



Photo courtesy Government of Canada

Canadian Coast Guard assistant commissioner Derek Moss reflects on the organization's 60-year history in the first installment of a two-part series on the coast guard's importance.

Students get hands-on police work experience

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

Richmond RCMP's inaugural Youth Academy program took place earlier this year, offering teenagers the opportunity to learn about being a police officer.

In collaboration with Richmond School District, the five-day program hosted 32 students in grades 10 through 12 interested in a police career. The students went through an "intensive program in a controlled environment, modelling police training and police work," according to youth section investigator Const. Alison Roberts.

"The program was developed by two Richmond school liaison officers and executed by countless dedicated members from various support units," says Roberts. "We wanted to provide participants with a once-in-a-lifetime experience, while creating positive and lasting relationships between the Richmond RCMP and the students of Richmond."

Participants underwent a selection process that included a physical activity test, an interview, a criminal background check, and reference checks. They learned about the RCMP's community policing problem-solving model, as well as concepts like the elements of an offence and the authorities for arrest, search, and seizure.

All costs were covered by the RCMP, including



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

The inaugural Richmond RCMP Youth Academy took place in February.

track suits for participant to wear during the program and then keep. The goal was to have students of all socioeconomic backgrounds able to participate without financial or other barriers.

Student feedback was positive, including one comment that the group began as strangers but felt like a family by the end.

"I think the most enjoyable part was the learning experience and getting to deal with things hands-on," said another student. "There are not a

lot of opportunities these days (to) actually get to do things hands-on, and it made it quite safe and enjoyable."

The program is designed to run annually, with the next session scheduled for February 2023. Applications will be available in mid-November, and interested students can contact their high school career counsellor or career information adviser for more information.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



Congratulations to Dr. Tony and Nancy Yurkovich on receiving the 2022 B.C. Achievement Community Award!

Having dedicated themselves to championing forward-thinking alternatives in healthcare and advocating for dignified, patient-centred care, Tony and Nancy have long been community champions in local healthcare.

When Richmond Hospital Foundation launched their fundraising campaign for the new acute care tower in 2017, the Yurkovichs served as a lead donor, rallying the community to help Richmond Hospital Foundation reach a \$50 million campaign fundraising goal, the largest capital campaign ever in Richmond.

Read more by scanning the QR code



Nancy and Tony Yurkovich



**Richmond
Hospital
Foundation**
列治文醫院基金會

Joyful Giving. Joyful Living.

City aiming to raise flood protection awareness

The City of Richmond is inviting the public to its upcoming in-person and virtual event series to raise awareness and understanding of flood protection in Richmond and its growing importance in light of climate-driven flood risks. These interactive events, created specifically for the Richmond community, will take place throughout the city this May and June.

In-person activities will include a series of pop-up appearances at existing community events and activities taking place around the city to obtain feedback and sentiment from a broad range of individuals. In addition, city staff will offer free interactive bus tours, called Works on Wheels, showcasing some of Richmond's flood protection projects.

Online opportunities include a virtual community conversation series, hosted via Zoom, where staff will introduce the city's flood protection program and provide space for open discussion and questions. LetsTalkRichmond.ca will also offer quick polls, and a space to ask questions online.

Flood protection events scheduled for May and June include:

In-person and pop-up events:

- May 24: Kwantlen Farmers Market
- June 5: Steveston Farmers and Artisans Market
- June 11: Works on Wheels interactive bus tour
- June 12: 20th Island City Bike Tour
- June 18: Works on Wheels interactive bus tour



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Richmondites can attend events aimed at raising awareness and understanding of flood protection in the city.

- June 26: Burkeville Daze

Virtual community conversations (one hour in length, hosted on Zoom):

- June 22 at noon and 6 p.m.
- June 23 at noon and 6 p.m.

Scheduled Dike Master Plan Phase 4 events include:

In-person and pop-up events:

- June 21: In-person community conversation at Hamilton Community Centre
- Sept. 9: open house during the Hamilton Signature Summer Event

Dike Master Plan Phase 4 community conver-

sation (one hour in length, hosted on Zoom):

- June 20 at noon

City staff and councillors will refer to and utilize feedback received at these events and via online to support the finalization of the city's Dike Master Plan Phase 4 and 2023 Utility Budget and Rates. Each of these reports will be presented to council separately for consideration later in 2022.

To get started on learning as well as obtain more information on the in-person events and registration for the virtual events, visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca/floodprotection or email floodprotection@richmond.ca.

City supports call for fossil fuel treaty

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Richmond is furthering its environmental improvement efforts by formally endorsing the call for a federal and provincial fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

The treaty calls on world leaders and Canadian parliamentarians to work together in a spirit of international cooperation to end new expansion of oil, gas, and coal production; phase out existing oil, gas, and coal; and commit to and pursue transformational policies and plans to ensure access to renewable energy globally.

City councillors discussed the matter at a recent council meeting, and the city will send a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier John Horgan urging the governments to support the proposed treaty.

The proposed treaty also seeks to support economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, enable people and communities across the globe to flourish through the global transition, and enact national budget and fiscal policies that will support a swift transition.

The call for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty was initiated by Tzeporah Berman, a prominent climate activist based in B.C. The initiative is led by a 25-person board of members from across Canada—including several members representing Indigenous Peoples—and numerous countries including the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The group seeks to highlight that while global climate change agreements like the Paris Agreement already exist, they have targeted human-caused

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, rather than the supply of fossil fuels which produce the majority of emissions.

The initiative also calls to enable a global registry of fossil fuels as an international transparency and accountability mechanism, a global commission on fossil fuels, and a formal process to deliver a negotiated legal instrument on the managed transition from fossil fuels.

The city can take direct action through the province's CleanBC program that implements an annual GHG emissions cap for natural gas utilities.

By targeting GHG emissions rather than natural gas production, the province leaves room for increased production as long as lower GHG emissions are attributed to the gas produced.

To date, the province has not introduced legislation to implement a GHG reduction cap for natural gas utilities.

On March 29, the federal government released the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: Canada's Next Steps to Clean Air and a Strong Economy, which includes commitments to put a limit on GHG emissions from the oil and gas sector, and to reduce GHG emissions from oil and gas by 75 per cent or more by 2030.

While this is the first time a federal plan has noted its intention to directly limit GHG emissions from the fossil fuel sector, this plan—like B.C.'s promised cap on natural gas emissions—targets net GHG emissions rather than fossil fuels directly, and will not necessarily result in reduced production.

Council recently adopted the city's second Community Energy & Emissions Plan that will chart a path to achieve zero emissions by 2050.

•angels@richmondsentinel.ca

2022 Richmond Arts Awards recipients unveiled

The City of Richmond and the Richmond Arts Coalition recently announced the six recipients of the 14th annual Richmond Arts Awards. Mayor Malcolm Brodie hosted the awards on May 4 at the Gateway Theatre, marking a return to an in-person ceremony after two years of online recipient recognitions. This ceremony also included in-person celebrations of the 2020 and 2021 recipients.

Earlier this year, 62 nominations were reviewed by a selection committee of community members to determine recipients in six categories that recognize well-established community members and organizations, as well as rising stars in Richmond's arts scene.

The six 2022 Richmond Arts Award recipients are:

Artistic Innovation: Thomas Cannell

Cannell is a Coast Salish (Musqueam) artist whose artistic style is greatly influenced by his mother, Susan A. Point. The recipient of a British Columbia Creative Achievement Award, his art is featured in galleries in Vancouver, Victoria, and Seattle and has been included in touring exhibitions throughout North America as well as in catalogue publications. In Richmond, Cannell's work includes the recently unveiled *Sea to Sky* painted glass artwork on No. 3 Road, *Fish Trap Way* located near the Richmond Olympic Oval, and *Ravens* in Terra Nova Rural Park.

Arts Education: Harry Yu

Yu has taught traditional Chinese painting to students of all ages for the past half century and for the last 30 years he has made numerous contributions to Richmond's cultural community. Yu co-founded many clubs and associations in support of his chosen art form, the oldest of these being The Wednesday Arts Club (1998) and the most recent being the Chinese Arts Association Richmond (2018). Inspired by majestic mountains and nature, his beautiful works are skillfully drawn in the traditional Chinese style blended with his own innovative touches.

Business and the Arts: Mark Glavina, Phoenix Art Workshop



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The recipients of the 2022 Richmond Arts Awards were celebrated in early May.

Glavina has promoted the benefits of the arts through education and community engagement for more than 30 years. With training in graphic design and illustration, he has worked as a teacher and illustrator, and established a reputation as a muralist. In developing his own fine art, he explores environmental, cultural, and social issues, while working with figure and portraiture. In 1997, Glavina opened Phoenix Art Workshop, which hosts art classes both locally and abroad. By organizing community art events like *Chalk the Boardwalk* and *Grand Prix of Art*, Glavina has shared his passion for art making with other artists and the general public. He received the same award in 2010, making him the first recipient to be honoured twice.

Cultural Leadership: Mary Wilson, Richmond Black History Month

After years of travelling to other Metro Vancouver communities for Black History Month events,

Wilson took it upon herself to coordinate events in Richmond resulting in the first annual Richmond Black History Month celebration in 2016. Before then, there were limited institutional opportunities for the city's small but vibrant Black community to showcase their stories, talents, and achievements. By crafting and planning a diverse range of programming every year to educate, celebrate, and make community connections, Wilson has significantly contributed to the city's cultural development.

Volunteerism: Keiko Go

Every summer since 2008, Go has been involved with the Obon Festival at the Steveston Buddhist temple, and she especially enjoys organizing cultural experiences. Examples include gathering local Japanese-Canadian artists to celebrate the temple's 50th anniversary and organizing a group of Japanese dancers to participate in the annual Steveston Salmon Festival with the Jodo Shin Taiko players. Every spring she organizes a concert to showcase the talents of Japanese musicians. More recently, to combat pandemic-related isolation, Go has written a short bi-weekly bulletin, *Connect*, for Japanese-Canadian seniors. She also spearheaded a project to make paper cranes in support of local healthcare workers and their seriously ill patients.

Youth Arts: Megan Yung

In 2018, Yung's poster design was chosen for Richmond School District No. 38's *Mission, Vision, and Values* poster. The next year, her work was selected in the city's street banner contest and she illustrated the Richmond Public Library's 2019 *Teen Summer Reading Challenge* poster. That same year, Yung also became the youngest artist to be commissioned by the city for her Maritime Festival poster design. She was commissioned to design face masks for city staff, and was again selected as a winner in the city's 2021 street banner contest. Yung is a marketing director at *Work in Progress* magazine, a youth-led art magazine that promotes the coalescence of youth art and social justice in Metro Vancouver.

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Advertising & Sponsorship

marketing@richmondsentinel.ca
778-325-1297

Newsroom

newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca
778-297-5005

Editor - Don Fennell

dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



Download our app
from the
App Store or
Google Play Store.

Literacy installation opens in McLean Park

A new literacy activity is available in the Hamilton neighbourhood, with the launch of a new permanent StoryWalk® circuit in McLean Park.

The library and the city collaborated on the installation, which was also funded in part by a Rotary grant. A StoryWalk® is an interactive activity that combines reading and physical literacy, and is designed to guide participants through a picture book story in sequence while outdoors.

While the library has offered temporary StoryWalks® since 2019, this circuit is available year-round and free to enjoy rain or shine.

"The Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise is pleased to be a partner in the permanent StoryWalk® at McLean Park in Richmond," said Marg Dixon, the club's past president and current administration chair. "This was enabled through funding from Rotary District 5040 and Decoda Literacy Solutions, with both organizations believing in the power of literacy to change lives."

Community members can visit the StoryWalk® any time the park is open; simply start at the first sign post, located at the playground, and follow the sign posts clockwise along the trail.

The first story featured in the circuit is *Orca Chief* by Roy Henry Vickers and Robert Budd. This story was chosen to celebrate Richmond's ties to the sea as well as to showcase the vibrant



Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library

McLean Park is home to a new permanent StoryWalk® circuit.

Indigenous art throughout the book.

The stories will be changed out seasonally to keep the StoryWalk® experience fresh. The se-

lected picture books feature a diverse range of stories and illustration styles that are well suited to anyone from preschool age and up.

Spring is here

Shop to the joy at
Blundell Centre

BLUNDELL
CENTRE

43 STORES FOR EVERYTHING
One stop for all you need for the season
 Located at Blundell & No. 2 Road

Richmond's three NDP MLAs share experiences

By **SAMUEL CHENG** and **HANNAH SCOTT**
Reporters

The October 2020 provincial election resulted in three new NDP MLAs in Richmond: Kelly Greene in Richmond–Steveston, Aman Singh in Richmond–Queensborough, and Henry Yao in Richmond South Centre.

Host Jim Gordon spoke with Greene, Singh, and Yao for an update on their experience as MLAs so far.

Editor's note: Richmond North Centre MLA Teresa Wat was unavailable, but was interviewed at a later date.

What made you want to run (to be an MLA)?

Greene: I've lived (in Richmond) just about my entire life. I want to raise my kids here, and I want to make sure that the city that they're inheriting and all the kids are going to be inheriting is the best it can possibly be.

Yao: In politics, one thing we learn very quickly is (there are) a lot of challenges and difficulties (that) we often don't see unless you actually get involved. There's a lot of great work our community advocates are doing, but the real change has to come from (the) government's side. The more we work with younger generations, the more we realize that the future is so important for us. We need to start investing and looking after issues right now.

Singh: My parents instilled in me that public service was a really big part of us, and that's not only part of who I am, it's part of my spiritual faith as well. I want to make sure that British Columbia is welcoming and affordable for everybody, and that (it) has a climate we can actually live in.

How do you inspire (youth) to (be engaged in politics)?

Greene: Talking to young people about the things that matter to them, and then connecting the dots to where those decisions and pressure points come from—it might be municipal government, it might be provincial government, it might be federal government. Voting is really the best way to express yourself and make a contribution towards what happens next.

Talk about some of the work you do to make sure people know where to find you in your riding.

Yao: Unfortunately, I'm still setting up my office, so we do lots of email (and) telephone. Of course the pandemic makes it easier for us to do a lot of things virtually. We go to community events and connect with people to really understand what kinds of challenges they're facing. We connect with our fellow citizens to really hear (what) they're saying and let them know they have an MLA (who) will try (their) best (to help) them address the concerns they have.

Everybody's got families—how are you balancing being in Victoria (and) being here? Is it



KELLY GREENE



AMAN SINGH



HENRY YAO

overwhelming at first?

Singh: The pandemic made it less overwhelming because we weren't physically in Victoria, we were doing everything virtually. But now (that) we're back, it is challenging. You really have to be committed to this job to want to do it, and I think all three of us are very committed to that change.

Greene: I think that for every single person that is in elected office, their family is making a lot of sacrifices. Not only am I missing my family, but my family isn't having the support that they would enjoy if I was home.

Yao: At times, I doubted whether being an MLA (was) the right thing for me. Sunday afternoon, before I have to take off, my wife (has) to find a way with my parents to distract (our daughter) so I can quickly sneak out into the car. Child care (and) family care can be a huge barrier for elected officials, and I think if we want our democracy to be properly supported, we do need to continue to find different solutions to ensure good people can represent, and we need people who are in those difficult situations so they know how to walk (the) difficult walk and bring that perspective in.

What are the most important things that need attention in this city, and specifically (each of) your (ridings)?

Greene: The hospital replacement project is top of mind for Richmond. The Steveston Interchange is a huge crunch point for people in my riding trying to get within Richmond. And everybody in my riding is talking about environment (in) almost every conversation. We're in a very low-lying area in the world, and people know that we have to be serious about mitigating climate change if we're going to protect our city.

Yao: One of the most common concerns is affordability. People are talking about housing (and) food prices, because small families (are) just trying to make a living and (take) care of our future generation. Anti-racism is a huge issue too, because (Richmond South Centre is) a very diverse riding. We want to help our families to live (in) a more affordable, accessible, and livable environment.

Singh: In the pandemic, health care and services that people depend on really became the foremost issue. Our government has tried to address (the affordability and housing crises) over the last few years—reducing (child care) fees by 50 per cent by the end of 2022, we're well into our 10-year \$10 a day child care plan, (and) getting rid of tolls, getting rid of (Medical Services Plan premiums). With Richmond–Queensborough, the majority of the riding is farmland so food security is something that we're going to see, especially with the war in Ukraine (and) the Russian invasion, we will see an impact on that as well.

To watch the full video interview, visit richmondsentinel.ca/videos

Local mosque welcoming visitors during Doors Open

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

In early June, Richmond Jamia Mosque will welcome people for Doors Open as one of 35 participating sites across the city.

"We have participated in the Doors Open Richmond events many times previously, and found them to be quite enjoyable and beneficial," says the mosque's secretary and acting chair Omar Khan. "We are a welcoming community, so we are always pleased to host visitors—many of whom have never previously stepped inside a mosque—who seek to objectively learn about our faith, practices, and culture, and to meet members of the Muslim community."

While Doors Open adopted a virtual format in the last couple of years, this year's event includes opportunities for in-person connection. Khan says the in-person format provides a good meet-and-greet opportunity, as well as allowing a showcase of the Muslim faith through mosque tours, exhibits, presentations, and conversations.

"It also enables us to demonstrate our religious practices in a live setting, to answer questions in-person, and also to try and dispel some of the misconceptions people may have about our faith, which we feel is often misrepresented and unfairly characterized in the media," he adds.

People can visit Richmond Jamia Mosque (located at Blundell and No. 5 roads) during Doors



Photo courtesy Richmond Jamia Mosque

On June 4 and 5, people can visit Richmond Jamia Mosque to learn more about the Muslim faith.

Open on June 4 and 5.

"We will be offering mosque tours and hope to provide the public with an insight into our core beliefs," says Khan. "This will be done through a poster exhibit, multimedia presentations, and also live demonstrations of the Call to Prayer

("Adhaan") and ritual prayers. We will be offering henna painting, Arabic calligraphy art, (and an) opportunity to try out different hijab styles and speak to members of the Muslim community, while enjoying complimentary refreshments."

hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Steveston Salmon Festival returning



File photo

The Steveston Salmon Festival will return to in-person programming this year, although the parade will not take place.

An annual favourite, the Steveston Salmon Festival will return with some in-person activities this year.

The festival will take place on Canada Day (July 1) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities aim to celebrate the event's 75-year history through storytelling, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and partnerships with local artists, merchants, and community groups. People can also share their personal memories and treasured moments in Steveston.

The traditional parade will be replaced with a number of festival zones spread around Steveston. People can explore the re-imagined, accessible festival format on foot, bicycle, scooter, or wheelchair. Live music, exhibitions, and more will stretch from Garry Point Park to Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site.

Leading up to the big day, programming will be on display at Garry Point Park during the Pacific Rim Kite Festival on June 25 and 26. The event will include video pop-ups where kite flyers can share stories about Steveston.

For those planning July 1 neighbourhood cookouts, the Salmon BBQ at Home will also return this year. This ready-to-cook meal kit will feature fresh salmon and sides for the whole family. Orders can be placed through June 15 and pickup will be on June 30 at the Steveston Community Centre.

For more details, visit stevestonsalmonfest.ca

Richmond student wins B.C. poetry contest

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

Sixteen-year-old Maryam Abusamak, a Grade 11 student at EBUS Academy, is one of three winners in B.C.'s Democracy & Me poetry contest.

The contest invited students to reflect on the importance of community, civic engagement, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and democracy. Each grade category was provided with a unique contest question to help guide the creation of original written and spoken-word poetry.

Abusamak says she was motivated to apply because of her love of writing.

"Since the time I was able to spell the word 'apple,' I've always liked putting pen to paper to convey my ideas or construct new worlds and experiences far beyond my own," she says. "Even though I didn't realize it as a child, I remember gravitating toward writing clubs in elementary school and how much I enjoyed composing stories, savouring how words kept flowing from my pencil to unravel a story no one had ever heard before. Many of my English teachers used my writing as models for my classmates as I shrunk down in my chair in embarrassment."

She saw the poetry contest as "a perfect opportunity to raise my voice and make a difference through words."

Abusamak's winning poem is titled "My Weapon," and she explains that the phrase "my voice is a weapon" is inspired by the Angie Thomas novel *The Hate U Give*. The novel's protagonist publicly protests after her friend is killed by a police officer, and that phrase represents a turning point in her character development.



Photo courtesy Maryam Abusamak

Maryam Abusamak (centre), a 16-year-old Richmondite, was recently recognized as a winner of the province's Democracy & Me poetry contest.

"The repetition of the phrase 'my voice is my weapon' emphasizes a point and creates rhythm. Much as I was completely inspired after reading *The Hate U Give*, I want readers to be uplifted and touched after reading my poem," says Abusamak. "I want readers to realize that democracy is the freedom for each one of us to have different views while realizing that there is beauty and strength in diversity. Above all, it's the power to use your voice as a weapon to influence change in the world."

When she learned she was a contest winner, Abusamak was delighted.

"The very moment I left ICBC after failing the driving knowledge exam for the first time, my mom informed me that I was a winner. Such perfect timing—my disappointment immediately turned into

joy," she says.

In late April, Abusamak was formally awarded her prize, and her poem was unveiled in a ceremony at B.C.'s Parliament Buildings in Victoria. She says it was "magnificent and unforgettable beyond words" to be recognized as a winner.

"I had the impression that someone like me could make a difference. All you really need is your weapon, (and) we all have one: our voices," says Abusamak. "I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to the event, making it a memorable success."

The winning poems, finalists, and all eligible entries are viewable on the contest website: democracyandme.ca

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Airport introduces copper in high-touch areas

Vancouver International Airport has become the first in Canada to install antimicrobial copper in high-touch, high-traffic locations.

The initiative, a partnership with Teck's Copper & Health program, aims to enhance the cleanliness and sanitization of airport terminals. Copper has unique antimicrobial properties and is proven effective in eliminating up to 999 per cent of harmful bacteria within two hours.

"Teck is a great local company that has a global reach. Them being able to pioneer and demonstrate the value of copper right here at home is, I think, a great partnership," said the airport's president and chief executive officer Tamara Vrooman.

Antimicrobial copper is being installed on baggage carts, water fountains, and washroom doors throughout the terminal. The copper acts as an added layer of protection to reduce the spread of bacteria as tens of thousands of passengers move throughout the airport each day.

"We are proud to be a part of this important project, and look forward to expanding the presence of copper in public spaces to support health and safety," said Teck president and chief executive officer Don Lindsay.

For more information about the role of antimicrobial copper, the Copper & Health program, and other examples of copper in action, visit coppersaveslives.com



Photo courtesy Vancouver International Airport

In a bid to reduce the spread of bacteria, antimicrobial copper has been installed on high-touch surfaces at Vancouver International Airport, including baggage cart handles.

Canadian Coast Guard celebrates 60 years

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) is celebrating its 60th birthday this year. The CCG is a civilian, non-paramilitary organization and a special operating agency within Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The coast guard was formed in 1962. Its jobs include marine search and rescue, communication, navigation, and transportation issues in Canadian waters including navigation aids and icebreaking, marine pollution response, and support for other government initiatives.

The *Our City Tonight* team recently sat down with the assistant commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard, Derek Moss, to talk about the organization's 60-year history.

Derek, talk about your own personal history with the CCG and the many things that have changed over time.

The CCG became an official entity in 1962 when (it) joined the department of transport. Subsequently, over the years, we joined the department of fisheries and oceans, however Canada has had a coast guard-like organization dating back to the 1700s when the first light houses and first search and rescue crafts were put in place. Going further back than that, we can look at our First Nations colleagues who were keeping their community safe on the water. We have learned a lot from their knowledge and experience.

As we have moved through the last 60 years, under the brand of the CCG, we have become known for a number of things. Foremost in people's minds is the search and rescue capability. People see the red ship with the great white stripe, and they know help is coming. When the weather gets bad and people come into port, that's typically when calls come in for us and our ships to go out sea to help people who have had a bad day on the water.

In addition to the search and rescue aspect, we have evolved and highlighted environmental response for protection of the marine environment and protection of the marine animals. We are looking forward to the Blue Economy Strategy whereby the use of the oceans is seen from an environmental perspective, from an economic perspective, from a safety perspective, and from a recreational perspective to endure for generations



Photo courtesy Canadian Coast Guard

Derek Moss is the assistant commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard.

to come. That's what the coast guard is all about: protecting what's on or under the water, whether it be through search and rescue, environmental response, traffic management, prevention, proactive/reactive—we have a full plate and we love doing it.

We were pleasantly surprised to hear that the environmental equation is such a large part of what your team does.

It's a huge component for us. It's a prime mission in our mandate and it is often, as you have mentioned, unsung or unnoticed until something happens. There is a whole capability component when an incident occurs not only to prevent the incident but to make sure we are capable of responding and directing industry or other partners to respond to an incident.

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

Richmond Public Library getting provincial funding

Richmond Public Library is receiving more than \$100,000 as part of a one-time provincial investment that will see a total of \$8 million go to local libraries.

The funding is intended to address costs associated with the pandemic, support emergency response and planning, and adapt services for recovery. It is being distributed between 71 public libraries, six library federations, and three library service partners.

"Libraries deliver programs and services to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds," says Richmond-Steveston MLA Kelly Greene. "The COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Funding will support Richmond libraries in recovering from the pandemic and continuing to offer services that Richmond residents depend on."

Richmond Public Library is receiving \$113,028.36. Libraries can use the funds to enhance services and fill gaps created by the pandemic. This may include adapting their physical spaces, delivering computer and virtual technology training, and developing programs that help people build deeper social and community connections.

"Richmond Public Library plays a vital role in promoting literacy,

sharing arts and culture, helping people access technology, and provides space for community programming, as well as functions as a community hub for families and organizations," says Richmond South Centre Henry Yao. "I'm grateful for Richmond Public Library's great work prior to and during the pandemic, and this funding will support their work in keeping communities connected and engaged."

This investment builds on a one-time \$3 million investment in public libraries in 2020, to expand digital services and computer access during the pandemic. Government also provides \$14 million in annual funding toward operating costs at B.C.'s public libraries.

"Libraries provide a safe space for many people in our communities—whether to escape the rain or access community resources," says Richmond-Queensborough MLA Aman Singh. "Through providing additional funding for libraries across the province, we're helping them adapt and address the needs of communities."

According to a B.C. government news release, people used digital resources from B.C. public libraries almost 16 million times in 2020, a 47 per cent increase over the previous year.

In their own words...

Traffic safety on our streets



**Andy
Hobbs**
Councillor

Road safety is a significant part of our overall community safety plan and a priority for Richmond. Improving safety is accomplished by focusing on three areas: engineering (the focus of this column), education and enforcement.

Partnerships with the Province, RCMP, ICBC, School District 38, cycling groups, seniors, and other local groups and residents are important in keeping our friends, families and neighbours safe in our community. The Richmond Active Transportation Committee, cycling community (HUB) and other stakeholders contribute to road safety improvements such as multi use pathways. This is important as more modes of active transportation such as e-scooters are introduced.

The number of injuries or fatalities from traffic related collisions are far greater than those caused by criminal activity such as homicides, robbery or assault. The most collision prone and dangerous locations are intersections. In a recent Richmond study,

82 per cent of collisions occurred at intersections resulting in approximately 6,946 injuries and 14 fatalities. The rate of increase for collisions was four times the population growth and our top 20 collision intersections accounted for 23 per cent of the total.

To make our roads safer, Richmond is actively pursuing increased enforcement, engineering improvements and education. The City, in partnership with ICBC and the RCMP, analyzed our 20 most collision prone intersections, resulting in plans to implement short and long-term improvements. For example, Shell Road and Alderbridge Way will see pedestrian crosswalk signage, line marking/adjustments, speed-reader signs, foliage trimming, large yield signs and several other short-term improvements. Long-term changes include left turn signals, increased property setbacks, and longer left turn lane lanes.

The safety of families and children is paramount, and school zones are another area of safety focus. The School Safety Zone Inventory is a City-wide plan to improve safety by assessing the specific needs of each school. The plan will address the



immediate needs of 31 of 38 elementary schools and nine of 10 high schools with improvements like safer drop off/pick up areas, speed humps, speed-readers, inset road signs, curb/sidewalk extensions, and ramps. Of course, enforcement and education are major pieces of keeping our school zones safe.

The City has installed video cameras at 121 intersections as an important road safety and traffic management tool. The public and businesses may apply to purchase video footage from the cameras to assist in legal or other matters such as evidence of collisions. Eight intersections have ICBC red light cameras that will capture images sufficient for court and one camera that registers red light and speed, with ticket issuing capabilities.

Traffic safety is a priority for all of us and remains a priority for the City of Richmond.

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 24 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting

May 25 | 4:00 p.m.
**Parks, Recreation
& Cultural Services
Committee**

May 26 | 3:30 p.m.
**Development Permit
Panel**

June 6 | 4:00 p.m.
**General Purposes
Committee followed by
Finance Committee**

June 7 | 4:00 p.m.
Planning Committee

June 13 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting

June 14 | 4:00 p.m.
**Community Services
Committee**

June 15 | 3:30 p.m.
**Development Permit
Panel**

June 20 | 4:00 p.m.
**General Purposes
Committee**

June 20 | 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing



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.



Richmond student wins first place at science fair

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Hugh Boyd secondary student Kieran Foster, 16, recently won first place at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair.

Foster's chemistry project successfully changed the chemical composition of wood to make it harder. His inspiration for the project came from learning that lots of wood gets left behind when logging companies harvest trees.

Foster's innovative experiment demonstrated that discarded wood could be repurposed in a sustainable way. While he had competed in past science fairs, this was Foster's first win.

He improved his approach to designing and presenting science projects over time, based on experience gained in previous competitions.

Foster didn't expect to win first place this year, but was delighted to receive the honour. He hopes that his achievement will inspire other young science enthusiasts to participate in science fairs.

"I want other kids to know that they have nothing to lose," says Foster. "It's about having fun and exploring your creativity through science. Winning a prize is great, but the experience is the best part."

The Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair program (GVRSF) provides a platform for students to showcase their projects and interact with like-minded students, academics, and industry professionals.

It's open to over 100,000 students from grades 7 to 12 attending public, independent, private, and home schools.

The students' work is evaluated by professors and experts in various fields. Judges give feedback about what participants did well and what they could consider improving.

The experience aims to give students a positive feeling about what they've done and to encourage them to be curious about the things that interest them.

Science fair director Patti Leigh founded the fair in 1983 after being fascinated by the innovations she witnessed while attending the Hudson Bay science fair.

Her initial volunteer efforts to get science fairs happening in B.C. were motivated by her passion for science.

"I'm a teacher by training and I have always been interested in students having



Photo courtesy Sheilagh Foster

Sixteen-year-old Hugh Boyd secondary student Kieran Foster won first place at the recent Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair.

***I want other kids to
know that they
have nothing to lose.
It's about having fun
and exploring your
creativity through
science.***

— Kieran Foster

ties lie, and to enter a fair to do research and expand their horizons. No matter what they go on to do in the future, the skills they learn by doing science projects will help them succeed in whatever career direction they choose."

Thirteen science fairs happen across the province annually.

For the first few years, the prototype for the GVRSF was held at Science World, until moving to the University of British Columbia in 1992.

Several judges are part of the university's faculty, including chief judge Leonard Foster (Kieran's father), who himself participated in the GVRSF during his youth.

The winners of the GVRSF will go on to participate at the national level in the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

Last year the GVRSF team brought home numerous prizes and awards, including five gold medals, five bronze medals, and nine special awards. The prizes included \$15,000 in cash and \$80,000 in scholarships.

•angels@richmondsentinel.ca

Cambie hosts mental health awareness event



Photos submitted

The latest Beyond the Blues event—the first in more than two years—took place early this month at Cambie secondary.

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

Twice a year, Richmond students and staff come together to talk about mental health awareness and connect with care providers.

Like so many activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the event—Beyond the Blues—hasn't been able to run for several years. Early this month, the district celebrated its return at Cambie secondary.

The event cycles through all 10 Richmond high schools, with two different schools hosting each year, says Connie Easton, the district's coordinator of mental health, social and emotional learning and counselling.

"We involve youth in organizing it," Easton explains. "In each of the schools where it runs, we pull in the school's mental wellness group, a group of students who's interested in mental health and mental health promotion."

The event is also a collaboration with Foundry Richmond, with posters displaying scannable QR codes that lead to Foundry's website.

Easton says while resources and information can be found online, the human connection is also important.

"We've all been so isolated, and now that people are able to go in-person for supports and those kinds of things, actually meeting the real person has been one of the reasons why we did this," she says. "So if a student goes into Foundry and sees the same clinician they saw at school, there's a sense of familiarity and welcoming (when) they recognize them."

These events also allow the student voice to shine through, ensuring that the district is meeting students' needs as much as possible.

"These kinds of events allow them to discuss with frontline providers what they're looking for, and give us a sense of what might be missing in terms of supports," says Easton.

Two members of Cambie's mental wellness group—Elvin Allado and Priya Mahil—are also part of the district's new youth mental health advisory group. While that group is still in its building phase, having just started up this year, it's modelled on the district's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) advisory committee.

The youth mental health advisory group includes Grade 11 and 12 students from different schools who want to advocate for mental wellness. For one project, they collaborated with school librarians and put Foundry stickers in library books that might be triggering or upsetting to some student readers. This information allows students to reach out for help if they are struggling.

The students in the group are also creating social media accounts to share mental health stories, sleep tips and other healthy habits, and ways of finding support.

"The work that we try to do as a group has to be very grounded," says Easton. "I want them to come away feeling like they're doing something meaningful and making a difference, not that we're just talking."

Easton says the Cambie event had good attendance, with students able to collect stamps in a passport that was then turned in for prize draws of T-shirts and gift card.

The next Beyond the Blues event will take place in October.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



**A Great Place To Live
A Great Way To Live**



LAUGHTER IS THE SOUND OF YOUR SOUL SMILING

Laughter Yoga

Seniors independent living in beautiful Steveston Village

4071 Chatham Street • 604-277-4519

Track and field championships back in Richmond

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

The B.C. Elementary Track and Field Championships are returning to Richmond this weekend.

This is the 52nd year that Kajaks Track and Field Club will host the event, scheduled for May 27 to 29 at the Clement Track and Collier Throwing Centre.

"We are looking forward to seeing more than a thousand elementary school athletes who come from all over B.C.," says Kajaks executive board member Lanie Man. "The B.C. Elementary Track and Field Championships (BCEC) has been a stepping stone for most kids as their first exposure to compete in a big sanctioned meet. We strive to provide a fun, safe, and supportive environment for the student athletes to compete in."

The event is open to all students in grades 3 to 7, with no qualifying or experience necessary. Participants can register as individuals, choosing the events they want to compete in, or as part of their school team. Medals, ribbons, and team awards will be given out in running, jumping, and throwing events.

When the event first started, Man says, more than 70 per cent of participants came from Richmond schools.



Photos submitted

Kajaks Track and Field Club hosts the 52nd annual B.C. Elementary Track and Field Championships this weekend.

"In the mid to late 1960s, there were only meets for high school students. Longtime Kajaks coaches Carl Savage and Kim Young thought of how to fill that void for the elementary students, (and) created the BCEC in 1968 for that reason," says Man. "At its peak in the 1970s and 1980s, it boasted over 2,500 athletes who came (from) as far (away) as Bella Coola."

The event is the biggest fundraiser for the Kajaks, and organizers want to increase the participation of Richmond schools.

"This year not all elementary schools have a track zone meet," says Man. "The BCEC can give them the experience of a real track and field meet."

For more information, visit kajaks.ca/bcec

• hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

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).

www.richmond.ca



YouTube



Bespoke homes available in Richmond

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

The demand for homes in Richmond is rapidly growing with a population increase of nearly six per cent in the last seven years.

Bespoke Builders is a local company owned by Raymond Huang, a construction and interior design expert, and brothers Jordan and Jason Su who have expertise in civil engineering and urban planning.

"A lot of new people (are) coming to Richmond. This year alone there (are) an estimated 100,000 people coming to Canada from Ukraine and those people need a home," says Jordan, the company's manager of development and marketing. "It's a great thing that Richmond is able to help out."

Bespoke Builders is at the forefront of creating customized homes for people who want a unique design.

"A lot of (first-time buyers) in Richmond love cookie-cutter homes because they're quick and easy money-makers—but our ambition is to create more communities that have homes people want to live in for a longer period of time," says Jordan.

The team works closely with homeowners to incorporate unique design features, from energy-efficient layouts to innovative high-tech dream homes.

"We cater to the individual needs of each client. Whatever the client wants, we work with it. We have our own architects, but depending on the budget we can be flexible," says manager of operations Jason. "One of the pillars of our company is the flexibility and customization of a building; everything is bespoke (and) customized to the taste of our

clients."

The company has built a variety of homes ranging from modest to high-end luxury designs.

"Another pillar of our company is the ability to collaborate with owners and get them to dive deep into what they want out of their home," says Jason. "We work with them throughout the whole process to keep them informed and make sure they are getting what they want—that's a large part of the unique service we offer."

Huang's background is in interior design, but he comes from what he describes as "a construction family."

"When I was a kid I always worked with my father, and learning about construction with him inspired me toward a career in interior design," adds manager of construction Huang.

According to the Bespoke Builders team, Canada is an industry leader in green energy architecture and many engineers from Canada are contracted to do work overseas.

"The step code ensures that buildings in Richmond meet net zero carbon emissions for energy use. We explain how that works to our clients and help them choose materials and design features that respect our world-class environmental standards," says Huang.

The company has solar power technology readily available to clients because the future of real estate in Richmond will increasingly rely on renewable energy sources.

Flood-proofing is another important consideration when building homes in Richmond.

"In general, we reinforce the foundation of a



Photo courtesy Bespoke Builders

From left: Raymond Huang, Jordan Su, and Jason Su, the owners of Bespoke Builders.

home to ensure it can withstand exterior damage due to flooding, but in high-risk areas we have our engineers design pump systems," says Huang. "We have new technology that is compatible with smart home systems, so if the water level is too high it will trigger an alarm to warn the homeowners of any serious flood risks."

The company wants to grow to serve more home builders in Richmond, but not at the expense of the bespoke service it offers.

"We want to have a part in every detail. We're not just partners, we're hands on. Being a part of the process is a core value of the company because we are providing a service to private homeowners, so we need to be able to deliver a higher level of quality," says Jason.

For more information on Bespoke Builders, visit bespokebuilderltd.com

• angels@richmondsentinel.ca

Chamber welcomes new president

Shaena Furlong is the newly appointed president and chief executive officer of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

Furlong has spent the last decade working for the organization in various capacities, most recently as its director of operations. She is passionate about connecting members to each other and finds inspiration in the members she gets to work with every day.

Furlong takes over from Dan Baxter, whose departure for personal reasons was announced earlier this month.

"We thank Mr. Baxter for his work in continuing the 97-year tradition of the chamber's commitment to furthering business in our community and wish him well in his future endeavours," said board chair Carolyn Robertson.

The chamber also welcomed new communications and policy coordinator Aleena Hussain this month.

And in late April, for the first time since 2019, chamber members gathered in-person for their Annual General Meeting and confirmed a new board of directors.



Photo courtesy Richmond Chamber of Commerce
Formerly the Richmond Chamber of Commerce's director of operations, Shaena Furlong is taking on the post of president and chief executive officer.

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce 2022/2023 board of directors includes:

- Chair: Carolyn Robertson, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Vice-chair: Lisa Cowell, Aspire Richmond (formerly Richmond Society for Community Living)
- Corporate secretary: Naomi Horsford, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
- Treasurer: Fan Chun, Dr. Power
- Executive-at-large: Lisa Wong, Lauren Financial
- Executive-at-large: Grant Bryan, O'Hare's Gaspub & Liquor Store
- Directors:
 - Mirjana Galovich, Gateway Theatre
 - Stephanie Howes, Melville School of Business, Kwantlen Polytechnic University
 - Chuck Keeling, Great Canadian Gaming Corporation
 - Cila Kwong, RBC Insurance
 - Rachel Li, Roynat Capital, Scotiabank

- Bernard Loh, Next Environmental Inc.
- Jason Tse, Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR)
- Connor Williams, Vice-President, Ashton Service Group

Teenager displays sweet art installation

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Angel Yuan is a 16-year old artist who recently displayed her original art installation, *Sugar Coated*, at Richmond's Lipont Gallery.

The display is a colourful landscape, reminiscent of mountain ranges depicted in Dr. Seuss's art, that replicates the appearance of quartz crystal with the use of sugar.

Yuan's unconventional work of art intends to convey a message about the importance of reporting both the "sweet" and "salty" side of environmental issues. She believes that the truth about humans' impact on the environment shouldn't be sugar-coated with optimism.

"I went to a recycling centre to pick out each piece of Styrofoam for the structure, cleaned them up, and then used sugar to colour them instead of a toxic material like spray paint," says Yuan. "Underneath the sugar coating is bits and pieces of news articles and information about the environment, but you can't really see it because it's covered in sugar—therefore sugar-coating news about the environment."

Yuan wanted to create art with a message that people don't need to read into, which instead speaks for itself.

"The media says there's time for us to act, but I think we need to admit that it's already gotten out of hand," says Yuan. "We need the media to portray our environmental impact at face value, so that people feel a sense of urgency. We can't ignore things that are negative, we have to show them too because that's how you get people to pay attention. I don't want to create a sense of doom and gloom, because that can be discouraging. The goal is to create positive change based on



Photo by Angel St. George

Teenage artist Angel Yuan encourages honesty through her sustainable art.

honesty."

The young artist believes change starts with little choices people make every day that could contribute to a healthier environment.

"The things I do to minimize the impact I have on the environment (include) working with sustainable materials when creating art," says Yuan. "Being more aware of the little choices I make is an important part of making a positive change on a large scale."

Yuan also avoids fast fashion when she can, and instead buys pieces that are ethically sourced and made to last. Fast fashion gets its name from the speed at which high volumes of clothing are produced, although items tend to be lower-quality and more inexpensive to purchase.

According to the Recycling Council of Ontario,

the average Canadian throws out 81 pounds of clothing annually. North Americans send 10 million tonnes of clothing to the landfill every year, most of which could be reused or recycled according to statistics compiled by Waste Reduction Week in Canada.

When an item is thrown away, not only does the item itself go to waste, but also the natural resources required to create it.

"People often buy cheap (items) because they can buy more, but I challenge those people to ask themselves if they really need to buy that much," says Yuan. "It's rewarding to know where the things you buy are coming from and that the hands that make them are the hands of people (who) are rewarded fairly for their work."

•angels@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.

6			4						
				2					
2		9							6
									7
			6		2				
					1				
	9								
									3

SUDOKU

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



DOORS *open*

RICHMOND

June 2 to 5, 2022

Explore **35** of Richmond's unique cultural and civic sites. In-person and Online. **FREE**

Learn more by visiting www.richmondmuseum.ca
and follow **#DoorsOpenRichmond**