero such deaths recorded.

Province-wide, the number of drug toxicity deaths has also increased rapidly over the last decade. There were 270 deaths in 2012 and at least 2,272 in 2022.

"British Columbians across the province are continuing to experience tremendous harm and loss as a result of the province's toxic illicit drug supply," said chief coroner Lisa Lapointe. "Our province continues to lose an average of six lives every day, and many more people experience serious health consequences as a result of the unpredictable, unregulated drug supply. Death due to drug toxicity remains the leading cause of unnatural death in British Columbia, and is second only to cancers in terms of years of life lost."

The number of deaths being investigated by the B.C. Coroners Service in 2022 is the second-largest total ever in a calendar year, and only 34 fewer than the 2,306 deaths reported to the agency in 2021. Toxic drugs were responsible for an average of 189 deaths per month in 2022, or 6.2 lost lives each day. The final number for 2022 will almost certainly increase as investigations are completed and final causes of death are established, according to a B.C. government news release. At least 11,171 deaths have been



LISA LAPOINTE

attributed to the illicit drug toxicity since the public health emergency was first declared in April 2016.

"The reality is that these deaths are preventable," Lapointe said. "Toxicology data confirms that the drug supply in British Columbia is increasingly volatile and life-threatening. The Standing Committee on Health and two B.C. Coroners Service death review panels are in agreement that we must rapidly increase access to a safer supply of substances, while at the same time building out a robust system of evidence-based care. Those dying are our family members, neighbours, friends, and colleagues. Urgent action is required to reduce the significant risks that

tens of thousands of British Columbians are currently facing."

In 2022, 70 per cent of those dying in B.C. were aged 30 to 59, and 79 per cent were male. By health authority in 2022, the highest number of illicit drug toxicity deaths were in Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities (680 and 637 deaths, respectively), making up 58 per cent of all such deaths during 2022.

There was one reported death at an overdose prevention site in 2022. Analysis of post-mortem toxicology results shows no indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths regionally or provincially.

According to preliminary 2022 data from the B.C. Coroners Service, fentanyl or its analogues have been detected in 82 per cent of all illicit drug toxicity deaths. This is a slight decrease from 86 per cent in 2021.

Toward the Heart: towardtheheart.com

Stop Overdose BC: stopoverdose.gov.bc.ca

BC Centre on Substance Use: bccsu.ca

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Photo via
Wikimedia Commons
An example of
Chongqing-style
hotpot.

History and styles of hotpot

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

As cold weather continues in Richmond, friends and family can get together for a nice hotpot meal.

The history of hotpot, or “fire pot” when translated literally, can be traced back to the 13th century in ancient China, where Mongol warriors, soldiers, and horsemen roamed fields and meadows. It was speculated that the tradition was started by the Mongol warriors, who would often camp outside around a pot on a fire.

Like a modern-day campfire, the pot and fire allowed the Mongols to enjoy hot food while staying warm during the cold winter months. It was rumoured that the warriors used their helmets as pots, since they did not carry many cooking utensils with them.

Meats, often horse and mutton, were the main ingredients cooked in the pot. This tradition quickly spread across China, and different regions of the country have devised and popularized their own variations. Despite some regional differences, the procedure of adding raw ingredients to a pot of boiling liquid remains the same.

Many ingredients such as meat, seafood, vegetables, mushrooms, and tofu can be cooked within the pot. Some restaurants have come up with exotic flavours like bubble tea hotpot, milk hotpot, and congee hotpot.

The broth is not the only creative element; some consider the dipping sauces to be the heart and soul of the cuisine. Condiments such as satay sauce, soy sauce, sesame oil, chili oil, garlic, cilantro, and even peanut butter can be mixed to

create unique sauce blends.

Chongqing, often referred to as the “capital of hotpot,” has over 50,000 hotpot locations. Spicy, mouth-numbing broth is the signature feature of Chongqing-style hotpot. The numbness comes from the addition of Sichuan peppercorn, and premium butter is used to achieve the rich flavour.

One of the most popular ingredients for hotpot is beef tripe, also known as cow stomach, which is sliced into strips. With hotpot being so prominent in Chongqing, it is no longer just a food, but a lifestyle. Liuyishou Hotpot (150-4731 Garden City Rd.) is an example of Chongqing-style hotpot.

Sichuan, or Szechuan, is the third largest province in China. Much like Chongqing-style hotpot, Sichuan hotpot offers hot and spicy flavour, but without the numbing sensation. The base ingredients of the broth can be customized, and sesame oil is commonly used with Sichuan hotpot. Golden Sichuan Hotpot (1705-4700 McClelland Rd.) is an example of Sichuan-style hotpot.

Beijing-style hotpot is the opposite of Chongqing or Sichuan hotpot. A copper Mongolian pot is used instead of a metal or aluminum pot. It aims to bring out the natural flavours of its ingredients by boiling them in water or lightly flavoured broth with scallions, goji berries, and ginger. Beijing-style hotpot is much less oily in comparison to the southern-style hotpots.

Lamb is the most popular ingredient, as the tenderness of the meat is highlighted. Sesame-based sauces and peanut butter sauce are household favourites. Beijing Hot Pot Restaurant (60-8251 Westminster Hwy.) offers this style of hotpot.

Yunnan-style hotpot uses mint as a key ingredient in its broth, bringing out a distinctive flavour influenced by Southeast Asia. The broth focuses on bringing out the best of vegetables, mushrooms, and even flowers; meat is not a common ingredient. Mushrooms are the star of the dish because of the geographical location of the Yunnan province.

Japan also has its own style of hotpot called Shabu Shabu. The name is derived from the sizzling sound of the meat when it is cooking in hot broth. Unlike Chinese-style hotpot where all the ingredients are added simultaneously, in Japanese-style hotpot the ingredients are cooked one by one.

The biggest difference that sets Shabu Shabu apart is its broth, which is made with soy sauce, mirin, sugar, and water or sake. Slices of meat are so thin that they can be fully cooked within seconds. Some people enjoy dipping ingredients in egg wash before cooking.

Ponzu sauce, sesame sauce, and soy sauce are combined to make the dipping sauce for Shabu Shabu hotpot. Gokudo Shabu Shabu Hot Pot (2133-3779 Sexsmith Rd.) offers this style of dish.

Hotpot can be prepared at home in a few easy steps. First, wash and prepare the ingredients. Vegetables should be pre-cut into chunks for ease of cooking and meat products should be sliced. Bring the broth to a boil before adding ingredients. After the broth is boiled, start cooking the ingredients that take the longest to cook, such as corn, radish, and daikon. People should avoid double-dipping, as the pot is shared between everyone at the table.

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City gets climate change, disaster funding

People in Richmond will benefit from provincial funding to help reduce risks from future disasters related to natural hazards and climate change.

"The climate crisis will continue to increase the risk of natural disasters in British Columbia over the years ahead. Local governments and First Nations are important partners in ensuring that communities are prepared for what will come and we're taking action to support them in this critical work," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. "The projects enabled by this funding will make a big difference for First Nations and communities throughout B.C. in their efforts to keep lives and livelihoods safe from potential disasters."

Richmond-Steveston MLA Kelly Greene said: "As we begin to feel the impacts of climate change more and more, it's important for us to invest in projects in communities like Richmond that will mitigate the impacts of climate change. This work to plan and upgrade Richmond's flood protection systems is important so we are prepared for whatever comes our way and residents can feel safe."

The City of Richmond is receiving \$2,285,000 in funding for flood risk hydrodynamic modelling, a

flood protection system emergency reconstruction strategy, and a drainage pump station climate adaptation and resilience upgrade.

"As climate change brings more environmental challenges to B.C., families in Richmond are in need of protection from extreme weather events," said Richmond South Centre MLA Henry Yao. "By investing in projects like flood risk planning and adaptation, people will know that their provincial government is prioritizing their safety and livelihood."

A total of \$23.4 million from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) will support 49 First Nations and local communities to better prepare for, mitigate, and respond to climate-related emergencies such as floods and extreme temperatures.

"With the unpredictability of weather, having plans and infrastructure in place to keep people safe is essential," said Richmond-Queensborough MLA Aman Singh. "Our government remains dedicated to building resilient communities, ensuring that both existing and new infrastructure are built to last."

The Disaster Risk Reduction - Climate Adaptation stream under the CEPF supports the prov-

ince's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. The CEPF is administered through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and funds projects that strengthen the resilience of First Nations and local governments in responding to and preparing for natural disasters and climate change.

Funding may be used for:

- Risk mapping, risk assessments, and planning such as the development of a hazard map
- Land-use planning, such as amendments to relevant plans, bylaws, or policies
- Purchasing equipment, such as monitoring equipment
- Delivering community education
- Small-scale structural projects

"Recent extreme weather events have reinforced how important it is for communities to have systems and infrastructure in place to protect their residents, businesses, and property," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Richmond has a long history of investment in flood protection. This \$2.2 million in funding will ensure our city is even more prepared to respond in an emergency through robust mitigation planning and pump-station upgrades."

Fishery officers seize 270 illegal crab traps

Fishery officers with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, including some from the Steveston detachment, worked with Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) officers from the Sea Island Base recently to conduct an enforcement operation in Boundary Bay.

Fishery officers from the Langley, Chilliwack, and whale detachments also worked on the operation, which took place from Jan. 23 to 27. The operation used the CCG Hovercraft Siyay as a platform, coordinating with up to three conservation and protection patrol vessels to combat suspected illegal fishing.

During the joint operation, a total of 270 crab traps suspected to have been set illegally in this area were seized. A large number of crab and fish were returned to the water from all traps located and seized, including 788 Dungeness crab and 119 red rock crab. Fishery officers will now attempt to identify seized traps and gear and investigate to try to identify the perpetrators. Of the traps seized, 154 were sealed shut. Charges may follow.

Fishery officers and the CCG shared operational knowledge to ensure the success of the sweep and gained a deeper understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities. This is the second time that a CCG hovercraft from the Sea Island Base was used for this kind of joint operation.

To counter suspected illegal fishing, fishery officers conduct dragging operations several times a year to retrieve lost, abandoned, or illegally set gear that is out of compliance. These can continue to trap animals and can also become buried in the mud over time, making them more difficult to retrieve.

Gear that is not in compliance with the regulations under Canada's Fisheries Act can include: lack of proper floats identifying the location of gear; lack of proper markings or tags on floats and crab traps; fishing more than the allotted amount of gear; fishing traps without escape mechanisms or rot cord to enable escape mechanisms should the gear ever become lost; and fishing in closed or prohibited areas (i.e. United States waters). Illegal traps are disposed of.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans's conservation and protection directorate continues to play an important role in the management of Canada's



Photo courtesy Fisheries and Oceans Canada

A joint operation last month between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard yielded 270 crab traps suspected to have been set illegally.

marine resources. Regular integrated patrols by fishery officers on land, sea, and air are ongoing.

As part of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's ongoing work to promote compliance and counter illegal fishing activity, the department asks the public for information on any suspicious or potentially illegal activities, or any suspected contravention of the Fisheries Act and regulations. Anyone with information can call the toll-free violation reporting line at 1-800-465-4336 or email DFO.ORRONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Pianist's music helps cancer patients



Photo courtesy Libby Yu

Richmond's Libby Yu is the recipient of the BC Cancer Foundation's 2023 Catalyst Award.

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

Richmond's Libby Yu, this year's recipient of the BC Cancer Foundation's Catalyst Award, continues to give back to the foundation through charitable fundraising concerts.

With the mission of reducing the burden of cancer in B.C., the BC Cancer Foundation provides a

series of services including prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

Yu understands firsthand what it's like to go through an illness as deadly as cancer—her husband Cliff passed away in 2017 due to late-stage testicular cancer that eventually spread to his brain and lungs. Surgery, chemotherapy, stem cell transplants, and radiation treatments brought tolls not only to Cliff, but to his family as well. However,

Yu stood strong amid all the difficulties, enduring the hardship alongside her husband.

"Cancer taught us precious life lessons. How to exercise a faith we professed but (that) was so hard to live out when hard-pressed. How to embrace life when life doesn't really seem so joyful," says Yu.

A musician like her husband, Yu chose to use music as an avenue to inspire and bring joy to the lives of others. Despite the fact that Cliff passed away more than five years ago, his memory lives on within the hearts of Yu and their three children.

"He loved to sing and strum on his guitar," says Yu. "And now my children fill our home with music through song and various acoustic and electric guitars."

Yu honours Cliff's memory by carrying on the spirit of hope and optimism through her music. Having raised over \$16,000 for testicular cancer research in 2018, she shares the importance of giving back and expressing gratitude.

"We all have different things to give—there's wealth and time and talent. Music was a natural way for me to give back," says Yu. "It's my small way of encouraging the community to continue to give."

Yu says she'll continue to deliver the message of optimism through her music to those who have been affected by cancer.

"Cancer is an awful disease that has changed our lives forever, but it can't take away our joy and hope moving forward," she says.

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High school scholarship applications open

The Richmond Community Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2023 high school scholarships. Eligibility is open to local students who are graduating this year and who plan on pursuing a post-secondary education.

In 2022, the foundation awarded \$34,600 in scholarships to 38 students. This year, again, dozens of scholarships are available across multiple areas of study, from academics to apprenticeship programs to the performing arts.

"Our goal, always, is to support students on whatever path their education takes," says Ed Gavsie, executive director of the foundation. "As we diversify our scholarship funds, we're better equipped to help students achieve their educational and professional goals."

Along with field of study, applications are considered based on a student's community involvement and financial need. Many students will be



Photo courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives

From now until March 10, local high school students can apply for a Richmond Community Foundation scholarship.

eligible and are encouraged to apply for multiple scholarships.

"Each of our scholarships has different criteria, and every year, there are students who emerge as the top candidate for several scholarships," says Gavsie. "At the same time, we review each application on its own merits, and consider a student's individual circumstances when making our decisions. For all students, our advice, simply, is to apply."

Visit richmondfoundation.org for more information on the Richmond Community Foundation's 2023 scholarships and to complete an online application. The last day to apply is March 10.

Founded in 1990, the Richmond Community Foundation manages over 50 forever funds, from which it awards grants and scholarships to local non-profit organizations and students.

Richmond locations feature in BC Ale Trail

Four Richmond locations feature in the BC Ale Trail, in collaboration with TransLink's Dine the Line.

The initiative encourages residents and visitors to get out and explore Metro Vancouver car-free while supporting local businesses during the month of February. Beer lovers can pick up a tasting passport from any of the 64 participating businesses and embark on a local tasting tour, collecting stamps with a purchase. Those who don't consume alcohol can also participate by purchasing swag food, or non-alcoholic drinks.

Five Roads Brewing Steveston, Fuggles Beer Co., Monkey 9 Brewing and O'Hare's Gastro Pub & Liquor Store are among the locations on the South of the Fraser Ale Trail, which also includes Delta, Surrey, and White Rock businesses.

Outside Richmond, there is also a North of the Fraser Ale Trail (Burnaby, Coquitlam, New Westminster, and Port Coquitlam), a Port Moody Ale Trail (Murray Street in Port Moody), a Vancouver Brewery Creek Ale Trail (in Vancouver from Main Street to Granville Island), and a Yeast Vancouver Ale Trail (East Vancouver).

After earning six unique stamps on a passport, people can drop off their completed ballot at a participating business to enter to win a beer-themed "staycation" prize package. Multiple entries are encouraged. Each passport has its own prize package, and there are also secondary prize draws that include merchandise and gift cards from participating businesses.

TransLink, in partnership with West Coast Food, created Dine the Line to encourage visitors to explore Metro Vancouver restaurants, breweries, events, and culinary experiences sustainably car-free. The program features restaurants and craft breweries in neighbourhoods throughout Metro Vancouver.

West Coast Food has created specialized Dine the Line transit itineraries to help everyone navigate their way to the tasting passport locations, which can be found by following the QR code on



Photo by Josie Josue

People can take part in the BC Ale Trail during the month of February, supporting local businesses and entering to win prize packages.

the passports or visiting the Dine the Line website: westcoastfood.ca/dinetheline

All five tasting passports also feature a special TransLink Bonus square. People can show their Compass Card or a receipt for a TransLink ride from the same day to get a stamp in the TransLink Bonus space. This will earn people a chance to win a one-month TransLink pass and a BC Ale Trail prize pack.

The BC Ale Trail and participating businesses want to ensure beer is enjoyed responsibly by adults who choose to consume it. People are reminded not to drink alcohol, even in moderation, before operating a motor vehicle or engaging in other activities that involve attention and skill or

physical risk. People are encouraged to take transit to visit participating businesses.

About the BC Ale Trail

The BC Ale Trail is a partnership between Destination British Columbia and the BC Craft Brewers Guild. A BC Ale Trail is a series of self-guided itineraries highlighting local craft brewery destinations and the super, natural landscapes that surround them. The guild supports the ongoing creation and discovery of truly great B.C. craft beer by helping British Columbians and visitors understand the cultural, community, and economic benefits of B.C.'s vibrant craft beer scene, and to celebrate its diversity. For more information, visit bcaletrail.ca

Library board welcomes new leaders, members

At its most recent meeting, the Richmond Public Library board elected Caty Liu as board chair and Sherine Merhi as vice-chair.

Other returning board members are Jordan Oye, Chaslynn Gillanders, Denise Hui, Nabeel Abrahani, and Rachel Ling.

The library board also welcomes Coun. Chak Au as the new city council representative to the Richmond Public Library board. The board thanks former Coun. Linda McPhail for her five years as an engaged and supportive council representative.

New to the board for 2023 is Yvonne Yong, recently appointed by Richmond City Council for a two-year term. Yong is an experienced human resources professional, parent, and library supporter who be-

lieves strongly in the value of public library services.

The Richmond Public Library board thanks outgoing board trustee Diane Cousar for her years of dedication and service to the public library and community.

"With this being a strategic planning year, the board is looking forward to engaging with the community throughout the year to hear their thoughts and create a vision and plan that prioritizes literacy and serves our community as it continues to grow and rebuild," says board chair Liu. "At this time, I would also like to thank city council and of course the Friends of the Richmond Library for continuing to support library programs, services, and collections."

Kwantlen offers new semester of learning

An unsolved murder and a webinar on medical mistakes lead the way as Third Age Learning at Kwantlen (TALK) returns for a new semester.

TALK is a volunteer-run organization that partners with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) to offer a diverse range of courses ideal for adults aged 50-plus who want to continue learning. Fees are kept low thanks to KPU instructors and community professionals who volunteer their time.

"TALK is a wonderful way to stay connected with others who are lifelong learners. Our courses are on relevant and current topics, and offer time for comments and questions. This semester we offer both in-person and online opportunities to gather together to learn and exchange ideas," says Jane Diston, chair of TALK.

Online courses explore topics of journalism and misinformation, climate politics, gardening for pol-

linators, and the war in Ukraine. There are 13 in-person courses this semester—at KPU's Surrey, Langley, and Richmond campuses—covering topics like fraud awareness, unlearning racism, eating for the planet, and Spain through the eyes of artists.

The semester also includes new Philosophers' Corner events. In these 12 in-person sessions, a volunteer researches a chosen topic and delivers a 10-minute presentation ahead of a stimulating conversation among attendees. Topics this year include the risks and rewards of social media; the inevitability of wars; the challenge of addiction, capitalism, and water; private health care; and our complex relationship with China. These sessions are held in various locations in Richmond, Surrey, and Langley. The drop-in fee for Philosophers' Corner is \$2 to \$5.

Two field trips offer further experiences for TALK participants, including a visit to a coffee training

centre in Vancouver on March 15 and a stop at Surrey Libraries' Cloverdale branch on April 3 to explore the benefits of family history research.

Most TALK courses are up to two hours in length and cost \$15, in addition to a \$10 annual membership fee. Courses and programs are available through May 25. Registration is open now. Visit the TALK webpage to view the schedule and to register.

About Third Age Learning at Kwantlen (TALK)

TALK is a participatory learning experience with no quizzes, grades, or prerequisites. The learning process is lively, full of discussion, controversy, humour, insight, and wisdom. In addition to participating in courses, people can become course facilitators, plan curriculum, identify speakers, prepare newsletters, recruit new members, help organize special events, or join as a member. Learn more about TALK at kpu.ca/talk

Diplomas to feature Indigenous language

New Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) graduates will now receive graduation parchments featuring the Indigenous language spoken by the Kwantlen First Nation.

KPU is among the first universities in Canada to offer students an Indigenous language parchment, in addition to the English versions graduates already receive. The new parchments will feature a blend of English and hən̓q̓əmiñəm (pronounced HUN-kuh-MEE-num).

"KPU is making a meaningful commitment to reconciliation and recognizing the Kwantlen First Nation, whose peoples bestowed their name on our university," says Zena Mitchell, associate vice-president of enrolment services and registrar at KPU. "Through this initiative, we hope to honour the hən̓q̓əmiñəm language, support the work led by Indigenous language keepers to revitalize Indigenous languages, and send our graduates off in a good way."

All KPU graduates in the 2022–23 academic year will receive the new parchments, starting with fall graduates who will attend convocation ceremonies Feb. 13 to 17. Parchments—also known as diplomas—are official documents issued by the university that certify a student has completed a program.

Natalie Wood-Wiens, manager of Indigenous services at KPU, first raised the idea of an Indigenous language parchment with Dr. Alan Davis, KPU's president and vice-chancellor. The university's Indigenous advisory committee provided advice and supported the idea.

"I'm incredibly excited to have been a part of this initiative at KPU—a step towards reconciliation by acknowledging and honouring Indigenous languages, and timely given this falls within the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Students who graduate KPU with a hən̓q̓əmiñəm language parchment will now have something that further connects them to the Nations on whose lands the university resides," says Wood-Wiens, who is Métis and originally from Manitoba.

hən̓q̓əmiñəm, also known as a Down River dialect of the Halkomelem language, is the language spoken by people of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Tsawwassen, Kwikwetlem, and Musqueam First Nations on whose traditional unceded territories KPU is situated. KPU is also located on the traditional unceded territories of the SENĆOJEN-speaking Semiahmoo First Nation.

"This is another step on the path to ensuring that the traditional, ancestral lands of the First Nations people in the communities KPU serves are prop-



Photos courtesy Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Natalie Wood-Wiens (left), manager of Indigenous services at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), and Zena Mitchell, associate vice-president of enrolment services and registrar at KPU.

erly acknowledged," says Davis. "Honouring Indigenous languages at KPU is part of our responsibility for systemic transformation. It is our responsibility to learn Indigenous languages and help Indigenous language keepers in their revitalization work."

Fern Gabriel, a member of Kwantlen First Nation and hən̓q̓əmiñəm language teacher with Langley School District, used her expertise to translate the parchment text.

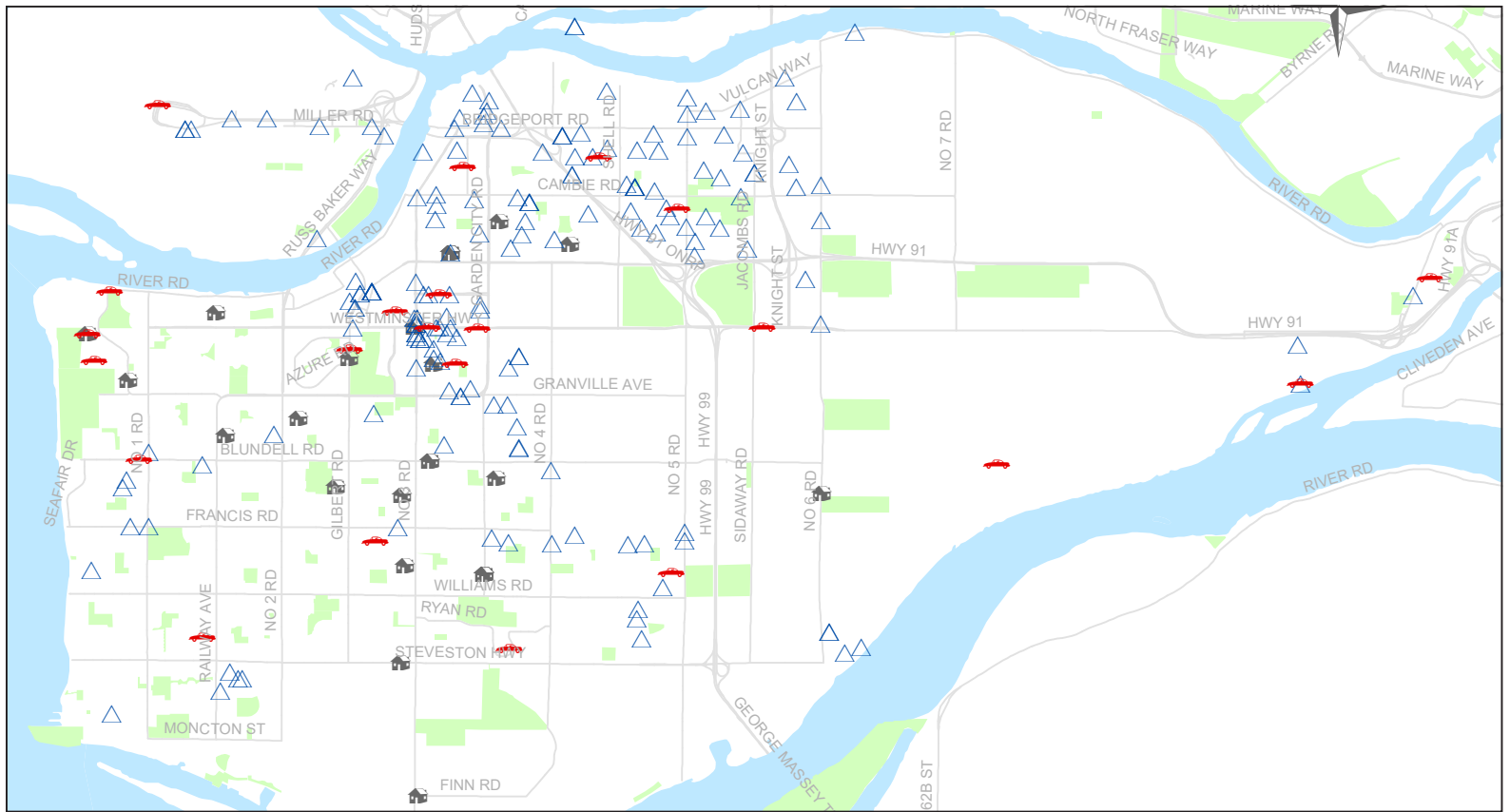
KPU is committed to advancing reconciliation and weaving Indigenous knowledge, values, and representation into the institution. Embedding the hən̓q̓əmiñəm language in parchments is one more way the university is encouraging various communities to learn the traditional language of the territories and respect the land-based Nations.

The hən̓q̓əmiñəm language is being included in more places around KPU. It can already be found at student service counters and on campus building signs, and is being added to some institutional documents.



RCMP

Crime Map Jan. 1 - 31, 2023



Significant rise in catalytic converter thefts

Richmond RCMP is warning people to be aware of catalytic converter thefts, as these are on the rise locally and across the province.

A catalytic converter is a cylindrical or oval-shaped canister that comes pre-installed by the manufacturer of an automobile. It reduces pollutants created by the engine's combustion process.

Catalytic converters contain precious metals such as rhodium, palladium, and platinum. They are a target for theft due to their relatively easy access, the speed at which they can be removed, the lack of identifying markings, and the rising prices for these metals.

A thief will typically slide underneath a vehicle and use a cordless reciprocating saw or grinder. These tools are not overly large and can be concealed in a jacket or backpack. After a series of cuts are made, the catalytic converter is removed from the vehicle's exhaust system. This can be accomplished in under five minutes.



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

Richmond RCMP says catalytic converter thefts are on the rise.

A telltale sign of catalytic converter theft is noise and sparks being generated. Once a vehicle's owner returns and starts their vehicle, they will hear unusual noises and louder than normal exhaust sounds, and a "check engine" light indicator will likely be present on the dashboard.

Richmond RCMP suggests the following:

- Whenever possible, park in a secured garage or compound. If this is not possible, park in a well-lit and well-populated area.
- Business owners should consider securing their vehicles/fleet behind locked fencing/compounds.
- Consider the use of products designed to deter catalytic converter theft including engraving security cages, alarms, and specialized strapping.

Suspicious activity near parked vehicles, especially loud unusual mechanical noises or visible sparks, should be reported to police immediately. If the suspicious activity is in progress, contact 9-1-1.

Richmond RCMP mourns loss of longtime volunteer



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

Walter P. Tyrrell was a Richmond RCMP volunteer for nearly two decades following service with the Royal Australian Air Force, the RCMP, and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

Longtime Richmond RCMP volunteer Walter P. Tyrrell recently died at the age of 96.

Tyrrell was born on Aug. 5, 1926 in Blackfalds, Alta. He moved with his family to Australia in 1939 and joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1944, becoming part of the 53rd Radar Group in Northern

Queensland after completing radio/signals training.

After the Second World War, Tyrrell returned to Canada where he mounted up with the RCMP in 1951 and was first posted to Moose Jaw, Sask. A series of transfers and promotions followed, during which time he obtained a private pilot's license, and in 1971 he was promoted to staff sergeant of a specialized section in Vancouver. After retiring from the force in 1976, Tyrrell worked in insurance fraud at ICBC until his retirement in 1985.

Tyrrell was also heavily involved with the Royal Canadian Air Cadets from 1981 to 1991, eventually becoming the commander of both 692 Air Canada and 655 Richmond Air Cadet Squadrons. Upon reaching the compulsory retirement age for the military component of the Air Cadets, Tyrrell retired with the rank of major, but continued to be involved with the Air Cadet League of Canada from 1991 to 2011, ultimately becoming provincial secretary.

In 2001, Tyrrell began volunteering at Richmond RCMP and continued to do so well into his 90s. In 2020, the pandemic brought a pause to Richmond RCMP volunteer activities, forcing Tyrrell to finally step back.

"Walter Tyrrell's contributions to Richmond RCMP and the City of Richmond were second to none," says Chief Supt. Dave Chauhan, officer in charge of Richmond RCMP. "Since 2001, Walter

logged more than 20,000 volunteer hours with Richmond RCMP. That equates to more than nine years of full-time employment promoting public safety in our community. If you paid a visit to either the Richmond RCMP's Vancouver International Airport sub-office or the South Arm community policing office during the past two decades, chances are you met Walter. He truly was a fixture here, and we shall miss him dearly."

Over the years, Tyrrell received many accolades for his contributions to Richmond RCMP, the City of Richmond, and other organizations. In addition to appreciation awards from the RCMP and the city, he was named a Paul Harris Fellow for his contributions to Rotary International.

Tyrrell also received a Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, presented to him by the Lieutenant Governor of B.C. in 2019. He received a letter from the Prime Minister for his volunteer efforts, was a lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, and received a 65-year membership award from the Royal Canadian Legion.

Tyrrell passed away peacefully in his care home facility at the age of 96. Richmond RCMP's Staff Sergeant Walter P. Tyrrell Atrium Museum honours his legacy; officially dedicated to Tyrrell during his lifetime, it is currently in the process of re-development.

Richmond RCMP recognizes civilians with awards

Richmond RCMP recently recognized three civilians for their actions during an incident that happened in February 2022.

Stephen Baskerville, Tracey Hill, and Marg Woodcock stepped in to assist police in locating and apprehending a violent suspect after he assaulted and injured a Richmond RCMP officer.

During the incident, Richmond RCMP received a report of a fraud and theft at a local hotel. Upon review of video surveillance at the scene, the investigating officers were able to identify three suspects involved. Patrols of the area soon located the suspects, but as police were in the process of arresting them, one suspect fled on foot.

One of the arresting officers engaged in a foot pursuit of this suspect, who subsequently resisted arrest by fighting back, striking the officer with his fists and knees. During the altercation, the suspect struck the officer in the head several times and was able to remove the officer's collapsible baton from its holster. The suspect then began striking the officer with the baton.

Civilians working at a nearby construction site witnessed the foot pursuit and assault, and stepped in to help. They checked on the injured



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

Civilians (from left) Tracey Hill, Stephen Baskerville, and Marg Woodcock were recognized with awards by Richmond RCMP recently.

officer who had briefly lost consciousness, and followed the suspect who was fleeing from the scene of the assault. This allowed the other attending officers to quickly locate and arrest the suspect.

"This situation quickly and unexpectedly escalated into violence, with one of our officers be-

ing attacked and injured," said Chief Supt. Dave Chauhan, Richmond RCMP officer in charge, during the awards ceremony. "I want to personally thank these civilians for rendering assistance to our injured officer, and for helping to ensure the suspect involved was quickly located and taken into custody."

Diane Dupuis shares business journey

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Reporter

A certified health insurance specialist and financial planner, and the chief executive officer of Dupuis Langen Group, Diane Dupuis recently sat down with host Jim Gordon to discuss how she has grown her business and the challenges she's faced along the way.

Jim Gordon (JG): You're a successful businesswoman, when and how did you get started?

Diane Dupuis (DD): I started my company in 1985, but I trained with Sun Life Canada in 1978.

JG: You said you got to a point where you wanted to go off on your own. Was there hesitancy?

DD: My objective when I started working for Sun Life was to get as much education (as possible) and then start my own boutique firm. I grew up in small business, so it was natural to have a business.

JG: It's been amazing to see how time has progressed specifically for women in business. Was it difficult when you first started?

DD: When I started my firm it wasn't difficult, because I set the rules and parameters. But following the rules and guidelines of being in the insurance business (as) a woman in the late '70s and early '80s had some interesting challenges. There was a dress code (and) I wasn't allowed in the front door of the Vancouver Club and the Terminal City Club; I had to go in through the back door.

JG: How have the last two and a half years been for you and your industry?

DD: We're in an industry where most companies did not want to take anything away from their employees during this period. People want to keep their health, dental, and pension plans. We've been busy managing our clients (and) their expectations and concerns. We were one of the firms that had the first COVID death registered in B.C. It's been an interesting time. Just as we were about to start a marketing campaign into the hotel and tourism industry, the pandemic hit. The industries that we work in—which is construction primarily, (as well as) healthcare, community living sector, and professional services—were very stable throughout the pandemic.

JG: I hear consistently that (the pandemic) was about adapting, evolving, and pivoting. A lot of people have shared with me that on this side of



Diane Dupuis is the chief executive officer of Dupuis Langen Group, a Richmond-based health insurance agency.

Photo via actwest.org

We are absolutely, unequivocally, a better company now than we were before (the pandemic).

— Diane Dupuis

the pandemic, two and a half years later, they're better.

DD: We are absolutely, unequivocally, a better company now than we were before. I'm old school where you get up, get dressed, and go to the office. We have beautiful offices, and I love the chatter of the firm. (In 2020) when Trudeau announced the shutdown, our staff were leaving the office with computer monitors, bags, (and) boxes, loading up their cars (so they could work from home). I am proud to say that we were fully operational within two and a half hours.

JG: Is your company continuing to work from home?

DD: We have a full remote workforce now. Most of our staff (members) are under 40, they're family people who have children, and they've been able to save money during the pandemic, spend more time with their families, and the efficiency of

their work is phenomenal. We have a core group of people that go into the office, but the majority of our staff (members), 70 per cent, are fully remote.

JG: It's interesting that out of this darkness that none of us had experienced before, it made people understand the work-personal (life) balance.

DD: I think back about the applicants over the years I've said no to, because they lived in Chilliwack or Kelowna and wanted to work remotely four days a week. Now we have our first employee in Calgary and she's a superstar.

JG: You're very involved in the community, raising millions for the Richmond Hospital Foundation, but there's also something very dear to your heart: the ACT WEST Community Foundation, started by you and your late husband. Could you tell us about it?

DD: The core values of our company are education, partnership, and excellence, so we started this foundation and fully funded it. We educate single mothers for four years of university. We had our first graduate, but unfortunately two dropped out; there are now three women in the program and we're just about to choose two new candidates to start the program. We're really proud to be able to watch these women, who are resilient, get educated so that they can break whatever cycle they were in so their children can lead good healthy lives.

JG: You were just in Toronto to receive an award for Women's Executive Network (WXN). Could you tell us who they are and about the award?

DD: I was nominated for this Top 100 Canada's Most Powerful Women award in April. They called me in August to let me know that I had won; I was deeply honoured. There are different categories, (and) I won in the category of entrepreneur out of twelve nominated. I met 100 amazing women in Toronto. Kudos to WXN.

JG: What advice would you give people who are asking you how to get ahead?

DD: Find a mentor or someone that you really look up to and ask them for help. I think most people want to see the next generation of young people grow and thrive.

To watch the full video interview, visit richmondsentinel.ca/videos

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Richmond company among national award finalists



Brothers Akaash (left) and Rohit Bali are the founders of Bali Brothers Construction.

Photo by SG Visuals

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Reporter

Richmond construction company Bali Brothers Construction has been named a finalist for the 2023 Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) National Awards for Housing Excellence in the category of Best Whole Home Renovation – under \$200,000.

The company specializes in luxury custom homes, renovations, and commercial tenant improvements, and was started by brothers Rohit and Akaash Bali, who were born and raised in Richmond. Both attended Walter Lee elementary and Matthew McNair secondary, and both graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Growing up, Akaash and Rohit's parents taught them to always be humble, honest, hardworking, and trustworthy—principles they still live by while operating their company.

"Our business's success is derived from our foundation of honesty, integrity, and trust, allowing us to deliver on our commitment of providing high quality work, a client-centred approach, and exceptional customer service. These values further our commitment to doing things the right way, ensuring our clients are well taken care of and have an enjoyable building experience," says Rohit.

The brothers have been passionate about construction since childhood, and always envisioned building a construction company that offers products and services that exceed marketplace standards. They are committed to every project, ensuring high standards are met.

"After seeing the first custom home being built in our neighbourhood, it sparked our interest to learn more and (we) started the journey to become licensed builders and renovators," says Rohit.

By communicating with business partners and staying aware of the regulations set by health authorities, the duo successfully kept their business afloat during the pandemic.

"As a business, we had to adjust and adapt to an ever-changing environment including supply chain issues and labour shortages resulting in cost increases across the board. We've been working with our teams, trade partners, and suppliers (to find) optimal strategies and measures to best service our clients. Safety is a high priority for us, (so) we increased our measures by implementing relevant and appropriate business practices to further ensure the safety of our clients, staff, subtrades, and suppliers while projects are being completed," says Rohit.

The project that has been named an award finalist is called Willoughby Rejuvenation. It was selected out of 800 projects submitted by construction companies from across Canada, a feat that Rohit deems their company's proudest accomplishment.

"We were beyond grateful and honoured to be nominated for our work and thrilled that our renovation project, Willoughby Rejuvenation, was one of the top (projects) in Canada" says Rohit.

Rohit and Akaash also started the Young Investor Program, which focuses on giving back to the community. The program runs for three months each year and provides high school students in grades 10 to 12 with financial literacy and money management skills.

Founded in 2013, the program has impacted the lives of over 500 students across Canada by educating youth about the importance of financial literacy, enabling them to make good financial decisions.

Results of the CHBA National Awards for Housing Excellence will be announced on Thursday (Feb. 16) at a gala dinner in Banff, Alta.

For more information, visit balibrothersconstruction.com

•matthewc@richmondsentinel.ca

Songwriter, producer enjoys international success

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

Eliot Kennedy makes his home in Sheffield, in the north of England—but his success is international. Kennedy has won a Grammy Award and a Juno Award, and has received critical acclaim on Broadway. He has also been nominated for a Golden Globe Award and a Critics Choice Award. The *Our City Tonight* team sat down recently with Kennedy to talk about the people he has worked with—including a then-unknown group of artists who became the Spice Girls—and his new Broadway play.

Our City Tonight (OCT): You are in New York preparing your play?
Eliot Kennedy (EK): Yes, this is my second play set to go to Broadway—the first was a musical called *Finding Neverland*. It's something I've been working on for two years called *Empire State Dreams*, which is a musical based on that iconic photograph of the construction workers eating their lunch (sitting on a steel beam) high above New York. It's about the immigrants who built New York and is a celebration of diversity. We have an excellent director and producer and we're having a great time.

OCT: You first came to our attention back in the mid-'90s when you were the guy responsible for the follow up-single to "Wannabe" for The Spice Girls—you wrote "Say You'll be There." You were also there at the beginning when these five young women showed up at your place in Sheffield and all of a sudden you had five new adopted sisters.

EK: It was literally like that. We had set a date to work together and what I didn't realize was in the interim they had decided to fire their manager. He wouldn't give them my phone number so they just drove to Sheffield, descended on my doorstep, and said they wanted to work with me but they didn't have a place to stay. So I adopted five sisters, and they were incredible. Their energy was amazing. It was like having five hurricanes move into your house, but it was also so inspiring we got so much done, and we had a ball. I still have amazing memories from that time.

OCT: It is a great tribute to the work you've done when you look at the diversity of artists you've worked with: the Spice Girls, Celine Dion, Lulu, Shirley Bassey, and you won a Juno Award working with Bryan Adams. That must be a real joy for you to work with such a diverse group of artists.

EK: When I started my career, it was my intention to not repeat myself, not pigeonhole myself. I always saw myself as a songwriter who would get into the



Photo courtesy Eliot Kennedy
Eliot Kennedy is a British singer-songwriter and producer.

mind of the artist who was going to be singing the song. My job was not to sound like me but to sound like them. It's a challenge as you must remove any ego, any sense of how you think you want it to go, and really try to get into their vocabulary and make it feel like what they're saying is from their heart. The thing I'm most happy about, looking back on my career, is that all of those artists are diverse and do not sound like each other. It really comes from this lifelong love affair with music. I fell in love with as many styles of music as possible, and that helped me be able to do that.

For the full video interview, visit richmondsentinel.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.

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