



Photo courtesy Tourism Richmond

It was already enjoying a resurgence of popularity before COVID-19, but since the pandemic was declared in March cycling is even more a favourite pastime among Richmond residents.

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Local realtor dedicated to giving back

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

At age 19, Chris Dinnell was a new father trying to make ends meet for his young family.

"We were out living on our own, using the food bank every few weeks," he explains. "I was embarrassed about it. I didn't tell anybody—not even my family."

Now, at age 40, he's gone through more life experiences and is keen to give back whenever he can.

A few months ago, fellow Richmondite and eager volunteer Karina Reid asked Dinnell to help with food bank deliveries as part of the Coming Together Richmond Facebook group. Dinnell jumped at the opportunity, and has now completed about 120 deliveries.

"Chris is a community leader. He truly embodies the word," says Reid of Dinnell. "He believes in the power of community, connection and how everyone can do something to help each other."

Each Tuesday Dinnell loads seven or eight deliveries into his car and takes them to the same recipients weekly. Some wave at him from afar as they open their door, and some prefer to wait until he has left to collect their items.

And the program has extended further than simply food delivery. One of Dinnell's regular delivery recipients, a refugee family, received a tablet donated to the group. He bought an iTunes card to add to their delivery.

Another driver who delivered to a house for single mothers noticed that the kids didn't have a lot of art supplies, so purchased some for them with his own money.

"When you deliver week after week, you start to form a bond with people," says Dinnell. "You see other avenues that you can help out in."

The deliveries have heartened Dinnell during the pandemic, and he says the feeling of giving back pays for itself tenfold.



Photo submitted

Through his involvement in the Coming Together Richmond Facebook group, Richmond realtor Chris Dinnell has been able to give back to his community—something he's passionate about.

people who are in business being successful can do, and use their influence to help others," he says.

The Coming Together Richmond volunteers have taken the name of the group to heart and come together to help out their community in a time of need. Both Dinnell and Reid say they've formed new friendships with fellow volunteers through the initiative.

"A lot of the drivers that I see on a regular basis, I get to know," he says. "I can't wait until all this is over so we can have a big barbecue and give back to the drivers to let them know how amazing and special they all are. We couldn't have done this without them."

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



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Bike boom emerges in the midst of pandemic

By DON FENNEL
@rmdsentinel

Even before the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, cycling was on the upswing. Now, there's a full-on boom.

"I think it can be attributed to a few factors—one being something to get out and do in a safe manner, whether by yourself or within your family, keep a safe distance, and be out in the fresh air," says Brett Martyniuk of Village Bikes in Steveston. "With the pandemic shutting down gyms and, at the beginning, ski hills and even golf courses, cycling becomes a go-to option to get your fitness in."

It's also increasingly become a favoured mode of transportation for running errands or an alternative to taking public transit, he says.

For Village Bikes, it's also meant a sharp uptick in business.

"We have seen a dramatic increase with people wanting to get into cycling for the first time, or parents wanting to get a bike to get out and ride with their kids," says Martyniuk. "We've also seen people wanting to upgrade their current bikes as they've decided cycling will be their sole means of transportation to get to and from work. And we've seen people purchase bikes because they want to maintain an active lifestyle and what they're used to doing hasn't been an option for them."

But keeping up with the demand has been challenging. Martyniuk says there is a shortage for certain types of bikes and suppliers are scrambling to fill orders. He says it may be several weeks before Village Bikes is able to restock.

Requests for service and repairs, which Village Bikes also provides, have increased as more and



Photo by Hannah Scott

The popularity of cycling is soaring in Richmond as residents seek a way to enjoy the outdoors and spend time together.

more people hop aboard the cycling bandwagon.

"We've seen plenty of people who are pulling their bikes out of the garage or storage that haven't been used in over five years," says Martyniuk. "They want to get rolling but need a tune up. It's of course been a big positive for us business-wise, but also very difficult navigating these strange times seemingly overnight. We were operating on an appointment-only basis which came with a lot of email/phone correspondence prior to having a potential customer come into the shop."

We have seen a dramatic increase with people wanting to get into cycling for the first time, or parents wanting to get a bike to get out and ride with their kids.

-Brett Martyniuk

Richmond's typography is ideal for cycling. The flat terrain enables riders of all ages and skill levels, and the city has built an extensive network of both on-street and off-street routes that connect to major attractions and destinations. In all, there are about 70 kilometres of designated routes which can be viewed at richmond.ca.

In addition to being well-planned, the routes also afford riders the opportunity to enjoy an abundance of scenic and shoreline views. One new feature of the routes is the cycling art tour. Created since the outbreak of the pandemic, it encourages residents to get outdoors and to celebrate public art in a safe way. The artwork underscores the power and resilience of community, connection, togetherness, home and place.

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The bike stalls in Steveston are full these days.

Photo by Hannah Scott



Photos courtesy Mystery Towns/Adam Walker
Mystery Towns is offering Richmond sleuths three virtual scavenger hunts to choose from.

Virtual mysteries await Richmond sleuths

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A robbery in the fishing industry has just taken place, and sleuths are scurrying to resolve the conundrum.

In the *Steveston Maritime Mystery*, one of three games centred on Richmond and created by Alberta-based Mystery Towns, players must solve 20 clues to discover who stole the nets from Fisherman's Wharf.

Mystery Towns has also created virtual scavenger hunts in downtown Richmond and at McArthurGlen Designer Outlet. It has been developing similar adventures throughout BC and Alberta over the last three years.

"We always look for places that people can interact with," says Mystery Towns founder and director Andrew Nickerson. "We always say whether you've lived in town 20 years or 20 minutes, we're going to find you something you've never seen before."

When developing new games, Mystery Towns collaborates with local partners to learn what ar-

eas they want to showcase. In the case of the Richmond games, they worked with Tourism Richmond to choose locations, as well as collaborating with local businesses.

"We never do anything remotely—we go and find everything ourselves," says Nickerson. "So in this particular instance we spent a week on the ground in Richmond."

Over the course of the week, around 1,000 photographs are taken for each game. Development teams walk around to find unique details, then develop a route with specific clues.

The COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench into the games planned for Richmond. The Steveston adventure had just been launched, and the other two were set to launch in early spring.

So Nickerson and his team pivoted, changing elements of the games to make sure they could be played while maintaining physical distancing guidelines. Then they re-launched the games, which he says have been popular even during the pandemic.

Players do not need to enter any buildings in

order to play the modified games, which focus instead on building exteriors. Hints are available if you're stuck—but these cost time penalties, which are added to your final score. Teams compete for the fastest completion time through the Mystery Towns app.

Scavenger hunts provide a fun way to interact with local communities and history, while being outside and staying physically distanced. Nickerson says he's also seen an increase in the number of families playing.

"We hope to really take advantage of that," he says. "We are a really good, fun, family-friendly activity."

A charged smartphone is required to play the game (iPhone 5s or newer; Android 4.4 or later). Data or WiFi is required to download the app and activate your game, but not for the rest of the scavenger hunt.

For more information, or to purchase a team game pass (one to four players recommended) visit mysterytowns.com/

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Climb for Alzheimer's goes online

Each September for the past eight years, committed individuals and teams have climbed North Vancouver's Grouse Grind as part of the Alzheimer society of BC's annual fundraiser, the *Climb for Alzheimer's*. Things look different in 2020, but the *Climb for Alzheimer's* is still going ahead in a virtual capacity.

For the first time ever, the event will be open to anyone, anywhere in the province. The society is inviting Richmond residents to come together to hike a total of 70,000 kilometres—one kilometre for each individual living with dementia in BC—to raise funds and show people on the dementia journey that they are not alone.

This year's event will include hikes across BC, from Mount Douglas in Victoria to the Summit Peak Trail in Fort Nelson or the legendary Grouse Grind in North Vancouver. The event runs until Sept. 21, which is World Alzheimer's Day.

"Although the location has changed and adapted, the heart of the event remains," says Alzheimer society of BC CEO Maria Howard. "The climb continues to be a challenging, fun, invigorating event that makes a real difference to people in our province affected by dementia. It shows people living with dementia that they are not alone."

In a time where travel restrictions are the norm, this challenge also offers an opportunity to take advantage of the province's endless trails, natural beauty and potential for adventure, while raising money and awareness for the thousands of people living with dementia. Participants can register as individuals or as a team and are encouraged to share their hiking and climbing challenges online, which will help to galvanize the community spirit and energy that makes the event so special.

Participants will be raising money to for research and to ensure people affected by dementia can access programs and services through the



Photos courtesy The Alzheimer Society of BC
The Alzheimer Society of BC is inviting Richmondites to come together to hike 70,000 kilometres in total—one for each person living with dementia in BC.

society's First Link dementia support, which provides support and education for people who are affected by dementia. This programming is crucially important for BC families to feel connected and supported during these unusual times.

If you are planning a hike, please adhere to the current physical distancing recommendations. Check the BC Parks website or another online resource before you leave for your outdoor adventure as some trails may be closed or adapted.

For more information about the *Climb for Alzheimer's*, visit climbforalzheimers.ca.



Health officials: stay vigilant against the spread of COVID-19

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is reminding the public, businesses and facility operators to remain vigilant against the spread of COVID-19 as more people are out in public enjoying summer and businesses are restarting. The lifting of some restrictions, re-opening of businesses and attractions, and increased social interactions people are having also increases the number of possible contacts individuals have in the community. This can lead to more instances of potential public exposures in the event of positive cases.

"We know people are eager to get out and enjoy summer and we want to remind them that COVID-19 is still in our communities. We have to continue taking the measures we know are ef-

fective at keeping transmissions flat: Stay home if you're sick, wash your hands, keep your social circles small and maintain physical distance when out in public," said VCH deputy chief medical health officer Dr. Mark Lysyshyn. "Vancouver Coastal Health has already issued public notifications related to places where we've seen large groups of people go to socialize, mingle and party, such as bars and nightclubs. When people aren't taking measures to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 in these settings, it means more potential risk to the public and more contacts for our Public Health teams to follow."

VCH Public Health teams continue to follow up with all confirmed COVID-19 cases and their close contacts. VCH is also launching its public expo-

sures website for situations where Public Health determines there may have been low-risk public exposures of COVID-19 and are unable to contact all possible contacts. The location and specified date and time of these exposures will be posted to www.vch.ca/COVIDexposures. Anyone who has visited the listed locations at the specified times are simply asked to monitor themselves for symptoms and continue with their daily activities. Anyone who develops symptoms, however mild, is asked to call their family doctor or 8-1-1, seek testing and then self-isolate. Notifications related to flights, work sites, cruises, long-distance bus and train travel and public events are posted on the BC Centre for Disease Control's public exposures website.



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond is re-opening more facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, with strict safety protocols.

Popular attractions reopen across the city

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

More Richmond facilities have re-opened recently despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Richmond Art Gallery has limited public access—admitting a maximum of 10 people at a time. The gallery is accessible through a new temporary entrance at the northeast side of the Richmond Cultural Centre (7700 Minoru Gate).

Visitors to the art gallery can drop in, but are encouraged to pre-book their visit in advance by calling 604-247-8363 or emailing galler@richmond.ca. Opening hours are Wednesday to Saturday from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site has re-opened its main shipyard building only. A maximum of 30 people are being admitted at a time. Visitors can drop in Thursday to Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

South Arm Outdoor Pool has also re-opened, via pre-registration only. Bookings can be made up to seven days in advance, or as close as two hours ahead of a session start time if space is available.

Register online at richmond.ca/register using your MyRichmond account or by phone at 604-276-4300.

Updates on re-openings will be shared at richmond.ca/covid19 and city social media channels.

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Photos courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives is selling specially-designed masks for \$20 each in support of the Richmond Christmas Fund.

#WearTheBear in support of Richmond Christmas Fund

By DON FENNELL

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

Richmond residents are being encouraged to #WearTheBear. In a neighbourly gesture that helps keep others safe and supports the Richmond Christmas Fund, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives is selling specially-designed face masks.

The non-medical masks, which sell for \$20 each, feature the Christmas Fund bear mascot and are available online at wearthebear.ca or in person at the RCRG offices inside the Carling Place building at 190-7000 Minoru Blvd.

You can also purchase your mask at O'Hare's GastroPub or Davood's Bistro in Steveston as well as Big Star Sandwich Company in the Coppersmith Shopping Centre.

RCRG also wants you to help spread the word and the holiday spirit by tagging [@rcargives](https://twitter.com/rcargives) so they can repost your photo.

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BC Liberals introduce legislation to support hospitality sector



JOHN YAP

John Yap, MLA for Richmond-Steveston and BC Liberal critic for liquor and gaming, introduced legislation last week to allow restaurants to permanently sell liquor with delivery and take out sales.

If passed, the bill would also support the recent Vancouver Park Board move to allow responsible drinking in 22 municipal parks.

"Bars and restaurants across BC have been hit hard by COVID-19 and they need every opportunity possible to keep their doors open and continue

providing jobs in our communities," said Yap. "This bill will support thousands of small businesses by providing opportunities for restaurants to permanently continue selling liquor through takeout and delivery sales, as well as give private liquor retailers a chance to compete while expanding choice to consumers."

The Liquor Control and Licensing Amendment Act 2020 aims to make permanent some of the common sense solutions brought forward by the BC Liberals over the past few months that expire this fall. The bill, if passed, will allow establishments to continue to sell unopened liquor as a part of their takeout and delivery offerings and will also let them buy liquor from any licensee, including private retailers, keeping costs down for business owners and providing opportunities to support locally-owned liquor retailers.

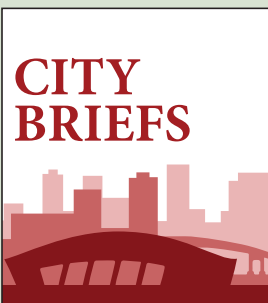
"It is clear that every sector in the province is finding it difficult to make ends meet and see themselves through this challenging time. This bill gives BC's restaurants a fighting chance to keep their doors open," added Yap.

New equipment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The Richmond Library and Cultural Centre building will have some equipment replaced with low carbon mechanical systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 60 per cent.

Steveston street closures an ongoing plan

In addition to the estimated \$30,000 to implement temporary road changes in Steveston over the BC Day long weekend, the city will spend about \$32,500 on changes throughout August that render both Bayview and Moncton streets one-way. Councillors directed staff to review pedestrian space on the south side of Bayview Street and make changes from time to time as necessary.



City aims to reduce money laundering

Aiming to reduce money laundering through underground Money Services Businesses, the city will send a letter to BC's Finance Ministry requesting the establishment of a regulatory agency to oversee such businesses—which are currently unregulated in BC.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



DEAR RICHMOND CONSTITUENTS,

There is a crisis in our strata communities over a horrendous spike in insurance premiums. Homeowners are footing the bill and they are rightfully demanding government action.

Over the past few months, I have met with strata owners and groups across Richmond and have received over 400 signatures asking the Premier to provide them with some form of relief, including legislation, to address the skyrocketing costs of water damage insurance deductibles, many of which have seen increases between \$100,000 to \$500,000.

Some Richmond strata properties have seen their insurance premiums spike by as much as 500% compared to last year. These unmanageable rates are forcing some owners to either go uninsured or vacate their homes.

Unfortunately, the BC Government's answer to months of public outcry from strata groups and condo owners across British Columbia does not go nearly far enough. In fact, it keeps the Provincial Insurance Premium Tax firmly in place, allowing the government to draw even more money from homeowner's pockets as rates increase.

I am asking this government to rethink this legislation, such as temporarily halting the Provincial Insurance Premium Tax, and offer real solutions that will provide the relief Richmond strata owners need.



Teresa Wat, MLA

Richmond North Centre Constituency Office
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Reading entertains and informs

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

The benefits of reading are well documented—improving brain power, building vocabulary, and increasing empathy among them. But it can also be a tonic for relaxing, an escape from reality, or, in a figurative sense at least, stepping into another's shoes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, residents have maintained a strong engagement with literary works. Since the summer reading program at Richmond Public Library launched June 24, members have checked out more than 18,000 books.

"The most popular so far include *Camino Winds*, a novel for adults; *Sonic the Hedgehog* for kids; and *The Book Thief* for teens," says library spokesperson Stephanie Vokey, who invites readers to visit yourlibrary.ca to find their next great summer read.

Readers can also visit the main Brighthouse branch (7700 Minoru Gate) weekdays for a quick look at popular collections; pick up holds at other neighbourhood branches; or grab a quick picks bag of books chosen by library staff.

Speaking of library staff, they're also using this time to check titles off their to-read list.

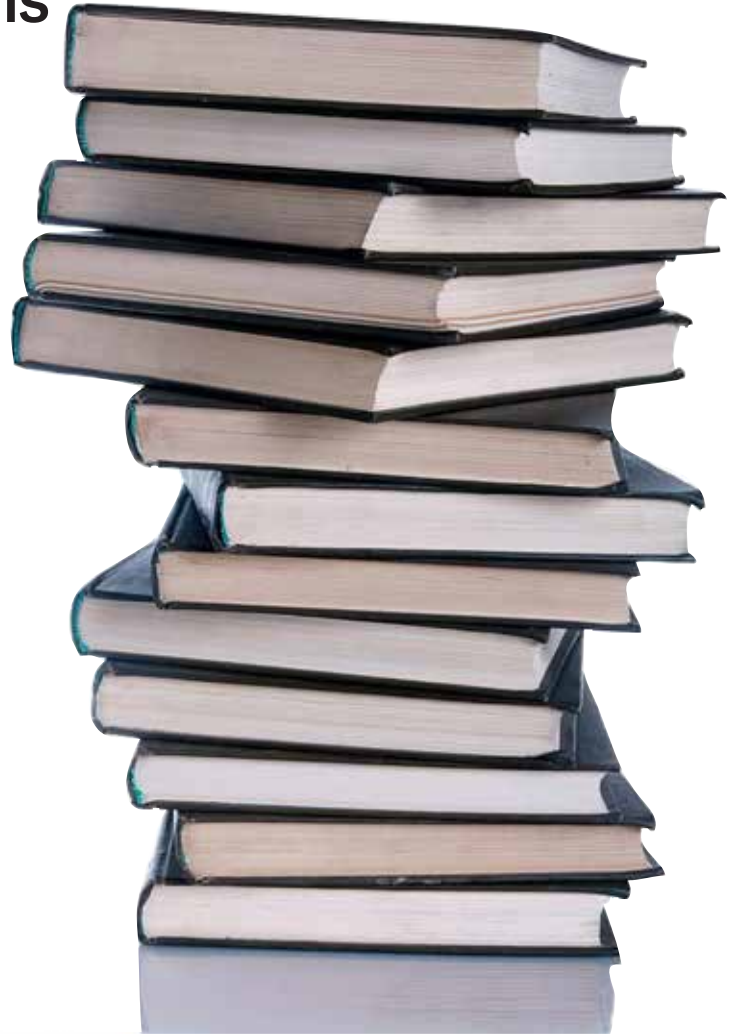
"I've found the pandemic has given me an excuse to try out new books and series that I've been wanting to try for a while," says Andrea, a digital services librarian.

"I'm hoping to get through most of Shirley Jackson's work in preparation for her biopic, and I just finished *The Haunting of Hill House* which was fantastic. I've also picked up some fantasy novels and am currently working through *House of Salt and Sorrows* by Erin Craig."

A daily reader, children's librarian Johanna has been influenced by the growing attitude towards racial injustices.

"Recently, I finished *We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Resegregation* by Jeff Chang. I look forward to reading more on anti-racism and sharing the resources with my community," she says.

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Library has reopened with limited services

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Readers rejoice, Richmond Public Library has re-opened but with limited services.

Adhering to all the precautions necessary to avoid the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, the Brighthouse branch (7700 Minoru Gate) is providing quick drop-in service.

"Library staff are pleased to be able to expand service offerings that allow customers to browse and check out popular collections for all ages, and receive one-on-one help from library staff," says library board chair Robin Leung. "(This is) in addition to the library's current available services and on-line programming."

Seating and study spaces remain closed, and in-branch programming is also yet to resume.

While there is no physical access to fiction, non-fiction and children's collection, staff will retrieve these materials by request.

To ensure the safety of community members and library staff, physical distancing measures must continue to be practiced. As well, capacity limits and cleaning protocols will be in place.

The Brighthouse branch is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays (coinciding with access to outdoor book return bins). The Cambie, Ironwood and Steveston branches are expected to re-open in August, with plans to also expand hours and Saturday service at that time.



Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library

The Brighthouse branch of the Richmond Public Library is now open weekdays with limited services available.

All outdoor book return bins will remain open from 9 a.m. Readers not ready to visit the library in person are encouraged to continue to access services online at www.yourlibrary.ca

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2020 Richmond Arts Awards winners announced

The 2020 recipients of the annual Richmond Arts Awards have been revealed. Now in its 12th year, the awards presented by the city and arts council recognize achievements and contributions to the arts community.

"The arts are vital to the overall health and resiliency of our community," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "This has been demonstrated now, more than ever, as we see artists and arts organizations put their creative talents towards everything from supporting our front line workers to lifting our spirits in a time of uncertainty."

This year, the selection committee reviewed 65 applications to determine the recipients in each of the six categories. The 2020 Richmond Arts Awards recipients are:

Artistic Innovation—*Direct Theatre Collective*

Direct Theatre Collective is Richmond's newest independent theatre company. They received critical acclaim and praise for their inaugural project *Hysteria*, which was created for the Vancouver Fringe Festival in 2018, and developed further in 2019 for their first independent theatre season. This award-winning show is due for an inaugural performance in Richmond in the near future. The company is spearheaded by artistic director Jill Raymond alongside founding directors Isa Sanchez and Jenna Grubaugh.

Artistic Innovation—*Dawn Lo*

This freelance illustrator's works and artist talks have been featured throughout Richmond in locations that include the Richmond Public Library, Children's Arts Festival and Thompson Community Centre.

Arts Education—*Richmond Music School*

Established in 1979, this non-profit association is committed to a high standard of professional music instruction with a focus on accessibility.

Business and the Arts—*Jason Ko/Viva Pharmaceutical*

This business has supported arts and youth through annual sponsorship of the Richmond Media Lab since 2015.

Cultural Leadership—*Terry Point*

As a Musqueam cultural educator and advisor and Aboriginal student support worker with the Richmond School District, Terry Point has worked collaboratively with numerous cultural projects and locations in Richmond including Terra Nova Park, Richmond Arts Strategy Task Group, Richmond Public Library, Children's Arts Festival and Richmond Art Gallery.

Volunteerism—*Ray Chin*

This long-time volunteer has been involved in a variety of local arts and culture initiatives including Richmond Maritime Festival, Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence program and arts projects at numerous community centres.

Youth Arts—*Rotem Levy*

Levy is a digital and visual artist, and leader in the Richmond Youth Media Program and Youth Art Mart. She also works on Foundry Richmond's communication team and is currently studying 3D animation at Emily Carr.


The awards ceremony would normally have taken place in council chambers, but was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of the ceremony, each recipient will be profiled in an online campaign over the summer highlighting their work and contributions to the Richmond art community via the @HowArtWorks Instagram account. The honourees will also be invited to join future recipients in person when the ceremony can once again be held in person.

For more information on the Richmond Arts Awards, visit www.richmond.ca/artsawards.



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

This year's Richmond Arts Awards winners are being profiled in online campaigns over the summer in lieu of an in-person awards ceremony.



In Loving Memory

WALKER, Freda Irene

August 30, 1926 – July 20, 2020

Died peacefully in her sleep and has flown with the Angels to join the love of her life, Leonard George Walker (predeceased March 2, 1977) at Heaven's Gate. Freda is survived by her sons David Scott Walker and his wife Deborah, and Douglas Craig Walker and his wife Eva. Cherished grandmother of Wade and Jordan, Brent and Dana, the late Austin (predeceased December 30, 2016), and Cassidy. Adored great-grandmother of Sophie and Ben. Survived by brother Alan and his wife Ruth. Predeceased by brother Lloyd, and sister Ruth and her husband Pop. She will be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews. Freda spent her lifetime helping others through hospice care, social work, geriatric care and community service. She was a devout Christian who participated in all activities at her Church, Gilmore Park United, in Richmond, B.C. She moved to Ontario to live out her twilight years closer to her son and grandbabies. We will miss your strawberry and tomato picking.

Love you, Mom xo. Hugs to Austin xo.

RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Abandoned pups have tail-wagging happy ending



Pat
Johnson

Two puppies, about seven- or eight-months-old, were found wandering on No. 5 Road on June 2. They were thankfully discovered and taken to the RAPS City of Richmond Animal Shelter. Shockingly, no one came to claim them.

The puppies, who RAPS staff named Lucy and Sadie, are a Rottweiler-Labrador cross.

"It is so fortunate that nothing terrible happened to these pups," says RAPS CEO Eyal Lichtmann. "They were in a very dangerous location. We just cannot imagine how people could allow two such magnificent and practically defenseless animals to find themselves abandoned and alone on the streets. It was a sad, sad situation. But it has a super happy ending."

The sisters were taken to the RAPS Animal Hospital, where they were spayed and assessed. They are both in good health. Then they were given a behavioural assessment. While it's obvious that the two are sisters, they are quite distinctive. Lucy looks more like a Lab, mostly black with brindle on her legs and behind her ears; Sadie is more Rottweiler in appearance.

Nash Parnell, assistant manager of the RAPS Animal Shelter, succinctly summed up the results of the behavioural assessments: "They're very good."

Parnell, who has plenty of personal and professional experience with dogs, just bought his first home and was looking to adopt. As he and Lucy got to know each other, they formed a bond. The adoption was finalized a few days ago. Sadie is still at the Shelter, but she has been adopted by a family and will soon be going to her forever



Photos submitted

Lucy and Sadie were found wandering in Richmond in early June. Now, both have been adopted.

home. Parnell hopes the sisters can continue to meet up.

Meanwhile, he has been busy helping Lucy explore the world.

"She's great with children, she's good with other dogs," Parnell says. "She's just very good with everything. She's pretty chill, she loves to play fetch and she's a good swimmer. It was hilarious when I first took her swimming, watching her learn how to doggy paddle."

He sums up: "She's just the sweetest."

While this story has a tail-wagging happy ending—two in fact!—it could have ended much differently. Lichtmann wants the public to understand the significance of what happened.

"These two sweet, beautiful puppies could have suffered terrible injuries or worse," he says. "Adopting a dog is a commitment for the lifetime of the animal. Of course, extreme situations or changes in a family's life can sometimes make it impossible to keep that promise. That's why

we're here. If it becomes necessary to surrender an animal, call the Shelter. Abandoning an animal is about as inhumane as a human can be."

Lichtmann and others who work in animal rescue are concerned about a potential looming increase in abandoned pets related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As a lot of people were spending more time at home than usual, some people decided they would get a pet," Lichtmann says. "Now that many of us are returning to a slightly modified version of normalcy, there may be people who are coming to understand the time and resources required to adequately care for a companion animal. We say it again: Adopting a pet is a lifetime commitment. But if circumstances make that promise impossible to keep, please, please do not abandon it. With the support of our community, we are here to help."

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

MY NAME IS DEXTER

Here's something you don't see every day! We're looking for a special home for Dexter, a funny and feisty ferret! He can be a handful, so a person with experience or who is willing to learn would have a friend for life!

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Head Office: 604-285-7724



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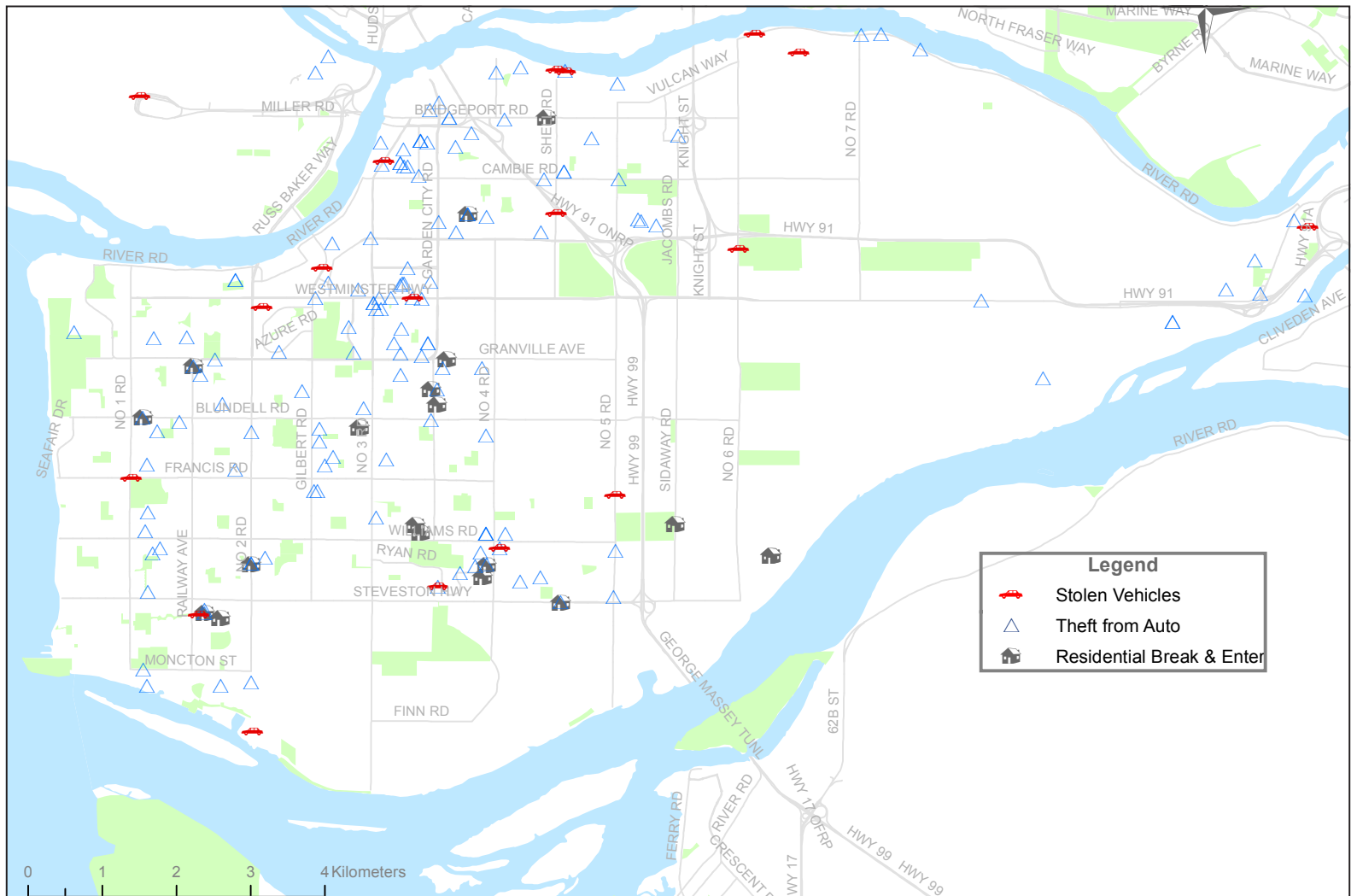
The RAPS Animal Hospital and Animal Ambulance are supported by Applewood Nissan





RCMP

Crime Map June 1 - 30, 2020



Richmond RCMP warns against scams

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond RCMP have two new initiatives that aim to combat ongoing telephone scams.

In the first initiative, RCMP will communicate with local businesses to educate employees about signs to watch for and key questions to ask if someone purchases a large sum of gift cards—particularly Google Play or iTunes cards.

In a second campaign, RCMP will supply businesses with a poster or sticker to put up near bitcoin machines, gift card carousels or tills. The material is aimed at catching the attention of potential victims.

"The idea for these two initiatives came about after a quick-thinking store employee prevented one of our officers' parents from being defrauded," says Cpl. Adriana Peralta. "From that (incident) we decided to start an education initiative that focuses on training employees and store owners to help them recognize and assist in preventing people from being scammed."

The material has already been sent to businesses registered on Richmond

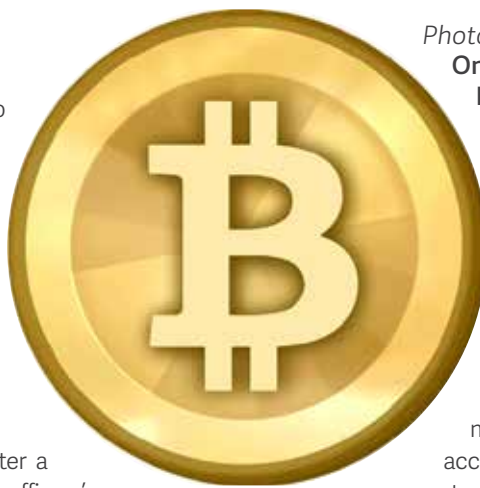


Photo via Wikimedia Commons

Ongoing telephone scams have prompted a new Richmond RCMP campaign to inform people about the risks.

RCMP Business Link. Officers from the community policing unit, along with volunteers, are also going door-to-door to provide the information to local businesses not registered with RCMP Business Link.

RCMP also advises the public to remain vigilant, and to remember that government agencies do not accept bitcoin, Google Play or iTunes gift cards as methods of payment. Some legitimate businesses may accept bitcoin, but none will accept these gift cards as payment.

Fraudsters may be able to spoof legitimate business or government agency phone numbers. Research companies to confirm their legitimacy or visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online for more information on protecting yourself from scams.

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BC students expected to return to school in September

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Most BC students are expected to return to school on Sept. 8 as the province moves to Stage 2 of its education restart plan.

Masks will not be mandatory, but are recommended in some situations where physical distancing is difficult.

"The classroom is an essential part of a child's social, academic and mental development, and that's why we are working hard to ensure students can safely spend the next school year with their teachers and classmates," said Education Minister Rob Fleming. "We were the only jurisdiction in Canada that brought students back into the classroom province-wide before the end of the school year and this has given us valuable information that we are using to develop our plans, ensuring health and safety at schools remain paramount."

On the advice of the provincial health officer, students will be organized into learning groups, a consistent group of staff and students. This will reduce the number of people each student or staff member will come into contact with, reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities.

Learning groups—which do not affect class

size—will contain up to 60 people in elementary and middle schools and up to 120 people in secondary schools. Larger high schools with more than 1,500 students may continue with a hybrid learning format to ensure physical distancing is possible.

All boards of education and independent school authorities will continue to be required to implement a suite of health and safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, following the recently updated guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control.

The province is investing \$45.6 million to support school districts and independent schools. This funding will ensure the increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces, an increased number of hand-hygiene stations and the availability of reusable masks upon request, among other safety measures.

Staff and students (or their parents/guardians) must also assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to return home.

Families will hear from their school district or independent school throughout the summer with updated health and safety guidelines for elementary, middle and secondary schools, as well as learning groups, schedules, enrolment

and registration information. Final details will be submitted to the ministry and posted online by school districts on Aug. 26.

"The safety of students and staff is paramount and government will continue to make science-based decisions, following the expert advice of Dr. Henry and her public health team," said Fleming.

But the BC Teachers' Federation expressed concern about the restart plan, and president Teri Mooring said the announcement "misses the mark on several critical components."

"The reopening needs to be safe, careful, and get the buy-in of teachers, support staff, parents, and students," said Mooring. "If the plan is rushed or too many questions are left unanswered, it won't be successful. Bringing everyone back all at once, even with some version of a cohort model, on the first day after the Labour Day long weekend, is too much too soon given the many unanswered questions in today's announcement."

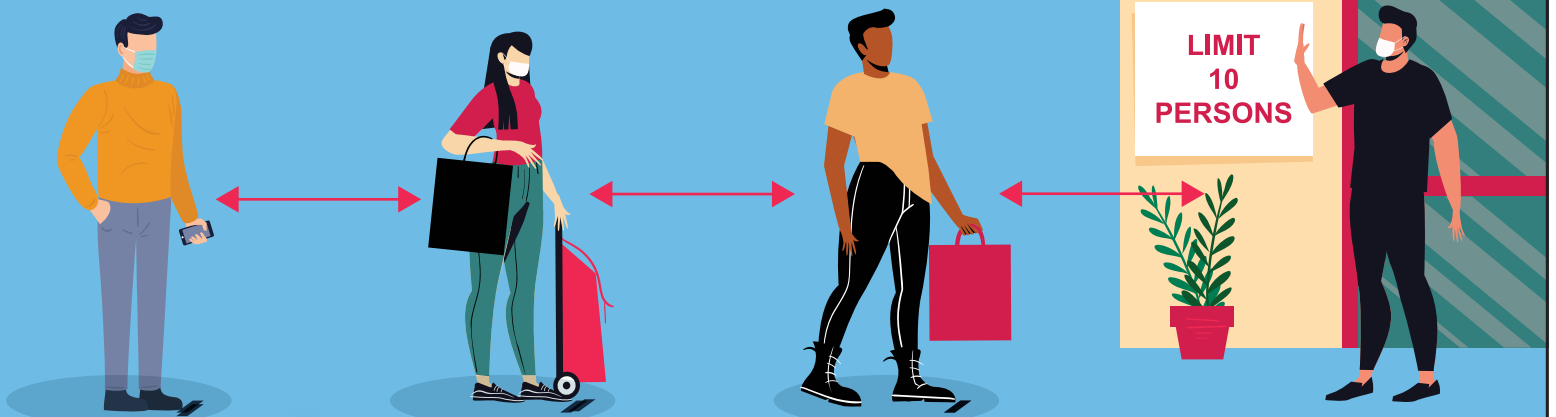
"Based on what the government released today, their plan isn't ready yet. It needs more work."

For more information on the K-12 education restart plan, go to: gov.bc.ca/covid19returnto-school

To read the BC Teachers' Federation response, go to www.bctf.ca/NewsReleases.aspx?id=57715

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Sockeyes preparing, as usual, for season ahead

By **DON FENNELL**
 @rmdsentinel

The Richmond Sockeyes are like so many sports teams, uncertain how or even if next season will play out. But they're preparing as best they can.

"We have to have the mindset to be able to adapt at any time," says head coach Bayne Koen, who is as hopeful and anxious as anyone that the 2020-21 Pacific Junior Hockey League schedule proceeds as drawn up.

League officials held their annual general meeting via video conference July 28, at which time the 13 member teams agreed to start the season Sept. 29. But in what will be the league's 55th season, governors were unanimous that safety must be the No. 1 priority, and play must reflect advice from appropriate health authorities.

"Our board has been very diligent in their communication with their (respective community) facilities," says commissioner Trevor Alto. "Both league and team return-to-play plans are in place and being monitored. With the increased opening of facilities, we are confident we can execute these plans and return to the ice safely."

Eager to improve on last season's 27-12-1-4 record which saw the team finish second to North



Photo by
 Don Fennell
Richmond Sockeyes hope to begin the 2020-21 Pacific Junior Hockey League season on time Sept. 29.

Vancouver Wolf Pack in the Tom Shaw Conference, the Sockeyes have been skating regularly for the last few weeks. Gathering in small groups, they've also impressed Koen during some drills.

"But it's hard trying to really assess where we're at because we're not able to see the (total) essence of what the team might look like," Koen explains. "Some guys we've talked to about coming to play for us might not be able to, or might make the jump (to a higher level). It's a pretty level playing field as far as that goes because at the end of the day we just don't know. But I've liked

what I've seen. I think we've got a good basis of returning guys and recruits."

Welcoming the expansion Chilliwack Jets, the PJHL expects the season to consist of 44 games per team, each playing a single interlocking game against each club from the opposing conference as well as two games at the Winter Classic Showcase Jan. 1 to 3, 2021 in Richmond. Other regular events, including the annual prospect and all-star game (with the Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League) are still to be decided.

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New track rules in place during turf replacement

By **DON FENNELL**
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Minoru Park has undergone significant changes in recent years. And the transformation is continuing.

The latest project is the replacing and upgrade of the artificial turf on the main field inside Clement Track. The track turf was itself replaced last summer.

At a cost of just over \$1 million, the field will not only sport new turf when the project is completed—expected to be sometime in September—but also feature a new shock absorbing underlay. As well, the infill will now consist of thermoplastic elastomers instead of rubber from recycled tires used in the original change over to artificial turf in 2008.

City spokesperson Kim Decker said the typical life span for an artificial turf sports field is between eight and 10 years. She also noted the field, converted to multi-use artificial 12 years ago, has served as a major events location hosting such events as the 2020 Olympic Winter Games (Richmond O Zone), Richmond World Fest, opening and closing ceremonies for the 2009 BC Seniors Games, and annual Halloween fireworks displays.

The field covers 10,000 square metres (107,639 square feet).

The public, and track users, are asked to adhere to several safety precautions for the duration of the work.

A plywood bridge will be installed across the eight track lanes, next to the grandstand, to allow heavy equipment to enter and exit the work zone. The bridge will prevent walkers and runners from being able to use the entire



Photo by Don Fennell

As new turf is laid at the main stadium field at Minoru Park, track users are being advised to respect several safety precautions.

track. As a result, the remainder of the track is being divided into a one-way course as follows:

- Track users are to proceed in a counter-clockwise direction in four lanes, before the course turns around. They are then to proceed in a clockwise direction.
- Signage, fencing and directional arrows will be added to ensure the public is able to continue to use the track surface, while maintaining physical distancing.

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Chamber golf tournament to be held with some alterations

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is again holding its annual golf tournament this September—with a few changes.

This year's tournament, the 37th annual, will be held at Mayfair Lakes Golf and Country Club (5460 No. 7 Rd.) on Sept. 21, with tee times between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Rather than the usual shotgun format, players must book a specific tee time. The chamber asks that registrations be made in groups of at least two people, to ensure you aren't sharing a golf cart with someone outside your bubble.

Hole sponsors and staff will greet participants in a



Photo via flickr.com

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual golf tournament in September.

physically-distanced manner, and the barbecue buffet dinner will be replaced with post-game networking opportunities with a limited group of people.

Entry for a foursome is \$600 plus GST, and entry for a twosome is \$320 plus GST. The price includes lunch, power carts, cart gifts, prizes for winners and activities from hole sponsors.

Registrants will be sent a link to a poll to select their preferred tee time blocks. More details will be communicated closer to the tournament date.

Call the chamber office at 604-278-2822 with any questions, or for an overview of Mayfair's safety measures, go to www.mayfairlakes.com/golf_course/covid/

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Virtual panel to discuss 'Rebuilding BC'

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Economic recovery has been a concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is hosting a virtual panel discussion on Aug. 12 with some of the province's natural resources industry leaders for a look at how to move forward economically.

"This panel (discussion) is about celebrating how interconnected our regions and economies are," says chamber president Matt Pitcairn. "Sometimes we forget in the Lower Mainland how reliant we are on wealth generated in other parts of BC. This panel (discussion) will shed some light on how sectors like forestry, mining and LNG are creating opportunities and jobs in urban areas."

Moderated by Val Litwin, president and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce, the event is free and features three panelists.



BRYAN COX



MICHAEL GOEHRING



SUSAN YURKOVICH



VAL LITWIN

- Susan Yurkovich, president and CEO of BC Council of Forest Industries
- Bryan Cox, president and CEO of Canadian LNG Alliance
- Michael Goehring, president and CEO of the Mining Association of British Columbia

Advance registration is required. The event will

take place from 9 to 10 a.m. (PST). Questions for the panelists can be emailed to mpitcairn@richmondchamber.ca by Aug. 10.

For more information, or to register, go to www.richmondchamber.ca/event/rebuilding-bc-recovery-starts-here/

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BC businesses still feeling uncertain

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Two-thirds of BC businesses surveyed are using government supports during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a recent survey.

Conducted by the BC Chamber of Commerce, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, and Business Council of BC, along with other partners, the survey asked 1,401 member businesses how they've been affected by the pandemic. Most expect a substantial second wave of negative impacts if governmental support programs expire too quickly.

Only 28 per cent of businesses on government support expect to return to normal once support measures end. One in ten will have to close either temporarily or permanently.

"Entrepreneurs are waking up to the reality that their new operating environment is more costly and fraught with risk," said BC chamber president Val Litwin.

The most useful government support program for businesses surveyed has been the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, used by 53 per cent of respondents.

Despite the BC government's \$1.5 billion recovery plan, 47 per cent of businesses are not confident of success or survival. The most important recovery components for businesses are payroll or wage supports and reduced taxes and fees, according to survey responses.

Less than half of office-based businesses are currently working in their office. Of those who are not, 29 per cent do not expect to return until 2021 and 15 per cent do not ever see a return to pre-COVID levels. This is



Photo by Hannah Scott

Businesses throughout BC have been surveyed several times during the COVID-19 pandemic to gauge impacts and repercussions.

largely because of social distancing requirements and other workplace safety concerns, according to businesses surveyed. Among businesses who travel, most do not expect to return to travel until 2021 or when a vaccine is available.

Decreased sales volume was reported by 75 per cent of responding businesses. More than

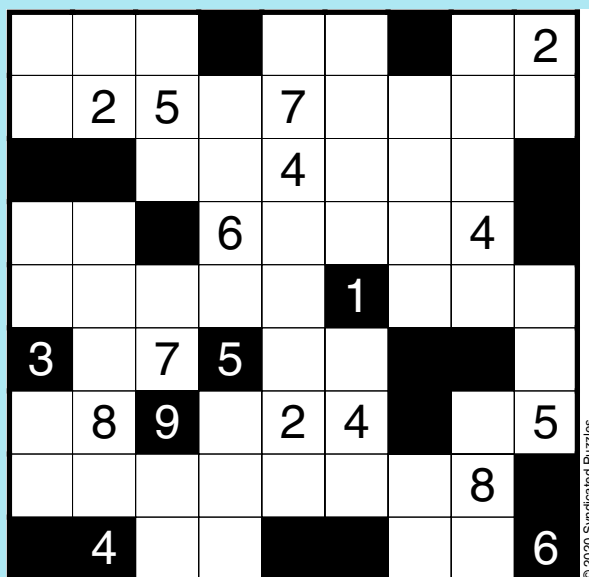
40 per cent of respondents had to reduce staff hours or lay off employees during this time.

But there was a five per cent increase in businesses making use of digital or e-commerce presence, and 15 per cent of businesses have been able to introduce new products or services during this time.

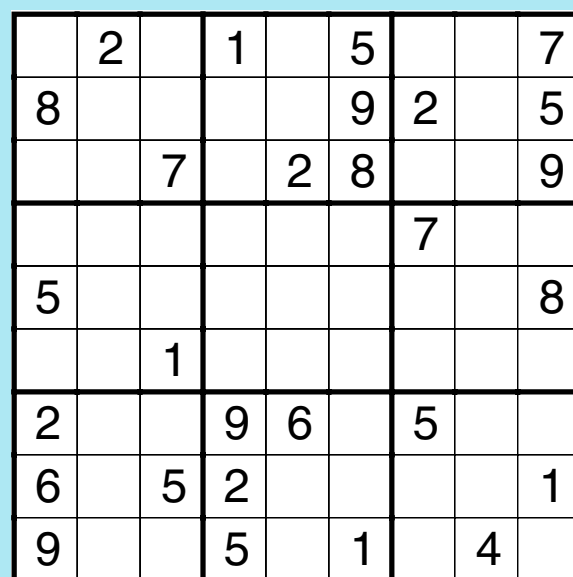
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