



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



03

OUR CITY

Richmond

HIGHLIGHT ON

by Florence Gordon

Richmond Street Banner Contest voting is now open

470 designs were submitted.

Now it's up to the community to vote and decide what will be the top 10 chosen.

It's that time of the year that the public will get to see the designs by many hopeful artists that we enjoy every year hanging as street banners in our city. Proving how popular this city project is 470 designs have been submitted. How the public will narrow it down from 20 finalist to a top 10 is going to be a challenge.

The City of Richmond is inviting residents to help beautify their streets in 2026 by voting for their favourite street banner designs. Residents can view and vote from this year's 20 creative finalist designs at [LetsTalkRichmond.ca](https://letsTalkRichmond.ca) now through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2025. Designs are also available to view at richmond.ca/banners, and votes can be submitted by email to ParksPrograms@richmond.ca

This year, the contest received 470 design submissions to reflect Richmond's unique characteristics through the following 10 themes: Active Living; Culture and Heritage; Community; Discover; Diversity; Island City; Nature; Play; Sustainability; and The Arts. A judging panel of Richmond artists narrowed down submissions to the final 20. The 10 designs (one from each theme) that receive the most votes from the public will be named winners of the 2026 Street Banner Contest.

The winning images will be printed on over 1,000 street banners. They will be installed on banner poles from March 2026 to February 2027 to enhance community spirit and beautify the downtown core and gateways.

Richmond's street banner contest is a part of the broader *Partners for Beautification* program that invites community members to become actively involved in shaping a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Richmond. For more information on this program, visit richmond.ca/beautification



Photos via richmond.ca

Diversity	Community	Active Living	Play	Island City
Nature	Discover	Culture and Heritage	The Arts	Sustainability

This year's banner contest themes include:



Timeline

- **Timeline item 1—active**
 - Voting opens
 - Voting began Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025
- **Timeline item 2—incomplete**
 - Voting closes
 - Voting closes 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025
- **Timeline item 3—incomplete**
 - Top 10 winners revealed
 - March 2026

Who's listening

Street Banner Program Coordinator Park Programs
Email: ParkPrograms@richmond.ca
Phone: 604-247-4453

Halloween Hoot returns to Richmond Nature Park

The forest is alive with eerie fun during the Richmond Nature Park's annual Halloween Hoot. This free, family-friendly outdoor event transforms the Pond Trail into a spirited Halloween walk featuring more than 35 inflatables, 10 custom-designed nature-inspired art installations and the ever-popular spooky tickle tunnel.

This year's event runs daily from Saturday, Oct. 18 through Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Stop by the gravel pumpkin patch, filled with hand-picked pumpkins ready to take home—all the charm of pumpkin picking without the muddy boots. Pumpkins are \$5 each or \$10 for three with proceeds benefiting the Richmond Nature Park Society's year-round educational programs.

Inside the Nature House, visitors will find Halloween-themed decorations throughout, along with a special bonus this year—the BCs Marvellous Mushrooms travelling exhibit. This engaging display invites families to discover the fascinating world of fungi while enjoying the spooky season fun. The Nature House is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with admission by donation.

The Richmond Nature Park is located at 11851 Westminster Highway, at No. 5 Road. On-site parking is limited for this popular event. Visitors are encouraged to take public transit or car pool. Overflow parking is available on weekends,

south of Westminster Highway along No. 5 Road.

For more information about Halloween Hoot, visit richmond.ca/halloween or call the Richmond Nature Park at 604-238-6188.



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The Pumpkin Patch is again part of this year's Halloween Hoot, taking place daily from Oct. 18 through Oct. 29, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Richmond Christmas Fund to offer registration

This year, the Richmond Christmas Fund, which supports low-income residents during the holiday season, is launching a new, appointment-based registration system.

As of Oct. 14, an online booking form has been available on the Christmas Fund's website, giving individuals a chance to schedule a registration session on Nov. 22, Nov. 29, or Dec. 6.

Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG), the local charity that operates the Christmas Fund, is implementing the new system in response to applicant feedback.

"In the past, the registration process has always been first come, first served," says Jocelyn Wong, Executive Director of RCRG. "While that system allowed us to help a large number of people, it often led to long wait times."

"With this change," says Wong "we hope to create a better experience for applicants, without limiting the Christmas Fund's overall community impact."

Registration sessions will be held at the Richmond Caring Place, where volunteers will be on hand to assess applicants' eligibility. Those who qualify will receive a selection of grocery vouchers, toys, and gift cards, according to household size and composition.

A final registration day, on Dec. 13, will be open to walk-ins, so those unable to book an appointment will still have an opportunity to access support.

"Last year, the Christmas Fund helped brighten the holidays for over 1,300 of our neighbours in need," says Wong. "The process is a little different this year, but our goal is still to help as many people as possible."



Photo courtesy Richmond Christmas Fund

Each year, the Richmond Christmas Fund assists residents who can't afford a holiday celebration.

To access the online booking form, along with a complete list of eligibility criteria and required documentation, visit rcrg.org/ChristmasFundHelp

Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG) is a registered charity that serves as a hub for volunteering and giving. RCRG is also a direct service provider, operating a Child Care Resource & Referral Centre, the Richmond Christmas Fund, and a variety of Seniors Community Support Services. rcrg.org

Practise earthquake safety during ShakeOut BC

On Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, at 10:16 a.m., people throughout B.C. joined the Great British Columbia ShakeOut earthquake drill to practice how to drop, cover and hold on.

"Practising earthquake preparedness helps keep people safe when it matters most," said Kelly Greene, minister of emergency management and climate readiness. "Participating in ShakeOut BC, building an emergency kit and creating a home emergency plan are simple but effective steps people can take to be ready for an emergency."

B.C. is the most seismically active region in Canada. Approximately 4,000 earthquakes are recorded each year. Most are too small to feel, but a large earthquake could happen at any time. To help protect people, the federal Earthquake Early Warning system is now fully operational in B.C. The system uses a network of sensors to detect earthquakes and sends alerts automatically to cellphones, radio and television through the National Public Alerting System.

These alerts can now provide people with crucial seconds of advance warning before strong shaking begins, giving time to take protective action.

The province continues to strengthen overall preparedness and invest in safer infrastructure. In 2022, the province updated its earthquake response plan, and in 2023 tested it through a large-scale exercise involving local governments, First Nations and emergency partners. Lessons from that exercise are being incorporated in earthquake response planning.

"In British Columbia, where seismic activity is a real threat, earthquake preparedness is essential. A few proactive steps today can make a difference tomorrow," said Naomi Yamamoto, president, BC Earthquake Alliance Society. "Securing your home, building an emergency kit and knowing your emergency plan empowers you to protect your loved ones. Earthquakes strike without warning. Being ready is the strongest defence we have."

The provincial ShakeOut BC drill and media event was led by the BC Earthquake Alliance and hosted by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, with support from the ShakeOut BC Planning Committee and Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Quick Facts:

- B.C. has experienced four magnitude 7.0 or greater earthquakes in the past 130 years in the southwestern part of the province.
- Recent provincial investments in seismic safety include approximately \$7 million for seismic retrofits and improvements to provincial bridges.
- BC Building Code provisions for seismic design were updated in 2025, helping strengthen homes and buildings across the province.



Photo courtesy leg.bc.ca
Kelly Greene, minister of emergency management and climate readiness.



Photo via Freepik.AI

- Since 2017, 71 schools have been upgraded or replaced through the Ministry of Infrastructure's Seismic Mitigation Program, to ensure more than 39,000 students are learning in seismically safer classrooms.
 - More than 700,000 people registered to participate in ShakeOut BC 2025.
- Learn more:
- To learn more about preparing for an earthquake, visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/know-your-hazards/earthquakes-tsunamis/earthquakes
 - For information during active emergencies, follow EmergencyInfoBC: emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/ [X.com/emergencyinfobc](https://x.com/emergencyinfobc)

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In honour of our soldiers: Arthur Bennet Lesley

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

In our previous series, we learned about the 56 men who gave their lives during World War I and World War II, whose names had been inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph and had a poppy street sign named after them. Following our poppy street sign series, we moved onto the young soldiers whose names were inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph, but did not have a road named after them. Those names are compiled of 23 young men who lost their lives in World War I, World War II, or in the Korean War.

Arthur Bennet Lesley was born on June 30, 1920 in Eburne, Richmond. He was the son of Bennet King and Nora Irene Lesley of 605 No. 6 Road, in Eburne, Richmond. He and his families occupation are unknown but his origin can be confirmed in his entry in They Shall Not Grow Old

His date of enlistment was unknown, what was known however is that he was a member of the crew of the Wellington aircraft # W5496, City of Vancouver Squadron.

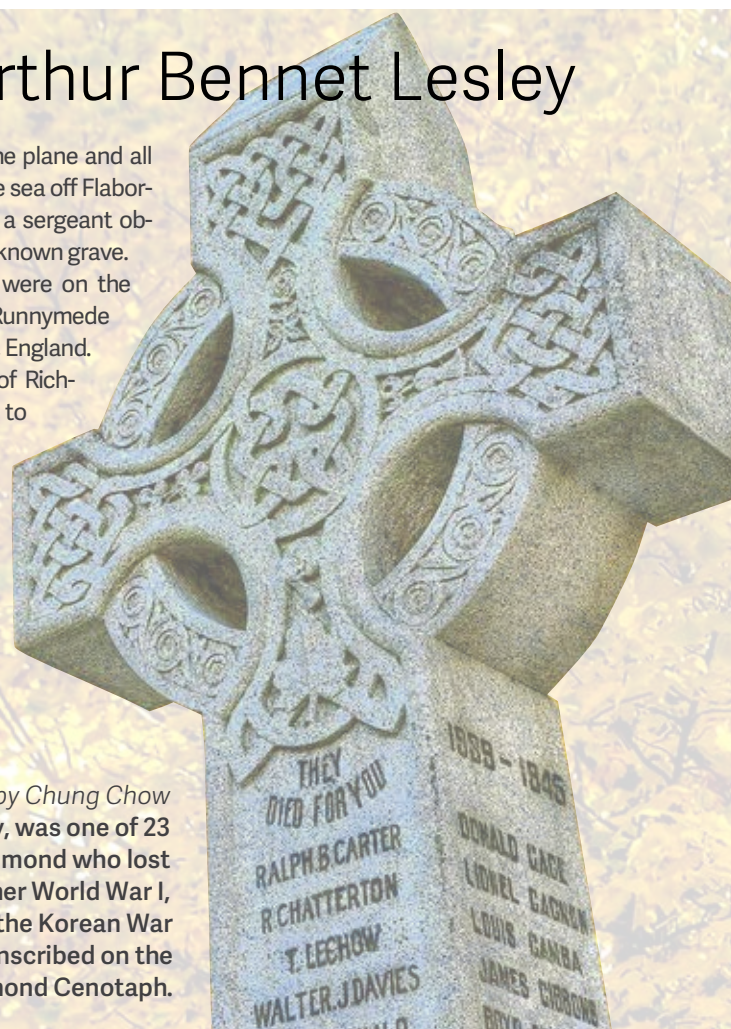
On Aug. 15, 1941, their squadron was on a bombing mission when their plane was either

hit or got into an accident. The plane and all those aboard crashed into the sea off Flaborough Head, England. He was a sergeant observer at the time and has no known grave.

The names of those who were on the plane were inscribed on the Runnymede War Memorial, Egham, Surrey, England.

Eight years later, the City of Richmond had written a letter to the Canadian Legion No. 5 Branch, requesting the names of the fallen soldiers that should be added to the Cenotaph. The Legion provided a list in their response letter, as well as a paragraph arguing for Arthur Lesley to be added to the Richmond Cenotaph.

File photo by Chung Chow
Arthur Bennet Lesley, was one of 23 young men from Richmond who lost their lives in either World War I, World War II, or in the Korean War whose names were inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph.



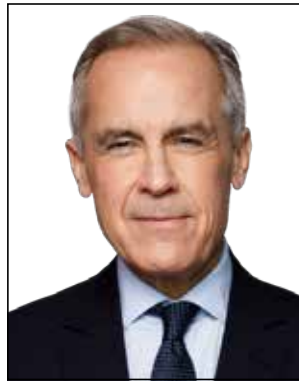
BLUNDELL CENTRE

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Carney announces new measures to combat crime

In a rapidly changing and more dangerous world, Canada is focused on what we can control. We are building our economy with major projects and millions more homes, we are empowering Canadians with lower costs and new opportunities to help you get ahead, and we are protecting our communities and our country. We cannot control what other nations do, but we can control what we choose to build—and we are building Canada strong.



PM MARK CARNEY

Safe, resilient communities are the backbone of a strong Canada. They attract people, families, businesses, and investment, and enable greater certainty and prosperity. To that end, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, announced new measures today that will protect Canadians and keep our communities safe. Canada's new government will:

- Strengthen Canada's Criminal Code to keep violent and repeat offenders out of our communities. Next week, the government will table legislation to amend the *Criminal Code* for crimes committed by violent and repeat offenders—those accused of serious crimes like violent auto theft, breaking and entering, human trafficking, violent assault,

and sexual assault. The legislation will include the following amendments:

- o Introducing reverse-onus bail for major crimes.
- o Allowing consecutive sentencing so multiple crimes mean longer time behind bars.
- o Imposing harsher penalties for organised retail theft.
- o Restricting conditional sentences for a number of sexual offences.

- Hire 1,000 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) personnel. In Budget

2025, the government will invest \$1.8 billion over four years to increase federal policing capacity across Canada to combat crime—including online fraud, money laundering, online child sexual exploitation, and organised criminal networks that threaten Canada's economic and national security. This funding will also go toward raising the RCMP cadet recruitment allowance to \$1,000 per week and dedicating 150 new RCMP personnel to tackle financial crimes—targeting money laundering networks, organised crime, online fraud, and the recovery of illicit assets.

In parallel, Canada's new government is working with provinces, territories, and local law enforce-

ment to address root causes of crime. Enforcement alone is not enough. To truly make communities safer, we must make major investments to build affordable housing, support those struggling with mental health and addictions, and reinforce programs for at-risk youth. This work is being undertaken in partnership with provinces, territories, municipalities, and local law enforcement, because to be effective, our solutions must reflect the realities of the communities we serve.

From day one, Canada's new government has acted decisively to keep our communities safe—from cracking down on the cross-border smuggling of guns, fentanyl, and other drugs, to expanding border-security resources and investing in violence prevention programs. We have introduced legislation to combat the rise in hate and violent intimidation, including to protect individuals against Islamophobia and antisemitism. To build Canada strong we will protect our communities, our border, our country, and our way of life.

Canada's new government will keep building stronger communities—by fixing ineffective policies from the past and building a safer future—with tough new laws, big new resources, and practical solutions. We will secure our border and our sovereignty, we will protect our communities and our way of life, and together we will build Canada strong.



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GETTING READY FOR RAIN



It's the rainy season, so it's important to make sure water drains effectively to help reduce the risk of flooding on your property.

DO:

- Ensure all drainage grates and catch basins on and near your property are clear of leaves and other debris.
- Keep gutters and downspouts clear.
- Recycle leaves, grass and garden trimmings using your Green Cart. For excess amounts, you can use paper yard waste bags or drop them off at the Richmond Recycling Depot.

DON'T:

- Don't block public drainage grates, catch basins, ditches and canals with dirt, leaves or other materials.
- Don't blow or rake leaves, grass or yard trimmings onto the street.
- Don't ignore visible blockages or barriers in open ditches and canals. Please contact Public Works at 604-270-8721 to report blockages.



richmond.ca/weather



Sockeye's honour championship banner

By STEVE ERICKSON
Contributing writer

Given the recent success of the early part of the season, the Sockeyes had the opportunity to welcome some members of the 1986-87 Richmond Sockeyes who clinched multiple titles, which included the Centennial Cup.

They won the BC Junior A championship trophy the Mowat Cup, advancing them to play the Alberta Champions for the Doyle Cup then the Abbott Cup over Saskatchewan's top team setting up a date for the Centennial Cup championship in Humboldt.

Today's Sockeyes were privileged to have some of the championship team on hand to watch the Centennial Cup Banner from the 1987 Sockeyes hung up above centre ice that featured a professional on-ice tribute to some members of the team who were on hand.

We had the chance after the first period to chat with Canucks broadcaster Dave Tomlinson who played in 51 regular season games with 43 goals and 65 assists as the leading scorer in addition to collecting 108 points while Jason Phillips was top scorer and Centennial Cup Most Valuable Player (MVP.)

Once the tribute was concluded it was on with a match-up focused on the return of the "Tunnel Series" in a contest that saw Delta's Ryder Dunn open the scoring on the power play for the short-lived lead.

Sockeyes Captain Teo Lin got his second and 6th goal of the season tying the game as well as a go-ahead goal and his second of the game at 15:58 on the power play giving the Sockeyes a 2-1 lead after twenty minutes.

Delta's Ryder Dunn got his second of the game an unassisted goal at 12:05 tying the game up. After two periods and still a tied game Richmond outshot Delta by a 30-17 tally.

The third period was all Richmond that saw Dylan Nazareth get his 4th of the season at 1:41 that saw David Yoon getting his 5th of the season that secured the win in a game that saw the Sockeyes outshoot the Ice Hawks by an impressive 43-22 margin.

Sockeyes Captain Teo Lin was named first star with Ryder Dunn named second and Dylan Nazareth locking up third star as Delta scored one goal on eight power play opportunities to Richmond's one goal on three power play chances.

The teams would have a return game in Delta at the Sungod Arena a short two nights later, in a match that was a reverse of the previous game that saw a march to the penalty box in the later stages of the game.

Despite the outcome Richmond continued to dominate in the shot department peppering Delta's Armaan Kaila with 48 shots while Sockeye's Massimo Urbani faced 23 stopping 19 in the loss.

Sockeye's Dylan Nazareth got his 5th of the season opening the scoring the only goal in the first period in a game that saw Richmond outshoot Delta by a narrow 8-7 margin.

The second period saw Delta's Becket Cross get his third and fourth of the season, the first at 1:39 followed by the go-ahead goal at 6:22 allowing the Sockeyes Joshua Mytton to get the equalizer at 11:17 with Richmond outshooting Delta by a 14-6 tally.

The start of the season has been a rough start for a squad that isn't used to a slow start in the Tom Shaw Conference knowing that this was a game they simply never wanted to drop. Playing aggressive was what they did in the third



Richmond Sockeyes' new jersey.

Photo courtesy Richmond Sockeyes

that saw Colin Jang get his first and second goal of the season fourteen seconds apart in a period that Delta controlled from the opening face-off. In a game that the officials had to control from the opening puck drop saw Delta assessed 16 penalties for 86 minutes while Richmond was assessed 15 penalties for 76 minutes. To no surprise Delta stole all three stars with Armaan Kaila named first star, Colin Jang second and Becket Cross named third star.

Knowing that the pressure was on and teams were coming after the Conference leaders, practice wasn't easy with the coaching staff reviewing game footage making the necessary changes for the upcoming pair

of games.

The trappers made their first visit to the "Fish Tank" of the season hoping to pull out a win, that saw them have a solid opening first ten minutes only to have it reversed. Sockeyes Dylan Nazareth opened the scoring at 12:16 with Yoon and Huo getting assists on the early start that saw a reverse of the first scoring play with David Yoon getting his 6th of the season being set up from Nazareth and Huo assisting on the play.

The second was relatively more disciplined than the previous game that saw Sockeyes' Carter Voll give them a 3-0 lead 12:52 Quinn Orr getting his second of the year ending the second period with a 4-0 lead.

Voll got his second of the game at 16:35 in a period that saw the Trappers pepper several quality shots at Dwayne Paul-Cruz in a period that he played stellar between the pipes, albeit in a losing cause dropping the game 5-0.

Sockeyes Georgi Milanov stopped all 27 shots he faced earning the shutout of the game knowing that the next game would be one that wouldn't be as easy as this one.

Up next would be a road trip to the Valley taking on the Jets who wanted nothing better than to harpoon the "fish" in a game that saw them open the scoring 1:29 in as Alexander Jacques put the Jets up 1-0. The Sockeyes responded with a pair of power play goals with Uyeda getting his 4th of the year at 3:11 setting up one from Captain Teo Lin at 14:54 finishing off the period with David Yoon getting his 7th of the season holding a 3-1 lead after twenty minutes.

To no surprise the officials had their work cut out for them in the opening twenty minutes, assessing ten penalties to the home squad while the Sockeyes were assessed eight. The Jets responded getting the early marker in the second period at 8:54 pulling within one setting up a pair with Dylan Nazareth doubling up 4-2 in the score at 14:51 followed by Joshua Mytton's shorthanded goal giving the visitors a 5-2 lead pulling the second period to a close.

The second saw the teams trade a pair of penalties setting up a strong third period from the Sockeyes, getting a pair on the power play allowing one power play marker by the Jets. The Jets utilized both "tenders" while the Sockeyes used the talents of Massimo Urbani who stopped 36 of 39 shots he faced. It's not often that the visiting team can play in the other team's arena riding a high, stealing all three stars with Mattias Uyeda 2G/2A named first star, William Huo (4 Assists) and Captain Teo Lin finishing with 1 goal, 2 assists named third star.

The Sockeyes return home for a match-up against last year's league champions, Ridge Meadows Flames who are looking to not just hook but sink the Sockeyes with the opening face-off set for 7:00 pm. Please come out and support the Richmond Sockeyes as fans also play an important role.

Asphalt Paving Advisory 2025

April 20 to November 30, 2025

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, 2025.

PROPOSED 2025 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS
No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Alderbridge Way to Cambie Road)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Cambie Road to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Capstan Way to Sea Island Way)—Intersections included
Bridgeport Road (No. 5 Road to Sweden Way)—Intersections included
Cambie Road (Shell Road to No.5 Road)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Seacliff Road to Kingsbridge Drive)—Intersections included
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to River Road)—Intersections included
Moncton Street (Railway Avenue to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
Francis Road (Gilbert Road to No. 3 Road)—Intersections included
Francis Road (Railway Avenue to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
River Road (Cambie Road to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
Westminster Highway (No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road)—Intersections included
Vulcan Way (No. 5 Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included
Boeing Avenue (Catalina Crescent to Wellington Crescent)—Intersections included
Catalina Crescent (Handley Avenue to Airport Road)—Intersections Included
Douglas Crescent (Wellington Crescent to North end of road)—Intersections Included
Hudson Avenue (Wellington Crescent to Airport Road)—Intersections Included
Bridgeport Road (St. Edwards Drive to Shell Road)—Intersections Included
Cambie Road (No. 4 Road to Shell Road)—Intersections Included
No. 4 Road (Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Bridgeport Road to Vulcan Way)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Greenland Drive to Bridgeport Road)—Intersections included
Shell Road (River Drive to River Road)—Intersections included
Wallace Road (Kozier Gate to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
Williams Road (Parsons Road to Gilbert Road)—Intersections included
Machrina Way (Horseshoe Way to No. 5 Road)—Intersections included
Trumond Avenue (Wellmond Road to Gormond Road)—Intersections included
Garden City Road (Cambie Road to Bridgeport Road)—Intersections included
Boundary Road (Thompson Gate to Westminster Highway)—Intersections included
Kwantlen Street (Alderbridge Way to Alexandra 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.

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

Meeting schedule subject to change.

**Oct 21 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee**

**Oct 22 | 4:00pm
Public Works &
Transportation Committee**

**Oct 27 | 7:00pm
Council Meeting**

**Oct 28 | 4:00pm
Parks, Recreation & Cultural
Services Committee**

**Oct 29 | 3:30pm
Development Permit Panel**

**Nov 3 | 4:00pm
General Purposes
Committee followed by
Finance Committee**

**Nov 4 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee**

**Nov 10 | 7:00pm
Council Meeting**

**Nov 12 | 4:00pm
Community Safety
Committee**

**Nov 13 | 3:30pm
Development Permit
Panel**

**Nov 17 | 4:00pm
General Purposes
Committee**

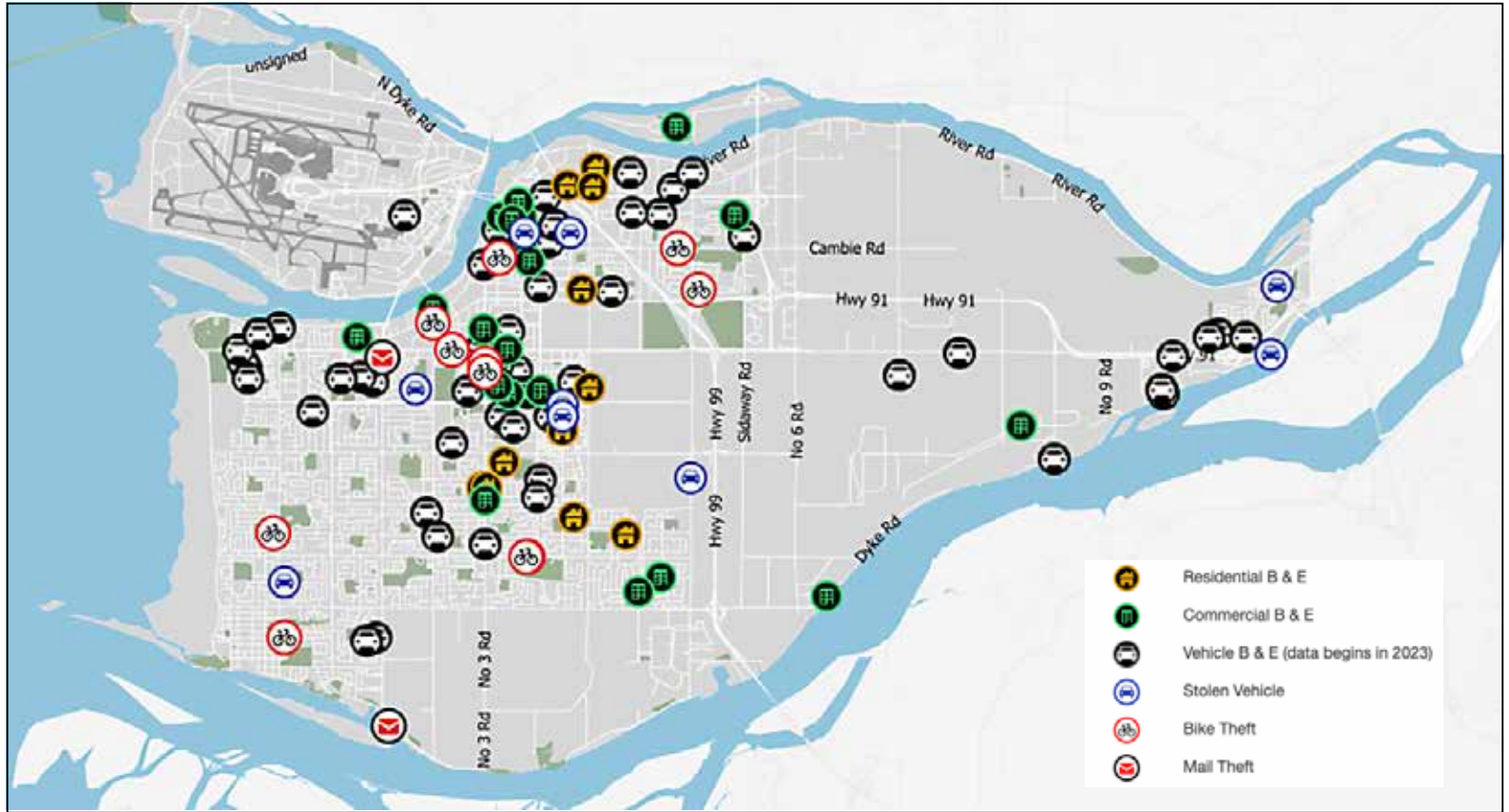
**Nov 17 | 7:00pm
Public Hearing**





RCMP

Crime Map Sept. 1 - 30, 2025



BC will train more police officers for public safety

More police officers will be trained at the Justice Institute of British Columbia's (JIBC) police academy with a 50 per cent expansion of seats, supporting local police recruitment and building safe communities.

"By expanding the police academy to 96 seats per class, we are ensuring more police recruits are well trained and prepared to protect communities from crime and violence,"

said Nina Krieger, minister of public safety and Solicitor General. "By growing the academy's capacity, our government is taking action to ensure that local police departments have the resources they need to keep families and businesses safe in our province."

Through new funding announced in Budget 2025, \$4 million is provided to support expansion of the JIBC police academy's annual training capacity from 192 to 288 officers. This investment will fund the hiring of additional instructors, the purchase of new training equipment and the creation of dedicated spaces to accommodate the increased number of police recruits.

"This investment underscores the province's



JUSTICE INSTITUTE of BRITISH COLUMBIA

commitment to public safety and its confidence in JIBC's role in supporting the growing needs of police departments across the province," said Len Goerke, president and CEO, JIBC. "As B.C.'s public safety educator, we are committed to expanding our police academy programming to meet B.C.'s growing need for police recruits and equipping the next generation of police officers with the skills, knowledge and integrity to help build safer, stronger communities."

The JIBC police academy provides provincially approved basic training to all new municipal, transit and tribal police recruits in B.C. The program happens in three blocks and typically lasts 25 weeks. It includes both classroom and

physical field training, ranging from firearms and controls to emergency-vehicle operations, Indigenous cultural safety and legal and investigative skills. The academy also offers advanced training for police officers serving in municipal departments, the RCMP and other law-enforcement agencies operating in the province.

The announcement of increasing police-training capacity is part of the B.C. government's broader public safety plan that includes investments in the root causes of crime, including increased mental-health and addiction services and supportive housing.

Budget 2025 invests \$235 million in new funding over the next three years to improve community safety through various public safety and justice programs. This investment will increase access to the justice system through virtual bail and increased capacity and security at court-houses. It will also make sure people have the support and access to the treatment they need and provide police with more tools to target robbery, shoplifting, theft and property-related offences.



by Jolene George, Sr. Mortgage Broker

Bank of Canada cuts rate to 2.50%

October mortgage update and what this mean to you...

The Bank of Canada made headlines last month by trimming its key interest rate to 2.50 per cent. This is the first rate cut we've seen in several months, and it brings borrowing costs to their lowest level in three years.

So what does this mean for you as a homeowner, a buyer, or someone coming up to renewal? Let's break it down.

Why did the Bank of Canada cut rates?

The Bank of Canada lowered rates because the economy has started to cool and inflation is gradually moving closer to the target range. Here are the highlights:

- **Policy rate:** Down to 2.50 per cent, which means immediate relief for anyone with a home equity line of credit (HELOC) or a variable-rate mortgage.
- **Inflation:** Headline inflation is sitting near 1.9 per cent, while core inflation is around 2.7 per cent. Still slightly high, but trending downward.
- **Economic growth:** The Bank noted that Canada has absorbed global trade uncertainty better than expected, but slower job growth signals that households are feeling the pinch.
- **Outlook:** If this trend continues, another small cut could come later this year.



If you're renewing your mortgage

Renewals are the biggest story right now. By 2026, nearly 60 per cent of all Canadian mortgages will need to be renewed. Many homeowners who locked in ultra-low rates during the pandemic will be renewing at rates closer to 4 per cent.

- **Today's 5-year fixed:** Around 3.9 per cent–4.4 per cent, compared to 1.7 per cent in 2021.
- **Impact on payments:** On a \$500,000 mortgage, this change can mean \$750–\$850 more per month in payments.
- **What you can do:** Don't wait until your renewal notice arrives. You can typically secure a new rate 90–120 days in advance. This gives you a chance to shop the market and lock in the best deal.

If you're buying a home

Choosing between fixed and variable still comes down to your comfort level and long-term plans.

- **Fixed rate** (~4.09 per cent)
 - » Payment on \$500K over 30 years: ~\$2,420/month
 - » Good if you want predictable payments and long-term stability
 - » Less flexible if rates fall and you want to take advantage
- **Variable rate** (~4.70 per cent – .50 per cent)
 - » Current payment: ~\$2,350/month
 - » If rates fall by 0.50 per cent, your payment could drop to ~\$2,110/month
 - » More flexible if rates decline further
 - » Payments could rise again if inflation flares up

Bottom line: A fixed rate buys peace of mind, while a variable rate may reward you if cuts continue.

What's happening in the Vancouver housing market?

The local real estate market is adjusting along with interest rates.

- **Benchmark prices (Aug 2025):**
 - » Detached homes: ~\$1.95M (-4. per cent year-over-year)
 - » Townhomes: ~\$1.08M (-3.5 per cent)

Condos: ~\$734K (-4.4 per cent)

» Overall composite: ~\$1.15M (-3.8 per cent)

- **Sales:** About 1,959 homes sold in August, up slightly from last year but still below the 10-year average.
- **Inventory:** Active listings are up nearly 19 per cent from last year, giving buyers more choice.
- **Market balance:** The sales-to-new-listings ratio is ~46 per cent—a balanced market, meaning neither buyers nor sellers hold a major advantage.

This balance is good news for buyers who were previously squeezed out by bidding wars. It also means sellers need to price realistically in today's market.

Key takeaways

- **Rates are easing:** The cut to 2.50 per cent provides relief for variable-rate borrowers and opens the door for more cuts if the economy slows further.
- **Renewals are crucial:** If your mortgage comes due in the next 12–18 months, start planning early. Even small differences in rates can add up to thousands in savings.
- **The market is balanced:** With more listings and softer prices, buyers have breathing room. Sellers can still succeed if they adjust expectations.
- **Strategy matters:** Whether fixed or variable, the right choice depends on your risk tolerance, timeline, and financial goals.

Final thoughts

The shift we're seeing this fall marks an important turning point. After several years of rate hikes, we're finally moving into a period where borrowing costs are easing. This creates opportunities for both buyers and current homeowners—but timing and strategy will make all the difference.

If your renewal is coming up, or if you're thinking about purchasing this fall, now is the time to connect. I'd be happy to review your options, compare lenders, and help you make the most of this market. Let's make sure you're prepared for the next step.



Douglas James Scammell

FASHION FOR MEN

Herringbone Suit

When it comes to fall, and winter men’s suit fashion darker colors will be back in full swing and since the weather will be damp and colder outside it is important to have some versatile sport coats and suits that you can wear over and over again during the next three seasons, especially living here in British Columbia. One of the most versatile suits you can have is either a herringbone also known as a tweed wool fabric suit or sport coat to incorporate into your suit rotation.

HISTORY

Herringbone is a weave pattern which is known for its distinctive V-shaped weave, shown in the picture here. I discovered doing the research for this article the weave design has a very rich history where its origin goes all the way back to ancient Roman times to modern home décor and obviously menswear, where the pattern’s interlocking structure provide strength, and durability.

Herringbone got its name because it resembles the skeleton of a herring fish. Tweed is traditionally made of 100 per cent wool fabric that uses the her-



ringbone weave design but wool is not exclusively used as there are some modern variations incor-

porated like cashmere, silk or even synthetics to achieve different textures to enhance durability.

Tweeds are a staple of traditional Scottish, Irish, Welsh and English clothing, being desirable for informal outerwear. The fabric is perfect for a marine climate like Great Britain has because the material is moisture resistant and durable and is made to withstand harsh climates. A herringbone suit traditionally was commonly worn by upper-class men as country clothing being used for outdoor activities such as shooting and hunting.

WEAVE TYPES:

The weave is fundamental to tweed’s appearance and properties. There is many different types of weaves than just the traditional V shaped weave. Here is some most common weaves listed below:

Twill Weave: This is the most frequent weave, characterized by distinct diagonal lines on the fabric surface. This structure gives tweed its flexibility, strength, and durability, as the diagonal weave is more resistant to wrinkling and wear than a plain weave.

Herringbone: A variation of the twill weave, where the diagonals reverse at regular intervals, creating a zigzag pattern resembling a fish’s skeleton.

Plaid/Check: Many tweeds, especially estate tweeds, use complex checkered patterns formed by the intersection of different colored yarns in the warp and weft.

Plain Weave: Although less common in classic tweeds, a plain weave (one over, one under) can be used, resulting in a simpler, more uniform fabric.

Density and Weight: Tweed is generally a dense, medium-to-heavyweight fabric. This density, achieved through robust yarns and finishing processes like “fulling” (where the fabric is beaten to compact the fibers), contributes to its ability to retain heat and resist wind and water. The “open” or “airy” structure often described in tweed actually refers to its surface texture and wool’s breathability, rather than a truly loose weave.

There is many different brands of herringbone tweed fabrics. One of the most commonly known worth mentioning is Harris Tweed which was founded in 1909 and is exclusively made in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, specifically on the islands of Lewis, Harris, Uist, and Barra. It is a tweed cloth handwoven by islanders in their homes, using 100 per cent pure virgin wool dyed and spun from these islands.

RESURGENCE

I think it is fair to say a good herringbone tweed suit has never gone out of fashion.

When it comes to men’s fashion I like to mention and give credit to some of the famous icons that have made their mark. When it comes to Herringbone fashion icons, I think of Sean Connery playing James Bond. Connery wore a beautiful tweed sport coat in the James Bond movies *Gold-*

finger (1964) and *Thunderball* (1965) along with some very famous tough San Francisco Police movie detectives like Steve McQueen in the movie *Bullitt* (1968) and Clint Eastwood in *Dirty Harry* (1971) both wore iconic herringbone sport coats influenced by the one I am wearing in the pictures in this article below.



Photos courtesy DJ Scammell

In more modern times the hit British show *Peaky Blinders* had plenty of herringbone content set in Britain during the 1920’s and 30’s who’s main character’s wardrobe Thomas Shelby portrayed by Cillian Murphy wore plenty of dapper herringbone suits which influenced its popularity into today’s modern world.



Photo courtesy of Kelisi via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Hebrides, group of islands extending in an arc off the Atlantic (west) coast of Scotland. They are subdivided into two groups—the Inner Hebrides to the east and the Outer Hebrides to the west—which are separated from each other by channels called the Minch and the Little Minch.

OUR CITY *tonight*

**SPOTLIGHT ON
MORE GREAT HOME VIEWING**



Photo courtesy Netflix Canada

ni: Son of the Century. Based on the bestselling book by Antonio Scurati and directed by BAFTA-winning Joe Wright (*Pride & Prejudice*, *Atonement*, *Darkest Hour*), this 8-episode story starts with Benito Mussolini, aka "Il Duce", and his founding of the Fasci Italiani party in 1919, which was meant to appeal to war veterans of all political leanings. We follow him through his calculating rise to power, as he exploits the warring classes, creating conflict, flaming anger and resentment, while also destabilizing institutions, all with the goal of

offering himself as saviour, the only one who can save Italy. Sound familiar? This powerful series is made even more so by the performance of brilliant actor, Luca Marinelli, as Mussolini. He talks to the camera, letting the viewers know what he's planning, and thinking – he even at one point, turns to the camera, and with an evil grin, comments about making Italy "great again". Look for *Mussolini: Son of the Century* streaming on MUBI mubi.com

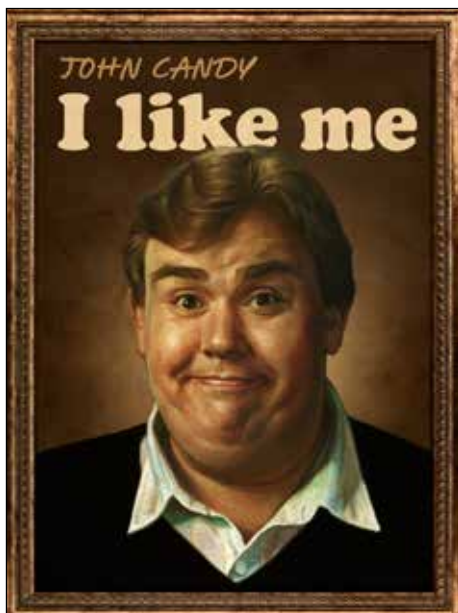


Photo courtesy Prime Video

THE VIEW #1 – WHO KILLED THE MONTREAL EXPOS?

It was a great loss to the city of Montreal when their beloved baseball team, the Expos, left for greener pastures in 2004 after a 35-year existence. Those greener pastures were in Washington DC, the largest market in the US at the time without a baseball team (and, ironically, a city that had lost their own baseball teams in 1960 and again in 1971). Now comes the new documentary called *Who Killed The Montreal Expos?*, which successfully unpacks the tragic, at times, soap opera, story which cannot be blamed on just one thing. It is also the tale of baseball itself which began to change in the 1980s when money became the prime focus and some owners, once thought wealthy enough to own a team, were no longer that wealthy enough. It's about an older stadium—in this case, Olympic Stadium—also once thought good enough until it became a broken-down relic. Throw in an American owner who would sweep in like a saviour only to move on a short time later, leaving the team in the rare position of being overseen by Major League Baseball itself. This documentary benefits and is strengthened by some of the baseball legends and former players who have nothing but love for the team, the city and their fans, including Pedro Martinez, Vladimir Guerrero Sr., and Larry Walker, as well as former manager Felipe Alou. It's unlikely Montreal will ever see another MLB team in their city again, which is sad. The city has a rich history with the sport including being the home of Jackie Robinson's first team, the Montreal Monarchs, which broke the colour barrier in 1946. This film is now available for viewing on Netflix netflix.com

THE VIEW #2 – MUSSOLINI: SON OF THE CENTURY

There's an old phrase that states those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it. We couldn't help but think about that while watching the engrossing new limited series called *Mussolini: Son of the Century*. Based on the bestselling book by Antonio Scurati and directed by BAFTA-winning Joe Wright (*Pride & Prejudice*, *Atonement*, *Darkest Hour*), this 8-episode story starts with Benito Mussolini, aka "Il Duce", and his founding of the Fasci Italiani party in 1919, which was meant to appeal to war veterans of all political leanings. We follow him through his calculating rise to power, as he exploits the warring classes, creating conflict, flaming anger and resentment, while also destabilizing institutions, all with the goal of offering himself as saviour, the only one who can save Italy. Sound familiar? This powerful series is made even more so by the performance of brilliant actor, Luca Marinelli, as Mussolini. He talks to the camera, letting the viewers know what he's planning, and thinking – he even at one point, turns to the camera, and with an evil grin, comments about making Italy "great again". Look for *Mussolini: Son of the Century* streaming on MUBI mubi.com



Photo courtesy MUBI

THE VIEW #3 – JOHN CANDY: I LIKE ME

For those old enough to have seen him on TV and film in those early years, John Candy was bigger than life. We grew up with him in the mid-70's to the early-80s, with the ground-breaking Canadian TV show, *Second City*, and then his scene stealing, supporting roles in comedies like *Stripes*, and *Splash*. This led to one of his most memorable roles, that of shower curtain ring salesman Del Griffith in 1987's *Trains, Planes and Automobiles*, opposite Steve Martin. He could also go the dramatic route, like his memorable scene as a sleazy lawyer in Oliver's Stone's *JKF*. He died young at the age of only 44. Jump ahead to 2025 and Colin Hanks (son of Tom Hanks, Candy's co-star and friend) and a new documentary he has directed and co-produced with Ryan Reynolds called *John Candy: I Like Me*. The film examines the life of Candy, his love of family and work, while offering reflections from those he worked with including legends Bill Murray, Steve Martin, Mel Brooks, Martin Short, Eugene Levy and Tom Hanks. The day he died in 1994, we remember thinking, it was the only time John Candy made us cry. This film is a fitting tribute to a talent who left us far too soon. *John Candy: I Like Myself* is available now on Prime Video primevideo.com

Tod Maffin talks openly about Canadian identity

Tod Maffin is a Canadian commentator, writer, and former national host and producer at CBC Radio. He is now dedicating his time to being a spokesperson on Canadian culture at a notable time in history. He describes himself as somebody who talks openly about Canadian identity, politics, culture and history at a time that he believes a lot of people want to address these issues.

OCT: We came across your commentary quite by accident and discovered you are very popular throughout the different social media platforms. Tell us a little about the evolution of your growing popularity and your current project that you are passionate about.

TM: When the push to "Buy Canadian" started happening after the tariffs were introduced to Canada, I began making videos to help explain the difference between Made in Canada versus Product of Canada. I talked about how we should be boycotting American products and one of the things that surprised me is that there were a lot of Americans showing up in the comments of those videos that supported this point of view. I had comments that ranged from we support this or please boycott the U.S. It is a bit of a joke actually because one day in February I was sitting at my computer and I decided to make this somewhat flippant video that started out by saying "If Americans really support Canada and our economy, why don't you come up here to Vancouver Island, in particular to Nanaimo where I live, and spend a weekend here." I went on to say that "we will pick a weekend and everyone can come shop in our stores and eat in our restaurants."

Hundreds of Americans took my wife and I up on that offer and showed up on that weekend in late April. One of the things that came out of that weekend was that there were a lot of healthcare workers that used this as a chance to look around Vancouver Island and see what it was like potentially for them to live and work here. So that's what Jocelyn and I are doing on our evenings and weekends now is trying to help these people get the information they need to move to Canada. We think Vancouver Island is great but anywhere in BC or even Canada.



Photo courtesy HA Photography/Dirk Heydemann

Tod Maffin spent 20 years on the professional speaker circuit.

We'd be happy with that.

OCT: How can we help you with this project without actually going to Vancouver Island and helping you in person?

TM: From speaking to a lot of Americans, I think one of the most important things we can do is listen. There is a great deal of fear in the United States right now for obvious reasons. You only have to look at what's happening to see that we don't have to do big things in Canada in order to support our American friends. We can listen, we can ask someone how they're doing if we're in a Facebook group. If you're part of an online group and you know there are Americans within that group, ask them how they're doing and ask them if there's anything we can do to help. I think that goes a long way as well.

OCT: I love that you labeled yourself as an 'Emotional Support Canadian'. Nowadays when you run into Americans that are travelling to Vancouver or anywhere in Canada, they're very sheepish to tell us where they're from. Most of us are very understanding and we get that they're hurting. It is wonderful what you and your wife Jocelyn are doing, and I love that you're on Vancouver Island. You're residing in a smaller community, but you're doing something very large and impactful. What do you see in the future for us as Canadians?

TM: Hopefully an influx of healthcare workers and more skilled labourers. We have a unique op-

portunity in Canada to offer that kind of opportunity. And I think it's something everyone should step up and do. It's also an opportunity with the people who will be coming to help them with what they need. Whether they need help with understanding the differences between the way that a lot of Americans run their day-to-day lives and the way a Canadian does. We don't have a lot of expectations from people who move to Canada in a healthcare role or other jobs. Our only expectations would be that they ultimately support community, and we would expect that when citizenship is achieved, to vote and make their presence count. We also expect that newcomers will be relentlessly decent. And we don't expect perfection in Canada, but we expect decency. I think if we can just communicate that to support

your community with the common sense to just be good to your family and be good to your community, that is the message that they need to hear. Maybe we all need to hear that from time to time as well.

OCT: Can you tell us what our government is doing right now to encourage healthcare workers to move here to BC or Canada?

TM: I think they're doing a lot. All the provinces have really stepped up, especially BC which has something like 1,400 American healthcare workers wanting to come here in the last couple of months. The provinces have stepped up and it's great to see BC is putting out slightly cheeky ads in the United States. I really feel that the system has stepped up to support this project. I'm hoping that other community groups, like the one that Jocelyn and I are helping with (Nanaimo Healthcare Infusion), will also step up and support grass roots organizations. The website that we set up is going to be hopefully be used as a template when we will release it publicly so that other communities can just click on it and it'll populate. This way they can just insert their community's name and participate along with other communities across Canada.

OCT: How can people follow you and contribute to your project?

TM: Subscribing to the free newsletter is the easiest way to get involved. FarAndWide.news



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