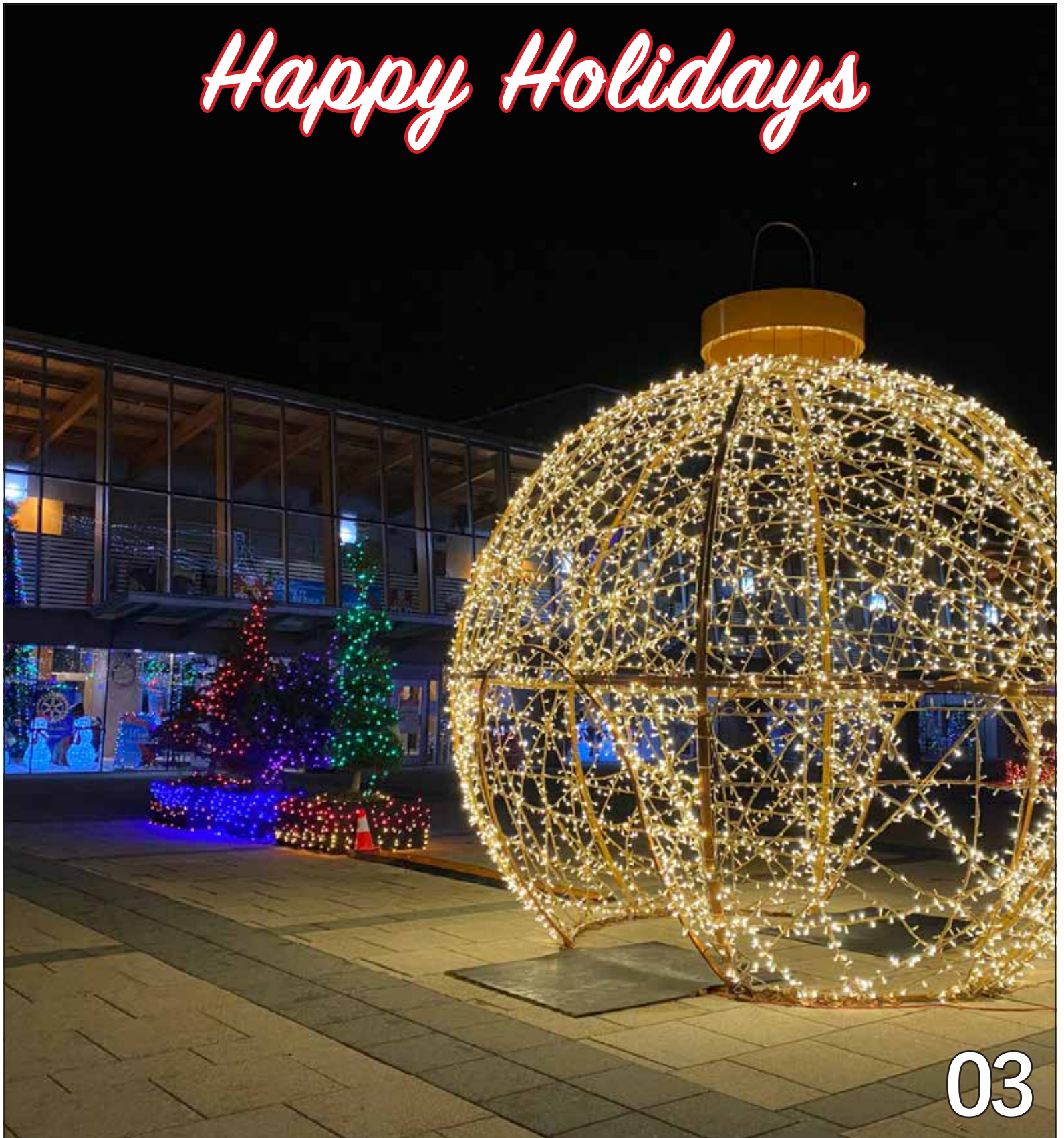




Happy Holidays



03

Happy Holidays

From your
local MLAs!

We wish you and your loved ones
a safe and joyful holiday season.
We look forward to serving you in
the New Year!

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Jewish school hosts interfaith event for students

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

Richmond students came together to share wintertime celebrations in different cultures and religions at the recent "Shine a Light" event.

The event, hosted last week by Richmond Jewish Day School, also included city councillors, community members, and students from three other "Highway to Heaven" schools: Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy, Cornerstone Christian Academy, and Richmond Christian School. In all, more than 20 cultural institutions sit on the "Highway to Heaven," a stretch of No. 5 Road known for its diverse houses of worship.

"The spirit of this celebration (is) to share winter customs, such as those practiced during Hanukkah and Christmas, that build into our individual identities," said Richmond Jewish Day School principal Sabrina Bhojani. "By providing a safe and educational learning environment, we hope to create an environment to improve understanding about different cultures thereby encouraging people and institutions to work together and share responsibility for addressing racism, discrimination, and antisemitism."

This year's event built on an evening event held during Hanukkah last year, where members of the "Highway to Heaven" community were invited. This year, the format was changed to create a more kid-friendly celebration, Bhojani says.

Students from all four schools participated in activities, including singing, stories, games, and crafts, that showcased different winter traditions.

Richmond Jewish Day School students shared stories about the meaning of Hanukkah and the tradition of Hanukkah gelt (money), then taught other students to play dreidel.

"A huge part of the holiday of Hanukkah revolves around food," explained one student.

Foods fried in oil are commonly eaten to recognize the small quantity of oil that miraculously burned for eight days. At the end of the event, students sampled sufganiyah, jelly donuts deep-fried in oil and sprinkled with powdered sugar.



Photos by Hannah Scott

Richmond Jewish Day School recently hosted an event focusing on wintertime celebrations in different cultures and religions. Students from four different schools worked together on crafts including a Ramadan-inspired lantern (above) and Advent-inspired candle (below).

Cornerstone Christian Academy students shared about the meaning of the star, which symbolizes goodness, divine leadership, and the light of Jesus in the Christian faith. Then all students made their own star craft to take home.

Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy students talked about Ramadan, which begins in March 2023. During this month-long holiday, Muslims fast, pray, and focus on devotion or generosity; at the end of the month of fasting, Eid al-Fitr is a time to feast and visit with family and friends. Students made lantern crafts because of the traditional fanous lanterns, which symbolize Ramadan and represent guiding light.

Richmond Christian School students shared the traditions of Advent, a four-week celebration leading up to Christmas. Each of the four weeks has a theme: hope, love, joy, and peace. Students worked on candle crafts with pink and purple tissue paper to represent the colours of Advent candles. When the stained glass-inspired crafts are put in a window, light will shine through.



"May we illuminate the street and our beautiful city of Richmond through the warmth of unity," said Bhojani at the event.

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Holiday display returns to city hall

Ring in the festive spirit with the Rotary Club of Richmond Sunset's 21st edition of Winter Wonderland at Richmond City Hall (6911 No. 3 Rd.).

This year's display is a combination of beautifully decorated trees inside the galleria (available for viewing on weekdays until Dec. 23), along with twinkling live trees outside on the north plaza (available for viewing until Jan. 2). After the event, the live trees will be repurposed and replanted in city parks.

Each tree at Winter Wonderland is sponsored by a local business, organization, or individual. All funds raised will be reinvested into the local community.

Visitors enjoying the festive display are also encouraged to take photos and bring along a non-perishable food item to drop-off in support of Richmond's local food bank.

In addition to the tree sponsors, the event sponsor is ASPAC Developments, the gold sponsor is Concord Pacific, and the silver sponsors are Western Development and Citimark. The City of Richmond is a supporting partner.

For more information on how to support the Rotary Club of Richmond Sunset's programs, contact Magdalen Leung at 604-214-8833 or magrleung@gmail.com.

Winter officially beginning Dec. 21

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Reporter

While colder weather has already arrived, the first official day of winter is Dec. 21, also known as the winter solstice.

A solstice is the time when the sun's rays and the plane of the Earth's equator appear at a standstill and the sun is at its highest or lowest point in the sky. The seasons are reversed for countries below the equator, in the southern hemisphere, where Dec. 21 is the summer solstice.

In the northern hemisphere, including Canada, the winter solstice is the shortest day of the year because half of the Earth is tilted its farthest away from the sun. Because of the Earth's tilt, the winter solstice is also the day where a person's noontime shadow is the longest all year. After the winter solstice, days will start getting longer as the northern hemisphere is gradually exposed to more sunlight, peaking at the summer solstice.

Many traditions are observed during this time of the year around the world. Yule is a pagan festival that celebrates the winter solstice, with traditions focused on fire and feasting. Some Yule traditions like the Yule log may have evolved into modern Christmas traditions.

The more recent Druidic festival Alban Arthan, which focuses on sun and light, is also linked to the winter solstice.

In ancient Chinese tradition, the Dongzhi Festival or Winter Solstice Festival is celebrated. It is regarded as a time for families to get together to celebrate the good of the past year. It is believed that after this day, positive things will become stronger and thus should be celebrated. Tang yuan, small



Richmond has already seen its first snowfall of the season.

Photo submitted

balls of glutinous rice flour filled with red bean and served in a sweet soup or both, are eaten.

Similarly, in Korean traditions, the Dongji Winter Festival or Little New Year is celebrated. During this time, it is tradition to eat a red bean porridge called patjuk. The dish is seen as a way to keep bad spirits away while embracing good wishes for the upcoming year. Snow is also wished for, as Koreans regard cold weather on the winter solstice as a sign of bountiful harvest.

Across England, different traditions are practiced during the winter solstice. At the historical Stonehenge, many gather at dawn the day after the longest night to witness the sun rising through the stones. In Brighton, people dress up in cos-

tumes that represent clocks and start a huge bonfire, throwing lanterns in to symbolize wishes, hopes, and fears that will be passed into the flames.

In Cornwall, people celebrate the Montol festival, wearing carnival-like costumes and creating a "river of fire" with lanterns to celebrate the return of the sun. Some in Britain also partake in the ancient tradition of cutting mistletoe, as it is seen as a blessing that may possess healing properties.

For many, the winter solstice is seen as a day of preparation for the upcoming year. Families gather to celebrate the past year and embrace the year to come.

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Grauer class compiles boxes for families in need

Grauer elementary teacher Ms. Bawa has worked with her class again this year to compile family fun boxes for community members in need.

Bawa's Grade 4 and 5 class partnered with the Salvation Army Richmond and put together 17 boxes filled with activities for families to do together over the holidays. Each box includes a board game, a deck of

cards, a hot beverage (coffee or hot chocolate), a snack mix, a word search book, popcorn, and chocolates.

The Richmond Sunset Rotary Club, Grauer's sponsor club, financed the activity. The Nike store at Tsawwassen Mills mall provided all the shoeboxes. As an EarlyAct school, Grauer encourages students to participate in activities that give back to their community.

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Richmond's Hanukkah menorah to be lit again

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

Richmondites are invited to gather at Richmond Cultural Centre (7700 Minoru Gate) on Dec. 22 for the annual public lighting of the city's 7.5-metre (25-foot) Hanukkah menorah.

Each Hanukkah, Jewish people light a nine-branched candelabrum called a menorah. Each night, another candle is added to mirror the story about the Maccabean revolt, when oil for a single day miraculously lasted for eight days.

The menorah, designed in the late 1980s by renowned Canadian architect Arthur Erickson, was commissioned by twin brothers and Ebco Industries founders Helmut and Hugo Eppich. Stored at Ebco's warehouse, this menorah is cleaned annually and put together outside Richmond Cultural Centre.

The menorah lighting is sponsored by Ebco, Lightspeed Commerce, The Bayit, Chabad of Richmond, and the Richmond Public Library and Cultural Centre.

Following the cancellation of the public event in 2020, and a smaller event in 2021 due to public health restrictions, The Bayit president Keith Liedtke says



Photo by Hannah Scott
People are invited to the Richmond Cultural Centre on Dec. 22 for the annual menorah lighting event.

this year's event is anticipated to be larger and more vibrant.

"It's important because it sheds light on humanity," says Liedtke. "Lots of religions shine light; this is the way we shine light."

Since the menorah's construction, it has annually brought Richmondites of all faiths together to celebrate the theme of light illuminating the darkness. Liedtke adds that Mayor Malcolm Brodie and other elected officials and dignitaries have been incredibly supportive.

While the public event is celebrated on a single night, The Bayit's Rabbi Levi Varnai will light the candles each of the eight nights, along with other community members.

"Our aim is someday we will build a synagogue, a bigger synagogue, and will have (the menorah) permanently at the new synagogue site in the future," says Liedtke. "In the meantime, we're looking for a place to have it temporarily so we don't always have to haul it out and transport it."

The public event begins at 5 p.m. on Dec. 22 with drop-in family activities. The menorah lighting ceremony will take place at 5:45 p.m.

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WHAT FUN IT IS TO SKATE!

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Richmond

Photos by Take Off Photography
The Victor Ghirra Toy Drive,
 which annually honours a late
 Richmondite whose generosity
 inspired others, collected more
 than 2,500 toys this year.



Annual drive yields over 2,500 toys

Santa's helpers from communities across the Lower Mainland merrily made their way to the grand toy count in Richmond on Dec. 10 for the 16th annual Victor Ghirra Toy Drive.

With families in the province still challenged by the pandemic and increasing inflation, there is an even greater need for toys over the holidays. More than 100 people attended the grand toy count event to drop off toys and donations.

The toy drive is donating toys to a record 18 good causes this year, aiming to bring joy to children and families in need. With the help of the Benevolent Brotherhood Society, the Ghirra family, The Co-operators Insurance agencies, Riverside Banquet Halls, Johnston Meier Insurance, Kids Play team, and Vancity Credit Union, over 2,500 toys were collected. The toy drive also welcomed a new donor this year: Cedar Chiropractic & Physiotherapy Clinic in Burnaby.

This year's indoor event welcomed attendees with a festive holiday theme. Volunteers greeted guests as they dropped off toys, with many staying to enjoy coffee and treats as well as posing for photos in the winter wonderland-themed booth.

In memory of late Richmondite Victor Ghirra, the toy drive is devoted to making holidays brighter for hundreds of children. Victor was involved in many charitable initiatives, but was particularly touched by the BC Children's Hospital. Each Christmas for over a dozen years, he bought thousands of dollars worth of toys and donated them to the hospital anonymously, instructing staff only that they be given to the kids and not accepting any credit.

"Nobody knew—Victor did this out of the kindness of his heart. He would be very happy to know what we are doing. The toy drive means a lot to me and my family to keep his giving spirit alive," said Michael Ghirra, Victor's younger brother.

Moya Matick, agency office manager with The Co-operators, said: "When you reflect on the man whose memory the toy drive honours and learn just how kind he had been in life, it is not too difficult to understand how that memory energizes and motivates us to continue his legacy. Each year, as word

of the toy drive spreads, the success grows. This year Co-operators Insurance staff in the Lower Mainland contributed \$900 in cash donations and over 50 new toys to help. It is heartwarming to know that our efforts contribute to preserving a spirit of giving and care to those kids who need it most."

Once again, the Richmond Sunrise Rotary group supported the toy drive with a donation of \$3,500 to purchase toys. During a recent group meeting, members got together and bought and donated toys they thought would be fun to play with.

"Victor's toy drive has become a Richmond tradition; it's a wonderful way to give back to families who need it most during the holidays," said Richmond Sunrise Rotary member Kal Mahal. "Our members look forward to the toy drive and enjoy helping."

Jerry Gamble of Johnston Meier Insurance also worked with Victor, and the agency stepped up again this year to help.

"I'm proud to say that for the third year, we contributed \$500 in toys to Victor's toy drive," said Gamble. "I so enjoyed working with Victor; he was such a kind person to be around, and he had a way with people that made you want to do better. I feel this toy drive is a great way to pay tribute to him."

The charities helped by the toy drive this year include:

- BC Children's Hospital
- Canuck Place
- Key Solutions
- Kids Play
- Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau
- Nightshift Ministries – Care Centre
- North Shore Family Services – Christmas Bureau



This holiday season is a little brighter for 18 good causes that are benefitting from community members' donations to the Victor Ghirra Toy Drive.

- Options BC
- Ray-Cam Community Centre
- Recovery Kidz
- Richmond Christmas Fund
- Richmond Food Bank
- Second Stage Women's Centre
- Surrey Christmas Bureau
- Team Keian

Toys were also donated to two local schools with families in need, as well as families on the Downtown Eastside.

Over the last 16 years, more than 47,650 toys have been collected and distributed in memory of Victor.

"This year the need was greater than ever—we've heard that families needed more help, and we were happy to step up. This year there will be hundreds of children who will receive a toy during the holidays thanks to Victor's legacy. This toy drive continues to grow thanks to all our partners and generous community donors of the past 16 years," said Harvey Kooner of the Benevolent Brotherhood Society, the toy drive's founder.

For more information on how to get involved and make a difference with next year's toy drive, contact Kooner at 604-671-4180 or harveykooner1@gmail.com.

City introduces new electric vehicle initiatives

Furthering its goal of achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the City of Richmond has unveiled two innovative electric vehicle (EV) initiatives.

The city has added two fully electric cargo vans to its fleet, which already has one of the highest levels of non-combustion engine vehicles among regional municipalities. It has also installed Richmond's first solar powered EV charging station, adding a new dimension to clean energy sources and climate sustainability.

"Council remains committed to exploring new sustainable technologies and these are just two examples of how Richmond is leading the way in the area of climate action," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The city is continually looking for innovative ways to encourage electric vehicle use and provide the low-impact charging options necessary to support them as EV demand increases."

The two 2022 Ford E-Transit cargo vans are the first such vehicles in the city's fleet and replace two similar gas-powered vans that are both around 20 years old. The 266 horsepower vehicles are equipped with a 67kWh battery, giving an estimated range of 200 kilometres with zero tailpipe emissions. Their purchase also aligns with the city's commitment to the West Coast Electric Fleets Pledge, which aims to replace at least 10 per cent of annual replacements for fleet passenger vehicles and light duty trucks with zero emissions vehicles.

Because the EV vans have batteries mounted beneath the floor, they of-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
The city has installed a solar-powered electric vehicle charging station at Garry Point Park.

fer enhanced cargo space that makes them ideally suited to support the work of engineering inspectors, utility installations, and bylaw enforcement related to construction.

Fully electric vehicles require no gas and little to no maintenance (such as routine oil changes), so the overall cost of ownership is significantly lower than a gas-powered van. According to one manufacturer, maintenance costs are 40 per cent lower than an identical gas-powered version over an eight-year or 160,000-kilometre period.

The EV charging station at Richmond's Garry Point Park offers a solar-powered alternative for EV owners. Designed to track the sun, the Level 2 charger has a

40kW back up battery and is located in an area that enables maximum solar exposure. It also has additional electrical plugs for charging E-bikes, E-scooters, or any devices using 110 Volt output.

Because the solar-powered EV charger is a new concept within the city, charging will be free for the time being, as staff assess its performance. The city currently has 57 public EV charging stations throughout Richmond. Information on charging rates at city-owned stations and their locations can be found on the city website (richmond.ca/ev).

Both initiatives align with the city's Community Energy and Emissions Plan, as well as its Green Fleet Action Plan, which encourage the adoption of new technologies that will improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions.

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Christmas
and Happy Holidays

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Two Richmondites among B.C. award recipients

Richmondites Rishika Selvakumar and Winston Sayson, K.C. are among the 15 British Columbians who are receiving the Medal of Good Citizenship this year for their dedication and selfless service to their communities.

"It's an honour to award these individuals with the Medal of Good Citizenship," said Premier David Eby. "Each one of them embodies the traits of generosity, kindness, and sacrifice for the benefit of others. Their actions touch so many lives, creating better communities throughout B.C. I commend each one of them. They are an example to all."

Rishika Selvakumar

At the young age of 20, Selvakumar is an active member of her community and commits to everything she does. She's also a changemaker, exemplifying the importance of taking initiative and leadership.

Seeing a lack of mental health and wellness resources, she founded the first mental health club at her high school, Little Flower Academy, when she was in Grade 10.

As an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia (UBC), she started The Wellness Proposal, a virtual campaign hosted by UBC students that aimed to create a positive mental health environment through programs including youth-run events and mentorship programs that served nearly 40 undergraduate students.

Selvakumar is also a youth network lead at Anxiety Canada, a youth advisor and scholarship panelist for the Canadian Mental Health Association's B.C. division, and a co-facilitator and communications volunteer for the Canadian Mental Health Association's Vancouver-Fraser division.

While pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree at UBC between 2019 and 2022, Selvakumar volunteered with World Vision UBC and Right to Play UBC, worked to support undergraduate students as an advisor and teaching assistant, and highlighted the sustainable development goals as a campus director for the first UBC chapter of the United Nations' Millennium Fellowship program.

Within Richmond, Selvakumar has supported fundraising initiatives and celebrated cultural events as a Bharatanatyam dancer for over 15 years. She also volunteered to support immigrant families with the Family Services of Greater Vancouver in Richmond, endeavoured to de-stigmatize poverty during COVID-19 by organizing educational panels and donation drives with Ignite the Warmth Society, and volunteered with Richmond Olympic Oval's Olympic experience to support youth volunteering and increase awareness of Olympic history.

Since COVID-19, Selvakumar has transitioned to volunteering for virtual projects with the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association to create educational resources that address accessibility concerns for those who are hard of hearing. She also supports tutoring and volunteer recruitment with the Mentoring the Stars Foundation.

Selvakumar has acted as vice-president of the Acne Education Project to coordinate presentations around acne management and prevention to over 1,500 elementary school students in the Lower Mainland in 2022 alone.



Rishika Selvakumar (left) and Winston Sayson, K.C. are two Richmondites being honoured with the Medal of Good Citizenship.



Photos courtesy Government of B.C.

She demonstrates interest in the mental health field by working to support program management for the Heartwood Centre for Women, a treatment facility for those struggling with substance use and mental health challenges.

Selvakumar's efforts have been recognized with several other awards.

When asked what motivates her, she simply says it is what she is passionate about. Selvakumar wants to make a difference in at least one person's life, and she has changed the lives of many people, creating a community wherever she goes.

Winston Sayson, K.C.

Sayson is a Filipino-Chinese Canadian who personifies the Medal of Good Citizenship virtues as demonstrated through his three-decade long legal career, steadfast service to victims of crime, dedication to the rule of law, and volunteer work.

As a teen, Sayson immigrated to B.C. from the Philippines. With a strong work ethic and street smarts, he became a successful lawyer and community leader. Sayson, now retired, was a criminal barrister whose trials were prosecuted to the highest standards. He recognized that victims of crime frequently come from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds with many intersectional vulnerabilities, understood how testifying could re-traumatize victims, and was always able to communicate effectively with witnesses and victims to give them the strength and resiliency to take the stand. Sayson was a pioneer in combining wellness practices with legal work and taught lawyers trauma-informed practices to minimize re-traumatization. He worked many hours above and beyond his normal workday to ensure victims were well supported.

Sayson's work dealt with violence that included cases of vehicular homicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. This took a toll on him, and he experienced PTSD, anxiety, and secondary trauma resulting from the nature of his work and the threats he received. Yet Sayson was always courageous; as he healed, he shared his experience to teach lawyers, criminology students, and victims about self-care and resilience. He advocates for bringing mental wellness to the forefront in the legal profession. While a full-time Crown Counsel, Sayson successfully studied to be a counsellor and mentor.

Sayson's outlook is similar in his personal life, and he is a consummate helper for families and children at his church and in his community. His dedication and valuable service to his community has been recognized with a number of other awards.

Sayson also has the honour of being named a Queen's Counsel in 2011 for exceptional merit and contribution to the legal profession. At the time, he was the only Filipino-Canadian Crown Counsel in the province. He has had a great deal of influence on his community; one example includes taking another Filipino-Canadian under his wing to mentor. Sayson understood the biases in the legal culture, and his mentorship not only made the individual a better lawyer, but instilled a hope that all lawyers could be a strong voice for justice and make a positive difference in the lives of British Columbians.

Amber Alert system helps inform public

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

Children, teens, and even adults can be vulnerable victims when it comes to kidnapping abduction, or simply going missing for unknown reasons.

Five people were reported missing in Richmond in November, including a teenager. While information about missing people is usually shared by local police forces, the province-wide Amber Alert system provides information about child abduction situations that meet certain criteria.

The Amber Alert system uses highway message boards, radio and television announcements, and text messages to share information. The goal of an alert is to involve as many community members as possible to help search for the missing child.

The name "Amber" originates from a nine-year old girl named Amber Hagerman who went missing in January 1996 in Texas. She was out riding her bicycle with her brother in a grocery store parking lot before her disappearance.

Hagerman was last seen by a witness who testified that the driver of a black pickup truck had

shoved Hagerman into his truck before fleeing the scene of the crime. Sadly, Hagerman's body was found four days later in a nearby creek, about eight kilometres from the parking lot. As of 2022, the case remains unsolved.

Hagerman's death triggered a series of events and eventually the establishment of the Amber Alert system. Currently, the system is in place in Canada, the United States, Mexico, and 20 European countries including Belgium, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The social media platform Instagram also made the Amber Alert feature available in other countries such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and New Zealand.

Each location may have slightly different requirements for an Amber Alert to be activated. In B.C., all of the following requirements must be met:

- The victim is under age 18
- Police believe the victim has been abducted
- Police believe the victim is in imminent danger
- Police have obtained enough descriptive information about the victim, abductor, and/or the vehicle involved
- Police believe the alert can be issued in a timely enough manner that the child can be re-

turned or the abductor apprehended

If you receive an Amber Alert, here is what you can do to help:

- Watch for the child, suspect, and/or vehicle described
- Do not attempt to stop the vehicle or apprehend the child/offender yourself
- Immediately report any sightings to the police by calling 9-1-1 and providing the location and a description of the victim, suspect, and/or any vehicle involved
- Do not forward Amber Alerts via text message without first referring to local radio or television, or check bc.rcmp.ca to confirm the validity and current status of the Amber Alert in your area

Between January 2013 and February 2020, Canada issued a total of 56 amber alerts in which 76 children were involved in acts of abduction. Sixty-seven of the children were successfully rescued.

Most recently, an Amber Alert was broadcast to B.C. cellphone users via the Alert Ready system in September after a three-year-old boy was allegedly abducted by his mother from BC Children's Hospital. He was later found in Alberta.

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Tourism Award winners announced



Photo courtesy Tourism Richmond

Chef Nutchaphong of Baan Lao Fine Thai Cuisine was the winner of Tourism Richmond's Passion Award, which recognizes individual achievement.

Late last month, the winners of the inaugural Richmond EPIC Tourism Awards were announced at Tourism Richmond's year-end celebration.

The evening was an opportunity for members of Richmond's tourism industry to connect and recognize the achievements of tourism businesses across the city over the past year. Tourism Richmond chief ex-

ecutive officer Nancy Small and board chair Yannick Simovich expressed their pride in Richmond's tourism businesses and excitement for what the industry will achieve in 2023.

"On behalf of the City of Richmond, it is my pleasure to celebrate Richmond's tourism businesses and the first-ever EPIC Tourism Award winners," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The people and businesses that comprise Richmond's tourism industry help to make Richmond a unique and vibrant city."

The Richmond EPIC Tourism Awards comprise four categories, named after Tourism Richmond's "EPIC" values: excellence, passion, integrity, and collaboration, with applications open to all tourism businesses in Richmond.

"It's fantastic to be able to celebrate what makes Richmond such a compelling place to visit," said Small. "Tourism Richmond is delighted to be able to meet with our partners in the tourism and hospitality industry, and to recognize the amazing people and businesses with our new EPIC Tourism Awards."

The winners were:

- Excellence Award for Innovation: Richmond Olympic Experience
- Passion Award for Individual Achievement: Nutchaphong of Baan Lao Fine Thai Cuisine
- Integrity Award for Community Impact: Lansdowne Centre
- Collaboration Award for Collaborative Project or Initiative: Grand Prix of Art

Snow tires help navigate winter weather

By SAMUEL CHENG
Reporter

Richmond has already seen its first snowfall, and driving in the snow can be both tricky and dangerous. Having the right set of tires for your car can significantly improve its safety and maneuverability in snowy weather.

Car tires can be categorized into three main types: winter tires, summer tires, and all-season tires.

Winter tires, or snow tires, are made with a special kind of rubber that is designed to stay soft and pliable in cold temperatures. Unlike all-season tires or summer tires where the rubber hardens below seven degrees Celsius, the rubber of winter tires stays flexible, offering better traction on snowy and icy roads.

Additionally, winter tires have deeper tread and unique tread patterns that help expel water, snow, and slush. Special biting edges improve winter tires' grip in snow and ice.

However, winter tires wear out much faster in hotter temperatures, so it is recommended that people swap to all-season or summer tires during warmer seasons.

Summer tires, also known as performance tires, shine in hotter temperatures. They offer drivers more confidence through precise handling and control. These tires are commonly found on sports cars and luxury SUVs, and are the go-to tires for spirited drivers and racers.

But summer tires have less groove compared to winter or all-season tires, which translates to lower mileage and durability in comparison. And given their name, summer tires are not ideal for colder weather.

All-season tires provide adequate grip and traction for a wide range of weather conditions and temperatures. They can drive in sunny and rainy conditions, and even light snow.

All-season tires can be described as a jack of all trades, master of none. They do not offer as much



Photo via minit-tune.com

Snow tires can help improve a car's safety and maneuverability in winter weather.

performance as summer tires, and do not perform well in deep snow or on very icy roads. Nonetheless, their versatile performance is loved by daily drivers and commuters.

Richmond, similar to other cities across the Lower Mainland, does not get as much snow as other Canadian cities like Edmonton or Montreal. But it is still important for drivers to understand how to safely navigate through the snow.

When travelling in snowy weather, first think about how confident you are driving in a snow-storm or icy rain. If you are uncomfortable driving in harsh weather conditions, wait until conditions improve.

When driving, do not slam on the brakes; instead, lightly tap on the brakes to gradually slow down. On icy roads, braking hard will cause a car to lock its wheels and propel the car out of control.

Keeping more distance between your car and

the car in front of you is a good idea, as it will provide more reaction time and a longer stopping distance for your vehicle. Staying on main roads will help significantly as snow plows and salt trucks frequent areas with the highest amount of traffic.

Driving slower and avoiding uphill stretches can be crucial as well. Avoid panicking and try to remain calm if your vehicle does skid or slide out of control.

Equipping a car with winter tires will provide help to both front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive vehicles. It is a good idea to allow more time to get places and avoid rushing in snowy weather.

To check the age of your tires, look on the sidewall of the rubber, where a four-digit number will be imprinted. The first two digits indicate the week that the tire was manufactured in, and the last two digits indicate the year. For example, a tire marked 2917 was manufactured in the 29th week of 2017.

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Richmond Lotto 6/49 ticket scores \$5 million jackpot

The holiday season is a little merrier for a Lotto 6/49 ticketholder who bought a ticket in Richmond for a recent draw.

The Richmond Lotto 6/49 ticket was the only one in Canada with the winning numbers of 4, 18, 26, 36, 41, and 42 to claim the classic \$5 million jackpot.

This marks the fifth time this year that a Lotto 6/49 ticket purchased in B.C. has won the jackpot. The odds of winning a Lotto 6/49 jackpot are one in 13,983,816.

All lottery prize winners have 52 weeks from the draw date printed on their ticket to come forward and claim their prize. The retail location where the winning lottery ticket was purchased and the lottery winners' name(s) will be announced after the winner has come forward to

claim their prize.

So far in 2022, B.C. lottery players redeemed more than \$101 million in winnings from Lotto 6/49.

Lotto 6/49 is a nationwide lottery game drawn on Wednesdays and Saturdays after 7:30 p.m. (PST). The Gold Ball Draw is a guaranteed prize draw where players will win either the guaranteed prize of \$1 million, or the growing Gold Ball Jackpot that starts at \$10 million. The classic jackpot offers a prize that is always \$5 million.

Players can purchase tickets at any lottery retailer or at PlayNow.com. Players can now check their lottery tickets anytime, anywhere on iOS and Android devices.

For more information about BCLC, visit GameSense.com

B.C. reducing child care fees

Investments in child care continue to save money for families throughout British Columbia by putting money back into the pockets of parents and making life more affordable as child care fee reductions take effect.

"Expanding access to high-quality, affordable child care opens up access to opportunity—and is key to making sure we have the skilled workforce we need to keep our communities running" said Premier David Eby.

The ChildCareBC plan, launched in 2018, began as a vision of uniting a patchwork of programs and services, and addressing skyrocketing fees that were increasingly putting child care out of reach for many families, and to build child care as a core service that families can depend upon. Through historic investments at the provincial level and a partnership with the federal government, child care in B.C. is more affordable, accessible, and higher quality.

"Our plan to make life more affordable is delivering concrete results for parents who are struggling with the rising cost of living and ensuring every child can get the best possible start in life," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Increased reductions in child care fees of up to \$550 more per child per month took effect on Dec. 1, and are helping about 69,000 families with the cost of child care. This is in addition to the savings of up to \$350 per month per child that were introduced in 2018, which participating child care providers were already passing on to families.

"As parents of three kids—a toddler, a preschooler, and a school-aged child—the reduction in fees is absolutely life changing" said Reut Dahan, a parent at Richmond Jewish Day School. "Thanks to this amazing program being implemented, our costs are now reduced by over \$1,000 a month, allowing both of us to work full time and easing some of our financial stress. We have peace of mind knowing that our children are enjoying the benefits of safe and quality child care."

Additionally, with the most recent batch of more than 2,450 spaces that have moved into the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program as of Dec. 1, there are more than 10,500 \$10 a Day spaces in B.C. Thousands more spaces are under negotiation and expected to be implemented in the coming weeks.

A number of Richmond facilities are among the 61 across B.C. with new \$10 a Day ChildCareBC spaces: Baby Steps Childcare Ltd. has 10 new infant-toddler spaces at Baby Steps Infant and Toddler Care, and the Developmental Disabilities Association of Vancouver-Richmond has 24 new spaces for those aged 2.5 years to kindergarten at Riverside Child Development Centre.

The Society of Richmond Children's Centres has four locations with new spaces:

- Bowling Green Road Children's Centre: 49 spaces (24 infant-toddler, 25 for those aged 2.5 years to kindergarten)
- Cranberry Children's Centre: 34 spaces (nine infant-toddler, 25 for those aged 2.5 years to kindergarten)
- Garden Children's Centre: 37 spaces (12 infant-toddler, 25 for those aged 2.5 years to kindergarten)
- Terra Nova Children's Centre: 25 spaces for those aged 2.5 years to kindergarten

"We are pleased to be entering the \$10 a Day program for all six of our Richmond centres on behalf of our families," said Nicky Byres, executive director, Society of Richmond Children's Centres. "We know this move will be life changing for many, and we look forward to continuing to work with the government on all aspects of the child care system to support the success of the \$10 a Day plan."

The expansion of the \$10 a Day program and the enhanced savings, which build on investments made as part of the province's \$2.7-billion investment in ChildCareBC since 2018, are being funded through the 2021–22 to 2025–26 \$3.2-billion Canada-British Columbia Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.



Photo via flickr.com

B.C.'s expansion of the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program is being funded through an agreement between the province and the federal government.

In addition, the province continues to make investments for all families to access affordable child care through the Affordable Child Care Benefit. Families earning as much as \$111,000 per year may be eligible for additional help with the cost of child care.

Since the launch of ChildCareBC, the provincial government, with support from the federal government, has also funded the creation of more than 30,500 new licensed child care spaces, with 10,500 spaces open and more than 20,000 more spaces in development or construction.



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Vancouver-based actress stars in holiday movies

By JIM GORDON &
LEETA LIEPINS
Contributors

Jordana Largy is one of the busiest actresses working in Vancouver, working on movies and TV series for the past two decades. The *Our City Tonight* team recently spoke with Largy about her career, including two new holiday movies.

Our City Tonight (OCT): *You have been very busy these past years, and you were continuously busy even through the pandemic—tell us a little bit about that.*

Jordana Largy (JL): I was very fortunate to go back to work very quickly; my first show back was in August 2020. It was a little stressful because there were all these new rules with masks and testing, but I felt very fortunate to be back at work.

OCT: *How do you feel about the auditions now—are you actually going in for auditions or is it still all self-tape?*

JL: It is still all self-tape and I love it. I think it's a great platform since casting is able to see more people, newer people, and it can bring a lot more opportunity.

OCT: *That's a wonderful, positive view; I've heard mostly the cons of self-taping, (so) it's excellent to hear a positive opinion.*

JL: Obviously, each platform has pros and cons but I personally really enjoy self-taping my auditions.

OCT: *You have two wonderful holiday movies coming out just in time for the holiday season—tell us a little bit about (them).*

JL: I do have two movies coming out, one is called *A Royal Christmas Match*. It's my first lead in a romantic comedy and I play a Christmas princess. The story tells of Princess Camille who comes to America to try and set up an exchange program with one of the universities to save her home country's university. It's there I meet a handsome professor, and of course we fall in love and then there's Christmas. The other movie is *When Christmas Was Young*, and this is very cool because the executive producer is Sheryl Crow and there's a new



Photo courtesy Jordana Largy
Vancouver-based actress Jordana Largy is in two new holiday movies this year.

original song written by her as well.

OCT: *What are you finding the most fun as an actress in Vancouver?*

JL: Playing a princess was pretty fun as I've never played a princess before. There's so much opportunity right now (in Vancouver) and there's a lot of filming and a lot of different projects happening in Vancouver as well. There are some cool series being filmed and a lot of fun, light, romantic comedies.

OCT: *What have you not done yet as an actress that you'd really love to do?*

JL: Oh that's easy: be a series regular. That's my next goal.

OCT: *Any particular genre?*

JL: I love drama; it's always been my favourite. Comedy is fun but dramas are definitely my jam.

OCT: *Is there a favourite Vancouver actor that you haven't worked with yet that you'd like to work with? I know you have a lot of friends in the industry so that might be a tough question.*

JL: It's been a few years since I've worked with him, and I'd really like to work with him again because he's just doing so incredibly well—I'm so proud of Aleks Paunovic. Just to see how great he's doing is wonderful.

OCT: *Do you have any other last words, say, for somebody who might be just breaking into the acting industry?*

JL: My advice would be to just keep trying. Don't let little things get you down, keep going and keep fighting. If you really love it, it's worth it.

OCT: *We wish you continued success and we look forward to seeing these great holiday movies.*

A Royal Christmas Match and *When Christmas Was Young* are available to watch this month.

For the full video interview, visit richmondsentinel.ca/videos

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

Richmond teams compete at Tsumura Basketball Invitational

The Steveston-London secondary senior boys basketball team and McMath secondary senior girls basketball team competed at the Tsumura Basketball Invitational in Langley earlier this month.

The Steveston-London Sharks placed fourth out of the eight boys' teams in their draw group.

In their first game, they beat the College Heights Cougars by a score of 84 to 77. Roop Jaswal hit nine three-pointers, including six in the third quarter, and finished with 41 points.

But on day two of the boys' tournament, taking on the North Delta Huskies, the Sharks fell short and finished with a score of 54 points to the Huskies' 82. Jaswal again led the team with 14 points.

The Steveston-London team played the Lord Byng Grey Ghosts in their group's third place match,

but lost by a score of 55 to 46.

Meanwhile, the McMath Wildcats were part of the girls' 16-team bracket. In their first game against the Okanagan Mission Huskies, the Wildcats scored 45 points to the Huskies' 76. Marina Radocaj was the team's highest scorer with 17 points.

In the team's second game against the Yale Lions, McMath lost by just two points with a final score of 47 to 49.

In their third game against the Fleetwood Park Dragons, McMath won by a score of 50 points to 46. At press time, the McMath Wildcats were scheduled to play their final game against the Argyle Pipers on Saturday (Dec. 17).

For more information on the Tsumura Basketball Invitational, including schedules and scores, visit langleyeventscentre.com/tbi



Photo courtesy Langley Events Centre



Photo courtesy Ryan Molag, Langley Events Centre

The McMath senior girls basketball team (top, in white) and Steveston-London senior boys basketball team (bottom, in white) recently competed at the Tsumura Basketball Invitational in Langley.

Asphalt Paving Advisory

September 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023

The City of Richmond has contracted Jack Cewe Construction Ltd. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from September 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.**

PROPOSED 2022 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

No 5 Road - North of Cambie Road (Mitchell Elementary School Frontage) Vibrations
7411 No 1 Road - Vibrations
7000 Block No 3 Road (Granville Avenue - Blundell Road)
Great Canadian Way - River Road - Bridgeport Road
Minoru Blvd (Lansdowne Road - Alderbridge Way)
Dyke Road (Trites Road - No 2 Road)
11000 Block Steveston Hwy (Shell Road - Coppersmith Place)
Westminster Hwy (Gilley Road - Boundary Road)
18000 Block River Road (No 8 Road - Nelson Road)
River Drive WBL (No 4 Road - Van Horne Way)
Mitchell Road (120 m south of Eburne Way - Twigg Place - EOP East end)
12000 Block Blundell Road (No 5 Road - Sidaway Road)
6000 - 7000 Block Nelson Road (Westminster Hwy - CN Tracks)
Nelson Road (CN Tracks - Dyke Road)
Douglas Crescent + Wellington Crescent + Wellington Avenue + Handley Avenue + Catalina Crescent Anson Ave

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

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

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

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

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at **604-276-4189**, or visit the City's paving program web page at www.richmond.ca/services/rdws/projects/pavingprogram.

Richmond students win Kwantlen Science Challenge

By HANNAH SCOTT
Reporter

A Richmond Secondary School team won first place at last month's Kwantlen Science Challenge, hosted by Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

The day-long competition saw 25 teams competing in challenges based on geology, physics, engineering design, math, and scientific facts presented Jeopardy-style.

Richmond secondary had 14 students compete, split into two teams. Most were in Grade 10, with a few younger students. The group also included three teacher sponsors and two Grade 12 student coaches.

The team met every other day for about four weeks, with increased time and dedication as the competition drew nearer. Students spread out the workload by researching individual tasks, then teaching the team what they learned. By working together, students were able to cover more ground and specific topics.

Connecting with peers has been difficult for students during the pandemic, but the school's science team has enabled bonding between students. In preparing for the competition, they learned about new scientific phenomena, as well as engineering through developing unique bridge designs.

"The team supported each other throughout the competition and learned to be good science students and teammates. When asked, each student cited 'fun' as their number one reason for joining the team," says sponsor teacher Jason Chow.

The Richmond secondary teams particularly excelled in two events: scientific Jeopardy and popsicle stick bridge building. In the Jeopardy portion, questions focused on plant

structure, algebra, ion formation, subatomic particles, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) news, geology, and electrical circuits.

"I still don't know the difference between Ohmic and non-Ohmic devices," adds Grade 10 student Matthew Ji regarding the Jeopardy event.



Photo courtesy Kwantlen Polytechnic University

A Richmond Secondary School science team won first place at the Kwantlen Science Challenge last month.

Students were tasked with building a bridge using 50 popsicle sticks and white glue. Leanne Luk, in Grade 10, used her passion for science to come up with an ingenious design for the team's award-winning bridge, which supported a force of 890 Newtons.

"Her positive attitude, enthusiasm, and dedication to her work were great sources of motivation. She was always willing to help and share her wisdom with the team. We are so grateful for her contributions and proud of her accomplishments," says Chow.

Richmond secondary students were happy to place first out of the 25 teams competing, but mostly happy to have an opportunity to compete again. The teams are grateful to the Kwantlen Science Challenge organizers for facilitating the event, which has been running since 2005.

"It was an unfathomable accomplishment and a great feat elucidating our intellectual capabilities. It was a benevolent delight," says Grade 10 student Oliver Hua.

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It was an unfathomable accomplishment and a great feat elucidating our intellectual capabilities. It was a benevolent delight.

— Oliver Hua

The team supported each other throughout the competition and learned to be good science students and teammates.

— Jason Chow

McNair alumna lands role in Marvel film

By **SAMUEL CHENG**
Reporter

Maya Macatumpag, born and raised in Richmond and a McNair Secondary School graduate, has a role in the latest Marvel film *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*.

"It was an affirmation of the power of speaking things into existence for me. I went to watch the first *Black Panther* (movie) in theatres as a fan. After watching the movie, I remember saying to myself and the rest of my family that if they ever did a second film I would want to be a part of it and to play a Dora Milaje (warrior) for the entire run of the movie," says Macatumpag. "So when I was cast as a Dora Milaje and brought on as a member of the stunt team, it showed me the power of my words and being intentional throughout my career with what I want to get out of it."

The story of the *Black Panther* is about a king named T'Challa in the fictional African nation of Wakanda. The ancient kingdom possesses highly advanced technologies to enhance and boost the power of its military and innate prowess. King T'Challa fights and battles his rivals and doubters,

and ultimately reunites the people of his nation.

Black Panther is the first African superhero in the U.S. comic industry. The film series, directed by Ryan Coogler, is based on comics created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

"Working on a Marvel production is very different than other productions, because off the bat you already understand the magnitude and the impact that whichever film you are working on is going to have to the masses," says Macatumpag. "More

specifically for the *Black Panther* franchise, stepping onto my first day on set the feeling was palpable, and everybody understood that what we were creating was bigger than just a movie; it was a legacy we were carrying on that was started by a world-changing individual in (late star) Chadwick Boseman."

When *Black Panther*, the first film in the franchise, was released in 2018, it broke several records and was the first Marvel film ever to have a Black director and a predominately Black cast. It was nominated for seven Academy Awards and 12 Critics' Choice Movie Awards and won three of each.

"Do not put limitations on yourself, and do not let other people's ideas of what you are limit you. Only you can fully understand and unlock your full potential, so guard your ambition, protect that ambition, and nurture it," says Macatumpag.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever was released last month and is playing at theatres across Canada.

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Photo courtesy Maya Macatumpag

Maya Macatumpag (front row, far left) and other Dora Milaje from *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*.

STR8TS

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

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