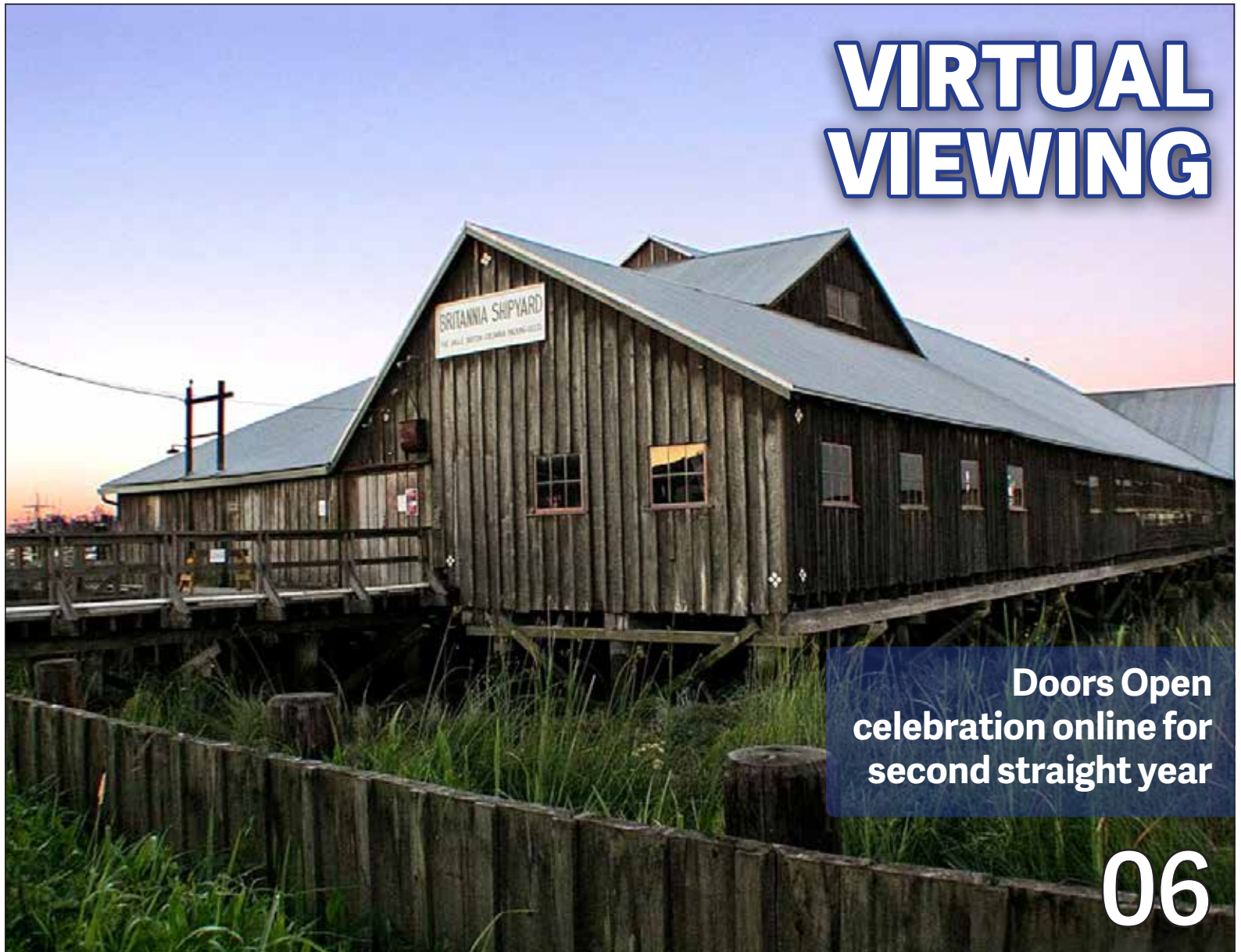




## VIRTUAL VIEWING



Doors Open  
celebration online for  
second straight year

06

*Photo courtesy Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site*

Always a popular attraction, spectacular Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site is one of many city sites being featured in this year's virtual Doors Open celebration June 5 to 12.

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## RICHMOND BY-ELECTION 2021

# Candidates share priorities as they seek council seat



**KAY HALE**  
Independent

Born in Hong Kong and a resident of Richmond since 1986, Hale speaks several languages including English, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Cantonese and Mandarin.

**Council goals:**

- Advocate for more affordable housing to meet rapid growth
- Protect farmland from turning into urban sprawl
- Enforce national care and accessibility for seniors long-term care
- Eliminate hospital parking fee for patients accessing health care
- Keep public school system well funded and safe
- Push Ottawa to address birth tourism
- Arts and culture funding to support community integration and social values



**KEN HAMAGUCHI**  
Richmond Community and Education Party

A lifelong Richmond resident, Hamaguchi's career has been focused on helping others (including people with autism/developmental disabilities) as well being a long-time community participant and sports advocate. He is currently a trustee in the Richmond School District and former board chair.

**Council goals:**

- More affordable housing
- Lower taxes
- Support for small businesses
- Making the city safer
- Protecting the environment and farmland
- Effective policies that promote equity, anti-racism and support for the LGBTQ/BIPOC community
- More mental health services

- Properly funded police/fire services
- Improvements to city infrastructures (water and sewer, energy management, dike system)
- Advocate to the province to keep commitments for tunnel replacement and hospital expansion



**JONATHAN HO**  
Richmond Community Coalition Association

Immigrating to Richmond from Hong Kong in 1997, Ho has worked for 20 years in the financial services industry. He was elected to school board in 2014, and during his time on the district board introduced a financial literacy program for students.

**Council goals:**

- Help small businesses get on their feet

- Make life affordable for Richmond residents
- Cut back on "image projects"
- Keep property taxes low
- Accelerate access to affordable housing
- Advocate for anti-racism policies
- Co-ordinate policing on organized crime
- Eliminate parking fees at Richmond Hospital
- Increase mental health services



**SUNNY HO**  
Independent

A long-time local businessman, Ho is owner of Kam Do Bakery.

**Council goals:**

- No property tax increases for three years
- No city vacancy tax

See Page 3

**Elect KEN HAMAGUCHI for City Council**

On May 29



### ABOUT KEN

- Over 6 years serving as Trustee for the Richmond Board of Education
- Over 40 years of supporting people with disabilities
- Over 30 years of service in community sports

### PRIORITIES

Besides affordable housing, more rental units, protecting the environment, traffic/transportation, helping small business and lower taxes – we also need to focus on:

- Covid 19 – restarting our community and economy
- promoting equity, anti-racism and multi-culturalism
- more mental health services
- properly funded police/fire department
- support for our sports, recreation and the fine arts
- replacing the tunnel/expanding Richmond Hospital





# RICHMOND BY-ELECTION 2021

## CANDIDATES

### From Page 2

- Hire 50 new RCMP officers
- Increase building height restrictions to help increase density
- Add 30,000 affordable housing units in four years
- Increase city staffing levels by 10 per cent
- Establish a Richmond national university
- Dental services and Chinese medical for seniors
- Environmental and agricultural land protections
- Committee for artificial intelligence, logistics and education export



**ANDY HOBBS**  
Independent

Growing up in Richmond, Hobbs is a retired Vancouver Police Department superintendent who spent 35 years with the department. He has volunteered on numerous community boards and is currently chair of the Britannia Heritage Shipyards Society.

#### Council goals:

- Community safety with a focus on community policing
- Financial accountability and sustainability
- Make more family-oriented housing options available
- Food security, farmland and the

agricultural land reserve

- Establish a COVID-19 relief grant for small businesses



**JENNIFER HUANG**  
Independent

A 25-year resident of Richmond, Huang has 35 years of experience working with airline, pharmaceutical and broadcasting companies.

#### Council goals:

- Improve job opportunities and training
- Providing more affordable housing
- Stop wasting resources
- Ensure people's right to clean food, drink and proper medical care
- Promote green transportation and preserve green spaces
- Improve traffic safety and upgrade fire safety
- Work to increase multicultural harmony



**MARK LEE**  
Independent

An activist for housing justice and seniors services, Lee is an interpreter/translator by profession.

#### Council goals:

- Critical review of police spending
- Food security
- Progressive wealth taxation

- Linguistic access to public services
- Decriminalization of sex work
- Rental housing
- Accessibility in private developments
- Transit and bikes



**DENNIS PAGE**  
Independent

A Richmond resident since 1982, Page has experience as a journalist covering issues

that face the city.

#### Council goals:

- To see mixed income communities return to Richmond, starting with the downtown core
- Affordable options for families wanting to save for a home
- Making it possible for seniors and those on fixed income to have nearby access to services and amenities
- Stronger bylaws, enforcement and police funding to eliminate exploitive and criminal elements



**KARINA REID**  
RITE

A passionate community advocate, Reid has 20 years of sales and marketing experience in the hospitality and tourism industries.

#### Council goals:

- Implement rental zoning powers to create equitable housing strategies

- Support small business by expanding opportunities to use outdoor and unconventional spaces
- Develop an anti-racist policy to ensure all city services delivered fairly and without discrimination
- Ensure property taxes and affordable through responsible use of public funds
- Champion sustainability while creating a thriving urban core by reducing emissions and protecting the agricultural land reserve and food security



**JOHN ROSTON**  
Independent

A retired McGill adjunct professor, Roston is founder of the Richmond Rental Housing Advocacy Group, a member of Richmond Farm Watch and a keen advocate for the use of electric vehicles as founder of Plug-In Richmond.

#### Council goals:

- Prioritize climate change adaptation and improve air quality by raising dikes, preserving trees and encouraging emission reduction
- Promote inclusive and multi-lingual city services
- Reduce excessive tax increases
- Increase new rental housing significantly
- Adopt programs to assist small businesses
- Preserve farmland and promote locally produced food

## Prepare to vote in Richmond's by-election

Eligible Richmond voters are invited to make their vote count at Saturday's by-election, which will elect one councillor as a result of a vacancy in November 2020. The new councillor elected will serve, along with the other members of Richmond City Council, until the next scheduled general local and school election on Oct. 15, 2022.

Voting locations on general voting day (Saturday, May 29):

- Burnett Secondary School, 5011 Granville Ave.
- Cambie Secondary School, 4151 Jacombs Rd.
- Cook Elementary School, 8600 Cook Rd.

- Hamilton Elementary School, 5180 Smith Dr.
- MacNeill Secondary School, 6611 No. 4 Rd.
- McMath Secondary School, 4251 Garry St.
- McNair Secondary School, 9500 No. 4 Rd.
- Richmond Secondary School, 7171 Minoru Blvd.

- Steveston-London Secondary School, 6600 Williams Rd.

- Talmey Elementary School, 9500 Kilby Dr.

Voting places are accessible to people who use wheelchairs and mobility scooters. An accessible ballot-marking device is available at Richmond Secondary School on general voting day. This option will allow voters to mark their

ballot independently by using descriptive audio, touch screen, Braille, rocker paddle device, and sip and puff device. Curb-side voting is also an option, or voters may bring a friend or family member to assist them at the voting place.

Voters who require translation assistance may also bring a family member from their household to translate for them. There will be voting instructions at the voting place available in French, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Punjabi.

Learn more about the election, including information about registering to vote and candidate profiles, at [richmond.ca/elections](http://richmond.ca/elections)

# City launches new Richmond BC Alert system



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

**A free service, Richmond BC Alert launched May 13 to alert subscribers to imminent local emergencies or disasters.**

Whether you live in, work in or visit the City of Richmond you are encouraged to subscribe to the new Richmond BC Alert emergency notification system today. Register at [richmond.ca/alert](http://richmond.ca/alert).

"Our new Richmond BC Alert will improve the city's ability to notify the public and provide relevant information during an emergency," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Aligned with efforts to improve and enhance other regional public alerting systems, it also enhances council's ongoing commitment to be a safe and resilient city."

To ensure everyone in your household or business receives notifications, subscribers are encouraged to provide multiple contact details and to select multiple notification methods.

The new system allows subscribers to register up three email addresses, four phone numbers, two SMS numbers, and one Text Telephone (TTY) number. There is no cost to subscribe. Standard message and data rates may apply, and receipt and formatting of the notification is dependent on the telephone and email provider.

For more information about emergency preparedness, visit [www.richmond.ca/emergency](http://www.richmond.ca/emergency)

## CITY BRIEFS



### Cycling network update

With the official community plan aiming to accelerate cycling across the city (the target is to increase cycling mode share from one per cent in 2008 to 10 per cent by 2041), a staff report advises gathering public opinion as part of the first phase, to be completed later this year. The goal is to deduce what is important in riders' decision to cycle more often, and to create opportunities to improve the cycling experience and physical cycling network.

### Wider sidewalks afoot?

Staff is recommending city council embrace widening the sidewalk width for major and minor arterial roads from 1.5 to two metres. Currently, the city's standard for new sidewalk construction considers the location and volume of pedestrian activity. If approved, new sidewalks within the city centre, Steveston village and streets within a 400-metre radius of a neighbourhood centre would have a minimum width of two metres. The recommendation aligns with transit corridors and offers enhanced accessibility for persons in mobility assistive devices.

### Mandatory multi-family water meters

Having been successfully implemented for all single-family residential, industrial, commercial and institutional properties, staff has prepared options and recommendations for a mandatory multi-family water meter program as part of the 2022 utility budgets and rates report. The report suggests the key benefits to water metering include equity, conservation, leak detection, improved information for analysis, and reduced load on the sanitary system.

### New name for activity centre

Staff is proposing the current Minoru Place Activity Centre, awaiting conversion to a community arts education and program space, be renamed the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex. A staff report says the name reflects that the program is an extension of the services offered in the existing cultural centre, as well as being an accurate and literal description of the facility.

### Capital projects highlighted

The planned update of the south dike between No. 3 and No. 4 roads, upgrades to several bus stops, and the replacement of the Steveston Community Centre and library are among Richmond's 2021 capital projects. Those and more highlights can be viewed online until May 30 at <http://bit.ly/RmdCp21>



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

**The city is highlighting its 2021 capital projects online.**

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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# Asian Heritage Month opportunity to embrace diversity



Photo submitted

Asian Heritage Month is an annual celebration of how British Columbians with roots to over 30 Asian and South Asian countries have contributed to our province.

May is Asian Heritage Month, and the City of Richmond encourages everyone to take this opportunity to learn about and celebrate our community's Asian heritage and the rich diversity of our residents.

Asian Heritage Month is an annual celebration of how British Columbians with roots to over 30 Asian and South Asian countries have contributed to our province's economic and cultural success. With two-thirds of Richmond residents born outside the country and the majority having connections to Asian cultural roots, Richmond is one of the most diverse cities in Canada.

"Now, more than ever, is the time to recognize how our City has been shaped by many diverse cultures and to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Asian Canadians to Richmond," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "This is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic when we have seen increased incidents of anti-Asian racism. Everyone should stand up against all forms of racism and hate and stay true to our shared values of respect, inclusion and diversity."

The theme for Asian Heritage Month 2021 is Recognition, Resilience, and Resolve which embodies the sentiments that peoples of Asian descent in Canada have experienced. It honours their contributions and diverse stories that are rooted in resilience and perseverance, and calls for all Canadians to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination.

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# Doors Open online from June 5 to 12

Doors Open will be a virtual event again this year. Organized by the Richmond Museum, the 2021 online version from June 5 to 12 will highlight the city's cultural diversity and heritage through places of worship, civic centres, museums and local businesses. There are seven new sites this year including Anar Persian Cuisine, the Richmond Chinese Community Society and the Steveston Harbour Authority.

"We're thrilled to be able to bring together members of our community virtually through Doors Open once more," says Greg Walker, chair of the Richmond Museum Society. "As we continue to weather the storm of COVID-19 together, community has become central to all of our mental wellbeing. Doors Open has always been about sharing the stories of the people who make up our city. By going digital, we're able to offer even more points of connection to local residents while also safely allowing others in Metro Vancouver to explore a new neighbourhood."

Established in 2008, this is the longest-running Doors Open event in B.C. It is part of the Doors Open Canada program supported by the city, federal and provincial governments, and BC Arts Council.

This year's edition will also feature new videos that provide a glimpse behind the curtain of participating sites. The videos will be shared throughout the week-long event on Richmond Museum's social media channels, and available the following day on the museum website's new interactive map. Doors Open sites will also share original content on their social media platforms, from virtual tours to fun facts about their organization or business. Visitors will be able to view content through the hashtag #DoorsOpenRichmond on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Visit [richmondmuseum.ca/doors-open](http://richmondmuseum.ca/doors-open) for more information about this year's Doors Open Richmond.



Richmond Fire Hall No. 1



Richmond City Hall



Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site

- Anar Persian Cuisine Inc. [NEW]
- Artefact Storage Warehouse
- Az-Zahraa Islamic Centre
- BC Emergency Health Services Station 269 South Richmond (BC Ambulance)
- Branscombe House (Rachel Rozanski, Artist in Residence)
- Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site
- City of Richmond Roads/Planning [NEW]
- Connections Community Services, Indigenous Led Outreach & Support Program [NEW]
- Eastern Catholic Church Richmond
- Fairchild Radio AM1470 & FM961 [NEW]
- Fairchild Television & Talentvision [NEW]
- Gateway Theatre
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
- Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada)
- London Heritage Farm
- Lulu Island Winery
- Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple
- Richmond Art Gallery
- Richmond Caring Place Society
- Richmond Chinese Community Society/RCCS [NEW]
- Richmond City Hall (Council Chambers)
- Richmond Family Place Society
- Richmond Fire-Rescue
- Richmond Mosque BC Muslim Association
- Richmond Museum
- Richmond Public Art
- Richmond Public Library—Brighthouse Branch
- Richmond RCMP
- Sea Island Heritage Society
- Scotch Pond
- Steveston Buddhist Temple
- Steveston Harbour Authority [NEW]
- Steveston Museum
- Steveston Winemakers
- Steveston's Best Of British



# Chamber introduces new CEO Dan Baxter



*Photo submitted*

**Dan Baxter is the new president and CEO of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, beginning his role May 31.**

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its incoming president and CEO Dan Baxter, who will begin his new role on May 31.

"I am honoured and excited to lead the Richmond Chamber of Commerce during these challenging times," said Baxter. "The pandemic has impacted communities and businesses, but together we will navigate our way through. The Richmond chamber has been at the forefront responding to and supporting Richmond businesses through COVID-19. As those businesses continue to build their resiliency, re-open, and, hopefully, look beyond the pandemic, I look forward to working with the chamber team to ensure the Richmond business community is best positioned to get on a lasting road to recovery."

Baxter has served as the BC Chamber of Commerce's director of policy development, government and stakeholder relations since 2013. Most recently, he acted as the provincial organization's interim CEO, leading much of the movement's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and advocating for such measures as the PST rebate on machinery and equipment, enhanced broadband connectivity for rural and remote commu-

nities, and the small and medium sized recovery grant.

A graduate of the University of British Columbia in political science with a focus on Canadian government, Baxter also brings his years of experience as an organizer and ministerial advisor. He has his eye on a solid economic recovery and bright future for all Richmond businesses, and is eager to roll up his sleeves to support these employers. Baxter will also work closely with the chamber's board of directors, volunteers, members, government officials, and stakeholders to prioritize the pressing needs of Richmond's business community.

"Our board of directors, staff, and our members are pleased to welcome Dan Baxter as our new president and CEO," said chamber chair Brian Corcoran. "Dan is the ideal choice for our chamber as he brings a wealth of policy experience together with a keen knowledge of the Richmond business community. We look forward to an exciting new chapter with Dan at the helm that will further strengthen our chamber as the leading voice of business in Richmond. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our interim co-CEOs Shaena Furlong and Dan Sakaki for their exceptional leadership of the chamber through this transitional period."

## Transforming in-patient mental health care

*Fundraising to support redesigning Richmond Hospital unit*

With the goal of continuing to deliver best-in-class mental health care, plans are underway to redesign Richmond Hospital's In-Patient Acute Mental Health Unit.

These infrastructure upgrades will build on the hospital's well-established Person and Family Centred Care (PFCC) project by creating a welcoming and therapeutic physical space that matches the skills of its staff and enhances the experience of patients and families. Richmond Hospital Foundation is inviting donors to support its \$13 million fundraising campaign to make this possible.

Located on the second floor at Richmond Hospital, the In-Patient Acute Mental Health Unit currently has 18 beds, and its physicians, nurses and allied health professionals care for more than 250 patients each year, averaging a 30-day stay per person.

"With one in five people in our community facing mental health challenges, this new facility will be instrumental in supporting people on their journey to mental wellness," says Matt Ilich, director, Richmond Hospital Foundation Board. "Your support will make a significant impact, creating an environment so patients can



*Artist rendering courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation*

**Rendering of the new In-Patient Acute Mental Health Unit at Richmond Hospital.**

recover and heal with dignity and respect."

Renovations of the 10,000 square foot space will include a range of important features that will both improve overall patient experience as well as safety. The updated unit will include a family dining area, kitchen, multifunctional activity room, patient and family lounge, along with new furniture, lighting and décor that promotes a welcoming, home-like experience.

"Our vision is to continue to deliver the highest quality of mental health care in a new, comfortable space that puts patients and their

families at the centre of everything we do," says Karen Barclay, director, Richmond Mental Health and Substance Use at Vancouver Coastal Health-Richmond. "This will truly have a long-lasting, positive impact on our care for patients and we invite the community to join us in making this a reality."

The In-Patient Acute Mental Health Unit is scheduled to open in late 2021. There are many ways to give. Find out how you can make a difference at: [www.richmondhospitalfoundation.com/ways-to-give/](http://www.richmondhospitalfoundation.com/ways-to-give/).

# Valued volunteer

*Longtime Girl Guide leader honoured with national volunteering award*

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Maria Lee describes her longtime work with Girl Guides of Canada as being part of a family.

Richmond resident Lee became involved with the organization “many, many years ago” when her daughter was a member. After helping as a parent, she was convinced to become a leader, and even after her daughter finished the program and left the organization, Lee stuck around.

This spring, Lee was among some 100 Canadians to receive the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers, recognizing her years of dedication to the Girl Guides organization. Being named as a recipient was a shock, she says.

“I remember because I was out that day and came home to a voice message on my landline,” says Lee. “It was a total shock—I didn’t expect it at all. I never thought in my life that I would be getting an award like that.”

Lee still doesn’t know who nominated her for the honour, but says she is very grateful. The award arrived in the mail on the last day of 2020, which she says was a good way to end a challenging year.

Lee’s unit of Guides—girls in Grade 4 to 6—has been participating in



Photo submitted

**Richmondite Maria Lee has been volunteering with Girl Guides of Canada for years, and this year was honoured with the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers to recognize her dedication.**

the annual Vancouver Chinatown Spring Festival parade for more than 30 years. While the parade was originally geared towards new immigrants, Lee says it’s become a great way to learn about different cultures as well as having fun.

During the pandemic, the parade has been cancelled. And that’s not the only change Girl Guide groups have had to face due to the onset of COVID-19. Units moved their meetings online, and at times have been permitted to meet outside with other safety protocols in place.

“It was difficult, because most of my girls are pretty chatty face-to-face. When they were online, it seemed like they were a lot more quiet, so it was difficult to get them to engage,” says Lee. “Even answering simple questions, like (their favourite) ice cream flavour—if I was seeing them face-to-face I would get a lot of different names, different flavours, they could go on and on. But online, they were so quiet—the answer would be ‘I don’t know.’”

Despite the challenges, Lee says she enjoys watching girls grow up and move through the stages of the Girl Guides program. Because of her longtime involvement, she says girls and younger leaders come to her for advice and guidance, particularly when searching for jobs or choosing a university.

“It’s pretty much like a big family,” she says of her fellow leaders. “I’ve seen a lot of them finish programs, finish school, come back, get married, and a couple of them are no longer leaders but we stay in touch and try to get together a couple of times a year just to catch up. Two former leaders’ daughters are turning five and they’re coming back to (join Girl Guides) this September. To me, it’s almost like the family’s just expanding, bigger and bigger.”

And just like in a family, the greetings are often familiar rather than formal. Lee appreciates being called by her first name, as that differs from the more proper greetings she would receive from her kids’ friends.

“It really brings people together,” she says. “A five-year-old or six-year-old—we’re really the same level with them, we’re just taller and bigger.”

•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](http://www.richmond.ca) (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2020 Paving Program).

[www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca)



*(Girl Guides) is  
pretty much like a  
big family.*

– Maria Lee



# In challenging times, TWU grads guided by faith

By **DON FENNELL**  
@rmdsentinel

Challenging people in ways most never imagined, the global COVID-19 pandemic has also demanded that students be more resilient than ever.

For the 774 Trinity Western University (TWU) students whose graduation milestone was marked by an online ceremony earlier this month, their strength is guided by faith.

"TWU welcomes the integration of faith and learning and provides students opportunities for whole person development," says Rebecca Swaim, executive director of the Christian school's Richmond campuses. "Particularly during times of challenge, we are inclined to consider what anchors us and propels us forward. As such, we continue to create intentional space in virtual classrooms and group discussions for students to consider the role faith can play."

Dr. Chen Liu, director of MBA programs at the largest liberal arts university in the country, adds: "Students are encouraged to seek God's plan, wisdom, and guidance. As Malachi 3:6 says, 'I the Lord do not change, so you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.' (The) pandemic is unfortunate but also humbles people."



**MUXI GUO**

Liu says 15 months into the pandemic, students have demonstrated resilience, resourcefulness and compassion—all great characteristics for team players and successful organizational leaders.

"On the practical side, our students have learned a lot about how to work in a virtual team, with members from various time zones and cultural backgrounds," she says.

Muxi Guo, a 2021 graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership, says while this has been a difficult time for everyone with many focusing on uncertainties and social isolation, it's also presented the opportunity for personal reflection.

"People have more time to be alone, and sometimes doing nothing is more sharpening than doing



**BRUCE GUAN**

something," Guo reasons. "More specifically, the pandemic period is an optimal time to figure out one's ego through self-reflection."

A second-year student in TWU's Masters of Business Administration program, Bruce Guan enrolled prior to the pandemic. He says having online courses saves him commuting time and provides flexibility to do other things such as taking the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam.

"The greatest asset I (have) learned from this unique period is patience," he says. "What I usually do is stay in my room and finish my daily routine. My level 1 CFA exam was cancelled twice in 2020 due to COVID-19, and the only thing I could do was to be patient."

While tomorrow's world will surely look different, those who persevere will have opportunities to lead and succeed. To help its graduating students realize their potentials, TWU sought to recognize and honour each graduate this year with gift boxes which included a book about how to build one's life after graduation.

The book—*Five for Your First Five*—by Dr. Allison McWilliams helps graduates focus on several key areas in life, and encourages them to reflect on their values, personal relationships and self-management.

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



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**City of  
Richmond**

**Notice**

## 2021 Property Taxes Due on Friday, July 2

Property tax notices have been mailed. If you do not receive your notice by mid-June, please contact the Tax Department at 604-276-4145. All property owners are responsible for payment of taxes and applicable penalties, regardless of whether or not a tax notice is received.

**City Hall is currently closed to the public**, but payments can be made:

- online or at your financial institution.
- online by credit card (service fees apply) through the City's website.
- by mailing a cheque.
- by cheque in the City Hall drop box. (Do not deposit cash, as cash will not be processed.)

For updates on City Hall operating hours, visit [www.richmond.ca/covid19](http://www.richmond.ca/covid19).

### Home Owner Grants

The Province is now responsible for all home owner grants claimed in BC.

- If eligible, residential property owners must apply for their home owner grant online at [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant).
- If unable to apply online, call Home Owner Grant Administration at 1-888-355-2700 for assistance.
- If you missed claiming last year's grant, please visit [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant).

If taxes are not paid and/or grants not claimed by July 2, 2021, a five per cent penalty will be charged on all current taxes outstanding. A further five per cent penalty will be charged on all outstanding tax amounts after September 2, 2021.

### For more information

[www.richmond.ca/tax](http://www.richmond.ca/tax) | [TaxDept@richmond.ca](mailto:TaxDept@richmond.ca) | 604-276-4145

[www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca)

Richmond

# Working on wellness

*McMath teachers focus on well-being with 10-day challenge*

By HANNAH SCOTT

*Local Journalism Initiative reporter*

Thanks to two teachers at McMath secondary, the entire school community is working on activities that focus on mental and emotional well-being.

The idea, explains Andrea Phillpotts, was brought to life by a district grant for re-imagining secondary school learning. Phillpotts and fellow teacher Brittany Schiefer had been working on wellness projects in their own classrooms, but wanted to expand the initiative to the entire school. With the help of vice-principal Adrienne Goulas and counsellor Mark Patern, the McMath team applied for the district's grant and their application was approved.

Schiefer says her desire to integrate wellness activities came from concern about her own well-being.

"I live alone, I was very isolated, and getting back to work in September was truly overwhelming for me," she explains. "I've always had a passion for mental health and de-stigmatizing things, so knowing for myself that I felt like I needed something, I translated that to 'I bet the students need that as well.' I wanted to introduce this from the beginning (of the year) to help all of us."

Phillpotts, who runs the school's outdoor education program, was already encouraging teachers to take their students outside to enjoy nature—as well as the ability to socialize in an area with more ventilation and space than a classroom.

Schiefer says being able to participate in the so-called McMath Cares Wellness Challenge helped bring about connection. The 10-day challenge includes an introduction day and one for wrap-up, as well as eight days in between for different wellness activities including yoga, colouring, reading and outdoor exploration. Activities are roughly five to 10 minutes long, with a variety of options for each day.

"Every day has something different to focus on, and allows students to try new ways to deal with their overall wellness," says Schiefer. "Giving them all these different options opens their minds to new ways to deal with their own anxiety, stress or overall wellness."

The goal is for students to learn new tools that they



*Photos submitted*  
McMath students built a "Wellness tree" as part of a school-wide challenge intended to help with well-being.

***In difficult times, when people have a common goal they grow together and feel better about their situation. This has been one of the situations at McMath that's helped people come together.***

— Andrea Phillpotts

can also use at home and after leaving high school. Next year, Phillpotts and Schiefer hope to expand the project to include other aspects of social emotional learning, including music therapy and other suggestions from teachers. Their goal is to normalize social emotional wellness in the classroom, making these quick activities a normal part of students' days just as attendance might be.

Students have the opportunity to win prizes through a random draw that's part of a feedback form, but the real goal is to teach students new tools to use in their everyday lives. Those who are learning from home through the district's transitional learning program are also engaged with the school community through the website and social media channels. Students participating from home are encouraged to send in pictures of their participation and enter into the draw for prizes.

Phillpotts says the responses have been positive so far, with students feeling grateful that they can take time to think about wellness while at school and reflect on how they're doing rather than just the curriculum.

"By taking (students) outside, spacing them apart, having them do some socializing, conversation, games, that's so important these days," she says.

And for teachers, it's been a great tool to be able to use in the classroom, as well as a way to come together during a more distant year.

"I think it's exciting for teachers—going in and connecting to the 35-plus teachers about this common activity they're doing together has been very positive, so there's been a lot of team building that way with all of us having a common goal. In difficult times, when people have a common goal they grow together and feel better about their situation. This has been one of the situations at McMath that's helped people come together," says Phillpotts.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



# Bhullar ascends to world MMA championship

By **DON FENNELL**  
 @rmdsentinel

Unlike the character with the similar sounding name in a 1980s cult film, there are no “days off” for Arjan Singh Bhullar.

Born the same year—1986—that *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off* debuted on the big screen, the dedicated Richmond fighter has endured a steady stream of blood, sweat and tears on his ascent to the mixed martial arts ONE Heavyweight World Championship. He was awarded the title May 15, two days after his 35th birthday, reaching the apex of his training with a second-round technical knockout (TKO) of Brandon Vera in Kallang, Singapore. The fight was originally set to take place last May but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’m humbled by the love and support from the world,” Bhullar tweeted. “As my inner circle knows this camp we were tested more than in any other, yet the faith and belief held firm. When something is meant to be nobody and nothing can stop it from happening. I love you all. God has been great.”

In 12 career fights as a mixed martial artist, Bhullar now sports a record of 11 wins and just a single loss—a submission to Adam Wierczorek in his eight career fight in the UFC on April 14, 2018 in Glendale, Arizona. He made his MMA debut with a TKO win over Adam Santos in Coquitlam on Nov. 7, 2014. He joined the Asia-based ONE Championship promotion in the summer of 2019.

Bhullar grew up in a family of traditional grapplers. His dad was an accomplished wrestler and



Photo by Don Fennell

**Arjan Singh Bhullar (right, with fellow Richmond athlete Bobby Singh) became the ONE Heavyweight World Champion on May 15.**

passed the gene and love of the sport onto Arjan, who through dedication and talent, soon began an extensive collection of honours himself. From high school champion at Hugh McRoberts secondary to collegiate champion at Simon Fraser University, in 2009 Bhullar realized a rare feat when he became the first wrestler to win the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and Canadian Interuniversity Sport titles in the same year.

In 2010, Bhullar’s exhaustive training resulted in his winning gold at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India, and two years later he represented Canada at the Olympic Games in London, England. Renowned for his sportsmanship and his thoughtfulness, Bhullar was also quick to thank his family, tweeting: “Thank you to my family, without you there’s no way or reason I do this.”

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## Masks must now be worn inside B.C. gyms

Masks must now be worn at all times in fitness facilities across B.C., including during workouts.

The change was announced last week, and means police and other officials can enforce the guidance at their discretion. Anyone without a mask in an indoor public place, or who refuses to comply with the direction of an enforcement officer, including the direction to leave the space, or who responds with abusive or belligerent behaviour, may be subject to a \$230 fine.

For the purposes of this order, a mask or face covering is defined as a medical or non-medical mask that covers the nose and mouth. Face shields are not a substitute for a mask as there is an opening below the mouth.

All other measures for indoor mask use continue to apply. People who cannot wear a mask, or who cannot put on or remove a mask without the assistance of others, are exempt. A person may not be able to wear a mask



Photo via pxhere.com

**People exercising at fitness facilities across B.C. must wear a mask at all times, and may be subject to a \$230 fine if they do not comply.**

for a psychological, behavioural or health condition, or due to a physical, cognitive or mental impairment. This order also includes more expansive wording on exemptions for lip reading which aligns with the latest public health direction.

To report non-emergency contraventions of this mask order, contact your local government’s bylaw office. Local bylaw officers can help follow up on concerns and engage police departments and WorkSafeBC as necessary. If unable to reach a local bylaw office, contact your local police department’s non-emergency line. Police may be called if someone

becomes threatening or abusive in response to a request to put on a mask.

Masks are not recommended for children under the age of two years, but should be encouraged for children aged two to 12 in public settings. Unless they are exempt, children over the age of 12 must wear a mask in indoor spaces.

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

# Obesity in pets is widespread and dangerous

60 per cent of cats are overweight or obese, says Association for Pet Obesity Prevention

Who doesn't love a chonky cat? More to love, right? But obesity is a huge problem in cats, as well as in dogs—just like it is in humans. Being overweight is associated with a range of medical conditions, including diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, kidney disease, cancer and other serious problems.

The RAPS Adoption Centre recently welcomed two cats, from two separate surrenders, after their elderly people were no longer able to care for them.

Squeeks is a 23-pound torbie girl, aged 14, and Mojo is a 29.55-pound, 13-year-old. We've found a foster home for Squeeks, where she is being pampered back to a healthy weight. We hope to find a similar place for Mojo soon (he was extremely matted and so needed a close shave). Tests determined he also has diabetes.

We're taking this opportunity to raise awareness in our community about obesity in animals. As Mojo and Squeeks proceed along their weight-loss regimen, we'll be sharing news of their progress on the blog over at rapsbc.com.

Pet obesity is endemic. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention says that an estimated 60 per cent of cats and 56 per cent of dogs (in the United States) are overweight or obese. (We doubt Canadian pets are much fitter.)

A border collie friend of mine recently has his checkup and he had gained five pounds since last year. That may not sound huge, but consider—that's about 10 per cent of his body weight. That puts a lot of extra pressure on knees, shoulders and hips—especially for a guy who is getting



Photo submitted

**Pet owners should be aware of their cats' weight, since it can cause health problems. Each extra pound on a cat is like 10 or 20 pounds on an average human.**

up in years. When we think of weight gain and loss in pets, we could keep in mind a rule of thumb like "dog years" ... We often say (this is not scientific) that a year in our life is like seven years to a dog. Think of your pet's weight in a similar fashion. An extra pound on a cat is like 10 or 20 pounds on an average human. (Again ... it's not scientific! Just a way of putting things in perspective.)

The website [petobesityprevention.org](http://petobesityprevention.org) has great information on keeping your pet at (or at least close to) optimal weight. Of course, before making any major changes in your pet's life, please consult your veterinarian or contact the RAPS Animal Hospital.

And follow along at [rapsbc.com](http://rapsbc.com) as we share updates on the progress of Squeeks and Mojo as they continue their journey to wellness.

Shena Novotny is Adoption Centre & Cat Sanctuary Manager for the Regional Animal Protection Society (RAPS).

## MY NAME IS CHRIS

Chris is a very curious, sweet and friendly rat, who is hand trained and loves riding on shoulders. He would love a home with a large enclosure with lots of fun toys to keep him active. He also really enjoys interacting with his human friends. One of his favourite treats is freeze dried strawberries.



**ADOPT ME!**

**\*\*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.\*\***

## REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (RAPS)

[rapsbc.com](http://rapsbc.com) | City Shelter: 604-275-2036

Head Office: 604-285-7724



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# The show goes on at Richmond Music School

By **ANDREW HUNG**  
Contributor

Despite the challenges of the past year, the Richmond Music School, which is the largest and oldest non-profit music school in the city, has continued to share the joys of music with the community.

The school offers a wide variety of programs for musicians of all ages, including several new programs like Musical Theatre ABRSM and the Virtual Vocal Boot Camp.

"At RMS (Richmond Music School), we offer affordable lessons and music programs for the community at a high standard," says principal Karrie Tam.

These programs include the beginner's piano program and the beginner's violin program, both of which are 10-lesson introductions to students without any previous experience on the instrument.

Currently, RMS offers both in-person and online lessons.

For in-person lessons, the school is maintaining numerous COVID-19 protocols to ensure the safety and health of students, parents, and faculty, including using its large studios to maintain social distancing.

For those who want to learn music in an ensemble, the school has several group programs, including Group Guitar, Beginner Ukulele, and the Violin Outreach Program.

The Violin Outreach Program, which includes four different levels, gives young musicians a chance to learn fundamental violin skills in a collaborative group setting. The program is accepting new students for the next term, which will start in September.

The Richmond Music School is eager to inspire students of all ages. For the youngest learners, RMS is offering Music Together lessons, a lively and family-oriented program for babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers.



Photos by Andrew Hung

**With safety protocols in place, students at the Richmond Music School are able to share their gifts.**

At the same time, RMS is also accepting adult students who are interested in learning instruments, music appreciation, or music composition.

Tam believes that music provides many benefits for both the individual and the society.

"Musical education provides individuals the opportunity to engage the mind, body, and emotions," she says.

"Through performances in music, people discover their inner self and self-expression, and also learn how to develop confidence, empathy, and creativity. For society, art brings people together and gives them a chance to be part of a community. Concerts and musical activities bridge the gaps in our society."

RMS has found creative new ways to connect with the community through music. The school

has presented several online workshops and webinars on a range of topics, including composing for film and video games and performing in online concerts.

The school's Christmas and spring concerts were also held online via Richmond Music School's YouTube channel, which were shared with various retirement residences in Richmond.

Looking ahead, the school is hoping to introduce a chamber ensemble group for smaller ensembles of string players. This chamber group is accepting incoming string players who are at or above Royal Conservatory of Music Level 3.

For more information about the Richmond Music School and its programs, please visit [www.richmondmusicschool.ca](http://www.richmondmusicschool.ca) or contact [info@richmondmusicschool.ca](mailto:info@richmondmusicschool.ca).





# Futuristic art exhibition on now at gallery

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

In the new Richmond Art Gallery exhibition *UNION*, viewers are immersed in a futuristic world where all documented human history has been erased.

That backdrop allows artists Nancy Lee and Kiran Bhumber to look at the ideas of connection, culture, and ritual ceremonies. The exhibition, which opened last month, is on through June 5.

"It's a speculative science fiction exhibition," explains Lee. "You'll see a film with a sculpture of Kiran and I, our characters embracing. The film is meant to show a dialogue that our two narratives and characters have, symbolizing the relationship that we currently have today (with) technology—how intimacy and connection is conveyed with two flat screens across from each other."

The two futuristic wedding dresses are inspired by both the imagined world and traditional aspects of Chinese and Punjabi wedding garb, says Bhumber.

"You'll also be immersed in a surround sound speaker installation with a floor projection. The idea of this space is to have a space of collective witnessing, much like you would have one in a wedding. We want audiences to be immersed in the world of union," she adds.

Bhumber and Lee first conceived of the project in 2018, and were approached by Richmond-based media arts organization Cinevolution to collaborate on bringing it to life. Lee says it also took a couple of years to raise funds for the project, as well as finding collaborators and an appropriate space.

"The project evolved organically as time passed and we approached different aspects," says Lee. "It's not like we had seen this exact vision of the project in 2018 when we first thought about it—it evolved as collaborators contributed, (which) helped us materialize and realize what we see today in the gallery."

The two artists met in 2014 at one of Lee's shows, and first collaborated the following year. *UNION* is their first gallery exhibition, and Bhumber says she and Lee focus more on working with new technologies and skills than on the end result.

"Working in a field of sculpture, for instance, is something completely new—3D scanning and the whole process of printing, sanding and using materials," says Bhumber.

Both artists say the project has been a benefit during the COVID-19 pan-

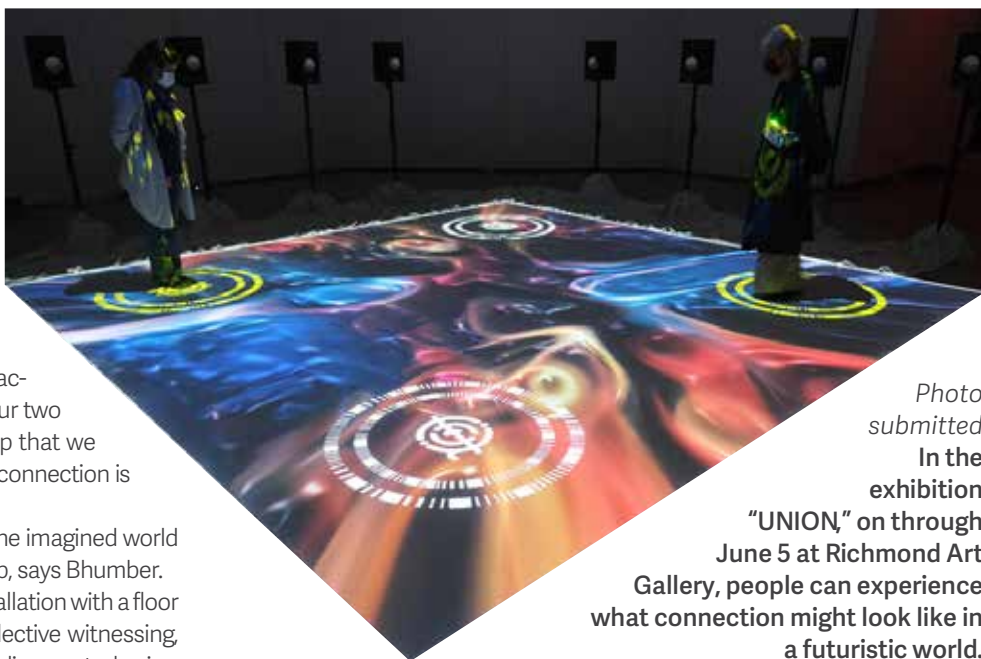


Photo submitted  
In the  
exhibition

"UNION," on through  
June 5 at Richmond Art  
Gallery, people can experience  
what connection might look like in  
a futuristic world.

demic, giving them a reason to continue relationships and collaboration as well as providing a livelihood for the artists who are collaborating with them. And the pandemic has also underscored "the scarcity of presence and touch," says Lee—a key element of the exhibition.

"We would like people to question our current relationship with technology and invite a little bit more awareness between our uses of social media and how it impacts our lives, or how we connect with each other," they say.

The artistic form can help artists work through their own cultural or ancestral connections, forming a better understanding of questions that may come up. And Lee wants their exhibition to serve as inspiration.

"There aren't that many contemporary Asian artists exhibiting here in Vancouver, so for us to take up space in these kinds of gallery spaces and to show other folks who are emerging artists and queer folks that you can do this, it is possible cause we've done it, that is one of the main messages of our collaboration over the years—to show that if we can do it, you can do it too," they say.

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## 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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