



## THE BEAT GOES ON



Iconic Steveston  
record store  
prepares to shift  
to online only

03

Photo submitted

The Beat Merchant in Steveston village will close its brick and mortar store next spring to focus solely on its online operations.

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Customers are welcomed to a modern optical experience at the new ZEISS VISION CENTRE by Leon Inc. in Richmond. The store had its official grand opening earlier this month.

ZEISS is a global brand with over 170 years of heritage that focuses on advanced technology and research. Owned and operated by Leon Inc., the ZEISS VISION CENTRE in Richmond Centre is the first location in Canada. Customers will receive their own vision analysis that will help provide a better understanding of their visual needs.

"By using the latest ZEISS equipment, we offer a complete health check for each patient through our contactless consultation," says store manager Paul Tsang. "With the advancement in lens technology and patients' visual demands, we personalize our consultation by providing explanation about different lens features and their benefits to help educate the customer to make the best decision."

# ZEISS VISION CENTRE

[zeissvisioncenter.com/richmond](https://zeissvisioncenter.com/richmond)



# Beat will continue online for Steveston record store

By **DON FENNELL**  
@rmdsentinel

Amid an emerging trend in retail, another brick and mortar business is shutting its doors.

But unlike many shops whose closures have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, the Beat Merchant Record Shop in Steveston village—set to close March 31, 2021—is shifting its focus to the growing online market.

"I think to have lasted 15 years with a store is a major achievement, as we have had online shopping and streaming to compete with which is more convenient for a lot of people," says owner Frankie Neilson.

So, the Beat Merchant is following suit and will offer only special orders and home delivery after opening its Second Avenue location in 2005. Over those years, the store became known for its warm hospitality, as well as being a great place to browse, shop and talk music.

The shift will be a change, of course, but it enables Neilson and manager David Milner to continue to advance their passions for music—which has played an integral role in both of their lives since childhood.

Growing up in London, England, Neilson has fond memories of the excitement that came with collecting vinyl and awaiting an artist's newest album release.

He travelled across the east end of the city to buy a copy of the Small Faces' release of *Ogdens' Nut Gone Flake* in the summer of 1968. The third studio album, and first concept album by the English rock band, it featured the psychedelic sound that defined the time. The LP peaked at No. 1 on the United Kingdom record charts where it remained for six weeks.

The Small Faces are still one of his all-time favourites.

"They were from the next town over in East London and were mods (characterized by young Brits of the '60s subculture typified by stylish dress and a liking for soul music)," Neilson explains. "I was a little mod myself. Steve Marriott had such a great voice and the band was a big influence on later bands."

He also lists Free: "a great band live and on record."

"They had a massive worldwide hit with 'All Right Now,'" he notes. "A rock band with soul, and who left space in their music, for the music to breathe."

Neilson also remembers going to the HMV on Oxford Street with his mate Kim for Bad Company's first album featuring Paul Rodgers, and "running down the stairs with copies in our grubby little hands and in the excitement forgetting to pay for them."

Today, he has a fondness for the Fleet Foxes, Ray LaMontagne and Tame Impala—artists who continue to advance the sound that broke through in the 60s.

"There is some great music around today, (it's) just harder to find as there is so much being released," he says.

Neilson was just 17-years-old when he landed his first job as a recording engineer.

"My first day at the Marquee Studios I started as a tea boy working with Manfred Mann Chapter Three Band," he recalls. "(But) the best memory of that time was meeting David Bowie with John Gee, the manager of the Marquee Club, who knew Bowie well. We had coffee with him. This was just a few months after 'Space Oddity' had hit No. 1 in the UK charts."

Later, Neilson started his own label, Individual Records. That lasted three years.

"We released six 45s and did well with the mod group from Wales called the The Co-Stars until the distribution company I was using went into liquidation," he explains. "I couldn't get the money they owed or the records back. At that moment, I decided to move to Canada."

For Milner, the opportunity to work alongside Neilson at the Beat Merchant for the past 13 years has been a dream come true.

"I first became involved with the Beat Merchant coming in as a customer," he says. "One busy Halloween while visiting the store I jumped in and gave Frankie a hand by handing out the candy to all the local kids. And when I was in between work in the arts sector, Frankie offered me a job."

Music is a powerful force that brings people together, and it has been rewarding meeting customers from around the globe and locally, Milner says.

"It's always great when you can bring some joy to everyday life for people, like the time finding a copy of Neil Young's *Harvest Moon* on vinyl for a newlywed couple so they could listen to their song. The record store is a big part of the local community, and we have had established artists like Harpdog Brown play inside the store and have also provided a stage for local upcoming artists to perform outside in the summer months. We have had many well attended events from an Elvis impersonator a few years ago to award winning author Aaron Chapman promoting his books *The Last Gang in Town* and *Live at the Commodore*."

Milner has been a fan of music since early childhood. After seeing the Beatles movie *Help* on TV in the 1970s, he remembers going to buy the 45 of the title song at the record counter in a local department store.



Photo submitted

**A popular Steveston landmark for the past 15 years, the Beat Merchant Record store will close its brick and mortar store next spring to focus on the growing online market. Pictured are owner Frankie Neilson (left) and manager David Milner.**

"I studied arts and entertainment management and did a practicum with a local record company distributed by Universal Music," he explains. "Gaining valuable experience promoting artists to radio across Canada, I branched out and promoted bands like Firebug from Los Angeles on my own."

Milner says music is a "powerful force" that brings people together. And as with record stores of old, the Beat Merchant was a gathering place.

"It's been a pleasure to provide a service that brings joy to everyday life for many visitors to the store," he adds.

Ever-appreciative of its loyal customers and friends for their ongoing support, the Beat Merchant is holding a closing sale that began earlier in October. They'll also be holding a special draw at the end of the year to celebrate their time in Steveston Village.

While pleased to see the current 'vinyl revival', explaining that the sound is so warm, Neilson says "I think the major companies wanted to establish the CD as the new format and literally withdrew vinyl from the shops overnight. Maybe the CD will be the next retro thing to make a comeback."

The Beat Merchant will retain its current contact information when it goes fully online next year. The website will still be beatmerchant.com and the phone number 604-204-0044.

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# Writer-in-Residence shares personal journey

By **DON FENNELL**  
 @rmdsentinel

Growing up in the age of Twitter and Facebook, Lindsay Wong is at home online. And so while the opportunity to become Richmond's ninth annual Writer-in-Residence comes amidst a global pandemic, the award-winning author eagerly shares advice to emerging writers through free virtual public workshops and conversations.

"The pandemic affects everyone differently obviously," says Wong. "Some people are caring for sick or elderly family, and some parents weren't sure about sending their kids back to school. I hope our (conversations) will help bring people together to talk and write about our experiences and to put them into meaningful narrative."

She is the best-selling author of *The Woo-Woo: How I Survived Ice Hockey, Drug-Raids, Demons, and My Crazy Chinese Family*, the memoir that won the 2019 Hubert-Evans Prize for non-fiction, was a finalist for the 2018 Hilary Weston Prize for non-fiction, and was featured on CBC Radio's Canada Reads in 2019.

At 33, Wong has clearly found her niche as a writer. But she wasn't always so self-assured.

"As a kid I wasn't really into anything," she says. "I would sit in a corner and probably draw a picture. I had a good imagination—often envisioning myself as a teacher—but wasn't a reader until university. I don't think I really enjoyed school to be honest, and math and sciences I didn't enjoy one bit. But once I got to university, and spent time with a bunch of people with a love for creative writing, I really began enjoying it. Writers are always a bit of outside thinkers,



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

**Award-winning author, Lindsay Wong is the City of Richmond's ninth annual Writer-in-Residence. Through Nov. 27, she will provide advice to emerging writers through free virtual public workshops, events and conversations.**

and it was such a great experience to read what others were writing and discussing it as a craft."

Wong initially found an outlet writing about her own experiences, approaching it with enormous honesty—including delving into the issue of mental illness. She says she grew up with a mother deeply afraid of the "woo-woo"—Chinese ghosts who come to visit in times of personal turmoil—and in an environment where mental illness isn't acknowledged.

"It's something we need to talk about, we need to be more open about, whether through the

media or education," she says. "But it's definitely a big process and going to take a long time because it's been stigmatized. The idea is that mental illness is something to be ashamed of, but we go to a doctor because of a broken leg, why not see a doctor for your mind?"

Wong's voracious sense of humour has helped her deal with life's challenges, and it's apparent in her writing.

"You have to laugh, otherwise what are you going to do?" she says.

Playing hockey as a youth—which was an activity her dad signed her up for, not something she sought out—proved to be an interesting experience. Though she stopped playing after high school, she says it helped strengthen her resiliency.

"It's competitive and you need discipline. It's good training for real life because life is hard."

Armed with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of BC and a Masters of Fine Arts in literary non-fiction from Columbia University, Wong is grateful for the accolades and exposure her first book have given her. And she's looking forward to writing more

books, currently focused on short fiction.

"I'll do another memoir when I'm 70 probably," she laughs. "And maybe one day I'll make enough money to stay home and write from a beach on a tropical island."

Richmond's Writer-in-Residence program is presented by the Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Public Library and the Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. To learn more, visit [richmond.ca/writerinresidence](http://richmond.ca/writerinresidence).

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# Richmond will implement mask policy in city buildings

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond city council has approved a mask policy for civic buildings, including city hall and community centres.

Councillors voted in favour of the policy at their early October council meeting. The idea was first presented at general purposes committee on Sept. 8 by Coun. Bill McNulty, who said at the time that he wanted Richmond to "lead and set an example" when it came to measures that could help curb the spread of the virus.

Staff reported back to the general purposes committee on Oct. 5 with four potential mask use policies. The recommended suggestion, which was approved by council, will require people to wear masks in city buildings with a focus on education and communication. There are exemptions in place for people with disabilities, young children and people participating in physical activity.

If people do not have a mask, staff representative Serena Lusk said there would be a supply to hand out. She also clarified that staff will undergo training on how to best work with the public and how to handle exceptions to the mandate. Refusal of service will be used as a "very last resort,"



Masks will soon be required in city buildings throughout Richmond. Photo by Jaana Björk

Lusk said.

Staff will begin implementing the policy as soon as possible, and it will be fully in place by Nov. 1. Staff working in city buildings will also be provided with reusable masks, a consideration Lusk said fits into the current budget.

"While it's put forward as a mask policy, and that's what it is, I think that it's a broader program than just mandating that every single person who comes into city hall or city facilities is going to have to wear a mask," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

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## Asphalt Paving Advisory

The City of Richmond has contracted All Road Construction to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from October 1st to October 31st, 2020:**

### PROPOSED 2020 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

Garden City and Alderbridge Way	Intersection
8000 Block Westminster Hwy	East Bound Lanes
Bridgeport Road and Viking Way	Intersection
6000 Block Cooney Road	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
6000 Block Buswell Street	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
11000 Block No.5 Road	Steveston Highway to Rice Mill Road
12000 Block No.5 Road	Rice Mill Road to Dike Road
Horseshoe Way	No.5 Road to Coppersmith Way
Elmbridge Way	West Bound Lanes
Vibration Complaints	Spot repairs at various locations

Work hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Night time work hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (typically).

Traffic will be reduced to single-lane and there may be temporary lane closures. Delays may occur. The use of an alternate route is strongly encouraged.

This work is weather dependent and dates are subject to change without notice.

The scope of the advertised work may be adjusted or cancelled in line with available funding.

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at **604-276-4189**, or visit the City's paving program web page at [www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/projects/pavingprogram](http://www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/projects/pavingprogram).

[www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca)



YouTube



# Brighthouse bus loop now up and running

By DON FENNELL  
@rmdsentinel

A much-anticipated bus mall in downtown Richmond is now in operation.

The Brighthouse loop, just south of the Canada Line Station at No. 3 Road and Buswell Street, opened Oct. 19 to replace the on-street exchange on No. 3 Road which has served 13 regular bus routes plus the N10 NightBus. According to TransLink, the previous on-street exchange served nearly 12,000 customers on an average weekday while providing access to local and long-haul bus routes as well as connections to Canada Line.

TransLink says the new loop will better service transit riders and create a smoother transition from bus to rail. It says the loop will also reduce the impact of the transit vehicles on neighbours and road users in the area.

The 10-bay loop is designed with four bays dedicated to loading and unloading with five reserved for layovers and one for HandyDart pick-up and drop-off.

The new loop will include large shelters, spacious waiting areas, enhanced lighting for increased safety, new landscaping with trees and shrubs, new bike lockers, an acoustic wall to mitigate any light and noise impacts caused by buses moving through the loop, according to TransLink.



*Photos by Hannah Scott*  
**Richmond's new bus loop on No. 3 Road at Buswell Street will feature 10 bays with enhanced lighting for increased safety.**

Construction began in late 2019, and was completed in April. But because of utility work for the adjacent developments, TransLink spokesperson Gabrielle Price says the loop won't be fully open until November.

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## Richmond Halloween celebrations look a little different

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Halloween celebrations are returning to Richmond—but will be notably different than in past years.

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site is offering its annual *Once Upon A Haunted Sea* Halloween event, which invites visitors to explore the dark depths of the ocean and learn how to save it from death by plastic monsters. This year's month-long experience, which runs through Nov. 8, is for visitors of all ages.

Advance tickets are not required, but capacity will be limited to maintain physical distancing. Masks are strongly recommended to visitors, but not necessary. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

The city is also offering a number of virtual options for people to connect safely from home. Enter one of three social media contests (costumes, pumpkin carvings and home decorations) by posting photos on Instagram using the hashtag #RichmondBCHalloween and tagging @CityofRichmondParks. Three prize baskets of items from local businesses—valued at \$100 each—will be randomly awarded on Nov. 2.

Virtual youth and toddler programs are being offered by the Richmond Public Library and South Arm Community Association. Activities include scary story time, virtual escape rooms, online dance parties and more.

The city has also curated a list of scary and not-so-scary movies so people can bundle up, turn off the lights and spend time with their bubble. Or, check out some of the city-sourced do-it-yourself Halloween decorating projects.



*Photo by Hannah Scott*

Halloween may be a bit different this year, but some old favourites are still available to guests—like the Gulf of Georgia Cannery's annual event.

Following the direction of local public health authorities, all Richmond firework celebrations and gatherings have been postponed until next year. Residents are encouraged to celebrate Halloween safely and responsibly. The city is reminding people that it is illegal to possess, buy, sell or detonate fireworks and firecrackers in Richmond.

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## Explore Secrets of the Bible through new course

Chabad Richmond will be offering a new six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute called *Secrets of the Bible: Iconic Stories, Mystical Meanings, and Their Lessons for Life*.

The course will be offered both in-person, to a limited audience (following COVID-19 restrictions) at 4775 Blundell Rd. and online via Zoom. In-person and Zoom classes both begin Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m., and the Zoom recording will be accessible online for six days after each class. Cost is \$95 per person or \$160 for a couple and includes a textbook. Classes are 90 minutes long. To register and for more information call 604-277-6427 or visit [www.ChabadRichmond.com/JLI](http://www.ChabadRichmond.com/JLI).

"People tend to read biblical stories like they do mythology," said Rabbi Yechiel Baitelman of Chabad Richmond, the local instructor. "Our course invites participants to look deeper and discover the underlying themes and relevant life lessons these stories were designed to convey."

The course presents a unique way of reading the stories of Adam and Eve and the Tree of Knowledge, Noah and the great flood, the lifelong feud between Jacob and Esau, Joseph's multicoloured coat, the golden calf, and Korah's rebellion. Each of these stories answers the questions: What is the deeper meaning behind the story? How does it shape the Jewish worldview? What wisdom does it hold for us today?



Photo courtesy Chabad Richmond

**Chabad Richmond is offering a new six-week course that invites people to learn about the themes and life lessons in the Bible.**

Throughout the six sessions, *Secrets of the Bible* explores major life themes, including human subjectivity and bias; the underpinnings of relationships; negotiating spiritual growth with practical impact; why inspiration is fleeting and how to make it last; understanding equality and privilege; and navigating parallel spiritual and material life paths.

*Secrets of the Bible* is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish

learning. This course is open to the public, and attendees don't need to be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

"These biblical stories come alive as their deeper meanings and insights are revealed. They hold the key to life lessons for us all," said Rabbi Baitelman. "I encourage you to sign up for this thought-provoking course that's sure to deepen your understanding of Judaism and enrich your life. You are welcome to try the first class for free with no obligation," added Baitelman.

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# University after homeschooling: what to know

*Kristen Hogeterp is a 15-year-old homeschooled student. The following stories conclude a five-part education series.*

By KRISTEN HOGETERP  
Contributor

Homeschooled students have to think ahead when it comes to a potential university education.

How will the student manage to get into university without a diploma? How will they get a job? How will they survive in the 'real world'?

Home educators think about this a lot, which is why many home learners in their senior years (Grades 10 to 12) begin planning at roughly the same time as their high-schooled counterparts.

"[It is important] that our son be of upstanding character, a leader and a person who will give back to society," says Richmond parent and home educator Debbie Jiang when asked about the future for her son. "We ... feel it is important that he have his Grade 12 diploma."

Some students choose to switch over to Distributed Learning (DL) during these years in order to get a diploma and make university application a lot easier.

"Our plan is for our kids to continue along the DL tract and finish with the Dogwood diploma," says Jeanette Dyck, another local parent who homeschools. "We are trying to guide them to pursue interests that would support career goals, but without shutting out other possibilities."

Thompson Rivers University is currently the only university in BC that accepts homeschoolers without a diploma. However, many universities are starting to incorporate open-learning concepts into their programs. Examples of these include Open UBC and Kwantlen Polytechnic University's OER (Open Educational Resources) program.

Instead of presenting a diploma as proof of education, students wishing to apply for an open school must complete and pass the entrance exam, which stands in as proof of education level.

If a homeschooled student would like to apply for a school that requires a diploma, they can take one year of courses at an open university before transferring. In this case they would be considered a transferring student as opposed to a high school graduate, and acceptance would be based on university rather



*Photo courtesy Jeanette Dyck*

**Richmond homeschooling parent Jeanette Dyck says children with special needs are often neglected by the distance learning system.**

than high school marks.

The student could also take a standardized test such as the ACT or SAT, if the school being applied for is compatible, as a substitute for a diploma. These tests are designed to show that students have the knowledge typically required to gain a diploma even though they do not have one.

## Challenges of home education

By KRISTEN HOGETERP  
Contributor

If you've ever spoken with home educators, they may have talked with you about beginning your own home learning journey.

But home learning is not always easy—there are many challenges faced by home educators. For example, children who learn at home spend more time than most with the same small group of people. While this allows for deeper connections with family, it can also spark conflicts very easily.

Aside from challenges in the home, home educators also have to deal with external difficulties, the most recent of which are the funding cuts for independent Distributed Learning (DL) schools. This past spring, the BC government

announced its decision to reduce the funding allocated for independent DL schools in the province.

"The recent funding cut and lack of understanding of the provincial government on what it means to be a private independent DL [are a big challenge], says Debbie Jiang, a local home educator.

Before the funding cuts, private DL schools were receiving \$3,843 per student per year. This is 63 per cent of the \$6,100 per student funding that public DL schools were receiving.

With the funding cuts reducing that amount to 50 per cent of public DL schools, each independent online school is losing about \$793 per student of their funding.

Effective July 1 of this year, Independent Distributed Learning schools no longer received

that 20 per cent of their funding and were faced with the challenge of preparing for a new school year with less than six months notice since the cuts.

Distance learning families with a stay-at-home parent or who are low income were particularly hard hit as they hurried to plan their school year without a lot of the funding they were previously receiving.

"The perspective was 'private schools are for the wealthy'—which is really not true. A lot of the special needs kids are being left in the cold because they are an afterthought," says Jeanette Dyck, a parent and home educator of special needs children in Richmond. "Due to the limited funding, so many schools are being held together by glitter and glue, and they still manage to (be) a warm, joyful place for children."



# Health officer advises getting the flu shot

By DON FENNELL  
 @rmdsentinel

The flu season in the southern hemisphere this past winter was unusually mild. But Richmond medical health officer Dr. Meena Dawar says precaution is still the best medicine.

"It is possible that our (flu) season may also be mild, though we can't count on a mild season to protect us. Therefore, it is important to be immunized."

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is recommending everyone get the flu shot this year, but with no drop-ins the public is being asked to book appointments online ([www.vch.ca/flu](http://www.vch.ca/flu)) or call 604-233-3126 in advance. Clinics in Richmond opened Oct. 22.

While flu activity remains below average for this time of the year—both in BC and nationally—Health Canada says testing for the flu continues at elevated levels. It says one flu-like outbreak was reported at a school or daycare between Oct. 4 and 10, and to date 44 outbreaks have been reported in these settings which is higher than normal.

The last major flu epidemic in Canada emerged in the spring of 2009. Known as the swine flu, it was a strain of the influenza A virus subtype H1N1. The World Health Organization (WHO) raised its influenza pandemic alert to its highest level after sustained outbreaks in two or more countries, and a year later 214 countries had reported H1N1 cases with more than 18,000 deaths worldwide. In Canada, 428 people died and thousands more were infected, according to Statistics Canada.

While WHO declared the H1N1 pandemic to be over on Aug. 10, 2010, the virus continues to exist. VCH says the best defence continues to be getting a flu shot, which this year will protect against three strains of influenza viruses including H1N1.

WHO says while deaths from COVID-19 are between three and four per cent worldwide, the true mortality of coronavirus won't be understood for some time. And while it says various hygiene and physical distancing measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19 have likely played a role in reducing influenza virus transmission so far this year, the flu still claims up to 500,000 lives annually.

As recently as 2018, numbers compiled by Statistics Canada indicate 8,511 Canadians lost their lives to the flu. This compares to an annual average of between 6,500 and 7,600 over the previous years to either the flu or pneumonia.

The worst outbreak of the flu was known as the Spanish flu epidemic just over 100 years ago. The BC Centre for Disease Control notes that only a week after the first death from the flu was recorded on Oct. 10, 1918 in Vancouver, an



File photo

Richmond's medical health officer Dr. Meena Dawar advises everyone to get the flu shot.

*It is possible that our  
 (flu) season may also be  
 mild, though we can't  
 count on a mild season  
 to protect us. Therefore,  
 it is important to be  
 immunized.*

— Dr. Meena Dawar

estimated 900 cases were reported and 32 more deaths recorded. Globally, the Spanish flu—a strain of H1N1—is estimated to have killed up to 100 million people.

This year, flu shots will be administered in Richmond in the cafeteria at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 8711 Lansdowne Rd., as follows:

- Oct. 28, 29 and 30—9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:10 to 4 p.m.
- Nov. 2—9 to 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 5—3:30 to 7 p.m.
- Nov. 7—9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:10 to 4 p.m.
- Nov. 9—9 to 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 14—9 to 11:30 a.m. to 1:10 to 4 p.m.
- Nov. 16—9 to 11:30 a.m.

- Nov. 19, 21 and 26—9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:10 to 4 p.m.

- Nov. 28—9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:10 to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 5—9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:10 to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 12—9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:10 to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 19—9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:10 to 4 p.m.

Flu shots will also be available at the Richmond Public Health office at 8100 Granville Ave. three days per week Oct. 22 to Dec. 19 (two clinic times per day).

Influenza is a virus which causes infection of the upper airway, and can lead to symptoms of fever, headache, fatigue, muscle aches and cough. Complications from influenza, such as pneumonia, are more common in the very young, the elderly and those with heart, lung or other health conditions. Influenza is easily spread from person to person, and an infected person can spread the virus before they are even sick with symptoms.

Having increased the number of flu clinics this year to meet expected demand, VCH is also trying to contain and prevent the spread of not only COVID-19, but other severe respiratory diseases like the flu. VCH says getting a flu vaccine can reduce your chance of developing symptoms resembling COVID-19, which would require testing and self-isolating.

Flu shots will also be available at doctor's offices, pharmacies, walk-in clinics, public health clinics or at a number of temporary clinics throughout the region beginning in late October.

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

### Keep pets safe at Halloween



**Pat Johnson**

Buzz is a sweet young cat living with both diabetes and asthma. With daily insulin and inhaler treatments from our dedicated medical staff at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, neither condition can slow him down! He's an incredibly loving boy who demands snuggles from adjacent humans all day long.

In many jurisdictions, a cat with even one such manageable ailment would be euthanized. The RAPS Cat Sanctuary, located in east Richmond and the largest in Canada, exists for cats like Buzz and is home to hundreds more like him.

Buzz is special in other ways too. He's a black cat, which of course is not so unusual. But throughout history, humans have projected onto black cats all sorts of our own superstitions and anxieties. Some people in history have associated black cats with magic or even the devil. On the flip side, some societies have positive associations around black cats. In Scotland, a black cat appearing on your doorstep is a sign of imminent prosperity. In the south of France, feeding a black cat is believed to bring good fortune. In parts of Northern Europe, it is believed that caring for a black cat ensures fair weather and safe passage during sea voyages.

Good or bad, projections about the character of black cats says nothing about them and everything about us. In the end, a black cat is just ... a cat. They are deserving of care and love just like every other animal.

While considering black cats and animal well-being, it is worth remembering a few tips as we approach Halloween. This is the time of

year when the RAPS City of Richmond Animal Shelter receives more lost animals than at any other time of year. Although this Halloween will be different—with perhaps fewer trick-or-treaters—the dangers remain. Fireworks and other loud noises can spook cats and dogs, leading them to bolt. A dog may run aimlessly out of fear, putting them at risk for being struck by a car or finding themselves in an unfamiliar neighbourhood. Be sure your pets are microchipped and your dog is licensed. Keep them indoors if fireworks are likely and play some calming background music.

Some of the treats we have around at this time of year are awesome for people but can be harmful or even deadly for animals. Chocolate can be toxic and other candies that contain xylitol are also especially dangerous. Glow sticks, if bitten into, can be upsetting to pets. Curious animals might explore unfamiliar items, like jack-o-lanterns, knocking them over and possibly starting a fire if a burning candle is inside.

Like everything else in 2020, Halloween will be different. But some things remain the same. Caring for our companion animals is a special challenge at this time. Take some simple precautions



*Photo courtesy RAPS*

**Buzz has both diabetes and asthma, and lives at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.**

to avoid an experience that is frightful (and not in a good way) for both you and your pet! But otherwise, have a very enjoyable Halloween curled up with your pet.

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

### MY NAME IS PAPRIKA

Paprika came in to us with her mom and her 4 siblings. We know that a new home can be a scary place, so it is expected that Paprika will be quite shy her first few days. However, because she loves to explore, we are sure that she'll be out and about in no time. Since Paprika is only 15 weeks old, she still needs to have her spay surgery done. She will be part of our foster-to-adopt program, and her foster-to-adopt family will be required to take her into the RAPS Animal Hospital to have her surgery done there when it is time.

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



**ADOPT ME!**

### REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (RAPS)

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

Head Office: 604-285-7724



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### RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

rapsanimalhospital.com

604-242-1666

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

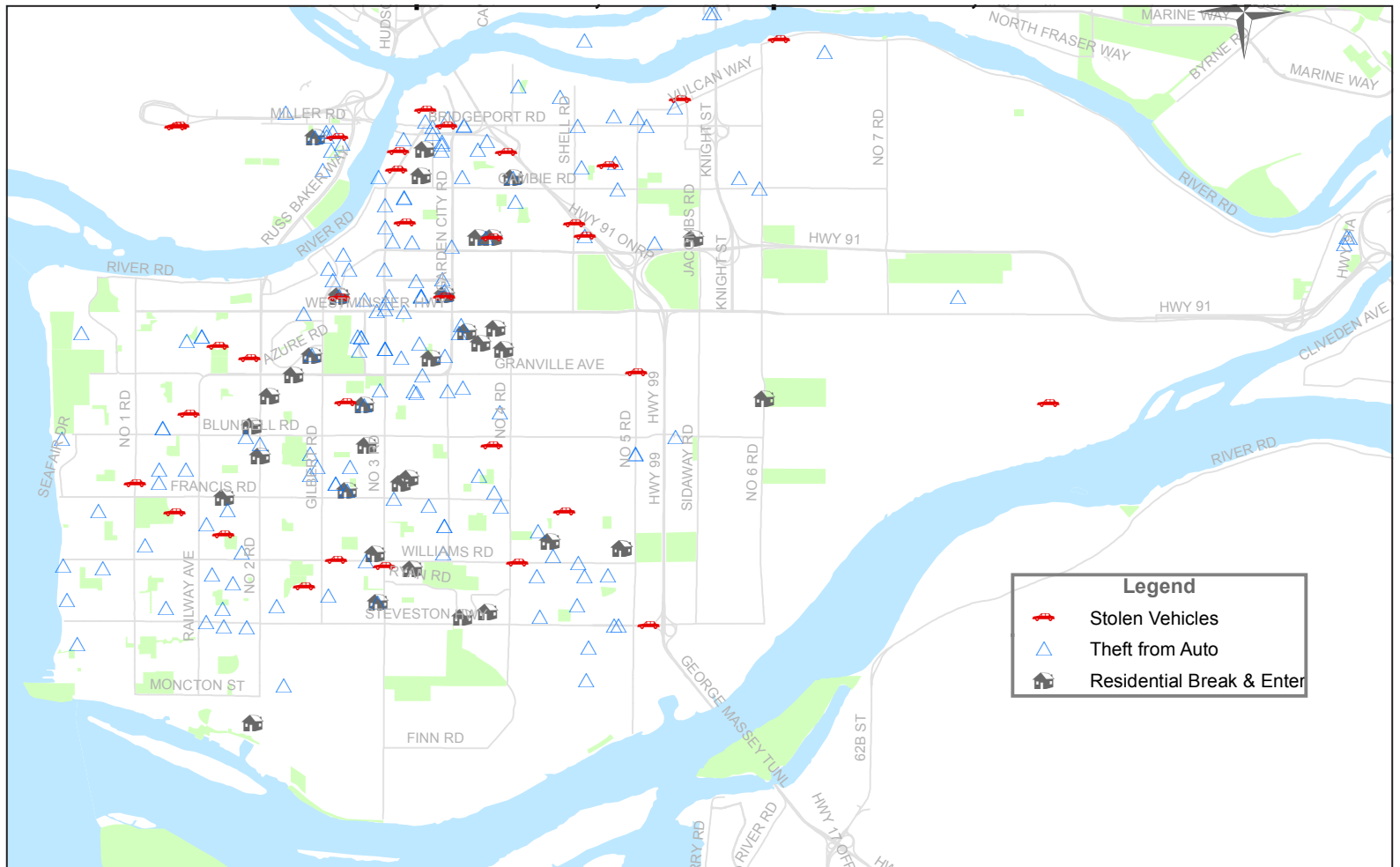






# RCMP

## Crime Map Sept. 1 - 30, 2020



## Richmond RCMP recognize Project Rainbow

Richmond RCMP is now displaying a rainbow pride flag sticker on the front doors of their detachment, showing their support and inclusion of the LGBTQ2S+ community in the city as part of Project Rainbow.

Project Rainbow is a national awareness campaign that demonstrates the acceptance, diversity and inclusiveness of the RCMP as a modern employer. Visitors to Richmond's detachment will see the sticker permanently on display near the entrance, along with the following explanation:

*We can be approached without judgement.*

*You can feel safe speaking to us.*

*This is a show of support for diversity and inclusion.*

*We seek to create a positive and safe space for everyone.*

*We embrace the diversity of the population.*

*We are Canada's national police: serving with pride.*

"All Canadians have the right to live free from discrimination—free from hatred," says Supt. Will Ng, officer in charge of the Richmond detachment. "Anyone who feels unsafe or unsupported can speak to any one of our officers knowing they can do so without judgement."

*Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP*  
Cst. Jace Rondario (left) and Supt. Will Ng at the front doors of the Richmond RCMP detachment.



# City seeks public walls for community murals

Richmond is hoping to add to its public art through large-scale wall murals.

If you own a highly-visible building that would be enhanced by a mural, consider being a part of the city's community mural program.

"Richmond's public art program brings together artists, community groups and local businesses to further beautify our city," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The community mural program turns plain walls into bright, colourful, eye catching artworks for everyone to share and enjoy. The large and unique murals create an open air art gallery that animates our neighbourhoods and streetscapes."

Interested property owners, including businesses, stratas, community centres and non-profit entities, are invited to propose a wall on their proper-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

**"Continuum," by artists Richard Tetrault and Jerry Whitehead, has decorated the Richmond Cultural Centre and Richmond Public Library building since last year.**

ty for inclusion in the program. If successful, a pre-qualified artist will be matched with the property owner to create the mural. The city will manage the project and fund the work, and the property owner will provide permission and access to the wall for installation, with an agreement to keep and maintain it for a minimum of five years. Locations must be visually accessible to the general public. Private residences are not eligible.

The deadline to apply is Nov. 16.

Recently completed murals include Continuum by Richard Tetrault and Jerry Whitehead, which covers the entire perimeter frieze of the Richmond Public Library and Cultural Centre at 7700 Minoru Gate, and Richmond's home

of Curl'ture & Curl'munity by Mark Anderson for the Richmond Curling Club located at 5540 Hollybridge Way.

## Cycling art tour offers outdoor engagement

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Cyclists and art lovers across Richmond can participate in a cycling art tour developed by the city.

Part of the #RichmondHasHeart campaign, the tour aims to bring Richmonders together safely while maintaining physical distancing protocols. City staff said the activity was developed during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic to invite community members to engage with and access the arts in meaningful ways—while staying safe. The program is free, self-guided and contactless, and is available to participants on their own or in small groups.

"Public art is important because it creates civic pride, a sense of place, urban beautification, livability, cultural interpretation and sustainability for resi-

dents and visitors of Richmond," says city public art planner Bilianna Velkova.

The self-guided tour begins at City Centre Community Centre and takes participants through 12 public art exhibits. It is about 12 kilometres long and takes an hour and a half. Many of the art pieces included in the tour demonstrate the power and resilience of community, connection, togetherness, home and place, according to city staff. The pandemic provides a unique lens through which to view these works.

Velkova says the city often develops similar self-led cultural events, particularly those that engage with the public art collection.

"As our collection grows, we are always programming different ways to experience it," she says.

Find more information on public art in the city go to [www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/guides.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/guides.htm)

•[hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca](mailto:hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca)



Photo by Don Fennell

**During the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, city staff developed a cycling art tour designed to help people get outside and engage with public art across Richmond.**

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

## RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

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# Painter appreciates outdoor creation

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Susan Viccars describes plein air (outdoor) painting as “a delightful and demanding way to work.”

The two-time exhibitor in Richmond Arts Council’s annual *Mid-summer Art’s Dream* show also appreciates the virtual exhibit format this year—viewable online until December.

“During the pandemic it is really nice to have some events and projects to work toward,” says Viccars. “It feels a bit less like we’re all just out there in our remote bubbles, and it’s nice to have the shared experience of a show.”

Viccars has been painting for about 25 years, and started while travelling. She says she finds artistic inspiration in the things she observes in the world, as well as from her imagination.

“Over the last couple of years I’ve done quite a bit of plein air painting,” says Viccars. “You have to totally focus on what is in front of you, dealing with light changes and scene changes as they occur. It helps me to really enjoy the process, to be less focused on the final result and more focused on composing and capturing what I’m viewing in the moment.”

Viccars entered three pieces in this year’s show: *Terra Nova Fore-shore*, an acrylic painting based on a photo she took in the spring-time; *Panaderia*, a watercolour painted during a holiday in Mexico last winter; and *The Mirakami Garden*, a watercolour painting from this past summer. Her third painting received an honourable mention from the competition’s judges.

“When I chose work for this show, I was a bit more eclectic than last year,” says Viccars. “I wanted to show a variety of current approaches and media.”

While her creative process has not changed during the pandemic, Viccars says she is painting more.

“I have four large acrylic paintings from (the beginning of the pandemic) that are full of fantastic creatures. Now that the weather is changing I want to do at least one more painting as part of my Secret World series,” she says.

As part of her plein air painting sessions, Viccars says she works on two paintings each time and has been working with more watercolour this year compared to last year, when she always used acrylics.

“I try not to be too focused on the final result but to enjoy the process, getting into the artistic zone when I’m working. It is kind of magical,” she says. “And most times I like what I do, I’m not a very harsh critic of my work.”

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Photos courtesy Susan Viccars

Susan Viccars has found herself working with more watercolour paints this year in her plein air (outdoor) creation process.



## Programs back in studio at Richmond Cultural Centre

Popular programs at the Richmond Arts Centre and Media Lab are gradually returning to the Richmond Cultural Centre with virtual classes beginning on Nov. 5 and in-studio classes commencing Nov. 12.

Programs for children, youth and adults will include drawing, painting, ballet, jazz, comics creation, drama, musical theatre, ceramics, yoga and more.

Pre-registration for all indoor programs is required and can be done online at richmond.ca/register using your MyRichmond account.

Anyone without an account can set one up at myrichmond.richmond.ca. People can also register by calling the registration call centre at 604-276-4300.

Strict COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place, including physical distancing among participants. There will be no sharing of arts supplies, water bottles, towels, mats or other items. Only pre-registered clients will be permitted into the facility. Other safety require-

ments will be shared upon registration.

Anyone registering should not have symptoms of COVID-19 or experienced any in the previous 10 days. They must also not have returned from outside Canada in the previous 14 days or been in contact with someone who has a presumed or confirmed case of COVID-19.

For a complete list of the programs on offer, including times and locations, visit [www.richmond.ca/artscentre](http://www.richmond.ca/artscentre).

# Sockeyes get season off to fast start

By DON FENNELL

@rmdsentinel

It's a unique environment with no fans in the stands, but the Richmond Sockeyes are back playing hockey.

And the perennial cup contenders again find themselves in a familiar place as the Pacific Junior Hockey League season (PJHL) gets underway—atop the standings.

Under the guidance of new head coach Bayne Koen, the Sockeyes are 2-0 following a pair of 3-1 victories over the Grandview Steelers (Oct. 15) and Port Moody Panthers (Oct. 17) respectively. They're scheduled to close out October with games on the 29th against Grandview at the Ice Centre and Port Moody on the 31st at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

"It's absolutely not normal to not be playing in front of fans," says Koen. "But that's we got to do to keep playing. We've talked a lot about the fact that nothing these days is normal, so we have to be prepared to adjust on the fly."

That also includes, he says, the possibility that a vaccine could be approved tomorrow and things will begin to return to normal. Or that the season could be called off just like that.

"It's all day to day," he says. "We're the first league to play meaningful games in the province and we've got to continue doing the necessary things and take the proper precautions. (As a team) we've got to do our due diligence and put ourselves in the best possible situations and stay in our bubble as much as possible."

While they're only a few games into their schedule, Koen says he likes what he's seen from the Sockeyes. But, he adds, there's still working off the rust and expecting that with time the team will begin to show its potential.

After many months of planning, the PJHL

began its 2020-21 regular season Oct. 15 with a modified format given the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The season will be 36 games, with each team playing 18 games within four cohort divisions for the first half of the season. The Sockeyes are teamed with Grandview and Port Moody, while Abbotsford Pilots are grouped with Mission City Outlaws and the expansion Chilliwack Jets; the Delta Ice Hawks with Langley Trappers and North Vancouver Wolf Pack; and the Aldergrove Kodiaks with Ridge Meadows Flames, Surrey Knights and White Rock Whalers.

In December, the league will break for the required 14-day quarantine period, then the cohorts will be shuffled for the remainder of the season.

"The PJHL takes great pride in our return-to-play plan. It has been a collaborated effort involving our governing bodies, municipalities, facilities, other user groups, and our players and staff," said commissioner Trevor Alto.

Schedules for each cohort will be announced on [www.pjhl.net](http://www.pjhl.net), as they become available.

Fans are not permitted to attend PJHL games at this time, due to current COVID-19 building restrictions. In the meantime, the PJHL is looking into various broadcast options so the games can be made available online until building restrictions are amended to allow for fans.

"Our teams have put in a lot of work getting us to this point, and we are very excited that we are able to get the season underway," said Alto. "We understand that in returning to regular season play, we have a big responsibility of ensuring every one of our games is operated in a manner in line with our return-to-play protocol. We are very excited to get the 2020-21 season underway and look forward to giving our athletes the best development experience possible."

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Photo courtesy Canucks Autism Network

Proceeds from the Canucks for Kids Fund will support the Canucks Autism Network programs.

## Canucks launch new \$1 Million 50/50 Super Jackpot

The Canucks for Kids Fund are continuing their support of the Canucks Autism Network into the off-season, with the launch of a new 50/50 Super Jackpot.

With an estimated jackpot of \$1 million, the lucky winner will walk away with a minimum guaranteed prize of \$500,000.

All proceeds will support Canucks Autism Network (CAN) in their efforts to provide programs for individuals with autism and their families, while building inclusion and acceptance through community engagement and training throughout BC and beyond.

Founded in 2008, CAN has directly impacted over 5,000 individuals with autism. Their extensive reach has included the Richmond community with local swimming and skating programs being held at Minoru Aquatic Centre and Richmond Ice Centre in recent years.

During this time of physical distancing, CAN continues to reach more families in Richmond and across BC with new virtual programs. Meanwhile, steps are being taken to gradually and safely reintroduce in-person programs province-wide.

Support CAN and buy your tickets now by visiting [canucks.com/5050](http://canucks.com/5050). Sales close on Nov. 2 at 9 p.m. You must be 19-plus and a resident of BC.



Photo submitted

Due to current COVID-19 building restrictions, fans can't attend games, but the PJHL is looking into possibly making the games available online.



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