



VOL. 8 ISSUE 17

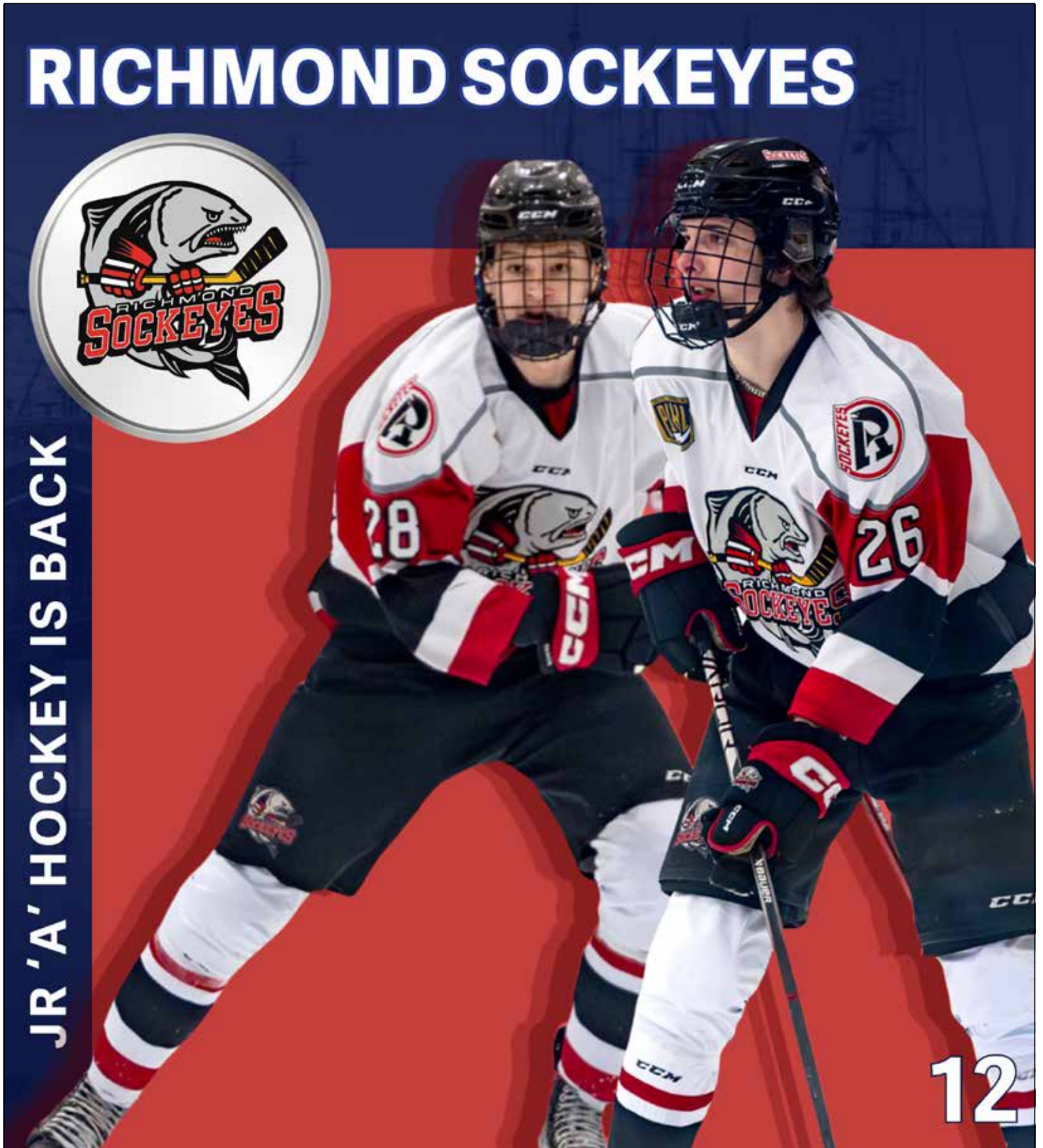
NOT-FOR-PROFIT

SEPT. 10 - 23, 2024

RICHMOND SOCKEYES



JR 'A' HOCKEY IS BACK



12



*Beautiful smiles
created by the artisans
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Studio*



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- Our premium quality teeth duplicate natural teeth. Our premium teeth contours are designed to match your skeletal type with feminine and masculine characteristics to accentuate your appeal.



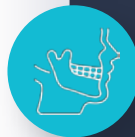
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Created with natural nuances so you can confidently speak, smile, and laugh.



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Eat virtually any food efficiently to improve digestion. Strength and Fit – extremely dense materials provide a strong, secure, non-irritating, comfortable fit.



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#240 – 3671 Westminster Hwy,
Richmond, BC V7C 5V2
2nd floor of Terra Nova Shopping Centre



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Richmond residents and city staff participating in a past tree sale.

Richmond's 3rd annual tree sale

The City of Richmond is excited to announce its annual tree sale, providing residents with a unique opportunity to enhance their home gardens and contribute to Richmond's urban forest. This year's sale offers a diverse selection of trees, including new fruit and non-fruit species. With 1,000 trees available at a subsidized price of \$15.00 each, residents can access affordable, high-quality options while contributing to the beautification of their surroundings.

The following nine species are available (chosen for their suitability in Richmond's unique urban environment) on a first come, first served basis:

- assorted apples (*M. domestica*)
- assorted fruiting cherries (*Prunus* spp.)
- assorted plums (*P. domestica*)
- assorted pears (*pyrus communis*)

- serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)
- kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)
- persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)
- assorted magnolia (*Magnolia* spp.)

The trees are nursery-grown, come in five-gallon pots and range from three to six feet tall.

Purchasing a tree

Trees are being offered to City of Richmond residents only. They may purchase a maximum of two (2) trees per residence. Since Monday, Sept. 9, City of Richmond residents may purchase a maximum of two (2) trees per residence until Friday, Oct. 4 through the MyRichmond online portal.

When purchasing, residents must select a 90-minute time slot for tree pick up day. Visit richmond.ca/TreeSale for available times.

Residents can buy a tree for \$15.00, a subsidized priced set to ensure cost is not a barrier, while also helping to partially offset the city's cost to purchase the trees.

Tree pick up

- Date: Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024
- Time: Between 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (during selected 90 minute time slot)
- Location: City of Richmond Works Yard, 5599 Lynas Lane

Residents will be asked to provide their confirmation receipt and proof of residency at time of pick up.

City staff will provide a tree-planting brochure and planting advice, and will respond to any tree-planting related questions. Pick up will proceed rain or shine.

New funding strengthens police work

Police in B.C. will soon have more tools to enhance their efforts in protecting children online and strengthen abilities to pursue, disrupt and prosecute offenders.

"Children and youth are spending more time online than ever. Sadly, that increases their vulnerability to predators looking to take advantage of them," said Mike Farnworth, minister of public safety and solicitor general. "Online child exploitation happens every single day, and as social media platforms continue to grow, we must ensure our children are protected from those trying to hurt them. That's why we continue to work with the federal government to equip police with the necessary tools to support units tasked with the very difficult job of investigating these horrendous crimes."

Through the Federal Contribution Program to Combat Serious and Organized Crime, Public Safety Canada has allocated \$3.5 million over three years to B.C. to bolster the efforts of municipal police departments in combating online child sexual exploitation. The funds will be used for staffing, equipment and training, to strengthen investigation capabilities in collaboration with the B.C. RCMP's Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit.

Many police departments throughout the province complete ICE investigations, but they do not have resources solely dedicated to internet child-exploitation files. Until recently, the Vancouver Police Department was the only independent municipal police department in B.C. with a dedicated

ICE Unit. In 2021 as part of a pilot project, the Victoria, Esquimalt, Saanich, Central Saanich and Oak Bay police departments developed an integrated Capital Regional District (CRD) ICE Team. This funding will increase the capacity of both ICE teams and will enable all municipal police departments to increase the training and capacity of officers conducting ICE investigations. This will allow for more ICE investigations, and will help support efforts to raise awareness, reduce stigma around reporting, and increase B.C. and Canada's ability to pursue and prosecute offenders.

Reported incidents of online exploitation rose significantly during the COVID-19 public-health emergency and has continued post-pandemic. B.C. ICE has noted a substantial increase in reports of exploitation incidents, such as child luring, grooming and child sexual exploitation material with more than 28,000 investigations opened between 2020 and 2023.

In September 2024, the province will host a one-day forum featuring experts from the B.C. ICE Unit, and other relevant police investigators, B.C. Prosecution Service and Community Safety and Victim Services that will engage in roundtable discussions about finding solutions to keep children safe online. The discussions will focus on "sextortion" in B.C., family perspectives from people affected by this violence, a national perspective, prevention, education and training resources, and supports for victims affected by exploitation.

Annual rent increases for 2025 will be tied to inflation

The province is tying the annual allowable rent increase in 2025 to inflation at 3 per cent, down from this year's allowable increase of 3.5 per cent.

"Tying the allowable increase to inflation saves renters hundreds of dollars, over the previous government's policy of inflation plus 2 per cent," said Ravi Kahlon, minister of housing. "At a time when we know renters are struggling, our rent cap protects renters against unfair rent hikes, while allowing landlords to meet rising costs so that rental homes can stay in B.C.'s housing market."

The maximum annual allowable rent increase for 2025 cannot take effect prior to Jan. 1, 2025. Government policy prior to 2018 allowed for an additional 2 per cent rent increase on top of inflation, costing the average B.C. family hundreds of dollars in additional rent.

Since 2017, the province has taken steps to better protect renters, including banning illegal renovations, strengthening the financial penalties for landlords who evict tenants in bad faith, protecting growing families by restricting rent in-

creases if a tenant adds a child under 19 to their household, and improving wait times at the Residential Tenancy Branch by 64 per cent since November 2022.

In addition, the province has implemented the annual renter's tax credit, which provides \$400 a year to low- and moderate-income renters across B.C., and is the first Canadian jurisdiction to support the creation of provincewide rent bank services to provide interest-free loans for tenants in urgent circumstances.

Next year's change follows multiple years of the province capping the annual allowable increase well below inflation in 2023 and 2024, as well as a rent increase freeze in 2020 and 2021 to support renters during the COVID-19 pandemic. It represents a return to the standard formula of tying allowable rent increases in B.C. to the Consumer Price Index, as inflation begins to return to more normal levels.

"Tying the annual allowable rent increase to inflation is consistent with the recommendations from the Rental Housing Task Force to support

renters and ensure that rental homes can stay available for renters," said Spencer Chandra Herbert, premier's liaison for renters and MLA for Vancouver West End. "Capping rent increases to inflation has saved families and households in B.C. thousands of dollars since 2017, as we have eliminated the old government's automatic 2 per cent rent increase on top of inflation."

To further support renters amid more frequent and severe heat waves, the Residential Tenancy Branch has recently updated information related to the outright banning of air-conditioning (AC) units and passive cooling materials without a rational basis. This updated information provides examples of specific cooling measures, such as umbrellas, awnings, and reflective window coverings, and is intended to make the rules clearer for landlords and tenants. The province encourages tenants with questions about adding AC units or passive cooling materials to their homes to speak with their landlord. If a resolution can't be reached, a Residential Tenancy Branch information officer at 1-800-665-8779 can outline options.

Indigenous author series returns to library

As part of Richmond Public Library (RPL)'s commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, the library is proud to announce the return of the Indigenous Author Series, highlighting the talents of Indigenous authors and artists.

Scheduled for the fall, this series highlights both well-known and emerging speakers and presenters.

Join the library at this powerful and inspiring series that includes writing and dance workshops, storytelling, and author visits for both children and adults.

"The Library Board is committed to celebrating the diverse interests of our community," says Caty Liu, Library Board chair.

"These accomplished Indigenous presenters will explore poetry, fiction and novel writing, and dance, providing unique opportunities and fostering stronger connections within our community."

To view the biographies for each of the authors and artists, and to register, visit the library's events calendar or call 604-231-6413.

We are excited to welcome back Monique Gray Smith and Kung Jaadee on Sept. 13 and 19 respectively, who have spoken at library events previously, and we are thrilled to announce that the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould will be joining us on Sept. 23.



Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library
 Richmond Public Library is announcing the return of the Indigenous Author Series.

RICHMOND
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 OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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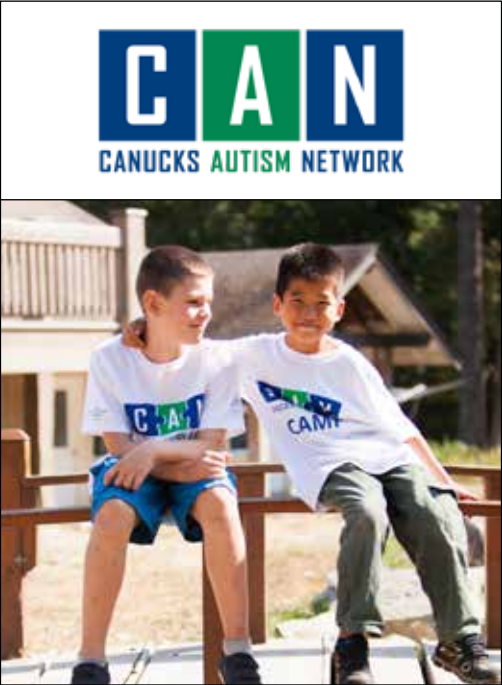
OUR
CITY

Richmond

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Florence Gordon

Shine a Light Gala is a red-carpet event starting with a VIP reception followed by a gourmet menu, fine wine and entertainment with a sprinkle of community spirit. The gala hosted by ICONNBC Business Association head-quartered in Richmond, is to raise awareness that will have a lasting impact on both the autism and senior communities.



Founded in 2008, the Canucks Autism Network (CAN) has touched and supported many individuals in our community. In 2023, CAN made significant impacts on the lives of individuals with autism and their families, providing essential services and support that enhance their quality of life and promote inclusion.

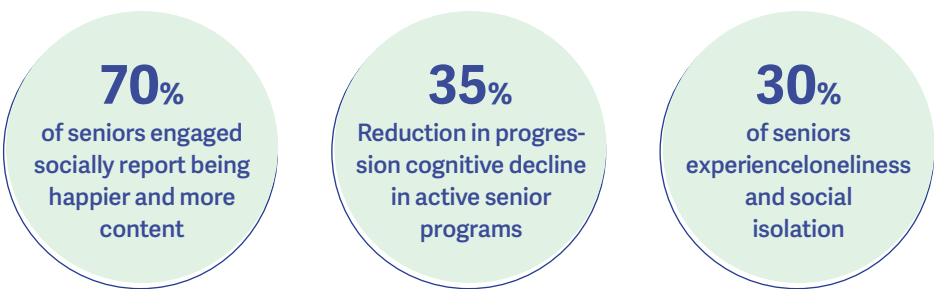


Canucks Autism Network welcomes children, youth and young adults across the autism spectrum. Programs delivered across the Lower Mainland, in the Interior and on the Island:

- Overnight Camp
 - Swimming
 - Outdoor Recreation
 - Family Events
- Hockey
 - Gymnastics
 - Field Games
 - Multi-Sports
- Skating
 - Fitness
 - Music
 - Rowing



The Atrium Legacy Foundation was created to address the growing demand for specialized programs and services for seniors. To ensure dignified aging for our seniors the health and well being will be significantly beneficial to our communities through a senior daycare centre.



The senior daycare centre will offer a comprehensive age-appropriate range of programs in exercise classes, knowledge classes, social engagement and recreational activities designed to promote physical health, mental stimulation, and social interaction. The carefully curated programs cater to the diverse interests and needs of our Senior community, ensuring a holistic approach to their well-being.

Culture Days celebrates creativity and culture

Create, share and celebrate local arts and culture with more than 80 free events and activities offered during Richmond Culture Days from Friday, Sept. 20 to Sunday, Oct. 13.

A diverse range of artists, groups and cultural organizations are part of this three-week celebration that gets underway on Saturday, Sept. 21 and Sunday, Sept. 22 with a weekend filled with interactive artist-led activities. The Richmond Cultural Centre (7700 Minoru Gate) and Richmond Cultural Centre Annex (7660 Minoru Gate) will be the official hub for the kick-off weekend and opening ceremony. Highlights include:

- *Family Treasures* exhibit opening at the Richmond Museum, featuring a treasure hunt and teddy bear repair fair
- *It begins with knowing and not knowing* exhibition at the Richmond Art Gallery, as well as Rooftop Garden Series workshops, part of the forthcoming Foodways exhibition
- Photo booth and kids fun zone, in celebration of Gateway Theatre's 40th anniversary season featuring *Oliver Twist* and *Pride and Prejudice*
- Chinese folk and contemporary dance performance by Vancouver We Dance Association of Canada at the Performance Hall
- *Canada on the Rocks* exhibition presented by Canadian Rock Paintings Association

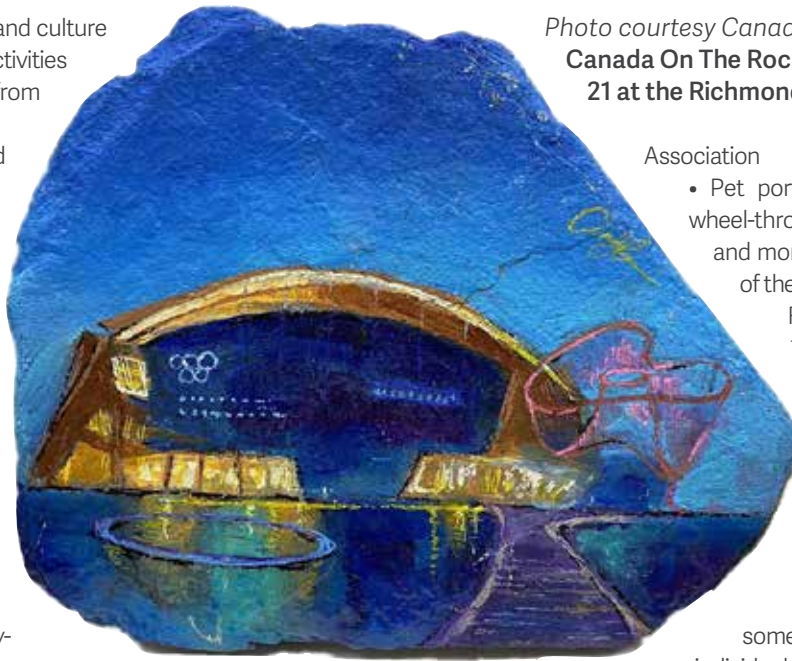


Photo courtesy Canada Rock Paintings Association
Canada On The Rocks exhibition, takes place Sept. 21 at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

Association

- Pet portraits, community quilt-making, clay wheel-throwing demonstrations, open studios and more hosted by the Resident Art Groups of the Richmond Arts Centre

From Monday, Sept. 23 to Sunday, Oct. 13, an additional hub at the Seniors Centre at the Minoru Centre for Active Living (7191 Granville Avenue) will offer more ways to explore performing arts and dance, with opportunities to meet the community groups that convene frequently.

Registration may be required for some activities. For more information about individual events and activities, visit [CultureDays Richmond](http://CultureDaysRichmond.ca). Richmond is consistently recognized as being among Culture Days' top 10 most engaged cities in the country. Culture Days provides the public barrier-free opportunities to participate in arts and cultural experiences, with the aim of inspiring continued future involvement in the cultural life of local communities.

A complete list of events and activities taking place in Richmond and online is available at richmond.ca/CultureDays

Get Involved with the Richmond Official Community Plan Update



Richmond is updating its current Official Community Plan (OCP) and is encouraging residents and community members to learn more and provide input.

Opportunities to get involved:

- **Online:** Visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca/ocp2050
- **Get snapping:** Submit your photos and be entered into a draw to win one of multiple prizes
- **In-person pop-up booths:** Pop-up booths will be located around the City for you to learn more about the project (in September and October)
- **In-person open houses:** Drop by one of the three in-person open houses and take an online survey (in November)

For more information on how you can contribute to this important engagement opportunity visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca/ocp2050 or email communityplanning@richmond.ca



Richmond Shred-a-thon

Richmond residents are invited to drive through and drop off their confidential documents to be safely shredded for free.

Saturday, September 21

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**City Works Yard
5599 Lynas Lane**

Next to the Richmond
Recycling Depot

FREE!

- *Maximum drop-off: 4 boxes per vehicle.*
- *Envelopes and staples permitted.*
- *Please remove rubber bands, paper clips and binder clips.*

City Appointments 2025

Richmond City Council wishes to fill vacancies on the following Advisory Committees/Boards/Commissions:

Persons interested in serving the community, in a volunteer capacity, on any of the below Advisory Bodies are invited to submit an application, along with a resume, to the attention of the City Clerk's Office, no later than **Friday, September 27, 2024**. Applications open from August 26–September 27, 2024.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Advisory Committee on the Environment
- Aquatic Advisory Board
- Board of Variance
- Child Care Development Advisory Committee
- Economic Advisory Committee
- Food Security and Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Gateway Theatre Society Board
- Heritage Commission
- Intercultural Advisory Committee
- Minoru Centre for Active Living Program Committee
- Public Art Advisory Committee
- Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
- Richmond Public Library Board
- Seniors Advisory Committee
- Sister City Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee
- YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Committee
- YVR Environmental Advisory Committee

For more information, visit:

richmond.ca/advisory.

Application forms can be obtained on the City website at richmond.ca/advisory or by phone 604-276-4007.



richmond.ca



In honour of our soldiers: Bernard Joy Moffatt

By MICHAEL COOPER

Contributing student writer

In a series of Richmond's 'poppy' street signs in memory of our fallen soldiers, we share the story of Moffatt Road. Bernard Joy Moffatt was born in Fernie BC, Dec. 13, 1917.

He later moved to Richmond in 1932 with his mother, Amy, and his sister Ann Sheila. When his father, Arthur John Moffatt, was appointed Municipal Clerk of Richmond.

Bernard attended Richmond High School, leaving in 1935 with his Junior Matriculation. After a short term at UBC, he joined the firm of Barrett-Lennard accountants in Vancouver, as an articled clerk.

Upon enlistment in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Vancouver, on Feb. 12, 1941, Bernard was posted in MB, AB, and PEI for training.

He went home on leave in July 1941 to find that his family had moved to Victoria for the duration of the war. He



Screen grab from Google Maps
A poppy engraved road sign of Moffatt Road.

embarked for England in April 1942 after receiving his commission on Dec. 25, 1941.

He initially spent some time ferrying planes across the Atlantic. By October 1942, he was stationed in Malta. At the time of his death, he was a part of the #69 RAF Squadron when his Wellington aircraft went missing on Nov. 10, 1942, when it failed to return from operations. His legacy will continue to live on in Moffatt Road between Gilbert and No. 3 roads.



Find All the Fall Deals

at Blundell Centre

42 stores for all best deals!

Located at Blundell & No 2 Road

Let's go back to recycling school!

G is for Glass

Glass Bottles/Jars Go in the Glass Recycling Bin.

Recycle Glass Correctly:

- Separate glass bottles/jars from other recycling.
- Rinse and remove lids.
- Recycle in Glass Recycling Bin/Cart.



Let's aim for an "A" grade because when we fail to recycle correctly:

- The City of Richmond can be fined, which results in costs being passed on to residents.
- Recycling may not be accepted by processors, which results in unnecessary waste going to landfills.



Medical Imaging Centre Campaign Now Complete!



Dr. Tracy Chandler, Radiologist at Richmond Hospital

“Thanks to donor generosity, we have completed our Medical Imaging Centre Campaign.

This means greater imaging capacity with **improved access, enhanced diagnostic capabilities and timely treatment.**

Thank **YOU** for helping us elevate patient care in Richmond!”

Scan QR code to learn about our new fundraising campaign for mental health care services in the Emergency Department



www.richmondhospitalfoundation.com

Follow us at:





Joe Biz — *by Joe Leary*

Connor Emeny, Ironman Global quest

For Connor Emeny, there are seemingly no limits. Having set a World Record for becoming the youngest person ever to complete an Ironman competition on six continents at 26 years of age—he felt compelled to next set his sights one level higher by tackling the foreboding and ominous terrain of Antarctica.

The idea of even doing an Ironman came about in 2016 after a friend pulled off such a feat.

"I just couldn't comprehend it," he says of the triad of events that involves swimming 3.9km, biking 180km and running 42.2km.

"All in one day—it sounded simply impossible.

"I was shocked and inspired at the same time.

"I never heard of the sport before that or knew anyone who did something that intense and when I Googled Ironman, it said it was the hardest single day sporting event on the planet.

Having always been of a competitive nature, Emeny texted that friend eight years ago to offer congratulations, but with a caveat. "I said 'Thanks for the inspiration'; I too will do an Ironman by 2020. 'I knew it would take me that long to train for it and so that's what I did... my first Ironman, New Zealand in 2020'.

Little did he know then that would lead him on an Ironman quest around the globe.

The Ironman is an intense competition; consisting of three equally-grueling disciplines. And for the competitors, each element contains its own challenges.

"For me, swimming was not natural," says Emeny. "Swimming took me a long time to learn and is something that requires a lot of attention to detail to get good at.



Photo courtesy Visser Marapa

Connor Emeny completed world first feat Iron-Distance Triathlon on all seven continents in 2024.

"I remember I could barely swim 3 or 4 laps without being out of breath so I actually self-taught myself on YouTube by watching tutorials on open water swimming, learning techniques, tips and tricks for getting faster.

"Biking came more naturally and I grew up running".

Having achieved the goal of completing an Ironman, Emeny decided to raise the bar and not only go again, but compete on all four corners of the world.

"I wanted to leave a legacy for my family and do something truly remarkable with my life," he says.

"A Triathlon has never been completed on all seven continents and when I was completing my 6th race in Brazil, I was constantly thinking: What's Next.

"The idea wouldn't leave my mind.

"The difference between Antarctica and all the others was, this time, it's not a race—no 2000 competitors to encourage you, fans to hype you up or aid stations to refuel.

It's just me and Mother Nature in the most remote and coldest continent in the world. That global goal was accomplished earlier this year.

"On Feb. 21, 2024 I completed the world first feat of an Iron-Distance Triathlon on all seven continents. Suffice it to say it was no easy task.

"Swimming 3.9km in ice water; riding 180km on a Fat tire bike and running a marathon in the most remote place on earth, was grueling.

"It took me just over 32 hours of non-stop effort to complete".

When all was said and done, Emeny had achieved a seemingly unreachable goal, but became a record holder in the process. "The feeling of accomplishment was overwhelming, yet fleeting" he says.

"For a brief moment I felt on top of the world; seeing through a dream.

"Shortly after, I felt lost and empty because I had so much purpose on that quest.

"I woke up every day knowing exactly what I was

working towards and in retrospect, that's the real joy of life: the daily grind and journey towards a goal; not actually achieving it.

"But after some time of feeling lost, I knew I needed a new goal to work towards and the fire was re-born with the idea of Antarctica. So again, I went ALL IN on the dream".

Antarctica is massive, desolate and the land mass is bigger than Africa and Europe combined.

"Being down there surrounded by penguins, whales and icebergs 60 meters tall makes you feel so small," says Emeny.

"It's humbling and magical at the same time".

Not one to rest on his laurels, the affable triathlete is busily engaged on an extension of his world-wide feat.

"We are working on a documentary titled *Chasing Antarctica* to share with the world," he says.

"It's a story of human endurance, self-belief and power of community".

As for Emeny's next challenge—it appears to be the most adventurous yet.

"I have my eyes set on the World's Toughest Row—3000 miles across the Pacific Ocean, which takes on average 45 days to complete".

It's remarkable to witness the lengths some go to in life; to test their limits and never rest on their laurels.

Emeny is one such example of the human spirit.

"This journey has taught me anything is possible if you believe," he says.

"It's taught me the power of teamwork, resilience and leadership.

The world needs more dreamers now than ever so I challenge people around me to Dare to Dream and do whatever it takes to make it happen.

"I hope my journey and life is a living example of what it means to go ALL IN and helps spark purpose in those around me".

It's an inspiring story to be certain.

You can learn more at chasingantarctica.com

X-@reallyjoeleary • Instagram@joeleary

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**.

Sockeyes excited for 53rd season

By STEVE ERICKSON
Contributing writer



As school returns for another year, the Richmond Sockeyes are excited to enter their 53rd season in the Pacific Junior Hockey League (PJHL) as they hit the ice at Richmond's Minoru Arena for their home opener.

Thanks to the mayor and councillors, the dignitaries, as well as partners who attended the 2023-24 home opener against the Grandview Steelers.

The success of the Richmond Sockeyes is in part due to the community as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their time to help make the Sockeyes a top notch program for the City of Richmond.

Cullen Revel returns as the head coach and is excited, noting that the coaching staff took the summer to analyze both the positives and negatives of last season, realistically it's hard to have any negative takeaways from the overall record.

When you take a deeper look at some of the things that come with having a streak and record like they did last season, you don't face the adversity you need when they faced the Flames in the seven game series.

Like the Sockeyes, they also had an extremely strong record, who obviously recalled the loss against Delta in game seven and that experience is invaluable. Moving forward, the Sockeyes will look to learn on what they have to improve on.

Bringing in new players, it's essential that they get "up to speed", noting that the veteran players hit their stride early as they move forward (as a team).

Entering the season, the Sockeyes have lost five players who have "aged out" and currently have ten players away at Western Hockey League (WHL), British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL), Alberta Junior Hockey League (AJHL), or other camps and are waiting on their status noting that some might not return.

In the meantime, several players have been signed to fill positions of the players that have departed last season, as well as filling specific needs they might require this season.

It's interesting to know that if some players return, the Sockeyes have been somewhat conservative with the numbers they have signed, knowing that they never wanted to be in a spot with too many players.

Should some players return then, and only then, will decisions have to be made for players to play at this level with another team creating an opportunity for the players not wanting to jeopardize their career.

Goaltending is always an issue and at press time it's uncertain as to how things play out for Thomas Popa in Alberta, as well as Noah Stenvig in Wenatchee and make then necessary decision when they know better.

One area the Sockeyes focus on is that last year's players have developed enough, so they will have the opportunity at the next level, giving the chance they deserve.

If you ask Cullen how camp this season differed from his first, last year he mentioned "It was a bit different in the sense of direction where they were", noting that teams are getting recruitment done much earlier.

With the game taking on more of a "global game", teams reach out to billet families who are essential for any team and become life-long friends throughout their career.

The Sockeyes are involved in the community and welcome you to become a member of the Richmond Sockeyes Family.

Make plans to attend one of the upcoming home games, as they face-off against the Surrey Knights on Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m., followed by a game against their rivals in the Tunnel Series against the Delta Ice Hawks on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.

Richmond manager receives global recognition

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

On Aug. 19, it was announced by McDonald's Canada that manager of the 8140 No. 2 Road McDonalds, Baljit Sokhi, was named the recipient of the Ray Kroc Award. This award recognizes the top performing McDonald's restaurant managers globally, only one per cent of restaurant managers around the world receive this honour, which includes a cash prize and a trophy.

Baljit has been working with McDonald's for 28 years, starting as a crew member and kitchen crew at the Broadway and Blenheim McDonald's in Vancouver. "I started part-time as a kitchen crew and overtime worker, eventually, I got promoted to different positions and operations, before I was promoted to restaurant manager in November 2015. It was definitely like a roller coaster, you experience all the highs and lows, but you can only learn from those mistakes and become a stronger leader", said Sokhi. "This award reminds me that hard work truly pays off. It feels great to be recognized, but above all the recognition and praise from my team and supervisors give me the confidence I need to always aim for the highest goals and celebrate all my achievements."

As a previous Outstanding Manager of the Year award winner in 2016 and 2022, Baljit has continued

to be an aspiration for all she works with.

"I like the people; the employees and the guests I work with," said Sokhi. "It feels like getting a lifetime achievement award and I'm very happy to be given such a prestigious and honorable moment in my life."

Every two years, McDonald's franchisees and regional management across the globe nominate restaurant managers for the Ray Kroc Award, which recognizes managers who provide superior performance and outstanding customer experience.

"Since joining the McDonald's team, I've watched Baljit grow and become such a strong leader to our team," said Bill Chao, Richmond McDonald's franchisee. "This award is well deserved as Baljit represents the perfect ideal role model and mentor for our crew and understands our guests need like no other."

For Baljit, this award is more than just a prize and a trophy, it's a testament to Baljit's hardwork and leadership skills that has brought out the best in each and every member in her team, from the management staff all the way to their cashier staff.

"What means the most to me as a McDonald's manager is how impactful of a role I can contribute to help with the success of our team, and how everyone's hard work motivates me and allows me to really enjoy my job. I try to really push and strengthen everyone, because everyone has the potential to

accomplish many great things. Having a supportive team to build a strong foundation helps every individual here grow, and to know that I am a part of this journey with a team you could call friend and family helps me stay ambitious" said Sokhi.

The Ray Kroc Award reflects McDonald's commitment to creating memorable employment opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds, while also providing opportunities to grow and foster talent from within. McDonald's strives to give employees the skills and experience they need to grow in their careers, such as prioritizing tasks and managing money and operations.

Recipients of the Ray Kroc Award will also get the opportunity to travel to Barcelona this year to attend the 2024 McDonald's Worldwide Convention. "It is an opportunity many dream of, and I am so glad to experience this and share my victory with my supportive friends and family", Sokhi exclaimed.

For her fellow McDonalds managers in the Lower Mainland, Baljit wants to extend this piece of advice.

"Remember to celebrate the small victories just as much as the big ones. Attention to detail, maintaining a healthy mind and uplifting your employees are just a few little steps to achieve bigger goals."

Candidates that are looking for local restaurant career opportunities with the ability for growth can visit their local McDonalds or go to careers.mcdonalds.ca/ to apply online.



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OUR CITY *tonight*

SPOTLIGHT ON
WHAT'S GOOD TO
VIEW IN SEPTEMBER

VIEW #1 – *The Critic*

The Critic—which debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2023—is a dark tale set in 1934 London, and it is there, we meet the powerful theatre critic, Jimmy Erskine (Sir Ian McKellen), and insecure actress Nina Land (Gemma Arterton). The story centres around Erskine and how he lures Nina into a blackmail scheme involving his paper's editor, David Brooke (Mark Strong). This suspenseful, period-piece drama will keep you entertained and it too certainly benefits from a stellar cast—it's worth the price of admission just to watch 84 year old McKellen sink his teeth into this juicy role, and Arterton and Strong as well as Lesley Manville, continue to be favourites of ours. Written by Patrick Marber, who gave us 2006's *Notes on a Scandal*, another film we loved. *The Critic* is in theatres Sept 13.



Photo courtesy Greenwich Entertainment & Blue Ice Docs

VIEW #2 – *You Gotta Believe*

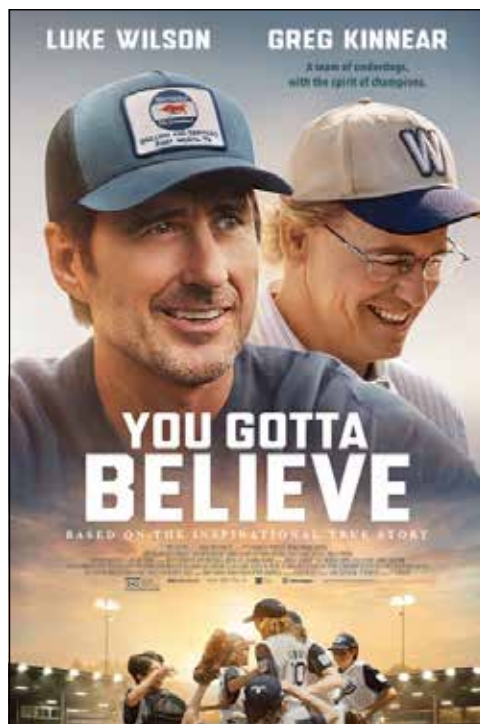


Photo courtesy Well Go USA Entertainment

We've all see these inspirational stories before, and they continue to be adapted into film and TV projects because, quite simply, people love these uplifting stories. *You Gotta Believe* is the latest entry into this genre. The film is based on the true story of a group of young boys who make up a last place team in a youth baseball league in Fort Worth, Texas. But when one of the dads (who is also one of the coaches) is diagnosed with cancer, his fight to survive becomes the inspiration for the boys and their "Cinderella" run all the way to the 2002 Little League World Series (and we're not giving anything away by mentioning this, but their showdown game in the series became an ESPN classic). This better-than-expected film benefits from a great cast, including Luke Wilson and Greg Kinnear (both perfect in their roles), as well as Canadians Sarah Gadon and Molly Parker. There are plenty of laughs and tears in *You Gotta Believe*, and it's a film the whole family will appreciate and enjoy. It's in theatres now.

THE VIEW #3 – *Amber Alert*

The term Amber Alert, which stands for America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response, has been around since 1996, and is a valued rapid alert system to get word to the public about a child abduction. We all know and appreciate this valued service, and when we receive the text notices it instantly brings concern. Often, the alert will contain information on the vehicle that abducted the child or children, which leads us to the new film, *Amber Alert*. Jaq (Hayden Panettiere, who gained international fame

in two TV series, *Heroes* and *Nashville*) receives an Amber Alert during her Uber ride and she and her driver, Shane (Tyler James Williams), discover they are right behind, what they believe, is the kidnapper's car. For the viewer, the reaction is instant: you instantly call the police, but how far would you go in pursuit when the authorities are not close by? A cat-and-mouse game follows. Another of our favourites, character actor, Kevin Dunn, rounds out the cast. *Amber Alert* is in theatres and available for home viewing Sept 27.



Photo courtesy Liongate Studios

Maui welcomes back Hawaii Food and Wine Festival

In early August of 2023 we sat across from Shelley Kekuna, the executive director of Ka'anapali Beach Resort Association, in a restaurant in Vancouver. It had been a very difficult 24 hours for her and for the place she loves, the island of Maui. Just the day before, wildfires swept across the Island and all but destroyed the town of Lahaina.

Kekuna had arrived in Vancouver the day before to talk to the media about the upcoming Hawaii Food and Wine Festival and Maui's participation. On that day, we learned there would be no festival on Maui, as all attention, energy and support turned to helping the survivors and mourning their loss.

A year later, Kekuna returned to Vancouver with updates about this year's festival (the 14th) which will be taking place Oct. 13 to Nov. 5, with the Maui portion Oct. 25 to Oct. 27. This festival is Hawaii's largest food and wine festival and brings together more than 150 global tastemakers, Michelin-starred chefs, celebrated winemakers and master mixologists, to showcase the best of Hawaii's local ingredients.

Festival ticket purchases go towards supporting the farmers, ranchers, and fishermen of Hawaii, as well as investing in the up-and-coming chef talent at local culinary colleges and agricultural education for children. Vancouver will be well represented by the Executive Chef of Blue Water Café, Frank Pabst. It was at Blue Water Café that we sat down with Shelley Kekuna and Chef Frank.

OCT: *Shelley, we were with you a year ago when this tragedy was actually taking place on Maui and in the town of Lahaina, but you're back this year to talk about the festival and the money that will be raised at the festival, please tell our readers more.*

SK: We have just passed our one-year mark since the fire. This wonderful Hawaii Food and Wine Festival is run by a non-profit, probably the only one we know of when it comes to food and wine festivals, so it's not only important to Maui but all the islands because of all the charitable contributions that's fed back into the communities.



Photo courtesy Our City Tonight
Local Chef Frank Pabst, Ka'anapali Beach Resort's Shelley Kekuna with Jim Gordon & Leeta Liepins.

OCT: *This is a three-island event, including Maui and also The Big Island, Oahu, but we are talking today about Maui. This really is an event where locals and visitors will all come together and enjoy the wonderful food and wine, and as you said, raise money. Tell us about some of the great things taking place during the Maui portion of the festival on Oct. 25 to 27 which includes a golf tournament, an afternoon barbecue and a pickle ball tournament.*

SK: This will be the first pickle ball tournament included in the festival portfolio and that will be on Sunday, Oct. 27. Friday Oct. 25 is the golf tournament, it's a very successful sold-out tournament with great chefs at all the holes providing food for all the players, and sponsored by Southern Wine and Spirits. On Sat. 26, we will do a big walk around event at the Sheraton Maui Resort and Spa. It's a great resort, beautiful outdoor property.

We'll have ten fantastic chefs and in the centre of all the chefs will be a hollow square that will be full of fabulous wines. We'll have mixologists, live

music, and fireworks at the end of the night. This year, we offer "Vita La Vino", a Mediterranean-Italian themed event on the Saturday. Sunday is the pickle ball tournament which will be lots of fun, followed by a backyard barbecue, which will include another five chefs, including Chef Ming Tsai, all providing fabulous barbecue delights. Again, all these events feed to local charities.

A lot of people are asking how they can help Maui, and this festival is a wonderful way to help. You can combine your vacation while supporting this festival, which will support our local charities. We are excited to welcome everyone back.

OCT: *Hawaii is such a popular destination for Canadians, especially people in B.C. and other parts of Western Canada. We love Ka'anapali and we have been there a number of times. One of the things we love is that you can park the car and not have to drive again until you leave. Everything in Ka'anapali is walkable.*

SK: Ka'anapali is a great place, it truly is where the world comes to play.

OCT: *One of the elite invited chefs from Vancouver will be attending the festival and we asked Executive Chef of Blue Water Restaurant, Frank Pabst, what he was looking forward to the most, at the upcoming festival.*

FP: First of all, I am very honoured to be invited to this exclusive event and I am looking forward to sharing my joy and happiness about the fact that this event is able to happen this year. I am looking forward to seeing all the people enjoying the great food and all the amazing wine that will be available. Overall, I am excited to get together with all the friends and families and having a great time during this celebration in Maui.

Hawaii's largest food and wine festival brings together 150+ global tastemakers—Michelin-starred chefs, celebrated winemakers and master mixologists—to showcase the best of Hawaii's local ingredients. Join *Our City Tonight* in Maui from Oct. 25 to 27, 2024. For more details on how to attend, please go to hawaiifoodandwinefestival.com and kaanapaliresort.com



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