



## RYAN WANG

Piano prodigy  
gives back

08 - 09

# OUR CITY

## Richmond

'GOOD TO KNOW'

by Florence Gordon

### Talk to City Council - Email City Council

You can make your opinions known to our city councillors at any time on any topic by sending an email to [mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca) or by mailing or delivering your letter to Richmond City Hall. Call 604-276-4134 or to directly contact a member of city council.

### Speak at regular Council Meeting

You may also speak directly to council at their regular council meetings or council committee meetings. To learn the procedures for being a delegation at a Council or Council committee meeting please go to *council process* in the city hall section.

### Monthly Public Hearings

City council also hosts monthly public hearings to discuss proposed land use rezoning and other matters for more details visit *About Public Hearings* in the City Hall section.

### Call for Snow Angels – Be a Snow Angel this winter and help a neighbour

The City of Richmond is looking for Snow Angel volunteers this winter season to make a difference and help ensure residents who are elderly, ill or have mobility concerns have an enjoyable and safe winter.

Snow Angels can be individuals, families, students or businesses and can choose the geographic area to work, including their own neighbourhood or any location citywide, and the amount of time to volunteer during snowfall events.

Volunteers will be provided with a shovel, toque and container of ice melt. To learn more about being a Snow Angel volunteer, visit [icanhelp.richmond.ca](http://icanhelp.richmond.ca), call 604-247-4453 or email [parksprogram@richmond.ca](mailto:parksprogram@richmond.ca)

Applications received after Dec. 1 will be added to a waitlist. To apply, contact the Snow Angels Coordinator at [parksprogram@richmond.ca](mailto:parksprogram@richmond.ca) or call 604-247-4453.

The Snow Angels is a volunteer-driven program and activates only when there is an accumulation of three or more centimetres of snow in Richmond. Volunteers will make every effort to help registered residents, however assistance cannot always be guaranteed. For more information on other snow removal services, the Snow Angels program and winter preparedness information, visit [richmond.ca/winter](http://richmond.ca/winter)



Photos via [richmond.ca](http://richmond.ca)

# Richmond approves proposed 2024 budgets

Richmond City Council has approved the proposed operating and capital budgets for 2024 to support ongoing investment in providing and maintaining assets and infrastructure, maintaining strong customer service levels, and upholding community safety.

The operating budget will result in a 5.62 per cent tax increase, one of the lowest in Metro Vancouver. This is equivalent to an additional \$116 in municipal taxes (approximately 32 cents a day) for an average residential property with an assessed value of \$1,270,000 (2023 average).

The operating budget also includes investment in the city's response for those experiencing homelessness, a one per cent transfer to reserves to support community facility replacement needs, and funds to address cost obligations to senior levels of government and other government agencies.

The capital budget is \$210.9 million, which includes \$70 million for phase one of the city Works Yard replacement—which is critical to city operations, emergency response and infrastructure maintenance, \$20.6 million for city-wide flood protection and drainage improvements in the Burkeville area, \$20 million to maintain road conditions and enhance Richmond's robust transportation network, and \$11.9 million to upgrade the city's parks and amenities.

## Comment on proposed 5 Year Financial Plan

Each year, council approves three budgets to guide municipal spending:

- The operating budget funds general city services based on the service level approved by council. This budget also includes one-time expenditures with no tax impact.
- The capital budget funds investment in new or replacement infrastructure and equipment.



Photo by Jaana Björk

**The 2024 proposed operating and capital budgets to support ongoing investment in providing and maintaining assets and infrastructure has been approved.**

- The utility budget funds water, sewer, flood protection, garbage and recycling services.

Together, these 2024 budgets were presented to council as the proposed Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2024-2028) Bylaw No. 10515 at a Special Council meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Once the bylaw is introduced and given, first, second and third readings, the city will undertake public consultation, in accordance with the Community Charter. This will occur in early January 2024 through LetsTalkRichmond.ca. After feedback has been received, reviewed and provided to council, the bylaw will go back to Council for adoption.

# In honour of our soldiers: Lionel Edmond Gagnon

By **SAMUEL CHENG**  
Reporter

In a series of Richmond's 'poppy' street signs in memory of our fallen soldiers, we share the story of Gagnon Place.

Lionel Gagnon was born on December 10, 1918 in Vancouver. However, he attended elementary school in Richmond while residing at what used to be called RR1, Eburne.

When Gagnon was 14, his family relocated back to Vancouver in which he attended and graduated from Vancouver College in 1936. Upon graduation, Gagnon went on to work for the Royal Bank of Canada as a bank clerk, while participating and serving with a local militia, the 68th Field Battery R.C.A. located in Vancouver.

With the combination of serving in a militia and the outbreak of the Second World War, Gagnon decided to dedicate his time and life with the Canadian Armed Forces.



Screen grab from Google Maps

**A poppy engraved road sign of Gagnon Place.**

In September of 1941, Gagnon signed up with the Royal Canadian Air Force Special Reserve before being officially enlisted in the following year. Gagnon was sent straight to Brandon, Manitoba for training and received his flying badge in a year's

time.

He became a Flying Officer Pilot and was posted to the #1 Operational Training Unit situated in Bagtville, Quebec. It was not long before a tragedy struck the Gagnon family when the brave soldier's aircraft collided with another aircraft in mid-air.

Gagnon was killed on February 16, 1943, between St. Anne and St. Honore, Quebec. Gagnon was survived by his wife Mavis Cecile Kern and his body was brought back to the west coast and was buried at the Ocean View Burial Park in Burnaby.

To commemorate Gagnon's valiant sacrifice in the war, the City of Richmond Council decided to name a road in his honour: Gagnon Place. Today, the road can be found located to the north of Bridgeport Road, between No.4 Road and Shell Road.

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# Four tourism businesses and individuals recognized

Tourism Richmond is pleased to announce the winners of its 2023 Richmond EPIC Tourism Awards. Four tourism businesses and individuals received an award for embodying the destination marketing organization's EPIC core values: Excellence, Passion, Integrity, and Collaboration.

"We live out these values everyday through our partnerships with community, travel, and tourism stakeholders," explains Nancy Small, chief executive officer of Tourism Richmond. "These awards are a great way to bring everyone together - to celebrate the industry and recognize achievements."

Now in its second year, the Richmond EPIC Tourism Awards celebrate the people, places, experiences, and attractions that make Richmond a vibrant and welcoming place to visit. Winners were chosen by a panel of individuals involved in Richmond's tourism industry, and were recognized among their industry peers at Tourism Richmond's Year End Celebration held on November 30.

The Excellence Award for Innovation went to Panda Pod Hotel, the first capsule hotel in Greater Vancouver. Crystal Lalonde of Fairmont Vancouver Airport was the recipient of the Passion Award for Individual Achievement for her dedication and commitment to the success of the hotel. Steveston Hub's ongoing engagement and support for the community landed them the top spot for the Integrity Award for Community Participation. And lastly, The World of Kidtropolis was presented the



*Photo courtesy Tourism Richmond*

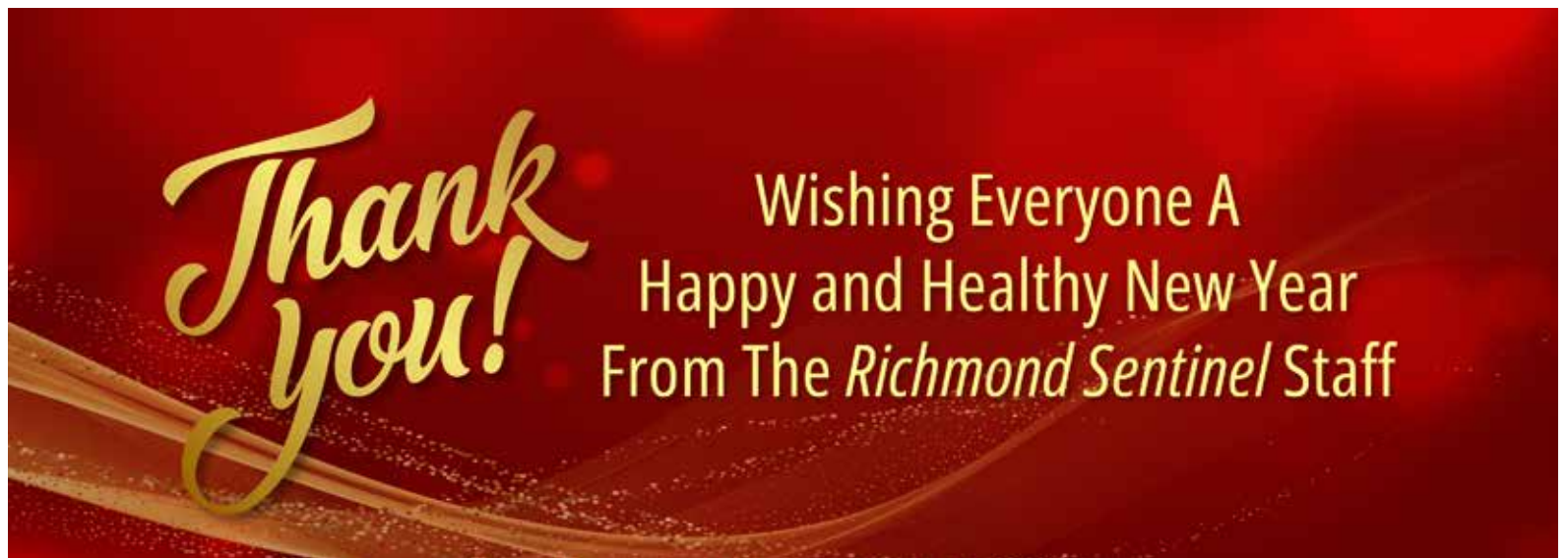
(From left) Yannick Simovich, board chair, Tourism Richmond, and general manager, Marriott Vancouver Airport, Rene Hahn, Panda Pod Hotel (Excellence Award winner); Nancy Small, chief executive officer, Tourism Richmond.

Collaboration Award for Successful Partnerships for launching the Family Fun Passport with 15 other Richmond businesses.

"Congratulations to the winners as well as the finalists for this year's EPIC Tourism Awards," said

Small. "Their contributions to our community are vital to the success of Richmond's tourism industry, and we are proud to be working with them."

To learn more about the Richmond EPIC Tourism Awards, visit [visitrichmondbc.com/epic/](http://visitrichmondbc.com/epic/)



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# Richmond Hospital redevelopment reaches milestone

People in Richmond are accessing enhanced care as the newly refurbished and relocated cancer care clinic opens at Richmond Hospital.

"The opening of the modernized cancer clinic marks a significant milestone toward strengthening our public health-care system and connecting people with the care they need in their own communities," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "The cancer clinic is part of the Richmond Hospital redevelopment project and is an example of work being done across the province to upgrade or expand hospitals, empowering health-care workers to continue to deliver people-focused services and high-quality care."

With work on Phase 1 well underway, renovations are wrapping up on the ground floor of the Milan Illich Pavilion. They include the updated cancer-care clinic, which opened to patients on Nov. 27, 2023. It has two additional examination rooms and care bays, as well as a clinical teaching room.

The Richmond Hospital cancer-care clinic is leading a transformative approach to cancer care through the innovative Remote Symptom Monitoring (RSM) system. Recognizing the emotional and physical toll of chemotherapy and the gaps in communication that can affect a patient's well-being the RSM will help provide timely access to clinicians



Photo by Jaana Björk

**Newly refurbished and relocated cancer care clinic at Richmond Hospital reaches milestone.**

and reduce reliance on emergency department visits for manageable symptoms. Enrolment to the system began in early December 2023, marking a significant step toward improving patients' cancer care journey.

Phase 2 of the updates to Richmond Hospital begins in spring 2024 with the issuing of a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion. Through the RFQ process, Vancouver Coastal Health will identify builders who will be invited to participate in a competitive request for proposals process. This stage will determine who will be chosen to lead design and construction.

The pavilion will house an emergency department with 86 spaces, increased from 62, and add three operating rooms for a total of 11. The nine-floor

facility's pre- and post-surgical care spaces will grow from 26 to 69. The Pavilion will also contain an intensive-care unit, a fully equipped medical imaging department with four CT scanners and two MRI machines, a pharmacy, and short-stay pediatrics.

Phase 3 of the project includes renovations to the south tower to create new in-patient psychiatry and psychiatric assessment units so existing services will be in one location and brought up to modern standards. The south tower will also have a maternity ward and neonatal intensive-care unit. The entire project is expected to be complete in 2031.

The cost of the project is approximately \$861 million and will be shared by the provincial government through Vancouver Coastal Health and Richmond Hospital Foundation.

Richmond Hospital opened in 1966 and has 240 beds that serve Richmond, South Vancouver and Delta, as well as people using Vancouver International Airport and BC Ferries facilities. The six-floor north tower is home to surgical suites, medical imaging, a pharmacy, as well as administrative, academic and support services. The hospital redevelopment project is the largest health-care investment in Richmond's history.



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# A celebration of hope and reflection

By TAMMY LO  
Student writer

As the clock strikes midnight on December 31, people around the world will gather to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new. New Year's Eve, a night steeped in tradition and celebration, is a universal phenomenon that transcends cultural and geographical boundaries.

In this article, we delve into the history, global traditions, and the magic of this special night.

The celebration of the New Year dates back thousands of years, with its roots embedded in various cultures and civilizations. The Babylonians were among the first to mark the occasion around 4,000 years ago, celebrating the vernal equinox in March as the beginning of the new year. The Romans later adopted January 1 as the start of the new year in honour of Janus, the god of beginning and transitions. Over time, different societies and religions embraced this annual renewal, incorporating unique customs and rituals into the festivities.

New Year's Eve is a truly global celebration, with



Happy New Year from the *Richmond Sentinel*. Photo via Freepik.com

each region adding its own flair to the festivities. In Spain, revelers consume twelve grapes at the stroke of midnight, each grape symbolizing good luck for each month of the coming year. In Japan, the ringing of Buddhist bells 108 times is believed to purify the 108 sins of the past year. Fireworks light up the skies in major cities worldwide, while in Scotland, the New Year's celebration, known as Hogmanay, lasts for days with traditional music,

dancing, and a symbolic "first-footing" ceremony. Around the globe, many will also partake in a countdown surrounded by friends, family, and their loved ones. In the popular tourist destination Times Square located in New York City, thousands gather around as they count down to celebrate the New Year.

The significance of New Year's Eve lies in the celebration of the passing of time and the anticipation of the future. It is a time for people to come together, reflect on the year gone by, and make resolutions for the one ahead. Whether through grand parties or gatherings, individuals embrace the opportunity to bid farewell to the past and welcome the unknown with open arms.

New Year's Eve, with its rich history, diverse traditions, and the magic of reflection, stands as a testament to the human spirit's enduring hope and resilience. As we bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, let us carry the lessons of the past with us and step into the future with optimism, unity, and a shared commitment to making the most of the precious gift of time.

## 2023 Millionaire Lottery tickets available until Jan. 11

The tickets for the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) & University of British Columbia (UBC) Hospital Foundation Millionaire Lottery are on sale now until midnight, Jan. 11, 2024 or until tickets sell out. The Millionaire Lottery supports VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation and money raised goes to funding innovative research, advancing specialized adult health care, and purchasing critical medical equipment at Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre, Vancouver Community Health Services and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute.

"The funds raised through the Millionaire Lottery impact the most specialized adult healthcare delivered to all British Columbians at VGH, UBC Hospital and GF Strong Rehab Centre," said Angela Chapman, president and chief executive officer, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. "By purchasing your Millionaire Lottery tickets in support of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, you help fund world-leading research and medical equipment. From point-of-care ultrasounds to mobile x-ray machines; from research in ovarian cancer to healthy aging and addiction medicine research, lottery proceeds are providing the best tools to skilled physicians and surgeons, as well as advancing medical care and knowledge in our province. Together, we transform health care. Thanks a million!"

The winner of the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation Millionaire Lottery can choose one of ten grand prize packages. Grand prize homes are located in South Surrey, Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, Langley, Courtenay, West Kelowna, Lake Country and Sooke. The grand prize home packages are valued between \$3.1 - \$2.9 million. The grand prize winner also can choose \$2.7 million tax-free cash.

"There are over 3,000 prizes to be won worth over \$3.5 million in this year's 2023 Millionaire Lottery," said Todd Talbot, Millionaire Lottery spokesperson. "The Millionaire Lottery supports life-saving care at British Columbia's largest

hospital and helps our doctors, nurses, staff, health care workers, and all the patients who visit VGH every day. The simple truth is, if you are seriously ill or injured, VGH and UBC hospitals are your best chance. There are few illnesses or injuries these medical teams cannot treat, no matter how complex or rare."

"By purchasing a lottery ticket, you will also have the chance to win one of ten grand prizes. One of the grand home prize packages is worth over \$3.1 million and includes a 3,645 sq. ft. home in South Surrey. This modern farmhouse home has four bedrooms, four and a half bathrooms, custom cabinetry, high-tech kitchen, radiant floor heat and air conditioning, and over \$85,000 in furnishings," said Talbot.

Millionaire Lottery tickets are 2 for \$100, 5 for \$175, 10 for \$300 and 25 for \$600. The lottery also includes extra games: the 50/50 PLUS lottery with a maximum prize payout up to \$1,200,000 (depending on the number of tickets sold), and the Daily Cash PLUS game returns with 105 days of winning with a value of all prizes being \$325,000.

To encourage early ticket buying there will be three Bonus draws, worth over \$107,000 total, and an Early Bird draw worth over \$200,000. 50 winners will receive \$1,000 cash each, and one winner of the Early Bird draw will choose between a:

- 2023 Audi e-tron GT
- Private jet travel experience from Travel Best Bets plus \$20,000 cash
- \$125,000 cash

The Millionaire Lottery has been in operation since 1996 and to date the Millionaire Lottery has raised over \$85 million for VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. Individuals can purchase their tickets on-line at [millionairelottery.com](http://millionairelottery.com), by phone: 604-602-5848, toll-free: 1-888-445-5825, or in-person at any London Drugs.

# BC Young Artists receives 18.2 million in funding

Young artists are among the people benefiting from an \$18.2-million investment in arts and culture programs throughout the province through Community Gaming Grants.

Arts Umbrella, a non-profit centre for arts education with locations in Vancouver, Surrey and South Surrey, received \$225,000 to provide free community programming for young artists in dance, theatre, and art and design.

"The continued support we receive from Community Gaming Grants is critical, helping us to provide nurturing, stimulating and inclusive community programming completely free of charge to over 6,500 deserving young people each year," said Susan Smith Alexander, senior director of programming, Arts Umbrella. "This stable funding helps us to plan with confidence and inspire children and youth who otherwise would not have access to quality arts programming."

Similar arts-and-culture grants will provide greater community access to a variety of programs at more than 650 organizations across B.C.

"Through Community Gaming Grants, the province is helping organizations like Arts Umbrella to reach more people through their work," said Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "From arts and literature to festivals and museums, B.C. has a thriving arts-and-culture sector that keeps our communities vibrant and healthy. These grants are helping organizations to keep costs down for art students, museum visitors, festival-goers and anybody participating in arts-and-culture activities."

Grant recipients will deliver programs that preserve and/or provide public access to arts, heritage or culture, including:

- Ladysmith Festival of Lights (\$46,000);
- Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society (\$36,400);
- Okanagan Symphony Society (\$164,500);
- Société francophone de Maillardville for the Festival du Bois in Coquitlam (\$90,000); and
- Stage North Theatre Society (\$24,500).

In Richmond, 13 organizations are receiving over \$315,000 in funding to support arts and culture, including:

- Richmond Gateway Theatre Society, \$87,000
- BC Youth Music Society, \$40,000
- The Richmond Art Gallery Association, \$50,000
- Richmond Music School Society, \$50,000

"Richmond has a thriving arts and culture sector that keeps our community vibrant and healthy," says Henry Yao, MLA for Richmond South



Photo via Flickr.com

The Community Gaming Grants will be investing \$18.2 million into arts and culture programs throughout the province.

Centre. "This investment not only sustains the cultural vibrancy of our province but ensures that arts and culture remain accessible to all, regardless of economic barriers."

Additionally, 50 parent advisory councils/district parent advisory councils in Richmond are receiving over \$1.5 million in total funding to support extracurricular events, activities and equipment.

"The work that parents and caregivers do through their PACs are invaluable for fostering a sense of community and providing enriching experiences beyond the classroom," says Kelly Greene, MLA for Richmond-Steveston. "This funding not only relieves financial pressure on parents but also ensures that Richmond students can access a variety of extracurricular activities."

"Richmond's parent advisory councils are instrumental in shaping our students' educational environment," says Aman Singh, MLA for Richmond-Queensborough. "This funding enables PACs to continue fostering community engagement and providing valuable opportunities that contribute to the overall well-being of Richmond's students."

The funding is part of \$140 million provided annually through Community Gaming Grants to not-for-profit organizations throughout B.C. These grants help approximately 5,000 organizations to deliver ongoing programs and services in their communities.

The province has also announced an additional \$11.2 million in Community Gaming Grants for 1,300 school parent advisory councils (PACs) and district parent advisory councils (DPACs) in B.C.

*Photos courtesy Iris Wang*  
**15-year-old piano prodigy**  
 Ryan Wang, sat down with  
 the *Richmond Sentinel*  
 to discuss his musical  
 career and the significance  
 the Richmond Hospital  
 Foundation plays in his life.



## Richmond Stories: Piano prodigy Ryan Wang

By MATTHEW CHEUNG  
 Reporter

He started playing piano at the age of four and performed his first solo recital at the legendary Carnegie Hall at the age of five. He was also featured on the Ellen DeGeneres Show, since then this local pianist prodigy known as Ryan Wang has performed at many prestigious venues and alongside world-renowned orchestras across the globe. Including solo recitals in Italy, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, the United States, Poland, and

the United Kingdom (UK). As a soloist, he has performed with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Festival Orchestra, the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, and the West Coast Symphony. Ryan, now 15, has won numerous music competitions and awards, and was also invited to perform on national television. He is currently studying on a music scholarship in the UK and in France.

**Jim Gordon (JG):** *Ryan, I just mentioned France because I understand you just returned last night from France, where you competed in a solo competition. You're 15, but this competition you were in the category was 16 to 30, you were the youngest, and you won. Tell us about that.*

Ryan Wang (RW): It was a very interesting experience, as all competitions are different, and this one was so enjoyable because it was more like a family than a competition. The competitors were all so friendly with each other and it was great to perform on the stage for a Parisian audience. It was also great to celebrate with everyone afterwards as well. Playing was surreal.

**JG:** *That is quite commendable, I must ask, when you go to a competition like this are there categories or musical boundaries as to what you can perform?*

RW: This one was a Chopin music competition, so everyone played Chopin. There were three rounds and they specified what you were to play in each round. I chose pieces which are dear to me and there's always flexibility in-between. Chopin is my favourite composer.

**JG:** *I am fascinated by people with your prodigious like talent, because you took this up at such a young age, tell me what was it that you first felt, saw, heard, when you saw the piano. Did something immediately reach out to you?*

RW: I just remember, I would be with the piano always, on



# RYAN WANG

From Page 8

the piano, underneath the piano, or just around the piano. I remember when I was young, whenever I saw a piano, I wanted to play it, so there was kind of an attraction towards pianos, and that's what fostered my love for this.

**JG: I guess looking back at your younger self, you maybe can't articulate what it was, it's just something you instantly connected with. I've interviewed a lot of musicians over the years where they too started young, and everyone just seemed to have this commonality that it was just something that grabbed them. It's interesting too, I can certainly learn to play the piano, but I can't make it sing like you do. Are you constantly learning and challenging yourself to keep your talent fresh?**

**RW:** I always try to find new sounds on the piano and am always learning how I can create a better sound and how I can improve my pianistic qualities. I've learned so much over the past year. It's just about finding yourself, because everyone's body is different and so the way we make sound is different. But I think in the end it's about relaxation and being at peace when you're at the piano, even when you're nervous just to be relaxed in your whole body makes a difference. That's been my big discovery this past year.

**JG: When you're in these competitions, which can be quite nerve-racking, do you just get into a zone where you're not even thinking, you're just playing? Does it just flow naturally say, like an athlete, a writer, or an actor?**

**RW:** I think with athletes in particular, I think muscle memory is very important and for musicians, it is to an extent. But something has to happen on the stage, or something has to come into you spiritually, it's more than just the fingers it's about what's inside. And I think that's what is so different between performing and sports, it's very physical but it's also something inside as well.

**JG: Are there composers today, that you look at and get inspiration from?**

**RW:** Now with YouTube and Google, you can watch everyone, I think, you say watching this person isn't going to affect me, but actually it does affect you. Everyone you watch is going to affect you in some way and I think it's a culmination of what you've learned and watched that determines in the end how you play. Everyone plays so differently; their bodies are so different and that's what's so special about each person.

**JG: One of the nice things I love about your story Ryan, is it involves your mom who is sitting off camera. I'd like to get serious for a moment because this does involve your mom and the reason for a wonderful partnership with Richmond Hospital.**

**RW:** I partnered with the Richmond Hospital many years ago and it's been a very long-term friendly relationship. I'm able to play concerts to raise money for Richmond Hospital because they've done so much for my family, especially my mom, and I'm just so grateful for that. Being able to use my music to help the Richmond Hospital Foundation is the best thing I could ever ask for.

**JG: A lovely story about giving back, and I'm glad your mom is well. In reference to that, Spencer Gall, who is the campaign director of Richmond Hospital Foundation said "we wish to extend our gratitude to Ryan for sharing his incred-**



**ible music talent and fundraising to give back to the community of Richmond".**

**Ryan, you are currently studying in the UK and France, can you share with us, what the next five years of your life looks like?**

**RW:** I want to just keep playing the piano, it's a lifelong thing for me now. I don't really know where I'm going to go after I graduate, I might stay in Europe or come back to North America, I just know I want to be a concert pianist, that's my dream.

**JG: As a soloist, as you get closer to finishing your school career, is it usual to get approached by orchestras or is it more like, I want to do solo, but I'll play with orchestras on occasion.**

**RW:** Usually as a soloist, I think we usually work with many orchestras and there are tours with one particular orchestra but usually it's wherever we go and if the orchestra is there then we work with them.

**JG: How much time do you need when you arrive somewhere, like Toronto or Singapore, before you can get used to working together?**

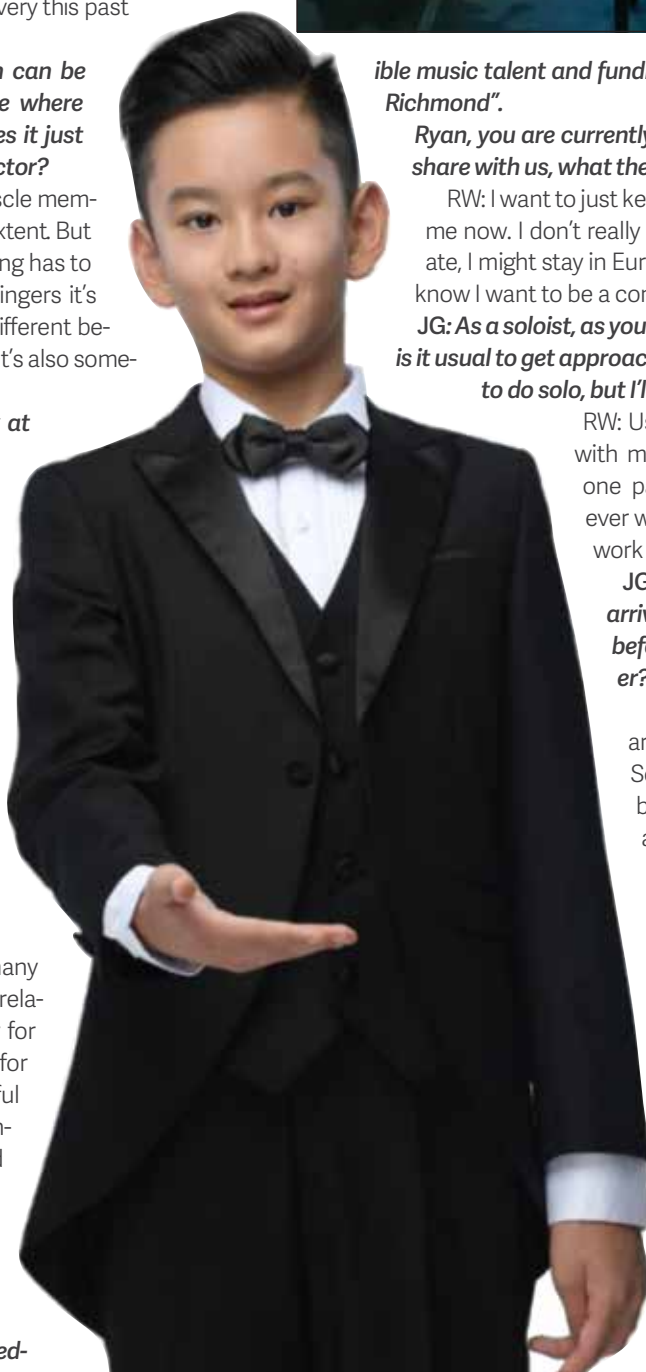
**RW:** It depends, because sometimes I arrive and then the next day I will perform. Sometimes it's the day of, or the day before because usually we're quite experienced and usually it's quite straightforward.

**JG: You're an extremely bright young man, I forget that I'm talking to a 15-year-old, do you get to be 15 in other ways? Do you have hobbies outside of the piano?**

**RW:** Piano is like a hobby, because at my school we have a lot to do not only in the classroom, but we also have sports, and get to hang out with our friends and be a complete human-being. But I have so many other hobbies like, I like to eat, ski, mountain-bike, and when you have a less serious approach to something you will enjoy it more.

To view the full interview, visit [richmondsentinel.ca/videos](http://richmondsentinel.ca/videos)

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# From the Bachelor's kitchen: Banana bread

By **SAMUEL CHENG**  
Reporter

The subject of food and drinks have been a universal language across cultures and nations around the world. The Richmond Sentinel shares delicious food and drink recipes that anyone can make in the convenience of their own home.

Today, we share the recipe of banana bread.

## Utensils:

- a loaf pan (approximately 9 inches)
- a mixing bowl
- a rubber spatula
- a whisk
- a sieve
- a fork
- a aluminum foil

## Ingredients:

- ripe bananas: 3
- unsalted butter: 120 grams
- granulated white sugar: 130 grams
- eggs: 2
- brown sugar: 95 grams
- all-purpose flour: 300 grams
- salt: 2 grams
- baking powder: 4 grams
- baking soda: 2 grams
- pecans: 70 grams (Note: Can be substituted with other nuts, chocolate chips etc. of your choice)

## Steps:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius)
2. Peel 3 ripe bananas and place them in a mixing bowl. (Note: Please use ripe or overripe bananas for best result)
3. Use a fork or a utensil of your choice to crush the bananas into mashed form.
4. Add about 100 grams of melted butter. Set the rest aside for later use.
5. Add about 80 grams of brown sugar. Set the rest aside for later use.
6. Crack and add in 2 eggs.
7. Use a whisk and mix all of the ingredients until it is well combined.
8. Sieve and add in 300 grams of all-purpose flour.
9. Add in 2 grams of salt.
10. Add in 4 grams of baking powder.
11. Add in 2 grams of baking soda.
12. Use a rubber spatula and mix until all of the dry ingredients are well mixed in.
13. Add in 50 grams of pecans and mix well. Set the rest aside for later use. (Note: Can be substituted with other nuts, chocolate chips etc. of your choice)
14. Using a stick of butter, rub a thin layer of it in the loaf pan. This is to prevent the banana bread from sticking to the pan when removing it later on.
15. With a rubber spatula, carefully pour the batter mixture into the loaf pan. Use the rubber spatula to flatten and make sure that the top of the bat-



Photo courtesy Magic Ingredients

**Recreate this banana recipe in the convenience of your own home.**

ter is nice and even.

16. Sprinkle the rest of the pecans evenly across the top of the batter.

17. Gently press the sprinkled pecans into the batter with the rubber spatula to make sure that they stick to the bread during the duration of baking.

18. Sprinkle the rest of the brown sugar and melted butter over top of the batter.

19. Measure and cut out a piece of aluminum foil to wrap and cover the top of the pan. This is to make sure that the nuts are not overbaked and to prevent the banana bread from becoming too dry during the baking process.

20. Carefully put the aluminum foil covered loaf pan into the oven and bake for one hour.

21. After an hour, carefully remove the aluminum foil from the loaf pan and bake for another 10 to 15 minutes.

22. Afterwards, carefully remove the loaf pan from the oven and set aside for it to cool.

23. After it has cooled down, carefully flip the loaf pan upside down to remove the banana bread from the pan.

24. Carefully flip the banana loaf upright with the nuts on top

25. Cut into desired slices and serve.

Voila! A delicious banana loaf is ready for you to share with family and friends.

Do you have bananas that are sitting around and turning brown? If you do, this is the perfect recipe for you to transform those ugly, brown bananas into a delicious bakery treat.

You may wonder, why you should choose to use brown or overripe bananas specifically? There are three main reasons behind this rationale.

First of all, ripe bananas are softer to mash and

blend into a batter, which makes the recipe easier to manage.

Second of all, ripe bananas offer a richer "banana" taste and flavor compared to premature or yellow bananas. This is the pinnacle point in making a banana bread's flavour.

Lastly, premature and yellow bananas are starchy. However, brown and ripe bananas convert the starches into sugar, which makes them sweeter and more flavorful. It's not the end of the world to use fresh bananas to make banana bread, but the end result makes a difference in the flavour.

Banana bread is one of the most versatile baked goods as it has many, many different variations. This recipe showcases the use of pecans, but other ingredients such as walnuts, almonds, raisins, chocolate chips and even fruits are commonly found in different banana bread recipes.

There are many stories and rumors when it comes to the origin of banana bread. Some speculated that banana bread first made its appearance in the 1870s in the United States. Others believed that the banana bread was first introduced upon the availability of baking powder in the 1930s. Some even suggested that the banana bread was simply a by-product during the 1929 Great Depression as the recipe was improvised to make use of overripe bananas.

Regardless of the true origin of the recipe, banana bread has made their way into the world of bakery and has become one of the staple treats in bakery stores. The simplicity of the recipe makes it one of the easiest recipes for beginner bakers to get their hands on.

For the full recipe, please visit [youtube.com/watch?v=CfKFihqP5U](https://youtube.com/watch?v=CfKFihqP5U)

•[taic@richmondsentinel.ca](mailto:taic@richmondsentinel.ca)

# LET'S RECYCLE OUR CHRISTMAS TREES!

Richmond offers several options for recycling your tree after the holidays. Help return your tree to nature and create new resources.

## CHARITY TREE CHIPPING EVENT

**Saturday January 6 & Sunday January 7  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Garry Point Park**

- Donations accepted for Richmond Firefighters' Society charities.
- Many thanks to our sponsors: GFL Environmental, Super Save Group, McDonald's Restaurants, Pajos and Ecowaste Industries.

## CURBSIDE COLLECTION

Residents with curbside Green Cart collection can cut up and bundle their tree and place it at the curb on their regular collection day.

Cut and bundle tree sections to a maximum size of 3 feet (91 cm) by 2 feet (61 cm), and maximum diameter of 4 inches (10 cm).

## FREE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

**Richmond Recycling Depot  
5555 Lynas Lane**

Open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.  
*Closed on statutory holidays.*

**Ecowaste Industries  
15111 Williams Road**

Call 604-277-1410 for hours or visit [ecowaste.com](http://ecowaste.com).

A large, lush green Christmas tree stands against a white background. A red circular callout bubble with a white border is positioned on the right side of the tree, containing white text. The bubble has a small red loop at the top, making it look like a Christmas ornament.

**Remember  
to remove  
all tinsel and  
decorations  
first**

Environmental Programs  
604-276-4010 or [garbageandrecycling@richmond.ca](mailto:garbageandrecycling@richmond.ca)  
[richmond.ca/recycle](http://richmond.ca/recycle)



# Richmond Art Gallery unveils 2024 exhibition lineup

Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) announces their exhibition lineup for 2024. The six exhibitions all reflect themes that are connected to contemporary life, from food to representation, translation to queer aesthetics. RAG presents emergent and acclaimed local and international artists in exhibitions that speak to the local context, while also contributing to the broader discourses of Canadian art history. The Gallery has a long tradition of showcasing under-represented artists.

"The 2024 program centres on existential questions, such as how do we communicate with others across communities and how do we create connections across difference," says RAG curator Zoë Chan. "The artists address representation, embodiment, performativity, and more through works that span video, installation, performance, printmaking, and puppetry. We're committed to showcasing exhibitions that compel our publics to actively engage in dialogue and reflection around a wide range of pertinent topics to today's complex world."

"Our exhibitions are programmed to offer various entry points for a range of diverse visitors, while also introducing them to exciting works by artists both from Richmond and further afield," says RAG director Shaun Dacey. "Our shows are responsive to our location within the Richmond Cultural Centre and the social fabric of the city."

**Jan. 20–March 31, 2024**

*but this is the language we met in; 我们在这个语言中相遇*

Featuring: Shen Xin

Shen Xin's haunting solo exhibition *but this is the language we met in; 我们在这个语言中相遇* dives into communication in all its myriad forms—gestural, oral, written, digital—across culture, time, and space, linking humans, animals, and nature. At the centre of this exhibition is a poetic new video, the first in a larger series titled *Grounds for Coherence*. Its eclectic imagery percolates with the artist's intense yearning to uncover and understand language in its most primal, even primeval forms, while connecting these to contemporary languages of prose and protest. Audio includes snippets from a famous Chinese Communist Party song "Solidarity to the People," a folk song in a Chinese regional dialect, protest slogans, and even a conversation between lovers.

*Let the real world in*

Featuring: Kirsten Leenaars (US), Wapikoni Mobile (Quebec, Canada), Yoshua Okón (Mexico), Yaimel López Zaldívar (Canada)

In this group exhibition, director Jean-Luc Godard's urgent appeal that "film should bear witness to the period" is boldly articulated throughout a varied selection of contemporary videos that centre on children and youth. It is often common practice to speak on behalf of children or try to protect them from difficult realities. In contrast, these videos vividly foreground young people's agency, taking seriously their perspectives, ideas, and experiences of the world. Vancouver-based Cuban artist Yaimel López Zaldívar responds to each of the video works with newly commissioned screenprints, created in the tradition of Cuban political and cultural poster-making in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s.

**April 20–June 30, 2024**

*Unit Bruises: Theodore Wan & Paul Wong*

Featuring: Theodore Wan, Paul Wong

Unit Bruises brings together the works of two Chinese-Canadian concep-



Photo courtesy FADO Performance Art Centre

**Hazel Meyer, *The Marble in the Basement*, 2020, performance with Moe Angelos and Stephen Jackman-Torkoff.**

Hazel Meyer: *The Marble in the Basement*

Featuring: Hazel Meyer

What gets stored in a shoebox? Deposited into an archive? Shoved into a corner? Catalogued as important? Fever pitched towards a garbage can? Centered on a pile of marble scraps that possibly once belonged to iconic Canadian artist Joyce Wieland, Meyer's installation and performance *The Marble in the Basement* untangles issues of power, memory, and inheritance by anthropomorphizing a forgotten object from this influential Canadian artist's domestic archive. The work is a part of *The Weight of Inheritance*, Meyer's multi-year research project funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, which looks to the legacy of Canadian artist and experimental filmmaker Wieland to work across questions of inheritance. Meyer asks how a notable and supported figure like Wieland can direct us to lesser-supported histories of art, land, representation, and care.

**July 20–Sept. 29, 2024**

*It begins with knowing and not knowing*

Featuring: Rebecca Bair, Xinwei Che, Patrick Cruz, Zoë Kreye, Ogheneofegor Obuwoma, Michelle Sound, Ximena Velásquez

*It begins with knowing and not knowing* highlights works by artists who engage with dimensions of spirituality and ritual in order to find greater meaning, rebuild ties with community, or regain a sense of optimism within a world rife with inequality, injustice, trauma, pain, and uncertainty. A range of aesthetics, materials, and performative practices will be represented as the featured artists transform the Gallery space. Highlights will include Zoë Kreye's ethereal yet deeply embodied textile-based installations, Rebecca Bair's cyanotype pieces holding the shea butter traces of her hair care routines, and Ogheneofegor Obuwoma's striking video that delves into her Catholic boarding-school experiences.

**Oct. 19–Dec. 31, 2024**

*FOODWAYS*

Showcasing work primarily from the past decade, *FOODWAYS* focuses on artists who explore food and food cultures, addressing a rich range of questions regarding identity, personal narrative, memory, collective histories, community, and the transmission of knowledge. Their artworks are often intersectional and embodied in nature, highlighting how ethnicity, culture, kinship, spirituality, socio-economic status, age, gender, and geography percolate through the practices and processes of procuring, processing, preparing, and consuming food. Public programming will include a series of food-related community events focused on gardening, food security, seed saving, biodiversity, and more.

# B.C.'s economy forecast to slow in 2024

Private-sector forecasters expect B.C., like Canada, to see slower economic growth through 2024 due to high interest rates and a softening global economy before growing steadily in the medium term.

Each year, B.C.'s finance minister meets with the Economic Forecast Council (EFC), a 13-member council of independent private-sector forecasters from across Canada, in preparation for the next year's budget.

At Finance Minister Katrine Conroy's annual meeting with the EFC on Monday, Dec. 4, some members noted B.C.'s financial prudence, abundant natural-resource sector and work to date to address housing supply and affordability are opportunities and strengths as it faces a slower global economic outlook in the near-term.

"B.C. is well positioned to continue to support people through the challenges ahead, with a diverse economy and prudent fiscal planning," said Conroy. "At a time when people are facing global economic challenges, we won't leave people to fend for themselves. We're going to continue to put people first and take action on the biggest challenges we face today."

Like many jurisdictions, B.C. is experiencing the impacts of a slowing global economy and high interest rates. The EFC anticipates real gross domestic product in B.C. will grow by 0.9 per cent in

2023, 0.5 per cent in 2024 and 2.2 per cent in 2025. These forecasts are slightly lower than the province's projections in the Second Quarterly Report.

Most members noted that the impact of past Bank of Canada interest rate hikes has not fully been felt, and housing affordability and supply remain challenges. However, several members were encouraged by government's recent housing policy measures as positive steps to provide long-term support. Members recognized B.C.'s leadership in climate action and highlighted the province's potential for energy-transition opportunities in the global market.

"From the housing crisis to building a sustainable economy, our government is taking action so people can build a good life in B.C. We're making sure homes are built faster and that they are used



Photo via flickr.com

**B.C.'s economy is forecasted to exhibit slower economic growth through 2024 before experiencing steady growth as the year continues.**

for people, not speculators," Conroy said. "And our government is ensuring that people in B.C. do not miss out on new, sustainable jobs, such as the 450 good jobs at E-One Moli's new lithium-ion battery cell plant in Maple Ridge."

Forecasts and feedback from the council help inform the province as it prepares the next provincial budget, which will be released Feb. 22, 2024. EFC members will also have an opportunity to revise their forecasts in early January 2024.

## Tougher action to trucks hitting overpasses

Tougher action is being taken to prevent truckers from crashing into highway infrastructure throughout B.C. as stronger deterrents against unsafe commercial-vehicle drivers will make highway travel safer.

Trucking companies involved in infrastructure crashes will see stronger consequences that escalate for repeat offences. In cases where a company has a history of non-compliance, including previous infrastructure crashes, enforcement measures will become increasingly severe. This includes potential suspension and possible cancellation of a company's carrier safety certificate, essentially preventing their operation in B.C.

Unprecedented penalties have recently been imposed by suspending a company's entire fleet, while Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement investigates a crash. The immediate suspensions and the significant cost they bring to a company will be a permanent tool. However, repeat offenders will face longer suspensions and may have their certificate to operate in B.C. revoked.

"Infrastructure crashes have a huge impact. They delay commuters, affect the movement of goods and can impede first responders. This means families, businesses and the economy all suffer," said Rob Fleming, minister of transportation and infrastructure. "Safety is the priority and this issue needs to stop. That's why we're taking tougher action, grounding fleets through suspensions and increasing fines, so highway traffic keeps moving safely and reliably for travellers and commercial vehicles, and people can count on their commute."

Recent regulatory changes will also bring in new and higher fines for various offences, holding carriers and drivers accountable for the safe and professional movement of goods on provincial highways. Addition-

ally, new speed-limiter regulations will further improve safety by requiring heavy commercial vehicles operating in the province to have their speed-limiting systems activated and programmed by April 5, 2024. This will prevent these vehicles from travelling more than 105 km/h on B.C. highways. The fine for speed-limiter non-compliance and tampering is \$295 and three driver penalty points.

"The BC Trucking Association welcomes and supports the decisive measures taken by the provincial government to enhance safety and reduce infrastructure crashes involving commercial heavy-duty trucks," said Dave Earle, president and CEO, BC Trucking Association. "These initiatives mark a pivotal step toward creating safer roadways for all and underscore our shared commitment to fostering a culture focused on risk-prevention in the trucking industry."

Specific amendments to the Commercial Transport Regulations and the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations bring in new offences and higher fines to address over-height vehicles and loads, as well as require dump-style vehicles to have in-cab warning devices by June 1, 2024. This will alert a driver if the dump box is raised when the vehicle is in motion. The over-height vehicle related fines will be \$575 (previously \$115), making this the highest fine of its nature in Canada. Not complying with having in-cab warning devices in dump trucks will result in a fine of \$598.

While B.C.'s new fines for infrastructure crashes will become the highest in Canada, fine amounts are currently limited by legislation. The province is reviewing potential legislative changes that would allow even higher fines in the future.

Learn more: To learn about the new progressive-enforcement framework, visit: [cvse.ca/whatsnew.html](http://cvse.ca/whatsnew.html)

# Recognizing the Wall of Fame: 2022

By MATTHEW CHEUNG  
Reporter

In a previous edition of the *Richmond Sentinel*, we highlighted two inductees and their journey to the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame. In this edition of the *Richmond Sentinel*, we look at the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame, Class of 2022.

## 2022 Richmond Sports Wall of Fame Inductees



### Alan Sakai – Judo

Alan Sakai was born and raised in Richmond, he attended several schools in the area and developed a passion for judo during his time at the Steveston Judo Club. While working in the fishing industry, he pursued higher education at the University of British Columbia, earning both a Bachelor's and master's degree in education. For four decades, he dedicated himself to teaching in the Richmond School district and became deeply involved in community service, notable contributing to the Steveston Community Society and Martial Art Centre. He played a pivotal role in re-establishing the Steveston Judo Club, attracting and retaining new young athletes to judo. His contributions and achievements were recognized with awards such as the Shigetaka Sasaki BC Sport Achievement Award in 1972, the Richmond Sport Award, and the UBC Big Block Athletic Award in 1973. In 2008, he had the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch in Richmond, an acknowledgement of his outstanding dedication to Judo and the community.

### Albert Nishi – Football

Albert Nishi grew up in Richmond and graduated from Steveston Secondary School in 1962. For 33 years, Albert taught and coached at Burnett Secondary School when the gymnasium was still under construction, which caused many teams to have to practice in the outdoors. He coached many teams throughout his 33 year coaching career and won championships in football, badminton, and baseball. From 1982 to 2003, many teams coached by Albert went on a dominate run. Nishi coached the Burnett Badminton teams to a combined total of ten Vancouver and District silver medals at the BC Provincial Championship in back-to-back years. He was a recognized by the Richmond Secondary School's Athletic Association for his 30-year service recognition and named BC School Sports Coach of the Year in the 2001-2002 season.



### Bernie Glier – Football

Raised in Richmond, Bernie Glier attended Tomsett, Bridgeport, Cambie, and Richmond High Secondary School. He was a multi-sport athlete, excelling in football, and attended the University of British Columbia on a football scholarship. After graduating from UBC, Glier was drafted fifth overall by the BC Lions and was part of the team that won 1985 Grey Cup. In 1983 while playing for the Lions, Glier began teaching at Richmond High who eventually won the BC High School Football Championships, making Bernie one of many to win as both a player and a coach with the Richmond Colts.

### Bill Haddow – Football

Raised in Richmond, BC, Bill Haddow was a three-sport athlete, playing hockey, football, and baseball, he would go onto win a Western Canadian Little League Championship in 1970. His father was one of the founders of the Richmond Minor Football Association. He played football throughout his middle school and high school days and in collaboration with his brother Bruce Haddow, kept high school football alive in Richmond in the 2000s. He coached community and school sports for 43 years and served on the BC High School Football Board of Directors for 20 years. He and his brother coached at Hugh Boyd Secondary School for 20 years, delivering a total of seven conference championships. Bill also won three league championships and one provincial championship with Richmond Minor Football.



### Brian Johns – Swimming

Brian Lawrence Johns was born in Regina, Saskatchewan. His family moved to Richmond, British Columbia where he would go onto attend William Bridge Elementary and McRoberts Secondary. Brian trained rigorously with the Richmond Aquanats and Racers (later the Rapids). Brian attended the University of British Columbia, holding the world record in the 400-metre individual medley (short-course), with a time of 4:02.72. He won a bronze medal in the 1999 World Championships in Hong Kong, and a silver medal in the 2022 World Championships in Moscow. He has participated in three Olympics in 2000, 2004, and 2008, and later retired from swimming and is now Head of Coaching Science at FORM, a company that aims to break down barriers between what swimming is and what it could be.

## 2022 Richmond Sports Wall of Fame Inductees



### Bruce Haddow – Football

Like his brother, Bill, Bruce Haddow lived and breathed football and coaching. He coached a variety of sports including baseball, softball, track and field, and football. He taught in the Richmond School District for 34 years and retired in 2017. Bruce coached multiple sports for 40 years at eight different levels, in that time he was named National High School Coach of the Year Runner Up twice, the 2007 RSSAA – Outstanding Coaching Achievement Award, awarded a BCHSFA Honorary Life Membership, and many more.

### Eagles Field Hockey – Field Hockey

Regarded as most dominant field hockey team between 1992 to 1999, the Eagles joined the Greater Vancouver Junior Field Hockey League in 1992 as part of a team that was meant to develop junior girls' field hockey. The eagles won the Greater Vancouver Field Hockey League Champions every year and won six consecutive Provincial Field Hockey Championships between 1994 and 1999. Eight players from this dominant field hockey team would go on to win the 1998 BC High School AAA Provincial Championships. In 1999, they were named Richmond's Sports Awards Team of the Year. As a team they lived and breathed by one quote "Everybody wins with teamwork" said by Lance Carey. This dominant team inspired many around the province through their dedication, many would go onto coach or umpire field hockey games.



### Jim Kojima – Judo

Jim Kojima was born in Steveston but evacuated to Southern Alberta in 1942 before returning in 1951. He began practicing judo in 1953 and has been a key member in the Steveston Community since. He promoted and raised money for the new Martial Arts Center that would house Kendo, Judo, and Karate and continues to instruct young athletes now. He served as the vice president of Judo Canada for 14 years and president for six years. He has constantly been an advocate for women in Judo at all levels of the sport, promoting the first Women's World Championships in New York in 1980 and helping at the 1992 Olympic Games. He's officiated at six Olympics, 22 world judo championships, the Pan Am Games, and Pacific Rim Championships. Some achievements Jim has received include the Order of Canada in 1983, the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, an induction into the Judo Canada Hall of Fame in 2004, and more.

### Mike Charlton – Athletics

Mike Charlton began working for the Richmond School District in September 1989 shortly after immigrating to Canada. For over 30 years, he continuously promoted, coached, and led multiple sports helping develop thousands of athletes in the city. Between 1995 to 2005, he coached the Cambie Track and Field team to 11 straight championships, from 1989 to 2011 he coached 29 championship calibre badminton teams, and from 2016 to 2019 as the head of Rugby at McMath Secondary he created and coached 4 levels of men's rugby and coached the emerging sports program into continual provincial championship qualifiers, earning a silver medal finish in the process.



### Richmond Superstars – Soccer

The Richmond Superstars were a team of players, coaches, and managers who all lived in Richmond and joined the club in the inaugural 1975 season. The team was made up of multi-sport athletes who also played box lacrosse, basketball, volleyball, ball hockey, and fastpitch softball. With a lack of areas to practice at, the team played out of their neighbourhood school, Walter Lee Elementary. Despite dealing with financial struggles, the team held fundraisers to pay for the resources, uniforms, fields, and coaching. The team won four western Canadian and national championships within a five-year period and accomplished a three-peat during the 1978 to 1981 season.

### Rick Yodogawa – Judo

Rick Yodogawa grew up in Steveston working for his dad's fishing boat. His family would later move to Surrey but he was committed to the Steveston Judo Club and would routinely make trips to Richmond in support of the club. From 1967 to 1971 he would win two gold medals at the Judo Canadian National Senior Championships in the 63 kg division, and two silver medals and a bronze medal in the 66 kg division. In 1983, the B.C. judo team of eight athletes coached by Ricky, would go on to win a total of seven medals: four gold medals and three bronze medals. As an athlete, Rick would lose his first match to Alma May Stokes who he would later marry. As a coach, all students regardless of skill level were treated with the utmost respect and consideration.



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Photos via rswof.amds.ca



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