



LINDA MCPHAIL

1959-2024



04



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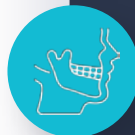
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2nd floor of Terra Nova Shopping Centre

City of Richmond is seeking highly visible walls

Property owners, organizations, stratas and non-profit groups with highly visible walls are invited to participate in the city's Community Mural Program. Now in its sixth year, this program partners those offering walls to be painted with artists to create vibrant public murals.

"Richmond's Community Mural Program brings together artists, community groups, residents and local businesses to transform the places where we live, work and play into welcoming environments," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The murals add vibrancy to our public spaces, foster community identity and create civic pride".

Selected applicants will be notified in early October and city staff will then match successful applicants with a pre-qualified artist to create the mural. Locations must be visually accessible to the general public, and meet a few additional requirements. Private, single family properties are not eligible. Details can be found at richmond.ca/MuralProgram

"Schools across the Richmond School District have had the privilege of working with artists with support from the City of Richmond's Community Mural Program. The murals are more than just beautiful pieces of art, they are a testament to the power of collaboration and creativity," said Catherine Jule, district administrator, early learning and arts with the Richmond School District No. 38. "The



Dog Days by Rory Doyle, South Arm Outdoor Pool.

Photo courtesy City of Richmond

murals amplify the stories and voices of our learners and have become a focal point, contributing to a growing sense of belonging for all"

Since the launch of the Community Mural Program in 2019, there have been 28 murals completed throughout Richmond including:

- *Facets of Byng* by Phil Phil Studio at Lord Byng Elementary School
- *Dog Days* by Rory Doyle at South Arm Outdoor

Pool

- *A Fisherman's Dream* by Carolyn Wong at Steveston Harbour Authority

Applying to participate in the Mural program is easy with the deadline of Monday, Sept. 23. Murals will be completed in 2025. To learn more about the Community Mural Program and to apply, visit richmond.ca/MuralProgram, email publicart@richmond.ca or call 604-247-4612.

Seismically safer classrooms coming to Richmond

Students and staff in Richmond will benefit from safer learning environments as major upgrades and replacements are underway for several elementary schools to meet the latest seismic safety standards.

Diefenbaker Elementary School is set to be completely rebuilt to provide a seismically safer environment. This initiative, supported by over \$52 million from the provincial government, will ensure that 456 students have access to a safer, modern learning facility. The new school will feature a neighbourhood learning centre offering services such as child care, and will be designed to reduce greenhouse gas emission by more than 75 per cent compared to a LEED Gold standard building. The new Diefenbaker Elementary is expected to open in April 2028.

Construction has also begun on a seismic upgrade at Alfred B. Dixon Elementary School, built in 1958. With a \$31 million investment from the provincial government, this project will provide almost 400 students with safer and modern facilities. The seismic upgrade, expected to be completed by spring 2026, is a significant step toward ensuring the safety and well-being for Richmond's students.

"This is a very meaningful project for our Dixon Dragons community," said Kelly Greene. "I'm thankful our government is investing in the safety of our schools so that kids, teachers, and staff can learn together in a safe environment."



Screen grab from Google Maps

Construction on Alfred B. Dixon Elementary school has begun, making a safer place for students to learn.

Over the past seven years, the provincial government has approved \$245 million for seismic upgrades and school expansions in the Richmond School District, creating more than 500 new student seats and over 5,500 seismically safe seats. This includes projects at James Whiteside Elementary, William Bridge Elementary, and Howard DeBeck Elementary.

Heather Larson, board chair of the Richmond School District, highlighted the partnership with the provincial government in ensuring the safety and sustainability of educational facilities. "Our ongoing partnership with

the provincial government reflects our shared commitment to the safety and well-being of our students and staff," Larson said.

Since September 2017, the B.C. government has invested \$4.9 billion in new and improved schools, resulting in over 35,000 new student spaces and more than 35,000 seismically safe seats across the province. Budget 2024 includes a record \$3.75 billion for school capital projects over the next three years, encompassing new and expanded schools, seismic upgrades, replacements, and land purchases.

"Every seismic upgrade project represents a meaningful step forward in our district's ongoing efforts to improve our schools," Larson added. With these investments, Richmond's students and staff can look forward to a safer, brighter future in their educational environments.

Farewell dear friend, until we meet again...

By FLORENCE GORDON
Contributing writer

I first met Linda two decades ago and like everyone that Linda let into her life and called friend was something to be cherished. She was loved and respected for her professionalism and dedication in her career as school trustee and city councillor. When she decided in 2022 not to run in the city election even though she had her reasons, it was tough to see her step down.

On Aug. 30, 2020 Linda wrote on her Facebook: As the world fights to figure everything out, I'll be holding doors for strangers, letting people cut in front of me in traffic, saying good morning keeping babies entertained in grocery lines, stopping to talk to someone who is lonely, tipping generously, waving at police, sharing food, giving children a thumbs-up, being patient with sales clerks, smiling at passersby, and buying a stranger a cup of coffee.

WHY? Because I will not stand to live in a world where love is invisible. Join me in showing kindness, understanding, and judging less. Be kind to a stranger, give grace to friends who are having a bad day, be forgiving with yourself.

This morning I stopped on the way to work and had coffee with a stranger. After a brief chat, I asked if he knew Linda McPhail. He paused, then said "I cannot find the words to describe what a wonderful woman Linda was, she had such a kind, positive impact on everyone she touched."

Mayor Malcolm Brodie said "Linda was a passionate volunteer who served her community in many ways. Linda was always dedicated to engaging citizens and was committed to making Richmond a strong and vibrant community that people would be proud to call home."

It is with sadness the City of Richmond has learned of the passing of former long-time city councillor and school trustee Linda McPhail.

First elected to Richmond City Council in 2011, Linda McPhail served three terms before announcing she would not be seeking re-election in 2022. Prior to



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Former City of Richmond councillor and school trustee, Linda McPhail.

that, she sat as a school trustee with the Richmond Board of Education from 2002 to 2011, serving as chair for seven years.

While on council, she spent time as chair of the Community Safety Committee, and as a member of the city's Finance, General Purposes, Public Works, Transportation, Parks and Recreation and Cultural Services committees. She also took on roles as Council Liaison to several advisory committees, organizations and community associations including the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee, West Richmond Community Association and Richmond Public Library.

Linda McPhail served on the UBCM executive as one of two regional representatives, as well as the Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Culture committee, and as the mayor's alternate to the TransLink Mayors' Council.

Outside of her elected roles, Linda McPhail was an active member of the community and a passionate volunteer. She was on the boards of the Seafair Minor Hockey Association and Richmond Arenas Community Association, volunteered for the 2009 BC Seniors Games in Richmond, and was a member of the local Hospital Auxiliary for over 20 years.

"Linda was known and much loved for her warmth and compassion, and

her commitment to respect and represent the people of Richmond in a professional and inclusive manner," Mayor Brodie added. "She always described herself as a 'proud resident' who called Richmond home for over six decades, raising three children with her husband Terry. City Council, on behalf of the City of Richmond, extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to Linda's family."

There are no words to express the loss we are all feeling the memories we'll cherish forever...

As a sign of recognition and respect, City Hall will lower flags to half-mast on the day of her memorial service, which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 11 a.m. at the Richmond Funeral Home, 8420 Cambie Road.

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RICHMOND
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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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In honour of our soldiers: Private Neal Findlay McLeod

By MICHAEL COOPER
Student writer

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

Born on July 20, 1913, in Nanaimo, Neal Findlay McLeod and his family moved to Richmond in 1922 to begin strawberry farming. Neal dropped out of Richmond High School to support his family with the early passing of his father. When the second world war started, McLeod began working with the West Coast Ship Builders.

In 1942, Neal enrolled into the Canadian

Armed Forces and completed his training in Vernon. McLeod was posted in Calgary then Ontario then went back to Calgary to work as a bricklayer. In 1943, he and 150,000 other Canadian foot soldiers were tasked with Operation Husky, to attack the ports of Sicily. On July 16 Neal was killed in action among the 562 Canadians that died during Operation Husky.

These brave Canadian soldiers were buried in the Agira Canadian War Cemetery in the center of Sicily. Neal McLeod's legacy continues in McLeod Avenue and McLeod Court between No.4 and Bridgeport Road.



Screen grab from Google Maps

A poppy engraved road sign of McLeod Avenue and McLeod Court.

New plastic regulations

People in British Columbia will benefit from a cleaner environment and reduced waste from single-use plastics as new regulations come into effect.

People will see less plastic waste in their communities as the next phase of the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan comes into effect. Plastic shopping bags will no longer be offered at stores and oxo-degradable plastic packaging and single-use products will no longer be sold in the province. These changes

will keep harmful waste out of landfills and will reduce oxo-degradable plastics, which contain chemicals that cause break down into microplastics and pollute the environment.

It is estimated that more than 340,000 tonnes of plastic items and packaging were disposed of in British Columbia in 2019. This equates to more than 65 kilograms of plastic waste per person sent to the landfill in one year.

Phasing out single-use items is part of the Clean-

BC Plastics Action Plan to help us move away from temporary and disposable plastics to durable and reusable products.

These changes are the next step in Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation announced in July 2023, which limits the use of plastic shopping bags, disposable food-service accessories, oxo-degradable plastics, and food-service packaging made of polystyrene foam, PVC, PVDC, compostable and biodegradable plastics.

BLUNDELL CENTRE

Cherish the remainder of
Summer
at Blundell Centre

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Richmondite awarded Medal of Good Citizenship

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

Richmond's own Jim Kojima, a long-time resident and important member of the Steveston Community was recently awarded the Medal of Good Citizenship by the Province of British Columbia. Kojima was one of 18 people set to receive the award in the following month for their extraordinary contributions to their communities.

"These 18 people have made a profound impact on their communities and a positive difference in the lives of so many," said Premier David Eby. "By sharing their time, energy and talents, they are making B.C. a better place. Their selfless generosity is a model for us all and I thank them for it."

The Medal of Good Citizenship celebrates individuals who have acted in a particularly generous, kind or selfless manner for the betterment of their communities without expectation of reward. It was established by the Government of B.C. in 2015.

"The incredible kindness and service of people like this year's medal recipients make B.C. communities such thriving and welcoming places," said Lana Popham, minister of tourism, arts, culture and sport, and chair of the Medal of Good Citizenship selection committee. "I am incredibly grateful for the dedication and passion of these extraordinary individuals. They exemplify the true spirit of community service, touching the hearts of all they meet."

Jim Kojima was born in Steveston, in 1938, before he and all Canadians of Japanese heritage were forcibly evacuated to Alberta in 1942 in the aftermath of



Richmond's Jim Kojima was one of 18 residents of British Columbia to be awarded a Medal of Good Citizenship.



Photos via bcsportshall.com

the bombing of Pearl Harbour. Nine years after being forced to evacuate, Jim returned to Steveston. In 1953, the Steveston Judo Club was founded, Kojima was one of 80 inaugural club members. The Steveston Judo Club that operated in various rooms including the back room of a theatre, the Red Cross hall, a Buddhist temple near No. 1 Road, and a Richmond community center. Kojima, through many events like car washes, vegetable sales, and concerts, would raise nearly \$100,000 for the building of the Steveston Martial Arts Center, which opened in 1972.

As a member of the club, Kojima was also actively competing in Judo in the 1950s and

1960s, he earned his first black belt in 1957 and was promoted to the eighth-degree black belt in 2018. His impact on the sport in Canada is also worth noting as he served in key roles in Judo Canada for 66 years, whilst also acting as Judo Canada's vice-president from 1968 to 1988 and president from 1988 to 1994.

Throughout his career, Kojima has received countless awards, he received the Order of Canada in 1983, the International Judo Federation (IJF) Gold Medal and named a Honourary Life Member, Judo Canada's Life Member in 2004 and Hall of Fame in 2006, Japan's Order of the Rising Sun in 2011, the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, and now the Province of British Columbia's Medal of Good Citizenship.

Jim Kojima currently serves as president of the Minoru Seniors Society, committed to enhancing senior living in Richmond, where he advocates for diverse and inclusive programming. He also helps organize Steveston community events like the annual Steveston Salmon Festival and Steveston Farmers and Artisans Market.

Medal presentation ceremonies will be held in the province in August 2024 and early September 2024.

Nominations for the Medal of Good Citizenship are accepted year-round. Any current or former long-term resident of B.C. is eligible to be nominated. Youth and posthumous nominations are welcome.

The 2024 Medal of Good Citizenship was offered in these categories:

- Championing affordable housing
- Transforming lives through agriculture
- Pioneering fire rescue
- Inclusion and empowerment advocacy
- Driving success of children's charities
- Promoting community empowerment and mental-health equity
- A lifelong commitment to resilience and community service
- Conservation and community stewardship advocacy
- Mental-health advocacy and dedication to veterans
- A lifetime of dedication to martial arts and community service
- Inspiring youth to volunteer
- Addressing food insecurity
- Working toward the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in the Lower Mainland
- Promoting volunteerism and community spirit
- Migrant farm-worker support and advocacy in the Fraser Valley
- Championing arts and community engagement in the Kootenays

To read the biographies of the 2024 Medal of Good Citizenship recipients, visit: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/honours-and-awards/medal-good-citizenship/latest-recipients

For more information about the Medal of Good Citizenship, including how to nominate someone, visit:

gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/honours-and-awards/medal-good-citizenship

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MEDIA SPONSORS



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

OUR CITY

Richmond

GOOD TO KNOW

by Florence Gordon



The Richmond Museum is operated collaboratively by the Richmond Museum Society and City of Richmond. The Museum's vision is to make the history of Richmond relevant, engaging and accessible. To support this vision, the Museum collects, documents, researches, preserves, exhibits and interprets objects of historical and cultural significance to the development and history of Richmond. As storytellers, collectors and educators, our goal is to create moments of wonder and understanding. Our exhibitions tell the many fascinating stories of Richmond; our collections are windows into how we live, past and present; our education programs open minds, young and old; and our work inspires action for a healthy community and planet. The Museum aims to inspire curiosity about our community's history while exploring our place in the world. We invite visitors, students and educators to come on a journey of discovery with us.

Richmond Museum

Created in partnership with Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Honorary Consulate of Ukraine in Vancouver, *Canada, Here We Are!* is now open in the Richmond Museum. This travelling exhibit, tells the fascinating story of generations of Ukrainian Canadians celebrating the more than 1.3 million Canadians who can trace their ancestry to Ukraine and/or Ukrainian Canadian history and culture. It highlights displays of Ukrainian Easter eggs, textiles and a traditional bread and salt offering. Some artifacts are also loaned by Richmond's Ukrainian Community Society's Ivan Franko. Exhibit closes Jan. 22, 2025.



CULTURE DAYS

at the Museum

Current Exhibition – Richmond Kids

What is it like to grow up in Richmond? There are many answers—come and find out what they have to say, what they loved, and what made growing up here unique in different time periods. Exhibit closes Aug 18.

Treasure Hunt

Explore the Richmond Museum's new exhibit, Family Treasures. Discover the many ways our treasures and heirlooms reveal our unique histories while also showing surprising connections.

Reduce Waste

Richmond is encouraging residents, of all ages, to "Rethink Waste" to help reduce waste and support a circular economy, including extending the life of well-loved stuffed toys by maintaining and repairing them rather than buying new.

Discovery Area

The Discovery Area, the Museum's children's activity zone, provides fun, hands-on, interactive games and activities for kids six years old and younger. Come and play.

OUR
CITY

Richmond

GOOD TO KNOW

by Florence Gordon



The Olympic Experience began Aug. 1, visitors can receive free admission to The Olympic Experience at Richmond Olympic Oval on the first Thursday of every month from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets can be claimed on a first-come, first-served basis at the Oval front desk. The Olympic Experience provides a highly interactive journey through Canada's sport history through sport simulators, physical challenges and informative displays. New exhibits include the 180-degree immersive surf simulator that takes participants through the waves in Tofino or Costa Rica.

"Providing free admission on the first Thursday of each month is an initiative in a series aimed at providing additional opportunities for the community to visit and participate in activities here at the Oval," said managing director, Gerry De Cicco. Over the coming weeks, the Richmond Olympic Oval will announce additional community engagement initiatives.



Photos courtesy The Beauty Shop Dolls

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT –
Concerts in the Plaza (Free Event)

Celebrate the summer and enjoy live music from local entertainment in this annual series. Ice cream sales will take place on concert days for \$2 each cash only. In the event of rain, program will be moved inside to the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre for Active Living.

Aug. 21, 7 - 8 p.m.

- The Beauty Shop Dolls
- All concerts are free
- No registration required
- This is an accessible site

CULTURE DAYS –
Teddy Bear Repair Fair

Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Join the Richmond Museum and Richmond Environmental Programs for a heartwarming and interactive experience at the Teddy Bear Repair Fair. Schedule an appointment with our team of friendly "doctors" who are specialists in stitching up rips and tears, reattaching limbs, and re-stuffing toys that need some extra plumping. Your treasured stuffed toy will be in good hands with us.

CULTURE
DAYS

at the Museum



Asphalt Paving Advisory

April 20 to November 30, 2024

The City of Richmond has contracted Save On Black Top Ltd. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from April 20 to November 30, 2024.**

PROPOSED 2024 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to Cambie Road)—Bridgeport Road intersection not included. Cambie Road Intersection included
Cambie Road (Shell Road to No. 5 Road)—Intersections included
Bridgeport Road (Viking Way to Sweden Way)—Intersections included
No.4 Road and Alderbridge Way Intersection
Westminster Highway (Gilbert Road to No. 3 Road)—Intersections included
Beckwith Road (Sexsmith Road to Smith Street)—Intersections included
Blundell Road—(No. 4 Road to No.5 Road)—No. 4 Road Intersection included
No. 1 Road (Francis Road to Blundell Road)—Intersections included
No. 1 Road (Westminster Highway to Granville Avenue)—Intersections included
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to Vulcan Way)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road)—Intersections included
Vulcan Way (No. 5 Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included
Garden City Road (Cambie Road to Bridgeport Road) —Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Seadliff Road to Kingsbridge Drive)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Alderbridge Way to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
Burkeville Subdivision includes Catalina Crescent, Douglas Crescent, Hudson Avenue, Boeing Avenue
Kwantlen Street (Alderbridge Way to Alexandra Road)—Alexandra Road Intersection included
Machrina Way (Horseshoe Way to No. 5 Road)
22000 Block Westminster Highway (MOTI—McLean Avenue) including McLean Avenue Intersection
Knight Street (Southbound Lanes from Bridge Deck to 50m South)
Knight Street South Bound On and Off Ramps at Bridgeport Road
Steveston Highway (Westbound Lanes from Shell Road to No.5 Road)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Bridgeport Road to River Drive)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Hammersmith Gate to Steveston Highway)
Jacombs Rd (Cambie Road—Bathgate Way)—Intersections included
Bathgate Way (Sweden Way—Jacombs Road) Intersections included
Hammersmith Gate (Shell Road to Hammersmith Way) Intersections included
Leonard Road (Ryan Road to Williams Road)—Intersections included
Maddocks Road (Aintree Crescent to Shell Road)—Intersections included
Boundary Road (Thompson Gate to Westminster Highway) including Thompson Gate intersection
Blundell Road (Sidaway Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included

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

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

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

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

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



Locally grown garlic for sale. Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Richmond Garlic Festival returns

By MICHAEL COOPER
Student writer

The Richmond Garlic Festival 2024 will take place on Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Terra Nova rural park. This year's garlic festival features locally grown garlic, garlic ice cream, raptor demonstrations, farmer's markets, workshops, and entertainment.

Free admission by donation and the donations go towards the Sharing Farm. Vendors include Tokyo-Katsu-sand, CultivATE, Mahshiko, and Dos Amigos. The event is held in the Terra Nova Natural Area with ponds, paths, parks, zip lines, and birds that festival-goers are encouraged to visit.

Throughout the festival there will be live music from: The School of Rock, and Raw Honey. Accompanying there will also be entertainment from the Raptor demonstrations, featuring acrobatic flight demonstrations from local birds of prey including Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons.

The garlic festival began 15 years ago in an initiative to bring local, sustainable, and nutritious produce to the people of Richmond. Out of this came the organization The Sharing Farm which donates thousands of pounds of fresh produce to the needy. Once a small farmers market, the festival has evolved into an event hosting thousands of people.

Garlic was one of the earliest crops cultivated by Egyptian and Indian farmers who began cultivating garlic over 5000 years ago. Although in Canada garlic wasn't initially accepted, in the 1800s-1900s—it was considered a poor man's food, often associated with immigrant Asian and Southeast Asian cuisine. As Canadian society became more accepting of foreign cultures, so did our palettes for this humble herb.

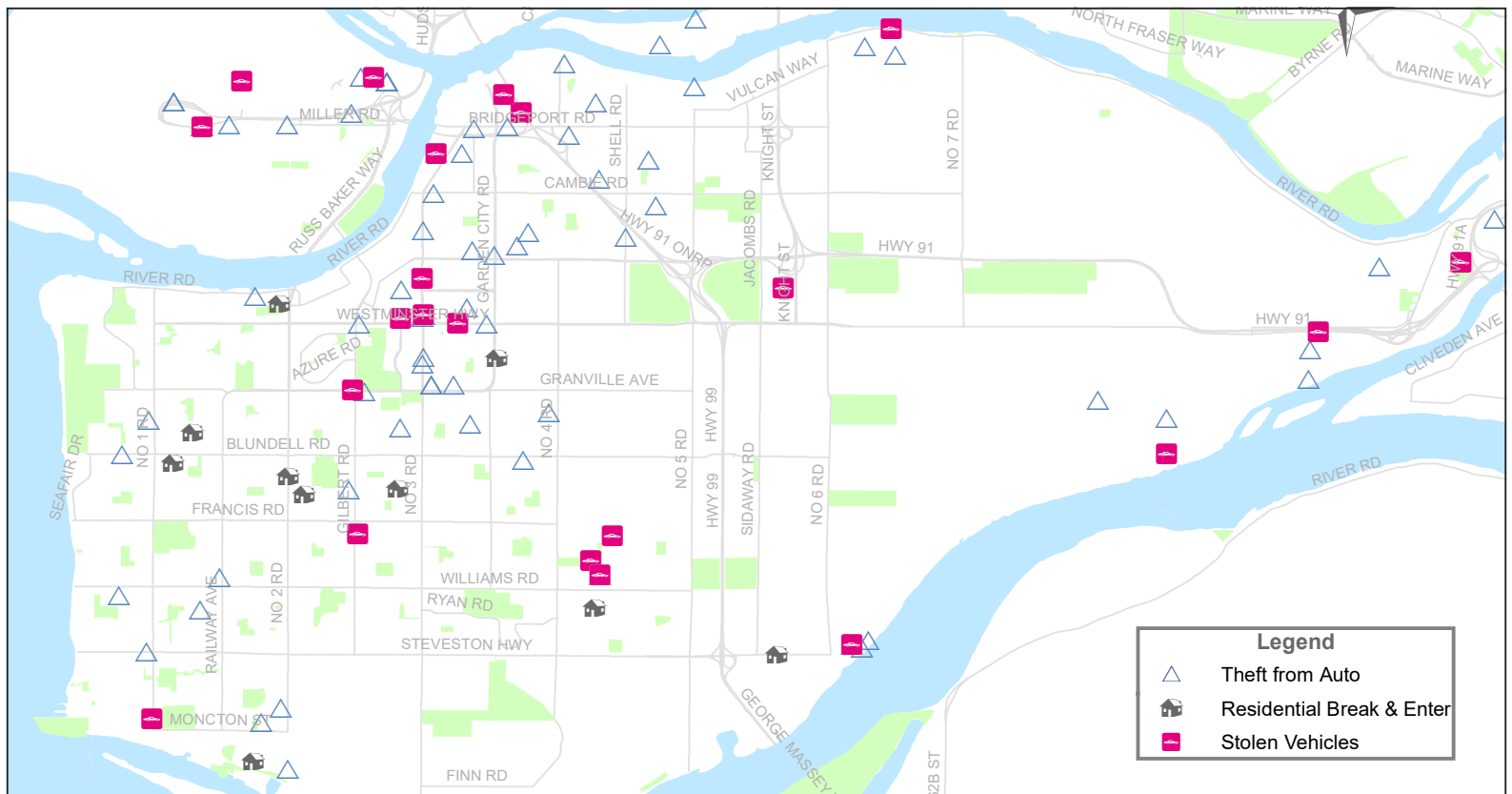
The Garlic Festival celebrates local farmers and their highest-quality products. The Festival features many species of garlic including Italian Softneck, Music, Red Russian, and Chesnok Red. Along with garlic, the farmers market includes vendors selling all manner of artisan goods.

To learn more, visit The Sharing Farm website: sharingfarm.ca



RCMP

Crime Map July 1 - 31, 2024



Celebrating 50 years of women in the RCMP

Richmond RCMP is proud to kick off celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of women joining the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This milestone represents a significant achievement in the history of diversity and inclusion within the RCMP. As part of this commemoration, we are featuring a series of profiles of RCMP members serving the Richmond detachment, of diverse ranks, roles, and backgrounds.

Superintendent Julie Drotar: a journey of dedication and service.

Superintendent Julie Drotar is the senior operations officer, second in command, at the Richmond RCMP detachment. She has previously held positions as the assistant LMD district commander, and operations support officer at the Coquitlam RCMP. She also held several operational and administrative roles in provincial and federal units within the RCMP. With a career spanning 30 years, Supt. Drotar exemplifies the dedication and excellence that women in the RCMP have come to represent.

What inspired you to join the RCMP, and what motivates you to continue serving in law enforcement?

Being a police officer is a very rewarding and satisfying career. I joined the RCMP because I wanted to serve my community and make a tangible difference in people's lives. This profession offered me the opportunity to help others, uphold justice, and contribute to the safety and well-being of those around me.

Each day brings new challenges and rewards and I find great fulfillment in the sense of purpose and responsibility that comes with the job. As a senior leader, I also focus on ensuring the employees I oversee have the tools and support they need to thrive in their duties/careers, and provide a happy and fulfilling workplace for them to come to every day.



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP
Julie Drotar of the Richmond RCMP.

What challenges have you faced in your career, and how have you overcome them?

As a female police officer, I have faced various challenges, but I view each challenge as an opportunity to grow and learn. Some of these challenges pushed me to reach higher ranks in senior leadership to ensure I could be part of the positive changes within the force. This mindset has helped me overcome difficulties and continue progressing in my career. It's important to convey that challenges do not define us; rather, how we respond to them does. By reflecting on what we can learn from each obstacle, we can pave a better path for others.

What advice would you give to young women in policing or those considering a career with the RCMP?

Take part in the conversation and assert yourself. Don't underestimate your abilities or contribution. Embrace ambition and don't be afraid to strive for specific duties or leadership roles. Seek mentors and build a supportive network of women who can help navigate the challenges of being a female police officer. Most importantly, be true to yourself and believe in your capabilities.

Celebrating history and inspiring the future

Richmond RCMP's celebration of the 50th anniversary of women in the RCMP aims to honour the trailblazing women who are shaping our community with their dedication and service. Through a series of media features, we will highlight the diverse roles and backgrounds of women officers within our detachment, showcasing their unique contributions to public safety.

We invite the community to join us in celebrating the historic milestone by following us on social media and our newsroom for stories and updates. Engage with the women officers who continue to make Richmond a safe and vibrant community.



Joe Biz — by Joe Leary

Pets & Pickers

On its surface it may sound like a rather unusual premise for a pseudo-documentary/realty style television concept.

But *Pets & Pickers* has been extremely well-received and has just entered its third season. The series follows an animal hospital, known as RAPS (Regional Animal Protection Society) with two decades of roots in Richmond.

The show follows animals in need; their owners and the team of veterinarians. *Pets & Pickers* made its Canadian debut two years ago and it was followed by the US premiere in 2023. That's the *Pets* part of the equation.

The *Pickers*, represent a group of people that wade through abandoned storage bins and the like; hoping to turn some of their finds into value that will ultimately pay for animal surgeries and recovery.

Unlike shows like *Storage Wars* where individual collector's bid on unopened storage lockers; ultimately hoping to cash in on a treasure trove of abandoned belongings, *Pets & Pickers* is all about parlaying the valuables into much-needed medical coverage for animals and their owners, often faced with costly care and treatment of their pets.

And it's all done through RAPS own thrift store. Local resident Jamie Ansty has been a volunteer at the thrift store for over five years.

When the concept of the TV show was first proposed, he was thrilled at the chance to be among the pickers. As a buyer and seller of collectable himself, he fit right in.

"They had started filming a pilot and asked me to appraise items as an 'expert' as I have been buying and selling things my whole life," he says.

"I was happy to oblige and we went ahead and filmed the pilot episode." "It was a lot of fun opening storage bins and digging for treasures inside.

"Luckily, most of the stuff I could ap-



Photo courtesy ctv.ca/shows/pets-pickers

The crew from *Pets & Pickers*, now showing on CTV and ROKU.

praise easily, especially records and music related memorabilia as that had been my forte for many years".

Now the aim of the show is basically to turn someone's donated items into treasure. Ansty recalls an early experience sifting through one such less-than-stellar collection of goodies.

"The first locker we opened had soiled mattresses, mouse poop and sex toys, which was a little discouraging as there was no treasures to be had." But the second one we opened, we found a ruby and gold bracelet that was worth \$5,000.

"That really helped the thrift store and the animal hospital, and was probably responsible for saving the lives of many pets".

The best art of *Pets & Pickers* would most certainly be the combination of joy in finding items of value and then further parlaying those valuables into necessary funds for the hospital; providing financial assistance and comfort to many animals but also their owners in need.

"I was totally flattered to be included and happy to be a part of it," says Ansty. "It has been fun ap-

praising cool finds in the storage units we get to open.

"I find it very rewarding and fulfilling to be a part of something that not only directly benefits sick and injured animals but also puts me in my element working with collectibles and cool storage finds - the thrill of the hunt." "You never know what you're going to find in the storage units.

"At the end of the day you have to remember that all the money that comes in through the thrift stores is used to help pay for pet surgeries, and operations that save the lives of countless animals and make their lives better.

"That's what keeps me coming back to volunteer at the store and also participating in the television series".

Pets & Pickers is growing every season and was recently picked up for US distribution on Discovery Channel and Animal Planet.

Locally it continues to grow as well on Discovery Canada, Crave Canada and ctv.ca

Season three premiered last month and is now available on ROKU.

X-@reallyjoeleary • Instagram@joeleary



Photo via rapsanimalhospital.com

Richmond Hospital redevelopment project advances

People in Richmond and surrounding areas are a step closer to a new acute-care tower following the release of candidates shortlisted to advance to the next stage of Phase 2 of the Richmond Hospital redevelopment project.

The three shortlisted teams are:

- Bird Design-Build Construction Inc., Stantec Architecture Ltd., AtkinsRéalis Major Projects Inc., and AtkinsRéalis Canada Inc.;
- EllisDon Corporation, DIALOG BC Architecture Engineering Interior Design Planning Inc., PML Professional Mechanical Ltd., and Houle Electric Limited; and
- Graham Design Builders LP and HDR Architecture Associates, Inc.

"I welcome the announcement of the successful candidates in this competitive RFP process and look forward to seeing the plans to build the new nine-floor acute-care tower at the Richmond Hospital move forward," said Adrian Dix, minister of health. "With the largest health-care investment in Richmond's history, our government is committed to building on local health-care services, supporting patients in receiving the highest quality care and providing an exceptional workplace for staff and health-care providers."

The Richmond Hospital redevelopment will add 113 more hospital beds, increasing from 246 to 359 acute-care beds. Medical-care spaces will increase, including three more operating rooms bringing the total to 11. Emergency-department spaces will increase from 62 to 86, with three CT scanners added, along with another MRI for a total of two, and an additional interventional-radiology room will be added to the hospital in future.

This RFP process is expected to take approximately six months. Then the team will start the alliance-development phase, which is anticipated to take one year. Phase 2 construction of the new 216-bed Yurkovich Family Pavilion is expected to start in early 2026 and finish in 2029.

Phase 1 of the Richmond Hospital redevelopment is already underway. This includes the renovations to the Milan Ilich Pavilion for the new cancer-care



Photo by Jaana Björk

The list of candidates to advance to the next stage of Phase 2 of the Richmond Hospital redevelopment project have been announced.

clinic, which were completed in October 2023 with the facility opening to patients on Nov. 27, 2023 relocation of services and the demolition of the Rotunda building. Work on the demolition of the Park Centre is expected to begin in December 2024.

The total project cost is \$1.96 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion since the business plan developed in 2020-21, primarily due to construction-cost escalation related to market conditions across all sectors.

Richmond Hospital opened in 1966 and has 246 beds that serve Richmond, South Vancouver and Delta, as well as people using Vancouver International Airport and BC Ferries facilities.



It's friends we meet along the way that help us appreciate the journey.



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Photo courtesy Roadside Attractions

THE VIEW – *A Penguin Friend*

We have always loved actor, Jean Reno, who first caught our attention as a hitman in 1994's *The Professional*, which also marked the film debut of a young actress named Natalie Portman. Since then, he has continued to impress us with his range and film choices. Now comes, well, a different Jean Reno, in the family film, *My Penguin Friend*. Based on an emotional, true story, Reno plays a heartbroken fisherman named Joao, a lonely man who has been shut out from the world and his wife (Oscar nominee, Adriana Barraza) after a tragedy. But his life is about to take a turn when he discovers an oil-soaked penguin drifting alone in the ocean. Could these two lost souls help each other? What follows is the story of an unlikely bond and love that grows. We should add, this film is enhanced by the beautiful scenery—in this case, the coastlines of Brazil and Argentina. In theatres Aug 16. roadsideattractions.com

THE VIEW #2 – *Duchess*

Unlike our first viewing choice, *Duchess* is definitely not for the whole family. So after the kids have gone to bed, settle in and enjoy this story of a small-time crook (played wonderfully by Charlotte Kirk) who falls in love with a bigtime gangster, lives the good life for a little while, then is left for dead after a diamond trafficking deal goes wrong. She recovers and focuses on one thing: vengeance and retribution of epic proportions. If you're a fan of director, Guy Ritchie and his violent but dark-humoured

Duchess is available on digital and On Demand Aug. 9. sabanfilms.com

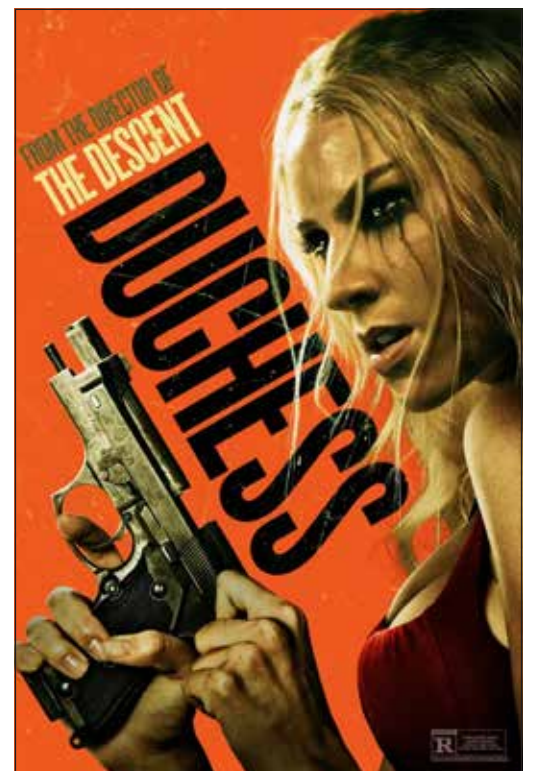


Photo courtesy Saban Films

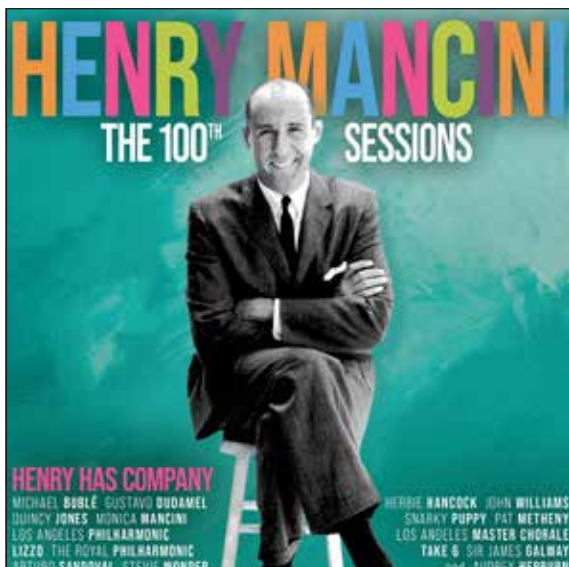


Photo via henrymancini.com

THE MUSIC – *The Henry Mancini 100th Sessions: Henry Has Company*

Thirty years after his death at the too-young age of 70, legendary music composer, Henry Mancini, is getting another well-deserved tribute, which times with what would've been his 100th birthday. The music he created for film is timeless—think *Moon River*, *Days of Wine and Roses* (which gained him and lyricist, Johnny Mercer, back-to-back Oscars in 1962/63), or the theme from *The Pink Panther*. For TV he was equally prodigious—think the theme from *Peter Gunn*, among many others. Now comes *The Henry Mancini 100th Sessions: Henry Has Company*, a seven-track album with guest appearances by Vancouver's own, Michael Buble (who also appeared at the Hollywood Bowl tribute to Mancini), as well as Stevie Wonder, Quincy Jones, Dave Koz, Cynthia Erivo and Mancini's own daughter, Monica. For us, Mancini will always be the artist who turned movie and TV scores into a popular art form and in doing so created music the world is still listening to and always will.

Documentary reveals tragic fallout of historic film

Before *Our City Tonight* interviewed this special guest, it was important to review the history of the following. Let's go back to 1957 when an epic and historical movie was about to be made. Of course, this type of movie was all the rage back then, if you think about the *Ten Commandments* and *Ben Hur*.

The movie would be called *The Conqueror*, and it was the story of Genghis Khan. An all-star cast was chosen, and it was shot on location in the desert of Southwest Utah. To play Genghis Khan, they had John Wayne who was one of the biggest movie stars on the planet at that time. But this would turn out to be one of the most bizarre and odd miscasting in film history when the movie was finally released.

It was not widely seen because it was taken out of distribution. We have seen clips, and it is indeed laughably bad and of course critics agreed. The part that wasn't laughable is what happened over the next four decades. And that's where our guest comes in.

His new movie is called *The Conqueror: Hollywood Fallout*. William Nunez is the writer and the director of this movie, and he joined us on a zoom interview from New Jersey.

OCT: *This is such a tragic story, and our readers may or may not know what prompted you to write and produce this movie, maybe you can explain the history behind it.*

WN: They decided to do the film *The Conqueror* in the St. George area which is about 140 miles east of Las Vegas. The decision to shoot there was because the red clay looked like the Gobi Desert. Though I doubt any of them would've known at the time what the Gobi Desert looked like however, little did they know that they were also shooting 135 miles to the west of the Nevada test site where nearly 9 months before, 11 tests were conducted that was at least 20 times more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima Nagasaki.

The winds from most of the test areas blew in the direction of where they were filming. Then they had the misfortune of shooting the movie in the summer when the desert storms were at their highest peak plus the hundreds of horses used as extras kicked up the dust for about 2 to 3 months. Everyone working on production was breathing that dust

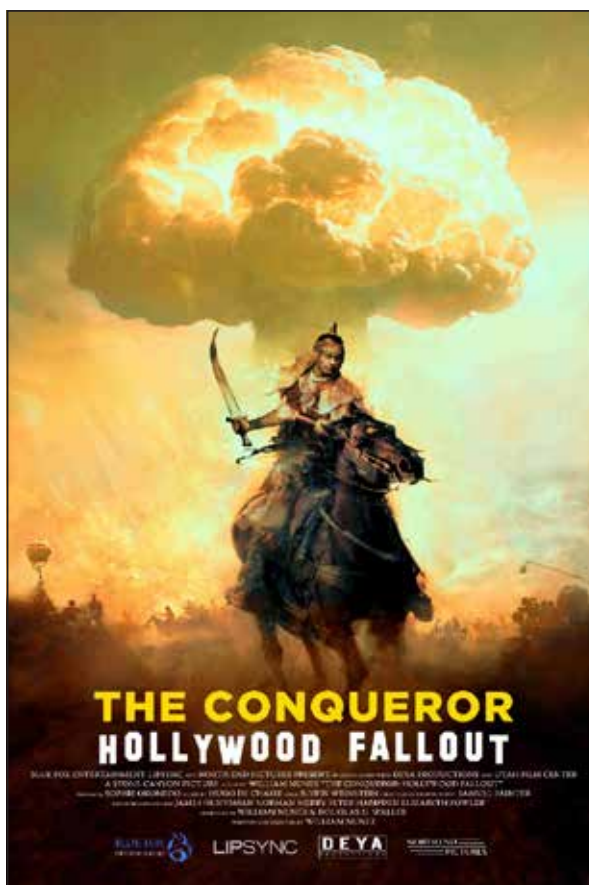


Photo courtesy Blue Fox Entertainment

constantly and it had effects on their health, unfortunately.

OCT: *Some of the stats we knew of from the story for over 30 years, but the stats that you talk about in this film and the main people that you talk about like the director (who was a former actor, movie star, producer) Dick Powell. And also, Susan Hayward (Oscar winner), Agnes Morehead, Pedro Armendariz Senior and John Wayne, they all get cancer, and they all die. When you look at these numbers, you list out of the 222 crewmembers that 91 developed cancers, 46 died from it. And we haven't even mentioned stats from the nearby town of St. George.*

WN: St. George had a higher-than-normal cancer rate for anyone working on this production. This was an area of mostly farmers, and it was a tourist destination only as a stopover if you were driving from

Salt Lake or all the way from Winnipeg, that highway goes down all the way to San Diego. Having said that, in the late 50s and 60s children were getting leukaemia at 2.5 higher rates than the general population of North America. And women were getting thyroid cancer at an alarming rate and men were getting prostate cancer as early as their 30s, which is a disease that is normally associated with those in their 50s. So those clusters led me to believe that, even though most of the people that worked on *The Conqueror* were smokers, those coincidences probably did not help that they filmed there during the height of atomic testing.

OCT: *One of the things that your movie talks about that we didn't know, and I'm not one who's going to defend Howard Hughes (who was the producer and owner of RK studios at the time) but he said bring 20 truckloads of that clay and that sand back to Hollywood so we can lay it on the studio floor so we can have continuity. The people have months and months more exposure to that element in the studio. And what happened to that sand after they were done?*

WN: No one knows. I personally believe that it stayed there through many other productions. I did extensive research, but we couldn't find that magic bullet which is—you know, a PO order sending these tons and tons of sand after the production to wherever. There has always been speculation that it didn't move far and that it stayed in the Los Angeles area. What is interesting is that radioactivity in the soil has a half-life of 14,000 years so it's still out there. A great story shares that the Wayne family went back to the location with a Geiger counter in the 90s and it was still going off. Even though it was low levels, it was still going off.

OCT: *William, this is a superb film that you created, wrote and directed, thank you. It's a story that is long overdue and it is part of what makes documentaries so great. Exposing what happened and reminding people that just because they may not know who the participants were, it doesn't make the story any less important. We encourage all our readers to check out The Conqueror: Hollywood Fallout available now for viewing at home.*

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