



Rare sighting

Comet visible
in night sky

09

Comet NEOWISE is currently visible in the Northern Hemisphere, including from Richmond's West Dyke.

Photo by Hannah Scott

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Experience nature from your own backyard

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Summer has arrived, and with it another season of camping.

But the COVID-19 pandemic has changed many things about a season traditionally filled with outdoor excursions. In the absence of formal events, people can still enjoy the joys of nature from the safety of their own backyard.

"I love the idea of camping in your backyard because it's convenient," says Richmond Nature Park coordinator Kris Bauder. "You don't have that fuss and bother of going out into the woods somewhere, and there are amazing things happening at night that most people don't even think are there."

Bauder says many people go inside as soon as it gets dark, so they miss many aspects of outdoor life. In her own backyard she's recorded a variety of wildlife including raccoons, skunks, bats, squirrels, rabbits, and frogs—which she calls "the chorus of the night."

"One of the most wonderful things I ever saw was dew worms dancing," says Bauder. "They come partway out of their burrow and twist and turn, and it's this slow motion ballet—it's absolutely amazing."

Some animals can be heard even when invisible. Crickets and frogs are easy for most people to hear, but bats can be more stealthy because of their quiet volume.

"Mostly it's children that can hear (bats), because they have a wider range of hearing," says Bauder.

But, she warns, there are some animals to be extra cautious around. If you live in a neighbourhood with bears, don't sleep outside. And if you have coyotes nearby, spook them by making loud noises with pots and pans or throwing small stones, sticks or a tennis ball.

To avoid attracting animals at night, put all food and cooking supplies away—including your barbecue or grill. Raccoons can also open things like barbecues, and may damage them if left in the open.

"Water is something that will attract things as well, so if you have a bird bath or a fish pond or something in your backyard, it can be a wonderful draw for wildlife," Bauder says. "Raccoons are definitely drawn to ponds with goldfish in them, mosquitoes breed in ponds, and other things like bats will be around because of the mosquitoes."

While precautions should be taken out-



Backyard camping can be an easy way to experience the outdoors. Photo submitted

side, there are also huge advantages to experiencing the outdoors at night.

"It's enlightenment—I think you can learn to appreciate what's out there," says Bauder. "There's a whole community of life that most people probably aren't aware of."

While backyard camping may be the most

accessible way to sleep outside this summer, plans are afoot for more learning opportunities courtesy of Parks Canada and the city.

"The City of Richmond has run a 'learn to camp' program for about seven or eight years, an overnight program where we stay at one of the parks," explains Rich Kenny, community facilities programmer for Richmond Nature Park and Terra Nova Park.

After discovering that Parks Canada offered similar programs, the city combined forces with the organization two years ago. Since then, events have run at Woodward's Landing—a Girl Guides of Canada property on Dyke Road—each year.

The pandemic has forced the cancellation of this year's 'learn to camp event'—which would have run in early July under normal circumstances. But Kenny says the Parks Canada team is exploring several alternative options, including programs on how to physical distance effectively outside and while camping, as well as 'animal aware' sessions for adults and families.

For more information and resources offered by Parks Canada, visit their website: www.pc.gc.ca/en/serapprocher-connect/ltc-dlc

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I love the idea of camping in your backyard because it's convenient. You don't have that fuss and bother of going out into the woods somewhere, and there are amazing things happening at night that most people don't even think are there.

— Kris Bauder

Young author shares self reflections in first book

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Maggie Xiong had never been one to self-reflect. But in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it became the source of inspiration.

Rapidly tiring of reruns of TV comedies and afternoon recipe shows, she found herself harkening back to her elementary school days and the dedicated journals that described every detail of her young life—from the blonde locks of a crush to the so-called “mean girls.” She hadn’t added a new entry since the fourth grade though, as other priorities shifted her focus. But as the boredom of self-isolation grew, the joy of writing was reignited.

“Writing was always an interest and passion when I was really young,” says Xiong. “But by the time I got to high school I stopped journaling because I started comparing myself to other people.”

Afforded plenty of time to reflect because of the quarantine, Xiong resumed writing. She found it therapeutic and enlightening—providing an opportunity to appreciate both the influences of growing up in the West and her Chinese heritage.

Xiong shares her perspectives in her just self-published first book *Trekking the Pacific: The Cornerstone of Two Cultures*. The book explores the cultural differences between China and North America through the lens of a Canadian-born Chinese and is available on Amazon and Kindle.

The recent graduate of Richmond’s Burnett Secondary School is also a recipient of the 2020 Schulich Leader Scholarship (Canada’s most coveted STEM scholarship valued at \$80,000) and plans to study sciences in university.

“I grew up divided by two cultures: the Chinese culture my parents advocated for, and Western culture. Whether it is eating the food, listening to the music, or listening to stories from others, always keep home close to your heart.”

Xiong last visited her extended family in China a year ago. It gave her pause to further think about the cultural differences in her writings. She says while in Canada the education system promotes being well-rounded, in China there is so much competition to get into good schools that the emphasis on academics is heightened.

“Both my parents were the first in their families to go to university. They studied really hard to get into high-end universities in Beijing, and that has kind of inspired me. It shows that no matter where you start or what your goal is, if you put in the work you’ll be able to get there



Photo submitted

Richmond’s Maggie Xiong shares many observations in her first book, *Trekking the Pacific: The Cornerstone of Two Cultures*.

somehow.”

Xiong says it was a big decision for her parents to emigrate to Canada, but greater employment opportunities and a diversity of cultures was appealing.

“I think one of the best parts of Canada is its

I think one of the best parts of Canada is its diversity. You can feel like you’ve travelled the world just staying here. I can go down the street to an Indian, Chinese or Japanese restaurant.

– Maggie Xiong

diversity. You can feel like you’ve travelled the world just staying here,” she says. “I can go down the street to an Indian, Chinese or Japanese

restaurant.”

Reflecting the book’s main theme of contrasting and comparing Xiong notes she’s been to China five times in her life—the first when she was very young—and how her observations have evolved along with her confidence.

“My first vivid memories are from a huge family gathering at my grandma’s house when I was around 10. There were so many people all eating dinner together and it dawned on me how extensive my family is. It also introduced me to the culture. I felt disconnected because I grew up here and didn’t realize how important family and culture was there. If my parents went to talk to a relative I hid behind them. Last year, I felt much more independent and totally okay to go into the city alone with my aunt or talk to my grandma more often.”

It was also during last year’s visit that she began to appreciate the degree to how much more densely populated China is than Canada.

“I went on one of their transit systems, like SkyTrain. It was completely packed,” she says. “If these people came to Vancouver they’d be confused and wonder where all the people were.”

But Xiong is proud to be Canadian too. She’s proud that the world defines us as polite and accepting, and willing to learn.

“Because we’re such a multicultural country, we get all these opportunities to learn about ourselves and each other,” she says. “No matter the magnitude of the opportunity, take it, because you never know where it will lead.”

Through volunteering Xiong also furthered her interest in the sciences. Though her job was to help navigate people around Richmond Hospital, it nevertheless confirmed her interest in pursuing a career in the field of medicine.

In the book, Xiong also shares 18 lessons she’s learned in 18 years, including that “you don’t have to be the best to be good.”

“Since I was young, I carried around the belief that if I was not the best, then I was not good at all. It was only recently that I realize that’s the farthest thing from the truth. If anything, being the best hinders you because you lose the motivation to strive for improvement,” she explains.

She also says to learn to accept that you cannot control everything.

“This was one of the hardest life lessons to wrap my head around,” she says. “However, after countless failures I was continually told over and over by my father ‘Control what you can and leave the rest up to faith.’”

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Young Agrarians inspires tomorrow's farmers

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

While it may be an increasingly challenging profession, many young people are still drawn to farming.

But getting into the field, especially without easy access to land, can be challenging—or downright unaffordable. That's where the Young Agrarians land matching program comes into play.

"We're a land matchmaking service," explains BC program manager Darcy Smith. "We make connections based on suitability."

Through the program, Smith works with prospective land tenants, as well as farmland holders in search of people to lease their land.

"Most of the new farmers getting into agriculture today do not come from a family farm background," says Smith. "They're often leasing land because they can't afford to buy farmland—especially in Metro Vancouver."

Young Agrarians helps new and prospective farmers with their business plans, as well as referring them to resources or jobs. When they find a good land match, staff facilitate the introduction between the

landlord and tenant, then help negotiate an agreement.

"We've made 78 matches on 4,600 acres across BC," says Smith. "In Metro Vancouver, the trends are definitely smaller plots, smaller acreages. Metro Vancouver really does have a very diverse set of production types, with lots of different types of agriculture happening."

Smith says she's made several matches in Richmond, which she calls a "vibrant agricultural community."

She adds that many farmers are keen to be close to markets and housing, which they can find in Richmond. A lifestyle in addition to a job, farming can be a great way to form a deep connection to community.

"A lot of farms, big and small, are community hubs," says Smith. "Having community support is essential for the success of the farmers—it's a tough go out there. Farmers give so much back to their communities, both in terms of the food that they're producing as well as the role they serve as land stewards and community hubs."

"It's important for all of us who eat food to think about how important community is for farmers, and what they do for community as well."

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Flower farmer balancing business with field work

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Rose Dykstra was always drawn to flowers. So four years ago, she left her job as a wedding photographer to become a flower farmer.

"After being a wedding photographer for 10 years, photographing the flowers was a beautiful break in an otherwise chaotic day. That was where my interest in flowers really peaked," says Dykstra. "Flowers are so incredibly important to feed the heart, and they also do double duty in providing food and habitat for all sorts of critters."

The first summer, she grew flowers in three yards. Now, she grows on five sites—including one in Richmond—that total around one acre.

Dykstra found her Richmond site through the Young Agrarians blog. Because she knew the previous farmer, the paperwork side of things was fairly straightforward.

But finding land isn't the only consideration for new farmers.

"There are many moving parts involved, and some of them can be pretty expensive like a tractor, a walk in cooler and greenhouses for season



Photo by Hannah Scott

Rose Dykstra runs an urban flower farm on five sites, including one in Richmond.

extension," she says.

As a self-employed wedding photographer, Dykstra had already been working nine to 10 hour

days on weekends, as well as eight to nine hour days on weekdays. But the lifestyle change to farming was "a bit more chaotic."

"Starting a new farm on your own—without any help, or infrastructure, or cash to purchase machines—it has always been long days, six to seven days a week for months on end," says Dykstra.

The balance between business and physical labour also makes for extra work.

"During the summer, there isn't much time to have my head in the business, so I do most of that work in the winter," says Dykstra. "The season is only seven to eight months long, and if the weather is bad that year, it could be even shorter—so I need to be pulling as much out of the fields as possible."

Even during the farming season, she tries to take a few hours each week to work on business matters. And despite the long hours and frequently changing conditions, she keeps persevering.

"Each flower grower has their own plants that they just can't seem to figure out or get a good crop out of, but we just keep trying."

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Santa needs your help more than ever

Last year, the Richmond Christmas Fund helped brighten the holidays for many of our neighbours in need. This year, your help is needed again.

In 2019 the Richmond Christmas Fund helped 2,915 residents, including 890 children, 337 youth, and 360 seniors.

They were provided with grocery vouchers, toys, books, and gift cards, so they could enjoy a festive holiday celebration with family and friends.

Never before had the Richmond Christmas Fund helped so many people. The overall number represented a 22 per cent increase from the previous high. But thanks to incredible community support—from volunteers, donors and, especially, the many sponsors and attendees of the second annual *A Not So Silent Night* fundraiser, all the needs were met.

The event, held at Jaguar Land Rover of Richmond, generated \$110,000 for the Christmas Fund, making it the biggest fundraiser ever.

As a new holiday season approaches, many families are facing unprecedented financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Christmas Fund will be there to ensure they can still share in the holiday spirit.

This year's fundraiser will take the form of a multi-week online auction, featuring a selection of high-end items available exclusively to the



Photo by Don Fennell

The Richmond Christmas Fund is seeking auction items for its *Not So Isolated Night*.

Christmas Fund's major supporters. It's being called *A Not So Isolated Night*.

The auction will go live in November, but you can get involved right now by donating one or

more unique auction items.

If you're interested in donating an auction item, please contact Ed Gavsie at 604-279-7029 or egavsie@rcrg.org

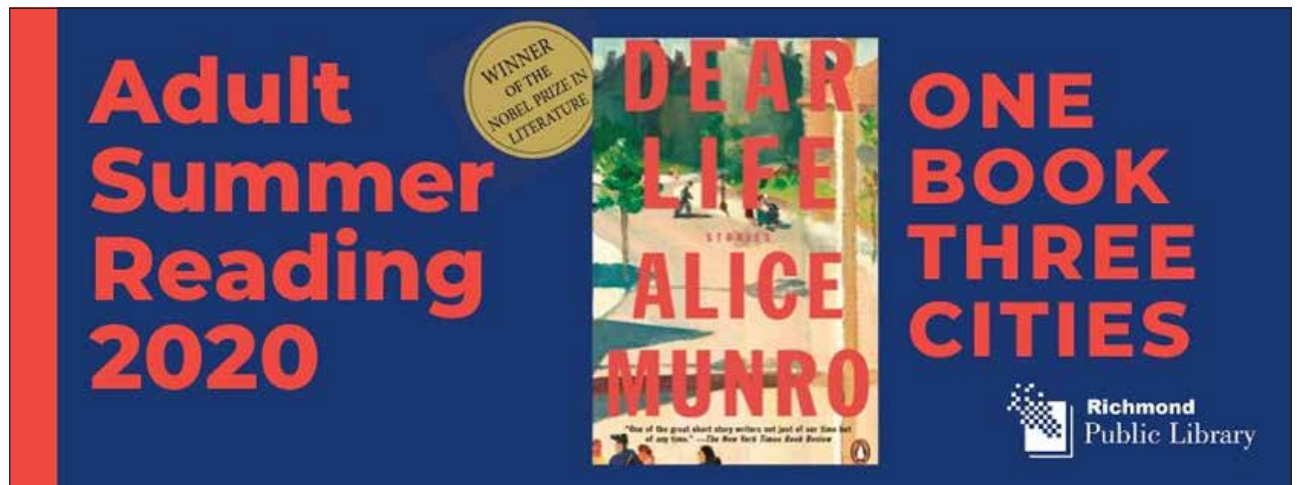
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Photo courtesy
Richmond Public
Library
**One Book, Three
Cities**, a community
reading project, is
back for a second
run this summer.
This year's book of
choice for readers
in Richmond and
peers in Xiamen and
Qingdao, China is
Dear Life by
Alice Munro.



One Book, Three Cities links readers in two nations

By DON FENNEL
@rmdsentinel

It took only a single book to unite three cities and two nations.

Following the overwhelming success of the inaugural *One Book, Three Cities* community reading project, the second annual is back for an encore performance this summer.

Through August, many literary enthusiasts in Richmond, Xiamen and Qingdao will find themselves engaged in *Dear Life*, a collection of short stories by award-winning Canadian author Alice Munro.

Last year, *Life of Pi* by fellow Canadian author Yann Martel was the book of choice.

"We're also bringing back our online forum for

a second year, offering readers from the three cities the opportunity to connect, learn from each other, and have an international conversation about this year's book of choice," says Stephanie Vokey, spokesperson for the Richmond Public Library which is teaming up with the City of Richmond's Sister City Committee on the initiative. "Readers from Xiamen and Qingdao can learn about the Canadian culture through the conversations, while Richmond residents passionate about literature will enjoy the conversations sparked on the forum."

This forum is free and easy to join, simply by visiting bookclub.yourlibrary.ca/

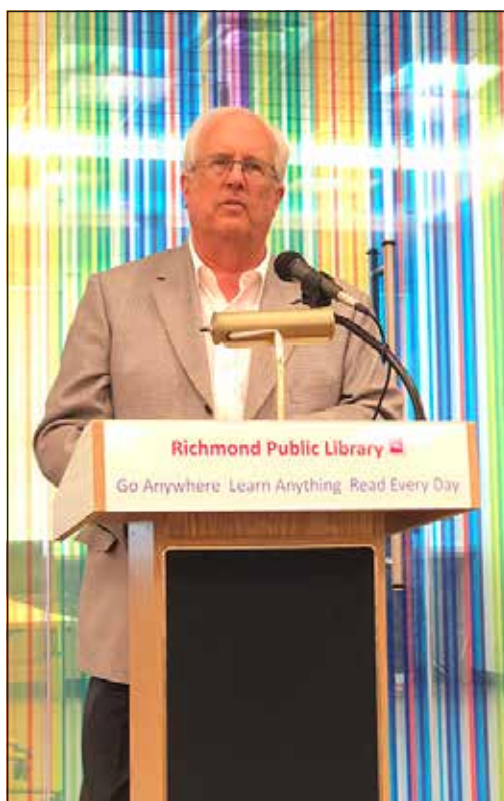
Also on tap as part of this summer's reading program at Richmond Public Library is *Stories Together Apart*. This is a weekly online registered

program held on the Zoom platform, offering the pleasure of being read to for customers of different reading abilities. A library staff member will read aloud excerpts from *Dear Life*, as well as from selected other stories including oral histories of local peoples and BC-based history.

"We're also excited to welcome back the Book Bingo to our summer reading," says Vokey. "This year, the popular game has fewer squares to complete, thus increasing the participants' chances of winning."

Follow the library on social media at facebook.com/yourlibraryRichmond/ for hints to help you complete the squares on the card, or call 604-231-6413 for personalized reading recommendations.

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Photos by Don Fennell

Participants were eager to read Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*, the selected book shared by readers in the first *One Book, Three Cities* initiative last summer.



Photo courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation

Shoppers Drug Mart's "Growing Women's Health" campaign continues to support women's health at Richmond Hospital.

Shoppers' campaign raises \$12,000 for hospital

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

Growing Women's Health," a fundraiser by Shoppers Drug Mart, continues to step up for Richmond Hospital.

Between Oct. 5 and Nov. 1, 2019, the campaign raised \$12,000 which was forwarded this week to the Richmond Hospital Foundation in support of women's health.

"We are grateful for the leadership Shoppers Drug Mart has taken in championing women's health in Richmond," says Natalie Meixner, president and CEO of the Richmond Hospital Foundation. "They have been loyal supporters of Richmond Hospital Foundation and have been committed to making an impact to health care in their community. We want to extend a very heartfelt thank you to everyone that was involved with this campaign."

Since 2008, Shoppers Drug Mart's Richmond locations have collectively raised more than \$220,000 for the cause.

In its over 30 years, Richmond Hospital Foundation has raised more than \$100 million to help fund vital medical equipment, improvements to patient care services, and upgraded facilities. Its goal remains to inspire joyful giving in the community to build a better and healthier future for Richmond.

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June record for illicit drug use deaths

The BC Coroners Service has published updated reports on illicit drug toxicity deaths and fentanyl-detected drug deaths for the first six months of 2020, with 175 illicit drug toxicity deaths reported in June.

St. John Ambulance resuming services

A fixture at many sporting and other community events, St. John Ambulance is resuming its first aid training and volunteers services in Richmond.

While businesses across the province have been heavily impacted by the pandemic, causing many to close, charities such as St. John Ambulance have also been greatly impacted. Communications co-ordinator Anna Tilley notes the charity relies solely on community support and donations to run services.

Due to the onset of the pandemic, St. John Ambulance had to make the tough choice to close branches and pause all community service programs for three months. This included therapy dog visits and medical first responder support for community events and activities, she says. However, during this unprecedented time, medical first responder volunteers stepped up to provide support by volunteering in other ways—such as at the Canadian Blood Service clinics, the Topaz Park camp for the homeless in Victoria, as well as helping support the development of an alternate care centre at the BC Convention Centre.

Tilley says as efforts continue to flatten the curve, the charity's dedicated volunteers are making a safe comeback. St. John's community service programs including the therapy dog, medical first responder, and youth programs are all resuming.

All volunteers are committed to returning to community service and will ensure they follow all COVID-19 health and safety guidelines to keep themselves and those around them safe, while they lend a hand, she says.

"The dedication our volunteers have shown since March is commendable," says Lower Mainland area commissioner Frederick Yim. "Our volunteers are prepared to help the province re-open by serving our communities while following the provincial guidelines."

To request services, contact St. John Ambulance at bcy.volunteer@sja.ca

In addition to their volunteer work, St. John Ambulance in Richmond has also resumed first aid training. The branch has implemented a comprehensive COVID-19 plan that follows WorkSafeBC guidelines, as well as those from the provincial medical officer, to ensure the safety of all students, instructors and staff.

"Getting first aid and CPR training is an extremely important action to take," says Karen MacPherson, CEO of St. John Ambulance's BC and Yukon division. "Training gives you the confidence to act fast during a variety of emergencies and, most importantly, it gives you the skills to possibly save a life."

St. John Ambulance is a 900-year-old humanitarian organization. Its BC operations started in 1911 with a mission to improve people's health, safety, and quality of life. The charity trains more than 65,000 students in BC and Yukon each year in first aid and CPR.



Food Security Society seeks new directors

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Embarking on a new strategic plan, the Richmond Food Security Society is looking for new directors to help guide its future direction.

"The world of food security is as diverse as our own community," says society vice-president Norm Goldstein. "We are looking for individuals who can provide new perspectives on the needs of our city and how we can best serve our citizens."

Created in 2009, Richmond Food Security Society has since been active in managing the city's community gardens, providing food literacy programs to local youth, and helping to develop a Richmond food charter.

Goldstein says the goal has been to provide education, services and policy that strengthen the community's access to healthy and local food over a sustainable period of time. However, like many

non-profit and community groups, he says the society's work has taken a significant shift during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A global crisis brings to light how international events can have immediate impacts on local food security," Goldstein explains. "As an example, our passionate staff and volunteers have been able to work with community partners to provide 500 meals every week to vulnerable Richmond families during this crisis. While we are still in this pandemic, it is important for us to ensure that access to healthy and culturally-appropriate food is available now and into the future."

Goldstein says no one knows when the next crisis will impact our ability to put food on our tables, heightening the importance of the society to add new directors with new ideas.

To learn more, email director@richmondfoodsecurity.org

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Photo submitted

Richmond Food Security Society vice-president Norm Goldstein is putting out a call for new directors to guide the community organization's future.



Photos from <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/chinesecanadianmuseum/>

The province is investing \$10 million in a museum to honour the history of Chinese Canadians.

Plans afoot to establish Chinese Canadian museum

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

The province is looking to establish a museum honouring Chinese Canadian history and living heritage.

The government announced it has invested \$10 million toward the creation of a museum, which will be the first in Canada. This includes \$2 million to complete planning and development and \$8 million for an endowment to provide ongoing support.

"I think it's high time," says Parm Grewal, executive director of Richmond Multicultural Community Services. "There are untold stories that need to be shared of the contributions by the diverse populations living in our community."

The museum is to include a provincial hub in Vancouver's Chinatown, multiple regional hubs and spokes throughout BC, as well as an online portal and digital experiences for historical locations throughout the province.

"We've been working closely with the community for years and it has

told us how important this museum is for everyone in BC," Premier John Horgan said in a release. "We are at a critical point when it comes to conversations about race, inequality and injustice in this province. Now is the time to come together to share the stories about how our province got to where it is—and to have conversations about where we want it to go."

A newly formed, independent and non-profit Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia will lead the development and operation of the museum.

A temporary exhibit is to be set up in August at 27 East Pender St in Vancouver. *A Seat at the Table* will explore the history of Chinese immigration and how the communities were able to stay vibrant and resilient through the food and restaurant culture they brought to BC. The exhibit is a partnership with the City of Vancouver, UBC and the Museum of Vancouver.

"Now, more than ever, we need to come together and learn from each other," Culture Minister Lisa Beare said in a release. "This museum will help foster a more inclusive society."

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Photo screen grab from Google Maps

A national poll by OneClass found 87 per cent of post-secondary students felt tuition fees should be lower for online classes.

Poll finds students equate online classes with lower tuition

By DON FENNEL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

A poll of Canadian post-secondary students found an overwhelming majority see online classes adding up to lower tuition fees.

The poll of 3,696 students at 25 colleges and universities by OneClass asked them this question: Going online has provided new challenges to schools and their student body. If your school goes completely online in

the fall, should tuition change?

Eighty-seven per cent of students responding to the survey said fees should be lower for online classes. Further, 0.8 per cent think tuition should not change, and 0.5 per cent plan to take a gap year because of the pandemic.

As a result of COVID-19, several schools are expected to introduce fully online or hybrid learning classes when they resume in the fall.

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Richmond perfect place to spot Comet NEOWISE

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Comet NEOWISE is currently visible from the Northern Hemisphere—but won't be for much longer.

And Richmond is ideally located, with clear views of the right area of the sky. Find a dark spot—such as the West Dyke—away from city lights, and look northwest below the Big Dipper.

"Comets are the icy and rocky leftovers from planet building," says Dr. Aaron Boley, associate professor in UBC's department of physics and astronomy. "When we see a comet's tail in the sky, we witness the release of material that has been hidden away since the formation of the solar system itself."

Comet NEOWISE was discovered on March 27 by NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission.

It's visible to the naked eye, but you'll get a better view with binoculars or a small telescope. Once the comet disappears, it won't be seen again for 6,800 years.

"Bright comets, such as NEOWISE, are rare, and are a special and inspiring natural wonder to see in the night sky," says Boley. "You'll only get to see a few in your lifetime, so go out and look for yourself."

For more information, check nasa.gov/feature/how-to-see-comet-neowise

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Photo by Hannah Scott

Discovered in March, Comet NEOWISE is currently visible under the Big Dipper in the northwest sky.

Richmond city council split on backyard chickens

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond city councillors debated expanding its backyard chicken program at an early July general purposes committee meeting.

But they ultimately approved a staff proposal (Option 2) that enables all residents on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) property to keep backyard chickens—regardless of their property's size. Those who reside outside the ALR, in detached single family homes in residential zones, can also keep chickens—provided their property covers at least 2,000 square metres.

"I am completely opposed to Option 2," said Coun. Michael Wolfe. "It does not include the residential backyard chicken program, which is where the education, support and guidance is."

Coun. Kelly Greene agreed, saying that Option 2 does not provide "comprehensive backyard chicken regulations." Risks associated with backyard chickens could be mitigated through bylaw and regulation, she added—which is not part of the current proposal.

An alternative proposal (Option 3) calls for the creation of a residential backyard chicken program for single detached family residential zones, along with a bylaw and licensing requirement. Coun. Wolfe, Greene, and Harold Steves voiced support for this option.

"When we have a residential backyard chicken program, as proposed in Option 3, when we can have these things in bylaw and regulation, then we're going to have a much better program where we're not going to have residents angry and up-



Photo via Wikipedia

Richmond city council discussed the expansion of backyard chicken regulations recently.

set because their neighbours have chickens," said Coun. Greene.

Currently, backyard chickens can only be kept in Richmond on properties of at least 2,000 square metres (21,529 square feet). Several options were explored by city staff following a referral last summer that directed city staff to study the viability of chickens in backyards on properties both within and outside the ALR.

While current animal control bylaws don't limit the number of chickens allowed on a property, the motion was amended to include a limit of two to eight chickens per property.

The motion to approve Option 2 was passed, with Coun. Wolfe, Greene, Steves and Carol Day opposed; when the issue was brought before council, the same councillors were opposed.

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Richmond receiving major energy award

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond has received another major energy award for its environmentally friendly heating and cooling technology.

The award was given by the Energy Globe Foundation, an international organization recognizing projects that conserve energy and use renewable or emission-free sources. Richmond's award recognizes the Central at Garden City expansion of its Alexandra District Energy Utility.

The energy plant uses renewable, low carbon geo-exchange technology to provide space heating, cooling and domestic hot water heating to over 10 buildings—totalling 176,000 square metres of floor space—including a fire hall, residential and commercial space.

The Central at Garden City expansion, which became operational in 2015, uses low-carbon air source heat pumps to provide heating and cooling. The plant is installed on the roof of a retail development, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reducing natural gas use by at least 70 per cent compared to conventional alternatives.

A further expansion, which will double the system's renewal capacity, is in



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Richmond has received an energy award for its Central at Garden City expansion.

the planning stage. The city previously received the same award in 2013 for the first phase of the project.

This year's award was announced June 30 at www.energyglobe.info and will be presented to Richmond council at a later date.

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Moncton Street will be pedestrian-only for BC Day weekend

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Parts of Steveston will close to vehicle traffic for the BC Day long weekend (Aug. 1-3).

The decision was made by city council at last week's meeting after a recommendation from Coun. Michael Wolfe. Moncton Street will be closed between No. 1 Road and Third Avenue, and Bayview Street will be one-way westbound between No. 1 Road and Third Avenue.

The same restrictions on Canada Day—which staff said cost \$13,350 in total—have led city council to continue to discuss the possibility of future street closures.

"Changes need to happen in Steveston, especially right now with so many cyclists and people walking—but it's always busy on the weekends," said Coun. Carol Day. "I think the time has come to really look at what our options are."

Both Day and Coun. Harold Steves expressed support for a one-way model on some streets. This would allow for widening of pedestrian walkways in addition to parking for those in need.

"This is a pandemic, not a traffic decision," said Coun. Kelly Greene. She pointed to other cities and neighbourhoods that have become pedestrianized as a response to the pandemic, indicating that Steveston should do the same at least on a Friday to Sunday basis through the summer.

Coun. Chak Au added it's important Steveston merchants know city council is still discussing future plans for closures, and has not yet made a permanent decision—so input is still being welcomed.



Photo by Hannah Scott

Moncton Street will be closed to pedestrians between Aug. 1 and 3 for the BC Day long weekend.

"The door is not closed," he said.

Councillors debated closing the same streets for all of August, but this was defeated by a narrow margin. Cost was a large factor in the discussion.

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CIBC MUTUAL FUNDS INVESTIGATION

Law firm Investigation Counsel Professional Corporation is investigating a potential class action for Canadian investors, including residents of British Columbia, who invested in any of the following **CIBC Mutual Funds**:

- CIBC Canadian Equity Fund
- Renaissance Canadian Growth Fund
- Renaissance Canadian Core Value Fund
- CIBC Managed Aggressive Growth Portfolio
- CIBC Managed Growth Portfolio
- CIBC Managed Balanced Growth Portfolio
- CIBC Managed Balanced Portfolio
- CIBC Smart Income Solution
- CIBC Smart Balanced Income Solution
- CIBC Smart Balanced Solution
- CIBC Smart Balanced Growth Solution
- CIBC Smart Growth Solution

If you presently own, or previously owned, one of these **CIBC Mutual Funds**, you might not have received adequate disclosure about the mutual fund manager's investment strategies. You also might have paid **excessive fees** that lowered the returns on your investment and retirement savings.

Canadian mutual fund investors pay amongst the highest fees in the world. Canadians deserve full disclosure about mutual fund investment strategies and their associated costs. **Any excessive fees should be paid back to affected investors.**

If you are a B.C. resident who owned any of the above **CIBC Mutual Funds**, please contact the lawyers at Investigation Counsel by email or phone:

mutualfunds@investigationcounsel.com | 416.637.3152

Happy BC Day



Linda Reid
MLA Richmond South Centre
604-775-0891
Linda.Reid.MLA@Leg.bc.ca



Teresa Wat
MLA Richmond North Centre
604-775-0754
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John Yap
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RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Quarter century of work has saved thousands of animals



**Eyal
Lichtmann**

The Regional Animal Protection Society began 25 years ago serving the people of Richmond. As a result of two-and-a-half decades of effort, Richmond has effectively no stray cats. By contrast, Surrey is estimated to have tens of thousands.

In 1999, we opened the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, the only one of its kind in Canada. Since 2007, thanks to the support of Richmond residents, we have been contracted to operate the City of Richmond Animal Shelter and provide animal care and control. We hope we made you proud of our professional services. We operate two thrift stores reducing landfill waste and with 100 per cent of proceeds reinvested back in the community, we provide education in schools and advocacy services that make our community better for households with pets. In 2018, we opened the community-owned, not-for-profit RAPS Animal Hospital for the public—the first model of its kind to reduce veterinary care costs for animal rescue agencies and the public.

We were planning a big 25th celebration this year. Like a lot of plans in 2020, this one had to be postponed until 2021. But I want to take this time to share the range of impacts we have had over this time in helping Richmond residents.

We have a new mission and model in animal welfare to make Richmond proud. We are devising new innovative ways to meet our mission as a proud Richmond service provider. Animals make our lives, families, neighbourhoods and communities safer, healthier and happier. That's why we recognize that our role as an animal-serving agency is to help animals ... and their people. To make sure animals are cared for, we need to ensure that the people who



Photo submitted

RAPS is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, but postponing an in-person celebration until 2021.

care for them are adequately equipped. That's why we provide interest-free payment plans and subsidies at the RAPS Animal Hospital, have a pet food bank, assist people with low incomes and those in housing and shelters and why we advocate for governments to protect households that include pets.

Statistics indicate that 45 per cent of households include companion animals—and the proportion is increasing. That means Richmond has close to 100,000 pets.

Thanks to incredibly generous support from our community, RAPS is able to care for 1,000 animals a year at the City Shelter. Hundreds of mostly unadoptable cats live at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary—thousands over the years, including many who would have faced euthanasia in other jurisdictions but because of RAPS lived out their lives in this "Kitty Club Med" in East Richmond. We have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in pet food and supplies to households in need and, in just over two years, partially or fully subsidized veterinary care worth nearly \$2 million.

Though we serve the entire Metro Vancouver region, all of our operations are in Richmond—we are Richmond born and Richmond proud! We are a sig-

nificant Richmond employer and a destination for hundreds of volunteers and people of all abilities to interact with animals. Young people gain volunteer hours and transferable skills doing everything from direct care of animals to retail marketing and sales at our thrift stores.

We will invite the entire community to join us when it is safe to do so and we will celebrate together the achievements made possible by the generous support and volunteerism of animal-loving people of Richmond. In the meantime, we are cautiously reopening parts of our organization. The RAPS Animal Shelter and the RAPS Thrift Stores are reopening to the public with strict protocols in place. As an essential service, the RAPS Animal Hospital has remained open throughout this time. The RAPS Cat Sanctuary is undergoing significant upgrades (stay tuned for exciting news) and will return to visiting hours later this year.

Everything we've achieved is because the people of Richmond understand the positive role animals play in our lives—and share our belief that they deserve to be treated with respect, dignity and love.

Eyal Lichtmann is CEO and executive director of the Regional Animal Protection Society.

MY NAME IS BUBBLES

Bubbles is a cute little bunny who likes to have fun! Learn more about how awesome rabbits are as house pets at rapsbc.com/2020/07/ever-considered-a-pet-rabbit

****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.****



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



Sockeyes hand out scholarships

By DON FENNEL
@rmdsentinel

The Richmond Sockeyes are continually recognized as one of the top junior hockey clubs in Canada. But its actions speak louder than words.

A proud member of the Pacific Junior Hockey League, the Sockeyes annually recognize several of its players with scholarships. This year, the club—thanks to its active alumni and sponsors—presented awards to 10 players: Michael Araki-Young, Marcus Cumberworth, Mattias Hohlweg, Hayden Hurst, Noah Kelly, Jason Lin, Dillon Maher, Jack McMillan, Gabriel Suessenbacher-Fu and Vincent Thrum.

A local minor hockey prospect, Araki-Young capped his junior hockey career in the 2019-20 season by averaging nearly a point a game (36 points in 38 games). He was a fixture on the power play with seven goals, while his three game-winning goals further reflected his importance to the team.

In his first year as a Sockeye, goaltender Cumberworth appeared in 12 games and won five starts. Another local minor hockey prospect, Hohlweg managed 31 points in 37 games in his rookie season while earning a shorthanded goal and game-winning goal.



Photo by Richmond Sockeyes

The Richmond Sockeyes have presented scholarships to 10 of its players. The club has now handed out more than \$300,000 worth of scholarships in the last 18 years.

Defenceman Hurst contributed 11 points in 30 games, while captain Kelly had 38 points in 42 games and had six powerplay goals.

Rookie defenceman Lin demonstrated his skills with 10 points in 11 games, while Maher had five

points in 15 games at forward.

McMillan had 12 points in 33 games, Suessenbacher-Fu 17 points in 28 games from the blueline, and Thrum, another rookie blueliner, played 41 games and had 14 points.

City replacing Minoru oval artificial turf

The artificial turf on the Minoru oval sports field will be replaced this summer.

The resurfacing includes 10,000 square metres (107,639 square feet) of field and will slightly affect the use of the surrounding Minoru track during construction. The resurfacing will be complete this September.

The first step is site preparations and construction fencing. For the duration of the work, a plywood bridge surface will be installed across the eight track lanes next to the grandstand to allow heavy equipment to enter and exit the work zone from the east side of the track.

The plywood bridge surface will prevent walkers and runners from being able to walk around the entire track, and the remaining track surface will be divided into a one-way course. People will proceed in a counter clockwise direction in four lanes, then the course turns around (at the plywood bridge near the grandstand) to proceed in four lanes in a clockwise direction.

Signage, fencing and directional arrows have been added to ensure people are able to continue to use the track surface while maintaining physical distancing. Signs have been posted around the track and field showing the one-way routes that are to be followed.

Minoru oval is one of Richmond's busiest sport fields, usually used daily for a variety of training and events. The existing field surface is 12 years old and has exceeded the typical life span for an artificial turf field, which is generally up to 10 years. At that point, the turf layer and shock absorbency start to breakdown due to wear and tear.

The replacement work will include the addition of a new shock pad (shock absorbance under layer) to provide long term shock impact attenuation (absorbing impact energy when running.) The existing infill will also be replaced with a new thermoplastic elastomers (TPE) infill, which is suggested to be a



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The artificial turf on the Minoru oval sports field will be replaced this summer.

cleaner alternative to recycled rubber tire granules.

The project is weather dependent, so could experience some delays if it rains more than usual this summer.

The city will provide updates on the project on its social media channels. For more information, email parks@richmond.ca or call 604-244-1208.

BC economic update shows deficit

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a potential \$12.5 billion operating deficit for BC next year, according to projections from the ministry of finance.

"The pandemic has exposed underlying gaps

in our economy and society," said Finance Minister Carole James. "We have been reminded of the need for strong public services and supports, workplace safety and our collective responsibility to take care of each other, and I'm looking forward to putting people's input into action as we move forward with the economic recovery of our province."

The BC government has invested \$6.26 billion in COVID-19 supports, including the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers, enhanced climate action tax credit, rent relief and other supplements.

As part of the COVID-19 Action Plan, \$1.5 billion has been earmarked for economic recovery measures to be announced in September.

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Richmond's economic report shows impact of COVID-19

Richmond's economic development office has released its June 2020 response and recovery report, which highlights measures implemented by the office to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on our economy as actions necessary to mitigate risks to public health forced businesses to close and people to stay at home," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Along with ensuring public health and community safety, supporting local businesses and boosting economic recovery remains a top priority for the city."

The 16-page report captures some of actions taken, already underway, or planned to reduce and alleviate the impact of COVID-19 across the city, especially among businesses and their employees. Among them:

- COVID-19 business support centre—a centralized, online source for accurate and timely information and resources for local businesses (www.businessinrichmond.ca/covid-19)
- WeAreRichmondBC—a partnership between the City of Richmond, Tourism Richmond and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to showcase local businesses and encourage residents to explore and connect with their community (www.wearerichmond.ca)
- Alternate product distribution opportunities—to overcome challenges getting products to marketplace during the pandemic, several alternate channels were created such as Skipper Otto (a direct-to-consumer seafood network) and BC Local Root (an online platform for delivery and pickup of locally made products) (www.businessinrichmond.ca/distribution)
- Richmond-made safety supplies—as businesses re-open, personal protective equipment and safety supplies are in high demand to combat COVID-19. A list of suppliers of Richmond-made medical and personal protective equipment enables people to buy local and support local (www.businessinrichmond.ca/safety-supplies)



Photo by Don Fennell

Richmond's economic development office has released a response and recovery report.

[nessinrichmond.ca/safety-supplies](http://www.businessinrichmond.ca/safety-supplies))

• Opportunities for displaced workers—many workers, especially in the tourism, hospitality, aviation and service sectors, experienced temporary displacement due to COVID-19. A database of job boards and job listings for local companies gave some a chance to find alternate employment and stability during this period of uncertainty (www.businessinrichmond.ca/jobs)

The report can be found on the City of Richmond Economic Development website at www.businessinrichmond.ca/response-recovery-report

RICHMOND
SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

*Connecting you with our community.
Download our app and take us with you.*



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



City calls for creators to register for 11th annual Culture Days

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond's annual Culture Days will last an entire month this year.

Creative individuals including artists, musicians, dancers, writers, architects, chefs, designers, photographers, artisans and curators are invited to register free public activities online at culturedays.ca/en

The celebration will begin Sept. 25 and end Oct. 25. As in previous years, those interested in organizing

activities are encouraged to offer in-person demos, tours, workshops or presentations—as long as they adhere to COVID-19 physical distancing and safety guidelines.

**RICHMOND
CULTURE
DAYS**
SEPTEMBER 25 –
OCTOBER 25, 2020

Those unable to offer an in-person activity are encouraged to hold an online event or post digital content for people to access at any time over the four-week period.

For more information about Culture Days in Richmond, please visit www.richmond.ca/culturedays or contact arts programmer Todd Evanger at 604-247-8320 or todd.evanger@richmond.ca

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



Photo via culturedays.ca

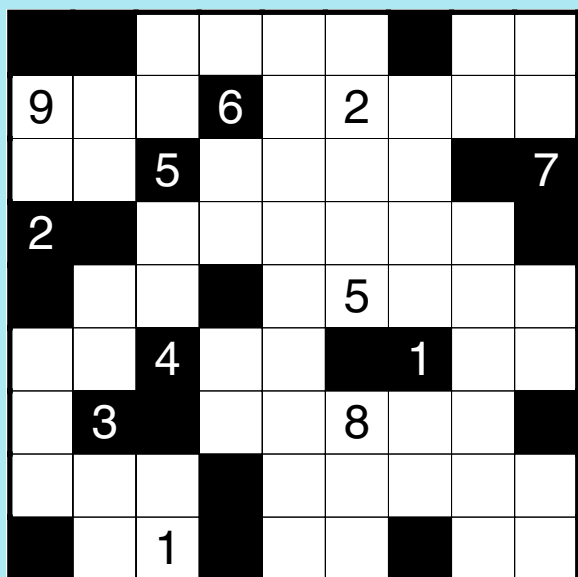
A yearly celebration, Culture Days will take place for a month this year and include online events.



Art by Ming Yeung
Moon Rabbit Jumping Over City Of Richmond.

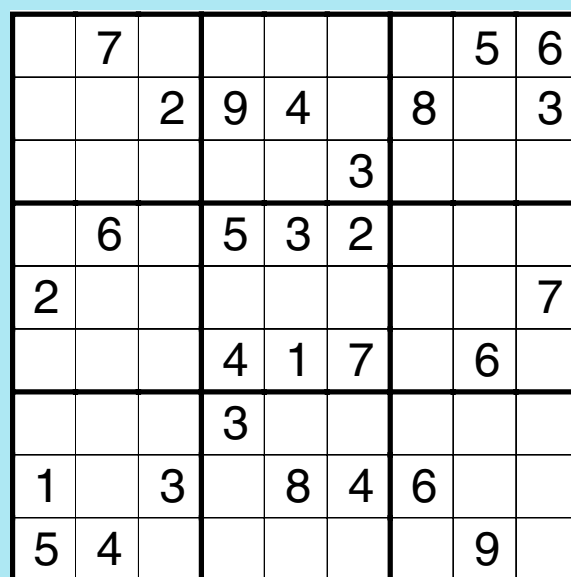
STR8TS

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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