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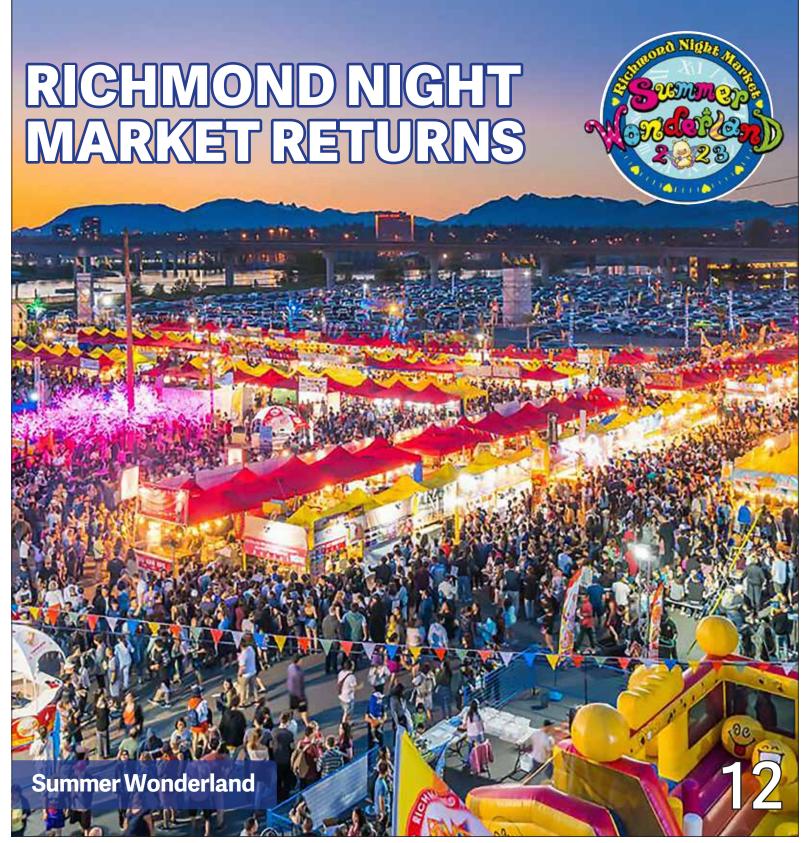


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VOL. 7 ISSUE 7

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

APRIL 25 - MAY 9, 2023



Richmond, one of Canada's most family friendly cities

By MATTHEW CHEUNG Reporter

Richmond has been recognized as one of the most family friendly cities in Canada, according to Clever Canadian. Placing at number six, the city is beat out by Quebec City, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and their neighbouring city Vancouver.

Data for each city was based off of the following indicators: population, number of families with children, unemployment rate, safety index, average household income, average household monthly costs, median house price, median monthly daycare cost, number of daycares, and the number of parks.

Richmond has a population of 209,937, and 38,215 families with children. The city ranked fourth in unemployment rate at 3.3 per cent and third in safety with a safety index if 77.71. When it comes to cost of living, Richmond was ranked ninth, with an average household income of \$84,096, and twenty-sixth in average monthly household costs at \$3,967.56. The city's welcoming atmosphere ranked thirty-seventh in number of daycares, with two that cost an average of \$1,200 per month. The vast number of parks present in the city resulted in the city being ranked thirteenth in number of parks, with a total of 140 parks. As of Oct. 2022, Richmond was able to beat out other cities like Toronto, Montreal, and Winnipeg for most family-friendly cities in Canada.

Richmond has won many awards as a city, they were named honourable mention in the cultural events award, recognized by Athletic Business as one of their ten Facilities of Merit because of the Minoru Centre for Active Living, and home to the number one airport hotel in North America for the ninth consecutive year. In addition to those awards, Richmond also won British Columbia's



Photo via visitrichmondbc.com

Richmond was named the sixth most family-friendly city in Canada.

Most Active Community Award.

The City of Richmond has grown since its incorporation as a municipality in 1879. With rich history in fishing, agriculture, aviation, and manufacturing, the city has become more multicultural, welcoming immigrants from all around the world every year and becoming the centre of aviation in British

Clever Canadian is a website that started off with four friends who were just looking to find the perfect bar for them to get drinks and watch a hockey game. They searched for reviews by locals who understood what Canada had to offer and discovered the difficulty of finding good reviews that were accurate, reliable, accessible, and con-

This prompted them to start their own product and services review website, gathering info through long brainstorming sessions and discussions over cups of coffee. The website is now fully operational, offering reviews about entertainment, money, services, and shopping across Canada as well as guides and tips for incoming tourists and those considering immigrating to Canada.

For more information, visit clevercanadian.ca

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Stratas one step closer to EV charging stations

More people living in strata buildings will soon be able to charge their electric vehicles (EVs) at home as the province has introduced legislation to make it easier for strata corporations and owners to install charging stations.

"Many B.C. strata residents are eager to make the switch to electric vehicles, but the lack of charging stations in their buildings is holding them back," said Minister of Housing, Ravi Kahlon. "Our government is committed to help people reduce their carbon footprints by improving access to EV charging stations in residential buildings. That's why we've introduced legislation to make it easier for strata corporations to greenlight charging

The proposed amendments to the Strata Property Act, introduced on April 6, 2023, will improve access to EV charging stations in residential stra-

• lowering the voting threshold from 75 per cent to 50 per cent approval for expenditures and changes to common and personal property that are needed to install EV charging stations;

- requiring strata corporations to obtain an electrical planning report to help understand the building's electrical capacity and plan for the expansion of EV charging stations; and
- requiring strata corporations to approve owners' requests to install EV charging stations at the owners' expense, when reasonable criteria are met.

"B.C. has one of the largest public electric vehicle charging networks in Canada, but we need to make it easier for more people to charge their EVs at home," said Minister of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation Josie Osborne. "When people have access to EV charging stations at home, they're much more likely to purchase electric vehicles. This new legislation builds on our ongoing work to get more EVs on the road, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and meet our climate goals."

The province has introduced several initiatives to encourage people to purchase electric vehicles, including the CleanBC Go Electric Passenger Vehicle Rebate program and a provincial sales tax exemption on used EVs. As a result of these initiatives, the number of EVs on B.C.'s roads has increased from 5.000 in 2016 to more than 109.000 as of December 2022.

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Lawn water regulations in effect May 1

Ceasonal regulations that limit Olawn watering for Metro Vancouver homes and businesses to once per week will come into effect on May 1, in an effort to conserve the region's drinking water for the hot, dry months ahead.

"We are increasingly seeing variable weather patterns due to climate change, and we can't always count on rainfall to replenish our water supply when we need it," said George V. Harvie, chair of Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors. "Last year's dry fall resulted in an extension to lawn watering regulations and reinforced that good conservation habits by all residents and businesses are an im-



Photo via Wikimedia Commons

Lawn water regulations come to effect on May 1.

portant part of how we will continue to meet our region's drinking water needs."

Residents and businesses will be permitted to water lawns one morning per week during Stage 1 of the Drinking Water Conservation Plan, with designated days determined by property address and type. Trees, shrubs, and flowers may be watered in the morning when using a sprinkler, or any time when hand watered or using drip irrigation. Edible plants are exempt from the regulations. Lawn watering regulations will be in place May 1 until Oct. 15.

If there is a need to move to Stage 2 during the summer, the public will be notified and lawn watering will not be permitted at all for residential and non-res-

"Reducing lawn watering is the most effective way to lower demand for water and save treated drinking water for where it is needed most: for cooking, cleaning, and drinking" said Malcolm Brodie, Chair of Metro Vancouver's Water Committee. "With a little preparation and care, you can still have a healthy lawn while adhering to watering regulations."

Stage 1 residential lawn watering allowed:

Even-numbered addresses: Saturdays—automatic watering between 5 and

7 a.m., and manual watering between 6 and 9 a.m.

Odd-numbered addresses: Sundays—automatic watering between 5 and 7 a.m., and manual watering between 6 and 9 a.m.

Trees, shrubs, and flowers can be watered with a sprinkler any day between 5 and 9 a.m., or any time by hand or using drip irrigation.

Stage 1 non-residential lawn watering allowed:

Even-numbered addresses: Mondays—automatic watering between 4 and 6 a.m., and manual watering between 6 and 9 a.m.

Odd-numbered addresses: Tuesdays—automatic watering between

4 and 6 a.m., and manual watering between 6 and 9 a.m.

Trees, shrubs, and flowers can be watered with a sprinkler any day between 4 and 9 a.m., or any time by hand or using drip irrigation.

These restrictions do not apply to the use of rain water, grey water, any forms of recycled water, or other sources of water outside the regional and municipal drinking water supply system. Member jurisdictions enforce watering restrictions through local bylaws.

Metro Vancouver's water supply comes from rainfall and snowmelt in three mountain water supply areas that fill the Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam

Metro Vancouver collaborates with member jurisdictions to plan for and deliver drinking water services to nearly 2.8 million residents using a system of water supply areas, dams, treatment facilities, reservoirs, pump stations, and water mains. Upgrades are regularly made to the system to maintain the regional district's ability to reliably provide clean, safe drinking water.

Find tips and tricks for indoor and outdoor water conservation, as well as ideas for how to maintain a healthy lawn, at welovewater.ca

In honour of our soldiers: John Abercrombie

By SAMUEL CHENG Reporter

In a series of Richmond's 'poppy' street signs in memory of our fallen soldiers, we share the story of Abercrombie Drive and Abercrombie Place.

Private John James Watson Abercrombie, also known as Jack Abercrombie, was born on May 9, 1925 in Richmond, BC. He lived with both of his parents and two sisters, May and Doris, before graduating from Richmond High School.

The young man was employed by Boeing Aircraft, which was located on Sea Island at the time. His dream was to join the Royal Canadian Air Force, however, there were no opportunities available for a man of his age.

During the height of the Second World War, he was enlisted in the Calgary Highlanders in the January of 1944. Abercrombie received basic training while he was in Canada, before going overseas out of the Halifax Port in 1944.

In one of the letters he sent home to his family, it was recorded that he enjoyed his time and stay in England. A couple of months later, Abercrombie arrived in France on Sept 1, 1944 and was unfortunately fatally wounded seven days later.

Richmond's council passed the resolution on February 4, 1946 to adopt two streets under Abercrombie's name. Today, the poppy logos can be found on the street signs of Abercrombie Drive and Abercrombie Place located on Minoru Boulevard as we commemorate the hero that served our nation.



Screen grab from Google Maps

A poppy engraved road sign of Abercrombie Drive.

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Province supports improved access to Steveston Harbour

he province is helping improve access to Steveston Harbour by supporting dredging that will maintain the Cannery Channel approach to the harbour, the largest commercial fishing harbour in Canada.

"Reliable harbour access is vital for fishers and Steveston's rich community of maritime businesses," said MLA for Richmond-Steveston, Kelly Greene, on behalf of Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Rob Fleming. "This grant supports the Steveston Harbour Authority's plan to improve navigation in the Steveston Harbour and channel so that vessels can access the harbour services they need in a safe and timely manner. Our vibrant fishing and maritime economy will thrive for years to come as a result of this dredging project, supported by our government."

A buildup of sediment in the south arm of the Fraser River is beginning to interfere with navigation into Steveston Harbour. The Steveston Harbour Authority has requested funding from all levels of government to undertake the planning, dredging and disposal work to improve safe access to the harbour.

Government has provided a \$2.1-million grant to the Steveston Harbour Authority to support

"Thanks to the Province of B.C.'s generous grant, which will fund one-quarter of the Steveston Cannery channel dredging project, commercial fishers will have safe access to Steveston Harbour Authority and the 45 businesses on site that they rely on to provide seafood to Canadians," said Jaime Gusto, general manager, Steveston Harbour Authority. "As the hub of B.C.'s commercial fishing industry, access to Steveston Harbour ensures the continued success of our fleet and B.C.'s seafood industry



Photo via flickr

The province is supporting dredging that will maintain the Cannery Channel approach to the harbour, improving access to the Steveston Harbour.

in both the local and global markets."

This dredging project will support the economic benefit of Steveston Harbour to Richmond and the Metro Vancouver region. Between 22 million and 45 million kilograms of seafood is offloaded every year at the harbour, supporting thousands of jobs in the fishing industry, and benefiting tourism in Steveston Village, which had 1.7 million visitors in 2019.

"Steveston's waterfront and harbour is an im-

portant part of Richmond's history and economy," said Malcolm Brodie, mayor of Richmond. "An effective long-term dredging strategy is crucial to ongoing access. The City of Richmond will continue to work with others including senior levels of government, City of Delta, Tsawwassen First Nations, Musqueam Indian Band, Steveston Harbour Authority, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and Metro Vancouver to achieve that."

he Richmond Sentinel is a not-for-profit community newspaper. We are always look-Ing for stories about the Richmond community, about the history, the people and on-going activities. If you would like to write a story we would love to talk to you. Please contact newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca





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The popular Garry Point park

By MATTHEW CHEUNG Reporter

arry Point Park is a landmark Aknown to many British Columbians. Located in Steveston Village, it was recognized as a park in 1989, but was already inhabited prior to European settlement. The area had previously been a Musqueam settlement before Captain Aemilius Simpson arrived in 1827.

The open green space is located

at the southwest point of the City of Richmond, on the sturgeon banks of the Fraser River. Approximately 74 hectares of space, the park features large grass lawns, beaches, waterfront views, and rocky coastlines.

In 1899, the Scottish Canadian Cannery was built at the western edge of Garry Point Many cannery workers lived nearby on housing that was constructed over the water.

In 1905, Atagi Boatworks which was located at the head of the slough continued the tradition of boatbuilding by skilled Japanese carpenters in Steveston, but the family was forced to leave in the 1940s during internment. In the 1950s, the slough was cleared out by the Canadian Fishing Company in order to create a pond for their expanding fishing fleet.

Scotch Pond is an area that holds historical associations with a number of themes that relate to Richmond's history. It was the main area for First Nations settlement, the Steveston canning and fishing industries, and Japanese boat-

Garry Point Park also features multiple walking trails. The main walking trail



File photo

Garry Point Park is a must visit for any trip that involves Richmond.

area, the fisherman's memorial needle, and easy access to a sandy beach. North of the trail is another pathway that follows the dykes called West Dyke Trail, it measures approximately five kilometres long and connects to Terra Nova Park.

connects to a pond, a picnic day use

Additional amenities to Garry Point Park include a concession stand that serves gelato during the summer, public washrooms, the Kuno Gardens; a Japanese memorial garden

filled with colours and aromas dedicated to the first Japanese immigrant from Wakayama Japan. Garry Point Park also provides a view of the Salish Sea and is considered by many to be one of the best places to watch the sun set in Rich-

Garry Point is also the location of the annual Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival. The festival was established in 2017 to showcase the 255 Akebono cherry trees donated by the people from the Wakayama prefecture to recognize and honour the immigrants who immigrated to Steveston and other areas along the

Along with the vast amount of picnic tables, the landscape for Garry Point Park is also perfect for many other types of activities. Visitors can enjoy a nice walk along the beach, enjoy their nice lunch on the beached logs, watch or participate in kite flying, power kiting, and frisbee throwing.

Located minutes from the Steveston Village, the Garry Point Park is a must visit destination in British Columbia.

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First pod hotel in Greater Vancouver area

By SAMUEL CHENG Reporter

panda Pod Hotel, located at the corner of No. 3 Road and Granville Avenue, offers a distinctive option of hospitality unlike any others.

"It's the only capsule hotel in the entire greater Vancouver area, making it a truly distinct lodging option," says Jennifer Mutiara, marketing manager of Panda Pod Hotel.

It was founded in Richmond by Sharon Cheung in 2019 and is proudly Canadian owned even to this day. The hotel features unique, capsule-like rooms at an affordable price. It strives to bring comfort and convenience to its guests without breaking the bank.

"Panda Pod Hotel has managed to find its footing in the competitive hospitality market of greater Vancouver, despite the challenges of being a pioneer in its field," says Mutiara.

It is worth noting that the hotel has stood its ground during the worst of the COVID-19 times, when nearly 40 per cent of the hotels in the area were forced to close down. However, it was the spirit of resilience and fast adaptability that kept the young business alive, even in the most challenging

"As a small yet resilient start-up, (Panda Pod Hotel's) achievements highlight the importance of perseverance and adaptability in a constantly changing landscape," says Mutiara.

Why Panda? When asked the reasons behind the theme of the hotel, the panda icon came out on top due to its symbolism with inclusivity and unity across all cultures.

"It represents the hotel's commitment to embracing diversity and fostering an inclusive environment for all its guests," says Mutiara.

At the core of inclusivity and diversity is love. Panda Pod Hotel wishes to bring warmth and care through their exceptional level of services and caterings supports.

"The Panda Pod Hotel wishes to share the love and warmth that the panda embodies with each of its visitors," says Mutiara.

Another driving factor that fueled the start to Panda Pod Hotel is Cheung's passion for people and travel. She feels that there are still gaps yet to be filled in the hospitality industry that caters to the younger generation as well as, other spirited travellers. She aims to bridge the gap by offering a unique hotel that resonates with travellers from around

"This realization ignited a desire within me to create a space that caters to these modern adventurers, providing them with an experience tailored to their preferences and lifestyles," says Mutiara.

Unlike other longstanding businesses, Panda Pod Hotel is still at the infant stage of the development. Therefore, its primary goal is to increase the number of guests and making the name brand



Photos courtesy Panda Pod Hotel

The entrance and parking lot of the hotel.

known.

"The hotel, with its loving panda-inspired theme, hopes to become a beloved fixture in the community," says Mutiara.

Panda Pod Hotel has four pillars of characteristics that attributes to the goals of compact design, affordable rates and efficient lodging.

The first pillar is space utilization. Panda Pod Hotel's capsule-style space allows them to fit more beds in a given area compared to other hotels, inns, and motels. This allows more guests to be accommodated without wasting the luxury of space.

The second pillar is affordability. One of the ways that Panda Pod Hotel chooses to give back to its guests is through their attractive pricing. When compared to other accommodation options, it is hard to beat the price that the capsule hotel has to offer. Not to mention the fact that it is the most ideal option for budget conscious travellers.

The third pillar is privacy. Despite the relatively small capacity, the facility does not compromise the guests' personal space by sacrificing privacy.

The last pillar is amenities. Don't let the economical rate fool you into thinking that the hotel is going to cheap out on amenities. Aside from the communal sleeping area, Panda Pod Hotel also offers Wi-Fi, charging stations, vending machines, washer and dryer machines, a massage chair, and more.

"Panda Pod Hotel caters to the changing preferences of modern travelers who seek convenience and minimalistic spaces without compromising on comfort," says Mutiara.

To be able to keep the business running for nearly half a decade, the hotel is not shy when it comes to attributing the success to its fabulous and hardworking staff and employees. It is truly a collective effort when it comes to providing exceptional customer service while putting the guests' needs as the number one priority.

"Each team member brings their unique talents and unwavering commitment to the table, working tirelessly to make the hotel the best it can be," says

However, it was not all smooth sailing for the business as there were ups and downs in their journey thus far. As a pioneer of introducing the capsule-like hotels to Canada, public awareness is easily the biggest challenge as the general public are clueless to the out-of-the-ordinary style accommodation; let alone competing with other big-brand, local hotels and inns.

"The hotel's biggest challenge lies in competing with larger corporations when it comes to advertising budgets and online visibility," says Mutiara.

Adding salt to the wound, COVID-19 has put a hefty financial load of debt on the back of the hotel. Despite the huge financial loss, the hotel still prioritized the public safety and health over profit, by voluntarily closing their doors temporarily well before the announcements from the federal government.

"While this decision was made in the best interest of guests and the community, it inevitably resulted

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A glimpse of the "capsules" inside the Panda Pod Hotel.

in more debts than anticipated," says Mutiara.

As part of the everchanging industry, the Panda Pod Hotel is in discussion to introduce pods for couples. It aims to appeal to a wider range of guests with added emphasis on inclusivity.

Additionally, the hotel is exploring of the possibilities of implementing artificial intelligence (A.I.) technologies to streamline the check-in and check-out protocol.

"By automating these tasks, the front desk staff can dedicate their full attention to addressing guests' needs and providing exceptional service," says Mutiara

The idea of establishing connections with the community has always been one of the hotel's missions. Through forging links with the local business partners, the Panda Pod Hotel wishes to provide top-of-the-line services to its guests.

"This collaborative approach aims to ensure that no matter what their guests are seeking, they can find the resources and services they need," says Mutiara.

Speaking of guests, the Panda Pod Hotel shares its insight for retaining customers. Through placing the needs, safety, and concerns of the guests as the top priority, the hotel ensures that its guests are receiving the best services possible.

"Ensuring that guests feel truly cared for and understood is essential to fostering lasting relationships with them," says Mutiara.

Aside from having happy customers, keeping the staff's best interest is equally important. The business shares four tips for keeping its employees in check.

Open communication between the staff and the guests provide a transparent bridge of communication. Expressing the appreciation for the staff's efforts and contributions are some of the best ways to reward its team members.

Paving a bright, well-lit career path as well as offering competitive wages encourages the staff to stay with the business. It provides them the opportunity to grow while celebrating their contribution.

Lastly, the interview concludes with Cheung sharing her piece of advice for future entrepreneurs.

"Embarking on an entrepreneurial journey is not for the faint of heart. It demands constant attention, risk-taking, and perseverance through hardships and steep learning curves," says Cheung. "There's always the possibility of losing everything due to inexperience. However, with passion and dedication, one can make a significant impact."

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Asphalt Paving Advisory

April 15 to October 31, 2023

The City of Richmond has contracted BA Blacktop Ltd. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from April 15 to October 31, 2023.**

PROPOSED 2023 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

12000 Westminster Highway (No.5 Rd – MOTI) – including the No.5 Road Intersection

9000 Block Cambie Road (Garden City Road – No.4 Road) including both intersections

10000 Block No.6 Road (Steveston Hwy – Triangle Rd) including both Intersections

11000 Block Shell Road (Steveston Hwy to Hammersmith Gate)

Cambie Road (No.5 Road to Jacombs Road)

10000 Block Wilkinson Road (No.4 R – Swinton Crescent) – both intersections included

12000 Block Steveston Highway (No.5 Rd to MOTI) – No.5 Road Intersection included

4000 Block Francis Road (No.1 Rd to Lancelot Gate)

5000 Block Garden City Road (Westminster Highway to Lansdowne Road) – both Intersections included PLUS MUP mill and Pave

11000 Block Shell Road (Steveston Hwy to Hammersmith Gate)

11000 Block Hammersmith Gate (Shell Road – Hammersmith Way)

River Road (No. 3 Road - Charles Street)

22000 Block Westminster Hwy (MOTI – Mclean Avenue) including Mclean intersection

9000 Block No.5 Road (Seacliff Road to Kingsbridge Drive) – Williams Rd and Kingsbridge Drive intersections included

8000 Block No.3 Road (Francis Road – Blundell Road) – Both intersections included

2000 Block Viking Way (Bridgeport Rd – Vulcan Way) – includes Vulcan Way intersection

3000 Block Jacombs Road (Cambie Road to Bathgate Way) – Both intersections included

13000 Block Bathgate Way (Sweden Way – Jacombs Road) – both intersections included

4000 Block Boundary Road (Westminster Hwy to Thompson Gate including Thompson Gate intersection

No.6 Road (Cambie Road to Bridgeport Road)

18000 Block River Road (No.8 Road to Nelson Road)

Douglas Crescent + Wellington Crescent + Wellington Avenue + Handley Avenue + Catalina Crescent + Anson Avenue

11000 Block Steveston Highway (Shell Road to Coppersmith Place)

River Drive – West bound lane only (No.4 Road to Van Horne Way)

3451 Blundell Road – Vibration Complaint

4480 Williams Road – Vibration Complaint

Work hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Night time work hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (typically).

Traffic will be reduced to single-lane and there may be temporary lane closures. Delays may occur. The use of an alternate route is strongly encouraged.

This work is weather dependent and dates are subject to change without notice.

The scope of the advertised work may be adjusted or cancelled in line with available funding.

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at **604-276-4189**, or visit the City's paving program web page at https://www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/projects/construction.htm.

www.richmond.ca **f**







Moms Stop the Harm Richmond rally

By LORRAINE GRAVES Contributor

ike the row on row of military graves in a World War battlefield, the purple flags – 2,272 in total - gently waved in the spring breeze at Minoru Field on April 14. Each one representing a 2022 casualty of poisoned drugs who, according to Debbie Tablotney, Richmond Board of School Trustees Chair. "Didn't deserve to die."

Debbie, her husband Andrew and their two surviving sons, Trevor and Troy, lost the middle Tablotney child, Curtis, on Dec 14, 2022 to an overdose. The meds he had purchased illegally to control the voices in his head also contained an unknown amount of a toxins that killed him. He had struggled for 10 years.

At Curtis's memorial service his oldest brother, Trevor, said, "No parent should have to do CPR on their child, much less twice."

Representatives of Richmond city council, the Richmond School Trustees, and Richmond MLAs in attendance were all clear; they know what it will take to save lives: safe supply, safe injection sites, better mental health services, and a local detox centre so these young adults can be kept alive, be treated and helped back to a mentally healthy life. Each representative talked of the stigma of drug use and how it's kept hidden, an all-too-common problem, a problem that is killing young adults in Richmond and throughout British Columbia.

On this day seven years ago, the provincial government declared an overdose emergency. Since then, the number of deaths has continued to climb, reaching 11,090-more than have died from COVID.

Trevor Tablotney said, "It's these drugs. The problem is prohibition. That's why people are dying," harkening back to the days of liquor prohibition when many died of poisoned, illegal alcohol.

City councillor, Carol Day was clear, "Safe supply. That's what it's all about." She mentioned that everybody has their crutch and for some it is a glass of wine, for others it is something else.

Former Vancouver Police officer, city councillor Andy Hobbes called for less judgement and more understanding.

De Whelan, long an advocate and ardent worker helping those who struggle, said Richmond offers no detox centres, places where those wishing to stop using drugs can go to safely reduce the drugs in their system. Stopping drugs suddenly, for those with a dependency, including alcohol, can lead to serious medical consequences or even death. It has to be medically managed yet there is no dedicated facility to do this in Richmond.

What Richmond does have is the Anne Vogel Clinic at Unit 210 - 7671 Alderbridge Way. Patients can call (604) 675-3975 for an appointment. They



Photo courtesy Lorraine Graves

2,272 flags flutter in the breeze at Minoru Park, each representing a young person who died from poisoned illegal drugs.

do not need a doctor's referral. The clinic does not dispense meds but can write prescriptions for opioid replacement medications and offers free fentanyl test strips so people can test their supply for this powerful drug. As well, safe using supplies such as syringes and pipes are available for free in the lobby. People do not need to be a client at the clinic to pick them up.

Troy, the youngest Tablotney, mentioned that in addition to his brother, he also lost a friend to poisoned drugs. A friend who had become dependent upon a prescription drug. A friend who had dreams; he was studying to become a pilot. No longer able to obtain a prescription, the friend resorted to the dark web, ordering the med from an untraceable internet source. A batch that contained fentanyl killed him - a young man with such promise, according to Troy.

So many flags, dotting the grassy field yet, as each speaker and attendee told their story, it became clear that each flag represented a tragedy for an entire family, each a preventable death, a young adult's life cut short.

As the speeches ended, mothers came forward to plant half a dozen more flags, representing the 6 more people who will die today, and tomorrow another 6, recognizing these tragedies will continue until action is taken. Moms Stop the Harm calls on all levels of government to provide safe drugs to keep their children alive until they can find mental health support and treatment for their drug dependencies.

A common thread among the grieving families was that their adult child needed mental health services they could not get. Mental illness costs Canadians over \$50 billion dollars per year, according to the Canadian Association for Mental Health. Yet, all levels of government combined spend about three quarters of a billion dollars per year on mental health.

MLA Henry Yao told the assembled families, "I cannot imagine your pain." Yao spoke of his love for his little daughter and said, "Let us find ways to break the stigma so people can find support and not be ashamed."

The Tablotney family has started Tell YourOverdoseStory2022@gmail.com for those who have been affected to tell their stories anonymously or by name in photos, drawings, poems, or prose.

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Arts Connection supports families in Sri Lanka



Photo courtesy Arts Connection

The Arts Connection recently raised \$22,000 to help two families in Sir Lanka.

Arts Connection, a Steveston-based arts school and childcare centre, recently raised \$22,000 to help two families in Sri Lanka. For one family with no home, a piece of land was purchased and a house built from scratch and furnished. The other family initially had an unfinished home, which was finished and furnished. Additionally, 125 back-

packs filled with art supplies were prepared for students at a local elementary school, in addition to nine backpacks with supplies for teachers.

"Children learn by example and role modelling by teachers and parents," says Arts Connection chief executive officer Linda Shirley. "Our vision is to foster children who grow up to be good citizens and learn about empathy, caring, and sharing."

Funds were raised through various activities including Easter and Christmas cookie sales; sales of child-painted teacups filled with goodies for Mother's Day; a paint night for parents; and a children's art sale. Ticket sales at music recitals and dance performances also helped raise funds to donate.

"(The Arts Connection) also puts a lot of emphasis on community outreach through various fundraising and support projects, which I think naturally carries over into the personal values of our staff by nature of being surrounded by it," says School of Music Manager Ali Burns. "It definitely helps morale knowing that we have goals as a company that lie beyond just the numbers of the business."

Kim Chuck, an Arts Connection parent, said: "The amount of thought and care that is taken to nurture the children, while giving back to the community by being very charitable, is important for my family to invest in. It is key and necessary that we continue having art, dance, and music in our lives; Arts Connection does this by inspiring our children, the community, and our future."

This is not the first time Arts Connection has raised funds for those in need. The organization has donated regularly for the last 10 years to Jeremy's Memorial Foundation, and to the "Reach to Teach" program which offers art programs to underserved schools. Funds were also raised to support Fraser Valley flood victims and a family caring for a child with cancer.

Respiratory season update, spring COVID-19 boosters

Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, have issued the following statement on the end of the respiratory season and spring COVID-19 vaccine boosters:

"From the beginning of the pandemic, British Columbians have understood the need to put and keep in place measures to protect our communities and health-care system. This was important as we weathered the respiratory season over this past fall and winter with the combined effects of COVID-19 and influenza.

"At this time, we have seen a decrease in all respiratory viruses, allowing us to move forward with in removing some of the measures that were in place.

"Effective today, important changes have been made to the restrictions by provincial health officer orders and ministerial guidance. In particular, visitor restrictions in long-term care, assisted living, and health-care facilities have been lifted this includes the requirement for proof of vaccination to enter long-term care, assisted living, and health-care facilities, which is no longer in effect. Rapid antigen testing in long-term care is no longer required. Furthermore, universal mask-wearing by all staff and visitors in health-care facilities is no longer mandatory.

These changes signify a step forward in returning to pre-pandemic operations in long-term care, assisted living, and health-care facilities while maintaining a safe environment for all. However, there will still be some situations where masks will be required in health-care settings or situations where they have always been and protect workers against high-risk exposure to infectious diseases.

"It's important to recognize that COVID-19 is still with us, and as such, we must remain vigilant and continue surveillance to monitor the situation. As we approach the next respiratory season, we will be prepared to consider measures that may be necessary to ensure the safe functioning of our health-care system, including potentially reinstating some of the current measures.

"The spring booster vaccine program is available for people at the highest risk of severe illness or hospitalization, including those over 80 or immune compromised. The new booster will help to maintain and lengthen protection against severe outcomes of COVID-19, especially hospitalization and death. We also encourage everyone six months and older to get immunized with a primary series and a booster dose, including anyone 18 and over who has not yet received a bivalent booster dose.

"Appointments are available across the province at pharmacies and public health clinics and can be made by going to the Get Vaccinated website or phoning 1-883-838-2323.

"Individuals who have not yet been vaccinated are at a higher risk of contracting and spreading infectious diseases and having a more severe illness with COVID-19. We strongly encourage all individuals to receive their primary series of vaccinations and consider receiving a bivalent booster.

"Further, provincial health officer orders requiring health-care system workers to be vaccinated remain in place.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine

In their own words...

Ecological awareness – let's all be part of the solution



Michael Wolfe Councillor

As another Earth Week ends in Richmond, residents have found ways to better our relationship with the natural environment of our island city. Like my family, I hope you joined in some of the many planet-friendly programs available at city facilities and parks. In addition to Earth Week, the City runs a Partners for Beautification Program where you can adopt an area in your neighbourhood to help preserve natural spaces and enhance their biodiversity. Since 2005, I've adopted an area in West Cambie, close to where I grew up. More recently I provide stewardship to trails we frequent in the Hamilton neighbourhood.

Richmond strives to be a leader in environmental sustainability. Council recently adopted six focus areas as part of our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, one of which addresses our collective environmental impact. The City regularly organizes public events like tree-planting within our parks, and the inaugural resident tree sale event

at the city Works Yard where I picked up a native Vine Maple tree. Richmond has excellent Parks staff who work to give our growing habitats the best chance, but we all need to help keep litter and invasive species in check.

May is Invasive Species Month – a time for all areas of BC to target and eradicate species like Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy, Brazilian Elodea, American Bullfrog, European Chafer Beetle, and Norway Rats. All can harm and outcompete species native to this region. As people and goods move around the globe, we introduce plants, animals, and fungus to foreign places. This requires our staff to screen the soil we use in parks, and for residents to know what can and can't be ethically planted. When in doubt, contact 604-276-4316 or invasiveplants@richmond.ca and refer to Richmond's Invasive Species Management Plan on our website. We also have staff available to handle questions on our Pesticide Info Line at 604-276-4398, to ensure we do not use a banned product that does more harm to the environment and ourselves.

On May 13, I encourage you to attend the Public Works Open House at 5555 Lynas Lane where there will be activities and opportunities to connect with staff and learn about the many programs and services we provide. The last Open



House was in 2019 and a lot has changed since then. The Richmond Recycle Depot now takes more items to divert from our household garbage, and Council recently adopted the Richmond Circular City Strategy to accelerate our progress with over 80 actions – including 1.4.2 "Develop tools to promote behavioural change in households and businesses in relation to natural ecosystems." Find out more at 604-204-8643 or circulareconomy@richmond.ca

We're all in this together, so let's transform ourselves to be better ecoresidents in every way.

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.

Apr 25 | 4:00 p.m. Parks, Recreation 8

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Apr 26 | 3:30 p.m.

Development Permit Panel

May 1 | 4:00 p.m.

General Purposes

Committee followed
by Finance Committee

May 2 | 4:00 p.m. Planning Committee

May 8 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

May 9 | 4:00 p.m.

Community Safety

Committee

May 10 | 3:30 p.m. **Development Permit Panel**

May 15 | 4:00 p.m. General Purposes Committee followed by Finance Committee May 16 | 4:00 p.m. Planning Committee

May 17 | 4:00 p.m.

Public Works & Transportation Committee

May 23 | 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting



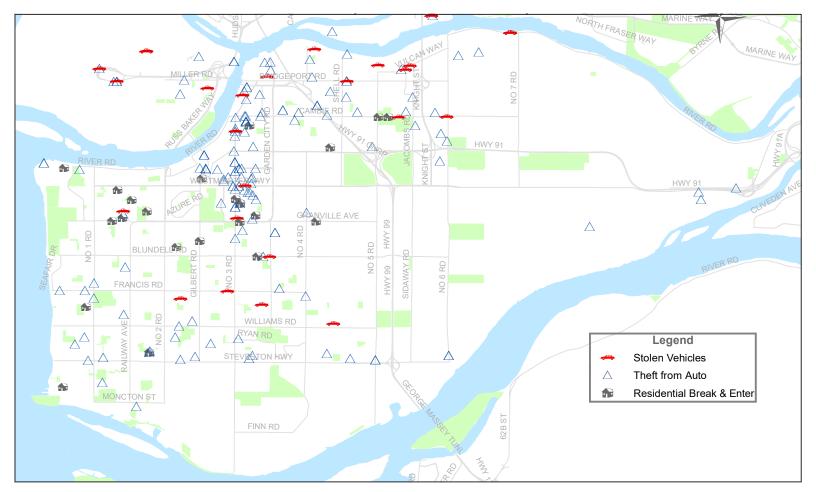
For meeting agendas and reports, visit www.richmond.ca/CityHall. Meeting schedule subject to change



richmondsentinel.ca April 25 - May 9, 2023 RCMP | 1



Crime Map Mar. 1 - 31, 2023



Minimum wage increases to \$16.75 per hour on June 1

On June 1, 2023, B.C.'s low-est-paid workers will get a pay raise with the general minimum wage increasing from \$15.65 to \$16.75 an hour.

"Having a minimum wage that keeps up with inflation is a key step to prevent the lowest paid workers from falling behind," said Minister of Labour Harry Bains. "These workers and their families feel the impacts of high costs much more than anyone else. We are maintaining our policy of tying the minimum wage to inflation."

The 6.9 per cent increase in minimum wage rates reflects B.C.'s average annual inflation rate in 2022. The adjustment reflects government's commitment to tie annual minimum wage increases to infla-



Photo by Jaana Björk

Minimum wage increases to \$16.75 on June 1.

tion. The same increase will apply to wages for residential caretakers, live-in home-support workers and camp leaders. On Jan. 1, 2024, piece rates for 15 hand-harvested crops will also increase by 6.9 per cent.

"Elevating the minimum wage is a necessary response to inflation. The

inflation we are experiencing now in B.C. is driven by profits, not wages," said Jim Stanford, director, Centre for Future Work. "It is unfair to expect the most vulnerable workers to give up some of their non-discretionary income because of record high inflation. By ensuring fairer compensation for our lowest-paid workers, we will reduce inequality and foster a more inclusive society."

The increase will positively affect approximately150,000 workers who earn less than \$16.75. Many are food service staff, grocery store workers, retail workers and others who were essential workers during the pandemic.

Government has made regular, gradual increases to the minimum wage to provide certainty for work-

ers and predictability for businesses. Overall, B.C.'s minimum wage has increased from one of the lowest in the country to one of the highest. The minimum wage was \$10.45 per hour in 2015.

For more information, visit news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023LBR0013-000445

Richmond a one-stop paradise for Asian food

By FLORENCE GORDON Contributer

The Richmond Night Market is more then an amusement park, it's an opportunity for small home-based business owners to experience marketing their products on the front line, to a captive audience of over one million customers in a season. What better way to test the market and give these small business owners the tools to build a successful long-term business plan that may one day become a retail store in a shopping mall.

In 2000, Raymond Cheung, a young entrepreneur himself, started the initial night market at the Continental Centre on Cambie Road with a similar vision on a much smaller scale. He knew he was on the right track when he outgrew this location.

He negotiated space at the Lansdowne Mall parking lot, not knowing if his concept of an outdoor market would appeal to the western culture. It wasn't long before the night market outgrew this location so he negotiated an agreement to lease the empty lot at the foot of No. 3 Road where RiverRock Casino stands today. At the time the RiverRock Casino, Hotel and Theatre was still in the development stage, but once the RiverRock construction started Raymond found a new location on River Road that was large enough to add a parking lot.

What most don't realize is, that with each move came a lot of challenges with permits, installation of plumbing and electrical supply, health and safety inspections, fire inspections, RCMP contract, private security and traffic control contracts.

Finally, after several years at this location, a decision to re-locate brought the Richmond Night Market back home to what is known as Duck Island, thus the history behind the night market's mascot. The property offered 18 acres including a king size parking lot. What a great location this turned out to be. With popularity came traffic challenges, but with a marketing campaign most discovered that the Canada Line and a bus loop

connecting to the Lower Mainland was right at the night market's doorstep.

Cheung has been known for introducing a new theme each year. In 2012 Return of the Dragon, Magical Candyland in 2014 and Pirate in 2015. In 2016 the Richmond Night Market transformed into Magical Dino Park with 18 moving and roaring life-size dinosaurs and many visitors were seen snapping selfies. In 2017, Cheung's night market celebrated Canada's 150th birthday featuring special entertainment and a massive birthday cake.

Then in 2020, plans were well underway for a new season when COVID-19 shut down all public activities until mid-summer of 2021. Cheung received three weeks' notice that he would be allowed to open the night market for a short season, from July 23 to Sept. 6, providing every safety precaution was adhered to. In an interview with the Richmond Sentinel, Cheung said normally it takes four months to plan a season, my team had three weeks to pull everything together. Back when this happened, a visit to the site found Cheung covered in paint and dirt, working alongside his crew determined to meet the re-opening deadline. Cheung said it was not an easy task to bring the vendors back, get the word out on such short notice while under new health and safety regulations, but he was determined to meet the challenge head on.

So, what's new for 2023? Cheung in an interview with the Richmond Sentinel said"my team is working hard to bring back the popular attractions of the Richmond Night Market that has given it international recognition.

The theme, 'Summer Wonderland' will include: 110 food booths and trucks, offering over 600 different items from around the world which we like to refer to as '2023 International Food Adventure'. For the first time foods from Indonesia, Turkey and Mexico will be featured for visitors to try and yes, foods and desserts from all four corners of the world are a popular mainstay of the market, but this year's attraction has amped up its international quotient.



For entertainment, the main stage will offer live performances including musicians, dance teams, martial art displays and much more, like the Wonderland themed forest"

The opening day, April 28, 2023.

Last year, the Canadian version of the Amazing Race Season 8, ended the TV race at the Richmond Night Market where the contestants had to perform several challenges within a very crowded venue before reaching its final destination in Vancouver. For those that watched the episode, it was great fun to identify all the familiar landmarks and to see Richmond being promoted on national television.

This premium location offers hundreds of parking spots on site. In addition, the Canada Line and a bus station offers transportation service with connections to the Lower Mainland just a block away. Admission is free to children seven and under and seniors 60 and older.

For more information richmondnightmarket. com









Photos courtesy Richmond Night Market

Some of the choices available Richmond's Night Market's International Food Court.

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I started teaching

golf after I ended my

professional playing

career in 2015.

Nathan Leonhardt



Photo courtesy
Nathan Leonhardt
Nathan Leonhardt, a
former pro golfer has
become an awardwinning golf instructor in
Richmond.

Richmond golf instructor's journey

By **MATTHEW CHEUNG**Reporter

Nathan Leonhardt, a resident of Richmond attended Palmer Secondary before he transferred to Richmond High in grade 10. It was at the age of 16 that he had fallen in love with the sport of golf.

"My family and I were with my aunt and uncle in Okanagan and they asked if I wanted to play with them. I didn't really have any interest in it, but they said I could drive the golf cart. I ended up going with them and tried playing a few holes. Surprisingly, I actually did quite well, making a par on one of the par

4's, once we came back home, I got a junior golf membership and the rest is history" said Nathan Leonhardt, director of instruction at Tour Development Academy

From that point on, Leonhardt had become addicted to the sport, practicing daily. "I was 16 years old when I first started playing golf and I joined Mayfair Lakes Golf Course as a junior member. I played and practiced pretty much every day. Like everyone else who golfs, I was addicted" said Leonhardt.

Once he graduated from Richmond High, Nathan took two years to perfect his craft before accepting a scholarship to Northwood University in Dallas, Texas. He then transferred to Arizona State University and then transferred to Johnson & Wales University (JWU)

in North Miami, Florida, where he was the captain of the men's golf team that was continually ranked one of the top five National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) teams in the nation. He graduated from JWU with a bachelor's in business management and was also awarded the honor of 'Athlete of the Year' two years in a row at JWU.

At the age of 25, Leonhardt joined the Canadian Professional Golf Tour, playing three full seasons before heading off to China to play in the PGA Tour China. During his time in Asia, Leonhardt experienced a bit of culture shock as things in China were not like they are in Canada. Despite the differences between the two locations, there was nothing but admiration for the conditions of the golf courses.

"While I was playing in China, I lived in a city called Shenzhen, I would travel to and from there to each tournament. But everything was different to what I was accustomed to here in Canada, golf wasn't' as accessible there as it is in

Vancouver (at the time). Practicing there was very difficult, however, the golf courses that we played on in tournaments were beautiful, and in amazing condition" said Leonhardt.

After the 2015 season, Leonhardt's playing career had to be put on hold due to a back injury, he slowly transitioned to an instructor role. He achieved over ten professional victories and holds two course records.

Using his Bachelor of Business Management, he opened Tour Development Academy in Richmond and was able to work with some of the top golfers that Richmond had to offer. Leonhardt's change in career has not altered his goals, he now hopes to be the best golf coach in Canada.

"When I finished my playing career in 2015, I was lucky enough to start working with some very talented junior golfers. My goals now are similar to what they were when I was playing, just in a different way. I always worked hard to try and be the best golfer, and that still holds true today when it comes to being a teacher of golf" said Leonhardt.

Since beginning his coaching career in 2015, Leonhardt has grown as a coach, being awarded the 2022 Teacher of the Year by the PGA of BC and named finalist for Canadian Teacher of the Year. Despite these accolades, the coach says that he is focused on getting the best out of his students.

"I started teaching golf after I ended my professional playing career in 2015. I was lucky enough to be awarded the 2022 Teacher of the Year by the PGA of BC last fall. I may not be competing as a player anymore, but I am competing through my students, helping them become the best they can be. It's very satisfying, just in a different way than it was before" said Leonhardt.

The Tour Development Academy, at Savage Creek Driving Range in Richmond allows its visitors to practice all year round despite weather conditions. "It's an amazing indoor/outdoor facility which allows us to hit indoors during the cold months and out into the driving range the rest of the time, all with the push of a button to open the garage doors. It's the vision I've had for myself and my business for a long time, so it's very exciting that it's now come to fruition" said Leonhardt.

For more information visit tdagolf.ca

•matthewc@richmondsentinel.ca

Tony Bennett said"I love the way you sing"

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS Contributors

ustralian singer/songwriter Auguanian Ginger, George Arthur has made a successful career performing around the world, including successful shows in Las Vegas. He has developed a musical style, as well as a voice, that is uniquely his own. Our City Tonight (OCT) recently had the opportunity to chat with Gregg Arthur-who is based in Sydney, Australia - about his latest album, "Jazz and Cocktails", the art of performing a jazz classic, and battling a life-threatening illness.

OCT: Gregg, we knew of you and your music from your Vegas days, but recently we were in Sydney, and saw a two-page story on you in the Sydney Morning Herald. Later, we spent some time listening to your music and became instant fans-just like Tony Bennett, who said "I love the way you sing. You're yourself, which makes you an original singer. Your phrasing is perfection."

Talk about your early days. You took lessons, and had supportive

mentors early on, which led you to find your voice, something very uniquely yours and, we'll add, superb.

Gregg Arthur (GA): Thank you. That's lovely to hear that. I did have a wonderful vocal coach named Don Graydon who taught a lot of great Australian singers, and he had, the grounding of classical music and operatic training. So, thanks to him, I can hold a note.

OCT: One of the things we've been struck by when listening to your music is your great understanding of the movements of an orchestra. Also, when you perform a jazz classic, you have the ability to make it your own without sacrificing any of the writer's original intent. Walk us through that balance that you've clearly perfected.

GA: Thank you again...you have to find your own truth within the songs. The lyrics in all of these songs from the great American songbook are



Photo via greggarthur.com

Looking at the career of Gregg Arthur, singer / songwriter.

beautiful. They are part of someone's life, literarily put down on the page. When you're talking about lyricists like Lorenz Hart, there's so many layers to what's written that you can find your own truth in the lyrics. Take a piece of your own life and put it into the song, then study the arrangements, the orchestrations; especially if they're not written for you personally. If it's written for someone like Sinatra or Nat King Cole, and you're getting up in front of an orchestra and you're going to sing this. I mean you've got to find your own way through it, pick the places where you can be original, and not ride too much on the shoulders of musical giants.

OCT: Staying with jazz classics, you do a great version of Nat King Cole's 'Unforgettable', and though it's been recorded by many, it's still really his. Is it intimidating to tackle a song like that? How did you approach it?

GA: First of all, change the key. You study the

tempo, the rhythm and then try to understand where you're going to go with it. You can make it a little different for the people without ruining the song they love so much. That's important, it was something I learned in Las Vegas. If you go too far with the tune, taking it in a different direction to the point where people don't recognize it, they won't react well to that.

OCT: We want to touch on something more serious. You were about to record a new album several years ago when you were diagnosed with leukemia. You are, thankfully, in remission. Can you talk about that period in your life, and how it affected your view on life and your music?

GA: It (my life) was affected very much It was a horrible interruption. Have you ever seen that episode of Seinfeld where Jerry and George are about to get the pilot for a show and George finds the bump above his lip and thinks"I'm about to be successful and God's going to give me cancer?" That episode is ironic for me, and I still watch it occasionally. It was a terrible time, I was incredibly tired and found

it hard to do anything. I was obviously very sick, even though I was doing gigs in Vegas, having so much fun, and on a roll. But sometimes things happen that make you stronger. I'm well now and that's why I'm happy to talk about it I didn't talk about it at all while I was sick as I didn't want that to be identified as who I was. I still wanted to get up and entertain people and my illness would've been a distraction if they knew how sick I was. The audience is everything to me. If the people aren't enjoying the show, then it would be pointless. But I'm well now and very grateful to look forward to performing in the future.

OCT: We are glad you are well and can't wait to see you on tour. Please make Vancouver one of those places you perform.

For the full video interview go to richmond sentinel.ca/videos

More on Gregg Arthur at greggarthur.com



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OUR CITY TONIGHT JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS

airing on CHEK TV Sundays | Novus Entertainment

at 10:30 DAILY



Appreciation of life

By SAMUEL CHENG Reporter

ccording to Public Health Agency of Canada, approximate-Aly 4,500 people die by suicide annually. That is a stunning average of 12 deaths every day. Though there are many reasons as to why people decide to end their life abruptly.

The Saw franchise is a horror and thriller film that revolves around the Jigsaw Killer, John Kramer. The very first Saw movie was directed by James Wan in 2004. The famous director proceeded to direct many other well-known films such as Saw III, The Conjuring series, Furious 7, Aquaman and more.

The franchise was met with a huge commercial success worldwide. The first Saw movie was notable for generating a revenue of over 103 million dollars worldwide with a mere production budget of 1.2 million dollars.

Saw, Saw II, and Saw III specifically taps into the philosophies of John Kramer, where he would trap his victims in various deadly devices to test how far they would go in order to stay alive. An additional 6 more episodes were released and for the loyal fans, Saw 10 is in production and scheduled to be released in October, 2023 by Lionsgate and Twisted Pictures. They ensure that it will include "all-new twisted, ingenious traps and a new mystery to solve".

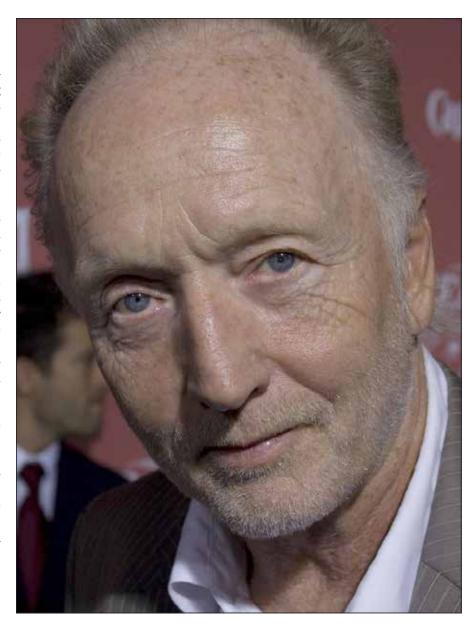
The takeaway of the movie is for its audiences to understand the value of life and how we can make the most out it within the limited timespan that we're given. It is important to act sensibly, responsibly and be aware of the consequences of our actions.

"Every circumstance of every man's life is the result of a definite cause, but mode and control are yours," says Bruce Lee.

The Saw series franchise can be found on Amazon Prime Free, Crave, Netflix and other platforms.

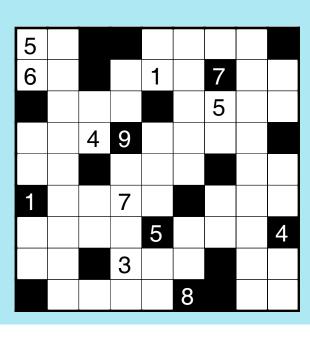
•taic@richmondsentinel.ca

Photo via Wikimedia Commons Actor Tobin Bell starring as John Kramer, the Jigsaw Killer.



STR8TS

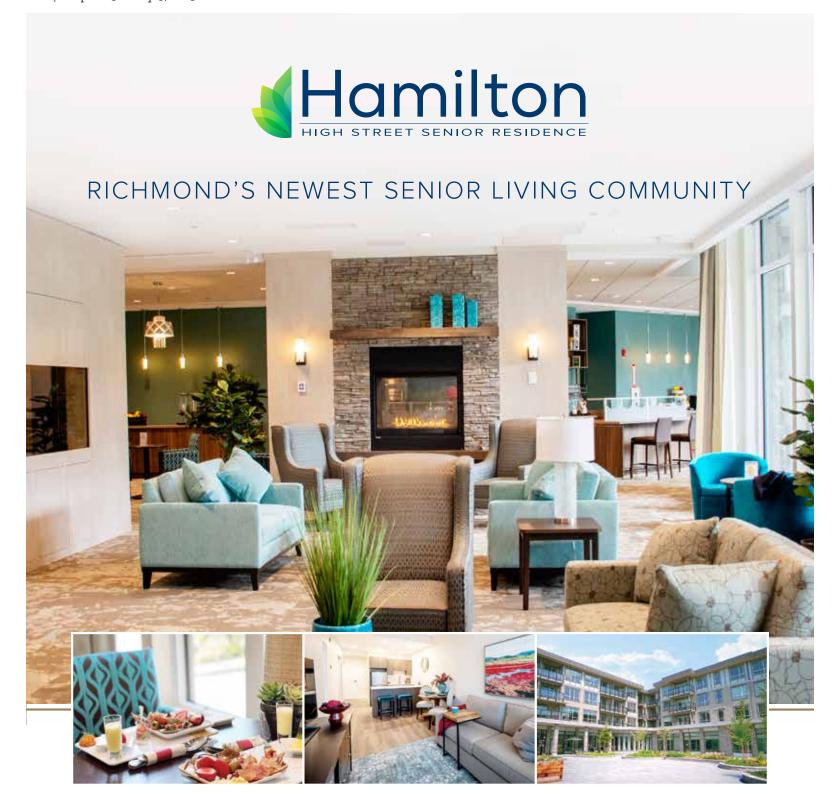
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