



REFLECTING ON 2022



The year in review

Photos submitted

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact people's lives in 2022, many beloved Richmond events and activities were able to resume—albeit with some format changes—and bring people together.

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Reflecting on 2022, a year of recovery

For the third year, COVID-19 continued to impact many facets of daily life. But the high level of vaccination in B.C., plus innovative solutions, allowed many beloved events to return in 2022.

In Richmond, events like Doors Open, the Steveston Salmon Festival, and the Richmond Maritime Festival welcomed people in-person again. Many public health restrictions were removed in the spring, including the mask mandate and BC Vaccine Card program.

In October, Richmond elected a new city council and school board trustees. Longtime city councillors Harold Steves and Linda McPhail announced that they would not be seeking re-election, and two new councillors joined the group of incumbents. Mayor Malcolm Brodie, the city's mayor since a special by-election in 2001, was re-elected for the seventh time. Four of seven incumbent school board trustees were re-elected, joined by two previous trustees and one

new one.

Ground was broken on construction projects across the city including a new sport and event plaza at the Richmond Olympic Oval, the new Steveston community centre, and the new five-lane Steveston interchange as part of the George Massey Tunnel replacement project.

In the last weeks of the year, Richmond saw more snowfall, with crews working 12-hour shifts clearing snow and treating roads. City council discussed updates to the snow removal plans and voted in favour of a pilot initiative for this winter that will see staff clear snow from bike lanes using existing equipment, as well as clearing snow from two multi-use paths.

The holiday season saw Santa's return to Steveston in addition to the reprise of Songs in the Snow, which annually brings people to the Steveston Museum's Town Square Park for festive concerts.

By HANNAH SCOTT

with files from Samuel Cheng, Matthew Cheung and Angel St. George

JANUARY

CARHA Hockey World Cup postponed again

For the third time, the CARHA Hockey World Cup was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially scheduled for spring 2020, the largest international adult recreational hockey tournament will now take place in Richmond in 2023. The week-long event includes more than 260 games, opening and closing ceremonies, and opportunities for camaraderie for the hockey community.

City fitness centres reopen

The city reopened its fitness centres beginning Jan. 20, with physical distancing measures in place to limit the number of people permitted in fitness areas at any given time. Group fitness classes also returned, although with pre-registration required and limits on the number of participants.

Young artist wins contest

Twelve-year-old Richmond artist Lukas Ma was named a winner of FORED BC Society's National Forest Week contest for youth. This year's contest theme was "Our forests—continually giving."

"A deer felt like something that could represent a forest well, and also the antlers of the deer were like branches," said Ma of his artwork.



Photo courtesy CARHA

The CARHA Hockey World Cup was postponed again and will now take place in March 2023.

Art gallery presents NOURISH

The exhibition *NOURISH* at Richmond Art Gallery aimed to help people find connections to nourishment and care. It featured the works of American poet and writer Jane Wong and Greater Vancouver artist duo Mizzonk (Wan-Yi Lin and Roger Chen).

"Even though it's such a dark, grief-filled, loss-filled time (with) a lot of trauma, I really wanted this poem to feel joyful like a feast," said Wong of one of her poems that was part of the exhibition.

Lin and Chen's work *Six Acres* is named after the duo's home, a property of the same size. They made

the move from New York following the events of 9/11.

"Just have a little faith in intuition, and don't underestimate what taking a stroll in nature can do," said Lin of the takeaways she hoped viewers would have.

School district keeps daytime custodians

Richmond School District trustees voted to continue with an enhanced daytime custodial plan

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through the end of June 2022. The cost of \$170,000 was funded by a small budget surplus. The program was originally scheduled to end in February 2022, but trustees approved an option that saw 13 custodians working in 39 elementary schools, with each assigned to three schools.

"I think this is a way of helping people feel comfortable, as comfortable as they can," said trustee Heather Larson.

Trustee Debbie Tablotney agreed, saying the district should "still be erring on the side of caution."

Chinese New Year

While Aberdeen Centre again cancelled its large in-person Chinese New Year celebration, a virtual event helped people share in the festivity from afar on Jan. 31.

Meanwhile, Lansdowne Centre hosted a contest that invited people to guess the weight of a lucky tiger, make a cash donation to the Richmond Food Bank, and write down their wishes for the Year of the Tiger. The winner of the contest received gift cards to Lansdowne Centre stores, and the mall also matched cash donations to the food bank up

to \$5,000.

At the Richmond Public Library, people submitted entries to a couplet contest that followed the first line "白虎出山，正氣寅風摧丑運。" (The white tiger comes out from the mountain, his righteous air blows away bad luck.)

FEBRUARY

City marks Black History Month

The Richmond Public Library offered programs and resources for people of all ages to mark Black History Month. Local advocate Mary Wilson, who initiated the city's programming in 2016, said this year's programs would introduce people to figures like Sir James Douglas, John Sullivan Deas, and Sylvia Stark.

The Richmond Cultural Centre also hosted the *Black Artists and Creators in our Community* art installation during the month of February.

Visual Arts Academy hosts tote bag contest

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Richmond's Visual Arts Academy, founder Liyuan Liu organized a tote bag design contest in response to the city's single-use plastics ban which took effect in March.

Among the contest's winners were three Richmond students, and 14-year-old Richmond Secondary School student Zeng Yijia took home first place honours.

Memorial ukulele collection launches

On World Play Your Ukulele Day (Feb. 2), the Richmond Public Library launched its ukulele lending library in memory of Richmondite Linda Perron. The collection was funded by community donations made in memory of Perron, who was well-known locally for dedication to family and friends, commitment to volunteerism, and passion for grassroots music-making. It consists of 25 ukuleles that are available for teens, adults, and seniors to borrow.



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
The 2022 Branscombe House artist-in-residence was Krystal Kiran.

Krystal Kiran is Branscombe artist-in-residence

The city welcomed new Branscombe House artist-in-residence Krystal Kiran, who was born and raised in Penticton. Kiran, a Punjabi-Canadian performing artist and educator, explores "third culture" identity and the arts as healing practices in her works.

"I've been thinking about how do you create a space of cross-cultural allyship amongst communities," she said. "Richmond is very diverse (with a) lot of different communities of people. My real curiosity is, how do we get people engaging with each other through these practices?"

School district sustainability plan

The Richmond School District outlined its new five-year sustainability and climate action plan. According to the district's manager of energy and sus-



Chinese New Year kicked off the Year of the Tiger.

Photo courtesy Aberdeen Centre

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tainability Jonathan Ho, the goal is “to make waste socially unacceptable in the district.”

The result of two years of effort, the district’s plan is based on nine sustainability pillars: leadership; learning and engagement; climate action; energy conservation; waste reduction; water conservation; grounds; purchasing; and sustainable transportation.

“Ultimately we want to make sure we are good stewards of the environment with what we do from the corporate perspective,” said Ho. “But we also want to make sure that the students we are educating have that same commitment to sustainability and climate action.”

Our City Tonight partnership

The Richmond Sentinel announced a new partnership with *Our City Tonight*, hosted by Leeta Liepins and Jim Gordon, to share entertainment and local business stories and video segments.

Mayor’s annual address

Mayor Malcolm Brodie reflected on local achievements in his annual address hosted by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. He said princi-



Photo courtesy Our City Tonight

The *Richmond Sentinel* announced a new partnership with *Our City Tonight*.

ples of sustainability guide the city forward.

“Sustainability includes the development of policies, services, and supports that ensure we maintain a high quality of life and a strong economy for present and future generations,” said Brodie.

He was hopeful that, later in the year, people would be able to gather for events like the Steveston Salmon Festival, Cherry Blossom Festival, Maritime Festival, and World Festival.

RCMP hosts inaugural Youth Academy

Richmond RCMP held its inaugural Youth Academy program, offering teenagers the opportunity to learn about being a police officer. In collaboration with Richmond School District, the five-day program hosted 32 students in grades 10 through 12 interested in a police career.

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BLUNDELL
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"We wanted to provide participants with a once-in-a-lifetime experience, while creating positive and lasting relationships between the Richmond RCMP and the students of Richmond," said youth section investigator Const. Alison Roberts.

MARCH

Mamas for Mamas partners with outlet mall

A partnership between the local branch of national non-profit Mamas for Mamas and McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver Airport encouraged people to show support for mothers and caregivers in crisis. People were encouraged to donate to Mamas for Mamas, with McArthurGlen matching donations up to \$500.

"We envision a world where no mama, child, or family is left behind," said Celena Arthur, the director of funding development and community engagement at the local Mamas for Mamas branch on Horseshoe Way. "We love the Richmond community (and) want to be central to families that need us most."

Ravens host Ice Classic Tournament

After two years of cancellations, the Richmond Ravens were able to host the recreational Richmond Ice Classic tournament again in 2022. Eleven Ravens teams were among the 66 female teams that played, and three local teams medalled: the U15 C2 team won gold, and the U13 C1 and U15 C1 teams won silver. Teams travelled from as far away as the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, as well

as Oregon and Washington.

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

City hall reopens to public

Richmond city hall reopened to members of the public on March 21. While city hall closed to the public when the pandemic began, customers could still conduct a range of business transactions and applications online. Other city buildings and facilities had reopened previously, including community and aquatic centres, libraries, the Richmond Museum, Richmond Art Gallery, and the city recycling depot.

Richmondite gets Medal of Good Citizenship

Richmondite Isabelle Tang was among those in B.C. who received a 2021 Medal of Good Citizenship. In all, 31 people and one group were honoured with the medal, which recognized people who went above and beyond expectations in their response to COVID-19.

Tang raised \$19,331 during the annual Children's Hospital Balding for Dollars event, as well as volunteering her time and organizing her friends to help with the Children We Care Gala and Time to Shine Gala. She and her family supplied masks to more than nine community organizations on the east side of Vancouver. While the pandemic made it difficult for high school students to participate in community-based volunteer activities, Tang also worked to find safe volunteer opportunities for her friends.

No more single-use plastics

Richmond's new bylaw banning single-use plas-

tics came into effect on March 27. Foam food service ware, plastic straws, and plastic checkout bags are no longer permitted.

"Reducing reliance on single-use plastic is integral to our city's goals for a circular economy, and it's also part of a global effort to protect the environment," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

The bylaw does not require businesses to charge a fee for alternative products like paper or reusable bags, although businesses can implement fees at their own discretion. The city also worked with local businesses to help them prepare for the implementation of the bylaw.

School district votes to upgrade ventilation

Seventeen Richmond schools were slated to receive ventilation upgrades after school board trustees voted in favour of a \$12 million package. The pandemic has highlighted the lack of mechanical ventilation in many older Richmond public schools, according to a report to the board. Ventilation can only be produced by opening windows built above radiators to warm the in-coming air.

The district's facilities services department estimated the cost based on allowances for electrical and boiler upgrades as necessary, as well as removal of hazardous materials like asbestos.

"Staff don't believe that proceeding with this program using local capital reserves will have a negative impact on future seismic upgrades," said the district's executive director of facilities services Frank Geyer.

APRIL

Minoru Lakes restoration begins

Minoru Park's lakes district closed in early April and will re-open in early 2023. The updated design features a new cascading waterfall, new plaza areas, site furnishings, paved pathways and boardwalks with lighting, planting focused on ecological benefits, and more. Renewal of the lakes is a result of a combination of factors including aging and inefficient infrastructure.

The existing lakes and plaza areas, as well as some pathways and trails, are closed during construction. Other amenities within Minoru Park remain open.

New community garden opens

The city opened its largest community garden to date, with 200 plots available on the Garden City Lands.

"We have a list of people wanting a garden plot that is so full, so this is such a welcome addition to the city," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

Richmond's community garden sites are managed by non-profit organization Urban Bounty. Its urban agriculture coordinator Stephanie Mak said when the new garden opened, about 500 people remained on the city's waitlist for garden plots.

A number of bee hives are also on-site at the new community garden, with the outside of the hive boxes painted by local artists.



Photo courtesy McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver Airport

The local branch of non-profit Mamas for Mamas partnered with McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver Airport for International Women's Day.

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Paralympian inducted to Circle of Excellence

Richmond Paralympian Walter Wu was inducted to Swimming Canada's Circle of Excellence. The ceremony took place alongside the 2022 Bell Canadian Swimming Trials, which served as a qualification meet for this year's World Championships and Commonwealth Games.

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," said 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."

Cherry Blossom Festival online

The Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival returned as a virtual celebration, featuring original video content including how-to demonstrations with local artisans and new musical performances. The festival annually highlights the beauty of 255 Akebono cherry trees that were donated to the city from the BC Wakayama Kenjin Kai. People could also see the blooming of the cherry blossoms in Garry Point Park through weekly blossom reports shared via Instagram Stories.

New Minoru arts centre gets funding

The city received more than \$2 million in joint provincial and federal funding for its new arts centre, which will be a repurposing of the former Minoru Place Activity Centre. The local commitment is part of a joint federal-provincial initiative that saw more than \$110.3 million going to 57 commu-

nity, recreation, and green infrastructure projects across B.C. Richmond's new facility will include two dance studios, a pottery studio, a media arts studio, and multipurpose program rooms.

Night market opens

The Richmond Night Market opened on April 29 with a theme of "Summer Magic Rainbow," aiming to offer a rainbow of possibilities to visitors.

"The rainbow represents the end of a rainstorm," said founder Raymond Cheung. "After the storm of the pandemic, the sun is shining through right here."

Cheung founded the market 22 years ago, hoping to contribute something unique and family-friendly to Richmond's night life.

The night market's international food court, with over 500 unique dishes, is one of the biggest appeals for visitors.

MAY

New Fire-Rescue, RCMP leaders

Richmond Fire-Rescue and Richmond RCMP both welcomed new leaders in the month of May.

Former deputy fire chief Jim Wishlove, who has been an active firefighter for over 30 years, is taking over the post of chief from Tim Wilkinson.

Chief Superintendent Dave Chauhan is Richmond RCMP's new officer in charge, taking over from Chief Superintendent Will Ng who held the post for five years and is now Assistant Commissioner in charge of federal investigative services and organized crime for BC RCMP.

New chamber president

Shaena Furlong took over as president and chief executive officer of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, replacing Dan Baxter who departed for personal reasons. Furlong spent a decade working for the organization in various capacities, most recently as its director of operations. The chamber also welcomed new communications and policy coordinator Aleena Hussain, as well as a new board of directors.



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Jim Wishlove became the chief of Richmond Fire-Rescue in May.

Artist donates pieces

World-renowned artist Cecilia Aisin-Gioro attended a Richmond fundraising gala and donated three pieces of her art. Born in China, Aisin-Gioro is a descendant of the Qing Dynasty royal family. She now lives in Vancouver.

"My art is a visible creation that comes from the invisible language (that) I see around people, stories, inner worlds, passions, instincts, and consciousness," said Aisin-Gioro.

Young Richmondites excel

Richmondite Maryam Abusamak, 16, was one of three winners in B.C.'s Democracy & Me poetry contest with her poem "My Weapon." She saw the poetry contest as "a perfect opportunity to raise my voice and make a difference through words."

Another Richmondite, Kieran Foster, won first place at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair. His chemistry project successfully changed the chemical composition of wood to make it harder.

Teenage artist Angel Yuan displayed her original art installation, *Sugar Coated*, at Richmond's Lipont Gallery. The display is a colourful landscape, reminiscent of mountain ranges depicted in Dr. Seuss's art, that replicates the appearance of quartz crystal with the use of sugar.

Track and field championships back in Richmond

The B.C. Elementary Track and Field Championships returned to Richmond in late May. This was the 52nd year that Kajaks Track and Field Club hosted the event.

"The B.C. Elementary Track and Field Championships (BCEC) has been a stepping stone for most kids as their first exposure to compete in a big sanctioned meet," said Kajaks executive board member Lanie Man. "We strive to provide a fun,



Photo by Hannah Scott

The new community garden on the Garden City Lands has 200 plots.

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safe, and supportive environment for the student athletes to compete in."

The event is open to all students in grades 3 to 7, with no qualifying or experience necessary.

Byng elementary marks centenary

Lord Byng Elementary School celebrated its 100th birthday with a variety of activities. But the property's use as a school dates back to 1897 when the first one-room school—named Steveston School—was built near the corner of No. 1 Road and Georgia Street. In 1923, the school began allowing Japanese, Chinese, and First Nations students to attend. The current school building was constructed in 1995.

"For me it's really important to look at history—learning about the school's history gives us a connection to place," said Byng teacher Helen Sipsas, who has taught at the school since 1990. "We reflect on history, create memories, connect with culture, and establish identity."

Sprouts early childhood development hub opens

The city's first Early Childhood Development (ECD) Hub, called Sprouts, had its official opening in late May. It is the 11th city-owned facility providing licensed child care and is operated by the YMCA of Greater Vancouver. There are 92 spaces for infants, toddlers, and children up to 12 years old. A second city-owned ECD Hub, Seedlings, opened in July.

JUNE

Richmond hosts wheelchair rugby tournament

The 2022 Canada Cup International Wheelchair



Photo courtesy Kevin Bogetti-Smith/BC Wheelchair Sports

The 2022 Canada Cup International Wheelchair Rugby Tournament took place at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Rugby Tournament took place in Richmond and saw the Canadian men's team competing in its first international competition, taking on six other teams.

The Canada Cup aims to provide an opportunity for the top teams in the sport to get competition ahead of the World Championships and Paralympics.

Doors Open again

Doors Open Richmond returned in early June, offering in-person activities as well as online op-

tions. This year's event featured 35 sites that represent the city's cultural diversity and rich heritage. The event is organized by the Richmond Museum Society.

"Richmond is one of the most diverse cities in Canada, with more than 60 per cent of residents born outside of the country," said Jaeden Dela Torre, vice-chair of the Richmond Museum Society. "Doors Open Richmond is a chance to celebrate this diversity and a way to bring together the many communities that comprise the city."

Faces of Richmond exhibition

During Seniors Week, the Community Arts Council of Richmond presented a unique art exhibition, *Faces of Richmond*, that introduced residents to seniors' stories.

Local artist Bea Martin said the idea of the project, to speak to people and paint their portraits, had always appealed to her. In the end, 10 artists worked on 12 portraits and the finished artworks were given to the seniors after they were displayed in the Seniors Centre in the Minoru Centre for Active Living.

"My hope is that this project is made for (seniors) to feel that they belong and to look back with pride and feel that their contribution matters, that they're a pillar in the community," said Martin.

Lime scooters popping up across Richmond

The city continued to promote its Lime electric scooter (e-scooter) and electric bike (e-bike) program as the weather warmed up, and in June an additional 85 e-scooters, 10 e-bikes, and 25 parking corrals were added to the city centre.

Lime general manager Chris Iuvancigh said the



Photo submitted

Kajaks Track and Field Club hosted the 52nd annual B.C. Elementary Track and Field Championships.

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most popular areas initially were around the Richmond Olympic Oval and near Canada Line stations.

"We started really small on purpose, because we didn't want to spread it too thin. Right now we have 25 parking spaces throughout the Richmond city core, approximately 100 vehicles. We will scale up to get a little bit broader throughout Richmond and provide more parking options," said Iuvancigh.

In the first six weeks or so, nearly 3,500 Lime trips were made in Richmond, covering a total distance of 8,500 kilometres.

Student participates in emerging composers program

Grade 11 student Emma Murray, who plays a multitude of instruments, was part of the Hard Rubber Orchestra jazz band's emerging composers program. She had her original composition, "That's One Cool Dinosaur," played by the orchestra as part of the program.

"I love learning new instruments, and composing and arranging, as well as playing my primary instrument the double bass," said Murray. "Because I have continued to do all of those things, I often have many opportunities to play and be involved in musical events."

JULY

Salmon Festival returns

The 75th annual Steveston Salmon Festival returned in-person on July 1, although without its signature parade or fireworks. This was the first in-person event since 2019, and included four zones for people to take in food, performers, exhibitions, and other activities.



SCSP PHOTOS

Photo by Sherrick Williams

Thousands of spectators watched the return of the Nations Cup in Richmond in July.

City appoints new chief administrative officer

Serena Lusk became Richmond's new chief administrative officer on July 1, following George Duncan stepping down after holding the post for more than 30 years.

Lusk joined the City of Richmond in 2005 and became part of the city's senior management team in 2017, taking on further responsibilities as the city's deputy chief administrative officer in 2020.

Coast Guard celebrates 60 years

The Canadian Coast Guard celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2022. Paul Tobin, officer in charge of the Sea Island Base in Richmond, shared some of the important work done by the organization.

"Our primary role is search and rescue but over the years with global warming we've gotten more involved with scientific research," he said. "We have special equipment on board, and we take a science team out to monitor the straits for microplastics and heavy metals in the water. Also, we check the mud flats when they're totally dry around the Sturgeon Banks area."

Richmond hosts Nations Cup

Richmond hosted the first Nations Cup soccer tournament since 2019. Showcasing the talent of people from all over B.C., players are grouped together based on their ethnic backgrounds or countries of origin. China, India, England, Italy, Germany, and Canada were among the nations represented this year.

There were more than 1,000 participants and at least 10,000 spectators. This year saw some teams repeat as champions and new teams pull off upsets.

City's new animal shelter opens

The city's new animal shelter, which is one-third larger than the previous facility, opened on No. 5 Road. It can provide shelter for up to 17 dogs and 40 cats, as well as rabbits and other small animals.

The city and BC SPCA entered into an agreement for animal sheltering and animal control services in Richmond in 2021. Part of that agreement is the operation of the new animal shelter, along with recovery and related services.

Features of the new shelter include heated floors within kennels, hygienic drain and cleaning systems, and interior artwork provided by Richmond students.



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond is part of the province's three-year electric scooter pilot program, with Lime supplying the shared vehicles.

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Young actors take on CATS

The Children's Theatre of Richmond presented an abridged one-hour version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *CATS*, with 24 actors aged nine to 18.

Director and co-producer Mark Carter said all the best-known songs are still included in the shortened show. And despite the actors' young age, they were still treated like adult performers.

"I think when you challenge young performers, they step up to the plate. That's certainly been the case with this show," said Carter.

Richmondite Claire Torrance performed the role of Grizabella the Glamour Cat, who sings "Memory," perhaps the musical's best-known song.

"As I've grown, I've become more and more passionate about musical theatre in every way," said Torrance. "I love being able to work with others that share that same joy and passion."

AUGUST

Rogers, Dunfee get Commonwealth Games medals

Richmond athletes Evan Dunfee and Camryn Rogers won gold medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in England.

Dunfee finished the men's 10,000-metre race walk with a Commonwealth Games record and personal best time of 38:36.37 minutes.

Camryn Rogers finished the women's hammer throw with a best throw of 74.08 metres, topping the second-place finisher by more than four metres.



File photo by Chung Chow

The Steveston Dragon Boat Festival took place in August.



Photo by Emily Cooper

The Children's Theatre of Richmond presented an abridged version of *CATS*.

Rogers also earned a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships in July, making national history as the first Canadian woman to win a medal in a field sport at the World Championships.

Garlic Festival returns

The Sharing Farm held its first in-person Garlic Festival since 2019. The signature event of the Sharing Farm, the Garlic Festival started more than 15 years ago as an opportunity to teach the community about food security, the mission of the Sharing Farm, and more.

"We want people to come and experience this beautiful rural park where the farm is located. We also want to inform community members of the opportunities to purchase and enjoy local food grown in their neighbourhood," said Rae Jampole, events coordinator at the Sharing Farm.

Dragon boats back in action

One of the province's largest dragon boat races, the Steveston Dragon Boat Festival welcomed racers back to the water near the Britannia Heritage Shipyards.

Steveston hosted many competitors from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the interior of B.C., Washington state, and Oregon.

The sport initially started in mainland China and slowly spread

to its surrounding regions. Due to British influences, dragon boat racing became a community sport, and eventually the sport reached Canada in the 1980s and 1990s.

Maritime Festival returns

The Richmond Maritime Festival returned with five themed areas incorporating different aspects of maritime culture: Octopus' Garden, Under the Deep Blue Sea, All Hands on Deck, Port of Call, and Captain's Quarters.

"Visitors will be able to fill their senses and experience how the nautical past lives on today through rich storytelling, exhibitions, and through the passion of our community groups who help to preserve the arts and craftsmanship of our maritime history," said Mimi Horita, the city's destination development coordinator of Steveston Heritage Sites and Museum and Heritage Services.

Richmondite rides for cancer research

When her father died suddenly from cancer on her birthday in 2017, Richmondite Andrea Lee bought a bike and signed up for the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

Now called the Tour de Cure, Lee participated in the BC Cancer Foundation's event again this year, riding 100 kilometres to raise awareness and funds to support cancer research.

"The very first year I did it, I signed up right after my dad died," said Lee. "I didn't know what to do in my grief, so I impulsively bought a bike and signed up for the ride. I really enjoy it—I think it's a great

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event, a great cause.”

Lee’s dad Martin was a cyclist, and she’s kept up her biking since that first organized ride five years ago. Her favourite place to ride in Richmond is along the dyke.

Kajaks Masters athletes excel

Richmond Kajaks athlete Fred Pawluk was part of a Masters relay team that set a world record at the August Masters Multi-Events Championships. The men’s 4x800m relay team, whose members are aged 75 to 79, finished the run with a time of 12:27.64 minutes.

“Individually and collectively we were quite elated,” said Pawluk. “We did the equivalent of high fives with our fists a number of times and congratulated each (runner) for their contribution.”

Richmondite competes in Earth Science Olympiad

Eric Li, a recent Richmond Secondary School graduate, represented Canada in the International Earth Science Olympiad. Li, who won first place in the Canadian national competition, was also named the captain of Team Canada for the international competition hosted by Italy.

“This has always been a dream of mine, to compete in International Science Olympiads,” said Li.

He has also agreed to help organize and mentor next year’s Team Canada for the international competition, sharing his passion for science with other students.

SEPTEMBER

Caravan Stage presents final show

To close out 52 years of touring, travelling theatre



Photo courtesy Caravan Stage

The Caravan Stage Company closed out its final tour at Richmond’s Shelter Island Marina in early September.

company The Caravan Stage performed at Richmond’s Shelter Island Marina.

Founded by Paul Kirby and Adriana Kelder, Caravan started out as a horse-drawn wagon theatre company and then toured on a tall ship called *Amarra Zee*. The company’s farewell show *Virtual Rogues* focused on the ethics and ethos of the digital future, and featured aerial acrobats and large projections.

“I’ve been with the company for 12 years, and every show really is right up against what’s happening, even if it’s at an almost intangible, subtle level,” said longtime company member and production coordinator Doria Bramante.

verisimilitude on at Fringe Festival

Richmond’s Direct Theatre Collective presented a new show, *verisimilitude*, at the Vancouver Fringe Festival.

Artistic director Jill Raymond, who also starred in the show, called it a theatre-film hybrid. Project-

ed video elements interacted with live scenes on stage, focusing on the concept of living entirely in a digital realm.

“There’s a lot of comedy in the show but it does explore some deeper themes such as mental health, isolation, and struggling with the idea of what purpose is on the planet and why we’re here,” said Raymond.

Forever Young 8K back in action

The annual Forever Young 8K run took place at the Richmond Olympic Oval after being cancelled in 2020 and converted to a virtual run in 2021.

This event started in 2015 with a group of seniors who occasionally entered marathons but were always surrounded by very fast young people. The runners found that no one would stay around for the older winners during the award ceremonies.

“In celebration of seniors who maintain their fitness, and to enjoy the camaraderie of other fit seniors, we decided it was time to have our event,” said John Young, founder of the Forever Young Club and the 8K run.

Temporary supportive housing opens

A temporary supportive housing building opened to help provide safe and secure homes to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Located at 2520 Smith St., Aster Place is a three-storey modular building with 40 self-contained units, each with a private washroom and kitchenette. The building has a commercial kitchen, laundry facilities, and storage space.

Aster Place provides housing for about 30 people living in Richmond’s temporary Emergency Response Centre (ERC), which provided safe accommodation for vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic and is now closed. Vacancies in the building are being filled by other people in the community who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.



Photo courtesy Richmond Kajaks

Kajaks athlete Fred Pawluk (second from left) was part of the relay team that set a world record at the Masters Multi-Events Championships.

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Writer-in-residence begins tenure

Poet Lindi Nolte began her tenure as Richmond's 2022 writer-in-residence, offering a series of performances, writing circles, workshops, and mentorship opportunities to the Richmond community.

Nolte, who moved to Canada from South Africa at age nine, began writing as a child when her mom gave her a journal. The spoken word community helped her find a place amid the sometimes rigid rules of poetry.

"Finding spoken word allowed me to feel that page poetry rules don't apply to me, so I don't need to follow them. I just need to work out what feels good and sounds good in my body," said Nolte.

Hand-woven blanket at city hall

A hand-woven blanket by prominent Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow now hangs in council chambers at Richmond city hall. The hand-spun sheep wool blanket's design honours Sparrow's ancestors and the heron, the majestic bird associated with the city and its many waterways and natural landscapes.

Sparrow created the blanket during her tenure at the Blue Cabin floating artist residency in Steveston in April and May 2022. The Blue Cabin will be in Steveston through January 2024.

Adult education centre opens

Richmond's new adult education centre opened in the old Mitchell elementary annex. The school has seven classrooms and two dedicated computer labs to help facilitate blended learning programs. There is also ample office space, enabling the district's continuing education staff to work together on-site.

Then-board chair Sandra Nixon said prior to this year, the district's adult education programs were spread out and took place at multiple sites. Now, most adult education programs will be offered at the new location.

OCTOBER

Kids learn about nature journaling

Students at two Richmond elementary schools got a firsthand lesson in nature journaling thanks to workshops with artist Bea Martin. The workshops, a collaboration between Richmond Arts Coalition and Richmond School District, were part of Culture Days with final pieces displayed at Branscombe House.

"All the kids were so involved, because it was a very different class from the ones that they're used to," said Martin. "We are giving them tools to explore—we're not telling them to follow any specific rules. The response has been phenomenal."

Richmond election results in minimal change



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond opened a new adult education centre in the old Mitchell elementary annex.

All six incumbent city councillors who were seeking re-election—Chak Au, Carol Day, Andy Hobbs, Alexa Loo, Bill McNulty, and Michael Wolfe—again found success, with new councillors Laura Gillanders and Kash Heed also winning seats. Longtime councillors Linda McPhail and Harold Steves did not seek re-election.

Mayor Malcolm Brodie, the province's longest-serving mayor first elected in 2001, was re-elected as an independent candidate.

Incumbent school board trustees Ken Hamaguchi, Heather Larson, Donna Sargent, and Debbie Tablotney were joined by Rod Belleza and Alice Wong, both of whom were trustees previously, and new trustee David Yang. Incumbent trustees Norm Goldstein and Sandra Nixon did not seek re-election, and incumbent trustee Richard Lee was not re-elected.

Voter turnout for the 2022 municipal election was around 25 per cent, with just over 35,000 ballots cast, according to a news release from the city.

RCMP officer dies

RCMP Const. Shaelyn Yang, a Richmond resident who died after a stabbing incident in Burnaby, was remembered by her colleagues.

"Those she worked with before joining the RCMP, and her police colleagues today, describe Const. Yang as a kind and compassionate person, which makes her death even more difficult to accept," said Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, BC RCMP Commanding Officer, in a statement.

He said Yang was partnered with a City of Burnaby employee and was engaged in her duties at a homeless camp on Gilmore Way. An altercation took place and Yang was fatally stabbed. Despite the best efforts of emergency responders who attended the scene, Yang succumbed to her injuries. The suspect was shot, resulting in non-life threatening injuries.

Yang's regimental funeral was held at Richmond Olympic Oval in early November.

ParaTough cup at Oval

The ParaTough Cup took place at Richmond Olympic Oval and saw participants competing against others in three different sports: wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, and Para ice hockey. Funds raised through the event support the Paralympic Foundation of Canada.

"One thing that inspires people to participate is competition; we built the event to be competitive," said Dean Brokop, director of the Paralympic Foundation of Canada. "The second thing that inspires people to participate is the chance to learn more about disability, and being more aware of it has been an important topic. We have seen so many people who just want to make a difference."

Locals inducted to BC Sports Hall of Fame

The BC Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2023 included Richmond judo pioneer Jim Kojima and the 1971 Richmond Roadrunners men's lacrosse team.

Kojima has been involved with the Steveston Judo Club for 70 years. He was an international referee involved with Olympic Games and World Judo Championships as well as being president of Judo Canada and director of the International Judo Federation Referee Commission.

The 1971 Roadrunners defied expectations and won the Minto Cup that year, the first Western Canadian team to win the National Junior A Lacrosse championship in nine years.

Induction into the BC Sports Hall of Fame is the highest sporting honour in British Columbia. Since 1966, the BC Sports Hall of Fame has inducted 442 individuals and 67 teams to its Hall of Champions.

Halloween fireworks dazzle

For the first time since 2019, people gathered at the Minoru Track for a dazzling fireworks display on Halloween.

"The event has been in place for several years and is one of the few in the Lower Mainland to fea-

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ture a fireworks display. The City of Richmond has a history of staging family-friendly events, and this is just another example of that tradition," said Clay Adams, the city's director of corporate communications and marketing.

NOVEMBER

Richmond remembers

The city's Remembrance Day ceremony returned in-person on Nov. 11. The parade included units of Canadian veterans; members of the Royal Canadian Legion and Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada; Richmond's permanent Canadian Forces Unit 39 Service Battalion; representation from public safety agencies; and cadet organizations.

Meanwhile, at Palmer secondary, students found innovative ways to observe Remembrance Day.

"We have placed our students at the centre of this ceremony, as it gives them a sense of responsibility, leadership, and ownership of the ceremony," said teacher Ashley van Kralingen. "They are able to focus on the messages they find important, gain valuable skills, and share their learning and passions with the school and Richmond community."

Two local McDonald's managers win award

Two Richmond staff members were among the McDonald's Canada managers who received the 2022 Outstanding Manager of the Year Award. Baljit Sokhi from the Lansdowne location and Eileen Regala from the Russ Baker Way location were recognized for their exceptional leadership, hard work, dedication, and commitment to McDonald's Canada and its customers.

The prestigious accolade is awarded to only the top 10 per cent of managers working across 1,400-plus Canadian locations. This is the second award win for both Sokhi and Regala.

"To win this award means the world to me, to be recognized by the organization that I love in my efforts and hard work," said Sokhi.

Regala said: "My job is all about building relationships, creating memories, and creating a fun environment where people have a sense of belonging."

Black Panther sequel features Richmondite

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*.

"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," said Macatumpag.

She was cast as a Dora Milaje and brought on as a member of the stunt team, and that success



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The Minoru Fireworks Festival returned to celebrate Halloween.

taught her the power of her words and intentions.

Christmas Fund helping locals

The Richmond Christmas Fund marked its 90th year in operation. A program of Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG), the Christmas Fund assists low-income residents during the holidays, providing them with grocery vouchers, toys, books, and gift cards.

"The Christmas Fund was launched in 1932, and throughout its history has remained a grassroots, community-led initiative," said Ed Gavsie, president and chief executive officer of RCRG. "Its mission then, as now, is to ensure that all of our neighbours in need can share in the holiday spirit."

The Richmond RCMP Toy Drive raised \$26,304 in cash as well as 1.6 tonnes of toys. The A Not So Silent Night reception and auction campaign set new

fundraising records, with a final amount of \$110,895 raised.

Local girl places in Little Sunshine pageant

Richmond's Athena Mai finished as second runner-up as well as the People's Choice Award winner in November's Little Sunshine Talent Search.

Back for the first time since the pandemic, the competition took place at Aberdeen Centre and featured 10 boys and girls. The competitors sang, danced, and showed off a multitude of talents in front of hundreds of audience members.

Mai, age nine, is a big fan of K-pop's BLACKPINK and dreams of becoming a professional pianist so she can use music to enrich people's lives like BLACKPINK's Lisa.

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Photo submitted

Richmond's Athena Mai (second from right) finished as second runner-up as well as the People's Choice Award winner in November's Little Sunshine Talent Search.

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Businesses, locals honoured with awards

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce recognized the top business leaders in Richmond at the 45th annual Business Excellence Awards. Awards were handed out in 10 categories, as well as a hall of fame induction that honours a Richmond business with at least 25 years of history in the community.

The winners of the inaugural Richmond EPIC Tourism Awards were announced at Tourism Richmond's year-end celebration. The 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.

City considers Truth and Reconciliation policy

Richmond councillors were unanimously in support of a possible Truth and Reconciliation policy for the city at a November general purposes committee meeting.

The motion, brought forward by Coun. Michael Wolfe, details various suggestions for ways the city could move forward. The possibilities include regular meetings with the Musqueam council; mandatory training for city staff and council members on issues of Indigenous-specific racism and decolonization; a plan to implement some of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action; and the creation of a municipal committee, task force, or staff position to address Indigenous issues.

Wolfe's motion was amended to include a June 2021 referral that directed staff to analyze possibilities for recognition of and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.



Photos courtesy Government of B.C.

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

DECEMBER

Two more Richmondites get Medal of Good Citizenship

Two Richmondites are among the 15 British Columbians who received the 2022 Medal of Good Citizenship for their dedication and selfless service to their communities.

As a teen, Winston Sayson, K.C. immigrated to B.C. from the Philippines. Sayson was a criminal barrister who 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.

Seeing a lack of mental health and wellness resources, 20-year-old Rishika Selvakumar founded the first mental health club at her high school, Little Flower Academy, when she was in Grade 10. After high school, she continued on in mental health advocacy by starting The Wellness Proposal. This virtual campaign was hosted by University of British Columbia (UBC) students and aimed to create a positive mental health environment through many projects, including youth-run events and mentorship programs that served nearly 40 undergraduate students.

Victor Ghirra Toy Drive

Santa's helpers from communities across the Lower Mainland merrily made their way to the grand toy count in Richmond for the 16th annual Victor Ghirra Toy Drive. The toy drive donated toys to a record 18 good causes this year, aiming to bring joy to children and families in need.

In memory of late Richmondite Victor Ghirra, the toy drive is devoted to making holidays brighter for hundreds of children. Ghirra 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.

Richmond Jewish Day School hosts interfaith event

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



Photo 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 in 2022.

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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.

Centre for disability honours outgoing board members

Three longtime Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD) board members were presented with certificates of appreciation. Richmond North Centre MLA Teresa Wat presented the certificates to Mark Bukata, Sarah Ho, and Vince Miele.

Bukata, who joined the board in 2018, was also its treasurer from 2020 to 2022. He has over 25 years of experience in supply chain management and over 15 years of experience training young professionals in the area.

Ho joined the RCD board in 2011 and is vice-chair of the organization’s Chinese Support Group Committee, planning activities and liaison works for close to 400 members of Chinese origin.

Miele joined the RCD board a few years after its inception in 1985, and has assumed many board executive positions countless times, including board chair.

Anne of Green Gables musical on at Gateway

Gateway Theatre presented its holiday show, *Anne of Green Gables - The Musical*, with Coquitlam-raised actor Kyra Leroux in the lead role. Leroux’s TV and film experience includes roles on *Riverdale*, *Schmigadoon!*, *Firefly Lane*,



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond’s 7.5-metre (25-foot) Hanukkah menorah was lit again outside the Richmond Cultural Centre.

and *The J Team*.

“As a Canadian redhead I feel like I’ve been waiting to play (Anne) since the day I was born,” said Leroux. “I started out in competitive dance and musical theatre when I was three or four years old, so I’ve been doing it pretty much my whole life.”

Hanukkah menorah lit again

People gathered at Richmond Cultural Centre 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, bringing Richmondites of all faiths together to celebrate the theme of light illuminating the darkness.

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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