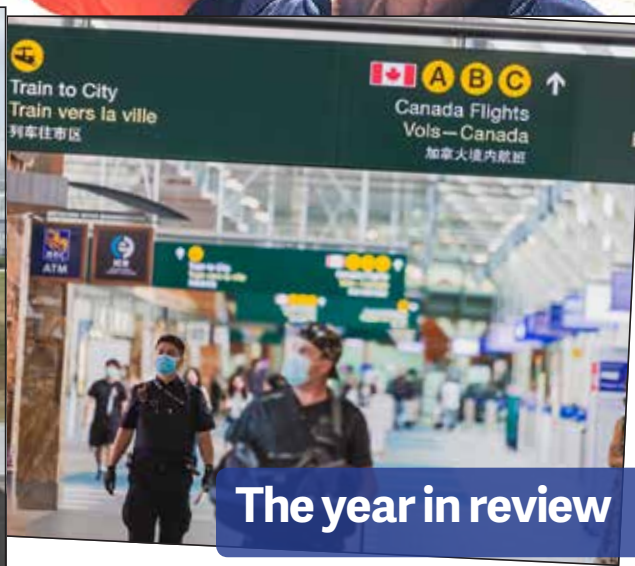




GOODBYE, 2021



The year in review

Photos submitted

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to affect many facets of life in 2021, Richmondites found new ways to connect and give back.

Looking back on 2021, another trying year

By DON FENNELL
and HANNAH SCOTT

COVID-19 continued to play a dominant role in our lives in 2021, with the Delta and more recently Omicron variants pushing positive case numbers up to record levels as the year concluded.

Last January brought a sense of optimism as the first vaccines began to be slowly rolled out, with vaccinations peaking in late summer.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) offered more encouragement when it released data indicating there was a low rate of COVID-19 transmission in schools across its region, which includes Richmond, during the first half of the school year. Its findings concluded that those aged five to 17 years of age accounted for six per cent of VCH's COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic, despite representing 10 per cent of VCH's population.

"We want educators, other school staff, parents/caregivers and students to feel reassured that schools are a safe and low-risk environment for COVID-19 transmission, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our schools and school districts," said VCH medical health officer Dr. Alex Choi. "The safety plans currently in place are robust and effective, and VCH is committed to ensuring that when students or school staff do test positive, a rigorous public health follow-up process is in place."

But in February, a survey by the Richmond Teachers' Association again raised concerns within education settings as the majority of teachers expressed concerns about bringing COVID-19 home to their family or immediate household. The results, presented at a school board meeting by Richmond Teachers' Association president Liz Baverstock, indicated 75 per cent of teachers were worried.

By December, nearly 90 per cent of all British Columbians aged 12 and older had received two vaccine doses. But as the variants began taking hold, many province-wide restrictions that had been lifted were reintroduced, and the demand for greater rapid testing and booster shots increased.

Weather also made its impact in 2021. A record heatwave—peaking on June 29 when Vancouver International Airport recorded its highest-ever temperature of 32.1 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit)—left Richmondites baking rather than basking in the sun. Lytton, in the nearby Fraser Canyon, topped out at 49.4 Celsius (121 Fahrenheit) to eclipse the Canadian record of 45 Celsius set back in 1937 in Yellow Grass, Sask.

But while there was no rain in sight for weeks on end during the summer, late fall more than made up for it. Record November rains caused significant flooding throughout Richmond and considerable and long-lasting damage that uprooted people from their homes in other parts of the province. Vancouver International Airport once again established a record—this time for precipitation—



Photo submitted

Featuring Richmond singer-songwriter Cherelle Jardine, the Stone Poets recorded a fun song inspiring people to wear a mask.

when yet another in a string of atmospheric rivers dumped 52.5 millimetres in 24 hours on Nov. 14.

The deluge left veteran politician and city Coun. Harold Steves with no doubt that environmental change—some brought on by human disregard—played a part.

And following record heat and rain, the end of the year brought Arctic outflow and snowfall warnings, with temperatures below zero degrees Celsius and more than 14 centimetres of snow at Vancouver International Airport between Dec. 24 and 27 alone.

JANUARY

Song reminds all to 'Wear a Mask'

Facing the same challenges and responsibilities as everyone else, a local group of folk singers felt compelled to write and record a song to illustrate their efforts during the pandemic. "Wear a Mask" by the Stone Poets, featuring Richmond singer-songwriter Cherelle Jardine, speaks to the months of isolating and adhering to health department regulations after COVID-19 forced the cancellation of all the group's live concerts.

Gifted school on ALR seeks to expand

A school for gifted children in Richmond is hoping to construct a new building to accommodate more students, pending Agricultural Land Commission approval. Choice School is located on agricultural land in East Richmond, and about half of its students are what the school calls "twice exceptional," meaning they are gifted and also have additional learning difficulties or a disability. The school has been on its current site since 1992. After discussion, city council referred the matter to the Agricultural Land Commission, which has final say

in whether Choice School will be able to expand.

Centenarian passes at 105 years

Iris Downing served as a constant reminder to all: live life to the fullest. Passing just a week following her 105th birthday, the long-time Richmondite embodied the fountain of youth as a keen volunteer who enjoyed spending time with family and friends and playing bridge—a game she didn't take seriously until joining the seniors' centre 32 years ago.

"The biggest thing to bridge is remembering," said Downing, who also played cribbage and whist at least one day a week until her health declined. In a 2017 interview with the *Richmond Sentinel*, Downing expressed surprise at becoming a centenarian before adding candidly, that she frequently be-



Photo by Chung Chow

Iris Downing died in early 2021, just a week following her 105th birthday.

LOOKING BACK

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came frustrated not being able to complete a task she felt she should be able to.

"I get so mad when I can't do something. Then I have to remind myself: 'you're not in your 80s anymore.'"

Pathways, library team fight mental health

Pathways Clubhouse and Richmond Public Library co-hosted a series of virtual education events in January focused on parenting during a pandemic.

"As families grapple with an ever-changing normal, stress and anxiety can escalate," said Kate Adams, head of children and family services at Richmond Public Library. "For many families, the already significant anxiety and worry around catching the virus has been compounded by an uncertain future and the stressors brought on by restrictions on social interaction."

Artists applaud grants in time of need

The Richmond Arts Coalition was delighted to see the BC Arts Council continuing to look for ways to support artists in their professional development and adaptation at a time when so many artists were unable to create performances, theatre, dance, and other works of art.

"We are glad to see them acknowledging through the Pivot For Individuals grant program that individual artists also need support during this time—not just organizations," said arts coalition executive director Andrew Wade.

Faced with unforeseen challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many artists have been un-

able to work or worked less due to the temporary closures of venues and restricted audience sizes.

Healthcare couple sing for Canucks

A Richmond couple ushered in the Vancouver Canucks' 2020-21 home schedule that was played without fans. Victoria Groff and Chris Clute, both frontline workers, married their gifted voices to sing *O Canada* prior to the NHL game between the Canucks and Montreal Canadiens Jan. 20 at Rogers Arena.

"I think I can speak for both of us when I say how excited we were and our families were about this opportunity," said Groff. "This past year has not been easy for my family, especially when I lost my aunt to cancer in August, but something that really kept me going and gave me hope that things would get better was always music. I wish she could (have) been here to watch, but I know she (was) cheering for us in spirit as she loved our music and the Canucks."

Groff and fellow nurse David Taylor helped close out 2021 with *The 7 O'Clock Cheer*, a fundraising concert, on Dec. 4. The idea was to celebrate the role healthcare workers have played in carrying B.C. through the pandemic, and to support patients in need.

Taxes rise 5.68 per cent

Richmond has a reputation for being one of the safest cities in the region. But while it enjoys a low crime rate, a moderate increase in the last few years, coupled with a recent rash of incidents, raised concerns.

Recognizing public safety as a top priority, and committed to eradicating crime wherever possible, city councillors voted for a 2021 operating budget that provides for the hiring of an additional 16 RCMP police officers. The new budget represented a 5.68 per cent tax increase for 2021.

"I've always tried to keep taxes down (but) we need to look at safety first," said Coun. Bill McNulty, who put the third option on the table after staff recommended a slightly lower increase. "(During the COVID-19 pandemic) we've had shootings, drive-bys, arsons, all kinds of issues we haven't faced before in Richmond. An \$82 increase (per average household with an assessed value of \$996,000) as opposed to a \$51 increase can mean the difference between safety in our community and not being safe. We need to have every officer that we can on the street."

Dike clean-up deemed urgent

A king tide event on Jan. 13 caused damage to the rip-rap—rocks placed along the shoreline for protection—as well as the accumulation of a large number of logs and other wood debris. The repair work included reinstatement of rip-rap along a 300 metre stretch as well as debris removal along a 750 metre stretch. City council approved allocating \$500,000 from the city's drainage improvement reserve fund for repairs and debris removal along the south dike at Gilbert Road.

Rozanski examines landforms

As the sixth Branscombe House artist-in-residence, Rachel Rozanski has set about exploring Richmond's islands by water. She examined the evolution of these landforms, reshaped many times over, including the unique ecosystems that now exist on them. The Canadian artist's interdisciplinary works explore biological, geological and material transformations appearing as we enter the Anthropocene; the epoch or time where human activity has noticeably impacted the planet's climate and ecosystem. Her 11-month residency concluded in November.

FEBRUARY

Kung Hei Fat Choy

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is usually a time of huge public celebration in Richmond and around the world. Traditionally that includes a big meal, prayer or parties. But in this Year of the Ox, and with all gatherings banned and people spending more time at home, festivities went online. Aberdeen Centre mall hosted a virtual countdown show on Fairchild Radio and Fairchild TV.

While many families were unable to celebrate in person, the first-ever virtual Chinese New Year virtual cooking class with chef Denise Wai—streamed live from the River Green Presentation Centre—showed how cooking and technology can still bring everyone together. Christine Brodie, wife of Mayor Malcolm Brodie, enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to participate and learn some new Chinese dishes.



Photo submitted

Ardent Vancouver Canucks fans and frontline workers, Richmond's Chris Clute and Victoria Groff joined forces on the national anthem prior to the Canucks' home opener versus the Montreal Canadiens Jan. 20.

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Library marks Black History Month

Mary Wilson would prefer to deflect credit elsewhere, asking the author of a 2018 story on Black History Month in the *Richmond Sentinel* that the article not be about her. But there's no denying Wilson's efforts sparked local recognition of Black History Month with the modest Richmond woman continuing to play an important role while standing up for injustice.

Her efforts continue to be instrumental in the Richmond Public Library's ongoing efforts to unite the community in celebration and raise awareness. Wilson worked closely with community services librarian Millicent Mabi to plan the programming for this year's Black History Month celebrations. And the library's popular reading series *Storytimes* featured age-appropriate children's materials to address topics of fairness, justice and awareness of Black history.

RCMP officer recognized

A Richmond police officer was one of just six British Columbians to be recognized by the province with a Community Safety and Crime Prevention Award.

Winner of the Youth Leadership Award, RCMP

Const. Baljinder Kandola found her passion in crime prevention and community policing early in her 19-year policing career. As co-ordinator of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program for the RCMP within Richmond schools, she has been instrumental in providing youth the tools they need to make healthy choices, including resistance strategies on how to deal with peer pressure and stress in a positive way.

Chimo hosts walk for homeless

Richmond's Chimo Community Services encouraged people to bundle up and help raise funds for its fifth annual Coldest Night of the Year event. Money raised supports those experiencing homelessness, hurt and hunger. Respecting COVID-19 protocols, participants walked alone or with members of their pandemic "bubbles" to raise the much-needed funds.

District enrolment up modestly

After five years of decline, student enrolment began to pick up again in the Richmond School District with a modest increase in the last school year. Board chair Sandra Nixon expects the trend to continue, but noted this year's enrolment numbers were negatively impacted by the pandemic, seeing a decrease by the equivalent of 150 full-time students when compared to projections.

"As a result of the pandemic and travel restrictions, we've also seen a 30 per cent decrease in



Photo by Chung Chow

A modest but passionate community advocate, Mary Wilson again assisted the library during its efforts to raise awareness of Black history.

international education student enrolment from the previous year," she said. "However, the district is projecting that out-of-district and international enrolment will gradually return to pre-pandemic levels over the next three years."

Meanwhile, student safety got a boost with seismic upgrades completed at Cook, Tait and Ferris elementary schools and at Boyd secondary.

Bags from banners

McMath textiles students made good use of some of the city's old street banners—recycling them into bags to donate to the Richmond Food Bank. Teacher Akiko Kato contacted the city to see if they would donate banners for a garment-making project using recycled materials. But when she heard that the food bank was in need of shopping bags for their hampers, she asked staff and students to bring bags from home.

"(Then) I changed the lesson plan and talked to all students about the situation," Kato said. "They all agreed to make reusable bags for the food bank, and made 55 bags in total."

Bags are in demand at the food bank, as all gro-



Photo courtesy Aberdeen Centre

Aberdeen Centre normally hosts a large Chinese New Year countdown and other public events, but in 2021 all celebration happened virtually.

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Photo submitted

Textiles students at McMath secondary made cloth bags out of recycled Richmond street banners. The bags were donated to the food bank.

series distributed to clients are individually packaged.

Shirley, it's never too late for first art show

At the age of 76, Michael Shirley premiered his first solo exhibition, displaying his paintings through the Arts Connection.

After getting very sick in August 2020 with sepsis and ketoacidosis—leading to a three-week stint in hospital and near-death experience—Shirley said he realized life is short, “and if I wanted to scratch this off my bucket list, I better get on it.”

Shirley has been drawing since he was a young child, although with six siblings there was no money for art supplies. In his younger years he painted mostly with watercolours and oils, but later began to use acrylics.

Paying it back

When Tam and Ngoc Phi (Monika) Do, together with their son Trevor, were rescued from a refugee camp in the early 1980s, they made a pledge to help others whenever they could. In February they donated \$120,000 for Richmond Hospital's ACT NOW campaign to support the build of the Yurkovich Family Pavilion, a new acute care tower with a new emergency department, medical imaging centre, larger operating rooms, private inpatient rooms and much more.

MARCH

Sockeyes put on ice

The 2020-21 Pacific Junior Hockey League was barely underway before it was abruptly put on hold. Then in March it was officially cancelled.

It was a bitter pill to swallow for the Richmond Sockeyes which sported a 7-0 record before the proverbial axe fell. The Pacific Junior Hockey League, in consultation with the B.C. provincial health office, had divided its 13 teams into four

cohorts to reduce the chances of a large scale spread of COVID-19.

By September, the team was hopeful of avoiding a similar fate as it began its 50th season of play with a home date against the North Vancouver Wolf Pack. On Dec. 22, the Sockeyes had successfully completed 28 games and sported a 17-10-1 record—sitting fourth in the Tom Shaw Conference.

Modular housing project on tap

Another temporary modular housing project is in the cards for Richmond. BC Housing applied last winter for a three-year permit for properties on Smith Street and Bridgeport Road. The intention is to construct a three-storey supportive housing building with 40 studio units. The existing modular housing project on Elmbridge Way will serve as a model for the new proposed project.

The city decided that during construction of the building near Bridgeport Canada Line Station, it would keep its emergency response centre, located in the old Minoru seniors' centre, open until at least February 2022.

“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,” said the city's communications director Clay Adams.

Street banner record

The 2021 Richmond street banner contest was colourfully concluded in front of city council when, at a virtual meeting, 10 local artists were recognized and showcased their winning banner designs. The banners will adorn major streets until early 2022.

“In a year where engagement and gatherings have been difficult, we're proud to have had the opportunity to safely involve the community in beautifying our city,” said Mayor Malcom Brodie.

The city received a record 650-plus design submissions, which included collages, art, photographs, graphic images and other creative designs.

Alexandra park gets \$1M boost

The city welcomed with open arms news that it would be receiving \$1 million to upgrade Alexandra Neighbourhood Park as part of a \$30 million infrastructure fund from the province. The fund is intended to create jobs and support recovery for people and communities affected by COVID-19. Construction upgrades will have an ecological focus, while adding more amenities and accommodating the expansion of the geothermal Alexandra District Energy Utility. Upgrades will also include retaining existing trees and constructing new recreational features, including a playground and dog park. The funding comes from the Community Eco-



Art by Michael Shirley

Artist Michael Shirley has been working on painting portraits, including this one of his granddaughter Clarke at age three.

nomics Resilience stream of the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP), which is providing \$100 million in one-time infrastructure grants for projects that are ready to go throughout the province.

Corvus introduces energy-dense boat battery

A cutting edge Canadian-powered technology will soon be in use on Canada's West Coast. Richmond's Corvus Energy is partnering with Seaspan Ferries in a field trial of the development and commercialization of a cutting edge energy dense battery for boats and ferries. This new technology, called blue whales' design, could power big ferries and even cargo ships. It is up to 50 per cent more energy-dense than other battery systems and reduces engine noise and engine vibration which is beneficial for marine wildlife, crew and passengers alike. This could also be significant in the fight against climate change as energy-dense batteries for big cargo ships have the potential to help contribute to Canada's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

River Parkway becomes reality

An important new transportation link opened in the spring one that will help transform traffic, cycling and pedestrian options within Richmond's downtown core.

“River Parkway is a critical component fulfilling Richmond's long-term commitment to a sustain-

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able arterial transportation network," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Highlighted in our City Centre Area Plan, it will improve traffic mobility and alleviate congestion on existing routes. It will also allow for the future closure of a section of River Road to create Lulu Island Park in the coming years."

Part of the project is a 15-hectare (37 acre) park where residents, workers and visitors are able to enjoy access to the natural environment and waterfront of the Fraser River Middle Arm.

The new parkway comprises a two-lane road and bike lanes on each side protected from the adjacent vehicle lanes with delineator posts to enhance safety. New traffic signals and crosswalks at Leslie Road and Cambie Road, paved pedestrian walkways and LED streetlights are also included. To improve pedestrian and cycling access to River Parkway, an off-street, multi-use path on the south side of Cambie Road between River Road and No. 3 Road was also completed. This provides safe access to/from the Middle Arm Greenway, River Parkway and the Aberdeen Canada Line Station. The cycling lanes and the off-street multi-use path were partially funded by TransLink's capital cost-share programs with municipalities to support cycling and walking improvements.

APRIL

Fresh produce makes way to food bank

Despite making changes to its instructional format during the pandemic, the sustainable agriculture program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University continues to give back via food donations to the Richmond Food Bank.

"Obviously we don't want to see food going to waste, so we're harvesting weekly," said faculty member Mike Bomford. "Anything that isn't sold at the local farmer's market is brought to the food bank."



Photo courtesy Mike Bomford

Students in Kwantlen Polytechnic University's sustainable agriculture program donated \$42,000 worth of produce to the Richmond Food Bank in 2020.



Image courtesy City of Richmond

Traffic flow in the city centre has been transformed with the March opening of River Parkway.

The food bank's executive director Hajira Husain said it was essential to have produce that could keep well in the pre-packed hampers that have become the norm during the pandemic.

The donations are part of a bid to make locally grown food available where it's produced. In 2020, the department of sustainable agriculture donated \$42,000 worth of produce to the food bank.

Richmond-Opoly new game in town

For those who've ever imagined life as a real estate tycoon, here's your chance. Based on Monopoly, the best-selling game of all time, Richmond-Opoly gives players the opportunity to dabble in the market while celebrating many of the great and unique things about our community.

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

Available exclusively at Richmond Walmart or online at walmart.ca, the board game is the result

of a partnership between the retailer and the Victoria-based games maker.

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

Urgent and primary care centre opens

Richmond residents now have more access to health care, following the April 1 opening of a new urgent and primary care centre. Located in the Community Health Access Centre at 7671 Alderbridge Way, it is open weekday evenings from 5 to 10 p.m. as well as Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sundays and statutory holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Take a bow, Farouq

Farouq Manji is tireless in every sense of the word. For more than three decades the Richmond resident has provided voluntary service to the Ismaili Muslim community in the Lower Mainland, working alongside internal and external stakeholders to further the community and its relationship with residents. His efforts were recognized by the province last spring as one of 14 individuals receiving the Medal of Good Citizenship for their outstanding service and commitment to helping others.

"This important honour recognizes people who have gone above and beyond to offer help and kindness to others during these exceptionally challenging times," said Premier John Horgan.

LOOKING BACK

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Ms. Rogers' neighbourhood

It was a Saturday that Camryn Rogers won't soon forget—one that earned the Richmond hammer thrower a trip to the Olympic Games.

On April 17 at the West Coast Classic in Eugene, Ore. (a community long one of the most appreciative of track and field dating back to the introduction the Oregon Relays), the McMath Secondary grad achieved the Olympic standard in the women's hammer throw with a throw of 73.09 metres and lifted the University of California, Berkeley senior to No. 4 all-time in the NCAA.

Later, in a late Olympic tune-up, she threw 75.52 metres to win her second straight NCAA women's hammer throw title. The mark was top-four in the world.

One of five Richmond athletes named to the Canadian Olympic Team for this summer's Games in Tokyo (the others being race walker Evan Dunfee, fencers Shaul Gordon and Eli Schenkel, and table tennis player Mo Zhang), Rogers capped her competitive season with a Canadian Olympic record throw of 74.35 metres at the Tokyo Games in July to place fifth overall.

MAY

Teen activist speaks up for anti-racism policy

Teen activist Naomi Leung advocated last spring for a stronger anti-racism policy in Richmond.

"I'm choosing to speak up against racism and the urgent need for anti-racist policy in Richmond



Photo by Rachel Lando

Teen activist Naomi Leung implored city council last spring to consider a stronger anti-racism policy.



Photo courtesy Cal Athletics/klcfotos

A product of the vaunted Richmond Kajaks Track and Field Club, Camryn Rogers qualified for last summer's Olympic Games in Tokyo.

because I recently celebrated the birthday of my 78-year-old grandma amidst staggering anti-Asian hate crimes rising," said Leung.

A 17-year-old whose parents immigrated from Malaysia and Hong Kong the Grade 12 student at Richmond Christian School addressed council alongside fellow community activist Karina Reid. Leung also works with regionally-based Sustainabilityteens, and in a public video shared to social media explained that anti-Asian hate crimes are experiencing massive growth, which has made her "scared for my family, friends and community."

Numerous incidents suggest a possible growing trend of racially-motivated incidents in Richmond, according to local police who quickly denounced it.

"Hate has no place in our community. I want to reassure the public that any investigation with potential hate motivated undertones will be given our fullest attention and oversight," said Richmond RCMP Chief Superintendent Will Ng.

Police received seven reports of incidents involving apparent racial undertones in March, with three of these still under investigation as hate crimes. They involved allegations that hate is a motivating factor during the commission of criminal offences. The RCMP said that the victims are of various ethnicities.

Smile, you're on camera

Reflecting its strong focus on safety, the City of Richmond introduced in May intersection video cameras on many of its major streets. In total, 110 intersections will feature the cameras.

"Having video cameras at over half of Richmond's intersections is an important road safety and traffic management initiative that will positively impact road users in Richmond," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "By providing the city more accurate data, traffic planning to increase safety and potentially mitigate vehicle congestion will increase. The cameras will also enhance community safety as camera footage will be available for up to 30 days, to assist in vehicle-related incidents."



Photo submitted

Dan Baxter assumed his role as president and chief executive officer of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce on May 31.

Chamber introduces new president

Dan Baxter was introduced in May as the new president and chief executive officer of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

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

Baxter had served as the BC Chamber of Commerce's director of policy development, government and stakeholder relations since 2013.

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Lee honoured as a Guiding force

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

Richmond resident Lee became involved with the organization when her daughter was a member. After helping as a parent, she was convinced to become a leader, and even after her daughter finished the program and left the organization, Lee stuck around. This spring, she was among some 100 Canadians to receive the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, recognizing her years of dedication to the Girl Guides organization.



Photo by Don Fennell

Arjan Singh Bhullar became the ONE Heavyweight World Champion on May 15.

No days off for this Bhullar

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

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

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

Hobbs wins by-election

Andy Hobbs has dedicated his life to serving others. And now the long-time community volunteer can add city councillor to his resume.

A Richmond High grad, the retired Vancouver police superintendent and former two-term Richmond School Board trustee won the May 29 civic by-election with 3,095 votes to replace Kelly Greene as a member of the municipal council. Greene gave up her seat after winning the Richmond–Steveston riding in the 2020 provincial election. Asked by the *Richmond Sentinel* what he considered to be the biggest priority for Richmond in the next year, Hobbs said "the city must make sure that it implements policies that help support small business so that jobs are protected and families' incomes are secure."

The estimated cost of the by-election was \$716,504, higher than the 2018 general election mainly because of a mail-in voting provision.

Palmer band best in the land

It's often been said that music is the true universal language, its roots extending to every culture in the world. Through the challenges of COVID-19, music has also provided opportunities to express ourselves and to unite as one. Embracing the gift, members of Richmond's RC. Palmer Concert Band shared their talents to earn top marks in the 2021 National Music Festival Competition.

"It's more than just the music. It's an experience for everyone involved," said Grade 12 student Brandon Young, adding that being forced to deal with everything the pandemic has presented, and persevere, "shows that there is still a real passion for music here."

JUNE

Celebrating seniors

The City of Richmond celebrated and acknowledged the resilience, strength and diversity of seniors aged 55-plus during Seniors Week, June 7 to 13. To help seniors stay connected and engaged, the city, community associations and societies, as well as other community-based organizations offered over 20 online and phone-in activities.

"We acknowledge the important role seniors play in our lives and their value to the community," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

Food bank photo gets national nod

A photograph from the Richmond Food Bank Society earned third-place honours in the 2021 National Volunteer Week Photo Contest sponsored by Volunteer BC. The photo shows volunteer and board member Dave packing hampers of nutritious food at the Richmond Food Bank, demonstrating that despite the pandemic, volunteers continued to deliver essential services.

Students singled out for scholarships

After receiving nearly 140 applications, the Richmond Community Foundation announced the winners of its 2021 high school scholarships. In all, the Foundation awarded over \$25,000, presenting scholarships to 36 Richmond students. Among the recipients is Ahmad Mustafa, a Richmond Secondary School student who plans to pursue a career in engineering. He's one of four winners of the Derek Dang and Dr. Margaret Yeung Scholarship.

"I was thrilled, motivated, and proud to be acknowledged as a recipient," said Mustafa.

The Kronier Family Scholarship, one of the foundation's largest, supports multiple students annually. This year, there were 21 recipients, including Wesley Yiu, who attends Steveston-London secondary.

"This award will greatly help me pursue my passions in commerce and law," said Yiu. "I look forward to using what I learn from my academic and community experiences to give back to the community."

In fond farewell, Lim gets top marks from peers

Pulling into the parking lot at J.N. Burnett Secondary in her 1983 Trans Am, Wendy Lim made

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Photo submitted

This photo of volunteer and board member Dave packing hampers at the Richmond Food Bank Society was selected as a winner in Volunteer BC's photo contest.

LOOKING BACK

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quite a first impression. But it pales in comparison to the impact she had over the next 37 years as a public educator. In a single word: "inspiring."

As a teacher, and later administrator at the district level, her presence was felt everywhere, and by everyone she met. Armed with an infectious enthusiasm for learning, she soaked up every opportunity, and just as comfortably passed on a belief that anything was possible. Lim retired last June from the Richmond School District—but only to begin a new chapter in her life that will be filled with the same energy and impact. She plans to continue her daily two-hour walks and to create a family cookbook, is keen to learn to play the ukulele, go sailing and volunteer. And, of course, spend more time with her family.

Troy's time to shine

Troy Stecher had worn the maple leaf twice before, at the World Hockey Championships in 2019, and at the World Junior A Challenge in 2011. But the 2021 World Hockey Championships in Riga, Latvia in June was his shining moment. The 27-year-old from Richmond set up Calgary Flames forward Andrew Mangiapane with the winning goal at 2:12 of overtime to lift Canada to a 2-1 upset of the ROC (Russian Olympic Committee) team in the tournament's quarter-finals. The Detroit Red Wings defenceman, and former Vancouver Canuck, made a spectacular play to get by a defender before passing to Mangiapane for the winning goal.

City scores high for life satisfaction

Richmond ranked fifth among Canadian cities for life satisfaction according to an international real estate search portal. The Point 2 report ranked the 85 largest Canadian cities by looking at nine criteria deemed important for millennials including home prices, income, and well-being. Although the city fared poorly when it comes to home prices (70th), it still ranked 25th overall on the list, a significant move up of 12 spots from 37th in Point 2's report in 2018.

The 2021 report notes the oldest millennials are turning 40 this year and suggests that "while affordable housing, reliable incomes and good healthcare are mainstays, factors such as life satisfaction and climate might also start becoming more important for those millennials who are looking for the ideal place to call home."

Aside from income and housing, areas such as crime rate, healthcare, level of education and the percentage of millennials among the total population were also considered.

Riders flock to new bike park

The much anticipated Railway Granville Bike



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Railway Granville Bike Park opened in June.

Park is now a reality. Located at 5000 Granville Ave., the park opened June 18, just in time to be explored all summer long. The 0.2 hectare (0.5 acre) park was built with community input provided through the LetsTalkRichmond.ca consultation process. The resulting final design that was built on site incorporates many of the comments received. Key features of the bike park include an asphalt pump track with beginner, intermediate and advanced ride lines, log rides, several ladder bridges and other technical obstacles. A map of the park noting the difficulty rating of each pump track, ride-line and technical obstacle is located at each of the two entry points.

Artists acknowledged

The City of Richmond and the Richmond Arts Coalition announced the six recipients of the 13th annual Richmond Arts Awards. The awards recognize Richmond residents, artists, business leaders, educators and change-makers for their achievements and contributions to the arts community.

"In the past year, the arts have helped us cope with our separation by bringing us together in creative ways," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Despite the challenges artists have faced, these recipients demonstrated resourcefulness, tenacity and passion for their community and deserve the recognition they are receiving with this award."

JULY

Province announces new hospital

When the renovation and expansion of Richmond Hospital is fully completed in 2029, it will have ushered in a new era in community healthcare. But the journey is set to begin almost immediately after Premier John Horgan and the provincial government announced on July 13 approval for construction of a new patient care tower. A new emergency department and intensive care unit will also be included in the expanded hospital.

"I'm ecstatic," said Natalie Meixner, president and chief executive officer of the Richmond Hospital Foundation. "(This project) touches every area of acute care and the community will end up with innovation throughout."

Phases 1 and 2 of the four-phase project will also include relocation of services and demolition of the park centre and rotunda buildings. The park centre is currently home to a cancer care clinic and psychiatric emergency unit, while the rotunda hosts offices and meeting rooms. This stage will be further highlighted by construction of the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion (a nine-floor patient care tower), honouring two of the biggest donors to the Richmond Hospital Foundation. The years between 2024 and 2027 will address the forecasted growth of Richmond with a doubling of the number of rooms, noted Meixner.

Mayor Malcom Brodie praised the government's foresight "to go back to the drawing board and expand dramatically the scope of a project (that delivers a) first-class healthcare facility."

The four-phase project will add 113 new beds bringing the total to 353. The new Yurkovich Family Pavilion will also feature an emergency department with 82 spaces, up from the current 60, and an increase in operating rooms to 11 from eight. The number of pre- and post-surgical care spaces will nearly triple to 69 from 26.



Photo by Chung Chow
Richmond Night Market organizer Raymond Cheung looked forward to the 2021 event despite it being a shorter season than usual.

Night market

When the Richmond Night Market closed for the season Oct. 14, 2019, excitement for the 2020 campaign was already building. Organizer Raymond Cheung whose foresight to start the initial market in 2000 led to it becoming one of the biggest annual attractions in Richmond, had no way of knowing it would be close to two years before he could even begin thinking about re-opening. The global COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented disruptions and forced ventures like Cheung's to

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cease operating.

"Everyone has their own story, but for us it felt like I was hit by a dump truck from nowhere," he said. "The impact was, of course, indescribable. Just because of the nature of our business, being seasonal and counting on a large volume of people, all the elements added up. We couldn't do anything except sit and wait and see when the storm was over."

That hundreds of vendors depend on the market for their livelihoods only added to the chagrin. But finally there appeared to be light at the end of what has been a long, dark tunnel with the province entering the third phase of its four-step reopening plan.

Maya and mom lauded

Maya Harpool and her mom Zoe Ahlstrom experienced a full-circle moment of giving when they were named winners of the TELUS #FriendlyFutureDays contest. Because of Harpool and Ahlstrom's win, Richmond Family Place—which offers resource programs for kids and families—was the recipient of \$10,000.

"We were so excited, I don't even know how to put it into words," said Harpool. "It's an organization that we used when I was a lot younger, and my mom was a new mom." During the COVID-19 pandemic, Harpool and Ahlstrom have been helping out by doing the laundry for Family Place.

"I was looking to see if there were any volunteer opportunities in Richmond," Harpool explained. "I found this one at Family Place, and I thought it would be a really great fit for my mom and I given our circumstances previously."

Artists prop up pop-up project

The work of local artists adorned picnic tables around the city this summer as part of a Tourism Richmond pop-up project. There were 31 tables in total, grouped in seven areas. Each area had at least one table painted by a local artist. At Britannia, two tables were painted by Phoenix Art Workshop owner Mark Glavina and several of his youth students.

"One table represents the serenity of lying under a big old tree, the second sitting on (a) rock next to the river teeming with life," said Glavina. "The youth came up with the ideas, and I helped pare (them) down to something that we could paint within their individual skill set."

Estella the entrepreneur

At the tender age of seven, Estella Celeste Banez is already an old soul. Two years ago, on the heels of a successful fashion show to help support the Richmond Christmas Fund, the precocious young Richmondite launched her own line of jewelry—Oh



Photo submitted

Estella Celeste Banez invites peers to share their feelings about the pandemic via her podcast, which launched last summer.

My Bling Designs by Estella. Now, she's started her own podcast.

"I am super duper duper excited," she said. "I asked kids to join me for this (third episode) and be my special guests to talk about how kids feel about the pandemic. I'm so grateful to my special guests who shared their thoughts on my show."

Her guests included her big brother Lazarus, Megumi (all the way from Japan), cousins Brielle, D'Angelo, Lisee, Audrey and Addison, buddy Kendrick and best friend Sophie. With the help of her mom Kaye, Estella wants kids to feel empowered to talk about their feelings surrounding COVID-19. And perhaps grown-ups can listen too about what kids are saying about life during these challenging times.

Expanding the 'beautiful game'

Known globally by enthusiasts as the "beautiful game," soccer in Richmond received a positive step in the right direction when, thanks in large part to support by Coho Commissary (which provides commissary kitchens to restaurant start-ups), Richmond FC introduced a complimentary program to players of families registered in the Richmond Food Bank program.

"We always wanted to start an academy (for boys and girls) that have had a tough time, and we have worked closely with Richmond Food Bank (collecting donations) for the last (several) months," said Richmond FC executive director Marius Roevede.

AUGUST

Maritime fest offers limited in-person access

After being a fully online celebration in 2020, the 18th annual Richmond Maritime Festival on Aug. 21 and 22 offered limited in-person access. But with the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing, the "re-imagined" version was also able to again be enjoyed remotely.

Steveston harbour gets funding boost

Emphasizing the importance of small craft harbours and their benefit to local communities, federal Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan announced in person that Steveston would be receiving \$17 million as part of a federal commitment to the fishing industry.

"Investing in this local harbour helps not just the commercial fishing industry, but Steveston as a whole," said Sajjan. "Investing in people, promoting inclusive growth, and building stronger communities is a key part of our government's commitment to helping our neighbourhoods grow from coast to coast to coast."

YVR best airport for 12th year

Vancouver International Airport added to its list of accolades, winning the Skytrax Best Airport in North America award for the 12th consecutive year. The airport also received Skytrax's COVID-19 Airport Excellence award, which recognizes airports selected by passengers for their health, hygiene and safety protocols. It was the only Canadian airport to receive this award.

"It's an honour for (the airport) to be recognized as the best airport in North America for 12 years in a row. To also be recognized in the new award category of COVID-19 Airport Excellence, as one of the cleanest, safest and healthiest airports in the world, is a true testament to the expertise, hard work and dedication of our entire airport community," said Vancouver Airport Authority president and chief executive officer Tamara Vrooman.

Dunfee makes his mark

Evan Dunfee maintained a high profile in 2021.

First, the gifted race walker tuned up for his Olympic run in the blazing heat and humidity of Tokyo in July by pounding the pavement around his hometown daily. Then on the day of the big race, he reached deep for a last-minute burst of energy over the final leg of the men's 50 kilometre race walk, to return home a bronze medallist.

In one of the most grueling events of the Games, a taxing exercise demanding both determination and endurance, Dunfee discovered he had even more to give. In fifth place at that point, he drew inspiration from within, thinking of family and friends who had supported his journey. And when he crossed the finish line in three hours, 50 minutes, 59 seconds, he had realized a childhood dream. It was a just result for Dunfee, who five years earlier had narrowly missed reaching the podium when he was edged out for third place at the Rio Olympics. He might have had a medal in those Games too, had it not been for his steadfast insistence that the results stand—despite the possibility of interference that may have thrown off his stride.

Then in December he made it official—he plans to seek a seat on Richmond city council in next

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Photo submitted

Richmond race walker Evan Dunfee (right) was greeted by longtime friend Jordan Smith after arriving home with a bronze medal following his third-place finish in the grueling 50k at the Summer Olympic Games.

year's municipal election. Coincidentally, it will be 20 years after his dad, Don, did likewise as a candidate in the 2002 election.

Politically adverse growing up, he explained that as his sporting career progressed, and his profile rose with increased success at the international level, his interest and appreciation for politics did as well.

"For the last number of years I was privileged to speak for athletes while fighting for what I believe in."

Luxury hotel opens

Versante Hotel opened during the summer, becoming the city's only independent boutique hotel. Boutique hotels typically have a smaller number of rooms and are known for their theming and style. Rates for each of the 100 rooms start at \$249 per night. All rooms have a rainforest shower, and many also have a separate freestanding soaking tub. The hotel is located near Bridgeport Canada Line station, and also offers a restaurant, a lounge and a bar, as well as bookable meeting and event rooms.

Bodhi donates \$200K to hospital

Supportive of a robust health care system, and in celebration of his 30-year Dharma teaching anniversary, Bodhi Meditation and Grandmaster JinBodhi each made donations of \$200,000 to the Richmond Hospital Foundation.

"As a resident of Richmond, it is my honour and pleasure to be able to contribute to the community," said Bodhi. "In the face of such a devastating

pandemic, it is a brave and remarkable act of all medical workers to serve the public on the frontlines. We admire them and are very moved. Thank you to all the medical workers for their hard work and dedication. This donation is a token of our appreciation, support, and respect."

Bodhi Meditation has been a distinguished devotee to health care in Richmond for years. In 2019, the group made a \$100,000 gift in support of the ACT NOW campaign to help fund the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion at Richmond Hospital.

Province forging ahead with eight-lane tunnel

A new eight-lane tunnel, to be completed by 2030, will replace the aging George Massey Tunnel. Provincial officials announced the plan on Aug. 18, following many years of uncertainty about the future replacement project.

"The original tunnel has served our communities well (for 60 years), but we're looking forward to a new crossing, one that fits the region and also takes into account climate change (and) active transportation, one that better connects our communities, one that has the support of residents and the regional leadership," said Richmond-Queensborough MLA Aman Singh, who acted as master of ceremonies for the announcement outside Richmond City Hall.

In addition to four lanes in each direction—one of which will be earmarked for transit use—there will also be a five-metre wide separated tunnel for cyclists and pedestrians, who are not permitted to use the existing tunnel.

Lottery crowns new millionaires

Eiko Yamase has always dreamed of visiting the Maritimes.

"It has been my dream since coming to Canada to visit out east," she said. "I would love the opportunity to travel to Toronto, Halifax, or even P.E.I."

Yamase can now comfortably afford to do so, after the Richmond mom recently won a \$1 million Maxmillion prize in the June 18 Lotto Max draw.

"I didn't know what to do," Yamase said. "I couldn't believe it at first...for the whole day I had to make sure my ticket had matched the number." She

eventually called the B.C. Lottery Corporation and confirmed that the winning numbers she saw were correct, and she wasn't watching a movie. Next, she called her husband, who couldn't believe it either.

Mere months later, in November, Richmond had another \$1 million winner when Zhi Shen won the guaranteed prize in the Nov. 13 Lotto 6/49 draw.

"I got home and check(ed) it on my Lotto app...I thought it was impossible, so I called my son and asked him to come over and check," Shen said.

Shen said he enjoys the community aspect of playing the lottery and that he has always wanted to donate to charity if he won.

"If I win it would be good, and if not the money goes to charity. It's a win-win."

SEPTEMBER

Capstan Canada Line station on tap

Construction began in September on a new Canada Line station that will help deliver better transit to the City of Richmond and the Capstan Village area. The future Capstan Station will provide efficient and environmentally sustainable rapid transit to a rapidly developing Richmond community.

"Capstan Station will be the cornerstone of making Capstan Village centred around zero-emission, fast, and reliable transit," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "This growing urban community is projected to bring up to 16,000 new residents to Richmond, and this new transit station will help position our city as an even more attractive place to live."

Go fishing—at the library

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," said the library's coordinator of communi-

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Photo courtesy B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

An artist's rendering of the future eight-lane tunnel that will replace the George Massey Tunnel.

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ty 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 borrow by families of various sizes. The packs can be borrowed for seven days, with up to two renewals permitted unless there is a hold on the kit.

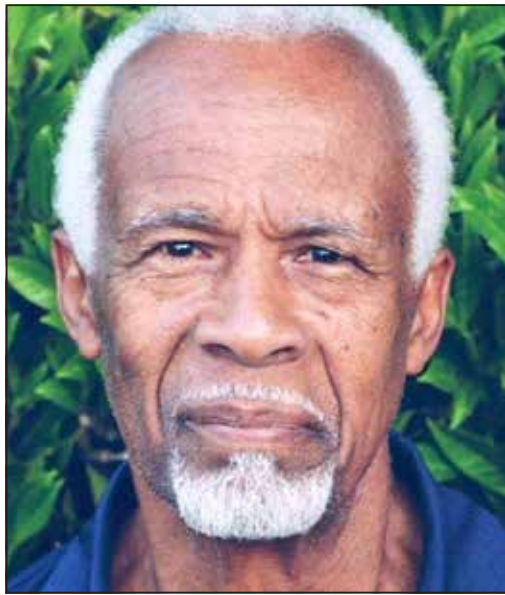


Photo courtesy Richmond Kajaks

The Richmond sports community lost a giant contributor with the passing of Moseley Jack.

Kajaks mourn loss of legendary coach

His enthusiasm was infectious and dedication unwavering. The kind of individual whose mere presence inspired. While physically slender, Moseley Jack was a giant in the local sports community—particularly in track and field—where he devoted four-plus decades to helping the youth of the Richmond Kajaks realize their potential. That was evident to the end. A long-time Steveston resident, the retired teacher, counsellor and coach passed away in late summer at the age of 85—his long life a reflection of the healthy lifestyle he practiced and promoted.

In May, just months after stepping down from his coaching capacity with the Kajaks, Jack returned to the Minoru track his usual energetic self. Accompanied by his grandchildren, he watched intently as the inter-club trials were held. Cathy Duley, another longtime Kajaks volunteer, recounts the moment.

"I was volunteering with Byron (Jack's son, and the Kajaks' longtime jumps coach) at the long jump event. Moseley chatted with us all but, as always, his focus was on his former athletes," Du-

ley explained. "He commented on how tall each of them was getting since they were with him in junior development and, of course, gave some coaching advice. One of the girls proceeded to perform a phenomenal jump that was a personal best for her. I later heard her say, 'See, all I needed was some Moseley magic.'" Duley said that brief but poignant interaction "nailed the essence of Moseley."

Earlier in the year, the Kajaks and the track and field community lost another one of its great contributors with the passing of Jean-Jacques Schmidt. Known simply as JJ to his many friends, Schmidt was drawn to the Richmond Kajaks Track and Field Club in 1980, when his daughter Frederique joined as an athlete.

First-timers elected to Parliament

Richmond voters put their trust in a pair of "first-timers" to represent them in Canada's Parliament.

Embracing their national party's strategy on addressing the need for accessible and affordable housing, Liberal candidates Parm Bains in Steveston-Richmond East and Wilson Miao in Richmond Centre topped the polls in their respective ridings in the Sept. 20 federal election—held just 23 months after the governing Liberals were returned to power with a minority government. In the process, they unseated incumbent Conservatives—Kenny Chiu after one term as the Member of Parliament for Steveston-Richmond East and Alice Wong after four terms as MP in Richmond Centre.

The campaign period was limited to 36 days, the minimum under Elections Canada rules.

City adopts plastics ban

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," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie, after city council officially adopted a bylaw to ban foam food service ware, plastic straws and plastic checkout bags starting March 27, 2022.

Skating quad a jump for joy

Wesley Chiu reached the podium at the ISU Junior Grand Prix after the Richmond skater, a member of the vaunted Connaught Figure Skating Club, landed the first quadruple jump of his career en route to a bronze medal in men's competition on Sept. 17. The 16-year-old skater, fourth after the short program, climbed one spot for the bronze with a personal best 217.59. Skating to music by Muse, Chiu executed a clean long program which included landing a quad toe loop for his second medal on the circuit this season. He earned gold at the second stop in France.

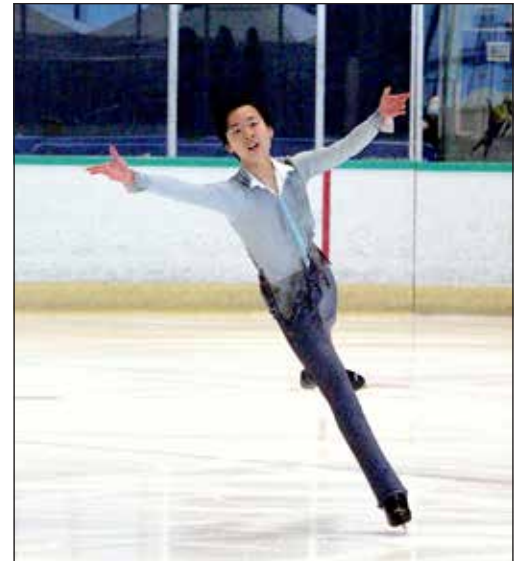


Photo submitted

Richmond's Wesley Chiu landed his first quad jump and won the bronze medal in the men's singles competition Sept. 17 at the ISU Junior Grand Prix in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. He earned gold at the second stop in France.

Pause for Truth and Reconciliation

Richmondites took the opportunity to commemorate, learn and reflect on the history and ongoing impacts of residential schools on Sept. 30, Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation that honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities.

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.

OCTOBER

Non-traditional offerings mark Gateway season

Following a challenging 18 months, Gateway Theatre's creative team looked forward to the upcoming season with optimism. A new mural by artist Carmen Chan on the facility's exterior wall coincided with the announcement of its lineup including some untraditional offerings as opposed to only seated in-person productions.

"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," said director of artistic programs Barbara Tomasic.

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RCMP detachment chief promoted

The City of Richmond learned its RCMP police detachment will have a new officer in charge with news that Will Ng, who held the post for five years, was set to become Assistant Commissioner in charge of federal investigative services and organized crime for the 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.

Duzita's swan song

The Richmond Christmas Fund will have a new leader in 2022 when Linda Reid takes over from long-time 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



Photo by Geoff George/CBC

Richmond baker Caron Lau, who competed on the latest season of *The Great Canadian Baking Show*, said this mountain-inspired cake is close to her heart.

political career, having represented Richmond in the B.C. Legislature for more than two decades.

Hobby baker rises to challenge

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 landed her on CBC's *The Great Canadian Baking Show*.

I got a crash course (in baking) with my friend in a convent in 2019," said 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."

An occupational therapist, Lau practiced making things like meringues and pie crust, but her biggest takeaway was the ability of baking to bond people together.

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2022
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Everything you need for the new year, and more!
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LOOKING BACK

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City gains eight paramedics

Richmond benefited from the province's push to strengthen the ambulance system when it gained eight additional paramedics as part of the largest hiring campaign in the province's history.

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

NOVEMBER

Richmond remembered

When Canada assembled as usual on Nov. 11 to remember the sacrifices made in the name of peace, Richmondites too offered their appreciation and paid their respects to those who served. As in 2020, the annual Remembrance Day service was a virtual event broadcast on the city's website.

This year, Cambie Secondary School students also offered special recognition at their Nov. 10 Remembrance Day service of Indigenous peoples' contributions. Grade 12 student Saniya Mann spoke about her trip to the Kamloops Residential School in October where she dropped off a \$600

donation to the Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Centre.

Prized facility

The Minoru Centre for Active Living was recognized with the 2021 Architecture Prize for Accessibility from the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, and International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities. The annual Distinction for Accessibility Award aims to increase the accessibility of all sports and leisure facilities and architectural structures worldwide so that everyone has an opportunity to practice and view sport freely and without barriers. The facility, which opened in 2020, received the honour for its integration of many accessibility features.

Light emanates at Jewish Day School

Light emanates often when it seems darkest. In the wake of the atmospheric river that flooded parts of Richmond, and indeed a sizable portion of the province mid-month, at least one Richmondite was able to see the positives.

"There's always a silver lining," said Sabrina Bhojani, principal at the Richmond Jewish Day School on No. 5 Road. "There is a togetherness that happens through adversity and trying times. I think it is rather remarkable the kindness that exists among the members of the different faith groups."

The school was able to open its doors three days after the massive flooding because of the kindness. All its staff and visitors were granted permission to park at the Gurdwara Nanak Niwas on the north side of the Jewish Day School and on the south side, Subramaniya Swamy Temple also permitted



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond-Steveston MLA Kelly Greene willingly donated her lengthy locks to the Wigs for Kids BC initiative, which provides wigs for children struggling with hair loss due to cancer treatment and other serious illnesses.

the use of its parking as a pick up and drop-off point.

Beacon of light

The 25-foot menorah that goes up outside Richmond Cultural Centre annually serves as a beacon of light and togetherness. The first night of this year's Jewish Hanukkah celebration on Nov. 28 was special as Shalom (né Imre) Lichtmann, an 81-year-old Holocaust survivor, was the one to do the lighting.

In 1943, three-year-old Lichtmann was deported to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where he remembers crying all the time because of his hunger. But he was able to survive and escaped with his mother, siblings, and grandparents on the Kastner train, which freed a train-load of Jews in exchange for money. He ended up in Switzerland and later moved to Israel and then to Canada.

DECEMBER

City lauded for Culture Days

Richmond was again named among Canada's top 10 cities for its annual Culture Days (Sept. 24 to Oct. 24) festivities, ranking fifth among mid-sized cities.

"Richmond has a proud history of supporting a vibrant arts and culture community and has placed among Canada's top 10 cities every year since 2012," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "This ranking once again highlights the quality of our events

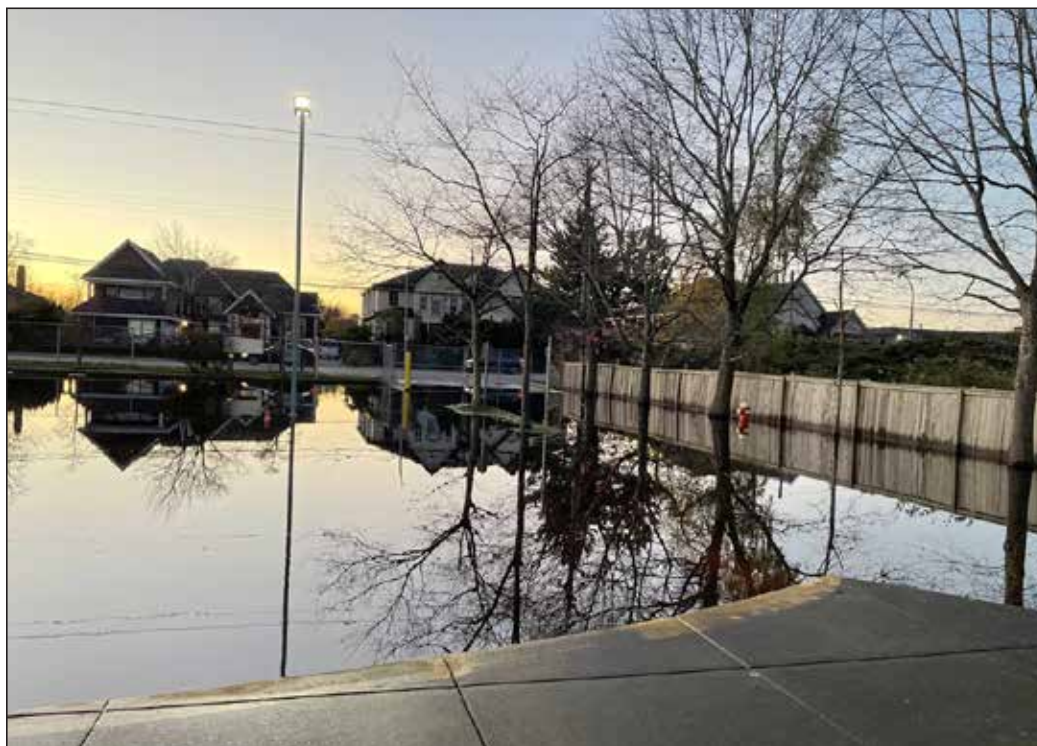


Photo courtesy Richmond Jewish Day School

In the wake of the mid-November storm that caused much flooding throughout the city and prompted a provincial state of emergency, Richmond Jewish Day School celebrated how its ethnically-diverse neighbours offered support.

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and creative festivities and demonstrates our city's commitment and support to engage the community in the arts scene."

Hair to help

For children struggling with hair loss due to cancer treatments or other illnesses, a wig can help with confidence. Richmond–Steveston MLA Kelly Greene donated about 30 centimetres (12 inches) of her hair to Wigs for Kids BC to help the cause.

"I have kids, and thinking about a kid that's trying to navigate a really difficult situation but (also) be a kid who's just at school and blending in with their friends and not showing a visible change, I think is important," said Greene.

Ho Ho Ho

For nearly 40 years, the Woodman family has been bringing holiday cheer to Garry Street. It did so again in 2021.

"My family started doing the display in the early 1980s," said Jen Woodman of their home, known as "The Ho Ho Ho House." "My grandfather was a skilled woodworker, and he and my dad started building it together with a love for Christmas."

The elaborate decorations began with a snowman family, reindeer and a "HOHOHO" sign on the roof of a bungalow. The house was re-built in the 1990s, but the new roof was too steep for the reindeer, so they moved to the ground.

"Now, my brother is the lead on putting up the display with my dad, and thankfully friends also go by and help," said Woodman. "The display takes over a month to put up for one or two people. Thankfully with helping hands this can get done on weekends,



Photo by Hannah Scott

Known as "The Ho Ho Ho House," this home on Garry Street has been decorated in elaborate fashion since the early 1980s.

a few random days off from work during the weeks leading up, and then a big push at the end."

For the last few years there has also been a donation box for Wigs for Kids B.C.

Winter wonderland

With the current winter projected to be colder than average for the second year in a row, the city began summarizing its plans to be prepared for inclement weather and poor road conditions.

Last winter, Richmond experienced 41 frost/ice events and one snow event and 13 centimetres of snow accumulated at Vancouver International Airport in total. The city has an experienced team prepared to respond to weather extremes 24/7.

The city's snow response route map prioritizes roads based on key travel routes. There are 217 kilometres of first priority routes, which includes all bus routes.

Christmas Fund helps families

After over 1,000 bids from 200-plus bidders, the Richmond Christmas Fund online auction raised \$46,611 to make this Christmas a little brighter for local families in need. The most popular items this year were restaurant gift certificates, all of which went for full face value or close to it. The highest single-value bid was \$6,000 for a "Live Like a Billionaire" package, including a lavish stay at the city's new Versante Hotel.

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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LIMITED TIME INTRODUCTORY OFFER



AFFORDABLE RESORT-STYLE SENIOR LIVING

One-bedroom units starting at
\$2995/month*

*select units, discount part of three-year promotion, speak with our sales team for more information



Meals



TV and Internet



Housekeeping



Multilingual Concierge



Events and Activities

Steps to reinvigorated Hamilton Village (pharmacy, physio, doctors), short drive to Walmart, Starlight Casino, Fraser River walking paths.



NOW LEASING

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