



VOL. 5 ISSUE 10

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

JUNE 8 - 21, 2021

NOTEWORTHY PERFORMANCE



Palmer Concert Band
earns national gold

06

Photo submitted

Richmond's Palmer Concert Band earned the highest marks possible with a gold medal-winning performance at a recent national competition.

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Hobbs wins Richmond civic by-election

*Long-time volunteer
to fill council seat
vacated by Kelly Greene*

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

Andy Hobbs has dedicated his life to serving others. And now the long-time community volunteer can add city councillor to his resume.

A Richmond High grad, the retired Vancouver police superintendent and former two-term Richmond School Board trustee won the May 29 civic by-election with 3,095 votes and will replace Kelly Greene as a member of the municipal council. Greene gave up her seat after winning the Richmond-Steveston riding in last year's provincial election.

Asked by the *Richmond Sentinel* what he considered to be the biggest priority for Richmond in the next year, Hobbs said "the city must make sure that it implements policies that help support small business so that jobs are protected and families' incomes are secure."

"We need to take steps now to not only make sure our local businesses, like restaurants, survive

***We need to take steps
now to not only make
sure our local businesses,
like restaurants, survive
COVID-19 but thrive after.***

– Andy Hobbs



Photo submitted

Former two-term school trustee Andy Hobbs topped the polls in the May 29 Richmond civic by-election with 3,095 votes.

COVID-19 but thrive after," he said. "I have advocated for the city to expedite permits, at no cost, to allow restaurants to expand patios so they can serve more people in a safe manner."

Running as an independent, Hobbs spent 35 years with the Vancouver Police Department and listed community safety with a focus on community policing among his council goals. He also campaigned on financial accountability and sustainability, making more family-oriented housing options available, food security, farmland and the agricultural land reserve; and establishing a COVID-19 relief grant for small businesses.

On the issue of community safety, Hobbs said community policing is the most effective policing model for Richmond. But, he added, community

safety involves "a lot more than just the police and fire services."

"We must make sure that our local police coordinate action with other stakeholders such as the fire departments, healthcare providers, schools, community groups," he said.

Hobbs has volunteered on numerous community boards, and is currently chair of the Britannia Heritage Shipyards Society.

Jonathan Ho earned the second-most votes in the May 29 by-election with 2,785, while Karina Reid earned 2,767 to place third. Ken Hamaguchi had 1,515 votes, Kay Hale 708, Sunny Ho 693, Jennifer Huang 655, John Roston 446, Mark Lee 239, and Dennis Page 81.

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Mayor reflects on local pandemic changes

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

In the 20 years during which he's become Richmond's longest-serving mayor, Malcolm Brodie says he's never seen anything like the past 14 months.

"It's been absolutely unique. There's been nothing like it certainly in my lifetime," he says of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has dramatically altered the lives of people around the world.

Locally, Brodie says his duties as mayor were typically non-stop until they suddenly ground to a halt in March 2020. That was followed by a num-

ber of months of city council working from home, with most events being held virtually but even then only a trickle of what had been the norm.

But while the traditional in-person council process was compromised, technology has enabled council to deal with matters at hand.

Now, the goal is for a return to some form of a new normal.

"The ambition is to get as many vaccinated as we can as quickly as we can," he said in a recent interview with the *Richmond Sentinel*.

To hear more from Brodie, visit <https://tinyurl.com/sdupnyus>

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Mayor Malcolm Brodie says city council has had to adjust during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More changes afoot in Steveston

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Streetscapes in Steveston Village may soon look different, following a staff recommendation that would see changes to Bayview and Chatham streets to introduce permanent bike lanes.

Seventeen parking spaces would be removed on Bayview in order to implement dedicated bike lanes and wider sidewalks. Chatham would also receive bike paths and more space for pedestrians, with on-street parking retained. Moncton would remain unchanged. The projected cost is around \$10 million.

Staff is also recommending a new Steveston design committee—in response to a request from the planning committee earlier this year—as well as enhancements to the development application review process. The committee would review and comment on relevant development applications and design-related initiatives in Steveston Village.

Staff propose that the committee consist of three voting members appointed for a two-year term, including several with architectural and heritage conservation planning experience. If approved, staff would report back to council after two years on the effectiveness of the new process and committee.

New RCMP superintendent

Richmond RCMP is welcoming a new member to its leadership team.

Supt. Julie Drotar has over 28 years of RCMP experience and has worked in such areas as federal proceeds of crime and criminal intelligence. She is expected to join the Richmond detachment in the next couple of months.

Richmond Chief Supt. Will Ng said the local force has grown by 74 officers in the past five years, requiring additional managers.

Business growth

The city issued 352 new business licenses, representing 1,674 jobs, in the first quarter of 2021. A staff report submitted to the finance committee prior to this week's meeting notes that number is a decrease of 15.6 per cent compared to the same

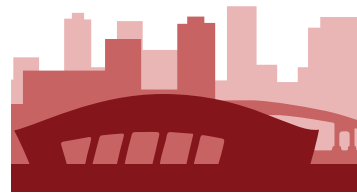


Photo by Hannah Scott

City staff is proposing changes to Bayview and Chatham streets, including the introduction of permanent bike lanes.

period last year. Overall in 2020, the number of new business licenses issued decreased by 31.4 per cent, so the new activity in the first quarter of this year "shows signs of improvement," according to the report.

CITY BRIEFS



Airport plans update

Vancouver International Airport staff have proposed amendments to their master plan and are inviting the city to comment before the proposal is submitted to Transport Canada for approval. In a report presented to this week's planning committee, city staff recommended several changes, including refining the proposed commercial land use designation along the south end of Sea Island so that retail space would make up only a small proportion of the total developable area, and that any retail would be limited to uses primarily serving local businesses and employees.

Brew pub hopes to expand

Monkey 9 Brew Pub, which is located in the complex that includes Watermania and SilverCity Riverport, is applying to expand its liquor license

capacity to include the bowlers' sitting area at the adjacent Lucky 9 Lanes Bowling Centre. A report submitted to the city's general purposes committee notes that there is access to Monkey 9 from two points inside the bowling centre. The new capacity would allow 460 people as opposed to the 200 currently permitted. An additional application would enable unaccompanied minors to sit in the bowlers' sitting area.

Advocating for hospital

Richmond city councillors plan to advocate for a revised timeline on the new acute care tower planned for the city's hospital.

The motion will see council writing a letter to the premier, health minister and finance minister to ask for an update on the business plan, confirmation of funding, and timeline for construction. The letter will also be sent to Richmond MLAs, the Vancouver Coastal Health board, and the Richmond Hospital Foundation. Council will also invite Richmond MLAs to a future meeting to discuss funding and timeline for the upgrade.

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School district budget includes job cuts

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond School District trustees passed a much-debated operating budget at last month's board meeting.

The budget, which carries a surplus of 2.8 per cent, will cut the equivalent of 34.9 positions, including 17.4 teachers and 13 CUPE employees. Twenty full-time custodians will be added for the first six months of the school year to bridge the staff who were added this year thanks to one-time federal funding.

District secretary-treasurer Roy Uyeno said policy dictates having a surplus of two to four per cent. He also noted most of the 34.9 employee role reductions will not result in layoffs.

"Budget cuts are never easy, particularly when they impact staffing but are necessary due to the reality of having very little flexibility," said Uyeno.

Board chair Sandra Nixon added: "Trustees really have explored with staff each budget proposal, the alternatives that we may have been able to look at, particularly in response to concerns, questions and feedback that we've received from our stakeholders."

Trustee Richard Lee was opposed to the budget, and said he would have preferred a lower surplus amount be left in the budget considering the extraordinary times.

District spokesperson David Sadler noted that the district's operating budget has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, including enrolment decline and additional costs associated with both pandemic-related educational programs and extra health and safety requirements. This year's provincial budget did not include funding to address COVID-19 recovery or health and safety



Photo by Hannah Scott

The Richmond School District passed its 2021-2022 operating budget last month, which will see the equivalent of 34.9 positions eliminated.

measures, although trustees met recently with local representatives of the provincial and federal governments to advocate for more funding.

Sadler said this year's budget uses \$3.2 million from accumulated surplus, as well as including a \$1.7 million reduction to the services and supplies budget. However, there was still a shortfall of around \$3 million.

"The district first looked to lessen the impact on employee staffing reductions by reviewing vacant positions, and the expiration of contract positions where possible," said Sadler.

Representatives from the Richmond Teachers' Association and K-12 employee union CUPE Local 716 expressed disappointment at the number of positions cut, considering the continuing effects of the pandemic.

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Palmer Concert Band best in the land



Photo submitted

The R.C. Palmer Concert Band earned gold in the recent National Music Festival Competition.

National competition success reflects school's motto

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

It's often been said that music is the true universal language, its roots extending to every culture in the world.

Through the challenges of COVID-19, music has also provided opportunities to express ourselves and to unite as one.

Embracing the gift, members of Richmond's R.C. Palmer Concert Band shared their talents to earn top marks in the recent National Music Festival Competition. Their gold medal-winning performance was the result not only of inner determination but also of dedication far beyond the norm.

It's more than just the music. It's an experience for everyone involved," says Brandon Young, a Grade 12 student. "Everybody came together on a pro-d day (with) no school. (This experience) develops a lot of connections you'd otherwise have missed out on."

Young said having to deal with everything the pandemic has presented, and persevere, "shows that there is still a real passion for music here."

"(The concert band) is a very important thing to have at Palmer because it encourages leadership and communication. It's a social experience that a lot of people wouldn't get to have otherwise. Not only is it good in that regard, it also shows that people have a commitment to

**What makes the band
such an amazing
place is we are all very
compassionate, and here
for one another.**

— Nina Wang

practice and get better."

Nina Wang, a Grade 10 student leader at Palmer, feels similarly encouraged.

"Having our music program continue to run has been extremely important, because not only is music a way to bring us together but also crucial to our mental and emotional health—which is something we really need during this pandemic," she says. "Even though band is obviously not the same as before COVID-19 with so many restrictions and all, I think we still took what we had and through persevering we were still able to create beautiful pieces of art and make it come alive."

Wang notes that each student has their own responsibilities as a musician, not only to practice but also to look out for one another.

"What makes the band such an amazing place is we are all very compassionate, and here for one another," she says. "Being able to play with

everyone else is like connecting with others on another (intellectual) level. You know, everyone is in charge of a beautiful melodic thread and when you put that together, you get a lovely tapestry of sound and I think that is just so fulfilling. So yeah, not only have we grown as musicians, as students, but also as young leaders and as people."

Under the direction of Career-Life Connections teacher Iris Chan, the Palmer Concert Band performed masterfully three beautiful classics as their musical selections for the virtual performance. The pieces were, in order, *English Folk Song Suite*, a classic band repertoire by R.V. Williams that Chan says was "technically challenging" for a majority of the band; *Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major*, a J.S. Bach composition arranged by R.L. Moehlmann featuring "balance and beauty;" and *El Zorro* by R. Standridge, "an exciting Spanish dance."

Sharon Fitzsimmons, an Ontario-based judge and chair of MusicFest Canada Concert Band Division described listening to the Palmer Concert Band as "a pleasure."

"Your choice of repertoire was exemplary. It provided challenges and inspiration for your ensemble, giving it the musicality, technicality and spirit it deserved," she said.

Fitzsimmons added: "Many beautiful moments, played with style and finesse."

The "intellectual music" allows the students to grow technically, emotionally, socially, and analytically, says Chan.

"After interpreting the stories inside the music, they then express it to make it their music. This is training for their brains. And they have to be focused and physically fit to be able to do it."

This well-deserved success, and honour, for the Palmer Concert Band comes after their provincial trip was cancelled last year. But it was replaced by the opportunity to work with adjudicators from Ontario, Alberta and Massachusetts.

"I am beyond thrilled with this achievement, and my musicians' diligence to persevere through challenges even with COVID-19 limitations," Chan says. "This team I have here is a dream come true."

Palmer principal Navshina Savory says the band reinforces the meaning and purpose of Palmer's PRIDE motto: positive attitude, respect, integrity, diversity, and excellence.

"Through the pandemic, we have come to realize that some of the most important aspects of a school experience are the building and experiencing of a sense of community," she explains.

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Students spreading joy through flower donation

McRoberts entrepreneurship club donates to Gilmore Gardens retirement residence

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

While learning the finer points of sales, students in McRoberts secondary's entrepreneurship club also practiced empathy by investing in local seniors.

The students in the club organized an Easter chocolate sale and used the proceeds to buy flowers that were then donated to residents at Gilmore Gardens retirement residence. They also made cards that were delivered alongside the flowers.

"The whole process took a lot of time, but it was truly worthwhile," says a club member. "We know everyone has been struggling during the pandemic, especially seniors, so we decided to make their lives a bit brighter. It felt really great to be able to make an impact on the community, even if it's just small."

Teacher sponsor Angelica Rost-Komiya says it has been difficult for clubs and other extracurricular activities to come up with ideas amid pandemic restrictions.

"We were brainstorming, and I suggested they try to bring joy to other people—and especially to people who might have a more difficult time than average during the pandemic," says Rost-Komiya.

The students in the club were immediately eager, and took charge of the project on their own. They independently organized the chocolate sale, figuring out how much they would need and exploring ways to promote and advertise to other members of the school community. The ordering and payment process was challenged by pandemic restrictions, but students were able to overcome the obstacles.

"It was a valuable experience to learn about the obstacles to businesses," says Rost-Komiya. "Everything that would have been great prior to the pandemic—all of these ideas weren't really realistic. So we had to re-think and come up with ways to work around and with the present pandemic situation."

The response from the school community was positive, with many students relating to the fundraiser's cause by thinking of their own grandparents. Gilmore Gardens displayed the students' cards in the foyer, and sent a thank-you card back to the club members expressing how much joy the delivery brought to residents.

Rost-Komiya says students are still meeting and eagerly thinking about their next project. This is the first year the club has run, and the success of its inaugural project paves the way for years to come.



Students in the entrepreneurship club at McRoberts secondary organized a chocolate sale, then used the proceeds to buy flowers to donate to Gilmore Gardens retirement residence.

Photo submitted

It was a valuable experience to learn about the obstacles to businesses.

– Angelica Rost-Komiya

Asphalt Paving Advisory

The City of Richmond has contracted All Road Construction to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond from March 8 to October 15, 2021:

PROPOSED 2020 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS	
Garden City and Alderbridge Way	Intersection only
8000 Block Westminster Hwy	Eastbound lanes only
Bridgeport Road and Viking Way	Intersection only
6000 Block Cooney Road	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
11000 Block No. 3 Road	Intermittent spot repairs for vibrations
8000 Block Lansdowne Road	No. 3 Road to Garden City Road
10000 Block No. 4 Road	Williams Road to Steveston Highway
11000 Block Railway Avenue	Steveston Highway to Moncton Street
Colbeck Road	
Palmberg Road	
Kozier Drive	Vibration complaint
8117 No. 1 Road	Vibration complaint
6651 Blundell Road	Westbound lane – vibration complaint
13000 Block Cambie Road	Jacombs Road to No. 6 Road
Gilbert Road	Northbound lanes (River Road to Elmbridge Way)

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 webpage at www.richmond.ca (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2020 Paving Program).



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From left to right: Natalie Meixner, President and CEO, Richmond Hospital Foundation, Dr. Tony and Mrs. Nancy Yurkovich, lead donor family for the ACT NOW Campaign, and Chad Pederson, Board Chair, Richmond Hospital Foundation



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From left to right: Natalie Meixner, President and CEO, Richmond Hospital Foundation, Donors Jinder and Gary Berar, and Candace Hernandez, Vice President, Richmond Hospital Foundation

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RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Cats aplenty at RAPS

By SHENA NOVOTNY

A wonderful cat rescue in Calgary, called Canadian Animal Task Force Society, traps and alters stray and feral cats. Recently, they have been dealing with one of the largest colonies they have encountered and so they reached out to other animal agencies like RAPS.

On June 2, RAPS staff drove 10 hours round-trip to the B.C. Interior to pick up 32 adult cats, and 11 kittens. Our RAPS Animal Hospital veterinarians stayed after hours until 11 p.m. to administer immediate healthcare for some of the cats on their arrival.

Another group, much smaller and with far fewer resources, is Sammy's Forgotten Felines Rescue, in Kamloops.

They service Kamloops and Salmon Arm area and have been trapping cats at a feral colonies but, because they do not have the capacity to house all the animals they are rescuing, we have welcomed some of them to RAPS, with more slated to come our way. So far, RAPS has welcomed 26 cats from Sammy's Forgotten Felines Rescue.

There are so many superb animal rescue agencies doing amazing work throughout British Columbia and, well, everywhere. RAPS is deeply honoured to be able to partner with them. We have a unique capacity to help because we have multiple components that almost no other animal agency has. We operate the RAPS Cat Sanctuary—the largest in Canada and home to hundreds of mostly unadoptable cats, many of whom would have faced euthanasia. We also operate the RAPS Adoption & Education Centre, where animals that are ready for their forever homes meet their new families. We operate the community-owned, not-for-profit RAPS Animal Hospital, an in-agency veterinary facility that ensures the most timely and superb care for the animals we serve, especially when they arrive in an emergency situation. (We also have thrift stores,



Photo submitted

RAPS is helping to trap and treat a large number of cats, some of whom will be adopted out and some of whom will live at the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.

a fostering network, an advocacy arm and more.)

Since RAPS is no longer contracted by the City of Richmond to operate animal care and control in the city, we are unencumbered by geographic limitations. Previously, RAPS would not have been able to take in cats from other jurisdictions. Now RAPS is "regional" and can take in cats from everywhere.

But what does this all mean for you? Most people know that animals make our lives, families, neighbourhoods and communities safer, healthier and happier. The work RAPS does (and other animal agencies do) makes all our lives better. For those who are thinking of adding a furry family member to their household, this embarrassment of riches in the form of so many cats could be good news for you. But the truth is ... we're not sure yet.

Most of these cats are from feral or semi-feral colonies. Of the Calgary group, three are mamas with kittens, who will be fostered until the kittens are ready to adopt. All of the animals will be vacci-

nated, dewormed, de-fleaed and given whatever other care they need, including spaying or neutering if they have not yet been altered.

Many of the cats that arrived on June 2 seem sociable. But it will take time to see how many of the other adolescent and adult cats are actually feral. Anyone familiar with cats knows their personalities can be unique. What looks like a feral personality could merely be shyness or nerves. After a few days or weeks around people, we'll have a better idea how many of them will be looking for a family home and how many will likely move permanently to our "Kitty Club Med"—the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.

We'll be updating the stories of these cats at the RAPS' website—rapsbc.com—where you can also buy tickets in RAPS first-ever online 50/50 draw where proceeds go to help the cats. Tickets on sale now!

Shena Novotny is Adoption & Education Centre & Cat Sanctuary Manager for the Regional Animal Protection Society (RAPS).

MY NAME IS BUCK

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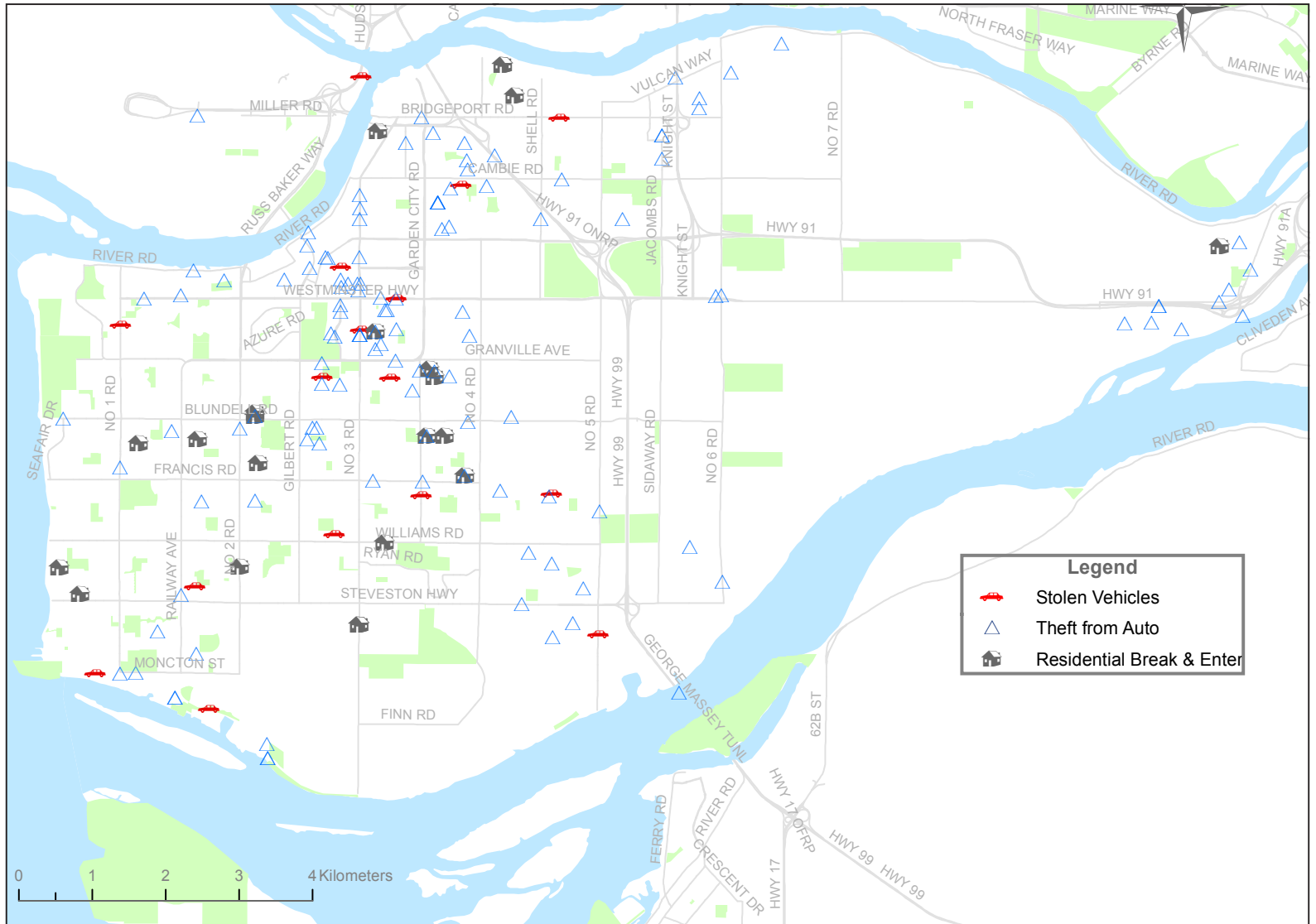
The RAPS Animal Hospital and Animal Ambulance are supported by Applewood Nissan





RCMP

Crime Map May 1 - 31, 2021



Richmond RCMP recognizes Pride month

Richmond RCMP is recognizing Pride month, which is celebrated each June in communities worldwide.

To celebrate Pride month, Richmond RCMP has created a video called "What does Pride mean to you?" The video shows members and staff at the detachment who are either part of the LGBTQ2S+ community or an effective ally expressing their personal views about what Pride means to them.

The annual month of recognition honours the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York, the result of a police raid that took place in the early morning at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar.

Pride month was started by Brenda Howard, who coordinated the first LGBTQ2S+ Pride march and the idea for

a week of events around Pride Day. These events are held to recognize the influence LGBTQ2S+ people have had around the world.

This year, Pride month celebrations and events are being held online to observe physical distancing and other COVID-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, Pride month is an opportunity to raise awareness about the current state of LGBTQ2S+ human rights.

Pride month is significant now more than ever because of the rise of anti-Transgender rights bills and the Anti-Asian hate rhetoric affecting racially marginalized groups in the community. The pandemic has had serious implications for the mental health and well-being of the LGBTQ2S+ community.



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

Richmond RCMP members are recognizing Pride month with a new video.

Richmond offers virtual Seniors Week activities

Annual celebration goes online for second consecutive year

The City of Richmond is celebrating and acknowledging the resilience, strength and diversity of seniors 55-plus during Seniors Week, June 7-13. To help seniors stay connected and engaged, the city, community associations and societies, as well as other community-based organizations are offering over 20 online and phone-in activities, which can be found at www.richmond.ca/seniorsweek.

"We acknowledge the important role seniors play in our lives and their value to the community," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "A number of unique and interactive activities are planned for participants to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes. Although we are still faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, the spirit of recognizing seniors is stronger than ever this year and it is reflected in this virtual week of fun, active, social and educational opportunities."

This year's Seniors Week events include exploring the benefits of hula dancing or ukulele, expressing creativity through an intergenerational art session or art therapy workshop, laughing alongside a comedic theatre group and getting the inside scoop on the Royal Family. There will also be a day for the city's virtual health and wellness fair, featuring healthy living and active aging workshops. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Most sessions require registration.

Highlights for the week include:

- June 9, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Activate! Health and Wellness Fair

Workshops cover topics that include naturopathic medicine, building caregiver resilience, support services for seniors, and managing stress, anxiety and depression. All workshops are offered through Zoom and in partnership with community organizations including the Alz-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Seniors 55-plus and their families are invited to choose from over 20 online and phone-in activities that are part of this year's Seniors Week June 7-13.

heimer Society of BC, Pathways Clubhouse and Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives.

- June 10, 11-11:45 a.m.—Journey Through Time

Travel back through time and discover the history of Richmond on this unique virtual tour. This program is offered over the phone in collaboration with the Friends of the Richmond Archives.

- June 11, 3:15-5 p.m.—Movie Afternoon with the Library

Watch the 2019 movie "Driveways" together but apart. This heartwarming movie about friendship and kindness is offered through Zoom and presented by the Richmond Public Library.

- June 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Royal Scandals

Join in to get the Royal insider scoop on love affairs, hidden meetings and mystery children

that changed the course of history. This program is offered through Zoom and hosted by Gilmore Gardens Retirement Residence.

- June 13, 2-3 p.m.—Hummingbird Haven

Find out how to turn a garden into an oasis for these beautiful birds with various plants and water to dazzling feeders. This program is offered through Zoom and presented by the Richmond Nature Park.

For a full, detailed list of this year's Richmond Seniors Week activities, links to all classes and social media channels and to register, visit www.richmond.ca/seniorsweek.

Celebrated across Canada, Seniors Week is held each year during the first week of June to commend and recognize the contributions seniors make to their community.

Seniors reminded to register for second vaccine dose

Anyone who received a COVID-19 vaccine prior to April 15 should register with the province's "Get Vaccinated" immunization system so they can be notified when it is time to book their second dose.

Registering with the centralized booking system is the fastest way to get both doses of vaccine, said provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry. There is no problem with registering more than once—anyone who is unsure if they are registered can complete the two-minute process and the system will immediately confirm their regis-

tration.

"We do have a record of your vaccination and your personal health number, but what we don't have is that easy way to connect with you through text or phone," said Henry.

She added that people who might not be aware they need to register to receive their second dose will be receiving a letter from the province with information and details.

To register for a COVID-19 vaccination, including a second dose for those whose first dose was delivered before April 15, visit getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca



Photo via Wikimedia Commons
Dr. Bonnie Henry.

G&F donates \$15,000 to mental illness campaign

A long-time and loyal supporter of the Richmond Hospital Foundation has stepped forward again—this time in the name of mental health.

G&F Financial Group has donated \$15,000 to the hospital foundation's mental illness campaign.

During 30 years of giving, G&F has supported various areas at Richmond Hospital including emergency, surgical, and gastroenterology. In 2018, G&F raised \$100,000 towards the new Acute Care Tower (ACT NOW) campaign—contributing to Richmond Hospital Foundation's latest \$50 million dollar milestone.

In addition to supporting fundraising campaigns, G&F is also an annual sponsor of the foundation's two signature fundraising events: the golf tournament and Starlight Gala.

"Following our mission to help others achieve in life beyond banking we recognize that mental health is a rising concern further intensified by the onset of the pandemic. Wellness and health care is paramount during these times and so it was only fitting to make a contribution towards Richmond Hospital Foundation's Mental Health Campaign", says Edmond Siu, Richmond Centre branch manager, G&F Financial Group.

"We are very oopsthankeful for G&F Financial Group's gift of \$15,000 towards our mental health campaign. A long-time supporter of Richmond Hospital Foundation, G&F's most recent donation will go towards supporting much needed renovations to improve the physical environment in the in-patient acute mental health unit at Richmond Hospital," says Candace Hernandez, vice-president, Richmond Hospital Foundation.

The renovated spaces will fully support person and family centered care, a concept that focuses



Photo courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation

From left: Edmond Siu, Richmond Centre branch manager of G&F Financial Group; Angie Sousae, money advisor; Dianne De Souza, money advisor; and Shally Sharma, assistant branch manager.

on engaging family members in the patient recovery journey from start to finish to create better patient health outcomes. Richmond Hospital's renovated in-patient acute mental health unit is scheduled to open in late 2021.

Over the past 34 years, Richmond Hospital

Foundation has raised over \$110 million to help fund vital medical equipment, improvements in patient care services and upgraded facilities. Its goal is to inspire joyful giving within our community to build a better and healthier future for Richmond.

Richmond Food Bank photo wins award

A photograph from the Richmond Food Bank Society has been recognized in a national photo contest.

The photo of volunteer and board member Dave packing hampers of nutritious food at the Richmond Food Bank has earned third place in the 2021 National Volunteer Week Photo Contest sponsored by Volunteer BC.

The photo demonstrates that despite the pandemic, volunteers continued to deliver essential services. These volunteers make our communities stronger, especially during times of need.

The three winning photos will be used in Volunteer BC's marketing materials.

"We are pleased to have received such a large number of photo entries that illustrate the immense pride that British Columbians have in their communities and for their volunteers," said Lorelynn Hart, program director, Volunteer BC.



Photo submitted

This photo of volunteer and board member Dave packing hampers at the Richmond Food Bank Society was selected as a winner in Volunteer BC's photo contest.

Music video explores youth, seriousness

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond-raised musician and actor Amanda Sum explores the coexistence of youth and seriousness in the music video for her new song, *Hot Headed Egos*.

Sum wrote the song in March 2019, when she was applying for some acting gigs but ultimately was not successful. The people who got the jobs, she noticed, were older and more experienced.

"It made me feel a little insecure that I was seen as someone who had potential and had the skill of someone who could do the job but was never trusted, and that just got a little frustrating," says Sum. "I know I'm still very young, but it feels now that I have some things under my belt—but it's hard to feel trusted by the outside world when I appear with a youthful demeanour."

Sum started planning the video last summer, as well as recording the song, but changes to pandemic protocols and unsuccessful applications for grant funding meant the final product was a smaller-scale offering than she originally envisioned.

"We just adapt as we go, and I'm grateful for the time that it took to make it because it just made it what it is," she says. "It's cool to see how you can make a dream, 'huge budget' version of it and then you can also make a small-scale version of it which has as much or more heart than what a huge amount of funding could do. I'm really appreciative that the people that we



Photos submitted

Musician and actor Amanda Sum, who grew up splitting her time between Richmond and Vancouver, has released a new song and music video which explores being young but also finding seriousness.

had were able to lend themselves to it, and part of me is glad we didn't get these things because it fuelled us to make something on our own."

For the music video, Sum wanted to work with an all-Asian female band. And the two directors were people she'd met at university, also emerging female artists—in line with the themes of the song.

"It is really important to be talking about these things," she says. "Sometimes being young and unassuming, I will acknowledge, is a great advantage—and sometimes it's not. I think this song touches on both areas of what that is. As I mature and grow and experience more things,

hopefully my perception of that will change."

It's exciting and scary for Sum to have her video released to the public, especially since it's being released online as opposed to a live theatre premiere. And, given the song was written more than two years ago, she also had to find a way to

"For me I was like, how do I find the joy in the song again? How do I make it still important to me and necessary for me?" says Sum. "The video helped freshen it up again and find the excitement of something that seemingly existed for so long before anyone outside of our little team could experience it."

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond Art Gallery presents *Imperfect Offerings*

Richmond Art Gallery presents *Imperfect Offerings*, a group exhibition on display from June 26 to Aug. 22.

Curated by gallery director Shaun Dacey, the show features new commissions and works by three B.C. artists with a ceramics practice: curator and artist Jesse Birch, *kintsugi* ("golden joinery") artist Naoko Fukumaru, and leading B.C. potter Glenn Lewis. With a focus on rediscovering the simple pleasures of social gatherings and communal being, *Imperfect Offerings* provides a hopeful look toward a post-pandemic future.

"As summer emerges, there is a renewed sense of optimism for things we've lost in the past year: shared meals, gatherings with friends and family, moments of human connection," says Dacey. "*Imperfect Offerings* celebrates the social rituals we've all sorely missed, and optimistically looks to a future when we can gather once more. This exhibition brings together objects that serve as conduits for intimate care and aesthetic play, exploring how people can find new ways to connect and collaborate during the pandemic."

The ceramic works in *Imperfect Offerings* embody both function and beauty. The selected pieces recall the artists' hands that made them, foregrounding the tactility of creating, rebuilding, and healing. The exhibition's core themes resonate with our collective journey through the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting recovery and a careful return to sociality. Several of the pieces are also utilitarian, meant to be used to serve tea, share food and drink, and create space for conversation.



Photos submitted

Artists Jesse Birch, Naoko Fukumaru and Glenn Lewis celebrate community with works that reflect our collective desire to gather.

Each featured artist has a unique connection to the rich history of pottery in British Columbia, which was influenced by the revolutionary studio pottery movements of renowned Japanese potter Shōji Hamada and British legend Bernard Leach.

Additional programming details will be announced on the gallery's website. Visit www.richmondartgallery.org for more information.

City offering outdoor fitness classes

Registration for outdoor group fitness classes is underway, providing opportunities once again for the public to stay active and connected while enjoying our natural settings.

For those eager to get back into their fitness-routine, strengthen their body or improve mental wellness, a wide range of options will again be offered through community centres across the city. Classes began on May 25 and range from *Ease into Fitness*, *Dance Fit*, *Total Body Conditioning*, *Cycle Fit*, *Stroller Fit*, *Yoga* and more.

Browse and register for all classes at www.richmond.ca/register.

As part of the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge, a number of free outdoor and virtual fitness activities will be offered throughout the month of June. ParticipACTION's Community Better Challenge is a nationwide initiative that encourages communities to sit less and move more. To learn more about the challenge, visit www.richmond.ca/participation.

In keeping with health protocols, pre-registration for all fitness classes is mandatory and increased safety measures will be in place. Fitness classes will be held outdoors with limited capacities. Participants must be physically distant and must not share water bottles, towels, mats or other items.

Registration is ongoing and can be done one of two ways using a fitness membership or by paying



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The city is continuing to offer more recreational sessions with outdoor group fitness classes offered through community centres.

per visit:

1. Online using your MyRichmond account. Anyone without an account can set one up in advance at myrichmond.richmond.ca.

2. Phone the registration call centre at 604-276-4300, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Individual classes or multiple sessions may be booked one week at a time. Registration for the fol-

lowing week's sessions starts online at 6 a.m. and through the registration call centre at 8:30 a.m. on the Monday one week prior. Drop-in attendance is not permitted.

All facilities and programs meet strict health and safety guidelines as set out by local and provincial health authorities, and activities may be increased or decreased based on demand and public safety.

Return to Sport Restart 2.0

Everyone is anxious to get back into the game, and the Return to Sport Restart 2.0 guidelines aim to make that happen—as soon as it's safe to do so.

On June 15—at the earliest—Step 2 will enable outdoor sports participants to enjoy increased trav-

el, with events able to host up to 50 spectators. Indoor sports, also with increased travel, will still have to be held without access to any spectators.

Travel restrictions are also expected to be lifted for high-performance sport at that time.

STR8TS

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

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