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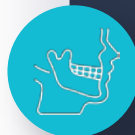
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2nd floor of Terra Nova Shopping Centre



Photo by Jaana Bjork

The City of Richmond is participating in the Climate-Friendly Homes Tour, a tour that showcases homes with sustainable technologies and innovative energy solutions.

Richmond homes needed for climate-friendly tour

Do you have a climate-friendly home and want to show others what a difference it can make? If so, the City of Richmond wants your home. Well, just for a day.

The city is participating in the Climate-Friendly Homes Tour, a province-wide initiative that provides the public an opportunity to visit homes with sustainable technologies, such as heat pumps, high-performance building envelopes, passive house design or other low-carbon features. The homeowners would showcase their innovative energy solutions as part of the tour, taking place on Saturday, April 26.

The goal of the tour is to start friendly, casual and informative conversations based on the homeowner's first-hand knowledge and experience with various climate-friendly features. Contractors, Energy Advisors and other experts will be onsite at some locations to answer questions and share their expertise. Visitors may also seek information on costs, comfort and ongoing expenses.

Homeowners are not expected to open their entire home to the public. Visitors will focus on viewing key features.

By participating in the tour, homeowners will have the opportunity to inspire and motivate others to take the first step toward a climate-friendly lifestyle that would improve their comfort and potentially reduce operating costs.

The deadline to register your home as part of Richmond's tour is Monday, March 31.

The tour is funded by BC Hydro and administered by the Community Energy Association. Final tour details will be posted on the Climate-Friendly Homes Tour website.

For more information and to register your home, visit climatefriendlyhomestour.ca/including-your-home

Bats: Out of the Darkness—exhibit lands at Richmond Nature Park

Step into the mysterious world of bats like never before at the immersive, multi-sensory exhibit, *Bats: Out of the Darkness*, at the Richmond Nature Park until Aug. 24, 2025.

This dynamic exhibit, presented by the Richmond Nature Park Society and on loan from the Kelowna Museum, showcases the fascinating lives of bats through a family-friendly experience.

Visitors can uncover the world of bats and explore their ecological importance and habitats, along with the vital role bats play in controlling insect populations and pollinating plants. Guests are also encouraged to discover the deep cultural significance of bats through Indigenous perspectives, and gain insight into the challenges bats face, including habitat loss, disease and human misconceptions.

Bats: Out of the Darkness features hands-on displays, including bat taxidermy and interactive elements such as audio-visual presentations. The entire exhibit offers an engaging way for visitors of all ages to learn more about these incredible creatures and highlight the importance of bat conservation efforts and ways the public can help protect these vital flying mammals.

Richmond is the Lower Mainland's first "Bat Friendly" certified city.

The Nature House is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is by donation.

For more information about the exhibit, visit richmond.ca/NaturePark

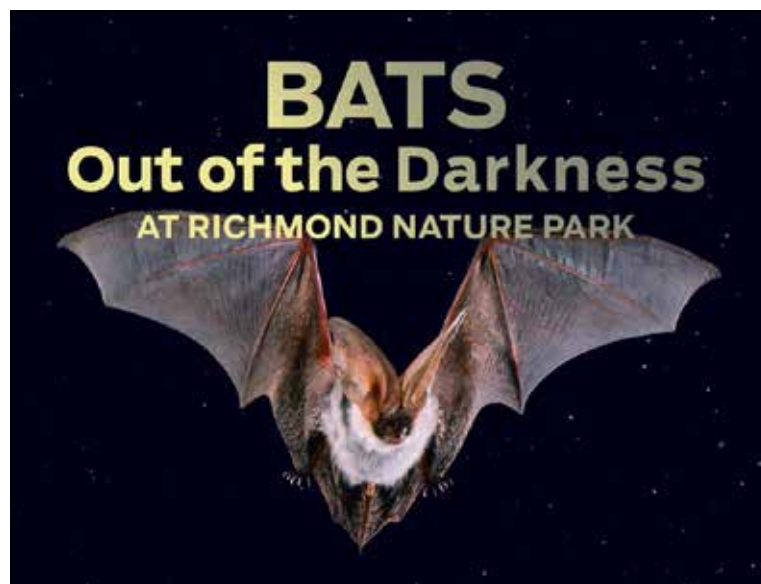


Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Bats: Out of the Darkness exhibit is at the Richmond Nature Park until Aug. 24, 2025.

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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In honour of our soldiers: Edgar Samuel Turnill

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 Turnill Street.

Edgar Samuel Turnill was born on Dec. 8, 1896 in Eburne, British Columbia. Eburne was a small agricultural centre for Sea Island and Lulu Island farmers, it began in the Vancouver side of the Fraser River, which had been named Marpole, before expanding to the Sea Island side. As time went on, stores began closing, the last straw was the construction of the Arthur Laing Bridge, which steered traffic away from the area and eventually closed the last remaining store.

Turnill’s parents, Thomas Harry Turnill and Emma Jane Turnill, had been living in England three years prior to emigrating to Eburne. His father, Thomas, worked as a foreman at the Britannia Cannery and worked for the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.

Edgar worked as a canner, before enlisting in Victoria on April 4, 1916 at the age of 19. He joined the 11th Canadian Mounted Rifles and left for England on the SS Lapland, arriving July 25, 1916. He would be transferred to the 2nd Battalion Canadi-



A poppy engraved street sign of Turnill Street.

Screen grab from Google Maps

an Mounted Rifles before arriving in France.

During his trip to France, Edgar was hospitalized and diagnosed with general myalgia, just one month after leaving the hospital, Turnill was tragically killed in action on April 11, 1917 at Vimy Ridge.

Turnill was survived by his parents, two brothers and two sisters, his mother would receive his personal effects including a memorial cross, and his father would receive the plaque and scroll.

On May 10, 1999, the City of Richmond made the conscious decision to honour Turnill by naming a street after him. Turnill Street can be found near the intersection of General Currie Road and Garden City Road.





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I can't believe that's a law: Alberta edition

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

DISCLAIMER: The following article is for informational and entertainment purposes only, and does not reflect the opinions or views of the Richmond Sentinel.

Following the British Columbia edition, we now move onto Alberta in our 13-part series that explores some ridiculous sounding laws and bylaws ever enforced. Some bylaws and laws include prohibition of owning a pet rat, building a mud hut or house with a straw roof, and even putting a bell on a cat.

1. Similar to British Columbia, Alberta has an issue with painting wooden ladders. Alberta's 2009 Occupational Health and Safety code stated that a person must not paint a wooden ladder, as it is hard to see what condition the ladder is in.

2. In 1950, the Albertan government passed a law that prohibited the act of owning pet rats. This was due to the fact that the government was focused on protecting the province's agriculture and its own citizens from the spread of any diseases that rats might carry. Such drastic measures has made Alberta one of the few places that are generally rat free, though some infestations could occur. (Amberstudent, n.d.)

3. In Edmonton, Alberta, dogs, cats, or any domesticated animals are prohibited meowing or howling. This may seem like a ridiculous rule, as that howling, barking, meowing and other noises are their primary method of communication, but it does not actually mean literally. On Aug. 31, 2007, the City of Edmonton enacted a bylaw related to noise disturbances. In said bylaw, section 14, subsection (2), that "A person shall not cause or permit property they own or occupy to be used so that noise from the property disturbs the peace of any other individual", meaning if an owner's pet, was making excessive noise, the owner may be liable.



Image generated by AI

In a series, inspired by a colleague, the *Richmond Sentinel* presents some interesting laws that simply don't sound real in the Province of Alberta.

4. Lounging around with your feet up is a great way to relax, in Calgary, according to bylaw number 54M2006; no person shall stand or put his feet on the top or surface of any table, bench, planter or sculpture placed in any public place.

5. Everyone has heard the story of the three little pigs, about how the big bad wolf huffed and puffed, and blew down the little pig's houses. In Ponoka, Alberta, a bylaw states that "one must not build a mud hut or house with a straw roof"

6. With the massive amounts of money being put into gambling on sports, casinos, and all the exposure it gets, one bylaw tried to stop this. In Falher, Alberta, at one point in time, it was illegal for residents to attend horse races, horse race meetings, dog races, boxing contests, or wrestling matches on Sundays. The reason behind this could be because of the religious observance of Sundays as a day of rest. (Wojna, 2011)

7. In 2015, in order to somewhat regulate public conduct, Taber, Alberta enacted a "Community Standards Bylaw". This bylaw prohibited swearing, spitting, and yelling in public, those who were caught violating said bylaw could be fined up to \$150. (CityNews, 2015)

8. Children used to be able to enjoy hanging out with friends, but not some parts of Alberta. In the towns of Red Deer and Taber, bylaws have been enacted making it illegal for children under the age of 16 to be outside from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. The bylaw was enforced at different years, it was enacted in Red Deer in 1999, and Taber in 2015, both in order to promote safety and reduce public disturbances. Taber. (2023). (Community Standards Bylaw No. 9-2015. Town of Taber.)

If you think that we missed a funny law, feel free to email us at newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca or comment under one of our social media accounts. Next edition, we travel up north to see what laws or bylaws were, or still are, enforced.

Montrose Properties donates \$10,000 to POWER UP

To give back to the community, Montrose Properties has donated \$10,000 to the POWER UP Campaign, which will help improve access and efficiency through the integration of advanced technology in the future Yurkovich Family Pavilion, Richmond Hospital's new acute care tower.

"As a significant industrial real estate owner and developer in Metro Vancouver, we strive to create and sustain lasting value through innovation and accountability," says Ken Low, president and chief executive officer of Montrose Properties. "And this aligns with the goal of Richmond Hospital Foundation's POWER UP Campaign—to equip the acute care tower with innovative tools so the health care

facility will be efficient well into the future."

The Richmond-based business, with more than 477 acres of land assets in Metro Vancouver, has long been a supporter of community well-being along with economic and sustainable growth. Montrose Properties recently won the 2024 national Brownie Award for Best Overall Development for its innovative redevelopment project in East Richmond, which will turn a former landfill into an industrial warehouse park.

"We are grateful for corporate citizens like Montrose Properties. They truly understand the profound impact innovation can make," says Natalie Meixner, president and chief executive officer of

Richmond Hospital Foundation. "Their philanthropic support will help provide lasting, future-forward care for our community, and enhance the health care experience for patients and their families."

The POWER UP Campaign aims to help provide more access, efficient, and patient-centred care through technological efficiencies and advancements in the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion, including the Emergency Department and Operating Rooms.

To learn more and lend your support for Richmond Hospital Foundation's POWER UP Campaign, please visit: richmondhospitalfoundation.com/campaign/power-up

POWER UP our Future

with improved access and increased efficiency
in the new Yurkovich Family Pavilion



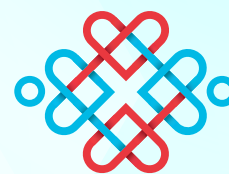
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Applications now open for the Rick and Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities

The Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is pleased to announce that applications are now open for youth with disabilities to apply for post-secondary financial assistance for the 2025/2026 academic year via the Rick and Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities, generously funded by the April 1 Foundation.

"Since first launching these scholarships last year, we have seen the positive impact they're making in removing barriers to education and providing youth with disabilities the opportunity to pursue their academic dreams," said Doramy Ehling, chief executive officer Rick Hansen Foundation. "The inaugural five recipients are attending Canadian post-secondary institutions in a wide range of academia including Sports Sciences, Nursing Education, Accounting and Social Work. These individuals are Canada's future leaders and we are extremely proud to be partners in their journey."



Photo courtesy Rick Hansen Foundation

Applications for the Rick and Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities is now open.

For the 2025/2026 academic year, funding of up to \$10,000 per year (up to a maximum of \$40,000) is available to youth with disabilities who are under the age of 30 years as of the application deadline, looking to complete a 1- to 5-years post-secondary program at a publicly funded institution in Canada. Applications will be accepted until May 14, 2025, and recipients will be announced in the Fall.

"Rick and Amanda Hansen believe that people of all abilities should have the right to a barrier-free education. This is an excellent opportunity for youth who align with their values of perseverance, inclusivity, and being a difference maker," added Ehling.

For more information including eligibility and evaluation criteria and to apply visit RickHansen.com/Scholarship

Details on the inaugural scholarship recipients and their achievements can be found on the Foundation's blog.

Gateway Theatre announces casting call for ANNIE

Mark your calendars for December 2025 when Gateway Theatre presents *Annie*, running Dec. 11 2025 to Jan. 3, 2026. And if you know any young and talented performers, this is their opportunity to be a part of this wonderful holiday production.

Auditions for the loveable title role of Annie, along with her orphan pals, will be held in early April. And in the next phase, get ready for something paws-ively exciting—auditions for the iconic dog, Sandy. It's not just Annie that's stealing the show—Sandy's turn is up next.

"Gateway Theatre first staged *Annie* over 40 years ago, with the most recent production in 2010. We're excited to bring this family favourite back into your hearts once again with talented local youth and professional artists," said Barbara Tomic, executive artistic director of Gateway Theatre. "We can't wait to see all the amazing talent in the Lower Mainland, and to have them audition for Annie and the orphans."

The show will be directed by the same team that brought us the smash hit *Oliver!*; director Josh Epstein, choreographer Nicol Spino-la and musical director Sean Bayntun. The team is seeking a young female-presenting actor who can sing, dance and act and can play between 10 to 12 years of age to portray Annie. In addition to this role, the company will be auditioning for six female-presenting youth to play the orphans.

Information for auditions for Sandy will be shared widely in early summer of 2025.

For those interested in finding out more about the audition and how to submit, visit the Audition page on the Gateway Theatre website. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, March 13 at 11:59 p.m. PST. Auditions will be held at Gateway and selected applicants will be sent 16 bars of a classic song from *Annie* to learn and bring into auditions, as well as participate in a dance call.



Photo courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives

The Richmond Community Foundation Scholarship applications are now open.

Richmond Community Foundation kicks off scholarship season

If you're graduating this year, and plan on pursuing a post-secondary education, a Richmond Community Foundation scholarship can provide a helpful financial boost.

Importantly, it doesn't matter what you're studying. Scholarships are available for any and all academic fields, artistic disciplines, and trade programs. Don't worry about your grades, either, as they're only one of many factors considered when assessing applications. Equally significant are financial need, community involvement, and strength of references.

Another reason to apply: it's easy. The foundation has a simple, online application form, allowing you to apply for multiple scholarships at once.

And don't discount the long-term benefits of a scholarship. Even after the money is spent, the scholarship will still appear on your resume: a mark of achievement that will stand out to recruiters, HR professionals, selection committees, and other decision makers along your educational and professional journey.

The final day to apply is March 14. Click [here](#) to get started.

Free Tax clinics at Brighthouse Library

Richmond Public Library, in partnership with the Lord's Harvest Fellowship, is once again offering free Income Tax Clinics at the Brighthouse library. This is the 14th year that the library has offered the tax clinics in partnership with The Lord's Harvest Fellowship.

Trained volunteers will help community members with low income to file their income tax returns. In 2024, the volunteers helped over 200 individuals prepare their taxes at no cost.

To qualify for this service, individuals must have a maximum income of \$35,000 and a couple must have a maximum income of \$45,000 plus \$2,500 per child. Couples will need to sign up for one appointment per person. This year's clinics will continue to follow a drop-off and pick-up format.

Registration is now open. Interested community members can learn more about this service and register for an appointment by calling 604-231-6413 or visiting Brighthouse library's 2nd floor Ask Me desk. A piece of government-issued ID and all relevant tax slips such as T4, T5, and Canada Child Benefit slips must be brought to the appointment. All print documents will be returned to the participant at their pick-up time.

The clinics are offered in English and run on Sundays until April 26 (no clinic on April 19), with drop-off appointments available between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Additional details about the tax clinics can be found at yourlibrary.bibliocommons.com

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit in conjunction with Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team, Richmond RCMP volunteers and ICBC are partnering throughout the month of March to conduct targeted operations on distracted driving.

March has been designated by the BC Chiefs of Police and ICBC as Distracted Driving Awareness and Enforcement Month. According to ICBC data, distracted driving is the second leading cause of collisions involving fatalities in BC, and is a contributing factor in 38 per cent of all police-reported crashes in the province.

Fines for distracted driving range from \$368 for first-time offenders and 4 demerit points, to as much as \$2,000 in financial penalties for repeat offenders, in addition to their regular insurance premiums.

"We respond to numerous collisions where the cause of the crash was due to the driver being distracted. Last year, we issued 1378 violation tickets to drivers observed using an electronic device," says Sergeant Eric Baskette, Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit. "Unfortunately, our officers know all too well the tragic consequences that can occur when someone is not following the rules of the road which is why we are passionate about conducting these targeted operations."

Important rules to know:

- Don't use your cell phone at a red light. The law applies even when you've stopped at a red light or in bumper-to-bumper traffic.
- Keep your hands free. Hands-free means a Bluetooth, wired headset or speaker phone that can be operated with a one touch or voice commands.
- If you have a Learner's (L) or Novice (N) licence, you are not allowed to use any electronic devices (like phone or GPS) behind the wheel, for any purpose, even in hands-free mode.

Knowing and understanding the laws associated to the use of electronic devices while driving is the responsibility of every driver. Richmond RCMP recommends familiarizing yourself with the rules of the road before you go. Working together we can make the roadways in Richmond safer for all road users.

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PROUD TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF RICHMOND CENTRE

Statement by the Prime Minister on unjustified U.S. tariffs against Canada



Photo via pm.gc.ca
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on unjustified U.S. tariffs against Canada:

"Today, after a 30-day pause, the United States administration has decided to proceed with imposing 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian exports and 10 per cent tariffs on Canadian energy. Let me be unequivocally clear—there is no justification for these actions.

"While less than 1 per cent of the fentanyl intercepted at the U.S. border comes from Canada, we have worked relentlessly to address this scourge that affects Canadians and Americans alike. We implemented a \$1.3 billion border plan with new choppers, boots on the ground, more co-ordination, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl. We appointed a Fentanyl Czar, listed transnational criminal cartels as terrorist organizations, launched the Joint Operational Intelligence Cell, and are establishing a Canada-U.S. Joint Strike Force on organized crime. Because of this work—in partnership with the United States—fentanyl seizures from Canada have dropped 97 per cent between December 2024 and January 2025 to a near-zero low of 0.03 pounds

seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"Canada will not let this unjustified decision go unanswered. Should American tariffs come into effect tonight, Canada will, effective 12:01 a.m. EST tomorrow, respond with 25 per cent tariffs against \$155 billion of American goods – starting with tariffs on \$30 billion worth of goods immediately, and tariffs on the remaining \$125 billion on American products in 21 days' time. Our tariffs will remain in place until the U.S. trade action is withdrawn, and should U.S. tariffs not cease, we are in active and ongoing discussions with provinces and territories to pursue several non-tariff measures. While we urge the U.S. administration to reconsider their tariffs, Canada remains firm in standing up for our economy, our jobs, our workers, and for a fair deal.

"Because of the tariffs imposed by the U.S., Americans will pay more for groceries, gas, and cars, and potentially lose thousands of jobs. Tariffs will disrupt an incredibly successful trading relationship. They will violate the very trade agreement that was negotiated by President Trump in his last term."

This document is also available at <https://pm.gc.ca>

Statement by the Premier on U.S. tariffs



Photo courtesy B.C. Government
Premier David Eby.

Premier David Eby has issued the following statement in response to tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump:

"We didn't ask for this fight the president has brought to Canada and to British Columbia. I'll tell you this—we're not going to shrink from it.

"Effective immediately, BC Liquor Stores will be pulling all red-state liquor products off the shelf and will not order any more. Here at home, the government, including Crown corporations and health authorities, will be buying Canadian first, then non-U.S. products. This is something that we can't do ordinarily because of trade agreements with the United States. Finally, we're going to make sure support is in place so B.C. businesses can pivot to global and domestic markets.

"The federal government has committed that the revenues from counter tariffs announced this morning will be redistributed to businesses and individuals to provide support. We'll make sure that that happens. As a province, we'll fill in the blanks wherever there is an area that isn't being addressed by Ottawa.

"We're having conversations today that we never thought we would have. Today is our chance as Ca-

nadians, and as British Columbians, to send a message. At the grocery store, buy B.C., buy Canadian. If you have a choice about where to travel, avoid the United States. Visit somewhere in Canada or elsewhere in the world.

"This threat to our sovereignty has brought out a sense of pride, a sense of courage and a sense of solidarity among all Canadians.

"We're big enough to stand on our own two feet. This is a moment for us to take an attack and turn it into a source of strength for ourselves as a province and as a country. We are tough. We are resilient. We are exceptional.

"Together, we'll ensure that Canada remains the true north, strong and free. We will meet this moment with dignity and with courage. We are resolute in our willingness to stand up for what we believe, to partner with people who share our values around the world, and to lead the way in a moment of great uncertainty and, for some people, significant fear. People need Canada right now, they need British Columbia right now and we'll be there to deliver for them. We're going to fight and we're going to win."

For more information on B.C.'s tariff response, visit: <https://gov.bc.ca/tariffs>

Standing strong for B.C.: Budget prepares to defend British Columbians

The provincial government has released Budget 2025: Standing Strong for B.C., a measured plan to protect jobs and the public services people rely on, while preparing British Columbia's economy to withstand the unpredictable impacts of unjustified tariffs.

"With uncertainty on the horizon, it is prudent to protect the essentials and prepare for what comes next by investing in our greatest resource, the people of British Columbia," said Minister of Finance, Brenda Bailey. "While our economy is built to withstand the threat of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs relatively better than most other provinces, the impact would still be significant. Our budget prepares us to carefully navigate these uncharted waters so we can put people first and support businesses as we build a stronger, more self-sufficient future."

Budget 2025 manages B.C.'s finances and invests in critical public services to meet growing demand. It provides \$9.9 billion more in operating funding over three years, including \$7.7 billion in new funding for health care, education and social services. The budget also includes \$4 billion in annual contingencies to address unpredictable costs, including a new collective bargaining mandate, pressures on critical services and for emerging needs, such as potential tariff response measures.

The budget provides \$4.2 billion to respond to growing demand for health-care services, improve access to primary care, continue hiring health-care workers, reduce wait times at emergency departments and hospitals, and open and operate new and renovated hospitals and facilities. It also provides funding to support addictions treatment and recovery programs.

To address health-care needs throughout the province, \$15.5 billion in capital funding is provided over the fiscal plan to help build and upgrade hospitals, long-term care facilities and cancer centres.

Budget 2025 provides \$370 million over three years to support students in the K-12 education system, including hiring additional teachers, special-education teachers, teacher psychologists and counsellors. The budget also invests \$4.6 billion over the fiscal plan in capital funding to build and upgrade schools.

Funding is increasing for services for children and youth with support needs, children and youth in care and adults with developmental disabilities.

"In times of uncertainty, we will be there for British Columbians. We are continuing to invest in the services people rely on to take care of their families, get the care they need, when they need it, and provide a good future for everyone across the province," Bailey said. "Our government is focused on building an economy that creates the wealth that is needed to deliver more jobs with bigger paycheques and protect our public services in the face of the threat of unjustified tariffs."

Growing a stronger and more diverse economy will help protect people from instability outside B.C.'s borders, with investments that will bring good-paying jobs to the province as part of sustainable industries.

Budget 2025 invests \$30 million over three years to support high-quality jobs through the Integrated Marketplace Initiative's work to accelerate innovation in B.C., and boosts tax credits for

the province's film sector and home-grown interactive digital media and video game industry.

It includes funding of \$95 million in critical highway and bridge maintenance over three years to help people and goods move safely across the province, with another \$47 million over the fiscal plan to support BC Transit networks outside of the Lower Mainland.

Capital funding of \$15.9 billion over three years will support transit, infrastructure and highway improvements to connect communities throughout the province.

Total capital investments of \$59.9 billion over the fiscal plan are anticipated to support 180,000 good-paying direct and indirect jobs over three years.

People continue to deal with the challenge of daily costs, especially when it comes to finding a home they can afford. Budget 2025 commits an additional \$318 million over three years to BC Builds as part of the Province's goal of delivering thousands more rental homes for middle-income people.

B.C. remains focused on making sure people, not speculators, can find affordable housing by increasing the Speculation and Vacancy Tax to 3 per cent for foreign owners and untaxed worldwide owners, and 1 per cent for Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

The number of lower-income working families receiving help with their monthly rent payment will nearly double as part of \$375 million in additional funding for rental support programs over three years.

With this increase, the average supplement families receive under the Rental Assistance Program will rise from \$400 to \$700 per month. An additional 1,600 seniors will receive rental support through the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program, with average supplements growing by 30 per cent. This is the second increase to funding for SAFER recipients in the past year.

Stronger-than-expected returns on investments means ICBC can provide another \$110 rebate this year to help personal and commercial drivers with costs amid an uncertain economic climate.

The province is investing \$325 million over three years to support safer communities.

This includes \$235 million in justice and public safety programs for people to get timely access to justice, a new program to fight vandalism and other property crime, increased police funding and more police officer training seats.

Budget 2025 provides additional funding to expand HEART and HEARTH programs to help more people living outdoors access housing and better support services so the province can work with communities to help people move indoors and close down encampments.

"We can't leave our future to the whims of unpredictable forces beyond our borders," Bailey said. "This is our opportunity to stand up for B.C. families, workers and communities to build a stable and sustainable economy for years to come."

Budget 2025 presents declining deficits from \$10.9 billion in 2025-26 to \$10.2 billion in 2026-27 and \$9.9 billion in 2027-28.

Read the 2025 Budget and Fiscal Plan: Wbcbudget.gov.bc.ca

Sockeyes eliminate Whalers in six games

By STEVE ERICKSON
Contributing Writer

PJHL Playoff action continued in Richmond with the Sockeyes pulling out a win in the first two games, managing ten goals, while they allowed three, with the team focused on wrapping up the series knowing that it wouldn't be an easy task.

Regulation league play saw the Sockeyes finish with 69 points and a record of 32 wins, 11 losses, 3 overtime losses, and 2 shootout losses, while the Whalers managed 63 points and a record of 29 wins, 14 losses, 5 overtime losses, and zero shootout losses in league play. Richmond would rely on the team leaders such as Captain Teo Lin, William Huo, and Nicholas Noren to lead the charge and set the tone for the entire team whose motivation wouldn't be an issue.

To the surprise of no one, the Whalers led by Ty Balchen, opened the scoring on a power-play goal halfway through the first period. The Whalers would hold a 1-0 lead until 1:02 into the third period, when Max Shin would even up the score for the Sockeyes.

Pressure would be a continuing factor in the game that would see Teo Lin put the Sockeyes up by a 2-1 margin at the 13:40 mark, only to have the Whalers' Quinn Orr even the scoring at 18:37 forcing overtime.

Overtime was entertaining with the fans getting their money's worth, that would see the Whalers score the O/T winning goal at 7:06 getting them back into the series.

Returning to home ice, fans would see a "new look" Sockeyes squad, in a contest that saw them squander the first goal at 5:56 in the first period. That alone proved to be a motivator for the Sockeyes as they took control.

The second period saw both William Huo and Alex Kielmann score a goal each, while Teo Lin and Nicholas Noren added to the score in the third, pulling out a 4-1 victory. In the series leading up to



Richmond Sockeyes JR A Hockey team 2024 - 2025.

Photo via richmondsockeyes.com

game 5, the Sockeyes scored 19 goals, while giving up only 13 to the Whalers.

Game six was a must-win for the Whalers to keep the series and their playoff dreams alive. Playing in an aggressive environment can prove exhausting for any visiting team but that isn't something new for the Sockeyes in a game that would see both teams with their regular starters.

Garin Wichstrom, who recorded a 0.913 save percentage and a 3.17 Goals Against Average (GAA) in the regular season, faced off against Sockeyes' Max Fowle, who had a 0.925 save percentage and 2.36 GAA. Both were focal points in game six with "nerves of steel" on the line.

Richmond got the jump as Nathan Gray scored a power-play goal at the 2:30 into the first, followed by William Huo giving the Sockeyes at 2-0 lead at 5:34 into the first period. The Whalers responded with their first goal at 6:18 followed by the tying goal at 18:07 on the power-play, leaving the teams tied after the first period.

The second period saw the Sockeyes add to their lead, scoring three, with Beaudy Beaudin and Michael McIntyre getting goals on the man advantage. Late into the second period, Nick Kovich would net one "top shelf" at 18:39 as the Sockeyes headed back to their locker room with a 5-2 advance

tage after 40 minutes.

The Whalers were entering desperation mode heading into the third period, as they needed a win if they were to keep the series and their playoff hopes alive. In a fight to the finish, the Whalers scored a goal 9:21 into the third period making it 5-3, but were unable to penetrate the solid defensive play of the Sockeyes. Max Shin would score an empty net goal at 19:37, sealing the result of the game and the series.

In a hard fought contest, the Whalers outshot the Sockeyes 35-33, but it was on the power play that made all the difference, the Sockeyes scored three goals on four power play opportunities while the Whalers just managed two goals on five chances.

The win has the Sockeyes advance to the Tom Shaw Conference Finals in the 'Tunnel Series' match-up against the Delta Ice Hawks.

At the time this article was written, the Sockeyes had already played games 1 and 2, with the Sockeyes losing game one 5-4 and game 2 by a score of 8-4. The Sockeyes will play game three in Delta on March 11 at 7:35 p.m., before returning home for game four on March 13 at 7 p.m. Richmond looks to advance to the league finals again in the exciting PJHL action.

Richmond's Taila Cranston wins powerlifting contest



TAILA CRANSTON

Grade 12 McMath student Taila Cranston won her weight class at the AAU Washington State Powerlifting Championships on the weekend.

The 17-year-old competed in the 104 pound weight class and set an AAU provincial deadlift record by lifting an elite level 220 pounds—over double her body weight. The Richmond resident also bench pressed a national class weight of 85 pounds.

The all day event took place before a sold out and enthusiastic crowd at the Stewart Performance Centre in Seattle,

Washington.

Taila trains mainly at the Richmond Oval and South Arm Community Center. She is coached by her father Jody Cranston who has previously held a provincial deadlift record in powerlifting. He has competed in strength sports for over 30 years, starting in 1994 and is still an active competitor. His all-time best dead lift is 590 pounds at 163 pounds body weight.

Cranston is scheduled to represent Richmond and compete in another powerlifting tournament in May one month before graduating from high school this spring.



Douglas James Scammell

Fashion For Men - Irish Aran Wool Sweater

During the cooler weather months a gentleman must have a good sweater to help stay comfortable and warm and equally important, to stay stylish at the same time.

There are many great sweaters to choose from with crew necks, v necks, turtle necks, Cardigans etc...

One of my personal favorite sweaters is the iconic Irish Aran Wool Sweater.

It is important to note this sweater is an icon for both men and women.

HISTORY

The Aran sweater has been around since the late 1800's and originated in Ireland in the Aran islands in Galway Bay region which is the most westerly point. Weather conditions there were harsh and the Aran sweater was born out of necessity as a

protective layer against the cold and rains of the unforgiving Atlantic Ocean. The sweater was very popular with Irish fishermen.

The yarn made from sheep's wool is untreated and retained its natural lanolin making it water-proof. An Aran sweater can absorb 30 per cent of its weight in water before feeling wet. Also it is important to note the natural wool fibre makes the sweater also breathable drawing water vapour away from the skin and releasing it into the air helping the body to maintain an ideal temperature. This sweater helps protect the wearer from excessive cold as well as heat.

The craft of the Aran Sweater contains approximately 100,000 carefully constructed stitches and can take the knitter several months to complete. The three dimensional effect of the twisted stitches also increase the warmth of the clothing by creating air pockets.



MYTHS

Part of the appeal and popularity of the Aran Sweater is said to have meanings associated with the different stitching propagated by Heinz Edgar Kiewe who was a self-styled textile journalist who ran a yarn shop in Oxford.

- 1. Diamond Stitch is said to represent the stone walls which were built to divide the lands of different ruling clans. These stone walls in the Aran islands in Ireland still remain today.
- 2. Zig Zag Stich is said to represent a happy marriage.

- 3. The honeycomb stitch which is shown in the center of the sweater is said to bring good luck.
- 4. Trellis Stitch is said to symbolize the ropes of the fishermen who risked their lives on the Atlantic Ocean.
- 5. Tree of life Stitch is said to represent the importance of family. It is sometimes given a religious significance, symbolizing a pilgrims path to salvation.

RESURGENCE

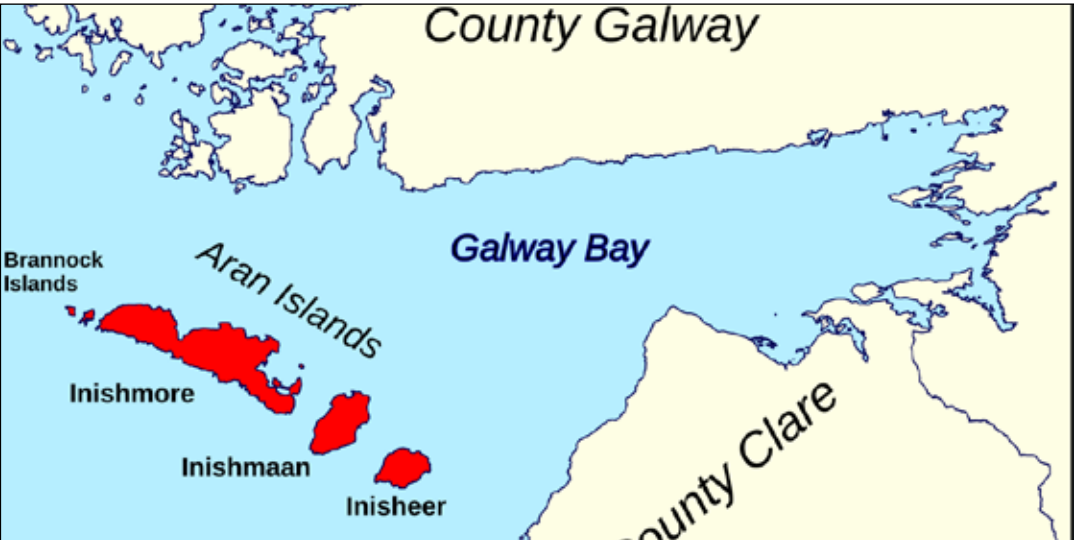
The sweater gained more popularity in the 1950's when actress Grace Kelly appeared in Vogue wearing the sweater.



Photos by DJ Scammell

Many famous people have made this sweater an icon over the years including Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Chris Evans, Adam Driver, and Taylor Swift. Actor Steve McQueen wore this sweater in the classic movie The Thomas Crown Affair (1968) and more recently actor Adam Driver in the movie House of Gucci (2021).

The sweater looks timeless and looks great paired with jeans.



Map via commons.wikimedia.org

OUR CITY *tonight*

**SPOTLIGHT ON
A TALENTED ARTIST &
SUPERB DRAMEDY**



Photo courtesy Britbox.com

Miles as the TV producer. But it is Karen Gillan, as Bellows' younger TV co-host, who delivers the biggest impact. Her performance is funny, dramatic, and worthy of an award! *Douglas is Cancelled* is now streaming on BritBox Canada. britbox.com

THE VIEW – DOUGLAS IS CANCELLED

From Britain, comes this new, timely, dramedy called *Douglas is Cancelled*. Hugh Bonneville (*Downton Abbey*) is Douglas Bellows, a long-time, popular and respected television news anchor who finds himself on the receiving end of a social media tsunami when he's accused of making a sexist joke at a wedding. Middle-aged, and not savvy in the world of social media, Bellows' life—and his reputation—start to unravel at a lightening pace as he tries to naively dismiss the scandal—while also trying to remember what he actually said at the wedding. Over these 4 powerful and entertaining episodes, Bellows experiences what many in the public eye have thanks to social (and traditional) media: self-righteousness judgment, lazy liberalism, virtue signaling, and, of course, cancel culture, which certainly provides for plenty of comedy. But there is also a dark, tragic element in *Douglas is Cancelled* which is still too common in this day and age: sexual harassment and assault. The cast is full with talented and familiar faces: Alex Kingston as Bellows' wife and Ben

THE ARTIST – CECILIA HEIT

Cecilia Heit, the up and coming artist, first came to our attention when we saw her painting entitled, *The Canucks LP*. "It was a collaborative effort born during a visit to a record store with my father," Heit tells us when we visited her studio, "and he suggested a unique concept incorporating the Canucks logo onto a record and transforming the record player's needle arm into a hockey stick." The end result: a finished piece that is so distinctive that even the print shop staff adopted the name *The Canucks LP*, when providing updates via email and voicemail (and take note, Canuck fans, the painting is for sale). Originally from Edmonton, Heit is a self-taught artist whose passion for art ignited at the age of 13 when she began experimenting with makeup and nail polish. "From there, it continued as friends sought my creative skills to make them something," she says, "which gave me the unique opportunity to pursue my passion while bringing others' visions to life." Judging by the various pieces she showed us, Heit is confident in experimenting with various styles and mediums, and although her finished work prominently features oil and acrylic paintings, she is also skillful in sculpting and watercolour. That diversity shows in two other works we viewed: *Grandpa's Cabin*, her first oil painting, depicting a Shuswap cabin that has deep connections to her family history; and *Planting a Seed*, a large, customized, plant pot. "After seeing my work at a mutual friend's house, a client arranged for a tree and pot to be delivered to my studio," Heit tells us, "and from a range of options including the client's favorite music festival, travel, watches, and a nod to his work ethic, I chose the most visually compelling elements to create this personalized piece." More at cecmadeit.com



Photos courtesy cecmadeit.com

Insurance benefits made easy for small business

Our City Tonight sat down to talk about medical/dental insurance with Ramon Solinas, the Regional Marketing Director for Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan for B.C. and Yukon. He has over 20 years of experience in the business.

OCT: We've had the privilege of talking to you before about a number of issues facing businesses and their employees. Tell us a bit more about the company before we get into the specific topic.

RS: The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan is a comprehensive employee benefit program that was specifically designed over 40 years ago to fill in the gap for coverage for the small to medium size businesses.

This program was created so that small to medium size businesses could access quality benefits and comprehensive benefits for their employees and their dependents. Today, we are over 30,000 members strong across Canada and are the number one association group insurance plan in the country.

OCT: One of the things that we really took away from speaking with you before in regard to insurance was that the perception was, that small businesses can't afford an insurance benefit package for employees. But that really is not the case now.

RS: Not at all, and that's the old school of thinking. The chambers plan specifically developed a program to service those needs. So, whether you are a one-person company or you have 50 or more employees, the chambers plan has products that are designed to service that specific market.

OCT: We want to dig a little deeper and talk about the specific services and how it is tailored to these businesses. You had mentioned something called the Health Spending Account or HSA. Please explain what this is and how this can literally be tailored to individual employees within the company.

RS: The HSA, is an individual account of money that an employer can set up for the employees with a pre-designated dollar amount. The employees can use that money for themselves and their dependents to spend on health and dental expenses that might happen unexpectedly.

The employee runs the expense through the health spending account. This can be for expenses that are not covered by the provincial government or perhaps that are not already covered by an ex-

isting or traditional employee benefit program.

OCT: What are some of the advantages for the employer and what are the advantages for the employees in this situation.

RS: If you take an older employee maybe they need some extra money for eye-wear or vision care and maybe the younger employee has kids that they might need orthodontic treatment. If we try to package that all together in a traditional insurance benefit plan it becomes very, very expensive and very difficult.

With the health spending account, the advantage there is that you can customize. For example, the employees that need extra money for vision care they can easily spend their allotted funds for their eyeglasses.

Another example, an employee may run out of their \$500 allotment for physiotherapy or chiropractic for the year and they need extra funds—they can use the health spending account to top that up.

For orthodontics, not all employees are going to have kids in that age group that need funds for that. The advantage for the employee is they can use the money for their specific needs and the advantage for the employer, they don't have to try to cover off everything. They can just designate the money and again there's the flexibility for the employees.

OCT: Why does a third-party need to be involved versus a firm just paying employees directly for their expenses?

RS: That's a very good question, and one that we get asked a lot, when we're in the field as to why the employee can't just bring the receipts in and the business owner writes them a cheque for their medical expenses.

There are a few issues with that. The number one issue is, this would involve administration management for the business owner. And if it's a small business, they must be out there doing what they



Photo courtesy Our City Tonight
Ramon Solinas, regional marketing director.

do best—running their business and they would not have time for that extra burden of administration.

But more importantly, if it's not run through a third-party through an insurance carrier, the reimbursement becomes a taxable benefit to the employee. If it's run through the insurance company, a third party, then it becomes a non-taxable benefit to the employee.

OCT: Why is that the case?

RS: There is a small administration fee that is added on and so the way the CRA regulations go, once it flows through the insurance carrier with the administration

fee, it gets viewed as an insurance premium.

If it is not being paid directly by the employer to the employee, and it's run through a third-party, it gets treated as an insurance premium not as a direct pay for a benefit to the employee.

OCT: Can you explain if at year end there are funds carried over because they are not used that particular year, what happens to the funds.

RS: Another great thing about the health spending account for the employer is that there is flexibility. They retain the cost control on the pre-set amount that they have allotted for each employee.

For example, if they have allotted \$2,000 a year for each employee to spend on medical and dental expenses. Some employees may not go through all that amount of money.

An employer report shows that the employee had not needed to use all that money and there's some leftover, the employer then has a choice—to allow that employee to carry the leftover money into the new year or, the employer can set the program as a use it or lose it scenario.

So once again, there's that flexibility for the employer to decide if they want to allow a carryover of the expenses.

For more information chamberplan.ca



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