



Photo courtesy The Fowl Farmer

Ardent supporters of made-in-BC, The Fowl Farmer in Richmond is ready for the Thanksgiving holiday Oct. 12 with BC poultry and produce in hand.

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Elections BC anticipates big boost in mail-in votes

With a provincial election coming up Oct. 24, and the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, how to vote safely is a question on many people's minds.

All in-person voting places and district electoral offices will have protective measures in place, including:

- Physical distancing
- Capacity limits
- Election officials wearing personal protective equipment like masks and face shields
- Protective barriers
- Hand sanitizing stations
- Frequent cleaning of voting stations and frequently touched surfaces

Election workers will be trained on safe workplace guidelines and pandemic protocols. Voters will be asked to sanitize their hands before and after voting and can wear a face mask if they wish. Those who wear masks will not be asked to remove them to vote.

Elections BC's voting place selection criteria will prioritize locations with high ceilings, as well as calculating occupancy limits based on each location's size.

For people who do not want to vote on voting day, more advance voting opportunities will be available to spread out voters. Advance voting will take

place from Oct. 15 to 21 or at a district electoral office anytime before 4 p.m. on election day (Oct. 24).

Anyone ill or self-isolating should not visit an in-person voting location. There are other options available, including voting by mail.

"It's an option for all eligible voters, and a good option for voters who are not comfortable voting in person because of the pandemic," Elections BC says.

Elections BC says it expects a significant increase in votes by mail for the Oct. 24 election. In past elections, it says about one per cent of votes were cast by mail, but surveys of voters intentions conducted by Elections BC in May and August indicated as many as 35 per cent of ballots cast could be through mail-in ballots.

Request a voting package at elections.bc.ca/ovr or by phone at 1-800-661-8683. They can be returned in-person to a district electoral office, voting place or participating Service BC location, or by mail.

Accessible voting is also available for at-risk voters or those with disabilities. These options include curbside voting, assisted telephone voting and site-based voting.

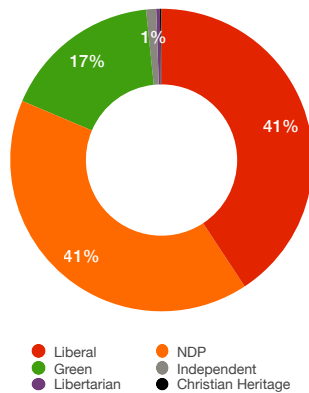
For more information, visit elections.bc.ca/voting/voting-safely-and-covid-19/



How we voted in the last provincial election

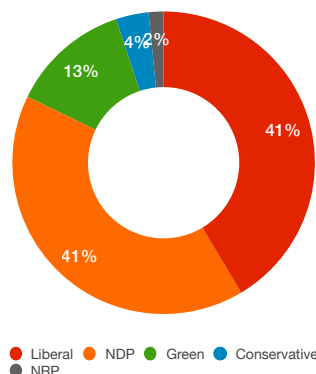
BC results

PARTY	VOTES	PERCENTAGE	SEATS
Liberal	797,194	40.37%	43
NDP	795,527	40.29%	41
Green	332,331	16.83%	3
Independent	20,971	1.06%	0
Libertarian	7,743	0.39%	0
Christian Heritage	9,398	0.17%	0



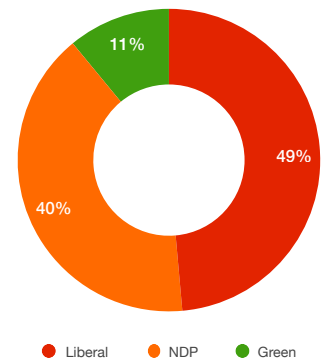
Richmond-Queensborough

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENTAGE
Liberal	Jas Johal	8,218	41.43%
NDP	Aman Singh	8,084	40.75%
Green	Michael Wolfe	2,524	12.72%
Conservative	Kay Hale	694	3.50%
NRP	Lawrence Chen	318	1.60%



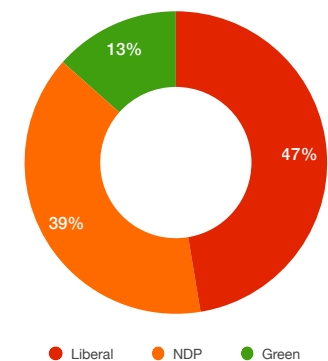
Richmond South Centre

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENTAGE
Liberal	Linda Reid	6,914	48.89%
NDP	Chak Au	5,666	40.7%
Green	Greg Powell	1,561	11.04%



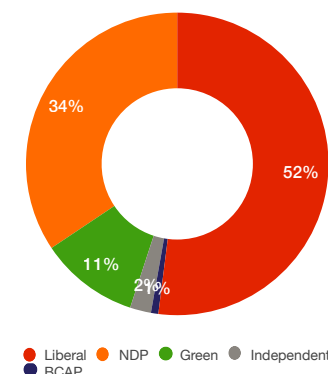
Richmond-Steveston

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENTAGE
Liberal	John Yap	10,332	47.60%
NDP	Kelly Greene	8,524	39.35%
Green	Roy Sakata	2,833	13.50%



Richmond North Centre

PARTY	CANDIDATE	VOTES	PERCENTAGE
Liberal	Teresa Wat	7,916	51.48%
NDP	Lyren Chiu	5,135	34.04%
Green	Ryan Marciniv	1,579	10.47%
Independent	Dong Pan	336	2.23%
BCAP	John Crocock	117	0.78%



Graphics by Jaana Björk

Pitcairn, Loo seeking seats as Liberals

Candidates hope to replace incumbents in Richmond-Steveston and Richmond South Centre

BC VOTES

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Matt Pitcairn and Alexa Loo are hoping to represent the community in which both were raised.

Most recently the president of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Pitcairn has been nominated by the BC Liberals to replace incumbent MLA John Yap in the Richmond-Steveston riding in the Oct. 24 provincial election. Yap, 60, has decided to retire from politics rather than seek re-election.

And Loo, most recently a city councillor, is seeking the Liberal seat previously occupied in Richmond South Centre by incumbent Linda Reid who has also decided to retire from the political arena.

"It's a big task to try and fill John's shoes, but I'm willing to give it 150 per cent," Pitcairn told the *Richmond Sentinel*. "I don't think anybody expected an election during a pandemic, but the premier decided to call one and I'm honoured to have the opportunity to seek a seat in the community where I grew up."

Pitcairn said he hopes to connect with every voter, and if elected to be able to assist them with any needs they may have and work to build an even better neighbourhood.

"(But) I think we need to put the health and safety of BC first and foremost and get through this pandemic," he stressed. "To me, it (means) a non-partisan effort."

Pitcairn said economic growth is also needed, suggesting the Liberals have a solid record as economic stewards over the last 20 years, and "the best party to lead us through the economic recovery we need."

Yap was first elected to the BC Legislature in 2005, the first of four successive election victories in the Richmond-Steveston riding. He said serving his neighbourhood, and the province, has been "the honour of my lifetime."

"I am profoundly grateful to my constituents for their trust and support through 15 years and four elections," said Yap, who served as BC's Advanced Education Minister, Multicultural Minister and Minister of State for Climate Action among other roles.

He said he is "proud that a dynamic young leader of Matt Pitcairn's calibre has come forward to be a strong voice for young families, small businesses, and the whole diverse con-



stituency of Richmond-Steveston. I endorse him wholeheartedly."

Of Yap, BC Liberal leader Andrew Wilkinson said, "John Yap has been an exemplary public servant, a pillar of the BC Liberal Party and a universally trusted member of our team. We will miss him greatly in our caucus, but we couldn't be more pleased and proud to welcome Matt Pitcairn to our team of candidates in this critical election."

Pitcairn is also past-president of the Richmond City Centre Community Association, treasurer of the Steveston Historic Society, and director at the Richmond Caring Place Society. He and his wife Vanessa have two sons and a daughter.

Like Pitcairn, Loo if elected, will be replacing a political icon. Reid, who announced several months ago her intentions not to seek re-election, was the longest serving MLA in the just-dissolved parliament having been first elected to represent Richmond in 1991. She was re-elected to represent her community seven consecutive times, and is the longest serving woman in BC history.

"I've been considering it for a little while," Loo said of possibly seeking the MLA seat in the Richmond South Centre riding.

"Linda suggested a while ago I should consid-

Photos submitted
Most recently president of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Matt Pitcairn (above left) is the BC Liberal candidate in the Richmond-Steveston riding, while city Coun. Alexa Loo (above right) is the Liberal candidate in Richmond South Centre for the Oct. 24 provincial election. Both are running to replace longtime Liberal incumbents—John Yap (far left) and Linda Reid (immediate left) respectively, who have decided to retire from the political arena.

er moving to the provincial level, and Olga Ilich (also a former Richmond MLA) also encouraged me. I'd love the opportunity to continue the legacy of these great women."

The mother of two boys, Loo is a chartered professional accountant and a two-time Olympian, competing for Canada at the 2006 and 2010 Winter Games in the parallel giant slalom snowboarding event. She later served as the athlete representative to the International Ski Federation, the Canadian Olympic Committee, and for many years on the board of Athletes-Can. Growing up in Richmond, she participated in several sports.

The Official Opposition Critic for Seniors in the last parliament, Reid previously served as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, chaired the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, and served as Advanced Education Minister. She was also Minister Responsible for Early Childhood Development from 2001 to 2005, and for child care from 2005 to 2009.

The remaining Richmond incumbent MLAs (both Liberals)—Jas Johal in Richmond-Queensborough and Teresa Wat in Richmond North Centre—also plan to seek re-election.

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Richmond ridership down significantly, TransLink says

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

Fewer people are taking the bus these days. "Ridership (in Richmond) has decreased significantly due to COVID-19 and as a result some schedules have been adjusted to balance changes in demand," says TransLink spokesperson Gabrielle Price.

Currently, weekday ridership on the 401 (One Road/Brighthouse Station), 402 (Two Road/Brighthouse Station), 406 (Steveston/Brighthouse Station) and 410 (22nd Street Station/Brighthouse Station) routes have seen modest frequency reductions.

"They're anywhere from 47 to 56 per cent of pre-COVID levels," Price explains.

Reflecting the decline in passengers, the 401, 402 and 406 routes have seen a service hour reduction of seven per cent, along with a nine per cent drop on the 410 route.

Ironically, some routes have actually seen sig-



Photo by Jaana Björk

TransLink says that due to COVID-19, ridership is down sharply in Richmond.

nificant increases, notably the 301 (Newton Exchange/Brighthouse Station) and 430 (Metrotown/Brighthouse Station) routes. And the 351 (White Rock/Bridgeport Station) route will also now operate with double deckers to accommodate more passenger volume.

Price says as a result of the demand, service hour increases of 20 per cent and 39 per cent have been made to the 301 and 430 routes respectively.

Customers can visit translink.ca/servicechanges for more information on upcoming changes.

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond service changes:

301 Newton Exchange / Richmond-Brighthouse Station

Weekdays:

- 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.—Every 12 minutes (from every 15 minutes)
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Every 12 minutes (from every 15 to 20 minutes)
- (New stops added at Alderbridge Way and May Drive)

401 Richmond-Brighthouse Station / One Road

Weekdays:

- 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.—Every 10 minutes (from every seven to eight minutes)
- 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.—Every 12 minutes (from every nine to 12 minutes)
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Every 10 minutes (from every eight to 10 minutes)

402 Richmond-Brighthouse Station / Two Road

Weekdays:

- 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.—Every 15 minutes (from every 10 to 12 minutes)
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Every 15 minutes (from every 10 to 15 minutes)

406 Richmond-Brighthouse Station / Steveston

Weekdays:

- 5 a.m. to 10 a.m.—Every eight to 10 minutes (from every eight to nine minutes)
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Every 15 minutes (from every 12 minutes)
- 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.—Every eight to 12 minutes (from every eight to 10 minutes)

Weekends:

- 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.—Every 15 minutes (from every 10 to 15 minutes)

410 Richmond-Brighthouse Station / 22nd Street Station

Weekdays:

- 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.—Every eight minutes (from every six to seven minutes)
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Every 12 minutes (from every seven to 10 minutes)
- 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.—Every eight minutes (from every seven to eight minutes)

Saturdays:

- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Every 12 minutes (from every nine to 10 minutes)

Sundays:

- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Every 12 minutes (from every nine to 12 minutes)

430 Metrotown / Richmond-Brighthouse Station

Weekdays:

- 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.—Every 12 minutes (from every 15 minutes)
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.—Every 15 minutes (from every 20 minutes)

Saturdays:

- 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.—Every 20 minutes (from every 30 minutes)

Sundays:

- 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.—Every 20 minutes (from every 30 minutes)

480 UBC / Bridgeport Station

Route continues to be suspended due to UBC predominantly holding classes online in the fall semester. Alternate routes continue to provide service along this corridor.

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Dog owner pressing charges after bite

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter
and LORRAINE GRAVES

James Rai was walking his Rottweiler in Richmond last week when another dog charged towards them and lunged.

While Rai, 28, needed stitches on his right leg, his dog Rocky escaped unscathed. The recent incident wasn't the first altercation between Rocky and the other dog who Rai guesses is around the same size and probably mixed-breed.

Back in August, the same dog approached Rai and Rocky on the soccer field at DeBeck elementary.

"This dog came, off-leash, charging towards us," says Rai. "He was at one end of the park and came all the way to where we were."

Rai says when the dog approached them, it started to growl, but the owner eventually caught up and put a leash on the dog. The park is an on-leash area.

Rai says since the first incident, the two dogs appeared to have an ongoing rivalry with each other. But last week, the situation escalated.

"I always walk my dog after dinner, around 6:30 p.m.," Rai explains. "We take the same route every time."

In the middle of their walk, Rai and Rocky were on a small residential street near the intersection of Blundell and No. 4 roads. They passed by the house where the other dog lives, and saw the family outside with the dog. When they turned the corner, Rai heard yelling and barking coming from behind him.

"We turned around and saw that dog charging at us, from his house to the area where we were," says Rai. "He came at my dog and lunged and barked."

Despite attempts to alert the owners, Rai says they didn't show any urgency when trying to hold their dog back.

"He was on a leash, but they didn't hold him back," says Rai. "I was pulling my dog away, walking backwards trying to avoid the dog that's lunging at us. The only thing I saw fit (to do) was to try to gain more distance by trying to push the dog away."

When he stuck his leg out, Rai says the dog bit him. He says it wasn't until that point that the owner managed to grab and control the dog. He says witnesses were also present, but none stopped to pull the dog away. Rai says the owners offered to clean up his wound, but he says Rocky was still in defence mode and wouldn't let anyone near him.

"I had my dog completely under control," says Rai. "He's a Rottweiler—if he'd managed to bite that dog his jaw would have locked, and as an owner I would have been in trouble for maiming a dog."



Photo submitted
Richmondite James Rai was walking his dog last week when he was bitten by another dog.

Rai called 911, spoke with police, and then was transported by ambulance to Richmond Hospital where he received stitches and a tetanus shot. Following the incident, Rai reported the incident to the city bylaws team and has decided to press charges.

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Thanksgiving a busy time at The Fowl Farmer

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

Contrasting the shorter days that accompany the autumn season, The Fowl Farmer is in the midst of one of its busiest times of the year.

While a global coronavirus pandemic has altered the normal course of most people's lives, folks at this local, made-in-BC success story are teeming to fill requests for the staple of traditional Thanksgiving dinners: turkeys.

"We sell fresh JD Farms turkeys, and we began taking pre-orders weeks ago and preparing to have our store fully stocked," says manager Jaime May.

"Thanksgiving is our second-busiest weekend of the year. People are purchasing turkeys, and while they are here they stock up on fresh produce, fresh and frozen poultry, our local BC artisan products, our homemade pies and more. We will also have fresh cranberries available for those who love cranberry sauce."

Due to the store capacity being limited, and the time it takes to properly sanitize and clean, Jaime anticipates Thanksgiving weekend could be even busier than usual this year. She said staff are offering to choose products for their customers to limit time spent inside the store.

Nestled on historic farmland at 15539 Cambie Rd. in East Richmond, the family-run business is owned by the May family, who has been dedicated to the undertaking for the last seven-plus years.

And The Fowl Farmer's owners also want to support fellow farmers throughout the province by selling other made-in-BC products, including strong support for artisans.

"Usually vendors approach us with their items to try, and we also have attended trade shows and farmer's markets," explains Jaime.

Artisan items at The Fowl Farmer range from Edible Gardens Balsamic Reductions to Umi's Kitchen sauces to Bear N'Beaver root beer and ginger beer, and a wide selection of jams from the Salt Spring Kitchen to freshly-frozen BC spot prawn tails.

Jaime said though turkey is definitely the basis for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, they also sell a lot of roasting chickens, turkey pieces or roasts for those who don't want to cook a whole bird.

Like the poultry that remains at the core of the business, the store is stocked with products that speak local. Here you'll find such produce as homegrown tomatoes, BC beets, green cabbage, celery, plums, pears, peaches and nectarines; cheeses from Smits and Co. in Chilliwack; and a good selection of Island Farms dairy (a co-operative on Vancouver Island since 1944).

It's not surprising that since opening its doors in October 2012, The Fowl Farmer has grown to become a hometown favourite for those wanting quality, local products.

"We love to support local," says Jaime. "Our customers appreciate the emphasis on local, quality product and we appreciate our customers."

For more information, including full menus, visit thefowlfarmer.ca

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

Photos courtesy The Fowl Farmer

With an emphasis on supporting local, The Fowl Farmer in Richmond sells BC poultry and other made-in-BC products throughout the year. Owned and operated by the Mays, the family-run business is celebrating its eighth anniversary this month.



Toeing the line to flatten the curve

By LORRAINE GRAVES

[@rmdsentinel](#)

Dr. Meena Dawar, medical health officer for Richmond, looks at the patterns, the lines on a graph. Those lines hold both reassurances and warnings.

While the line showing the number of COVID-19 cases is rising it isn't a straight line. There are ever increasing sharp peaks in the graph.

"There are certainly clusters that occur after weekends with parties. A number of those parties are associated with transmission," Dawar says.

The group with the biggest increase in cases proves to be 20 to 29 years of age.

"Young people don't recognize it as illness so they don't stay home," Dawar says.

While all ages can live with long-term consequences from even the mildest cases of COVID-19, hospitalizations are down. Dawar says that's because it is mainly young people getting sick right now.

But she cautions, "When it spreads to their parents and grandparents, we could see a rise in hospitalizations. Those are the people we need to protect."

The chance of being hit hard by COVID-19 rises with age.

Is some of the increase in confirmed cases just due to increased testing?

"There is a little bit of that," Dawar says. "I'm quite sure we missed mild cases in the first wave when testing was only for the severely ill."

As scientists learn more about this new virus, it guides the information emanating from public health officials. Now they know that it is the very early symptoms, the tiny cough, the barely sore throat—the time when people are wondering if they are even sick or just have a touch of allergies—that is the most infectious period for people with COVID-19.

Consequently, Dawar cautions, "Be watchful of mild symptoms."

Dawar says if you are even wondering if you should be tested, get tested. People can go to the drive-through testing facility on Gilbert Road, south of Richmond Hospital, in the tennis club parking lot. You will need your care card. You will be contacted about your results.

Looking back at the serious measures that cut our case numbers so much, Dawar says, "It seemed that all of society had come to a pause until mid-April or May." The graph of those days shows how effective the lockdown was in dropping case numbers.

Not wanting to go back to a lockdown, she cautions us more than ever to all be mindful of keeping our distance, wearing a mask when we cannot, staying home when we can and washing our hands before we touch our face.

With restrictions loosened from the earlier days of the pandemic, Dawar is clear that we each have the power to prevent another shutdown: "We all need to take greater ownership of trying to protect ourselves."

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Call for Nominations for the 2020 Richmond Heritage Awards



*Imperial Cannery during close season. ca 1925
City of Richmond Archives, photograph #1985 4 31*

The City of Richmond Heritage Commission is encouraging the public to submit nominations for the 2020 Richmond Heritage Awards.

Historic buildings, cultural and natural heritage landscapes, artifacts, and oral and written histories—all are rich resources that contribute to our shared community identity today. The Richmond Heritage Awards annually recognizes the accomplishments of individuals and organizations in the conservation of historic places, and education and awareness about Richmond's diverse heritage.

Anyone can submit a nomination for an individual or an organization.

Nominations

Complete a one-page nomination form available from the City's website at www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritageawards or by contacting:

Cynthia Lussier, Planner
Email: clussier@richmond.ca
Phone: 604-276-4108

Submit via

Mail: Richmond Heritage Commission
c/o Policy Planning Department
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road,
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

Email: clussier@richmond.ca
Fax: 604-276-4052

Submission deadline

11:59 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2020.

Some of the ways an individual or organization may earn recognition are:

- preservation, restoration, rehabilitation or adaptive reuse of a historic place, such as a building or structure, or conservation of a cultural heritage landscape;
- promotion or awareness of local heritage through education, outreach or advocacy; or
- contributions to local knowledge of heritage in public history or interpretation projects.

The Awards jury will include members of the Richmond Heritage Commission. All decisions of the jury are final.

For more information, contact Cynthia Lussier, Planner, Policy Planning, at **604-276-4108** or clussier@richmond.ca

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Richmond Christmas Fund launches

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Christmas Fund has been an important community project for nearly 90 years. But, like so much during the COVID-19 pandemic, the fund will look a little different this year.

"The need will be much larger this year," said Ed Gavsie, president and CEO of Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives which oversees the charitable cause.

He said items will be distributed via curbside drop-off. Toys, crafts and books will be sanitized before they are given out.

Some of the usual fundraisers will also take place, albeit with a changed format, in the weeks leading up to the holiday season. The sixth annual RCMP Toy Drive will take place outdoors at Lansdowne Centre. Richmond Fire-Rescue will host a drive-through donation event where people can drive through the fire hall with donations of cash or toys. And the City of Richmond is donating 100 bicycles.

Christmas Fund co-chair Wayne Duzita said they have reached out to business leaders asking them to donate \$10,000 as "angel donors." While he expected to hear only a few responses, he said he's received four so far: from TD, Platinum Pro-Claim, Sage and Pacific Gateway Hotel. And a private reserve auction will offer bidders the opportunity to win big, provided they make a donation of \$1,000.

Duzita expressed gratitude to local political leaders for lending their social media accounts, contact lists and voices to support the Christmas Fund. The seven "honourary advisors" are:

- Malcolm Brodie, Richmond mayor
- Kenny Chiu, MP Steveston-Richmond East
- Jas Johal, MLA Richmond-Queensborough
- Linda Reid, MLA Richmond South Centre



Photo by Hannah Scott

Local political leaders gathered to show support for the Richmond Christmas Fund.

- Teresa Wat, MLA Richmond North Centre
- Alice Wong, MP Richmond Centre
- John Yap, MLA Richmond-Steveston

All four Richmond MLAs have volunteered their offices to act as toy depots, so toys can be dropped off there in the lead-up to the holiday season.

"In a year like no other, the Christmas fund needs its community's support like never before," said RCRG board chair Richard Vetter.

hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Asphalt Paving Advisory

The City of Richmond has contracted All Road Construction to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from October 1st to October 31st, 2020:**

PROPOSED 2020 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS	
Garden City and Alderbridge Way	Intersection
8000 Block Westminster Hwy	East Bound Lanes
Bridgeport Road and Viking Way	Intersection
6000 Block Cooney Road	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
6000 Block Buswell Street	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
11000 Block No.5 Road	Steveston Highway to Rice Mill Road
12000 Block No.5 Road	Rice Mill Road to Dike Road
Horseshoe Way	No.5 Road to Coppersmith Way
Elmbridge Way	West Bound Lanes
Vibration Complaints	Spot repairs at various locations

Work hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Night time work hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (typically).

Traffic will be reduced to single-lane and there may be temporary lane closures. Delays may occur. The use of an alternate route is strongly encouraged.

This work is weather dependent and dates are subject to change without notice.

The scope of the advertised work may be adjusted or cancelled in line with available funding.

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at **604-276-4189**, or visit the City's paving program web page at www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/projects/pavingprogram.

www.richmond.ca



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Local industry leaders named to BC tourism task force

Two prominent local industry leaders are among 10 from around the province appointed to a new BC tourism task force.

Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO of Vancouver International Airport, will chair the new task force that will focus on reigniting the province's tourism sector and work to enhance its long-term competitiveness. Nancy Small of Tourism Richmond, who also chairs the BC Destination Management Organization Association, will also sit on the new committee.

"There is no question that B.C.'s tourism businesses have suffered considerably due to COVID-19, which is why I'm so thankful that the members of this new task force have stepped up to help address the challenges head on," said Tourism Minister Lisa Beare. "I am confident their vast expertise will be instrumental in putting tourism in B.C. back on a solid footing."

Members of the tourism task force will also solicit input on how the industry can become more sustainable in the future. A final report will be presented to the minister by Dec. 31.

The province is allocating \$50 million in the economic recovery plan to im-



Photos submitted

Vancouver International Airport CEO Tamara Vrooman and Tourism Richmond's Nancy Small will both sit on the new 10-member provincial tourism task force.

plement new measures that result from the task force's work. In 2018, tourism contributed over \$20.5 billion in revenues to B.C.'s economy.

Airport introduces self-cleaning kiosk

Vancouver International Airport is introducing a new self-cleaning contactless border control kiosk.

The airport's Innovative Travel Solutions is the industry's largest and most experienced provider of kiosk-based border control solutions, having helped more than 250 million passengers safely and securely clear the border at 45 airports and seaports around the world. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the team has developed a touchless BorderXPress kiosk which is being tested at the airport (YVR).

BorderXPress kiosks help expedite the border control experience while reducing passenger wait times. Configurable to meet the immigration requirements of any border authority, the typical process for BorderXpress requires travellers to select their language, scan their travel documents and answer a few simple questions. The kiosk then produces a token that is either printed off or electronically sent to the border agency for them to make the final decision on entry or exit.

As part of the BorderXpress retrofit kit, three new features are being introduced:

- **Gesture Based Technology:** This new touchless technology allows users to control the on-screen cursor with hand gestures at a distance of about 30 centimetres away from the screen. Users are able to hover on the buttons and make contactless selections.
- **Ultraviolet Cleaning Light:** This cleaning technology bathes everything below the light, which includes the document and fingerprint scanners. After a three-minute cleaning cycle, 99.9 per cent of bacteria on surfaces will be eliminated. The kiosk also includes a built-in motion detector that will shut off the light when users are in close proximity.
- **Glass Touch Screen Protector:** This additional health and safety layer is an active touch screen protector that is baked into the glass during the manufacturing stage. It harnesses any light and turns it into a source that kills 99.99 per cent of microbes, including COVID-19.

Built by an airport, for airports, YVR's Innovative Travel Solutions offers a unique industry perspective, being able to use the airport as a live test site to build the best technology prior to going to market. Two of the three technologies are currently in place at YVR's Canada Border Services Agency hall with a prototype to test the user interface. This, in turn, allows the development team to learn and observe, incrementally improving the user experience that one day all will benefit from.

For more information about Innovative Travel Solutions, visit innovativetravel-solutions.ca.

YVR partners with Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada

Vancouver International Airport is committed to help boost Indigenous tourism in Canada.

The airport (YVR) and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) will team up on marketing and other initiatives. YVR is the first airport in Canada to sign an agreement of this kind.

The partnership celebration was hosted by Teara Fraser, owner of Iskew Air and an important figure in the Indigenous aviation community. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were over 300 Indigenous tourism businesses operating in BC and over 1,700 Indigenous tourism businesses across Canada. Indigenous tourism was outpacing Canadian tourism activity overall, and international demand for Indigenous experiences was at an all-time high.

"As we have learned working with Musqueam, whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory YVR is on, we play a valuable role connecting Indigenous People across Canada and around the world," said YVR CEO Tamara Vrooman. "We are honoured to be the first Canadian airport to sign a memorandum of understanding with ITAC and we look forward to combining our efforts through shared market intelligence and joint initiatives, all to support capacity-building and the future success of our Indigenous communities."

The partnership will include knowledge sharing as well as marketing programs in countries of mutual interest. As a partner with YVR, ITAC will receive in-kind marketing support including at least two months of exposure each year including terminal banners, luggage carousel videos and outdoor advertising.

"As a significant gateway to important domestic and international markets, YVR's marketing expertise and market intelligence are invaluable as we rebuild Indigenous tourism across Canada," said ITAC CEO Keith Henry. "The exposure we will receive throughout the airport as well as YVR's acknowledgement of the importance of Indigenous culture and collaborating on marketing initiatives globally will have a significant impact on our recovery strategy."

Steveston singer sharing love for music

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

I've Got the Music In Me was a hit for British singer Kiki Dee back in the 1970s, but its theme resonates with artists from any generation.

Audrey De Boer, an emerging singer-songwriter from Steveston, has only been on the "professional" music scene for just over 18 months. But it was apparent from a very young age that she was blessed with the gift of music.

"There is not one day that goes by where I am not singing, subconsciously or consciously," she says. "My parents have always said I was singing since before I could even talk. I've always had a passion for music, jotting down lyrics on my notepads, school work or wherever the creative flow would start. When I was younger, I would sing constantly throughout the house and then (one day) my family asked if I wanted to take lessons. I obviously said 'yes,' and so here we are today."

At 13, and again at 14, De Boer received some opportunities to perform at live shows. The positive reactions of the audiences was further inspiring, and at 15 she made a transition to "taking it seriously." She has no regrets, explaining she has "learned so much, met and worked with amazing people, and gotten to travel to fun events and places."

It was around Christmas 2018 that De Boer released her debut track *Tell Me You Love Me*, a song she wrote when she was 15. She's released four more songs since, including her current single, *Sleep*, in July. The song is a deeply personal connection to struggling with sleep paralysis. She hopes the lyrics resonate with listeners, and that the meaning may also hit home with people with different fears and struggles. The fact it is being well-received across the globe is "very exciting for me as a young artist," says the 18 year old.

Last Christmas was also an exciting time for De Boer, following the release of *Couple More Hours*, which helped her reach a different level of listeners than with her previous songs including *love x war* and *Nice Guy*. It was after releasing the latter two tracks that she performed her first set

as the headline artist—at the Steveston Salmon Festival Canada Day celebration.

"I remember how incredible it felt to have me be the artist, with her own stage and my own backup singers, performing my original songs," she says. "I had performed on many stages, with a song or two or as backup to the main artist, but this was so much different."

De Boer was looking forward to more performances this year, but of course all the lives shows were put on hold due to the

De Boer says music in all capacities, and certainly in both singing and songwriting "are the most beautiful ways of releasing and finding myself at the same time."

"It's hard to explain the process of songwriting for me. It allows me to feel really connected to myself, and depending on what I am writing about, it is sometimes exactly how I need to let things go or express just how much I need them," she explains. "Everyone, no matter what, is going through so many things especially in the state of the world today. When they are listening

to music, their connection to the sound or lyrics can be different depending on mood, or where they are listening. My goal is that in one aspect of my music, whether it is the vibe or the lyrics, I want my listeners to find a connection. The emotion and feelings that my audience can connect to and associate their own situations with is the most essential part of my music, whether that is through the music production itself, the lyrics that I write or both. I want my listeners to be drawn in by what they feel when they hear my songs. I am very connected to what I put into both the production and the writing, so staying true to this is always really important to me."

On any given day you can catch De Boer listening to a wide mix of genres. There is so much to appreciate in music, she says, whether you are listening for a vibe, to connect with lyrics, to escape, or whatever.

Many artists influence her love for music, some of whom she is privileged to have met, and says she continue to be encouraged and surrounded by a circle of very talented people.

"There are some very special people in my life who are continuously inspiring me, but if I had to pick my first most influential, hands down I would say my first singing and piano coach. She is a musician herself and has been a part of my entire life. She gave me so much confidence and encouragement from a young age and is a constant voice to remind me of how far I have come."

To learn more about De Boer's music, visit www.audreydeboer.com or @audreydeboerofficial on social media.

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Photo submitted

coronavirus pandemic. Instead, she's used the time to produce more music at home and connected with fans through her social media channels.

De Boer has also maintained regular vocal lessons, explaining that it helps her take care of her voice and understand her vocal range, for which she is known—along with a unique style that is infused with a hint of soul and modern vibes.

So what's key to a wide range?

"Oregano oil is my best friend," she says. "Looking back through each of my songs, I can hear my own vocal development through my first release to my latest. I also feel as though I am coming into my own stylistically. With each song I write and produce I am more open to the creative flow and allowing the song to become its own, letting my voice guide the emotion behind the song."

Richmond-raised poet asks questions through verse

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

"A poet's job is to pay attention, and there are many ways to pay attention."

That's part of Michael Prior's poetry philosophy. The Richmond-raised poet is now based in Minnesota, where he teaches Asian American literature and creative writing at a liberal arts college.

Prior explains that poetry allowed him to work through and articulate questions he had about himself and his family. His mixed-race identity—his father is Caucasian, his mother Japanese—and Richmond upbringing factor into his work.

"I felt very 'other' a lot of the time, but not in the way one would expect," he says. "I was Asian, but I was not part of the dominant Asian group in the area."

When Chinese-Canadian friends' grandparents learned Prior was part Japanese, he says there were "interesting moments."

"It was a very confusing experience a lot of the time," he adds.

Now having lived in the United States for six years, Prior says the idea of multiculturalism feels different for him as a Canadian. He says he often thinks through the cultural practice of multiculturalism, and what its history looks like in different places.

When asked what inspires him, Prior says: "It's everything."

"When I began writing, I became interested in questions about inheritance and about intergenerational memory, and the ways in which the Japanese Canadian internment had shaped who I was—and certainly how it had shaped my mother and my grandparents," he says. "These things circled around the periphery when I was growing up, and the older I got the more cognizant I got."

Prior's latest collection, "Burning Province," was published earlier this year. But what he calls the collection's "inciting incident" happened in 2015: his



Photo submitted
Michael Prior
is a Richmond
born-and-raised
poet whose
latest collection,
"Burning
Province," was
inspired by his
grandmother's
death during the
2015 BC forest
fires.

grandmother's death.

"Her generation are the last living links to the internment," says Prior. "With her passing, I felt this keen loss of the stories. There's so much I don't know about her life."

The name "Burning Province" comes from the forest fires BC was experiencing at the time. From his grandmother's hospital room window, Prior said it felt nightmarish.

"It felt like the world was mourning for her," he adds. "The images of fire, smoke, orange sky, my grandmother—it just kind of spiralled from there."

Prior says he had questions about heritage, lineage, history and memory. He was also thinking about what it means to elegize someone after his grandmother passed away.

"I tell my students that the process of putting together a collection is creating and recognizing a sensory grammar, and then finding out how to immerse the reader in it," says Prior.

He combed through old family albums and documents, and combined his findings with the stories and memories his grandparents had shared with him over the years. Prior says he tries to share his family's perspective specifically, while emphasizing

ing his distance from the events.

"I do my very best to position the speaker in the poems in a way that it's not their experiences, but remembering times in which they heard these stories or visited these places with their grandparents," he says. "I don't have any clear answers for it, but I keep trying."

Through the use of pastoral tropes—those that paint a picture of idealized country life—Prior says he was able to access his grandparents' memories through his own lens. He says the poetic genre is unique because it allows people to play around with language, and to link it to experience and memories.

"The kind of poetry I work with asks questions rather than answers (them)," he says. "Poetry can be a call to action for sure, but that's not particularly the kind of poetry I'm interested in writing. There is certainly the capacity for empathy, I would like to believe, and for imagination. I'm interested in what reparative poetics could look like. My poetry tries to re-witness and re-imagine things, cultural and historical events. They're wounds, and we can't really allow them to heal—we have to keep them open so they don't (get repeated)."

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Richmond Arts Council moves exhibition online

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Arts Council's annual exhibition looks a little different this year.

While an in-person showing wasn't possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the council began preparing in April for the possibility of offering its *Midsummer Art's Dream* show virtually.

"While we didn't want to give up on a physical show, we (also) didn't want to get to September and be forced to cancel," says council president Susan Ness. "So we decided to plan for two versions of the same exhibition, one physical and one virtual."

Another challenge was the lack of display space. Normally presented in

the atrium at Lansdowne Shopping Centre, this space was already in use providing extra food court seating to allow for physical distancing. But Lansdowne offered the arts council a store space to set up an information desk and allow volunteer artists to create live.

There's also a virtual exhibit, available online, that mimics the setup and experience of wandering around a gallery.

"As soon as we decided to create a virtual exhibition, our board member and visual arts educator Jessica Trestain started to look for suitable ways of creating the look and feel of a physical art show," says Ness. "Without Jessica's expertise, I don't think we could have pulled this off."

Anyone interested can view the virtual exhibition online and vote for their favourite piece in the people's choice award. To view the exhibit online, visit richmondartscouncil.com

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RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

Time to focus on pet health



**Eyal
Lichtmann**

Every season has its own charms and challenges. For responsible pet owners, autumn can be a time to calm down, enjoy the chillier weather with dogs or curl up near a crackling fire with a kitty or puppy on our lap. A few things to take into account, though, as we prepare for the fall.

Animal Wellness Week begins Oct. 4—a time to take stock of the health of our pets. Make sure your pet is up-to-date on checkups and routine care like vaccinations. While you're at it, be sure your pets are microchipped and tattooed and that your dog is licensed. If they are ever separated from you, that will help us reunite them with you as quickly as possible, reducing anxiety and stress for both of you.

Take the time to call your vet for an appointment to make sure your pet's records are updated. Coincidentally, Animal Wellness Week begins on the same day that the RAPS Animal Hospital begins opening Sundays, making our facility a seven-day-a-week operation.

Fall is when rodents start looking for warmer places to rest. That means there is a higher likelihood of poison "rodenticides" in some locations. While most of the mushrooms that we see popping up at this time of year are harmless, some can be fatal. Ethylene glycol-based automotive coolants and antifreezes are highly toxic. Leaks should be cleaned up immediately and everyone should be cautious of unknown substances in the vicinity of our pets. Keep an eye on your pets whenever outdoors.

Autumn is also the time when fireworks and firecrackers make their noisy arrival known. For many or most household pets, these unexpected explo-



Photos courtesy RAPS

Animal Wellness Week begins Oct. 4, and is a time to check on your pet's health and celebrate the impact pets can have on humans' health.

sions can be terrifying and disorienting. Around Halloween especially, but anytime you hear loud noises (like thunder), consider playing some soothing background music or turn up the TV to cover some of the scary sounds.

Halloween may be different this year, but it is usually a time when the RAPS City of Richmond Animal Shelter experiences the most lost animals. Cats and dogs can escape with all the opening and closing of doors to trick-or-treaters and, again, if frightened by firecrackers, many pets' natural instinct is to run—in any direction. Keep them in a separate room with safe, calming toys and background sounds.

While we're talking about Animal Wellness Week, why not celebrate the fact that animals make us healthier! People who live with pets are less likely to get sick and are likely to recover sooner. People with pets are likely to get more physical activity, have lower blood pressure, less stress, lower risk of heart attack and stroke, alleviated depression and a whole host of ancillary benefits. A person who has



had a significant health crisis like a heart attack or stroke and return to a home with a cat are more likely to be alive a year later than those who have no pet.

This is to say nothing of the way pets help build community. Walking around the neighbourhood with a pet is a routine that builds social connections, strengthens community resilience, enhances safety and security and just makes it a nicer place to live!

For all our pets do for us, the least we can do is keep them healthy!

Which brings us to you. For 25 years, RAPS has been saving and improving the lives of animals in Richmond. Everything we have accomplished is because of the support of people like you. Thank you! And happy Animal Wellness Week!

Eyal Lichtmann is CEO and Executive Director of the Regional Animal Protection Society.

MY NAME IS BABY

Baby is a very sweet senior girl who is looking for her forever home. She has a very good personality and would make great company for any person or family. Baby's perfect home would be one that understands that senior cats can come with many responsibilities.

****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.****



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REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (RAPS)

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

Head Office: 604-285-7724



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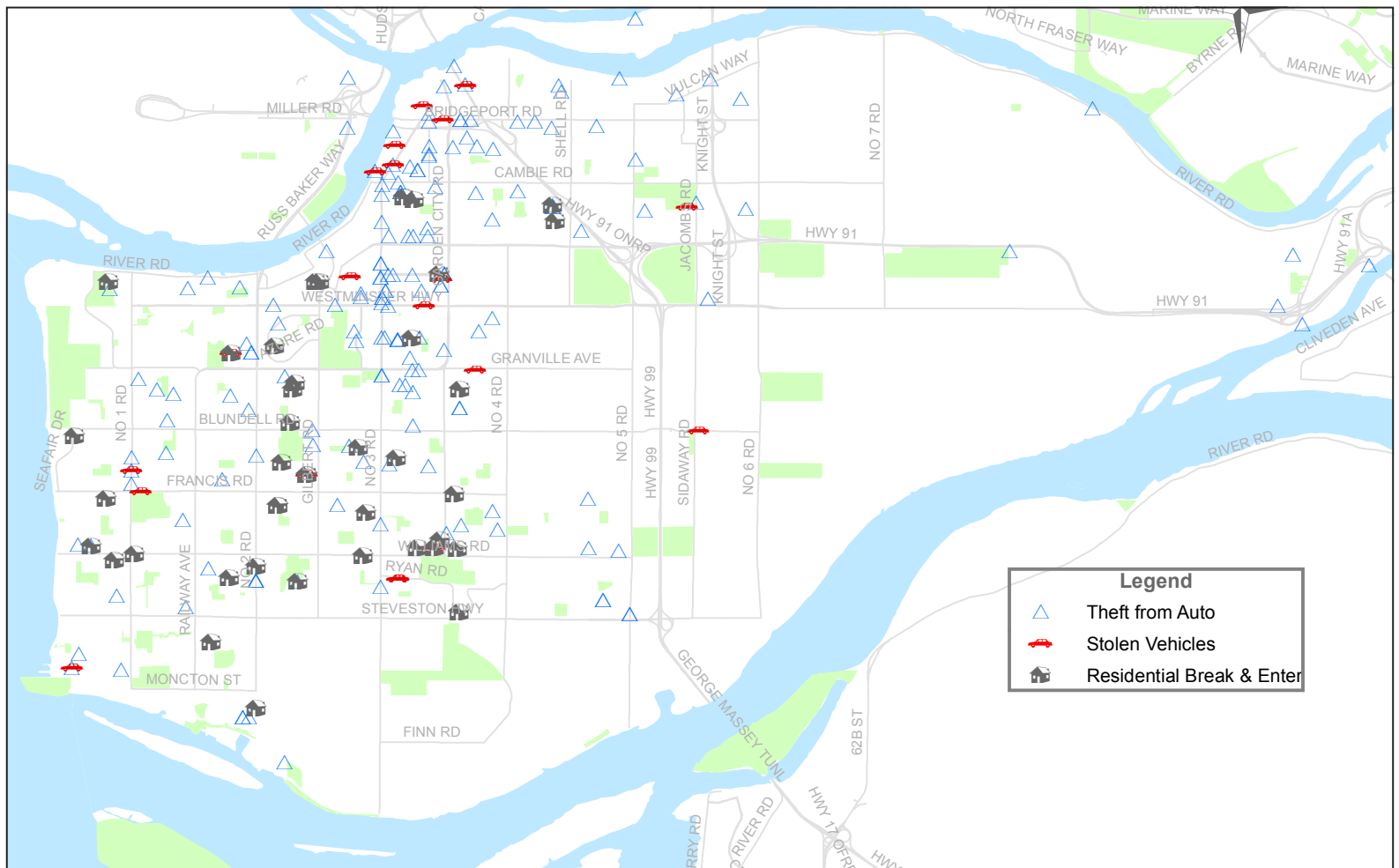
The RAPS Animal Hospital and Animal Ambulance are supported by Applewood Nissan





RCMP

Crime Map Aug. 1 - 31, 2020



RCMP investigating suspicious occurrence

Richmond RCMP are asking for the public's help following a recent incident.

A 10-year-old Richmond boy was apparently approached by a stranger around 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 14 in the 6800 block of Azure Road. The man allegedly told the boy he knew his mother and was supposed to take him home.

The boy said he was suspicious of this, so he ran away and returned home. The incident was reported to Richmond RCMP the following day. A potential suspect was identified at the time of reporting but police have since determined that this individual was not involved. Richmond RCMP Youth Section and General Investigation Section have been actively following up on various investigative avenues.

The suspect driver has been described as follows:

- of Asian descent
- possibly had an accent
- 50 years of age
- short straight black hair
- pimply/freckled/dotted face

- wearing a white shirt and gold chain
- The vehicle is described as:
- champagne coloured
 - black circle logo surrounded by Asian-type writing

Anyone with information on this matter is asked to contact the Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212. Reports can also be made by email at Richmond_Tips@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Public's help sought in fatal shooting

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) is requesting the public's assistance to further its ongoing investigation into a shooting at a Richmond restaurant that has left one man dead and another injured.

Richmond RCMP received reports of gunshots at the Manzo restaurant at 9020 Capstan Way shortly after 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 18. Two men sustained gunshot wounds with one of the victims, 44-year-old Jian Jun Zhu, dying of his injuries. The second shooting victim, a man in his fifties, was treated for non-life threatening injuries and has since been re-

leased from hospital, police said.

IHIT has conduct of the investigation and is working closely with Richmond RCMP to complete priority tasks including an extensive canvass for witnesses and video surveillance footage. Investigators continue to work alongside the Integrated Forensic Identification Services (IFIS) to examine the physical evidence gathered from the crime scene.

Any drivers with dash cam video from the area of Garden City Road between Capstan Way and Cambie Road between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 18 are urged to contact IHIT immediately.

Both victims are well known to police and this is believed to be a targeted event. However, there is nothing so far to suggest this incident is connected to the ongoing Lower Mainland gang conflict or any of the other recent acts of violence.

"This was a brazen shooting that could have resulted in further victims," said Sgt. Frank Jang of IHIT. "IHIT will be engaging all of its partners including CFSEU-BC and RCMP Federal Policing to identify those responsible."

Anyone with information is asked to call the IHIT information line at 1-877-551- IHIT (4448), or by email at ihitinfo@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

United, Bittengl joining forces on soccer pitch

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

In aligning itself with a UEFA-licensed coach, Richmond United Soccer Club clearly has an eye on the future.

The club, formerly known as Richmond Girls' Soccer, is partnering with former European professional Martin Bittengl who in 2017 set up the Richmond academy that bears his name.

"This partnership is another step towards our club providing all players with program options to best meet their needs," says Mandhir Punia, United's director of soccer operations. "By the end of this year (Bittengl) will be one of only two UEFA pro-licensed coaches that we are aware of in BC. Martin brings experience and knowledge that few coaches have and he will be working directly our club to launch our boys' program this upcoming spring."

Bittengl will also be responsible for United's two new men's teams playing in the Richmond Adult League. These teams will provide a direct pathways for graduating players to continue to play soccer, Punia explains.

Punia also notes that United is aligning with the likes of Fusion FC (providing players with a direct link and access to High Performance League coaches), the BC Chinese Soccer Federation (sharing resources, experience and opportunities to participate in leagues and tournaments), the

File photo by Chung Chow
Martin Bittengl School of Soccer is partnering with Richmond United to kick off the latter's boys' program next spring.

Brazilian Soccer School (the opportunity to greatly improve ball skills) and Russel Sean Fitness (access to strength and conditioning opportunities).

"Our club believes that our members registration money should go directly to what they want it spent on, and that is their development," Punia says. "Our professional coaches work directly with our players on a weekly basis."

Established in 1974 as the Richmond Girls Soccer Association, Punia says the club has demonstrated an ability to develop high-performing players and teams.

"This is proven by the number of teams that advanced to and participated in the Provincial A Cup, Provincial B Cup, Coastal Cup and league championships. And many have ended up winning these events."

Over the past few years, 47 graduating players have moved on from United's grassroots program to higher levels of play with Fusion FC and other teams participating in the BC SPL," says Punia. "In addition, several other players have graduated from our soccer program to soccer programs at Canadian and American colleges and universities."

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

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Home education can expand a child's world

Kristen Hogeterp is a 15-year-old homeschooled student. This is part three of a series of education stories.

KRISTEN
HOGETERP
Contributor



A child tells someone they are educated at home and sooner or later the discussion turns

to the dreaded topic of all home learners. How will they socialize? How will they make friends? How will they learn to adapt to the real world?

People may get the impression that home learners spend all their time in their homes, either doing way too much schoolwork or none at all. Either way, the stigma is that home learners are weird, awkward, and antisocial people who don't know how to deal with real-life situations involving others. But home learners still have opportunities to interact with other people.

"Adults find my children very well mannered, respectful and well-spoken," says Jeanette Dyck, a parent and home educator from Richmond.

Home-schooled students interact with people of all ages, not just peers their own age, through opportunities such as music and sport lessons, field trips, meet-ups with other home learners, and even simple encounters such as at the store.

"My kids have never had issues with making friends with kids outside of their own ages," says Dyck. "They have friends of all ages, genders, and from different parts of the world."

"With all the swimming, skiing, hockey, kayaking and baseball, I have to try really hard to keep my son from socializing," says Debbie Jiang, another Richmond parent who homeschools.

According to a 2015 study performed by Safe Routes Partnership, a not-for-profit organization in the United States, children who take breaks and are more active throughout the day are actually better-focused and complete more work more efficiently.



Photo by Jaana Björk

Nine per cent of Richmond students have a special education designation, says director of instruction and inclusive learning Jane MacMillan.

Students with learning disabilities receiving support

By HANNAH SCOTT Local Journalism Initiative reporter
and LORRAINE GRAVES

For children with learning disabilities or other needs, receiving support at school looks a little different during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nine per cent of Richmond students have a special education designation from the Ministry of Education according to Jane MacMillan, director of instruction and inclusive learning at the Richmond School District. This designation identifies students as having special needs which can include an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural disability, a learning disability or the designation gifted. Some of those students receive additional support from educational assistants or other staff.

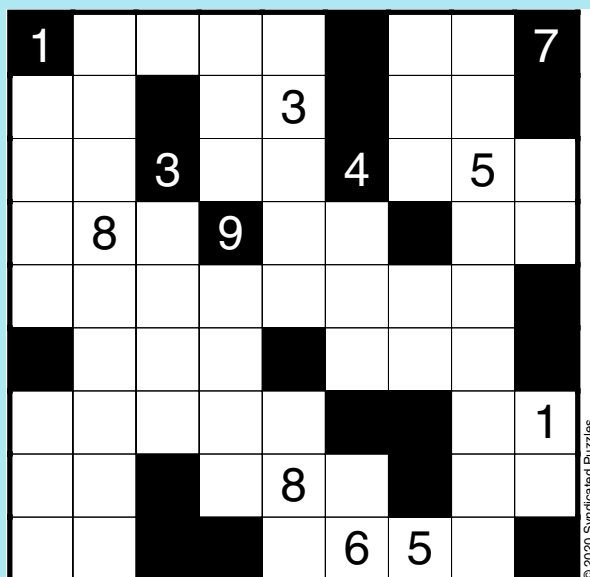
"Availability of support has not changed (as a result of the pandemic) as students either return to school or access transitional learning," says MacMillan. "A range of staff provide support remotely as well as for those attending in person."

MacMillan says staffing has been added across grade levels to support students. Schools are currently staffed for the number of students attending and additional federal funding is being used in part to hire more teachers.

"We have hired additional teachers to meet the needs of students in learning cohorts, including those accessing the transitional option at this time in both elementary and secondary (schools)," says MacMillan.

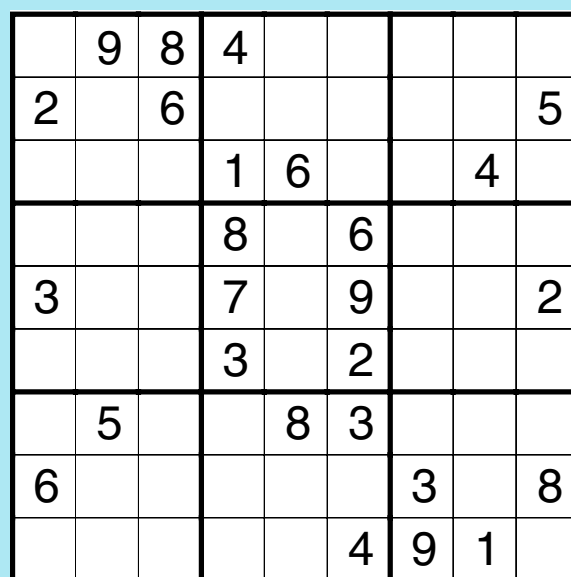
STR8TS

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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