



FOR WORK OR PLAY

Motorcycles provide
alternative transportation



06

Photo courtesy Quintin Sim

Motorcycles can be a more budget-friendly option for people wanting to commute—like these young Richmond professionals—or enjoy the ride. There are six categories of motorcycle, including sport bikes as pictured here.

Richmond receiving funding for new arts centre

The city is receiving more than \$2 million in joint provincial and federal funding for its new arts centre.

Federal and provincial officials made the announcement in Richmond recently. The local commitment is part of a joint federal-provincial initiative that will see more than \$110.3 million going to 57 community, recreation, and green infrastructure projects across B.C.

The former Minoru Place Activity Centre will be repurposed into a community arts facility—a project that was originally scheduled to begin last year. It was delayed while the city waited to hear if its submission for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program's community, culture, and recreation stream was successful.

The grant, now confirmed, includes \$133,000 in federal funding and \$2,110,898 in provincial funding. The city has also committed \$816,102 towards the project.

"Richmond has a proud and vibrant arts community. This grant from the Canada Infrastructure Program helps the city to continue to build capacity and create a lasting legacy," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "When complete, the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex will house more than 16,000 square feet of purpose-built shared arts program space to serve community needs and accommodate community arts groups."

The new facility will include two dance studios, a pottery studio, a media arts studio, and



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Mayor Malcolm Brodie joined city councillors as well as provincial and federal officials during the announcement of federal-provincial funding for Richmond's new arts centre.

multipurpose program rooms.

The federal government is investing more than \$56.8 million and the provincial govern-

ment is contributing \$53.4 million to the program. Contributions from project recipients total \$27.1 million province-wide.

New affordable homes open for women and children

Twenty-seven new affordable and safe rental homes are available for single women and women with children in Richmond.

Located at 6320 and 6328 No. 3 Rd., the studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom rental homes are part of the Paramount development. Monthly rents are below market rate and range from \$860 for a studio unit to as much as \$1,569 for a three-bedroom unit.

The Paramount is a development in Central Richmond with 540 residential units, 27 strata-titled affordable market rental units, and office and retail space built by Keltic Development.

"Increasing the supply of housing remains a priority for the City of Richmond, and council continues to make significant progress in creating new rental housing units across Richmond," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "These 27 units in Paramount are just a few of the almost 1,220 rental units approved in recent years as we continue to work in partnership with BC Housing and other stakeholders to provide more affordable rental housing options in our community."

The rental housing, named YWCA Moiz and Nadia Place, is owned and operated by YWCA Metro Vancouver, which fundraised \$3.3 million to purchase the homes from Keltic Development.

"We are excited to be able to offer 27 new homes to single women,

moms, and their children in the heart of Richmond," said Michelle Sing, interim chief executive officer of YWCA Metro Vancouver. "Affordable housing is fundamental to women's safety and economic security. This development wouldn't have been possible without the support of the federal and provincial governments, the City of Richmond and, of course, Keltic Development as well as our lead donor, Moiz and Nadia Lalani. We are extremely grateful for their vision and support to create our newest housing community and our first in Richmond."

BC Housing, through its HousingHub program, allocated \$2.7 million in Federal Bilateral BC Priorities Housing Initiative funding to the YWCA for the purchase. The units were also made possible through the City of Richmond's Low-End Market Rental Program, which creates affordable housing within multi-family developments throughout the city.

Residents of YWCA Moiz and Nadia Place will have access to the development's many amenities, including a multi-purpose exercise room, a landscaped courtyard and seating area, an outdoor play area, a children's learning centre and library, meeting rooms, workstations, a lounge, and 24 designated parking spots.

Garden City Lands project advancing

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The city is moving forward on its plans for use of the Garden City Lands, which comprise about 55.2 hectares (136.5 acres) of land.

Because the site is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve and zoned as agricultural land, the city must submit applications to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to use it for non-farm purposes. A number of applications have already been submitted and approved, including portions used for Farm Fest and community gardens.

At this week's parks, recreation, and cultural services committee meeting councillors will discuss a proposed application to the ALC that covers all remaining improvements included in the Garden City Lands Park Development Plan.

The full plan includes more ways to travel through the area, such as designated paths and raised wood boardwalks. Additional seating and trash receptacles, as well as more signage and pedestrian-level lighting are also proposed.

The northwest corner of the site will feature a picnic area and children's play structure. Public art will be located throughout the Garden City Lands, and a tall lookout tower will offer visitors a 360-degree view of the area.

To support the additional use, more parking areas will be constructed. Public washrooms will be necessary, as well as municipal services like water and electricity. Electric vehicle charging stations are under consideration for one parking lot. The city also intends to establish a regular weekly or bi-weekly farmers' market.

The Garden City Lands Agricultural and Ecology Centre will be the hub, supporting agricultural and interpretation activities and bog health and



Photo by Hannah Scott

The Garden City Lands will eventually host an agricultural and ecology centre, a tall lookout tower, and raised wood boardwalks, among other features.

rehabilitation, as well as providing a commercial kitchen.

About 9,570 cubic metres of soil is needed at various locations on the site, which also requires the city to obtain the ALC's specific approval. The soil deposition portion of the project is expected to take no more than two years.

Further farm-related activities are also planned, although these do not require additional approval. These activities include work by Kwantlen Polytechnic University students in the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems program.

The 200 new temporary above-ground community garden plots will eventually transition to in-ground plots. Larger farm plots may also be made available to local farmers. Bee hives are under consideration, and small livestock like pigs, goats, or chickens are also possible in the future.

Council must endorse the application before it is sent to the ALC. It will be discussed at the April 26 parks, recreation, and cultural services committee meeting, which is available online for the public to view live.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond RCMP choose priorities for next year

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond RCMP is planning to focus on four priority areas for the coming year's annual performance plan: property crime, organized crime, road safety, and vulnerable persons.

In a report submitted recently to the city's community safety committee, staff say many initiatives included in last year's plan were not fully realized due to challenges associated with the pandemic.

"This included restrictions on training opportunities for police officers and volunteers, in addition to crime prevention program limitations," the report says.

Superintendent Julie Drotar, acting officer in charge of Richmond



RCMP, recommends in the report that council align this year's priorities with those continuing from last year.

Councillors were in favour of the recommendation at this month's community safety committee meeting. If the recommendation is passed by council, those four priorities will be included in the 2022-2023 Annual Performance Plan, which covers the period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

"I think that the four items that you've come up with—property crime, organized crime, road safety, and vulnerable persons—really reflect what we hear from the community, and what some of the statistics show us," said Coun. Linda McPhail, chair of the community safety committee, at the committee meeting.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Fire-Rescue chief retires

After more than three decades with Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR), Chief Tim Wilkinson is retiring from his role on April 30.

Wilkinson, who joined RFR in 1986, has been an active member of the community and played a significant role in strengthening the city's fire rescue capabilities and supporting the safety of residents and businesses.

Strong, robust, and dependable emergency services are an essential part of keeping our community safe," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Chief Wilkinson's dedication and leadership with Richmond Fire-Rescue leaves a legacy that enables us all to feel safer. On behalf of council and the community, we extend thanks to Chief Wilkinson for his vision, leadership, and integrity."

After launching his firefighter career in Richmond, the Steveston resident progressed through the department's ranks, becoming a company officer in 2005. Appointed fire captain soon after, Wilkinson went on to become battalion chief in 2008, deputy chief in 2009, and then fire chief in 2018.

As chief of Richmond Fire-Rescue, Wilkinson oversees the operations of the city's seven fire halls, their staff, and equipment. His dedication and commitment to the community and the safety of residents, businesses, and his fire rescue crews earned him recognition within the profession and community.

Along with several nominations throughout his career, Wilkinson has received several 911 awards from the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. The awards go to emergency services personnel for their outstanding commitment to the City of Richmond. He has also received a provincial 30-year federal bar in recognition of his service.

Wilkinson worked hard to bring diversity and integration into RFR through his time as chief and union president of IAFF Local 1286. Almost 20 per cent of new hires are now women and almost one-third are visible minorities.

Looking back on his career, Wilkinson feels immensely proud of his time at



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Richmond Fire-Rescue Chief Tim Wilkinson is retiring at the end of this month.

the city and the many colleagues he has worked with over the years. In particular, he thanked his family.

"My career could not have been nearly as successful without the support of my wife, Joanne, who not only supported me but encouraged me to take the risks necessary to move forward," Wilkinson said. "My children, Zack and Shonna, have also been supportive and understanding that my career choice sometimes had me away from home during family celebrations and holidays. I now look forward to making up for some of that lost time knowing Richmond's Fire-Rescue department and the people of Richmond are in good hands."

Sturgeon Bank walkway comes back to council

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond councillors are considering construction of an ecology walkway along Sturgeon Bank, in Terra Nova Park.

The walkway was first proposed in late 2019 at a parks, recreation, and cultural services committee meeting. It comes back to that same committee this week.

The area is a significant ecological site that hosts large numbers of migratory birds. It also has its own policies to protect natural habitat along the dike, with adoption of a specific park concept plan in 2004.

According to a staff report, the walkway pro-

posed in 2019—in the form of a boardwalk—is different from the park's own concept plan. Benefits would include educational opportunities and good views of the surrounding environment.

However, the location is challenging for a few reasons, as construction could negatively impact vegetation and wildlife. Additionally, multiple permits and approvals would be required from senior government agencies and regulatory bodies, including the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and local First Nations.

"A portion of the area is designated 'Red' under DFO's Habitat Classification. This 'Red' designation is considered high-growth habitat/vegetation within federal and provincial environmental regulations. This condition would create a very

challenging approval process to attain permission from DFO and (the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development)," the report says.

The area's heritage and natural attributes are being studied by staff as part of a Terra Nova Heritage Precinct Plan. Staff recommend design of the ecology walkway after that study concludes, if council is in favour.

The new plan will make recommendations for the future of Terra Nova Park, including a possible ecology walkway.

Discussion will take place at this week's parks, recreation, and cultural services committee meeting on April 26.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

Newsroom
newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca
778-297-5005

Editor - Don Fennell
dfennell@richmondsentinel.ca



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

Funded in part by the
Government of Canada

Canada

Youth Committee empowering young women

Group is part of Richmond Women's Resource Centre

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Members of a new community group are working to empower female-identifying youth and young adults who are pursuing careers.

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre (RWRC) Youth Committee was started by Li Qing Wang when she was part of Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives' Youth Now volunteer program.

"One of the things we were asked to do is to design and lead a community project with the non-profit we were assigned to. I was assigned to the RWRC, and that's when the initial idea for the project started," says Wang.

She explains that RWRC didn't previously have a youth committee, and she wanted to give a voice to female-identifying youth in the community.

"As a female student myself pursuing a professional career, from my own personal experiences and from talking to professionals and observing other people as well as my own environment, I still see that there's a lot of gender inequity that exists whether in the hiring process or in the workplace," says Wang. "I'm not sure what is the best way to change the system, but I think this project would be a way for us to inspire change at an individual level."

The Youth Committee began recruiting high school students last fall, and its initial plan has two phases. In the first phase, the team will design and roll out a survey, as well as using a focus group to learn about the challenges faced by female high school students trying to decide on a career. In the second phase, a series of workshops will be offered to help high schoolers learn first-hand about different careers from female-identifying professionals.

"It's really useful to see someone in the career you're interested in, to provide some perspective and share their own story," says Wang. "I believe that the female-specific experience is very unique and that's the whole point of this project."

She hopes the one-on-one interactions will help high school girls consider certain careers and get a realistic idea of what they are like.

The committee includes 12 people so far, and despite busy work and school schedules they are making time to build on their ideas. Members are divided into sub-committees to develop specific areas of the plan.

Rana Sarmiento is a Grade 11 student at Hugh Boyd secondary and a member of the marketing sub-committee.

"We talk and decide what (social media) platform we want to use and then create content needed using programs like Canva, talk about



Photo submitted

Members of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre Youth Committee are planning to offer career workshops for female-identifying youth and young adults.

what we want to put on it, then talk to organizers and see if it's a fit for what we want to promote," she says.

Grade 10 student Amanda Chu, who attends Richmond Secondary School, and third year Si-

track, discuss the outline, planning, and other details," says Chu.

Zhou says the group is currently working on interviewing groups of high school students.

All three say being part of the group has been a rewarding experience. Sarmiento says she likes working with new people towards a common goal. For Chu, it's inspiring to be able to make an impact on the future careers of girls and young women.

"This is a really eye-opening experience on how much work goes into doing something like this, especially how influential we want it to be in the future for other (female-identifying) high school (students)," says Zhou.

Thanks to \$1,000 in funding from the Richmond Community Foundation, Wang hopes the committee will be able to operate as a longer-term effort. The group is aiming to offer workshops this fall.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the group.

"We're a very supportive environment and take things at our own pace," says Wang. "We're always encouraging communication between members and understanding that everyone has a very busy life and this is something they take on (as an) extra."

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

I believe that the female-specific experience is very unique and that's the whole point of this project.

– Li Qing Wang

mon Fraser University undergraduate student Samantha Zhou, are part of the focus group sub-committee.

"For the bi-weekly meetings we go through things we're working on, make sure we're on

Hitting the open road

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

Now that spring is here, many people are hoping to get outside and enjoy the weather.

For those looking for a different way to get around, motorcycles might be the perfect mode of transportation for a daily commute, a weekend getaway, or perhaps touring across Canada.

Familiar motorcycles include the Kawasaki ZX900 from *Top Gun*, Ducati 996 from *Matrix Reloaded*, or Harley-Davidson Fat Boy from *Terminator 2*.

However, the world of motorcycles expands beyond what is seen in movies or on television. Motorcycles can be broken down into six different categories: sport, standard, cruising, touring, dual-sport, and dirt bike.

Speed, acceleration, and dragging your knees through corners are characteristics of sport bikes. Sport bikes tend to have high-performance engines and powerful braking systems that allow riders to enjoy the thrill of speed at the expense of comfort and fuel economy.

With a low and tucked-in riding position, these bikes provide riders with the best ergonomics and the lowest amount of air resistance. They allow riders to push bikes to their limits and be the first to pass the finish line at a race.

Kawasaki ZX900, Ducati 996, and Yamaha YZF-R6 are some of the models within the class. If beating the clock or attending track days is your passion, then look no further than a sport bike.

A standard motorcycle, also known as a naked or a roadster, offers a versatile and street-oriented purpose. A naked bike can be easily identified by its muscular and exposed elements. Often, you will be able to visibly see the frame, the engine, and more from the side of the bike.

With an upright and natural body position, riders can travel in and out of a city with ease. A standard motorcycle's moderate power output and all-around characteristics make it the perfect type of bike for beginners. Its moderate power output and all-around characteristics make it the perfect type of bike for beginners.

KTM Duke 390, Yamaha MT-09, and Husqvarna Svartpilen 701 are some popular examples of naked bikes. The next time you're heading to Whistler or Harrison Hot Springs, hop on a roadster and experience the joy of the ride for yourself.

Cruiser riders can often be spotted wearing black leather jackets, blue jeans, half face helmets, and sunglasses. One of the oldest types of motorcycle, it was made popular by brands like Indian and Harley-Davidson.

Allowing riders to lean back with their arms



Motorcycles can be an alternative way to get around.

Photo courtesy Quintin Sim

slightly up, a cruiser is perhaps the most comfortable type of motorcycle to ride. With engines designed for small to medium displacement, the low-end torque saves riders the hassle of having to frequently shift gears.

Harley-Davidson Fat Boy, Indian Scout Bobber Sixty, and Honda Rebel 1100 are a great starting point for cruisers.

Touring motorcycles may look similar to cruisers at first glance, but they serve a somewhat different purpose. Unlike cruisers, which are meant for shorter rides, touring bikes have a large displacement engine, a huge gas tank, a windscreen, and often saddlebags.

These machines are the heaviest type of motorcycle. Some touring motorcycles can weigh upwards of 385 to 431 kilograms (850 to 950 pounds), not including the weight of the rider and their gear and luggage.

Nonetheless, touring motorcycles like the Moto Guzzi California Touring 1400, Honda Gold Wing, and Harley-Davidson Road Glide are some of the best.

A dual-sport or adventure motorcycle excels at travelling on city roads, in off-road environments, and on other varied terrains.

Adventure bikes have an above-average seat height and centre of gravity, allowing more room for the suspensions to do their work on rocky, rough, and uneven surfaces. But a dual-sport motorcycle is more than capable of travelling on concrete and pavement as well, hence the

name "dual-sport."

BMW R 1250 GS, Suzuki V-Strom 1050XT, and Triumph Tiger are some of the most popular choices when it comes to taking your adventure to the next level.

Dirt bikes are wild, entertaining, and sensational machines designed for off-road use. They can travel across rough terrains such as gravel, sand, mud, snow, and even water.

Dirt bikes weigh significantly less than other on-road motorcycles. Their ground clearance is much higher, making it easier to travel and ride over uneven surfaces and terrains. And dirt bike tires are much chunkier, resembling a rolled-up chocolate bar.

Husqvarna FC450, KTM 450SX-F, and Kawasaki KX450 can reignite your childhood dreams of racing or riding through the woods and dirt. Maybe one day you will see yourself participating at popular racing events like Motocross or Enduro.

Whether you're looking to race, go on an adventure, or simply cruise around the city, you can find a motorcycle that suits your needs. A tip before hopping on any motorcycle: always wear full gear.

"Wearing proper motorcycle gear will give you the best odds of walking away when things go wrong," says Lee "RideFar" Heaver, owner and instructor at 1st Gear Motorcycle School & Training which has three locations including one in Richmond.

•taic@richmondsentinel.ca



Photo courtesy
Touchstone Family
Association
Touchstone's executive
director Judy Valsonis
(left) and director of
services David Cooper in
front of a mural made by
a former student.

Organization helps families get back on track

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

Touchstone Family Association is a non-profit social services agency that has served Richmond for nearly 40 years.

Its mission is to strengthen families, provide low barrier counselling and child protection services, and provide intervention support to families struggling to manage stress and conflicts.

"We provide real, true support to families," says Touchstone's director of services David Cooper.

Touchstone has had success over the years helping families reunite and youths access the supports they need while navigating traumatic experiences and staying on the right track.

"I see success where families are able to develop skills and tools to help them communicate effectively and where kids who participate in our programs find a place they know they are supported," says Cooper. "We've had youth that feel they've gained so much from the programs that they want to give back to the community."

The organization works closely with the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD), the RCMP, and various school counsellors to connect youth at risk with a variety of programs and supports.

"School counsellors call us directly if they are concerned that a child may be at risk," says Cooper. "Many counsellors try to contact families first to support (children) in referring themselves to our programs. When a counsellor determines that a family has significant issues, they will

alert the MCFD."

When the MCFD receives a report about a Richmond family struggling to mediate internal conflicts, a social worker is sent to the family's home to determine how severe the issue is. If there is enough concern, the ministry's first point of contact is Touchstone. Staff help families by making community connections and providing information about community resources. Touchstone's programs have been deemed an essential service and are available both in-person and virtually.

Counsellors work long hours, including weekends and holidays, so that they can be available to families in need. They each have their own vehicle to provide outreach and serve families in the comfort of their own homes.

"A lot of families have barriers to services, so home visits make a big difference in getting them to take the first step on their healing journey," says Cooper.

Services are available in multiple languages and there are counsellors with specialized backgrounds to assist families who need to overcome cultural and religious barriers to reunite.

One of the unique programs offered is the Restorative Justice Program. It provides an alternative to the court system and is primarily focused on mediating cases where youth have committed minor offences in the community. The goal is to repair the relationship between the victim and the accused.

The program creates an opportunity to address mistakes and provides the potential for an

encounter between both parties that may not take place in a court setting.

"Courts sometimes end up marginalizing people because the justice system is a victim-centred process," says Haroon Bajwa, Restorative Justice Program coordinator. "Our program allows victims to express the impact of the harm they've experienced and have a say in what a resolution that meets their needs will look like. For youth at risk, it's an opportunity to take responsibility to learn how to make amends and reintegrate into the community."

The program intends to change public perception of what justice looks like and what is required to achieve it.

In addition, Touchstone offers free counselling services to anyone, regardless of their age or background, through its Front Porch Program. It is wholly funded through community fundraising and is valuable because it provides low-barrier counselling services to the entire community.

The organization holds an annual golf fundraiser to support the Front Porch Program. Every \$100 raised goes toward a counselling session.

The 15th annual Tee Cup Charity Golf Tournament fundraiser will be held at the Mylora Golf Club in September after two years of being postponed due to the pandemic.

The event runs for the entire day on Sept. 15. The players tee off at 11 a.m. and then enjoy a banquet dinner and prize draws after the games. Tickets are \$150 for a single admission and \$600 for groups of four.

•angels@richmondsentinel.ca



Dear Richmond Healthcare Team,

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our community and for keeping all of us healthy.

We are grateful for you!



Exterior display of gratitude at Richmond Hospital



From left to right: Jennifer Hunter, Director, Emergency, Patient Flow Pediatrics, Neurodiagnostics, Cardiopulmonary & Virtual Health Richmond; Chad Pederson, Chair of Richmond Hospital Foundation Board of Directors; Natalie Meixner, President and CEO, Richmond Hospital Foundation; Jordan Beard, Richmond Medicine and Critical Care Services Director





Representatives of the healthcare team in Richmond



Public display of gratitude

Richmond Hospital Foundation has partnered with Aberdeen Centre and McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver Airport to place public displays of gratitude at each of their properties. Visit one of the two venues, take a photo, and post on social media with hashtag **#GratefulForYou.**



Display of gratitude at Richmond Hospital. Balloon arch generously donated by Balloon Place



Natalie Meixner, President & CEO of Richmond Hospital Foundation with healthcare staff

In their own words...

Supporting our overall health and well-being



Michael Wolfe
Councillor

What is it about Richmond, that meets our needs and enhances capacity in citizens today? I would argue it is the programs, services, and gathering places that are available to us. With a vast array of civic infrastructure, programs, well-trained staff, and open spaces, we have the opportunity to strengthen our mental well-being and physical health.

Council Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Goal #4: An Active and Thriving Richmond, supports our shared vision in many areas. I'd recommend further reading into these on the City website: Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023, Recreation and Sport Strategy 2018-2023, Ecological Network Management Strategy, and the 2022 Parks and Open Space Strategy.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a definite hit to our mental well-being and physical health due to decreased connection, facility closures, and programs on hiatus. Our local geography, sitting between mountain ranges, shores swept

by the river and ocean, speckled with spectacular biodiversity and open spaces have been a valued asset. Many are within easy walking or rolling distance.

It is clear to me that cities can, and do, provide far more than is often noticed. Here are a few valuable contributions to an active and thriving Richmond:

- Richmond Community Food Asset Map—a new tool uniting partners to address food insecurity.
- Richmond Community Profile Data Sources—which uncovers opportunities for lifelong involvement in recreation and sport.
- Richmond's Ecological Network—an interconnected system of natural areas enhanced by community stewardship and scientific collaboration.
- Blue Network of Parks—a fundamental connection to our city's edge, the Fraser River and estuary.

On my most recent circumnavigation of Lulu Island in my trusty nine-foot boat, I took in the sights of our entire shoreline, stopping to pick up debris tangled in the branches or washed up on sand bars. I couldn't help but notice many Richmond residents of all ages and abilities out being active and enjoying similar views. The dike provides a



special kind of open space feel. Richmond is fortunate to have Dike Master Plans (funded in part by homeowner utility fees) that not only protect us from flood water, but provide us with 49km of space to enjoy.

As our community centres, arenas, pools, and culturally significant sites rebound from the pandemic lows, we will strive to bound back even better. With current City policies and recreational strategies, we hope that you engage in new opportunities and gain new skills as you set your routine to (re) connect with others, be it your local health and wellness provider, lifeguard, coach, or City maintenance worker. What the planet needs more of right now, is more people who live well in their places.

Let's be those people.

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/WatchOnline.

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.

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

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

May 2 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee followed by Finance Committee

May 3 | 4:00 p.m.
Planning Committee

May 9 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting



For meeting agendas and reports, visit www.richmond.ca/CityHall. Meeting schedule subject to change

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



Richmond Paralympian inducted to Circle of Excellence

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond Paralympian Walter Wu was recently inducted to Swimming Canada's Circle of Excellence.

Wu competed in the 1996, 2000, and 2004 Paralympics and won nine gold, four silver, and two bronze medals. He also set new world and Paralympic records before retiring following the 2004 games.

"Considering I've been out of swimming for 20 years, it was a nice thing to go back down memory lane," says Wu. "I've never been one to brag about what I've done or not done, but it's nice to be recognized for what you've done."

The ceremony took place alongside the 2022 Bell Canadian Swimming Trials earlier this month in Victoria. Those trials served as a qualification meet for this year's World Championships and Commonwealth Games.

"It was the first trials they've had in two years. There were no spectators, just people filming. Getting on the pool deck, you could feel a vibe, you could feel tension and anxiety," says Wu.

Wu brought his family to Victoria to celebrate with him, adding that it was their first stay in a hotel since the pandemic began.

"Having family there," says Wu, "to me that's the most important (people) that need to see it."

His former coach, who is still coaching was also there to mark the occasion. While Wu says it would have been great to have more friends there, he was impressed with the ceremony given the pandemic circumstances.

Reflecting on his years of competitive swimming Wu says three moments stand out to him: his first gold medal won in Atlanta in 1996, the gold medal he won in Sydney on his mom's birthday, and the gold medal he won in Athens when both his parents were able to watch him win gold live.

"Unfortunately I didn't really live in the digital age," says Wu. "I can't find the races online, I have to go by word-of-mouth and memory."

Wu's swimming career left him with a desire for punctuality; he prefers to be 15 minutes early for engagements and dislikes when people are late. He also maintains strong goal-setting principles.

"If a task is assigned to me, I know I have to get it done, I plan a time frame," says Wu. "I think those things still carry over from the swimming world."



Photo courtesy Walter Wu

Walter Wu (second from left) celebrated his recent induction to Swimming Canada's Circle of Excellence with his sister and nephews.

He also continues to have a competitive nature, even when it comes to things like board games.

Young athletes whose trajectories were derailed by pandemic cancellations may be feeling discouraged. Wu says he hopes people are able to recognize it's not their fault and is out of their control, and that everyone is in the same boat.

"If you can succeed in this type of harsh reality, it's going to set you up for the rest of your life," he says. "It's such a short part of your lifespan, but if you can overcome everything there you're ready for what I call the 'regular world'; you're ready for the rest of your life."

These days, Wu isn't able to swim due to shoulder injuries. But he keeps healthy by running and stays busy with work.

"I have an expensive Lego habit," he adds. "It's also an investment—I have to open it, I can't leave it sealed in a box." His latest Lego project is a \$900 Millennium Falcon from Star Wars.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca

Richmond to celebrate new class of local sport icons

The Richmond Sports Wall of Fame will have eight outstanding individuals and two teams added to its prestigious group of inductees. These honourees have demonstrated extraordinary commitments and achievements in sport in the categories of Athlete, Builder, Coach, Official, and Team, and will be inducted on May 7 at the Gateway Theatre.

This will be the sixth Richmond Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony after a two-year hiatus due to the global pandemic. This year's 10 inductees join an esteemed group of 64 individuals and teams that represent the best Richmond has to offer.

The 2021 Richmond Sports Wall of Fame inductees are:

Athlete

- Bernie Glier: Seven-year Canadian Football League (CFL) career and 1985 Grey Cup Champion with the BC Lions

Builder

- Alan Sakai: Coach, instructor and director with the Steveston Judo Club for over five decades including competing in the 1972 Olympic Games

Coaches

- Albert Nishi: 33 years of coaching numerous sports in Richmond
- Mike Charlton: Coached several school sports over many years including winning multiple championships

- Bill Haddow: Long-time high school and community football coach

- Bruce Haddow: Long-time high school and community football coach

- Rick Yodogawa: Represented B.C. and Canada as athlete and coach for Judo

Official

- Jim Kojima: Six-time Olympic official representing Canada at the world level along with decades of service to the Steveston Judo Club

Teams

- 1994-1999 Richmond Eagles Girls Field Hockey Team: Six-time Provincial Champions

- 1975-1983 Richmond Superstars Girls Soccer Team: Four-time National Champions

Community art projects launching this spring

Art is in the air this spring with the launching of three free 2022 Engaging Artists in Community projects starting this month and through the fall.

The first project, "Art Cultivation from Nature," is a series of community-based workshops by artist Edward Fu-Chen Juan. These free workshops will be held outdoors at Paulik Neighbourhood Park and run from April

through October. They are presented in partnership with Urban Bounty (formerly Richmond Food Security Society).

"WALK," the second project being offered, is a digital storytelling endeavour by filmmaker Sebnem Ozpeta, presented in partnership with Walk Richmond and the Richmond Fitness and Wellness Association. The artist will lead a series of free sound record-

ing workshops in Richmond parks and trails from May through July. Participants will be invited to walk, listen, and record sound around them and then share their experiences, stories and memories.

The third project, "Wayfinding Art Studio," is for residents of the Richmond Emergency Response Centre operated by Turning Point Recovery Society. Richmond artist Mickey L.D. Morgan, will engage the residents in a variety of art workshops from May through June, including drawing, painting, craft-making and storytelling activities. The project will wrap up with a public art exhibition to raise awareness on issues surrounding homelessness.

The Engaging Artists in Community Program supports artists with socially-oriented art practices to work collaboratively within Richmond communities. Projects commissioned through this program contribute to a greater sense of identity, community and place through art-making experiences. Engaging Artists in Communi-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Edward Fu-Chen Juan is one of three artists in the 2022 Engaging Artists in Community projects launching this spring.

ty is made possible through contributions made to the Richmond Public Art Program.

To register or learn more about any of these programs, go to bit.ly/EngagingArtists

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).



**A Great Place To Live
A Great Way To Live**



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL
'In House' Resident Volunteers
for making "Our World" a better place

Seniors independent living in beautiful Steveston Village

4071 Chatham Street • 604-277-4519

Kim Kuzma voted Canada's best independent artist

By JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

Since her successful 1999 debut album *Contradictions*, Vancouver's Kim Kuzma has continued to make diverse, interesting music—not just in the studio, but also on live stages all over the world.

Kuzma credits the connection she makes with her audience as one of her strongest skills as a performer. The *Our City Tonight* team recently sat down with Kuzma to talk about her career, including popular winters singing on stage in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Before we talk about your singing career, we'd like to note that we are talking to you via Zoom in Puerto Vallarta. Can you tell our readers, if they are planning a visit to Puerto Vallarta, where they can see you perform?

The Palm Cabaret or Coco's Kitchen, both in Old Town. You have a large following with the gay community and that you perform on a lot of gay cruises. You just finished a Panama Canal cruise and will be performing on the Mediterranean in September followed by a river cruise down the Danube in December. What is it like entertaining on a cruise ship?

They are so much fun. I've taken my mother with me on most of the cruises and she loves engaging with the travellers. It's such a great community and I'm blessed to be invited to perform for them.

One of the things we've loved about your career over the last two decades is the diversity of music you create for your recordings and your performances. In your latest album you've taken music from the 1970s and pro-

duced it in a Latin style, which ties in with what you love to do musically with your live shows including everything from Shirley Bassey to Rihanna.

Everything is done with a Flamenco-style guitar. Musically we'll do everything—new and old—but it all has a Latin feel, making it unique. I'm so fortunate to have excellent musicians here in Puerto Vallarta.

As a musician, singer, and songwriter, who influenced your career the most?

Definitely Annie Lennox, Patti LaBelle, Aretha Franklin, Engelbert Humperdinck, and Tom Jones, who I had the pleasure of meeting. He was the consummate gentleman. The more soulful artists influenced me to want to get into the music business.

You often finish up the winter season in Puerto Vallarta and then head out on the road for the summer to resort places in Maine. This year you've decided to stay put and focus not just on your music but on an additional venture: real estate.

I may be performing a few shows this summer at The Front Porch Piano Bar & Restaurant in Ogunquit, Maine but for the most part I'm staying in Puerto Vallarta and focusing on real estate. The market is crazy down here—and who wants to see me on stage in a disco outfit at the age of 70?

Kuzma has been voted Canada's Best Independent Artist by fans at canadian-music.com as well as being a five-time West Coast Music Award nominee.

For the video interview, visit richmondsentinel/videos. Jim Gordon and Leeta Liepins are contributing writers to the Richmond Sentinel.



Photo courtesy Kim Kuzma
Canadian musician Kim Kuzma is currently performing live shows in Puerto Vallarta.

Photos on display at Canada Line stations

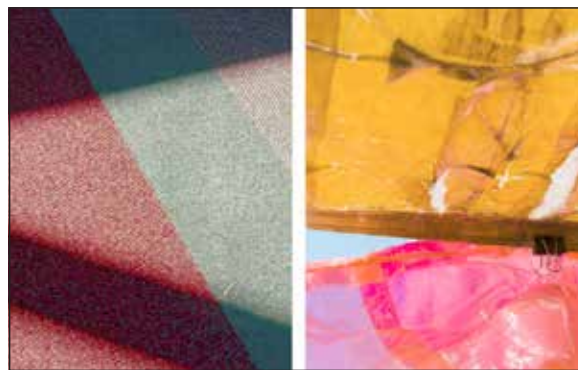
Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Public Art are presenting the photo-based artworks of Kyla Bourgh and Chad Wong as part of Capture Photography Festival. The artworks will be on display at Lansdowne and Aberdeen Canada Line stations through Feb. 28, 2023.

The works cast a light on the lived experiences of two artists: Wong, who is a second-generation Canadian, and Bourgh, an artist of mixed-heritage. Themes such as identity, belonging, discrimination, memory, and connection to ancestral countries emerge in the artworks.

As much as immigration to Canada continues to be a vital part of the country's narrative, multi-generational immigrant families also continue to navigate the reality of dual identities, particularly as differences emerge between first, second, and even third-generation Canadians. On a broader scale, members of immigrant communities manage the ever-changing influences that stem from a culture in a constant state of flux.

Lansdowne Canada Line station will display Bourgh's *Objects given to my mom because she is Asian*, a series of three photographs featuring objects challenging viewers to unpack their discriminations and perspectives. The objects were given to Bourgh's mother over the past 50 years.

Each object is associated with an "Asian style" and was gifted to Bourgh's



Photos courtesy Richmond Art Gallery
Chad Wong's diptych *Empty Spaces that Fill My Heart* is on display at Aberdeen Canada Line station.

mother because of her physical and cultural identity. Bourgh's work highlights that, while the gifts were given to her mother in kindness, they unwittingly reminded her that she is and always will be perceived as a visible minority in her farming community in rural B.C. Through these photographs, the artist contemplates the unconscious biases placed on her mother and how they differ from her own lived experiences as white-passing and a Canadian of mixed ethnicity.

Wong's diptych, *Empty Spaces that Fill My Heart*, will be on view at Aberdeen Canada Line station. The photographs feature abstracted fragments of awnings and hallways of the Hong Kong-style cafes and Chinese-Canadian malls he grew up visiting in Richmond and Vancouver.

Wong takes note of the distinctive spaces that demonstrate a blend of Eastern and Western influences and how they are gradually disappearing in modern times. To the artist, these spaces are the last vestige of his connection to Hong Kong. As the identity of the communities that surround these spaces begins to change, and gentrification ensues, Wong feels the urgency to document these sites. The images in his photographs contemplate how modes of representation in architecture—or associations made with spaces and locations—and shared cultural spaces help shape a community's identity and narrative.

New urgent and primary care centre opens

Richmond's new urgent and primary care centre (UPCC) reopened this week. It replaces the temporary location, which opened in April 2021.

The centre's new permanent location is 110-4671 No. 3 Rd. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. Statutory holidays will follow the same service hours.

"The new Richmond City Centre UPCC will connect residents in Richmond with quality same-day, everyday health care when they need it," said Health Minister Adrian Dix. "We are working with our partners to meet the growing primary care needs of people in the Lower Mainland and throughout British Columbia."

The new Richmond UPCC is the 28th location announced under the government's primary care strategy. It is a collaboration between Vancouver Coastal Health, the Ministry of Health, the Richmond Division of Family Practice, and other community partners. It is part of the Richmond Primary Care Network.



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond's new permanent urgent and primary care centre opened this week on No. 3 Road.

Staying on track for health inspections

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE
Reporter

At a time when sanitation is on the minds of many, it's important to know local restaurants are also held to strict protocols.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) conducts more than 16,000 inspections of restaurants, food facilities, and stores annually. VCH regulates health standards for licensed restaurants in Richmond to address conditions that could result in contaminated food before anyone gets sick.

"In cases where complaints are confirmed or deficiencies are identified, Vancouver Coastal Health's environmental health officers will work with the establishment to correct any issues in a timely manner," says VCH public affairs specialist Jeremy Deutsch. "Progressive compliance starts with education but can include warnings, written orders, violation tickets, compliance meetings, and even closure of the facility."

In 2021, there were 27 Richmond food establishments closed due to violations of VCH health regulations. Reasons for closures included operating without a permit, unsanitary conditions, pest infestations, improper food storage temperatures, and foodborne illness outbreaks.

A foodborne illness outbreak is when two or more people get the same illness from the same contaminated food or drink. People can get sick hours or even several days after eating contaminated food.

Foody World, a popular large chain grocer in Richmond, was shut down for a *Listeria* con-

tamination in October 2016. Six people were hospitalized and one person died. *Listeriosis* can cause more serious illness such as meningitis or blood infections in pregnant women, newborns, older adults, and seniors.

Despite some closures, over 1,000 restaurants in Richmond have successfully maintained health and safety regulations.

For a restaurant to have its food service permit approved, the premise must be of sound construction—made from durable, easily cleaned, and non-toxic materials—and designed to ensure the safe handling of food.

**Inspections are
conducted regularly
and when complaints
are received.**

— Jeremy Deutsch

The building must have ventilation equipment to prevent the accumulation of smoke, grease, water vapour, and objectionable odours.

The next requirement is that the premise must be free of pests and conditions that lead to the harbouring of pests. Pests may carry pathogenic organisms that can contaminate food and food contact surfaces. After inspecting for signs of pest presence, operators must

eliminate pest access points, verify cleaning procedures, clean and sanitize contaminated surfaces, and destroy nests and breeding places.

Prevention of food spoilage also protects patrons from foodborne illness. Freezing prevents microbial growth in foods, but it doesn't destroy all microorganisms. Improper thawing provides an opportunity for surviving bacteria to grow to harmful numbers and produce toxins.

Frozen foods must be maintained at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius or lower, although *Listeria* can grow at temperatures as low as -4 degrees Celsius.

The way food is cooled plays a role in the growth of hazardous bacteria. Food being left to cool at room temperature has been consistently identified as one of the leading factors contributing to foodborne illness. Food should not be left out for more than two hours before being served or refrigerated.

Establishments must also hold a FOODSAFE certificate or its equivalent. At least one certified employee must be present during operating hours to ensure that employees are following FOODSAFE handling practices. Procedures need to be displayed in written form that identify all the critical guidelines that need to be followed.

"Inspections are conducted regularly and when complaints are received," says Deutsch. "Each visit generates an inspection report that is provided to the operator to either confirm their facility is compliant with regulations or lists deficiencies that need to be addressed."

•angels@richmondsentinel.ca

Restaurant brings Taiwanese cuisine to Richmond

In the fifth part of a series on Richmond's business roots, we share the story of Pearl Castle Café.

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

Pearl Castle Café, which opened in 1996, is one of the earliest pioneers of Taiwanese cuisine in Richmond.

Founder Jimmy Chen is from Taichung, Taiwan. He planted the roots and opened up the very first Pearl Castle Café in Parker Place, which later expanded and moved to the nearby Continental Plaza in 2000.

Pearl Castle's Mandarin name is "Yuan Xiang." The word "yuan" means round or circular, which symbolizes balance and harmony. The word "xiang" translates to fragrance and aroma, which represents the mouth-watering food and flavourful drinks.

Chen initially started his business because he wanted to share an all-time favourite Taiwanese drink—bubble tea—and one-of-a-kind Taiwanese cuisine.

"Pearl Castle's goal is to continue to serve delicious, quality Taiwanese food and beverages to the people in the Greater Vancouver area, those who are homesick and want a bite of their hometown food, or those who haven't tried Taiwanese food and drinks," says Chen.

Pearl Castle Café offers a wide variety of catering options, ranging from three spice chicken to beef noodle soup. Over the past couple of years, the restaurant has also added other Asian dishes to its menu, including mala hot pot, rice vermicelli with pig intestines, and more. It also has drinks ranging from milk teas to frappés.

Pearl Castle Café aims to use top-class ingredi-



Photo courtesy Tommy Lim

Boba pearl milk tea (right) and stinky tofu with kimchi (centre) are among Pearl Castle Café's offerings.

ents and ships most beverage-related ingredients, including tea and Boba pearls, straight from Taiwan.

"We always pride ourselves on using fresh, quality ingredients. Our beef stock and chicken stock are all boiled in house," says Chen.

Chen credits the success of his business to his hardworking and amazing employees, especially the ones who have stood by his side over decades of blood, sweat, and tears.

Keeping up with inflation and rent have proven to be some of the business's biggest challenges. The pandemic has only made matters worse.

Despite numerous hardships, Pearl Castle Café has shifted its business model and discovered new, innovative strategies. Partnering with online food delivery companies such as Uber Eats, DoorDash,

and Fantuan has proven to be an effective alternative approach.

"We also shut down the restaurant for three months," says Chen. "During those times it was definitely scary but we're glad that we're able to adapt to the current restrictions and open up for dine-in again."

Chen is also planning to introduce advanced, futuristic robots and artificial intelligence systems to his restaurants.

Winning the "Best Taiwanese Restaurant/Bubble Tea Café" category in the Chinese Restaurant Diners' Choice Awards for four consecutive years from 2010 to 2013 is one of Chen's proudest business moments.

•taic@richmondsentinel.ca

STR8TS

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

					9		
	1						
2							
	6				9		
				2		4	
							3
5	9			1			

SUDOKU

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

Hamilton

HIGH STREET SENIOR RESIDENCE

EXPERIENCE A LIFESTYLE OF

Freedom and Choices

www.hhsr.ca

Join our progressive senior living community
where you can be care-free and live in the moment

Located steps to the reinvigorated Hamilton Village (pharmacy, physio, doctors), short drive to Walmart, Starlight Casino, Fraser River walking paths.	Meals Housekeeping Events and Activities	TV and Internet Multilingual Concierge
---	--	---

NOW LEASING

604-214-5700 | sales@hhsr.ca
23100 Garripie Avenue, Richmond B.C. V6V 0B9

Shop LOCAL

Support Local Businesses • Support Local Businesses • Support Local Businesses • Support Local Businesses • Support Local Businesses

BLUNDELL CENTRE

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