



## BUILDING A LEGACY



Local couple sowed seeds  
for SOS Children's Village

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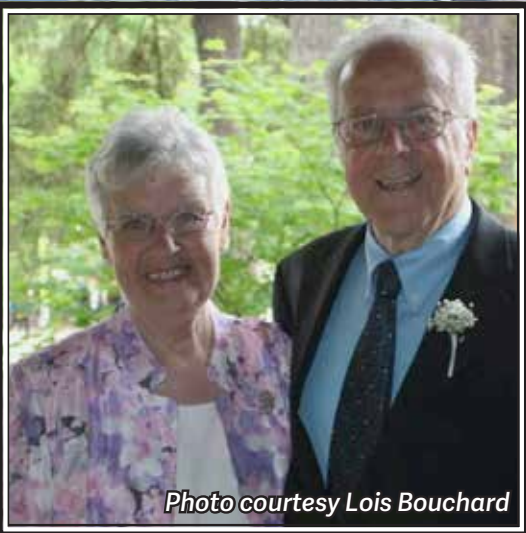


Photo courtesy Lois Bouchard

Photo by Hannah Scott

Gilles and Lois Bouchard (inset) started raising funds for children and youth in foster care in the 1980s, opening a Steveston thrift store in 1992. Nearly 30 years later the store still raises funds for a cause close to their hearts.

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# Steveston thrift store raising funds for foster care

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Lois and Gilles Bouchard were inspired to help children and youth in foster care after a first-hand experience left a profound impact.

"It began with a close association with a girl who was in foster care, and I had never experienced that quite so close up before," says Lois. "(The girl) moved three times between the ages of 15 and 16, and I found that quite horrific."

When she turned 19, the girl was given a \$400 government cheque and left to fend for herself. This marked the end of government assistance. Her story ignited a desire in the Bouchards to provide a solution that offered more support for children in care, as well as a solution to those who've aged out of the government-funded program.

Lois, who had a background in administration and research, sought to learn more about foster care. By chance, she found hope through SOS Children's Village, a global organization headquartered in Austria. After attending a fundraiser at UBC, she connected with the Austrian team in 1981.

"It was a long journey," Lois explains. "We had no funds or anything like that. It was very grassroots."

The Bouchards spent the rest of the 1980s building their efforts, eventually holding seven fundraising events per year. They also sent out a quarterly newsletter to 10,000 people, which helped raised funds and attracted volunteers. Striving for a more consistent solution for raising funds, they were inspired by another neighbourhood thrift store.

"I had been following the progress of the Rich-



Photo courtesy Lois Bouchard

**After meeting a girl living in foster care, Gilles and Lois Bouchard were inspired to open a thrift store in Steveston.**

mond Hospital Auxiliary, who have run a thrift store in Steveston for many years," says Lois. "They would publish their annual report and I would read it and file it every year."

At the same time, her own volunteers were working hard and showing "hints of exhaustion," says Lois. So after an annual fundraising event in 1991, she started to develop plans for a Steveston thrift store to support children and

youth in foster care.

The community rallied around the Bouchards, who opened their first thrift store in the building that now houses Village Bikes. The community spirit of Steveston extends beyond the Bouchards, inspiring the rest of the SOS Children's Village team.

"The Steveston store is such a hub for our community," says SOS Children's Village BC executive director Kistie Singh. "People come to be a part of the community, and feel rewarded for their work in the store."

Later in the 1990s, the store moved to its current location which used to have a pool hall in the front space. The SOS Children's Village team took over the back, which had been a music and dance studio, and converted it to a larger thrift store. When the pool hall owner retired, he offered the front space to the thrift store as well, and it's been there ever since.

The Steveston store was followed by a Kerisdale location in 2006, but the main focus was always on the creation of a 'village'—a small community of houses where children in care live together with a full-time parent. Lois says the Steveston community was incredibly supportive as volunteers, donors and customers.

"I don't think we could have done this without Steveston," says Lois. "It was the community spirit that made everything possible for us."

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Photo by Hannah Scott



# SOS village all-encompassing in caring for youth in need

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Within a community of homes dedicated to children in foster care, five youth who have recently aged out of the system live in transitional basement suites. Providing support to youth who have aged out of the more traditional foster care system is a key component of SOS Children's Village.

The only Canadian branch is located in BC, started by Richmondites Lois and Gilles Bouchard in 1986 after five years of sowing the seeds. The Bouchards received funding for the land from the international umbrella of SOS in 1992. Each of the five homes in the 2.5 acre Surrey village can accommodate six kids aged 18 and younger, as well as one youth in the transitional basement suite. The village also employs other staff including a teacher, two youth workers and a counsellor.

"Small businesses like (the SOS Children's Village thrift store in Steveston) go into supporting the village," says SOS Children's Village BC executive director Kistie Singh.

Funding from the store helps with things like education and on-site clinical supports for children and youth in care. But like many industries, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the work of the SOS Children's Village BC team. They had to close their stores for eight weeks, creating more work for teams intent on supporting the children and youth living in the village. And when the pandemic hit, one youth who had recently aged out of care had a baby. Four staff members searched every store for a specific formula that seemed to be sold out everywhere.

"That's how we're managing day-to-day," says



*Photos courtesy SOS Children's Village BC*  
The international non-profit, SOS Children's Villages, provides a unique model for foster care, centered around 'villages' where groups of children and youth live with foster parents.

Singh. "We have to wake up, listen to our community, see who needs what and prioritize."

Of particular concern is the plight of youth aging out of care. Half of children in care in BC are Indigenous, Singh says—and the graduation rate is just 12 per cent.

"These kids need to be independent and be able to take care of themselves when they age out," says Singh.

Kids in care in the village aren't automatically aged out when they turn 19. Instead, they are coached through how to find what Singh calls the 'big three': employment, housing and possibly education. She says most kids don't get all three. Through alumni and aftercare services, staff try to stay connected quarterly to youth

who have aged out of care. Some want their independence, Singh says, but some were especially glad to hear a familiar voice during the pandemic.

Staffing their thrift stores with volunteers is a cost saver for SOS Children's Village, so most revenue is able to go back to children and youth in care. But many volunteers at the Steveston location are seniors, so had to stop volunteering to protect their own safety.

Singh says anyone with interest in volunteering should consider helping out at this time. Those who have used items that might be of interest to thrift store shoppers should get them to the store if possible.

"One of the best things, if people can't afford to give, is to connect to social media to get the message across," says Singh. "There may be other kids in the community who could also use help."

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# Richmond has its share of lottery luck

By DON FENNELL  
@rmdsentinel

When it comes to lottery luck, it seems Richmondites fare pretty well.

No sooner had Lisa Tsang stepped forward to collect \$1 million in the Aug. 22 Lotto 6/49 draw, than another Richmond lottery winner was confirmed as Howard Hepworth claimed \$50,000 on a Super Crossword Scratch & Win ticket.

A frequent 6/49 player, Tsang initially heard there was a winner from Richmond and decided to check her numbers on the bclc.com website.

"When I realized I had won, I was in shock and disbelief, but remained very calm," she said. "I was really excited to share the news with my husband, who didn't believe me at first. I told my daughter I was a winner too, but like my husband, (she) was very skeptical."

It took showing them the ticket to convince them.

Tsang purchased her ticket at the Shoppers Drug Mart in Richmond's



*Photos courtesy BCLC*

**After announcing that Lisa Tsang (above, left) had won the \$1 million winner in the Aug. 22 Lotto 6/49 draw, the BC Lottery Corporation unveiled another Richmond winner to kick off September. Howard Hepworth (above, right) won \$50,000 on the lottery's Super Crossword Scratch & Win ticket.**

Garden City Centre and claimed her prize using BCLC's alternate prize-claim process. She says her first priority for her win is to pay off her mortgage.

"A million dollars is a lot of money," she said. "I will have more financial freedom."

Hepworth was waiting to pick up his wife from work when he decided to pop into Seafair Smoke & Mixer, located on No. 1 Road, to purchase a few "scratchies."

"I could not believe what I saw," he said. "I called the store owner over to verify what I was seeing. She told me to sign my ticket, and I said I was too shaky to sign it."

Describing the experience of winning as "amazing," Hepworth says he plans to put his prize winnings toward a new car.

Last August, retired Richmond fisherman Joseph Katalinic netted the biggest haul of his life—a record \$60 million Lotto Max jackpot.

So far in 2020, BC lottery players have redeemed more than \$81 million in winnings from Lotto 6/49.

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## Scientists begin virtual symposium into COVID-19

An online symposium focused on further understanding of the impacts of COVID-19, and related public health measures, launched Sept. 1.

The BC COVID-19 Research and Collaboration Symposium is a virtual collaboration of BC's academic health sciences network, involving public health, epidemiology, social science and education researchers from around the province.

"To be successful, our COVID-19 plan is about all of us doing our

part—our world-leading researchers, our businesses and all of us as individuals," Health Minister Adrian Dix and provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said in a joint statement. "We have the tools, we have the knowledge and now we must prepare for the challenges that may lie ahead in fall with renewed commitment, new routines and proven safety precautions."

"Let's use our layers of protection and make them a part of our daily routines each and every day this fall," they said.



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# Opening of new Minoru pool set for Monday

After extensive delays, the Minoru Centre for Active Living will open its indoor aquatic centre on Sept. 21.

The aquatic centre comprises six bodies of water including Canada's largest hot tub and the Polar Plunge, the country's only municipal cold plunge pool with a refreshing temperature of 15 degrees.

"The Minoru Centre for Active Living is a facility that everyone in the city can be proud of and we are delighted to finally be able to showcase its many features," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "While we are only able to provide access in a controlled manner right now due to our COVID-19 safety protocols, we encourage everyone to take some time to come and experience the centre themselves."

The facility boasts a 650 square metre (7,000 square foot) leisure pool featuring a Mega Drop Bucket, a rapid flowing River Channel, a slide and an Errant Rain Cloud shower. Two 25 metre pools with 14 lanes provide a variety of opportunities for recreational and lane swimming, as well as aqua fit classes, while an over water climbing wall, drop slide and diving board also provide a myriad of options for water lovers of all ages.

In keeping with COVID-19 protocols, the aquatic centre will open with reduced capacity and pre-registration will be required for 75-minute swim sessions. Limited drop-in spaces will also be available each session on a first come first serve basis. Registration for opening day will begin next Monday at 10



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

**The Minoru Centre for Active Living will open its aquatic centre Sept. 21.**

a.m. with the following options:

- Online at [richmond.ca/register](https://richmond.ca/register) using your MyRichmond account. New accounts can be set up in advance at [myrichmond.richmond.ca](https://myrichmond.richmond.ca)
- By calling the registration call centre at 604-276-4300.

Registration for the following week's session will be available at 10 a.m. on the Monday before. Recreation access card holders and recreation fee subsidy users are asked to call the registration call centre to book a swim session.

The Minoru Centre for Active Living aquatic cen-

tre will be open from 6 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 7 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Sundays and statutory holidays. The adjoining fitness centre will also see expanded operating hours, opening to the public on a pre-registration basis for the same hours as the aquatic centre.

The city will also open the indoor pool at Watermania to provide training opportunities for regular aquatic rental groups such as swim clubs.

For more information on the Minoru aquatic centre, its features and the safety protocols required for users, please visit [www.richmond.ca/minorupools](https://www.richmond.ca/minorupools)

## \$6.2 million funding expedites Oval Village energy project

The City of Richmond, on behalf of Lulu Island Energy Company, has received \$6.2 million from the provincial and federal governments to help speed up implementation of another phase of the Oval Village District Energy Utility (OVDEU), reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the city.

The grant, provided through the Canada Infrastructure Program–CleanBC Communities Fund, will expedite the implementation timeline for design and construction of a permanent, sewer heat recovery energy centre to provide renewable energy to customers of the OVDEU.

"This project will help move the city closer to its objectives of providing low carbon energy for residents while further reducing greenhouse gas emissions from developments in Richmond's City Centre area," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "This funding through the CleanBC Communities Fund, recognizes the innovation and commitment we have made to improving our environment and making Richmond a sustainable and environmentally conscious city."

The permanent energy centre will use a sewer heat recovery energy system to service the Oval Village area around River Parkway and Gilbert Road. The \$6.2 million, which comprises \$2.6 million from the province and \$3.6 million from the federal government, will allow the current temporary energy centres on River Parkway to be decommissioned and removed. It will also enable the project, currently planned for 2025, to begin construction in 2022 for a 2024 in-service date.

"The people of Richmond are demonstrating leadership on climate change with new clean energy infrastructure that will reduce pollution and provide heat and hot water for people and businesses in the Oval Village neighbour-

hood," said BC Environment Minister George Heyman. "Through our CleanBC climate and economic plan, we're working together with communities like Richmond and the federal government to build back a stronger, better B.C. for everyone following the impacts of COVID-19."

The OVDEU sewer heat recovery system will replace natural gas boilers as the main source of heating energy and hot water for residents and businesses in the Oval Village area. When complete, around 80 per cent of the area's energy demand will be met by this system, resulting in an estimated reduction of more than 265,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the first 30 years of the project's life span – roughly equal to taking 95,000 cars off the road for a year.

The investment in this energy system will increase resilient, low carbon, green energy production in the City of Richmond, while providing customers with a locally produced and reliable energy source.

The OVDEU is a part of the Lulu Island Energy Company, a multi-award-winning municipal corporation wholly-owned by the City of Richmond that implements and operates innovative district energy systems in Richmond.

District energy systems centralize space heating, cooling, and domestic hot water heating production on a neighbourhood scale. It is a more flexible and energy-efficient way of providing these services to residential, commercial, hotel and retail customers. The OVDEU is one of several Lulu Island Energy district energy systems in place, the others providing service in the West Cambie/Alexandra and City Centre areas.

Information on the OVDEU can be found on the Lulu Island Energy website at [www.luluislandenergy.ca/](https://www.luluislandenergy.ca/).

## MLAs Yap, Johal appointed to new critic roles

Two of Richmond's four MLAs have been named to new opposition critic roles.

BC Liberal leader Andrew Wilkinson today named Richmond-Steveston MLA John Yap as the party's new opposition critic for arts and culture. He also named Richmond-Queensboro MLA Jas Johal the new opposition critic for economic development, competitiveness, trade and technology.

"I'm proud to be named as the official opposition critic for arts and culture and work together with my BC Liberal colleagues to make sure that our province's vibrant arts and cultural communities are supported during the COVID-19 crisis," said Yap. "I'll be continuing to advocate for the people here in Richmond-Steveston daily as well as ensuring that arts and culture don't disproportionately suffer in British Columbia as a result of the pandemic."

"John Yap has been a champion for his community for years, and I look forward to seeing him bring that same passion and dedication to the arts and culture file," added Wilkinson. "Our renewed direction has been shaped by conversations with thousands of British Columbians in every corner of the province as we developed ideas and solutions to help people, non-profits,



MLAs John Yap and Jas Johal.

and small businesses that are all struggling right now."

Johal said he was anxious to assume his new role.

"BC has gone from having the lowest unemployment rate in Canada to being the third highest. I will push John Horgan and the NDP for a plan to create jobs, attract investment, leverage the fast-growing tech sector and diversify our economy," he said.

"MLA Johal has been a key advocate on important issues and I have no doubt he will bring that same dedication to pushing the NDP government to develop a sensible economic strategy," said Wilkinson. "Our renewed direction has been formed by discussions with thousands of British Columbians as we developed solutions to help people, small businesses and non-profits that are struggling right now."

## BC rent increase set at 1.4 per cent for 2021

The provincial government has set the maximum annual allowable rent increase for 2021 at 1.4 per cent.

For manufactured-home park tenancies, the rate will also include a proportional amount for the change in local government levies and regulated utility fees.

The government says this system ensures property owners are able to make investments and repairs to maintain safe housing while ensuring rent increases are moderate and predictable.

BC landlords can increase rent only once per year and must provide tenants with three full months' notice using the correct notice of rent increase form.

To protect renters who have experienced income loss during COVID-19, the province is continuing to maintain rent freezes until December 2020. It says any tenant who received a notice of increase for 2020 that would have gone into effect after March 18 should continue to pay their current rent until Nov. 30.

## TEMPORARY FULL ROAD CLOSURE

### Alderbridge Way at Shell Road for CN rail crossing work September 19 to 20, 2020

The City of Richmond's Engineering and Public Works Department and Canadian National (CN) Railway have scheduled joint demand rail crossing maintenance and paving on Alderbridge Way east of Shell Road.

To safely facilitate the work, a complete road closure is required

- at the rail crossing on Alderbridge Way, just east of Shell Road
- **8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19 until 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20, 2020**
- Alternative routing will be in place.

Every attempt will be made to minimize disruptions, however delays may occur. We regret any inconvenience this may cause. The work will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather.

#### Questions and concerns may be directed to:

Patrick Lai, ASCT  
604-247-4937 | [plai@richmond.ca](mailto:plai@richmond.ca)  
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# Gateway cancels season, offers alternate format

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Theatre lovers will have to wait a bit longer to return to Gateway Theatre, which recently announced the cancellation of its 2020-21 season.

"With social distancing measures, and restrictions on gatherings of more than 50 people for the foreseeable future, we want to keep everyone safe," Barbara Tomasic, director of artistic programs, said in an update.

But while the season can't be presented as originally planned, the Gateway team is adapting their offerings to the pandemic. Their upcoming re-envisioned season will include a musical retrospective, old-fashioned and interactive family-friendly entertainment, outdoor and digital events and community partnerships.

They recently offered a series called "Building Bridges" that provided emerging artists with an op-

portunity to connect with other creatives and explore industry-related resources.

And theatre classes for kids and

***With social distancing measures, and restrictions on gatherings of more than 50 people for the foreseeable future, we want to keep everyone safe.***

— Barbara Tomasic



Photo by Jaana Björk

While Gateway Theatre has cancelled its traditional programming this year, its creative team is putting together a range of alternative programming re-envisioned for the pandemic.

teens are running this fall and winter with limited in-person spaces to adhere to safety protocols. There are also online classes available to

students. The fall session runs from October to December, and the winter session from January to April.

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Photo courtesy  
Angie De Lange  
The four De Lange  
siblings mix up crazy  
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home lab—the kitchen  
table.

## Homeschooling: working through the basics

*Kristen Hogeterp is a 15-year-old home-schooled student. This is part two of a series of education stories.*

By KRISTEN HOGETERP  
Contributor

Mention home learning to a stay-at-home parent of young children during COVID-19 and they'll probably look at you like, "Are you crazy?" But every year, many families across BC educate their children at home.

So, where does a parent begin? Do they bring the classroom experience to their child or create a brand-new environment, follow the government-approved curriculum, or cherry pick a pro-

gram to suit their child?

A misconception many parents have is that home learning brings the classroom to the dining room. Many home educators find that the rigid structures of a classroom do not fit home learning, especially since they are designed for large groups of children instead of just a handful.

"We use the curriculum set out by our DL (distributed learning), but I supplement it with other materials if the set curriculum does not interest the kids, or if it doesn't fit with their needs," says Richmond parent Jeanette Dyck.

Each family's choice is different. Some families buy all their curricula from the same publisher as public schools do, and some select different curricula for different subjects based on their reli-

gious, academic or personal preferences.

"This is the beauty of [home learning]," says a father of a homeschooled child. "It's very flexible. There are many resources and with the help of technology like the internet anyone can home educate."

Even with all the resources available, many home learning parents choose not to use a standard curriculum, especially in the younger years. They prefer to use real-life experiences and choose topics based on what is currently available or interesting to fulfill their schooling requirements. This enables them to use more instances where they leave the house as learning opportunities, regardless of whether or not they have papers, notebooks and worksheets with them.

## Seismic upgrades completed at four Richmond schools

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

As the school year gets underway in Richmond, four schools have recently completed their seismic upgrades.

Cook, Tait and Ferris elementary and Boyd secondary schools have a total of 2,405 seismically safer seats available to students thanks to \$39.78 million in seismic upgrade funding from the BC government.

"We've been advocating for student safety for a number of years, and our advocacy was answered by the provincial government of late," says trustee Debbie Tablotney. "We've had several seismic projects which help us breathe a little easier in case of an earthquake. Parents can send their kids to school knowing that there's one less thing they have to worry about in those schools that have had seismic upgrades."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, with students learning from home, seismic projects were not only able to continue but to do so with even more ease, says Tablotney.

"We didn't have to halt anything which was a blessing," she says.



Photo by Hannah Scott  
Four Richmond schools recently completed  
seismic upgrades, including Hugh Boyd Secondary.

At Cook, along with the seismic upgrades, four new classrooms were added, replacing a section of the school. Government invested \$13 million toward this project, creating 555 seismically safer student seats. The Richmond School District also contributed \$1 million.

At Boyd, seismic upgrades and a partial replacement created 800 seismically safer seats at a cost of \$10.7 million. At Ferris, seismic upgrades created 660 seismically safer seats at a cost of \$8.49 million. At Tait, seismic upgrades created 390 seismically safer seats at a cost of \$7.59 million.

"The Richmond Board of Education has made it a priority to ensure that our students and staff are learning in safe schools," says board chair Ken Hamaguchi. "We are extremely proud to have added over 2,400 seismically safe seats in our district. These buildings will serve our local communities for years to come."

Seismic upgrades continue in Richmond at Mitchell, Steves, Tomsett, Maple Lane, and McKinney elementary schools, with Whiteside and Bridge in the planning and development stage.

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*In their own words...*

## Community, cooperation, and a collective care for nature



**Michael Wolfe**  
Councillor

In 2020 we are all learning many lessons. Earlier this year, it just so happens I was teaching a revised unit on pandemics to my science students. That was weeks before the novel coronavirus poked its viral DNA into our region.

Thankfully, we in Richmond are collectively weathering the storm and leading with some of the best regional data (meaning our cases are lower per capita).

Fingers crossed we hold this trend, but it seems it is more than luck. Our island geography provides definite edges with the river and our human biology includes forward thinkers with a moral compass. We are capable of leading to a just recovery.

But how can we script a new cultural narrative for a post COVID-19 plan for Richmond?

The Council Strategic Plan 2018-2022 has been an asset in this process. Council in Richmond is guided by eight focus areas. After working with this plan for nearly two years, I can attest that it is responsive to new

circumstances as they arise.

Richmond is our hometown and during this pandemic, we have relied on our local community like never before. Our neighbourhood roads, trails, and parks have become more heavily visited along with our sites for recreation, art, and gatherings, albeit many of these being enjoyed from a distance.

Council Strategic Plan goal #3.1 is "Foster community resilience, neighbourhood identity, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony". This is visible in the new park signage installations, the recent Pride Week, and the upcoming Culture Days 2020.

We are reminded by Dr. Bonnie Henry and others in the public health field to be kind, be calm, and be safe. Our Community Ambassadors along with Bylaw Officers have been providing education and reporting on compliance statistics. We all deserve to be commended for our ability to cooperate within such uncertain times.

Consider Plan goal #8.1, "Increased opportunities for public engagement", and take a step into a new civic role by applying for one of the 90 Advisory Committee positions to provide your expertise and insights into decisions that shape our future.

Richmond has been referred to as the Child of the Fraser, an allusion to the bounty of fish from the river, and berries from the bog. We travel the 50+km of accessible



trails in Richmond in order to connect with wildlife and scenic beauty. Kudos to those who share photos on social media and to those who report issues for improvement. By doing so, you are doing your part to "Increase opportunities that encourage daily access to nature" (Plan goal #2.4). Your interest in communicating what you discover within the City is essential to all our operations. Choose your next Richmond adventure and please report back. We would love to hear from you.

More about the Council Strategic Plan 2018-2022 can be found at [www.richmond.ca/cityhall/council/about/strategicplan.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/cityhall/council/about/strategicplan.htm)

## City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

*City of Richmond Council has postponed most standing Committee meetings until at least the end of October 2020 to further strengthen existing physical distancing measures aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. The exception will be General Purposes committee, Finance Committee and Development Permit Panel. Council Meetings and Public Hearings will also proceed as scheduled.*

### Development Permit Panel

3:30 pm | Wednesday, September 16  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

### General Purposes

4:00 pm | Monday, September 21  
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

### Council Meeting

7:00 pm | Monday, September 28  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

### Development Permit Panel

3:30 pm | Wednesday, September 30  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

### General Purposes

4:00 pm | Monday, October 5  
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

### Finance Committee

Following General Purposes Committee Meeting | Monday, October 5  
Anderson Room, Richmond City Hall

### Council Meeting

7:00 pm | Tuesday, October 13  
Council Chambers, Richmond City Hall

For meeting agendas and reports visit [www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca).



## Council Meeting Live Streaming



Visit [www.richmond.ca/watchonline](http://www.richmond.ca/watchonline) to link to live streaming or watch archived video.



## RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

# This year marks quarter century of saving lives



**Eyal  
Lichtmann**

Recently, a family's dog escaped from the back yard in West Richmond. Neighbours and the extended family searched from Steveston to Terra Nova looking for Ace, who is elderly and mostly blind and so at risk of being struck by a car. As it turned out, Ace didn't go far. He settled down in the front yard of a home a few blocks away. The resident there called the RAPS Animal Shelter, we picked him up and he was safe in our Shelter while the family was frantically searching all over town. The lesson here: If your pet goes missing, always call RAPS first (604- 275-2036)! Your best friend may already be in our care.

A few weeks ago, a Richmond resident called to say there was a mother cat with kittens in a storage building at the back of their very large property. The RAPS team came with humane traps and securely captured the mama and five kittens. Zora and her then-six-week-old babes are in foster care now. Mom Zora is very hissy and unlikely to become socialized. So, when her kids are adopted, she will go to the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, a sprawling acreage where hundreds of mostly unadoptable cats live out their lives surrounded by all the love and care they need and want—regardless of their medical conditions or particular personalities. In so many jurisdictions, cats like Zora might have been euthanized. The RAPS Cat Sanctuary was created specifically so that cats like these can find a peaceful place to live life on their terms.

Last year, Barney, a Maltese-Pomeranian mix, was in a terrible accident. The dog, estimated to



*Photo courtesy RAPS*  
**Started 25 years ago as a team of volunteers trapping feral and stray cats, RAPS has now grown to include a cat sanctuary, animal shelter and animal hospital.**

be about seven or eight years old, was struck by a car and dragged, creating severe injuries to his hind body. RAPS Animal Hospital, a full-service, not-for-profit veterinary facility located in the Richmond Auto Mall, is home to Canada's only veterinary hyperbaric oxygen therapy facility. This advanced technology, long used in human medical care, aids in the recovery of wounds, skin grafts and similar injuries. It provides anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and tissue-healing benefits, accelerating healing dramatically, especially in conditions involving an oxygen defi-

cit. Today, Barney is fully recovered and living a spectacular life with his family.

These three vignettes help tell the story of the Regional Animal Protection Society. We began 25 years ago as a tiny team of volunteers who trapped feral and stray cats in Richmond, and spayed and neutered them. As a result, Richmond today has essentially no feral cats. By contrast, it is estimated that Surrey had tens of thousands. We grew. We opened the RAPS Cat Sanctuary, which is now Canada's largest. Since 2007, we have run the City of Richmond Animal Shelter, officially making Richmond a no-kill community. In 2018, we opened the community-owned RAPS Animal Hospital. All of our facilities are located right here in Richmond. Except during COVID, the Cat Sanctuary is open weekends to the public and attracts thousands of visitors who enjoy visiting the hundreds of feline residents.

If it weren't for COVID, we would be inviting you to a grand celebration in the coming weeks marking 25 years of RAPS saving and improving the lives of animals in our community. It's still our anniversary, but we're celebrating in a little more low-key way. Next spring, we hope to have a gala celebration, probably virtual.

But we wanted to take this opportunity to thank the thousands of people who have allowed us to do everything we have accomplished over these 25 years. Everything we do is possible because of the support of animal-loving people in the community who volunteer, adopt, foster, donate, choose the RAPS Animal Hospital as your veterinarian, shop at the RAPS Thrift Stores and support us in so many ways.

Your support for 25 years has allowed us to make positive impacts on the lives of tens of thousands of animals—and at least that many humans!

*Eyal Lichtmann is executive director and CEO of the Regional Animal Protection Society.*

### MY NAME IS SUNNY

Sunny is an extremely smart and goofy boy. He has a big, bold and sassy personality and requires a home with dog experience and a calm, confident handler who will create structure and set boundaries and is also willing to continue Sunny's training and socialization.

**\*\*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



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER  
@RAPSOCIETY

### RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

rapsanimalhospital.com

604-242-1666

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





# Sports fraternity trying to stay in the game

By DON FENNELL  
@rmdsentinel

Not unlike the rest of society, the sports fraternity is trying to carry on in a world of unpredictability.

Whether it's outdoors on the soccer pitch or on an indoor ice rink, local sports organizers are following the leads of their governing bodies—and provincial health regulations—to try their best to enable athletes the chance to participate.

Richmond FC executive director Marius Roevde believes the return to play plan for soccer is solid.

"Phase 1 was loaded with rules and regulations to keep our community safe and healthy," he says. "RFC was very successful in this phase, and earned our members' trust through professional planning and execution. There is no secret that it has been a huge test for us as an organization, because of the amount of staff and volunteers we needed to deliver our seven-week pre-season programs. We have to say it was nothing less than a massive success. We delivered around 10 sessions a day and always followed a minimum ratio of one coach for every five players. These were the guidelines set by viaSport and BC Soccer. We had every player in their personal space (grids) and dedicated waiting areas for entry and exit. Some clubs did not pay attention to these measures, and that is disappointing. We had more than 300 kids signing up for our pre-season programs and camps. This is impressive, since all registrations were basically with two weeks notice."

Roevde believes parents and players appreciate that guidelines have been followed to a tee. He says it is likely why registrations for all Richmond's fall and winter programs have been strong. More than 75 girls have signed up for the new girls' program, featuring teams from U5 to U12.

Stepping into Phase 2, with scrimmaging and controlled game situations, changing everything. But Roevde says RFC is "delighted for the next phase and ready with all our programming."

"We have some exciting new programs coming up. This is next level development programs soccer families haven't seen in BC before."

On the ice, Richmond Ravens girls' hockey was able to get back on the ice a few weeks ago with two power skating camps at the Richmond Ice Centre.



Photo by Don Fennell

**Richmond FC has been steadfast in respecting health protocols in planning its programs.**

The association planned to start its regular season following Labour Day, but obviously with some adjustments.

"The season will look a little bit different, and we will all need to be flexible as we get back on the ice," says president Shirlyn Baskette. "But we are excited to see everyone and get back to hockey. We are still sorting out all of the details of Stage 3 and working closely with the City of Richmond."

Following the province's Return To Sport Guidelines for Phase 3, in conjunction with the Richmond Olympic Oval's safety protocols as they are updated, the Richmond Rockets speed skating club is also looking forward to a new season.

"No doubt the conditions that many families face will be challenging, particularly as it pertains to how our younger members can participate safely while their parents/guardians comply with these guidelines," Alexander Teh says on behalf of the Rockets. "The Rockets will have its own volunteers to help during the drop off/pickup process as our athletes will undergo screening prior to ice time. We are hopeful that we have strong participation despite these hurdles."

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## Junior hockey still eying return to play

The Richmond Sockeyes are anxious to return to play, but there are still a few details to iron out.

Along with the other 12 Pacific Junior Hockey League (PJHL) teams, the Sockeyes continue to work with the municipality and other user groups to ensure a safe return.

"With viaSport's announcement to move into Phase 3 Return to Play guidelines, it was appropriate to discuss in-depth and understand what this move would look like for our league," says PJHL commissioner Trevor Alto. "After such a difficult number of months since last season was cancelled, I feel this was a very positive meeting for the league. All 13 member teams have done an excellent job and worked extremely hard to get us in a position where we are able to

make decisions that will allow us to return to competition."

Previously, the league identified plans to begin the 2020/21 season on Sept. 29.

"Throughout this process, our plans must have key themes that include safety, communication, and flexibility. In order for us to return to the ice, we need to work diligently with our facilities so that all 13 venues are prepared for Phase 3 competition," says Alto. "Once we confirm all our facilities are available, we will then be able to provide a firm schedule. Our planning has allowed us to be flexible yet prepared."

But when the PJHL returns to the ice, the league will take on a much different look than in years past. Following viaSport's Phase 3 guidelines, PJHL teams will begin play as-

sembling in cohort divisions consisting of a maximum of four teams rather than competing in a traditional two conference format.

The league has also instituted a roster deadline of Sept. 15. As of this date, all teams must be down to a maximum of 25 carded players. Furthermore from this date forward, the league will require all players wishing to join a PJHL roster to quarantine for 14 days prior to participating in Phase 3 competition.

"By identifying a roster date of Sept. 15, this allows our teams enough time to practice, quarantine as a team and understand the new league and facility protocols that will be in place in preparation to join their identified cohort at season start," says Alto. "This will also allow flexibility with our start date, should we need to make adjustments."

# BC's hotel sector review shows COVID-19 impacts

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

BC's hotel sector has faced serious complications during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In early August, provincial Labour Minister Harry Bains initiated an independent review of layoff and recall rights in the unionized hotel sector. Labour lawyer Sandra Banister conducted the review and shared her findings in a report.

"Ms. Banister did a good job of addressing what is a serious and complex issue taking place against the backdrop of conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the likes of which we have never seen before," said Bains. "In a very short time, she received and reviewed submissions from representatives of hotels and trade unions, as well as employers and labour organizations. The report is thorough and informative, and I am grateful for her work. Ms. Banister's analysis leaves no doubt that the current situation is serious and unprecedented for both workers and employers."

The report outlines how thousands of workers



Photo by Jaana Björk

**The hotel sector in BC has faced many challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

have been out of work for the last six months and do not know when they will be able to return. This is particularly difficult for hotels that rely on international and business travel.

Bains said he advocates that any government economic recovery package, especially for the tourism and hotel industry, contain a pledge for employers to offer a right of first refusal—meaning

that existing employees will be offered jobs first when work resumes, before new hires are considered. He will also advocate that workers impacted by tourism closures get access to public sector jobs, in cases where their skills are transferrable. But Bains said he will not interfere in the collective bargaining process.

"After careful consideration of all the facts and in light of the complex collective bargaining landscape outlined in the report, I have decided the best course of action is to refrain from interfering in the collective bargaining process. I have always been clear that the best resolution for all parties is negotiated at the bargaining table," he said. "Government will not be overriding existing collective agreements and the bargaining now under way in the hotel sector."

"I am hopeful all parties involved can come to mutual resolution at the bargaining table, and I urge both sides to get together as soon as possible to work out a voluntary resolution to this important issue."

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## Chamber applauds province delaying tax increases

By DON FENNELL

@rmdsentinel

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is pleased to see changes to the provincial sales and BC carbon taxes will be delayed.

"We fully support the delayed implementation of these various tax increases, and hope that even further analysis and reflection will be considered," said chamber president and CEO Matt Pitcairn. "Businesses of all sizes and sectors need as much support as they can get right now, and it is absolutely not the time to be putting a larger tax burden on these struggling businesses."

The province says it is delaying implementing the changes until April 2021, to help businesses and families through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

A scheduled increase in April 2020 from \$40 to \$45 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent had been postponed until at least October as part of the COVID-19 Action Plan. Upon review, the government decided the carbon tax rate will remain at its current level until next April. The carbon tax is scheduled to again increase to \$50 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent in April 2022.

Also being delayed until April 2021 is the planned elimination of the PST exemption for carbonated beverages containing sugar or natural sweeteners, and the addition of new PST registration and collection requirements for e-commerce businesses located outside BC.

The province said this will give businesses more access to cashflow during recovery, determine annual payroll, and estimate the tax they will owe. The 2020 filing and balance will remain March 31, 2021.

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RICHMOND  
**SENTINEL**  
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

## RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

Connecting you with our community.  
Download our app and take us with you.



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





## Tim Hortons introduces Hero Cups

Tim Hortons has come up with another way to pay tribute to Canadian heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fast food restaurant chain has introduced a limited-edition Hero Cups initiative. Each of the feature cups list the names of up to 100 real-life heroes.

The heroes include Cheyenne Schulz, who has worked with vulnerable populations in Mission helping to provide food, hygiene and shelter necessities. She is also a long-time Tim Hortons team member.

There are 100 different designs of hot beverage cups featuring large "Thank You" and "Merci" messages in place of the Tim Hortons logo, along with the names and professions of up to 100 heroes wrapping around the cup. In June, Tim Hortons asked Canadians to nominate their heroes of the pandemic and a flood of submissions quickly poured in. The thousands of heroes whose names appear on cups are a diverse mix of workers: they include healthcare professionals, first responders, retail staff, government workers, public transit drivers, social workers, funeral home staff and many others who have made important contributions that helped keep the country running during these difficult times.



Photo courtesy  
Tim Hortons



Photo screen grab from Google Maps  
Steveston Seafood House is making and selling meat pies to raise funds for Wigs for Kids.

## Meat pies to support Wigs for Kids

The Steveston Seafood House is making and selling a traditional British culinary favourite to support Wigs for Kids.

With COVID-19 halting more traditional fundraisers, Steveston Seafood House owner Shane Dagan has stepped up to make the popular Mr. Cooper's Meat Pies at the restaurant. Half the proceeds from the sales of the pies (a vegetarian version is also being made available) will go to continue helping BC kids with cancer live more comfortably.

Visit [www.mrcooperspies.com](http://www.mrcooperspies.com) for purchasing options.

## Christmas fund begins online registration

Richmond residents who are struggling financially, and may not be able to afford a holiday celebration, can apply online to receive assistance from the Richmond Christmas Fund.

Those who submit a request for support will have their eligibility assessed virtually, over Zoom. If they qualify for the Christmas Fund, they'll be given a day and time—in November or December—to pick up a selection of grocery vouchers, toys, and gift cards, determined by household size and composition. This new registration procedure is offered specifically to individuals and families who did not access the Christmas Fund in 2019. Last year's clients have already been contacted and given instructions on how to receive help in 2020.

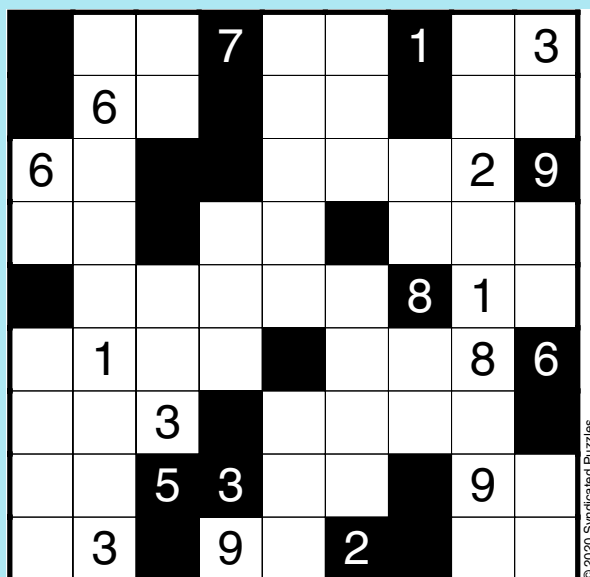
Due to the economic hardship caused by COVID-19, the Christmas Fund is anticipating an especially busy year. At the same time, the program is facing a financial shortfall, as key fundraising activities have either been cancelled or scaled back.

"We've implemented a range of health and safety measures," says Ed Gavsie, president and CEO of RCRG. "Virtual registration is extremely important this year, so we can maintain physical distancing. And when clients come to pick up their items, we've taken steps to make the process as quick as possible, with limited contact."



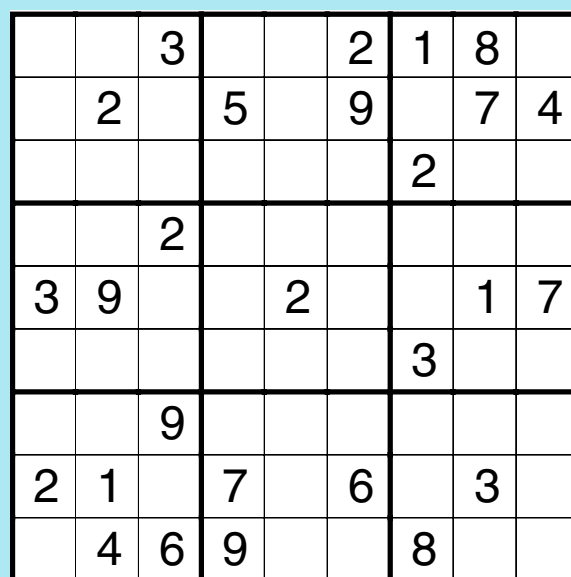
## STR8TS

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





## Message of Linda Reid, MLA Richmond South Centre:

As a former teacher and school administrator it has given me enormous pleasure as MLA to provide the Linda Reid MLA Scholarship to the Most Promising Public Speaker at each of the secondary Schools in my riding for almost thirty years. Congratulations to all the recipients of this scholarship. You are the leaders of today. I am proud of your accomplishments, your drive, your energy and your ambition. You are well launched and we are richer as community for your achievements. Thank you all. Have a stellar year and know we are behind you in these unprecedented times.



"I feel extremely grateful for receiving your generous Linda Reid MLA Richmond South Centre Scholarship. I was proud to have been selected for this prestigious scholarship and give many thanks for your support"

*Lucy Luo, 2020 Graduated Student of Richmond Secondary School*

"A note to express warmest thanks. Thank you for your support"

*Kyle Palacios, 2020 Graduated Student of R. C. Palmer Secondary School*



"Thank you for honouring me with the Linda Reid MLA Richmond South Centre Scholarship. I am extremely grateful for this generous donation as it will help me towards my post-secondary education."

*Aizza Motani, 2020 Graduated Student of Matthew McNair Secondary School*

# Linda Reid | MLA

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