



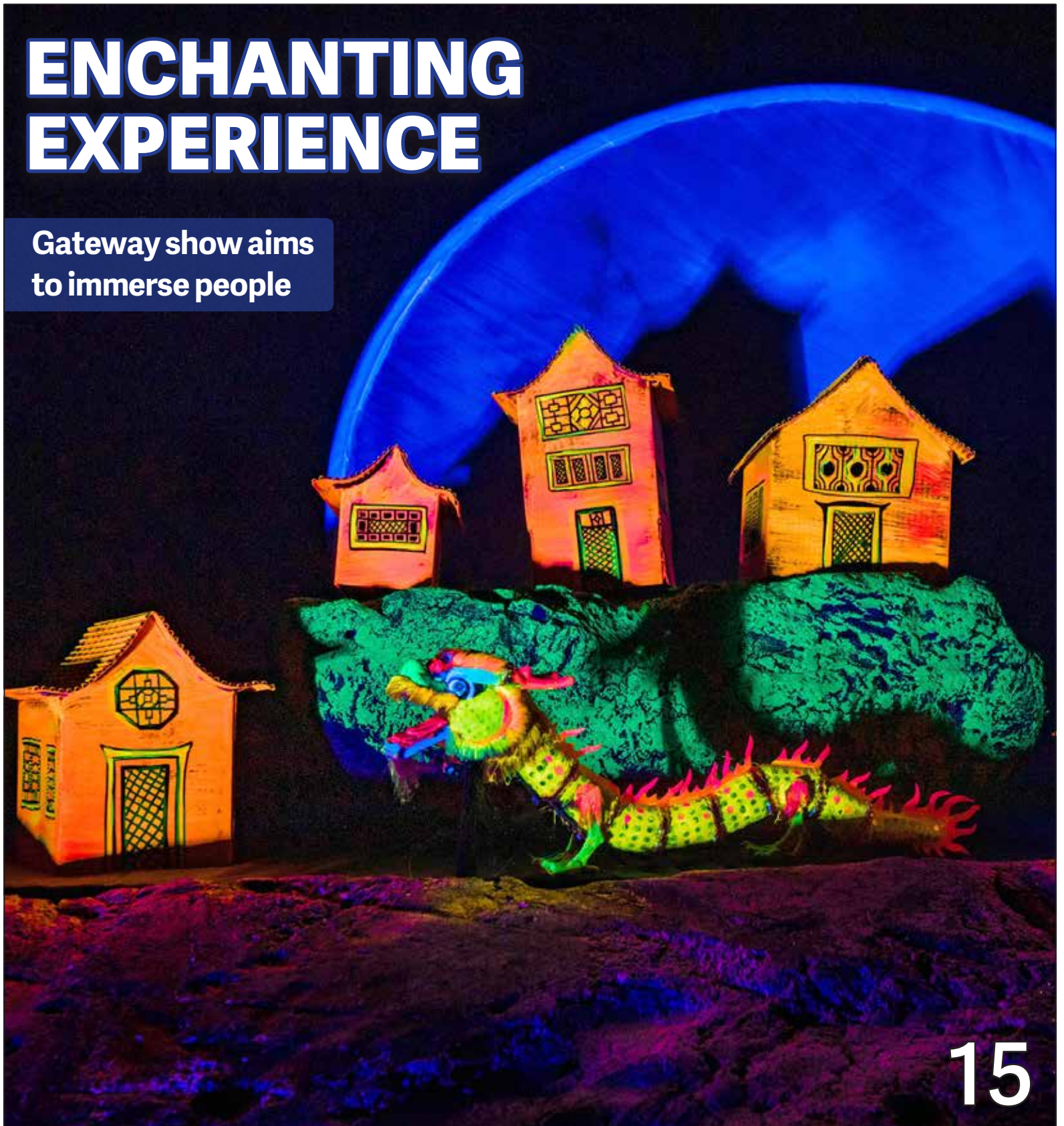
VOL. 6 ISSUE 2

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

FEB. 15 - 28, 2022

ENCHANTING EXPERIENCE

Gateway show aims
to immerse people



15

Photo by Sarah Race

Gateway Theatre is celebrating Lunar New Year with an immersive walk-through theatre experience that features blacklight.

Company chosen to design Capstan station

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

DIIALOG Design has been chosen to design the long-awaited Capstan Canada Line station.

Its proposal was one of three qualified submissions evaluated by city staff based on a number of criteria including team structure, qualifications of past projects, methodology, schedule, scope of services, financial performance, sustainability and circular economy. The selection was discussed at a city council meeting last month.

The company has proposed a team with diverse and complimentary skill sets. Daily tous les jours, an art and design studio specializing in urban interactive installations that simulate human connections in public spaces, is part of the core team. It will provide an avenue toward urban animation and the use of technology to create activity in the station area and entice ongoing and future engagement driven by the community.

DIALOG Design's proposed team of professionals will help the community define and envision a facility attributed by urban design, transportation, streetscape design, ecology, way-finding, public art and more. The firm also proposes to meaningfully integrate important Indigenous voices and values into the community ideas and set a path forward for implementation, operations, financial sustainability, and further refinement as needed.

DIALOG, in collaboration with Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg, was responsible for the architecture of Richmond City Hall. The team has experience developing programming strategies for public spaces, such as Bryant Park in



An artistic rendering of Capstan station.

Photo courtesy City of Richmond

New York City and Churchill Square in Edmonton, as well as expertise in station design and integration.

The company will work closely with staff to identify appropriate circular economy strategies, including ways to up-cycle existing waste and materials, minimize energy and water use, and use strategic interventions that could support local small businesses.

It will also provide a stakeholder and public engagement process including stakeholder interviews, focus groups, online engagement and programming based on outreach. Subject to provincial health guidelines, there may also be opportunities for in-person engagement including

pop-up events.

In the second quarter of 2023, the design firm will provide a report to council with more information including construction costs and funding.

A separate capital plan submission seeking council approval for use of the Capstan station and public art reserve funds for the future implementation of the integration strategy will be brought forward as part of the 2024 capital program.

Currently, TransLink anticipates substantial completion of Capstan station in spring 2023, which will allow implementation of the integration strategy after the station construction is completed.

City takes a stand on single-use plastics

By SAMUEL CHENG
Reporter

Do you bring your own bags when you go grocery shopping? If not, then it is a good idea to start getting into the habit of doing so.

The City of Richmond is banning all single-use plastic items starting on March 27. This includes biodegradable and compostable plastics as well. It means that plastic checkout bags, plastic straws and foam food service ware including plates and containers will no longer be allowed.

The primary reason for the ban is to cut down on single-use plastic waste.

The plastic materials can take centuries to decompose, not to mention the damages they cause to our ecosystem. On a national scale, approximately 29,000 tonnes of plastic waste enters our environment annually.

Even reusable or recyclable plastic items are usually made from poor quality materials that have a finite number of uses and limited recyclable value, according to the city.

If you are a business owner, don't panic just yet. This is a great time to

start easing into the new plastic bylaw, as enforcement doesn't begin until Sept. 27.

The six-month gap from March to September provides time for businesses to use up their existing stock. It also gives businesses the opportunity to identify and transition to alternative products in order to meet the new bylaw requirements.

Penalties could include ticket fines of \$250 to \$1,000. In addition, non-compliant businesses could be prosecuted with fines of up to \$10,000 per occurrence, according to the city.

There are several methods consumers can use to uphold the requirements of the bylaw. First off, bring reusable bags to the grocery store. Or bring your own reusable straw the next time you order drinks.

By meeting these requirements, we are all working together to help preserve our environment. Together we can cut down on the unnecessary plastic waste that goes into our landfill every year. With reduced plastic junk, we can start building a cleaner, greener and more sustainable world for future generations.

City offers free Family Day fun

This Family Day, the Richmond Children's Arts Festival aims to spark creativity with free registered offerings and self-guided opportunities at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

The Family Day offerings on Feb. 21 include:

- *Let's Make a Song!*, an interactive performance by Peter G-G
- Making small hand-made books inspired by the Richmond Art Gallery's *Nourish* exhibition and led by local artist Jen Chen
- A Richmond public art scavenger hunt to take "tableau" selfies with nearby artworks, with a chance to win a gift certificate from Toys R Us at Lansdowne Centre
- New take-home kits, including bird watching fishing ukuleles and more from the Richmond Public Library
- The Richmond Museum's *Reinventing Richmond* exhibition and *Creative City* scavenger hunt to re-discover Minoru Park, with a chance to win a gift certificate from Toys R Us at Lansdowne Centre



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Rickie Wang will perform in a virtual livestream concert on Feb. 21.

• A virtual livestream concert by young performer and songwriter Rickie Wang presented by Branscombe House artist-in-residence Krystal Kiran

Visit childrensartsfestival.ca to pre-register and learn more about all the activities happening at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

All provincial health order requirements and City of Richmond COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place including face masks, proof of vaccination when required and limited seating to ensure physical distancing.

The 2022 Richmond Children's Arts Festival is produced by the City of Richmond and presented by Lansdowne Centre. Community sponsors are the Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Museum and Richmond Public Library.

Community centres throughout the city are also offering a number of free and low-cost events throughout Family Day weekend (Feb. 18 to 21) including sports, dance, and arts and crafts. Some activities are running through Zoom. For more information or to register, visit richmond.ca/discover/events/familyday.htm

All aboard the floating Blue Cabin

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Following two and a half years of residency at its inaugural moorage site in False Creek, the Blue Cabin floating artist residency has set sail towards Imperial Landing in the City of Richmond's historic Steveston Village.

The 111 square metre (1,200 square foot), 170 tonne structure was towed by tugboat through False Creek and into the Straight of Georgia, passing around Point Grey and Iona Terminus then heading up the Fraser River on the seven-hour voyage to Steveston.

"The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is a great program to support local artists, collaborate with Richmond cultural organizations and create community spirit," says Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "It offers artists and the public opportunities to learn, explore and engage with Steveston's history, the Fraser River ecology and the foreshore."

Richmond is excited to be the next destination ahead on the floating cabin's journey. Steveston will provide a compelling new vantage point for artists and the public to explore and celebrate both the heritage and contemporary cultures of the region.

"The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency was created to honour and sustain the memory of Metro Vancouver's shorelines," said Glenn Alteen, founding member of the Blue Cabin project. "We are grateful to be guests on the Sto:lo (Fraser River) estuary, part of the Musqueam Nation's traditional fishing territory, and to be joining a rich history of waterfront communities in Richmond."



The Blue Cabin has arrived in Steveston.

Photo by C. Griffiths

The Blue Cabin sat between the low and high tide lines at Cates Park in North Vancouver beginning in 1932 and has resisted ownership for nearly 100 years. It was home to maritime labourers and families, and since the late 1960s was a place of creative respite and subsistence for Vancouver artists Al Neil and Carole Itter.

Slated for demolition in 2014, the cabin was saved by three Vancouver arts organizations—Creative Cultural Collaborations, Grunt Gallery, and Other Sights for Artists' Projects—who have transformed it into a floating artist residency that offers artists and the public a unique, shifting view of the region and the ideas and histories that inform it.

In 2019, the cabin was towed to its first official anchorage in False Creek for an inaugural program of residencies and events, including *Skeins*:

Weaving on the Foreshore which focused on intergenerational knowledge exchange around weaving, language and design led by master weavers from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

The Blue Cabin programming team is excited to work with local arts and community organizations to develop public engagement opportunities exploring the complex histories of the area. Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow, Richmond-based artist Keely O'Brien and Germany-based Chilean artist Michelle-Marie Letelier will be the Blue Cabin's first artists-in-residence in Steveston in 2022.

For more information on the Blue Cabin, visit thebluecabin.ca, @TheBlueCabinVancouver on Facebook and @the_blue_cabin on Instagram and Twitter.

Richmond Black History Month offers community events

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

February is Black History Month, and once again there are events across Richmond to recognize and celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians and their contributions to Canada's history and culture.

Richmond Black History Month was initiated by Mary Wilson in 2016 to acknowledge and celebrate the vast contributions that people of African descent have made to Canada.

At the Richmond Public Library, community members will be welcomed to virtual events all month long. Registration is required for all programs.

"This year's focus is the amazing contributions of people of African descent to the province of B.C.," says Wilson. "Share with us in celebration of the history and stories of some of our historic unsung local heroes who helped make BC the extraordinary province that it is. Get to know Sir James Douglas, John Sullivan Deas, Sylvia Stark, and others."

The Feb. 17 *Storytime* will feature books by Black authors and illustrators with guest readers from the Richmond Black community. Visit the library's events calendar (yourlibrary.bibliocommons.com/events) to find out more and to register.

On Feb. 24, take part in the first meeting of a new book club that will continue throughout 2022. The club, called *Each One, Teach One*, focuses on books by Black Canadian authors. The first event will discuss *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan.

Those looking for more reading options this month can explore thoughtfully prepared Black History Month book lists, which are also available on the

library's website (yourlibrary.ca).

Through Feb. 28, people can visit the Richmond Cultural Centre to view *Black Artists and Creators in our Community*. The installation is a collaboration between the city and Richmond Black History Month.

Safe Home Sarah, an installation by Sade Alexis, features protective beadwork and depictions of flora and fauna from the African homeland of Sarah Baartman, a Khoekhoe woman famously exhibited as a carnival attraction in 19th-century Europe. Baartman's portrait is surrounded by what Alexis refers to as "Ancestral Protectors" in the form of powerful Black women whom Alexis considers as ancestors as she encourages viewers to hold space with them.

A series of digital illustrations by Joella Daniela celebrate Black love, Black pride, Black role models and Black vulnerability, while considering that Blackness is not always seen from the outside.

An artist talk will be presented by the Richmond Art Gallery Association at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24 in the Richmond Cultural Centre Performance Hall. All provincial health orders requirements and City of Richmond COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place including face masks, proof of vaccination and limited seating to ensure physical distancing.

This exhibition runs all month, closing Feb. 28. The Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. The city again proclaimed February as Black History Month, an important step for the municipality and for Black community members.

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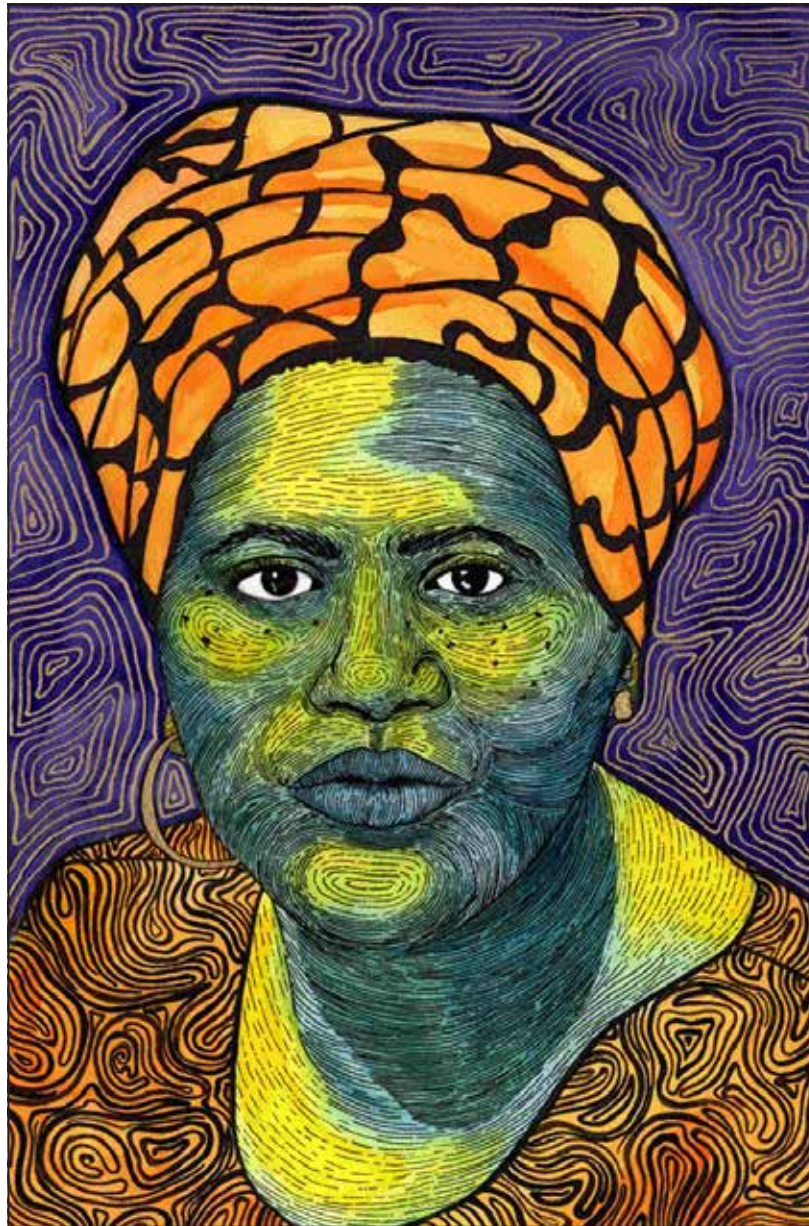


Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Photo caption: Audre Lorde by Sade Alexis is one of the pieces featured in Richmond's *Black Artists and Creators in our Community* exhibition.

The city again proclaimed February as Black History Month, an important step for the municipality and for Black community members.

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Published by
RICHMOND SENTINEL NEWS INC.
200-3071 No. 5 Road,
Richmond, B.C., V6X 2T4

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marketing@richmondsentinel.ca
778-325-1297

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Funded in part by the
Government of Canada

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Library launches memorial ukulele collection

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

The Richmond Public Library is inviting the community to learn how to play the ukulele in memory of Linda Perron.

Perron was a Richmond resident well-known for her passion for music making, commitment to

family and friends, and connection to volunteerism. The lending library was initiated by a group of local music enthusiasts who want to make music more accessible to the community.

"With the passing of our beloved friend Linda, we wanted to contribute to a legacy project that would celebrate Linda's playful presence and her commitment to inspire others on their musical journey,"

says ukulele legacy project leader Donna Wilson.

In the Journal for Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders, a study was published on the benefits of music therapy for patients with Alzheimer's that demonstrated the feasibility of individual music therapy sessions. Significant improvements in anxiety and depression were observed from the first session and were maintained significantly during subsequent sessions. The sessions helped stimulate cognitive function by encouraging memory recall and the effects persisted for up to two months after discontinuing the sessions.

Anyone with a Richmond Public Library library card may borrow a ukulele kit. You can borrow a ukulele kit for three weeks and renew it twice as long as there are no holds on the item. At this time, all ukuleles are available for checkout, hold pick, and return only at the Brighthouse branch. Each kit contains a ukulele (soprano, concert, or tenor), a soft carrying case, a tuner, and a learn to play guide.

"Our family is overwhelmed with the generosity of the community, the Richmond Public Library and Tom Lee Music in creating this ukulele lending library in memory of Linda," says Perron's daughter Renée Aldana. "Those of us who loved her know the impact she had on people. We're so grateful that her legacy will continue in the form of access to music."



Photo by Takuya Suzuki

A hand-crafted Hawaiian ukulele made from mango wood with pearl inlay.

A promotional graphic for Blundell Centre's Family Day. The background is a light teal color with a pattern of small, faint hearts. On the left, the Blundell Centre logo is displayed, featuring a stylized star made of four overlapping triangles in yellow, blue, green, and red, next to the text "BLUNDELL CENTRE". Below the logo is a blue banner with the text "FAMILY DAY" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, and "is Coming!" in a white, cursive script font. Underneath the banner, the text "WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR LOVED ONES." is written in a blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, it says "41 Stores for Everything" in bold black font, followed by "Located at Blundell & No. 2 Road" in a smaller black font. On the right side of the graphic, there is a photograph of a family: a man with dark hair is kissing a young girl on the cheek, and a woman is smiling and looking at the girl. The girl is laughing joyfully. The photo is tilted slightly to the right.

Vintage sports car on display

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

A rare car is on display at the Signature Mazda showroom in Richmond.

The futuristic Cosmo model is one of only 1,500 cars produced between 1967 and 1971. These little devils were made exclusively for production in Japan and Europe, and were designed with distinctly Italian features.

Mazda has a long history with Italian luxury sports car manufacturer Ferrari in terms of sharing technologies, according to Marko Joannou, Signature Mazda general manager and co-owner.

"The Cosmo is essentially Mazda's attempt at getting into the Italian sports car market," says Joannou.

For many years, Joannou and his co-owners Daryl Griffith and Vikki Kazakoff wanted to buy one of these eye-catching road-runners, but the only one in Canada at the time was stationed at Mazda's head office in Toronto. The road to owning the legendary Cosmo was a long one, until a seller in San Francisco who imported it in 2010 emerged on the market. The Signature Mazda team saw the listing and purchased the car before other buyers could place their bids.

Currently, there are only two other Cosmos in Canada: one belongs to a collector in Alberta and one is on display in Toronto.

The Cosmo was a popular car when it first rolled off the production line, but admirers would be hard pressed to find one even if they scavenged the global car market.

"We're a boutique company and that distinguishes us from other big brands, we are exclusive in the global scheme of things. To put it in perspective, a company like Toyota makes about 20 million vehicles for the world each year and Mazda makes about 1.2 (million)," says Joannou.

When the Cosmo first came on the market it was valued at \$4,000 in American dollars. Now, its value is nearly \$250,000.

There are many handmade components in Mazda vehicles. Joannou says the company has master clay-men who design and sculpt vehicles from scratch to precise specifications using models. Current technology allows Mazda to further enhance the precision of its hand-carving techniques.

The Wankel engine is one of the Cosmo's other exclusive features. It is a patented rotary engine that was purchased by Mazda from Felix Wankel in the 1960s and further refined by the company.

Typical internal combustion engines work on a piston and a crank shaft, which are components that move up and down. But the Wankel design is basically like a spinning diamond, and as it spins it creates a massive amount of energy.

"Usually, the higher an engine's displacement the more power it can generate, while the lower the displacement the less fuel it can consume. With a Wan-

kel, you wouldn't need more than a 1.3 litre or a 1.8 litre rotary engine to generate the same power you would get from a 2.5 litre or three litre internal combustion engine," says Joannou.

The rotary concept is a historical feature of the Mazda brand. It is rumoured to re-emerge with the rebirth of the Genesis model, which will probably have a twin rotary and twin turbo engine with about six or seven horsepower. Signature Mazda hopes to see this model rolling out in the next two to five years.

The Cosmo on display has had some upgrades from its original features, including the wheels and certain components in the engine that enhance reliability, but overall it looks similar to when it first rolled off the production line. Its interior boasts unique houndstooth upholstery with wood-grain finishing and the exterior is vanilla-creme.

The Cosmo exhibited at the Richmond showroom has never been in a race and Signature Mazda does not plan on racing it anytime soon.

"It is a collector's vehicle, so the only place it will make an appearance outside of our showroom is at car shows," says Joannou.



A Mazda Cosmo is on display at Signature Mazda in Richmond. Photos submitted

Sentinel announces new community partnership

The *Richmond Sentinel* and *Our City Tonight* are joining forces to bring entertainment and local business stories to the *Sentinel's* readers. Segments from episodes airing nationally on CHEK TV, CHEK's streaming app and *Our City Tonight's* YouTube Channel will also appear on the *Richmond Sentinel's* website and social media, as well as in print.



Photo submitted
Our City Tonight is hosted by Leeta Liepins and Jim Gordon.

Nominate exceptional volunteers for annual awards

Nominations are open for the annual Volunteers Are Stars Awards, which will take place April 27 during National Volunteer Week. The awards recognize volunteers who go above and beyond to contrib-

ute to their local community. They are presented annually by Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG).

Although the ceremony will be held virtually for the second straight year, organizers are still hoping to make it memorable and meaningful.

Nominations are open through March 18, with four categories: individual, group, and youth volunteers, as well as non-profit leaders. People can submit multiple nominations if they choose to.

One winner will be chosen in each category, but every nominee will be recognized during the awards ceremony and as part of the promotional campaign.

To learn more or submit a nomination, go to www.rcrg.org/vas



Photo courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives is encouraging people to nominate outstanding volunteers for the annual Volunteers Are Stars Awards.

Asphalt Paving Advisory

February 1st to November 30th, 2022

The City of Richmond has contracted Lafarge Canada Inc. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond from February 1st to November 30th, 2022:

PROPOSED 2021 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

Bridgeport Road to Knight Street	East north loop
Bridgeport Road to Knight Street	East south loop
Knight Street East South	50 m north of bridge deck
Knight Street to Bridgeport Road	Northeast off ramp
12000 - 13000 block Steveston Highway	Hwy 99 off Ramp – Palmberg Road
11000 block Bridgeport Road	Shell Road – No. 5 Road
No. 6 Road	Hwy 91 underpass – Maycrest Way
9000 block Cambie Road	Garden City Road – No. 4 Road
Great Canadian Way	Sea Island Way – Bridgeport Road
4151 Williams Road	100 m section
9000 block Francis Road	Garden City Road – No. 4 Road
Fraserwood Place	Westminster Hwy – Gordon Way
Vickers Way	Bridgeport Road – Sweden Way
Westminster Hwy	No. 8 Road – Nelson Road
Ferguson Road	Shannon Road – McDonald Road
Kwantlen Street	Alderbridge Way – Alexandra Road
Finlayson Drive	Gagnon Place – McLennan Avenue
5000 - 6000 block Granville Avenue	Railway Avenue – Gilbert Road emergency repairs
Burkeville subdivision	Roads impacted by Capital Projects only
No. 5 Road / North of Cambie Road	Mitchel Elementary School frontage
7411 No. 1 Road	South bound lanes only
Garden City Road – Cook Road	Intersection
No. 3 Road	Bridgeport Road – River Road
6000 block No. 1 Road	Westminster Hwy – Granville Avenue
3000 block Blundell Road	No. 1 Road – Seafair Drive

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 a 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 > 2021 Paving Program).



4071 Chatham Street
604-277-4519

WISHING YOU ALL A
Happy
Lunar New Year



BEST WISHES FOR A
Safe & Happy 2022
FROM ALL OF US AT
The Maple Residences

Supporting people with developmental disabilities

By SAMUEL CHENG
Reporter

The Richmond Society for Community Living continues to help people despite the challenges of the pandemic.

The organization, also known as RSCL, was established in April 1982 by a group of parents who wanted their children to be taken care of after school.

The late 1970s saw the beginning of a civil rights movement where people started to realize the importance of community living. RSCL was founded based on the principles of community inclusion and care for children with developmental disabilities.

The organization also provided after-school care to ensure that working parents could continue working. It began picking up momentum after other institutions closed their doors in the 1980s.

RSCL began to provide care for the people in the community, as well as supporting and aiding children with developmental disabilities.

"When you have a child with a disability, you can't just get a babysitter. You need somebody who has more specialized care (experience) to be able to provide that extra support that's necessary," says Lisa Cowell, the organization's manager of fund and community development.

As more people moved into Richmond, the RSCL staff team gradually expanded to 200-plus employees who support over 1,000 people with disabilities.

To help people discover and pursue their goals, the RSCL aims to foster a safe and inclusive community and treat people with respect, kindness, and dignity. The organization also voices the needs and desires of the people it supports, as well as educating and bringing people together.

As a non-profit organization, it offers programs and services throughout a person's life span as well as providing help for people who require extra support performing daily activities.

When a baby is born with a diagnosed disability or risk factors for developmental delay, the RSCL



Photos courtesy Richmond Society for Community Living

The Richmond Society for Community Living helps families access child care services in their community.

steps in to ensure children who require early intervention services receive the support they need. This includes providing physical therapies and other types of therapies that are in place to help children build skills and meet developmental milestones if they were born prematurely.

The RSCL helps families access child care services, like preschools or daycares, in their community. It provides support for teenagers who are transitioning through and out of high school and has various supportive programs for adults including employment support, outreach services, and residential options. There are also supports available for family members of people with developmental disabilities.

Although the RSCL is primarily government-funded, the organization struggles to advocate for necessary funding due to an increased demand for services. The COVID-19 pandemic has further challenged RSCL's fundraising efforts. Despite the

challenges, the organization aims to safely offer the same services, even if with reduced numbers.

Additionally, the RSCL is exploring new methods of connecting with and supporting community members, whether through Zoom or through various facilities found throughout the city.

The organization is moving forward thanks to short- and long-term goals, including its upcoming name change. Staff hope that the new name will better reflect the type of work undertaken by the RSCL.

"We want to better reflect the work we hope to do in the future, which is around helping and supporting people in their thriving connected, and happy lives," says Cowell.

The RSCL also wants to create an environment where all Richmond residents recognize people for who they really are and not perceive a disability as a barrier.

Over the last decade, the RSCL has been going to schools and talking to children and youth about the importance of community inclusion.

There are efforts everyone can undertake to help make Richmond a better and more inclusive place. It starts with embracing the philosophy of inclusion in the community, workplace, school, and at home.

To help support the RSCL, people can go to rscl.org to make a donation that will go towards improving services and furthering projects.

One of the projects is replacing the Treehouse Early Learning Centre playground, which is 25 years old and not fully accessible for children with mobility challenges.

Apart from donations, people with an interest in the non-profit and charity sector with a financial or legal background can also be a huge asset to the organization as board members.



Teenagers and adults with developmental disabilities can access programs and supports offered by the Richmond Society for Community Living.

Fundraisers give back to community

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The organization formerly known as The Arts Connection has long prided itself on giving back to the community.

Now under its rebrand, the company—known as The Arts Conservatory for fine arts programming and Renaissance Academy of Learning for daycare and school-aged programs—had a generous giving season in December.

A cookie drive and ticket sales for two winter recitals raised \$6,700. The funds supported animal rescue groups impacted by November's devastating floods in the Fraser Valley and Interior.

"I thought, there has to be some way we can help people," says chief executive officer and head of school Linda Shirley.

But the organization already had a fundraiser underway: its annual pyjama drive, with funds going

to Jeremy's Memorial Foundation to help mothers and children fleeing from domestic abuse. The 2021 pyjama drive was the organization's ninth annual event, raising a record \$3,500 and 275 pairs of new pyjamas.

Shirley suggested the cookie drive idea at a staff meeting, despite some concern that the ongoing pyjama fundraiser might dilute the success of the cookie drive.

"To our amazement, the families, staff and other people connected to our school's efforts came through with amazing results for both causes," says Shirley.

Through a connection with a Facebook group that supports residents of the Fraser Valley, the cookie drive funds provided four families with \$1,000 each, to defray costs associated with losing their homes while needing to care for and feed animals. The remaining funds were distributed as gift cards in smaller denominations.

One recipient called Shirley and was at a loss for words. While his farm was not directly affected by the flooding, he had taken in more than 30 animals to help his neighbours. Thanks to locals who rounded up supplies and delivered hay, he hadn't spent any additional money.

He and his wife wanted to give their \$1,000 to a church fund established to help those who lost their homes, with specific instructions to direct the money towards people with animals needing care. The couple also wanted to match the donation.

"It feels very heartwarming," says Shirley. "This is why our school has this philosophy that our fundraising is all directed towards the community and not towards supporting the school's operations."

With a belief that children adopt the behaviour modelled by the adults around them, Shirley says it's important to demonstrate community support, social responsibility, and good citizenship.

"You can talk about it all you like, but unless they actually see it in action and see the results, it doesn't really mean much to them at that age," she says. "It's important to teach by example and by role modelling."

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Photos submitted

Boxes of cookies were sold for \$10 each at The Arts Conservatory's winter concerts, with the money going towards those impacted by last fall's massive flooding.



Airport's Vrooman launches podcast

Vancouver International Airport president and chief executive officer Tamara Vrooman is taking on another role: podcast host.

The new podcast *Beyond* aims to deepen the airport's connection to the community through conversations about climate, reconciliation, public health, and digital transformation.

Vrooman's first guest is provincial health of-

ficer Dr. Bonnie Henry, who discusses how her life leading up to the pandemic prepared her for this unprecedented time in human history. Henry shares what she's learned from the last year and a half and how she balances her focus between the pandemic and B.C.'s drug overdose emergency.

Beyond can be found on many podcast platforms.



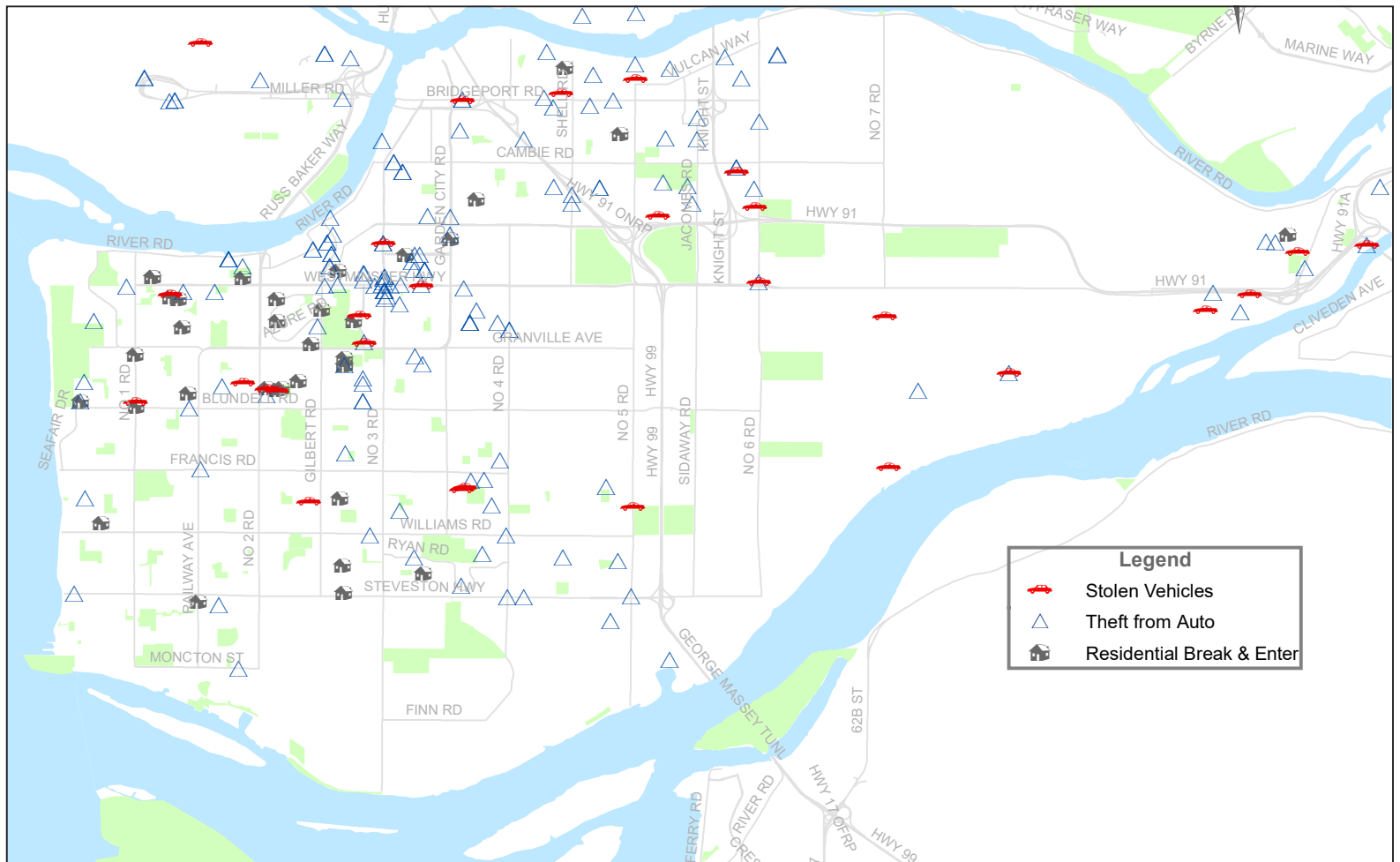
Photo courtesy YVR Airport

Tamara Vrooman's new podcast *Beyond* launched recently.



RCMP

Crime Map Jan. 1 - 31, 2022



Scholarship applications open

Applications for the Richmond Community Foundation's annual scholarships are now open to Grade 12 students attending Richmond high schools.

Graduating students have experienced many changes, moving from in-person to online learning and back again while having limited access to social and extracurricular activities.

But as difficult as the past two years have been, students have worked hard and remained committed to achieving their educational goals.

The foundation offers more than a dozen scholarships, each with a different focus: academics, vocational studies, business, visual and performing arts, and more. When considering applications, the foundation's scholarship committee considers other factors in addition to grades, such as community involvement, extracurricular activities, and financial need.

Often, a scholarship will have multiple winners each year. People can apply for as many scholarships as they want, provided they meet eligibility criteria.

Applications are open through March 9. For a complete list of scholarships, detailed eligibility criteria, and an online application form, go to rcrg.org/GrantsScholarships/ScholarshipDetails/high_school_scholarships



Photo courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
Local Grade 12 students can apply for Richmond Community Foundation scholarships through March 9.

In their own words...

Flood protection—a priority for the City



Chak Au
Councillor

Last year, British Columbia experienced severe weather including a record-breaking, scorching hot summer and wildfires. Then, at the end of the year, atmospheric rivers in November, caused flooding due to torrential rainfall, significant damage, river overflows and economic losses to many communities.

In Richmond, flood protection has always been a priority for Council. With increasing climate change, the risk of flooding must continually be addressed through high quality analysis and management. Last November, as 70 per cent of the average monthly rainfall fell within three days, it put our flood management system to a critical test. Due to our forethought, planning and investments, we passed that test.

Richmond sits approximately one metre above mean sea level and is protected by 49 kilometres of dikes, 39 pump stations, 585 kilometres of drainage pipes and 61 kilometres of box culverts. Continual operation, maintenance and upgrading of this critical infrastructure is essential. During

the atmospheric rivers, Richmond's infrastructure performed well, and we avoided the unfortunate impacts seen in neighbouring regions.

The City's Flood Protection Management Strategy is a multi-faceted approach to flood protection. We spend over \$14 million each year on flood protection projects, which include reinforcing and raising the dikes section by section, and upgrading our drainage pump stations.

These and our other flood protection investments are money well spent. The personal and property loss during a disaster and the post-disaster recovery and reconstruction costs are always significantly worse than the cost of prevention.

Given the urgency of responding to the various repercussions of climate change, Council has resolved to expedite flood protection upgrades to further protect the city. Public and stakeholder engagement for Dike Master Plan Phase 4, which includes the north dike between No. 6 Road and Boundary Road, will commence later this



year. This represents our latest round of state-of-the-art advanced planning.

In addition, City staff are reviewing and identifying lessons learned from the atmospheric river events last year to identify what went well and where improvements could be implemented for future events. In addition, a report on the review of further accelerating the City's flood protection program will be brought forward to Council in March 2022.

For information on the City's Flood Protection Management Strategy, visit: www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/dikes.htm

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

The City of Richmond Council and Committee Meetings are available online. Watch live or view previous meetings by visiting: richmond.ca/cityhall/CityCouncil.

For further information, meeting schedules and assistance in participating either virtually or in person, please visit richmond.ca/cityhall or contact the City Clerk's Office at 604-276-4007 or CityClerk@richmond.ca.

Feb 15 | 4:00 p.m.
Community Safety Committee

Feb 16 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel

Feb 22 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee

Feb 22 | 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing

Feb 23 | 4:00 p.m.
Public Works & Transportation Committee followed by Planning Committee

Feb 28 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting



For meeting agenda and reports visit www.richmond.ca. Meeting schedule subject to change

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



Environmental education

School district's sustainability plan highlights efforts

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

With increasing focus on environmental care and activism, the Richmond School District recently outlined its new five-year sustainability and climate action plan.

Ultimately, the goal is simple: "We want to make waste socially unacceptable in the district," says Jonathan Ho, the district's manager of energy and sustainability.

While individual schools may have their own action plans, Ho says the district's large-scale plan is the result of two years of effort. It is based on nine sustainability pillars: leadership; learning and engagement; climate action; energy conservation; waste reduction; water conservation; grounds; purchasing; and sustainable transportation.

When creating the plan, staff looked at data including the district's utility bills and solid waste metrics, then set targets.

Some of those targets are mandated by agreements—for instance, the school district, as a public sector organization, is required to be carbon neutral and report on its greenhouse gas emissions annually. It has to meet Clean BC goals of reducing building emissions by 50 per cent and fleet emissions by 40 per cent by 2030, compared to 2007 levels.

The pandemic has challenged the building emission target, with natural gas usage increasing by 15 to 30 per cent due to ventilation needs—windows being left open, heat on to compensate for cold outside air, and fans blowing, for example. The goal is to electrify as much as possible, and solutions like solar panels will also be considered.

Meanwhile, Ho says good progress is being made on fleet goals through replacement of old vehicles with more fuel-efficient and electric models. Electric charging stations may be installed depending on the possibility of locations. Ho says the city's flat topography and the relatively low mileage travelled by school buses fits well with the battery capacity of most electric vehicles.

While the plan details a number of goals, Ho says the solid waste goals will affect schools' day-to-day operations most directly.

"When I was a student at Palmer, I started one of the first environmental clubs," he adds. "(At that time,) the blue bin for paper recycling was a radical concept."

Solid waste is separated into three main categories: garbage, recyclables, and organics. Recyclables are further separated into paper and container bins. While the city diverts about 80 per cent of its waste away from the landfill, the school district



Photo courtesy Richmond School District

Replacing vehicles with electric alternatives is one element of the Richmond School District's new five-year sustainability plan.

only diverts half that amount.

"There's no reason why the bulk of people, staff and students, can't achieve at school what we do at home," says Ho.

The first step is to not make solid waste in the first place, which is where measures like the city's upcoming single-use plastics ban come into play. Anything that might generate solid waste should use recyclable products if possible.

Signage can also help students put their recyclables into the correct bin. More than five per cent "contamination" in any waste stream—meaning things that should go in a different bin—is subject to a surcharge in Metro Vancouver.

And in addition to avoiding that surcharge, there's another monetary incentive to reducing waste: garbage costs the most to dispose of, whereas recycling is free aside from a small processing cost.

Ho says there hasn't been a significant amount of personal protective equipment in the waste stream, as most students typically use cloth masks rather than disposable ones which end up in the garbage. At the beginning of the pandemic the increased cleaning created more garbage, although this has since been improved upon.

A campaign partially funded by BC Hydro involves replacing lighting with energy-saving LED options. The upgraded lighting also includes occupancy sensors and the ability to dim lighting or change its frequency.

New gardens and other initiatives will improve school grounds, and the district also aims to embed Indigenous perspectives on plants and the environment as well as sustainability in general.

Real-time data is also being collected thanks to audits at several schools. Richmond Secondary School students fundraised for solar panels to help the district have an understanding of how much energy production could be generated this way. And Ho says maximizing air ventilation will remain important even once COVID-19 becomes endemic.

While the official plan only covers the next five years, Ho says he has projections and plans up to 2050. Bigger plans like electrifying buildings and bus fleets are billed out over time, since public school districts can't run a budget deficit. Some solutions are practical, like replacing items in need with more energy-efficient versions.

"If we have to spend the money anyway, and we know what that regular life cycle replacement is, that allows us to more intelligently spend the money," says Ho.

He adds that in addition to the Richmond Sustainability Advisory Committee, which comprises students, parents, union representatives, and members of the district's senior teams, there are others who work behind the scenes. Those people—operations managers, learning services staff, and others—do jobs like window replacement and installation of rooftop units, which are not as publicly visible.

"Ultimately we want to make sure we are good stewards of the environment with what we do from the corporate perspective," says Ho. "But we also want to make sure that the students we are educating have that same commitment to sustainability and climate action."

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District opts to continue with daytime custodians

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond School District trustees voted late last month to continue with an enhanced daytime custodial plan through the end of this school year in June. The plan will cost \$170,000, which can be funded by a small budget surplus.

Ian Hillman, the president of CUPE Local 716 which represents school board employees including custodians, emphasized the importance of enhanced cleaning and daytime custodians.

"If there was money, continuing with the status quo (of 20 custodians) might be my first choice, getting through to the end of June," agreed trustee Donna Sargent. "\$420,000 we just can't afford, but do think we need a transition plan."

The program was originally scheduled to end this month. At January's board meeting, trustees were presented with four options ranging in cost depending on the number of custodians proposed. The option they approved will see a total of 13 custodians working in 39 elementary schools, with each assigned to three schools. Secondary schools will return to having one day custodian per school.

Frank Geyer, the district's executive director of facilities services, said his team was confident that it could maintain sufficient cleaning and disinfection even with a pre-COVID level of service. But both Geyer and superintendent Scott Robinson said people's perceptions of safety are also important at this point in the pandemic.

"I think this is a way of helping people feel comfortable, as comfortable as they can," said trustee Heather Larson.

Trustee Debbie Tablotney agreed, saying the district should "still be erring on the side of caution."

B.C. Centre for Disease Control guidelines for schools initially included addi-



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond School District will continue its daytime custodial plan in a modified format through the end of June.

tional cleaning, particularly disinfection of surfaces. In Richmond, 45 custodians were added for the 2020-2021 school year thanks to one-time federal funding. One custodian was assigned to each elementary school and a second was added at each secondary school for that school year.

Provincial guidelines on cleaning and disinfection changed in August 2021. Following stakeholder input and discussion the district opted to continue with some additional custodians, but not as many as the previous year—20 were added, with each one assigned to two elementary schools. The \$625,000 cost came from accumulated operating surplus rather than government funding.

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Wishing you a Happy Family Day!



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A message from your local MLA

Young Richmond artist wins contest

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Lukas Ma, a 12-year-old Richmond artist, was recently named a winner of FORED BC Society's National Forest Week contest for youth.

Established in 1925, FORED BC Society provides sustainability education, resources and consulting to B.C. communities and First Nations. This year's contest theme was "Our forests—continually giving." Ma's win includes a cash prize.

"My mom was a follower of FORED BC on Facebook and she saw this contest on one of the pages," explains Ma.

The deer piece was something Ma worked on just for fun, rather than for an assignment. It took him around three to four hours to finish.

"I've seen many photos where there's a main (image) and inside there's different types of photos," he says of his inspiration. "A deer felt like something that could represent a forest well, and also the antlers of the deer were like branches."

For the piece, Ma used paint for the background, fineliner for the drawing, and some pencil crayon. While Ma had originally planned to submit a digital art piece, he ended up going with the drawing it was based on.

Ma is also inspired by other art that he sees online. He feels happy and proud to have been named a contest winner.

His art teacher Color Li, who teaches at Canada X Academy of Art and Design, says the win is "a huge milestone in (Ma's) life."

"This competition provided him (with) great motivation to continue his art-related careers in the future," adds Li.

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Photo courtesy Lukas Ma

Twelve-year-old Lukas Ma with his award-winning art.



Photo courtesy Our City Tonight

Eric McCormack is an award-winning actor.

Actor McCormack reflects on career

By JIM GORDON and LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

Our City Tonight sat down at the recent Whistler Film Festival with award-winning actor Eric McCormack.

McCormack, who is well known for his TV role in *Will & Grace*, reflected on his successful career in television and movies as well as on the Broadway stage.

What was it like being a part of the Stratford (Shakespeare) Festival as a young actor?

When I started acting in high school and studying at Ryerson (University), it all became about Shakespeare. I got an apprenticeship at the festival and although I had no lines the first year, I studied under the tutelage of Douglas Campbell, Colm Feore, Seana McKenna, as well as John Hirsch during his last year at Stratford. At 21, I got to tour with *(King) Lear* and *Twelfth Night* across the United States for three months. Then John Neville came to Stratford, mentored so many of us and brought me along very slowly.

Talk about the steps of your career that resulted in landing you the role of Will on the iconic TV show Will & Grace.

It begins when I left Toronto and moved to Vancouver in 1992. I worked in television a lot, not always great shows. I had many guest starring roles and while building a resume, I did the show *Lonesome Dove* in Canada for two years. All through the 1990s I was watching (sitcoms like) *Seinfeld*, *Friends*, and *Mad About You*, all the while thinking: 'that's what I really want.' Seven months after being summarily fired from a less than stellar sitcom, we started shooting the *Will & Grace* pilot. Debra Messing and I were sitting and looking at each other and we just knew it would be one of those shows.

Your latest film is Drinkwater, a Canadian film shot in Penticton. Describe your character Hank Drinkwater.

Drinkwater is an unapologetically Canadian film. It's small-town Canadian but not overly cliché. There's a poor side of town and there's a rich side of town, and of course there is hockey. Hank is a bit of a scoundrel who makes a job out of defrauding the system. I don't think of him as a deadbeat dad, but he is definitely a deadbeat.

Drinkwater will be available later in 2022.

For the video interview, visit richmondsentinel.ca/videos

Jim Gordon and Leeta Liepins are contributing writers to the Richmond Sentinel.

Lunar New Year brought to life

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The story of Lunar New Year and the sea monster Nian will be brought to life by Gateway Theatre's upcoming immersive experience *Into the Light*.

The walk-through show, which is on from Feb. 18 to 20, is the brainchild of artists Stephanie Wong and Marina Szijarto. It was originally scheduled for 2021 but had to be postponed.

"Something I brought to the table growing up in Hong Kong was my memory of childhood, arriving to school with our lanterns and being excited to share these cool new lanterns that would sing or light up in different ways," says Wong. "In the morning the parents would come to school and we'd all climb the mountain together—there was this procession of light."

That image of light and nature resonated with Wong, and she and Szijarto had already been exploring the idea of a walk-through experience. They had initially planned to present the show outdoors in Minoru Park, but through the use of blacklight, they created an immersive indoor space that brings "theatre magic" to audiences in a different format.

"The experience is to immerse you into each aspect of the story and play with scope and scale," says Wong. "We want you to feel large and overlooking, to interact with different moments and different viewpoints."

The focal point is on Nian, the monster who emerged annually to terrorize villages and was eventually scared away by the villagers with the use of light, colour, and sound. Wong says while the specific story differs regionally, the version she heard growing up in Hong Kong had Nian living at the bottom of the ocean.

"In some ways the audience is part of the story. They're watching, they're being immersed into the landscape of Nian, who's under the sea. When they come out of the black box, they emerge from the story (and) are now in the village, (having) experienced what the villagers experienced," says Szijarto.

By reflecting off props and objects, which are painted with special paint, the blacklight also acts as a kind of inverse lantern—the light comes from the outside of the objects, not the inside. Props include recycled materials like driftwood as well as cardboard houses that Szijarto describes as "low-tech."

"There's a tendency in theatre of having big projections and expensive ways of doing things. In some ways we were gifted with a smaller budget and had to come to this with more of a creative mindset: how do we make something that's still got this theatre magic and sparks an imaginative response and yet can be low-tech and feel sort of handmade, with materials that people might



Photo by Sarah Race

Through the use of blacklight, a walk-through experience at Gateway Theatre will illuminate the story of Lunar New Year.

recognize?" says Szijarto.

At the end of the exhibit, audiences are invited to make a lantern and leave their new year's wishes at a shrine. Wong and Szijarto are aiming to help bring about a sense of hope after the darkness of the last couple of years.

"The premise of the piece is we've been in darkness, we're coming out into a new year, a new light, and we are celebrating that. So what can we bring into the new year that's our offering to our communities or to the planet?" says Szijarto.

Into the Light is primarily a contactless experience with a timed entry system that restricts the number of people inside. A limited number of tickets per time slot are available. Those aged 12 and over must show proof of full vaccination and photo ID. Masks must be worn all times unless patrons are under age five or have a physical or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask.

Into the Light is sponsored by Kwantlen Polytechnic University. For more information or to buy tickets, go to gatewaytheatre.com/into-the-light

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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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