



Serene moment



Spring is in the air
in Richmond

Photo by Jaana Björk

A symbol of Richmond, a heron takes a moment to pause during a calm morning recently along the dyke near the Richmond Olympic Oval.

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Photo from portofvancouver.com

City councillors voiced concern about possible environmental impact the proposed South Arm Jetty Tidal Marsh project might have on the Sturgeon Banks area. Rendering of proposed conditions at the site.

Sturgeon Banks future debated

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond's Sturgeon Banks is an important habitat for many species.

It's also the proposed site of the South Arm Jetty Tidal Marsh project, which was a topic of discussion at a recent city council meeting.

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has submitted an application to obtain a 30 year lease for this land in order to convert sand flat into marsh habitat. In an early March report, city staff recommended that council endorse the port authority's application.

But upon discussion, many city councillors voiced their opposition to the project.

Coun. Michael Wolfe noted that the area is designated as a Ramsar site—an internationally important wetland site—and was named Canada's No. 1 important bird area. He requested that the port authority consider an alternative site, since the area already provides a habitat for a number of species.

Wolfe also voiced concern about possible erosion of the planned marsh, since the area is already subject to erosion.

Environment manager Chad Paulin explained that the site was chosen years ago and requesting a location change would likely be a fruitless effort.

Coun. Carol Day said she believed the port authority was trying to make up for other mistakes.

"This is to offset negative things that are happening in Delta (with the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project), so that doesn't give me a warm and fuzzy feeling," she said.

"I don't have a problem with taking a second look at this project, because I think we can do better."

Coun. Harold Steves agreed, saying the port authority's aim with this project is to replace marsh they destroyed in the past.

"What should happen is simply let nature take its course," said Steves. "I think it's important to recognize that they're doing (this proposed project) in the wrong place."

After hearing councillors' arguments, Mayor Malcolm Brodie asked staff if it would be worthwhile to take a second look at potential environmental issues.

Paulin said while city staff ultimately supported the project, they could take a second look if asked by council. Engineering and public works manager John Irving added that city's comments—even if negative—would be unlikely to slow the approval process at this stage.

"That doesn't mean we have to show support for the project," said Mayor Brodie. "If we don't like it, even if it makes no difference, I'd rather not support it. From my point of view, I think we need to have staff take a longer look at it and talk more about the process as well."

Mayor Brodie moved for a referral for further study by staff and an extension of time for comment. All councillors were in favour of the referral. While the original deadline for comments was in early April, city council hoped to extend the deadline with their motion.

For more on the proposed project, visit the port authority's website: www.portvancouver.com.

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Richmond extends utility billing deadline

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Flat rate utility bills in Richmond are now due on June 30, 2020.

The original due date was March 31. The decision to extend this deadline was made in response to the COVID-19 situation.

All payments made on or before the new deadline of June 30 will still be eligible for the early payment discount of 10 per cent. While city hall is closed to the public, staff continue to work and serve residents.

Payments should be made remotely using one of the following options:

- Online or telephone banking through a financial institution
- Online through the city's website using a credit card (service fees apply)
- Mailing a cheque to City of Richmond Tax Department (6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC, V6Y 2C1)
- Dropping a cheque in the 24 hour drop box at city hall, west entrance

For more details on utility bill payments, visit www.richmond.ca/payutilities.

City council also supported the elimination of cash transactions at city hall until after Sept. 30, 2020.

This reduces risk of theft, since patrons will not be carrying large amounts of cash. It also encourages physical distancing, since fewer patrons will need to access their financial institution before visiting city hall when it is re-opened.

For specific information on Richmond's response to COVID-19, visit www.richmond.ca/covid19, email info@richmond.ca or call 604-276-4000 (8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays).

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Photo by Chung Chow

The due date for flat rate utility bills in Richmond has been extended for three months to June 30, 2020.

Nanji family donates \$100,000 to hospital fund

Among many who were exiled from Uganda in 1972, Pyarali Nanji and his family found a welcome refuge in Canada.

They have been giving back ever since.

Recently, the Nanji Family Foundation donated \$100,000 to Richmond Hospital, inspiring others to also give to the COVID-19 Response Fund.

Pyarali, his wife Gulshan and their four children are grateful Canada took them in, allowing them to start over. Pyarali and Gulshan made a pledge to give back, and their charitable giving has had a tremendous impact across Canada.

Today, they hope to inspire our community to join together in this time of crisis.

Holding firmly to the belief that a positive response to challenging times is an opportunity to demonstrate the goodness and kindness in all of us, the Nanji Family Foundation invites you to join with them to make a significant impact together.

As of April 3, the Nanji Family Foundation has offered to match every dollar donated to the Richmond Hospital Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, up to a total of \$100,000. That means that your generous donation will have double the impact.

"We are so honoured that the Nanji Family Foundation has committed \$100,000 in matching funds to support Richmond Hospital Foundation's COVID-19 Re-



Photo courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation
The Nanji family is inspiring others to give back in this time of need.

sponse Fund," says Natalie Meixner, president and CEO of Richmond Hospital Foundation. "We are thankful for their generosity and leadership, and with their amazing gift they will help us inspire others in the community to do the same during this challenging time."

The Nanji Family Foundation invites you to join together to support this important cause.

Virtual Happy Hour introduced

Molson Canadian is hoping to bring Canadians together online.

The brewery is introducing #VirtualHappyHour, while aiming to support local bars and restaurants during the coronavirus pandemic. During April, Molson is inviting Canadians to connect with friends virtually and "cheers" to spending time together—even online.

Share a screenshot or video with friends and hashtag #VirtualHappyHour, tagging Molson Canadian on Instagram or Twitter as well as a favourite local bar or restaurant. Molson will send a \$25 gift card for that local so you can get together with friends post-social isolation.

For more information, visit www.virtualhappyhour.ca

Police, fire-rescue keeping Richmond safe

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond's public safety employees are finding solutions to protect communities while respecting physical distancing requirements.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses are empty and more people are remaining at home.

Richmond Fire-Rescue has seen an increase in the number of house fires over the last two weeks, while both alarm calls and medical calls are down.

The biggest change for firefighters is the additional time required to get into full protective gear. This is true even for incidents like car accidents, due to the need for physical distancing and protective clothing above the usual standard.

Richmond RCMP have seen a decreased number of calls over the past two weeks.

"(But) our frontline officers are ensuring a high visible presence is maintained throughout the different areas of the city to help reassure both residents and business owners," says Cpl. Adriana Peralta.

RCMP have also adopted several new measures to keep officers safe, including limiting gathering size, social distancing, and sanitization



Photo courtesy Richmond Fire-Rescue
During the COVID-19 pandemic, with many people remaining at home, RCMP and Fire-Rescue are working to keep people safe.

of work spaces and personal protective equipment.

"Important supply chains were established early on in order to secure medical supplies, water, food, training and personal protective

equipment. Systems have been put into place to ensure the mental wellbeing of all our officers, as well as to mitigate COVID-19 exposure," says Peralta.

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Tourism looks forward to better days

By LORRAINE GRAVES
@rmdsentinel

Tourism Richmond CEO Nancy Small said last week the industry has been hard hit.

"These are unprecedented times across all industries. As you can imagine, right now things are basically at a standstill. With YVR at low capacity, our hotels and restaurants are also at very low capacity. We are working to support stakeholders and businesses as best we can," Small said.

Three local hotels have closed because of the pandemic: River Rock, Marriott and Hilton.

"That's almost 1,000 hotel rooms of the 5,000 we have in Richmond," Small said.

The hotel association is estimating two thirds of the hotels in the province will be closed for months, she added.

As hotels are closing some are being redeployed for emergency workers so there are good opportunities for some properties to redeploy as a way to keep operating.

Small said these are challenging times across the hospitality industry, including for restaurants.

The public is encouraged to order take-out or delivery from those places still working to keep their



Photo by Chung Chow

Tourism Richmond's Nancy Small says ordering take-out or delivery supports local restaurants.

staff employed. Tourism Richmond has started a campaign to promote those eateries at <https://bit.ly/3dZTW5Y>

Restaurants have been informed of the special safety procedures to follow to keep workers and

customers safe.

Small says Tourism Richmond is "looking forward to recovery. We are planning how to move forward and get back to where we were."

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RCRG seniors' response centre

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

In these uncertain times, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG) is stepping up even more. The community's hub for volunteering and giving, RCRG has been designated one of 24 agencies across the province to be a COVID-19 response centre for seniors.

This means providing additional services, while continuing to upgrade existing services, according to RCRG president and CEO Ed Gavsie.

"It's all part of the 2-1-1 plan," he explains, noting the provincial government recently directed \$50 million to



Photo from pxhere.com

Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives is expanding its reach during the coronavirus crisis.

United Way to oversee the new Safe Senior, Strong Community Program. A good portion of that funding is to help address at-home services for

seniors.

Ensuring physical distancing doesn't lead to social isolation is one of the key challenges during the cri-

sis. Seniors, especially those living alone, may find during this time a disconnection from family and friends.

With the assistance of United Way of the Lower Mainland, any senior aged 65 or over can call 2-1-1 or complete a short online form at bc211.ca, to be connected to a range of local volunteer services. These include grocery shopping and delivery, prepared meal delivery and prescription pickup and delivery. While clients will still pay for their own groceries and meals, the services themselves are free, Gavsie says.

The program will remain in place through the crisis.

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RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Advertising & Sponsorship
marketing@richmondsentinel.ca
778-325-1297

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Richmond chamber applauds government support

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is encouraged by news of a federal subsidy for small and medium-sized businesses.

"Prime Minister Trudeau's recent announcements were good news to

business and not-for-profits who are struggling in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic," says chamber president and CEO Matt Pitcairn.

"The chamber network has been leading advocacy for the 75 per cent wage subsidy, as well as zero-interest loans and GST payment deferral. These are great initial steps and we'll contin-

ue to work with all levels of government to get the necessary supports in place that can help businesses weather the storm."

The City of Richmond's Economic Development Office also tweeted "great news," following the announcements.

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MATT PITCAIRN

BC creates new economic task force

Through the creation of a new Economic Recovery Task Force, BC hopes to ensure an effective and responsive response to COVID-19.

"COVID-19 is not only a public health challenge, but also an economic one. People and businesses urgently need support," said Premier John Horgan. "This task force will help us keep in close contact with community leaders to ensure the steps we are taking now are working and to plan for a long-term economic recovery after the crisis has passed."



Photo via Wikimedia Commons
PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

The task force will meet via weekly conference call. It will include

Premier Horgan, several cabinet ministers, other cabinet members and leaders from business organizations, including the BC Chamber of Commerce, First Nations organizations and the not-for-profit sector.

The task force will begin work starting April 2. It aims to ensure provincial programs are benefitting their intended targets as well as complementing federal programs.

The task force will also explore issues around the designation of essential and critical services, childcare and supports for essen-

tial workers, and safe workplace operations for businesses operating now as well as those restarting after the crisis.

It will discuss long-term economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, providing participants with the opportunity to advise government on economic impacts in their sectors and solutions for long-term economic recovery.

"COVID-19 is a huge challenge, but British Columbians can be assured their government has their back—and together we will get through this," said Premier Horgan.

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Richmond student makes face shields for doctors

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Richmond teen is 3D printing face shields that are being used by doctors all over the US. Burnett Secondary student Sean Uy's uncle is a cardiologist in California. Through his uncle, Uy heard about the limited personal protective equipment available in hospitals.

"I did some research, looking at what designs were out there. I found designs, did some edits, and we've been up and running for two weeks now," says Uy of his 3D printing program, which he runs out of his shed at home.

A Grade 12 student, Uy has been accepted into BCIT's aerospace program. He says he thrives while working with his hands, rather than through a traditional classroom lecture setting.

He considers 3D printing a lifelong hobby, calling it "limitless."

"We bought the 3D printer because I wanted to learn how to 3D model," says Uy. "I'm on the school robotics team and we need a bunch of products custom designed and 3D printed."

He says it's easier to design and print custom parts rather than going through a traditional manufacturing process.

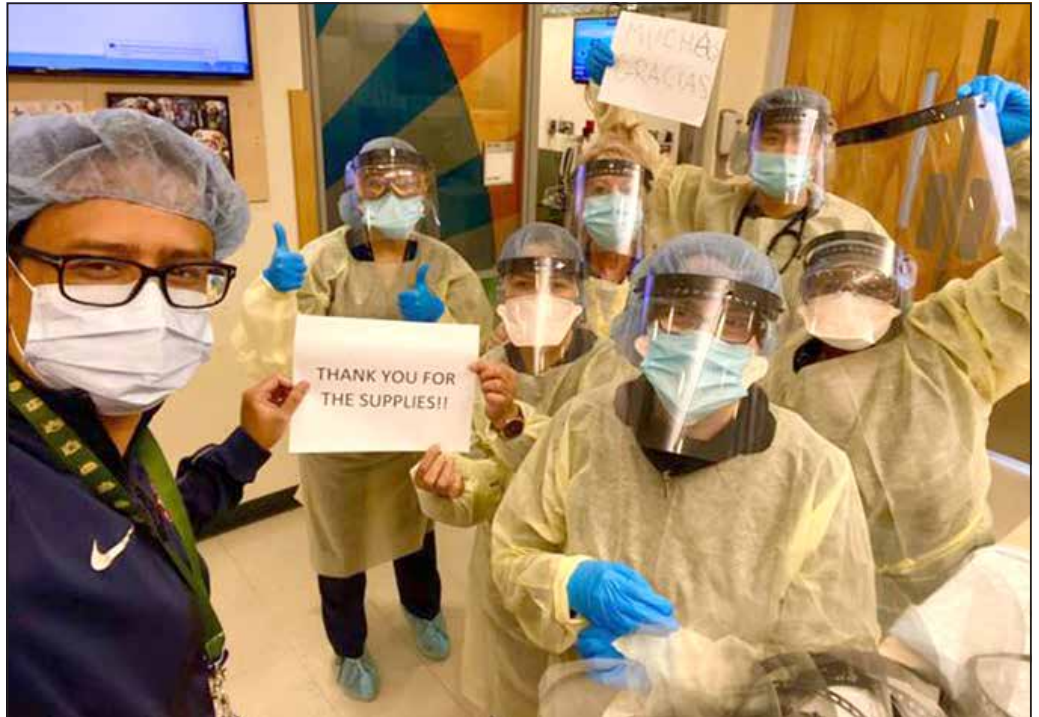
"I can test things, see things that work and things that don't work," Uy says of his 3D printer.

Uy has nearly used up his original supply of 3D printing materials, but family friends have offered donations and sponsor materials. This allows Uy to offer his face shields to hospitals for free—they just pay for the cost of the shipping label.

Now, his face shields are being used in many cities, including New York, Sacramento, Houston, Dallas, Seattle and Los Angeles. Before boxes are shipped, they are sanitized with a special UV wavelength to ensure they are safe for use.

"We put a note in the box to make sure that the hospital sanitizes it again when it gets there," says Uy. His equipment can be sanitized with UV light or in an alcohol bath—but if it is sanitized with heat, it will melt.

Uy gets up twice in the night to reload his 3D printers, keeping them



Photos courtesy Dr. Ian Gampon

Richmond student Sean Uy is 3D printing face shields and shipping them all over the US for use in hospitals.

working constantly. He is part of an international 3D printing community on Facebook, and says people all over the world are collaborating on the project.

"In our group, they did a tally and we've sent over a million of these products all over the US," Uy says.

He hopes this initiative will change people's minds about the possibilities of 3D printing.

"This technology is growing really quickly. It's clear that 3D printing has made a huge difference," he says.

While he says his personal contribution has been small, he knows what he's doing is important.

"As for how long I'm going to be doing this, really as long as I can, as long as I have materials. I know the demand will always be there," says Uy. "We're never going to be able to make enough, that's for sure."

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Library using 3D tech to support healthcare workers

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

Richmond Public Library is branching out to help those most in need. The library is using its 3D printers to collaborate with local 3D supplier shop3d.ca to get Richmond-produced face shields to frontline medical workers.

"Richmond Public Library is very pleased to contribute to this effort," says Cindy Ho, head of digital and learning services, and the lead on the unique project. "Library staff are grateful to those working each day to keep our communities running and healthy."

This week, in accordance with social distancing protocols, the library's dedicated digital services team is taking turns running the library's 3D printers. Ho is happy to report that everything is running smoothly.

"We are on track to print more than 60 face shields," she says. "This helps frontline healthcare staff by preventing particulates from hitting the face and eyes."

Once the library has completed printing the parts needed for 120 face shields, they will be returning the printed parts to shop3d.ca for distribution to healthcare professionals who have signed up to receive them.

"We will continue to contribute materials and staff resources towards printing these protective face shields for as long as possible," Ho says.

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Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library
Richmond Public Library staff are making face shields for frontline medical workers.

Richmond Centre for Disability operating remotely

By **HANNAH SCOTT**
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD) is temporarily closing its office due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All in-person activities are suspended until further notice.

The RCD is hosting a number of digital activities via Zoom, including relaxation and meditation retreats on Mondays and Thursdays. Information can be found on their website: rcdrichmond.org/ or for inquiries, email rcd@rcdrichmond.org

Community outreach coordinator Dave Thomson has also created several videos on stress management, available through the RCD website.

RCD staff are available via email and continue to offer digital support for those in need to connect remotely.

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In their own words...

Socially connected, physically distant



**Kelly
Greene**
Councillor

Although not that many days have passed on the calendar, it feels like months ago that we were told to keep our “social distance” or 2-metre distance from people outside our households. Happily, that term has been replaced with “physical distance” because our social connections will sustain us when times are tough.

Recently, I was heartened to read an opinion piece in The Washington Post that “caremongering” is spreading in Canada. We are reaching out to neighbours with help, online forums have sprung up to share with those in need, and donations and volunteers are lining up to support all kinds of efforts to help vulnerable people.

In Richmond, Sharline Gosal and her three children started a window scavenger hunt for kids. It’s a fun activity for kids (or adults!) to draw or paint rainbows to hang in their windows for friends to see and also gives us a reason to take a healthy

daily walk around the block. Fostering community is something we can all participate in, even while maintaining a physical distance from one another.

Just because we need to be physically distant from each other, doesn’t mean we can’t find enjoyment or solace in our relationships. We are fortunate to live in a time of advanced technology. We can phone each other, and if you have access to a device with video, such as a smartphone, you can even videoconference. I organize videoconference coffee breaks with my family. We may be in four different homes, but we have a great time and it feels good to be able to catch up “in person.”

It’s particularly difficult for small children to be separated from their friends for so long. Spring Break playdates went completely out the window, so in our home we have been practicing using the telephone to call friends. It’s a great life skill, and the novelty and excitement of talking to friends makes it the highlight of every day! We’ve also rebuilt a family schedule, and the daily routines help little ones feel more secure. With everything cancelled, we now have time to do family game night every day after dinner. We have been having a blast playing Uno, Exploding Kittens, and board games. There are also



Photo courtesy Kelly Greene

great free kids resources online through the Richmond public library, PBS Kids, Discovery Kids, Sesame Street, and more.

Through these unprecedented times of uncertainty and turmoil from COVID-19, we need each other more than ever. Although we can’t be physically near each other, we will stay connected in other ways and support each other through these difficult times. If anyone would like to reach out to Council, please email us at mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca or call City Hall at 604-276-4000.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

City of Richmond Council has postponed most Standing Committee meetings until at least the end of May 2020 to further strengthen existing physical distancing measures aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. The exceptions will be General Purposes Committee, Finance Committee and today's Planning Committee meetings. Council Meetings and Public Hearings will also proceed as scheduled.

Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 14
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

General Purposes Committee

Monday, April 20
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Public Hearing

Monday, April 20
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Council Meeting

Monday, April 27
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

Development Permit Panel

Wednesday, April 29
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

General Purposes Committee

Monday, May 4
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

Finance Committee

Monday, May 4
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

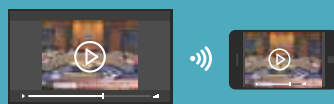
Council Meeting

Monday, May 11
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

For meeting agendas and reports
visit www.richmond.ca.



Council Meeting Live Streaming



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



Richmond company develops algae growing pods

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Richmond company has found a way to grow algae in a local, controlled environment.

"We designed and tested models that are out of the ordinary, because we don't have the luxury of the space the ocean occupies. Everything needs to be efficient and super compact," says Soheyl Mottahedeh, president and CEO of AlgaBloom.

Mottahedeh founded the company in 2014. He is a mechanical engineer and humanitarian, with experience developing renewable energy solutions for grass-roots companies in several countries.

AlgaBloom grows spirulina algae using photo bioreactors, ecosystems that mimic the photosynthetic process that happens in nature. Mottahedeh says he focused on spirulina because of its credibility: NASA successfully used it as a dietary supplement for astronauts.

"Bioreactors can be any size, material or shape," says Mottahedeh.

AlgaBloom presented its latest technology, the AlgaCube, at this year's GLOBE forum, North America's largest sustainable business summit and innovation showcase. The AlgaCube is based on years of research and observation.

"The AlgaCube bioreactor was developed so that companies that burn natural gas can monetize CO2 and convert it into valuable bio-products such as spirulina," says Mottahedeh.

Under the brand SpiruVive, the company has been growing spirulina algae free of contaminants, and selling it across Canada. Spirulina contains protein, vitamins and other nutrients.

Mottahedeh says their liquid spirulina closely mimics its naturally-occurring form and doesn't have the bad smell or taste of powdered, imported spirulina.

To learn more about AlgaBloom, visit their website: www.algabloom.com/

• hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



Photo courtesy AlgaBloom

AlgaBloom has developed a way to grow algae by mimicking the conditions in nature.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Bringing the outdoors in with Phantom Screens

Now more than ever, we are seeing a continuous trend in outdoor living, and it's a beautiful thing when indoor and outdoor environments can blend seamlessly, creating the perfect transitional living space.

During the summer months, homeowners are eager to step outside and enjoy their home's outdoor living areas with friends and family or open their multi-panel wall systems to enjoy their million-dollar view!

With this in mind, there's nothing like being able to leave folding door systems wide open to enjoy the breeze without letting the elements in. Phantom's retractable wall screens for multi-panel systems are the perfect screening solution for oversized doorways and disappear out of sight when not in use.

Historical, due to their vast size these vast openings would often go unscreened. With Phantom Screens, homeowners can experience the intended use of the



folding door system, (bringing the outdoors in), without the concern of compromising their view. Of course, these perfect summer days are also made better because homeowners can enjoy fresh air, natural ventilation and no mosquitoes!

Phantom's retractable wall screens covers doorways and openings up to 24 feet wide and 10 feet high, and disappear out of sight when not in use. They feature a thumb latch integrated into the

handle for controlled openings – making it easy to use, quiet to operate and secure from unintended openings.

The mesh is completely secured in the track to prevent blow-outs in breezy conditions and also offers extra security for pets allowing them to be contained in your desired space. The highlight of this retractable screen is its customizable stopping points for easy in and out access, allowing homeowners to personalize where they would like

the screen to open and close.

Phantom's screens are a visually appealing and easily integrated solution for the common drawbacks of an outdoor lifestyle. They're only in place when you need them, and retract completely out of sight when you don't. What's best - choose from one of their standard colours or wood grain options, or even custom colour match to your home's design. They also offer various mesh options including insect, solar protection and additional privacy.

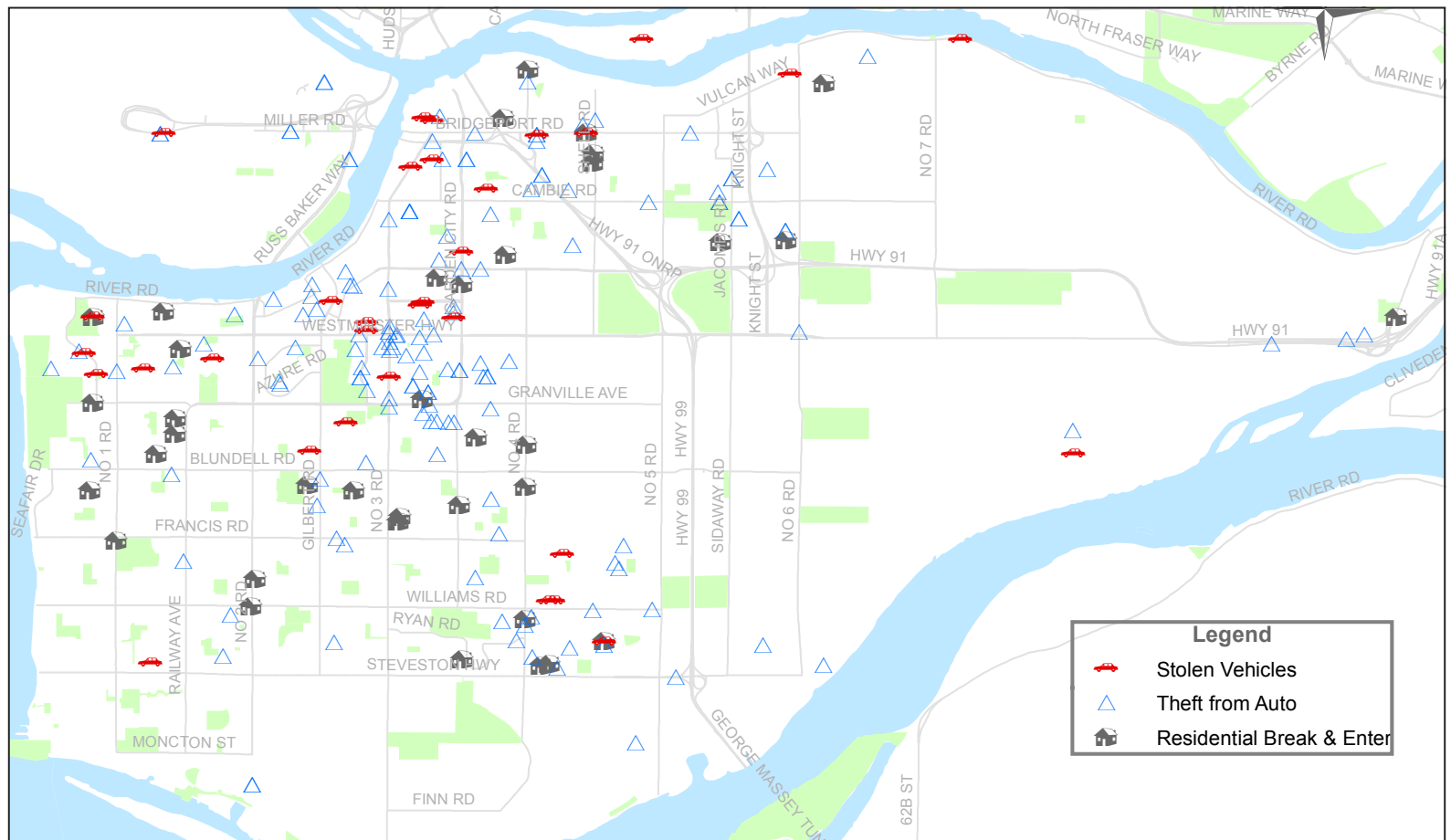
As North America's leading provider of retractable screens for doors, windows multi panel wall systems and outdoor spaces, Phantom Screens offers a wide variety of screens that blend with any architectural style and are always the perfect addition to any project!

Go to <http://www.phantom-screensbc.com> or call 604-371-2955 to learn more about these retractable screens solutions!



RCMP

Crime Map March 1 - 31, 2020



Library moves resources online

By **DON FENNEL**
@rmdsentinel

The Richmond Public Library has a history of being ahead of the curve. And it continues to respond quickly to ever-changing needs.

Committed to staying connected with users and the community at large, the library is finding new ways to interact online and by phone.

"We're working to find solutions and provide important services to our customers," says library spokesperson Stephanie Vokey. "We miss seeing our (users) at the branches, (but) we will continue to support Richmond residents through our collection, resources and services during these extraordinary times."

In response to the changing needs of the community, the library has put in place a number of easy to use, innovative and fun resources. As well, library staff are monitoring and responding quickly to customer questions by email and phone. Librarians are available to answer inquiries from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at 604-231-6413.

A suite of the new online programs has also

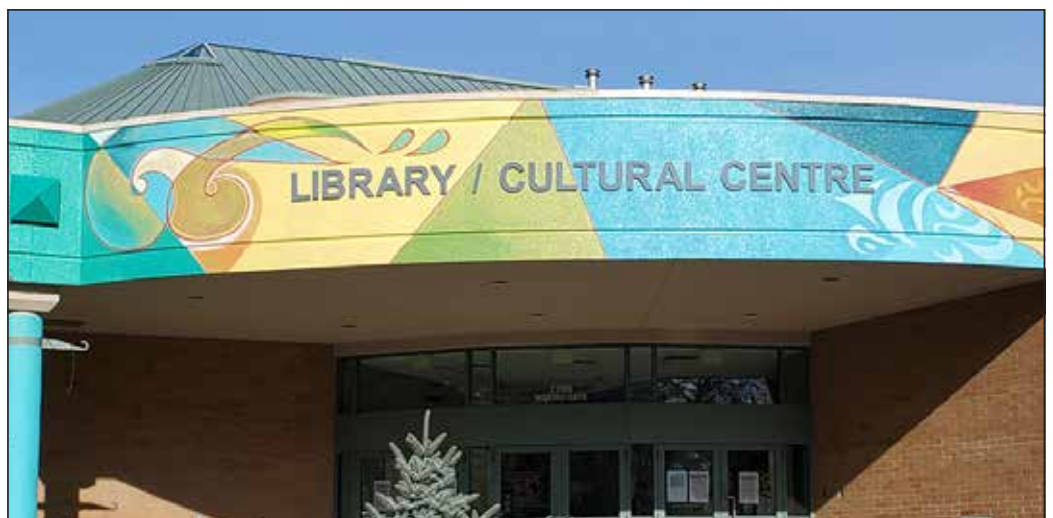


Photo by Jaana Björk

Richmond Public Library is encouraging the community to access its online resources.

been launched, including video storytimes, online English classes, and digital and social media classes. These can be viewed at yourlibrary.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index. New materials are also being added to the library's eBook and audiobook collections daily.

The library has also introduced a new eServices card, accessible by applying online. Vokey says this enables individuals without a library card to access Richmond Public Library's extensive collection of digital services.

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Photos courtesy
Tina Tam
Tina Tam sells
an assortment of
vegan baked goods
at her farmers'
market stall.

Vegan baking evolves from need

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Tina Tam learned her five-year-old son was allergic to dairy and eggs when he was a baby.

So, the already vegetarian family decided to go vegan. But when it came to satisfying sugar cravings, they found it challenging.

"One day, we were at the Trout Lake Farmers' Market and I was really craving something sweet. I couldn't find anything vegan in the whole market," says Tam, owner of Cookie Crumbles vegan bakery.

I can veganize almost any recipe out there. You learn lots of tips and tricks.

— Tina Tam

a vegan diet 20 years ago, she says the field has come a long way.

"I can veganize almost any recipe out there. You learn lots of tips and tricks," says Tam.

Among those tips and tricks is one of Tam's personal creations: her own vegan butter. She says there are many resources on the Internet for someone who wants to start baking vegan—and that these resources helped her out when she was learning.

Egg substitutes can be a bit tricky, but Tam says some common substitutions include flax egg—made by mixing ground flax or chia seed with water and allowing the mixture to set briefly—oil, or applesauce. Another substitute is psyllium husk egg, made by mixing a plant-based powder with water.

Milk replacements can also be an obstacle. Because almond and cashew milk are less environmentally friendly, and many people have nut allergies, Tam sticks to oat or soy milk in her creations.

Popular treats at her farmers' market stand include a chocolate ganache raspberry tart and cinnamon buns—which take almost three hours to make.

Of her business, Tam says she intends to showcase successful vegan baking. She guesses that 90 per cent of her customers are not vegan.

"I never went into this as an endeavour to make money," she says. "It's really gratifying to know that people still want to support small businesses."

The Cannery Farmers' Market has sadly cancelled the rest of its winter market season due to the COVID-19 outbreak. For more on Tam's baking, visit her website: www.ccvbakery.ca/ or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ccvbakery.



•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

RAPS rescues dozens of cats



**Pat
Johnson**

The Regional Animal Protection Society has rescued dozens of cats and kittens from a situation in Richmond where a well-intentioned individual was feeding stray cats until the numbers got beyond their control.

On March 31 and April 1, RAPS staff and volunteers brought 20 kittens and 27 adult cats—including three that are pregnant—to the RAPS City of Richmond Animal Shelter. The animals' health is being assessed and all their needs will be met by veterinarians and staff at the not-for-profit RAPS Animal Hospital.

The Regional Animal Protection Society began 25 years ago, as a small group of volunteers humanely trapped and spayed or neutered feral cats in Richmond. As a result of these decades of work, Richmond has almost no feral cats. By means of comparison, it is estimated that Surrey has tens of thousands. This rare situation reminds Richmond residents of RAPS' no-kill humane care that cats receive in our municipality and the vital necessity of spaying and neutering.

"They have a variety of health issues that will need to be addressed," says Eyal Lichtmann, CEO and executive director of RAPS. "Some of the kittens have eye infections that are being treated. Most of the cats and kittens were flea-infested."

The cats will be vaccinated and spayed or neutered, and receive X-rays, full diagnostic lab tests, screening procedures, SNAP tests to determine conditions such as feline AIDS and leukemia, as well as any other symptoms that might be in evidence. Some adult cats will likely require dental or



Photo submitted
RAPS has rescued dozens of cats and kittens and is now assessing their health.

other surgical procedures.

"Eight kittens who are three-day-old and their mom have been placed in a secure foster home," says Lichtmann. "Twelve other kittens, estimated to be around four to six weeks old, will likely also be fostered until they are eight to 10 weeks old and ready for adoption and their forever homes."

Eventually, most of the cats and kittens will be offered for adoptions and RAPS advises families considering adoption to check frequently for updates on the RAPS website at rapsbc.com.

The organization is also asking for support to deal with the increased demand created by these cats, especially as RAPS' revenues are being affected by the pandemic. "Our donations are down at this time," says Lichtmann. "When times are tough, charity services are in demand by the public. Requests for RAPS services, in helping to save

animals, and people needing our services at the RAPS Animal Hospital, are greater than ever. That is why we need public support for the 47 cats and kittens and for all the other ways RAPS helps the community."

The RAPS Thrift Stores, which provide a good proportion of RAPS revenues, are closed. The City Animal Shelter and the RAPS Cat Sanctuary are closed to the public while staff and volunteers provide care for the animals on staggered shifts to respect social distancing. The RAPS Animal Hospital is operating with protocols to limit human-to-human interactions.

"For everything we do, everyday, we depend on the support of our community," Lichtmann says. "Now, more than ever."

Pat Johnson is communications manager of the Regional Animal Protection Society.

MY NAME IS JACK

Jack, a two-year-old boy with tons of energy, came to RAPS as a surrender, and, after some trials and tribulations, he has warmed up to all the staff here. Jack would benefit from positive reinforcement training and a calm, confident handler that can show him boundaries and structure. His goals in life are to chase balls, play tug-of-war, and possibly become the next Frisbee or agility champion.

****Due to COVID-19, all meet and greets will be by appointment only. Please call us at 604-275-2036 to set up an appointment.****



ADOPT ME!

REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (RAPS)

rapsbc.com | City Shelter: 604-275-2036

Head Office: 604-285-7724



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
[/REGIONALANIMALPROTECTIONSOCIETY](https://www.facebook.com/REGIONALANIMALPROTECTIONSOCIETY)



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
[@RAPSOCIETY](https://twitter.com/RAPSOCIETY)

RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

rapsanimalhospital.com

604-242-1666

The RAPS Animal Hospital and Animal Ambulance are supported by Applewood Nissan



Ovalfit at Home resonating with virtual community

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

A daily online workout program is proving popular with Richmondites.

While the global coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of the Richmond Olympic Oval in March, fitness staff at the multi-sport complex have stepped up to continue classes virtually.

"We have such a strong community of members who frequent our group training classes, as well as members whose normal daily routine includes a workout at the oval," explains Andrew Clark, manager of fitness and high performance training. "We wanted to continue to foster the oval community while supporting our members' health and fitness journeys."

The oval's fitness team created a schedule of online classes that are taught from home by a few of its most popular instructors.

The program went live March 30 with two classes, attracting more than 6,000 views in the first week. As a result, the team realized the "tremendous opportunity" to keep Richmond residents active, while also doing their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 by staying home, Clark says.

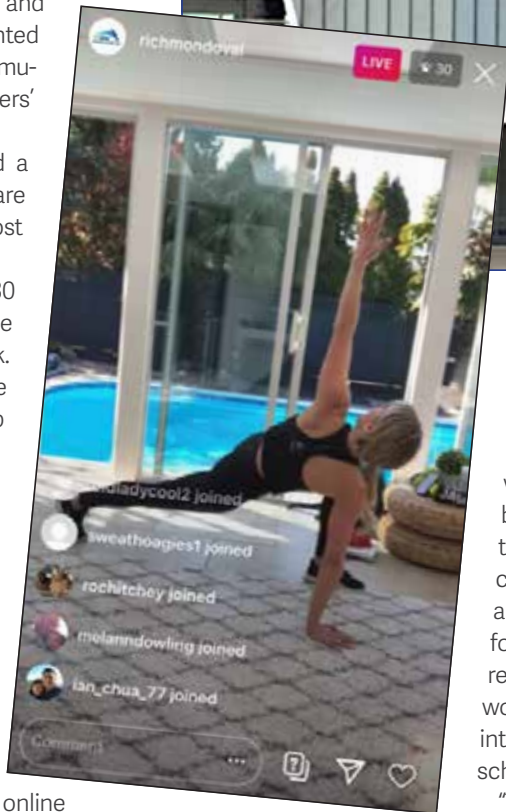
Since the launch, more classes have been added along with more instructors and formats. These are streamed live on the oval's Facebook and Instagram channels at specific times.

It's not necessary to be an oval member to participate in the online classes, which include body weight training, Zumba, Hatha yoga, recovery and regeneration, sweat circuit and many more. A new schedule is posted each week at richmondoval.ca/ovalfit-at-home/. A



Photo by Don Fennell

Richmond Olympic Oval is addressing the need to exercise through online programming.



library of on-demand archived workouts is also being added at try.richmondoval.ca, which will be another resource for members and residents if a live workout doesn't fit into an individual's schedule.

"The oval's membership and fitness community is really coming together during this unprecedented time to encourage each other to stay active," Clark says. "The supportive comments posted during

the classes, and received afterwards, demonstrate the strength of the community and the relationship amongst those who normally attend in person."

On a separate, but related note, the oval's high performance team has also been delivering online sessions, programming and mental performance seminars. Participating groups have so far included the oval's short track speed skating program, PEAK basketball and Field Hockey Canada.

"The athletes and coaches have really been enjoying it," Clark says. "We have also had great feedback from parents, expressing how beneficial it has been for their young athletes to have structure to their day, and sport-related commitments in their schedule."

dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

**To all Frontline, Senior-Care,
and Essential Workers,
THANK YOU!**

**Together we shall overcome
COVID-19.**



Kenny Chiu
Member of Parliament
Steveston-Richmond East

Constituency Office: 3251 Chatham St.
Richmond, BC. V7E 1B6
Phone: 604-257-2900
Email: Kenny.Chiu@parl.gc.ca



Photo by Don Fennell
Brett Reusch (left) with Tyler
and Ron Paterson showing their
championship rings from the 2018
Cyclone Taylor Cup.

Sockeyes begin search for new coach

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

Brett Reusch is stepping away from his perch atop the Richmond Sockeyes' bench.

Wanting to spend more time with his family, the longtime head coach of the local Pacific Junior Hockey League team leaves the club with a sparkling record of 73-25-3-5. He also guided the Sockeyes to the Cy-

clone Taylor Cup provincial championship in 2017-18.

On behalf of the team's ownership group, Doug Paterson extended his thanks to Reusch.

"I would like to thank our head coach for all his dedication and contributions towards the success of our organization. All the best to you and your family, Brett."

The Sockeyes are also losing an

assistant coach. After a year behind the bench, Tyler Andrews is stepping aside to focus on work. He captained the team to the Cyclone Taylor Cup in the 2017-18 season.

• Richmond's Ajeet Gundarah has been selected the PJHL rookie of the year. He played last year with the Langley Trappers.

• dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

Spring baseball season cancelled

There will be no spring baseball this year.

After meeting virtually April 6, Richmond City Baseball Association (RCBA) directors agreed to cancel the season amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Members will receive full refunds for all registrations paid for the 2020 season.



rcp
RICHMOND
CARING PLACE

Richmond Caring Place
7000 Minoru Boulevard, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 3Z5
richmondcaringsplace.ca

*Caring for our community together
Your Community Social Services Hub*

**Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers
who, in partnership with our tenants, make
Richmond a better place.**

Alzheimer Society of B.C.
Canadian Hemochromatosis Society
Centre for Ability
Chimo Community Services
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
Richmond Community Foundation
Richmond Multicultural Community Services
Richmond Society for Community Living
Richmond Women's Resource Centre Association
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Turning Point Recovery Society

Province lauds sports' leadership

The amateur sports community is being applauded for its quick respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Responding to Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, said "government invests more than \$50 million annually to make sure everyone has opportunities to participate in and enjoy the benefits of sport."

"COVID-19 and the need for physical distancing has had a significant impact on everyone, including those in the sport sector. B.C.'s sport leaders responded quickly to the orders, direction and recommendations from the provincial health officer and cancelled tournaments, training schedules and other activities to protect people's health. We understand this has had a significant impact on the province's athletes, coaches, officials, sport organization staff and volunteers.

"Starting in April 2020, the province, through viaSport, will provide provincial, disability and multi-sport organizations with the ability to access \$5 million, which represents 50 per cent of their annual 2020-21 provincial funding allocation, to provide these organizations with access to cashflow sooner.

"Sport plays a powerful role in helping people lead healthy, productive lives and contributes to the health and wellness of our communities. These measures are what we can do right away within the existing sport sector budget to help organizations during the pandemic. This is a first step and we will have more to announce regarding additional supports for the sector in the weeks ahead."

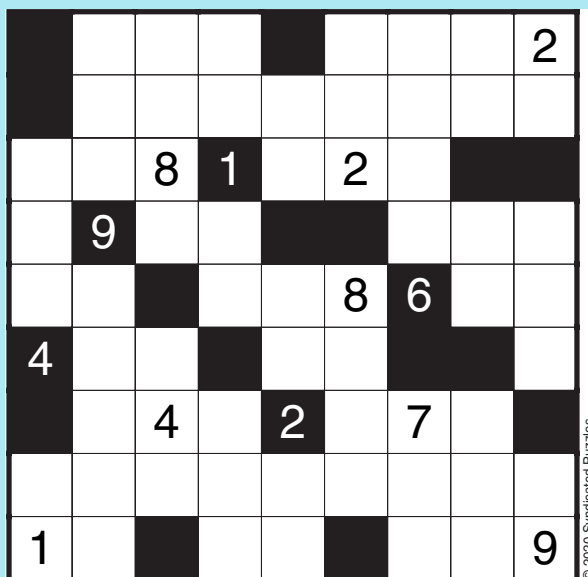


Photo by Don Fennell

Tourism, Arts and Cultures Minister Lisa Beare today praised amateur sports leaders in the wake of the corona virus outbreak.

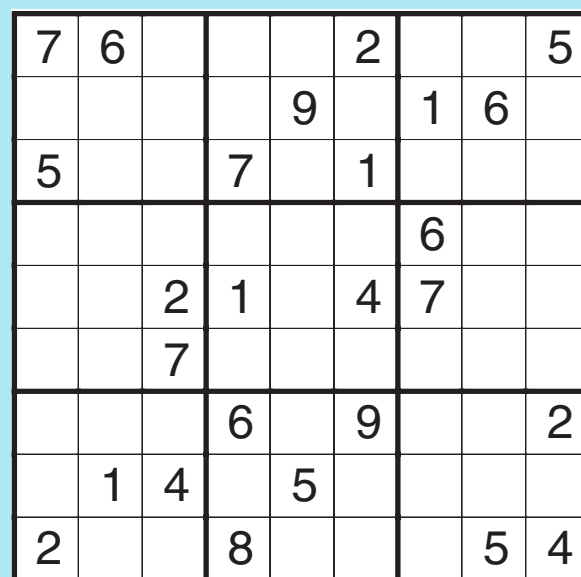
STR8TS

No number can be repeated in any row or column. Rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must contain a 'straight,' a set of numbers with no gaps in any order, eg. [4,2,3,5]. Numbers in black cells are not part of straights but also cannot be repeated in their row or column.



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SUDOKU



Safe Seniors, Strong Communities

As the Official Opposition Critic for Seniors Care, I am pleased to share with you that Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives has been selected as the agency to deliver the services our seniors can request when they **call 2-1-1** or **fill out a form on the website: www.bc211.ca/safe-seniors-strong-communities/**

Linda Reid, MLA Richmond South Centre
604-775-0891 | Linda.Reid.MLA@Leg.bc.ca

CITY OF RICHMOND RESPONDS TO COVID-19



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Your City government is committed to helping our community stay healthy and supported through this crisis.

While City Hall and many of our public facilities are currently closed, we are working hard to maintain all the essential services you rely on from the City.

We are also making adjustments to ease the financial burden on our residents in these trying times such as extending the payment deadline for Flat Rate Utility Bills.

You can still access many of our services online and we will continue to keep the community informed of new updates through our website and our social media channels.

We will get through this together. To do so, it is critical that everyone follow the direction of public health authorities by staying home as much as possible and maintaining physical distancing.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie

AMENITY & FACILITY CLOSURES

- All community facilities are closed, including: community centres, libraries, swimming pools, arenas, arts, cultural and heritage buildings, the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living, and the Richmond Olympic Oval.
- Outdoor amenities are closed, including: playgrounds, sports fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, skate parks, bike parks, lacrosse boxes and the pitch and putt.
- Works Yard administration buildings are closed. The Richmond Recycling Depot remains open.

CITY SERVICES

The City Hall building is now closed to the public.

While service levels may be impacted during the building closures, we will continue to serve you. Contact the City by emailing info@richmond.ca or call 604-276-4000.

For specific enquiries, call or email a department directly.

Building, Gas, Plumbing, Tree & Demolition Permit Applications

604-276-4118 for Plan Review
604-276-4111 for Inspections
building@richmond.ca

Business Licences

604-276-4328
buslic@richmond.ca

Bylaws, Parking & Animal Control

604-276-4345
bylawrequest@richmond.ca

Development Application Inquiries

604-276-4138 or 604-204-8653
devapps@richmond.ca or
planningdevelopment@richmond.ca

Engineering

604-247-4913 or 604-276-4289
engineeringrequest@richmond.ca

Policy Planning

604-276-4207
communityplanning@richmond.ca

Property Use

604-276-4345
bylawrequest@richmond.ca

Property Tax & Utility Inquiries

604-276-4145
taxdept@richmond.ca

Public Works

604-244-1262
trafops@richmond.ca

Thank you for your flexibility and patience during this time.

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Council Meetings and Public Hearings continue to proceed.
- Stream Council meetings online through the live broadcast service as an alternative to attending proceedings in person: www.richmond.ca/watchonline
- Delegations wishing to be heard on an item that is on the Regular Council Meeting agenda can submit comments by 6:00 p.m. on the Monday of the meeting by emailing cityclerk@richmond.ca or dropping off comments in the Drop Box outside City Hall.

MYRICHMOND

Access your City services online in one place using MyRichmond.

www.richmond.ca/myrichmond

UTILITY BILLS

The Flat Rate Utility Bill payment deadline is being extended to June 30, 2020.

No cash transactions will be accepted at City Hall until after September 30, 2020.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please continue to seek information from credible sources only.

- Vancouver Coastal Health: vch.ca/covid19
- BC Centre for Disease Control: bccdc.ca/covid19
- Province of B.C.: gov.bc.ca/covid19 or call:
• 8-1-1 toll-free in BC, or call 7-1-1 for the deaf and the hard of hearing toll-free in BC
- 1-888-covid19 for Service BC for non-health related questions
- 2-1-1 or bc211.ca for the help and support of seniors

For the City's latest COVID-19 updates, follow us on social media:



@cityofrichmondbc



@Richmond_BC

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SERVICE UPDATES:
WWW.RICHMOND.CA/COVID19

