



SUPER SUCCESS

Local actor Chau
landing screen roles

13

Richmond-based actor Osric Chau (second from right) has appeared in shows like *The Flash*.

Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures



Richmond's single-use plastic ban starts March 27

Richmond's Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000 bans:

- foam food service ware
- plastic straws (including biodegradable and compostable plastic)
- plastic checkout bags (including biodegradable and compostable plastic)

Here's how you can help

- Bring reusable bags when shopping.
- Bring a reusable cup when picking up a coffee, tea or other beverage.
- Bring your own reusable straw or simply avoid using straws.

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

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

richmond.ca/SingleUse



New outdoor sports plaza planned for Oval

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Provincial and municipal political leaders came together recently to celebrate the outdoor plaza planned for the Richmond Olympic Oval.

The province is contributing \$1 million towards the development of the plaza as part of the second round of the 2021 Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program's Destination Development stream.

"We want to say, on behalf of the City of Richmond, thanks to the provincial government for understanding that this is an important part of the recreational component of our community," says Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "We want a healthy community. That is what we are really looking for in terms of high-quality living."

Lot 5 is the land site being developed into an outdoor sports plaza. When the land packages were assembled during the early development stages of the Olympic Oval, that lot was intended to eventually belong to a private developer, but the city always wanted it to serve a recreational purpose.

"The land is going to be used to improve access to sports and recreation activities in the community," says Brodie. "The need isn't just to have the land, we also need to have some organizations on the land. We have designated areas for specific recreation."

The outdoor plaza will include basketball courts and an artificial turf field, as well as serving as a venue for arts and culture events.



Photo by Angel St. George

From left: Richmond South Centre MLA Henry Yao, Richmond–Queensborough MLA Aman Singh, Richmond–Steveston MLA Kelly Greene, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, and city Couns. Bill McNulty, Alexa Loo, Linda McPhail, and Andy Hobbs.

"The facility will create a lot more opportunities for summer programs. Every time we build a basketball court in Richmond, it's full—it's one of those things that if you build it, they will come," says Coun. Alexa Loo, liaison to the Richmond Olympic Oval.

City planners are aiming to have construction completed as soon as possible, so that residents of new housing developments nearby can enjoy the added benefit of having a world-class recreational facility in their backyard.

The artificial turf field will be an improvement from seeded turf because the surface quality is not severely impacted by weather conditions. Seeded fields get muddy when it rains and are often closed for months during re-seeding. Less closure means more accessibility for athletes and

recreational users.

"I think it's cost-saving in the long run," says Coun. Linda McPhail. "The initial cost might be more, but there is less maintenance over time. An artificial field lasts about 10 to 15 years and only closes if there's snow. Year-round usage is one of the key cost benefits."

The development of the new outdoor sports plaza means that people who might otherwise not be able to play can come to the Oval.

"This is a great way to firmly say yes to the well-being of our community," says Richmond South Centre MLA Henry Yao. "It's outdoors, it's sports, and it's social—the perfect combination to help our community move toward recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

Renewal work begins at Minoru Park lakes district

Visitors to Richmond's Minoru Park will soon witness the revitalization of one of the park's signature areas: its lakes district.

Beginning in April, the lakes district will be closed to visitors as extensive revitalization work takes place. The area will re-open in early 2023.



Photo by Jaana Björk

The Minoru Park lakes district will be closed beginning in April through early 2023 as renewal work takes place.

The updated design features a new cascading waterfall, new plaza areas, site furnishings, paved pathways and boardwalks with lighting, planting focused on ecological benefits, and more. The design incorporates best management practices where possible related to sustainability and circular economy initiatives.

Renewal of the lakes, located in the northern area of the park, is a result of a combination of factors including aging and inefficient infrastructure. Extensive public consultation through the broader Minoru Park Vision Plan made it clear that lakes are a valued amenity. New designs were developed in keeping with the original form while integrating needed enhancements.

Areas closed during construction include the existing lakes and plaza areas, pathways and trails north of the canal including the pedestrian bridges, and portions of the Bowling Green Road parking lot. Other amenities within the 26 hectare (65 acre) Minoru Park remain open including the Minoru oval track, sport fields, playground, and chapel gardens.

Once the work is complete, the Minoru lakes district will be similar in size and character to what it is today. It will be a place of tranquility and respite, where visitors can quietly stroll or rest and connect with nature. The revitalization work will improve environmental and ecological benefits as well as the form and function of the lakes, and reduce ongoing maintenance requirements.

For more information, call the city's parks department at 604-244-1208 or visit www.richmond.ca/parksprojects



Photo by Hannah Scott

The city has chosen an architectural firm and construction manager to take on the new Steveston Community Centre and library.

Architect announced for new Steveston Community Centre and library

Richmond's newest community facility is one step closer to completion with the appointment of an architectural firm and construction manager.

The new Steveston Community Centre and library, another key part of the city's commitment to sustaining a vibrant and active community, received the green light from council in 2021 and has already undergone public consultation and review.

HDR Architecture Associates Inc. (HDR) will take on designing the 60,350 square foot three-storey facility that will include two gymnasiums, a fitness centre, library, and study areas, as well as several multipurpose rooms for community use. HDR is an award winning architectural firm and completed the initial concept design for the facility in July 2021.

Scott Construction Group, a local firm with experience in the City of Richmond, will lead construction of the new Community Centre and branch library. Scott has previously delivered several local projects including the Steveston Tram Building project.

Located in Steveston Community Park near the existing location, the new community centre and library will serve the health, wellness, and library service needs of the community for years to come. Its location will also ensure connectivity to other existing amenities nearby such as the Canadian Japanese Cultural Centre and Steveston Outdoor Pool.

Completion of the centre is expected by 2026. Information on the existing and new Steveston Community Centre and branch library can be found online at richmond.ca/parksrec/centres/stevestoncentre/steveston.htm

Tax renewal boosts local tourism and business in Richmond

A recent provincial approval for the renewal of the Municipal Regional District Tax (MRDT) will mean an important boost for the local economy and recovery of the tourism sector in Richmond.

The MRDT, often referred to as the Hotel Tax, is a three per cent charge on the purchase of accommodation within the city under the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program. The B.C. Ministry of Finance approves implementation and renewal of the tax, which has been in place for a number of years. It recently agreed to a five-year renewal through to 2027.

"As our local and provincial economy continues to recover from the pandemic, the renewal of the accommodation charge brings an added boost to many sectors in our community," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "These funds will strengthen Richmond businesses, encourage the return of tourism and enable the city to continue to add more affordable housing options for the community."

Around \$25 million will come through the MRDT over the next five years to support and grow the visitor economy. Prior to the pandemic, there were over 19,000 tourism related jobs in Richmond. An estimated one million dollars will also come through bookings made via online accommodation platforms and be directed to support development of affordable housing in Richmond.

The majority of funds raised will support Tourism Richmond in its ongoing marketing, promotion, and projects that target Richmond as a major tourist destination. It will also fund Richmond Sport Hosting to attract major tournaments and events to the city, as well as promote local destinations and programs to encourage visitors.

"The MRDT tourism partnership is a critical component to Richmond's successful and resilient visitor economy," said Tourism Richmond chief executive officer Nancy Small. "As our city looks to the future of travel in what will be an incredibly competitive environment, this funding continuation ensures our entire community benefits from a thriving visitor economy. We have a diverse and vibrant city, and the industry in Richmond will continue to work together to tell the stories that make us truly unique."

The support of the Richmond Hotel Association, whose members collect and support the accommodation charge, is key to the MRDT and its ongoing success. Almost 90 per cent of Richmond accommodation providers supported the MRDT renewal application to the province, which included a five-year tourism business plan.

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Richmond welcomes new RCMP officer in charge

Chief Superintendent Dave Chauhan has been named the new officer in charge (OIC) for the Richmond RCMP detachment.

Chauhan has been with the RCMP for 31 years, and brings extensive and diverse operational and leadership policing experience to Richmond. That includes over a decade in northern B.C. as well as senior roles in the Lower Mainland including his most recent position as acting officer in charge of the Lower Mainland Integrated Teams.

"On behalf of the City of Richmond, we are pleased to welcome Chief Superintendent Chauhan to the role of OIC with the Richmond detachment," said Mayor Malcom Brodie. "Council and the RCMP have a strong and long-standing relationship to support actions and initiatives to keep Richmond safe and respect our rich cultural diversity. We know that will continue under Chief Superintendent Chauhan's experienced leadership and we look forward to working with him and his team to further strengthen the safety and resilience of our community."

"I am honoured and thrilled to have been chosen as the new officer in charge of the City of Richmond's RCMP Detachment," said Chauhan. "Richmond is where I first set foot in Canada when I arrived at (Vancouver International Airport) 40 years ago and it is truly a humbling experience to now serve the citizens of this vibrant and

diverse city."

Chauhan takes the reins in Richmond from officer in charge Assistant Commissioner Will Ng, who left the detachment to take on new responsibilities as Assistant Commissioner in charge of federal investigative services and organized crime for the BC RCMP.

"I am looking forward to leading a remarkable team of officers and municipal staff, and building on the excellent public safety initiatives and member wellness platforms established by previous officer in charge Assistant Commissioner Will Ng," added Chauhan. "I am committed to working in collaboration with mayor and councillors and our community partners to provide effective and efficient policing service to the visitors and residents of Richmond."

Chauhan began his career with the RCMP in 1991 and served 14 years at the Prince George detachment working in several sections including general duty, traffic section, drug investigation unit, property crime unit, serious crime, and major crime units.

In 2005, he moved with his family to the Lower Mainland to take a posting with BC RCMP's major crime section. Since then, he has worked in sever-



DAVE CHAUHAN

al major crime sections including the Surrey detachment and the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT).

In 2017, Chauhan worked as an investigator and Accredited Team Commander in the Operations Support Officer role at IHIT. He assumed command of IHIT as officer in charge in 2019, leading a multi-jurisdictional team of investigators, analysts and civilians who operated from the BC

RCMP's headquarters at Green Timbers in Surrey. That team included police officers from the RCMP, Abbotsford, New Westminster, Port Moody, and West Vancouver police departments.

Immediately prior to taking on his new role in Richmond, Chauhan was acting officer in charge of the Lower Mainland Integrated Teams, which included IHIT, the Integrated Emergency Response Team, Integrated Forensic Identification Service, Integrated Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Service, and the Integrated Police Dog Service. Under his leadership, these five integrated teams provided specialized policing services to 33 municipal and provincial jurisdictions as well as 40 Indigenous communities throughout the Lower Mainland.

A promotional graphic for Blundell Centre's spring shopping event. The background is a soft pink with faint concentric circles. On the left, there is a bouquet of white daisies with yellow centers and small blue baby's breath flowers. The text is in shades of pink and red. The word 'Shopping' is in a large, cursive script. The Blundell Centre logo, a stylized star made of geometric shapes in yellow, blue, green, and red, is positioned to the left of the text 'BLUNDELL CENTRE'. Below the logo, the text '42 Stores for Everything' and 'Located at Blundell & No. 2 Road' are displayed.

DON'T MISS SPRING

Shopping

AT BLUNDELL CENTRE



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CENTRE**

42 Stores for Everything
Located at Blundell & No. 2 Road

Sparks fly for men's health initiatives

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Men's community groups can be safe spaces to break down barriers between social and health needs.

Men can be harder to get out to community functions," says Trey Melton, seniors coordinator at Thompson Community Association in Richmond. "If they find a way to relate to others, they're more open to new ideas."

Melton facilitates the Gentlemen and Conversations group from 10:30 a.m. to noon every second Friday at Thompson Community Centre. The group meets casually and enjoys coffee, sports talk, the odd political debate, and lots of laughter together.

It acts as a safe space for men to vent their frustrations and provides an opportunity to get struggles off their chest. Other topics include sharing tips about doctors, experiences with health resources like the Telus Health MyCare app, and personal challenges like caring for spouses with dementia or mourning the loss of loved ones.

"There are many diverse men joining community groups and fitness programs. Building cohesive relationships creates an opportunity to have their

(voices) be heard," says Melton.

Minoru Centre For Active Living hosts Hanging With The Guys on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The main speakers are selected by group members and change each session. The group's primary focus is for members to enjoy social time; during the pandemic the group initially met over the phone, but has since resumed in-person meetings.

Members agree that attending the group has reduced feelings of isolation and loneliness. Meaningful friendships have formed between the members and they keep an eye out for each other. One member moved into care recently and others call him regularly to stay in touch.

Guest speakers from Vancouver Coastal Health join from time to time to educate members about men's health and members are invited to suggest speakers.

According to a University of British Columbia (UBC) study, men who regularly used a free web resource, DontChangeMuch.ca, made significantly more health changes than men who did not.

"We believe we have 'cracked the code' to engaging large numbers of men online which has been an elusive goal for health care," says Wayne

Hartrick, founding president of the Canadian Men's Health Foundation. "Because many men avoid healthy basics, like nutrition and activity and seeing the doctor regularly, men's poor health is costing Canada about \$37 billion in lost productivity and health care costs. Now, for the first time, we have research that shows our humorous, guy-friendly 'don't change much' blend of a marketing-driven programming, based on unbiased, evidence based research works."

The study compared differences in behaviour among 863 men who accessed an e-health resource and a benchmark sample of 2,000 Canadian men who had not. They found 75 per cent of regular users on the site reported improved eating habits and 70 per cent said they were engaging in more sports and exercise.

In addition, 58 per cent said they recently made an effort to sit less and walk more, and almost half (46 per cent) lost weight. Forty-five per cent said they had cut back on alcohol consumption.

"Men are more likely to die from clogged arteries and heart disease and live an average of nine years of their lives in extremely poor health," says study lead John Oliffe, a nursing professor who leads the men's health program at UBC. "Free health resources can help men access information and resources that they may otherwise be unable to, and the positive changes in their health can ripple out to benefit their families and society."

Study co-author Dr. Larry Goldenberg, a professor of urologic sciences at UBC and founding chair of Canadian Men's Health Foundation, says men's poor health is "a missing piece of the family health puzzle."

"Waiting until they show up at the doctor's office in crisis is not the way to go. Making early, positive changes improves their lives, their families' lives, and reduces strain on our healthcare systems," he adds.

Men's Sheds has been identified as a possible source of meaningful activity and social support that could contribute to health.

Sheds are practical communal spaces, typically workshop areas that provide opportunities for men to take part in social and recreational activities that encourage skill sharing and informal learning. They provide access to social support and enable men to gain advice and share experiences and concerns in an informal and unstructured environment.

The Men's Shed Association of B.C. provides resources, information, and other support to promote the effectiveness of individual men's sheds throughout the province, whether or not they are members of the association.

Start-up grants are available to groups of two-plus men or community organizations interested in starting a Men's Shed in their B.C. community.

Organizations can also apply for larger project grants of up to \$10,000, depending on eligibility.



Photo via iStock

Men can benefit from community programs that allow them to come together.

Neighbourhood small grant applications open

Applications are open for the ninth season of the Richmond Neighbourhood Small Grants program, run by Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives.

The program is a partnership with the Vancouver Foundation and the Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC. Each year, grants of up to \$500 are awarded to locals who carry out community projects that foster social inclusion and create connections between neighbours.

Last year, nearly \$20,000 was distributed to over 40 projects, including scavenger hunts and Taiko drumming workshops. One project leader used a 3D printer to create assistive devices for people with disabilities, while another de-

veloped a series of nature journaling activities, using insect specimens from the Beaty Biodiversity Museum.

Last year also saw the introduction of a new funding stream—Youth Neighbourhood Small Grants—which will be offered again this year. The youth stream functions the same way as the main program, awarding grants of up to \$500. It is run by and intended for youth aged 12 to 24. The funding stream gives young people an opportunity to design projects with their peers in mind, so youth can build community on their own terms.

Neighbourhood Small Grant applications, as well as those for the youth funding stream, can be submitted online until April 30. The projects themselves can take place online or in-person, provided they follow current public health guidelines.



Photo courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives

A local scavenger hunt was one of the community projects funded by last year's Neighbourhood Small Grants program.

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 (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2021 Paving Program).

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Call for Nominations for the 2022 Richmond Heritage Awards



South east corner of No. 3 Road at Anderson Road in 1958
[City of Richmond Archives, Photograph #1988 18 19]

The City of Richmond Heritage Commission is encouraging the public to submit nominations for the 2022 Richmond Heritage Awards.

Historic buildings, cultural and natural heritage landscapes, artifacts, and oral and written histories—all are rich resources that contribute to our shared community identity today. The Richmond Heritage Awards annually recognizes the accomplishments of individuals and organizations in the conservation of historic places, and education and awareness about Richmond's diverse heritage.

Anyone can submit a nomination for an individual or an organization.

Nominations

Complete a one-page nomination form available from the City's website at www.richmond.ca/plandev/planning2/heritage/heritageawards or by contacting:

Minhee Park, Planner

Email: communityplanning@richmond.ca

Phone: 604-276-4188

Submit via

Mail: Richmond Heritage Commission
c/o Policy Planning Department
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road,
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

Email: communityplanning@richmond.ca

Submission deadline

11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

Some of the ways an individual or organization may earn recognition are:

- preservation, restoration, rehabilitation or adaptive reuse of a historic place, such as a building or structure, or conservation of a cultural heritage landscape;
- promotion or awareness of local heritage through education, outreach or advocacy; or
- contributions to local knowledge of heritage in public history or interpretation projects.

The Awards jury will include members of the Richmond Heritage Commission. All decisions of the jury are final.

For more information, contact Minhee Park, Planner, Policy Planning, at **604-276-4188** or communityplanning@richmond.ca

www.richmond.ca



Photo by Betty Chung

The recent Richmond Ice Classic featured 66 teams including 11 Richmond Ravens teams.

Ravens host first Ice Classic tournament since 2019

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

After two years of cancellations, the Richmond Ravens were able to host the recreational Richmond Ice Classic tournament again this year.

Tournament director Mark Kusec says 11 Ravens teams were among the 66 female teams that played from March 18 to 20. Three of the local teams medalled: the U15 C2 team won gold, and the U13 C1 and U15 C1 teams won silver.

Teams travelled from as far away as the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, as well as Oregon and Washington.

"We are an unusual tournament in that we get a large number of (travelling teams)," says Kusec. "There were 40 travel teams out of 66 teams, which is a very large ratio. Each place had been essentially playing in isolation for two years. It was a much overdue thing to have teams come together from different regions and get to play together at last."

Travelling teams stayed at local hotels and many attended the Vancouver Canucks game as a group the night before the tournament began. In all, there were about 1,000 participants and about double that in spectators.

Spectators and other involved adults had to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, with wristbands to streamline the process. But once inside the arena people were able to watch different games and cheer on their children.

Being able to finish a full season without any stoppages was wonderful: "It really made everyone involved feel what a privilege it is to have their children in the sport and to be able to watch it," says Kusec. "That definitely came out in the demeanour of people in the tournament."

Players ranged in age from five to 18, with the oldest finishing up their minor hockey careers. For some it was their first time playing in a tournament, or their first one in several years. For others coming from small towns, it was their first time seeing the ocean or a city.

"It really was a celebration of female hockey," says Kusec. "For the first time we were able to have all female referees for all (143) of our games."

He credits referee-in-chief Lolly Gagnon for rounding up a talented group of female officials from Richmond and neighbouring hockey associations.

Athletes were also afforded opportunities to meet and bond with players from other teams.

"(As) a recreational hockey tournament rather than a competitive one, we hope that these young women become lifelong athletes and stay involved in the sport. Hopefully some will go on to take a role in coaching young girls—that would be a really strong goal that we hope for," says Kusec.

hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Kwantlen partnering with Feed BC

Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) has partnered with Feed BC and food service provider Compass-Chartwells to bring fresh, organic produce, grown by KPU faculty and students, to cafeterias across the university's five campuses.

Students in KPU's Richmond Farm School, a five-acre organic farm on the Garden City Lands, grow crops as part of their degree in sustainable agriculture. They gain hands-on farming experience and play a role in the planning, planting, maintenance, and harvesting required to bring produce from farm to table.

"Feed BC is a program to not only encourage buying food grown locally but to also help those growers and producers of these local products to connect with us, create those channels, and ultimately supply us with their produce," says KPU executive director of facilities services David Stewart.

The Institute for Sustainable Food Systems

(ISFS) at KPU is a major resource for the university's partnership with Feed BC, offering experiential learning to students of the Richmond Farm School and the Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School. ISFS also supports regional food systems by providing information and support for farmers, communities, and local businesses.

Together with ISFS, KPU students and faculty will be able to collaborate between the farms and cafeterias to create fresh and localized menus based on what is being grown on the farms.

"It couldn't make any more sense for us to be serving fresh products, made by KPU students and faculty, in our cafeterias which feed our students and faculty," adds Stewart.

KPU has committed to having 30 per cent of all food in campus cafeterias sourced from local suppliers, including KPU farms, catering to the desire to see more robust local-regional

food systems in the province. In 2020, the department of sustainable agriculture donated \$42,000 worth of produce to the Richmond Food Bank, furthering the goal to make locally grown food available where it's produced.

"It is critically important that public post-secondary institutions contribute to the vitality and health of B.C.'s local food system by purchasing from and featuring B.C. producers," said KPU farm manager Andy Smith. "Students in the sustainable agriculture program are the future farmers of B.C. and are learning how valuable local products are in connecting with and serving communities, businesses, and creating a sustainable food system."

Elsewhere in the province, 19 other public post-secondary institutions also have partnerships with Feed BC. A searchable online directory helps institutions and commercial buyers connect with B.C. producers and processors.

School district gets \$1.76 million from province

More funding to improve schools through better ventilation, reduced emissions, and increased accessibility is going to school districts around the province with annual capital programs that are creating safer, healthier schools and supporting CleanBC initiatives.

The Richmond School District is receiving \$1,763,431 in total. The School Enhancement Program will fund HVAC upgrades at Cambie, McNair, McRoberts, and MacNeill secondary schools and electrical upgrades at McMath secondary. The Carbon Neutral Capital program will fund HVAC upgrades at Boyd secondary and Byng elementary.

Blair and DeBeck elementary schools will get building envelope upgrades through the Building Envelope Program, and one new bus will be purchased through the Bus Acquisition Program.

"Investments in schools are investments in student success, and we are putting more resources into buses, classrooms and schools so that students can thrive," said Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside.

In all, the B.C. government is providing \$240.5 million in 2022-23 for school maintenance projects, which includes \$48.4 million to upgrade HVAC systems at 90 schools throughout the province. Since the start of the pandemic, the ministry has provided \$163.1 million in provincial and federal funding for HVAC upgrades, providing students with healthier places to learn.

This year, \$15 million will go to purchase at least 82 new school buses, including electric school buses. Additional funding is available through the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Initiatives for school districts that choose to purchase electric buses. This supports the province's CleanBC targets for public-sector organizations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 for vehicle fleets.

"Every zero-emission vehicle on the road, including large ones like buses that our schools and students rely on every day, means a reduction in harmful pollution, resulting in cleaner air, cleaner water and quieter streets," said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. "We're supporting and developing British Columbia's EV sector, which creates good jobs in a growing industry, and supports our transition to a low-carbon economy."

To further improve energy efficiency at B.C. schools, the Ministry of Educa-



Photo by Hannah Scott

McMath secondary will get electrical upgrades as part of the latest round of provincial funding benefitting the Richmond School District

tion's Carbon Neutral Capital Fund is providing \$23 million this year to support energy and electrical upgrades at 75 schools. This can also include funding for electric vehicle charging stations, allowing more districts to support CleanBC initiatives.

"We're investing in better learning environments for students with more energy efficient, comfortable and healthy buildings that will reduce pollution and help fight climate change," said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

School districts that purchase electric school buses can receive additional funding of 33 per cent up to \$150,000 per bus through the CleanBC Go Electric School Bus program.

In their own words...

Building safe communities



**Bill
McNulty**
Councillor

Recent events have shown how fragile our world can be. Whether it be the pandemic changing the way we live, events in Europe threatening peace and democracy, or climate change destroying communities, it is important that we remember the value of freedom and safety we all experience.

Richmond is one of Canada's safest communities, thanks largely to the commitment myself and fellow Council members have made in recent years to invest in 51 new RCMP officers and 36 firefighters. The result is a 33 per cent drop in break and enter crimes in residences in 2021, and a 15 per cent drop in similar crimes in businesses.

The majority of Council supported funding for the new City Centre Community Police Station, and I will continue to work toward efforts to fund a new Community Police Station in Hamilton to serve our growing East Richmond community.

Our investment of over \$122 million in flood protection infrastructure, such

as upgraded pump stations and improvements to our dike network, kept residents safe during last year's atmospheric river events.

Protecting Richmond from the impact of climate change is an ongoing strategy that Council will support by adding resources to keep our growing city safe.

Despite the pandemic and the challenges it brought to businesses and communities everywhere, our city continues to bounce back thanks to the support and encouragement of Council. Richmond is home to almost 14,000 businesses and the number of new business licenses issued in 2021 has increased by 15 per cent.

We saw an increase in construction permits of almost 25 per cent last year, with Council supporting permits for 587 residential, 333 commercial and 217 industrial buildings worth around \$719 million in new construction value.

As an enthusiastic and long-running supporter of keeping our community active



and healthy, I was pleased to be among the Councillors who approved construction of the long-awaited new Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library. This new 60,350 square foot multi-level centre, when completed in a few short years, will boast two gyms, a fitness centre, library and other facilities to make it an important Steveston amenity for future generations.

As a member of Council for almost three decades, I am proud to support the continued growth in Richmond and promote our vibrant city as it becomes one of the best places in Canada to live, work and play.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

The City of Richmond Council and Committee Meetings are available online. Watch live or view previous meetings by visiting: richmond.ca/cityhall/CityCouncil.

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

Mar 29 | 4:00 p.m.
**Parks, Recreation & Cultural
Services Committee**

Mar 30 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel

Apr 4 | 4:00 p.m.
**General Purposes Committee
followed by Finance Committee**

Apr 5 | 4:00 p.m.
Planning Committee

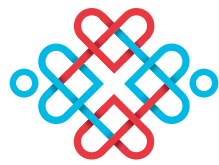
Apr 11 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting



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

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





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Pajo's just keeps swimming

In the third part of a series on Richmond's business roots, we share the story of Pajo's Fish and Chips.

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

Pajo's Fish and Chips, located in the heart of Steveston, is a renowned local spot that has stood the test of time for nearly four decades.

The family-owned business was founded in 1985 by Patricia Branch and her former business partner, Joan. The name "Pajo's" is a combination of the first names of the two founders.

The idea of opening up a floating restaurant in the 1980s was inspired by Barb's Fish and Chips in Victoria, which Branch visited in 1984.

Branch's initial goal was to prove to herself that she was capable of opening the first floating restaurant in Steveston Village. After 37 years of hard work, determination, and perseverance, Pajo's has become a household name and an iconic spot for tourists.

Along with its signature fish and chips, Pajo's also offers burgers, tacos, poutine, fries, and soft drinks.

Being a solely family-run business is the key distinction that sets Pajo's apart from competitors. The feeling of belonging and the values that it sees in its team act as the backbone of the business.

Challenges could arise at any given moment on a day-to-day basis, especially having to deal with new pandemic safety guidelines and regulations.

"As an owner and manager in the 'new COVID normal' (it) has been especially hard (to find) the



Photo courtesy David Hartono

Patricia Branch (left) and Cindy Plumb in front of Pajo's Fish and Chips.

right fit for our team members and maintain our decades-old quality for generations to come," says Branch's daughter Cindy Plumb, president and chief executive officer of Pajo's.

COVID restrictions forced Pajo's to temporarily close its airport location. However, the team has stood its ground and wants to continue serving the community.

Branch's proudest moment was when Pajo's reached \$500 in sales on its opening day in 1985.

"Fast forward 37 years to 2021 (when) Pajo's was

inducted (into) the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame. (That) was a great honour and one of our proudest moments," Plumb adds.

Pajo's has actively supported grassroots community initiatives and fundraising. Tourism Richmond and Steveston Merchants Association are among the local organizations that are deeply connected with the business.

"We take pride in supporting the Richmond and Port Moody Fire Fighters, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and sport, social, and student associations across the Lower Mainland, which brings Pajo's closer to the community by giving back and supporting meaningful causes," says Plumb.

Pajo's has stayed successful for decades by keeping employee morale and customer satisfaction high.

"Listening (to) and working together with our team members (allows us) to reach the same goal of being a part of our customers' adventure," says Plumb. "We will always strive to treat our team as we would have treated ourselves and have fun while working at Pajo's."

She stresses the importance of having a blueprint and preparation.

"Do your homework. Don't think that because you think (something is) a good idea, everyone else will," says Plumb.

Pajo's Fish and Chips still follows the values of "CHIPS" today: continuous improvement, having fun, integrity, people first, and sustainability.

"It is very important to us all that everyone at Pajo's feels like they are part of a bigger family and somewhere that they themselves belong. Everyone, everywhere, everyday," says Plumb.

B.C. raising minimum wage to \$15.65

Minimum wage in B.C. will raise from \$15.20 to \$15.65 per hour on June 1. In 2020, the province committed to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour through measured, predictable increases, and then tie future increases to the rate of inflation. B.C.'s minimum wage is now the highest of all Canadian provinces.

"B.C. had one of the lowest minimum wages in the country prior to 2017, but was one of the most expensive places to live," said Labour Minister Harry Bains. "We do not want our lowest-paid workers to fall behind. The minimum wage increases tied to inflation are part of our plan to build an economy that works for everyone."

Over the past five years, B.C.'s general minimum wage has increased from \$11.35 to \$15.65 per hour. The increases have benefited close to 400,000 British Columbians over those years, the majority of whom are women, immigrants, and youth.

The upcoming minimum wage increase to \$15.65 an hour is the first one

to be tied to British Columbia's average annual inflation rate. This year's rate is 2.8 per cent and was calculated from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021. This is consistent with the approach taken in other jurisdictions where minimum wage is tied to inflation.

As of June 1, an increase of 2.8 per cent will also apply to the live-in camp leader and live-in home support worker minimum daily wages; and resident caretaker minimum monthly wage.

As well, effective Jan. 1, 2023, an increase of 2.8 per cent will apply to minimum piece rates for hand harvesting of 15 specified crops in the agricultural sector: peaches, apricots, Brussels sprouts, daffodils, mushrooms, apples, beans, blueberries, cherries, grapes, pears, peas, prune plums, raspberries, and strawberries.

In 2021, six per cent of employees in B.C. (136,300) earned minimum wage or less. Of those earning minimum wage or less, 52 per cent were over the age of 25 and 58 per cent were women.

Richmondite taking advantage of star power

By SAMUEL CHENG
Reporter

Richmond's Osric Chau is a multi-talented performer who has starred in shows like *Supernatural* and *The Flash*.

Chau is a martial artist, stuntman, and film producer. Born and raised in Vancouver, and today a resident of Richmond, Chau has been practicing and training in the martial art Wing Chun for many years. He also became a member of the Canadian National Wushu Team in 2007.

Chau's grandfather sparked his interest in martial arts when he introduced him to professional wrestling at a young age. Celebrities like The Undertaker, Hulk Hogan, and Bill Goldberg all made a sizable impact. Later, it was movie stars such as Jet Li, Jackie Chan, and Jean-Claude Van Damme who kept Chau in the realm of martial arts.

"Anytime I would see a training montage, it would light a fire beneath me that made me want to train as well," says Chau. "I started doing push-ups and sit-ups every day when I was seven years old."

After high school, Chau built on his martial arts experience by pursuing a career in stunt works. It was the ability to do his own stunts that led Chau to become an actor. Chau's first big breakout role was Nima in the apocalyptic disaster film *2012*.

"My first big movie hired me to act on the basis that I could do my own stunts," says Chau. "After that I was only seen as an actor, so it wasn't ever really a choice as (the) circumstances pushed me in that direction."

Chau outlines the experience of being on a film set: after arriving and changing into costume in a trailer, makeup artists and hair stylists are responsible for making performers look spotless. Then they are called upon to do blocking, a process during which the director goes on set to determine the positions of the actors, camera, and lighting, as well as how the scene will be played out.

Depending on the number of scenes an actor has on any given day, they may end up waiting for the entire day. The key is to always be ready to go at any given time.

"Imagine running a race and the official calls out: 'On your mark, get set,' and then you wait," says Chau. "Go' could come immediately, but it can also come in five hours and you have to be equally as ready to perform."

Starring in multiple films brought new perspective to Chau's view of the industry. Setting aside preconceived notions and misconceptions, he was able to understand the industry's role and value and later became a producer as well.

Empty by Design, filmed in the Philippines, was the first independent film Chau produced. Making the film was a special experience as he got to work behind the scenes alongside some of his closest friends.

Chau says many film sets have departments within departments, and people are dedicated and assigned to more niche roles. But when working on independent films people tend to have multiple roles, which lowers the overall cost of production significantly.

Starting out, Chau did not have the luxury of connections to anyone from the film industry.

"Persevering through those times and pivoting as I needed to was not always the easiest, but it certainly taught me a lot and continues to challenge me," says Chau.

Growing public support and encouragement of new actors helps make acting a more viable career choice, especially for the Asian population.

"For Asian actors and actresses, we have to continue studying and improving our craft so we can put out better performances, which will in-



Photo courtesy Osric Chau

Richmondite Osric Chau's martial arts training landed him an exciting opportunity in a superhero series.

crease our visibility, support, and the willingness or ability for writers to write more characters for us to play," says Chau.

Returning to his roots, Chau would love to be in a movie that depicts British Columbia. While numerous scenes are shot in the Vancouver area, it is rare to find stories set in B.C. locations.

"How cool would it be to have a show shot and set in Richmond? Characters going to the Richmond Public Market or walking down Alexandra Road," says Chau. "That's a show I want to see."

The number of films and movies shot in the Lower Mainland opened up windows of opportunity that helped Chau gain experience and build his career.

When asked about his favourite actors and role models, Chau says Jason Bateman inspires him to continuously work hard and achieve his goals.

"I love how versatile he's been in his choice of roles and that he also produces and directs as well," says Chau. "I certainly aspire to be like him."

Currently, Chau is writing and producing several independent films as well as playing an alien named Oros in an episode of *Star Trek: Discovery*.

In the future, Chau hopes to direct his first feature film as well as produce a television series. He is also interested in producing and starring in a feature film alongside other local actors. And increasing Asian representation and appearances in the media will always be in the back of Chau's mind.

**Anytime I would
see a training
montage, it would
light a fire beneath
me that made me want
to train as well.**

— Osric Chau

Canadian actor finds starring role overseas

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

Our *City Tonight* recently caught up with Jennifer Spence, an award-winning Canadian actor born in Toronto who now lives with her husband in Vancouver.

Spence is currently one of the main stars of *Traces*, the Scottish crime drama series available on BritBox in North America. She plays Kathy Torrance, an American professor of forensic anthropology at the Scottish Institute of Forensic Science and Anatomy.

Spence has also worked on *The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco*, *Life Sentence*, *Beyond*, *Van Helsing*, *Frequency*, *The Killing*, *Motive*, *Supernatural*, *Stargate Universe*, and *Exes & Ohs*.

How did a Canadian actor end up overseas working in a United Kingdom (U.K.) TV series?

I love this story because I owe my dad dinner, and I owe my agent too. As a teenager my dad was insistent that I get my U.K. passport—he was born in Leeds. He encouraged me to apply for a U.K. passport so that I could work anywhere in Europe. So, he did all the paperwork and the application, which is quite an arduous process. I got it and fast forward to years later, my agent knew that I could work there so she sent out my demo to a few casting directors in London explaining that her client could work there. Andy Pryor saw my demo and asked me to tape for *Traces*, and miraculously it worked out.

What is great about this show is that it is a team of strong women characters all working together to solve crimes. We were hooked from the (beginning)



Photo courtesy BritBox
Jennifer Spence is a Canadian actor who stars on Scottish crime drama series *Traces*.

so can you tell us a bit about Season 2 without giving too much away?

In Season 2 we go deeper for everybody. I was really happy because my character Kathy got to explore a lot, and I feel she really meets her edge this season. There is a lot of discomfort and a lot of growth—as a viewer of television, that's what I like to watch. I like to see the struggle, the fail, and then the triumph ultimately. It was a real pleasure to dive deeper and explore those parts. All the characters get to do that, and you get to see that across the board.

What is the biggest difference you have found working in the U.K. on a TV series versus working here in North America?

I have always loved U.K. television and have been a fan of it since I was a kid watching with my folks growing up. It was truly an honour to get to be a part of one of those shows. In terms of working on set, there is a fun difference. In the U.K., everyone is so polite. Not to say Canadians are a bunch of animals, it's just funny because there's a big difference in how some of the crew talk to each other. One day we were shooting and there

was a bunch of noise outside. The inside assistant director (AD) was radioing to the AD outside: "I don't suppose you could ask them to be quiet please," while here we know the tone would be more like: "Tell them to shut up, we need to start now." More direct I suppose, but that's just how it is.

Season 2 of *Traces* is available now on BritBox.

Jim Gordon and Leeta Liepins are contributing writers to the Richmond Sentinel.

City reveals 2022 street banners

The city unveiled its 2022 street banners virtually at a recent council meeting.

This year's 10 winning banner designs showcased a number of unique aspects of the city—including sunsets, tugboats, and blueberries—and will be on display on over 500 banner poles throughout Richmond through early 2023.

A panel of community judges shortlisted 20 designs that aligned with 10 themes. Community members were then asked to vote on their favourites through the city's public engagement platform LetsTalkRichmond.ca.

In just two weeks, a record 6,000 votes were cast and the 10 designs with the most votes from each category were selected as this year's winners:

- Nature: Crystal Chan
- Community: Jody McDonald
- Wildlife: Paul Leung
- Active Living: Meghan Smith
- Connection: David England
- Urban Landscape: Nicole Chan
- Island City: David England
- Innovation: Felix Fruhling
- Sustainability: David Huang
- The Arts: Grant McMillan

The city had over 550 designs submitted, which



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The street banner artists are (clockwise from top left): Crystal Chan, Jody McDonald, Paul Leung, Meghan Smith, David England, Grant McMillan, David Huang, Felix Fruhling, David England, and Nicole Chan.

included art, photographs, graphic images and other creative designs—all of which are available for viewing online at richmond.ca/banners.

The city's street banner program is an initiative

of Partners for Beautification, a community engagement program that encourages Richmond residents to become actively involved in creating a vibrant, beautiful community.

Alice's adventures feature in play's B.C. premiere

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A familiar story to many, Alice's adventures through Wonderland will come to life at Gateway Theatre in April.

The upcoming show *In Wonderland*, which features just three actors, was commissioned by Alberta Theatre Projects and opened in Calgary late last year. This will be its B.C. premiere.

"It's a particularly rich and whimsical retelling of this story, something new to discover at every turn," says director Haysam Kadri. "There's a modern sensibility to a classic story."

Kadri adds that while the play is faithful to Lewis Carroll's novels, it narrows its focus on Alice's quest for agency.

"She's consistently working through her problems, finding personal strengths as she strives to find her voice," he says. "Personal growth is a metaphor, but (there's) also a literal representation as she's shrinking and growing and shrinking and growing."

The opportunity to present the show a second time, with a few months in between to "simmer," is exciting for Kadri. It offers a new perspective and the chance to discover and explore new elements.

"When you're working with it, it's trial and error," he says. "The heavy lifting is done now—we know what works and we know what doesn't. We're able to navigate those challenges a little bit better now, and looking forward to experimenting with some different things here and there."

Despite the show's youthful protagonist and child-friendly focus, Kadri doesn't want to approach it as just for young audiences. It attracted viewers of all ages when presented in Calgary.



Photo by Ben Laird

Gateway Theatre's 2021-2022 season closes with the B.C. premiere of *In Wonderland*, based on Lewis Carroll's stories about Alice.

And while in-person theatre productions are now possible again, Kadri says the backdrop of COVID-19 fits with the disorienting feeling of the show. The show also aims to fulfill the appetite many people have for escape.

"The confusion around time translates to that same feeling during the pandemic—a lot of times I didn't know what month it was, what day it was," he says. "It's really streamlined, it's quick, it's impulsive, it's energetic, it's all those kinds of things distilled in a two-hour show."

When working with lengthy source material, playwright Anna Cumber was strategic about which characters to keep—the Mad Hatter and

the Caterpillar, for instance—to ensure familiarity.

"In the development process, it started very linear to the novel and then we started to move away from it. We started to add a little more flair, a little more modern context," says Kadri.

"I think it's really exciting to tell a story about a young girl and her personal growth and watching her adventures. I hope that the Richmond audience will see that and enjoy that part of it."

In Wonderland plays at Gateway Theatre from April 7 to 16, closing Gateway's 2021-2022 season. For more information and tickets, visit gateway-theatre.com/in-wonderland

• hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

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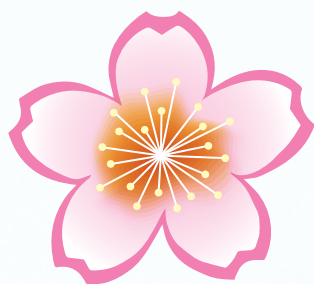
No number can be repeated in any row or column. Rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must contain a 'straight,' a set of numbers with no gaps in any order, eg. [4,2,3,5]. Numbers in black cells are not part of straights but also cannot be repeated in their row or column.

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