



ELECTRONIC ENTERTAINMENT



E-SPOT video arcade has many games

15

Photo courtesy Eric Li

E-SPOT's owner Eric Li is always looking for potential new additions, with escape rooms at the top of his list.

Doors Open Richmond returning this spring

Doors Open Richmond returns in June for its 15th year, bringing both in-person and on-line event options to locals.

All in-person activities will take place on June 4 and 5, and will be complemented by virtual content available from June 2 to 5. This year's edition features 35 sites representing the city's cultural diversity and rich heritage, including 21 that will welcome visitors in-person. Five sites are participating for the first time.

"Richmond is one of the most diverse cities in Canada, with more than 60 per cent of residents born outside of the country," says Jaeden Dela Torre, vice-chair of the Richmond Museum Society. "Doors Open Richmond is a chance to celebrate this diversity and a way to bring together the many communities that comprise the city. The event offers the public an inclusive platform to become more familiar with our local businesses, organizations, museums, places of worship, and more. Doors Open Richmond celebrates the very essence that makes this city a welcoming place to live."

The in-person program offers visitors a wide range of activities. Saint Germain Bakery, one of this year's new sites, will give tours of its central facility where cakes and pastries are produced. Tours will conclude with sample tastings.

Richmond Media Lab will show how to bring drawings and figurines to life using the magic of stop-motion technology. Visitors can experience a day in the life of a firefighter at Fire Hall #1, Richmond's largest and busiest fire hall, with hands-on activities and demonstrations. Family-run restaurant Anar Persian Cuisine will offer an introduction to Persian food, customs, and traditions.

A special shuttle tour will be available on June 4 taking visitors to various places of worship along No. 5 Road, also known as the "Highway to Heaven." The tour will stop at the Az-Zahraa Islamic Centre, Lingyen Mountain Temple, and the Richmond Jamia Mosque.

Most in-person programs require advance registration, with a select number of sites offering drop-in activities. Visitors can plan their weekend in advance by visiting richmondmuseum.ca/doors-open for more information.

The online component of Doors Open Richmond will be available from June 2 on the Richmond Museum's website, richmondmuseum.ca/doors-open. Highlights include new videos that offer an inside look at the important work of Immigrant Services Society of BC and The Kehila Society, a partnership of Jewish communal organizations.

"We've been in operation since 1999, but this will be our first ever Doors Open Richmond," says Lynne Fader, co-executive director of The Kehila Society. "We can't wait to connect with the broader public, and showcase the relation-



Photo courtesy Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site

People can visit Britannia Shipyards in-person as part of this year's Doors Open Richmond event in early June.

ships we've built across the city with those in the Jewish community and beyond."

Doors Open Richmond 2022 sites

In-Person

- Anar Persian Cuisine
- Artefact Storage Facility for City of Richmond
- Az-Zahraa Islamic Centre (drop-in programming)
- Branscombe House
- Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site
- Fire Hall #1 (drop-in programming)
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
- Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada)
- Richmond Art Gallery (drop-in programming)
- Richmond City Hall
- Richmond Eastern Catholic Church
- Richmond Jamia Mosque (Sunni Muslim Congregation)
- Richmond Media Lab (drop-in programming)
- Richmond Museum (drop-in programming)
- Richmond Public Art
- Richmond Public Library (drop-in programming)
- Richmond RCMP - City Centre Community Police Office (drop-in programming)
- Saint Germain Bakery Central Facility [NEW]

- Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (drop-in programming)
- The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency [NEW]
- Vancouver International Buddhist Progress Society

Online

- Fairchild Radio AM1470 & FM96.1
- Fairchild TV & Talentvision
- Immigrant Services Society of BC [NEW]
- London Farm Heritage Site
- Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple
- Richmond Caring Place Society
- Richmond Family Place Society
- Richmond Olympic Experience
- Scotch Pond Heritage Site
- Sea Island Heritage Society
- Steveston Japanese Buddhist Temple
- Steveston Tram
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S Richmond Service Centre [NEW]
- The Kehila Society of Richmond [NEW]

Established in 2008, Doors Open Richmond is the longest-running Doors Open event in British Columbia. The local event is part of the Doors Open Canada program supported by the City of Richmond, Public Art Richmond, Richmond Heritage Commission, the BC Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada. The event is organized by the Richmond Museum Society.

Lawn watering restrictions now in effect

Stage 1 watering restrictions are in effect from May 1 through Oct. 15. The watering restrictions have been updated for 2022 in response to growing water demands due to population growth and the potential for extreme hot and dry weather.

The watering restrictions are regional and part of Metro Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation Plan. They are supported and enforced by the city through Richmond's Water Use Restriction Bylaw No. 7784.

Watering trees, shrubs, decorative planters and flowers is permitted any day any time if hand watering or using drip irrigation. All hoses must have an automatic shut-off device.

Watering of edible plants is exempt from regulations.

Stage 1 Restrictions

The following restrictions are now in effect:

Residential

- Lawn watering is allowed at even-numbered addresses on Saturdays and at odd-numbered addresses on Sundays. Automatic watering is allowed from 5 to 7 a.m. and manual watering from 6 to 9 a.m.

- Watering trees, shrubs, decorative planters and flowers is permitted any day from 5 to 9 a.m. if using a sprinkler, or any time if hand watering or using drip irrigation. All hoses must have an automatic shut-off device.

Non-Residential

- Lawn watering is allowed at even-numbered addresses on Mondays and at odd-numbered

addresses on Tuesdays. Automatic watering is allowed from 4 to 6 a.m. and manual watering from 6 to 9 a.m.

- Watering trees, shrubs, decorative planters and flowers is permitted any day from 4 to 9 a.m. if using a sprinkler; or any time if hand watering or using drip irrigation. All hoses must have an automatic shut-off device.

Restrictions do not apply to the use of rain water, gray water (waste water from baths, sinks, washing machines, and other kitchen appliances), any forms of recycled water, or other sources of water outside of the municipal water supply.

Managing European Chafer Beetles or New Lawns

During Stage 1 restrictions, you may apply for a permit to water outside of watering restrictions if you are treating your lawn with nematodes or installing a new lawn.

To apply for a permit, submit an application to savewater@richmond.ca. Copies of a receipt/invoice for the nematodes or new lawn must accompany the application. The permit fee is \$38.50 per dwelling unit for all new lawns and non-metered residents applying for a nematode permit; there is no fee for metered residents applying for a nematode permit.

Water Conservation

Stage 1 watering restrictions can delay or avoid the need for higher, more restrictive water



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Lawn watering restrictions are now in place.

use stages. Demand for water is at the highest during evening hours when residents require water for domestic uses such as preparing dinner, dishwashing, laundry, and showers. Watering lawns early in the morning helps reduce the peak demand on the water system.

Watering restrictions are also a reminder to reduce non-priority water uses such as washing vehicles or non-permeable surfaces such as driveways. The restrictions only apply to the use of treated drinking/tap water and not to the use of rain water, grey water (waste water from baths, sinks, washing machines, and other kitchen appliances), or any form of recycled water.

Long weekend activity ideas in Richmond and beyond

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE

Reporter

With Victoria Day long weekend coming up later this month (May 21 to 23), people can enjoy the improving weather with interesting local activities.

The Steveston Maritime Mystery scavenger hunt, offered by Mystery Towns, is a unique way to discover the village. Participants are tasked with uncovering a series of clues around the streets and pathways of Steveston to solve the mystery.

Tickets can be purchased online at cluesolvers.com/outside/steveston-maritime-mystery

Discover killer whales in their natural habitat with Steveston Seabreeze Adventures. The company offers whale watching tours from April 1 to Oct. 31 with Coast Guard certified vessels.

Steveston Seabreeze captains have extensive B.C. whale watching experience and expert guides are on board to share their knowledge of whales and other sea creatures. Trips depart from

and return to Steveston Harbour and can last up to five hours.

According to staff, humpback whales will be travelling with their calves at this time of year, so there's a good chance for passengers to see baby whales.

London Heritage Farm is another worthwhile stop to make along Richmond's South Dyke Trail. According to its website, the 200-acre farm was purchased in 1880 for \$2,000 and is one of the earliest farms in Richmond.

A Victorian house built in 1906 is also on the property. Visitors are welcome to view the beautiful perennial and community gardens, although the farmhouse is closed for the season.

The Moon and Back Gallery in Richmond is Canada's first infinity mirrored digital light gallery. It offers 15 immersive themed installations in its new 836 square metre (9,000 square foot) facility. Installations include a stargazing room, a kids' play area, and a 28 square metre (300 square foot) soccer pool table.

Stargazing is a luminary spectacle available to

anyone looking up at the sky in the dark of night. While light pollution can obscure stars' visibility, there are places in Richmond that have minimal light pollution, allowing the twinkle of the Milky Way above to shine through.

Garry Point Park is located at the southwest tip of Richmond, close to Steveston. The park overlooks a breathtaking vista across the Salish Sea and is considered by many to be one of the best places to watch the sunset in Richmond.

Along the south arm of the Fraser River, the No. 3 Road fishing pier offers a panoramic view of the Fraser River and Mount Baker from a charming boardwalk.

For more stargazing information, check out resources like timeanddate.com. The website features an interactive night sky map that simulates the sky above Richmond on the date of your choice. It can be used to locate planets, the moon, or the sun and track their movements across the sky.

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New Fire-Rescue chief appointed



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Former deputy fire chief Jim Wishlove has taken over the post of chief.

The City of Richmond has appointed Jim Wishlove as the new chief of Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR), effective May 1.

Wishlove, who has been an active fire fighter for over 30 years, takes over from Tim Wilkinson who recently announced his retirement as chief of the department.

Wishlove began his career in fire service as a volunteer firefighter before joining RFR in 1990. Since then, he has served as a firefighter, dispatcher, and instructor in several disciplines before his promotion to deputy chief in 2009.

In 2012, Wishlove took on a new role as deputy fire chief for the City of New Westminster. He returned to RFR six years later to take on the role of deputy chief of operations, overseeing the day-to-day operational duties of the emergency response crews delivering services to the community. As the new chief of Richmond Fire-Rescue, Wishlove will oversee the business and operations of the city's seven fire halls, their staff, and equipment.

"I am honoured to take on this important role and the challenges and responsibilities that go with it," said Wishlove. "I feel extremely proud to be part of such a fine organization. By embarking

on this new journey, I look forward to supporting our staff as we continue to grow and ensure that we stay at the forefront of the very best of the professional fire service."

Wishlove also praised his predecessor, retiring chief Tim Wilkinson.

"I extend my sincerest gratitude to Chief Wilkinson who gave me an incredible opportunity as a deputy chief, and for his mentorship and support," said Wishlove. "I wish him good health and happiness in his retirement, and look forward to carrying on the outstanding work of our strong and incredibly capable RFR teams, to make Richmond—the community I also call home—even safer."

A lifelong B.C. resident, Wishlove has certifications from the Justice Institute, the Sauder School of Business, Capilano College, and Simon Fraser University, and is a recipient of the City of Richmond's Corporate University Award of Distinction in Leadership.

Wishlove is also an avid piper, having appeared on stage twice with Sir Paul McCartney during his Vancouver concerts, as well as playing his bagpipes for many local and community events in Richmond and the region.

Neighbourhood Celebration Grant program launches

The city is once again providing an opportunity for grassroots community events to receive funding through the Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program.

Richmond-based neighbourhood groups, not-for-profit community groups, Parent Advisory Committees, community associations, and student councils with a creative idea for an event that will build community connections and neighbourhood pride are encouraged to apply for a Richmond's Neighbourhood Celebration Grant. This grant program provides fund-

ing up to \$2,500 to support the delivery of initiatives that will reconnect residents through community events and shared experiences that can be delivered safely throughout the summer and fall of 2022.

"We're thrilled to re-launch the City of Richmond's Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program," says Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "This program supports a number of council priorities including building local capacity by investing in community-driven events; providing opportunities for Richmond residents and community groups to collab-

orate, contribute and participate; and maximizing social benefits to the community by fostering volunteerism and increasing sense of community pride and belonging."

Examples of events that are eligible for funding include neighbourhood block parties, community picnics, and cultural celebrations. Local artists are encouraged to connect with local non-profit community organizations or neighbourhood groups to develop proposals that capitalize on the power and potential of the arts to support community-building and promote

social connection.

Event submissions will be evaluated using a set of criteria. It is expected that any event/initiative supported through this program will be delivered in a manner consistent with any relevant Provincial Health Officer orders on gatherings and events at the time of delivery.

Find out more about the Richmond Neighbourhood Celebration Grant Program and submit an online application at richmond.ca/celebrationgrant. Deadline for submissions is May 23.

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Night market serving up 'summer magic'

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

The Richmond Night Market, North America's largest, is open for the 2022 season.

The annual event aims to make your summer nights deliciously entertaining. Its theme this year is Summer Magic Rainbow, using bright colours to inspire happiness.

"The rainbow represents the end of a rainstorm," says founder Raymond Cheung. "After the storm of the pandemic, the sun is shining through right here."

Cheung founded the market 22 years ago as an endeavour to contribute something unique and family-friendly to Richmond's night life.

"Richmond's night life scene was very different 22 years ago," says Cheung. "My background is from Hong Kong, (and) in comparison it seemed very quiet here. I always had trouble finding something to do after work, so I said: 'Why don't we have a night market?'"

The market has grown from a handful of patrons to over a million visitors each year between May and October. Its mascot is a happy yellow duck.

"We use the duck as our mascot because the legal name of the land the market is built on is Duck Island," says Cheung. "All the other land lots in the



Photo courtesy Richmond Night Market
The Richmond Night Market is open with a full-scale food court and game area.

city are titled by a serial number except this one. Everybody loves ducks and when people see ducks it makes them feel happy, so we chose the duck as our signature mascot."

For many night market enthusiasts, the biggest appeal is its international food court. There are over 500 unique food items to try while exploring this year's historic replica of Shanghai night markets in 1960.

"We customized all the lights this year to capture vintage Chinese night market style combined with modern perspectives," says Cheung. "We use a lot of colours to inspire happiness—that's why we included so many different colours in our neon signs. At night when (the signs) turn up you'll think: 'Wow.'"

The full-scale game area is a highlight this year, having been closed last year due

to the pandemic. In addition, a Coca-Cola theme park features limited-edition prizes and a 9.1 metre (30 foot) bouncy castle for adults.

An express pass can be purchased at the main entrance for \$35. It includes six visits and allows guests to enter without having to wait in line. A free coupon book is available to download on the Richmond Night Market website and offers over \$250 in savings.

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Child care still posing problems for Richmond families

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

With more families moving into Richmond, the need for sufficient, good quality child care spaces is of ever-growing importance.

Raising the standard for child care has been a complex problem due to difficulties maintaining a balance between affordability for families and fair wages for child care providers.

The province approved a \$10 a day child care program, converting licensed child care spaces—with a priority on infant and toddler care—into low-cost spaces at existing facilities. Families pay no more than \$200 a month per child for full-time enrollment, regardless of the care type. For some low-income families, child care is free.

The Society of Richmond Children's Centres (SRCC) is a non-profit society started by a group of local women 25 years ago. Since opening its doors to the community, it has grown to serve 230 families. Two of its child care centres—Cook Road and West Cambie—have recently been converted to the \$10 a day child care program.

"The program is life changing for families," says the society's director Nicky Byres. "For families who have not saved for daycare, it is very challenging to afford it."

The cost of daycare in Richmond can be higher than the cost of an undergraduate university program. But while parents have time to plan and save for their child's post-secondary education, bills for daycare expenses start coming in within the first few years of parenthood.

According to a 2020 survey conducted by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, which involved more than 11,000 phone calls to child care centres, Richmond is among the five cities with the highest toddler fees. A median toddler space costs \$1,300 per month. The total costs can be an unrealistic expense for families with more than one child.

In addition, there was a 32 per cent reduction in child care enrollment between February and November 2020. This substantial reduction in enrollment had detrimental effects for service providers, who primarily depend on parent fees and still have fixed costs like rent, heat, and



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

As Richmond marks Child Care Month in May, many families are still struggling to find spaces for their children.

electricity, as well as staffing costs—even if spaces aren't completely full.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' data also shows that if parents aren't employed, they're less likely to place their children in child care, especially if the cost is high. In contrast, the lower the fees, the less likely parents were

quality of child care provided and its availability.

Parents need to start applying for child care services very early on, otherwise they could be faced with having to stay home to care for their toddlers instead of re-joining the workforce.

"There is a one- to two-year wait to get in to child care in Richmond for toddlers," says Byres.

In the event that a family has not joined a waitlist in time, they may opt for an un-regulated home-based daycare. Parents should do independent research to ensure the centre is safe and that the staff are qualified and do not have criminal records.

Child care centres offer varying styles of learning from academic to play-based approaches.

The SRCC provides a free-play model. Educators set up a daily environment that develops a suite of skills needed for success later in Kindergarten. Children learn how to be curious, ask questions, socialize, and manage group situations.

"We are committed to protecting childhoods and not rushing into formal academics. Kindergarten teachers are qualified to take on academic instruction, but they need kids who can manage themselves in a group and have well-developed problem-solving skills," says Byres.

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***For families who have
not saved for daycare,
it is very challenging to
afford it.***

– Nicky Byres

to take their children out of child care.

"The \$10 a day child care program is part of a comprehensive plan to move to a universal child care system," says Byres. "The universal model not only makes child care more affordable for families, but it also provides fair wages for staff."

Fair wages play a significant role in both the

Two Richmond arts organizations get B.C. funding

Two arts organizations in Richmond are receiving provincial funding through the Arts Infrastructure Program. The Canadian YC Chinese Orchestra Association is receiving \$39,097 and Gateway Theatre Society is receiving \$12,171.

Across B.C., 84 organizations are receiving a total of \$4 million. The

program provides grants to arts and cultural organizations to develop and enhance spaces that support B.C.'s arts and cultural practitioners. Eligible activities include planning and consultation as well as capital improvements, such as improving safety features, increasing accessibility, or buying specialized equipment.

Envisioning a safer Richmond—and beyond



The BOLT Safety Society team is aiming to end violence, harassment, and abuse.

Photo courtesy Vedanshi Vala

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

A group of young adults has set out to make Richmond a safer place through the creation of BOLT Safety Society.

Initially a high school student when she co-founded the society, chief executive officer Vedanshi Vala explains that BOLT is now a nationally-registered not-for-profit. Its aim is to end violence, harassment, and abuse by offering information and programs like Safe Buddies—volunteers who help people get safely to their destinations.

"So many women look over their shoulders, just afraid to walk down the street after school or after work, and it really shouldn't be the case," says Vala. "Everyone should be able to go about their lives with safety and dignity, and not fear for their safety—it's a human right."

The BOLT team made a presentation to Richmond's community safety committee earlier this year, and councillors referred a motion that will see staff investigate potential partnership opportunities with BOLT. Vala, herself a Richmondite, says she'd like to see future partner-

ships with other cities across Canada.

"Ideally speaking, every single person in that city should have access to the resources they need to go about their days and feel safe while they're doing that," she says.

Motivated by a desire to see communities help keep people safe, the group used technology to deliver its message right from the start.

"As young people, there are certain advantages that we had: we knew that our generation is always on our phones, and we like to have everything be pretty quick and accessible, (so) that gave us a lot of good perspective," says Vala.

While BOLT team members aim to centralize resources and make them accessible, they recognize they are not experts, so have forged connections with professionals like doctors and social workers to provide useful and accurate information. BOLT's website includes self-defence tips and information about victim-blaming, among other things.

BOLT gets a boost from a variety of grants including recent support from L'Oreal Paris. While the majority of the team is female, there are also members who do not identify as women.

"It shows that safety is not just a women's is-

sue, it's something that everyone needs to work on together—it's a human issue," says Vala.

And while she's happy to be part of an organization championing community safety, Vala says ideally one day BOLT won't be necessary because people will have "fostered a culture of consent."

Anyone over 18 can apply to be a volunteer with BOLT. Safe Buddy volunteers must go through vulnerable sector criminal record checks, which can take up to two months.

"It's just really about working with community members who are keen, eager, and passionate about stepping up to help," says Vala. "I think it is possible, we've just got to give it time."

Future goals include providing education programs in schools, supporting more women's shelters, and serving more people through the Safe Buddies program.

"Safety doesn't happen in isolation," says Vala. "I think each person can play a role in being that safe person. Make sure your friends get home safely, look out for each other, (and) together we can build a safer Richmond."

For more information on BOLT Safety Society, visit its website at boltsafety.org

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Canada Line schedule changes in Richmond

As construction of the new Capstan Canada Line station continues, service in Richmond is again being temporarily adjusted.

Trains travelling between Bridgeport and Richmond–Brighouse are being single-tracked, resulting in reduced frequency.

Weekend travel will be impacted through June 5. Between Bridgeport and Richmond–Brighouse, travellers will experience 13 minutes of extra wait time from the beginning of service until 9 p.m. on Saturdays and the beginning of service until 7 p.m. on Sundays.

Between Waterfront and YVR Airport stations, there will be an extra three minutes of wait time.

Additional bus service will be available between Bridgeport and Richmond–Brighouse, with buses arriving about every 15 minutes on weeknights and up to every 10 minutes on weekends. Extra buses will stop at each Richmond branch station.

TransLink advises people to build extra time into their commutes during construction. Capstan station remains on pace to open in 2023.

Richmond Centre for Disability expands horizons

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

The Richmond Centre for Disability is bringing people back together through a variety of programs this spring.

With limited socialization opportunities that suddenly shut down early in the pandemic, the centre's community outreach coordinator Dave Thomson says that other elements of everyday life were also thrown into a tailspin.

"I have a friend who's blind and he was in the process just before COVID of getting a new service dog. Then COVID hit and he couldn't get the dog," says Thomson. "He couldn't go out—what do you do when you don't have your sight?"

Masks made lip-reading challenging, and Thomson was concerned many Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD) clientele would avoid leaving their homes. There was a desire to get people out doing things rather than home staring at screens all day.

Now, Thomson is hopeful people will want to connect, despite concerns that fewer people will attend in-person events.

Outdoor relaxation classes run Wednesdays near city hall, and the Tuesday games club is now in-person. The singing club continues on

Zoom because of the heightened COVID-19 risk around singing, although the club has expanded into a karaoke opportunity.

"Doing public education and asking people to come and talk, (Zoom) is great because the scheduling is so much easier," Thomson says. "If someone says they can't come, I can say, 'Just tape something for me'."

Thomson also hosts a conversation class, describing most participants as "voluntarily non-verbal." Through challenges with autism or other learning disabilities, they only speak when necessary, so engaging them in conversation can be difficult.

Prior to the pandemic, RCD celebrated International Invisible Awareness Day annually. Back this year, the event is Thursday (May 12) from 10:30 a.m. to noon, with Carmelle Jaeggli from Pain BC as the guest speaker. Thomson will present an updated workshop as well.

On May 31, RCD also marks National Access Awareness Week with its "Can I start tomorrow?" event.

"If you go in for a job interview and they ask you, 'Can you start tomorrow?', a healthy person usually can say yes or no really quickly," explains Thomson. "If you have a disability, you have to line up lots of things."

Additional considerations include transportation, site accessibility, length of time commitment, and washroom facilities. Half-hour workshops will help people resolve those concerns, plus provide tips on finding inexpensive interview clothing and tax help. Thomson will also run a session on how and when to disclose your disability during a job interview.

"You want to make it empowered, not just say you can't do something and force an employer to fix it, but add, 'I have this thing that I bring with me' or 'I can do this'," he says.

Additionally, RCD has a new community garden plot on the Garden City Lands. A program will run this summer once landscaping renders it wheelchair-accessible.

Online content through RCD's ShareNet program keeps people connected and engaged. A three-month series on parenting and disability explores the topic from all angles. Thomson says there have been silver linings with the continuing success of ShareNet's virtual programming.

"As a non-profit, we want to keep regenerating and reaching younger people with disabilities," he says. "I'm excited about what we're going to do on that platform."

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Wellness spa brings serenity to Richmond

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

If you are postponing your plans to travel abroad this year, you can still relax and rejuvenate with a day retreat at Raintree Wellness Spa.

Raintree embodies the serenity of the West Coast rainforest using natural elements and warm wood furnishings, as well as sourcing high quality, sustainable products.

The spa might appeal to people wanting to escape their busy lifestyle and experience nurturing treatments that inspire a sense of contentment.

Lisa McFadden, a long-time Richmond resident, purchased Raintree in 2015 after learning about the amazing experiences her neighbours and colleagues had there.

She started her career working for a medical wellness company and quickly made her way up the ranks, eventually assuming the role of president. When that company's business structure changed, she decided to make a career change and buy Raintree.

"I've always been interested in self-care," says McFadden. "Raintree wasn't my first choice when I was looking for a spa to buy because it wasn't a medical spa, but when I walked in I had a special feeling and I knew that it was part of the fabric of our community."

For McFadden and her husband, being part of the Steveston community is something that enriches their lives because the people are interconnected.



Photo submitted
LISA MCFADDEN

"Richmond is a huge metropolis, but Steveston has a small-town feel," says McFadden. "One of the things we love the most about living here is that everyone seems to know everyone."

Since taking over the spa, McFadden has maintained and elevated Raintree's high standards. She prides herself on providing the best possible staff and customer service to every guest.

"It's a wonderful feeling to see someone come in stressed out and leave glowing and feeling great," says McFadden. "Being a part of that is really rewarding. We know we're making a differ-

ence in people's day-to-day lives."

The spa offers an extensive variety of high-quality products that are sourced locally and globally. For instance, Richmond company Meadowfoam created a customized scent that is exclusively used at Raintree.

"Watching (Meadowfoam) grow has been exciting and it's great to be a part of that," says McFadden.

She's excited to offer a new line called Comfort Zone that is sourced from Italy. The products range in the highest percentile of natural origin ingredients and the company offsets its carbon footprint. Aligning with environmentally conscious brands is important to McFadden.

In addition, there is a full array of services tailored towards men who want to escape the daily grind and enjoy some well-deserved spa time.

The Raintree team emphasizes the importance of living well—embracing beauty, health, wellness, fitness, mental health, and spiritual journeys.

The spa will be launching new non-invasive medical services this year including a laser rejuvenation treatment that stimulates natural collagen production to reduce fine lines and increase volume. It is a kinder and gentler alternative to injections and surgery.

Full day packages are available for those who want a retreat experience. For instance, the Raintree retreat includes a 60-minute Aroma Soul massage, custom facial, manicure, pedicure, and a light lunch with tea and chocolates.

•angels@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond's 2022 star volunteers announced

The four recipients of this year's Volunteers Are Stars Awards, presented annually by Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives, have found meaning and value in community service.

In many cases, they're involved in causes with which they have a personal connection, channeling their passion in a way that benefits others. They frequently reference how much they enjoy working with people, embodying what volunteering is all about: meeting fellow community members, making new friends, and making a difference together.

Star of Richmond Award Winner (Excellence in Non-Profit Leadership): Tammi Belfer, Richmond Women's Resource Centre

Belfer has been volunteering for nearly five decades, often in leadership roles. Since 2015, she has served as board president of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre, where she's had a transformational impact. Belfer has played a key role in developing

the organization's board, recruiting a diverse group of new members—including many young people—who are passionate about helping women build connections and thrive in their community.

Shooting Star Award Winner (Outstanding Youth Volunteer): Li Qing Wang, Richmond Women's Resource Centre

Wang has found time to build an impressive volunteer resume, and her community service is especially noteworthy because finding time isn't easy—she's also enrolled in medical school. In 2020, as part of Leadership Richmond's Youth Now program, she joined the board of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre, where she continues to volunteer today.

Constellation Award Winner (Outstanding Volunteer Group): South Arm United Church Outreach Committee

The group has a long history of supporting Richmond's charitable sector, raising funds

through car boot sales, silent auctions, and the much-loved annual country fair. The outreach committee has had a 20-year association with the Heart of Richmond AIDS Society, an organization that provides one-on-one and group support, counselling, and advocacy services to people living with HIV and AIDS.

Nova Star Award Winner (Outstanding Individual Volunteer): Dawn Thomson, Special Olympics BC - Richmond and Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House

Since 2004, Thomson has volunteered with the Richmond chapter of Special Olympics BC, supporting the organization at both the operational and executive levels. Her other passion is volunteering at the Salvation Army Rotary Hospice House, where she's served since 2009. In her time there, she's worked alongside care staff to support over 400 individuals and families, helping to make the end-of-life transition manageable, peaceful, and comforting.

In their own words...

Richmond showcases 2022 Capital Projects Highlights online



**Linda
McPhail**
Councillor

As the population of Richmond grows, so does the need for new and upgraded facilities and amenities that are dependable, resilient and accessible for residents and businesses.

Upgrading the height and durability of our dikes, renewing park amenities, building new community centres and pump stations, as well as upgrading water mains, sewers and roadways are projects that align with Council's strategic goals and help support the continued growth of our city.

This year we have dedicated \$107.8 million for over 90 projects. This significant investment brings new critical infrastructure to Richmond to ensure a stronger, more resilient community.

Council's strategic plans, policies and priorities guide all these investments, and City staff's expertise and dedication make them possible. Capital requirements are driven by many factors including growth, existing asset condition, industry standards, and legislated, regulatory and safety requirements.

To learn more about some of the large projects taking place this year, I invite you to explore the online, interactive 2022 Capital Projects Highlights at www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca.

At this site, you can explore information by business division, and links to interactive maps. You can search through clickable links to specific



projects to see concise summaries with photos and/or videos. There is also an opportunity to submit questions online until Sunday, May 29, or to contact project leads directly to find out more information.

The City's current priority infrastructure projects including flood protection, various transportation initiatives, critical building and park upgrades are just a few of the interesting projects people can click through from any digital device via LetsTalkRichmond.ca without leaving the comfort of their home.

Funding for the Capital Budget comes from a variety of sources including development cost charges, external sources like grants from other levels of government, reserves and funds from surplus set aside for future commitments.

Some of the projects highlighted this year include:

Engineering and Public Works

- Upgrades to dikes, water main installations and expansions to the City's award-winning district energy utility.

Parks

- The renewal of Minoru Lakes. The Minoru Lakes will function as storm water management ponds for the neighbourhood to the east of

the park, providing sustainable environmental benefits as they improve water quality and support wildlife habitat.

- South Arm Playground renewal includes enhanced trail connection, a plaza with park shelter, expanded picnic areas, new furnishings, shade trees and off-leash dog area upgrades.

Transportation

- Review and improvements to 20 collision-prone intersections, active transportation facilities, transit amenities and arterial roadway improvements

Buildings

- Richmond Animal Shelter, Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library, Capstan Community Centre and Hummingbird Child Care Centre

Public Art associated with capital projects

- Throughout the City at pump stations, fire halls and recreation facilities.

Construction has largely proceeded as scheduled through the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the commitment and effort of everyone to keep our infrastructure safe.

Visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca today to find out more.

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/WatchOnline.

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.

May 10 | 4:00 p.m.
Community Safety Committee

May 11 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel

May 16 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee

May 16 | 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing

May 17 | 4:00 p.m.
Planning Committee

May 18 | 4:00 p.m.
Public Works & Transportation Committee



For meeting agendas and reports, visit www.richmond.ca/CityHall. Meeting schedule subject to change

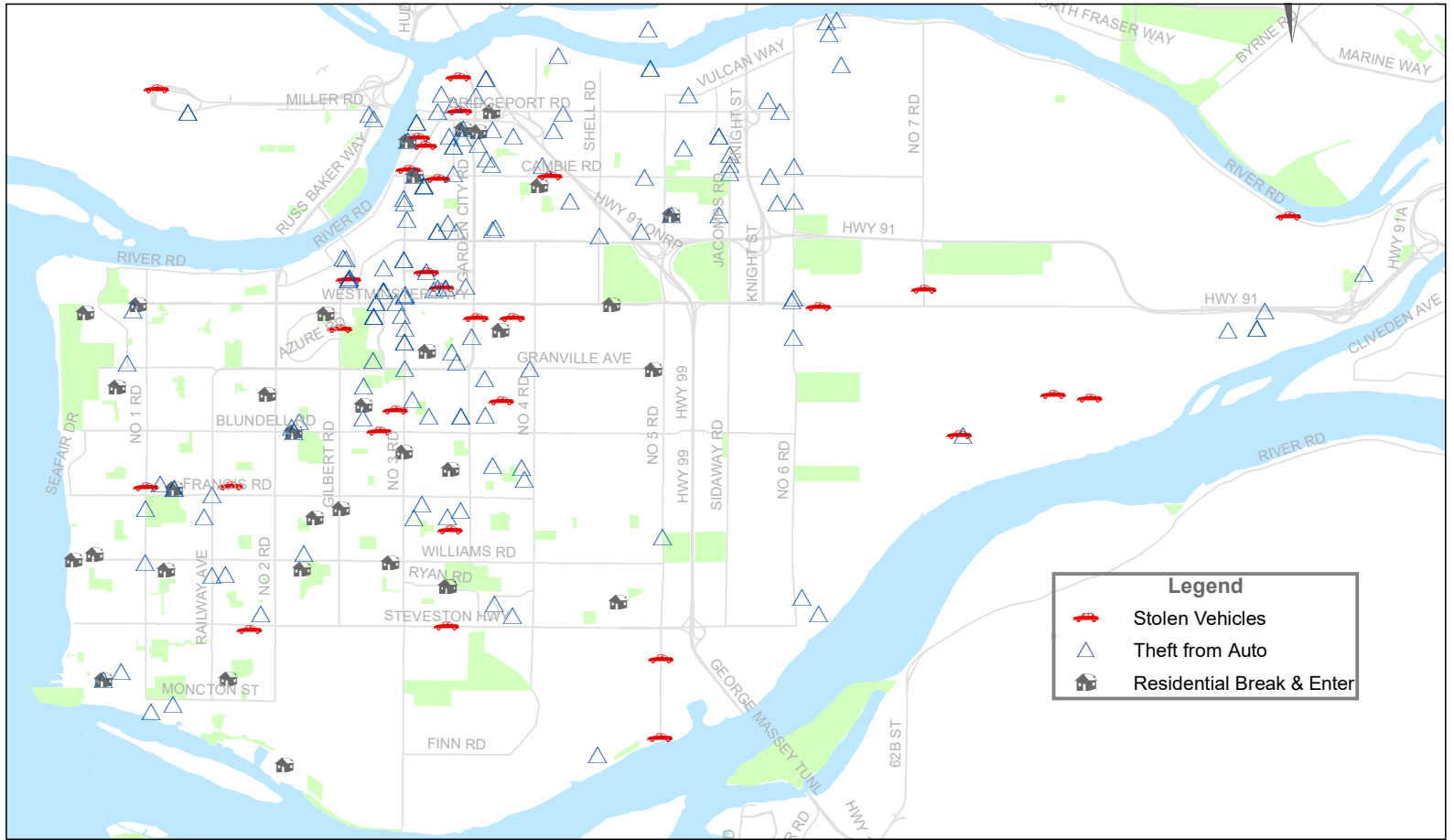
Visit www.richmond.ca/WatchOnline to link to live streaming or watch archived video.





RCMP

Crime Map April 1 - 30, 2022



Police warn public about fake taxi scam



Richmond RCMP is warning the public about a debit card fraud scam involving a fake taxi, a fake driver, and a fake passenger.

Police say since April 22, there have been at least eight reports of a young man approaching

people in busy parking areas, asking them to help pay for his taxi because he does not have enough money. Upon agreeing to help, the victim is allegedly told by the taxi driver that he does not take cash due to COVID-19, nor does he accept credit cards.

The unsuspecting victim apparently provides the driver with a debit card, and the driver claims the tap function on his electronic payment machine does not work. The driver allegedly takes the victim's card, pretends to make a transaction, has the victim put in their PIN number, and gives a bogus card back to the victim.

Police say the unsuspecting victim may later find several fraudulent transactions on their debit card, most involving several hundred dollars.

"This scam appears to be a new one for the City of Richmond, but already we have had eight victims report the matter to police (recently)," says Cpl. Ian Henderson. "Our frontline and Economic Crime Unit investigators are working diligently to identify and locate the suspects. Meantime, we believe there is a need to warn the public of this

fraudulent activity."

The fake taxi driver is described as a Fijian or South Asian man in his early 20s. The fake passenger is described as a Middle Eastern man also in his early 20s. The suspects have used several different vehicle models as well as a white taxi sign.

Anyone with information on this matter is asked to contact Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212, quoting file number 2022-10686. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or visit them online at solvecrime.ca



Canadian music icons collaborate on new album

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

Multi-million selling Canadian singer/songwriters Marc Jordan and Amy Sky have just released their first-ever album duet collaboration, *He Sang She Sang*, via Linus Entertainment.

The 13-song album is a collection of fresh takes on beloved classics alongside original new compositions. It also marks the first time this prolific duo—married for 34 years—has recorded an entire album together.

The *Our City Tonight* team recently sat down with Jordan and Sky to chat about the new album.

Amy, you both have had long successful careers as musicians and have written and produced with a lot of top entertainers including Rod Stewart, Diana Ross, Chicago, Olivia Newton-John, Cher, and Heart. You have also had your own solo careers. Why did it take so long to bring you two together (to collaborate) musically?

Sky: We love each other and wanted to stay married. You have kids, and you are into that empty-nest stage now. Did that make it easier to want to do the album?

Sky: Absolutely—part of the reason that we’ve done very little work performing together over the years is the family obligations. Now our kids don’t live at home—they don’t even live in Canada anymore, so we can do whatever we want.

Marc, this new album is full of classics from the likes of Smokey Robinson, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, and a song that for our money, pound for pound, is one of the best romantic songs ever: The Beach Boys’ “God Only Knows.” How do you select the classics and how did you select your own stuff to add to this great collection?

Jordan: When Amy and I drive in the car, we always listen to music. Especially this last trip when we drove down to Florida (where Amy is now), and we have these long periods of time where we listen to music. (We look for) the stuff that sticks and the stuff that we love to hear over and over again, and the stuff that suits our voices, and the stuff that you can make duets out of as well—you can’t do that with every song, as that doesn’t make sense. So, it takes a bit of curating but we have had a lot of years to do it. We have been working on this record for about four years, or maybe more.

Sky: We started the recording process seven years ago. On one of our first trips from Florida to Toronto, we stopped off in Nashville and did some recording. “Free Fallin’” was one of the first songs we cut because we are both influenced by singer-songwriters of the 1970s, but for the rest of the record we wanted to reflect a melding of our influences. We hit that marriage of the jazz harmonies and the acoustic instrumentation that really sort of helped us form the original songs we were going to do.

Are you hoping to get back on tour this summer?

Sky: Marc is actually touring with (Canadian musical group) Lunch At Allen’s in June. Our actual tour for this album is going to be in November. If things keep moving in the right direction, we’ll be on the road in Ontario in November and then probably in 2023 for the rest of Canada.

To watch the full video interview, go to richmondsentinel.ca/videos
Jim Gordon and Leeta Liepins are contributing writers to the Richmond Sentinel.



Photo submitted
After long successful solo careers, Amy Sky and Marc Jordan felt the time was right to work together.

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).

Artist donates pieces to Richmond charity

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

World-renowned artist Cecilia Aisin-Gioro will be in Richmond this weekend to attend a Vancouver Sunshine Lions Club fundraising gala and donate three pieces of her art.

Born in Changchun, China, Aisin-Gioro spent her early years with her grandmother in a little village before moving to Beijing with her aunt's family. A descendant of the Qing Dynasty royal family in China, Aisin-Gioro was taught that peace is a blessing and to maintain a low profile.

After travelling to many different countries, she finally settled in Vancouver after its climate, multiculturalism, and ethnic inclusiveness ultimately captured her heart.

Aisin-Gioro's royal family background impacts the art she creates.

"Many of my early works are mostly themes of sadness, nostalgia, and loss," says Aisin-Gioro. "The dark colour or background of these pictures may have been influenced by the tragic history of my family."

She tries to utilize brighter colours and more cheerful elements in her works to alleviate the feeling of sorrow.

"My art is a visible creation that comes from the invisible language (that) I see around people, stories, inner worlds, passions, instincts, and consciousness," says Aisin-Gioro.

She credits her grandmother for providing her with the motivation to pursue art.

"Art can tell people what you can't put into words. When you feel hopeless, art can make you stronger. When you are lost, art will remind you who you are," she says.

Other mentors, including her great-uncle as well as oil painting master YiFei Chen, provided a strong backbone that Aisin-Gioro describes as "a guiding light at midnight for me to follow."

With years of oil painting experience, Aisin-Gioro chose this style over the traditional Chinese style



Bride VI by Cecilia Aisin-Gioro.

Photo courtesy Cecilia Aisin-Gioro

of painting because she feels that the layered colours of oil painting express more emotion and power.

of communication between the minds of the artist and the audience," says Aisin-Gioro.

When you feel hopeless, art can make you stronger. When you are lost, art will remind you who you are.

– Cecilia Aisin-Gioro

"The expressive power of colour and the emotional power it generates can directly build a bridge

She doesn't paint every day, but tries to follow a personalized schedule.

"I pick up my brush when I feel very strong feelings and (am) inspired," says Aisin-Gioro. "Once I pick it up, I cannot put it down, probably from early morning to late night for months."

Aisin-Gioro also likes to revisit her works after they are finished, looking for imperfections to retouch and repaint colours and details.

Focus is the name of Aisin-Gioro's favourite artwork among all of her paintings, as it depicts many moments when she experimented with something new. Heavy texture is used as the background, featuring the colour Chinese Red.

She cites Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens as her favourite, describing his style of painting as majestic, colourful, dynamic, and powerful.

Aisin-Gioro's artworks constantly explore the combination of Eastern and Western cultures to create something more contemporary. Her imagination leads her to step outside her own cultural background.

Being an artist has changed Aisin-Gioro's outlook on life; she appreciates the added freedom and ability to express emotions. Her lifestyle now is a stark contrast from her upbringing, which she describes as being bound by rules and the need to please others.

In order to be a successful artist, Aisin-Gioro says it's important to stay true to yourself. There's no need to change your style of art to satisfy another person's expectations. Believe in yourself and put in the effort and practice to improve as an artist.

"Avoid evaluating yourself by entering competitions or winning awards, or seeking validation at art club events, because sometimes you may not be judged as (being as) good as you actually are," says Aisin-Gioro.

In the future, Aisin-Gioro plans to gradually stop doing commissioned paintings, as she is working on hosting a solo exhibition in Europe that revolves around an abstract series.

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School district budget projecting more staff cuts

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

Facing a substantial shortfall this year, Richmond School District trustees are considering a proposed budget that would see about 20 jobs cut.

While several new jobs would be added, the proposed cuts would result in the reduction of 15 CUPE positions, three Richmond Teachers' Association (RTA) positions, and 2.3 management positions.

Among the lost positions are five secondary school library technicians, five career information advisors, and an Educational Assistant for literacy support position—a job filled by the same experienced and specially-trained individual for nine years.

This year's shortfall is estimated at \$3.9 million, and if not dealt with this year it will continue and impact future years' budgets, said the district's secretary treasurer Cindy Wang at last month's board meeting.

"Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, the district has been facing a new fiscal reality," added Wang.

Board policy requires two to four per cent to be kept as a reserve fund. This year, some reserve funding may be used to help balance the budget, effectively deferring the remainder of the shortfall—\$1.36 million—for a year.

While proposed staffing cuts were kept to a minimum, Wang said 92 per cent of the district's budget is in staffing. Without external revenue from government or other sources, cuts must be made to balance the budget. Additionally, the five days of paid sick leave recently legislated by the province must be paid by school districts, not through provincial funding.

Stakeholder groups expressed their disappointment with the position cuts.



Richmond School District trustees are discussing this year's budget, including potential job cuts.

Photo by Hannah Scott

"The RTA is vehemently opposed (to) cuts," said RTA president Liz Baverstock. "We need a provincial budget adjustment to reflect rising costs."

With inflation rising, Baverstock said the province should recognize "that initiatives and ideas must be funded, or they come at a cost—and that cost is people. Progress is not sustainable without additional funding."

Baverstock said the RTA would prefer to see the budget delayed to June so trustees can advocate to the province for more funding. Richmond District Parents Association president Andrew Scallion echoed that sentiment. However, Wang said there are more disadvantages to delaying a month, particularly since the province's annual budget is already set and unlikely to change.

CUPE president Ian Hillman said he was astonished that the district was proposing to add

a manager position given the job cuts.

"Fiscal responsibility demands no increases in staffing when jobs are being cut," said Hillman.

Several members of the public, including two library technicians, spoke on the importance of their role.

Trustees voted unanimously in favour of a motion to write a letter to B.C.'s education ministry about the sick day funding, as well as inviting Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside to visit the district and meeting with local MLAs to discuss concerns. There was also some discussion about advocacy to the federal government.

Last year's school district budget saw the equivalent of 34.9 positions eliminated.

The budget issue will come back to the board at its next meeting on May 25. Members of the public can watch live via Zoom.

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Maple Lane elementary will get new accessible playground

Students at Maple Lane Elementary School are among some 7,000 across B.C. who will have access to new, safe, and accessible playgrounds through investments in the province's Playground Equipment Program (PEP).

This is the fifth year the program will run, aiming to support healthy and active lifestyles. Thirty B.C. schools will each receive \$165,000 towards building a new accessible playground in the next year. The total investment is \$5 million.

"Taking a break from the classroom and getting time outside to play gives children the opportunity to explore through play-based learning," said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education and Child Care. "We know having space for kids to play safely is important for families and that's why our government is committed to supporting students with accessi-

ble new playgrounds for many years to come."

Since 2018, government has invested \$30 million in the PEP to fund new playgrounds at 231 schools, benefiting more than 57,000 students and relieving parents of the pressure to fundraise for new playground equipment. This funding builds on government's commitment to provide safe learning environments for all students in years to come, which has included the creation of outdoor classrooms in some districts.

Daily exercise and playing outside is important for growing young bodies and minds. Playgrounds encourage physical activity and promote healthy lifestyles while also encouraging children to share and develop conflict resolution skills. They provide children with the opportunity to move around, learn new things, reduce anxiety, improve focus, enhance attention spans, and work on physical, social, emotional, and sensory development.

Richmond’s digital playground for families

In the sixth part of a series on Richmond’s business roots, we share the story of E-SPOT video arcade.

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

E-SPOT has been a staple and longstanding go-to location for arcade games in Richmond. The business opened in 1994, and the name “E-SPOT” was derived from the idea of having a spot for electronics. Since then, E-SPOT has expanded to include snooker, pool tables, retro arcade games, darts machines, Mahjong tables, doll crane machines, and computer gaming stations.

With the business now in the hands of its third owner Eric Li, the future is looking brighter than ever. “I joined this business because there were very few places for kids, like my daughter, to go to during rainy days,” says Li. He also loves to see the smiles on people’s faces as they enjoy the available games. The large variety of games is what sets E-SPOT apart. Most of its arcade games and machines are brought over directly from Japan. “Fathers can play pool or electronic darts while their kids are having a blast at the arcade and mothers are relaxing in our Mahjong rooms,” says Li. Despite the success, Li has also faced several challenges since taking over the business 12 years ago. One of the common challenges Li faces on a regular basis is abusive customers. “There are always ‘bad apples’ among any

group of people who vandalize our machines and put graffiti inside the washrooms,” says Li. Another challenge is the increasing cost of rent. In 2016, the landlord of the previous location decided to triple the rent, which nearly forced the family-oriented venture to go out of business before it was able to find a new location. On top of that, E-SPOT was forced to close its doors for several months during the early days of COVID-19 lockdown. Li is always looking for new ideas and possible additions to the business, with escape rooms being at the top of his list right now. “I would like to keep (E-SPOT) at 18,000 square feet or larger so that we can add escape rooms and other interesting themes into our family entertainment centre, since both my wife and daughter enjoy escape room-type games,” says Li. With the roots of the business firmly established in Richmond, E-SPOT has been actively making connections with local organizations and community members. The business hosts members of the Richmond Mental Health Consumer and Friends Society every week. Staff strive to provide the best possible service as well as special arrangements when needed. For instance, E-SPOT hosted a Christmas event with the Bank of Montreal that accommodated



Photo courtesy Eric Li
For nearly 30 years, E-SPOT has been offering a range of video games to Richmondites.

over 200 guests. A Disney film crew also held a party there, with more than 350 performers and crew members dressed up in Disney costumes. Staff also have the added perk of being able to play any games they want, free of charge. “It’s almost like a home to them as they spend a lot of time in the shop when they’re not working,” says Li. “One of our staff (members) would practice his darts skills at our electronic darts machines because he likes to participate in darts tournaments in Vancouver.” Seeing many businesses come and go in the last decade, Li highlights the importance of establishing a long-term business as it takes a long time to break down the cost of investments, especially with rent costs continuing to increase. [•taic@richmondsentinel.ca](mailto:taic@richmondsentinel.ca)

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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