

SYMBOL OF HOPE

Cherry blossom provides
inspiration for better
times ahead

07

Photo by Hannah Scott

The annual Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival returned with an online celebration this year themed around the idea of hope.

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Rising sea levels will require ongoing dike upgrades

Raising the dikes in Richmond will increase taxpayer fees

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Taxpayers are going to have to shell out more in the coming years to ensure Richmond's dikes are able to withstand rising sea levels.

In a report to the city's general purposes committee last week, staff has outlined the need to raise the dikes by 4.7 metres before 2100 to protect against sea level rise. Over the last 10 years, the city has dedicated over \$130 million to flood protection projects, the report says.

Annual revenue for the drainage and diking utility fee, established in 2003, currently sits at \$13.4 million. But in order to accelerate the program to accommodate rising sea levels—with upgrades projected to cost around \$1 billion—fees will also go up.

"We've already taken action as a council to alleviate the strain from this. But the graph that's in the (staff) report never shows the option of the sea level going down. The sea level's going up, and we need to take action," said Coun. Michael Wolfe.

Staff said at the city's current pace, it will take about 75 years to implement the full plan. The staff report presented three accelerated options to council. The option recommended by staff would take 50 years, and would require annual revenue for the drainage and diking utility to increase to at least \$30 million by 2031. Several faster options would require higher revenue and fees.

Coun. Bill McNulty introduced an amendment to the motion that would see the fee in-



Photo by Hannah Scott

City staff is recommending increasing the dike utility fees. Projected rises in sea levels will require \$1 billion in eventual upgrades.

"This could be postponed possibly for one year, but adopt(ed) in principle and staff could continue to work on planning for what we're going to do to increase the flood protection," said McNulty.

Several councillors were in favour of delaying the implementation and revisiting it, and staff noted that it's not absolutely necessary to accelerate the program this year. But some councillors said the implementation of the plan should not be delayed.

"I think we have to have the dikes up to snuff—if there are no dikes, there is no Richmond," said Coun. Carol Day.

The city's drainage and diking utility fee has increased each year. Most residential properties currently pay about \$150 a year in fees. Staff are proposing a six per cent increase for multi-family residential properties (reaching \$260 in 2031) and a 12 per cent increase for single-family residential and agricultural properties (reaching \$480 in 2031). There will also be a review of possible different rate classes for different sizes and types of properties within that class.

"I'm thinking of someone with a small ranch-

er built years ago, and comparing that to a 20,000 square foot house on a 10-acre parcel that's selling for eight million dollars right now, so seeing that the rates are the same for those two, or were staff looking into potentially more breakdown in the classes?" Wolfe asked.

Jason Ho, the city's manager of engineering planning, said that category is complex "due to the broad range of types of uses that those properties involve." He confirmed that there would be a more in-depth review of that class of properties "over the next year or so."

For the last five years, new rate classes have been introduced "to provide greater equity between ratepayers and reflect the different levels of demand that properties place on the city's drainage and diking systems," according to the staff report. Additional rate classes are being recommended for industrial, commercial and institutional properties, with staff proposing that those larger properties pay higher rates dependent on property size.

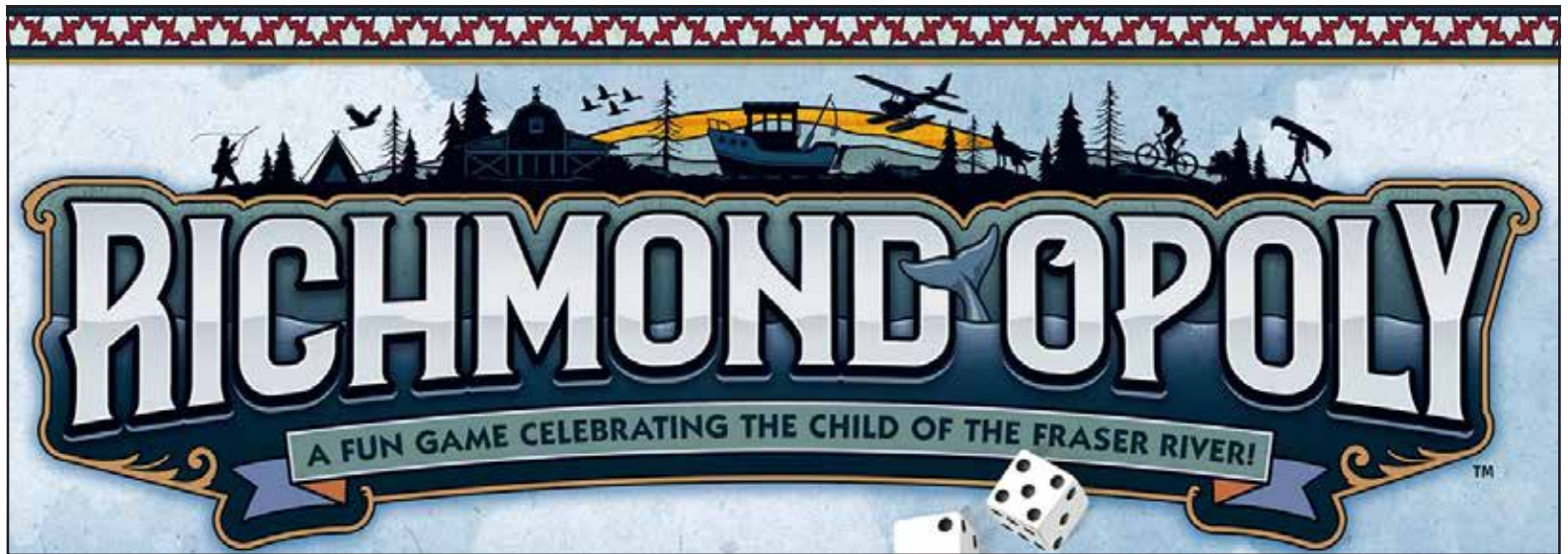
The motion to add a consultation and communication phase and delay the fee increase passed with several councillors opposed.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

The sea level's going up, and we need to take action.

— Coun. Michael Wolfe

crease delayed by a year in order to incorporate a public consultation and communication plan. He added it would be a way to "give the taxpayer a break" after the recent tax raise incorporating the RCMP and fire-rescue budgets.



Board game celebrates Richmond

Canadian company develops game that pays homage to our city

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

For those who've ever imagined life as a real estate tycoon, here's your chance.

Based on Monopoly, the best-selling game of all time, Richmond-Opoly gives players the opportunity to dabble in the market while celebrating many of the great and unique things about our community.

"I think it provides a little escapism while being a great activity for families that is fun and social, something we don't do a lot these days with people stuck on their phones or computers or watching TV," says Jean-Paul Teskey, senior vice-president of Outset Media, the Canadian company that created the game.

Available exclusively at Richmond Walmart or online at walmart.ca, the

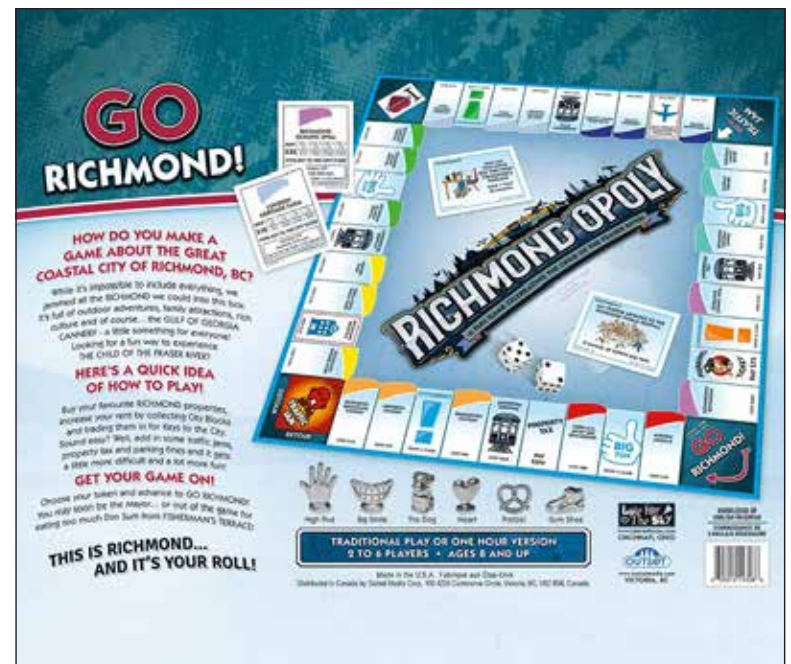
board game is the result of a partnership between the retailer and the Victoria-based games maker.

"Walmart came to us, because they knew we had the rights to opoly-style games, and said it would be great if we could develop a line of games celebrating communities across Canada," Teskey says. "We said sure, and so just over two years

ago we started with some locations in the Atlantic region and based on the success there we rolled out (many more games celebrating Canadian communities)."

While the concept is shared, each board is unique in terms of locations as well as many of the graphics.

In Richmond-Opoly, players will begin their cross-city exploration at Minoru Arenas, while the Richmond Night Market, Aberdeen Centre, the Richmond Olympic Oval and Bridgeport Station are just some of the other



Photos submitted

Games manufacturer Outset Media's Richmond-Opoly is available exclusively through Walmart which has partnered with the Victoria-based company on this unique celebration of Canadiana.

feature attractions.

"These games were created to help people appreciate some things they cherish about their community," Teskey says, noting that selecting which locations to include in the Richmond version was relatively easy as many of the staff at the company's Victoria headquarters were very familiar with the city—some even previously residing in the Lower Mainland.

Founded on Canadian trivia in 1996 by its president David Manga, Outset Media is a privately held wholesale supplier and manufacturer of toys, games and puzzles and remains staunchly proud of its Canadian roots. The majority of its products are made in North America.

Only 700 games are being made for each community, with Teskey explaining that there is not a big profit margin. It's more a labour of love.

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

These games were created to help people appreciate some things they cherish about their community.

— Jean-Paul Teskey

Urgent and primary care centre opens in Richmond

Richmond residents now have more access to health care, with the April 1 opening of a new urgent and primary care centre.

Located in the Community Health Access Centre at 7671 Alderbridge Way, it is now open weekday evenings from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., as well as Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sundays and statutory holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This marks the first phase of a two-phased opening for the Richmond Urgent and Primary Care Centre.

The initial temporary location shares spaces with the Community Health Access Centre and provides urgent primary care services. A multidisciplinary team of 10.5 full-time equivalent health-care workers, including general practitioners and registered nurses, will deliver urgent primary care services to people who need to see a health-care provider within 12 to 24 hours but do not require a trip to the emergency department. The Richmond centre will also connect patients to mental health and social work services in the community.

The permanent location will offer extended hours of operation as well as full-service long-term primary care services, including mental health and social work, as well as medical diagnostics. As doctors and nurse practitioners are recruited, attachment will be provided in collaboration with the Richmond Division of Family Practice.

Richmond residents requiring urgent care in the evenings and on the weekends are encouraged to visit the Richmond Urgent and Primary Care Centre. Care is provided on a drop-in basis. No appointment is required.

The Richmond Urgent and Primary Care Centre is a collaboration between the Ministry of Health, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Richmond Division of



Photo courtesy Vancouver Coastal Health

The Richmond Urgent and Primary Care Centre is now open at 7671 Alderbridge Way.

Family Practice. It is part of the Richmond Primary Care Network.

This is the 24th urgent and primary care centre announced under the government's primary care strategy.

VCH provides insight into local vaccine rollout

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmondites have begun to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at several clinics around the city.

"Some of these are what we call our pop-ups, or short-term clinics," explains Bob Chapman, interim vice-president of the Vancouver community for Vancouver Coastal Health, in an interview with the *Richmond Sentinel*. "And we opened up the River Rock, which will be our clinic that runs seven days a week for the entire campaign, right through into the fall."

The clinic at River Rock Casino Resort is one of the larger clinics for the local community, and it also has the capacity for vaccine delivery to be scaled up as more expansive age cohorts are invited to be vaccinated.

"We will scale up some other sites in Richmond as we need to as well, to support that extra need for the capacity depending on what age cohort we're moving into," says Chapman.

He adds that partnering with staff at Vancouver International Airport has been "a huge opportunity," with airport staff acting as "wayfinders" for people arriving to be vaccinated.

"They're the people that will welcome you and help you figure out where to go, and start your journey through the vaccine process," says Chapman. "They've been an incredible partner, and extremely welcoming. We've had very positive feedback about how accommodating they've been, and how receptive they've been to the public."

Some vaccine clinics have volunteers helping to run them. Chapman says feedback from

the public has been positive, and that volunteers are welcomed.

"There is a lot of anticipation and excitement from the public about coming to get their vaccines, it's opening a door in this journey of the pandemic and really opening up some huge opportunities for them."

And at a time when many people have been struggling with restrictions and the feeling of isolation, Chapman says being able to be vaccinated has been a bright spot.

"We know even for the seniors who have come into clinics, some of them have been quite emotional at receiving a vaccine and have really wanted to have a social engagement and talk while they're there, and talk about the fact that they haven't left their home in a year."

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

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Newsroom
newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca
778-297-5005

Editor - Don Fennell
dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



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Richmond business stepping up for autism

During Autism Acceptance Month, a local business is among those stepping up to celebrate and support the community.

1010 Tires is teaming with Autism BC to help raise awareness and acceptance of autism. Throughout the month, customers at 1010 Tires are invited to "Add-On the Bill for Autism" with donations going to AutismBC. All donations will support programs connecting the autism community throughout the province while the physical distancing measures of COVID-19 continue.

In British Columbia, there are about 60,000 people on the autism spectrum. One in 40 children between the ages of six and 18 is diagnosed with autism, a ten-fold increase in prevalence in 40 years.

"Families are feeling more overwhelmed than ever", says Lindy Chau, information officer for AutismBC. "Many autism families were feeling isolated before COVID-19. Now that feeling is stronger than ever. Families are waiting approximately 78 weeks for a publicly funded autism assessment in B.C. Because of COVID, the wait is at a historical high and continuing to grow."

AutismBC provides an information and support line and online programs to ensure the autism community remains connected throughout the pandemic. AutismBC has been serving the autism community since 1975 with staff and



Photo submitted

Richmond's 1010 Tires is teaming up with AutismBC to promote awareness and acceptance.

volunteers who have lived experience in autism. Each year, AutismBC provides support to over 6,000 individuals across the province.

"It's been a very tough year for all of us, non-profits and businesses alike," says AutismBC executive director Julia Boyle. "Our business partners want to continue their support to the autism community, but the pandemic has made it challenging. Our Autism Month fundraising campaign helps all of us. By shopping, you can support both local businesses by purchasing their products and services, and the autism community will benefit. Your business will make a big difference and help everybody win."

AutismBC will celebrate Autism Acceptance Month with stories from autistic youth and adults.

"During Autism Acceptance Month, we are listening to autistic voices to learn about what autism acceptance is," says Boyle. "The spectrum is diverse. We want to be part of unlearning autism stereotypes by understanding lived experiences."

To show your support during Autism Acceptance Month, visit 1010 Tires at 12291 Bridgeport Rd. and make a donation.

For the complete list of participating businesses throughout the province, or to donate to AutismBC, visit their website at www.autismbc.ca



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Richmondite honoured with provincial medal

Farouq Manji to be presented with Medal of Good Citizenship

Farouq Manji is tireless in every sense of the word.

For more than three decades the Richmond resident has provided voluntary service to the Ismaili Muslim community in the Lower Mainland, working alongside internal and external stakeholders to further the community and its relationship with residents.

His efforts are being recognized by the province as one of 14 individuals receiving the Medal of Good Citizen-

ship for their outstanding service and commitment to helping others.

"This important honour recognizes people who have gone above and beyond to offer help and kindness to others during these exceptionally challenging times," said Premier John Horgan. "The latest recipients of the Medal of Good Citizenship make our province a better place through their contributions and provide an example we can all aspire to meet in our communities."

Manji's family instilled volunteerism as a key value early, and he has gone on to lead initiatives such as the Ismaili CIVIC that yearly sees Ismailis give back to the broader community by volunteering at food banks, cleaning up shoreline, or planting trees. During the pandemic, Ismaili CIVIC sewed more than 3,000 cloth face masks and donated more than 2,000 pounds of food to local food banks.

Chief marketing officer for Sleep Shop, mental health and the importance of sleep are key to what drives Manji's passion for business. Knowing that poor sleep and sleep disorders lead to an impaired quality of life, he initiated an awareness campaign and partnered with UBC's sleep disorders clinic where his team was trained to understand the issues associated with sleep.

Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, and chair of



Photo courtesy Government of B.C.

Farouq Manji of Richmond is one of 14 British Columbians this year to be presented with the Medal of Good Citizenship.

the medal's selection committee, said "We are so fortunate in British Columbia to live amongst so many unsung heroes. These outstanding, remarkable and selfless leaders make our communities shine brightly."

This important honour recognizes people who have gone above and beyond to offer help and kindness to others during these exceptionally challenging times.

– Premier John Horgan

Food Garden to benefit community groups



Photo submitted

A new Food Garden at Lansdowne Centre is now open to benefit community groups.

A new outlet to support the needs of the community opened at Lansdowne Centre last week.

The Food Garden is an initiative that will benefit local food charities by supplying fresh, donated produce, grown in a newly-created garden environment in two areas of the mall's parking lot.

Areas between the Lansdowne Canada Line station and the mall itself (the west garden), as well as the south east corner of the parking lot

close to the entrance of T&T Supermarket (the east garden), will feature specially built planters until September, growing produce that will be shared with the Richmond Food Security Society. They in turn will distribute the harvest to local food charities.

Succession planting will be implemented by the knowledgeable team from Victory Gardens, who will be on-site weekly, tending to the crops. This method of planting will ensure ongoing harvesting from now until early fall.

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

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Cherry blossom festival offers hope for all

By DON FENNELL
 @rmdsentinel

After the rigors of winter, the dawn of spring brings with it a sense of awakening. The birds that had flown south return, and the trees begin to flower. The air is filled with optimism and hope.

Appropriately, as the country continues to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, the theme of this year's festival is the Japanese word 希望 (*Kibou*) which translates to "hope."

Cancelled last year, the celebration has moved online this year at www.richmondcherryblossomfest.ca. And follow @FunRichmond on social media for more news about how to enjoy the cherry blossoms in Garry Point Park. The free program will feature reflections on past festival performances and demonstrations, and new video content starring local artists.

The cherry blossom holds special significance in the Japanese culture, since the seventh century representing renewal in the cycle of life. *Hanami*, translating to "watching blossoms," is a centuries-old practice of picnicking under the trees with friends and family.

Famous for its cherry trees—and home to an estimated 50,000—Canada's West Coast glistens in the early April sunlight as the blossoms reach their peak. Nowhere is this more prevalent than in Richmond, where every year its cherry blossom festival grows in popularity.

"The City of Richmond is the proud home to one of Canada's largest and oldest communities of Japanese-Canadian immigrants, dating back almost 140 years," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "We are thrilled to be able to celebrate our region's Japanese heritage through the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival, and to have the opportunity to share the event to even more people this year with the virtual format."

The cherry trees in Garry Point Park reflect the strong bond between Richmond and Wakayama sister cities. The trees were planted by the BC Wakayama Kenjin Kai Association with the support of the city, home to one of Canada's largest Japanese-Canadian communities. Many residents of Japanese descent came from the Wakayama area, including Gihei Kuno, who became Richmond's first Japanese immigrant in 1887.

Known as *sakura* in Japan, the cherry blossom also holds relevance as a



Photo by Hannah Scott

The spectacular cherry trees blossoming in Garry Point Park are a popular attraction each spring.

gift of friendship. Cherry trees were planted in the United States capital of Washington, D.C. in 1912 as a gift from the people of Japan.

While the main cherry blossom festival in Richmond is centered at Garry Point Park, these beautiful trees can be found throughout the city, both in city parks—including Steveston, Terra Nova and Minoru—and along several of its streetscapes.

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



Photo by Don Fennell



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Richmond teachers supportive of mask mandate

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Masks are now mandatory in B.C. schools—through at least April 19. Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry introduced the measure March 29 “to support mask wearing for all students down to Grade 4.”

Many Richmond teachers have been calling for a stronger mask mandate since the fall. Richmond Teachers’ Association president Liz Baverstock said it would have helped if the province had previously said masks were “strongly encouraged.”

“I think if you had (that wording) from the province, that would (have helped) every single school,” said Baverstock. “We did that for a long time in public spaces, so why not consider that for schools?”

A Richmond teacher who spoke anonymously to the *Richmond Sentinel* before the introduction of the mandate said, “It seems really awkward that there’s an indoor mandatory mask (policy) for every space except schools, it’s like a mixed message that’s going out.”

Another teacher said, “There are a few classes I would honestly not go into as a person who’s just nervous. We’re all nervous and all adults are wearing masks. We’re afraid.”

The teacher added that additional cleaning materials and daytime custodians have helped with the overall cleanliness of schools, and that ad-

ministrators have been “phenomenally supportive” of mask-wearing.

But outside the classroom, several teachers said it’s more challenging to enforce rules. As soon as students are dismissed, protocols aren’t necessarily followed.

Non-classroom teachers including gym teachers and librarians are sometimes part of school cohorts, but others come into contact with most of the students in the school on a regular basis. Educational assistants also face challenges given that they may be moved around between cohorts on an as-needed basis.

Although the Richmond School District has initiated its own campaign encouraging masks in schools, which teachers said they welcome, the province’s recent update is a step forward.

“Finally we have an updated mask policy,” said Baverstock at the March 31 school board meeting. “I want to thank everyone for their advocacy, and especially staff in schools who have been reinforcing safety measures and the wearing of masks throughout the pandemic. I know that this board has been advocating throughout the pandemic on this particular issue.”

Baverstock said local support for mask-wearing was already in the high 90 per cent range in secondary schools prior to the new mandate. And a recent poll conducted by the district found that about 87 per cent of Grade 4 to 7 students were wearing masks, according to Superintendent Scott Robinson. He said this “speaks highly to the commitment that our community has had in relation to mask-wearing.”

“(A mask mandate) wouldn’t necessarily make me safer,” said one teacher. “(But) it will make people mentally feel safer—kids and adults. It will make people feel more at ease to come into work. COVID could come into the school at any time.”

•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 **March 8 to October 15, 2021**:

PROPOSED 2020 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

Garden City and Alderbridge Way	Intersection only
8000 Block Westminster Hwy	Eastbound lanes only
Bridgeport Road and Viking Way	Intersection only
6000 Block Cooney Road	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
11000 Block No. 3 Road	Intermittent spot repairs for vibrations
8000 Block Lansdowne Road	No. 3 Road to Garden City Road
10000 Block No. 4 Road	Williams Road to Steveston Highway
11000 Block Railway Avenue	Steveston Highway to Moncton Street
Colbeck Road	
Palmberg Road	
Kozier Drive	Vibration complaint
8117 No. 1 Road	Vibration complaint
6651 Blundell Road	Westbound lane – vibration complaint
13000 Block Cambie Road	Jacombs Road to No. 6 Road
Gilbert Road	Northbound lanes (River Road to Elmbridge Way)

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 webpage at www.richmond.ca (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2020 Paving Program).

www.richmond.ca



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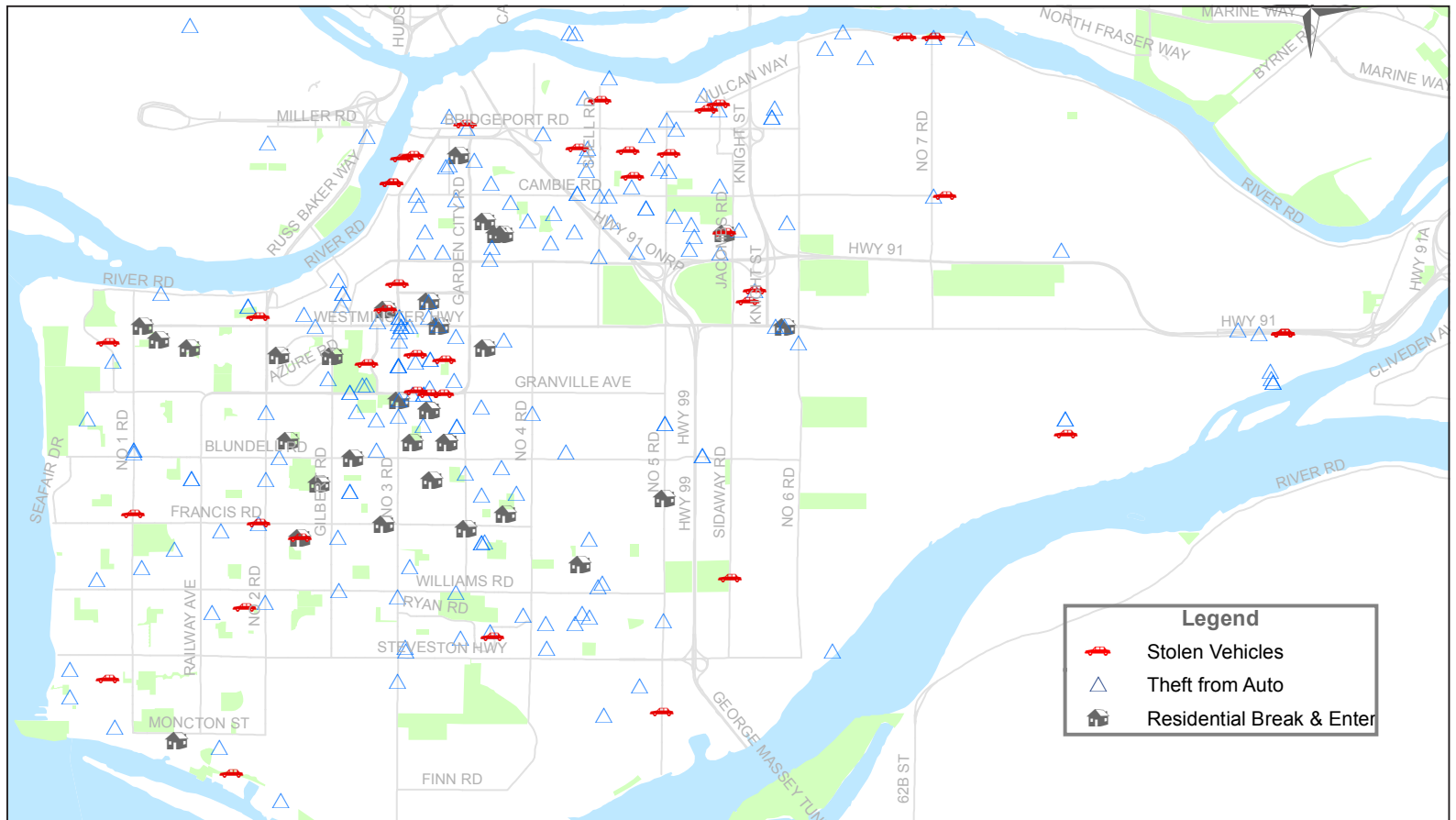
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Richmond Community Foundation
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Richmond Society for Community Living
Richmond Women’s Resource Centre Association
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Turning Point Recovery Society



RCMP

Crime Map March 1 - 31, 2021



Richmond mayor denounces racism

Mayor Malcolm Brodie says there is no place for racism in Richmond.

"The City of Richmond does not tolerate hateful nor racially motivated behaviour," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "We acknowledge such attitudes unfortunately exist and are in direct contradiction to the spirit of inclusion we uphold. We must stand together to address and condemn all forms of discrimination and racism."

Richmond has been working diligently over the years to deliver programs and initiatives to build meaningful bridges amongst cultures and reduce barriers to participation. By bringing people together in dialogue, arts and cultural programming and holding inclusive consultations, the city is committed to fostering an inclusive community—one where everyone feels safe and respected.

Richmond's Cultural Harmony Plan (2019-2029) directs the city's response to promote and enhance cultural harmony among Richmond's diverse population through a vision, strategic directions and recommended actions. The city continues to advance the actions in the plan, which includes addressing racism and discrimination. In addition, the city's intercul-

***We must stand
together to address
and condemn all forms
of discrimination and
racism.***

– Mayor Malcolm Brodie

tural advisory committee, formed in 2002, advises council on intercultural matters, including anti-racism initiatives.

"Council supports the RCMP's focus on addressing hate crimes and building public awareness," said Brodie. "Please do not hesitate to call the RCMP if you experience or witness racially- or hate-motivated actions."

If you've been the victim of a racially motivated incident, or have witnessed one, seek help and call the police.

- Call 9-1-1 for an act in progress.
- If it is not an emergency, call the Richmond



Photo submitted

Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie has released a statement denouncing racism.

RCMP non-emergency line at 604-278-1212

• If you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or visit them online at www.solvecrime.ca.

RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

RAPS saves cats—no matter where



**Valerie
Wilson**

A man in Salmon Arm has been feeding feral cats at his workplace for many years. The work site is shutting down and he is concerned for their welfare, so he contacted the local animal shelter but they are at capacity and can't help him save the cats' lives. So he called RAPS.

Another rescue organization, called Sammy's Forgotten Felines, based in Kamloops, is also at capacity and so when they were asked to take in a colony of ferals, they too called RAPS. A few days ago, I went up there myself and brought back seven cats from three feral colonies.

A quarter-century ago, RAPS was founded to ensure that cats would not face euthanasia merely because local shelters didn't have the resources to take them in. We have always welcomed rescues from other jurisdictions—especially those where they face almost certain death—but we are redoubling our commitment across British Columbia now.

While RAPS operated the City of Richmond Animal Shelter, that part of our operation was limited to serving animals in Richmond only. That made sense, of course. But now that we operate our own RAPS Adoption Centre, we have no geographic limitations at all.

Animals do not recognize human-created boundaries. We believe that where an animal lives should not determine whether an animal lives. You can surrender or adopt cats at RAPS.

Most animal rescue organizations are small, with limited capacity for caring for large numbers of cats for long periods. That's one thing that makes the Regional Animal Protection Society dif-



Photo submitted

When other rescue organizations reach capacity, they call the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.

ferent. We have a sprawling sanctuary in East Richmond that can accommodate hundreds and hundreds of cats. These are mostly animals deemed unlikely to be adopted. Many have behavioural issues that make them unlikely to find a family. Others have health issues like feline leukemia, feline immunodeficiency virus or other common ailments that are chronic, but manageable. Most of these cats can live long and happy lives. But the simple fact is that, given the number of "healthy" kittens and cats available, the chance of these ones finding homes is minimal.

It's worth noting that statistics around the number of "healthy" animals euthanized annually would, in some jurisdictions, include many or most of the cats RAPS take in our sanctuary. Lots of rescue

organizations declare that they do not euthanize "healthy" cats. RAPS does not euthanize "unhealthy" cats. We believe that RAPS' "no-kill" commitment sets us apart from other animal rescue organizations. If these cats can live a happy life despite having some behavioural or medical issues, they are welcomed into our RAPS Cat Sanctuary and often live to very advanced ages.

Like any other charity, we have limited resources, but we are proactively working with rescues all over B.C.—and we will work with others outside the province as appropriate—to keep our no-kill promise, no matter where the cats live who need our help.

Valerie Wilson is assistant manager of the RAPS Cat Sanctuary.

MY NAME IS BUZZ

If you're looking for a loving, charismatic friend, look no further. Buzz is an amazing boy who coos at you to talk (he sounds like Chewbacca) and happily shows you where the food dish is.

He was surrendered due to his diabetes, but remembers his loving home with a little boy who he misses dearly. With an appropriate diet, his asthma under control with a puffer, and his diabetes stable, it is a little extra work to keep him healthy but he is absolutely worth it. He might also be a good companion for a little human with diabetes or asthma.

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



In their own words...

Arts, culture and heritage experiences still alive in Richmond



**Linda
McPhail**
Councillor

Exploring and celebrating the arts, heritage and intercultural connections is just as important during this pandemic, if not more, as it provides an avenue for balance and enrichment of life.

Applause can be given to all the city facilities and department staff, organizations and individuals who adapted in light of the COVID-19 world pandemic, pivoting their arts, cultural and heritage offerings online to provide so much for the community to enjoy over the past year.

As we look forward to 2021, the City is committed to offering and supporting appropriately scaled events as an important means to maintain and build community connections as we all continue to navigate the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation.

I have seen, first-hand, a common theme emerge about the importance of reaching out to the community. By showcasing Richmond's vibrant cultures including the arts and heritage, we:

□ Enrich the lives of residents by

providing opportunities for the community to connect, learn and celebrate together, thus building a sense of community.

□ Provide local artists and performers with further opportunities to connect with our residents.

We have learned that people want to connect and participate in any way possible—whether on-line or in person.

Although many arts, cultural and heritage programs and events were forced to cancel as we knew them in 2020, staff and partner organizations quickly learned to adapt and offer new ways to deliver experiences in a safe and fulfilling manner to residents.

Later this spring, we will present the Arts Services Year in Review 2020 and the Museum and Heritage Year in Review 2020, highlighting the spectrum of programs, successfully offered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are in full swing planning the resurgence of our renowned annual arts, cultural and heritage events in a safe and scaled way for 2021.

This year will include a combination of virtual, self-guided and potentially onsite events, depending on pandemic circumstances as the year progresses. Many will include the involvement of other organizations within the non-profit, arts, culture and heritage realms.



Main Stage at Richmond's Maritime Festival, 2018

They include:

- Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival
- Doors Open Richmond
- Steveston Salmon Festival on Canada Day
- Richmond Maritime Festival
- Farmer's Markets
- Culture Days
- Richmond Has Heart
- Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence
- No. 3 Rd Art Columns
- Community Murals
- Engaging Artists in the Community public art initiatives.

I urge you to check our social media channels, our website as well as other arts, heritage and cultural organizations in Richmond to see what's out there for you and your families to enjoy this year.

For more information please visit the City's website www.richmond.ca/culture/overview.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

In accordance with public health orders, members of the public can no longer attend Standing Committee, Council and Public Hearing Meetings in person. The public can still watch all open meetings online and participate remotely.

For further information, meeting schedules and assistance, please visit richmond.ca/cityhall or contact the City Clerk's Office at 604-276-4007.

Apr 14 | 4:00 p.m.
Development Permit Panel
Council Chambers

Apr 19 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee
Council Chambers

Apr 19 | 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing
Council Chambers

Apr 20 | 4:00 p.m.
Public Works & Transportation Committee
Council Chambers

Apr 26 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting
Council Chambers

Apr 27 | 4:00 p.m.
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Council Chambers

Apr 28 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel
Council Chambers

May 3 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee
Council Chambers

May 3 | Following GP Mtg
Finance Committee
Council Chambers

May 4 | 4:00 p.m.
Planning Committee
Council Chambers

May 10 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting
Council Chambers

For meeting agendas and reports visit www.richmond.ca.
Meeting schedule subject to change



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



Coach Jack hangs up his cleats

After four-plus decades coaching the Richmond Kajaks, Moseley Jack has retired

By DON FENNEL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

A sunny spring morning dawns on Canada's West Coast and, as always, Moseley Jack rises from his slumber prepared to greet it with cheer.

But this day will be different from many the ever-energetic Richmondite has enjoyed during his 85 years. It won't include an obligatory trek to Minoru Park to greet a receptive group of teen track enthusiasts anxious to heed his wisdom. Jack, you see, has hung up his cleats after more than four decades as a popular sprints coach with the Richmond Kajaks.

But it won't be an easy adjustment, either for himself or the club that adores him.

"It's really hard to put into words the effect that Moseley has had on our club and our community," says head coach Garrett Collier. "When you think about it, whether you ended your career after elementary school, high school or as a decorated national team member, as a Kajak there's a good chance you got your start with Coach Jack."

Collier's own start (before focusing on becoming an accomplished thrower) was picking up the finer points of running from Jack while learning to appreciate his no nonsense approach to developing athletes.

"He was honest, sometimes brutally, (but) supportive as seen in the relationships he's maintained with current and former athletes over the years," Collier says. "His dedication is seen in the countless hours spent at the track. Above all he aimed to produce resilient athletes. As an athlete and a coach I've always had the highest respect



Photo courtesy Richmond Kajaks

Ever-modest Moseley Jack stands in the background as members of his Richmond Kajaks training team cheer at Minoru Park.

for Moseley. Good coaches are dedicated to continual learning in order to better care for their athletes. Even after returning to B.C. (from competing and coaching in Hawaii) I was struck at how he still had that energy to learn new things as a coach."

The Kajaks Track and Field Club will miss having Jack around the track, but will forever be thankful for having had him as a cornerstone to the 60-year-old club.

Jack was nimble and quick

As a boy in his native Trinidad, Moseley Jack was both nimble and quick. Indeed running—sprinting to be precise—was always something at which he stood out. But sadly with the absence of someone to provide training, there was no opportunity to harness and build on that natural talent.

"We'd run in the neighbourhood or just on the street," he recalls, noting that his high school years were mainly spent playing soccer and helping his team to a league championship. Clearly a natural athlete, he also showed an aptitude for cricket and table tennis. He also took an interest in weightlifting, following the lead of an older brother who for five consecutive years was Mr. Trinidad as a body builder.

But it was a chance meeting while caddying at a golf course that would set the course of his life.

"Trinidad didn't have free education after Grade 7, so if your parents couldn't pay, well that was it," says Jack. "While I was caddying, I was asked if I could pick up golf balls for this American woman who was learning the game and married to

the captain of the Trinidadian team. One day she asked the golf pro, 'Why is this little boy not in school?' When she learned my parents were too poor to send me, she offered to pay. In exchange, on weekends and school holidays I had to go to the house where they lived and do little chores and help the servants with whatever needed to be done."

That opportunity, for which Jack will always be grateful, has given him a lifelong appreciation for learning.

Paying it forward

By chance, a clerk at the department of culture—where Jack landed a job after graduating high school—had friends who were attending school in B.C. Keen on hopefully getting a post-secondary education, he asked them to send a university calendar.

"I knew something about B.C. because of the Empire (now Commonwealth) Games," he says. "There was a guy, Michael Agostini, who had run for Trinidad."

Short story, Jack found his way to Vancouver and got a degree in education, while serving a practicum teaching at Florence Nightingale Elementary School in East Vancouver. Armed with a newly-minted teaching certificate, and with the support of a friend, he got a full-time job in Kamloops. He was grateful, but also wanted to give back and signed up to coach track and field and



Photo by Don Fennell

Moseley and his son Byron share a love of track, coaching, and learning.

See Page 13

Sport BC lauds champions, on and off the field

Richmond's Camryn Rogers and Sanjeet Sadana recognized with provincial awards

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

On or off the field of play, Camryn Rogers and Sanjeet Sadana stand out among Richmond's sporting community.

A graduate of the vaunted Richmond Kajaks Track and Field program, Rogers has become one of the world's top young hammer throwers. Sadana, meanwhile, continues to advance the opportunities for youth who might not otherwise be afforded the chance to participate in athletics through his tireless support of KidSport Richmond.

Both Rogers and Sadana were recognized recently by Sport BC during its 54th annual awards which were held virtually. Rogers was named the Junior Female Athlete of the Year, while Sadana was recognized as KidSport Community Champion.

Always appreciative of the opportunities provided her, Rogers has come back stronger than ever in 2021 after the disappointment of having the 2020 season cancelled by the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

The reigning NCAA champion in the women's hammer throw, she was also named national athlete of the week by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association on April 6.

Rogers began defence of her NCAA title with a new personal best—on her first attempt of the day, no less—of 71.73 metres to win the Stanford Invitational on April 2. The mark was the best in the NCAA this year by more than 10 feet. She added two more throws of over 70 metres at the meet and currently has the five best throws in the NCAA this season.

In her senior year at the University of California at Berkeley, the McMath Secondary graduate's 2019 competitive season was one for the ages. Besides winning the NCAA championship, she was also a First Team All-American and recorded the seventh-best hammer throw in NCAA history with a mark of 71.50 metres at the NCAA Championship. Ranked second in Pac-12 history and first



Photos submitted

Camryn Rogers was named Sport BC's Junior Female Athlete of the Year, while Sanjeet Sadana was recognized as KidSport Community Champion.

I am thankful to be surrounded by so many incredible mentors and I'm more passionate than ever I get to do what I do every single day.

— Camryn Rogers

in the school record books, she also holds the Canadian under-20 record.

Typically humble, Rogers thanked Sport BC for the award but quickly credited others for being instrumental in her success.

"A big thank you to my coach Mo Saatara and the rest of my Bears family who I'm grateful to train with every day," she said. "And to Garrett Collier and the Kajaks family who have always been so supportive on my path of throwing. I am thankful to be surrounded by so many incredible mentors and I'm more passionate than ever I get to do what I do every single day."

General manager of the Richmond-based Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Sadana continues to be an unsung hero for KidSport.

In the fall of 2013, Sadana left a Richmond Sports Council Meeting feeling burdened. It was reported that KidSport Richmond was struggling to provide funds to help kids play in organized sports.

There was very little money. So little, that the grants had been reduced to \$150 per year. As well, cheques for approved funding would only be released when enough donations could cover the cheques.

Sadana shared his burden with his boss Gary Collinge, who was then general manager of the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel. After some discussion, Richmond Sports Council received an email with a generous offer. The Hilton was willing to donate a 200-seat fundraising dinner that KidSport Richmond could organize. All proceeds would go to the local chapter. All expenses including catering service, hotel rooms for out-of-town guests, meeting rooms, a VIP reception

and more would be donated by the hotel.

Seven years later, with Sadana now the hotel's general manager, little has changed—except that the Hilton has extended its commitment, and more funds are being raised so that more Richmond children are able to enjoy the benefits of sport.

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

JACK RETIRES

From Page 12

soccer at the school.

Later, he found his way back to the Lower Mainland and to a teaching gig in the Richmond School District. Though he was now settled in Richmond, with a young family, Jack continued to support his kids' sporting ventures which ultimately led him to volunteer with the Kajaks, forging a 41-year relationship.

"I started coaching my son's soccer team and then went on to coaching the Kajaks, and I didn't stop there. I also learned to coach basketball. I

was always interested in learning as much as I could, and what I didn't know I reached out to others to teach me. I'm still learning."

Value of sports

Watching his children participate in athletics remains one of the highlights of his life. Son Byron, who he coached alongside for many years with the Kajaks (and with three degrees has clearly also inherited his dad's penchant for learning), showed early a talent for sports as did Jack's daughter Arietha. For nine years in a row they qualified for the Oregon Relays, making the trip to the prestigious meet in Eugene an annual family ritual. When she was 17 Arietha won the javelin competition at the meet. Byron, in addition to continuing to

be a jumps coach for Kajaks, has also gone on to coach athletes at UBC and has guided his Lord Byng Secondary School teams to 10 consecutive district titles.

"When I was coaching I was mainly concerned about encouraging the kids—not discouraging them," Jack says. "I'd tell them, 'When I attempt to correct you, it's not a criticism. I'm trying to encourage you to perform better at whatever you do.'"

Though he has lost a second son and his wife in past years, he is grateful for what he has—and to live in what he calls "paradise."

"I was just telling Byron the other day how lucky we have been."

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

We Are YVR: Robyn Renaud

We Are YVR follows a day in the life of people who work at YVR but also do great things in the community. Today, we are following Robyn Renaud as she shows us her electric world.

5:45 a.m.—Up and at 'em

She's not a snoozer. Robyn's xylophone ringtone goes off at 5:45 a.m. and she is up and at 'em on the first ring. Her morning routine is always the same. Wake up, read the news, take a shower, breakfast of peanut butter and jelly on toast and a quick browse of the refrigerator to figure out what to bring for lunch. Today—it's veggies and dip.



7 a.m.—Coffee

When she gets to YVR, it's still dark. Unsurprising since it's only 7 a.m. But first things first, coffee. It's a long walk from her desk to the coffee machine. As she makes her way around the office (following all the COVID protocol one-way arrows), she picks up milk at a nearby fridge, waves hello to two colleagues in the office (hello, Steve and Shirley!), and finally she makes her coffee.

9:30 a.m.—Alright stop, collaborate and listen

Robyn spends a lot of time with her colleagues. She is an electrician on the facilities maintenance team at YVR, and much of their work is collaborative. So much so that Robyn recently received a teamwork badge thanking her for her thoughtful collaboration.

A positive of taking most of her meetings virtually now means Robyn can keep all of the technical drawings she needs right on her desk. Her cubicle is larger than standard because she needs the space to look at technical drawings that span a few feet long.

Her coworkers playfully tease her for being "too helpful." That's a real quote from an actual co-worker (we promised to conceal their identity). She is the go-to resource on the team to fix anything from

blown fuses to helping people set up new printers. There's nothing she can't do! Robyn perfectly represents the collaborative spirit at YVR.

11 a.m.—Dodge Grand Caravan, beep! Beep! Beep!

As Robyn picks up her notebook and laptop to prepare to her next meeting, she starts to tell us about some of the aspects of her life that have changed. "That's why COVID has been so sad. No sports teams, which is a lot of my social circle," said Robyn with a sigh. "It's a lot of interconnection and relationships...and the dodgeball, softball and beach volleyball leagues I play in, they're all Queer leagues. It's not just my team I see, it's a big community." Robyn is hopeful she'll soon be able to get back in the action alongside her friends and teammates. Because she says, what we are all missing out on is the epic cheer her dodgeball team concocted. Their team name? Dodge Grand Caravan. Their cheer? BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

As she talked about her relationships here in Vancouver, she also told us that her whole family actually lives in Edmonton. Robyn chose to move to Vancouver 13 years ago after her dad took her and her sister on an August long weekend trip to watch the annual *Celebration of Light* fireworks show. It just so happened to coincide with Pride weekend. The vibrance of the city and the exciting buzz of activity from Pride events in downtown Vancouver drew her in.

12:15 p.m.—Robyn meets RuPaul (but not really)

Over lunch (safely distanced—the aforementioned veggies and dip), Robyn tells us about her new favourite TV show. Like she said earlier, it's hard to stay social during COVID, but the one and only RuPaul has helped her stay connected.

Robyn's best friend lives in Edmonton and is an avid RuPaul fan. Robyn didn't even know who that was prior to the start of the pandemic, but her friend decided that it was a great time to teach Robyn the ways of the drag world. Now? They have a weekly Facetime date that now revolves around watching episodes of *RuPaul's Drag Race* together. Highly recommend!

1:15 p.m.—The Flash

Robyn has work in the field planned for the afternoon at the new Pier D Expansion electrical substation. As we drive towards the work site she says, "Getting my D/A was the best decision for me. I learned so much more about the airport learning how to drive airside."

And she's right. There's a lot of safety training and testing before you can drive on the airfield, but it definitely helps her get where she needs to go and there's something special about cruising airside. We arrived at one of the Pier D substations where Robyn needs to audit and ensure all the required



protective equipment is where it needs to be. This includes the Arc Flash suit. An Arc Flash suit looks a lot like Homer Simpson wearing his nuclear protection suit in the introduction of *The Simpsons*. It's hot to wear but a necessary piece of safety equipment.

3:30 p.m.—Speed reader

By the time we made our rounds and headed back towards the office, Robyn's shift for the day was over. Without her many post-work activities like dodgeball, she decided that she needed to find a new way to pass the time. And what better than to take up an old hobby, reading. In 2020, Robyn read a whopping 42 books. That's approximately one book every eight days. "I love biographies and historical fiction, but I kind of read anything," said Robyn. "I love reading but usually don't have much time because I'm pretty active during the week. But COVID gave me that space."

Robyn lives in the West End of Vancouver and her favourite thing to do when the weather is nice is to take a walk to the beach nearby and read. Today is a very rainy day, so instead of the beach, she'll opt for the couch.

5:00 p.m.—Winding down

At home, Robyn cuddles up on the couch with her cat Louie and her partner Cyntia, she tells us our time with her is over. She said, "I realized today that I am terrible at taking pictures of myself and will never be an influencer!" We beg to differ. But she did want us to share with you a couple more things:

1. She wanted to share her top five reading list suggestions:

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Truong
My Lovely Wife in the Psych Ward by Mark Lukach
Unfollow by Megan Phelps-Roper
Finding Gobi by Dion Leonard
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

2. If you ever see her out and about at the airport, shout "Dodge Grand Caravan" at her and she's sure to respond to you with Beep! Beep! Beep!

Arts Connection linking students through virtual creation

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Reach to Teach is all about joining forces through art. The brainchild of Arts Connection CEO Linda Shirley, who in 2012 was looking to support students in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, the program connects those students with peers in Richmond.

The Richmond-based Arts Connection provides child care, arts and educational programs in the city. Shirley explains she wanted to support students at Admiral Seymour Elementary School in downtown Vancouver after hearing the pleas for help from a teacher who explained the disadvantages her students faced, including lack of access to clothes and snacks. Shirley learned her father attended the school in the 1920s and the family operated its business nearby for over 50 years.

“I wanted to come up with a creative and long-term plan to support the students, creating a family legacy of sorts,” says Shirley. “I approached the Community Arts Council of Richmond with the plan, and a partnership was formed to bring the idea to fruition.”

Typically, Vancouver students come to the Arts Connection once a month for four months, completing a full day of arts programming including visual arts, digital arts and dramatic arts. Over the course of the semester, students work together on collaborative art projects. Then, in the fifth month, a celebration luncheon is held.

The program is funded by many sources, includ-

ing the City of Richmond, the *Vancouver Sun’s* Adopt a School program, Porte Communities, and various corporate and private donors. The Arts Connection donates the space to

operative program was challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Still wanting to offer the opportunity, Arts Connection staff ran the first semester virtually, and began the second semester virtually this month. Program offerings were pared down to just visual arts and dramatic arts, and art supplies were delivered to schools. The end-of-semester celebration also went virtual with a live-streamed string quartet performance and donut delivery. “The major difference is that the instructors and students can only bond so much (through virtual programs),” says Shirley. “There is so much energy and joy prevalent when students are on site. However, the camaraderie in their in-person virtual class bloomed. Their teachers were our ‘hands in situ,’ who often had their own steep learning curve on how to assist our instructors, showing step by step creative processes, or teaching them a game they have never played before.”

Despite the virtual delivery, the element of connection was able to persist. Shirley adds that the arts help students learn about their unique abilities and see the strength in diversity, as well as instilling confidence and hope: “We are gently reminding them that we really are all in it together.”

“Normally, part of the enjoyment of the program is to meet other students from a different school. Unlike sports events, the arts is not a competition. The cheerleaders sit side by side, encouraging creative bravery and brainstorming together. We all really look forward to when this great program can run in-person again.”

hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



Photo submitted

Students at Seymour and Britannia elementary schools in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside connected with students at Westwind and Dixon elementary schools in Richmond through the Arts Connection’s annual *Reach to Teach* program.

operate the program and covers administrative costs involved in its organization and operation. But this year, like so many things, the collabo-

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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