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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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The Gaming Stadium selects Richmond for \$5M+ gaming venue



03

Photo courtesy The Gaming Stadium

A 110-seat venue for esports gamers, spectators and fans will open this May at Lipont Place on No. 3 Road, across the street from the Aberdeen Station of the Canada Line. But The Gaming Stadium is scheduled to break ground this year on Canada's first dedicated esports arena, a 300-seat, 18,000-square-foot building that is slated for completion in the late spring of 2021.



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Why You Get Fired Matters: Termination of Employment for “Just Cause” (or not)



**DAVID
SMART**

IF an employer fires or lays off an employee, that termination of employment will either be for “*just cause*” (a legally valid reason for terminating the employment contract), or without just cause.

You may be surprised to learn that, provided that there is no Human Rights Code violation, an employer is entitled to terminate an employee without any just cause to do so. However, whether or not there is just cause to fire an employee can have significant financial repercussions for both the employer and employee. What constitutes just cause is unique to every employment relationship; depending on the facts, one



**GARY
HAGEL**

serious infraction, a series of infractions, or unsatisfactory performance may amount to “*just cause*”. However, unless the employee has done something intentionally wrong, it is often quite difficult for an employer to prove that “*just cause*” exists.

If an employee is fired for just cause, then the employer has no obligation to provide advance notice of termination, termination pay or severance pay. The employer’s only obligation will be to pay the employee whatever the employee has already earned, as of the date of termination.

However, if a worker is terminated from employment with-

out just cause, then that employee is entitled to advance working notice of the termination. How much notice (how long a period of time) is required will be determined by the employment contract. If there is no written contract, or if the contract says nothing about the amount of notice that is required, the law provides that an employee is entitled to “reasonable notice” in advance of the termination. What is “reasonable” depends on the specific employment situation. If an employee is dismissed without just cause and without the required advance notice, this is a breach of the employment contract. This situation is commonly referred to as “wrongful dismissal”.

In reality, most employers will not give notice of dismissal. Instead they will usually offer the employee “severance pay”, instead of employing (and paying) the employee during the notice period.



If an employee is dismissed without just cause and without reasonable notice (or reasonable severance pay), the employee will be entitled to damages. These damages will include the value of whatever salary and benefits the employee would have earned over the appropriate notice period, if it had been provided. This entitlement to damages for wrongful dismissal will often be greater than what the employer offers as severance pay.

There are many factors at play, and if you think you have been fired or laid off without reasonable notice or severance pay, you should consult an experienced employment lawyer.

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The Gaming Stadium promises safe place to play

By MARTIN VAN DEN HEMEL
 @MartinvandenH

Canada's first dedicated esports arena—where up to 110 spectators can watch Richmond's top video game players showcase their skills—will open at Lipont Place art exhibition centre on No. 3 Road at the end of May.

The Gaming Stadium will include bleacher seating, a stage that spotlights 10 featured players, massive display screens, a live-streaming broadcast with a play-by-play announcer (known as a shoutcaster), and an additional 48 stations outfitted with top-of-the-line PCs and high-end gaming chairs for gamers to play what's most popular in the gaming world: Fortnite, Apex Legends, League of Legends and Overwatch, to name a few.

The temporary facility—which will have a dedicated 10 gigabit internet connection along with speedy free wifi for visitors—will occupy the space that once served as the automotive repair bay for an Acura car dealership.

But it will be replaced by a brand new, multi-million-dollar 18,000-square-foot esports arena with space for more than 300 spectators.

Plans are to break ground for the new facility—to be built in the parking lot behind Lipont Place, which is immediately south of the Tim Horton's at No. 3 Road and Cambie, and easily-accessible thanks to its proximity



Photo courtesy The Gaming Stadium

An 18,000-square-foot stadium is slated to open in late spring of 2021.

to Aberdeen Station of the Canada Line—by the end of 2019. It's scheduled to open in the late spring of 2021.

Max Sussman, radio host of The Game Show, which airs Fridays at 11 p.m. on Sportsnet 650, said that when he first heard about The Gaming Stadium's plans to come to the Vancouver area, he figured it would be somewhere in Richmond near the Canada Line.

"I think it's a natural place to put it," Sussman said, adding that Richmond has a "rich history of arcade competition." He noted there are a handful of internet cafes and esport hub spaces near the arena.

Asked why a facility like this would draw gaming fans, Sussman said it's akin to recreational basketball players

watching the two-time NBA champion Golden State Warriors.

"If you want to get better, you've got to watch someone who is the best," he said, noting that top-player Shroud draws some 50,000 people each time he plays Apex Legends, an online, multi-player, first-person shooting video game that launched on the Monday after this year's NFL Super Bowl. It now boasts some 50 million players.

Like Junior A

Coaching, training, tournaments, fans and arenas—words you wouldn't normally associate with video games.

But when Spiro Khouri, vice president of marketing at The Gaming Stadium, provided The Richmond Sentinel a preview of what's coming

to Richmond this May, he likened it to the launch and operation of a brand new Junior A-level hockey franchise.

The Gaming Stadium's esports franchise will do much of what a junior hockey team does: recruit and sponsor players, provide coaching and training sessions, and send a team of players in Gaming Stadium gear to play in tournaments locally and abroad.

The new facility promises to provide a warm, safe and comfortable place for gamers, in a well-lit location that features security and plenty of staff, and is easily accessible by transit to anyone in the Lower Mainland, he said.

"We want people to come and be able to experience first hand what it's like, especially the parents because there aren't any places right now where people can compete on any level," Khouri said.

In this case, the competition isn't on a basketball court or soccer pitch, but online, and the equipment of choice is a keyboard and mouse.

The Gaming Stadium will give gamers a chance to compete against the best both locally and regionally, and the barrier to entry is very low, Khouri said, with the average tournament entrance fee about \$20.

"It's a great opportunity to test your skill level against people in the local

See Page 4



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GAMING STADIUM

From Page 3

community," Khouri said.

Asked about the concerns of parents who see their children playing these video games for countless hours, and seemingly being anti-social, Khouri said the new arena should allay those fears.

"When you're playing in a local setting you get to meet people," he said. "There's a social aspect to it that you don't get when you're playing online. Even though you're playing online and you're meeting people from around the world...you're not actually meeting that person. You're just talking over an in-game chat..."

"Here it takes that to the next level; you actually get to meet people in person and then if you guys are of an equal skill level, you can potentially team up..."

The Gaming Stadium is looking to

create that social environment, where people meet and form friendships, he said.

Anyone of any age is welcome to come in and watch, since there's no admission fee, he said. But players competing at The Gaming Stadium must be at least 14 years old, and for some events, players will need to be at least 19.

As well, like with a Junior A hockey team, The Gaming Stadium wants to become like a feeder league, and develop players who can move up to higher levels of play.

"We want to become a place where people can come and hone their skills and then potentially either get scouted, or find opportunities with professional teams to take their skills to the next level."

Khouri pointed to the Vancouver Titans, a professional esports team that plays Overwatch—a team-based multi-player first-person shooting game. The Titans are owned by the Aquilini Group, owners of the Van-

couver Canucks. The Titans made their debut in February and play in the Overwatch League alongside teams from Toronto, Atlanta, Washington, Paris, and two teams from China.

Up to this point, Khouris said people get discovered by playing online and reaching a certain level, and then getting scouted by professional teams.

The Gaming Stadium will provide much more exposure to players, and will be live-streaming and broadcasting every day that the facility is open, Khouri said.

Come May, the Vancouver area will sport both entry-level, second-division, and professional esports teams, becoming the first city in North America to do so, he said.

"We are creating a talent pool," he said, and second-division scouts will be looking.

A Melting Pot

Both Vancouver and Burnaby tried to lure The Gaming Stadium, but Richmond won out for a few reasons,

Khouri said, including the short drive to the Vancouver International Airport and the fact the property they selected is right next to the Canada Line.

"Richmond is a melting pot of gamers," he said. "There's a lot of internet cafes here. There's a wide variety of people from different ethnic backgrounds. And it really provides a cool central location with food and beverage offerings and so much to do in the area."

One of major investors in The Gaming Stadium is the owner of Lipont Place.

Myesport Ventures Ltd., which is the parent company of The Gaming Stadium, was founded about a year ago, but the project has been in the works for about 18 months, Khouri said. Millions of dollars have already been invested in the project, and millions more will be, including the \$5-million-plus stadium.

See Page 13

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Creating Community Champions raises \$74,500 for KidSport Richmond

By DON FENNELL
@DFSentinel

A community stands tall, its generosity magnifying the power of sport.

Appreciating that no child should be left on the sidelines, and the intrinsic lessons learned through the simple opportunity to participate, a sold-out crowd at the 2019 KidSport Richmond fundraising gala—Creating Community Champions—March 1 at the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel donated \$74,500 to the local chapter.

“It shows what is possible when there’s synergy,” says KidSport Richmond chair Bob Jackson. “I can’t say enough about the community, the volunteers and the Hilton. We’re very fortunate.”

Honourary chair Bobby Singh has played an instrumental role in the gala since its inception six years ago. The popular Richmondite and former B.C. Lion has been able to reach out to his many friends in the world of pro sports, and they’ve always been quick to support the cause.

“(Former Lions teammates) Angus (Reid), Geroy (Simon) and (CFLer) Shea (Emery) and all those that come out shows what this means to them,” Singh says. “But we (athletes) just

show up. The people donating money and the volunteers who do all the work behind the scenes are the heroes.”

Says Reid, a fellow Richmondite: “We’ve got to do whatever we need to do to make sure kids can play. The reason why athletes come back to this over and over again is because sport has changed their lives. It’s the reason we are the people we are and enjoy the friendships we have. We understand how important it was when we were kids to be able to play and we don’t want kid to not have that opportunity. No child should be left out for any reason.”

That includes, of course, a child whose family is dealing with financial challenges—which was the impetus for the creation of KidSport.

This year hosted by popular broadcaster and columnist Fred Lee and featuring Vancouver Canadians’ broadcaster Rob Fai, the 2019 gala attracted a group of name athletes whose presence made for a memorable and rewarding evening. Everyone at the fundraiser enjoyed the presence of a guest athlete at their table. The athletes included Olympic snowboarder and Richmond councillor Alexa Loo, Vancouver Whitecaps alum Carl Valentine, Olympic wrestler and now UFC fighter Arjan Bhullar, Olym-



Photo courtesy Fitch Photography

B.C. Lion great Paris Jackson chats with Matthew Sutherland, left, and Connor Quilay, during the sixth annual Kidsport Richmond fundraiser at the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel.

pic rowers Darcy Marquardt-Hortness and Kyle Hamilton, basketball great Ron Putzi, Paralympic curler Darryl Neighbour, and retired Vancouver Canucks Dave Babych and Jyrki Lumme.

During his speech, guest speaker Fai emphasized the power that lies within each of us to make a positive difference.

“There are children who mimic every move you make. It’s easy to look at those who’ve made the NHL, CFL

or NFL, but we have the opportunity every day we wake up to make a difference. A child right now has no idea that in a room at the Hilton you are going to help them play a sport. You have that opportunity,” said Fai.

And not only can your contribution help get a child into the game, but as gala chair Steve Valenzuela said, “create a leader of tomorrow.”

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Photos by Don Fennell



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Photos submitted

The rookie team from Burnett won the regional robotics championships.

Burnett grabs robotics crown

By MARTIN VAN DEN HEMEL

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

The skills of students at J.N. Burnett Secondary have put them in a bit of a pickle.

The Breakers won the Canadian Pacific Regional Championships, despite the rookie squad being seeded 35th in a 35-team competition.

Now they've been invited to the 2019 FIRST Championship in Houston, Texas—from April 17 to 20—which brings together tens of thousands of students from around the world who participate in the K-12 robotics program.

Burnett principal Wennie Walker said students now are trying to fundraise for the \$5,000 US entry fee, along with airfare and ac-

commodations.

"Our team entered this year without any corporate sponsorship and the unexpected win has left them with very little time to fundraise..." she said.

Anyone who wishes to help out the team is invited to email Wennie Walker at wwalker@sd38.bc.ca

martinv@richmondsentinel.ca



Science Jam another success at Aberdeen Centre

By LORRAINE GRAVES
 @LGSentinel

With over 700 elementary pupils participating Western Canada's largest non-competitive science fair showcased students' enthusiasm for STEM: science, technology, engineering and math.

Students who worked in groups on projects, displayed their new-found knowledge at the Richmond School District's Science Jam at Aberdeen Centre.

As part of the Richmond School District's annual Education Week activities, Science Jam has grown in size and depth of subjects.

The stand-outs this year came from Maple Lane Elementary where most of their projects, designs and inventions were aids to independent living. They ran the gamut from a way to brush teeth without using hands to

different types of cars for people with limited mobility or use of their hands.

Maple Lane's projects showed the power of a teacher's leadership and literature to inform and enthuse.

"Our teacher read us a book about someone with cerebral palsy so that gave me and us the idea for our projects," said one girl.

One Maple Lane group modified a long shoe horn, heating it to put a curve along the middle, cutting a V from one end to hook the laundry and then, after testing, learning they had to smooth the rough-cut edges to keep from snagging threads in the garments. It worked like a charm thanks to their hard work.

"That way, someone who can't use their hands much, or someone in a wheel chair, can reach in to do their own laundry," said one of the girls in the group.

Another girl in the group pointed out

part of their display: "Here's a picture of my aunt who also has cerebral palsy. She doesn't have much use of her hands. She could use this to do her own washing."

Each in the group had a task such as explaining their design and prototyping process, their safety measures (having an adult handle the boiling water that softened the plastic so it would bend) and then demonstrating the tool in action. They even had model laundry machines. Each step of their design and build process was documented on their display.

In addition to the students' displays, Science World, the City of Richmond, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, Hemmera environmental



Photo by Lorraine Graves

Richmond students displayed their projects at Science Jam.

consultants, and Destination Imagination offered participatory displays for the kids and adults where they could try a microscope, and a host of other hands-on exhibits including a Van der Graaf generator that made their hair stand on end.

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Spectacular space opens for seniors

By DON FENNEL
@DFSentinel

Double the space, double the fun. That's what seniors will find at the new Minoru Centre for Active Living, which opened March 11 in Minoru Park.

Offering double the programming available at the previous Minoru seniors centre, the spectacular new centre features space that is not only inviting but flexible. From the cozy fireside lounge to the intimate yet spacious billiards room to the acoustically-designed music room, there's something for everyone. What's more, all the rooms can be self contained, enabling users to enjoy their activities without being disturbed.

"One of the biggest mistakes that is often made is not putting in enough storage," says city spokesperson Ted Townsend. "That's not the case here. Even the billiards players have their own lockers where they can keep their



Photo by Don Fennell

A spectacular second-floor view is part of the seniors centre at the new Minoru Centre for Active Living, which opened March 11.

cues. And if you know billiard or pool players, that's a big deal."

A full-service cafeteria seating more than 80 people is also open to both members and non-members, serving

healthy meals and snacks.

Much of the first floor is dedicated to seniors, with additional space on the second floor also available for multi-purpose use.

The entire building is designed to let in considerable nature light, as well as being built to LEED gold certification—a measure of environmental-friendly design.

The new facility recognizes a rapidly growing and active, seniors population.

"The Western world in general has an aging population, but in Richmond we also have the longest average lifespan of any Canadian city," says Townsend. "One of the challenges we had to look at in terms of this building was that seniors are living longer, and when you get a wider range in terms of age you are serving, you also get a wider degree of needs and interests. The old concept of a senior has exploded. Now, you have a lot more people who are physically healthy and active well into what is considered their senior years. But you also have a lot of people who in the past might have been confined to home or residences now able to get out and come here."

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Intercultural committee looks to strengthen harmony

By DON FENNEL
@DFSentinel

Established in 2002, the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee continues to enhance its mandate to strengthen harmony and co-operation throughout the city.

Sixteen council-appointed members and representatives from a vari-

ety of other local groups have worked tirelessly to address language, information and cultural barriers; address the perception and reality of racism; and support the development and integration of immigrants.

A 2019 submission to council outlines the committee's intention to continue to act as a resource, and provide advice to enhance and strengthen in-

tercultural harmony in the community.

Major projects in 2018 included the distribution of newcomer guides; a city-hosted one-day conference on diversity; Hi Neighbour; and a Resilient Streets Program.

Program members planned and delivered the Hi Neighbour project in co-operation with the school district. Several elementary school classes

were asked to design and draw pictures that best represented what "High Neighbour" meant to them.

With the Resilient Streets Program, micro-grants were provided to residents of between \$50 and \$200 to facilitate neighbourhood bonding activities, such as potlucks, block parties and barbecues

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SOGI from a student's perspective

By **MICHAEL MA**
Contributor

SOGI has been a major policy initiative of the Richmond Board of Education intended to address equity issues within schools.

There is no doubt that its discussion has garnered attention from not just parents and staff, but also students.

Last spring I, as a student council member, was invited by the district to share feedback on the SOGI 123 policy.

Although I was not quite educated on this matter at the time, I did interview members of the Rainbow club at my school to share their thoughts on the concepts of "inclusiveness" and "equity".

The Table 38 conference in January served as a kick-off event for the Pink Shirt month for February that comes along with the district's education week.

Exactly one year later, on Jan. 15, I was invited to attend a district-wide Table 38 conference hosted by Cambie secondary student council, where two guest speakers from "Outinschools" presented to students across Richmond's secondary schools their unique experience as members of the LGBTQ community.

This event raised awareness about LGBTQ rights in schools. Conference members were encouraged to wear pink as a way to show and support the spirits of inclusiveness. Among the attendees were school trustee Norman Goldstein and Heather Larson. The two guest speakers were Melinda—a mixed-race, queer, femme (language they used to identify themselves)—who serves as a school outreach program coordinator of "Outinschools"; and Kevin, a Quebec-raised writer and filmmaker dedicated to inspiring students through storytelling.

The conference began with a short and engaging "Guess and Check"

game, in which students, learned the basic terms associated with the LGBTQ community. Melinda, accompanied by her PowerPoint, threw terms like "LGBTQ", "homosexuality", "lesbian" and "queer" at students and asked them what they meant. Students showed a lot of enthusiasm in answering the questions. As the questions got harder with some of the less known terms like asexual, bisexual and heterosexual, the chattering faded away.

After that, the students entered the discussion period and were asked why supporting gender rights in our district is crucial to the well-being of all students. Common answers like "Richmond is the most diverse city in Canada", "respecting gender rights ensures safety and equity for all" filled up the engaging discussion among student leaders from across the district.

Perhaps the most valuable and unforgettable lesson I learned as a participant is when the screen showed some of the compelling figures and numbers of how the LGBTQ community is being left behind and often ignored by mainstream society around the world.

For instance, about one per cent of the population are identified as asexuals, that is 13 millions people being forgotten.

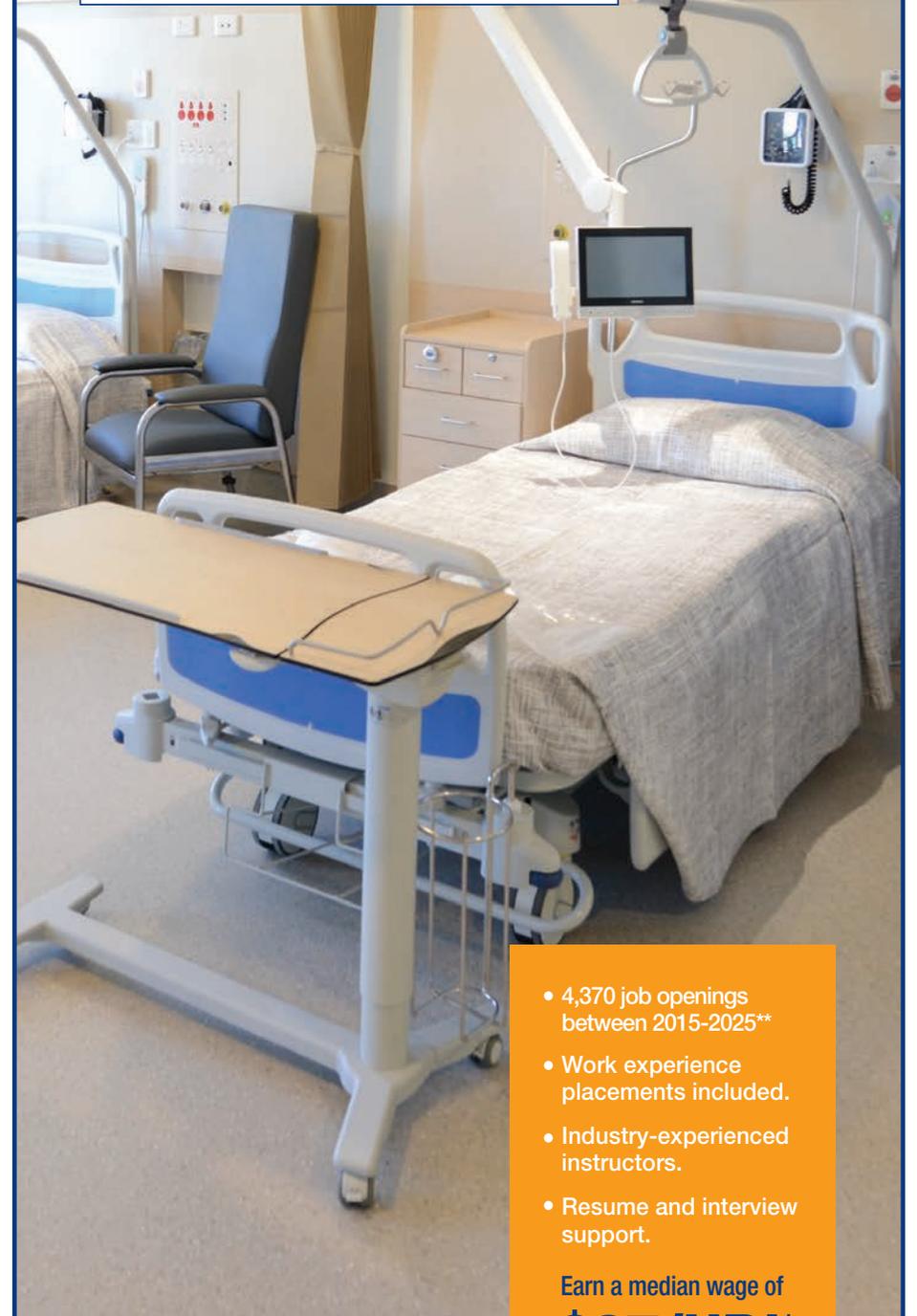
"That is 13 millions people being ignored, never and ever were they remembered," Melinda said.

Students including myself had mixed feelings as this last slide concluded the presentation. Overall, the event was well attended with more than 150 students from across the district.

"Outinschools" is an educational organization in partnership with "Outonscreen" and "Vancouver queer film festival" that provides learning opportunities for high school students about LGBTQ community.

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Gross Misconduct tackles #MeToo topics

By LORRAINE GRAVES
@LGSentinel

Richmond Gateway Theatre's upcoming production, *Gross Misconduct*, promises an intimate experience for the theatre-goer as they address big issues, ones often not discussed in local dramas.

As director Kayvon Khoshkam says of this SpeakEasy Theatre's production, *Gross Misconduct* is in Gateway's Studio B, which is very intimate. I've reconfigured the space to be in the round, trying to bring people into the space, to make it as intimate as possible."

While the play is in Richmond, Khoshkam is a Prairie boy with drama awards in the hall cases of Evan Hardy Collegiate in Saskatoon. For many years, he has also been a regular at Vancouver's Bard on the Beach each summer, both as a performer and as a much-loved teacher in the Young Shakespearians acting school.

But, a change is in the wind, Khoshkam says.

"This coming year, I'm going to be assistant director for 'Shakespeare in Love' on the big stage at Bard."

And, while the upcoming Gateway play he's directing is local, the theme is as universal, and timely, as Shakespeare's work.

"This is a new script, a new play by Meghan Gardiner. She's been developing and writing it for approxi-

mately seven years. Her work is quite strong," Khoshkam says.

Richmond audiences know Gardiner from her most recent acting appearance in the meaningful and humorous "I Lost my Husband" at Gateway Theatre last season.

Of "Gross Misconduct" Khoshkam says: "Sexual violence is not just a women's issue but is a men's issue too. We have to feel the culpability and responsibility of our role in this vast systemic issue.

"It cannot be enough that women are the ones speaking against it. Men too have to be speaking to each other about how this has to stop and why is it happening from our end."

While he's clear that theatre-goers shouldn't look for a lot of comic relief in this work, he says there are a lot of different dynamics in the work.

The play is set inside Millhaven Institution, a maximum security federal prison in Ontario.

Director Khoshkam describes the plot: "Now in his early 50s, Deke has been in Millhaven without a cell mate for the past 20 years. He is surprised and annoyed when Corey, a 20-something rich kid, joins him in his cell. As a complicated bond slowly forms between the two unlikely cell-mates, tensions rise as they debate the nature of their crimes, and the men must re-evaluate how they see each other after the true nature of their respective crimes is revealed.



Photo by David Cooper
Ian Butcher and Sereana Malani in Gateway Theatre's production of 'Gross Misconduct.'

As Corey begs Deke for protection inside the prison, Deke is faced with a moral dilemma and is brought face-to-face with a decision he made 20 years ago."

"Gross Misconduct" rings familiar for director Khoshkam.

"I first encountered the play as an actor when four years ago, I was in a workshop and read the role of Corey, the young inmate. It is a very interesting evolution to be the director. There's been enough time to see it with a more mature perspective now. It's certainly good at least having time to live inside a role Meghan (Gardiner) created, before taking on the role of helping her build it"

Khoshkam offers: "I'd like to impress upon the audience that this is a one act play with no intermission but the audience dialogue and the guest speakers and facilitators afterwards are an integral part of the ex-

perience. I really invite them to stay and share their thoughts with other members of the community."

Khoshkam points out that true change in a society takes individuals reflecting on their own long-held beliefs and values, sometimes challenging assumptions that underpin their actions and attitudes.

Now, with three years as artistic director of this theatre company under his belt, and now as director of this world premiere, Khoshkam says "There is no answer in this play but a great deal of questions being put forward. It's a very necessary and pertinent subject matter for our time."

Gross Misconduct opens March 14 and runs through March 23 in Gateway's Studio B.

For tickets phone the Gateway box office or check their website gatewaytheatre.com

•LGraves@richmondsentinel.ca

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Musical theatre program celebrates 25th anniversary

By MARTIN VAN DEN HEMEL

[@MartinvandenH](#)

It's the 25th anniversary of Gotta Sing Gotta Dance, an intensive musical theatre program that was the brainchild of Richmond lawyer Perry Ehrlich.

"As a parent, I was looking for camps and programs she could participate in and there wasn't really one to my liking," Ehrlich recalls of when his daughter expressed an interest in singing and dancing.

So Ehrlich poured his creative energy into Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance, which is operated from the Jewish Community Centre at 41st Avenue and Oak Street in Vancouver, and draws children from across the Lower Mainland, including Richmond.

"It's an intensive musical theatre program with a focus on developing skills and self esteem but also instilling in each participant core values like



Photo submitted

Applications are being accepted until April 1 for Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance.

commitment and respect and teamwork," Ehrlich said.

Applications for the program are being accepted until April 1, with auditions starting in the next couple of weeks.

Two sessions of Gotta Sing, Gotta

Dance are offered over the summer (July 2 to 25, or Aug. 6 to 29), each comprising 18 days of instruction from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ehrlich writes a new show almost every year, and this year's show is entitled Shamilton, a too-good-to-be-

true story about a TV show contest in which the first 10 callers are told they'll get free tickets to see Hamilton.

"Everyone thinks they're going to see the show on Broadway," Ehrlich said.

Those interested in auditioning must have some basic skills, including being able to sing confidently and dance with a degree of comfort, he said.

Participants will get three hours of dance classes a day.

A total of 70 people are accepted into the program each year, and the culmination of the program is a two-hour show with 30 choreographed numbers.

Ehrlich said thousands of dollars in financial scholarships are offered, which means no child is turned away because of an inability to pay.

The program costs \$850.

For more information, visit gottasinggottadance.ca

•martinv@richmondsentinel.ca

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The story of Steve's town

With many of the details from the City of Richmond Archives, and specifically its Richmond Schools online exhibit, this final installment in a four-part series regales the stories associated with Richmond school names.

By DON FENNELL
@DFSentinel

Richmond's newest high school is actually a merger of two previously established schools, and pays homage to two of the city's most prominent pioneers.

Opened in 2007 following a merger between the previously-existing London Secondary and the eventual replacement of Steveston Secondary, the largest school in the district (featuring two full-sized gyms, two science labs and a library) is named after pioneers Charles Edwin London and Manoah Steves.

Originally built as an elementary school, London was first established as a junior secondary in 1974, while the original Steveston school on No. 2 Road opened in 1955 before closing in 2005.

A farmer, Charles London and his brother tilled land along the south arm of the Fraser River from 1881 to 1941. The pair also built a dyke by hand to protect farmland from flooding, and constructed a landing at the foot of No. 2 Road to bring in supplies to both his farm and the community. The original London farmhouse is now a popular heritage site located on Dyke Road near Gilbert Road.

Steves, after whom Manoah Steves Elementary was named, was also an early pioneering farmer. It is after the Steves family that the Steveston neighbourhood is named.

Ironically, the Steves family all attended Lord Byng Elementary—a school, according to Harold Steves, originally known as Steveston.

Harold's great grandfather, Manoah Steves, and Charles London enjoyed a

great friendship that extended to their families.

"The early farmers were good friends," Harold says. "But it was an all-day trip to go and visit the Londons. When they first settled here there weren't many roads and travelling by horseback was a slow process."

The neighbourhood that came to be known as Steveston came about because of the farm wharf that was located there.

"Initially it was called Steveston's Landing, and eventually Steve's Town," Harold explains.

James McKinney Elementary

Originally built as annex to Lord Byng Elementary, the school was enlarged and became a full-fledged Kindergarten to Grade 7 school in 1974. It is named after James McKinney, who came to Lulu Island from Ontario in 1892 and owned 200 acres of farmland near No. 2 Road and Steveston Highway. It is on this site that the school is located. McKinney served on school board and was heavily involved in the church and other community activities.

Westwind Elementary

Opened in 1979 to serve the new housing development bound by Steveston Highway, Moncton Street, No. 2 Road and Railway Avenue, near the popular Steveston Village, the school is named after the new subdivision.

Jessie Wowk Elementary

Opened in 1992, the school is named after Jessie Wowk who was known as a humanitarian during the depression and gave generously to those standing in bread lines. She emigrated to Richmond with her parents from Ukraine in 1906, with the family purchasing a farm on Steveston Highway. Wowk is only the second woman—after Kate McNeely Elementary School—to have a school in Richmond named after her.



Photo courtesy City of Richmond Archives

Photo of C.E. London Secondary School prior to it becoming Steveston-London. 2004 43 102

HJ Cambie Secondary

The current secondary school at Ja-combs and Cambie roads was opened in 1995, replacing the previous facility at Sexsmith and Cambie roads which originated in 1928 as Richmond High School. In 1952, the latter school became Cambie junior secondary when a new Richmond High School was opened on Foster Road (now Minoru Boulevard) in the downtown core. Cambie school was originally named after the adjacent road, which in turn was named after early local pioneer Henry James Cambie. He was an engineer with the Canadian Pacific Railway and surveyed and built roads in both Richmond and Vancouver.

AR MacNeill Secondary

Opened in 2003, the school is named after Allan Roy MacNeill who was an early Richmond educator. One of the first graduates from the education faculty at the University of British Columbia in 1923, he began teaching at Bridgeport Elementary and in 1928, when Richmond High School opened, became its first principal, a position he held until 1959. He then became the district's director of secondary instruction until retiring in 1968.

RA McMath Secondary

Opened in 1998 and becoming a

French Immersion school in 2004, the Steveston-area school is named after Richmond pioneer Robert Alexander McMath. Born in Ireland, he emigrated to B.C. in 1928 and moved to Richmond following the Second World War. In 1951 he was elected to the Board of Education and from 1957 until retiring in 1993 (excluding two years in which he sat out after unsuccessfully running for mayor), he served on municipal council. During this time, McMath became associated with several projects including the trail system, Richmond Nature Park and—as a keen soccer player—was prevalent in the local sports community.

Hugh McRoberts Secondary

Opening first as a junior secondary in 1961, the school is named after Hugh McRoberts who was one of the community's first settlers in 1862 when he purchased 648 hectares of land on Sea Island. Though born in Ireland, he called his farm Richmond View after his former home in Australia. It apparently reminded his daughter of Richmond, New South Wales. Sea Island was, in fact, originally known as McRoberts Island.

Tomekichi Homma Elementary

Built in 1990 to serve a growing

See Page 13

STEVE'S TOWN

From Page 12

Steveston neighbourhood near Britannia Heritage Shipyard, the school is named after Tomekichi Homma who arrived in B.C. in 1883 as one of the first Japanese settlers in Richmond. Homma was involved in the construction of the first Japanese school and Fisherman's Hospital, and in 1897 started the first Japanese daily newspaper, Canada Shinpo. He also helped the Japanese fishermen organize their own association, and throughout his lifetime fought for the right of suffrage for Asians, which didn't occur until 1949—five years after his passing.

Thomas Kidd Elementary

Opened in 1957 as a two-room school on Shell Road near Steveston Highway, the facility has undergone significant additions and alterations since. The school is named after one of Richmond's best-known pioneers, who was part of its incorporation as a municipality in 1979. Kidd also served as a councillor in the 1880s and 1890s and as reeve (mayor) from 1889 to

1890 and as Richmond's Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia from 1894 to 1902. He was also Richmond's first historian and also coined the term "Child of the Fraser" in a poem titled "Lulu Island."

Donald McKay Elementary

Opened in 1958 as an extension of Grauer Elementary, it became a Kindergarten to Grade 7 school in 1961. The school is named after Donald McKay, an early Richmond pioneer who owned land on the South Arm of the Fraser River near Steveston and also leased land in the Brighthouse Estates area on the middle arm of the Fraser to raise Holstein cows. McKay also operated a general store and post office at London Landing from 1888 to 1904 with Samuel Churchill. He served on municipal council from 1916 to 1922.

Kate McNeely Elementary

Opened in 1991 to relieve overcrowding at Mitchell Elementary because of the rapid growth of subdivisions near Jacombs and Cambie roads, the school is named after pioneer teacher Kathleen McNeely. McNeely began teaching in Richmond in 1910

at the age of 19 at the English school on Steveston Highway. In 1913 she became principal at Bridgeport School, the first female to hold the post in Richmond and perhaps the province. Besides being an administrator, McNeely was also expected to teach full-time and during the Spanish influenza pandemic of 1918 volunteered her time to care for the sick. During the depression the 1930s, she helped initiate a school cafeteria program, and following retirement in 1948 dedicated the remainder of her life to education and social causes.

Quilchena Elementary

Opened in 1974, the school was originally built to take the load off Gilmore Elementary. The school is named after the Salish word meaning "flat place near water." The intent of the Richmond School Board was to recognize the fact that a First Nations settlement had been located near the site.

Spul'ukwuks Elementary

Opened in 2000, the school was built to serve a new housing development in the exclusive Terra Nova Estates. The school was slated to become Richmond's first year-long

school (balanced timetable) in 2004. The school name is borrowed from the Coastal Salish Nation meaning "a place of bubbling waters." Because First Nations people of the Northwest had established settlements on Lulu Island near the school site for the purposes of fishing, the school was named in their honour.

Manoah Steves Elementary

Opened in 1964 as an annex to Dixon Elementary, it became a Kindergarten to Grade 7 school a decade later. The school is named after Manoah Steves who along with his wife Martha left New Brunswick in 1868 moving first to Ontario and then Maryland (in the eastern United States) before arriving in Richmond in 1877. Upon his arrival, he purchased 400 acres in the southwest region of Lulu Island and helped petition for Richmond to become a municipality in 1879 and served on the first council. His descendants, including longtime councillor Harold Steves, continue to farm a portion of his land. Due to the proximity of his farm to the fishing village that emerged, a community named Steveston was also named in his honour.

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GAMING STADIUM

From Page 4

Other Opportunities

While players will be spotlighted during tournaments, those interested in other aspects of the business will also receive exposure, Khouri said.

"We have some people who are fantastic commentators and casters. They're now going to get the opportunity to cast and commentate on these tournaments and get that production shown live on line...in a top-notch level broadcast."

It will be like a scaled-down Vancouver Canucks broadcast, he said, with live interviews, replays and analysis of game play.

The permanent facility will also incorporate three food-and-beverage kiosks, a full bar that will overlook the theatre, and a couple of VIP sections, similar to NHL game suites, for corporate outings.

While the temporary facility will only cater to PCs, the new two-storey arena will have a



5,000-square-foot area for console (PlayStations and Xboxes) game tournaments.

Gaming Addiction

Staff at The Gaming Stadium will be trained to spot tell-tale signs that participants may be veering toward addiction.

From over frustration, to lack of sleep, to body odour, Khouri said there are things The Gaming

Stadium can do to control how much players play.

"Because we're running different tournaments every day, and because we're not open for a crazy amount of hours, we know we can control it here," he said. "The issue then becomes, if they take it outside of here, and say I want to go home and practice every single day because I want to win the tournament...that's a bit harder obviously for us to control."

Khouri said that a few months after opening, The Gaming Stadium plans to offer free seminars for parents, so they can understand a bit more about the games their kids are playing, interact better with their children, and be able to identify potential trouble signs at home.

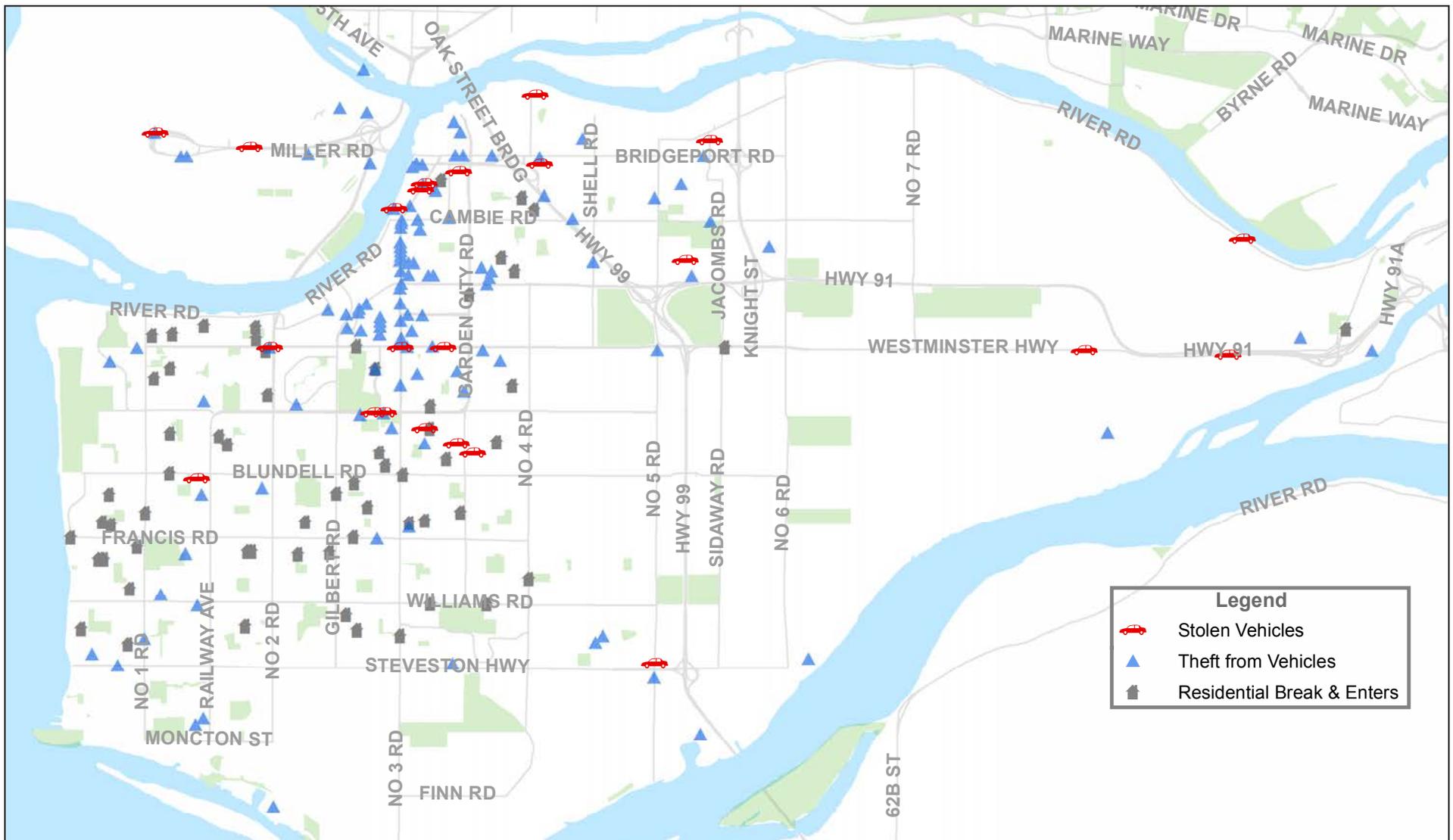
For players, plans are to provide day camps and coaching and development, for those who want to get better at the game.

But they also plan to address mental health, physical health, and nutrition, Khouri said, and will bring in partners with both experience and expertise to build those programs.

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RCMP Crime Map

Feb. 1 - 28, 2019



Big spike in thieves targeting car contents

By **MARTIN VAN DEN HEMEL**
 @MartinvandenH

Laptops, purses, wallets and even term papers are luring thieves to break into vehicles in record numbers in North Richmond, Richmond Mounties warned Wednesday.

In fact, over the past month, 169 vehicles have been hit, prompting Richmond RCMP to alert the public and caution them to keep valuables out of sight in their vehicles.

The most reported locations are in the area of North Richmond known

as the Golden Village, including Aberdeen Centre and President's Plaza—both near No. 3 Road and Cambie—and various locations on Alexandra Road, known for its bonanza of restaurants.

"It only takes a moment to break into a vehicle," Richmond RCMP Cpl. Dennis Hwang said. "Thieves are attracted to these areas because of opportunity. We are asking people to help by removing that opportunity. If there is nothing to see, there is nothing to steal."

Vehicles in Richmond are attract-

ing thieves because they often contain valuable items that only take a quick smash of the window to grab, a process that can take just a handful of seconds.

But it's not just purses and bags that are catching the eyes of thieves. Backpacks and even term papers are proving too tempting to ignore.

"Consider if a thief got a hold of your important identity documents, the contents of your wallet, your laptop or tablet with an important business presentation, company intellectual property, or even a fi-

nal school project or term paper?" Hwang asked. "What about important medications or an irreplaceable photograph of a loved one? Whether it be in your home, in an underground parking lot, or in front of a restaurant, take a moment and ensure your contents are secured out of sight," he said.

Aberdeen Centre is located at 4151 Hazelbridge Way. President's Plaza is at 8181 Cambie Rd. Alexandra Road stretches from No. 3 Road to Garden City.

•martinv@richmondsentinel.ca

City submits 'transformative' Smart Cities proposal

By **DON FENNELL**
 @DFSentinel

Thinking outside the box and looking into the future, Richmond has submitted a ground-breaking final proposal for the Smart Cities Challenge.

The proposal is highlighted by initiatives to minimize community impacts from major disasters and enhancing quality of life.

"Our Smart Cities Challenge proposal would make our community more resilient and improve quality of life for all our residents," said Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "It will build upon Richmond's recognized best practises leadership in flood prevention, emergency response and sustainability and our award-winning digital strategy."

Richmond is a finalist for one of two \$10 million prizes in the national competition, created by Infrastructure Canada that encourages communities to adopt a smart cities approach to improve the lives of their residents through innovation, data and connected technology. The city's primary proposal is to create an Intelligent Operation Hub that will seamlessly integrate data and coordinate emergency response, while also enhancing day-to-day delivery of key local services. The Intelligent Operations Hub will allow Richmond and its partners to better understand what is happening in the city in real time. The enhanced situational awareness will enable improved communication and data sharing that

will drive critical decision making for both day-to-day service delivery and emergency response, explained city spokesperson Ted Townsend.

In addition to enhanced emergency response and recovery, the proposal includes initiatives to improve traffic management, reducing collisions and congestion and to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Other benefits of the proposal will include: real-time incident notifications; faster response times; safer streets; greater community resiliency; early incident detection; improved communication and way-finding and expanded on-demand e-services.

Richmond's final proposal and a supporting video are now available on the project website at smartcity.richmond.ca.

The proposal was developed by city staff teams, who worked alongside a variety of external partners from more than 25 government agencies and First Nations, business and community partners to prepare Richmond's final submission. Through this process, the city is already proceeding with a number of test-case projects to begin implementing its Smart Cities vision. This includes an innovative partnership with Richmond-based MDA and other partners to use remote sensing technology, drones, and data sharing to monitor critical infrastructure and do rapid damage assessment post disaster. A pilot project with the Province of BC and other public agencies and a number of technology businesses will seek to create new plat-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Richmond City Council demonstrates its unanimous support for the city's final proposal in the Smart Cities Challenge.

forms for improved inter-agency communications during emergencies.

Extensive community engagement was undertaken to ensure the final proposal reflects the needs and interests of local residents and business. Community engagement continues with residents being asked to show their support for the proposal through social media using the words "Rich-

mond is my favourite Smart City" and the hashtag #smartcitiesCanada and:

- share your Richmond adventures with us using the "Richmond is my favourite Smart City" Facebook Camera filter

- add a Richmond is my favourite Smart City frame to your Facebook profile picture

• dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

Mitchell students raise \$10,000 in Jump Rope for Heart

By **DON FENNELL**
 @DFSentinel

The school motto at Mitchell Elementary is "Working Together to Achieve our Best." Students have done just that to raise \$10,101 for critical research through their participation in Jump Rope for Heart.

The national program for elementary schools is

not only a fun activity, but motivates kids to get active while reinforcing healthy habits like healthy eating and teaching the importance of social responsibility.

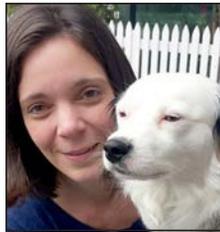
Students collected donations for Jump Rope for Heart, which fund critical research that's saving lives, preventing heart disease and stroke, and supporting survivors and their families.

To date, \$31 million has helped support some 1,000 medical researchers across Canada while ensuring 8,000 life-saving automated external defibrillators were placed in communities across Canada. eTools (such as the Heart and Stroke Risk Assessment) were developed to empower all Canadians to lead healthier lives.

• dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Cat caught in cruel leghold trap



Julie Desgroseillers

A rightfully concerned Richmond resident contacted the City Animal Shelter. A cat was in their yard, hobbled by what appeared to be a leghold trap.

When the cat, whom we've named Hero, was brought to the Shelter, we saw that it was indeed caught in and maimed by the barbaric trap that is, astonishingly, still legal in Canada.

While it is illegal in British Columbia to use a leghold trap that has teeth or other projections that can bite into an animal's skin and bone, you may be surprised to find that, despite years of activism against them, leghold traps remain legal if they have rubber, laminated or other less invasive interfaces with the animal.

Hero was quickly transferred to the RAPS Animal Hospital, our not-for-profit veterinary facility, where it was necessary to amputate the lower part of one of his rear legs.

As is so often the case, the natural resilience of animals means Hero was up and active within a few days, adapting to his new situation as if it

were entirely natural.

But it's not natural. No animal should ever experience the inhumanity of a leghold trap.

Our best guess is that someone has a problem with raccoons or some other wild animal invading their garden or shed or otherwise causing inconvenience. Of course, whether the "pest" got into your garbage, your garden shed or your attic, there is no excuse for the cruelty of a leghold trap. But here is the irony: If, as we suspect, the trap was set by someone trying to get rid of a pesky raccoon, they were doing exactly the wrong thing.

Whether the issue is rats, raccoons, coyotes or any other wild animal, preventing unfortunate interactions depends on us humans. These animals are not invading our housing; we have taken over theirs. If we don't want them rearranging our garbage, upending our organic recycling munching on the grass seed we left in the shed over winter or climbing into our cellars or attics, there is only one way to prevent it: take responsible actions to prevent this from happening.

These wild animals spend most of their waking hours scouring for the next meal for themselves and their offspring. If your yard is a buffet, they're going to make it an all-you-can-eat.



Hero was victimized by a leghold trap.

Keep pet food inside at all times. Put your garbage and recycling out only the morning of pickup and keep it tightly covered at all times. Keep your garden compost covered. "Pest"-proof your outbuildings: Garden sheds often have tiny holes that you think are too small for a mouse but even a rat can squeeze through a gap the size of a coin. Keep your barbecue clean and covered.

While raccoons, coyotes and other wild animals are beautiful and fascinating they should not be made to

feel welcome in your yard. If you see them, make yourself large. Clap your hands. Above all, don't actively feed them or allow any access to foods.

The tragedy of Hero's story could have been far worse. He was fortunate to be found and to have received excellent medical treatment at the RAPS Animal Hospital.

He is now in a loving foster home, has a voracious appetite and is engaged in purring as a full-time occupation. Another animal might have gone off into a remote area and died. And all this is to say nothing of what could have happened if a child had stumbled upon the trap.

Wild animals are not enemies to be conquered. They are neighbours to be treated respectfully and carefully. There are ways to deal with problematic animals—wildlife control companies humanely deal with these issues every day.

Setting traps to capture or kill wildlife—especially when the only reason they are hanging out in the first place is because we have carelessly provided them a food source—is inhumane and unnecessary.

It is our responsibility to take the few, easy steps to prevent the problems in the first place.

Julie Desgroseillers is manager of the RAPS-run City of Richmond Animal Shelter.

CAN'T ADOPT A PET? SPONSOR ONE!

Every issue, in this space, we feature an animal who is available for adoption. But not every home is able to welcome a new furry family member. If that's your experience, but you still want to make a positive contribution in the lives of animals, consider sponsoring a resident of the RAPS Cat Sanctuary for \$25 a month.



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



In their own words...

Council investments boost community safety, library services



**Linda
McPhail**
City Councillor

Richmond City Council recently approved our 2019 operating and capital budgets, which include substantial investments that will protect and enhance community safety, while continuing to ensure that other important basic services are maintained and enhanced.

Council's safe community program

The key investment in this year's budget is funding to support major increases in both police and fire staffing. In all, funding has been provided for 107 new positions to be implemented over the next three years.

The 2019 budget allows us to further address the needs by providing ongoing operating funding for 51 additional RCMP officers and 20 municipal employees at the Richmond RCMP detachment over the next three years.

At the same time, we are also addressing the need for increased fire and rescue capacities to serve developing areas of our community. Council approved funding for the hiring of an additional 36 firefighters over the next three years.

These investments further support the significant

capital investments Council has made in community safety infrastructure over the past decade and a half. Our ambitious building saw completion of five new fire halls, a major retrofit of a sixth fire hall and the purchase and renovation of the Richmond Community Safety Building, which is now home of the Richmond RCMP detachment.

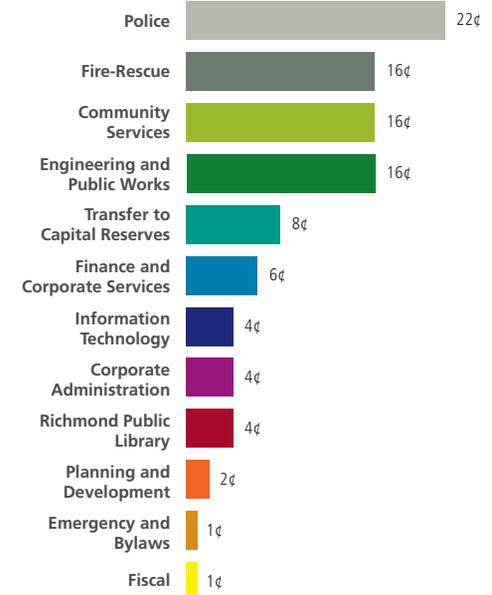
Later this year, we will open a new expanded City Centre Community Police Office at Gilbert and Granville. This new office will provide increased enforcement and faster response times within the City Centre. It will also enhance delivery of our many crime prevention programs.

The Richmond Public Library

We are also committed to excellence in all of our public services. Richmond Public Library is a good example. Council recently expressed its support for the Library's new 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, and has worked with the library board to ensure it continues to invest in expanding the library's collection, including e-books. We also supported the library's introduction of its *Launchpad*, an innovative digital learning space in the Brighthouse library which offers creation stations with digital scanners, 3D printers and more. Free learning sessions on how to use the equipment in a relaxing, modern setting are offered.

Last year, we provided additional funding to allow the library to expand its services for seniors. The library also introduced new book dispensing technology that allows for the expansion of services beyond our existing branches. A new book dispenser was installed in the Hamilton Community Centre

Breakdown of your municipal tax dollar



Here is how a 2019 municipal tax dollar is broken down.

last year and I was pleased to support funding in this year's budget for an additional dispenser to be placed in the new Minoru Centre for Active Living.

Our investments ensure that Richmond residents continue to receive an enviable quality of civic services. Through prudent financial management, we also ensure residents receive good value for these services. We continue to have some of the lowest property taxes in the Metro Vancouver region. To learn more about our 2019 budgets and our Five Year Financial Plan visit www.richmond.ca/5YFP.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

Development Permit Panel
3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 13
Council Chambers,
Richmond City Hall

General Purposes Committee
4:00 p.m.
Monday, March 18
Anderson Room,
Richmond City Hall

Public Hearing
7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 18
Council Chambers,
Richmond City Hall

Planning Committee
4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 19
Anderson Room,
Richmond City Hall

Public Works & Transportation Committee
4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 20
Anderson Room,
Richmond City Hall

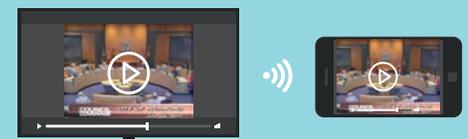
Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 25
Council Chambers
Richmond City Hall

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
4:00 p.m.
Tuesday March 26
Anderson Room,
Richmond City Hall



For meeting agendas and reports visit www.richmond.ca. Agenda and reports are usually posted the Friday prior to meetings.

Council Meeting Live Streaming



Visit www.richmond.ca to link to live streaming or watch archived video.

www.richmond.ca



More in store on the floor for Ravens

By DON FENNELL
@DFSentinel

The raven is said to be unusually intelligent, extremely versatile and opportunistic, with a knack for problem solving.

A wise and appropriate moniker then for the new kids on the block.

Taking a deliberate and patient path, the A.R. MacNeill Ravens reached the pinnacle of high school basketball last week, appearing in their inaugural provincial AAA boys' championships at the Langley Events Centre. Ascending to the final four further suggests there's plenty more in store for the future of the Richmond high school's senior boys program.

But equally impressive, the team was named the tournament's most sportsmanlike team.

"We're all feeling exciting about

where we're going" says Peter Thackwray, whose efforts have been as instrumental as anyone's in the construction of the MacNeill program.

Thackwray, who this year guided a vaunted junior boys' team while serving as an assistant coach to Steward Siy and Landon Dy, has been involved in MacNeill athletics since the No. 4 Road school opened in 2003. But typically modest, he deflects much of the accolades to others.

"Having great people like Stew and Landon has been instrumental in helping us get to this point," he says. "This has been a process and everyone has put in lots of time and work, the kids as well, in hopes of building something that will continue to grow. It's very exciting."

The 2018-19 campaign was a season of several firsts, and included a second-place finish at the Lower Mainland championships held at the Richmond Olympic Oval where they defeated a solid Richmond Colts before a boisterous and supportive crowd.

At the provincials, the Ravens won their B.C. tournament debut on centre court March 6 by defeating 11th-ranked Robert Bateman Timberwolves of Abbotsford 77-67 in a 10 a.m. tilt. They then won their quarter-final match 78-68 over North Vancouver's Argyle Pipers the following day to reach the final four before bowing to Vernon Panthers 89-65 in the semifinals on March 8. Duchess Park outscored MacNeill 75-54 in the third/fourth place game Saturday.

• Steveston-London Sharks also reached the provincial tournament, but were eliminated with an opening-day loss to G.W. Graham of Chilliwack 85-59. In consolation play, Steveston-London defeated Caledonia 62-59 before losing 85-70 to Byrne Creek and 69-64 to Pitt Meadows.

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Photos by Chung Chow

MacNeill Ravens reached the final four in their provincial senior boys' basketball tournament debut, and were named the most sportsmanlike team.



Usman Tung capped a spectacular high school career with second team all-star honours.



Peter Thackwray has been instrumental in building a solid MacNeill athletic program.

Provincials whet McMath's appetite for further hoop success

By DON FENNELL
@DFSentinel

Just wait 'til next year. It's a familiar refrain among teams that show promise.

But in the case of the McMath Wildcats, there's solid foundation to support the notion.

With the school's juvenile girls' team netting the provincial championship recently, and the senior squad a mere basket shy of upsetting the Brookwood Bobcats and going on an extended run at the B.C.'s, there really is reason for optimism.

A young team that loses five players to graduation this year, the Wildcats as a collective gained considerable—and valuable—experience this season. Given their athleticism and collective determination, that can only be a benefit for the 2019-20 season.

The McMath-Brookwood senior girls' game at the provincials was widely seen as "the game of the tournament" according to coach Chris Kennedy. The Wildcats then went on to drop its final three games by a combined seven points, and completed the campaign with a 31-14 record that included its sixth straight Richmond city title and a second-place finish at the Lower Mainlands.

Kennedy extended a special thank you to John Wilson for his work with this season's five graduating players; all of whom he's worked with since they were in elementary school.

"It is these kind of connections that build strong basketball programs like ours," he said.

Kennedy also praised the contributions of Steve Flynn. Since joining the coaching staff three years ago, the Wildcats have compiled an 83-38 record and qualified for a pair

of provincial championship tournaments.

Going into next season, 10 players will have at least one or more years of high school eligibility remaining, and are already forecast to be among the favourites for a B.C. championship.

"It will be continue to exciting to watch the girls grow and develop," he says. "The girls will have one of the toughest tournament schedules in B.C., including returning to the Big Ticket, Victoria Christmas Classic, and Tsumura Invitational. A year older and stronger will make a big difference.

McMath's boys' basketball also had a strong year, led by the junior team which finished second in the province after dropping the B.C. final 66-37 to Burnaby South Rebels.

Clearly, there's something good in the water at McMath.

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Photo by Paul Yates,
Vancouver Sports Picture

McMath Wildcats will enter next season with high hopes.

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Home of the Chuckers

Panther Cheer athletes stand tall—on and off the mat

By DON FENNEL
@DFSentinel

At its core, Panther Cheer Athletics strives to develop the whole athlete.

That means providing a safe, positive and challenging culture for individuals to grow and realize their potential.

The steadfast belief has vaulted Panther Cheer to the top in the sport of all-star cheerleading and created a model to emulate.

"Panther Cheer is the only cheer gym in B.C. to have an intensive and thorough character development aspect to our training," says co-owner Stephanie Kennedy. "Each and every month, we have a word that we focus on and discuss as a team at the beginning of every practice. We talk about how the word is applicable to their lives, their training and their part in how the world works."

The conversations are not only meaningful, but help better prepare the club's athletes for life on and off the competitive mat.

Besides helping advance their athletic talents, both as individuals and collectively, the character development is also reflected in the way the athletes carry themselves in competition as well as outside the athletic arena.

Another benefit is the consistency Panther Cheer has been able to realize. At last weekend's seventh Mardi Parti Cheer Championships at



Photo submitted

Panther Cheer Athletics won the inaugural Pinnacle Cup recently at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

the Richmond Olympic Oval, the club earned four top placings. Additionally, the club—which was represented by eight teams—finished first three times and captured two grand championship banners (meaning they received highest score in their respective levels across all age divisions). Most notably, the Generals (Panther Cheer's junior level two team) won the inaugural Pinnacle Cup awarded for the highest cumulative score over three events the company ran this season.

Further, two Panther Cheer teams recently became national champions at the Best of the Northwest in Taco-

ma. And Panther Cheer's senior level-four team competed March 1 to 3 in Dallas at the NCA All-Star Nationals—the largest cheerleading competition in the United States. This competition featured tens of thousands of athletes from 43 states and 10 countries.

"This was our first time attending and we were excited to represent Canada at this level," noted Kennedy.

Kennedy and co-owner Dawn Silver are proud of the grit, determination, passion and dedication all the athletes have demonstrated this season.

"It always brings the coaches such pride to see each of our teams come

together and battle hard to hit new stunt combinations, perform new tumbling sequences, and to wow the crowd with their outstanding performances," says Kennedy.

Outside of competing, Panther Cheer athletes also stand tall as human beings. So far this season they have hosted five philanthropic events:

- a blood donor clinic to help Canadian Blood Services
- raised funds and participated in "Light the Night" walk for the leukemia and lymphoma society
- attended a downtown shelter and helped serve warm meals to those in need
- organized, raised funds and participated in the club's annual community 5K "Panther Pups and Puddles Walk for RAPS" helping to raise money for animals in Richmond, and
- participated in the "Starts with a Heart" event where the athletes created handmade Valentine's cards and deliver them to Richmond's elderly.

"This season's placings have demonstrated the growth (Panther Cheer strives for)," Kennedy says. "Cheerleading is such a tough sport with so many obstacles and challenges. There is no bench in all-star cheer. Each and every athlete plays an integral part."

Information about the club's 16th competitive cheerleading season will be soon made available. Interested athletes and families can email info@panthercheerathletics.com

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Alaska has long history of curling at PIC

By DON FENNEL
@DFSentinel

Alaska maintains a special place in the history of the Pacific International Cup.

When organizers decided after the success of the inaugural club championship in 1999 (which was limited to B.C. curlers) to extend

the event by creating an international competition, Alaska was one of the first to step forward.

The state has been represented ever since at the PIC, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary April 17 to 21 at the Richmond Curling Club.

This year's Alaska men's team itself has a lengthy and proud connection with the event.

This will be Levi Piehl's third trip to the PIC. And his wife, Michelle, was a sportsmanship winner at the 2012 PIC.

Born and raised in North Dakota, Piehl learned to curl at the Minot club in the mid-90s. He moved to Alaska in 2001 and has been curling out of Anchorage ever since. Perhaps one day their daughter,

Eva, will also grace the PIC ice.

Transplanted Canadian George Newman, a veteran curler of 40 years and originally from Calgary, is skipping this year's team with the lead Skip Desaulniers and second Tony Hubbard.

Dan Bogan is the fifth player on the team.

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Richmond athletes help Team BC to record Games haul

By DON FENNELL
@DFSentinel

It was the coldest February in 40 years, but the finest B.C. team ever.

With Richmond athletes standing tall, Team BC completed the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer with a record 30 gold medals over the two-weeks of sports competitions.

"What an incredible performance despite trying circumstances," said Team BC chef de mission Jennifer Scott. "Our athletes and coaches pushed themselves to the limit to create outstanding performances for this province."

Led by captain Kate Reilly of Richmond, B.C. won its first medal—bronze—in women's hockey since 1991.

"It feels awesome," Reilly said after B.C.'s 5-4 win over Ontario. "The whole game my heart was racing. We just



Wendy Zhang was flag bearer during the closing ceremonies.

(had) a great team and that last five seconds of the game you could really see it. I had goose bumps and all I could think about in those last moments was don't let it get to the net. My teammates had a great block and I just went crazy on the inside."

Reilly was joined on the team by fellow Richmondite Kaitlin Chan.

Richmond athletes also stood out on the badminton court, with Wendy Zhang—selected flag bearer for the closing ceremonies—leading the way.

A junior national team member, Zhang won gold medals in women's singles and doubles. The Pan American junior silver medallist, she is ranked third nationally.

"It (was) a huge honour to not only represent B.C. at the Canada Winter Games, but to also be the flag bearer," she said. "I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to show my B.C. pride at my very first multi-sport event."

Zhang is preparing to compete at the upcoming junior elite competition in Calgary, and the Pan Americans in Mexico in late April.

There was a silver lining for Wesley Chiu of Richmond after he finished second in the men's singles figure skating competition after being disappointed with his long program which earned him a score of 75.12 points.

"It wasn't what I was planning on doing (but) I really liked my last few elements. I felt like I tried not to give up and pushed through to the end."

Connaught Skating Club team-



Photos by Kevin Bogetti-Smith, Team BC

Steveston Judoka Ian Ryder continued his standout year.

mate David Li, also of Richmond, won bronze.

"I didn't expect it. I just wanted to come here and do my best and have a good experience," he said.

Dedicated training also paid dividends for Steveston judoka, with both Caleigh Kuramoto and Ian Ryder reaching the podium. Kuramoto won gold in the women's team event and silver in the female -57 kilogram class,

while Ryder won silver with his mates in the men's team event and gold in the men's +81 kilogram final in a dominating performance.

"That's a throw that I practice a lot," Ryder said. "The uchi mata throw is one I am confident with."

David Lim of Richmond defeated Tommy Xu of Quebec for bronze in men's table tennis play.

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Curling Canada honours PIC team with special award

By DON FENNELL
@DFSentinel

The Pacific International Cup team is getting its due recognition.

Twenty years after the group's extraordinary vision to begin a club championship for grassroots curlers, Curling Canada is honouring organizers with its prestigious Award of Achievement

Celebrating its 20th anniversary April 17 to 21 at the Richmond Curling Centre, the PIC has grown from a provincial event to a hugely popular global event attracting entries from around the world. Future world champion Betty Wang's first significant curling victory took place at the PIC.

While the club curlers come to compete, the fellowship that is synonymous with the sport is always



equally appreciated and celebrated.

The core of the executive committee has been in place since the PIC began: chair Jim Schuman, vice-chair Jim Mann, director of on-ice operations Wayne Braun, sponsorship director Howie Larke and drawmaster, historian and webmaster Ettie O'Connell.

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To post your FREE 25-word classified, please email us at jaanab@richmondsentinel.ca. Deadline: Thursday, March 28 the April 2019 issue.

Lost bracelet

GOLD BRACELET WITH CLASP/3 diamonds lost on Feb. 28. I was at Walmart in Richmond. Please contact 778-231-5176. \$50 reward offered.

Kids only swap meet

THOMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE Sat. March 16 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Find great bargains on gently-used children's items including clothing, books, toys and other miscellaneous items.

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COLORECTAL CANCER PATIENTS and survivors wanted for an online survey by University of BC. Participants can enter to win 1 of 2 iPads. Use this link to participate: tinyurl.com/ColorectalStudy

Garage Sale

THE RICHMOND SINGERS is hosting a GARAGE SALE on Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Broadmoor Baptist Church, 8140 Saunders Rd. Donations accepted Friday, March 15 between 6 and 8 p.m.

Arthritis

WANT TO LEARN MORE about self-care for rheumatoid arthritis? We invite you to test a program for monitoring arthritis symptoms and physical activity. Contact Information: Johnathan Tam at 604-207-4027 or via email at operas@arthritisresearch.ca.

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Recital

THE RICHMOND BRANCH of the BC Registered Music Teachers Association will hold recitals 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, at South Arm United Church, 11051 No. 3 Road & Steveston Hwy.

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MARCH ANSWERS

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Eugene Sheffer's crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mr. Disney
- 5 Dickens girl
- 9 Trendy
- 12 Latin love
- 13 "Garfield" dog
- 14 Ostrich's kin
- 15 Activist Parks
- 16 Mideastern strip
- 17 Campaigned
- 18 Platter
- 19 "Today" rival, briefly
- 20 Hot
- 21 Japanese pond fish
- 23 Kanga's kid
- 25 Include for free
- 28 Celtic priests
- 32 Make invalid
- 33 Foolish
- 34 Conviction
- 36 Dennis of NBA fame
- 37 Capote nickname
- 38 Tolkien creature
- 39 Striped fish
- 42 Wee bit
- 44 Filches
- 48 Flamenco cheer
- 49 Pay for
- 50 Military no-show
- 51 Morning moisture
- 52 Sea eagle
- 53 Yield
- 54 Longing

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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51				52					53			
54				55					56			

- 55 Put on
- 56 Recognized
- DOWN**
- 1 City district
- 2 Mine, in Montreal
- 3 Privation
- 4 Garments for dashing people?
- 5 Head, slangily
- 6 Dutch cheese
- 7 Iguana, for one
- 8 Meadow
- 9 Roll call reply
- 10 Big-screen format
- 11 Weak
- 20 Audio portion of a film
- 22 Edmonton player
- 24 Hunter in the sky
- 25 Bar bill
- 26 Count start
- 27 NBC weekend show
- 29 Cartesian conclusion
- 30 Genetic stuff
- 31 Capitol VIP
- 35 Time to come
- 36 More embarrassed, say
- 39 Physique
- 40 Sheltered at sea
- 41 Stitched
- 43 "The King and I" role
- 45 Actor Clive
- 46 Foreshadow
- 47 Dispatched
- 49 Hardly any

Answers will be posted in the next issue in April

SUDOKU

The goal of Sudoku is to fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

6	2	7						
		4	3	6		2		
5		3		7			4	
	6				1			2
	5			3			9	
7			6					1
	8			9		4		7
		5		2	4	8		
						9	3	5

TIC-TAC-LOGIC

A one player game, the object is to place Xs or Os in the squares grid. There cannot be more than two consecutive Xs or Os in a row or column. Each column/row is unique and has five Xs and Os.

				X			X	
	X					X		O
O				X	O			
	X			X				X
	X			O		O		
				X			X	
X							X	
		O		O	O			
	O							O

Difficulty Level ★★

3/12

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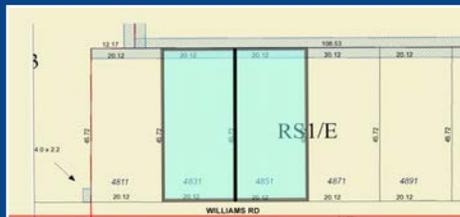
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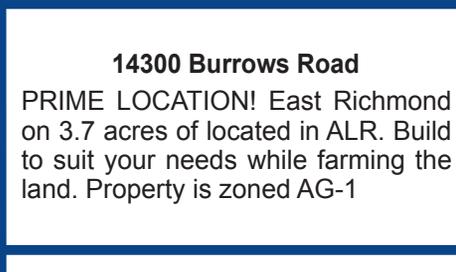
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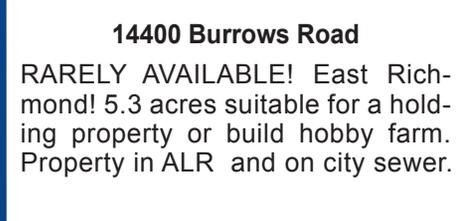
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*Rarely available zoned AG-1 / possible Public Assembly

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