



Dedicated student  
wins prestigious  
national scholarship

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Photo submitted

Surrounded by her peers in the Free the Children Club team at this year's We Day, Grade 12 Richmond High student Rita Jin (front row, centre) has earned a prestigious Schulich Leader Scholarship valued at \$80,000.

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# Lawn watering regulations now in effect

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Annual lawn watering regulations in the region took effect on May 1 and will continue until Oct. 15.

These restrictions conserve the region's high-quality drinking water, ensuring sufficient water sources through to the rainy fall season.

Watering regulations are part of Metro Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation Plan. Progressively stricter stages of water restrictions may be implemented as needed based on water supply within the region.

Stage 1 lawn watering regulations are as follows:

Residential lawn watering allowed:

- Even-numbered addresses: Wednesday and Saturday mornings 4 to 9 a.m.
- Odd-numbered addresses: Thursday and Sunday mornings 4 to 9 a.m.
- Watering trees, shrubs, decorative planters and flowers (excluding edible plants): Any day

from 4 to 9 a.m. using a sprinkler; anytime using hand watering or drip irrigation.

Non-residential lawn watering allowed:

- Even-numbered addresses: Monday mornings 1 to 6 a.m. and Friday mornings 4 to 9 a.m.
- Odd-numbered addresses: Tuesday mornings 1 to 6 a.m. and Friday mornings 4 to 9 a.m.



Photo via Wikimedia Commons

**Lawn watering regulations in the region began May 1 and will remain in place through the summer.**

• Trees, shrubs, decorative planters and flowers (excluding edible plants) can be watered any day of the week, anytime using hand watering or drip irrigation, or from 1 to 9 a.m. using a sprinkler.

• Edible plants can be watered anytime.

Demand for water is highest during the evening, when people use it for preparing dinner, dish-washing, laundry and showers. By watering lawns early in the morning, peak demand on the water system is reduced.

Water restrictions also remind people to reduce non-priority water uses such as washing vehicles or non-permeable surfaces like driveways. The restrictions only apply to the use of treated drinking/

tap water and not to the use of rain water, grey water (waste water from baths, sinks, washing machines, and other kitchen appliances) or any form of recycled water.

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## Premier outlines plan to restart BC safely

British Columbians will move forward with safely restarting their province beginning in mid-May, according to a plan announced by Premier John Horgan.

Under the plan, government will work closely with public health officials, businesses and labour organizations to lift restrictions in phases, gradually allowing for more social and economic activity, while closely monitoring health information to minimize the risk to the public.

"Our plan puts safety first. British Columbians have made enormous sacrifices so far, and it's thanks to them that we're able to begin to lift some restrictions," Horgan said. "We'll allow activities to resume as the evidence and experts tell us it is appropriate to do so. By moving carefully and deliberately, we will help British Columbians get to a 'new normal,' where more of our social and economic life can resume."

Restarting economic activity will look different in BC than in other jurisdictions, because only a small number of sectors in the province were closed by public health order. Many other provinces are just now reaching the level of safe operations BC has been able to maintain throughout the pandemic.

BC is currently in Phase 1 of the restart plan. Phase 2, which will begin in mid-May, includes:

- small social gatherings;
- a resumption of elective surgeries and regulated health services like physiotherapy, dentistry, chiropractors and in-person counselling;
- provincial parks open for day use;
- opening more non-essential businesses in keeping with safe operations plans;
- recalling the provincial legislature for regular sittings.

Essential businesses that have remained open during the pandemic, so far, have done so safely with the support of WorkSafeBC. Sectors that were ordered closed will be asked to work with WorkSafeBC to develop plans to reopen safely. Any business restarting operations must ensure it is in compliance with the provincial health officer's orders and in accordance with occupational health and safety guidance provided by WorkSafeBC.

The target date for the start of Phase 3, which will include opening up of additional businesses and services, is between June and September 2020, if transmission rates remain low or in decline.

Phase 4 will only be achieved when the threat of COVID-19 has been significantly di-

minished through widespread vaccination, broad successful treatments, evidence of community immunity, or the equivalent.

Most provincial parks will reopen, starting May 14, for day-use only. On June 1, many remaining facilities, including campgrounds, will reopen. A small number of parks that attract large crowds, or where reopening would pose a health risk to nearby communities, will remain closed.

A strong emphasis on personal hygiene for all British Columbians, including hand washing, physical distancing and staying at home if you are sick, will be crucial for the success of every phase of the plan.

While BC already has sufficient testing and tracking capacity, by continuing to increase these, government will be able to identify any flare ups in COVID-19 case numbers and address them. This approach will support public safety and confidence.

"We've unveiled our plan for a slow and safe restart. We need to be vigilant, to make sure we keep flattening the curve of transmission," Premier Horgan said. "There is much more to do. But we will get through this pandemic to better days by working together and keeping each other safe."

# Richmond High student wins \$80,000 scholarship

By **DON FENNELL**  
@rmdsentinel

When opportunity knocks, Rita Jin usually answers.

She plays piano and trumpet; serves as student council vice-president; played on the school's ultimate frisbee and volleyball teams; has earned a Bronze Cross in swimming and learned to fly a glider. And, oh yeah, led the Free the Children team at this year's WE Day.

And those are just a few of the extra-curricular activities that have occupied Jin's time.

The Grade 12 Richmond High student's list of academic achievements are equally lengthy and impressive. They include completing three advanced placement courses on top of the challenging International Baccalaureate program, while maintaining a 90 per cent average.

To say Jin is busy is understated. But she wouldn't want it any other way.

"My busy schedule fulfills me because I see it as offering many opportunities where I get to explore interdisciplinary interests rather than as tedious responsibilities," she explains.

Grounded, friendly and modest, Jin's relentless pursuit of challenges has earned her a Schulich STEM scholarship worth \$80,000. The prestigious leadership scholarships are among Canada's most coveted undergraduate honours.

"I was in the middle of a physics exam when I received a call, but the entirety of the conversation felt so surreal," she says. "My heart felt like it was leaping out my chest."

Jin literally jumped from her seat to share the news with her parents. Feeling fortunate and grateful, she says the funds will allow her to focus on her post-secondary studies without having to work multiple jobs and will lessen the financial burden on her family.

"I (also) look at this award as encouragement," she continues. "I feel I am to use this privilege, and my education, to positively impact our society and world through my action in the future."

Jin plans to enroll in the sciences at UBC this fall, and is anxious to explore many areas of interest. She is particularly entranced by the role technology could play in behavioural disorders, environmental



*Photos courtesy Rita Jin*  
**Grade 12 Richmond High student Rita Jin is an all-around achiever, embracing many opportunities both academically and in the community.**

sustainability, and aeronautical engineering.

"I am beyond honoured to be able to join such an inspiring and valuable network of leaders and professionals. I can't wait to discover the dynamic conversations and ideas that will arise."

The yearning for learning will be an extension of her three years at Richmond High, after transferring from McRoberts Secondary in Grade 10 to enrol in the IB program.

"The key reason why I chose to join was to challenge myself academically," she says. "I was enrolled in accelerated math from grade 8. I have always believed growth is greatest when we overcome obstacles, and I found myself enjoying the process of solving creative enigmas that came with challenging courses. Despite having to bus to school every day, and getting home late after hours of extra-curricular activities, I found the (IB program) incredibly insightful and rewarding."

The IB program has also allowed Jin to engage with peers in an environment that encourages curiosity and open discussion.

"We acted like family. We trusted each other and weren't afraid to share our unique takes. And I learned to approach complex problems, and how there are diverse perspectives with every situation."

Richmond High principal Jim Allison describes Jin

as someone who truly embodies all the attributes the school values.

"She is a responsible, caring, reflective and resilient young person," he says. "She is a genuinely open-minded learner who tackles difficult courses because she sees value in learning and challenging herself. A very genuine person, she is remarkably well-rounded. We are very proud of her."

When Jin finds time to take a break, she enjoys listening to different genres of music, and exploring food outlets with friends. She also welcomes the opportunity to refresh her mind by going on a run or hiking. And, she's keen to improve her photo and video skills.

Through her experiences, Jin has also had to learn good time management.

"I realized time is in fact very limited, so one must prioritize time effectively," she says. "Discovering your purpose and what motivates you is very important."

To the younger students, Jin offers this sage advice: "embrace the privilege that youth offers you—countless opportunities and possibilities. Don't be afraid to dream big, or make mistakes. Be ambitious and not only accept, but strengthen, what makes you unique. Life is a learning marathon."

Wise words for anyone at any age.

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Photo submitted

Despite ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Richmond's fishing industry is continuing to catch and sell fresh local offerings.

## Fishing industry determined to persevere

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Like other industries heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the fishing industry has had to make some changes.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is collaborating with the federal government to ensure Canadian fisheries and aquaculture sectors receive necessary supports to continue providing food, according to department representative Lauren Girdler.

In Steveston, a historic fishing village, commercial fishers are still heading out with their boats and selling their catch to people looking for local seafood.

"We are still seeing quite a bit of activity in our repair yard," says Steveston Harbour Authority general manager Jaime Gusto. "People are still bringing their boats and preparing them for the season."

While the fishing season is getting underway, there are still several fisheries currently affected by COVID-19. The prawn fishery—

which largely serves the commercial industry—has been delayed by about a month, says Gusto. And the halibut fishery has been affected by the shutdown of the restaurant industry.

Sales have been different this year, too. While the public fish sales float in Steveston remains open, people must remain six feet apart.

"On the weekends we've hired a security company to limit the number of people heading down on the float," says Gusto.

While the experience is different for fishers and customers, these safety measures are necessary to ensure continued public access to local seafood—and to keep fishers in business.

Although times are challenging right now, the industry continues to persevere and to fish—despite obstacles and delays.

"Fishermen are such a diverse bunch of people," says Gusto. "They really know how to adapt to change and hardship, and with COVID going on, they're still prepping to go out."

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## YVR announces airport authority layoffs

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to dramatically impact the aviation industry, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is making difficult decisions.

YVR is forecasting less passenger traffic for some time, and staff anticipate operating as a smaller airport as they go through a multi-year rebuild.

Reducing the airport authority's workforce is a difficult but necessary change to align with current and forecasted operational requirements.

Vancouver International Airport is a community-based not-for-profit organization that manages YVR. It employs a staff of about 500 in areas such as airport operations, human resources and administration.

YVR is beginning the workforce reduction process, offering voluntary departure packages to all employees. Layoffs will follow. As this process is currently underway, YVR is unable to share more information at this time, but will provide more updates to the public in the coming weeks.



Vancouver Airport Authority staff will be laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the aviation industry.

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Photo via Wikimedia Commons

The BC Aviation Council says government help is urgently needed to preserve essential service.

## Aviation industry calls for immediate aid

By **DON FENNELL**  
 @rmdsentinel

Reeling from the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the airline industry is asking for immediate government help.

"With respect to aviation and aerospace, the (federal) government continues to be committed to their top priorities of the safety and security of Canadians and Canada's transportation system," said BC Aviation Council chair Heather Bell. "That said, we are seeing a nimbleness and flexibility within government that is unprecedented. Transport Canada, in particular, has been extremely responsive to industry regulatory needs and we need the same speed by all decision-makers to recognize the critical role that aviation plays in Canada and the financial support required. Response is needed in the order of days and weeks."

The council has communicated its concerns to government, while proposing action items to assist airports, air operators and flying schools to survive during the liquidity phase and subsequent recovery.

"Our concerns are many, and as complex as the industry itself," Bell explained. "For most people living in larger urban areas, the term aviation brings to mind the major air carriers and large international airports. I will stress that these organizations are being impacted in a way that has never been seen before and they are facing severe and long-term financial risks."

"But," she continued, "we have great fear of what will happen to the safety and well-being of our citizens if the medium to small air carriers are not able to operate, if the rural airports serving remote and Indigenous communities are not sustained, flight training units have to close their doors, maintenance, repair and overhaul centres cease operations, and if essential aviation service safety providers are no longer there. At best, it will mean we may not be able to easily connect travellers to an international airport; at worst, it will mean remote communities are with-

out vital air service for the delivery of critical medical and food supplies, and the potential to efficiently fight forest fires may be significantly diminished."

Bell said the aviation sector is made of many components: airlines (small, medium and large), private business aviation, airports in major Canadian cities and in the smallest of remote areas, support organizations that provide skilled professionals such as flight training units, maintenance operations and critical safety services such as refuelling and de-icing.

"The loss of any one piece in the intricate and complex chain puts the entire system at risk," she said. "Aviation is highly-regulated and capital intensive. It is not possible to shut down an airline or airport for a few weeks or months and then simply start up again. The level of skill, training and certification is (and should be) extremely high, and does not easily allow for breaks in service. The government must act now to preserve the aviation sector."

The BC Aviation Council says that in 2019, the BC aviation industry directly employed more than 44,000 professional workers and contributed \$12.6 billion to Canada's gross domestic product. The province is home to 172 air operators, 42 flying schools and more than 10 aerospace companies. The majorities are small businesses.

The council also claims business in the aviation sector is down 93 per cent since the pandemic began.

While most of the industry has been designated an essential service, the council says more help is needed in addition to programs already announced. Among its recommendations is that the federal government provide low barrier, forgivable business loans or grants to essential small or regional air operators and aircraft maintenance providers to cover such costs as NAV Canada charges, airport charges, aviation fuel excise taxes and rent and ground handling fees.

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## Teachers' Federation and Employers' Association reach agreement

Members of the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) have ratified an agreement under government's Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate.

The mandate focuses on improving services for people and ensuring fair and affordable compensation.

The agreement covers more than 45,000 teachers represented by the BCTF who deliver education to students in the province's 60 school districts.

Negotiated with the assistance of a mediator, the agreement includes:

- A three-year term (July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2022);
- yearly general wage increases of 2 per cent
- a 1 per cent increase in 2020 to the top step of the teacher salary grid in each district; and
- a mediated process on how to support successful bargaining negotiations in future years.

The Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate supports government's commitment to improving the services people count on, making life more affordable and investing in sustainable economic growth. The mandate is consistent with BC's commitment to sound fiscal management.

Currently, about 300,000 public-sector employees—90 per cent—are now covered by tentative or ratified agreements reached under BC's Sustainable Services Negotiating Mandate.



# Burnett students committed to PPE production

By DON FENNELL  
@rmdsentinel

Chris Lam has his sights set on a career as a paramedic. Right now, the Burnett secondary student's focus is on helping save lives another way—by making personal protective equipment.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lam and fellow Grade 12 students at the Richmond school are kept busy—between online learning—churning out ear savers and protective face shields.

Using futuristic 3D technology, Lam and his colleagues in the robotics club have, to date, donated more than 300 of the highly-coveted PPE items to local care homes, Richmond Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital, Coast Mountain Bus Company and several care homes in Manitoba.

But the students are now running out of supplies, and are asking for the public's help. They need PETG sheets (0.03 inches thick) or clear polycarbonate sheets (0.01 to 0.03 inches thick) and PETG filament (2.85 millimetres). They could also use some elastic straps.

"Right now, because of the (limited) material we have, we can only print so many items," says Lam.



Photo submitted

**Adriano Carvalheiro-Nune, Chris Lam, Sean Uy and fellow robotics club members at Richmond's Burnett secondary are making personal protective equipment using 3D technology.**

Lam has many friends working on the front lines during the coronavirus crisis. They range from paramedics to workers in hospitals, clinics and care homes. All of them, he says, serve as constant motivation. All are performing yeoman's service.

"I'm too young to be part of the BC Ambulance Service yet, but I want to climb the ladder as a paramedic," says Lam, who is grateful for the co-operation and support of teachers and

administrators in the Richmond School District.

"We've been getting a lot of support from the district," he explains. "Our superintendent, Scott Robinson, talked with our principal (Wennie Walker) about shipping the PPEs we've been making to different places. And we've gotten printers from all over the district for this project. They have been so supportive in what we are trying to accomplish."

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## Business association donates to fight virus

Since launching a COVID-19 relief campaign just over a month ago, the Canada Asian Pacific Business Association has donated more than \$100,000 to help fight the virus.

That includes a \$10,000 donation last week to the Richmond Hospital Foundation.

The campaign is headed by association president Elsa Wong, with assistance from Thomas Wu, Sandra Lau and Lawrence Yeung and secretary Jacky Hui.

The team recently hosted a successful virtual conference, which featured many invited guests including advisor and Richmond South Centre MLA Teresa Wat and Richmond Hospital Foundation CEO Natalie Meixner. In addition to updating the status of the campaign, participants also learned about



Photo submitted

**Canada Asia Pacific Business Association president and relief campaign chair Elsa Wong.**

the newest innovations in ventilators being researched and developed at UBC Hospital.

## Hospital foundation CEO extends gratitude

*Following is an excerpt of a message of gratitude from Richmond Hospital Foundation CEO Natalie Meixner.*

It is with the deepest expression of gratitude that I share this message with you on behalf of everyone at Richmond Hospital Foundation.

Over the years, countless individuals, families, businesses and community groups have donated generously to ensure that the health care teams in Richmond have the right equipment and resources to provide high quality care. Without knowing it at the time of making those gifts, this has had a huge impact today when we have needed and relied on having the best of health care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The gifts made before this crisis have helped enable care throughout these unprecedented times.

Looking to the future, many thoughtful philanthropists have already given generously to ensure that Richmond will have a new acute care tower in a few years so that our dedicated, compassionate physicians, nurses, and health care professionals will have the right facilities to work in and be able to look after our families, employees and visitors when they need them, better than ever before. Today, more than ever, we know that this new facility is urgently needed in preparation for the demands that we will face in the years to come.

And over the past six weeks, hundreds of individuals, families, co-workers, business owners, have come together in an incredible way to recognize the importance of having the best possible care by making their own donations. You have made financial donations, many in the fight against COVID-19 but also in support of health care as a priority all the time.

# Storytime at the Richmond library

Now more than ever, reading to your young child is important. And if you've ever attended a *Storytime* at Richmond Public Library, then you've experienced the many benefits of reading aloud to and with children.

During *Storytime* sessions, skilled and thoughtful library staff demonstrate different ways that parents can help their child connect with books and develop early literacy skills. While children are laughing and singing, they are also learning valuable reading skills and setting themselves up for future success. Meanwhile, parents are learning valuable tips on how to select and use age-appropriate reading materials, as well as how to read aloud to their young children in an engaging way. Did you know that singing slows our speech down, helping children to practice saying the words?

While the branches are closed, the library is adapting to serve changing community needs.

This includes providing virtual *Storytime* to the community via Facebook Live. While virtual *Storytime* can't replace the in-person experience of sharing stories, the library is committed to bringing *Storytime* into the homes of our community. As an added bonus, *Storytimes* can be viewed from anywhere.

Today, the library is introducing two of its virtual *Storytime* staff, Chelsea and Geneviève.

Chelsea is a library technician at the Steveston branch, who enjoys meeting new families at *Storytimes* and *Babytimes* each week.

"I miss seeing all the families coming in full of excitement for the songs and stories to come," says Chelsea. "For online *Storytimes*, there is still the opportunity for socializing through interaction with the live stream. Library staff are asking questions throughout and really engaging with the stories and songs, hopefully providing an inviting space for children and caregivers to engage as well."

Geneviève is a children's librarian at the Brighthouse branch, who is passionate about supporting families with babies and young children.



Photo by Jaana Björk

**Richmond Public Library's popular *Storytime* can be enjoyed online.**

"The thing I miss most about doing *Storytime* at the library is, of course, the children," says Geneviève. "I love reading a book that really gets their creative juices flowing so that they are inspired to bring some great books home to read with their families." She encourages all families to add online *Storytime* to their day. "Since everyone learns differently, we explore different kinds of stories, rhymes, songs and movement to create a diverse and impactful online *Storytime*."

Hundreds of families are tuning in to view and enjoy RPL's *Storytime @ Home* every week. Come online and experience *Storytime* for yourself! There's no registration required, just join on weekdays at 10 a.m. live on Facebook [www.facebook.com/yourlibraryRichmond/](https://www.facebook.com/yourlibraryRichmond/). Thanks to technology, each day's *Storytime* video is available for 24 hours so families can watch together at their convenience. The library will be offering online *Babytimes* on Mondays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. Join library staff on Facebook Live from home with your baby for stories, rhymes and even a little wiggling and tickling. You and your baby will be delighted by this online program opportunity!

The library also offers a wide variety of programs to suit all ages and is continually adding new programs to its online schedule.

## COVID-19 Support Resources for Small-Businesses

As of April 14, 2020



### Provincial Supports

Visit [gov.bc.ca/Covid19](https://gov.bc.ca/Covid19) or Call 1-888-COVID19 for all non-medical information.

Tax and utility payment deferments including BC Hydro, EHT, PST, municipal and regional district tax, and more.

School tax relief from a cut of 50% for business and industry property classes, to be passed into tenant triple-net leases.

### Federal Supports

Canada Emergency Business Account will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to eligible small businesses.

Federal Gov will cover up to 75% of wages for business, charities, and non-profits who've lost more than 15% of revenue in March.

Many federal taxes been deferred, including GST/PST, customs duties and federal income tax.

### Banks

Canada's largest financial institutions are committed to working with small business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible financing solutions.



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# Tourism analysis to determine local impact of pandemic

By HANNAH SCOTT and LORRAINE GRAVES

Tourism Richmond is looking internally to measure the effects of COVID-19.

To best advocate for its members, CEO Nancy Small says Tourism Richmond needs data on who has applied for governmental relief programs.

"We are trying to understand the uptake of federal and provincial programs," Small said at last week's Richmond COVID-19 Community Task Force meeting.

As the province begins to talk about gradually easing restrictions, Small said some large hotels, like Marriott and Fairmont, will have their own strict

guidelines for new models of operation. She added there will be a new way of doing business in the next phase of COVID-19 restrictions, but that it is important to set guidelines within the sector so people feel comfortable moving around more than they currently are.

In collaboration with the city and chamber, Tourism Richmond will launch a new "We are Richmond BC" portal this week. The portal will promote activities that can be done from home, as well as help businesses that offer

food or other goods for take out.

For more information on Tourism Richmond, visit their website [www.visitrichmondbc.com](http://www.visitrichmondbc.com)



## Broadmoor residents step up for neighbours

By DON FENNEL  
@rmdsentinel

The COVID-19 pandemic may have forced residents to engage in physical distancing, but in reality the community has never been closer.

When a group of Broadmoor residents learned that Richmond Hospital needed help to purchase four more ventilators, they stepped up. Through a spontaneous fundraising campaign, neighbours collected \$33,844 which they turned over to the Richmond Hospital Foundation.

Broadmoor Neighbourhood Association (BNA) president David Zhao credited local Richmond-Steveston MLA John Yap for introducing them to the hospital staff.

"As our MLA, John has always encouraged our members to support the community, and our hospital is so important for Richmond—especially at this time," said Zhao.

Started as a Block Watch group, BNA is a



Photo submitted

Reflective of their motto, "Love Thy Neighbour As Thyself," the Broadmoor Neighbourhood Association has donated \$33,844 to help Richmond Hospital purchase four more ventilators.

community-minded collective of citizens made up of several hundred families. It has been lauded by the city for the "best neighbourhood group in the city," noted Yap.

Richmond Hospital Foundation president and CEO Natalie Meixner said of the group, "we are truly honoured that you have raised all of

these funds to help support the COVID-19 efforts in Richmond."

Meixner said they have been impressed by the heart with which people are working so diligently to help.

"Your story is certainly one of unity and passion," she said.

## T&T founder donates \$80,000 for hospital ventilators



Photo submitted

T&T Supermarket founder Cindy Lee (left) with CEO Tina Lee has made an \$80,000 donation to Richmond Hospital Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund for the purchase of ventilators.

The founder of Canada's largest Canadian-Asian grocery retailer has made an \$80,000 donation to Richmond Hospital Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund.

"I believe that human life is priceless. During this difficult time everyone should work together to contribute to their community in whatever way they can," says Cindy Lee. "From helping your neighbour to donating to the local hospital, we can overcome this crisis together."

Grateful to the community that has played a large part in her personal achievements, Lee has demonstrated her philanthropic leadership personally and professionally. T&T Supermarket has been a leader in the business community, donating one million surgical masks which are being distributed to those most in need and supporting high quality, lifesaving care in the community.

"We are grateful for the generous \$80,000 donation Mrs. Cindy Lee has committed towards ventilators in support of Richmond Hospital Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund," said Richmond Hospital Foundation CEO Natalie Meixner.





Photo courtesy Richmond Art Gallery

The Richmond Art Gallery has restarted its Artist Salon Series via online webinar that allows local artists to interact with each other and the public.

## Artist Salon Series connects art community online

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Despite its physical closure, the Richmond Art Gallery continues to provide opportunities for local artists to connect with each other and the public.

The Artist Salon Series was a successful monthly program from 2016 to 2018, and funding was reinstated for the program this year. But when COVID-19 forced the closure of gallery spaces, the Richmond Art Gallery turned to the idea of a webinar series in order to support eager participants.

The program is designed for local artists looking to build professional development skills and advance their careers.

"(It) was also meant to build up the local artist community via meeting once a month to socialize, share ideas and network," says program coordinator Kathy Tycholis.

She explains that artists suggest speakers or topics of interest, and she tries to address their needs.

"When we hosted it at the gallery, I was able to chat with most participants so I had a pretty good sense of what they wanted in this series," says Tycholis. "Now that we've moved online, I use email and social media to stay in touch with artists who have attended over the years, to get

their input on how I should proceed with plans for upcoming sessions."

The artist-driven program is free to participants and depends on outside funding to continue running. Tycholis says she intends to keep it going for as long as there is interest in the artist community.

"We hope to continue the Artist Salon program for many years to come, as it does serve a real need in the artist community," says Tycholis. "There are not a lot of free programs in existence that offer professional development and networking opportunities specific to visual artists."

The first trial session happened recently, and the program will continue on the last Tuesday night of each month until November, if there is continued interest.

And members of the public can join in and be a part of the art community through a Q&A session that accompanies each webinar. The sessions will be posted on YouTube as well.

There's also a program Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RichmondArtGalleryBC](http://www.facebook.com/RichmondArtGalleryBC) for interaction and sharing ideas. Tycholis administers the group and regularly posts Lower Main-

land arts opportunities.

For more information on the Artist Salon Series, visit the Richmond Art Gallery website <http://www.richmondartgallery.org/>

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## Branscombe Artist-in-Residence Sheppard wins art award

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Lou Sheppard, Richmond's current Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence, has been announced as one of the Sobey Art Award's 25 longlist artists—and has received a \$25,000 prize.

This year, the Sobey Art Foundation did not name a short list or single winner of the \$100,000 award. They chose instead to distribute \$625,000 equally amongst the longlisted artists.

This sum usually covers the award program, artist residencies, exhibition cost and annual gala ceremonies. The Sobey Art Award is Canada's largest contemporary art prize.

Sheppard is currently engaging Richmonders through weekly art prompts posted on their blog as well as the What We Can't Say in English project—which is based on words from other languages that have no English equivalent.

Richmond residents who speak a language other than English and have a word that lacks a satisfying English translation can contact Sheppard. They plan to gather these words and their attempted translations for a series of podcasts and posters.

Learn more about the current residency by visiting the artist's blog at [www.louheppard.com/branscombe](http://www.louheppard.com/branscombe), and stay connected by following @branscombe\_house\_2020 and @how-artworks on Instagram.

Details about the Branscombe House residency program can be found at [www.richmond.ca/branscomberesidency](http://www.richmond.ca/branscomberesidency).

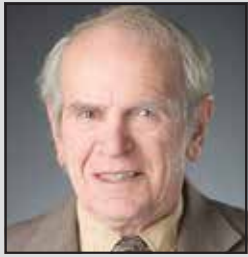


Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Artist-in-Residence Lou Sheppard was recently announced as a Sobey Art Award longlist artist, a leading national award for emerging/established visual artists.

*In their own words...*

## The new normal



**Harold Steves**  
Councillor

What will normal look like after COVID-19? Physical distancing will continue, people will wear masks, and seniors will remain isolated until a vaccine is created. But what about the economy?

Some countries were slow to listen to scientists and act against the pandemic, and the world paid for their inaction. The same applies to climate change, an even greater pandemic awaiting us. The longer we wait, the harder it will be to control and slow climate warming.

Since the travel lockdown, there have been clear skies with a 25% drop in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions due to a reduction in burning coal and oil and a decline in air travel and transport. This clearly demonstrates that we can make a difference.

The United Nations warns that, due to COVID-19, people facing severe food insecurity worldwide could double from 135 million in January to 265 million by 2021. This

due to the fact that millions can only eat if they are working and earn a wage. As well, there are production and distribution issues, lack of farm labour, export bans and existing climate related problems of floods, wildfires, drought and locusts. Compound that with the announcement by Columbia University researchers that California and the US southwest, which supply most of our food, might be experiencing the second worst megadrought in 1,200 years.

We saw what happened to the supply of masks during the pandemic. The food supply chain could be equally threatened. One of Council's strategic goals is to be a Safe and Environmentally Conscious city. That includes an emphasis on local food systems, urban agriculture and organic farming. It is time for the BC Government to get more land into food production. BC had a Land Bank in 1973 and 10,000 acres were leased or sold to young farmers over four years before it was discontinued. During WWII, when food was rationed and sent overseas to support the military, Canadians and Americans grew 42% of their vegetables and small fruit in their own "Victory" gardens. We may have to do it again.

COVID-19 drastically destabilized the oil and gas industry. The price of fossil fuels will remain low and jobs will be few while the

pandemic continues. Canada has recently subsidized oil and gas to provide jobs cleaning up old wells. Let's end it there while we have a chance. It's time to retrain, retool and develop solar, geothermal and wind energy, augmented by existing dams and low level or deep valley dams that do not flood forest and farmland like the planned Site C Dam.

Let's all continue with the environmentally positive changes we have made with COVID-19 like video conferencing and reduced air travel, e-commerce and working from home. Cities must concentrate on increasing and improving public transit; and developing their own energy alternatives such as rooftop solar on every house. They need to promote local agriculture with farmers markets, allotment gardens, and taxation that encourages farming unfarmed lands. More cities should innovate and follow Richmond's lead with enterprises like our award-winning Geothermal District Energy, Garden City Lands Farm School and Incubator Farms.

Corporations will urge politicians to return to the old ways to pay off pandemic costs. We must not let that happen. The new norm should be a more sustainable future that values clean air, water and food. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to future generations.

## City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

*City of Richmond Council has postponed most standing Committee meetings until at least the end of May 2020 to further strengthen existing physical distancing measure aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. The exception will be General Purposes committee and Finance Committee. Council Meetings and Public Hearings will also proceed as scheduled.*

### Development Permit Panel

3:30 pm | Wednesday, May 13  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

### General Purposes Committee

4:00 pm | Tuesday, May 19  
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

### Public Hearing

7:00 pm | Tuesday, May 19  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

### Council Meeting

7:00 pm | Monday, May 25  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

### Development Permit Panel

3:30 pm | Wednesday, May 27  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

### General Purposes Committee

4:00 pm | Monday, June 1  
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

### Finance Committee

Following the General Purposes Committee Mtg  
Monday, June 1  
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

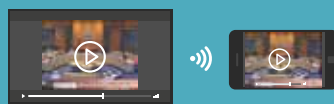
### Council Meeting

7:00 pm | Monday, June 8  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

For meeting agendas and reports  
visit [www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca).



## Council Meeting Live Streaming



Visit [www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca)  
to link to live streaming  
or watch archived video.





# Online exhibit keeps Cannery history accessible

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

While a visit to Steveston's Gulf of Georgia Cannery is currently impossible, the national historic site is engaging visitors from the safety of their own homes.

The online exhibit, *From Tides to Tins*, is made possible by a Virtual Museum of Canada grant. This program is managed by the Canadian Museum of History and aims to build digital resources based around museums and heritage organizations.

"The idea for the online exhibit took root in the work of a dedicated Cannery Society volunteer named Helena," says audience engagement manager Shannon King.

Helena worked with Society collections manager Heidi Rampfl to research more than 200 salmon canneries in BC. The project combines Helena's research with the answers to some of the common requests and questions Heidi receives.

Volunteer editors helped write the website and a team of volunteer teachers assessed it from an educator's perspective. The team also included a web design company, researchers, a translator and summer students.

"The Society also wanted to address the need for online resources for



Photo courtesy Gulf of Georgia Cannery

**An online exhibit at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery helps people access the historic resources from home.**

visit by enjoying related activities from their homes before or after they visit the Cannery," says King.

While Cannery staff look forward to being able to reopen, they intend to keep the *From Tides to Tins* exhibit running online for the foreseeable future.

"As more and more people discover it, we are hoping they will send us even more information about BC's historic salmon canneries that we can add to the resource in the years to come," says King.

To visit the *From Tides to Tins* site, go to <http://tides totins.ca/>

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## Sibel Thrasher remembered

By LORRAINE GRAVES

@rmdsentinel

A brilliant star has dimmed. Longtime Richmond entertainer Sibel Thrasher died April 9 at age 70.

"Singing is good for the soul," Thrasher once said. "As long as I can make somebody smile, it's worth coming out."

Originally from Cincinnati, Thrasher came to Vancouver in 1985 with the singing group The Platters, famous for songs such as "Only You" and "The Great Pretender." In a 2017 interview she said her stay was originally meant to be only a month, but she didn't want to leave.

Ever elegant, Thrasher entertained across the Lower Mainland in many shows, including the Arts Club production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, two hours of song and dance based on Fats Waller's music.

Thrasher and her husband Michael lived in Richmond near Garden City Road. She enjoyed performing in local venues, like the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and the ANAF club in Steveston.

Thrasher was inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2004 and given a star on the Walk of Fame in Vancouver.

Prior to a 2017 performance at the cannery, Thrasher confided: "All these years I've been singing, I still get nervous."

Even though she is no longer with us, we can still be moved by Thrasher's music and philosophy.

"I want everybody to come out and have a good time and if you feel like dancing dance."

•LGraves@richmondsentinel.ca



SIBEL THRASHER



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## RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

# Rambo gets his happy ending



Pat  
Johnson

It was a joyous day recently when Rambo, a six-year-old German shepherd who spent more than 15 months at the RAPS Animal Shelter and in foster care, finally found his perfect forever home.

On March 17, Rambo went home with new parents Michelle Petzold and Gavinder Atwal. It was the happiest of endings for a sweet dog who inexplicably had a challenging start to life. He was adopted and returned a number of times. He struggled with anxiety while at the Shelter. He had a knee injury—he slightly tore his ACL—which meant a lot of cage rest, which did not help with the anxiety. So he was transferred to a foster home, where he recuperated and got ready for the next stage of his life.

The couple were on the lookout for a larger dog and Rambo, a gentle giant, really fit the bill. Although he is reactive with other dogs due to lack of socialization, he's a big softie with people.

"We were kind of looking around for a dog, checking out different shelters online," says Michelle. "Rambo popped up. He had a really cute smile so we thought we'd go meet him. We just played around in the yard with him a little bit. We kicked the soccer ball around and he would kind of come to your feet and you could pet him. Just really sweet."

The very first night at his new home, Rambo was a little bit confused.

"He would kind of just sit there," Michelle says. "He would lay down and stare at us or follow us around, a little bit unsure."

He wouldn't even touch his food. The next



After more than a year, sweet German shepherd finds his forever home. Photo submitted

morning, Gavinder spoon fed Rambo his breakfast and, since then, that has never been a problem.

"Now he follows us around the house and seems like he is pretty at home now," she says. His favourite activity is chasing the soccer ball and he's a big cuddler.

"He loves to snuggle with us," says Michelle. "If I'm taking a nap on the couch, he'll come and lay down right next to me."

He's also a face-licker.

Rambo gets excited when he sees other dogs while walking, which is something his owners are working on with him. But, at home, he's incredibly chill.

"He's super quiet, just chills out and stares at

you, cuddles, licks your face," Michelle says. She wishes other people would see the joy in older dogs. Rambo waited more than a year to find his forever home and he is a delight to be around.

"I'm so happy that we got him," she says.

Happy endings like Rambo's are possible because RAPS is a no-kill animal-serving organization. In so many other jurisdictions, amazing dogs like Rambo would be euthanized due to lack of space or even minor behavioural issues. At RAPS, we never give up on an animal.

Happy endings like Rambo's are possible because of a community that helps us keep our no-kill promise.

Pat Johnson is communications manager of the Regional Animal Protection Society.

## MY NAME IS AVERY

Avery is a senior German shepherd, aged about 13-and-a-half, who is looking for a home with a relaxed atmosphere. He is a wise old man who loves his playtime, but loves his resting time just as much. He'll fit in best in a quiet home with no kids or other distractions!

**\*\*Due to COVID-19, all meet and greets will be by appointment only. Please call us at 604-275-2036 to set up an appointment.\*\***



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rapsbc.com | City Shelter: 604-275-2036

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rapsanimalhospital.com

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





# Richmond FC steps up for food bank

By **DON FENNELL**  
 @rmdsentinel

Like many good ideas, this one started simply. Sitting outside and enjoying what has become a traditional Friday Happy Hour between neighbours—all the while observing social distancing—the Richmond Food Bank came up in conversation.

One of the friends, Andrew Goodison, challenged the other, Richmond FC executive director Marius Roevde, to find a way the local youth soccer club could make a difference. By breakfast the following morning, Roevde had a plan—putting in motion a fundraiser with the end goal of helping ensure no one in the community goes hungry.

"(Most of us) are in a fortunate place. We are healthy, have food, and have to show responsibility," Roevde said. "As a soccer club, we are coaching girls and boys from five-years-old to adult. We are also (responsible for) educating youth in empathy, discipline and teamwork and (to be) accepting of diversity. We want to be a strong organization that is extremely people-oriented and diverse and we want transparency throughout our club and (supporting the food bank) will not be a one-off."

To help promote the fundraiser, Roevde called on several well-known friends in the sport world. The likes of Henrik Sedin, Bob Lenarduzzi, Dave Ousted, Pa-Modu Kah, Martin Rennie and Frode Grodas all provided short social media clips.

Observing social distancing requirements, with gloves and disinfectants at hand, Roevde and Richmond FC colleagues spent three nights at local fields to collect monetary and food donations. And members, often arriving by bike—reflecting a new-found appreciation for the activity—were enthusiastic supporters.

"I could feel the passion," Roevde said. "I couldn't be prouder of the club and the parents, players, coaches and staff. And every morning I drove to the food bank to drop off donations, which gave me an even bigger motivation. Seeing the lineups, and meeting all those fantastic people working and volunteering there..."

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



Photos courtesy  
 Richmond FC  
 Richmond FC executive  
 director Marius Roevde and  
 his team headed up a major  
 fundraiser to support the  
 Richmond Food Bank.

**RICHMOND**  
**SENTINEL**  
 OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

## RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

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Photo courtesy PJHL

**Trevor Alto is the new commissioner of the Pacific Junior Hockey League.**

## PJHL entering new era with Alto at helm

By DON FENNELL  
@rmdsentinel

While respecting its past, the Pacific Junior Hockey League is embracing the future with the hiring of Trevor Alto as its first commissioner.

Succeeding president Ray Stonehouse, who will fill an advisory role for the next two seasons, Alto inherits a league that is on stable financial footing and ready to take another step in its evolution.

"I am very thrilled to join the PJHL as commissioner. I think it is an excellent opportunity to be able to join a league that has come a long way in the last few years," Alto says.

"The league's board of governors, under Ray Stonehouse's leadership, has been able to structure their business model in a way that sets up the PJHL for long-term success."

Alto brings a wealth of experience in junior hockey. A former player with the Prince George Spruce Kings, he later studied sports management at UBC and worked alongside John Grisdale in the front offices of the BC Hockey League, overseeing hockey operations, marketing and communications.

"Trevor has all the attributes we need to take our league to the next level and we're looking forward to some exciting changes," says board chair Doug Paterson.

One of those changes may be the addition of a 13th franchise. A club based in Chilliwack could start play as early as next season, which officials hope will commence on schedule in September.

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## Sockeyes trust in Koen as club's head coach

By DON FENNELL  
@rmdsentinel

Bayne Koen is coming home.  
Or at least full circle.

Koen is the new bench boss of the Richmond Sockeyes, the same junior hockey team with which his coaching career began as an assistant in the early 2000s.

"It's exciting to be back where it all started," he says, taking a moment to reflect on the journey that began under the tutelage of Ron Johnson.

"Ron was a big part of me getting into the coaching world," Koen acknowledges. "I also played for him, and one of the things he taught me was patience and process. He had a very unique way of looking at the game, the skills and tactics, and taught me a lot of the stuff I still used to this day." Like his mentor, Koen is big on systems and for players to promote themselves within the team culture.

Not afraid to think outside the box, it was Johnson who converted a former Sockeyes forward to defence. That player—Jason Garrison—went on to play in the NHL, including with the Vancouver Canucks.

Johnson was also fond of dividing the season into segments, comparing the stretches to a seven-game playoff series. Koen looks at the schedule similarly.

"I look at where the team is at (different points) and try to build systematically—putting things in play we need to do every single day, whether in practice or in game play," Koen explains. "Taking a system approach, you understand Game 1 is game one and Game 44 is game 44, but it's still a process that goes in between. (And then) you've got to be healthy and buy in to have success (in the playoffs) when the turnaround is so quick."

Koen believes that by putting the players in situations to succeed they will prosper, both individually and collectively.

"Obviously, winning is a big part of it and we need to make sure the players buy in, and we stay the course," he says. "You're going to have bumps, but it's what you do on the other end to get yourself out of those situations



Photo submitted

**Bayne Koen is the new head coach of the Richmond Sockeyes, replacing Brett Reusch who stepped down to spend more time with family.**

(that determines your level of success)."

Doug Paterson, an original Sockeye when the team began in 1972, is thrilled to have Koen—an instructor at the highly regarded Delta Hockey Academy—back in the fold.

"He brings all the important core values," says Paterson, now part of the Sockeyes' ownership group. "And he's a former Coach of the Year, taking North Vancouver to the Cyclone Taylor Cup in Campbell River (in 2019)."

Paterson is also impressed by Koen's efforts to continually better himself and be-

lieves he brings a knowledge of the game, and respect of his players, to help lift the Sockeyes to a higher level next season.

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*He brings all the  
important core values.  
And he's a former  
Coach of the Year.*

– Doug Paterson





# The Richmond Music School goes online

By ANDREW HUNG  
Contributor

The Richmond Music School (RMS) hasn't stopped creating music during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has even come up with some new ideas.

Since mid-March, the school has been offering online lessons for many instruments, including piano, violin, guitar, ukulele, flute and voice.

"I hope that people will take this opportunity to connect with music, and to try something new, like learning an instrument," says principal Meghan Verdejo, adding that the convenience of learning from home can be an advantage.

Online lessons can also provide some much-needed structure during these unpredictable times, says Verdejo.

And while ensembles haven't been able to perform or rehearse together physically, the group classes in the Violin Outreach program have been able to continue online.

RMS has also introduced completely new programs, like the beginner percussion program, drum kit program, and group theory lessons.

"This is a perfect time to try something out of the box," says Verdejo.

Students have been encouraged to share their practicing progress by uploading videos for the school's Online Practice-a-Thon Contest.

With the Royal Conservatory of Music's transition to online examinations, the School will also be offering online mock exams to help students prepare.

For more information, please visit the Richmond Music School's website.



Photo submitted

Richmond Music School students are adapting to online lessons.

## London Drugs offering support to local businesses

One of Richmond's best-known companies is extending a helping hand to local small businesses.

London Drugs is offering shelf space in select stores to those who have had to close their doors because of COVID-19. Small businesses in Western Canada are welcome to submit products for consideration.

"This is a really hard time for many small businesses, and we are in a unique position in these challenging times where we can really help out,"

said London Drugs president and CEO Clint Mahlman. "As a 75-year-old Canadian owned and operated company, we have always supported fellow Canadian businesses and now is the time more than ever to come together. As an essential service, we are here to help our local small businesses while also providing an opportunity for customers to pick up their favourite local items and support their favourite local companies."

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business reports that only 21 per cent of small business-

es in Canada are fully open due to the pandemic. Further, 50 per cent are unsure they will survive.

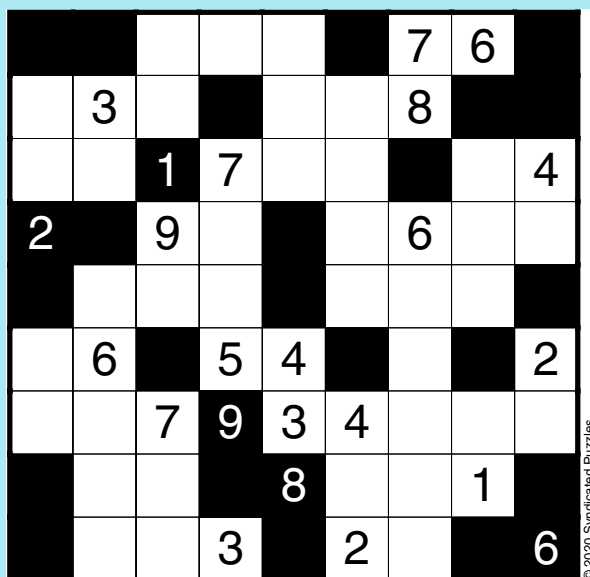
In select locations, London Drugs will be transforming its centre aisles into Local Central. This will be a dedicated space to help local businesses sell their products.

"Whether you sell coffee, local honey or your restaurant's graphic T-shirts, London Drugs is here to help," Mahlman said.

Small business owners can learn more at [londondrugs.com/local-central-application.html](https://londondrugs.com/local-central-application.html)

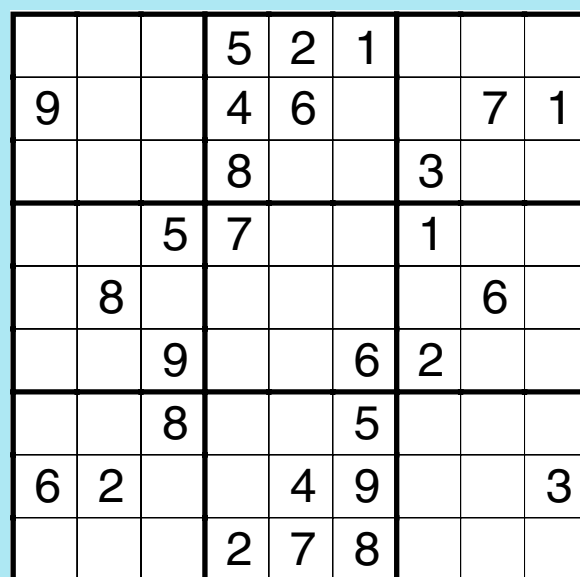
### STR8TS

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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