



WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Richmond takes lead by introducing
ban on single-use plastics



03

Photo by Jaana Björk

The City of Richmond recently introduced a ban on single-use plastics so as to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy nature as we do today. At the same time, residents are also being encouraged to come up with additional measures to reduce their household waste.

Hamilton
HIGH STREET RESIDENCE

DYNAMIC LIFESTYLE

FEATURING

SIT & FIT EXERCISE CLASS

*Designed to enhance movement health and
to promote active exercise.*

Led by Sue Lobo, Group Fitness Instructor
and Personal Trainer



Thursday mornings
10:30 am - 11:15 am



23100 Garripie Ave, Richmond
2nd Floor, Multi-Purpose Activities Room

Discover Richmond's brand-new retirement
community and live life on your own terms.



RSVP at 778.554.8677
ramona@hamiltonhighstreet.ca

HamiltonHighStreet.ca
23100 Garripie Avenue, Richmond B.C. V6V 0B9



Richmond taking environmental lead

City is a regional leader when it comes to waste management and protecting our environment

By **DON FENNEL**
@rmdsentinel

Even tackling the biggest obstacles has to start with a first step. And in its quest to reduce waste, the City of Richmond is an undisputed leader in the region.

"Recycling is important, but reducing waste overall is an essential part of responsible waste management and protecting our environment," says Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

In September, city council officially adopted a bylaw to ban foam food service ware, plastic straws and plastic checkout bags starting March 27, 2022. The new ban will affect all businesses operated in Richmond.

At the time, Brodie said it was crucial "that we address single-use plastics as a significant cause of environmental damage in our oceans, local waterways and other natural areas by reducing this type of unnecessary waste as we support a more sustainable, circular economy."

The city expects this single move will remove at least 660 tonnes from the landfills each year. Overall, some 29,000 tonnes of plastic pollutions enters the environment across Canada each year. On a global scale at least eight million tonnes of plastics leak into the oceans annually.

Veteran city councillor Harold Steves has been environmentally conscious all his life. You might even say he was an environmentalist before many knew what it meant.

Harkening back to his childhood, Steves, who sits on Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Committee, remembers a time when very little was wasted. In the days before and during the Second World War, nearly everything was considered too precious to go to waste and was often reused or creatively made into something else.

Like the dolls Harold and his sibling gratefully received as Christmas presents from an aunt one year.

"When I was a kid nothing was thrown away—it either got reused or put in the garage or attic because you might need it," he says. "It's why I've still got a lot of stuff from 50 years ago. People were meticulous. I can still see my mother opening a can of soup and after emptying it cutting the bottom off, flattening it, and sending it off for recycling. That was in 1945."

It was also a time when, unlike today Steves says, everything was made to last.

"Today, products are designed to wear out," he laments. "I have an electric razor I bought in 1955 when I first began shaving. It still works and I think



Photo by Don Fennell

Richmond is aiming to reduce waste through community outreach as well as its single-use plastics ban.

it will go on forever. I've bought half a dozen other electric razors since and they last a year and you end up throwing them away."

Besides pushing the limits of landfills, plastics produce many other lasting consequences. Steves notes that plastic collected is often burned, a process that results in further environmental damage through the addition of greenhouse gases. Other times, plastics end up in streams and rivers and have proven to negatively impact British Columbia's ever-dwindling salmon stock.

***When I was a kid nothing
was thrown away—it
either got reused or put
in the garage or attic
because you might need
it later.***

— Coun. Harold Steves

Steves says consumerism is also to blame for our environmental crisis.

"We need to look at everything we buy and ask ourselves, 'Do I really need this?' We're coerced into buying a lot of what we don't need," he ex-

plains.

While Steves is pleased to see the efforts Richmond is making, he says much more still needs to be done. Sadly, he says society ignored the warnings from decades ago.

"The pace we're going (to reverse the impact of environmental damage) is the problem. I taught about climate change back in the 1960s. But because the change tends to be so incremental we only notice when we have a summer (of unprecedented heat) like this last one. We have known it was coming for 60 years."

Coinciding with Waste Reduction Week (Oct. 18 to 24), Richmond recently launched a Community Ideas Hub featuring ideas from residents on how to reduce household waste. The hub at richmond.ca/rethink also includes tips on how to repurpose materials, cut back on food waste, and apply options to repair, trade or donate items instead of throwing them away.

The waste reduction ideas shared by the community were collected through the Rethink Waste Think Tank, a community engagement campaign on Let's Talk Richmond. Future outreach includes hosting virtual Rethink Waste workshops to raise awareness about the tips in the Ideas Hub and the single-use plastic ban.

Details of other initiatives to reduce waste and create a safer, more sustainable environment can be found in the city's *Sustainability Progress Report 2015-2020* at richmond.ca/sustainability/towards/citydoing

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond's sustainability report highlights progress

Award-winning district energy, state-of-the-art recycled road paving and leadership in electric vehicle implementation are just some of the ways Richmond is continuing to be one of Canada's most sustainable communities, promoting environmental, social, cultural and economic growth and well-being.

These are just some of the examples outlined in the City of Richmond *Sustainability Progress Report 2015-2020*, which highlights the city's progress in building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for Richmond. It tells how the city has grown and how its sustainability goals have evolved to reflect that growth and diversity.

Among the highlights:

- The city's total water use has decreased 12 per cent since 2003 despite a 26 per cent increase in population, thanks largely to innovative water metering programs and its water loss management program.
- Richmond was the first to use reclaimed asphalt pavement on a section of major roadway, a pilot partnership with Lafarge Canada that has paved the way—literally—for similar projects across Canada.
- Over 15 kilometres of dedicated street and off-street cycling and pedestrian pathways has been created since 2014—a 23 per cent increase—to improve safety and encourage emissions-free travel.
- By advocating for affordable, accessible quality childcare, the city has licensed over 7,022 childcare spaces to support the needs of children, families, and employers in our growing communities.
- Richmond was the first city in North America to enact a policy requiring all new residential parking spaces be equipped with Level 2 electric vehicle

charging capacity.

- Total capacity of the city's 39 drainage pump stations has increased 29 per cent since 2005, supporting the 49 kilometres of dikes already in place to protect our community from rising sea levels.

- Recipient of over a dozen awards in the past decade, Richmond's district energy program continues to collect accolades for its innovation, efficiency and green sustainability.

- A commitment to provide affordable housing through the low end market rental program that has already secured 519 units and attracted \$8.5 million in developer contributions to support standalone affordable housing developments.

- How the thriving public arts program has led to 30 civic public art and 25 private developer public art projects completed since 2015, energizing public spaces and transforming where residents live, work, and play into welcoming, engaging environments.

- How a pilot partnership with a local community agency, FoodMesh, resulted in 644,800 meals being served to those in need and 414,555 kg of unwanted food items diverted from waste streams.

Through innovative initiatives in building performance and municipal operations, alternative energy, transportation and infrastructure planning, the City of Richmond continues to seek new ways to help achieve its goal of being a sustainable and environmentally conscious community.

Updates on progress to date and future achievements will be shared online along with videos and social media highlights. The *Sustainability Progress Report 2015-2020* can be found at: richmond.ca/sustainability/towards/citydoing.htm.



Photo by Hannah Scott

Interest in bidding on the Steveston Community Centre and branch library was high, according to the Steveston Community Society's autumn newsletter.

Steveston replacement project progressing

The second stage of the request for proposal process to replace the Steveston Community Centre and branch library is expected to go live later this month.

An item in the Steveston Community Society's autumn newsletter indicates that the City of Richmond had an overwhelming number of architect firms interested in bidding on the project, and as such the pre-qualification period was extended to Sept. 29.

The Steveston Community Society, along with the Richmond Public Library board, will be looking to form specific working groups and develop a game plan, the newsletter indicates.

With a completion date of late 2025 or early 2026, the estimated cost of the project is \$90 million. City staff has recommended \$64 million come from the capital building and infrastructure reserve, \$21.3 million from the capital reserve, and \$5.6 million from the Steveston community amenity provision. An additional \$5 million is recommended for a construction escalation contingency fund.

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Published by
RICHMOND SENTINEL NEWS INC.
200-3071 No. 5 Road,
Richmond, B.C., V6X 2T4

Advertising & Sponsorship
marketing@richmondsentinel.ca
778-325-1297

Newsroom
newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca
778-297-5005

Editor - Don Fennell
dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



Download our app
from the
App Store or
Google Play Store.

Funded in part by the
Government of Canada

Canada

Emergency response centre remains full

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond's emergency response centre, located in the old Minoru seniors' centre, will remain open through at least the end of February.

"The goal is for it to remain open as a bridge to the temporary modular housing on Smith Street when it is completed this coming summer," says the city's communications director Clay Adams.

The Smith Street project, a collaboration between the city and BC Housing, was approved by city council in March. It will see a three-storey building constructed near Bridgeport Canada Line station. It will operate for about three years and contain 40 homes.

The emergency response centre first opened in May 2020 to provide shelter to vulnerable people during the pandemic. It is a partnership between the city, BC Housing and Turning Point Recovery Society. Access is by referral only; walk-ins are not accepted.

There are 45 beds and access to showers, entertainment, social supports and health care. Staff is on-site 24/7 and provide daily meals and cleaning services.

Adams says on most days, anywhere from 40 to 45 spaces are occupied.



Photo by Don Fennell

Richmond's emergency response centre, initially an unprecedented use of public buildings, has now been open for 17 months.

"Some stay for a few weeks, others a few days, and some even transition in and out from time to time depending on their circumstances," he says.

"We can certainly say the emergency response centre has provided much-needed supports for those Richmond residents experiencing a lack of permanent housing and kept many living on the

street safe from COVID-19 and other issues."

Once the emergency response centre has closed, the building will be converted into a cultural centre annex. Adams says the city anticipates the transformation to start in the latter part of 2022.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Spooky Season
INCOOOOming~

 **BLUNDELL CENTRE**

Hurry and find your spook on the corner of
Blundell & No. 2 Road

'Tis the season for giving to Christmas Fund

No, it's not quite the holiday season yet, but if you cup your hand to your ear, you can hear the jingling of Christmas bells just beyond the horizon.

Another sure sign the holidays are approaching? Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (which organizes the annual Richmond Christmas Fund fundraiser) is almost halfway through registration. Thus far, nearly 700 families have signed up to receive support, and that number gets higher by the day.

Last year, 2,866 people were provided grocery vouchers, toys, books, and gift cards. A year later, and the pandemic is still with us, causing financial hardship for countless families. Many of our neighbours still need help, and once again the Christmas Fund will be there to share the holiday spirit.

Reflecting the community's ongoing support and generosity, program organizers are grateful for the countless individuals and businesses, schools and church groups who continue to step up along with new contributors each day. This outpouring of kindness is a shining light that brightens the holidays for those who need it most.

Monetary contributions can be made online at rcrg.org and are used to purchase grocery vouchers. Because items are purchased in bulk from Save-On-Foods, the Richmond Christmas Fund receives a discount, allowing it to stretch your donation dollars even further.

Richmond Christmas Fund organizers also gladly accept donations of new and unwrapped toys, books, and sports equipment. A wish list is posted on its website and items can be dropped at Richmond Caring Place weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alternatively, you can stop by the Richmond RCMP Toy Drive Nov. 20 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Lansdowne Centre mall parking lot. Make a toy or cash donation (minimum \$10) and you'll get a bag of mini donuts in return.



Photo courtesy RCRG

The Richmond Christmas Fund is gearing up to help ensure more local families have a special holiday season this year.

Library geared up for new angling experience

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

With the introduction of *Fishing ExplorePACKS*, Richmond Public Library is again reaching beyond its traditional collection to inspire learning in nature.

On the heels of the *Birdwatching ExplorePACKS* which debuted in September, the rods and tackles will help enable patrons to discover more of the abundant waterways the community is blessed to have access to.

"The library is committed to introducing more interactive kits and *ExplorePACKS* for the community to enjoy," says the library's coordinator of community development Shane Parmar. "As an example, the donation to create the Linda Perron Ukulele Lending Library Collection is almost done, and the library looks forward to selecting and purchasing ukuleles so that we can introduce this new collection for the community to use."

There are six *Fishing ExplorePACKS* to bor-



Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library

If you've ever wanted to explore Richmond's rich fishing heritage, the library's new *ExplorePACKS* can provide you with all you need to set out on an angling adventure.

row by families of various sizes. Two packs have one rod each, two others have two rods, and two others have four rods each. The packs can be borrowed for seven days, with up to two renewals permitted unless there is a hold on the kit. Each kit also comes with a

tacklebox, accessories and simple instructions along with a selection of Richmond-specific fishing guides to help patrons experience the city's rich fishing heritage and history.

Due to their unusual size and fragility, the packs can only be borrowed from or returned to the library's main Brighthouse branch in Minoru Park.

The *ExplorePACKS* were made possible by a generous donation from gofishbc's Rod Loan program. The Richmond library is the first in Western Canada to offer the service.

"By providing fishing rods and basic tackle at no cost, the Rod Loan program reduces barriers for people who want to give fishing a try," says Jessica Yarwood, outreach coordinator for the Freshwater Society of BC. "We are very excited to partner with Richmond Public Library and offer this program in time for the fall fishing season."

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

Church offers *Trunk or Treat* event

Last year's drive-thru event returns with new format

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

As kids prepare for a second pandemic Halloween, a Richmond church is doing its best to provide safe family-friendly fun.

The Church on Five offered a drive-thru trick or treat event last year, and is planning to repeat the event with a different format this year.

"(During) the pandemic there was so little for kids and families," explains Rachel Wilson, one of the church's lead pastors. "As a parent of two elementary-aged children, I think everyone was so appreciative that we had so many volunteers who wanted to put in the time, make the kids smile and bring some joy into their Halloween when everything else was cancelled. We're just trying to keep the kids hopeful."

This year's *Trunk or Treat* event is themed around characters from different television shows and movies including *Star Wars*, *The Flintstones* and *Moana*, with over 50 stations planned.

"The vibe really is just that the kids would have a great night and then parents would feel supported," says Wilson. "I think that sometimes in COVID it can be very isolating to be a young family where you have to stay to yourself all the time, so just providing those safe ways for families to get out and have some fun and for kids to have those important childhood moments is why we're doing it."

Dara Takenaka is a member of the church community who has headed up the event for the last two years. She says this year there will be about 50 volun-



Rachel Wilson is one of the lead pastors at the Church on Five, which is bringing back its family-friendly trick or treat event for a second year.

Photo submitted

Everyone was so appreciative that we had so many volunteers who wanted to put in the time, make the kids smile and bring some joy into their Halloween when everything else was cancelled.

– Rachel Wilson

teers who will dress up in costumes, decorate their car trunks and hand out treats.

"We are so grateful for our volunteers," says Takenaka. "Our volunteers are people who attend our church, people who come to some of our church activities offered to our community and people outside our church who appreciate what we do for and with our community."

Takenaka says some community members reached out wanting to help this year after seeing last year's event. The Grade 11 and 12 leadership class at McMath secondary is helping with decoration and painting, and many will also be helping during the event. Overall, Takenaka says the volunteers range in age from about 11 to 65.

Organization for the event began in September, and Wilson says it's beneficial for the volunteers to work towards something with a purpose.

"We've found that connection point has been so important for them as well, putting in time together to be able to put on the event has really decreased that isolation," she says.

Takenaka says the church will be offering a similar event at Easter, and would "gratefully accept" any donations of candy.

The Halloween event will run in the Church on Five's parking lot (10200 No. 5 Rd.) on Halloween, Oct. 31, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parking will be available next door at Richmond Christian School or in the residential parking area across the street.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Resource centre unveils new website

The Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (CCRR) is unveiling its new website.

The centre has been run by Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG) since the 1990s. It supports parents and child care providers by offering information, referral services, training, workshops and educational play-groups.

The centre also hosts the Richmond early years library, which features an always-growing collection of early learning materials that are free to borrow.

Previously, information about the program was available on the RCRG website. But the CCRR team has been working on a standalone website that showcases its many programs and services. The new website also acts as an information hub, listing community resources in areas like early childhood development, family support and crisis intervention.

The website's community events calendar is filled with programs and activities for families with young kids. There's also a job board, which is updated regularly with career opportunities in the early learning field.

With a free account, visitors to the site can register for workshops, track their professional development hours, book resources online and more. And an opt-in insider program offers additional benefits for a nominal fee.

To learn more and explore the new website, visit RichmondKids.ca



Photo via pxhere.com

The Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre has a new website.

Asphalt Paving Advisory

The City of Richmond has contracted All Road Construction to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond from **March 8 to October 15, 2021**:

PROPOSED 2020 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

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

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

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

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

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

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at 604-276-4189, or visit the City's paving program webpage at www.richmond.ca (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2020 Paving Program).

www.richmond.ca



**A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE
A GREAT WAY TO LIVE**



ITS THE **FRIENDS** WE MEET
along the way THAT HELP US
APPRECIATE the journey

4071 Chatham Street • 604-277-4519

Youth group takes on community projects

Richmond Youth part of global organization for 11- to 14-year-olds

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The adolescent years can be challenging. But a program for 11- to 14-year-olds aims to create a positive environment for growth and independence.

"The program recognizes that age group is such a special and unique period in one's life," says Saba Changizi, the program coordinator for Richmond Youth. "Society often sees this age group as tumultuous and kind of rebellious, but the program's vision is to create a positive environment for them to help channel their talents and energies in a very meaningful and purposeful way."

The local chapter, which Changizi describes as a "community grassroots initiative," is part of an internationally recognized curriculum that helps youth develop language abilities, excel in school and become active agents of change.

"Sometimes society breeds a feeling that there's a lot of chaos in the world, but it's up to everyone else to change it," says Changizi. "With the junior youth, we're having conversations where they see themselves as the protagonists."

Participants are divided into small groups of about 10 people. Those groups meet once a week, sometimes coming together for larger events. Right now, Changizi says there are eight groups.

Each small group is responsible for taking on a project to improve their community. For example, one group designed an obstacle course at Garden City Park where people would pair off with someone they'd never met; one partner was blindfolded and the other led them through the course.

"At first there's suspicion, they didn't know each other, there's hesitation. But by the time they complete it, there's this camaraderie or friendship that is able to be nurtured," says Changizi.

Another group focused on mental health and made a booklet that was handed out to community members.

Recently, some members of the organization made a proposal to city council, wanting to plant 215 trees to commemorate the graves found at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Changizi says this is one of the larger-scale projects Richmond Youth has taken on.

Last summer, during a camp themed around service, three groups carried out different service projects. One group created a cooling station to help during the heat wave, one sent cards to a seniors' home, and a third



Photo submitted

Richmond Youth currently has about 80 young people aged 11 to 14 participating in its programs.

group made care packages for people experiencing homelessness.

When group members turn 15 they can continue to be involved as mentors, who are referred to as animators—"because their purpose is to enliven the group and bring it to life."

Current youth participants appreciate the group's welcoming atmosphere and the texts it bases its program around. They are also happy to have a chance to give back.

"What I really like about this program is that it provides youth with lots of positivity and resources to help them become the best person they can be," says youth participant Jessica. "This program is also the best place to give back to our community; we do service projects that make the community a better place."

The program recognizes that age group is such a special and unique period in one's life.

— Saba Changizi

"I decided to join the program to gain experience doing fundraising and charity work. I really enjoyed learning to interact with people during our service project. I would really like to do more, although I now have a little more exposure with projects like these," says youth participant Sophia.

Changizi joined the program while living in China and has been part of the Richmond branch since 2017—the last two years as one of its coordinators.

"I love working with the junior youth and seeing them grow and develop," she says. "A lot of them come in super shy, struggling to articulate their ideas. After a year or two in the program, seeing

that transformation and the understanding of what society or community life looks like and how they can contribute to that is always super inspiring and really rewarding. I feel like I've benefited so much from being a part of this process."

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Sea Island has many stories to see and share

Richmond Museum organizes self-guided walking tour of island that includes Burkeville

By **DON FENNELL**
 @rmdsentinel

Though best known today as home to Canada's second-busiest airport, Sea Island once had a very different distinction.

Long before the arrival of European settlers, the land was home to the Coast Salish First Nations. Not surprisingly given its location, salmon and other fish were food staples, with shellfish equally abundant as were a variety of berries.

Later, in the early days of settlement, the island's flat delta landscape and closeness to the Gulf of Georgia made it ideal for farms and fish canneries.

Finally, the landscape provided an excellent location for an airport that spawned Vancouver International.

In *Sea Island: The Aviation Story*, anyone keen to explore and learn more about the island's history is invited to take a self-guided historical walking tour presented by the Richmond Museum.

The tour's suggested starting point, Larry Berg Flight Path Park, located in line with the end of the airport's south runway, has long been a favourite place to watch planes, play, and even enjoy a picnic. It is named after the airport's former president and chief executive officer who during his 20 years at the helm oversaw the construction of new runways, upgrading of terminals, and its connection to the Canada Line.

While American daredevil Charles K. Hamilton successfully engineered the first flight in Western Canada from Minoru Park to New Westminster and back in the early spring of 1910, the history of aviation in Richmond (which includes the neighbourhood of Sea Island) formally started in 1931.

During a year in which the Roaring Twenties must have seemed like a distant memory amid the dawn of the Dirty Thirties, the global financial crisis spiraled out of control. But reflecting the continuing growth of aviation during the period, a small, wood-frame administration building was completed on Sea Island beside a single runway that would serve 1,072 passengers. By 2018, YVR (as Vancouver International Airport is also known) was serving more than 25 million passengers annually.

As tumultuous as 1931 was, there were also some good times to celebrate. The golden age of cartoons was unfolding and Warner Brothers released the first Merrie Melodies film—*Lady, Play*

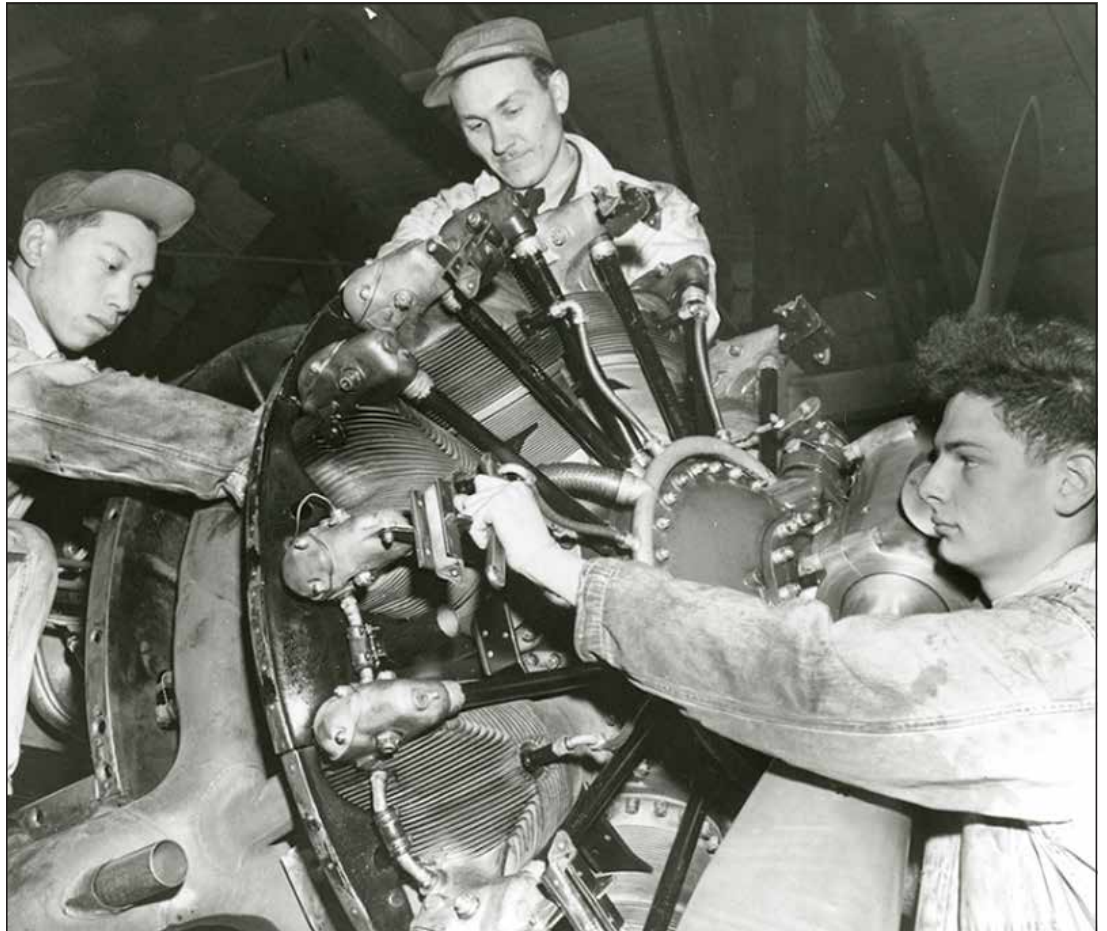


Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Explore the charm of Richmond's second-largest island, with the Richmond Museum's newest self-guided walking tour *Sea Island: The Aviation Story*.

Your Mandolin. Locally, aviation enthusiasts celebrated the opening of the Seabright Ice Cream Parlour on Sea Island.

The outbreak of the Second World War saw the frequent arrival and departure of new types of aircraft, on Sea Island, as yellow de Havilland Tiger Moth biplanes became a familiar sight. Pilots at the Royal Canadian Air Force station prepared for service in Alaska during the war.

With the war raging in Europe, 328 houses were built on Sea Island to address the wartime housing shortage. With gasoline and rubber also in short supply, it was important to house aviation workers and their families close to the airport so as not to waste valuable resources on long commutes.

But the forming of the new community was not without controversy. Many Sea Island residents and farmers were forced to relocate when the federal government assumed control of the land.

Always a tight-knit community, Sea Island residents enthusiastically supported projects to enhance their neighbourhood including the creation of playgrounds, a church, a school and a community centre. Ernest Cooney's barn was given new life as the island's first community cen-

tre in what became known as the heart of newly-named Burkeville, named after Stanley Burke, president of Boeing Aircraft.

While it ultimately closed in 2019 due to a lack of students, the Sea Island school remains a familiar landmark. Opened in 1890 at the corner of McDonald and Grauer roads, on land donated by the McDonald family, it provided instruction for local children who were also expected to help out during harvest time and other busy periods on their farms. As a result, their attendance at the original one-room school (which closed in 1914) depended on the season. A new six-room school in the cottage-style building still standing was completed in 1947.

Much newer but equally appreciated additions to Sea Island include the British Columbia Institute of Technology Aerospace Campus, which opened in 2007 to provide training to various aircraft-related positions; and the Sea Island Fire Hall, which has also been operating since 2007.

Those interested in learning more following or during the walks are encouraged to download a free guide at richmondmuseum.ca/explore/publications.

dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

RCMP officer in charge set to leave Richmond

Richmond RCMP will soon welcome a new officer in charge with the departure of Chief Superintendent Will Ng.

Ng has served as officer in charge of the Richmond detachment for the last five years. His new role will be Assistant Commissioner in charge of federal investigative services and organized crime for BC RCMP.

"Under Chief Superintendent Ng's leadership, Richmond has continued to be one of the safest communities in the region," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "His

Serving alongside the members, civilian staff and volunteers over the past five years has been an absolute career highlight for me.

— Will Ng

strength, dedication and vision has made the Richmond RCMP detachment a shining example of how police and municipalities can work together to build a safe and resilient community. We wish him well in his new role and look forward to continuing our strong relationship with the RCMP."

Ng has worked to ensure a positive workplace culture for the officers, civilians and volunteers that serve the detachment, according to an RCMP release. His ongoing and continued commitment to this has earned him great respect and appreciation amongst the detachment. While he will be missed, those working alongside him are confident this culture of positivity will continue.

"Serving alongside the members, civilian staff and volunteers over the past five years has been an absolute career highlight for me," said Ng. "I am extremely proud of the many outstanding accomplishments that have been achieved and know the community of Richmond will continue to be well served."

The timeline for Ng's transition has not been determined, and he will continue in his role until a successor has been chosen.



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP
Chief Superintendent Will Ng has served as Richmond RCMP's officer in charge for five years.

Month-long distracted driving campaign kicks off

Road users reminded to be extra alert during fall and winter months

Richmond RCMP and ICBC are teaming up for a month-long distracted driving campaign.

Officers from the community engagement team, along with volunteers, handed out reflectors to pedestrians as a reminder to "be seen, be safe." The campaign kicked off last week and will run through the middle of November.

"We're reminding road users to be extra alert during the fall and winter months, as visibility and weather conditions worsen," says Harvey Kooner, local ICBC road safety coordinator. "When driving, focus on the road, leave your phone alone and be ready to yield to pedestrians—especially at intersections. When walking, always use designated crosswalks, make eye contact with drivers and try to be as reflective as possible."

As part of the campaign, police officers will also be conducting targeted enforcement around distracted driving.

In 2020, Richmond RCMP investigated 38



Photo by Hannah Scott

A partnership between Richmond RCMP and ICBC is aiming to cut down on distracted driving.

collisions involving pedestrians and three pedestrian fatalities. To date in 2021 they have investigated 28 collisions involving pedestrians and zero pedestrian fatalities.

"Having to tell a family their loved one won't be coming home takes its toll on our officers,"

says Cpl. Adriana O'Malley, Richmond RCMP media relations officer. "We hope that by educating both pedestrians and drivers about proactive measures they can take, we can prevent a pedestrian from being seriously injured or killed."

Company finds space in hydrogen charger market

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A decade-old Richmond company is benefitting from the increased popularity of alternative fuel vehicles.

Deriving its name from the infrared radiation that fuels its products, IRDI System is the brainchild of Edward Li, who after working at General Hydrogen for a number of years was inspired to create his own product.

"(General Hydrogen) hired a number of us to make basically hydrogen filling stations," says Li. "It wasn't quite the right time yet, so after about 10 years it folded. At that time, I started to want to form my own company to make something that I had been working on. I thought I'd give it a go and see what (comes) of it."

Li says there was no revenue initially, and he continued with his daytime engineering job for two years before finding the courage to try to run his company full-time.

IRDI makes a handheld transmitter that simulates the signal from a hydrogen fuel cell car, allowing a dispenser to confirm that it's receiving the signal correctly. Hydrogen fuel cell cars are refilled at pumps, similar to gas or diesel-powered vehicles.

The IRDI transmitter communicates through infrared, an electromagnetic radiation that is invisible to the human eye because its wavelengths are longer than those of visible light. It helps dispenser manufacturers check if their equipment is working. IRDI also makes transmitters for buses and cars.

The company employs about 10 people, all of whom work from home—Li says the company was "COVID ready eight years ago." They exchange



Photo courtesy Edward Li

Edward Li is the founder and general manager of IRDI System, which makes a handheld infrared transmitter to test the signal of the dispensers used to fill hydrogen fuel cell cars.

information through a shared server.

"Basically, half of us are engineers," says Li. "We develop new products, we make improvements on (them). Then we have some people who do processing when an order comes in. We also have two people who do marketing."

Most of IRDI's customers are large companies, including some international ones. Li says it wasn't challenging to build these relationships because his company makes a unique product. The first

company to buy from IRDI was WEH, which makes hydrogen nozzles. At that point, they had 80 per cent of the market on that product.

"When they said that IRDI can supply the nozzle receiver to WEH, I think we were pretty happy," says Li. "That (meant) almost right away we (had) a large chunk of the hydrogen nozzle market."

Like many companies, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed some problems for Li and his team due to the supply chain issues.

"I have lots of orders, and I can't ship anything because I don't have parts," says Li. "I'm hoping the supply chain issue will be resolved, because usually when (a company) sees an order, they are really happy—now (I'm not) because I can't ship it. It's a really strange situation."

The current delay is about six months, Li says. He's working on sourcing alternative parts of equal quality, and making minor changes to attempt to satisfy the demand.

But despite the challenges, Li finds it rewarding to set his own goals and agenda. It's also a triumph to see his company making progress.

"That's the most rewarding, seeing us hitting our milestones," he says. "And basically I was the one who, with my team, made it happen."

He's optimistic that as alternative fuel vehicles become more common, more orders will continue to come in.

Since its inception, IRDI has worked with Foreseason Technology, another Richmond company. IRDI generates drawings and specifics for its products, and then sends those over to Foreseason who makes them.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

RICHMOND
SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

RICHMOND AT A GLANCE

Connecting you with our community.
Download our app and take us with you.



Download our app from the
App Store or Google Play Store.



Sockeyes fishing for consistency

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Coaches have become increasingly fond of promoting the process as much as the result. But in actuality the two go hand in hand.

Look no further than the Richmond Sockeyes as an example.

While Bayne Koen, bench boss of the local junior hockey club, would love to see more consistency from his team, he knows with a young group of players (10 of whom are playing their first year in the Pacific Junior Hockey League) the "process" takes time. And so predictably the Sockeyes have been a bit up and down to start the 2021-22 season—both during stretches in their first 13 games, and overall during the first two months of the schedule.

"We're getting there, but we still have to learn how to play 60 consecutive minutes. It's always a learning process," says Koen. "I think the guys are becoming more comfortable with their routines though."

Despite the early going being a work in progress, the Sockeyes are second in the Tom Shaw Conference—just a point back of the North Vancouver Wolf Pack, albeit having played three more games than the frontrunners.

Sticking with the "process" mantra suggesting there's work still to be done,



With 10 first-year players in the lineup, the Richmond Sockeyes continue to search for consistency in the Pacific Junior Hockey League.

the Sockeyes' goals-for-and-against ratio (49-41) won't raise many eyebrows either. Nor will their inability to win more than three games in a row, which they have done twice.

"We've excelled in some areas but definitely need to get better in others," offers Koen, who is particularly keen to see all his players be conscientious in the defensive zone and without the puck. He says everyone likes to score goals, and he certainly doesn't want to quash any offensive creativity. But he says keeping the puck out of your own net matters equally.

"It's such a fine line at all levels," Koen continues. "We want to build from our end out and need the guys to buy in. I've been encouraged recently hearing communication even on the bench talking about how to eradicate chances against."

After flexing their offensive muscles in an unexpected 11-4 romp over the Aldergrove Kodiaks (6-7-1) here on Oct. 21, the Sockeyes hope to build momentum when their November schedule begins with a home game versus North Vancouver (8-1-0-1) on Nov. 4, followed by a game against tunnel rival Delta Ice Hawks (7-4-0-1) at Ladner Leisure Centre on Nov. 9 and a home date on Remembrance Day (Nov. 11) versus the White Rock Whalers (6-4-1).

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca

Cranston sets weight throw record

By DON FENNELL
@rmdsentinel

Throwing one's weight around is generally frowned upon, usually seen as being unpleasantly self-assertive.

But not in the case of a Richmond man.

Local personal trainer Jody Cranston throws his weight around—and then some—in competition.

Recently in Langley he won the Masters Division by setting a 98-pound weight throw record in the Ultra Throw Club Championships.

Cranston threw the implement 11.50 feet at the meet, sanctioned by BC Athletics (the governing body of track and field in the province). The all-day championship was the throwing final which included the shot put, discus, javelin and hammer throws.

"This is a great way to end the season. I am really looking forward to next year," said Cranston, a well-known powerlifter and competitive strength athlete for more than 25 years.

•dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



Photo submitted

Richmond's Jody Cranston set the 98-pound weight throw record in the Masters Division recently in Langley.

Richmond baker rising to the challenge

Caron Lau featured on CBC show

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

With more free time during the pandemic's early days, many Canadians turned to baking as a new hobby.

But for Richmond's Caron Lau, 26, that hobby has landed her on the current season of *The Great Canadian Baking Show*, which premiered earlier this month.

"I got a crash course (in baking) with my friend in a convent in 2019," says Lau. "(My) friend is becoming a religious sister, so I went to visit her and she loves baking. A big thing in that convent and in convents in general is the idea of service, so one day of my visit there was spent in service, baking for the whole convent."

Lau practiced making things like meringues and pie crust, but her biggest takeaway was the ability of baking to bond people together. And during COVID, she looked for that comfort and bonding ability.

"It wasn't really until lockdown when I had to fly home from grad school and do the rest of my coursework online that I really needed something that got me moving and gave me a goal to work for during the day. In March 2020, when everyone was baking bread, I baked bread too."

Lau bought herself a stand mixer and started with the hardest things she could think of: macarons and croissants. Despite some initial challenges, she describes the feeling of being able to troubleshoot recipes as exciting. Croissants remain her favourite thing to bake.

"With things that are very technical, like croissants and macarons and things like that, I typically follow a recipe and then innovate as I go," says Lau. "It's the most satisfying feeling in the world when you cut the croissant open and it's perfect."

Born in Hong Kong, where homes are tiny enough that the oven doubles as a storage space for pots and pans, Lau has also experimented with recreating items her family would typically buy from their local Chinese bakery.

"Those are understandably the (recipes) that my parents are the most happy with," she says. "As all of my Asian family friends are reaching out, I feel more of a call to make the things I grew up eating from the Chinese bakeries."

Lau's favourite combinations are inspired by Asian flavours, and she particularly loves mixing citrus and tea. She also gets ideas from menu items she sees at bakeries and coffee shops.

When she's not baking, Lau works as an occupational therapist. She was inspired to apply for the show because of something her profession calls "smart goals," which are "tangible time oriented goals that you set for yourself."



Photo by Steve Carty, courtesy CBC

Caron Lau, 26, is a Richmond baker who is competing on the current season of *The Great Canadian Baking Show*.

"I decided to put my schooling to good use and set myself a smart goal to apply for the show," says Lau. "As a new baker, I was more shocked than anything when I got chosen. It's been the biggest privilege."

The show filmed over the summer with a "baker bubble" in place. Bakers were regularly tested for

home—so the time pressure of the show didn't affect her too much.

"I know that the second I get too comfortable, I won't learn as much," she says. "I did a degree in English and Biology, because I love analysis but I also love experimentation and figuring things out when something is not quite perfect."

As a frontline worker during the pandemic, baking was an ideal after work de-stresser for Lau. And she would love to marry her two passions by helping people with disabilities learn and re-learn how to bake.

While Lau is nervous about watching herself on TV, she's excited to represent Richmond on the show.

"I'm excited that I'll get introduced as an occupational therapist and people will have to figure out what I do," she says.

"I'm honestly so thankful for this whole experience. I feel like baking gave me so much meaning during a time where there's a lot of confusion and global confusion everywhere, and I feel so glad that I get to (take) something that was so meaningful to me and show that to the world."

The *Great Canadian Baking Show* airs Sundays at 8 p.m. on CBC, and can also be streamed on the free CBC Gem app.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

It's the most satisfying feeling in the world when you cut the croissant open and it's perfect.

— Caron Lau

COVID-19, and wore masks and visors whenever they were not on camera. Lau says she felt very safe with the precautions in place, and that she loved getting to meet other bakers from across the nation.

Describing herself as fast and decisive, Lau says she prioritizes efficiency when baking at

Free flu shots in B.C. this year

By HANNAH SCOTT
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The flu shot is free for everyone in B.C. older than six months this year.

The unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the strain it has put on the health care system continue to make influenza immunization a priority.

"In any given year it's important (to get a flu shot), because there are tens of thousands of people in Canada who die from influenza," says Lina Ooi, a pharmacist at Pharmasave Richlea Square.

She says it's even more important this year—for those who get very sick from the flu, the full hospitals and strain on the healthcare system may prove to be a challenge.

Ooi adds that it can also be difficult to distinguish between the symptoms of influenza and COVID-19.

"If you get any symptoms of the flu, you'd still have to go through the process of self-isolating, getting a COVID test, you might have to stay home from work and the chance of it spreading to co-workers or family members. It's just kind of a domino effect that everyone would have to self-isolate until they get results back," she says.

And with last year's flu season being practically non-existent, Ooi says there's a chance this year's could be a bad one—particularly with more activities compared to last year, when people were staying home.

Last year, Ooi says her pharmacy administered 40 to 50 per cent more flu vaccines than in previous years, including many to first-time recipients. The demand this year has been high so far, and the pharmacy has already run out of appointments for its first batch of publicly-funded vaccines, which



Lina Ooi, a pharmacist at Pharmasave Richlea Square, says it's particularly important to get a flu shot this year. (File photo taken prior to COVID-19.)

amounted to 600 doses. The next batch is due to arrive in the first week of November. In total, Pharmasave Richlea Square expects to receive 1,500 doses.

The province notes that pharmacies have played an important role in providing easy access to influenza vaccines since 2009. This year, influenza vaccines are available to pharmacies through a direct-distribution model. This means pharmacies are able to order vaccine directly from distributors,

making influenza immunization easier and more flexible for people in B.C.

Ooi encourages people to book an appointment ahead of time, as walk-ins may not be possible like in pre-COVID years. First-time recipients can expect a sore arm and possibly a bit of dizziness, a headache or a fever.

Flu shots can be booked online through bcpharmacy.ca or immunizebc.ca/influenza

hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

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.

	3					7		
		5	2			9		7
								8
						1		
			1	2				
		6						
5				6			1	3
		3		7	4			
3								

SUDOKU

		3	1					
	8			7			1	
			4		5			2
					9			1
		5				4		
3			5					
7			2					
	9			8		3	4	
					6	9		

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

