



2025

LUNAR NEW YEAR



08-09



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2025 Richmond Community Celebration Grant

Are you a Richmond-based non-profit organization, faith-based group, Parent Advisory Committee, Community Association or Student Council planning a free, public event that fosters community? If so, apply for a Richmond Community Celebration Grant by Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025. Examples of events that may be eligible for funding include cultural celebrations, community concerts and movies in the park and other outdoor community events.

This grant program offers funding of up to \$2,000 to support initiatives that foster collaboration among Richmond residents and community groups, and strengthen community pride and belonging.

Local artists and other community members are encouraged to connect with local, not-for-profit organizations to create and submit an application that capitalizes on the power and potential of the arts to support community-building and promote social connections.

To be eligible, events must:

- take place in Richmond between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2025
- demonstrate alignment with program objectives including creating events that build community in Richmond
- be inclusive, accessible and demonstrate engagement of community members from diverse backgrounds



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Applications for the Richmond Community Celebration Grant are now open, applicants must apply by Feb. 9, 2025.

- be free and open to the public

In addition, applicants must show evidence of capacity to host the event and show a realistic estimate of resources needed and total budget required.

Find out more about the Richmond Community Celebration Grant Program and submit an online application at richmond.ca/CelebrationGrant. Deadline for submissions is Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025.

Popular literacy program returns

Richmond Public Library is pleased to announce that our popular free *Learning Together* family literacy program will return to both the Ironwood and Brighthouse libraries this January. Sponsored by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, this eight-week program for preschoolers and caregivers will run at the Brighthouse library on Wednesday mornings from January 22 to March 12 and at the Ironwood library on Thursday mornings from January 23 to March 13. Participants are requested to register to attend at one location only.

This program supports early literacy development and helps parents to discover new ways to connect with their child and make learning fun. Parents and children ages three to five will enjoy various hands-on activities, with



Photo by Jaana Björk

***Learning Together* is a program that supports early literacy development and helps parents discover new ways to connect with their child and make learning fun.**

storytimes and crafts at each weekly session. Early childhood skills emphasized in this program include language development, relationship building and school readiness.

The *Learning Together* program provided a "very welcoming environment that allowed me to connect with other families. My daughter looked forward to the class every week," said a parent who previously attended the program with their child.

Did you know that library cards are free to obtain, and that RPL is proudly fine free? Parents are encouraged to sign up their children for their own library cards so they can access all of the library's resources for children, including valuable programs like this as well as books, puzzles, games and much more. For more details about the *Learning Together* program, interested families

should check out our online event calendar at yourlibrary.ca/events, or call the library at 604-231-6412.

Richmond presents the 2025 Art at Work series



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

One Park Otto Finch Haus (2024) by artists Christian Giroux and Daniel Young, located at 8119 Park Road, Richmond.

The City of Richmond has launched the 2025 *Art at Work* series of free, professional development workshops designed for artists and arts organizations.

The annual series features workshops and presentations on a wide range of topics, providing participants with the opportunity to build knowledge and skills essential for pursuing a professional career in public art, performance, visual art, and community arts.

Space is limited. Registration opens one month in advance of each session date.

This year's workshop sessions are:

• *Public Art 101: Creating Budgets for Public Art Projects*

Facilitated by artist Sara Graham

Saturday, February 8

1 to 3 p.m.

Richmond Cultural Centre, Performance Hall

• *Tax Basics for Artists*

Facilitated by Marianna Scott, Quantum Accounting Services

Saturday, February 15

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Online presentation

• *Exploring Regional Public Art Programs*

Facilitated by Biliana Velkova, City of Richmond Public Art Planner, featuring Allison Collins (Burnaby), Quyen Hoang (New Westminster), Cris Mora (Surrey) and Lori Phillips (North Vancouver)

Saturday, March 1

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Richmond Cultural Centre, Performance Hall

• *Making Public Art with Specialist Fabricators*

Facilitated by Sabina Sutherland, Art Conservator, featuring 3DS Fabrication, Jock Hildebrand Foundry, and Solid Rock Steel Fabricating Co. Ltd.

Thursday, April 24

1 to 2:30 p.m.

Online presentation

• *Preparing for Art Markets*

Facilitated by artist Ilana Cramer

Saturday, June 28

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Richmond Cultural Centre, Performance Hall

• *Introduction to SmartGrant.ca*

Facilitated by Mary Ann S. Anderson, Little Dog Creative Consulting

Thursday, August 14

6 to 7 p.m.

Online presentation

• *Richmond Arts and Culture Grant Program Information Session*

Facilitated by Camyar Chaichian, Program Manager, Community Cultural Development

Thursday, September 25

6 to 8 p.m.

Richmond Cultural Centre, Performance Hall

• *Writing Proposals for Exhibitions*

Facilitated by Maria Filipina Palad, Curatorial Assistant, Richmond Art Gallery

Saturday, October 4

1 to 3 p.m.

Richmond Art Gallery, Program Room

The city is committed to making both in-person and online sessions inclusive and easily accessible to meet diverse needs. Contact culture@richmond.ca if supports are needed to participate.

For more information and advance registration, visit richmondartgallery.org/art-art-work

Art at Work is presented in partnership by the City of Richmond Arts Services and Richmond Art Gallery.

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Newsroom
newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca
778-297-5005



Download our app
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In honour of our soldiers: George William Sills

By **MATTHEW CHEUNG**
Contributing writer

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

George William Sills was born on Sept. 28, 1880 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. At some point in his life, he and his family moved to Steveston, BC, where he worked as a teamster. His mother, Jane Eliza Sills was a farmer who lived in Steveston, and his father, whose name is

unknown, had an address listed in Vancouver.

At the age of 34, George enlisted into the 39th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Vancouver on Nov. 5, 1914. Upon his arrival to France on May 23, 1915, he would be transferred to the 15th Battalion.

In the summer of 1916, George was hospitalized for six weeks before being sentenced to seven days in Field Prison for absence from duty for ten hours on Aug. 14, 1916.

On Sept. 7 1916, tragedy struck, as George William Sills was killed in action.

His mother and father, who were listed as his next of kin were sent a memorial cross, and his father who was the beneficiary of his personal estate inherited such.

On Jan. 8, 1990, the City of Richmond Council listed Sills Avenue as a potential road name. Some time later, the council would make the decision to honour George William Sills by naming a road after him.

Sills Avenue can be found near the heart of the city, located near the intersection of Granville Avenue and No. 4 Road.



Monday to Sunday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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Celebrate the Year of the Snake!



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42 stores to celebrate the holidays

Located at Blundell & No 2 Road

Hansen Industries Ltd. donates \$15,000

Demonstrating a commitment as strong as the materials it shapes, Hansen Industries Ltd. has donated \$15,000 to support the Yurkovich Family Pavilion, Richmond Hospital's new acute care tower.

The funds will be used to equip the future acute care tower with new techniques and advanced equipment that enhance patient care and address the growing needs of the Richmond community.

"We view giving as an essential part of being a responsible corporate citizen," shares Amit Chhabra, president of Hansen Industries Ltd. "And Richmond Hospital Foundation's vital role in improving the quality of health care for the local community—which includes many of our employees, customers, and partners—aligns with our values of fostering health, innovation, and accessibility for everyone."

The donation made this past December marks another significant contribution by the sheet metal and machine manufacturer towards the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion, following their support of the Medical Imaging Centre Campaign in December 2023.

Hansen Industries Ltd., a 2022 Richmond Hospital Foundation Doctor of Philanthropy Award recipient, has been a dedicated donor to the foundation since 1996, contributing to areas such as Surgery, Emergency, Urology, Oncology, and Ambulatory Care. They were also a sponsor of the foundation's 2024 Starlight Gala.

"We greatly appreciate Hansen Industries Ltd. for their continued confidence and dedication to advancing the future of health care in Richmond through philanthropy," says Spencer Gall, chief philanthropy officer, Richmond Hospital Foundation. "This donation will help ensure the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion will be equipped with the latest

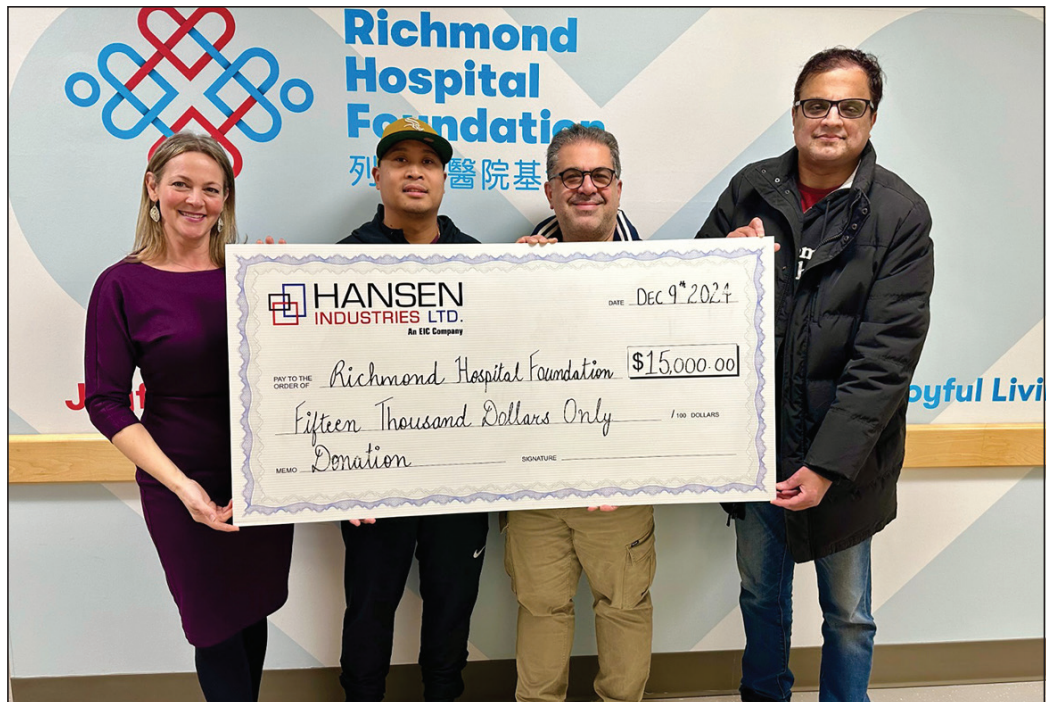


Photo courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation

Left to right: Gina Ungaro, associate director, Leadership Giving, Richmond Hospital Foundation; David Mork, assistant foreman, Hansen Industries Ltd.; Paul Basirian, manager – quality and safety, Hansen Industries Ltd.; Gaurav Dhawan, controller, Hansen Industries Ltd.

technology, which can help streamline process and facilitate patient-centred care upon its opening and be adaptable for future growth."

The relocation of programs and demolition is underway at Richmond Hospital to make space for the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion. Proponents for the acute care tower will be announced early 2025 and construction is set to begin in early 2026 and

complete in 2029. The nine-floor acute care tower will include a new emergency department, state-of-the-art surgical centre with 11 operating rooms, single occupancy patient rooms, and a fully equipped medical imaging centre.

To learn more and lend your support for Richmond Hospital Foundation, please visit: richmondhospitalfoundation.com

Camping reservations open in several BC Parks

Campsites in many BC Parks can be reserved to prepare for the 2025 spring camping season.

Campsites can be reserved four months ahead of the desired arrival date. Reservations for the May 2025 long weekend open this week for many BC Parks campgrounds that accept reservations.

This year, 60 new campsites located in three BC Parks are being added to the reservation service. This includes:

- 30 new campsites with power hookups in Fintry Park near Kelowna;
- 17 new walk-in sites at Rolley Lake Park near Mission; and
- 13 new sites (eight park-beside for tent camping and five walk-in) at China Beach Campground in Juan de Fuca Park near Victoria.

The campgrounds have several facility upgrades to improve the visitor experience. At Fintry Park, new flush toilets, upgraded services centres with a dishwashing station, a potable water tap and garbage/recycling containers are part of the \$1.5-million campground upgrades.

The new \$2-million walk-in campground at Rolley Lake Park has a communal day-use shelter, bike racks, bear-proof storage and picnic tables.

At China Beach Campground, two accessible showers and flush toilets are being constructed and are scheduled to open in May 2025, along with the 13 new campsites. In spring 2024, 33 new campsites (22 drive-in and 11

walk-in) were added to the campground as part of the \$2.7-million campground upgrades.

Reservations for the new campsites at Fintry and Rolley Lake parks open at 7 a.m. (Pacific time) on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, for May 15, 2025, arrivals. Reservations for the new sites at China Beach Campground will open at a later date.

BC Parks is also working to repair infrastructure in parks that were damaged by recent storms.

The opening date for camping reservations in Golden Ears Park near Maple Ridge is delayed as several sections of the Golden Ears Parkway are being repaired. The road provides access to all three campgrounds that are expected to open in spring 2025. Updates about the progress of the work and the opening date for reservations will be posted on the BC Parks website.

Details about reservations for backcountry camping along the 23-kilometre Berg Lake Trail in Mount Robson Park near Valemount will also be announced at a later date as work continues to repair and open the last phase of the popular trail that was damaged by extreme weather in 2021. Another significant storm in September 2024 damaged a section of the newly rebuilt trail.

Sockeyes At PJHL All-Star Game

By **STEVE ERICKSON**
Contributing writer

Having a strong community means giving back which is what the Sockeyes are doing. It's not just about having young hockey players both boys and girls attend the game, but having the fans have a true experience interacting with the team both before, during and after the game.

That alone is more valuable than just a between period minor game which they thoroughly enjoy. It's extended to an interview with the players after the first period to introduce today's youth.

With the stands full, the Sockeyes were playing their "Tunnel Series" rivals—the Delta Ice Hawks which wasn't just entertaining it featured a fast aggressive first period that featured the teams trading seven goals.

"Delta jumped out to an early start with a 1-0 lead 1:04 seconds into the game. The Sockeyes Captain Teo Lin scored his 28th of the season just 20 seconds later. Delta on the other hand wasn't finished, as they managed a pair in a contest that saw the Sockeyes respond with a pair of their own from Keilmann and McIntyre on the power play.

Delta responded, taking a 4-3 lead into the dressing room, forcing the Sockeyes to replace goalie Mathias Hasselman with Max Fowle at the 16:46 mark. The first saw Delta manage four penalties while the Sockeyes had a pair in a period that saw Delta outshoot the home squad by a 19-13 margin



Photo courtesy Richmond Sockeyes
Five players made All Stars.

after twenty minutes.

The second was more disciplined in a period that saw the teams' two minor's while the teams trade only one that saw solid "tending" at each end of the rink. The Sockeyes outshot Delta in the second by a narrow 10-8 margin and 12-5 in the third with the final shots in favour of the home squad by

a 35-32 margin.

Despite the narrow 5-4 loss the Sockeyes played as a unit but came up short only in the goal department but continued to win the hearts of their solid fan base on a regular basis.

The Monday prior to the above game was the reinvented PJHL All-Star game which was hosted by the Trailblazers that saw the Sockeyes send five to the game.

This included Mathias Hasselman, goalie; Teo Lin, forward; Michael McIntyre, defenseman; Mattias Uyeda, defenseman; Nicholas Noren, forward; Cullen Revel, head coach; and Will Kump, director of operations. This game featured various all-stars from the league teams that saw the game tied at five after sixty minutes heading to overtime.

While some went for coffee they missed the O/T game winning goal by the Tom Shaw Conference giving them a 6-5 win to the delight of both fans and parents taking in the game.

As the regular season draws to a conclusion the Sockeyes have five home and away games prior to the playoffs which they have clinched top spot fighting neck and neck with Delta.

The Sockeyes hosted their annual Alumni game in a contest that saw fast paced end to end action in a game that saw the Alumni manage a win.

Playoffs are around the corner so make plans to attend one of the upcoming games and get entertained by the "Stars of Tomorrow". Support the Richmond Sockeyes home games on Thursday nights at the Richmond Minoru Arena.

Dine Out Vancouver Festival 2025

By **MATTHEW CHEUNG**
Contributing writer

The lower mainland's favourite food festival is back. Dine Out Vancouver Festival 2025 is back until February 9. With over 430 restaurants and culinary events to choose from this year, be sure not to miss out on this once a year event.

The Dine Out food festival was an idea pitched by a team from Destination Vancouver, to convince locals otherwise visit restaurants for a fixed price to enjoy delicious meals. At the beginning, 57 restaurants agreed to join the festival, offering a fixed-price menu. Since then, Dine Out Vancouver Festival has blossomed to an event that features over 400 restaurants and other culinary events.

From Richmond, 34 restaurants of different cuisines will be participating in the 23rd season.

Starting with the southwest area of Rich-

mond, seven restaurants will be featured:

- Little Mexico Cantina
- Catch Kitchen + Bar
- Blue Canoe Waterfront Restaurant
- Britannia Brewing
- Steveston Seafood House
- O'Hare's GastroPub
- Ember Kitchen
- Torake Japanese Cuisine
- Broli Kitchen

On the southeast side of Richmond, two restaurants are featured:

- The Keg Steakhouse + Bar
- Jamoneria by ARC

On the Northeast side of Richmond:

- The Shoestring Cafe
- Missing Chopsticks

In the Northwest side of Richmond, 23 restaurants are participating in Dine Out:

- Cactus Club Cafe
- Tasty BBQ & Beer Bar

- Harold's Kitchen & Bar
- 75 West Coast Grill
- CAVU Kitchen Bar
- Flying Beaver Bar & Grill
- AFURI Richmond
- Gyu-Kaku Japanese BBQ
- Earls Kitchen + Bar
- Best Fortune Restaurant
- Little Karp Seafood + Bar
- Liuyushou Hotpot Richmond
- The Canadian Brewhouse & Grill
- Bánh Mì Très Bon
- Hestia Kitchen + Bar
- Mozza Restaurant and Lounge
- Yuu Japanese Tapas
- Chop Steakhouse & Bar
- Moxies Richmond Restaurant
- Bruno
- Milltown Bar & Grill

For more information, visit dineoutvancouver.com

OUR CITY

Richmond

'GOOD TO KNOW'

by Florence Gordon



Photos via Freepik.com

Chinese New Year Traditions

Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year marks the first day of the New Year in the Chinese traditional calendar that is determined by the location of the sun and the moon relative to the Earth. This is why, on the Western calendars, the date changes each year. In 2025, New Year celebrations are January 28 to February 4. Each year is also represented by a different Zodiac animal (12 in total) and according to legend, these 12 animals participated in a race that determined their place of order in the Chinese calendar. In 2025, the snake symbolizes wisdom, and transformation.



Lucky Red Envelopes

At the Lunar New Year it's tradition to give the gift of money in a bright red envelope to your family and friends. It's not the money it's the red envelope that symbolizes prosperity and happiness for the coming year.

Entertainment

Lion and dragon performances are part of the festivities through out the Chinese New Year celebrations.

New Year's Traditional Food



Dumplings are a Chinese recipe served New Years because it represents wealth.



Niangao Sweet Rice Cakes symbolizes hope for a better year ahead served specifically at New Year festivities.



Tangerines and oranges' round shape and gold colour symbolizes prosperity and good fortune.

Families Celebrate Chinese New Year



Homes and restaurants are decorated with lucky red lanterns.



Chinese families travelled to their homeland to pay respect to their elders and celebrate Chinese New Year.

2025 Lunar events for the family



The Richmond Centre celebrates the Year of the Snake

Take selfies with the vibrant decorations on display and join us for festive dance performances and a traditional lion dance that symbolizes good fortune and energy at the beginning of the New Year. Meet the God of Fortune as he shares his wealth and luck with the community to kick off the Year of the Snake.

Saturday, February 1 | 2 - 3:30 p.m.



Lunar New Year Celebration at the Aberdeen Centre

The popular Flower & Gift Fair runs daily from January 23 to 29. There's also a special God of Fortune to receive blessings on January 28, the mall will stay open until midnight for its televised New Year countdown, complete with performances. Return next day for the Golden Dragon Lion Dance and entertainment.

Wednesday, January 29 | 11 a.m.



Lunar New Year Celebration at Lansdowne Centre

Immerse yourself in cultural festivities and family-friendly fun as we celebrate the Year of the Snake. Witness the captivating Dragon Dance. Get ready for the Giant Snakes & Ladders Game, an exciting, interactive activity. Test your skills in the Ring Toss Challenge, or get creative at the Arts and Crafts Workshop to bring home your unique, personalized craft as a cherished memento.

Saturday, February 1 | 12 p.m.



Chinatown's 51st Spring Festival Parade

Chinatown's annual Spring Festival (Chinese New Year/ Lunar New Year) parade returns for its 51st year in 2025. Join us on Sunday, Feb. 2, in ringing in the year of the Wood Snake by watching the parade and enjoy the festivities by spending the day in Chinatown.

Sunday, February 2 | 11 a.m.

BC's economy and Trumps tariff threat

As B.C. continues to fight against threatened United States tariffs of 25 per cent on all Canadian imports, the province has done a preliminary assessment of potential impacts to the B.C. economy of a trade war with the United States.

In president Donald Trump's tariffs scenario, B.C. could see a cumulative loss of \$69 billion in economic activity between 2025 and 2028. The province's real GDP is projected to potentially decline by 0.6 per cent year over year in both 2025 and 2026.

Job losses are estimated at 124,000 by 2028 with the largest declines in natural-resource sector export industries and associated manufacturing. Losses would also be felt in the transportation and retail sectors. The unemployment rate could increase to 6.7 per cent in 2025 and 7.1 per cent in 2026, and corporate profits could see an annual decline in the range of \$3.6 billion to \$6.1 billion.

Tariffs imposed by the United States, along with potential retaliatory measures, could impact many of the province's key revenue streams, such as personal and corporate income taxes. Preliminary analysis indicates this could reduce annual revenues by between \$1.6 billion and \$2.5 billion.

This preliminary assessment, done by the ministry of finance, is one of many possibilities as there is considerable uncertainty about the exact nature, magnitude and timing of United States policies that may be implemented.

In 2019, the Bank of Canada estimated the impacts of a 25 per cent tariff. National Bank recently reported that the Bank of Canada's estimate of the Canadian GDP impact "would exceed that of any previous recession, barring the



DAVID EBY

temporary setback at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic."

In the face of this uncertainty, the province is using a three-part strategy: respond, strengthen and diversify.

Quick Facts:

- On Nov. 25, 2024, president-elect Trump proposed tariffs of 25 per cent on all Canadian and Mexican imports to the United States, and an additional 10 per cent on imports from China.
- Premier David Eby has met with several state governors and impressed upon them the devastating impacts tariffs would bring on both sides of the border. He and other premiers will travel to Washington, D.C., on Feb. 12, 2025, to continue to make the case against unjustified tariffs for all Canadians.
- The ministry's preliminary assessment is based on internal planning assumptions, including that a 25 per cent U.S. tariff would remain in place for the duration of the Trump presidency and that Canada retaliates as well as key economic indicators and inputs, including economic activity, trade, the labour market and demographics.
- The analysis does not represent the ministry of finance's economic and budget forecast, which is under development and will be released as part of Budget 2025.
- The minister of finance will also consult with the Economic Forecast Council in late January. The Economic Forecast Council is comprised of leading economists from across Canada. Advice from the Economic Forecast Council will be reported in Budget 2025.

Ministers LeBlanc and Joley comment on tariff threat

Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc says Donald Trump's suggestion that he will impose sweeping tariffs on Canada on Feb. 1 is "nothing new," and insists Canada has plans ready for several possible scenarios.

LeBlanc and Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly stepped out of a cabinet meeting in Montebello, Que. to deliver a statement to reassure Canadians after the newly installed U.S. president signed a stack of unrelated executive orders Monday evening.

Trump told reporters: "We are thinking in terms of 25 per cent on Mexico and Canada because they are allowing vast number of people, Canada is a very bad abuser also, vast numbers of people to come in and fentanyl to come in."

LeBlanc, who said Trump is known to be unpredictable, said that should not come as a surprise.

"Our country is absolutely ready to respond to any one of these scenarios," he said.

"We still continue to believe that it would be a mistake for the American government to proceed with imposing tariffs."

Joly said the government's plan is to keep working to prevent tariffs from happening, to prepare possible retaliatory actions and to create a long-term response.

She called on political leaders "across the board, across the country" to stand united. The pair did not take questions.

Earlier in the day, cabinet ministers were careful not to declare victory after Trump was sworn into

office without mentioning Canada at all, and with no sign of the punishing tariffs he's been threatening since the November election.

"We're very cautious. We know we can make sure that this is a win-win relationship," Joly told reporters in the afternoon.

Joly, who was in Washington last week, touted the relationship-building work she and her colleagues have been doing south of the border in an attempt to prevent the tariffs.

Despite that outreach, the federal government learned through a report in the Wall Street Journal on Monday morning that Trump planned instead to sign an executive order launching an investigation into alleged unfair trade and currency practices by Canada, Mexico and China.

Joly chalked up the lack of communication to "a level of disorganization" as the Trump administration takes over.

Trump had threatened back in November that a 25 per cent across-the-board tariff on Canada would be one of his first actions on his first day back in office.

"This was news today. It is important news, and at the same time we will be working on preventing tariffs and preparing a response," Joly said.

The federal government had several plans ready to deploy in the event Trump signed an executive order imposing tariffs on Monday.

The plans include billions of dollars in possible retaliatory tariffs hitting key U.S. sectors, including

orange juice, ceramics, plastics and steel products. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said every commodity must be considered as part of the response, including energy exports.

When he first threatened the tariffs, Trump said they were a response to what he called a lack of action by Canada and Mexico to keep migrants and illegal drugs out of the United States.

The Liberal government laid out a \$13-billion plan to shore up border security over six years in December that includes extra police and border guards, helicopters, drones and drug-sniffing dogs.

Public Safety Minister David McGuinty said the co-operation between Canadian and American officials on the border is very strong.

"I think it's important for Canadians and Americans both to remember this: we have a very strong border, and what we're doing is making it stronger," he said.

Joly said "it was all about the border, and we did the job on the border," adding that she got positive feedback in Washington about the changes Canada promised.

But in recent weeks, Trump has pivoted to saying the tariffs are being introduced because of the United States' trade deficit with Canada.

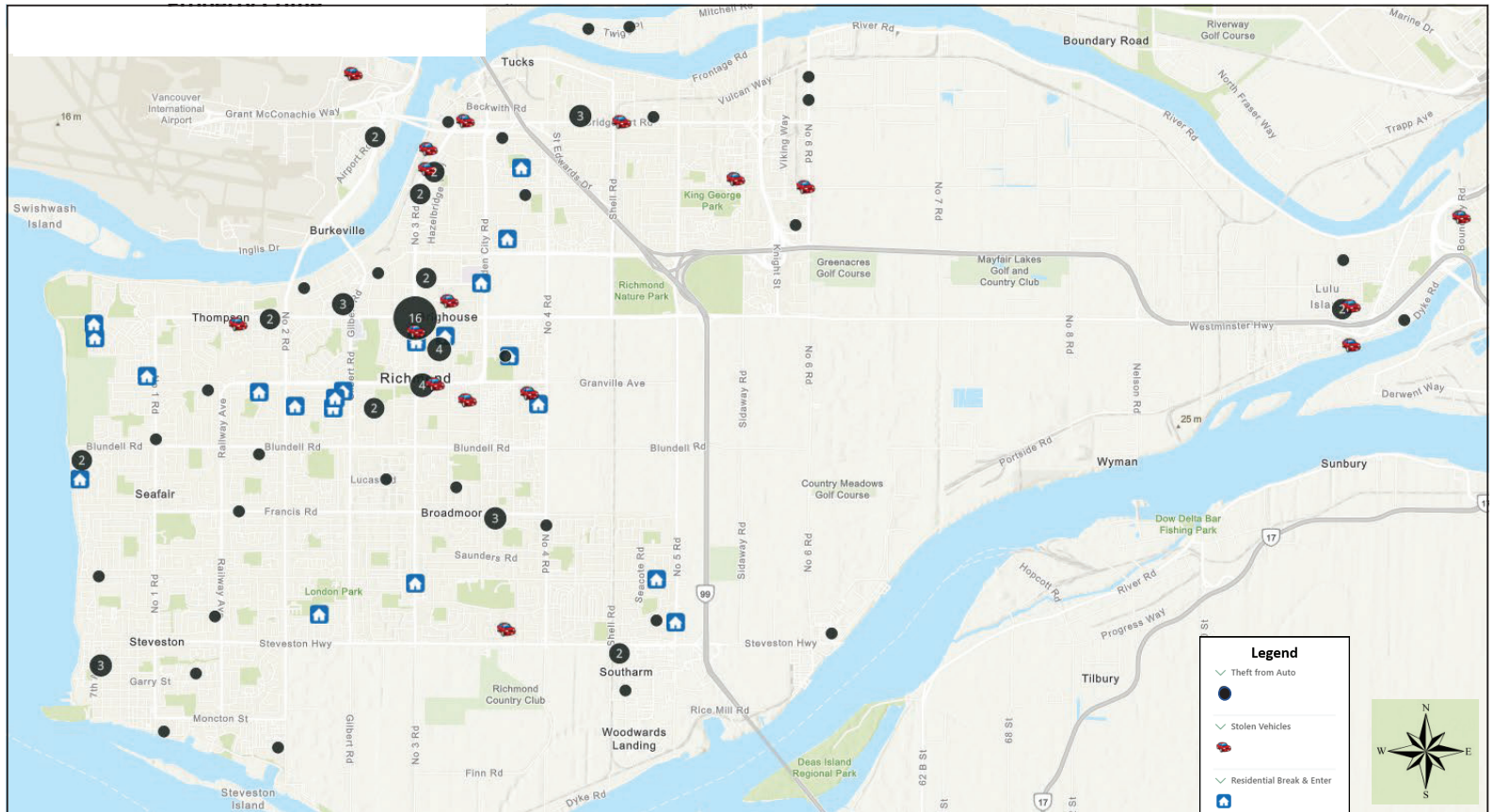
"If the administration wants to study the economic and trade relationship between Canada and the United States, we think that's a positive opportunity for us," said LeBlanc.

—By The Canadian Press



RCMP

Crime Map Dec. 1 - 31, 2024



Richmond RCMP December road report

Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit (RSU) remained committed to improving road safety throughout December, with an emphasis on impaired driving enforcement and public education initiatives. Officers issued a total of 810 traffic tickets throughout the month, with 30 impaired driving charges, 159 driver license infractions, 75 distracted driving charges, and 149 speeding violations.

Holiday impaired driving initiatives:

In partnership with ICBC's winter campaign and police across the province, officers participated in CounterAttack roadblocks across Richmond, supported by outreach by community volunteers. These efforts highlighted the importance of planning ahead for a safe ride home. Additionally, Richmond officers participated in Light Up the Province, a collaboration with BC Highway Patrol, focusing on impaired drivers on highways and major roadways. The RSU's efforts continued through New Year's Eve, with nine drivers removed from the road for impaired driving or excessive speeding.

Key safety messages about impaired driving:

- Plan your ride home using public transportation, ride-hailing apps, or designated sober drivers.
- Speak up. If you see someone about to drive impaired, help them find a safe way home.



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

A total of 810 traffic tickets were issued in the month of December by the Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit.

- Be vigilant. Report suspected impaired drivers by calling 9-1-1.

Winter safety reminders:

As the season progresses, Richmond RCMP reminds drivers to adjust their driving to changing weather conditions. Snowfall presents unique challenges, and it is a legal requirement for drivers to fully clear snow and ice from their vehicles before driving. Failure to do so poses serious risks for all road users and may result in penalties.

Pedestrian safety remains a critical concern:

- Drivers must exercise due caution at all times and scan for pedestrians at intersections and crosswalks. A moment's distraction can cost a life.
- Pedestrians are urged to prioritize their safety by staying visible, avoiding distractions, and making eye contact with drivers before crossing—even at marked locations.

"Our efforts in December reflect our commitment to keeping Richmond's roads safe, especially during the holiday season. Impaired driving and pedestrian safety remain serious concerns. By planning ahead and driving cautiously, we can all play a role in saving lives", said Sergeant Eric Baskette, Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit.

Looking ahead to January:

The RSU will continue promoting safe driving practices, including driving distraction-free, sober, and adjusting to winter weather. Enforcement will focus on school zones, with officers and volunteers conducting outreach and speed enforcement to remind drivers of their responsibility to protect all road users.

Engage with us on social media and stay informed through our monthly road reports. Let's work together to make Richmond's roads safer for everyone.



Fashion For Women

Photos by Jade

Fashion is a living, breathing art form that reflects the spirit of the times while continually paying homage to the past. This season, the sartorial landscape is a perfect blend of fresh trends and timeless classics. From modern shades of green to luxurious silks and statement headbands, here's your guide to staying stylish and sophisticated.



ON-TREND HUES: GREENS AND JADE

This season, shades of green—especially rich hues like jade, emerald, and olive—dominate wardrobes. These colors exude a sense of vitality

and sophistication, making them perfect for both casual and formal settings. Jade-green dresses with clean lines, tailored blazers in mossy tones, or even chunky knit sweaters in sage are versatile and chic. Pair these with neutral accessories to let the green take center stage, or add gold accents for an opulent finish.

PLATFORM LEATHER BOOTS: A BOLD REVIVAL

The 1970s and 1990s are having a moment, with platform boots taking the lead as a bold footwear choice. These shoes not only elongate the legs but also bring an edgy vibe to any outfit. Pair platform boots with leather pants or skirts for a rock-chic aesthetic, or tone them down with a long trench coat and cozy knit for a balanced look. Leather jackets in deep black or unexpected colors like burgundy or forest green continue to be staples, offering a versatile layer that pairs seamlessly with anything from jeans to dresses.



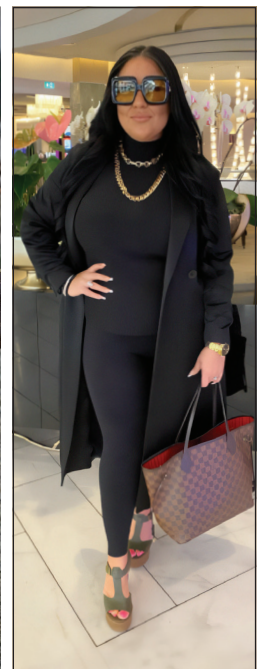
A TOAST TO THE CLASSICS

The glamour of the Bond era makes a triumph return with classic fur accents and statement headbands. Faux fur Coats in neutral ones like white, beige, or black are perfect for adding warmth and sophistication to winter outfits. Pair these with sleek, wide headbands or embellished hair accessories to channel a retro-chic aesthetic. This timeless look works especially well for evening events or holiday gatherings, offering a touch of drama and elegance.



THE TIMELESS APPEAL OF TRENCH COATS

A long trench coat is the ultimate outerwear piece—classic, elegant, and endlessly versatile. This season, trenches in camel, charcoal, and cream are wardrobe must-haves. For a modern twist, look for oversized silhouettes or unexpected textures like patent leather or quilted materials. The beauty of a trench coat lies in its ability to elevate any outfit, from office-ready ensembles to casual weekend looks. Belt it at the waist for a structured, polished vibe, or leave it open for a more relaxed appearance.





Joe Biz — by Joe Leary

'Gordon Ramsay Steak' open in Richmond

As one of the most iconic names in the culinary world, Gordon Ramsay has cultivated his status and now ranks as a true global food superstar. Known for his fiery temper and colourful dialogue, the 58-year-old culinary giant has gained international fame in his journey, becoming one of the world's most influential and renowned chefs.

Growing his namesake brand of restaurant concepts through a litany of food-oriented television series, Ramsay first came to the attention of North American audiences in May, 2005 with the debut of *Hell's Kitchen*. It was a unique concept for TV; a reality, elimination series that pares down an original group of 20 aspiring chefs to a single winner over the course of the competition.

Now in its 20th season, the popularity of *Hell's Kitchen* along with Ramsay's somewhat endearing charm gave birth to a series of additional restaurant-themed television concepts, further expanding his global portfolio in the process.



Gordon Ramsay's Restaurant Group was founded in 1997; has been awarded 17 Michelin Stars and currently has 8. Now Richmond can welcome this prestigious brand to British Columbia with the introduction of 'Gordon Ramsay Steak' at the River Rock Casino Resort.

The 266-seat restaurant features a grand main dining room, bar and lounge; the Marina Terrace overlooking the Fraser River and a private dining space for more intimate gatherings or celebrations. "We're very proud to collaborate with the legendary Chef Gordon Ramsay to bring his world-renowned Gordon Ramsay Steak to Canadians for the very first time," said Matthew Anfinson, chief executive officer, Great Canadian Entertainment.

"The anticipation since we announced this opening has been extraordinary and to see the transformation of River Rock with the new restaurant is truly inspiring. "We are always looking to create unforgettable dining and entertainment experiences for our guests, and we can think of no better place to debut this special restaurant than right here in BC."

Delivering an elevated steakhouse experience, Gordon Ramsay Steak is infused with the multiple Michelin-starred, chef and television personality's unmistakable culinary flair. Diners will witness a menu that combines Chef Ramsay's iconic signa-

ture dishes, such as his now legendary Beef Wellington with multiple steak fare options, including A5 Wagyu, certified Angus and an impressive selection of dry-aged specialties.

The menu emphasizes seasonality, sustainability and local sourcing with 75 per cent of produce, 85 per cent of beef and all pork and salmon items sourced from Canadian producers. Local wild seafood includes BC King Salmon, sablefish, scallops, and Atlantic oysters. Organic chicken and Australian Wagyu are certified Halal and for those craving a sweet finale, Ramsay's famous sticky toffee pudding with brown sugar toffee and brown butter ice cream complements the menu.

Everything at this elevated steakhouse venture is crafted in-house; from freshly baked breads to sauces. The extensive wine list showcases premium selections and varietals from British Columbia and Canadian wineries, complimented by an inventive menu.

Suffice it to say that interest among patrons of the Lower Mainland is high and bookings are through the roof. Gordon Ramsay Steak is open for dinner daily from 5 p.m. and reservations are recommended and available via OpenTable. For more information, visit grsteak.ca or gordonramsayrestaurants.com

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steak

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Photos screen grab from RiverRock.com

OUR CITY *tonight*

SPOTLIGHT ON
NEW MOVIE, TV VIEW & MUSIC

THE VIEW #1 – KIN

Meet the Kinsella family, a tightly-knit group who also happens to be one of Dublin's most notorious crime syndicates. They're also in an intense gangland war involving drugs, "turf", and murder. Leading the family is Frank Kinsella (played Aiden Gillen, most notably from *Game of Thrones*), a man with demons, a double life and a growing drug problem. His three sons could not be more different in how they want to see power wielded. The women of the family are led by daughter-in-law, Amanda (Clare Dunne), who, as the series progresses, grows in influence in this testosterone-driven world. Hovering above the clan like a dark, menacing cloud is crime boss, Eamon Cunningham (played by the always superb Ciaran Hinds). Peter McKenna and Ciaran Donnelly have created a hard-hitting, intense, and dark TV series that will certainly entertain fans of this genre. Season one and two of *KIN* are available now on Hollywood Suite. hollywoodsuite.ca



Photo courtesy Hollywood Suite



THE VIEW #2 – Young Werther

A young writer from a wealthy family has a chance encounter with a woman who he instantly feels will be the love of his life. One small problem: she's engaged. Based on the 1774 novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, this new Canadian film, *Young Werther*, is set in modern-day Toronto and is written and directed by Jose Lourenco. Werther (played by Douglas Booth) is not discouraged by the fact that his potential love, Amanda (played by Alison Pill) is committed to another. He sets his sights on her and will go to hilarious (and often misguided) heights to win her heart. Aside from being a love letter to Toronto in the summer season, this film has the right balance of humour, love, loss, and tenderness. Lourenco's characters are not the clichés you see in other movies from this genre—Amanda, at a young age, is looking after a number of younger siblings after the death of their parents; her fiancée is actually a really nice guy who is guilty only of working too much; and Werther has surprising depths for a character that could've easily become quite annoying after a bit of time on screen. For fans of writer/director, Wes Anderson (*Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*), this intelligent, romantic comedy is for you. *Young Werther* is in theatres now. vvsfilms.com

Photo courtesy VVS Films

THE MUSIC – Dark Moon by Holly Cole

She is, simply put, one of Canada's best interpreters of music, and has

fans all over the world. We've been fans of Holly Cole for decades, since first hearing her 1989 Christmas album, *Christmas Blues*. Since then, Cole has achieved multi-platinum sales and received numerous awards, including 2 Juno Awards and 2 Gemini Awards. For us, there's always excitement when we hear of a new album. Her 13th studio release, *Dark Moon*, which is out this month, delivers another perfect mix of songs that she, like so many times before, has made her own. Cole says, "I really wanted this album to embrace the spirit of spontaneity. At the same time a quintessential part of the sound of my music is in the arrangements. So, we did very little rehearsal in advance, and the songs were incredibly fresh for us while we were in the studio." *Dark Moon* is available on CD, 180-gram black vinyl, standard, Hi-Res digital + ATMOS. umusic.ca and hollycole.com

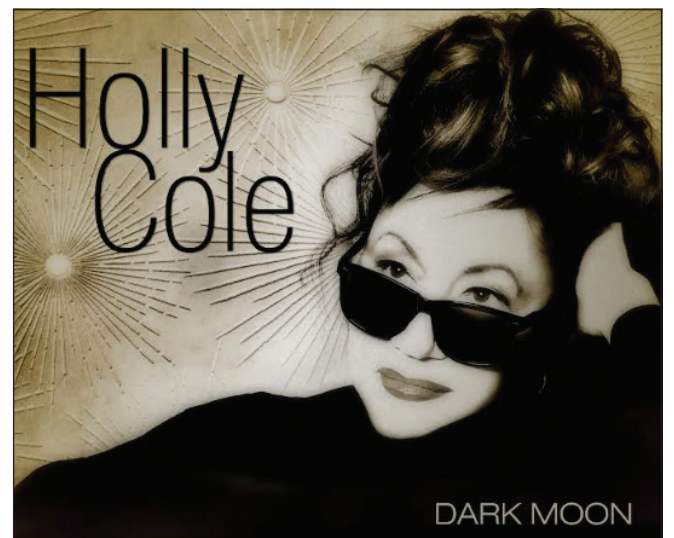


Photo courtesy Universal Music Canada

Managing your retirement

As part of our Healthy Horizon segments, *Our City Tonight* (OCT) sat down with a wealth advisor for CIBC Wood Gundy, Brandi Lockhart (BL). She is an expert wealth advisor and has a large senior clientele base, providing them with sound financial advice as they move into their retirement years.

OCT: Let's talk about tips on how to maximize retirement income.

BL: Maximizing retirement income generally involves the use of a few different strategies. One of these is taking advantage of government pensions, private pensions, tax efficient withdrawals on personal savings, and then also optimizing those personal savings.

When you think about government pensions, Canada Pension Plan CPP and Old Age Security OAS, a lot of individuals don't know that they can delay those pensions up to the age of 70. When you look at these pensions, you're entitled to the first payment and to your full payment amount at age 65. But you can delay payments up to the age of 70 and each month that you delay being paid your monthly payments will be more money. With OAS, for example, you are entitled to 7.2 per cent more per year and if you delay being paid all the way up to 70 years of age then that's going to give you an extra 36 per cent in income on your OAS. With CPP that is an additional 8.4 per cent per year, so there is a little bit more on that one for a total and if you delay each until you are 70, then that will be up to 42 per cent in income per year.

Looking more deeply into the OAS there is a clawed back clause. What that means is if you make over a certain amount of money, that threshold for 2024 is just under \$91,000, then your OAS starts to get clawed back and will mean you start getting less and less. Once you reach just around \$150,000 then the OAS is fully clawed back. What this means is, you do not get any bonus for the following year. Therefore, some strategies you can think about would be with your RSP's. You have to turn your RSP's into a Retirement Income Fund (RIF) at age 71 and then you have to start taking your payments at age 72. But you don't have to wait you can start taking your RSP's a little bit earlier to prevent yourself from being in a higher tax bracket in the future. This is all going to depend, of course, on your health and individual tax situation. Another thing is being able to maximize your Tax Free Savings Account



Photo courtesy Brandi Lockhart
Brandi Lockhart CFP, CIM, PFP.

(TFSA) and keep in mind anything within a tax-free savings account grows completely tax-free. Any withdrawals from your TFSA are not added to your tax income. So, using your TFSA helps with your taxable income.

If you've never contributed to a TFSA, this type of account began in 2009, and you are actually able to deposit \$95,000 as of 2024. That is a large amount of tax-free money there. And the last thing I would say on this topic would be the concept of pension splitting. You can split certain pensions with your spouse. This includes RIF income, company pensions, private pensions, and annuities. This will actually reduce your taxable income as well.

OCT: There is something that is coming up more and more where people are talking about the fact that as they grow older, seniors are living longer because they're healthier, they're exercising and watching what they eat which raises the question, how to handle finances so that they do not outlive their savings.

BL: That's a great question and it's the number one question for most of my clients. Of course, there is no guarantee that this is going to happen but a strategy I would suggest is first, to make sure you have a financial plan. Work closely with your wealth advisor and have a retirement plan completed.

A plan will show you how long your savings are projected to last in retirement. This is based on your lifestyle needs and to factor in any pension income

that you are going to be getting in retirement. You also need to factor in healthcare costs or long-term care costs. Put that all in your retirement plan along with the timing of CPP and OAS, plus RIF withdrawals. Then reviewing that plan is so important even if you are already retired. Basically, you should have a retirement plan so that you know where you stand and then review it consistently.

OCT: You must come across this often with your clients, wondering how they can balance their conservative investments with potential growth in their portfolio.

BL: I talk about this every day. There are multiple factors that come into play with that question which include your time horizon, your risk tolerance, your income needs, and then of course your nest egg that you've been able to save. When you look at your time horizon, for example, the longer your time horizon is, the more risk you can take.

You can include more growth or assets in your portfolio. On the other end of it, if you have a shorter time horizon, you're going to have to have much safer investments within your portfolio. The next thing you want to think about is your risk tolerance. If you have a really long-time horizon, you could take as much risk as you want. But you have to make sure you're comfortable with that because the more risk you take, the more growth you have, and the higher the volatility. You must make sure you're comfortable with that volatility by balancing out the portfolio. Maybe you need to have more conservative investments to make sure you're comfortable.

OCT: Please tell us a little about meeting with clients and potential clients. In fact, walk us through the first couple steps you need to take in order to work with a financial advisor.

BL: Every family and client that I work with is different. They all have different goals and objectives, and I want to make sure that I get to know these clients and build a relationship with them. Then I am able to know what type of wealth strategy to approach them with and the types of tools and resources to use as well. I do understand that life happens so events will happen that are planned or not planned. You always want to make sure that you have ongoing communication and to build up a trust, and that is critical to a successful relationship.

To watch the video interview in full go to richmondsentinel.ca/videos



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