



BOOKS, AND BEYOND

Today's library brimming
with new initiatives

08

Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library

A young woman and toddler check out the digitization station at the Brighthouse branch of the Richmond Public Library. October is Canadian Library Month and the local library system has a host of new programs and resources staff is anxious to share.

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Extreme summer heat prompts safety plan

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The heat wave experienced across B.C. this summer was unprecedented.

Temperatures recorded at Vancouver International Airport exceeded 30 degrees Celsius several times in June. Coupled with the summer's poor air quality—the result of forest fires burning across the province—the heat created challenges for many B.C. communities.

In Richmond, a potential new plan is aiming to tackle extreme heat events or poor air quality advisories by specifying actions to be taken at the city level to keep people safe.

"The initial process (of creating a plan) was because of the number of deaths related to the sudden heat, and the fact that people could not get relief," says Coun. Bill McNulty, who chairs the community safety committee.

A report, developed by city staff and led by deputy fire chief Jim Wishlove, will be discussed by city council members this week.

A July statement from B.C.'s chief coroner Lisa Lapointe showed 569 people lost their lives due to heat between June 20 and July 29. Lapointe said this number is a 300 per cent increase over the number of deaths during the same period in previous years. Seventy-nine per cent of those who died were aged 65 or older.

At July's community safety committee meeting, city staff were referred to look at ways to incorporate heat wave planning into the city's emergency management plan. In a staff report included in the committee meeting agenda, staff note that while Richmond didn't experience the same level of impacts as some jurisdictions, vulnerable populations are often impacted by extreme heat events.

"People that are at higher risk include individuals experiencing homelessness; seniors (particularly those homebound); small children; people who work or exercise outdoors; and those with health problems (addiction problems, breathing difficulties, heart conditions, and/or mental illness)," the staff report says.

The Hot Weather and Poor Air Quality Plan identifies two levels of heat, dependent on the type of alert issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

A Level 1 heat warning is when two or more days and nights are forecast to have overnight temperatures of no lower than 16 degrees Celsius, and daytime highs of at least 29 degrees Celsius. Communication will help people find city-operated facilities where they can find relief from the heat, as well as encourage them to check on others who may be more vulnerable and need help.



Photo by Don Fennell

The city is hoping to create a new plan in case of hot weather or poor air quality, like the events that happened this past summer.

A Level 2 heat warning is when the average of a day's temperature and the following day's forecasted high is 31 degrees Celsius at Vancouver International Airport, or 36 degrees Celsius at Abbotsford Airport. In that case, in addition to the Level 1 measures city staff will also open and operate enhanced cooling and air quality centres,

the lead on activating the emergency plans. Teams can mobilize quickly, and in many cases the only cost is staff time.

"You can't put a price on public safety," he adds. The city could staff buildings overnight if necessary. Roving ambassadors help to inform people who are unhoused and may not see messaging about how to find assistance.

City spokesperson Clay Adams says staff also reaches out to organizations and agencies that have access to vulnerable populations, including Vancouver Coastal Health.

"We could look at, in an upcoming scenario, transportation to a hot weather centre," says Adams.

He adds that some agencies have buses that could be used, or the city could provide a means of transportation. While this plan is not firm yet, it has been raised as a possibility that could be implemented quickly.

"The important thing is getting people to feel that there is an option for them out there, that is reaching them in their homes," says Adams.

"Hopefully next time, should we have another severe heat scenario, we will all be much better prepared for whatever it might look like."

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**Hopefully next time,
should we have another
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might look like.**

– Clay Adams

as well as co-ordinating distribution of water to vulnerable populations.

McNulty says Richmond Fire-Rescue will take

Tomorrow's leaders tackle civic affairs

Idea of Richmond youth council promoted

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

It's often said that youth are the leaders of tomorrow.

And through the city's youth civic engagement program, Richmondites aged 15 to 20 can share their ideas to help make the city better, as well as learning about the inner workings of local government.

The program was first pitched to city council in 2019, although the onset of the pandemic shifted it to a virtual platform. CityHive, an organization whose goal is to get youth involved in civic planning, facilitates the program. Youth attend weekly sessions, with city councillors acting as guest speakers. The program culminates in project proposals from the youth, who are split into small subgroups.

"The main purpose of the proposals was to get insight from council members—they helped us modify our proposals, and also look at the logistics and tell us if it would be possible or not," says 18-year-old Sarina Sandhu, who took part in the program last year. "Some were not possible, (and) others they were willing to consider."

Along with another youth, Sandhu proposed the creation of a youth multicultural advisory committee to further the city's related goal.

She was surprised to learn how many responsibilities the city has, and how they're divided up between council members as opposed to all being part of the mayor's job. She appreciated being able to voice her opinion, as well as helping to represent other youth.

"I learned that it takes a lot to run a city, and also that Richmond has won a lot of awards that not that many people are aware of," she says. "The city is doing a lot to ensure that we are environmentally friendly, even if it might not be obvious. There's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to make sure the city is running."

Sandhu appreciated the interactive aspects of the program, but thinks it would benefit from increased outreach so more youth know it's happening. She would also add a component to help youth retain information, and resources to help them stay active with civic engagement.

Zach Andrade, 17, was also a program participant last year. He says the program shows that the city wants to hear from youth residents who can help with new ideas and changes.



The city's youth engagement program allows young Richmondites to share ideas. Last year's participants came together via Zoom.

Photo submitted

"If you truly do see something in your community that you're dissatisfied with, you can come up with a formal way to try and make your community better," says Andrade. "I think that's really cool, that we were given that platform to speak, and I hope that more youth are given that opportunity."

Andrade is also a member of the Steveston youth council, and says it's fulfilling to plan and facilitate activities. Through that group, he is glad to help create community offerings that are affordable or completely free, keeping them open and accessible for

everyone.

When it came time to pitch a project idea, Andrade says his subgroup had many ideas but struggled to narrow them down and find something that could actually be implemented in the community. In the end, they pitched a pop-up recycling depot in East Richmond because they saw the need for a more accessible location for Hamilton residents, given the location and popularity of the Terra Nova depot.

"It's such a jarring feeling to be like, 'I want to be heard and want to be a voice for change' and then be given the opportunity to speak on a matter that's important to you, and wonder what are you going to choose, and try to nail down a solid plan that incorporates effective change," says Andrade.

Coun. Michael Wolfe says while the program is valuable, he believes it could be even better as a youth city council or youth advisory committee. The voices of young people, he says, are "invaluable."

"This is why I got into politics and was running in elections at 23. I thought I could show other young people that we could do this," says Wolfe.

The youth members' proposed projects could possibly come to fruition in the future, although Wolfe would have preferred to see these presented at a council meeting to a wider audience.

"If it's just in a Zoom call for some people to attend, it's not going to have as big of an impact," he says.

Andrade agrees that although the city is taking steps in the right direction, there's still a long way to go in terms of making municipal government a bigger talking point for youth.

"Right now there's so many young people who have something to say, and have ideas, and a lot of them are so inspired and wanting to incite change," says Andrade. "As a city, we should be opening our ears to all demographics, even people who might be a little bit more unassuming."

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Taking pause for truth and reconciliation

Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honoured the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities.

On Sept. 30, Richmondites, and indeed all residents of Canada, were provided an opportunity to commemorate, learn and reflect on the history and ongoing impacts of residential schools.

"The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation provides an important opportunity for us all to pause, reflect and learn about Indigenous histories, and the legacy of residential schools," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Residential schools are a tragic part of Canada's shared history, resulting in a painful legacy and multi-generational impacts to Indigenous peoples."

Like many municipalities and levels of government, some of Richmond's civic services were limited on that day. City hall was closed, while community centres, arenas, and swimming pools remained open to serve the community.

Established in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #80, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours residential school survivors, their families, and communities, and ensures that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

The date coincides with Orange Shirt Day that honours the story of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, a former residential school student who had her new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, taken away on her first day at residential school. The orange shirt has since become a symbol of remembrance of all Indigenous children removed from their families to attend residential schools.

City staff at community facilities wore orange ribbons or shirts during the week of Sept. 27 to Oct. 1 in recognition of residential school survivors.



Photo by Don Fennell

A ceremony held earlier this year at Minoru Park honoured the lost children and survivors of residential schools. On Sept. 30, Richmond joined all Canadians for the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Various city facilities also offered educational programs and interactive displays in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Richmond Public Library's Brighthouse branch prominently featured book collections on Indigenous perspectives. And all city staff will be required to complete Indigenous awareness training over the coming months and interactive workshops on Indigenous peoples and culture will be available.

For more information on Orange Shirt Day, visit www.orangeshirtday.org/

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City considers patio program extension

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Temporary outdoor patio spaces, first made available to Richmond food service providers last year, may be getting another extension.

The program was initially introduced in May 2020 as a way to help businesses during the pandemic. It was then extended for a year, through Oct. 31, 2021, and expanded to include additions that would make patios usable in bad weather.

"I think so far it's been a very successful program—in the first year we only had about 15 (businesses take part), and now in the past year we've had 64," says Coun. Chak Au. "(That) shows that there's a need for it; it's being welcomed by business owners as well as customers and that is the basis for trying to extend this program for another year."

Staff is recommending the program be extended through June 1, 2022, while they also explore the development of an ongoing program to allow patios on public property.

A staff report submitted in advance of last week's general purposes committee meeting notes that six of the 64 permits issued for patios were on public property (sidewalks or on-street parking spaces).

Au is in favour of extending the program for a year, but sees a need to review regulations, requirements and licensing before creating a permanent program.

"It was meant to be a temporary measure in the beginning, and we waived some conditions to make it happen," says Au. There's a fundamental difference between a temporary program and a permanent program—particularly I'm concerned about the use of public space. We need to review how appropriate it's going to be on a permanent basis."

When businesses with existing permits were polled, 64 per cent said they would be interested in pursuing a permanent patio expansion, 20 per cent did not plan to pursue a permanent expansion and 16 per cent were undecided, according to the staff report.

Most businesses that have been operating temporary patios could pursue permanent expansion through existing municipal permitting and licensing processes. The six patios that are on city property would not be



Photo screen grab from Google Maps

Richmond's temporary outdoor patio program, introduced in May 2020, may be extended once again through June 1, 2022.

able to permanently expand after the program ends, but the creation of a permanent patio program could include guidelines to enable this kind of expansion.

"I've attended a few places with this patio program and I would say all of them that I've visited were very positive about the experience," says Au. "(And) for customers, I think it's a new experience and during summertime of course it's a very pleasant experience too."

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Steveston Interchange procurement moving forward



Photo screen grab from Google Maps

The province plans to award a contract to construct the new Steveston Interchange next spring.

The province has invited three bidding teams to participate in the competitive selection process to design and construct the new Steveston Interchange, a project it expects to

improve connections for vehicles, transit users, pedestrians and cyclists in advance of the new eight-lane George Massey Tunnel.

The three teams invited to participate in the

request for proposals (RFP) are, in alphabetical order:

- Aecon|NorLand General Partnership
- Cascade Coast Infrastructure Group
- Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited

The contract is expected to be awarded in spring 2022.

The province says travel time and reliability will be improved at the northbound off-ramp to Steveston Highway and for westbound through traffic along Steveston Highway, making it easier for people to get where they are going. It says once the new tunnel is in place, travel time and reliability will be improved for traffic headed from Steveston Highway into the tunnel, further reducing congestion at the Steveston Interchange. The new interchange will also improve access to transit stops and pedestrian and cycling connections across Highway 99, the province concludes.



Photo courtesy RCRG
Wayne Duzita, who’s served as Richmond Christmas Fund chair for 15 years, will be succeeded by Linda Reid in 2022.

Reid named incoming chair of Richmond Christmas Fund

The Richmond Christmas Fund will have a new leader in 2022 when Linda Reid takes over from longtime chair Wayne Duzita.

The announcement was made by Ed Gavsie, president and chief executive officer of Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG), which operates the Christmas Fund. Each holiday season, the program supports low-income residents, providing them with grocery vouchers, toys, books, and gift cards.

Reid brings considerable experience to the role, having a well-established background in education, management, and community service, to go along with a decorated political career.

She represented Richmond in the B.C. Legislative Assembly from 1991 to 2020, serving as speaker from 2013 to 2017. Her time in office ranks among the longest in B.C. history, and she holds the record for longest-serving woman.

“Linda is a dynamic community leader, and we’re delighted to welcome her as incoming Christmas Fund chair,” says Gavsie. “She has the passion and vision to continue growing the program, while focusing on its long-term sustainability.”

As he hands over leadership of the Christmas Fund, Duzita leaves a distinguished 15-year legacy. One of his enduring accomplishments is the creation of the Christmas Fund Army, a group of community and business leaders who support the program’s fundraising efforts.

Through various campaigns and events, including an annual fundraiser called *A Not So Silent Night*, the Army has built the Christmas Fund’s capacity, to the point where the program can now help upwards of 3,000 people every year.

“Without a doubt, Wayne took the Christmas Fund to another level,” says Gavsie. “Under his leadership, our fundraising numbers grew significantly. Just as important, though, was his ability to inspire others. He truly was an advocate for the program, encouraging countless new supporters to rally around our cause.”

After this year, Duzita will continue serving as immediate past chair, while remaining involved with the Christmas Fund Army and liaison committee, where he’ll work to support Reid and help brighten the holidays for families in need.

For more information on the Richmond Christmas Fund, visit www.rcrg.org

Street banner voting ending on Oct 17

The public can now have their say on 20 shortlisted designs for the Richmond street banner program.

A broad range of colourful designs can be viewed at LetsTalkRichmond.ca, but you’ll need to vote for your favourite by emailing parksprograms@richmond.ca by 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 17.

A community volunteer judging panel viewed over 500 submissions and narrowed them down to the 20 finalists. Artwork, graphic design and photographs were all included in the submissions, which reflected the following 10 themes representing the City of Richmond’s distinct charm: innovation, community, connection, wildlife, active living, urban landscape, nature, island city, the arts, and sustainability. The 10 designs (one from each theme) that receive the most votes will be named winners of the 2021 street banner contest.

More than 1,000 street banners will be produced featuring the winning images. They will be installed on banner poles to enhance the city’s spirit and beautify the downtown core and gateways from March 2022 to February 2023.

Richmond’s street banner contest is a part of the broader Partners for Beautification program, which invites community members to become actively involved in the beautification of their city. For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/parks/about/beautification.

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).

Library inspires curiosity while empowering

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Drawing anyone with a thirst for knowledge or seeking a journey through imagination, shelves upon shelves of books make up an impressive collection throughout the Richmond public library system.

But while the printed word will always enjoy a special and indelible place in our hearts, today's libraries—ever evolving—also increasingly act as information hubs where learning is an encouraged and shared experience.

During Canadian Library Month, the Richmond Public Library's updated mission statement to "inspire curiosity, transform lives, and empower everyone" speaks to the ever-emerging face of the institution.

Throughout October, libraries across the nation will be raising awareness of the important role libraries play. As Ping He, head of content, collections and discovery services at the Brighthouse branch puts it, "libraries promote cultural awareness, engage in the community, provide educational programs, and so much more."

Reflecting this year's theme *One Card, One Million Possibilities*, Richmond library staff is extending an invitation to the community to visit the Brighthouse branch (7700 Minoru Gate) and to also tune in to its social media channels.

Richmond recently introduced new technology designed to improve the customer experience that staff can't wait to share. Patrons are encouraged to try out the new self check-in machine or bring in their old slides or photos and learn how to convert them into digital files at the digitization station located in the Launchpad area. Families with young readers at home may want to pop by to learn about *BookFlix*, a new resource that supports young readers in their journey to learning how to read.

And did you know that the library now offers *Birdwatching ExplorePACKS*?

"Stop by the Brighthouse branch for a chance to



Photo by Don Fennell

During Canadian Library Month, Richmond Public Library staff is keen to introduce several new initiatives that encompass the steps to learning.

see the kits up close," says Stephanie Vokey, the library's public relations co-ordinator. "And, be sure to check out the digital fair Oct 13 and 14 for a chance to play Bingo or spin the wheel and win some cool prizes. There's so much to explore at your library."

Vokey says one of the primary goals of celebrating library month is to connect with residents who may be unaware of library services they could use.

"We want to bring awareness about the value of libraries in lifelong learning and let the community know that there is something for everyone at the library," she says. "For some, this might be a space to gather. For others, it's the collection of books available to borrow; the opportunity to try new technology; a space to study; and for others the opportunity to meet with other community members and library staff who share similar interests."

By demonstrating how to use digital children's reading resources like *BookFlix*, Vokey says the

library will connect with families looking for new ways to inspire a love of reading in their children.

"We hope that community members of all ages will come and learn a bit about what the library offers and see something that inspires them to learn, to create, to read, and to feel like they belong," Vokey says. "Come and connect with library staff, and let us show you how we can help support you in your literacy journey and increase your connectivity to the community."

"Canadian Library Month is a great opportunity to learn how (the library) promotes literacy and lifelong learning with locally focused services to support the unique needs of Richmond residents," adds Shaneena Rahman, manager of customer experience at Richmond Public Library.

Follow the library on Facebook to stay connected to all of the Canadian Library Month activities and enjoy fun videos and sneak peeks.

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Reserve time for final library book sales of the season

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Fall has arrived and with it more time to curl up by the fireplace and enjoy a good book.

Friends of the Richmond Library is hosting two end-of-the-year book sales in October. These weather-dependent sidewalk sales will be held outside the Cambie library branch at 150-11590 Cambie Road (near the corner of Cambie and No. 5 roads) on Saturday, Oct. 16 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"These fabulous sales will feature a wide variety of gently used books ranging from fiction, children's, Chinese language and many

non-fiction categories at incredibly low prices," shares library spokesperson Pat Ng. "Sales are cash only, with all proceeds to benefit Richmond public libraries."

Ng is asking all patrons to bring their own bags or boxes, and not to miss out on these events to stock up your favorite reads for this coming winter.

Due to COVID-19, a face mask is recommended. Physical distancing of six feet (two metres) is required. And hand sanitizer will be provided at the checkout station.

For inquiries, go to www.yourlibrary.ca/friends-of-the-library/fol-book-sale/

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People can enjoy the pumpkin patch at Richmond Country Farms this month.

Photos by Hannah Scott

Pumpkin patch returns to Richmond Country Farms

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The annual pumpkin patch is back at Richmond Country Farms this month.

There are two ways to get to the pumpkin patch: walk out or ride on a tractor-drawn wagon. There will be distancing measures in place on the wagon.

Masks are mandatory for check-in and for riders

on the wagon, but optional once in the fields. Dogs are welcome on-leash, but with walk out tickets only—not on the wagon.

Once at the pumpkin patch, people can enjoy the corn maze and food trucks. Each person can select one pumpkin, with the price included in both the walk out and wagon experiences.

Portable toilet facilities are available next to the fields, and they will be sanitized throughout the

day. Staff will also be sanitizing other high-touch areas regularly.

Unfortunately, like last year there is no wheelchair access to the pumpkin field. The miniature train and live band will not operate.

Guests must buy a ticket online in advance: richmondsunflowerfest.com/pumpkin-patch-tickets

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Chabad course confronts life's challenges

We could all use some insight on how to confront life's challenges. That's why Chabad Richmond is offering a three-part online Zoom program called *Inlook Outlook: Guidance from the Rebbe for Confronting Life's Challenges* on three consecutive Wednesdays this month (Oct. 13, 20 and 27 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.). The cost is \$54 per person. To register, call 604-277-6427.

"This program focuses on the timely and relevant reflections and sage advice written by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, throughout his lifetime, to those seeking his counsel. What's fascinating is that the Rebbe's insights and perspectives are still applicable today. The Rebbe drew from his profound grasp of Torah wisdom, and combined it with a nuanced sensitivity to each individual's unique circumstances," said Rabbi Baitelman, director of Chabad Richmond.

Baitelman said the Rebbe reminds us that whatever challenges we face, we are given the inner spiritual resources to overcome them. The Rebbe believed that how you think about any situation determines how you feel about it.

"These correspondences from the Rebbe open the mind's eye to unique psychological insights and new ways of thinking about life's challenges. By reflecting on practical advice penned to individuals during critical life-junctures, this program provides perspectives on life that begin from the inside out, starting from the soul and one's destiny on earth. The Rebbe helped people find opportunity where others saw adversity," added Baitelman.



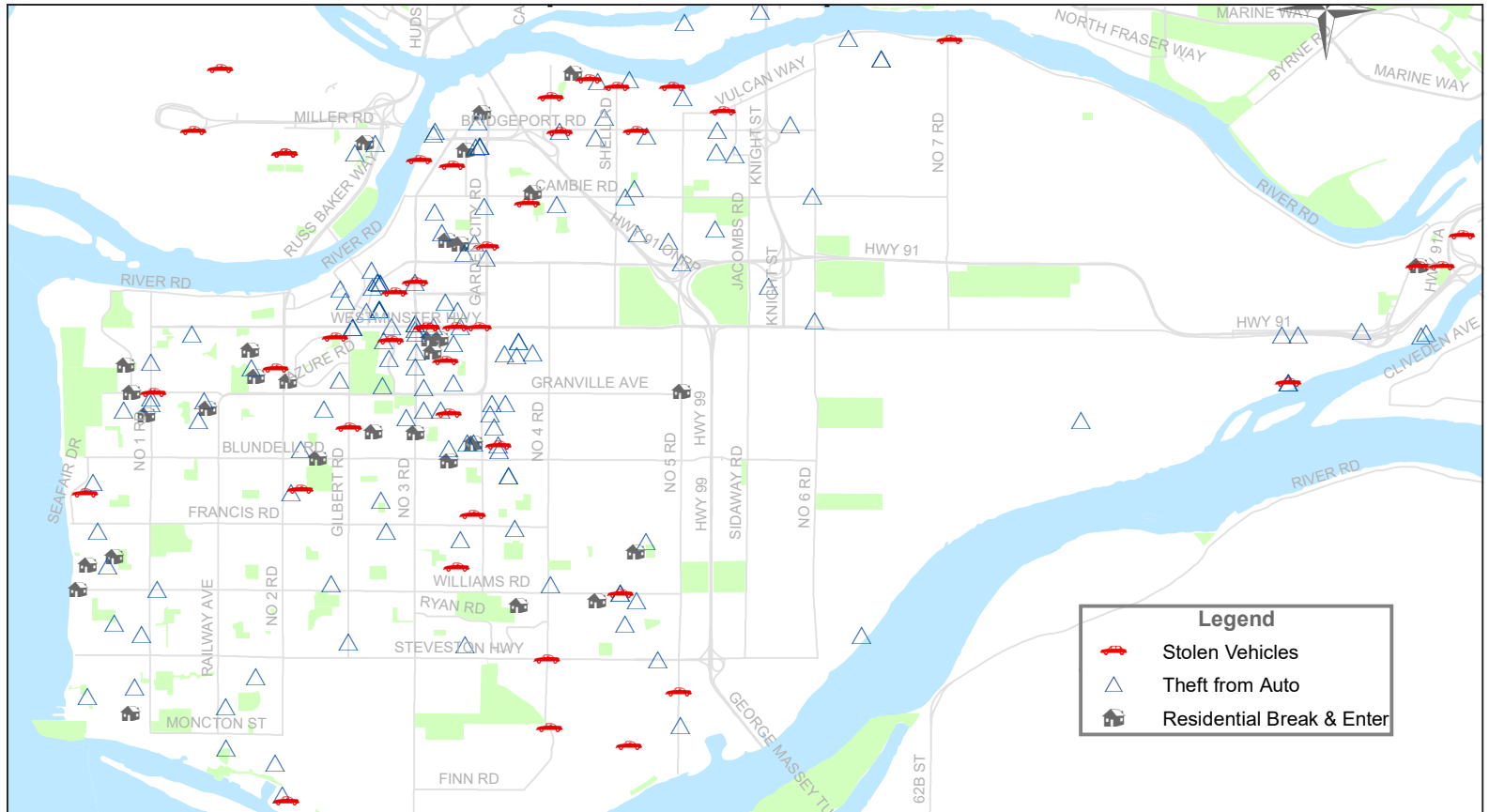
Photo via stocksnap.io

Chabad Richmond is offering a three-part online program on how to deal with life's challenges.



RCMP

Crime Map Sept. 1 - 30, 2021



Airport aiming for net zero carbon by 2030

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Vancouver International Airport is moving up its goal of becoming net zero by 20 years, from 2050 to 2030.

"We want to become the world's greenest airport because we know that flying is an essential part of a connected society and a growing economy," says the airport's president and CEO Tamara Vrooman. "But at the same time, we know that emissions are a part of our industry. It's not flying that's the enemy, it's carbon, and we have to find ways to decarbonize an essential service that is so important."

Jennifer Aldcroft, manager of climate and environment at the Vancouver Airport Authority, says the airport's emissions footprint is comprised 60 per cent of heating, 30 per cent of electricity, eight per cent of vehicle fleet and two per cent of small sources on Sea Island.

A four-pronged plan will help the airport meet its goal.

Firstly, the airport is focusing on a green fleet, promising to right-size its vehicles to match operational requirements. Where possible, staff will look at electric options, and if that is not possible they will look to renewable fuels.

The second goal is building conservation and electrification, aiming to use less energy for heating and cooling, cooking, lighting and other electrical loads. Where possible, staff will switch from natural gas to electricity.

Thirdly, the airport will invest in green electricity and on-site solar, as well as buying renewable diesel for generators.

And finally, closing the gap would involve purchasing carbon offsets, removals and assessing business travel.

"We are located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam people, and they have been very generous as custodians of the land teach-



Photo by Hannah Scott

Vancouver International Airport has outlined its strategy to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

ing us about how Sea Island, before there was even an airport, was always a gateway through the mouth of the Fraser River," said Vrooman. "So we're very privileged to be working with partners like Musqueam that really encourage us to take the long view to make sure that the changes we're making really are lasting and sustainable."

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In their own words...

What about the dikes?



**Alexa
Loo**
Councillor

"What about the dikes?" is a common question I hear in Richmond. We live, work and play one metre above mean sea level. Our lives, homes and businesses are protected by 49 km of dikes and 39 pump stations fed by 585 km of drainage pipe, 61 km of box culverts and 165 km of watercourses.

Two years ago, Council approved the Flood Protection Management Strategy, a comprehensive approach to flood protection, involving many city departments including Engineering, Finance, Policy Planning, Building Approvals, Development Applications, Facilities Divisions, Emergency & Environmental Programs.

Protecting the people, homes and businesses of Richmond is a serious investment, the order of magnitude is about \$1 to 2 billion with many stakeholders, such as the City of New Westminster, federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Agricultural Land Commission and others.

Due to climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC) estimates a one metre sea level rise by 2100. At the same time, Richmond is slowly settling and sinking at approximately 2mm per year. This is why we are raising the dikes to 4.7 metres by 2100. Council is currently considering moving this target date forward, evaluating the costs and ensuring that those costs are shared with the appropriate levels of government and the private sector.

There are two ways dikes can be breached: water flowing over or water flowing through. The design of Richmond's dikes takes into consideration the mighty Fraser River, seismic risk, and the environment and animal habitats that interface with them.

Our 39 pump stations keep the water out at high tides and during heavy rain events. We upgrade and replace two pumps per year; spreading out the cost while reducing the overall risk and impact of a failure in the pumps.

As average sea level rises, it is important to keep Richmond above mean sea level. We have a plan to raise the average grade of land within the dikes by requiring new homes to be built higher and permitting farms to raise their land with good soil.

The level of the dikes keep water from going over them and the strength of



the dikes prevents the water from going through them. Erosion from the fast moving Fraser is mitigated by installing rip-rap, the huge rocks you see alongside the south dike and elsewhere. Erosion from burrowing animals is mitigated by safe relocation, and erosion from plants is stopped by removing the trees along the dike. While trees are beautiful, the expanding root systems can be catastrophic to the structural integrity of dikes. That is why trees are no longer planted on dikes. Trees removed for safety reasons are replaced by at least two more in more suitable places in Richmond.

Council continues to work to make this efficient and affordable for Richmond taxpayers.

For more information, visit: www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/dikes.htm.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

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

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

Oct 13 | 4:00 p.m.
Community Safety Committee

Oct 14 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel

Oct 18 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee

Oct 18 | 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing

Oct- 19 | 4:00 p.m.
Public Works & Transportation Committee

Oct 25 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting

Oct 26 | 4:00 p.m.
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

Oct 27 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel

Nov 1 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee followed by Finance Committee

Nov 2 | 4:00 p.m.
Planning Committee

Nov 8 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting

Nov 9 | 4:00 p.m.
Community Safety Committee

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



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



Gateway announces its season of programming

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Following a challenging 18 months, Gateway Theatre's creative team is looking forward to the upcoming season with optimism.

The theatre announced its programming late last month, as well as unveiling a mural that has been taking shape on its exterior wall thanks to the work of artist Carmen Chan. And the upcoming season, which will include some untraditional offerings as opposed to only seated in-person productions, has required creativity and adaptability to plan.

"For us as an organization, really learning how to connect with our community in a different way has been challenging and exciting, and I think in some ways a gift," says director of artistic programs Barbara Tomasic. "It's forced us to really investigate who our audiences are and what they would have needed this year to feel connected and joyful and still a part of the Gateway."



Photo courtesy Gateway Theatre

Barbara Tomasic is Gateway Theatre's director of artistic programs.



Photo by Jaana Björk

Stages of Bloom is the new mural on Gateway Theatre's exterior wall, courtesy of artist Carmen Chan.

Tomasic says the creative team began planning many months ago, and had to be flexible given the uncertainty of capacity limits and other public health restrictions. Above all, they didn't want to have to cancel anything.

The season will kick off with a unique community event, bringing last year's *Hallows' Eve* paper theatre kit to life with a large, interactive version at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and Aberdeen Centre. In February, another community event will bring Lunar New Year stories to people through a walk-through experience.

"I'm really excited about exploring a different way of sharing Gateway with our community," says Tomasic. "I think that's something that we've learned during COVID for sure. It's a direction that we've been wanting to take here, and we've been moving in that direction for a while."

The annual holiday show will be something of a return to its usual format, with in-person audiences welcomed inside Gateway's theatre for the first time since February 2020. Proof of vaccination will be required, and audience members must wear masks. There will also be a reduced capacity inside.

"We've learned that to leap without looking at this point is not prudent," says Tomasic of the plans, which she calls "cautiously optimistic."

The holiday show will also be streamed online, making it accessible to more patrons.

"We spoke to some patrons who were not comfortable coming to the theatre," Tomasic explains. "We also wanted to (offer a virtual option) in case some things change drastically and we can't offer it to a live audience at all."

While the expense of digital streaming is a new consideration for the Gateway team, Tomasic says they have not only budgeted for it, but also been able to provide work to more people in the industry to help with filming. The show has already been cast, and is custom built around seven artists who sing and play instruments. Work on costumes and set pieces has also started, and "it feels like there's life in the theatre right now," says Tomasic.

"I really love everything that's coming into our space this year. It really has the feeling of hope and joy and community and really connecting with people on a level that is much needed right now."

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2021-2022 season at a glance

Hallows' Eve pop-up theatre

Artwork by Keely O'Brien, story and characters by Jasmine Chen

Oct. 23-24, 2021 at Gulf of Georgia Cannery

Oct. 30-31, 2021 at Aberdeen Centre

Free family-friendly community event

A Broadway Holiday

Directed by Barbara Tomasic

Musically directed by Jenny Anderson

Production design by Sophie Tang

Costume coordination by Melicia Zaini

Stage managed by Susan Miyagishima

Created by Christopher King and Barbara Tomasic

Dec. 16-23, 2021

Performed for a live audience in the MainStage with a digital stream available.

Lantern Festival

Created by Stephanie Wong and Marina Szijarto

February 2022

Immersive walk-through experience celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year

Certified

Written and performed by JD Derbyshire

Directed by Roy Surette

Lighting design by Jillian White

Sound design by Dana Ayotte

March 8-20, 2022

Performed for a live audience in Studio B

Gateway Theatre also announces New(to) Town Collective as its 2021-2022 Company in Residence. The Residency will support New(to) Town's continued exploration of pedagogy, physical theatre, and accessibility in theatre training. In addition, Gateway Theatre will be supporting the development of New(to)Town member Davey Calderon's *Big Queer Filipino Karaoke Night*.

Writer-in-residence connects to community

Sonya Lalli spoke to residents at a September kick-off event

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

For new Richmond writer-in-residence Sonya Lalli, September's kick-off event was a chance to connect to her new community here in B.C.

Lalli, who recently moved from Toronto with her husband, will hold the writer-in-residence position through the end of November, offering workshops to locals. Two workshops are scheduled for Oct. 23 and 30, and there will also be a finale event in November.

"The first (workshop) is on the path to publication, standing out, getting ahead. I'm going to talk about my journey through the publishing world, and try and help people with any tips that I've learned from my mentors," says Lalli. "The second part is focusing on authentic storytelling. I write books about South Asian women; a lot of times I'm drawing on my own personal experiences or those of my community or my family. Some of that stuff can be pretty difficult, intergenerational trauma and various baggage or complexities and nuances that sometimes are hard to write about."

While Lalli has always been interested in writing, she used to consider it just a hobby. Her first book, *The Matchmaker's List*, started as an idea "that really wouldn't leave me alone." She was able to find a literary agent, who helped her with the editing work necessary, and was matched with a publisher.

At first, Lalli wrote in the hours outside her day job, including mornings and weekends. But when she began working from home during the pandemic, she found herself with even more time to write. Now, she works reduced hours at her day job and is able to find more balance between that and writing.

Her second book, *Grown-Up Pose*, was challenging. It was released in March 2020, so the excitement of a new release was tamped down by the onset of the pandemic. Lalli describes the strug-

Photo by Ming Joanis/A Nerd's World

Richmond writer-in-residence Sonya Lalli had her inaugural event last weekend, and will hold several more workshops in the next two months.



gle some writers have with their sophomore novel, and says she experienced impostor syndrome and doubt compared to her first book.

Lalli's fourth novel, *A Holly Jolly Diwali*, will be published next month. Lalli describes it as "an escapist romance," since it's set in India and follows a young South Asian woman who travels there and falls in love.

"Nobody was travelling and we're all home, but it was really nice to escape into this world and write a book where everything was as it was (before the pandemic) and we're all travelling and falling in love in the old normal way," says Lalli.

She's recently stepped into a new genre, and her first psychological thriller *Are You Sara?* will be released next year. While that genre wasn't something she'd considered before, it was "challenging and fun" to explore something new.

Lalli emphasizes the importance of mentorship and community, particularly given the lack of representation of minority stories in books and media. She hopes her workshops can help people in their own writing journeys.

"It's on me and others like me to keep the door open, and to pass on what we've learned, and to help others get in too."

She was able to have meaningful interactions with some people at her recent event.

"A few people I met there had read my work and wanted to talk about what it means to see yourself in the books you're reading," she says. "I get those sorts of messages online, but it was one of the first times that I was able to have that conversation in person and it was really really rewarding. It makes you realize why you're doing this, and it's to have other people feel seen and heard and have their voices and their stories matter."

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***It's on me and others
like me to keep the
door open, and to pass
on what we've learned,
and to help others get
in too.***

– Sonya Lalli

Hospital's surgical restart campaign gets boost

A financial management company is supporting Richmond Hospital's new surgical restart campaign.

Elite Wealth Management, founded by Angela Fok, has been a loyal supporter of Richmond Hospital Foundation both personally and professionally. Not only has Fok made personal donations towards the new acute care tower campaign for Richmond Hospital, she has also been a sponsor of Richmond Hospital Foundation's annual Starlight Gala through Elite Wealth Management. And now the company is donating \$24,027 toward the surgical restart campaign.

In June, Elite Wealth Management hosted a complimentary online information session, Leave a Legacy through Planned Giving, which focused on the impact of legacy giving for both individuals and the community. The webinar attracted over 100 attendees and introduced Richmond Hospital Foundation as a beneficiary organization. At the event, Elite Wealth Management also announced a matching gift of up to \$10,000 for all individuals dedicating gifts to Richmond Hospital Foundation along with all consultation fees attributable to the seminar to be donated back to Richmond Hospital Foundation.

"Elite Wealth Management's mission is to offer strategic direction and help build financial wealth in the long-term," says Fok, president and founder of Elite Wealth Management. "Financial wealth is the building block to ensuring an individual's overall well-being. I believe that caring for individuals is best done through enriching their environment, so it only made sense to use my professional knowledge to help both my clients and my community. Richmond Hospital is not only my hospital, but also my clients', my staff's,



Photo submitted

Elite Wealth Management's Angela Fok and James Mok presented a cheque to the Richmond Hospital Foundation's Candace Hernandez.

and my family's hospital."

"Elite Wealth Management, along with Angela's passion for her profession and dedication to the Richmond community, inspires joyful giving," says Candace Hernandez, vice-president of Richmond Hospital Foundation. "We are excited to have Angela and her team as ambassadors to help us build a better and healthier future for Richmond."

Long-term care residents to receive third vaccine dose

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

People living in long-term care or assisted living facilities will soon receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine, according to provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry.

She explained that since older people have less strong immune responses to most vaccines, and because they were also among the first to be vaccinated against COVID-19, a booster dose will be provided starting in October.

"In these congregate settings, even when we have most of the residents fully immunized, if this virus is introduced into those settings there is a significant number of people who will have breakthrough infections, and this in an elderly population can be lethal," said Henry. "We know that our seniors and Elders have carried a heavy burden, and we continue to see cases in these homes."

At the same time, the high-dose influenza vaccine will be provided to residents.

As of Oct. 12, visitors to long-term care or assisted living facilities must be fully vaccinated. As of Oct. 26, visitors to acute care facilities must also show proof of full vaccination. There will be exceptions for some situations like palliative or end-of-life care. Unvaccinated people working in these facilities will be ineligible to work after Oct. 12, and will be off work without pay as of that day.



Photo screen grab from Province of BC YouTube

Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said long-term care residents will soon receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

The Vancouver Coastal Health region leads the way in staff immunization in these facilities, according to Health Minister Adrian Dix, with 97 per cent of long-term care staff having received one dose and 94 per cent having received two doses. Among assisted living staff in the region, 99 per cent have received one dose and 96 per cent have received two doses.

The province is seeing increased infections in younger people who have not yet had the opportunity to be immunized—those under age 18. While there have not been increases in more severe illness in these age groups, Henry said

the increase in infections is concerning.

"What we've seen is a dramatic increase in numbers of children, particularly school-aged children, who are being tested for COVID-19 in the past three weeks, since school started again," said Henry in late September. "That is something that we expected, we saw that last year as well. We've gone up from about 100 children a day being tested across the age groups to over 500 children a day."

"That tells us that we're seeing school-aged children having illness that leads them to be tested, and that the testing has gone up quite dramatically, but the test positivity has stayed lower or gone down in most cases. The one area that we're seeing that is still high is children aged five to 11, where it's around five to 10 per cent, it's somewhere in that range, of those children who are tested. That means that the case numbers are going up in that age group in particular."

The percent positivity is decreasing in older children who are protected through vaccination, she said, despite increased testing. The same is true for the zero to four-year-old age group.

Henry said in areas where community vaccination rates are higher—including the Vancouver Coastal Health region—rates of the virus among school-aged children stay "low and steady."

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New resources to help EASE student anxiety

Secondary school students in Richmond now have some in-classroom assistance to help them through some of life's challenges.

With the launch of Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE), provided to teachers from Grades 8 through 12, students can now access help in learning how to boost their coping skills during stressful times such as these.

"The pandemic has had a profound impact on children's and youths' mental health," said Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development. "Expanding EASE to Grades 8 to 12 puts practical and much-needed tools for managing anxiety directly into classrooms."

EASE materials focus on breathing, mindfulness and coping skills, along with strategies to tackle common problems like procrastination, test anxiety, facing fears, managing unhelpful thoughts, calming public-speaking nerves, managing mood and social media's impact on mental health and well-being.

Rooted in the evidence-based principles of cognitive behavioural therapy, EASE launched in 2019 to provide Kindergarten to Grade 7 educators with adaptable online materials to teach students coping skills to help them manage mild to moderate anxiety. Since then, EASE at Home was introduced making it easy for parents and caregivers to share the lessons with their children. The Kindergarten to Grade 7 materials have also been translated into French.

The school-based resources are free and available to educators, school counsellors and support staff within school districts, independent schools

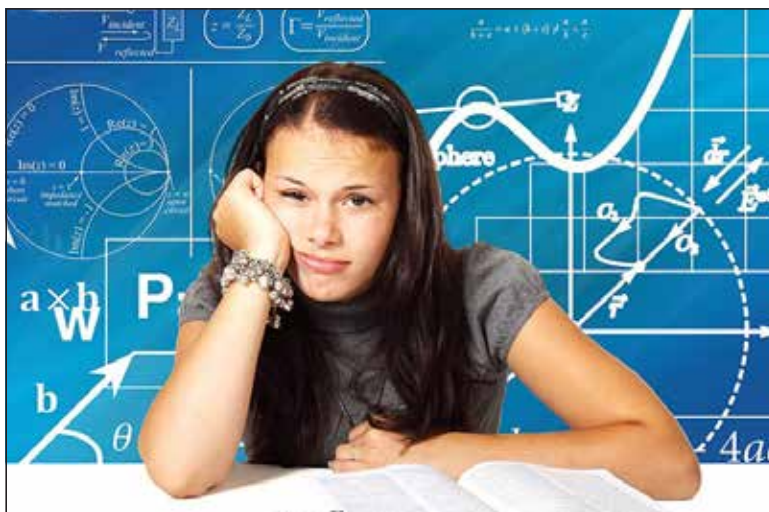


Photo via pxfuel.com

Grade 8 to 12 students in Richmond, and throughout B.C., now have access through their teachers to new classroom resources designed to help them manage anxiety.

and First Nations schools, following completion of a self-paced online course. EASE aligns with the B.C. curriculum and the Ministry of Education's Mental Health in Schools strategy.

"Students have the best education experiences when they feel safe and supported," said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education. "Mental wellness is a priority as students continue to live with anxiety during the pandemic, and EASE is another resource for educators to use so that we have a variety of strategies to meet the unique needs of students."

More than 5,500 educators are now participating and have grade-specific resources to teach students a suite of skills they can use throughout their lives. The initiative aligns with the government's commitment to provide school-based mental-health programming and resources focused on promotion, prevention and early intervention. EASE

also complements the First Peoples Principles of Learning and supports the integration of locally adapted and applied Indigenous perspectives. An Indigenous literacy teacher and an Elder participated in the development of these resources.

As a school-based support, EASE is part of government's ongoing work to build a seamless and co-ordinated mental health and addictions system of care in B.C. The two-year progress report on A Pathway to Hope, B.C.'s 10-year mental-health plan, was released in September 2021.

"We know that many young people are facing increased mental health challenges brought on by the pandemic," said Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "Providing high school teachers with the tools they need to support their

students' mental well-being will help prevent small problems from becoming bigger down the road."

EASE 8-12 was developed by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, in collaboration with Grade 8 to 12 teachers, school counsellors, social and emotional learning educators, youth from school districts and independent schools, Open School BC and other subject-matter experts.

An estimated 5.2 per cent (39,000) of children and youth in B.C. will be affected by an anxiety disorder. In the McCreary 2018 BC Adolescent Health Survey, 15 per cent of B.C. youth reported that they suffer from a mental-health condition, the most common being anxiety and panic attacks. Anxiety and stress problems can have a lot in common. The difference is that in an anxiety disorder, the symptoms are extreme and do not go away once the stress is over.

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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Let's choose to reuse.

Richmond's *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000* comes into effect March 27, 2022. Bylaw 10000 bans foam food service ware, plastic straws and plastic checkout bags to help reduce unnecessary waste and pollution.

**Bring
a bag**

**Carry
a cup**

**Skip the
straw**

We can all do our part by:

- choosing reusable options;
- reducing waste at home; and
- supporting local businesses as they transition to accepted alternatives.

**Did you
know?**

Each year, at least eight million tonnes of plastics leak into the ocean, which is equivalent to dumping the contents of one garbage truck into the ocean every minute.

Learn about Bylaw 10000 and how you can help reduce plastic waste and pollution.

richmond.ca/singleuse

