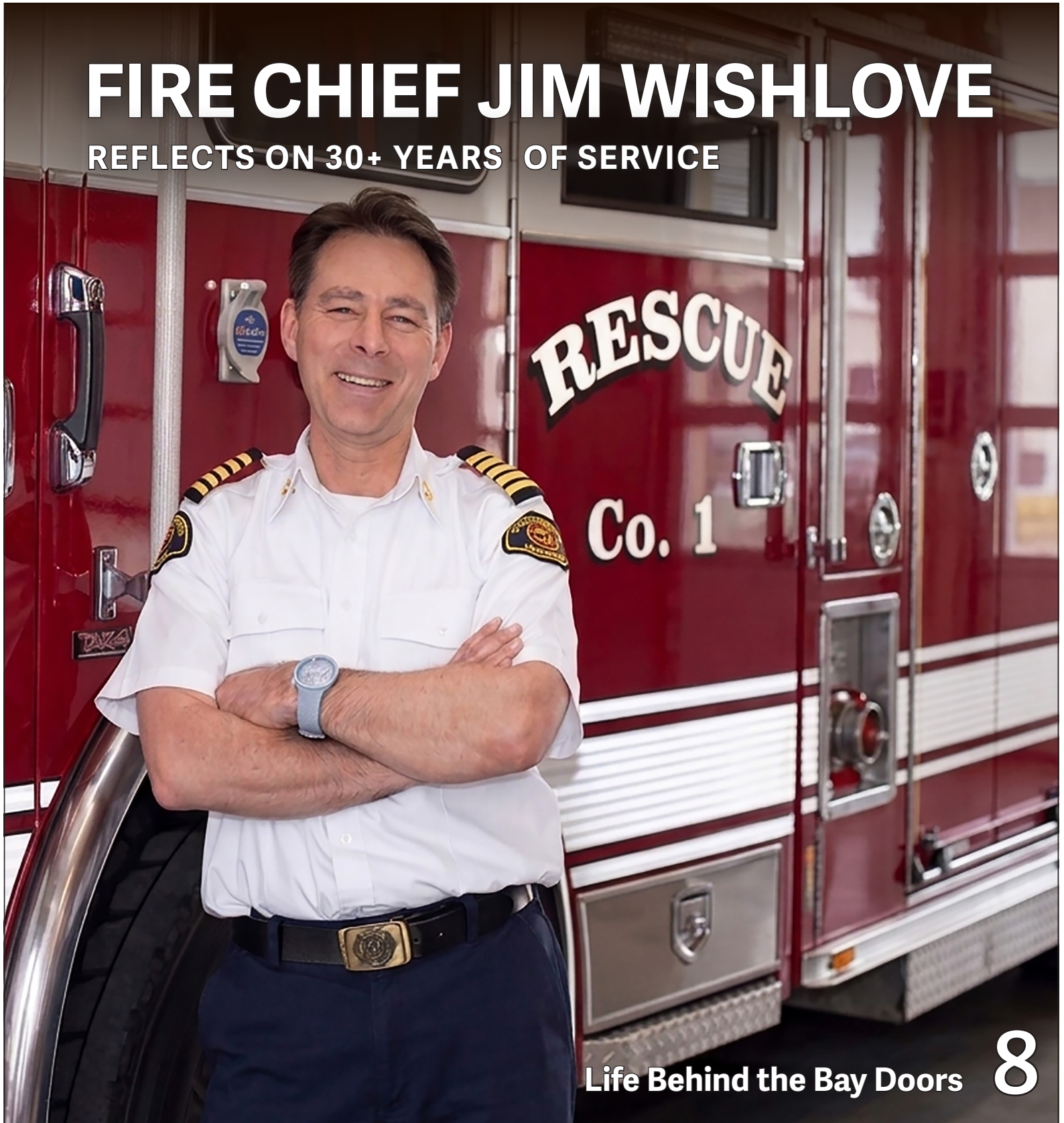




FIRE CHIEF JIM WISHLOVE

REFLECTS ON 30+ YEARS OF SERVICE



Life Behind the Bay Doors 8

OUR CITY *Richmond*

NEWS UPDATE

BY FLORENCE GORDON



Apr 24 – Sep 20

Richmond Night Market

8351 River Rd, Richmond, BC
Fri, Sat & Stat Sun 7:00pm - 12:00am
Sun & Stat Holiday 7:00pm - 11:00pm

This summer, millions of fans and visitors from around the globe will fill the city with excitement — and the Richmond Night Market will be the place where everyone comes together to eat, laugh, and feel the energy!



Courtesy Richmond Night Market

May 2, 3

Ships to Shore: Kaiwo Maru returns

Garry Point Park, Steveston Village
Richmond, BC
10:00am - 5:00pm

"One of the largest tall ships in the world, the Kaiwo Maru will visit our community for the first time since 2017 after making a month-long voyage across the Pacific Ocean." — Mayor Malcolm Brodie



May 7

Art After Dark: Youth Week Takeover

Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond, BC
5:00am - 8:00pm



A free, after-hours event at the Richmond Art Gallery that transforms the space into a youth-focused, skate culture-inspired creative hub with live music, hands-on art, and interactive exhibits. Designed for ages 13–24.

May 7 – 10

Royal Canadian Circus Kicks Off 2026 Canadian Tour in Richmond, B.C.

Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond, BC
May 7..... 7:30pm
May 8..... 4:00pm & 7:30pm
May 9.... 12:00pm & 4:00pm & 7:30pm
May 10..... 1:00pm & 5:00pm



The all-new production blends world-class Mongolian acrobats, flying-trapeze artists, illusionists, and comedic performers—combining classic circus

artistry with modern theatrical elements for an unforgettable, all-ages experience.

May 9, 10

London Farm Annual Plant Sale

6511 Dyke Road, Richmond, BC
10:00am - 4:00pm



London Farm's Annual Plant Sale on Mother's Day weekend features a selection of annuals, perennials and succulents in a variety of planters and containers.

Apr – Jun

Seniors Activities, Guides & Passes – Spring 2026

In-person and online



City of Richmond

The City and partners are proud to offer high-quality social programs and services for those 55+ years at eight community facilities, including the Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living.

Richmond Housing Market Turns More Selective

A Market That Is Moving, but More Carefully

BY KEVIN CHING

Property Manager | Real Estate Market Contributor

The Richmond housing market entered 2026 without the urgency that defined earlier cycles. Instead, the first quarter has been marked by a quieter kind of activity—one that is steady, but more selective.

Sales activity improved as the quarter progressed, with March showing a noticeable increase compared to January. Detached home sales reached 52 transactions for the month, representing a modest increase from the same period last year. Condominium and townhome segments remained relatively stable, though still below prior-year levels. Across Metro Vancouver, overall sales continue to track below long-term seasonal averages, even as month-to-month momentum improves. This points less to a lack of demand, and more to a change in how buyers are approaching the market.

Inventory Is Giving Buyers More Control
Inventory levels remained elevated through the first quarter. Richmond recorded 576 active detached listings, and 910 condominium listings in March, giving buyers significantly more choice than in previous years. With more options available, decisions are taking longer and comparisons are more deliberate. The sales-to-active listings ratio remains below the range typically associated with a balanced market, particularly in the detached segment. In practical terms, homes are still selling—but not automatically.

Prices Are Adjusting, but Stabilizing

Pricing trends reflect a similar sense of moderation. Benchmark values across Richmond have declined on a year-over-year basis, though the pace of change appears to be slowing.

As of March 2026, the benchmark price for a detached home was approximately \$1.97 million, down 9.3 per cent from the previous year. Townhomes and condominiums showed comparable adjustments, with benchmark prices of \$1.04 million and \$674,700 respectively. However, over the most recent three-month period, price movement has been relatively limited. This suggests the market may be approaching a period of stabilization, rather than continuing a sharper correction.

Homes Are Taking Longer to Sell

One of the more visible changes is the time it takes for properties to sell. Average days on market have increased across all segments. Detached homes are now taking approximately 64 days to sell, compared to 38 days a year earlier. Townhomes and condominiums have experienced similar, though less pronounced increases. This does not necessarily signal weakening demand. Rather, it reflects a more cautious buyer, taking time to evaluate multiple options before making a decision.

A More Divided Market Is Emerging

The first quarter data also shows that Richmond is no longer behaving as a single, uni-

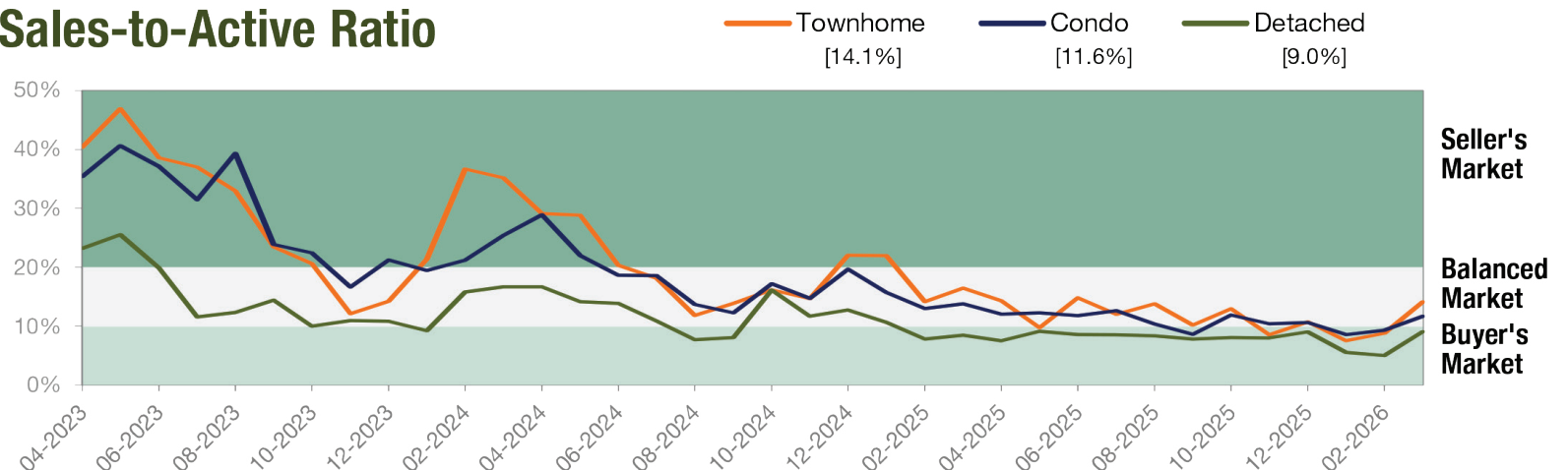


fied market. Entry-level condominiums continue to benefit from relative affordability, while higher-priced detached homes face greater resistance. Even within the same category, outcomes can vary depending on location, condition, and pricing. With more supply available, buyers are no longer just asking whether a property is fairly priced. Increasingly, they are comparing it directly to the next available option—and making decisions accordingly.

What This Means for Buyers and Sellers

The first quarter of 2026 does not point to a declining market, but rather one that is adjusting. Homes are still selling, but not as quickly. Prices are moving, but not sharply. Buyers remain active, but more deliberate. For sellers, this places greater emphasis on pricing accuracy and presentation. For buyers, it creates more opportunity to compare and negotiate, particularly in segments where inventory remains elevated. More broadly, Richmond's housing market is shifting away from a momentum-driven cycle toward one shaped by alignment—between expectations, pricing, and value.

Sales-to-Active Ratio





City of
Richmond

Explore City of Richmond's 2026 Capital Projects

April 22, 2026

Richmond, BC – The City of Richmond is inviting residents and community members to explore the 2026 Capital Projects Highlights, now available online at [LetstalkRichmond.ca](https://letstalkrichmond.ca) and in person at Richmond City Hall.

This interactive digital showcase offers an inside look at the City's ongoing infrastructure investments—ranging from community facility improvements, and energy system upgrades to intersection enhancements, multi-use pathways, and more.

"Council is focused on building a strong, resilient and well-connected Richmond through ongoing investment in our city's infrastructure and services," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "We are pleased to provide residents with an opportunity to explore these projects in greater depth, learn more about the work underway across the city, and connect directly with project teams to ask questions and share feedback."

There are two ways to learn more:

Online:

Available at [LetstalkRichmond.ca](https://letstalkrichmond.ca), the Capital Projects Highlights are organized by City services and presented through interactive maps and project links. Each project includes a brief summary, photos and a location map. Visitors can submit questions through the platform or contact project leads. The Capital Projects

Highlights will remain available on [LetstalkRichmond.ca](https://letstalkrichmond.ca) for ongoing reference, and the question period is open until **Sunday, June 7, 2026**.

In person:

Visit the lobby of Richmond City Hall (6911 No. 3 Road) to view project display boards.

Viewing hours are Monday to Friday 8:15am to 5:00pm, with extended hours on Monday April 27 and Monday, May 11 until 7:00pm.

Visitors can contact project leads directly using the information provided on each board. The boards will be on display at Richmond City Hall until **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**.

The 2026 featured Capital Projects Highlights include:

- Steveston Highway Multi-Use Pathway Extension
- Steveston Community Centre and Library – Replacement Facility
- Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant
- South Arm Park Pickleball Courts
- Parrot Feather Maintenance

Explore the full list of projects and learn more at [LetstalkRichmond.ca](https://letstalkrichmond.ca). We look forward to hearing from you.



Photo Courtesy richmond.ca

RICHMOND
SENTINEL 
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Advertising & Sponsorship

marketing@richmondsentinel.ca

Newsroom

newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca
778-297-5005



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

Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles

A recent road safety campaign focused on yielding laws and driver responsibilities to keep Richmond roads and workers safe. Richmond RCMP joined ICBC in educating the public on their legal obligations when vehicles are stopped alongside the road that have flashing red, blue, or yellow lights. This includes emergency vehicles such as police, fire, and ambulance, as

Slowing down, moving over, and yielding provides first responders and roadside personnel with greater protection from collision and injury. Failure to yield can result in a fine of \$173 and 3 demerit points under British Columbia law. Offences and infractions that include penalty points can lead to a driving prohibition.

km/h if the posted speed limit is 80 km/h or higher, or to 40 km/h if the posted speed limit is less than 80 km/h. If travelling on a multi-lane road, drivers must move into another lane to pass stopped vehicles with a flashing light where it is safe to do so.

“Every second counts when emergency crews are responding to a call. Slowing down and moving over isn’t just the law, it protects the lives of first responders, roadside workers, and people who need help. We’re asking all drivers in Richmond to do their part.”

– Cpl. Niels Hermes, Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit

- Clear a path: Drivers must create a clear path for approaching and oncoming emergency vehicles by moving to the right side of the road and stopping where safe to do so.
- Signal intent: Drivers should use their turn signal to indicate they are pulling over, alerting the emergency vehicle operator to their intention.
- Proceed with caution: Once an emergency vehicle has passed, drivers should remain alert to any additional emergency vehicles before re-entering traffic.

Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit (RSU) will be monitoring compliance with these requirements throughout the month as part of the provincial enforcement campaign.

For more information on applicable laws and the Slow Down, Move Over campaign, visit the Government of British Columbia website.

well as maintenance workers, including tow trucks, Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement vehicles, animal control, garbage collectors, and other roadside workers and personnel.

What drivers are required to do:

- Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles: When passing a stopped vehicle with flashing lights, motorists must reduce speed to 70



RCMP Crime Map Apr. 3, 2026 – May. 1, 2026

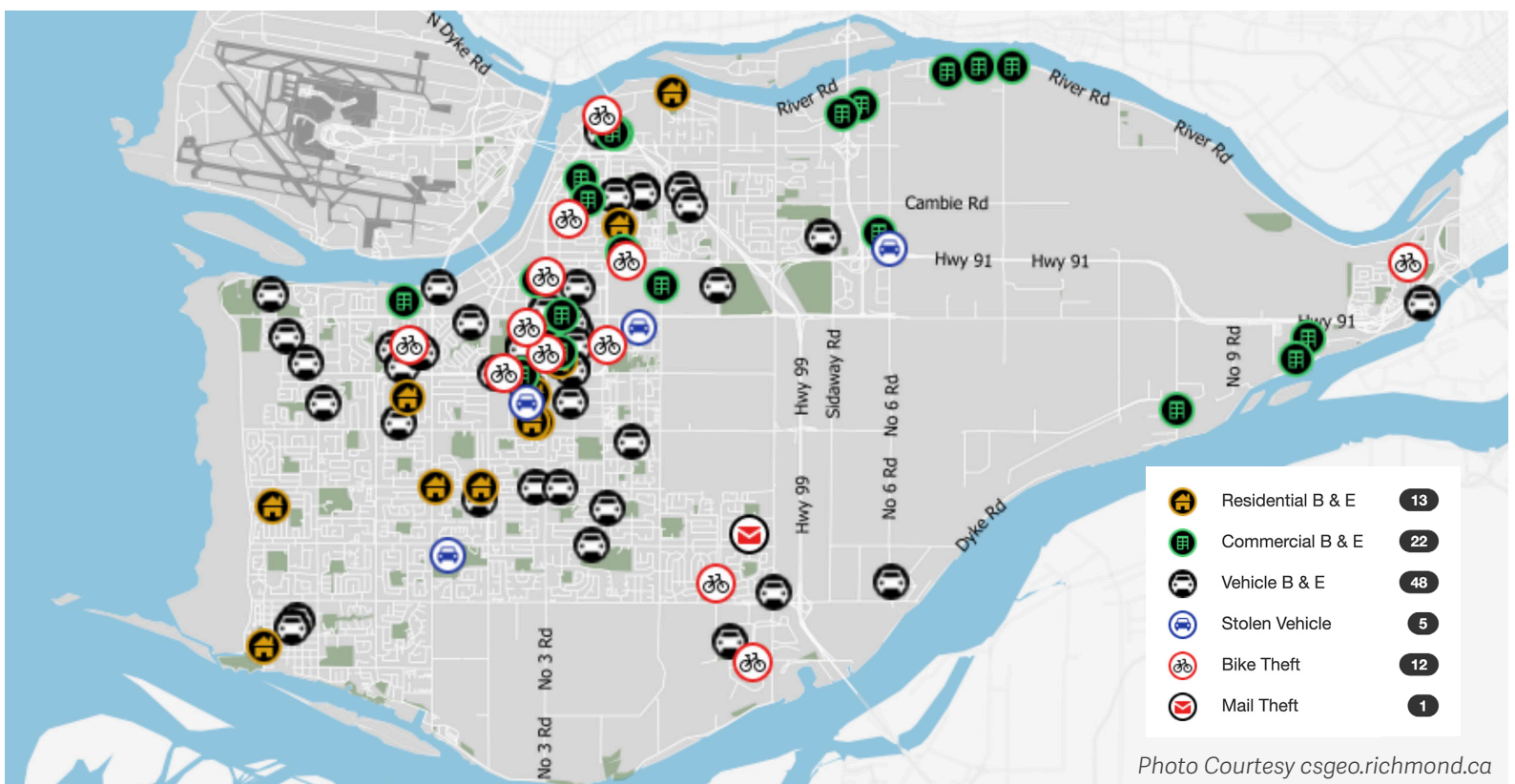


Photo Courtesy csgeo.richmond.ca



Local Artist Doodlesbnaomi Sits Down With The Richmond Sentinel

BY BEZ CHAO

Richmond Sentinel (RS) has had the pleasure of chatting with and asking Doodlesbnaomi some questions about her artworks, creative process, and more. Doodlesbnaomi is a Canadian born Chinese artist based in the lower mainland that creates both physical and digital artwork, ranging from prints, pins, apparel, and more.



Doodlesbnaomi's air freshener collection

RS: What do you create and what medium does your art take?

DBN: My artwork is mostly digital, but I've had the opportunity to turn a lot of it into physical creations such as enamel pins and apparel.

RS: How would you describe your art to someone who hasn't been in contact with it yet?

DBN: If I could pick a few words, it would be nostalgic, whimsical and childlike.

RS: What inspires your art? Where do you draw inspiration from?

DBN: A lot of my artwork is influenced by my childhood experiences growing up as a Canadian born Chinese. I draw inspiration from my favourite snacks, characters, and whatever media I'm currently consuming!

RS: Why is art important to you?/ What inspires you to create?

DBN: I've always felt like drawing and creating ever since I was old enough to pick up a paint brush in preschool so I don't know if anything started that drive. I just feel like it's a great way to translate my thoughts and imagination into something tangible that I wouldn't be able to through words.

RS: What was the first artwork you made that actually made you feel like an artist?

DBN: This is hard to say! I have always expressed myself creatively growing up, but I think the "trio of boba" artwork I drew was well received and kickstarted my style and presence in the art community.

RS: What's something you think people miss when seeing your work that you wish they knew/understood?

DBN: I think my art can seem very childish, but one of my missions is actually for

adults to be able to embrace and express their inner child!

RS: Creative processes aren't always smooth sailing and linear. What's something you do to pull yourself out of a creative rut?

DBN: Art block is still something I continuously struggle with, but my advice would be that it's okay to take a break and not feel like creating. When you can, remove all the pressure of making something good, and just draw horribly. Sometimes what comes out will surprise you.

RS: How do you balance creating art for yourself and for other people as a professional?

DBN: I think this is a really good question for all professional artists. In the beginning, I only created for myself, but I eventually decentered myself to create things that I thought other people would like. I think there needs to be a balance to prevent burnout. These days, I try to make sure I love and am inspired by everything I'm drawing, not just because they are popular.

RS: Where do you see yourself and your art in 5 years?

DBN: I don't know where DOODLESBYNAOMI will be in 5 years, but I hope that my artwork can reach more people around the world and inspire them in some way, whether it's expressing themselves or just feeling a bit of happiness. If my art business doesn't exist by then, I know I will still be creating for myself.

A huge thanks to Doodlesbnaomi for chatting with Richmond Sentinel!

To see more of Doodlesbnaomi's work, you can find them on Instagram @Doodlesbnaomi.

Photo courtesy of Doodlesbnaomi



Centre for Lymphoma Presents
LYMPHOMA PATIENT EDUCATION FORUM
 For patients, families & their supporters

Friday, 29th May 2026
09:00 AM – 02:30 PM



Program:

- Lymphoma basics/new treatments
- Lymphoma research
- Q & A with oncologists
- Allied health support
- Patient stories

Place:

BC Cancer Research Institute
 Diamond Theatre
 675 W 10th Ave, Vancouver

 Street and/or limited pay parking
 available at BC Cancer Hospital
 Easily accessible by transit

Format:

The forum offers both in-person and virtual attendance, with physical seating available on a first-come, first-served basis

Free admission

Refreshments & lunch included
 Scan QR code to register



<https://forms.gle/rX1FVgY7T5419ts46>

For more information and to register contact: ✉ clc@bccancer.bc.ca ☎ 604.877.6000 x676016

Richmond Night Market 2026 "10 Facts to Know"

BY ISABELLA RODRIGUES

Are you looking for something fun to do this Summer? Starting this Friday April 24th the Richmond Night Market is back! Running for 5 months until September 20th. Here I'll talk about the things you can look forward to and expect at the 2026 Richmond Night Market!

- 1** All summer there is free entry for Children 7 and under as well as those 60 and older, be sure to bring ID to ensure you get in.
- 2** While you're there you might see a few people zipping by above you, on the worlds first and only night market Zip-line.
- 3** This year there will be an impressive 500+ food vendors there, so be sure to bring an appetite and a desire to try something exotic.
- 4** In addition to those 500 food vendors there will also be more than 100 retail booths to explore.
- 5** For the young kids there will be a large bouncy castle to jump and play in.

- 6** New this year is a trading card zone where you and your friends can go to buy, trade, and show off all of your TCG cards from, Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh, Magic the Gathering, and many more.
- 7** On July 26th you can get some great discounts on food such as ramen donuts, mochi toast, teas, and other treats.
- 8** For getting there, I recommend taking the Canada line to Bridgeport Station or using the parking lot on site (this option may not work if the lot is full)
- 9** Be sure to check out the main stage featuring dancing, music, martial arts, and more.
- 10** Many booths there that may be cash only so be sure to come prepared.



Photo Courtesy
 Richmond Night Market

Fire Chief Jim Wishlove

BY FLORENCE GORDON

In a series about the city of Richmond's emergency services, we started with a two-part episode with the Richmond Fire Rescue. In part one, we reported the early beginnings of the fire halls and equipment. Today, we sat down with Richmond's Fire Chief Jim Wishlove to talk about the changes in service and training of first responders.



RS: *Jim Wishlove is a lifelong B.C. Resident. He began his career in the fire services as a volunteer firefighter before being hired full-time as a member of Richmond Fire Rescue in 1990. Jim served as a firefighter, a dispatcher, and an instructor in several disciplines, and he progressed through the ranks to training officer and company officer. He was promoted to deputy chief in September of 2009. In 2012, Jim made the transition to the new Westminster Fire and Rescue Services, but he returned to Richmond in 2018, where he currently serves as the Fire Chief.*

Recently, we ran part one, where we talked about the history of the Fire Division. Today, we want to talk about the men and women on the frontline. Jim, you've worked your way through the system from the ground floor up, and I've always found it fascinating when I can sit and talk to a leader who started a career at the bottom and earned the position as a leader. How has that affected you, your leadership, and how do you lead this team?

JW: I feel really fortunate that I've had the opportunity to cut my teeth, let's say, by coming up through the ranks. I started off in this business as a volunteer firefighter in a small municipality and then got hired in Richmond in the spring of 1990. So I have had a chance to see

and work at many levels in the fire department. It has supported my leadership or my ability to lead because I've actually done the work for real for many, many years, over 20 years. And so when my staff comes to me with a request, or I'm trying to make sure I procure the right equipment, I have a decent understanding of what they're actually going to need it for and why. And it allows me to advocate better for the safety in the community.

RS: *I would imagine too, to be honest, it's that you have been there and done that, so to speak, that must add credence when you're talking to younger men and women that are coming up, that you have been there like they're doing now.*

JW: I think the ability to connect with the team is because I have been there in their shoes.

RS: *Not to embarrass you with 35 years of experience, how have things changed in your profession as a firefighter? There are things that they weren't responsible for 25 years ago - how have things evolved? I'll use that word, evolved. I mean that in a positive way.*

JW: Absolutely. That evolution has happened for a number of reasons. The environment itself has changed. The population in the city has become denser, and a lot more people are obviously moving here for good reasons. The job that firefighters today in Richmond have to do involves many more hazards and many more reasons for their service to be delivered than there were 25 or 30 years ago. One example would be in medical emergencies. When I first started in 1990, the fire department was just beginning to respond to medical emergencies. And fast forward to today. That's more than 50% of our core business in our calls for service.

RS: *And you brought up a good point before we went on camera, which is that people's habits, education, and knowledge have changed. For example, fewer people are smoking in their apartments now. That must have decreased the number of fires, which allowed you to evolve in other areas.*

JW: That's absolutely correct. You know, I have to say there's been a tremendous push in public education, outreach, and awareness of the community itself for safer practices. Plus, the upgrade and enforcement of the fire code and the building code have produced buildings being built to a much higher, safer standard and so people are safer in their homes, and the chance of fire spreading and injuring the occupants are reduced substantially compared to years ago.

RS: *An important topic which is of great concern for those on the front line, whether it's emergency services, armed forces, or even in sports, and that is the mental aspect of the job. Years ago, no one talked about mental health. Is the industry better educated and equipped to support those working in a high-stress environment?*

JW: There has been an emphasis on this, and there's still a lot more work that has to be done. In collaboration with the municipality, with our

union and a lot of outside professionals, we deliver preparedness training, resiliency training, and then post-traumatic support training for our team members, especially if they're involved in a really significant event. They're taken offline, they're given the opportunity to debrief and defuse, and if they need time away from the workplace right away, they're offered that as well, allowing them to come back on a structured plan for them so they're not forced back into service immediately. We want them to come back to work and be 100%.

We have the benefit of looking back at how staff were impacted by trauma, so that's a benefit. Today, we listen and regularly solicit feedback from our staff - what do you need? What do you want? And how can we help you better? Those questions maybe were less present 20, 30, 40 years ago. The culture towards work and service has certainly changed, and so leaders today are actually servant leaders, myself included. I regularly seek and ask my staff; how can I help you better? What do you need from me? Whereas 30, 40 years ago, it was a different reporting relationship for sure.

RS: *Yes, again, that's not being overly critical of the past; it's just that knowledge and education have brought positive change. Speaking of the landscape, this is something that you're very proud of, and that is what you have, a number of women in your department compared to 30, 40 years ago.*

JW: We do have a number of women in the fire department. While I personally can't take credit for that, the department itself has a strong and healthy culture of teamwork and inclusiveness, and candidates choose to come to work here if given a choice. As a result, we believe we have more female members on the job than any other department in the province, and also other non-traditional demographics are more populated in our department than anywhere else. For example, any given day in Richmond, you might have three to seven or eight different languages being spoken by our staff that are delivering services. I think it's important that the community, when they receive service from the Richmond fire department, they see somebody wearing our uniform, but who looks like them, has their culture and can communicate with them.

RS: *Let's talk about other things that have evolved in your time in this field. I imagine the technology is beyond belief compared to when you started in 1990.*

JW: We still use water to put fires out. (smile) Where technology really has evolved is in the makeup of the equipment, the safety equipment that we wear, how we detect fires, and find out where they are inside of a building. Through technology, we can be more effective and efficient in our attack to extinguish a fire. We also recognize that with the changes in the building code and the fire code, we can

disassemble construction differently than we could have 30, 40 years ago in order to get at the seat of the fire and thus prevent any further fire spread, reduce the damage, which reduces potential for injury, reduces exposure to my staff, also reduces the impact on the insurance industry, which we all have to pay for insurance at the end of the day as well.

RS: We were talking before we went on camera about the difference in today of approaching a fire in a high-rise building. 30–40 years ago, most of the buildings in this city I would imagine, were seven, eight, nine stories. Today, you're addressing buildings 30 stories high. How does that change your tactical approach to firefighting and keeping everyone safe?

JW: Certainly again, that structural piece designed with building codes is prescriptive as to how those buildings are supposed to be built, a staircase is actually a protective envelope inside the building that people can self shelter in, they can evacuate in. Most typically, the staircases are not going to be involved in fire because there's no flammables in them. And so we can go into those staircases, bring people down in a safe manner, and then go and attack the fire. A fire that starts in one suite most likely would not spread to another suite if we can arrive on the scene and attack the fire quickly. Whereas in years past, those fire stops were not as effective, so it's a partnership between our quick response, our incredibly able staff and, how they attack fire, combined with the building construction type.

RS: How has the training changed and evolved from 30, 35 years ago?

JW: Quite significantly. We have people coming into the fire department that maybe live at home with their parents or don't have a driver's license, don't drive a car, have very little experience using tools, but we see the potential, so we invest in the training of each individual to ensure they can adapt to our really dangerous environment with an effective and positive outcome. Our training programs have evolved in that they're much more in-depth. Communication skills amongst the team are critical, how to use technology as trucks and radio systems are all computerized, even our protective gear is a lot more comprehensive, so they have to learn how to physically adapt. They have to be very, very capable to do this work.

And then they have to practice, practice, and practice until they can do what is required without second-guessing themselves before training in semi-live environments. The process is slow but thorough before we deploy them live.

RS: How long would a new cadet, for lack of a better phrase, how long after they start training are they looking at until they're deployed to active duty?

JW: Right now, when somebody is hired, whether they come with experience or not, we train them for 16 weeks, and then we deploy

them to the fire company where they do a couple of weeks in an orientation, and then they get deployed live.

RS: Changing the subject to something personal, I have never heard this as a verb before, but you're a piper, which means you play the pipes.

JW: I do play the pipes.

RS: And you have played the pipes with probably the most famous musician ever, Sir Paul McCartney, twice. Tell us a bit about that experience.

JW: Yes, I'm very lucky to be a member of the pipe band from the Delta Police. And so, we played at BC Place and at GM Place when Paul McCartney was on tour in Vancouver. And so that was one of those really good experiences for us. It was great to play with a rock icon and an idol like that. And he was actually quite a gentleman and quite receptive to us, as let's say, regular people, performing on a stage with him at the time.

RS: I guess you could take him out of Liverpool, but what I've read, you can't take the Liverpool out of him, and you're right, he's a real good guy. We appreciate you taking the time to talk with us, Jim. It's educational learning about what you and your team do and how firefighters became first responders. Continued success and safety for you and everyone you work with.

RS: After filming the interview with Fire Chief Jim Wishlove, we had the opportunity to tour the fire hall and chat with Acting Captain of Community Relations, Kylie McDonald, who is well known to every kid aged 11 because of what she does.



KMc: So my job is basically going out in the community and doing absolutely everything community-related, whether it's educational or events. I like to have a lot of fun, as our audiences are basically kids, so we've been able to create a lot of really great programs.

RS: And let's blow your horn a little because the compliment is well earned when your online education branding is recognized around the world. I understand that other countries reach out to you, wanting to know if you can help them develop a similar program for their part of the world.

KMc: Exactly. So the way it came around is

I used to work for another department, and I was basically standing in front of young children for an hour, and we know that their attention span is limited. We wanted to be able to reach the children because so many of them learn based off of watching YouTube videos. So we created this online education program with five- or six-minute videos, and then after the videos, the kids do a little activity, and then after they've completed the entire program, we actually show up with a fire truck, and I'll show you this "special" fire truck when we tour the hall. We're also creating a grade 6, 7 program now, as well, where we're going to teach the kids how to do CPR.

RS: One of the things that I discussed with the Fire Chief was how things have evolved. How has that changed in what you do in the community, or if there was such an educational program and working with kids back 30 years ago?

KMc: That's actually how we were able to gain so much acceptance into the community and also gain so much visualization out into the entire world, because we were on that social media and we were able to create these brands that actually caught people's attention.

RS: That's interesting. Is it too early? I mean, when you're a kid, it goes without saying you want to be a policeman, fireman, or woman. Is it too early at that age of 10, 11, that you're looking to develop a potential interest in a career as a firefighter?

KMc: When the kids reach about 14, 15 years old, that's when they really start developing an interest in becoming some type of first responder. And that's actually quite exciting because previously it wasn't even a thing.

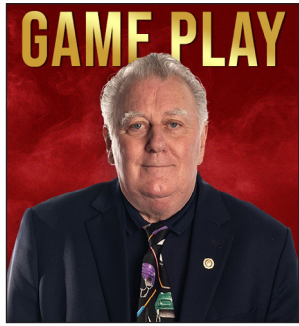
RS: Can you share with us a bit more about programs that you're implementing in the community?

KMc: We meet with our youth registered in cadets, scouts, and Girl Guides, just to give them the fire and life safety education that is relevant for their age group. And then for the older age groups, we meet with businesses, we meet with Strata's, providing them with specific fire life safety education for their common interests.

RS: Can you explain how your department is evolving in terms of other responsibilities? For example, how much time do you spend here in the office compared to out in the community?

KMc: I'd say it's about 70% of the time at the fire hall and then 30% of the time out in the community. A lot of my work is not scheduled around the conventional work hours, because that's when the events are happening. For instance, this weekend I'm going to be over at another fire hall in Richmond, where we're collaborating with BC Ambulance, to present a huge education session for people from Hong Kong. So it's different every single week. And some weeks I'm out a lot.

To watch both video interviews in full go to www.richmondsentinel.ca/videos



Steve Erickson
Media Relations Richmond Sockeyes



Sockeyes Hire Veteran Coach Brien Gimmell

One season closes wrapping up what should have been a “winner takes all” but for whatever reason the 2025-26 chapter failed to produce the championship team that was built for winning. Players move on to the next chapter in their career in search of reaching and achieving their dream goal: of playing at the highest level of the game they can qualify for. Not only do players move on, so do the coaches who look to build their resume working with new teams and organizations while developing future hockey stars of tomorrow.

The final chapter this past season saw the departure of Head Coach Scott Hewson who moved on after an impressive season record of 44 wins, 5 losses along with one O/T win - finishing with 88 points, and with this amazing season the team failed to make it to the final championship.

As we all know there are three parts to any season, pre-season, regular season, then wrapping up with the playoff season. While any team can have a winning record in regular season that doesn't necessarily carry over to the playoffs. Sad but true, it was painful to watch the team play their hearts out all season and into the playoffs to see their journey end so soon. The Richmond Sockeyes wish Scott Hewson well in his future endeavours while the Sockeyes' organization search for a new “bench boss” as they head into the upcoming PJHL season.

Given the professionalism of the Sockeyes organization it's no surprise that they had applications from several qualified individuals who submitted their resumes for consideration. The search was finalized with the hiring of Brien Gimmell who has been involved with not just the hockey league but also hockey in the lower

mainland for several seasons working at various levels of the game from Minor to Junior hockey

Brien and I have a personal connection that goes back years and I can honestly say I have found him to be honest, fair and dedicated to growing the sport which involves focusing on their integrity, commitment, and a passion for the game far beyond just winning. Knowing his background I learned that he has two brothers both who played sports (one developed a career in radio communications while the other is an educator in Whitehorse).

His career in coaching dates back following his playing days in North Delta up to U18 or Juvenile followed by his interest in coaching and in 1990 working with a couple of “buddies” his desire became a reality. During his playing days in North Delta as he put it “I had some remarkable coaches such as Gary McCaskill, Norm Wallace and Gary Flemming to name a few” who became a big part of his “playbook”.

That kicked-off his career, understanding coaching which contributed to his passion while establishing a career as a school teacher following in his parents footsteps who were both teachers which took place in the nineties when he pursued his teaching certificate in Dawson Creek.

Living there saw him get involved with his first experience in hockey with the Dawson Creek Raiders with Gary Cooper who is a long-time coach “a year and a bit” in the winter of 1997 before returning to the lower mainland in January 1998, getting hired by the Surrey School District. He was a Physical Education teacher during the day then coached in the evening, eventually moving to coach in North Delta working under coaches such as Ron Johnson, Bill Zarheria and others.

Ron or “RJ” has coached several teams from Minor to Junior hockey winning a National Championship in 98 while Bill was an Assistant Coach with the Burnaby Bulldogs working with former NHL'er Darcy Rota in the late 90ties. He mentioned “there are lots of people who think you just go on the ice and run a practice, but there's more to it than that” which filters down to having a succession plan moving forward. Brien started working with the Delta Ice Hawks and the Surrey Eagles (around

1998 working with Mark Holick for a few years then moved to the Head Coach/GM position with the Queens Park Pirates the year before they moved to North Delta.

Eventually Brian along the way, worked with Craig Sherbaty in 2004 where they put together a skills program at Tweedsmuir until 2014 then moved on to coach in Cloverdale at the U15 AAA then the U18 AAA levels. He was eventually contacted by former Richmond Sockeyes player Brett Reusch who introduced Brien to his Uncle Ron who got him involved when Jay Rogers was leaving and was looking for someone to get involved.

Changes in the off-season saw the building of the Cloverdale Junior Hockey Club who were looking for someone to get it off the ground and this seemed to be the fit Brian was looking for. Given possible changes with Cloverdale it was Brien's opportunity to get back involved with coaching one of the most iconic junior franchises in BC as well as the opportunity to work with the Sockeyes.

I asked him if there was one thing over time that has changed the game he mentions “you have to be a communicator given that in today's world communication means doing things differently and making sure you understand how to get things done.”

Coaching reflects on, setting specific boundaries for everyone and given he'll be working with returning coaches Matthew Stewart and Bob Delorme they are looking to add one more team member. Brien's approach is more on the calmer side dealing with players, officials as well as situations that others might not understand. Given the way the game has changed it's going to be a collaborative approach from ownership to coaching staff and bringing in additional players which can be difficult given the many changes in today's hockey world. Brien's professionalism and dedication to growing the Sockeyes and bringing a championship team to the City of Richmond is only the start of exciting things to come.

**We welcome Brien to
the Richmond Sockeyes!!**

The History of Lego

BY ISABELLA RODRIGUES

I'm sure that you've heard of Lego, but have you ever wondered where it started?

Our story starts off in Billund in 1932 with a carpenter named Ole Kirk Kristiansen; he worked hard and ran his own company creating and selling wooden furniture. However, times were hard as he lost his wife and became a single father to four kids. But Ole was a determined man, and he soon realized he had to adapt. Inspired by his children, Ole made his first ever toy with some of the wood from his shop.

Not too long after starting, Ole's son Godtfred joined his father helping him out after school. As time passed, word began to spread about Ole and his magnificent wooden toys, and one day he was approached by a man who would change his life — a wholesaler who wanted to buy lots of his toys to sell for Christmas. The father-son duo worked diligently to make the deadline. Tragically that deal fell through after the distributor filed for bankruptcy. But Ole quickly thought up a solution; he would go and sell the toys. After some time he had sold all the stock.

Ole and Godtfred soon realized that they would need a name for their company and settled on the name "Lego," a combination of the Danish saying Leg Godt meaning to play well. The new branding worked, and Ole was soon able to afford a new milling machine and was able to make higher-quality toys. Through the 1930s, Lego continued to thrive even through the Second World War. Unfortunately, in 1942 a stormy night rocked the town of Billund, downing a power line; the sparks from it managed to start a fire in the workshop. All the toys, drawings, and machines were sadly lost to the fire. Though disheartened Ole knew he must keep going, he built a second workshop with his savings and set off for Copenhagen for a toy convention. There he saw all sorts of fascinating toys, but what caught Ole's eye the most was a plastic moulding machine making little bricks similar to these.

After convincing Godtfred, he bought this new molding machine and the little plastic bricks

that came with it. Lego soon began printing little plastic teddy bears and rattles alongside the wooden toys. Unfortunately during the summer Godtfred found that these toys were not selling as well as during the holidays. Perhaps inspired by his father, he decided he would sell the toys himself. After Godtfred's trip across the country selling the Lego, he returned home for his father Ole's 60th birthday. After receiving some advice from the head of a large shopping mall, Godtfred realized he needed to integrate some system into the bricks, so in 1954 Lego began introducing the Lego system of play, selling brick-built houses and more.

At the time there was just one problem: the bricks would fall apart, as the inside of the bricks were hollow. If you look at the bottom of a Lego brick, I'm willing to bet that you would find these little hollow tubes inside of it; these give the brick what is referred to as clutch power.

Tragically, in 1958, Ole Kirk Kristiansen passed away without fully getting to see where the Lego company would go on to become.

According to Lego there was a second fire around this time, reportedly destroying the wooden toy production, Godtfred pushed onward, making the decision to discontinue the wooden toys and instead focus the company's efforts on the Lego system, fully ending their line in 1959.

In 1964 the exciting arrival of the Billund airport invited the world to see where and how Lego was made. Many guests and business people, who all wanted to see the modeling department there at Lego headquarters. So much so in fact that employees found it hard to work; Godtfred had to do something about this. After some brainstorming and planning, he decided to make an amusement park called LegoLand to display the Lego builds.

Now at this point in the story we have a lot of buildings, boats, and planes, but no people. Until 1976, when Lego released the set simply titled "Police Headquarters," Lego had made police stations before this one was unique for it includ-

ed our first iteration of the Lego Minifigure.

In 1979, Godtfred steps down as CEO, moving instead to the board of directors with Ole's grandson Keled taking his place.

In 1985, Lego made their first attempt at doing more with the Lego system with the light and sound system. These were specialized parts to simulate the lights and sounds of emergency vehicles like police cars, firetrucks and even science fiction vehicles like spaceships. Also, in 1985, the very first Lego Store outside of Denmark opened in Australia.

Just a year after that, Godtfred retires in 1986 at the age of 66.

In 1997, trying to adapt to the huge new trend that is video games, Lego produced their first game, Lego Island, which went on to sell over a million copies in its first two years.

In the late 1990s Keled tried to adapt by making more themes such as Belville, Scala, Znap, and many others, but as each one failed, the cost of marketing, producing new parts and labor increased alongside storage for new parts and competing for shelf space. In 1998, the Lego Group reported their first annual loss of around 40 million dollars; something had to change.

Fortunately, a year later in 1999 something was going to change: Star Wars episode one had just hit theatres and Lego had its first ever licensed theme. With the new Star Wars theme came new things such as skin tones, head molds, short Minifigures, and lots more.

In the following years, many iconic themes and IPs would follow, such as Harry Potter, Disney, Mario, and even Scooby Doo.

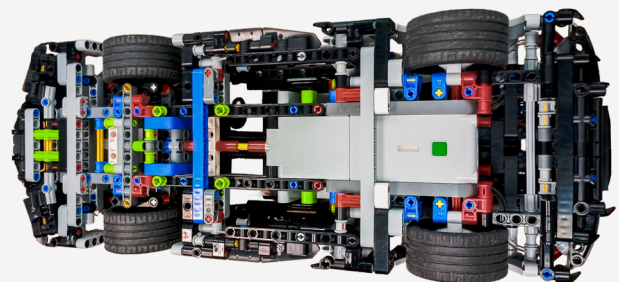
Very recently, Lego dropped their newest project, SMART Play, under the Lego Star Wars line, giving the characters and models the ability to interact with space, each other, make sounds and, display light. Though it has been widely criticized online.

Today, Lego is an international brand with fans young and old who can enjoy the toy. Whether advanced or simple, one thing we can all agree is, we all love Lego.

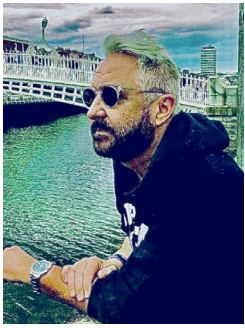
Prior to working on this article I built a Lego Lamborghini Revuelto, and I had a great time building it over the course of a few days. It was really interesting to see how the whole thing went together.



Lamborghini Revuelto with headlights on



Undercarriage of the Revuelto



Joe Biz

BY JOE LEARY

Canada's Country Music Industry An ever-evolving Process

While Canada may not have always been considered a breeding ground of country music, that assertion has certainly waned. The artistry within the country realm has been steadily exploding across the True North Strong and Free through the years! Admittedly, the early days were lean.

Canadian country music was largely a grassroots movement, and few made an impact beyond our borders, save for the occasional Hank Snow or Anne Murray track. Artists generally performed in small towns, community halls and centres and heard on local radio stations. While they managed to build loyal audiences in the process, overall, they lacked the infrastructure enjoyed by their southern counterparts.

Today, Canadian country music stands as a legitimate subset on the global musical landscape. Shania Twain, Dallas Smith, Dean Brody, Josh Ross, Terri Clark, and Paul Brandt are among those ingrained into the cultural mosaic of Canadian country music. And new artists keep popping up.

Meet singer-songwriter Kyle McKearney. Hailing from BC and now Alberta-based, the 10 times Canadian Country Music Award nominee weaves traditional roots influences with a modern, emotionally driven style. McKearney first built his reputation on the rock scene where he developed his skills as a performer and storyteller. Over time, he shifted his artistic focus toward country and 'Americana', drawing inspiration from classic North American song writing traditions and his own personal experiences.

As for his earliest musical inspiration? "Honestly, it was my dad," he says. "He was

a touring musician, and I was on the road with his band from birth till I was five and had to start school. "I remember the smell of those hotel bars, cigarette smoke and the sound of the band blasting through the hallways to our hotel room. "I remember listening to board tapes while we drove, listening to the show the night before".

McKearney's solo work is characterized by its authenticity and depth. His songs explore themes of resilience, hardship, love, and self-reflection, delivered through rich, warm vocals and stripped-down instrumentation. This approach allows the emotional

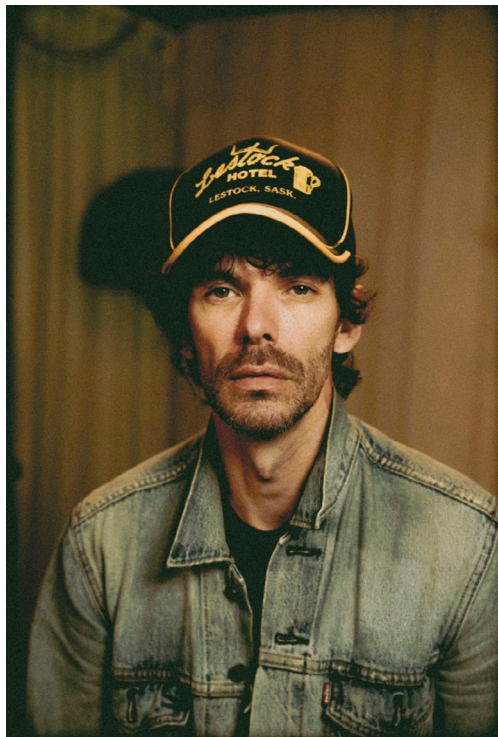


Photo courtesy Josh Turner

core of his music to stand out, connecting with listeners on a personal level.

His ability to merge elements of folk, country, and roots rock has helped him carve out a distinct identity within the Canadian musical mosaic.

Despite receiving significant country radio airplay, his sound evokes a few musical elements and certainly fits comfortably within a couple of genres. "I think my style is Canadiana," suggests Kearney. "It's country, bluegrass and Rock n Roll. We grew up listening to Nitty Gritty, Metallica, The Beatles and radio. There was no YouTube or social media - we had radio and albums and had to decide what we wanted to learn and then learn it by listening. It was a process!" McKearney's music has earned critical acclaim and industry recognition and showcased his transition into country music. This while maintaining the grit and edge of his rock background. Its success was further solidified when it received a Ca-

nadian Country Music Association Award for 'Alternative Country Album of the Year', highlighting McKearney's impact as a rising artist in the genre.

Beyond awards, McKearney has built a reputation as a compelling live performer. His concerts emphasize storytelling and connection, often featuring intimate arrangements that highlight his vocal strength and lyrical honesty. Whether performing at festivals or more intimate venues, Kyle McKearney continues to evolve as an artist, contributing to the broader Canadian country and 'Canadiana' scene.

Kyle McKearney, a Metis Canadian is redefining Americana, weaving soulful storytelling with gritty, roots-inspired instrumentation into a genre-defying sound that makes him one of Canada's most captivating voices. His sophomore album, *A Traveler's Lament*, earned 11 awards, including the 2023 CCMA for Alternative Country Album of the Year, and a shortlist nod for a 2024 GRAMMY nomination.

His journey from rock frontman to country singer reflects both his versatility and his commitment to creating meaningful, heartfelt music. His single, 'Rearview' from the forthcoming album, 'Wildflower' is currently garnering airplay on country radio stations across Canada and while no local tour date has been announced, Kyle McKearney imagines what his dream tour would consist of:

"A sold-out Red Rocks sounds pretty epic," he says.

"Imagine this tour: Kyle McKearney - opener, 30 min set; Zac Brown Band - direct support, 60 min set."

"The Eagles - headliner, 2-hour set."

"Let's go!"

"Epic, indeed!"

Follow Kyle on Instagram:
@imkylemckearney
www.imkylemckearney.com



Fashion for Men

BY DOUGLAS JAMES SCAMMELL

Caring For Your Wardrobe

Now that you have taken the time and effort to acquire a nice suit or a couple of suits, where I've shown you how to get the most out of your purchase by mixing and matching, unfortunately, it's important to know how to care for your new wardrobe. The sales team at your chosen men's shop or tailor has ensured that the suit is properly fitted and the accessories complement the suit(s); however, to ensure the life expectancy of your new wardrobe, you have to do your part to properly care for your suits so that you protect your investment and get the most wear out of them to last as long as possible.

There are many things you can do to keep your suits looking fresh each time you want to wear it. I will do my best to explain what you should do. But let's first get into some things you should not do.

Here is a list of things **NOT TO DO** with your suits as far as keeping them clean:

- 1. The Washing Machine:** Never put a traditional suit in a washing machine, as it can ruin the structure and cause shrinking.
- 2. Iron Directly on Fabric:** Never put a hot iron directly on the suit cloth, as this can burn the material or leave a permanent sheen on lapels and shoulders.
- 3. Scrub stains:** Never rub a stain, as this can damage the fibers; always dab gently or pat with a cloth so that the stain can be absorbed on the cleaning cloth.
- 4. Dry Clean Too Often:** I personally try to stay away from dry cleaning as much as possible. When dry cleaning, they use harsh chemicals that strip natural oils from fabrics like wool and cashmere, causing them to become brittle. Limit dry cleaning to once a year or twice a year if possible. However, if your suit gets really dirty from let's say, a wedding where there

is lots of hugging and dancing, and your suit gets very dirty, dry cleaning will be the best option.

Here is a list of things **NOT TO DO** when it comes to storing your suit:

- 1. Use thin Hangers:** Never use wire or thin plastic hangers, which can ruin the shoulder's natural shape. Use a wide frame, sturdy wooden or cedar hangers.
- 2. Store in Plastic bags:** Never store suits in the plastic bags from the dry cleaners. These trap moisture, causing mildew and odors. Use Breathable fabric garment bags.
- 3. Wear Back-to-back:** Do not wear the same suit two days in a row. The suit needs 24-48 hours to air out and allow the fabric to recover its shape.
- 4. Keep Buttons fastened:** Unbutton your jacket when sitting to prevent stretching the fabric or putting unnecessary stress on the buttonholes.

Okay, now that we have gone over the things not to do listed above. The biggest thing is to try to stay away from the dry cleaning. Here is a list of proper things you can do to avoid dry cleaning.

- 1. Use a suit Brush:** Gently brush the suit after each use with a soft, genuine boar hair brush. This removes lint, dust, and food particles from the fabric fibers, restoring the luster and preventing debris buildup. I also like using a simple lint roller, seen in the photo. This tool is great, espe-



Lint Roller

cially if you have pets or you yourself have white or blond hair that can shed onto your suits. Lint rollers are also highly recommended and a fast method to help get

lint, dirt, and hair off your suit.

- 2. Steam to Refresh:** This is what I like to do - use a handheld steamer to remove wrinkles and sanitize the fabric, while removing odors and killing bacteria without the harsh chemicals of dry cleaning. Steam trousers and jackets lightly between wears.



Hand-held Steamer

- 3. Let It Rest & Air Out:** After wearing, let the suit hang on a wide wooden hanger for at least 24-48 hours before wearing it again. This allows the fabric (especially wool) to breathe and regain its shape, letting the creases naturally fall out.

- 4. Spot Clean Stains:** Tackle spills immediately with a clean, slightly damp cloth. For oil, use talcum powder or baking soda. Avoid harsh scrubbing to prevent damaging the fabric.

- 5. Use Proper Hangers:** Use wide-shouldered wooden hangers for jackets to maintain their shape, rather than thin wire hangers.

- 6. Use Breathable Garment Bags:** When storing suits for long periods from one season to another, use a cloth suit bag instead of plastic, which can trap moisture and cause mould.

Based on my experience with my suits, I have made all of the mistakes I listed above and had to learn the hard way. But over time, I have learned an expensive lesson on how to extend the lifetime of my wardrobe through inexpensive maintenance ideas and save you money along the way.

OUR CITY tonight

SPOTLIGHT ON

A FILM

A COCKTAIL

AND EXPLORING BC

THE SIP – Pacific Sunset

We continue our series of cocktail spotlights for the late spring and summer season. One of our regular “cocktail experts”, Glowbal Restaurant’s Anique White, is back to offer something called Pacific Sunset.

“This cocktail really captures that transition into warmer weather,” Anique tells us, “It’s bright, refreshing, and slightly bitter, which makes it incredibly easy to drink without feeling too heavy or sweet.” For her, it’s the of citrus and Aperol that gives it that crisp, sunlit quality that just feels right for spring moving into summer. “It’s the kind of drink that works equally well in the afternoon or early evening,” she says, “especially as the weather starts to warm up.” It’s a delicious cocktail, perfect for the patio at Glowbal or your own patio. But what’s in it: It’s a shaken sour built with gin, Aperol, fresh lemon juice, a touch of sweetness, and egg white for texture. It’s finished with Angostura bitters, which adds a bit of aromatic spice and depth, and garnished with dehydrated citrus and raspberry for a subtle fruit note and visual contrast. “This cocktail strikes a balance between being approachable and elevated,” Anique says, “and feels very intentional and tied to this specific time of year.” www.glowbalgroup.com



Photo Courtesy Our City Tonight

THE VIEW – Fantasy Life

For home viewing, we offer the independent film, Fantasy Life. Amanda Peet plays a mother of three daughters, who is in a longtime marriage that has gone stale (with a husband who’s still chasing his dream of being a rock star). She’s also a once-promising actress who feels the business has passed her by. Money is not an issue - her previous acting work and family wealth have seen to that - but she can’t figure out that next stage of her life. Feeling alone, she is comforted by a troubled law school dropout who has just been laid off from his paralegal job. With no job options, he agrees to become babysitter to her children. It’s not long before he falls for her. Fantasy Life is a sweet film that also feels real – it’s not being played for laughs, though there are plenty, mostly



Photo Courtesy Route 504 PR

courtesy of a spectacular cast of legendary character actors including Judd Hirsch, Bob Balaban, Andrea Martin and Holland Taylor. And it’s great to see Amanda Peet on the screen again. Fantasy Life is available now for home viewing www.route504pr.com

THE JOURNEY – Maple Leaf Adventures

As many Canadians continue to choose domestic travel options for their vacation plans – including staying right here in our own beautiful province – we offer something unique from Maple Leaf Adventures, who are celebrating their 40th anniversary. This award-winning, BC-based eco-tourism company offers intimate, small-ship expeditions along the coastlines of British Columbia and Alaska, with three different vessel options. “We have an expedition catamaran, a restored heritage tugboat, and an historic ship from Vancouver - it really has something for everybody,” Co-Owner, Maureen Gordon tells us. Their expedition, or boutique cruises,



Photo Courtesy Maple Leaf Adventures

scale all over the coast: Haida Gwaii, the Great Bear Rainforest, Desolation Sound, and parts of Vancouver Island. “So much of what we explore you can’t drive to, and that makes it incredible,” Maureen tells us, “And the ecosystems are still magical; the bears are still catching salmon, and there is incredible cultural history as well.” National Geographic Adventure has rated Maple Leaf Adventures one of the “Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth”. These wonderful tours are available now through the end of October. www.mapleleafadventures.com



**Singer,
songwriter,
producer,
and multi-
instrumentalist**

Photo Courtesy
Sean Thomas

Musical Prodigy Sean Thomas Does it All

Our City Tonight sat down with Vancouver musical prodigy, Sean Thomas, who at the age of 24 has already worked with many music industry legends. He is a singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist with perfect pitch.

OCT: You are the kind of guy who steps into the studio and says I am going to do everything. This is not egotistical but instead reflects your seriousness as a professional musician.

ST: It comes simply from passion, and I want to learn everything about what you like doing. For music that just revolves around everything; I love songwriting, I love playing instruments, I love producing and mixing. Every part of the process, I find, feeds itself. You can learn from mixing and then that makes you a better songwriter. So, everything is intertwined and it is great to be part of the whole process. I also get to work with all these other amazing musicians.

OCT: Let's talk about some of the things you have done. You graduated from Berklee College of Music at just 20 years old and went on to produce Debbie Gibson's first album in a couple of decades. In fact, you were her music director during her Las Vegas residency.

ST: I am very fortunate to have met her. I actually met her here in Vancouver on the set of a Hallmark movie that she was doing. I played a music student in the movie, and she was the music teacher. It worked out perfectly and I think I was 16 at that time. We are now going on 10 years with an amazing friendship and professional situation with working on all of these albums. She has taught me so much and I am so grateful to have met her.

OCT: It's interesting that you are able to work with someone who was about your age when she started her musical career. That must be inspirational.

ST: I do try to pick her brain to hear all of her stories and lessons because it isn't often that you get to do a job and learn from someone who has walked down a similar path.

OCT: When you attended Berklee College, you mentioned that one of your professors had worked on the Radiohead albums.

ST: I am definitely a big fan of all the old school records and what I mean for me is all the music that came before the 2000's. Another of my professors was Prince's music engineer who was in all of the studios and sessions. It was incredible learning from these experienced people.

OCT: It is terrific that you have great knowledge, love, and respect for the music that was popular 30, 40, and even 50 years ago. At Berklee, did you find that everyone wanted to do the same thing in their classes?

ST: There was and is so much variance between all of the programs and a difference in what others want to learn. Even if two people are enrolled in the same music production class, one may want to pursue pop music and the other a completely different genre.

OCT: One of the things that also sets you apart is the gift of perfect pitch. When did you realize that you had this?

ST: I was probably 6 or 7 years old. I was in the choir for about 10 years, so this was discovered early on. My choir director approached my parents, and he was all giddy and excited to share that I had perfect

pitch. My dad had no idea whether that was a good thing or not. What it means is that any note that I hear in the world I instantly know what it is. I can sing a sound or hear a sound and know it's a D. I like to describe it like you are seeing colour, you know this table is brown or this water is clear. It is as simple as that in my mind.

OCT: Did you come from a musical background? What were you seeing, hearing, and being exposed to that made you want to pursue music as a career?

ST: My brother is awesome and my parents are amazing too, but music is not their strong suit. I don't know where I got it from but ever since I was young, I wanted to pursue music. I have been working at it for as long as I can remember.

OCT: Going back to your new single, you have taken this song from the beginning right to the end result. There is a choir-like element to the song; did you create that purposely?

ST: Definitely, the way I personally start my songs, when I know that I am going to be writing and finishing it for myself, is that I will first write it completely acoustically. I will keep it that way as long as I can. For example, this new one was written completely on an acoustic guitar. I will then hammer away at the lyrics and melodies until it feels right to me. Then there is a moment when everything clicks and I hear the finished song in my head. The choir part was the fun part; I set up two microphones in my studio and acted like a choir going from the left to the right side of the room using different voices and accents.

OCT: some of the other people you have worked with include New Kids on the Block, and New Edition to name a few. Have you ever felt your age was an obstacle?

ST: I think they all see past the age thing, music kind of transcends age in a way. It's more of a universal language that everyone can speak, and as long as the artists click together, then beautiful things can come from that.

For more information, go to SeanThomasOfficial.com



RICHMOND SENTINEL SPONSORS

OUR CITY TONIGHT
JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS

airing on CHEK TV Sundays | Novus Entertainment
at 10:30 a.m.
and 12 a.m. **DAILY**



OUR CITY TONIGHT



Hamilton
HIGH STREET SENIOR RESIDENCE

RICHMOND'S NEWEST SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY



Independent Living, Assisted Living and Full Care Suites available

MOVE IN TODAY!

Call our Sales & Leasing Team at **604.214.5700** or salesteam@hhsr.ca

Exceptional Senior Living

hhsr.ca
23100 Garripie Avenue, Richmond B.C. V6V 0B9