



HISTORIC CHAPEL

Richmond's first church
now Minoru landmark

09

Photo by Don Fennell

Nestled in front of picturesque Pierrefonds Garden in Minoru Park, collectively designated a provincial heritage site in 1979, Minoru Chapel was Richmond's first church. Constructed in 1891 as the Richmond Methodist Mission Church, it was moved to the park from its original site at the corner of River and Cambie roads.

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LetsTalkRichmond.ca



Voters put their trust in first-time MPs

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Richmond voters have put their trust in a pair of “first-timers” to represent them in Parliament.

Embracing their national party's strategy on addressing the need for accessible and affordable housing, which continue to be major concerns for residents here and across the country, Liberal candidates Parm Bains in Steveston–Richmond East and Wilson Miao in Richmond Centre topped the polls in their respective ridings. In the process, they unseated incumbent Conservatives—Kenny Chiu after one term as the Member of Parliament for Steveston–Richmond East and Alice Wong after four terms as MP in Richmond Centre.

“My personal solution is to champion our (Liberal party) housing initiatives,” Bains said during the campaign. “I strongly believe every Canadian deserves a safe and affordable place to call home, and that’s no different right here in Steveston–Richmond East.”

The Liberals say their plan will help renters achieve their goal of owning a home by introducing a rent-to-own program, improving the First Time Home Buyer incentive, reducing closing costs when buying a home, and reducing monthly mortgage fees.

“Every Canadian deserves a safe and affordable place to call home,” said Miao. “A challenging housing market and high rent prices have made the dream of owning a home feel impossible for many Canadians—particularly young Canadians, who aren’t asking for a free house; they’re asking for a fair shot.”

While several media outlets declared Bains’ victory in the Steveston–Richmond East riding within hours of the polls closing on election night, Miao was forced to wait several days for confirmation of his victory in the Richmond Centre riding.

With some 4,073 mail-in ballots requested in Steveston–Richmond East and another 5,834 in Richmond Centre, the final results were still incomplete in both ridings at press time.



File photos

Liberal candidates Parm Bains and Wilson Miao have been elected to represent the ridings of Steveston–Richmond East and Richmond Centre respectively.

Bains had received 16,542 votes or 42.5 per cent of the 38,944 ballots cast—not including those who registered on election day, with voter turnout at 52.27 per cent. Miao had received 12,701 votes or 39.3 per cent of the 32,359 ballots cast on election day, a 43.35 per cent voter turnout. Incumbent Wong had received 12,039 votes or 37.2 per cent of the ballots cast, leaving the final result in question for days.

During interviews with the *Richmond Sentinel*, Bains and Miao reinforced their belief in the Liberal housing plan.

“We have a strong plan and I’m excited about it. It was a huge component of our platform,” Bains said. “Our job is to make sure we execute on it.”

Said Miao: “Affordability and market rental are very critical issues and that is why we have to have all three levels of government (including the provinces and municipalities) working together.”

In their 2021 campaign platform *Forward For Everyone*, the Liberals addressed the fact that many Canadians see owning a home as key to building their future and joining the middle class. They proposed a three-part housing plan to make it happen.

Building on Canada’s National Housing Strategy which they introduced upon forming government in 2015, the 10-year plan is to invest more than \$72

billion to build up supply, make housing affordable, and address chronic homelessness.

To help save for a down payment, the Liberals are planning to introduce a tax-free First Home Savings Account. This will allow Canadians under the age of 40 to save up to \$40,000 and withdraw the funds tax-free to put towards their first home purchase.

But being able to afford a home is only part of the challenge many Canadians face. To address the shortage, the Liberals plan to oversee the building or revitalization of another 250,000 homes over four years—on top of the 285,000 homes currently being constructed annually. That adds up to nearly 1.4 million homes by 2026; aided by a \$4 billion investment in a new Housing Accelerator Fund.

To reduce speculative demand in the marketplace and help cool excessive price growth, the Liberals also proposed to establish an anti-flipping tax on residential properties, requiring them to be held for at least 12 months. At the same time, they say they will work with provinces and municipalities to develop a framework to better regulate the role of foreign buyers in the Canadian housing market so that this money does not deter housing from being available for, and used by, Canadians.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

- Turnout in the 2021 federal election on Sept. 20 was 62.09 per cent, down from the 2019 election when 67 per cent of registered voters cast ballots.

- The Richmond Centre electoral district was created in 1987 and first contested a year later. Conservative Tom Siddon was the first Member of Parliament to represent the riding in the House of Commons, followed in 1993 by the election of Liberal Raymond Chan. Chan was re-elected to serve a second term from 1997 to 2000 when he was defeated by then-Alliance Party candidate Joe Peschisolido who, after crossing the floor, served as a member of the Liberal party from 2002 to 2004. Chan returned to Parliament in the 2004 election and was re-elected again in 2006. Chan was then defeated by Conservative Alice Wong in the 2008 election. Wong was

re-elected in the 2011, 2015, and 2019 elections, but lost to Liberal Wilson Miao in 2021.

- The Steveston–Richmond East riding was created by the 2012 federal electoral boundaries redistribution and first contested in 2015 with the election of Liberal Joe Peschisolido who defeated Conservative Kenny Chiu by fewer than 3,000 votes. In 2019, Chiu defeated Peschisolido by a similar margin. In 2021, the riding flipped again to Liberal Parm Bains, who won by a slightly larger margin of about 3,500 votes.

- According to Elections Canada, advance polls brought out more Richmond voters in this election, with an estimated 9,312 ballots cast in Richmond Centre and 13,063 in Steveston–Richmond East compared to 8,566 and 11,620 respectively in the 2019 election.

Richmond getting eight more paramedics

New hirings expected to improve emergency medical response

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

Richmond will benefit from the province's push to strengthen the ambulance system.

In October, the city will gain eight additional paramedics as part of the largest hiring campaign in the province's history.

"When we call 911 for help, British Columbians need to feel confident that help is on the way and that it will arrive quickly," Health Minister Adrian Dix said recently. "The significant progress made by BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) over the summer will ensure a more effective ambulance service for patients and families who depend on it. Better support for paramedics and dispatchers will help them do the vital work we count on every day."

I have been going out in ambulances with paramedics and observing dispatch operations to get a better sense of the front-line work.

— Jim Chu

New BCEHS board chair Jim Chu said since being appointed to his new post he has been busy visiting with paramedics, dispatch staff, other BCEHS employees and union representatives as well as with partners in emergency services.

"I have been going out in ambulances with paramedics and observing dispatch operations



File photo by Don Fennell

Richmond will be adding eight more ambulance paramedics in October.

to get a better sense of the front-line work," he explained. "This outreach is informing the work BCEHS is doing with the Ministry of Health as we develop a longer term, three-year action plan to make further improvements to patient services and to support employees."

The eight additional paramedics for Richmond will be among 85 new full-time paramedics being hired by December to serve metro areas. An additional 30 new full-time dispatchers will also be hired, along with a reconstituting of the BCEHS board to focus solely on ambulance services, and the establishing and appointment of a new interim chief ambulance officer (Leanne Heppell

joined the Provincial Health Services Authority on an interim basis in July and will also serve as the interim executive vice president). Under Heppell's guidance, BCEHS has been working to change its staffing model throughout the province to improve services to patients and stabilize paramedic staffing.

"We are on track with filling new paramedic and dispatch positions, and I know this is going to create more stability in our staffing and improve our emergency medical response and our community paramedic services in rural and remote B.C. in particular," she said.

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City requires BC Vaccine Card for many services

By DON FENNELL
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The BC Vaccine Card is quickly becoming a vital personal tool. Mandated by the province last month and officially rolled out Sept. 13, it is necessary—along with government-issued photo ID—to access many places during the day. And that includes many city-operated facilities in Richmond.

The card, which can also be downloaded to your smartphone, appears to have received support from most patrons, with city communications director Clay Adams saying implementation has gone smoothly so far.

"Customers at our recreational facilities have been more than willing to show proof of vaccination on their phone, with many willing to present it for verification even when it is not required," Adams says. "Richmond has been an advocate for community safety during the pandemic, and was the first Lower Mainland municipality to mandate the wearing of masks indoors. We encourage everyone to be vaccinated and to adhere to the requirements of the public health orders that are in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep our community safe."

In keeping with provincial orders, proof of vaccination—along with government-issued photo ID—must be presented for access to various recreational activities, programs and classes such as indoor adult sport and physical activity programs; indoor adult group and individual fitness of any type and intensity; organized indoor events such as parties, workshops and meetings; and as a spectator at any indoor events or competitions.

"We have not broadened the list of programs and activities where the BC Vaccine Card must be used," Adams explains.



Photo by Don Fennell

Richmond requires individuals using its recreational facilities to show proof of their COVID-19 vaccination by presenting their BC Vaccine Card.

"Proof of vaccination is, of course, not currently required for activities such as swimming and public skating or for organized recreational activities for anyone under 22 years of age," Adams says. "That includes those adults required to support the activity such as volunteers, coaches and parents. Proof of vaccination is also not necessary for adult programs or activities that do not involve physical activity—visits to the libraries and museum/heritage sites, or for general access to common areas of facilities such as use of the washrooms, lounge areas and cafeterias."

But, Adams stresses, one clarification that has arisen since the order was first issued is that for recreation purposes, an "adult" is anyone age 22 years or older. "It is also important to stress that the orders may change as time goes on, meaning people may be required to show proof of vaccination for other things or the reverse," he explains. "We also continue to mandate the wearing of masks in all public spaces inside city-operated facilities."

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Richmond considers Lime e-scooters and e-bikes

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond is moving forward with its e-scooter pilot project thanks to a potential partnership with Lime Technology, a micromobility service provider.

City council green-lit the proposal in June, and Richmond was approved to participate in the province's electric kick scooter pilot project in July. People will be allowed to legally ride an e-scooter—an electrically powered kick scooter with a standing platform and steering handlebars—on some streets and paved pathways in Richmond.

The Lime e-scooters have GPS capability, which will ensure riders are observing the speed limits included in the city's bylaws: 20 kilometres per hour on roads and 15 kilometres per hour on shared off-street pathways.

Coun. Michael Wolfe said at last week's public works and transportation committee meeting that he hopes the city will be "quite critical" of speed limits to ensure safety. Wolfe added that some other municipalities have had to lower speed limits that were initially set, and he hopes the city "take(s) swift action if that needs to happen."

The devices are also equipped with technology to help determine if someone is riding on a sidewalk instead of a street, which is prohibited by the city's traffic bylaw amendment. The Lime system will automatically send that user a message and, if they continue to ride on sidewalks, the program will progress to fines and account deactivation.

In response to a question from Coun. Carol Day, the city's director of transportation Lloyd Bie noted that the GPS technology will also keep track of the person who was operating a scooter or bike at a given time in case of an incident. That information could be sourced and provided to authorities if necessary.

"I think (the program) is going to be a big hit in the city, but I know particularly the seniors that I've spoken to have been really concerned about what hap-

pens if (e-scooter or e-bike riders) sneak up on me and I don't hear them because they're so quiet, and so that's my only concern," said Day.

While the city's bylaw allows those aged 16-plus to ride e-scooters, Lime only allows those aged 18-plus to rent their devices. But committee members were supportive of a motion initiated by Coun. Alexa Loo to write a letter to B.C.'s attorney general, requesting a review of the legislation that excludes people under age 18 from renting e-scooters and e-bikes.

"The attorney general should, in my mind, at least match (the fact that) 16-year-olds (are) able ... if you can buy a car, you should be able to rent a scooter and then below that (age) they figure out what the workaround is, whether or not someone can engage in a contract," she said.

Lime, which launched in 2018, operates in more than 170 cities around the world. Staff recommended awarding the company an 18-month contract to offer both e-scooters and e-bikes for rental. The program could be renewed for an additional 18 months to cover the duration of the three-year provincial e-scooter pilot program.

While six other proposals were received, Lime's was evaluated as being the best fit for the city. The company will manage, fund and maintain the program, as well as being responsible for installing and maintaining the parking stations. No city funding will be required.

An initial test area will focus on the City Centre area with 153 e-scooters and 63 e-bikes. If that test area is successful, an expanded fleet will include 500 e-scooters and 200 e-bikes distributed around the city. If there is sufficient demand, the fleet could be as large as 1,000 e-scooters and 500 e-bikes.

According to the revised bylaws, e-scooters can travel on roads with bike lanes; local roads (those



Photo via www.li.me

Pending council approval, Lime e-scooters and e-bikes will be available in Richmond to support the city's e-scooter pilot project.

without lane lines or directional dividing lines with speed limits of 50 kilometres per hour or less); roads with a speed limit of 30 kilometres per hour; and off-street paved pathways that are shared with pedestrians.

If council approves the recommendation, Lime anticipates being able to launch the system about four weeks after contracts are finalized.

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City to consider hosting floating artist residency

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond is considering allowing a floating artist residency to moor here.

The Blue Cabin is designed to moor at waterfront locations throughout the region, and is currently located in Vancouver's False Creek, according to a city staff report submitted in advance of this month's parks, recreation and cultural services committee meeting. The cabin's current location is slated for redevelopment, so it will need to move by the end of this year. If approved, the proposal would potentially bring the Blue Cabin to Imperial Landing for a two-year term starting this fall.

"The structure consists of a floating platform with a restored heritage cabin that acts as a studio for artist-led community-based activities

alongside a recently built, contemporary 'off the grid' support space," the staff report says.

The current plan is for the cabin to be used during the day and evening with no live-aboard. The first artists to use the space will be Richmond-based artist Keely O'Brien and Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow.

Programming will focus on arts and heritage offerings, including "opportunities to partner with local events such as the Richmond Maritime Festival, Salmon Festival and other programs to animate the area."

Included in the report to committee members are letters of support from Tourism Richmond chief executive officer Nancy Small and Richmond Arts Coalition vice chair Paul Dufour.

The relocation of the cabin would cost the city about \$5,000, to be funded from an existing public art capital project.

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Healey recalls fondly her life in the skies

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](#)

It was 1968 and Helen Healey wanted to see the world.

And she did, taking to the skies in a memorable career as a flight attendant.

During one of the most tumultuous years in history, marked by the war in Vietnam, civic unrest and social change, a young and adventurous Healey desired a move to the West Coast. So she packed up her 1956 Austin and despite less than ideal road conditions, armed with her little poodle, she set out for a new life in Vancouver.

"I stayed over with my cousin in Revelstoke and recall him saying, 'You came through the Rogers Pass in that?'," referring to the little British sports car that also bore her surname.

The rest, she says, was easy.

Having already signed on for training with Canadian Pacific Airlines, Healey and her classmates stayed at the old Skyline Hotel in Richmond to study aircraft safety, food and beverage service, grooming, first aid, wet ditching (a water emergency technique), and addressing the public among other things.

While still in training, she recalls there was a bad early morning crash at the Vancouver International Airport featuring a leased plane and pilots from Seattle and a Canadian Pacific Airlines cabin crew.

"We lost our purser in the Department of Transportation building," she says.

Upon completing the courses, Healey started flying.

"We had three routes, depending on seniority," she says.

But the B.C. landings weren't always a breeze—particularly in the winter when snow and ice frequently presented a challenge.

"We (were fortunate to have) had great pilots," she adds.

Other Canadian routes included overnight flights to Montreal with stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Toronto. And of course there were several international flights to such destinations as Amsterdam, Honolulu, Mexico City, Fiji, Sidney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Acapulco and Buenos Aires.

"I started flying on the DC3 and finished on the Boeing 747 which was huge," Healey says. "We also flew on DC6s, DC8s, stretch DC8s, Boeing 737s and Boeing 727s. I loved seeing other countries and meeting and helping people. Some of the crew became lifelong friends and I now belong to Air Canada's Pionairs Club."

The in-class lessons she learned during training school would also prove to be invaluable.

"We used to fly a lot of prisoners who sat in the last row, as well as stretcher patients, babies in incubators, and unaccompanied children," Healey says. "I



Photo submitted

Richmond's Helen Healey was delighted to recently receive an RCMP Challenge medal. The former flight attendant is also recognized in the Langley Aircraft Museum's history of women in aviation.

had a lady who had been badly burned who needed a lot of help. These flights were mostly on B.C. district routes."

But at least one international flight—from Honolulu to Vancouver—also stands out. The DC8 plane lost an engine that forced a return to Hawaii, where the crew waited for two days at the AlaMoana Hotel for a new engine to arrive.

The day legendary crooner Harry Belafonte boarded a flight from Toronto to Vancouver (with the Canadian Pacific Airlines photographer insisting she and others in the crew be included in a photo) is also among her treasured memories.

After eight years of flying onboard both short and long flights, Healey took a break to have a daughter before resuming her career for a short time with Pacific Western Airlines.

Looking back, Healey says being a flight attendant was mostly enjoyable and fulfilling though she says there were a few things she could have done without. Starting out, she was on 24-hour call, and the air on board wasn't always the best with aircrafts permitting smoking in those days.

"But I was a very lucky girl to have this exciting career of service and safety," she concludes.



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Minoru Chapel was Richmond's first church

This is the third part of a series exploring the history of Minoru Park.

By **DON FENNELL**

 @rmdsentinel

Nestled amidst a peaceful setting near the western side of Minoru Park sits a small, white wooden chapel seemingly impervious to time.

Richmond's first church was originally constructed at the corner of River and Cambie roads in 1891 from a plan supplied by the Methodists during a period of church extension. The building was placed there, near the Fraser River, so that it could be easily reached by boat as Richmond—still very much in its infancy—had few roads.

Later a United Church, the building was moved, largely intact, to the park in 1967 and is a city-designated heritage resource.

The L-shaped structure features a corner entry tower and features what is believed to be the original cedar shingle roof. The windows are triangular pointed arches featuring elaborately designed coloured leaded glass.

The church, which seats 120 people, is also wheelchair accessible and hosts as many as eight weddings a day during the summer months, which are booked through the Chapel at Minoru Park at 604-687-7068. It is also available for spiritual services such as memorials, quiet prayer time and baptisms, as well as movie filming.

To the east of the church is the beautiful Pierrefonds Garden, designated as a provincial heritage site in 1979. It serves as a reminder of Richmond's sister city twinning with the Quebec community which in 2002 became a borough of Montreal. Pierrefonds has a current population of about 65,000 residents.

A small, rectangular and formal sunken garden, it is accessible by an elaborate pathway that winds through Minoru Park. Designed by the city, the gar-



Photos by Don Fennell

To the east of the church is the beautiful Pierrefonds Garden, designated as a provincial heritage site in 1979. It provides a reminder of Richmond's sister city relationship with the Quebec community.

den is also associated with the 1967 Canadian centennial to fit as an adjunct to Minoru Chapel.

The garden features French classical gardens and adheres to the original design intent of Desmond Muirhead, the landscape architectural firm that originally designed the park. Vegetation includes clipped shrubbery, an L-shaped rose garden at the outside of each corner, and a lawn area with a star-shaped planting bed in each quadrant.

Richmond and Pierrefonds became sister cities on July 29, 1967 by pledging to promote cultural,

tourism, social and economic exchanges between residents. In 2008, Richmond hosted two students from Pierrefonds at the Zenith Global Citizenship Conference held for young leaders.

Richmond also has sister city relationships with Wakayama, Japan and Xiamen, China. The former twinning was established in 1973, although the history between the Japanese village and our city dates back to the 19th century. The twinning with Xiamen was established in April 2008.

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Christmas Fund preparing for another holiday season

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Amid a difficult time for many, the Richmond Christmas Fund is aiming to brighten people's holiday seasons again this year.

The Christmas Fund, which provides low-income residents with grocery vouchers, toys, and gift cards, has launched early this year and is currently accepting virtual registration appointments.

"We have seen a steady stream of people requesting to be registered for assistance," says Ed Gavsie, president and chief executive officer of Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives, which operates the Christmas Fund.

Applicants must present documentation confirming their eligibility including photo ID, proof of Richmond residency, and a document proving enrolment in a government income assistance program.

Last year, just under 3,000 people received assistance—and the Christmas Fund was able to help everyone who asked for it. Gavsie says the team is planning for a slight increase over last year's numbers.

In pre-COVID years, parents were able to browse the toy room and select gifts for their children. Last year, volunteers prepared custom toy bags for each family based on children's ages and interests.

"This year's registration process will function much the same way, with eligibility assessments happening virtually and distribution days selected closer to the holidays, where we'll hand out pre-packaged items," says Gavsie.

A limited number of in-person registration appointments are also available for those who don't have a computer or Internet connection. More in-



Photo courtesy RCRG

Registration for the annual Richmond Christmas Fund is underway, again online this year amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

formation is available online at rcrg.org/ChristmasFundHelp or by calling 604-279-7035.

The annual RCMP Toy Drive is being planned for Nov. 20 in the Lansdowne Centre parking lot, where it was relocated last year. And the major fundraising event, *A Not So Silent Night*, will again feature a virtual auction—although no in-person party will be held.

"Other events are being planned, but not yet confirmed as we await further information from the provincial health office," says Gavsie.

While the continuing pandemic may put a bit of a damper on the holidays, the Christmas Fund's volunteers and donors are continuing to give Richmondites a helping hand.

People are encouraged to sign up within the next few weeks for a smoother process, and online bookings will close next month. For more information, or to register, go to rcrg.org/WhatWeDo/RCRGPrograms/richmond-christmas-fund/assistance

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Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Richmond Culture Days underway

Richmond Culture Days has arrived.

During the next month (through Oct. 24), residents are invited to take part in free or "pay what you may" (PWYM) activities happening virtually and in-person across the city.

The City of Richmond is fully committed to operating safely and working to ensure all Provincial Health Orders and recommendations are followed. Please stay home if sick, respect personal space, and bring a mask as it will also be required inside buildings.

Virtual programming throughout the four-week celebration includes performances and artist talks by Richmond Music School Society and the Platinum Players. Visit culturedays.ca for details about arts and culture activities, online live-stream events, digital content and

self-guided programs.

Richmond Culture Days is a celebration of arts and culture featuring Richmond-based artists, groups and organizations. Each year, millions of people across Canada attend Culture Days participatory events and art-filled activities from coast to coast to coast. This year, artists and groups will hold more in-person programming than in 2020, continuing to find unique and safe ways to come together while apart. While the annual Culture Days event is always a great way to celebrate creativity in communities, digital options have the added benefit of allowing participants to share across the country.

For more information about Richmond Culture Days, click on "Events" and search "Richmond" at culturedays.ca.

Library cautiously moving toward full re-opening

By DON FENNELL
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Richmond public libraries are moving toward full resumption of services—but slowly.

Continuing to follow all provincial and municipal health orders, the wearing of face masks remains mandatory. And the library is limiting capacity to 50 per cent at all branches, which includes “sit-and-stay seating” with increased computer access to support patrons. Proof of vaccination is not required, but library staff is actively supporting community members to obtain their BC Vaccine Card, says library spokesperson Stephanie Vokey.

Vokey says the library will also continue to offer online and outdoor programs this fall, and to increase access for all. She notes in-person indoor programming will also resume. “These registered-only in-person opportunities allow for individuals and families to reconnect with each other and with library staff in small group settings,” she says.

Vokey says the library is planning a full lineup of programs for fall. New programs and returning favourites include book clubs for all ages, computer basics at Ironwood for seniors aged 55 and over, digital animation programs for all ages, and a creative writing series with author Dan Bar-el for school-aged children.

“We are also pleased to announce that *Storytimes* will once again be available in-person,” Vokey says. “Children and their families can enjoy *Storytimes* at all RPL branches. *Family Storytimes* are held in-person several days a week and all require registration.”

Library branches are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. The public is invited to use the facilities to study, use a computer, pick up holds, browse collections, and check out materials. The library adds new titles to its print and digital collections on a weekly



Photo by Don Fennell

Richmond Public Library is introducing a new service, *Your Next Great Read*, as an option for patrons wanting to access a selection of library materials but are uncertain where to look.

basis, including best sellers.

The Hamilton Community Centre, where the library has a book dispenser to serve and support that community, has recently extended its hours and is now accessible from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekends.

Finally, the library’s new *Your Next Great Read* service is being touted by Vokey and staff as a “great option” for customers wanting a selection of library materials that are suitable for their interests, but are not sure what to look for.

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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).

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Dunfee steps up for the kids

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Evan Dunfee never tires of giving back—especially when it's to assist future generations.

An inspiring figure, he continues to gain fans and supporters because of his sincerity as much as for his athletic pursuits.

And now, the Richmond Olympian is using his success as a bronze medal race walker to raise awareness of KidSport BC so every child can enjoy and reap the benefits of sport.

"I am uniquely situated to speak about the power of sport as someone who has reached the highest level sport offers, the Olympic podium," Dunfee said in a recent B.C. government release. "As a child, I was lucky to have the opportunity to play sports because my parents had the financial means. It is important to understand that many kids don't have that same luck, but that shouldn't stop them. KidSport BC helps break down the financial barrier to sport."

Dunfee also tweeted about how grateful he is for the support he's received since winning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Games in the men's race walk—and how many have donated to KidSport BC in exchange for a special edition box of Kraft Dinner featuring himself.

"I refuse to get over how insanely funny and awesome this is simultaneously," he tweeted. "Life is incredibly weird... Anyway, you awesome people raised \$7,000 for @kidsportbc buying up 150 of these ridiculously nice mementos which is being matched by @kraftdinnerca."

As a KidSport BC Ambassador, Dunfee participates at KidSport BC events to promote the value of sport and help raise funds for the non-profit. Since 2016, he has spoken with many people, including more than 10,000 school kids, about his sport journey, the importance of kids' participation in sport and how it has shaped his life.

"What is awesome about the ambassador program is it isn't limited to elite athletes. It is a collection of people who are all passionate about the role sport has played in their lives," Dunfee said. "There are so many skills and lessons I've learned and developed through sport. All kids should have this opportunity to gain these skills and learn these lessons."

In 2018, Dunfee upped his fundraising game in celebration of KidSport BC's 25th anniversary. He took on the challenge to walk 25 kilometres a day for 25 days. Along the way, Dunfee spoke at more than 25 schools that helped raise more than \$26,000. In 2020, despite the challenges of the pandemic, Dunfee raised \$8,000.

"It is so important to me to use my voice to help KidSport BC as much as I can," Dunfee said. "For me, it brings the purpose of my training and competing to a whole new level. I'm motivated by reasons that go beyond my-



Richmond Olympian Evan Dunfee never stops giving back to his community.

Photo submitted

self. I'm driven by the example I can be for others. This makes the successes so much more meaningful and the hard times that much easier to weather."

Held recently, KidSport BC Week was established in 1993 by Sport BC, a not-for-profit organization that provides financial assistance for registration fees to kids 18 and younger whose families cannot afford the cost.

"The biggest takeaway from being involved in KidSport BC is hearing from kids about what they love about sport," Dunfee said. "Apart from the crucially important funds we help raise for KidSport BC, I've heard from thousands of kids about their experiences, and from parents, teachers and coaches who have told me what KidSport BC has meant to the children in their lives."

The work of KidSport BC is focused on increasing participation by children who are often under-represented in sport, including children from lower-income families, Indigenous children, children and youth with disabilities, girls and newcomers to Canada.

As an Olympic and World medallist, who set the Canadian record in the 50-kilometre race walk at the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games and who won the bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games, Dunfee recognizes he is a role model to many kids and adults. Through his volunteer work for KidSport BC, Dunfee is using his influence and the skills he acquired

through sport to give back to his community.

- In spring 2019, government invested \$2.5 million in Sport BC to expand access to amateur and recreational sport programs for children through its member organizations and KidSport program.

- In 2019-20, KidSport chapters distributed more than \$3.25 million to help 10,755 kids in 150 communities throughout B.C.

Learn more at kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/

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There are so many skills and lessons I've learned and developed through sport. All kids should have this opportunity to gain these skills and learn these lessons.

— Evan Dunfee

Skater lands quad, bronze at ISU juniors

Wesley Chiu has reached the podium at the ISU Junior Grand Prix.

The Richmond skater, a member of the vaunted Connaught Figure Skating Club which has produced numerous champions in its long history, landed the first quadruple jump of his career en route to a bronze medal in men's competition on Sept. 17.

This was the fourth stop on the ISU Junior Grand Prix figure skating circuit.

Gleb Lutfullin led Russia to a one-two finish with 230.42 points, with teammate Egor Rukhin at 223.29. The 16-year-old Chiu, fourth after the short program, climbed one spot for the bronze with a personal best 217.59.

Skating to music by Muse, Chiu executed a clean long program which included landing a quad toe loop for his second medal on the circuit this season. He earned gold at the second stop in France.

"It's another great milestone I've achieved," said Chiu, about landing the quad. "I look forward to doing more in the future. (This free skate program) was a fight for sure, but it was all worth it in the end."

Full results: isuresults.com/results/season2122/jgprus2021/



Photo submitted

Richmond's Wesley Chiu landed his first quad jump and won the bronze medal in the men's singles competition recently at the ISU Junior Grand Prix in Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

Sponsor support ensures youth soccer's growth

By DON FENNELL

[@rmdsentinel](https://twitter.com/rmdsentinel)

Everything you want in life has a price connected to it, Harry Browne once said.

The American writer probably wasn't thinking amateur sports when he made the declaration, but it applies nevertheless. And that only further magnifies the importance of sponsorship.

To help keep costs down, and to ensure playing youth soccer remains affordable for participants,

Richmond FC is grateful for the strong support it receives from its sponsors—which often goes well beyond what is reasonably expected.

While the association strives to expand programs and concurrently advance the level of instruction, executive director Marius Roevde says having sponsors such as The Gaming Stadium on board as the new club sponsor allows the "growth opportunities" to happen.

"(The Gaming Stadium) came forward with the largest sponsorship in our club history, and the kids are looking forward to wearing their name on our jerseys," Roevde says.

He says Richmond FC is equally proud and indebted to its other sponsors as well. This includes a commitment from Go Auto Columbia Chrysler to continue the association's car lottery; the Coho Commissary, which Roevde says has helped put more kids into soccer than ever before; and Tim Hortons, which will continue to sponsor the youngest players. Hope and Health, a group that hosts camps and various program for Indigenous youth, has also come aboard. A

patch on the sleeve of team uniforms will reflect the support for the Indigenous community. Richmond FC has also purchased new orange shirts for away matches to further recognize past abuses at residential schools.

As the 2021-22 season kicks off, Richmond FC continues to follow all provincial health mandates as it has since the pandemic was declared some 18 months ago. Last season, when restrictions meant its teams couldn't play opponents outside of its "catchment" area, it evolved a "street soccer" program enabling its players of all ages, skill levels, and genders to compete together in shorter matches.

"It was important to us that we get our kids outside after being indoors for so long, and to give them a chance to see their friends, experience new coaches, and to do a little sweating on the field in a safe, exciting environment," Roevde explains. "We also extended the season into the summer to make up for lost time earlier in the year, something few other clubs offered."

While the wearing of masks outdoors is not a provincial mandate, Roevde says Richmond FC feels it is in line with best practices to ensure they are worn by everyone, including players, off the field.

No doubt realizing the impact of this summer's success by the Canadian women's soccer team, and its winning gold at the Tokyo Olympics, interest in the game has clearly been renewed. And like other associations, Richmond FC is experiencing significant growth. But Roevde believes there's more fueling the growth at his club.

"Our registration numbers are up this year to well over 1,000, which is in line with expectations," he says. "A lot of youth sports are facing annual registration declines, but our new technical director David Thorburn worked super hard to reach out beyond our existing member base to bring new kids into the fold. Our summer soccer camps were outrageously popular, to the point where we put extra camps on for a second month, and they drove a lot of new registrations to our development program and recreational programs."

Richmond FC also introduced a Mini Kickers program for four- and five-year-olds which drew about 100 participants and their parents on Sundays. The club also ran free camps for Tsleil-Waututh children, and is developing a "free football" program with Coho Commissary for kids from families attached to the Richmond Food Bank. It will also be offering Coerver Coaching programs for women and girls later this year.

"One thing we're truly proud of is our new program to 'coach the coaches,' and give our older kids the training certification, and support for them to make coaching a career when they finish school," Roevde says. "We already hire (many of) our teen (players) to referee games, but this gives them an entire new career path, and a means of racking up volunteer hours they need for university while learning more about tactics and training. One of our young coaches became the first in Canada to become C-licensed with the Canadian Soccer Association."

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Outdoor education inspires teacher

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A born and raised Richmondite, Lauren MacLean admits math was not her strong suit growing up. But now, as a math and outdoor education teacher for the Coquitlam school board, she's able to share her learning ideas and strategies with other educators.

MacLean became a teacher after retiring from the Canadian women's national field hockey team in 2008, and likens the teamwork and collaboration to coaching—another career she considered.

"I would label myself as an active person—as a kid I would say hyperactive," says MacLean. "I feel so much better when I'm teaching outside, (and) the students feel better."

After teaching at an outdoor education school, MacLean felt she wanted to share her passion for learning through nature with others. In addition to helping teachers find new ways to use outdoor spaces, she works with them on their math program, seeking more creative and playful methods rather than strictly textbook-based learning. She also works with colleagues to create new learning tools and assessments.

Pre-pandemic, there were requests from teachers hoping to make their outdoor teaching more "valid," so it wouldn't be questioned by parents and colleagues.

"What people were looking for was a way to make it, for lack of a better word, more academic," says MacLean. "What are they learning outside? How can we prove to parents that we're not just doing extra recess time? Through documentation, we can show the math we learned, the science, the journals we reflected in."

And the onset of the pandemic motivated more teachers to get outside and experiment with outdoor lessons.

"It could be as simple as just finding loose parts, sticks on the ground. If we're in Kindergarten, maybe we're learning just to count the sticks. Maybe in the next grade we're learning to make shapes out of them—how many shapes can we make? With older kids we're taking the same material, the sticks, and we're trying to build a shelter for different sized animals. So, how many sticks would you need for an animal that's 20 pounds?"

While MacLean hasn't taught much during the pandemic—it coincided with maternity leaves for her two young children—she's still been able to help many teachers find new tools for teaching outside.

Another way MacLean is spreading her joy for outdoor education is through her first children's book, *Me and My Sit Spot*, which will be published this fall. And a free online e-book offers more learning tools to teachers.

"I had a lot of ideas in my head after that picture book that I still wanted to put down on paper," she says. "The e-book can definitely be used as a standalone product."

MacLean's son, who is two-and-a-half, is already beginning to pick up some lessons through outdoor exploration. Recently he picked up two sticks from the ground, and then began finding pairs of other objects like pinecones and rocks.

"For a two-year-old to understand about two objects is fantastic, but now he's finding two of everything and doing his own little collection, scavenger hunt, and it's really sweet to see."

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Photos submitted
Lauren MacLean helps classroom teachers find new ways to learn outdoors, as well as unique math strategies.



Artist makes creative workshops accessible

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond actor Jill Raymond is looking forward to bringing people together again through arts workshops.

Raymond, who also teaches as a contractor with the city, has been involved with the annual Culture Days celebration for the last several years. Raymond says she became more involved after moving into one of the city's work-live units for artists.

"When I moved there, I took on the role of creating a hub for these artist units; I just set it up online and then people can add their events," she says. "It makes it more user-friendly for people coming to that area, (there are) units there, open galleries and things people can pop into rather than just one event on its own."

Through her Culture Days workshops—which include dancing, singing, and storytelling—Raymond is also able to offer classes to people who might otherwise have financial barriers preventing them from participating.

"It is nice to do things for free to give to the community, and during this entire pandemic the arts have been so hit and they've also been so undervalued in all ways," she says. "I just really want to be part of the reminder that arts are so vital and important and we should still be doing arts and allowing that kind of freedom of expression."

Furthering her belief that "art is what makes us human," Raymond is keen to bring people together to sing and dance outside in local parks. She adds that the surroundings of fresh air and nature are beneficial, as well as the locations enabling more people to stumble upon the workshops. She's hopeful that restrictions will not tighten to the point that the workshops would have to move online.

Despite feeling that filmed theatre performances don't translate, one of Raymond's offerings was designed to be enjoyed virtually at any time. *The Isolation Sessions* is an ongoing online project that brings artists together to create music from wherever they are.

"It came from a real stopping of anything happening—everything dropped, all the projects that were kind of starting or in process just literally dropped, and



Photo submitted

Richmond actor Jill Raymond has been bringing Culture Days workshops to locals for the last several years.

I really felt terrified as an artist and as a performer that my life was ripped away from me," says Raymond. "Creating *The Isolation Sessions* was kind of a way of me trying to lean into, 'well if we don't have to be together in the same room, then we can be together wherever we are, and we can be together in different countries.'"

She's hopeful that this year's Culture Days will bring more people out to workshops, after poor attendance last year.

"That was tough, but understandable also, with people still being very anxious about meeting in any kind of way," she says.

And despite the uncertainty, the promise of connection is exciting.

"I remember for me as a young person, sometimes the people that you interact with can really ignite something that you don't expect or that you didn't really know was there. The dream is just to cause some inspiration for someone who wasn't expecting it, or help them in some other way."

Raymond's theatre company is currently developing a documentary about the process of making their first show, which premiered at the Vancouver

Fringe Festival with great success. While she's disappointed there won't be an audience there for the filming of the show, she says the opportunity may lead to the story being turned into a film.

"We're kind of plowing ahead in terms of 'this is it now'—this is kind of the way that things are for at least the foreseeable future. The projects that we had coming up that were going to be live theatre performances, we are pivoting to something different," she says. "There are some silver linings to all of this, and in terms of live performances I am in the process of writing our next show which is tricky because it is a lot about isolation and technology during isolation."

That show, now twice-postponed, is set to premiere during the 2022 Fringe Festival.

Culture Days runs from Sept. 24 to Oct. 24. Raymond's remaining workshops are taking place Oct. 2 and 9, in addition to ongoing virtual sessions. To learn more, go to culturedays.ca/en/bc

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STR8TS

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