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Photo courtesy Aaron Sandhar

From left: Aaron, Parm, Jas, and Steven Sandhar, whose family business Sandhar Trucking was founded in Richmond more than three decades ago.

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# Mayor's address focuses on sustainable initiatives

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Following another challenging year, Mayor Malcolm Brodie recently reflected on local achievements in his annual address hosted by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

Brodie, who has been a member of city council since 1996 and mayor since 2001, focused on sustainability and how its principles guide the city forward.

"Sustainability includes the development of policies, services, and supports that ensure we maintain a high quality of life and a strong economy for present and future generations," said Brodie. "It involves many diverse areas such as ensuring safety for residents and businesses, providing adequate infrastructure, (and) supporting the local economy, as well as protecting our diverse culture."

Outlining sustainable advancements in community safety, environmental practices, agriculture, and the economy, Brodie said it's crucial to invest today in communities that will benefit future generations.

"As we enter 2022 and the Year of the Tiger, we do so with feelings of cautious optimism," said Brodie. "We still have the ongoing influence of COVID-19 with all its variants. Climate change will also have a



Screen grab from Richmond Chamber of Commerce event  
**Mayor Malcolm Brodie spoke about the city's efforts to be more sustainable during his recent annual address.**

strong yet unpredictable impact once again."

The coming year also includes a civic election in the fall, which will see veteran Coun. Harold Steves hanging up his hat. Brodie said the city is grateful for Steves' many decades of elected service—"His insights will be sorely missed."

After his prepared remarks, Brodie sat down with Tourism Richmond chief executive officer Nancy Small for a fireside chat. When asked about the pos-

sibility of a 2030 Olympic bid, he said it's too early to say definitively.

"People reflect back on what we were able to do in 2010, and probably everybody listening to this has at least one very good recollection of what we were able to do and accomplish (in 2010)," he said. "But as we go forward, there's different sides to the whole discussion."

First, the city and the organizers would have to define what kind of role Richmond would play, then a business case would be built and public consultation undertaken.

Brodie expressed hope about the possibility of bringing people together for other events, like the Steveston Salmon Festival, Cherry Blossom Festival, Maritime Festival, and World Festival. And he highlighted the importance of the city's arts investments and vibrant arts and culture scene.

Asked about electric vehicle infrastructure, Brodie said all new developments must have charging stations throughout the complex. The city is also working towards electrifying its fleet of vehicles.

"I have no doubt that it is the way of the foreseeable future and that we are going to need more and more (charging stations). People will take up the technology if they can be assured that they will have the supply of electricity," said Brodie.

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## City proposes feral rabbit management strategy

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

While many Richmond residents enjoy spotting cute rabbits munching grass, these furry introductions also represent a widespread problem.

Feral domestic rabbits can cause damage to plants, turf grass, trees, and soil. They can rapidly outcompete native rabbit species due to their adaptability, lack of natural predators, and prolific breeding. Local rabbits have also been found to carry Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD), which can pose a risk to native species.

City council will discuss a proposed strategy to manage the local feral rabbit population at this week's parks, recreation and cultural services committee meeting.

The B.C. Wildlife Act says that European rabbits are deemed an invasive species and can be captured or killed anytime without a license. But captured feral European rabbits can't be moved to a sanctuary or adopted without a permit, which makes it challenging for municipalities to manage the population.

Contractors and non-profit groups can trap and retain rabbits indefinitely without a permit, but they cannot spay or neuter captured rabbits to offer them for adoption or re-release. However the provincial ministry responsible for regulations has indicated that changes to rules about capture, housing and adoption of feral rabbits are pending which will make it easier for municipalities to manage these animals.

Current city bylaws ban the sale of rabbits in pet stores, as well as banning feeding or releasing animals in any public park or school ground. People can

have up to two rabbits per household. Additional bylaw changes are not currently being considered.

While culling is allowed, the city does not manage feral rabbits this way.

The BC SPCA, which operates the city's animal shelter, does not accept rabbits. It also does not support culling, instead encouraging trapping, spaying or neutering and re-homing adoptable rabbits.

A six-month pilot program in 2020 saw local non-profit Rabbitats Rescue Society focusing on the Dover Neighbourhood Area. Overall, 61 adult rabbits were safely and humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated against RHD, and permanently housed at a sanctuary. An additional 28 rabbits were born to pregnant females that had been captured.

A subsequent city partnership with Rabbitats allowed the organization to respond to feral rabbit sightings on public property across the city. As part of this additional program, Rabbitats removed 118 rabbits and housed them indefinitely in their sanctuaries.

With feral rabbit populations not declining and environmental impacts evident, staff are proposing a few solutions. Firstly, Rabbitats will continue to run its capture program in 2022.

Secondly, city staff also plan to develop a feral rabbit management study with help from qualified environmental professionals and stakeholders. A public awareness campaign will also be initiated to educate people about how their decisions can impact Richmond's natural environment.

The proposed contract with Rabbitats, management study, and public awareness campaign can all be funded through the existing invasive species budget.

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# Council votes on rental housing zoning

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond has amended its rental tenure zoning to ensure that 60 sites with existing rental housing are limited to that purpose in the future.

The issue was discussed in early January and the zoning bylaw was adopted for the 60 sites late last month. They include about 4,125 units comprising non-market housing (1,425 units), co-op housing (989 units), and market rental without strata (1,711 units). Under the amended zoning bylaw, the units must stay 100 per cent rental if redeveloped.

Legislation permitting local governments to specify housing tenure is relatively new, according to a staff report. "Rental tenure zoning is considered the strongest tool that council and staff have at their disposal to require housing units to be occu-

piated as rental units."

New Westminster is the only other municipality to add a similar bylaw, for 18 sites so far.

Richmond's general manager of planning and development Joe Erceg told councillors the bylaw amendment would be a clearer direction for staff, and would save time when working with projects or developers that don't comply with current policy.

"If it's just a policy, which it is right now, someone will tie up a site because they'll want to have a conversation with us about bending the policy, not complying with the policy," said Erceg. "They'll want to pitch something that's outside the policy, maybe it's only partially compliant. If it's policy, it's often viewed as negotiable. If it's rental tenure zoning, it's black and white. That's why, from my point of view, it's a better way to go—the rules are clear and people conduct themselves based on those rules."

Councillors were in favour of the amendment at both the committee and council meetings. They also agreed to send a letter to Richmond MPs and MLAs to advise of the city's decisions.

The bylaw change was carried unanimously at a public hearing on Feb. 22. At that hearing some members of the public expressed concern that they would be displaced from their homes.

"What we're considering is to make sure that anything that is 100 per cent rental and is designated here, by location, is going to stay rental," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "It doesn't mean you're going to be displaced, it doesn't mean anything is going to happen, it probably means you won't see any change at all. The fact is that if the owners of the building go to redevelop it, it will stay as a rental building."

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## Cigarette fires increased slightly in 2021

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Throughout 2021, Richmond had a total of 134 fires, with 49 caused by carelessly discarded cigarettes.

In 2020, there were 109 fires, 31 of which were caused by cigarettes. In a report submitted in advance of February's community safety committee meeting, staff said the increase was likely due to the extreme weather during the summer months.

According to data collected by Richmond Fire-Rescue, cigarette fires were more prevalent in past years, with 137 recorded in 2017 and 110 in 2018.

"Typically the majority of discarded cigarettes caused fires in the medians in the middle of the roadways where there is bark mulch or dry grass, on the side of the roads, (or) sometimes in small garbage containers," said deputy fire chief Jim Wishlove during the committee meeting.

"It's rare, but occasionally a homeowner may experience a fire on a patio or in a backyard that can be caused from the cigarette smoking over a number of hours. It would start a fire that wouldn't be noticed until it was significant enough for somebody to call," he added.

This year, Richmond Fire-Rescue staff will re-evaluate the public awareness campaign, to further educate the public about the dangers of carelessly discarded cigarettes.

There is also a local program to distribute free portable cigarette extinguishers. Wishlove said a number are available in the Fire-Rescue inventory, and there haven't been any reports of people turning them back in.



Photo via flickr.com

While fires caused by cigarette butts have decreased significantly over the last few years in Richmond, 2021 represented a slight increase.

In the same staff report submitted to the community safety committee, Richmond Fire-Rescue noted that total incident volumes in 2021 returned to normal levels, after a drop in 2020 due to provincial health orders and the medical health officer's direction.

"The impacts of the pandemic on call volumes during 2020 resulted in Richmond Fire-Rescue management pivoting staff to learning, development and preparedness activities," the report said.

Medical first responder incidents are also returning to normal levels.

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# Local support helps keep senior afloat

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE  
Reporter

In the face of hardship, Richmonders are coming together to support a woman who recently lost her float home after it began to sink at low tide.

Mare, a long-time resident of the Richmond Marina Float Home community, lives on a very limited budget each month and was unable to insure her dwelling.

At 6 a.m., Mare found herself in a state of emergency, but she and her two cats were rescued by heroic neighbours through a small bedroom window. Although she was able to retrieve some items, including essential medications, most of her possessions were lost.

In response to the event, Mare's friend Laura Cuthbert set up a crowd funding campaign on FundRazr that has raised over \$20,000 to date. The funds will help Mare get to medical appointments, pick up her insulin, get groceries, and cover the cost of finding a new home.

"For those of you who don't know Mare: she is one of the most exceptionally kind-hearted, humble, authentic, generous and caring people we know. She goes out of her way to help everyone as much as she can," said Cuthbert in a statement posted on the FundRazr page.

Cuthbert said over the last few days, Mare has been drying out recovered documents and trying to pull together new identification so that she can access her bank account.

"Much hard work has gone into sorting, rinsing off the sand and silt, and salvaging what's there. When you don't have anything, everything counts. It's been amazing to see the level of generosity in person, online, and in this fundraiser," said Cuthbert.

According to an update posted on the fundraiser page, one neighbour dried



Photo courtesy Laura Cuthbert via FundRazr

**A Richmond senior lost her home recently, and community members are fundraising to help find her a new place to live.**

out about 100 of Mare's family photos, laying them out on all levels of her home. Another neighbour organized a "meal train" to ensure Mare has dinner each night.

"Our goal of \$25,000 will meet only her immediate needs—please give generously, as Mare does each day. Every dollar goes into Mare's bank account," said Cuthbert.

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# ICBC launching online insurance renewals

People in British Columbia will soon have the added convenience of renewing their personal ICBC insurance policies online.

Eligible ICBC customers with policies expiring on or after May 1 will have the option to renew their policy using their computer, tablet or mobile device. While May 1 will be the official launch date, customers can renew their insurance up to 44 days earlier, meaning some people will be able to renew online as soon as March 17.

With support from ICBC's broker network, the new online insurance service will enable customers to renew their current personal auto insurance coverage, change their address, apply for discounts, update the drivers listed on their policy and modify how they use their vehicle. ICBC expects even more online features to be available in the future.

Coinciding with the launch of online auto insurance renewals, May 1 also will mark the last day that B.C. drivers will be required to display a licence plate validation decal to show they have valid insurance. To support this transition, ICBC is making a one-time investment of as much as \$1 million to enhance and expand the Automated Licence Plate Recognition program, which helps law enforcement in B.C. detect unlawful, unlicensed and uninsured drivers.

"The online insurance renewal initiative offers British Columbians a more convenient way to renew their ICBC auto insurance," said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "Working through the RCMP, police agencies in B.C. will be enhancing and expanding the Automated Licence Plate Recognition program that exists today."

The cost of this investment will be offset by savings related to manufacturing and distributing the decals.



Photo by Jaana Björk

**People in B.C. will soon be able to renew their ICBC insurance policies online, and will not be required to display licence plate decals.**

Decal elimination will align B.C. with other Canadian jurisdictions that have successfully removed the decal from circulation, including Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and the Northwest Territories.

"We know online insurance renewals are something our customers have been waiting for, and we're pleased to announce that we're on track to have this option go live next month," said Nicolas Jimenez, ICBC president and chief executive officer. "Online insurance renewals add to the growing number of digital options available to customers, providing greater convenience,

choice and flexibility for British Columbians."

During the pandemic, ICBC has enabled its customers to renew their insurance, make adjustments to their policy and complete other transactions by phone and email. This service will continue, giving customers the opportunity to renew without in-person interaction during the lead-up to online renewals and beyond.

Brokers will continue to offer their expert advice on insurance coverage, whether in person, on the telephone or for online renewals, and will continue to assist ICBC customers with their Autoplan insurance needs.

## Library offers free income tax workshops

Richmond Public Library, in partnership with the Lord's Harvest Fellowship, is again offering free income tax clinics at the Brighthouse branch.

Trained volunteers will safely help community members with low income file their tax returns. This year's clinics will follow a drop-off and pick-up format.

To qualify for this free service, single people must have a maximum income of \$35,000 and a couple must have a maximum income of \$45,000 plus \$2,500 per child. Couples will need to sign up for one appointment time for each person.

Interested participants can register for a session by calling 604-231-6413 or visiting the "Ask Me" desk on the second floor of the Brighthouse branch. Once registered, participants will need to stop by the Brighthouse branch to pick up their registration forms. These forms will

need to be filled out prior to the scheduled appointment. A piece of government issued ID and all relevant tax slips such as T4, T5 and Canada Child Benefit slips must also be brought to the appointment. All print documents will be returned to the participant at their pick-up time.

The clinics run on Saturdays from March 5 to April 30 (no sessions on April 16) with drop-off appointments offered between 10:30am and 3:30 p.m. Drop-off appointments on March 5 will be between 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

"We are grateful and blessed that for over ten years, our tax clinic has continued to positively impact members of our community who need it most, and that we are able to continue our partnership with the library to keep providing this vital service for our community!" said Pastor Abe Lagayan, representative of the Lord's Harvest Fellowship.



*Photos courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives*

Applications for the 2022 Ethel Tibbits scholarship are open through April 8.

## Ethel Tibbits Scholarship helps Richmond women in need

Richmond women looking to further their education and broaden career opportunities can benefit from a scholarship named for local women's rights advocate Ethel Tibbits.

Tibbits was also a pioneering newspaper editor and owner. The scholarship was originally established by the Richmond Review and is awarded annually by the Richmond Community Foundation.

Applicants must have lived in Richmond for at least one year, and demonstrate financial need. They can be entering a training program, or attending classes to upgrade their skills or credentials. In both cases, the scholarship can help cover tuition fees and course materials.

The application deadline is April 8. For more information or to apply, go to [rcrg.org/GrantsScholarships/ScholarshipDetails/ethel\\_tibbits\\_scholarship](http://rcrg.org/GrantsScholarships/ScholarshipDetails/ethel_tibbits_scholarship)



## B.C Home Owner Grant helps reduce property taxes

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE  
Reporter

The B.C Home Owner Grant is available to homeowners that pay property tax and reduces the amount paid on principal residences.

Eligible people can only have one principal residence, and applicants who own more than one home can't designate which one of their properties is a principal residence.

A resident must occupy their principal dwelling at the time of their application. Exceptions may be available for anyone working outside of the province, moving into a residential care facility, moving out due to damage or renovations, absent due to medical, travel or education.

The provincial government announced in January that it has increased the grant threshold to \$1.975 million for 2022, covering 92 per cent of residential properties.

The grant is reduced by \$5 for every \$1,000 of assessed value above the new threshold. Properties assessed higher than \$2.1 million are not eligible.

Property owners must pay at least \$350 in property taxes to help fund services such as road maintenance and police protection.

Most residential property taxpayers in Metro Vancouver qualify for the basic Home Owner Grant that provides a minimum relief of \$570. Owners who are veterans, seniors aged 65 or older, have a disability, or live with a relative who has a disability are eligible to apply for additional supplemental grants.

Partitioning a principal residence may enable an owner to claim the grant. The partitioned value of a property is the assessed value divided by the number of residences on that property.

To qualify, each division of the residence must have cooking, sleeping, bathroom, and living facilities. A suite in a principal residence doesn't qualify as a separate residence, but laneway homes and multi-family dwellings like a duplex, triplex, or fourplex meet the requirements.

Recipients must apply for the grant annually and applications are audited for up to seven years to make sure taxpayers are eligible for the grants they receive.



*Photo via flickr.com*

The B.C. Home Owner Grant reduces the amount of property tax paid on principal residences.

# Feng Shui expert makes Year of the Tiger predictions

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE  
Reporter

Each Lunar New Year, people all over Richmond are excited to know what is predicted for the next 12 months.

World-renowned Feng Shui teacher Jerry King also known as the "White Dragon," offers a curated prediction on what the Year of the Tiger has in store. King is an expert on various forms of divination including the Four Pillars of Destiny, Plum Blossom, and Qi Men Dun Jia.

He is also a proud hockey dad whose three sons were a part of the Richmond Jets program and have since graduated to the Hockey Premier League. The family spends a lot of time together at local hockey facilities.

The Four Pillars of Destiny method uses a person's birth year, month, and day to predict personality and life outcome. This technique requires advanced math including cylindrical arithmetic.

The Plum Blossom method uses the I Ching ancient Chinese divination text and numerology to predict the outcome of current events. The technique dates back to the Song Dynasty (960 to 1126 AD) when a scholar was startled by a rat and accidentally knocked over a vase which shattered and revealed a note inscribed with his name and the exact time the event took place. Intrigued by the coincidence, the scholar sought the potter who made the vase and upon finding him the potter gave the scholar his copy of the I Ching text that contained notes about how to use magic to make predictions about future events.

Later, the scholar spotted a pair of sparrows fighting in a plum blossom tree and decided to test out the knowledge he acquired from the book. The fighting birds appeared to be an omen indicating that an accident would occur in the plum tree the next day. The next day, a girl climbed the tree and fell, incurring minor injuries. When word spread that the scholar's prediction was accurate, the Plum Blossom technique was accredited and eventually became widely accepted by divination practitioners.

Qi Men Dun Jia is an ancient form and one of the three main types of Chinese divination. It was originally devised during the period of the Warring States to help form military strategy. After many successes, the technique grew in popularity and was expanded to include other types of divination including medical divination, matchmaking, childbirth, travel, personal fortunes, and contemporary applications for business and finance.

King's books include *Four Pillars of Destiny: A Guide to Relationships* and *Feng Shui: An Illus-*

*trated Guide to Property Selection*. He also offers virtual divination sessions.

*The White Dragon's Year of the Tiger Predictions:*

The Year of the Tiger in 2022 is represented by two symbols, Yang Water and Tiger. The water element sits on top of the Tiger where it is said that the water is nourishing the wood element hidden inside the Tiger. The energy of such a relationship plays a very important role in influencing the nature of the events, relationships, and health on our planet. The Tiger is also one of the four "travelling horse" animals in Chinese astrology which can result in a lot of movement.

Since the water is feeding the wood hidden inside the Tiger, the elements are in harmony. This can lead to a lot of disputes being resolved in 2022. The last Water Tiger year was 1962, when the Cuban Missile Crisis was resolved. Presently, there are trade conflicts between the United States and China—could the trade



JERRY KING

We are likely to see more mudslides and avalanches this year.

Regarding investments: from a long-term perspective, real estate will do well. However, waterfront properties are vulnerable to natural disasters and water-related issues affecting long-term gains.

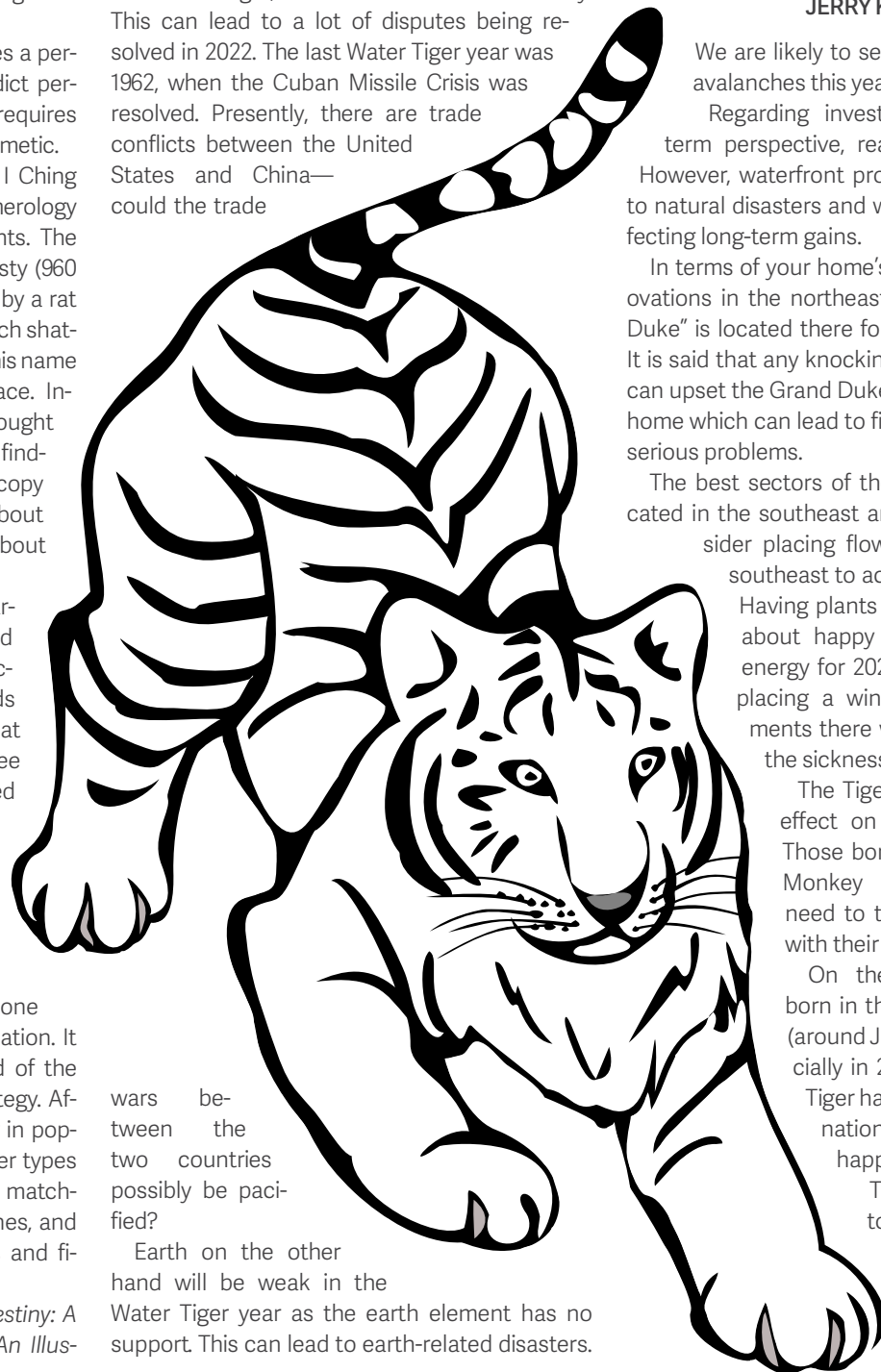
In terms of your home's Feng Shui: avoid renovations in the northeast sector as the "Grand Duke" is located there for the Year of the Tiger. It is said that any knocking noise or renovations can upset the Grand Duke and the energy of the home which can lead to financial losses or more serious problems.

The best sectors of the home are mainly located in the southeast and east for 2022. Consider placing flowers and water in the southeast to activate the scholar star. Having plants in the south can bring about happy events. The negative energy for 2022 is in the southwest; placing a windchime or metal elements there would be a remedy for the sickness star.

The Tiger can have a negative effect on the back and joints. Those born in the month of the Monkey (around August) will need to take more precautions with their health.

On the other hand, those born in the month of the Horse (around June) may benefit financially in 2022 as the Horse and Tiger have a favourable combination that can bring about happiness.

The most ideal month to travel is November. For those planning weddings, November is also a good month.



was between the two countries possibly be pacified?

Earth on the other hand will be weak in the Water Tiger year as the earth element has no support. This can lead to earth-related disasters.

# Canadian musician to make local stop

By JIM GORDON AND LEETA LIEPINS  
Contributors

Canadian music icon Colin James, a seven-time Juno winner, will stop in Vancouver at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on March 11.

Our City Tonight sat down recently with James just before he began his Canadian tour.

*Your latest album is getting great reviews. Tell us about the creation of Open Road and choosing the songs.*

Like with any other record, I'm simply going through songs I have always loved, kept in my back pocket and never got to. I try and figure out if (I'm) doing the song any favours, is (my) voice or treatment of the song bringing something new to (it)? If the answer is "no," then (the song is) left off. And then (I) try and find diversity in the tempos and what the songs bring. I also tend to throw a lot at the wall when it comes to making a record—I don't just record exactly what's going to be there, I tend to overshoot. I'll do 10 to 12 (additional) songs that won't make it on the record.

*You have covered a number of musical genres in your long career. With your success in the genre of blues—and you have played with some blues greats—do you feel a need to keep this musical genre alive?*

There is some element (of) that. I was lucky enough to see some greats as well, including the late Muddy Waters. So many of the second generation of "Chicago Blues" musicians are gone, so there will always be room for people who love this music and put the kind of energy into it and shine a light on the blues. I felt privileged that as a kid, (age) 16, 17, that I fell in love with the medium and I hoped that one day I could make a mark on it. Also getting to play with legendary artists like Albert Collins and to see what a genius he was, there was no one else like him. Still isn't.

*You've started a Canadian tour and then after that, you'll head to America to tour with another great artist, Buddy Guy. How are you feeling about getting in front of a live audience again?*

We couldn't wait to get back out there. We did a small, acoustic tour late last year, a trio of us, and it was so cathartic to be back on a guitar and playing

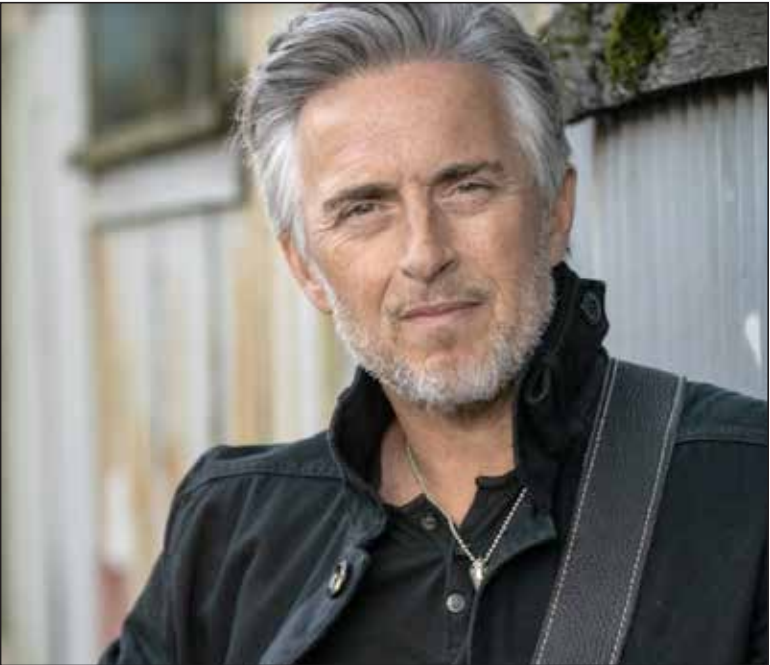


Photo courtesy Eric Alper Public Relations

Canadian musician Colin James plays a show in Vancouver on March 11.

shows. It's something I've done most of my life and when you don't do that for nearly two years it can be quite shocking, like part of your life is gone.

*You do the popular "On the Couch" series on YouTube and there is often a dog with you on the couch.*

That's our oldest dog, Maggie. We don't put her there, she just loves to be on the couch. I love that dog, she's one of four dogs we have, two of which are rescues.

For the full video interview, visit [richmondsentinel.ca/videos](http://richmondsentinel.ca/videos)  
Jim Gordon and Leeta Liepins are contributing writers to the Richmond Sentinel.

## Asphalt Paving Advisory

February 1st to November 30th, 2022

The City of Richmond has contracted Lafarge Canada Inc. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond from February 1st to November 30th, 2022:

PROPOSED 2021 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS	
Bridgeport Road to Knight Street	East north loop
Bridgeport Road to Knight Street	East south loop
Knight Street East South	50 m north of bridge deck
Knight Street to Bridgeport Road	Northeast off ramp
12000 - 13000 block Steveston Highway	Hwy 99 off Ramp – Palmberg Road
11000 block Bridgeport Road	Shell Road – No. 5 Road
No. 6 Road	Hwy 91 underpass – Maycrest Way
9000 block Cambie Road	Garden City Road – No. 4 Road
Great Canadian Way	Sea Island Way – Bridgeport Road
4151 Williams Road	100 m section
9000 block Francis Road	Garden City Road – No. 4 Road
Fraserwood Place	Westminster Hwy – Gordon Way
Vickers Way	Bridgeport Road – Sweden Way
Westminster Hwy	No. 8 Road – Nelson Road
Ferguson Road	Shannon Road – McDonald Road
Kwantlen Street	Alderbridge Way – Alexandra Road
Finlayson Drive	Gagnon Place – McLennan Avenue
5000 - 6000 block Granville Avenue	Railway Avenue – Gilbert Road emergency repairs
Burkeville subdivision	Roads impacted by Capital Projects only
No. 5 Road / North of Cambie Road	Mitchel Elementary School frontage
7411 No. 1 Road	South bound lanes only
Garden City Road – Cook Road	Intersection
No. 3 Road	Bridgeport Road – River Road
6000 block No. 1 Road	Westminster Hwy – Granville Avenue
3000 block Blundell Road	No. 1 Road – Seafair Drive

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 a single lane and there may be temporary lane closures. Delays may occur. The use of an alternate route is strongly encouraged.

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

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

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at 604-276-4189, or visit the City's paving program webpage at [www.richmond.ca](http://www.richmond.ca) (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2021 Paving Program).

# Gateway show explores mental health



Photo by Ben Laird

JD Derbyshire's one-person show *Certified* plays at Gateway Theatre March 8 to 20.

JD Derbyshire's new one-person play *Certified* asks audiences to contemplate the challenges of mental health struggles.

Opening next week at Gateway Theatre, the show turns the audience into a mental health review board to assess Derbyshire's sanity.

"I can't think of a group better suited (for the task) than those who still go to live theatre," they say.

Derbyshire, who works as a playwright, performer, and comedian, was part of the mental health system for four or five years. They want the show to help educate people about the system's limits.

"Mental illness is a very individual experience and not a solid state. It's often portrayed as if you have a mental illness it can mean certain things about your life, and I wanted to show someone actually living with it in a successful way. I like to say your life is different—it might not look like you thought it was going to look—but it's certainly not over," says Derbyshire.

The show was initially scheduled for Gateway's 2020-2021 season, but was postponed due to the pandemic. And in some ways, the postponement opened up a timely conversation about mental health struggles exacerbated by the pandemic itself.

"While the mental health system can offer certain things, it was backed up before COVID, and now we're really seeing the gaps," they say. "The mental health system will address crisis situations; often you're hospitalized and then medicated and then on your own. (*Certified*) is super timely because it's a personal story, my personal story, but it's also a story that I hope opens people up to telling

their own stories in different ways."

Derbyshire wants to break the stigma around mental health struggles, saying it's important to not only talk about things like depression and anxiety but also accept them with honesty.

"There are lots of ways that we can empower ourselves to accept and make the best use of what we have. We have become so limited in what we think normal human capacity for emotion is that a lot of what we're experiencing, especially right now, is just what it is to be human," they say.

"I don't think this divide we have between who are the crazy people and who aren't is very useful in life. I think it's more like this is a really wild ride we're on and especially right now when we're living with so much ambiguous loss—COVID, climate change—we're all going to have to be a little more honest with ourselves and others about our emotional lives. What we may have been able to do before, we're just not going to be able to do (now)."

Derbyshire is excited to bring *Certified* to Richmond audiences after its tour was also cancelled due to COVID. They say when they realized the show was imminent, they felt a lift in spirits "that I don't know if it could have come any other way."

The show offers a less restrictive theatre environment where patrons can move in and out of the room freely, laugh as loudly as they want, and fidget as needed. A "chill-out" zone in the main lobby is also available for those who need it.

"You'll see a practice of 'trigger warnings' in art. The truth is you can know some of your triggers but you can't know all of them. I really believe in self-awareness with my mental health and I want to extend that idea to an audience," says Derbyshire. "Theatre is just one system where you have these rules, you're supposed to come in and watch a show and sit. I want to make it so that if something comes up and you have to take care of yourself for some reason, you can do that. For me, every single show in theatre should be relaxed. It's such a prohibitive agreement on so many levels."

While the "talkback" sessions usually offered after each performance are not possible during the pandemic, Derbyshire says they may be able to put together some kind of virtual gathering.

*Certified* runs from March 8 to 20. For more information or to buy tickets, go to [gatewaytheatre.com/certified](http://gatewaytheatre.com/certified)

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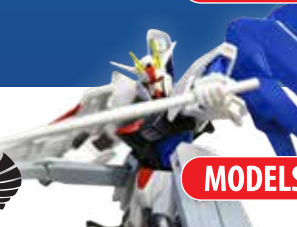
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# Reimagining recycling into masterpieces

By SAMUEL CHENG  
Reporter

Roger Brenninkmeyer, founder of the Plastic Essence Collaborative (PECO), has recently created a magnificent piece of artwork made entirely out of plastic for the Wisteria Place seniors' home in Steveston.

Born in England, Brenninkmeyer lived in various countries in Europe as well as cities like Toronto and Montreal before settling down in Vancouver. After working in the finance industry as a loan officer and working as a graphic designer for branding companies, Brenninkmeyer then created PECO, which focuses on incorporating environmental sustainability into art.

PECO was founded with two missions. The first is to create stunning, original art pieces from mounted plastic plates with unique designs. The second mission is to raise the awareness of plastic sustainability within our community.

"The vision is to reimagine our relationship with plastic through conscious (and) collaborative creativity," says Brenninkmeyer.

Brenninkmeyer's passion for recycling began at a young age, when he started a recycling program at his school.

"If it's not me that can do (something), I can't expect anyone else to (do it)," he says.

Unlike other easily biodegradable materials, such as paper and glass, plastic can take 500 years or more to completely decompose.

"In the recycling bin, (plastic) is the one thing that stands out to me," says Brenninkmeyer.

Brenninkmeyer drew inspiration from Dutch company Precious Plastic, which makes furniture and construction materials from recycled plastic. Industrial designer Carter Zufelt, who developed a process that turns plastic bags into useful, everyday objects like stools and tables, was another source of inspiration.

Although Richmond's single-use plastics ban will soon come into effect, there are still other plastic containers and products that end up in the landfill.

"We need to have a completely different consciousness about plastic. We need to look at it (as) something that is more valuable to us, as opposed to something that is so quickly discarded after a single use," says Brenninkmeyer.

Brenninkmeyer limits the types of plastic he uses to high density polyethylene (HDPE) and low density polyethylene (LDPE) #3 and #5. Unlike other plastics, these emit less toxic fumes during the



*Photo courtesy Roger Brenninkmeyer*

**Roger Brenninkmeyer recently created the unique plastic artwork at Wisteria Place seniors' home.**

melting process.

Most of Brenninkmeyer's art pieces stem from the themes of nature and the human condition. He also highlights the significance of building art out of trash.

"Being a graphic designer has really pushed me into this sort of mosaic style," says Brenninkmeyer.

Converting plastic bags into art pieces is not an easy job. The process includes sorting, cutting and cleaning the plastics. The melting process starts with melting one or two sheets until a malleable dough ball is formed. Once the temperature reaches 350 degrees Celsius, a rolling pin is used to flatten out the plastic ball, which is then sent into a cold press to cool down.

After cooling down, the plastic piece is cut, sanded, and polished before it is ready to be mounted and framed. It can take around eight hours to create a standard 34.29 by 39.37 centimetre (13.5 by 15.5 inch) piece.

"The melting process of creating the plates for Wisteria Place took a whole month," says Brenninkmeyer.

Brenninkmeyer's art is created with a unique, one-of-a-kind process that aims to resolve plastic issues by physically reducing the problem down and using it to create something new. The art also raises community awareness of the ongoing problem.

"It's not purely the aesthetics, it's about the impact," says Brenninkmeyer.

As a company, PECO always strives to build

trust, connect with people, and encourage community collaboration.

"It's not just about other people doing it, it's about doing it together. (At) Plastic Essence Collaborative, we are collaborating together to solve a problem," says Brenninkmeyer.

The piece recently created for Wisteria Place is Brenninkmeyer's biggest ever. Members of the community, as well as Wisteria Place residents, voluntarily brought in their own plastics that were used to create the wisteria tree.

The tree has become a source of pride for residents, symbolizing eternity and longevity. The leaves and petals represent the residents.

Brenninkmeyer says to reduce plastic wastes, people have to first understand the root of the problem.

"Plastic is not the problem, we are the problem," he says.

To cut down on the number of plastic items used, Brenninkmeyer suggests finding substitutes. Use a bar of soap instead of bottled shower gel, or use paper bags in place of plastic ones.

It's also important to encourage local retailers and businesses to start reforming as well. Support and advocate a change to cardboard containers instead of plastic ones. And avoid Styrofoam whenever possible.

"Until we have bio-substitutes for every container or bottle, what we need to do is think consciously about how we buy and when we buy," says Brenninkmeyer.

## The history of plastics

In the early 1900s, ornaments and small figurines made out of elephant tusks were being exported from Asia and Africa. In 1877, English inventor Daniel Spill established the British Xylonite Company. One of its three subsidiaries, BX Plastics, was a plastic en-

gineering and production company that was responsible for the creation of Xylonite, one of the earliest forms of plastic. Xylonite is still found in a wide range of products today including combs, table tennis balls, and guitar picks.

# Young Richmondite focused on business success

By SAMUEL CHENG  
Reporter

Danny Zhu wants to pursue a career in business. Richmond's Zhu is a Grade 12 student at St. George's Senior School in Vancouver. He is also the chair of Canada's largest youth business conference, Prosper Vancouver, which is scheduled for June 4.

To Zhu, the term "business" refers to an opportunity to impact people's lives. Whether through a new piece of technology, a service, or an idea, businesses can create solutions to problems as well as bringing value and positive change to people's lives.

Zhu gets inspiration from the people around him and the organizations he has been involved with. They not only helped him build up his skill set, but also encouraged him to pursue his passion for business.

He is also grateful for the first business teacher who taught him at Richmond Secondary, Kuldeep Gill. Zhu says Gill discussed many different business ideas with him, motivating him to continue pursuing his passion.

According to Zhu, perseverance is important. In the world of business, there are many challenges and unpredictable elements along the way. Pushing through difficult times will be needed because things may not always go as planned.

Aside from perseverance, Zhu also strives to learn from his mistakes and past experiences. He is not afraid of failure and maintains an open-minded mentality to try and experiment with new things.

Zhu is involved in various leadership positions at his school, including serving as a prefect whose main responsibility is to organize and manage events



DANNY ZHU

and activities.

"I think business and leadership naturally come hand-in-hand," says Zhu.

With the Prosper Vancouver conference planned to be held at UBC's Sauder School of Business, Zhu says some elements are different this year due to the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

"We are trying to turn to a more hybrid model. (Some) students are able to participate in-person without travelling long distances. International students who wish to participate and have already signed up will be able to participate virtually," says Zhu.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Zhu is still trying to create the best possible experience for conference attendees.

"We tried our best to plan a way (to) uphold the previous year's professionalism while at the same time trying to be innovative," says Zhu.

Although the pandemic has damaged the global economy, Zhu is trying to stay positive and focus on new opportunities.

"In terms of business, COVID opened up a lot of opportunities to show how instantaneously things change and how opportunities (can) present themselves," he says.

Zhu has two tips for maintaining a balance between school, extracurricular activities, and social life. His first tip is to have passion.

"Be excited and devoted (to) things that you want to do, and you will automatically prioritize (their) importance over other things you have in life," he says.

Zhu's second tip is time management. Rather than simply completing things on time, people should also make sure that everything is done at the best level possible.

## Sandhar Trucking serving Richmond for decades

*In the first part of a series on Richmond's business roots, we share the story of Sandhar Trucking.*

By SAMUEL CHENG  
Reporter

Founded in Richmond over 30 years ago, Sandhar Trucking Ltd. has grown from its humble roots of a single truck.

Since then, Parm and Jas Sandhar's five-tonne truck has become a fleet and a 9,290 square metre (100,000 square foot) warehouse. Sandhar is also one of the only local trucking companies that services all the nearby ports and rails.

General manager Aaron Sandhar is the founders' son. He credits his parents for noticing and capitalizing on the shortage and increasing demand of the trucking industry.

With the goal of providing a better life for their family, Parm and Jas worked hard and persevered through the challenges and difficult times.

"Every day is different and we are always faced with new challenges. There (are) so many different parties involved in the supply chain. If an issue occurs in any (of the) steps (along) the way, it can cause a ripple effect in the industry,"

says Aaron. "Other challenges that can affect our business can come from weather and regulations."

Apart from being diligent and assiduous, the company attributes its success to its customers. Positive feedback and customer referrals helped the enterprise steadily grow and expand.

"We pride ourselves on our high level of customer service and our capability of finding the best transportation solution that meets our customers' needs," says Aaron.

Due to the pandemic, the demand for delivering and transporting services is higher than ever. This pushed Sandhar to expand the size of its fleet and the capacity of its warehouse.

Amid its growth and booming business, the company also aims to keep its employees happy.

"(We) create a positive work environment where our employees can have fun (and) get (the) work done at the same time. This translates into a positive experience for our customers (as well)," says Aaron.

It's also important to retain customers.

"(We) address their needs and concerns immediately. If (a) customer (is) having an issue, we are very quick at responding to (the problem) and providing a solution," says Aaron.



Photo courtesy Aaron Sandhar  
Parm and Jas Sandhar started their business with a single truck.

The company has been active in the community through building long-term relationships with local businesses and supporting sports teams like the Richmond Youth Soccer Association.

Aaron offers a piece of advice to future entrepreneurs: "Never stop learning. The more knowledge you have about your industry, the better you'll be able to serve your customers."

# KPU students brewing their way to success

By **SAMUEL CHENG**  
Reporter

The sustainable agriculture program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Richmond campus has a unique tie to the school's Langley campus.

At the Langley campus, students can study the art of beer-making. Some of the ingredients are grown at the Richmond campus.

Kwantlen (KPU)'s brewing and brewery operations diploma program is the first in Canada to be recognized by the Master Brewers Association of the Americas (MBAA) for excellence in brewing education.

Beers are made by combining four key elements: water, malt, yeast, and hops. Hops are little green cone-shaped flowers that are added during the brewing process. They provide a distinct flavour that balances the sweetness of malt, ranging from bitter to fruity or citrusy.

All beers fall into two categories: lagers and ales.

Lager is the most popular beer style in the world, and is golden yellow in colour. The fermentation of lager occurs at a lower temperature, between zero and 10 degrees Celsius, and sits at the bottom of the cup. Lagers offer

a clean, crisp, and dry taste.

Unlike lager, ale has a dark brown hue and its fermentation floats on the top of the liquid. The process of fermentation happens at a warmer temperature, between 15 and 21 degrees Celsius. Ales typically have a fruitier and sweeter taste compared to lagers.

The KPU program offers students hands-on experiences and possible career choices after graduation. It also covers the business aspects of beer including branding, selling, and marketing products.

The program has been recognized at multiple beer competitions, including winning four medals in the 2021 U.S. Open College Beer Championship.

"It's exciting to see our students win again this year in the U.S. Open College Beer Championship and celebrate their accomplishments," says Dominic Bernard, chair of KPU's brewing and brewery operations diploma program.

Students enrolled in the brewing and brewery operations program roll out a batch of their signature craft beer every Friday so the public can enjoy one-of-a-kind, student-made beers.

More information can be found online at [kpu.ca/brew/signature-series](http://kpu.ca/brew/signature-series)



*Photo courtesy DeAnn Bremner*

**Students at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Langley campus can learn the details of beer-making.**

## Ventilation upgrades considered for older schools

By **HANNAH SCOTT**  
*Local Journalism Initiative reporter*

Richmond school board trustees considered upgrades to the ventilation systems in some older schools at last week's board meeting.

While schools built after 1990 must have mechanical ventilation to move and exchange air with fresh air, many older public schools lack this ventilation. The only option for ventilation is to open windows built above radiators to ensure that in-coming air is a comfortable temperature. The provincial Ministry of Education funded the purchase of air purifiers, but these are only intended to be a temporary solution.

In a report to the board, the district's executive director of facilities services Frank Geyer listed 17 schools for potential upgrades. Six of them are already scheduled for upgrades as part of existing projects: Bridge, Ferris, McKinney, Mitchell, Tomsett, and Whiteside elementary schools.

The facilities services department estimates that it would cost a maximum of \$12 million to retrofit the remaining 11 schools not currently

scheduled to receive mechanical ventilation as part of their seismic upgrades. Those schools are Blundell, Cook, Dixon, Garden City, Gilmore, Grauer, Kidd, Lee, McKay, Steves, and Woodward elementary schools.

Due to the uncertainty of provincial capital funding, facilities services is recommending this money come from the local capital reserve.

"From a facilities standpoint, we don't feel it's a huge risk for the school district to pay for this," said Geyer. "The goal is to minimize that cost, and what we're intending to do is to keep lobbying government and look for grants that we could get, to see how much of this money we can defray."

The work would take just under a year and a half to complete, and would require two complete summers. The target completion date is August 2023.

"We've heard from people that ventilation is critical right now—it's not just a safety matter, but also good ventilation makes (schools) a better environment for learning and teaching," said Geyer.

In his report, Geyer said although the pandemic has highlighted the need for a timely

solution, appropriate ventilation in schools is an ongoing need that will continue to be important in the future.

At last week's meeting, some trustees expressed concerns about spending money that was initially earmarked for the purchase of land to build a school in the City Centre neighbourhood. But the uncertainty of that timeline, as well as the increasing value of land, pose challenges. Geyer pointed out that the ministry supports projects based on need, not on a district's ability to provide funding contributions.

There was also some discussion about the simultaneous importance of seismic upgrade projects and the district's seismic project office.

"(We're) doing the right thing for ventilation now, and doing our best in the future to make the seismic project happen—no matter whether we have \$2 to contribute to that project when the time comes, or \$2 million," said trustee Richard Lee.

Trustees will discuss and vote on the proposal at the March 30 board meeting.

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# Technology in the classroom

*Learning to use devices as educational tools*

By HANNAH SCOTT

*Local Journalism Initiative reporter*

No longer seen as a distraction, technology devices like iPads are now viewed as an important educational tool that broadens the range of possibilities in a classroom.

This shift in use has also been accompanied by a name change—once called technology, this topic is now known as digital literacy according to Ellen Reid, a teacher consultant for digital literacy and Applied Design, Skills and Technologies with Richmond School District.

"One of the other things we think about often is the difference between consuming and creating when working with learners," says Reid. "There's an emphasis on being creative and using critical thinking."

Tools can be tweaked based on students' ages and the subject matter. And there's a second layer to the process that re-frames an iPad, for example, as a learning device instead of something that's just for fun.

"We're building the toolbox ideally, in Kindergarten (and) Grade 1, with a few solid tools to use. Then we're trying to build awareness so they can choose the right tool for a given task later on. We want kids to be able to choose themselves if they want to, because there's a variety of things available to them," says Reid.

***We're building the toolbox ideally, in Kindergarten (and) Grade 1, with a few solid tools to use. Then we're trying to build awareness so they can choose the right tool for a given task later on.***

— Ellen Reid



*Photo courtesy Richmond School District*

**Richmond students use technology in a variety of ways to support their learning.**

Every elementary school has a digital literacy lab, often a mobile cart with MacBook laptops or iPad carts. Secondary schools have computer labs with desktop computers for more complex processes like coding and publishing.

But Chris Loat, the district's curriculum coordinator for technology, says that no games are installed on these devices. Educators are aware that students experience a different sort of screen time at home, he adds, and don't want to emulate that at school.

And the pandemic has only added to most people's screen time, sometimes making it harder to use devices at school.

"I had (one) teacher say she is concerned about that in her classroom, so she's not using as much technology anymore, and that's fair enough," says Loat. "But I think in times when we're not in COVID, because we are trying to promote the creative aspect of using technology, there's value in that."

The cost to buy devices, software, and applications is split between schools and the district.

"The district pushes out a suite of apps provided for (everyone)," says Loat. "If a school says they want to try something in particular, they would

buy it themselves. Then the schools would have that app at their disposal to use in future years."

Among students' favourite projects are 3D printers, green screens, and digital storytelling using iPads. The district's 3D printing project provides the technology to school libraries for integration into the curriculum.

"The next step is (to ask) what are the affordances of that technology, what does a 3D printer allow us to do that we couldn't do already?" says Reid. "There's lots of things kids are making: missing pieces for games, characters for stories."

Nineteen classes in the district, across 10 schools, currently participate in the district's challenge-based learning project. With one device per student or per pair, classes solve larger problems. For instance, one class created a field guide for Garden City Park, posting QR codes around the park for people to scan and learn about different elements like a tree or a pond.

Reid and Loat feel fortunate to work in a district that prioritizes digital literacy.

"Not all districts have the digital literacy tools that we do," says Loat. "I think we're pretty fortunate."

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# Sockeyes facing Delta in first round of playoffs

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Sockeyes headed into the Pacific Junior Hockey League playoffs ranked second in the Tom Shaw conference.

With 63 points in 44 games—31 wins, 12 losses and one overtime loss—the Sockeyes faced the Delta Ice Hawks in the first round, a best-of-seven series.

Before the playoffs began, coach Bayne Koen said the pressures of the season both on- and off-ice were challenging for players. But thanks to perseverance and hard work, they made it through.

"I think we did a good job at making sure our guys were ready and making sure they're taking care of themselves away from the rink," said Koen. "That's a positive step for sure with the climate of the world right now."

With 11 rookies on the team, Koen said he was happy to see a lot of growth in the young team.

"That's what you want as a developmental league and a developmental program: to get these guys to the next level," he said.

Prior to the beginning of the playoffs, Koen said his team had the same goal as everyone: to win the Cyclone Taylor Cup, which has not been awarded since 2019 when Koen coached the North Vancouver Wolf Pack to victory.

"We want to make sure the guys are ready to go. It's going to come down to the details: structure and staying in focus. It's definitely a challenge, but we're looking at it as a good challenge for our program," said Koen.

In a tweet following the conclusion of the regular season, the Sockeyes congratulated goalten-



Photo by Richmond Sockeyes  
The Richmond Sockeyes finished the 2021-2022 regular season with 63 points in 44 games.

der Marcus Cumberworth and forward Garrett Wicks on their individual achievements.

Cumberworth finished first in the league in goals-against average (2.27) and first in the league in save percentage (.928). Wicks finished seventh in the league in scoring with 63 points (26 goals, 37 assists) in 44 games.

At press time, the Sockeyes had a 3-2 series

lead after the first five games. The first round is scheduled to wrap up on Feb. 28 at the latest.

Games are available for viewing online through the Pacific Junior Hockey League (PJHL) website, and fans can also spectate live at the rink. For more information, visit the Sockeyes' website richmondsockeyes.com  
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Karen Barclay  
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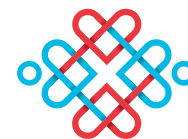
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