



BACK TO SCHOOL

Friends re-unite

10

Students return to school in September after working at a summer job, going to day camp or just hanging out with friends. Photo via Freepik AI



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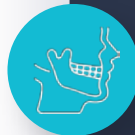
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Community mural program invites site proposals



United in Play by Ho Lay Hoon (2025).

Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Do you have a highly visible wall that could use a splash of colour? The City of Richmond is currently looking for property owners, businesses, stratas and non-profit organizations interested in offering wall space for the 2026 program of community murals.

Now in its seventh year, the Richmond Community Mural Program connects

artists with local partners to transform blank walls into eye-catching public artworks that reflect Richmond's unique character and neighbourhoods.

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

Since the launch of the Community Mural Program in 2018, there have been 34 murals completed throughout Richmond including:

- *Garden City School Mural* by Atheana Picha
- *Walk in the Park* by Fiona Tang at Terra Nova Rural Park washroom facility
- *Postcards from Steveston* by Mark Anderson at Steveston Harbour Authority

The application deadline is Monday, Sept. 22, 2025 with murals to be completed in 2026. To learn more about the Community Mural Program and to apply, visit richmond.ca/MuralProgram, email publicart@richmond.ca or call 604-247-4612.

Richmond's public art program seeks partners

Richmond's Public Art Program is inviting applications from eligible community-based organizations to participate as partners in the upcoming 2026–2027 Engaging Artists in Community Program.

This program offers a unique opportunity for non-profit organizations, service groups, community associations, libraries, and schools to collaborate with a professional artist or artist team on a creative project that addresses relevant issue or topics of concern.

Commissioned projects will aim to engage culturally diverse and multigenerational audiences and each will award \$12,000 to the commissioned artist or artist team. Groups with an arts-focused mandate are not eligible to apply.

Last year's projects addressed ecological history (*Visions of Biophilia* by Desirée Patterson, in partnership with the Richmond Nature Park Society); neuro-diversity among youth (*Express Yourself* by Keely O'Brien, in partnership with Aspire Richmond and Richmond Public Library); and flood protection (*Hidden Stories of the Bioverse* by Andrea Hoff, in partnership with Dixon Elementary School.) Learn more at the link below.

Selected community partners can provide participants with suitable space for creative activities and administrative support. Artist projects may include, but are not limited to, public performances, sculptures, participatory art installations, hands-on art activities, workshops, exhibitions, digital me-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Items collected for flood protection project (*Hidden Stories of the Bioverse* by Andrea Hoff, in partnership with Dixon Elementary School, 2024).

dia-based artwork and other socially-engaged art forms.

Applications are now open. The deadline to apply is Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 with year-long projects to begin as early as June 2026. Selected applicants will be notified in November 2025 and City staff will work with applicants to develop the artist opportunity and participate in the artist selection process.

Interested organizations are encouraged to contact publicart@richmond.ca or call 604-204-8671 in advance of submitting an application.

To access the PDF application form, visit richmond.ca/EngagingArtists

For more information on last year's projects, visit:

- *Visions of Biophilia*
- *Express Yourself*
- *Hidden Stories of the Bioverse*

City proposes rental housing development

The City of Richmond is proposing the development of over 200 rental homes on city-owned land in the Aberdeen neighbourhood for Richmond residents.

The project, referred to as the Aberdeen Rental Residences, currently contemplates two six-storey buildings that would accommodate up to 220 rental homes on city-owned land from 3660 to 3740 Sexsmith Road.

Contrary to statements made publicly by some, the Aberdeen Rental Residences will not be supportive housing development. A proposed supportive housing project on adjacent land was cancelled by council in February and will not be revisited.

The people who will live in the Aberdeen Rental Residences will not require the services offered in a supportive housing building. Drug treatment and the need for on-site medical supports or interventions are not required. A history of addiction, mental health or other issues is also not a prerequisite for anyone living in the units.

The project, should it proceed, would be purpose-built to serve working households and those on fixed incomes, including families, seniors and persons with disabilities who are often underserved in Richmond's housing market. Eligible residents must be on BC Housing's registry, have ties to Richmond and will be selected based on their need and availability. This is different to supportive housing where residents must undergo a health assessment and referral.

Two-thirds of the proposed Aberdeen Rental Residences will be two and three-bedroom family units, with the remainder a mix of studio and one-bedroom apartments. They will look and operate like any other rental apartment building in the neighbourhood. The development may also offer opportunities for non-residential uses such as retail stores, office spaces, childcare, and restaurants to further enhance the local community.

Nearby residents and businesses recently received a letter informing



Screen grab from Google Maps

The City of Richmond has proposed the development of over 200 rental homes on city-owned land in the Aberdeen neighbourhood for Richmond residents.

them of the proposed development, and inviting them to a Let's Talk Richmond site for more information. A series of open houses are also being held for area residents in the coming weeks.

The proposal, if it proceeds, would undergo a mandatory rezoning and development application process, with further opportunities for community comments and feedback. The project is still subject to receiving funding through BC Housing's Community Housing Fund, and the city recently issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for possible not-for-profit organizations interested in managing the project should it be required.

Coke Canada Bottling opens new can line

Coke Canada Bottling President Tony Chow officially opened a new can production line at the company's Richmond manufacturing facility. Following a \$12.55 million investment, the major upgrade expands local production capacity, enhances supply chain resilience across Western Canada, and reduces reliance on third-party manufacturers.

As the Lower Mainland's local bottler, Coke Canada Bottling continues to invest in its owned manufacturing infrastructure to support sustainable growth and better serve customers and consumers across British Columbia and beyond.

"As a family-owned, Canadian business, we make, move, and sell the most-loved beverages that Canadians enjoy—many of which are made local in Rich-

mond said Tony Chow, President of Coke Canada Bottling. "We're thrilled to officially open our new can line and get even more product into the hands of our customers, and ultimately consumers. This investment reinforces our commitment to producing locally and supporting our growth in Canada."

Since becoming an independent, family-owned business in 2018, Coke Canada Bottling has invested approximately \$65 million in its Richmond manufacturing and distribution operations. In 2024, the company opened a brand-new, 230,000 sq. ft. sales, warehouse, and distribution centre in Richmond-streamlining logistics to better meet customer needs.

Today, Richmond is home to nearly 500 Coke

Canada Bottling employees, including 150 at the manufacturing facility and 350 at the distribution centre. The facilities operate 24 hours a day, five to seven days per week, depending on the season, producing a wide range of beloved beverages such as Coca-Cola, Coke Zero, Diet Coke, Sprite, Fanta, Dasani, Monster, A&W, and more.

Coke Canada Bottling also contributes approximately \$132 million annually to the Lower Mainland economy through local suppliers and partners. The company proudly supports community organizations including Junior Achievement, reflecting its commitment to making a meaningful difference in communities, building its business responsibly and making its employees and stakeholders proud.

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OUR
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GOOD TO KNOW

by Florence Gordon



Photos courtesy richmond.ca

City of Richmond online portal receives major award

The City of Richmond’s online portal MyRichmond, which incorporates MyBusiness and MyPermit, has received a prestigious CIO Awards Canada honour for customer service and technology excellence.

CIO Awards Canada celebrate excellence in IT innovation, honouring Canadian organizations and teams that leverage technology to drive success. These prestigious technology awards, presented by International Data Corporation (IDC), recognize initiatives that create a competitive edge, enhance business processes, fuel growth, and strengthen customer relationships.

“This award demonstrates the city’s commitment to customer service and the use of technology to help businesses of all sizes have a more positive and efficient experience,” said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. “Through MyBusiness and MyPermit, developers, contractors, businesses and home owners can apply for permits and licences quickly and easily anytime and from anywhere safely and securely.”

Among the features recognized by CIO Awards Canada is the city’s implementation of Passkey security for users, ensuring an added layer of online protection and ease of use. Since their implementation in 2022 (MyBusiness) and 2023 (MyPermit), thousands of license activations and renewals, as well as various permits, have been issued through the system.

The services, accessible using the city’s MyRichmond platform, also received the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) Golden Scissors Award in 2024 for their impact in reducing red tape.

The award was announced by IDC Canada earlier today and will be officially presented at the organization’s annual Summit in Toronto later this year.

For information on the City of Richmond’s MyBusiness and MyPermit, visit richmond.ca/business-development/permits.htm

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You will need:

Your online registration account, go to: richmond.ca/reghelp
Program ID 8 digit number under program description selected.

History of Lulu Island

By **MICHAEL COOPER**
Contributing student writer

Richmond, British Columbia, a city with a unique history and geography, defined by its location resting on Lulu Island. Situated at the mouth of the Fraser River, Richmond is part of a large delta formed by the river's sediment deposits, resulting in rich, fertile soil that has made it a national agricultural center.

The name 'Lulu Island' has a charming origin story. It was named in 1862 by Colonel Richard Clement Moody, the first Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Colonel Moody was a prominent figure in the early development of the colony and was known for his love of exploration and his keen eye for detail. The island was named after Lulu Sweet, a popular actress and singer who was performing in New Westminster at the time. Lulu Sweet was a well-known personality in the emerging city, and her charisma captivated many, including Colonel Moody. The name 'Lulu Island' stuck, and it has been the island's official name ever since.

For many years, Richmond was primarily an agricultural community. The fertile soil and temperate climate made it ideal for farming, and the island became known for its bountiful harvests of crops like grains, vegetables, and berries. The city's agricultural heritage is still evident today, with many farms and markets dotting the landscape, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the city.

Even today, 39 per cent of Richmond's landmass is dedicated to agriculture, specifically the cultivation of berries, as Richmond may produce well over 50 per cent of Canada's highbush blueberries. Along with the blueberries, Richmond produces over 10 million pounds of cranberries annually on over 830 hectares of land, making Richmond the largest producer of cranberries in Canada and home of Ocean Spray's Canadian corporate office.

In the mid-20th century, Richmond began to experience rapid growth and urbanization. The construction of the Oak Street Bridge and the Knight Street Bridge in the 1950s and 1970s, respectively, connected Richmond to Vancouver and the rest of the Lower Mainland, spurring a development boom. The establishment of Vancouver International Airport (YVR) on Sea Island, just west of Lulu Island, further solidified Richmond's location as a

major transportation hub. Fun Fact: Western Canada's first flight was in Minoru Park in the centre of the City of Richmond in 1910.

Today, Richmond is a vibrant and diverse city, home to a large and thriving multicultural community. The city is particularly known for its large Asian population, which has had a profound impact on the culture, cuisine, and economy. Richmond is a culinary destination, with a vast array of restaurants, cafes, and food markets offering everything from authentic dim sum to bubble tea and sushi.

The most prominent ethnic group in Richmond is the Chinese, making up over 50 per cent of the local population. Richmond experienced a boom in Chinese immigrants for many reasons, including an interesting cultural belief. Due to the way Lulu Island is surrounded by the Fraser River and Pacific Ocean Richmond's landmass forms the shape of a Dragon head. The Dragon holds immense importance in the Chinese community as it represents good luck, strength and prosperity, all extremely important for the well-being of Chinese immigrants. The geographical structure of Sea Island also plays a role in the dragon's image.

Oftentimes in Chinese culture dragons are depicted with pearls, given that Richmond is the dragon's head, Sea Island represents a pearl in its mouth. The dragon pearl is a common image found in Chinese folklore, it represents wisdom, spiritual energy, and power. Another interesting pull factor for Chinese Richmond lies in the name of the city. The chop (Chinese symbol) for Richmond is the same as "rich man", advertising prosperity for future



Photo courtesy City of Richmond Archives (photo RCF 21)
Actress Lulu Sweet.

Chinese Canadians.

In addition to its cultural diversity, Richmond is also a hub for business and innovation. The city's economy is driven by sectors such as technology, aviation, and logistics, with many companies choosing to locate their headquarters or operations in the city due to its strategic location and access to an international airport, transportation networks, appealing to international markets. Richmond's close proximity granted it the establishment of the first McDonald's outside the United States in 1967. The location is on No.3 and Bennett Roads, and was since refurbished and still standing as a heritage feature of BC.

One of the most striking features of Richmond is its unique geography. As a low-lying delta island, the city is at risk of flooding and a complex system of dikes and pumping stations has been built to protect the city from the rising tides of the Fraser River and the Pacific Ocean. The city's flat landscape also makes it ideal for cycling and walking, and an extensive network of trails and greenways allows residents and visitors to explore the city's natural beauty.

Richmond and Lulu Island have come a long way since their early days as a quiet farming community. From the charming origins of its name to its rise as a modern and diverse city, Richmond is a testament to the power of growth, innovation, and community.



Richmond cranberry fields.

Photo courtesy City of Richmond

In honour of our soldiers: Kazuo Harada

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

In our previous series, we learned about the 56 men who gave their lives during World War I and World War II, whose names had been inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph and were given a poppy street sign. Following our poppy street sign series, we moved onto the youth soldiers whose names were inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph, but did not have a road named after them. Those names were compiled of 23 young men who lost their lives in World War I, World War II, or in the Korean War.

Kazuo Harada was born in Fukuoka, Japan on March 24, 1890 and moved to Canada on March 21, 1908. He worked as a fisherman with his uncle, Otohachi Koyonagi, who worked for the Terra Nova Cannery in Eburne, Richmond, British Columbia.

When Britain declared war on Germany on Aug. 4, 1914, Canada was still being governed by the U.K. at the time. During that period, Kazuo attempted to enlist with his fellow Canadians but was refused during enlistment. Wanting to serve his country, Kazuo travelled to Calgary, Alberta, and enlisted into the 175th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on Sept. 1, 1916.

On Oct. 3, 1916, the battalion departed for their journey to England aboard the S.S. Saxon, upon arrival, Kazuo was transferred to the 21st Reserve Battalion, and then the 50th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. On

March 11, 1917, he was wounded in battle at Belle Grenay, France, spending the next few months in the hospital.

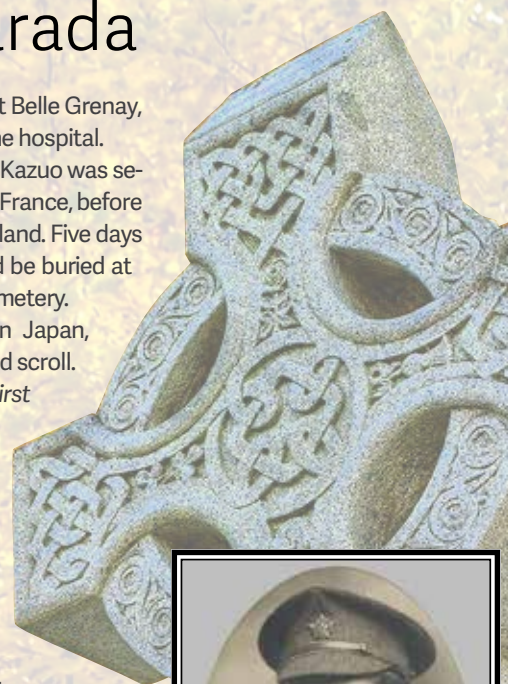
On Aug. 10, 1918, in the Battle of Amiens, Kazuo was seriously injured and would be hospitalized in France, before being transferred to Netley Hospital in England. Five days later, he would succumb to his injuries and be buried at the hospital cemetery in Netley Military Cemetery.

His mother, Teo Koyonagi who lived in Japan, would be sent a memorial cross, plaque, and scroll. In his memory, he was honoured in the *First World War Book of Remembrance* on page 423 that is displayed in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

He was also remembered by the Japanese Canadian Association in Stanley Park when they unveiled a Japanese War Memorial in 1920, where his name was also inscribed. The City of Richmond added Kazuo Harada and his cousin Hikotaro Koyonagi's names to the Richmond Cenotaph on May 31, 2024.

Photo courtesy Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre 1992.23.1.2.23.

Kazuo Harada was one of 23 young men from Richmond who lost their lives in either World War I, World War II, or in the Korean War whose names were inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph.



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Two annual events return

Hamilton Movie Night Out

By MICHAEL COOPER
Contributing student writer

Hamilton Night Out, a free, family-friendly event, is a fantastic way to enjoy an evening of community fun in Richmond. This year's festival will be held on Friday, Sept. 5, at Hamilton Community Park.

Hamilton Night Out is a drop-in event that offers a wide range of activities for all ages. Attendees can expect inflatables, games, and live entertainment. There will also be a variety of artisan and information booths to explore, as well as food and beverages available for purchase from food trucks. The highlight of the evening is a free outdoor movie screening of *Kung Fu Panda 4*. It's an excellent opportunity to relax and enjoy a film under the stars with your family and neighbors.

The event takes place at Hamilton Community Park, located at 23280 Gilley Road. The festivities are scheduled to run from 5:45 to 9:30 p.m., with the movie starting around 8 p.m. Admission is free, making it an accessible and enjoyable night out for everyone.

This event, organized by the City of Richmond, is a celebration of the local community, bringing residents together for an evening of shared activities and entertainment. It's a perfect example of the city's commitment to providing engaging, community-focused events for its residents.



KPU-led Richmond Farm Fest

By MICHAEL COOPER
Contributing student writer

Richmond Farm Fest, a free, family-friendly event, is a celebration of Richmond's agricultural heritage and food future. This year's festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Garden City Lands, with support from Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU).

The festival offers a wide range of activities for all ages. Attendees can expect a vibrant farmers' market with local growers and artisans, interactive farming displays, food trucks, and live entertainment. KPU's Sustainable Agriculture program will be on-site to provide educational exhibits on urban farming, soil health, and various crops. Visitors can explore the KPU Farm, which includes a solar-heated geodesic dome greenhouse and a learning garden.

The event takes place at Garden City Lands, located at 5040 Garden City Road. While the festival is held at the Garden City Lands, free parking will be available at the KPU campus (8771 Lansdowne Rd) and Richmond City Hall (6911 No. 3 Road), with continuous shuttle bus service running to and from the festival site. Guests are encouraged to walk, cycle, or take transit. A free bike and e-scooter valet service will also be available on-site.

The festival is a collaborative effort between the City of Richmond and KPU, highlighting the importance of local food systems and sustainable farming practices. It provides a unique opportunity for city residents to connect with farmers and learn about where their food comes from. The

event showcases the city's commitment to preserving its agricultural land and fostering a strong local food community.

Making memories in the summer of 2025

By MATTHEW CHEUNG

Contributing writer

As we bid farewell to the season of sleeping in, long days and short nights, the Richmond Sentinel puts the highlights on some notable news that the city experienced this summer.

June

1. Starting with the month of June, the Richmond RCMP celebrated their 75th year of service at Doors Open Richmond. Those who attended the event were treated with the opportunity to participate in family-friendly activities like the Red Serge Photo Booth, Crime Prevention Booth where they could test their safety knowledge, view all sorts of RCMP vehicle and equipment, and even learn about career opportunities within the RCMP.

2. The first two weeks were also a seafood lovers' paradise, with Richmond hosting the annual Steveston Spot Prawn and Seafood Celebration. Visitors had the option of attending the celebration where they could participate in various events and activities, score great deals at participating restaurants in Richmond that partnered with Steveston Fishers, and attend Spot Prawn Day.

3. With the rise in electric vehicles (EV), the City of Richmond made the decision, to introduce energy-based EV charging fees. The switch from time-based to energy-based fees would go into effect on July 24, 2025, "...creating a fairer system for all drivers while supporting the broader shift to zero-emission transportation" said Mayor Malcolm Brodie in a press release.

July

1. The month of July started off with a bang, as the city celebrated Canada Day with the annual Steveston Salmon Festival. Featuring a new family-friendly program, the 78th annual event took place across from Steveston Village, offering many activities like face painting, interactive games, a youth-run concession stand, live music and a demonstration area for the city's junior ice hockey team, the Richmond Sockeyes. To cap it all off, the official Canada Day Parade took place, as it travelled from Garry Point Park all the way down to the intersection of Moncton Street and Railway Avenue.

2. In addition to festivities in the month, the City of Richmond also made improvements towards their methods of delivering local news. On July 8, 2025, the city announced the introduction of their new digital newsletter. The e-News, based on subscription basis, would be delivered to subscribed inboxes twice a month, with the aim to make it easier for residents to stay connected with what is happening in their city and further the council's goal of being proactive in stakeholder and civic engagement.

3. With summer, there will also be an abundance of active people. The City of Richmond was named Canada's Most Active Community in the national 2025 ParticipACTION Community Challenge. \$100,000 was awarded to the city to support local physical activity and sport initiatives. Among those who participated were the Richmond School District No. 38, Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond Olympic Oval, Terra Nova Nature School, Richmond Women's Resource Centre Association, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Wave Artistic Program, and the Forever Young Club.

August

1. In the month of August, the city continued its goal of encouraging zero-emission transportation. Richmond Centre announced that Richmond would be home of Canada's largest multi-residential electric vehicle charging project. Featuring 1,212 state-of-the-art Elocity smart chargers within a parkade spanning an area equivalent to six football fields, the project made Richmond Centre, one of the most extensive single-location multi-residential EV charging infrastructure deployments in all of North America.

2. It wouldn't be a summer in Richmond, if there wasn't another festival. The 15th annual Richmond Garlic Festival took place on August 16 at The Sharing Farm in Terra Nova Rural Park. Featuring delicious garlic eats, live entertainment, kids' activities, and unique attractions like birds-of-prey flying demonstrations. Admission by donation, all proceeds went to support The Sharing Farm's charitable work, including the donation of thousands of pounds of fresh produce to the Richmond Food Bank and other community partners.

3. Finally, the City of Richmond was the recipient of a prestigious award given by IT World Canada in partnership with IDC Canada. Introduced in July 2022, the city's citizen-focused online portal, MyRichmond was given the CIO Awards Canada—for customer service and technology excellence. The award recognized the portal's innovative use of technology to improve business interactions, including seamless permit and licence processing and implementation of Passkey security for users, ensuring an added layer of online protection and ease of use.

Here's to a great final quarter of 2025.

Poilievre holds news conference in Surrey

The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada and the Official Opposition, announced an action plan on shootings and extortions to stem the tide of violence and intimidation terrorizing communities across Canada's major urban centres.

Crime and chaos are spreading—violent crime is up 54 per cent, sexual assaults up 75 per cent, extortion has skyrocketed by 330 per cent across Canada.

Extortion has exploded into one of the fastest-growing crimes in Canada. Police have reported waves of threats against small business owners, especially in communities like Brampton, Surrey, Vancouver and Calgary. Families are shot at, fire bombed and intimidated.

Poilievre launched the following Conservative action plan to end extortion and restore safe streets:

1. Ban the Bishnoi Gang—List one of the major extortion groups, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang as a terrorist entity, giving police and prosecutors stronger tools to dismantle this violent, transnational extortion network threatening Canadians.

2. Stop Extortion—Restore and strengthen mandatory jail time so extortionists face real consequences: a minimum of three years for all extortion; four years if it involves a gun, and five years when tied to organized crime. Arson should count as an aggravating factor in sentencing.

3. Jail not Bail—Repeal catch-and-release laws C-5 and C-75, keep violent offenders locked behind bars and end the revolving door justice system.

Catch-and-release bail laws like Liberal Bill C-75 force judges to apply a "principle of restraint" that puts repeat violent offenders back on the streets. The result? Criminals with long rap sheets are free to reoffend while awaiting trial. Liberal Bill C-5 repealed mandatory jail time for serious gun crimes, including extortion with a firearm.

Conservatives have long fought to protect Canadians from illegal intimidation and threats. That is why, over a year ago, Deputy Leader Tim Uppal introduced Bill C-381, the Protection Against Extortion Act.

The Bill would have delivered stricter mandatory minimums for extortion—up to five years if the crime was linked to a criminal organization – and treated arson as an aggravating factor. The Bill was voted down and left Canadians stranded without the protection they desperately need.

"The cause of this crime wave is clear: a government that sides with criminals instead of communities," said Poilievre. "This Liberal government dismantled tough laws, gutted jail sentences, and let gangs and extortionists rule our streets."

"Together with my colleagues, we stand ready to help the Prime Minister [Mark Carney] to build a Canada that is safe, strong, secure and self-reliant," said Poilievre. "That's why I am calling on the government to adopt our Conservative plan to stop crime, end extortion, and protect our families and businesses."

This information is from a press release and not the opinion of the *Richmond Sentinel*. For more information: olobcocom@parl.gc.ca

Understanding education in the age of AI

By YOLANDA WEI

Contributing student writer

September arrives with a flurry of cold air, rainy mornings, and a stack of textbooks. Whether students are ready or not, back-to-school time is here. In an age where artificial intelligence (AI) like ChatGPT can write papers from start to finish, summarize multi-page readings, and even teach lessons, we have to acknowledge that education as we know it has changed.

Fundamentally, AI cements itself as a breakthrough in technology—computer systems performing tasks that typically require human intelligence—and for the younger generation, they see a tool that makes school easier, not understanding how it will change their learning. By introducing AI into the lives of students, what is taken away from them? How will education change?

To explore the landscape of opinion and help readers understand what is to come, the *Richmond Sentinel* sat down with two recent high school graduates—AC from Richmond, and AZ from the San Francisco Bay Area in California—to hear what they had to say. It is important to note that these are individual thoughts and opinions that are not representative of the *Richmond Sentinel*.

Just how dependent have students become on AI in just a few short years? The answer is more than you think. AC and AZ begin the conversation by sharing what they use AI for.

"Mostly for school and sometimes for ideas. I have also been using it to help explain problems I can't figure out," AC says. Then she admits, "I don't try as hard nowadays to solve math problems. If I can't get it the first time, I'm like, 'Here you go, AI, go solve it.' AZ does not personally rely on AI, but he knows of many peers who do. "Some of them use it for tests, some for homework, and some for research."

They know that school and learning are beginning to look quite different. AZ believes that the fundamentals of learning, such as reading and arithmetic, will always be important, but that AI can automate things of lesser importance. AC suggests that AI could benefit educators, as one of her teachers experimented with uploading a textbook chapter into an AI chatbot for the students to try out. She recalls, "It was pretty accurate and actually helped me learn."

Undoubtedly, AI is shaping the educational landscape, forcing students and teachers alike to take action. Teachers have been trying to regulate artificial intelligence use through device bans and AI checkers, which have only proved effective to a certain degree. At this point in time, students are responsible for their own learning just as much. As AZ says, "Ultimately the learning part of school will be more on the student than before."

Both AC and AZ agree that the skill sets of students will change drastically. "These days, students don't actually need to know the content and use their brain as much. They just need to know how to make AI do it all," AC says. "You don't need any writing skills. You can just ask AI to write you an essay."



Photo via Freepik AI

Students depend on AI for school. What does this mean for the future?

What happens if the next generation of students does not learn skills like writing? AC sees both sides of the discussion. "If it's a huge time saver, you can spend your time learning other things [instead of writing]. You could research something beyond what AI can do to help humanity, but also it could be a big problem: people becoming lazy, or not being able to think for themselves." AZ agrees and points out there will be value in the 'human.'

"I think we still need people to write from scratch, because ultimately you lose a lot with AI."

This is the age-old conversation about writing and thought. If they are connected, when people cannot write, then their ability to think is diminished too. A new study out of MIT reveals that those who relied on AI to write essays demonstrated low neural connectivity, which is related to diminishing creative and critical

thinking abilities, compared to those who wrote without AI.

AC and AZ were both unsurprised and showed concern, but the convenience of AI these days seems to outweigh everything. "It's just easy, and it's right there—I can't really stop myself from using it," AC admits.

"It's definitely happening," AZ acknowledges potential cognitive decline, but he is confident about the future. "Hopefully everyone will be able to find the thing they want to do. The analogy I'll use is biking. If you're biking and you see this hill, you can say, 'I don't want to go over this big hill,' and chooses another route that goes downwards. But eventually, to go anywhere, you have to go over some hills.

"In an optimistic future, we'll take the easy route for the hills we don't want to climb, but for every person, there'll be some idea or topic they want to struggle through and gain insight on, and then they'll climb those hills really well. AI focuses 'the climbing.' They don't need to try very hard on writing and math. They can say, 'All I want to do is science, so I will let AI take care of the rest, and I will go forth and try to climb this massive hill.'"

AC nods but worries that more people will be unwilling to challenge themselves and climb any hills in the first place. "I hope not, but I don't really know because AI is still growing. Maybe it'll become really good, and then everyone will use it, transforming us into a super, high-tech, cyberpunk society, but I really don't know which way society's going to go."

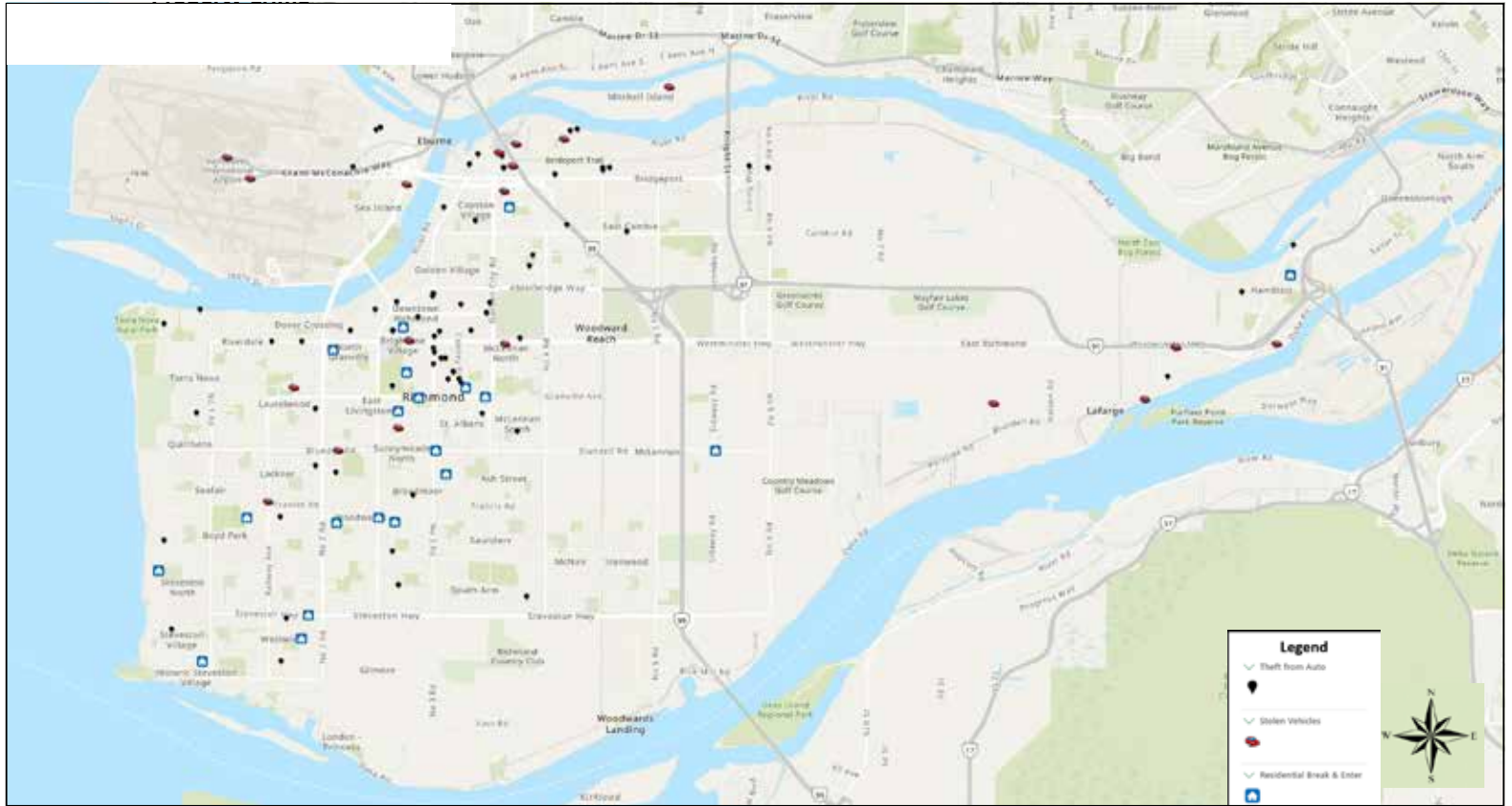
"Yes, but you can change it," AZ declares with enthusiasm. His final words ring true—if anyone can change the world, it is the younger generation, and change starts with a conversation, just like the one had here.

Artificial intelligence is the next chapter, the next conquest, in the human story. There is no definitive answer yet for how to deal with the technology, but simply being open to discussion is progress. With a clear and critical understanding of the tools that drive our society, we can begin to create a meaningful world where the best of human minds and artificial intelligence work together.



RCMP

Crime Map July 1 - 31, 2025



RCMP monthly road report: July 2025

Roadblocks are part of Richmond RCMP's strategy to combat impaired driving throughout summer months.

Richmond RCMP officers issued 1067 traffic violation tickets in July 2025, part of ongoing efforts to combat high-risk driving behaviours and improve safety for all road users.

Key categories of offenses included:

- Speeding: 234
- Distracted driving: 91
- Impaired drug/alcohol infractions: 25
- Vehicle-related infractions: 239
- Driver Licence infractions: 175
- Impaired Driving Roadblocks

Throughout the summer, you may see Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit (RSU) popping up conducting roadside safety checks throughout Richmond to help keep impaired drivers off the road. Richmond RCMP has produced a short video showing what one of these checks can look like.

Looking ahead: August focus on impaired driving education and enforcement

Impaired driving not only comes with the threat of serious penalties and driving suspensions but also can ruin or end lives. Throughout the summer, Richmond RCMP is continuing to target impaired driving among other high-risk driving behaviours, offering the following reminders to help keep our community safe and drivers sober:



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP
In July 2025, Richmond RCMP officers issued over 1,000 traffic violation tickets.

Plan ahead: If you know that you or your guests may be consuming alcohol or other impairing substances, don't wait until the last minute to figure out how to get home safely. Make a plan and stick to it.

Use a designated driver: A designated driver is someone who commits to staying sober so that they can get themselves or others home safely. Consider being the one in your group that can be relied on for a safe ride.

Take transit or book a taxi or rideshare: Map out the route and options in advance. Even if you aren't planning to need them, having these options ready as backup plans for you or your guests can help

give you some peace of mind.

Talk to your group: Before the day or night begins, start the conversation with your friends or family about how everyone will get home safely. By encouraging everyone to think and plan ahead, you help reduce the risk of unsafe decisions being made at the end of the night.

Targeted enforcement areas:

Based on collision data and community intelligence, the Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit (RSU) will be conducting targeted enforcement in the following locations:

Blundell Road & Francis Road corridors
Bridgeport Road & Garden City Road
Alderbridge Way & Garden City Road
Westminster Highway & No. 2 Road
If you witness or suspect impaired driving please call 9-1-1.

"The summertime is often a time of fun and making memories together. However, every year, we see tragic, preventable deaths related to drug and alcohol consumption before getting behind the wheel. We implore everyone to do their part in keeping impaired drivers off the road. Whether it's yourself, or a loved one, have a serious look at whether the plan to drive is the right one" – Sergeant Eric Baskette, Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit.

Asphalt Paving Advisory 2025

April 20 to November 30, 2025

The City of Richmond has contracted Save On Black Top Ltd. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from April 20 to November 30, 2025.**

PROPOSED 2025 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS

No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Alderbridge Way to Cambie Road)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Cambie Road to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Capstan Way to Sea Island Way)—Intersections included
Bridgeport Road (No. 5 Road to Sweden Way)—Intersections included
Cambie Road (Shell Road to No. 5 Road)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Seacliff Road to Kingsbridge Drive)—Intersections included
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to River Road)—Intersections included
Moncton Street (Railway Avenue to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
Francis Road (Gilbert Road to No. 3 Road)—Intersections included
Francis Road (Railway Avenue to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
River Road (Cambie Road to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
Westminster Highway (No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road)—Intersections included
Vulcan Way (No. 5 Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included
Boeing Avenue (Catalina Crescent to Wellington Crescent)—Intersections included
Catalina Crescent (Handley Avenue to Airport Road)—Intersections Included
Douglas Crescent (Wellington Crescent to North end of road)—Intersections Included
Hudson Avenue (Wellington Crescent to Airport Road)—Intersections Included
Bridgeport Road (St. Edwards Drive to Shell Road)—Intersections Included
Cambie Road (No. 4 Road to Shell Road)—Intersections Included
No. 4 Road (Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Bridgeport Road to Vulcan Way)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Greenland Drive to Bridgeport Road)—Intersections included
Shell Road (River Drive to River Road)—Intersections included
Wallace Road (Kozier Gate to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
Williams Road (Parsons Road to Gilbert Road)—Intersections included
Machrina Way (Horseshoe Way to No. 5 Road)—Intersections included
Trumond Avenue (Wellmond Road to Gormond Road)—Intersections included
Garden City Road (Cambie Road to Bridgeport Road)—Intersections included
Boundary Road (Thompson Gate to Westminster Highway)—Intersections included
Kwantlen Street (Alderbridge Way to Alexandra Road)—Intersections included

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

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

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

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

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



File photo by Chung Chow

B.C.'s deputy provincial health officer encourages parents and guardians to ensure their children are up to date on routine immunizations.

Deputy provincial health officer's statement on back-to-school vaccinations

Dr. Martin Lavoie, British Columbia's deputy provincial health officer, has issued the following statement to make sure children in B.C. are up to date on all their vaccines as part of back-to-school preparations:

"As families start their preparations for back-to-school, I encourage parents and guardians to ensure their children are up to date on routine immunizations and are protected against illnesses, including measles, mumps and rubella, polio, pertussis (whooping cough) and chickenpox.

"Children will soon start to gather in schools or child care spaces, and they will interact with more people from outside of their households. This means they will be more exposed to various infectious diseases.

"Particularly this year, as we are seeing significant increases in measles cases in the province and across Canada, August is the perfect time to check whether your children's immunization records are up to date and to book an appointment for any outstanding vaccinations. Getting your children vaccinated is the best way to protect them from vaccine-preventable illnesses that can cause serious illness, long-term disability and even death.

"Children under 18 years are eligible for publicly funded vaccines to protect them from more than a dozen diseases, such as influenza, polio, measles, chickenpox and COVID-19. To find out which immunizations are recommended for infants and children, visit HealthLink BC: healthlinkbc.ca/

"You can book an appointment at a health unit or at some doctor or nurse-practitioner offices. If your child is over four years of age, you can also book an appointment to get them vaccinated at some pharmacies.

"School-age children are routinely offered the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in Grade 6, and tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and meningitis vaccines in Grade 9 at clinics held in schools. They can also get vaccinated at health units, community health centres, some doctors' and nurse-practitioners' offices and some pharmacies.

"I encourage everyone to visit HealthLink BC for more information about recommended immunizations for children and young adults, and to receive any outstanding, routine vaccinations. You can also see your children's immunization schedule on HealthLink BC or view immunization records through the Health Gateway: healthgateway.gov.bc.ca/

"People who were immunized outside of B.C. or those who have incomplete immunization records can update their records in the Provincial Immunization Registry."



Douglas James Scammell

FASHION FOR MEN

Dress Shoes

When it comes to gentleman shoes there are so many different models, custom models, styles and brands to choose from to pair with your suits.

There is the oxford, monk strap, and loafer shoes to name just a few. I will do articles for each in the future because they are all great and interesting how they all came to be.

This article is about the history of the loafer shoe that includes tassels on them and how they came to be and are still popular with men's suit fashion in the present day.

What is a loafer with tassels? They are essentially penny loafer shoes with no shoe laces that have the tassel decoration on the top of the shoe. Per the attached pictures. What got me interested in finding out more about the history regarding the tassel loafer is that I acquired a great pair of vintage seal skin loafers shoes in black made by Dack's shoes. Dack's was a Canadian luxury shoe company that was founded in 1834.



During their heyday they made many luxury model shoes they distributed worldwide for men. Sadly after 175 years of business they filed for bankruptcy in 2009 and closed all of the six of its remaining stores, citing declining market shares and increasing overhead costs. The company still makes handcrafted shoes out of England today.

Back to my story when I acquired the vintage seal skin tassel loafers by Dack's shoes they were missing one of the tassels. Luckily enough I found a pair of replacement tassels that my shoe cobbler was able to re-attach to the shoe, restoring the shoe back to their almost new glory. The replacement tassels were not that easy to find because I had to find a pair that would match my shoes just right. I found a pair of replacement tassels that cost me \$10 from the United Kingdom and the shipping cost was around \$50. I paid more for the shipping than the replacement tassel.

The shoes turned out great looking like brand new again and they are actually my favorite pair of dress shoes that I have for all of my suits so in the end the expensive shipping cost was well worth it and that is what got me interested in wanting to know more about the history of men's tassel loafers and that is what I like to share with you in this article.

HISTORY

Tassel loafers have not actually been around for that long. The tassel loafer we all know today owes a debt of gratitude to a Hungarian movie star Paul Lukas who is best known for winning an academy award for his role in the movie *Watch on the Rhine* (1943). I remember him best in Walt Disney's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1954) in which Lukas co-starred with Kirk Douglas, James Mason and Peter Lorre.

Lukas purchased a pair of oxford dress shoes with laces when he was back visiting Europe that had small leather tassels at the end of the laces. Lukas wanted to make his own custom version of shoes and in 1948 went to the New York firm Farkas & Kovacs, which made a variant where the lacing also ran along the shoe's opening. Paul Lukas thought the shoe design was great, but they were a bad fit. So he went on and took the right shoe to another New York company, Lefcourt, and the left shoe to Los Angeles based Morris Shoemakers.

Both shoe companies ended up going to an already large American shoe company Alden. Here is where they made changes to the shoe and ignored making a lace-up shoe but took the loafer shoe and inserted the tassel for decoration purposes only. Paul Lukas was very pleased.

The Alden Shoe Company is credited with creating the first commercially available tassel loafer in the 1950s and by that time the new shoes sold like hot cakes. It was not long after that all of the major shoe brands added the tassel loafers to their men's shoe catalogues. They became a symbol of preppy style and sophistication in the U.S. and well into the 1950's and 60's celebrities like Dean Martin and Fred Astaire embraced the new trend and that further propelled the tassel loafers into the spotlight. This particular shoe design has remained very popular for the dapper well-dressed gentleman.



PRESENT DAY

Today the Tassel loafer has been on the market for over 70 years and they all look in most cases very similar to the first versions ever released. Every major dress shoe manufacture for men offer models of tassel loafers in one form or another and are available in many colors and made of many different materials like leathers and suede models are most common. They are a very versatile pair of shoes. They are perfect for business attire, but also you can wear them leisurely for a dressy casual wear look as well. With a nice pair chino pants and a collar shirt. The tassel loafer shoe will elevate your everyday look regardless. I personally think they go best with a suit.

Today I see many people wearing these shoes with no show socks during the warmer weather months with their suits. Some will say that is an incomplete look but others will say the individual looks more comfortable because the person wearing the no show sock looks like they are more relaxed and breathing a lot easier in the heat of day with more of their skin exposed. Regardless I think the tassel loafer looks great with socks and no show socks pending the situation.

Photos courtesy DJ Scammell

OUR CITY *tonight*

**SPOTLIGHT ON
AN ELECTRIC EVENT
& TWO HOME VIEWINGS**



Photo courtesy Everything Electric Vancouver

THE EVENT – EVERYTHING ELECTRIC VANCOUVER

Recently on *Our City Tonight* TV, we interviewed Jack Scarlett, writer, motoring journalist and one of the hosts of the Everything Electric Show, the world's #1 EV and green energy media YouTube channel. Scarlett provided great insight and education on the world of electric vehicles, and will be on hand to do the same September 5-7 at the Vancouver Convention Centre when Everything Electric Vancouver comes to town. The world's #1 home energy and electric vehicle show will be packed with visitor attractions, live 'expert' led panel discussions, scores of companies displaying home energy products, and, of course, the largest EV test drive experience and display of EVs available on the market. "It's not just cars," Scarlett tells us, "maybe you already have an EV, so come see someone about getting solar panels on your roof, or maybe find out more about the electrical bicycle. It's the full ecosphere with a little bit of everything and fun for the whole family". More information at ca.everythingelectric.show

THE VIEW #1 – HOSTAGE

Suranne Jones has been one of our favourite actors for some time, enjoying her great performances in shows like *Maryland* (2023), *Doctor Foster* (2015-17), and *Scott & Bailey* (2011-16). In her latest limited series—a political thriller called *Hostage*—she plays British Prime Minister, Abigail Dalton, preparing to welcome French President, Vivienne Toussaint, played by Julie Delpy. There are deals to be made between these two, who clearly do not care for one another. But before negotiations can get going, both are hit with a frightening and immense challenge: Dalton's doctor husband is kidnapped by terrorists and Toussaint reveals she is being blackmailed. Could the two issues be connected? The British PM and the French President must put their differences aside and work together to save their loved ones as well as their political careers, all while navigating a maze of political intrigue. As for Suranne Jones and Julie Delpy, both deliver strong performances and are surrounded by a superb supporting cast. It's best to say no more about the *Hostage*, as we want you to be kept guessing and on the edge of your seat until the very end. This five-episode limited series is available now on Netflix. More information at nextflix.com



Photo courtesy Netflix

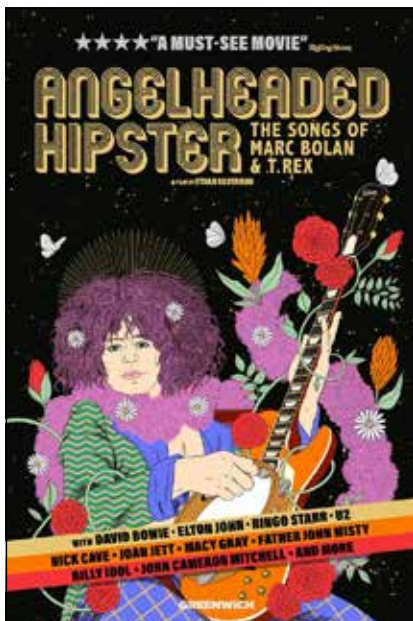


Photo courtesy Bright Iris Film

THE VIEW #2 – ANGELHEADED HIPSTER: THE SONGS OF MARC BOLAN & T.REX

There have been great artists, musicians, actors, who seem to have been here for only a few moments and then gone, dying young before their full artistic maturity and potential could be fulfilled. One of those great, lost talents is the subject of a new documentary called *Angelheaded Hipster: The Songs of Marc Bolan and T.Rex*. Only 30 when died in a car crash in 1977, Marc Bolan began the 1970's as one of the pioneers of the "Glam Rock" movement. The poet-like experiments with music, the flashy wardrobe, wearing make up—the look seemed to be timed perfectly with more and more people having colour TVs. Bolan could do it all, and like one of his contemporaries, David Bowie, re-wrote the way music was expressed and presented. His influence would extend to a number of musical genres following right behind glam rock, including punk, new wave, and alternative rock. Known today primarily for his iconic, 1971 hit, *Bang a Gong (Get it On)*, this documentary will remind viewers—or introduce them—to the brilliance of Marc Bolan. Backing that up, thoughts from other contemporaries like Elton John, Ringo Starr, and David Bowie, as well as musicians who are also fans like Nick Cave, Joan Jett, Macy Gray, and U2. *Angelheaded Hipster: The Songs of Marc Bolan and T.Rex* is available for home viewing as of September 5. More information at brightirisfilm.com

Local instructor makes dance approachable and fun

Our City Tonight sat down with Brittany Melo, a local professional dance instructor based in Vancouver. She is the director of the Las Melodias dance team who perform around Vancouver. She was also joined by one of the dance members from the team, Dalene Sam-borski, who has a heart-warming story of how she started dancing with this group. Brittany has trained professionally in ballet and ballroom, and for the past 20 years has specialized in Salsa and Flamenco Fusion. She has been working with Dalene for about a year and a half. The Las Melodias Dance Team performs and competes at a national level.

OCT: Brittany, you are a very experienced dance instructor, you have studied ballet, ballroom, dance, and all the Latin-inspired dance forms. Let's talk a little bit about why you started this unique dance team, Las Melodias.

BM: I created this dance team to allow women of all ages, all backgrounds, and all dance experience levels to have a platform to experience that inner dance self that I think so many of us are looking to experience. There tends to be a bit of a barrier for people who didn't have perfect dance training since the age of three. It is a common belief that if you didn't start when you were young then this lifestyle and these opportunities aren't available for you. I think that this is a nice way to experience dance in a casual way, but also a professional way that is challenging and also artistic, and it gives everyone on the team a chance to experience their personal dance goals.

OCT: Dance can be very intimidating and I remember as a young girl experiencing the same thing as I watched seasoned dancers. I could never imagine myself ever being able to do that. Dalene (dance member), you have loved dance for a long time, but you took it up not that long ago and now it has totally taken over your life. You have such a passion for dance and then you found this amazing team. I can tell from the way you share your experiences that it has transformed your life. Can you share a little bit of that experience.

DS: I believe it was in December last year that



Photo courtesy Melo Mvmt
Las Melodias dance team light up the stage with enthusiasm.

Brittany talked about putting together a team and she asked me if I would audition. I immediately said I don't think so, and I was quite surprised that she was even asking me. In the end I decided to take her up on her offer only because I was open to trying something new. I saw the audition as an experience. I wasn't really thinking that I would actually dance with this team. The whole experience was warm and welcoming. The environment was supportive and there were about 20 or maybe even 30 women in the room and I found it super exciting to dance with them. All ages and all levels came together, and it was super empowering.

OCT: It's a very empowering story. You have now danced in some large shows, including dancing at the Carnaval del Sol in Vancouver. Brittany (instructor) let's talk about your beginnings as a young dancer.

BM: My dance journey began with my mom who found that I was dancing around on my tiptoes at a young age, so she put me into ballet. My parents also ran a ballroom dance school, so I grew up in that environment. Dance requires a lot of discipline, so I believe there really is a rise and fall with dancing throughout one's lifetime. What I have found is that someone can be involved with dance very early on

then take a break and come back with a genuinely fresh set of eyes. That kind of describes my dance journey. I have picked it up and put it down many times over my dance career. Now I have picked it up again and I am equally obsessed.

OCT: For both of you who come from different experiences with dance, I want to ask each of you what would you say to someone who was thinking about starting dancing but was hesitant for all the same reasons we discussed. Dalene, if someone was like you and now loves to dance, how would you encourage them to go for it?

DS: I started about 10 years ago with mostly Zumba and I was looking for something just a little bit more. A friend told me about classes where they taught more technique. I decided to try that and see what that was like. I think part of it for me, coming into this at an older

age and not having that prior experience, was just having the confidence and being vulnerable to say, let's just give it a go. I also I think having a sense of humour is super helpful on the dance floor and life in general. On the dance floor, it's especially helpful to not take yourself too seriously. My words of advice would be to go for it and don't wait.

OCT: Brittany what would you say to someone who was on the fence about getting involved with dance?

BM: Dance has so many benefits that go beyond just being artistic. It's a social activity, it provides long-term health benefits, and it has so many muscle memory aspects to support learning in different areas. Dance gets you out of your head and off your phone. Additionally, I think it helps to make you feel like you're living your dream a little bit. You sweat at practice, you feel like you're working hard and end with that sense of accomplishment. It's also fun to put on a fancy costume with all the rhinestones, take photos and videos with great people that support you. It's a well-rounded experience overall.

OCT: Thank you for sharing a look into this wonderful community and congratulations to you both on all the success. For more info on Melo Movement melomvmt.com



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