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03



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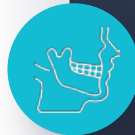
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Longtime Steveston resident received a national award

By FLORENCE GORDON
Contributing writer

It's with great respect for a long-time resident that we publish this story. He was recognized on April 15, in Ottawa with the 2023 National Award for Volunteerism. It carries with it an award of \$5,000 to a non-profit group of his choice. The citizen is Loren Slye.

"I'm very grateful for this award," said Slye. "I've asked for the \$5,000 to be given to the local London Farm Society. They've done a marvellous job with updating the London Farm, improving the community farm plots, and making the London Farm House a Garden and significant community attraction."

The award is being given to Slye by Canada's Volunteer Awards (CVA) for his dedication of over 50 years of volunteering in community services. According to CVA, Slye's efforts changed various sectors, including:

- Youth anti-drug initiatives
- Boating safety
- Fire and life safety education
- Transformed fire training for rural Indigenous communities, mentoring youth and leaders alike.

The award also recognized Slye's volunteer efforts for:

- Developing and distributing a comprehensive training Fire and Life Safety program across provinces to help and engage youth.
- The Risk Watch program that Slye helped develop was integrated into:
 - o Ontario's and Quebec's education system and
 - o Many states in the USA.
 - o It decreased risky behaviours and improved academic performance among high school students.

CVA noted that Captain Slye also works with groups like:

- The National Fire Prevention Association and
- Local fire departments.

Through this effort, Slye's promotion of McDonald's "Plan to Get Out Alive" program reached millions of people in Canada and the USA. His efforts in training across Canada advanced public safety and inspired communities to take part in their safety education.

The CVA states that Slye's vision and dedication have made him a respected mentor in life safety and injury prevention.

Slye has also been recognized for his long record of voluntary activities in Steveston, including:

- The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
- The Steveston Historical Society
- Steveston RMC Search and Rescue Society and
- The Britannia Shipyard National Historic Site



Photo courtesy Janie Slye

Longtime resident, Loren Slye, was awarded The Diamond Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II for volunteerism.



Photo via Facebook Loren Slye

Loren Slye.

Society

Loren Slye was awarded The Diamond Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II for that work.

I first met Loren Slye 24 years ago he was working tirelessly for the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and for Richmond Tourism. At that time, Loren shared with me his passion for the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG). As an ex-marine diver he was able to secure the CCG dive team when the federal government were prepared to dismantle the team. Loren served on the Lower Mainland Marine Council representing 25 orga-

nization to do with marine safety and operations. Today, through Loren's determination BC has a fully-funded, first-class dive team at the Sea Island Base.

When you listen to his stories one can't help but feel the desire to learn more about the history of the CCG. Their work goes well beyond rescuing boaters along the coast and so often their successes remain under the radar.

When CCG celebrated their 60th Anniversary the *Richmond Sentinel* jumped at the chance to film an interview with them as well as publishing a story in print. Throughout the entire CCG experience I thought of Loren Slye and I'm forever grateful for him sharing his knowledge.

I knew Loren was involved in a lot of community work as we run into each other from time to time at events, but I like many had no idea of his extensive safety and training achievements and it never ends.

On his return flight from Ottawa this week, an announcement came over the PA system requesting if anyone had medical training. Loren jumped into action and along with a passenger (nurse) saved a passenger's life who was unconscious, working on him for two hours of this five hour flight to Vancouver. When Loren shared this story, I thought what an ending to his weekend of being honoured.

Congratulations Loren Slye for the recognition of the 2023 National Award for Volunteerism and thank you for your 50 years of service.

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RPL welcomes return of the Human Library

Back by popular demand, Richmond Public Library is proud to welcome the Human Library® on Sunday, April 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Brighthouse library.

The first Human Library® event was held in Denmark in 2000, and has since expanded around the world, establishing itself as a global learning platform, creating space for dialogue between human Books and their readers. The natural conversations that take place between Books and readers can not only help challenge prejudices and stereotypes but also contribute more broadly to unjudging someone and creating greater cohesion across social, ethnic, and religious divisions.

During the Human Library® event, readers will see a listing of available book titles and select one to “borrow” for a 20-minute reading slot. Readers and books will then have a one-on-one conversation where Books will introduce themselves and readers will have the opportunity to ask questions. The books are all local volunteers interested in connecting and sharing their stories of overcoming personal hardship with others.

For those who attended last year’s inaugural event at Richmond Public Library, a few familiar titles will be available as well as a variety of new ones, each exploring complex topics that will challenge pre-existing views.

“Hopefully I can break some of that stigma about mental health, substance abuse and homelessness,” one of the books shared, as she prepares for the upcoming event “To see the struggles in my life have led me to be able to help so many people that have similar struggles, and that there is a



Photo by Jaana Björk

The Human Library event is back at Brighthouse library April 28 from 1 to 4 p.m.

happy ever after for the way each individual would like to see their life play out.”

This is a drop-in event and participants will be invited to borrow as many books as they like on a first-come, first-served basis until “last call” at 3:30 p.m. Teens, adults, and seniors are all encouraged to attend. Learn more on yourlibrary.ca

Richmond Night Market traffic advisory

During the operation of the Richmond Night Market, located at 8351 River Road (directly west of River Rock Casino Resort), traffic on No. 3 Road and Garden City Road may be heavier than usual, particularly during the evenings and weekends.

The Richmond Night Market runs from Friday, April 26 through Monday, Oct. 20. Night Market hours of operation for 2024 are:

April 26 to May 31 and Sept. 2 to Oct. 20:

- 7 p.m. to midnight: Friday and Sunday
- 7 to 11 p.m.: Sunday and Statutory Holidays
- June 1 to Sept. 1:
- 7 p.m. to midnight: Friday



File photo

Traffic on No. 3 Road and Garden City Road may be heavier than usual during the dates that the Richmond Night Market is operating.

- 6 p.m. to midnight: Saturday and Sundays preceding a Statutory Holiday
- 7 to 11 p.m.: Sunday and Statutory Holidays

To get to the airport or Vancouver, the use of alternate routes such as the Dinsmore Bridge and Russ Baker Way is strongly recommended.

To access adjacent city centre locations, including River Rock Casino, the use of Great Canadian Way is recommended.

The Canada Line (Bridgeport Station) may also be used as transportation to the Richmond Night Market or to other nearby destinations.

For more information on the traffic conditions during the Richmond Night Market, please contact the Transportation Department at 604-204-8707. Live intersection foot-

age can be viewed online at richmond.ca/TrafficCameras



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In honour of our soldiers: Walter Kartner

By **DINA BOUCHER**
Contributing writer

In a series of Richmond's poppy street signs in memory of our fallen soldiers, we share the story of Kartner Road.

Walter Kartner's parents, Frank and Mary, met and were married in the part of Austria which became Yugoslavia after World War I. The first four of their children were born there before Mr. Kartner emigrated to Canada in 1928 and the family followed in 1930.

Walter attended elementary school in Richmond and was a graduate of Richmond High School in 1943, followed by a chosen career as a trained industrial x-ray technician.

On enlistment in February 1945 Walter joined the Royal Canadian Navy and volunteered for seven years. He had several postings, including HMCS Cornwallis and HMCS Stadacona and was eventually based in England.

His family were expecting him home for Christmas 1945, relieved that the war was over and he was safe. The telegram was read to Mr. Kartner, over the neighbour's telephone, stating that Walter had died.

Apparently, he had been playing hockey and came off the ice to have something to eat. Afterward he collapsed and died. The official explanation



A poppy engraved road sign of Kartner Road.

Photo screen grab from Google Maps

was that part of the food found its way into Walter's lungs causing breathing difficulties.

Karl Kartner, Walter's older brother, served in the Canadian army and the family had just built a new house on their property on Railway Ave-

nue. Mr. and Mrs. Kartner, Karl, Rudi, Mary and Martha were left to mourn the untimely death of Walter.

Today Kartner Road can be found off Westminster Hwy. near No. 6 Road.

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Senior Moments

Series Part 2

Make your rent more affordable



Photo courtesy bchousing.org

SAFER a program to assist seniors to live at home

By FLORENCE GORDON
Contributing writer

The *Richmond Sentinel* is introducing a series called Senior Moments where we will share lifestyle information that's of interest to the senior community. As part of this series, we've added video interviews and print copy with Rika Mansingh an accredited dietitian has provided a wealth of health information in an understandable language.

In addition the RCMP is keeping us informed of crime targeting seniors, we will also continue to share city programs and activities that are designed for seniors and as all three levels of government provide new programs, the *Richmond Sentinel* will keep you updated.

Today's topic is new rent funding assistance program. Recently, Honourable Ravi Kahlon, BC's minister of housing announced "We are making changes to the SAFER program to support more seniors, and deliver a top-up cheque for seniors who are now struggling with the cost of living and rent."

About the program

The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program helps make rents affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes. SAFER provides monthly cash payments to subsidize rents for eligible BC residents who are age 60 or over.

To be eligible you must meet all of the following:

- You are age 60 or older.
- You lived in BC the full 12-month period before submitting your application
- You, and your spouse share a home and meet Canadian citizenship requirements:
 - o Individuals with private sponsorship that has broken down
 - o People who applied for refugee status
 - o Individuals legally in Canada as permanent residents, not under sponsorship
 - o Canadian citizens not under sponsorship
- You pay more than 30 per cent of your gross, before tax, monthly household income towards rent for your home
- Improvements includes a one-time rental benefit of \$430 relief for seniors

with low income who are receiving a rent subsidy through the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and SAFER program

- Current recipients automatically qualify and no action is required. Recipients will receive the one-time benefit with their regular RAP or SAFER payment in April 2024

- Existing recipients will see an increase of approximately \$110 per month, the average monthly subsidy for existing clients to be \$310

Improvements to the SAFER program also includes:

- Increasing income limit for eligibility from \$33,000 to \$37,240
- Increasing the minimum benefit from \$25 to \$50 a month
- Rent ceilings, which help determine the amount of rental assistance for applicants, can now be reviewed and amended annually; and
- Launching a public awareness campaign to ensure more seniors are aware of the program.

"This payment brings timely relief for low-income seniors and families experiencing increased living and rental costs," said Harwinder Sandhu, parliamentary secretary for seniors' services and long-term care. "I look forward to

the impact the upcoming improvements to the SAFER program will have for seniors in need, part of our government's ongoing commitment to helping seniors live safely and comfortably in their own homes."

The one-time benefit comes from a \$12.3-million federal top-up for the Canada Housing Benefit, intended as one-time payments for low-income B.C. households in need. The province is providing \$15.6 million to support the longer-term improvements to SAFER.

"The Canada Housing Benefit is helping Canadians in need afford their housing costs," said Sean Fraser, federal minister of housing, infrastructure and communities. "With this additional funding, our goal is to ease the pressure on residents in British Columbia who are struggling to cover their living expenses. We will continue working with other levels of government to address ongoing housing challenges. This is just one of the many ways that the National Housing Strategy is helping to ensure every Canadian has a safe and secure home."

This payment brings timely relief for low-income seniors and families experiencing increased living and rental costs.

— Harwinder Sandhu

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RCRG, serving the community for the last 50 years

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

Jim Gordon (JG) sat down with the president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG), Ed Gavsie (EG).

For this print edition, it was difficult to select from the many programs that were covered in the filmed interview with Ed Gavsie who spoke with great pride on all the work RCRG does for our community. To watch the interview in its entirety, go to richmondsentinel.ca/videos

JG: Our guest today is well-known in this city as someone who has been involved in the volunteer sector for decades. He served as director and chair of Richmond Chamber of Commerce and president and CEO of RCRG. He and his wife founded a private career college which they expanded to several campuses in the Lower Mainland before selling. His background also includes media and management positions in tourism, hospitality, and the financial sector.

JG: He is Ed Gavsie. Ed you've accomplished a lot in your career, but today, we're going to talk about RCRG.

EG: We are a full-service, social service agency, and we have programs that we administer for various levels of government under contract as well as Vancouver Coastal Health.

We are the volunteer center for Richmond, so we encourage volunteerism. We have about 65 non-profit members who list volunteer opportunities with us and we also offer seminars and webinars to help train, manage, and recruit volunteers.

JG: You mentioned various programs, let's talk about the recent Christmas program you held, can you offer updates on that?

EG: The Richmond Christmas fund has been in business for 91 years continuously, it was founded in 1932 by Ethel Tibbets, the publisher of the *Richmond Review* and what we do is help the most vulnerable residents of Richmond over the Christmas period with both food cards and toys.

I'm always very proud to say that we help more and more people every year that ask for help. This past year, we helped just under 4,000 people which was about a 38 per cent increase over the previous year.

The Richmond RCMP hosts our toy drive and they've confirmed they'll be doing a tenth year in 2024.

JG: Can you explain to our viewers—do you rely on government support or is it mostly funded through fundraising?

EG: It's a community-supported operation, with a very small exception, we do not get any level of government funding for the Christmas fund. We depend on the community, both corporate and individuals to help us to buy the food cards that we distribute.



File photo courtesy RCRG
Ed Gavsie, RCRG's chief executive officer.

I'm often asked how much satisfaction do I get from this job, and I have to say that the Christmas fund gives me the most satisfaction because I get to see and talk to the clients. The number of people that say to me, without the Christmas fund, they wouldn't have extra money for a Christmas meal, or their kids wouldn't get toys

JG: Is funding and getting support your biggest challenge in what you do?

EG: Funding is always a challenge, and the statistics from across Canada are indicating that, in 2023 (and I'm talking generally with non-profits) donations were down by about 12 per cent over the previous year and the number of people who donated were down by about 18 per cent.

JG: Speaking of challenges, everybody has a story about how they had to pivot throughout the COVID years. How did that affect RCRG?

EG: The biggest challenge was the Christmas Fund. For 88 years, we organized the Christmas Fund program as 'in-person' for both registration and distribution. When COVID came about we had to go totally online.

For instance, our clients had to qualify through Zoom and show some proof of need. I'm not a technical guy, but our staff advised all of our rooms in Zoom were filled during our period of registration. When people came to pick up the toys, we had to have volunteers pre-choose the toys. Of course, like everyone else, we also went to Zoom for our meetings, seminars, workshops to keep going.

When the governments came through extra funding we were able to give out special Covid related grants to various organizations for food security or help seniors isolated, due to COVID.

JG: Speaking of seniors, can we talk about some of the services you provide. You mentioned child-care resources and also helping out in the senior community, give us a little more description about that

EG: The biggest program we have is called Better at Home, again operated throughout the province and funded by the province of British Columbia. They give the money to United Way, who then manages the contracts throughout the province. Under the Better at Home program, we grocery shop for seniors who cannot get out. The seniors pay for the food, and our volunteers shop for them, then deliver the groceries to them.

Under the Better at Home program, we also have transportation services, so if a senior needs a lift to a doctor's appointment, or go to church, or has to go shopping we have volunteers who will pick them up in a vehicle. These volunteers are all highly trained before they go out.

We also have another program in our senior's department called Seniors Peer Counseling for seniors who have gone through a stressful situation, perhaps they've lost a spouse or had to move out of their home, we have trained volunteers to help get them through the situation.

We offer all these programs in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Punjabi.

JG: You mentioned volunteering, how can someone volunteer?

EG: On our website rcrg.org we have a volunteer now page, and all of the non-profit organizations in Richmond can list their volunteer opportunities, and individuals can go onto that page and filter by what they are interested in and deal directly with the organization who offers the opportunity. We advertise for volunteers, we encourage volunteers. We have a program in high schools where once a year, one of our staff goes in and talks about volunteerism because it's important to get our youth involved so that volunteerism will continue on.

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Seniors Community Connections

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B.C. helps power Lime's global record setting 2023

Lime, a global provider of shared electric services vehicles, achieved a consecutive record year in gross bookings, adjusted EBITDA and total rides, building on Lime's record-setting 2022. This year reflected Lime's continued leadership in the shared electric vehicle industry and positions it for long-term sustainability. Lime provides shared e-bikes and e-scooters in 280 cities in nearly 30 countries as it continues its mission to decarbonize transportation globally and serve as an alternative to car trips. Lime looks forward to building on this success by continuing to invest in its services in British Columbia, where it has operated since 2021 and sees great potential for micromobility. Lime currently operates shared electric vehicles in Richmond, Coquitlam, the North Shore, and Kelowna and is proud to see ridership continue to grow in each of these markets.

Lime's global success and optimistic outlook for the future is powered by places like British Columbia. With its increasing adoption of micromobility, British Columbia offers immense potential for shared electric vehicles to help municipalities achieve their climate and transportation goals. Investments in infrastructure like bike lanes and bike parking allow shared e-bikes and e-scooters to thrive. Last year was Lime's best ridership year ever in the Lower Mainland with ridership increasing by 58 per cent from 2022 to 2023 in Richmond, Coquitlam and on the North Shore combined. Nearly 49,000 Lower Mainland riders took over 185,000 Lime rides in 2023, an increase of 58 per cent more rides and 37 per cent more riders compared to 2022. Kelowna also shows the potential for shared micromobility in British Columbia as it approaches the 1 million ride milestone due to skyrocketing growth. In 2023 78,000 Kelowna riders took over 555,000 trips on Lime e-bikes and e-scooters in Kelowna, marking a 190 per cent increase in rides and a 67 per cent increase in riders compared to 2022. Lime believes the sky's the limit for micromobility in Canada, in British Columbia, and in the Greater Vancouver area and hopes to keep on building lasting partnerships with municipalities in the Lower Mainland, throughout the province, and across the country.

"Lime is proud and grateful to be the shared electric vehicle operator of choice for Kelowna and much of the Lower Mainland. We believe we have much to offer municipalities in the Greater



Photo courtesy Lime

Lime surpassed 150 million total rides, over \$600 million in gross bookings in 2023.

- Over 3.1 million monthly riders active on average, with a peak surpassing 4.3 million in July
- Won over 90 per cent of competitive permits

"Last year marked a watershed moment for Lime and the shared electric vehicle industry," said Wayne Ting, chief executive officer of Lime. "We achieved significant growth in our gross bookings and adjusted EBITDA.

This is a strong affirmation that our team is building a resilient business capable of achieving our long-term mission. More riders took more rides on our e-bikes and e-scooters than ever before. I'm also heartened by cities' who continue to embrace our zero-emission, two wheeled transportation options as solutions to poor air quality, crippling congestion, inequitable transit services and the existential threat of climate change. On the heels of another record setting year, Lime is poised to continue our growth in 2024, with new vehicle options and plans for expansion to new cities."

Lime achieved this breakthrough as a result of its vertically-integrated approach across three key areas: hardware development, software-enabled operations and local government relations. Keeping these core functions in-house enables Lime to deliver a differentiated experience for its riders and city partners. The outcome is a reliable, convenient and comparatively-affordable transportation service.

Lime's ability to drive significant financial growth is a major step forward in achieving its mission to build a future where transportation is shared, affordable and carbon-free. As Lime continues to prove the viability of operating shared bikes and scooters as a business, this milestone unlocks opportunities to consider what comes next. To continue toward its mission in 2024, Lime plans to explore new cities and business lines, expand AI-integrations into its business, launch a new vehicle type, and deepen its presence in existing cities.

Vancouver area and throughout British Columbia, and our financial stability enables us to make robust investments to build lasting successful micromobility programs in this region. Riders love shared electric scooters and bikes because they are safe, affordable, convenient, and sustainable, and cities around the world are growing to love them because they have been proven to help meet climate and transportation goals. We look forward to building on the success we've had so far in BC and becoming part of the transit networks of more cities and municipalities in the years to come," said Sonia Kandola, director of government relations.

Key global 2023 highlights include:

- Gross Bookings record of \$616 million, a 32 per cent increase over 2022
- Full-year positive EBITDA, and adjusted EBITDA in excess of \$90 million, a more-than 500 per cent increase over 2022
- Completed a record 156 million trips in 2023 (about 5 trips every second for the entire year), while surpassing 500 million lifetime trips
- More than 42 cities saw trips double year over year
- 9.2 million new riders took their first Lime ride in 2023,

Spring COVID-19 boosters available

People in British Columbia will have access to a free spring COVID-19 vaccine booster to maintain and extend protection for themselves and their loved ones against serious illnesses from COVID-19.

The spring COVID-19 booster will be available throughout the province at pharmacies, regional health-authority clinics, some primary-care offices, and community health centres. This spring vaccine remains free and available for everyone six months and older.

Given the decreased rates of viral respiratory infections in the community, additional infection prevention and control measures implemented in fall 2023 in health-care settings are no longer required at all times. People are still encouraged to wear masks in health-care settings as appropriate, to continue to cover coughs and stay away from others when feeling sick. Health-care workers will continue to wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as masks and respirators, in accordance with their point-of-care risk assessments.

While the peak of the respiratory illness season has passed, the SARS CoV-2 virus continues to circulate at lower levels in the community. The protection from infection that COVID-19 vaccines provide decreases over time, particularly in older people, so a spring COVID-19 vaccine booster will ensure people stay

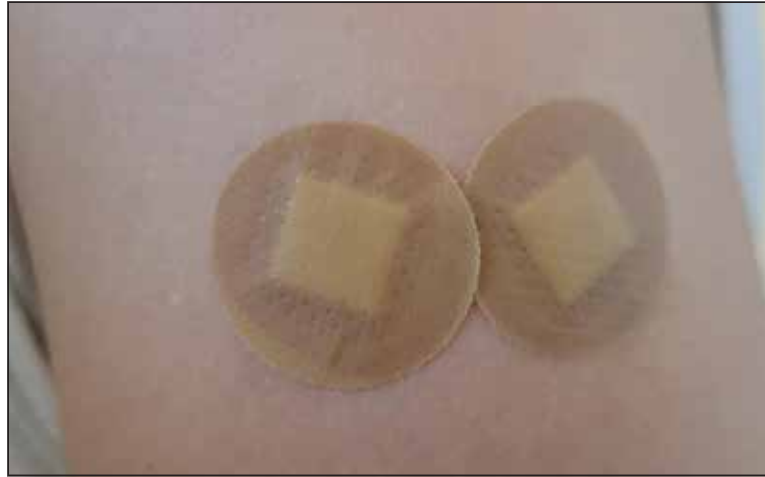


Photo by Jaana Björk

Spring COVID-19 vaccine boosters are now available throughout the province at pharmacies, health clinics, some primary care offices, and community health centres.

illness or complications, and people who have not yet received an updated vaccine dose. However, anyone who feels they would benefit from an additional dose of the XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine can contact the call centre at 1-833-838-2323 to book an appointment or walk into a pharmacy where the vaccine is available. Vaccine appointment capacity is available in all regions.

The 2023-24 respiratory illness immunization campaign was launched to the general population on Oct. 10, 2023. As of end of day March 31, 2024, B.C. had administered 1,457,246 doses of COVID-19 vaccines and 1,562,023 doses of influenza vaccines.

protected.

Aligned with advice from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, B.C. health officials recommend the following people consider receiving an additional dose of the XBB.1.5 COVID-19 vaccine:

- adults 65 and older;
- Indigenous adults 55 and older;
- adult residents of long-term care homes and assisted-living facilities (including those awaiting placement); and
- individuals six months and older who have been diagnosed as clinically extremely vulnerable (a CEV 1 or CEV 2 condition).

B.C.'s COVID-19 spring program is focused on providing vaccines to those most at risk of severe COVID-19



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It's friends we meet along the way that help us appreciate the journey.



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In their own words...

Arts, Culture and Heritage enrich our community



Andy Hobbs
Councillor

As I travel around Richmond, I often reflect on the many changes that have taken place since I was a kid growing up here. Of course, development is an obvious change, but the progress Richmond has made in terms of the arts, culture and heritage preservation and interpretation have been remarkable.

Richmond Council's Strategic Plan has six Focus Areas and Priorities, two of which include a vibrant, resilient, active community achieved through proactive stakeholder and civic engagement. Arts, culture and heritage are key aspects in achieving these strategic goals and in creating a vibrant, engaged, active and thriving community.

Public art, festivals, concerts, the Richmond Art Gallery, our museums and heritage sites and the performances at the Gateway Theatre bring the community to life, and the level of local talent is astounding. The recent Cherry Blossom Festival at Garry Point Park, the Richmond Maritime Festival, and the Steveston Salmon Festival, as examples, highlight

Richmond's diversity and heritage to tens of thousands of visitors who generate economic activity for local businesses.

Art in public spaces connects our community and creates a more livable city. A favourite for many is the award winning five story, Sea to Sky located at Cook and No. 3 Roads, by Musqueam artist Thomas Cannell. A personal favourite, is the sculpture Typha, located on the dike at Hollybridge Way, by Charlotte Wall and Puya Khalili. It's a beautiful stainless-steel sculpture of three cattail-like forms and they remind me of the bulrushes, so common along Richmond's shoreline. As kids, we often played with them and more than a few decorated our homes. Typha is particularly beautiful when it's illuminated at night.

Other popular forms of public art are the mural and wrap programs. Murals are found on schools and other buildings throughout the city and attract the attention of people of all ages. McMath's mural, by Dean and Christina Lauzé, is a captivating inspiration of the Steveston waterfront. Another eye-catching favourite is Jeff King's Sockeye Salmon mural on Chatham Street. At 24 by 115 feet, it's exhilarating and admirers stop in their tracks to view it. Many other murals beautify our community and provide



opportunities for local artists.

Richmond also has art wraps around utility boxes and other small infrastructure. These wraps often reflect the nature or heritage around them, such as the English & Company Salmon recycling box wrap at the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site. As well as being beautiful, they can deter graffiti. Recently, Council recognized the annual Street Banner winners, local artists, whose banners will adorn our streets and public spaces.

The arts help to create a thriving, connected and vibrant City. I highly recommend checking our Arts Services Year in Review 2023 at richmond.ca/culture/howartworks

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 24 | 3:30pm
Development Permit Panel

May 6 | 4:00pm
General Purposes Committee followed by Finance Committee

May 7 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee

May 13 | 7:00pm
Council Meeting

May 14 | 4:00pm
Community Safety Committee

May 15 | 3:30pm
Development Permit Panel

May 21 | 4:00pm
General Purposes Committee

May 21 | 7:00pm
Public Hearing

May 22 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee followed by Public Works & Transportation Committee

May 27 | 7:00pm
Council Meeting

May 28 | 7:00pm
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

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

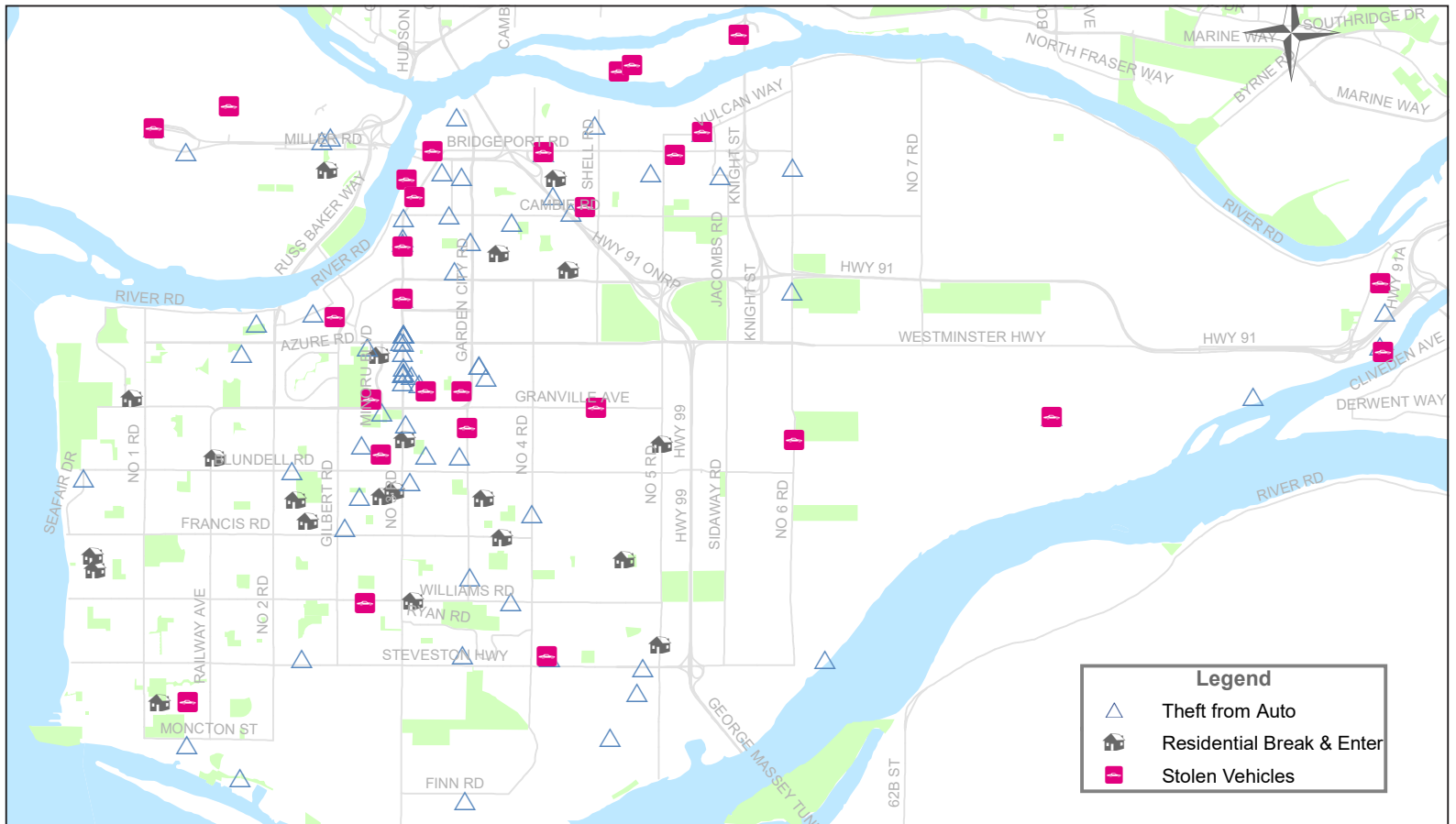
Visit richmond.ca/WatchOnline to link to live streaming or watch archived video.





RCMP

Crime Map March 1 - 31, 2024



Richmond Safety Unit highlights key safety outcomes

In our continuous commitment to the safety of our streets, Richmond RCMP's Road Safety Unit (RSU) has compiled its traffic violation and collision statistics for March 2024, emphasizing our resolve to keep our community safe.

During the month of March, officers issued a total of 939 traffic violation tickets, underscoring a rigorous effort to address unsafe driving behaviours. This number included 207 tickets for speeding reflecting persistent effort to remind drivers of the importance of adhering to posted speed limits.

A total of 168 violation tickets were issued for Driver Licence infractions. Richmond RCMP's strategy incorporates advanced technology to effectively pinpoint and address traffic violations, significantly enhancing our road safety measures and assisting in capturing violations related to no insurance and no license.

In the fight against distracted driving—a behaviour that is both dangerous and preventable—168 tickets were issued. Officers also continued their vigilant work against impaired driving, issuing 23 tickets as part of our zero-tolerance approach.

The RSU identified high volume collision areas for March, drawing attention



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

A total of 939 traffic violation tickets were issued in the month of March.

to locations requiring additional attention from our road users:

- No. 1 Road & Francis Road
- No. 4 Road & Cambie Road
- No. 3. Road & Granville Avenue

Officers will continue to monitor these areas closely and take necessary enforcement actions.

Sergeant Eric Baskette of Richmond RCMP Road Safety Units says of the ongoing commitment, "As we transition into spring it's vital for drivers to maintain vigilance. Adjusting to the changing conditions and staying attentive behind the wheel can significantly impact our collective safety."

March had been designated by the BC Chiefs of Police and ICBC as

Distracted Driving Awareness & Enforcement month, and the RSU has participated in several operations aimed at reducing these violations. Educational campaigns have been launched in partnership with community stakeholders to enhance awareness and promote driver responsibility year-round.

The RSU thanks the Richmond community for their cooperation and reminds everyone to drive with care. By working together and remaining committed to safe driving practices, we can reduce traffic-related incidents and ensure the well-being of all who travel our roads.

Asphalt Paving Advisory

April 20 to November 30, 2024

The City of Richmond has contracted Save On Black Top Ltd. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from April 20 to November 30, 2024.**

PROPOSED 2024 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to Cambie Road)—Bridgeport Road intersection not included. Cambie Road Intersection included
Cambie Road (Shell Road to No. 5 Road)—Intersections included
Bridgeport Road (Viking Way to Sweden Way)—Intersections included
No.4 Road and Alderbridge Way Intersection
Westminster Highway (Gilbert Road to No. 3 Road)—Intersections included
Beckwith Road (Sexsmith Road to Smith Street)—Intersections included
Blundell Road—(No. 4 Road to No.5 Road)—No. 4 Road Intersection included
No. 1 Road (Francis Road to Blundell Road)—Intersections included
No. 1 Road (Westminster Highway to Granville Avenue)—Intersections included
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to Vulcan Way)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road)—Intersections included
Vulcan Way (No. 5 Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included
Garden City Road (Cambie Road to Bridgeport Road) —Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Seacliff Road to Kingsbridge Drive)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Alderbridge Way to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
Burkeville Subdivision includes Catalina Crescent, Douglas Crescent, Hudson Avenue, Boeing Avenue
Kwantlen Street (Alderbridge Way to Alexandra Road)—Alexandra Road Intersection included
Machrina Way (Horseshoe Way to No. 5 Road)
22000 Block Westminster Highway (MOTI—McLean Avenue) including McLean Avenue Intersection
Knight Street (Southbound Lanes from Bridge Deck to 50m South)
Knight Street South Bound On and Off Ramps at Bridgeport Road
Steveston Highway (Westbound Lanes from Shell Road to No.5 Road)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Bridgeport Road to River Drive)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Hammersmith Gate to Steveston Highway)
Jacobs Rd (Cambie Road—Bathgate Way)—Intersections included
Bathgate Way (Sweden Way—Jacobs Road) Intersections included
Hammersmith Gate (Shell Road to Hammersmith Way) Intersections included
Leonard Road (Ryan Road to Williams Road)— Intersections included
Maddocks Road (Aintree Crescent to Shell Road)—Intersections included
Boundary Road (Thompson Gate to Westminster Highway) including Thompson Gate intersection
Blundell Road (Sidaway Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included

Work hours will be 7:00am to 10:00pm on weekdays, and 7:00am to 8:00pm on weekends. Night time work hours will be from 7:00pm to 5:00am. (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 richmond.ca/paving.



Photo via RCMP.ca
 Richmond RCMP highlights the efforts of their Road Safety Unit to educate the public and safe and lawful use of e-scooters in Richmond.

RCMP highlights e-scooter education

As the City of Richmond continues its participation in BC's Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project, Richmond RCMP is highlighting the ongoing efforts of our Road Safety Unit (RSU) to educate the public on the safe and lawful use of electronic kick scooters (e-scooters) in Richmond.

As part of our commitment to public safety, our e-scooter initiatives include proactive patrols and public awareness campaigns aimed at enhancing the safety of all road users.

Our RSU, Bike Patrol Unit, and community volunteers are actively involved in community outreach related to e-scooters and providing information on the lawful and safe use of e-scooters, in line with British Columbia's Motor Vehicle Act and local bylaws.

In 2023, Richmond RCMP also released a safety video to promote e-scooter safety education to a broader audience.

Provincial rules governing e-scooter operation include:

- Minimum 16 years of age
- Approved cycle helmet
- Single use only: you must not carry or tow any passengers or devices
- Use turn signals
- It is illegal to operate an e-scooter while impaired by alcohol or drugs, or while using an electronic device
- Slow down around pedestrians: you must not travel at a faster speed than pedestrians if you are on a walkway or path, except to pass, which requires sounding a bell or horn

Failing to follow the rules can result in penalties and fines up to \$2,000. To learn more about e-scooter regulations visit the BC Government website.

In the City of Richmond, e-scooters are permitted to operate as follows:

- All streets with designated cycle lanes
- Local streets with a maximum speed limit of 50 km or less
- Paved pathways designated for shared cycle use with pedestrians

E-scooters are not permitted on sidewalks or on unpaved trails. Maximum speeds are:

- 20 km/h on roadways
 - 5km/h on paved pathways shared with pedestrians
- Fines for bylaw infractions range from \$95 to \$175.

To learn more, visit the City of Richmond website at richmond.ca

Municipal bylaws for e-scooters may vary between jurisdictions. It is important to familiarize yourself with the bylaws of the community in which you are riding.

To further our safety and outreach efforts, we will be partnering with the City of Richmond and ICBC for an upcoming Skills and Safety Clinic on June 1 at the Lansdowne Centre northwest parking lot from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The clinic is designed to offer hands-on learning experiences for e-scooter enthusiasts and newcomers alike, focusing on skill development, safe riding practices, and legal requirements.

For more details about upcoming community safety events in Richmond, please download the City of Richmond's Community Safety App.

To report unsafe riding behaviour, call the Richmond RCMP non-emergency telephone number at 604-278-1212, or via online crime reporting.



Joe Biz — by Joe Leary

Great wines via Country Vines

It's been a fixture on Steveston Highway for more than sixty years. You may know it as a quaint wine shop or the adjoining country market, which opened in 1978. Either way, Country Vines has a great story to tell.

While one may initially have thought of the Okanagan when discussion turns to BC wine-growing regions, there are small-lot, hand-crafted wines being produced, right here in Richmond. It's a working family farm and winery that continues to cultivate over 300 acres of mixed crops.

"Country Vines started working on its first vineyard in 2009, right beside the George Massey Tunnel," says Winemaker, Lucas Hogler. "The main focus was drainage as Richmond's high water table was our main concern.

We planted our first vineyard in 2011 under the guidance of the late Harry Mcwatters, who was an estate winery pioneer in the Okanagan.

He helped choose the grapes he thought would



Lucas Hogler, winemaker.

Photos courtesy countryvines.ca

best suit Richmond's unique climate: Pinot Gris, Schonburger and Pearl de Saba; all early ripening and aromatic white varietals. Pearl de Saba is his secret weapon, a varietal used in small amounts in white blends to bump the aromatics and freshness of the wine".

In the wine game, patience is a virtue and the first crop of their young vineyard came to be in 2013. "We didn't have a manufacturing license at the time so we had to get the grapes processed by a custom crush company in the Okanagan," he says.

"It was a huge disconnect for us as we did not get to see or experience the process, nor get accustomed to our own grapes. We felt the only way we would learn was to be in control of the process with the guidance of some winemaking consultants to ensure we didn't derail the quality of our wine by some silly error."

Clearly, the process was successful. "We occasionally screwed up LOL, but that's what allowed us to learn, understand, adjust and get better".

By 2015, Country Vines secured a manufacturing facility of their own and they were off and running.

"There was no fancy book learning here as we took a lot of bumps and bruises by figuring it out the hard way," adds

"However, it was then that we saw the concentration of our Richmond Grown Grapes started to improve drastically, which made the winemaking process a lot easier."

The list of varietals is vast as they truly want to offer something for everyone. This includes everything from Richmond Estate Pinot Gris, Pinot Grigio, Schonburger, Pearl de Saba, Okanagan Rose, Viognier, Riesling, Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Sauvignon among numerous red and white blends.

As the business matures and customer demand subsequently increases, the planned winemaking capacity was designed to never exceed 5000 cases per year. Between the Richmond Estate grown and their Okanagan vineyard, Hogler says they found Country Vines happy spot.

"Currently, we are a 3000 case-a-year winery", he says. "With our vineyards in the Okanagan fully mature, we plan on staying around that size and potentially selling grapes to other wineries to offset the increase in production".

Country Vines Winery and their adjoining roadside farm market, Richmond Country Farms is a great space for the wine enthusiast and fresh produce consumer alike. With a working farm, replete with rescue livestock; it makes for a full family experience.

"Our Tasting Room and the patio are located in the heart of our farm, just East of Richmond Country Farms Market—look for our signs in the parking lot," he says. "We sell our wine almost entirely out of our Wine Shop with a few restaurants and liquor stores, so staying small and focused is important to us".

Open Sunday to Thursday from 12 to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 12 to 8 p.m.

You can follow Joe Leary on X @reallyjoeleary • instagram@joeleary



OUR CITY *tonight*

SPOTLIGHT ON
FILM, BOOK &
HOME VIEWING

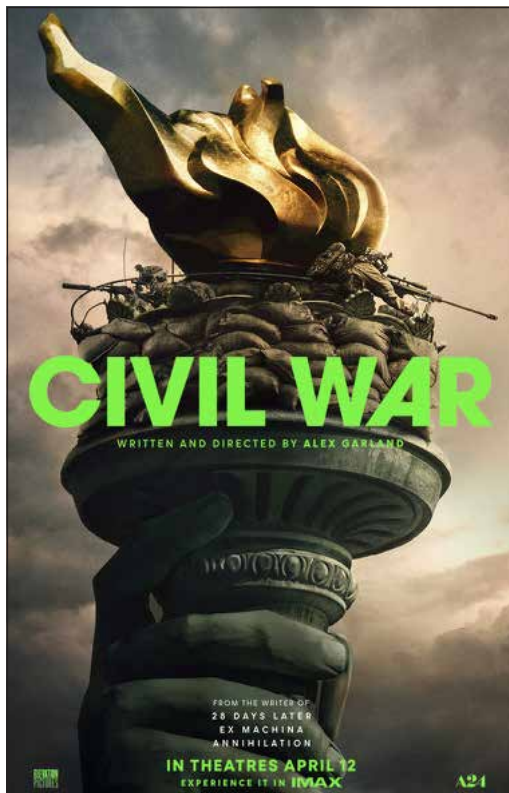


Photo courtesy Elevation Pictures

The Film – *Civil War*

Author, writer and director, Alex Garland is someone whose work we have loved since first reading his 1996 book, *The Beach* (later adapted to film with DiCaprio). As a screenwriter he has given us *28 Days Later* (2002) and *Sunshine* (2007), as well as *Never Let Me Go* (2010) and *Dredd* (2012). He added director to his resume with 2014's powerful *Ex Machina*. His latest, *Civil War*, which is in theatres now, could have been listed as a "sci-fi" a decade ago, now, it could be a possible outcome in the next few years. *Civil War* tells the story of a group of America journalists who have covered wars around the globe, but now find themselves covering a growing war which is engulfing their own country. Leaving a hostile New York City, the group of journalists take to the back roads (through often even more hostile territory) trying to get to Washington D.C. to interview the dictatorial-like President, who is now in his third term. This film is stressful from

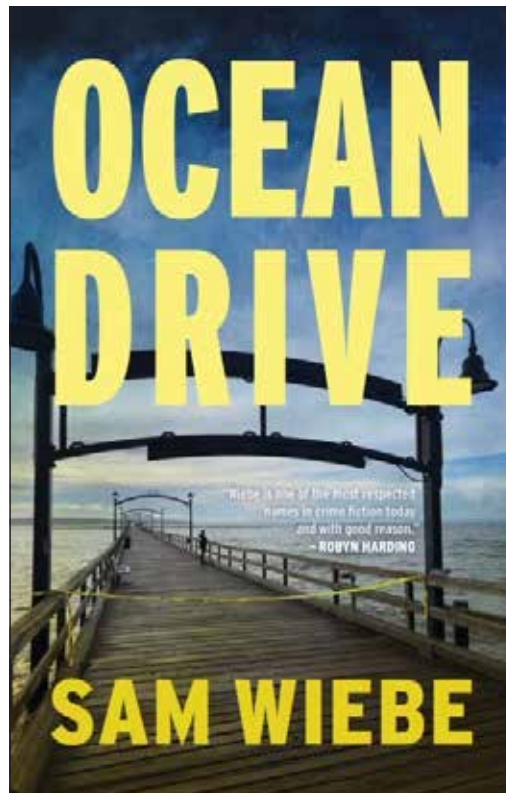


Photo courtesy Harbour Publishing

the start and it left us with a deep unsettling feeling of what could be around the corner. The solid cast includes Kirsten Dunst, Wagner Moura, Stephen McKinley Henderson, and Cailee Spaeny. elevationpictures.com

The Read – *Ocean Drive*

Best-selling and award-winning author, Sam Wiebe (who makes New Westminster his home), is back with a new novel called *Ocean Drive*. Wiebe has a legion of fans who have enjoyed his *Wakeland* crime novels which follow detective Dave Wakeland. In *Ocean Drive*, which is set in White Rock, the story follows paroled killer, Cameron Shaw, who has recently been released from prison. With a limited and dismal future of lousy jobs awaiting him on the "outside", things change when he is approached by a lawyer with a lucrative offer. If this genre is your type of read, we highly recommend *Ocean Drive* by Sam Wiebe, an author who has been called "The best crime

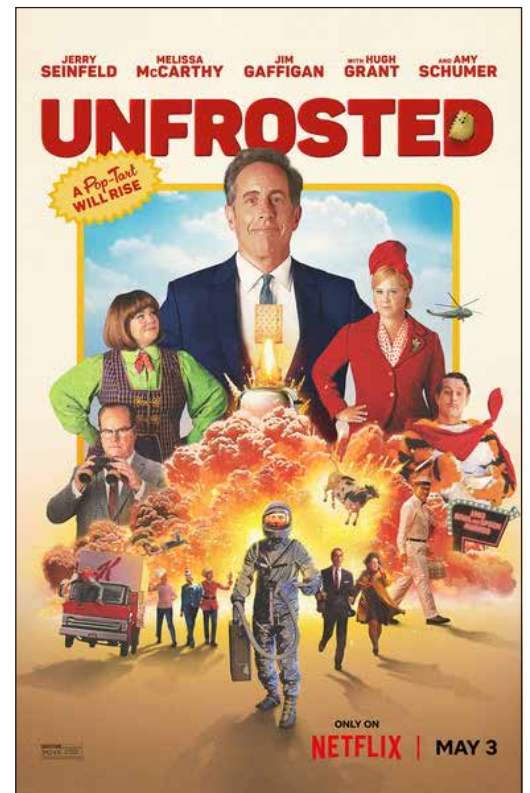


Photo courtesy Netflix Canada

writer in Canada" and "A master of the genre." harbourpublishing.com

The Home View – *Unfrosted*

Jerry Seinfeld is back and leading a comedic all-star cast in the new Netflix movie, *Unfrosted*. Co-written and directed by Seinfeld, the film takes place in Michigan in the early 1960s. Kellogg's and Post, even then, giants in the breakfast world and sworn enemies, fight it out in a race to see who can create a pastry that will win over millions of consumers and change breakfast forever. The movie idea came from Seinfeld's legendary comedic bit on Pop Tarts (very funny, look it up online), and the movie is billed as "tale of ambition, betrayal, sugar, and menacing milkmen." The cast includes Melissa McCarthy, Jim Gaffigan, Hugh Grant, Amy Schumer, Bill Burr, Daniel Levy, James Marsden, Sarah Cooper, and Fred Armisen. *Unfrosted* is available on Netflix starting May 3. netflix.com

Richmond Shred-a-thon

Richmond residents are invited to drive through and drop off their confidential documents to be safely shredded for free.

Saturday, April 27
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
City Works Yard
5599 Lynas Lane

Next to the Richmond
Recycling Depot

FREE!

- *Maximum drop-off: 4 boxes per vehicle.*
- *Envelopes and staples permitted.*
- *Please remove rubber bands, paper clips and binder clips.*

richmond.ca/recycle



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