



Eye to the future

Throws champion
maintaining focus

13

Photo courtesy Cal Athletics/klcfotos

Hammer throws champion Camryn Rogers is determined not to lose sight of her goals, even amidst the challenges she faces as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Photo by Chung Chow
 Richmond farmer Bill Zylmans annually produces some of the finest strawberries anywhere. But he says it's increasingly a challenge to stay in the market.



Generational farmer Zylmans concerned about future of local agriculture

By **DON FENNELL**
 @rmdsentinel

Bill Zylmans has been tilling the fertile Richmond soil most of his 50-some years.

It's a labour of love, but increasingly challenging and at times downright frustrating.

Coinciding with the arrival of summer solstice, strawberry season extends through much of June. It's a crop Zylmans, owner of W&A Farms on the community's east side, is renowned for.

Each year, he produces some of the sweetest, juiciest and brightest red berries on the market.

"Everybody wants our strawberries. They taste like a strawberry (is supposed to)," he says proudly. "Call me old-fashioned, but I want to sell quality and the things people appreciate."

But where Zylmans once planted 50 acres of strawberries, he now dedicates just 12 or 13 acres to the produce. And like many colleagues, he worries about the long-term survival of the crop locally. For a myriad of reasons.

Only a few years ago, an extended rainy season wiped out much of Zylmans' harvest. Perhaps more troublesome though is the plethora of imported produce flooding the market. Priced as much as half of what he can afford to sell his crop for, and coupled with strict regulations banning the use of pesticides, it is taking a toll.

"The world is a lot closer, and chemicals can preserve whatever so there are more challenges with local berries," he explains.

Zylmans is quick to acknowledge times change. But he says the differences are pronounced from when he inherited the farm to now.

"Historically, the industry had three processing plants in the Valley. When we had a surplus of ber-

*Call me old-fashioned,
 but I want to sell
 quality and the things
 people appreciate.*

— Bill Zylmans

ries they went to canneries. And it was reflected in the price. Today, there's no longer a relief valve in the form of a processing plant. The industry is at a point where you can only grow what you can sell direct to market."

Families were a lot bigger back in the 1950s, when his parents farmed. And canning was commonplace. Today, not only are families smaller, but Zylmans suggests there is neither the interest or need to produce produce.

"Young people today just bypass that. They are so far removed from agriculture that they don't really understand it. Everything is so readily available."

Even more troubling to Zylmans, though, is the future of farming. While he recognizes times change, he says it's getting harder and harder to make ends meet.

The costs associated with every aspect of farming are continuing to climb, he says. And at the end of the day there isn't the infrastructure to be able to absorb such costs as there once was.

"It's why we're no longer seeing as many young people getting into agriculture. The average age of a farmer in BC, even across Canada, is 58 or 59. And (as a result of all the imported produce) we're no longer on a level playing field. There needs to be some return to stability. We don't have millions of dollars worth of equipment just to jump in and out, so we're in it for the long haul. But I'm disappointed we don't get more support."

Zylmans says society has to decide what it wants, too. If it's agriculture in our backyard, and fresh produce, they have to support local farmers.

"And we have to teach people about agriculture. It's not a grass field out there with three cows. There are a lot of pieces to the puzzle, and a lot of stars have to line up."

But when Zylmans' young adult children look at his calloused hands, and the challenges he endures, they're prone to shake their heads.

"Dad, you worked 22 hours yesterday. You work way too hard," they've told him.

"But I don't call it work," Zylmans responds. "It's a passion, a dream. It's my way of life."

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Kwantlen launching food security, sustainability certificate

By **HANNAH SCOTT**

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) has launched a new program that focuses on food security and sustainability.

The Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Food Systems and Security (SFSS) is a collaboration between the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems and the Faculty of Arts.

"The SFSS program is focused on more than just agriculture," says arts dean Diane Purvey. "It highlights people, the economy and social policy."

Graduates of the interdisciplinary program can

go on to work in a number of areas, including government, community health and economic development. The certificate can also be extended into a Master of Arts in interdisciplinary studies, focusing on sustainable food systems and security, through Victoria's Royal Roads University.

"The adverse outcomes of our food system are clearly evident to anyone looking: environmental destruction, food security inequity, economic destruction of family-based farming and farming communities, epidemic food-related disease," says Dr. Kent Mullinix, director of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems.

Through the program, Mullinix says students

will confront the current industrial-transnational food system and its lack of sustainability. They will be encouraged to learn about solutions to this problem, including community-focus initiatives.

"From our perspective a sustainable food system is job one—it makes little difference in the long run what else we do to advance a sustainable society if our food system is not sustainable," says Mullinix.

The new program is available to students around the world, and will launch this fall. To learn more, visit kpu.ca/foodsecurity.

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Photo by Don Fennell

As part of the Pacific climate region, Richmond is replete with rich farmland.

Temperate Pacific ideal turf for agriculture

By **DON FENNEL**

[@rmdsentinel](https://twitter.com/rmdsentinel)

Extending along the coastline from Northern California to Alaska, the Pacific climate is particularly temperate. Typically rainy and overcast in the winter and sunny and dry in the summer, the region enjoys the longest frost-free period in Canada.

Comprising 17 islands covering 130,000 square kilometres in the mouth of the Fraser River where it meets the Pacific Ocean, Richmond on average is just one metre above sea level. This poses an obvious challenge: the propensity for flooding, especially during high tide. As a result, all the major islands are now encased by a system of dykes, resembling those in the Netherlands though certainly not on the same scale.

But it's precisely because of this topography the community is afforded an abundance of rich, alluvial soil for agriculture. Predictably, it was one of the first areas in the province to be farmed by European settlers in the 19th century.

At the time of the 2016 census, just over 3,000 hectares of Richmond was farmed. The average size of a farm was 16.5 hectares (41 acres).

Agriculture is an important part of Richmond's history. The fertile soil, consisting of silt and sand, attracted early settlers with the promise of agricultural productivity. And while Richmond has grown and evolved into a vibrant urban centre, a significant portion of the lands remains agriculture. Just under 5,000 hectares (12,300 acres) or 39 per cent of the city is within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

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New website connecting BC's agriculture sector

BC's agriculture sector will benefit from a new online resource.

The BC Farm, Fish and Food Job Connector site at www.bcagjobs.gov.bc.ca will provide information about available jobs and careers in agriculture, as well as giving farmers, seafood businesses and food processors a one-stop shop to support their hiring and planning needs. The site also has sector-specific information and guidance to support businesses as they adapt their recruitment and human resource management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Many British Columbians are passionate about buying local and are looking towards careers in the agricultural, seafood and food processing sectors. We are making it easier for employers and employees to connect so we can fill vacancies and get more British Columbians working to put fresh and local food on our tables," said Agriculture Minister Lana Popham.

"At the same time, we recognize the workforce challenges brought on by COVID-19 and are helping to address the need to establish a secure agricultural labour force so we can generate economic activity and maintain food security in our communities."

The site will connect to agriculture, food processing, aquaculture and marine fisheries jobs posted on Work BC, industry sites and the BC Food and Beverage websites. It will also be a centralized source to find information and tools provided by BC's industry groups.

Prospective firefighter inspired by mentors

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Brandon Laxa is giving back to the community that helped him through a challenging time.

Rescued along with his sister Katelin from a 2004 house fire, he is now pursuing a career in the fire service.

"I was struggling to find what I wanted to do in my life," said Laxa, who was inspired to pursue a career in firefighting after experiencing Burn Camp, a week-long summer program offered by the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund.

Laxa and Katelin have attended each summer camp since 2007, but the career choice didn't click until two summers ago when he was 18.

"All the counsellors I've had over the years, I consider them my mentors," he says. "My parents told me the first time I went to the camp, it was hard for them to drop us off. You start to feel comfortable and more at home the longer you're there. When they picked us up, we didn't want to leave."

The friends Laxa made at camp are like a second family. They see each other only a few times a year, but each time it feels like they've never been apart.

For the first few years of camp, Laxa says no one talked about their accidents or injuries. The opportunity for campers to share their burn stories came about organically.

"They do a campfire, which has kind of developed over the last couple of years," says Richmond firefighter Jen McElgunn, who sits on the Burn Camp committee. "It came about naturally one night, where the kids just started sharing their stories."

Laxa played a part in the development of the sharing experience. McElgunn remembers him as a "quiet leader."

A few years ago, McElgunn arranged for Laxa and his sister to meet the firefighters who rescued them.

"I found out the guys that were at work that day and were on the call, and invited them out to meet Brandon and Katelin and their parents," she says. "It was a pretty humbling experience (for the firefighters), to say the least."

She adds that it would be a real full-circle ex-



Photo submitted

Having survived a house fire as a child, Brandon Laxa is now pursuing a career in the fire service.

perience if Laxa were hired as a firefighter in Richmond.

"I'm pretty proud of Brandon," McElgunn says. "Now he's taken many of the steps (to become a firefighter) and is just going through the application process. He has matured so much into such a nice young guy. He's still a lot of fun to be around, but he is responsible and respectful. He's a good kid."

Laxa's hope of giving back is also reflected in his volunteer work. He's part of an organization called Street Savers that patrols the Downtown Eastside to attend overdoses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he's also applied to be a BC 211 volunteer

to help nearby seniors in need.

"My mentors over the years really taught me how important it is to give back and volunteer," says Laxa.

Now, he's giving back in a major way: pursuing the same career as many of those he looked up to as a youngster.

"The camp and the Burn Fund has been such a big part of my life over the years," Laxa says. "It's been a big contribution to where I'm at and what I'm doing today."

To those who've helped him, Laxa has a clear message: "I can't thank them enough."

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Burn Fund making a difference to many

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund is making a difference in the lives of burn survivors and their families.

Funds raised go towards the purchase of specialty equipment and opportunities to educate staff on techniques and initiatives to enhance care.

The equipment might otherwise be impossible to purchase due to restricted funding in the healthcare system, says Suzie Logie, patient services manager at Vancouver General Hospital's burn, trauma and high acuity unit.

"That specialty equipment has hastened and enhanced (burn survivors') recovery so they can get back into the community and resume the productive lives they had before," she adds.

Every year, BC's Hometown Heroes lottery raises money to support VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation and programs run by the Burn Fund.

Raising funds is particularly important this year—COVID-19 forced the cancellation of several fundraising opportunities. Also cancelled were the annual survivor conference and Burn Camp, which provides connection opportunities to young burn survivors.

Aside from Burn Camp, the Burn Fund also runs several other programs. "Too Hot for Tots" is an education program that brings awareness to pediatric thermal injuries. There's an adult burn survivor program called "The Future is Mine," and a mental resiliency program aimed at helping first responders with mental health.

Over the years, Logie says she's encountered some inspiring burn survivors.

"I get very inspired by their journeys, where they want to go and how they want to navigate themselves through this and get better," Logie adds.

And the dedication of the Burn Fund team is clear, too.



Photo submitted

The Burn Fund runs programs for burn survivors in addition to raising money for specialized equipment and training.

"Those who are donating their time are there out of compassion and dedication to enhancing the lives of burn survivors and their families," she says. "They're all there in their own time or working full time or even retired firefighters, and they keep coming back with the common goal of wanting to help."

Ticket sales for the 2020 Hometown Heroes Lottery run until July 23. There are over 3,000 prizes worth over a total of \$3.1 million, including luxury homes, appliances, furniture, cars and cash. Tickets can be purchased online at www.heroeslottery.com, by phone, 604-648-4376, or 1-866-597-4376, or in-person at any London Drugs.

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Public can phone into city council meetings

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond city council meetings are now accessible by telephone thanks to a new access system.

Council has been meeting remotely since March in an effort to reduce mass gatherings and protect public safety due to COVID-19. This technology enabled council to manage business, but did not allow members of the public to attend remotely or participate during meetings.

Thanks to a bylaw passed recently, members of the public can participate remotely via electronic means. The bylaw applies to agenda items on regular council meetings, special council meetings, standing committee meetings and

public hearings.

People who wish to speak at a meeting must register in advance. They will be sent instructions on how to connect on the day of the meeting.

Concerns on meeting agenda items can also be submitted via email to cityclerk@richmond.ca or mailed to: Mayor and Councillors, City of Richmond, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC, V6Y 2C1.

The public can still attend council meetings in person, but measures remain in place to adhere to physical distancing requirements and other preventative measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.

More information is available at www.richmond.ca/cityhall/council/phone-participation.

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Photo by
Jaana Björk
Fifty-nine BC
community
destination
marketing
organizations will
be supported by a
newly-announced
provincial grant.



Province providing tourism support

The province is providing a \$10 million grant to support BC community destination marketing organizations (DMOs) that have been severely impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions.

BC's community DMOs are not-for-profit organizations that promote tourism to their regions. They rely on funds generated by the municipal and regional district tax, charged to visitors by hotels and other types of accommodation.

"As we look onwards to reopening and re-starting the visitor economy, community DMOs are well placed to create effective marketing and development campaigns that will drive visitors to their communities across our beautiful province," said Nancy Small, chair of the BC Destination Marketing Organization Association.

Small, who is also CEO of Tourism Richmond, welcomed the funding announcement, saying it "will give many of us that ability to remain operating and plan for the future."

"The tourism industry is a major economic engine and job creator for people in BC, but the impacts of COVID-19 have left the industry struggling," said Tourism Minister Lisa Beare. "We are supporting the tourism industry today to make sure we can welcome visitors to explore Super, Natural British Columbia when it is safe to do so."

Without this relief funding, community DMOs would be unable to operate and support economic recovery efforts in the tourism sector.

This funding will help 59 DMOs retain crucial staff positions and offset fixed expenses from May to October 2020.

Richmond playgrounds open again

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Playgrounds in Richmond reopened June 1 as part of the city's restoration plan.

Almost 60 city-owned playgrounds are now open with some restrictions: users will be expected to wash their hands before and after use, avoid gathering in large groups in or around playgrounds and stay home if sick.

Reopened playgrounds include Terra Nova Adventure Playground, Garden City Play Environment, Flight Path Park playground and all school district playgrounds.

Access to playgrounds was originally identified as part of Richmond's second step of restoration. In coordination with schools, they are open now to encourage outdoor play for children as some returned to schools on the same date. No timeline has been set for other elements in Step Two as of yet.

Information on the timing of steps to reopen various services and amenities, as well as updates on further access, will be posted on the city's website www.richmond.ca/COVID19 as well as through its social media channels.

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Steveston Seafood House open to customers again

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Like many in the hospitality industry, Shane Dagan faced an uncertain future.

His restaurant, the Steveston Seafood House, moved to a take-out only model back in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But now, two months later, Dagan has re-opened his doors.

While the challenges are far from over, support from the community has made a world of difference.

"Our staff did a great job of maneuvering to our new style of take-out," says Dagan. "I'm also very grateful for the community support we received during those eight weeks. The response was overwhelming."

The Seafood House donated \$3,400 to the Richmond Food Bank to express their gratitude to the community that kept them going. Dagan says the process to re-open was easy to navigate, once safety measures were implemented and communicated to staff.

"We had three staff meetings prior to opening, to go over our new COVID-19 safety plan," says Dagan.

The first weekend of reopening was successful, with guests expressing their gratitude to be able to eat out again. Dagan says he's received dozens of congratulatory emails from regulars who plan to wait a few weeks before dining in as BC continues to track its updated case count.

Physical distancing measures require full capacity to be at 50 per cent of normal. Dagan says their first weekend of re-opening operated at (updated) full capacity—but that this isn't a sustainable long-term model for restaurants.

"If distancing measures are only temporary, and businesses use a little



Photo courtesy Shane Dagan

The Steveston Seafood House is open for business—and has donated \$3,400 to the Richmond Food Bank as a thank-you to customers who kept them going during their period of take-out only.

creativity, I think many will get through it," he adds.

While the Seafood House can't take advantage of the new expedited patio extension process, Dagan anticipates many neighbouring establishments will benefit from this plan.

"I believe that all boats rise with the tide, and the more businesses in Richmond that can get moving again, the better we'll all be."

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John Yap
MLA, Richmond -Steveston



Giving back to the community

Sophia Anderson

With a passion for fashion, Sophia Anderson plans to study business at UBC starting in September.

A recipient of the Thompson Community Centre Phil Brown Scholarship, recognizing her many contributions to her community, the soon-to-be Burnett grad says that she had no set career entering high school. But having always enjoyed working with others, she has gained valuable experience that helped shape her interests in both fashion and business.

"After joining Women In Leadership, I had the

Listening to successful women speak about their careers in business inspired me to learn more.

— Sophia Anderson

opportunity to attend countless conferences and workshops," she says. "Listening to successful women speak about their careers in business inspired me to learn more."

Her experience as a fashion ambassador for Nordstrom's has also inspired her to share her knowledge with others. Maybe even as a teacher.

"I have always enjoyed working with children and am open to the possibility of a career revolving around this age group. It is most important for me to find an occupation that involves working with others and that is fulfilling."

Outside of school, Anderson is keen about exercising and dancing. Ballet has been a big part of her life since she was three years old. Spending time with family and friends, who constantly offer encouragement, is also high on her to-do list.

Among the best advice she's received is to stop making comparisons to others, and to appreciate that each person is on their own unique journey.

"Remembering this has allowed me to celebrate the accomplishments of others, (while being) proud of what I have achieved," she says.



Sophia Anderson is a proud recipient of the Thompson Community Centre Phil Brown Scholarship.

Maya Lichtmann



Richmond's Maya Lichtmann wants to make a difference in the world.

Maya Lichtmann loves a challenge. And she's always on the lookout for a new one.

Inspired by community leaders who have positively impacted her life—such as Stephanie Kennedy (Panther Cheer), Julie Halfnights (Thompson Community Centre) and Farah Mareli (socials teacher and mentor)—the Grade 12 Burnett Secondary student is on a mission to make a difference.

"My goal is to get practical experience in business, law and politics while attending UBC, so that I can choose a career in public service," explains Lichtmann, a 2020 recipient of the Thompson Community Centre Phil Brown Memorial Scholarship. "That could mean a career in the charity, not-for-profit sector, or in politics. I believe I can create innovative solutions to some of society's challenges locally and globally."

Also a recipient of the Andrea Xi Scholarship in the annual Richmond Community Foundation recognition of outstanding graduating students, Lichtmann doesn't have far to look for inspiration. Her parents have both worked in the not-for-profit sector most of their careers. And both are socially and politically active, striving to improve the community in which they live.

"That has influenced me to do the same," she explains. "I have been involved with Model United Nations throughout high school, and became

My goal is to get practical experience in business, law and politics while attending UBC, so that I can choose a career in public service.

— Maya Lichtmann

president in Grade 11. I was also a member of the BC Youth Parliament and had an opportunity to attend Parliament in Ottawa through the Forum for Young Canadians program."

She was also president of the Burnett Women in Leadership Club.

Previously a competitive cheerleader, Lichtmann—who enjoys the outdoors, with hiking and walking high on her list of activities—has also recently become an entrepreneur after starting to sell clothing online.

"The best advice I've gotten is that stress is self-induced, and that I am in control of my own emotions," she says. "This gives me the capacity to manage more things without feeling out of control."

unites Phil Brown scholars

Stories by
Don Fennell

Jaia Manhas



Giving back to her community is big in Jaia Manhas' books.

Someone once told Jaia Manhas that actions speak louder than words. Taking it to heart, she's been exemplifying that proverb ever since.

"I'm inspired by my parents, and many leaders around me, who have taught me invaluable lessons about resilience, commitment and hard work," says the Grade 12 Richmond student, who is a winner of the 2020 Phil Brown Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Richmond Community Foundation.

The scholarship, presented annually by the Thompson Community Centre, recognizes a graduating high school student whose leadership in the community complements their academic initiative.

"This scholarship means a lot to me, recognizing the impact I had through volunteering," explains Manhas. "I was very humbled to have been selected. I'm very passionate about volunteering for initiatives I believe in, and giving back to the community. Sometimes life is more about what

we can overcome than achieve, and I believe work ethic says much more about a person than promises or how they advocate for themselves."

Manhas is also passionate about science, which she plans to study at UBC starting in the fall.

She is also a competitive athlete, playing community soccer, and enjoys playing the piano and guitar in her spare time.

I'm very passionate about volunteering for initiatives I believe in, and giving back to the community.

— Jaia Manhas

Oceanna Nguyen

A humanitarian trip to the Dominican Republic forever changed Oceanna Nguyen's perspective.

Just over a year ago, while in Grade 11, the Richmond student was helping to build a house for a family of nine in the community of La Union, in the southern half of the Caribbean nation. The reception she received was both unexpected and overwhelming.

"I was greeted with open arms and a smile. Even though I was a complete stranger, they made me feel like family," she recalls. "They were the most generous, loving and kind people I've ever met."

A recent recipient of the Thompson Community Centre Phil Brown Scholarship (presented by the Richmond Community Foundation), Nguyen is now even more determined to give back, while also fostering a greater appreciation for things we too often take for granted. And during a time when "we're all in this together" has become a catch phrase, she longs for the opportunity to spend time with those she is close to.

"I love to go out and eat with friends. I find you can be so wrapped up in school and work that you forget to take time for yourself. Socializing is a time I really cherish, because when the world gets out of control, friends will always be there to help ground you."

Being from a single-parent household, Nguyen recognizes the financial significance of the scholarship as well as the "vast opportunities" that come with it.

"It allows me to keep achieving higher goals in my

... rejection is re-direction and life is just a series of lessons to learn.

— Oceanna Nguyen

education," she explains.

The opportunity to serve as an intern at Coast Capital Credit Union last year also introduced her to the world of finance. Realizing how much finances impact people further convinced her to pursue a career in commerce.

Scrolling through her Instagram feed one day, Nguyen came upon some sage advice: instead of asking why this is happening, ask what is this trying to teach you?

"As a teen, I know we can be a little dramatic sometimes. I find myself over-thinking all the time. When we're faced with failures or tough decisions, we dig a deep, dark hole. This (advice) helped me get through a lot of hardships because it reminded me that there is a bigger picture to every problem. And it's helped me realize rejection is re-direction, and life is just a series of lessons to learn."

She has since passed on the advice to others, helping them to see their experiences as opportunities to grow and learn.



Phil Brown Scholarship recipient Oceanna Nguyen plans to major in commerce at UBC.

Bodhi Meditation donates PPE

Responding to the impact of COVID-19 and guided by founder JinBodhi's spirit of compassion, Bodhi Meditation is supporting front line heroes.

Those recognized included Richmond Fire-Rescue first responders and health care workers. One thousand gowns, 500 pairs of goggles and 100,000 non-medical masks were donated to support health care workers' efforts to protect the public and themselves.

The donations were presented to Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie and fire chief Tim Wilkinson on May 26. The gesture is in appreciation of the dedication of those on the front lines. Chief Wilkinson said that we are all doing what we can in our own way.

Bodhi Meditation will continue to fulfill their vow to help as the COVID-19 crisis evolves, and will continue to focus on improving the well-being of their community.



Photo submitted
Bodhi Meditation presented Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie and fire chief Tim Wilkinson with personal protective equipment for local front line workers.



KPU Foundation member Bill Wright receives honorary degree

Kwantlen Polytechnic University is presenting KPU Foundation board of directors member Bill Wright with an honorary degree for his voluntary service.

Richmond resident Wright, a retired lawyer who focused his practice on the credit union and co-operative system, has volunteered on the KPU Foundation for nearly two decades. He is passionate about education and creating quality, lifelong learning opportunities for KPU students.

"In these astonishing times of COVID-19, when formal convocation ceremonies are not possible, I truly appreciate the honour of being conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree is in the recognition, not the ceremony," says Wright.

"We are proud to give this deserving award to Bill," says Dr. Alan Davis, president and vice-chancellor of KPU. "His passion for education is evident in his service to the KPU Foundation and especially the students at KPU, as he continues to open access to lifelong learning opportunities."

After graduating from the University of British Columbia in 1960, Wright began his law career with Davis and Company and moved up to become managing partner, over a 30-year period where the law firm grew from 20 lawyers to 100.

With his specialized knowledge of credit union operations, Wright worked with BC Central Credit Union, now known as Central 1, to develop it into an integrated financial facility serving the entire credit union system, including entry into the European financial market. In 1980 the World Council of Credit Unions asked him to prepare a report assisting the Australian credit



BILL WRIGHT

union movement development on a national scale.

After developing an interest in affordable housing and how housing co-operatives can play a role, Wright assisted in the development and construction of the first housing co-operative in BC and served as a national director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada. He has volunteered and continues to volunteer with many non-profit organizations around Metro Vancouver, and in the Downtown Eastside.

"Looking back on my career I am amazed at and grateful for the diversity of opportunities my law practice provided; challenges, satisfaction and the privilege of knowing so many outstanding people," he adds.

"KPU is lucky to have Bill as part of its community. He is genuinely interested in the success and education of students," says Steve Lewarne, executive director of advancement at KPU.

"He frequently volunteers to sit on the scholarship and awards selection committee, and takes this responsibility seriously as he reads each application and student story to ensure that the most qualified students receive their award."

For the graduating students, Wright has this piece of advice: "Earn with your head, spend from your heart!"

COVID-19 precautions prevented KPU holding a formal convocation ceremony in the first week of June, so the honorary degree was announced in a video tribute to the spring class of 2020.

Harbour Air has resumed Richmond operations

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Harbour Air flights from Richmond resumed June 1.

Several routes began operating daily on May 11. On June 1, flights to Victoria and Nanaimo resumed from Harbour Air's Richmond base, by Vancouver International Airport's south terminal.

"We have seen the impact COVID-19 has had on the communities we service," said executive vice-president Chad Wetsch. "We didn't want to leave anyone stranded, so we responded quickly, changing how we operate to get people and supplies where they needed to go."

Harbour Air has introduced a number of protocols to prepare for the post COVID-19 world. Cleaning and sanitation procedures are in place, and there is hand sanitizer available in all terminals as well as pre- and post-flight.

Fleet scheduling and available seating have been reduced to allow for on-board social distancing. All passengers will be provided with gloves and masks, and asked to sign a health declaration form before travel.

All crew will have their temperature checked upon arriving and departing the workplace, and a no-touch thermometer may also be used to



Harbour Air's Richmond seaplane terminal re-opened June 1.

Photo by Jaana Björk

check passengers' temperature.

For a complete list of the adjustments made, visit: www.harbourair.com/covid-19-flight-update/

"We did come across some road blocks along the way in accessing supplies like masks and plexiglass and ensuring staff could retain bene-

fits," said Wetsch. "We know that returning to operations is not a return to normal. As we begin to look towards the future, we are working hard to ensure that we are providing the safe, essential travel services people have counted on for the past 38 years."

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City of
Richmond

Notice

Property taxes are due Thursday, July 2

Tax notices have been issued and we encourage everyone to pay on or before July 2. Payment by the deadline enables us to keep vital services in place to support community needs during these challenging times.

**City Hall will reopen on Monday, June 8
for tax payments only.**

Business hours will be 8:15am to 5pm from Monday to Friday. Physical distancing measures must be followed.

Cash will NOT be accepted.

Alternatively, payments can be made:

- online or at your financial institution
- online by credit card (service fees apply) through the City's website
- by mailing a cheque
- by cheque in the City Hall drop box

Information on the City of Richmond property tax payment process and options can be found at www.richmond.ca/tax.

Anyone who has not paid their property taxes, claimed their home owner grant (if eligible) or successfully applied to the BC Property Tax Deferment Program by September 30 will be subject to a 10 per cent penalty after that date.

www.richmond.ca



NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Board of Directors of Vancouver Airport Authority announces that the Annual Public Meeting will be held to present the Airport Authority's 2019 Annual & Sustainability Report and financial statements.

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020

3:00 p.m. Meeting begins

The meeting will be held virtually on yvr.ca/APM.

The 2019 Annual & Sustainability Report will be available on the website in advance.

All questions must be submitted in advance to **Community_Relations@yvr.ca** or via Twitter using **#YVRAPM** by noon on Friday, June 26, 2020.

Vancouver Airport Authority is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that operates Vancouver International Airport (YVR).



RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Rabbitats and RAPS rally for rabbits



Pat
Johnson

The RAPS Animal Hospital was the location for a dramatic operation recently—well, 21 operations, actually. In partnership with Rabbitats, the Richmond-based rabbit rescue organization, the veterinary facility performed 21 spay and neuter procedures on rabbits, most of whom were recently rescued from the Dover neighbourhood of Richmond. On May 31, a veterinary team donated their time and RAPS donated the equipment and supplies to do the job.

Rabbitats works with neighbourhoods and the city to identify rabbit colonies to trap. They do not undertake any rescue until they have the resources to spay and neuter—and rehome—every single rabbit in a demarcated zone. With RAPS' commitment to the surgeries, they were able to trap an entire colony.

The issue in this case was that every one of the females they rescued was pregnant, turning what they thought was a rescue of a few dozen rabbits into a group of about 100.

Rabbits usually take a bit of a break from reproducing during winter, but Sorelle Saidman, founder of Rabbitats, has seen an unbroken upsurge that defies seasonal traditions.

"This year I think they forgot to read the manual," she says.

Rabbitats operates two main sanctuaries and a network of "micro-sanctuaries"—back yards, farms and stables where 10 or 20 rabbits can be rehomed as a group. In all, right now, Rabbitats has about 400 rabbits under its care.

The organization uses citizen science to track rab-



Photo submitted
Rabbitats is bursting with new arrivals after a recent rescue operation from the Dover Bay neighbourhood.

bit sightings and so, as improbable as it seems, they have what they believe is a fairly accurate estimate of the feral and stray rabbit population in Richmond. There are 1,000 or so in total, though that number can fluctuate to as high as 2,000.

Interestingly, people are likely to see rabbits more readily than they might wild animals because these are "urban rabbits," Saidman says, descended from pets. They know they are safer where people are than in the wilderness.

Rabbitats has the experience and capacity to rescue large numbers of rabbits—they helped the University of Victoria deal with its extraordinary overpopulation of rabbits a few years ago—but they are limited by their ability to fund spaying and neutering.

"But with RAPS so kindly picking up the fees and the vets—Dr. Joseph Martinez and Dr. Veronica Gventsadze—generously donating their time, we were able to deal with this unanticipated influx," Saidman says. "Now the issue is building the housing for them."

The RAPS Animal Hospital is the only not-for-profit veterinary clinic in Richmond. It has remained

open as an essential service for the community during these times and is looking to use its resources to help as many people with animals as possible. RAPS CEO Eyal Lichtmann says helping other animal agencies like Rabbitats is something RAPS has been able to do much more of since opening the RAPS Animal Hospital two years ago.

"The demand for community assistance programs has risen dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic," says Lichtmann. "Our resources are stretched but people need our help".

With families facing economic challenges and donations down to animal charities, individuals and rescue organizations are coming to RAPS for veterinary care.

"The community came together to help us build and open the hospital, so we feel extremely fortunate to be able to step up when we can help the community like this," Lichtmann says. "Rabbitats is just one of the animal-serving agencies we are grateful to work with."

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

MY NAME IS SNOW WHITE

Snow White is a guinea pig who has won the hearts of pretty much everyone at the shelter. She is very good when gently handled and pet, and loves long conversations, but she doesn't like it when her salad delivery is delayed! Snow White will make a great addition to any family that she joins.

****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.****



ADOPT ME!

REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (RAPS)

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

Head Office: 604-285-7724



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RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

rapsanimalhospital.com

604-242-1666

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



Rogers maintaining vision in challenging times

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

Richard Collier had an eye for talent. And in Camryn Rogers, he saw a champion.

Even before the precocious sixth grader picked up the metal ball and steel wire contraption and successfully completed her first hammer throw, Collier could see the potential. The uncanny vision of the late former Richmond Kajaks' track and field coach was soon proven right away when Rogers won her first competition mere months after joining the club.

"I loved hammer right away," says Rogers, who celebrated her 21st birthday last weekend.

On track to become one of Canada's all-time greats, the young Richmondite's relaxed, affable nature opposes an extraordinary inner steel-like determination. Once she steps into the throwing circle, it's all business. Practice is the same; always striving to improve.

Typical of champions, Rogers thinks big. But it's her willingness to learn, armed with a quiet confidence, passion and commitment to succeed, that enables her to routinely better her marks. Champions, it has been said, are made through adversity. Regardless of the mark, Rogers uses every practice and event to gain greater self-knowledge. She absorbs feedback like a sponge.

"I originally heard about Camryn from Richard and Garrett Collier (her coaches with the Kajaks)," explains Mohamed Saatara, who has had the privilege of coaching Rogers for the past two seasons at the University of California-Berkeley. "They told me they were coaching a talented young woman who I should keep an eye on."

The first time he saw Rogers throw was on a video of her winning one of the many competitions she's topped over the years.

"My first impression was 'she can throw!' This is not a kid who's mechanically executing positions and hoping this is a supremely-talented athlete who can perform at the highest levels. The type of athlete you don't see too often."

Rogers has only reinforced Saatara's observations after three seasons at Cal. In 2018, her freshman year wearing the Bears' blue and gold, Rogers recorded a 13th-place finish and just missed qualifying for the NCAA national championships with a throw of 61.31 metres at the west preliminaries. This coincided with



Photo courtesy Cal Athletics/klcfotos
Richmond hammer throws champion Camryn Rogers uses every practice and competition as an opportunity to advance her knowledge and edge.

a bronze-medal performance at the Pac-12 championship with a mark of 64.25 metres, and a school and freshman record—and also the Canadian U20 record—in the hammer throw of 65.61 metres at the Brutus Hamilton Challenge.

Last year was even more impressive as Rogers became NCAA champion, a first team All-American, and recorded the seventh-best hammer throw in NCAA history at 71.50 metres. It was the best mark in the NCAA in 2019, ranking second in Pac-12 history and first in the Cal record books.

In her final two years competing as a high schooler in 2016 and 2017, the McMath honours student won back-to-back gold in the shot put and hammer throw events. With her club team, the Kajaks, she won gold in the hammer at the prestigious Oregon Relays meet three consecutive years. She still holds

the meet record.

Saatara believes the best is yet to come.

"Camryn is a fierce competitor, and has an enormous amount of untapped potential," says Saatara, in his seventh year as throws coach at Cal. "She's been able to take advantage of her opportunities and overcome obstacles that would have derailed others. She has also become a student of the sport. I believe she will be able to achieve the highest standards of hammer throwing before all is said and done."

Rogers has a unique ability to remain positive in the face of adversity—even a global pandemic.

"This will be the first summer in eight years I won't be competing traveling or in school," she notes. "My mom, coach Mo and coach Garrett are taking things one step at a time, and being open to changing conditions."

Training is going well. I'm extremely lucky to have access to facilities and equipment and being able to keep in contact with my coaches makes things a lot easier and less stressful. They have been so supportive through this whole situation."

Like every step of her journey thus far, Rogers sees it as an opportunity to continue to learn and fine-tune her technique.

"One thing that has really helped me the past two months also ties in with what I miss most about the old normal—my teammates and friends," she says. "I truly did not realize how much time I spent

with them until I wasn't in that environment anymore. When you train, study and travel with a group of people for 20-plus hours every week they become so much more than just teammates or friends. They become family and a major support network. Taking the time to call them and catch up has made a huge difference in my day-to-day life."

As always, Rogers also points to her mom Shari as a constant source of inspiration.

"My mom has been the biggest supporter through it all, taking everything in stride and being a beacon of positivity for me. I have found so much strength in my support system. It has made me so thankful to be surrounded by like-minded people who do not think of the negatives of the situation but instead preparing for a better future."

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Return to sport guidelines introduced

By DON FENNELL
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Recognizing the power of sport, plans are afoot for a safe return to play. But exactly when and how that will look is still uncertain.

At the request of the province, and following a review by WorkSafeBC, viaSport is introducing return to sport guidelines. These are in accordance with BC's phased-in restart program, and follow collaboration with the recreation sector and sport agencies.

The guidelines suggest that sport organizations can/should:

- develop and finalize implementation plans
- work with their insurance provider and/or legal counsel on risk mitigation
- maintain communication with stakeholders around the status of return to sport plans
- consult the local health authority on plans or guidelines
- connect with local facility operators and municipalities to understand specific protocols
- prepare materials (such as posters) to remind members of public health guidelines including social distancing and hygiene
- remind local sport organizations and clubs to keep members up-

dated and engaged

• encourage members to remain active while enjoying the outdoors and facilities that have opened in small groups at a safe distance.

For the foreseeable future, sport will be geared more toward community participation and training rather than games and provincial competition. Minimal sharing of equipment and focusing on skill development through small group training is suggested.

"Sport organizations will play a key role in bringing people back together, and in helping us heal from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Lisa Beare, the BC minister responsible for sport. "We know the importance of safely re-opening our ice rinks, courts and fields so athletes, families, coaches and volunteers can return to sport. I want to thank viaSport for leading the work to ensure amateur sport organizations have the guidelines and necessary health measures in place to restart play."

viaSport chief executive officer Charlene Krepiakovich added: "Over the past several months, sport organizations have had to cancel or postpone most of their activities around the province. We have all missed the opportunity to play, compete, cheer, volunteer and support amateur sport in our communities."

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Korenic nets coach of the year honours

By DON FENNELL
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A member of the Richmond Ravens' family is the BC Female Coach of the Year.

One of 17 individuals recognized nationally, Natalie Korenic was singled out by Hockey Canada for the honour.

Coach of the Richmond girls' ice hockey Bantam A rep team, she was nominated by the association. The submission was enthusiastically embraced by players and parents alike. In a statement, the Ravens said the organization is "incredibly proud to have someone as dedicated and talented as part of our team of committed coaches. (Korenic) will surely inspire other girls to look to coaching in their future."

Hockey Canada said there is arguably no more important role in hockey than that of coach. Tasked with guiding young players not only on the ice but off, they are leaders in hockey and in life.

Already a street hockey veteran, Korenic began playing organized ice hockey at the age of six. She took such a liking to the game that following a rewarding youth career, she pursued a career in coaching while maintaining her presence on the ice with the local women's team—the Richmond Devils.

Always an ardent student of the game, she noted in a 2018 interview with the *Sentinel* that female hockey had changed dramatically from when she started playing. Notably, she said, its



Photo by Chung Chow

Hockey Canada has selected Richmond Ravens' Bantam A coach Natalie Korenic as its BC Female Coach of the Year.

incredible growth in popularity.

"When I started there was a total of three teams in Richmond. Today, there are three teams for nine- and 10-year-olds alone."

Class valedictorian of her 2010 graduating class at Steveston-London secondary, she is the marketing and communications manager at a biosystems company. The company is on the leading edge of bioprinting and tissue

engineering.

Clearly a visionary, Korenic also brings that quality to the rink. Having coached at every level of Ravens' hockey, she is well-versed in understanding different mindsets. But regardless of the goal, at the end of the day everyone wants to succeed. She implores her players to make the most of their experiences.

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Richmond speeds up patio process

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond city council is embracing restaurants and pubs re-opening with expanded service areas to allow for more physical distancing.

The province announced that the patio application process for restaurants and other food service establishments would be temporarily simplified and

expedited. At a recent Richmond City Council meeting, more local details and changes were discussed.

The city's minimum on-site vehicle parking requirements will be temporarily suspended to make space for added outdoor seating. Mayor Malcolm Brodie said pedestrians will need to walk on roadways in some cases, which will be addressed by the city.

Businesses can only have patio spaces on their own property or the sidewalk directly adjacent. If a

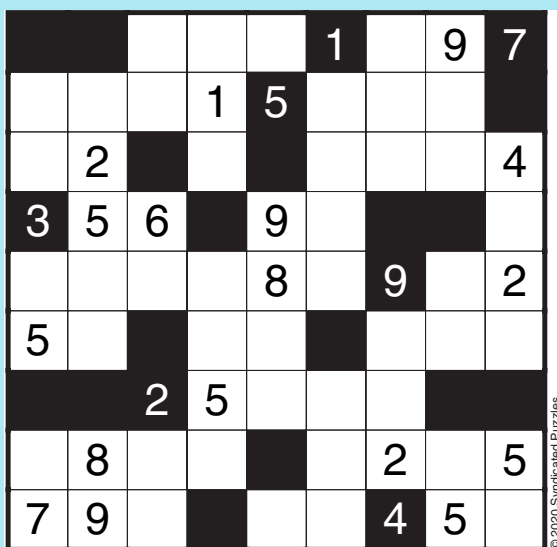
tenant in a multi-tenant building wants to expand their patio space, the property owner must provide approval. Temporary patio spaces in Steveston will not require a Heritage Alteration Permit.

The city also agreed to provide a single pre-approval to the provincial liquor regulation branch. This means individual requests for expanded liquor licenses will not need to go through city approval.

—With files from Lorraine Graves

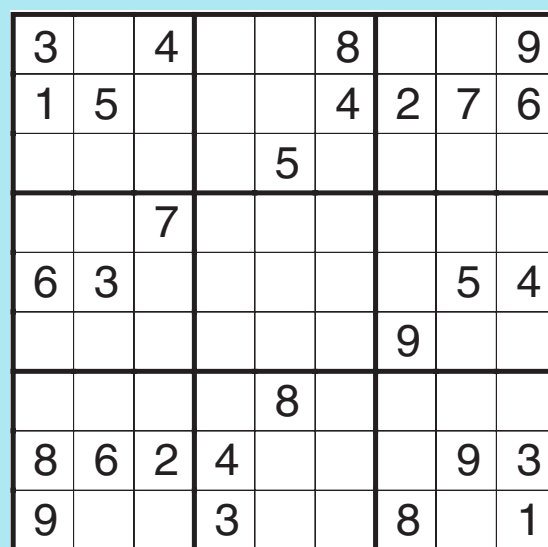
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No number can be repeated in any row or column. Rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must contain a 'straight,' a set of numbers with no gaps in any order, eg. [4,2,3,5]. Numbers in black cells are not part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



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World's Best Dad PHOTO CONTEST

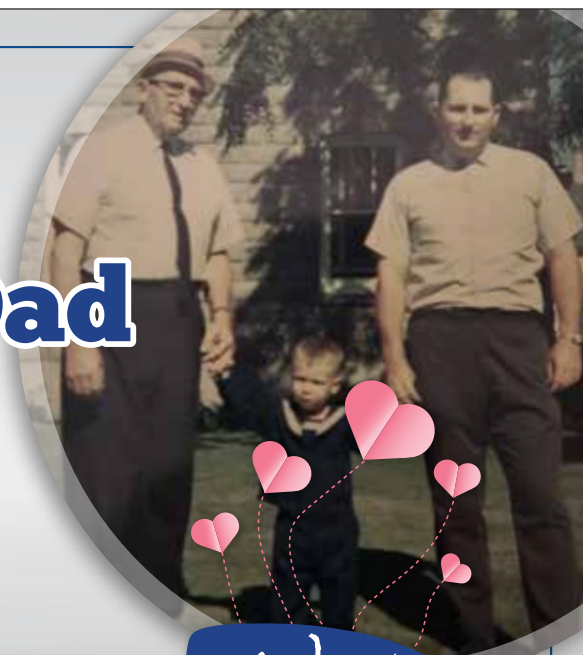
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JUNE 14, 2020 | 11:59PM

Father's Day is coming soon and Richmond Sentinel is asking YOU to show us why your father is the WORLD'S BEST DAD!



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