

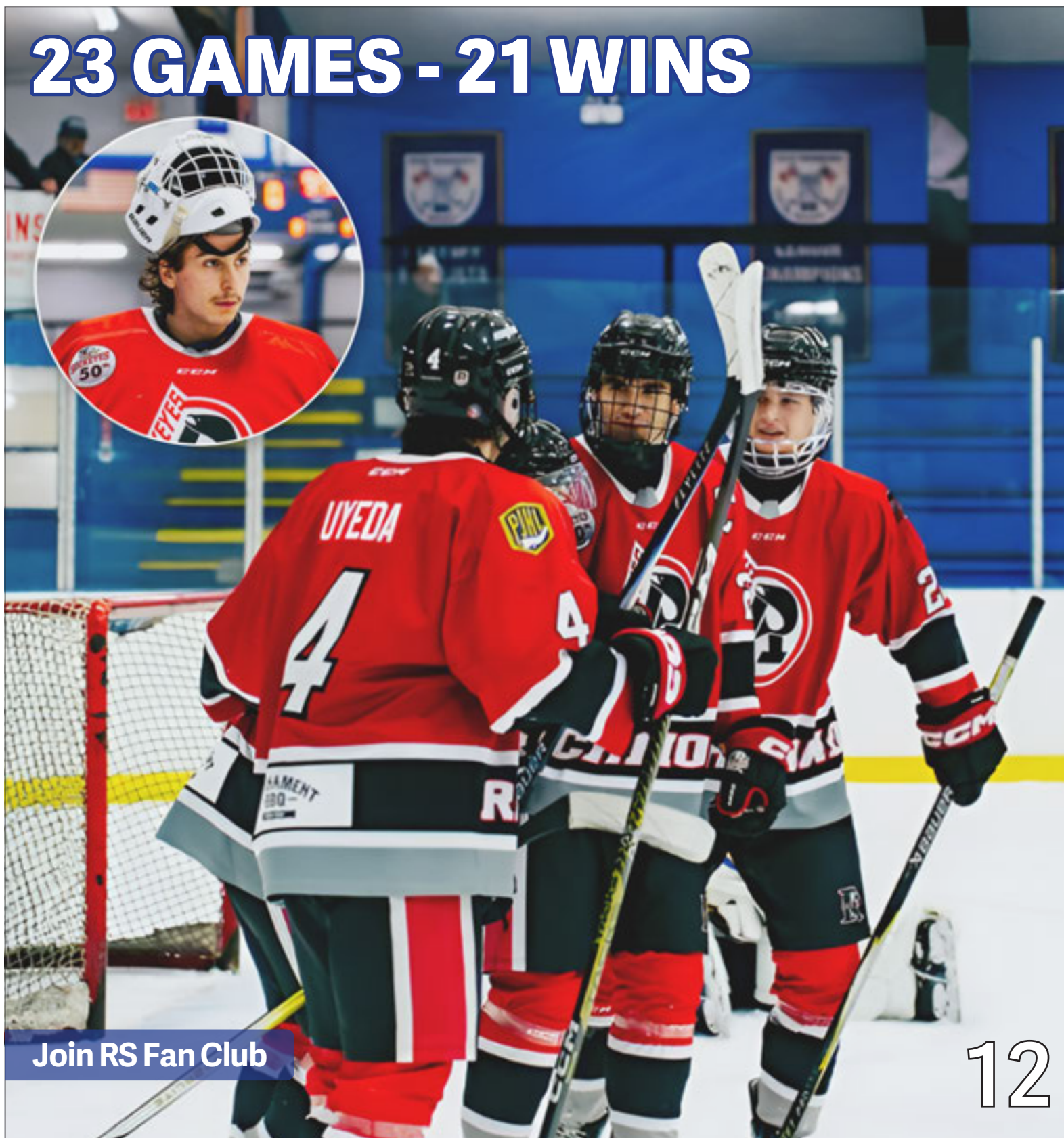


VOL. 9 ISSUE 23

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

DEC. 2 - 15, 2025

23 GAMES - 21 WINS



Join RS Fan Club

12

OUR CITY

Richmond

INFORMATION HIGHWAY

by Florence Gordon

Sing and shop outdoors at Carols and Crafts in Richmond's Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park

Richmond, BC – Step into the holiday spirit at *Carols and Crafts in Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park* (8331 Cambie Road) on Saturday, December 6, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Now in its second year, this free outdoor celebration is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the holiday season with friends and family.

Shop for gifts, enjoy live music and take part in fun and festive activities at this cheerful community celebration featuring:

- A craft fair with local vendors offering unique handmade goods including jewelry, art, and decor
- Live performances throughout the day that include *The Beauty Shop Dolls*, *Estella Celeste* and Canada's Got Talent performer, *Rachel Chiu*
- Photos with Santa to capture the magic of the holidays
- Free activities, including holiday crafts
- Delicious eats and warm beverages from featured food trucks

This event will be cancelled in the event of significant inclement weather. Check richmond.ca/CarolsandCrafts up to two days before the event for updated information.



Photo courtesy richmond.ca/carols&crafts

Richmond Sports Wall of Fame announces 2025 inductees

Richmond, BC – The Richmond Sports Wall of Fame celebrated the legacies of two exceptional recipients at its induction ceremony on Monday, November 24. The ceremony was held during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, held inside Council Chambers at Richmond City Hall. This year's inductees are Bruce Allison and Raymond Sawada, whose posthumous inductions reflect the profound influence they had on Richmond. They joined an esteemed group of 75 individuals and teams previously inducted into the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame.



Bruce Allison is being inducted under the category of Builder.

He was a well-respected and sought after contributor and leader for amateur hockey in Richmond and BC for almost three decades until his death in 1990 at the age of 61.



Raymond (Ray) Sawada is being inducted under the Athlete category.

He was born and raised in Richmond and started his hockey career playing for Richmond Minor Hockey and eventually the Richmond Sockeyes. Sawada went on to play at Cornell University in New York and reached the pinnacle of many young hockey players' dreams when he was drafted 52nd overall in the 2nd round of the NHL draft in 2004. He finished his hockey career internationally, playing in Finland, Ireland and Japan. Sawada's life was tragically cut short, passing away in 2023 at the age of 38.

The Richmond Sports Wall of Fame, established in 2015 and located at the Richmond Olympic Oval, celebrates the history of sport in Richmond and honours the outstanding achievements of its inductees. Part of the Richmond Olympic Experience (ROX), the Wall of Fame is displayed in the first-floor lobby, while an accompanying digital kiosk on the second floor highlights each inductee's contributions through text and photos. The Wall of Fame comprises eight induction categories—Pioneer, Builder, Coach, Official, Athlete, Masters Athlete, Team and Special Achievement—and both the display and kiosk are free for public viewing year-round.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit inductee nominations for the 2026 Richmond Sports Wall of Fame until Wednesday, December 31, 2025. For more information, email SportsWallOfFame@richmond.ca or visit <https://sportswall.richmond.ca>.

OUR CITY

Richmond

STAY VACATION

Cody Cheng



Magical activities for the family in your own community



Photo courtesy Tourism Richmond



Photo courtesy richmond.ca

See the official tallest 78' Christmas Tree in Metro Vancouver

For a little extra holiday magic, everyone can head to Richmond Centre, where a 78 foot Christmas tree glows with dazzling light-and-music shows until Dec 31. The mall's holiday décor enchants patrons, while holiday music brings festive cheer to the food court on Fridays and Saturdays until Dec 20. It's the perfect spot to soak in the seasonal sparkle, enjoy holiday shopping, and share in the heartwarming atmosphere throughout the mall.



Photo courtesy Steveston Merchants Association



Photo courtesy Cody Cheng

Steveston Village is ready to sparkle this holiday season as Tourism Richmond, together with its community partners, celebrates **Winter in the Village**, running until December 31, 2025. Visitors and locals alike can enjoy festive lights, seasonal décor, and cheerful activities throughout the waterfront village.

Ongoing highlights include **Steveston Sips**, where local cafés, bars, and restaurants serve special holiday drinks and treats; the **Winter Tram**, featuring themed décor, a scavenger hunt, LEGO displays, and a cozy reading corner; the **Steveston Festival of Trees**, showcasing decorated trees from local groups with opportunities to vote for your favourites; and the **What We Hold Installation**, celebrating cherished objects, memories, and winter traditions.

Notable events from December 2 to December 15 include:

- **Saturday, December 6:** Filipino Christmas Celebration & Parol Lantern Workshop at Gulf of Georgia Cannery; Songs in the Snow performances at Town Square Park; The Polar Express Story Time aboard the Winter Tram; Holiday Crafts at Murakami House; Jingle Bell High Tea at London Farm.
- **Sunday, December 7:** Horse and Carriage Rides in Steveston Village; Santa arrives by boat at Fisherman's Wharf, followed by photos at the Cannery; Jingle Bell Afternoon Tea at London Farm
- **Saturday, December 13:** Holiday Crafts at Murakami House; Songs in the Snow at Town Square Park; Jingle Bell Afternoon Tea at London Farm
- **Sunday, December 14:** Holiday Dog Parade at Phoenix Pond Bridge, followed by photos with Santa at the Cannery; The Polar Express Story Time aboard the Winter Tram; Holiday Crafts at Murakami House; Jingle Bell Afternoon Tea at London Farm

Winter in the Village is the perfect way for visitors and locals alike to enjoy seasonal cheer, connect with community traditions, and explore Steveston's unique charm. Event times, dates, and locations may change, so patrons are encouraged to check the official Tourism Richmond website for current information and to discover more of Richmond's attractions, events, and local delights.

Chan Sisters Foundation advances Traditional Chinese Medicine research at Kwantlen Polytechnic University with a \$250k gift

Richmond, B.C. – The Chan Sisters Foundation is committing \$200,000 to launch a new research program in the Department of Traditional Chinese Medicine at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU).

The B.C.-based charity is also donating an additional \$52,500 to create a new endowed award for students enrolled in KPU's Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine program.

"KPU offers the first Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) degree program in Canada which we view as a meaningful step toward integrating holistic healing practices into mainstream health care. We aim to strengthen KPU's ability to form partnerships with local and international institutions through research. We also hope that graduates of this program will carry forward a spirit of community care and proactively serving senior populations and those in need with compassionate, culturally rooted health and mental care. We invite other donors to join us to make the TCM program thriving and sustainable," says David Chan, a director with the Chan Sisters Foundation.

With this new gift, the Chan Sisters Foundation is furthering its commitment to KPU, having previously donated funds to establish endowments that offer two other annual student awards. The Chan Sisters Foundation's generous support will have a long-lasting impact on the university and its students," says Randall Heidt, CEO of the KPU Foundation and Vice-President of External Affairs for KPU. "This latest gift paves the way forward for research in Traditional Chinese Medicine at KPU, while also supporting the Chan Sisters Foundation's goals of addressing senior care, health and education." The donation will provide seed funding for two research projects in the newly expanded TCM

department at KPU — one probing mental health, another focusing on senior care wellness. "Research deepens the understanding of holistic therapies and the foundation of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Advancing scientific research also enhances student learning and ultimately furthers the quality of care that TCM practitioners are able to provide," says Dr. John Yang, department chair.

For students, a new endowment from the foundation will provide an annual \$2,500 award to students enrolled in the new bachelor's degree program who have a desire to serve seniors in care and have a passion to make a difference in their community through health care. This is above and beyond two existing endowed awards created in 2022 by a \$52,500 gift from the foundation. The Chan Sisters Foundation TCM Endowed Award and the Chan Sisters Foundation Senior Care Endowed Award each provide \$1,250 in support to students each year. This fall marked the start of the Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine program at KPU, a new Faculty of Health program that builds on the long-running Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Acupuncture program.

"We are grateful for the Chan Sisters Foundation's commitment to KPU by funding research and student financial awards," says Sharmen Lee, Dean of the Faculty of Health. "The Faculty of Health is excited to build the research capacity of the TCM department, creating inspiring opportunities for faculty and students and contributing to the scholarly work that promotes health and wellness." The **TCM diploma and degree programs at KPU** combine ancient Chinese philosophy with Western biomedical science, allowing students to develop the necessary skills to work in the fields of acupuncture and Chinese medicine.



Pictured outside KPU Richmond is Kim Ye; Sharmen Lee, Dean, Faculty of Health at KPU; Randall Heidt, KPU Foundation CEO; Drew Dennis, Advancement Officer at KPU; T.W. Wong, Director, Chan Sisters Foundation; Carson Wu, Director, Chan Sisters Foundation; David Chan, Director, Chan Sisters Foundation. Not pictured: Candice Tsang, Director, Chan Sisters Foundation.

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Published by
RICHMOND SENTINEL NEWS INC.
200-3071 No. 5 Road,
Richmond, B.C., V6X 2T4

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In honour of our soldiers: Allan John Osborne

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer



Courtesy Veterans.gc.ca

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 had a poppy street sign named after them. Following our poppy street sign series, we moved onto the young soldiers whose names were inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph, but did not have a road named after them. Those names are compiled of 23 young men who lost their lives in World War I, World War II, or in the Korean War.

Allan John Osborne was born on July 6, 1921 to John Osborne and Sylvia Patricia Osborne from Lulu Island. Unfortunately there are no records about his life. The only records were the day that he was born, his service number; L10788, and the position he held as a member of the Royal Canadian Artillery.

He served the Canadian military as a Gunner for the Royal Canadian Artillery, 4 Medium Regiment. The cause of his death is unknown but it is known that he died on August 24, 1944 at the age of 22 and was buried in the Bretteville-Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in Calvados, France.

File photo by Chung Chow

Allan John Osborne, 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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Port-wide vessel scheduling now operational, giving Canada's largest port a powerful tool to keep trade flowing

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is the arm's-length federal agency that stewards the lands and waters that make up the Port of Vancouver, alongside the enduring stewardship of First Nations. As a Canada Port Authority, it is accountable to the federal Minister of Transport and operates pursuant to the *Canada Marine Act*. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's purpose is to enable Canada's trade through the Port of Vancouver by being reliable and innovative, while protecting the environment. The port authority is structured as a non-share corporation, with revenues from port terminals and tenants who lease port lands, and from port users who pay various fees such as harbour dues. Profits are reinvested in port operating services and infrastructure.

The Port of Vancouver is Canada's gateway to diverse markets, enabling trade of approximately \$350 billion every year with 170 countries. Located on the southwest coast of British Columbia in Canada, its 29 major deep-water terminals and more than 1,000 tenants move goods and people across five sectors (auto, bulk, breakbulk, container and cruise).

The port authority has rolled out its centralized scheduling system for commercial marine traffic in the Fraser River, at Roberts Bank, and English Bay, achieving full jurisdictional coverage and supporting more than 3,000 annual port calls

Vancouver, B.C. — The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has completed the final phase of its centralized scheduling system implementation, bringing the Fraser River, Roberts Bank, and the English Bay anchorage area into the system and

achieving a full port-wide coverage. This milestone marks a significant step forward for the port authority-led **Active Vessel Traffic Management Program** and comes at a pivotal time for Canada's supply chains as the country seeks to diversify markets and strengthen resilience amid shifting global trade dynamics.

With full coverage now in place, the system will support efficient, safe ship movements for more than 3,000 annual port calls across 29 marine terminals, including approximately 800 deep-sea vessel calls in the Fraser River and at Roberts Bank—areas where over \$200 billion worth of trade flows each year.

"Today's milestone shows what we can achieve when we bring technology and collaboration together to meet the moment for Canada's supply chain," said Sean Baxter, Harbour Master and Director of Marine Operations at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority. "Across the gateway, partners and operators have worked closely with the port authority to develop, test, and adopt this system so we can streamline vessel movements, strengthen safety, and ensure the Port of Vancouver continues to support Canada's trade diversification and economic resilience."

Since its initial implementation in Burrard Inlet in late 2023, the system has significantly improved cargo flow through the port. In 2024 alone, it facilitated a 56% year-over-year increase in deep-sea vessel traffic transiting through Second Narrows, one of the port's busiest trade corridors. By improving visibility over ship movements, it has also enabled CN to increase the average weekly train count serving

North Shore terminals across the Second Narrows Rail Bridge by 10%, helping reduce freight delays and improve overall throughput.

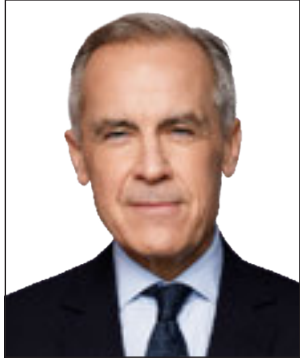
"The centralized scheduling system provides CN with critical visibility over vessels transiting—or scheduled to transit—under the Second Narrows Rail Bridge," said Brad Butterwick, Vice President, Transportation - Western Region, CN. "This enables us to anticipate when the bridge will need to be lifted for marine vessels and adjust train or vessel movements accordingly. The system, combined with our ongoing collaboration with the port authority, helps reduce the likelihood of congestion, minimizes wait times, and supports a more predictable and efficient flow of freight in and out of the Port of Vancouver." The Fraser River Pilots Committee, whose members navigate deep-sea vessels through the river's narrow, dynamic channel, say the system's recent implementation in this final rollout phase adds an important layer of visibility in one of the port's most complex operating areas.

"The Fraser River presents unique navigational challenges, from confined waters to changing river flow conditions," said Captain Gord Cooper, Chair, Fraser River Pilots Committee. "The centralized scheduling system adds an important layer of visibility that supports safer and more predictable deep-sea vessel transits."

With the centralized scheduling system now fully deployed, supply chain partners, operators, and more than 450 registered users have the tools needed to plan, coordinate, and move cargo and people more effectively across Canada's largest and most diversified port.



Prime Minister Carney secures new agreements with the United Arab Emirates to expand trade and attract new investment into Canada



PM MARK CARNEY
Photo pm.gc.ca

"In a more divided and dangerous world, Canada is securing new deals with new partners. Our agreements with the UAE will attract billions of dollars in investments into Canada, open new markets and opportunities for our workers and businesses, and create high-paying careers across the country. Canada is diversifying our trade and finding new investors to fuel our plans to build Canada strong." — The Rt. Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada

The world is more dangerous and divided. The scale and speed of recent trade shifts and technological developments mean that Canada's economic strategy must change dramatically. Canada's new government is on a mission to double non-U.S. exports over the next decade and unleash \$1 trillion in new investment in Canada over five years. As part of this mission, the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, today concluded his visit to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he deepened the trade relationship and secured new agreements to attract massive pools of foreign capital.

During the visit, Prime Minister Carney and the President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, signed the new Canada-UAE Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA). This agreement establishes clear, predictable rules for investors and ensures a stable business environment to unlock billions in bilateral investment. It will give Canadian firms – from engineering and construction to clean tech and AI – the confidence to expand abroad, creating high-paying careers in Canada. Once in force, the FIPA will support long-term partnerships between Canadian and UAE industries and attract capital to nation-building projects.

The Prime Minister and His Highness also announced that Canada and the UAE launched negotiations toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). A CEPA will cut tariffs, eliminate red tape, and expand market access for Canadian exporters of goods and services. With a \$700 billion economy and one of the world's fastest-growing logistics hubs, the UAE offers vast opportunity for Canadian sectors such as engineering, aerospace, agri-food,



Photo - The Canadian Press/Sean Kilpatrick

Signing ceremony during Canada-UAE Investment Summit in Abu Dhabi on Nov. 21, 2025

and seafood. A CEPA will also facilitate greater collaboration in the digital sectors. Canada's similar agreements with the Republic of Korea and Chile doubled trade within a decade, and these new agreements have the potential to double Canada-UAE trade from \$3.4 billion to \$7 billion in the next decade.

While in Abu Dhabi, Prime Minister Carney met with UAE business executives, including the leadership of sovereign wealth funds. Discussions focused on expanding investment in critical minerals, energy, ports, and AI. Canada welcomes the UAE's historic decision to invest \$70 billion (US\$50 billion) in Canada, a powerful vote of confidence in our economy and a major step forward in our new strategic partnership that will create high-paying careers, catalyse further investment, and build long-term prosperity for both our countries.

Building on these conversations, the following initiatives were announced:

1. Canada's Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu, will lead a Canadian business delegation in early 2026, focusing on energy, AI, infrastructure, and agriculture. The delegation will also encourage major UAE investors and sovereign wealth funds to visit Canada and work with the Major Projects Office on

opportunities in LNG, critical minerals, ports, data infrastructure, and more.

2. Canada's pension funds – with \$2 trillion in capital – will visit the UAE next year to develop new opportunities for long-term investment and deepen partnerships in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and AI.

3. UAE sovereign wealth funds will visit Canada early next year to identify investment opportunities in Canadian energy, infrastructure, and technology.

4. There will be more direct commercial flights between Canada and the UAE, increasing tourism, cargo, and trade.

The Prime Minister attended the Canada-UAE Investment Summit convening senior leaders from government, sovereign wealth funds, and the private sector where a number of agreements were concluded and advanced. This includes:

5. Mila is launching a new partnership with the UAE's Technology Innovation Institute to advance research on AI architecture.
6. BlackBerry has signed a partnership with the UAE's Cyber Security Council to strengthen cyber cooperation and infrastructure.
7. Invest in Canada and the UAE's Ministry of Investment will partner to identify and explore large-scale investment opportunities in Canada.

THE CULT WINE MOVEMENT



Richard Goodine

Vice President of
Hospitality & Development
Skye Avenue

If you look up the word “cult” on Dictionary.com you will find many interesting definitions. For the sake of this piece, we will look at just one: “a group or sect considered to be false, unorthodox, or extremist, with members often living outside of conventional society under the direction of a charismatic leader.”

With that in mind, we will take a closer look at the phenomenon which has become “The Cult Wine.” Perhaps no wine better defines the rapid growth of the cult wine movement than the very famous, ridiculously expensive, impossible to find, *Screaming Eagle* of Napa California.

This very small production wine was only sold to members of their

exclusive wine club. The current *Screaming Eagle* website has little information on the wine, only a note saying, “join the waitlist”. Members lucky enough to be on the mailing list enjoy the privilege of access to this elusive wine for a mere \$250US per bottle; a steal considering it generally ends up in auction for well over \$1000. Currently, they do sell to some retailers and restaurants. A recent post on Legacy’s Liquor store shows a price of \$7500CAD.

Imagine this - at the 2000 Napa Valley Wine Auction, a retired Silicon Valley executive paid \$500,000USD for just one 6-liter bottle of the first *Screaming Eagle* vintage. This writer would like to tell you about the elegant tannins, the intense structure and the explosive aroma. However, that would not be my opinion.

Perhaps a producer’s height of success happens when his wines are so amazing they have never been tasted by most! Does that make it a cult wine? One can never be certain.

Decanter Magazine out of the UK posted on their site the fact that Bordeaux ultra-blue chip properties Le Pin and Pétrus have finally released their en primeur 2024 wine prices. Both will retail for more than €2400 per bottle. Le Pin vineyards recently reached a miniscule 2.2Ha in size – a drop in the bucket anywhere in the world. Such limited production gaining this level of notoriety may mean that small vineyards are what it takes to become a wine legend.

Screaming Eagle is not the only wine upon which the wine community bestows cult status. Spain’s Ribero del Duero (River of Gold) region has the very sought after *Pingus*. This wine has always been a “Holy Grail” find for collectors for many years and costs a mere \$1250 per bottle on BCL website.

However, it was Robert Parker’s 100 point “perfect” declaration which has elevated this wine’s status the most of late. Could it be that the charismatic leader of the cult wine movement is actually Robert Parker? Not an impossibility considering many critics refer to Parker’s book as the “wine bible.”

Certain wines develop epic-sized reputations without ever officially entering the cult arena. For many years, before the term cult-wine was commonplace, a number of wines held their own as must-have gems. We all remember Opus One, Insignia and Sassicaia being wines that every true oenophile would queue up for hours for the privilege of purchasing 3 bottles. Now these wines are rather easy to find and cost nothing compared to the price of the new breed of cult leaders.

Do we then deduce that a wine can only receive cult status if it is expensive and impossible to find? Considering the global shift toward “gotta-get-it-especially-if-it-is-the-only-one-no-matter-the-price” movement. This movement is often referred to in the wine industry as “the gold-rush days.”

None of the current cult wines can be in the “group” without offering uncompromising quality - that is a certainty. This philosophy is at the heart of every great wine: to make wine requires land; to make great wine requires terroir and commitment. To make a cult wine there is far more at work than just farming grapes and making a sexy label.

The producers of wines such as *Pingus*, *Screaming Eagle*, *Colgin*, *Harlan Estates*, *Run Rig* or *Le Pin* all know this, and live this truth everyday. They start with an unwavering commitment to planting the right grapes, in the right areas, under the right micro-climates and using the best viticulture practices. Once that is done, they ensure the yields of grapes produced are at a minimum to extract the most concentration and character of the wine. (The less grapes a vine produces the more focus each grape gets from the plant, thus making healthier grapes.)

Once the best grapes are harvested as carefully as possible, the wine-making itself must continue to be based on this philosophy of making a great wine. After that, it is all marketing and luck.

There are many producers around the world, with great plots of vineyard land, who are unable to sell their wines at all, let alone for several hundred dollars a bottle. Is it fair to them that some other wine can be called a cult wine unless and until their wine is tasted in the same arena? Taking price, quality and all other things to heart, there are many cult wines out there which have yet to be ordained.

The brands which have been elevated to iconic summits should not be resented for achieving what others could not. The only word of caution to the collector trying to build a cellar would be “Beware that hype has not overwhelmed reality.” The correct question to ask is: “Is the \$1000 bottle of wine really worth \$900 more than the \$100 bottle?”

Put in that light, the entire equation becomes very difficult to quantify. Is a house with the “million-dollar view” up on top of the hill better than the one on the valley floor? Is the Maybach safer than the Volvo?

What it comes down to is that value can no longer be measured as it was in the past. More millionaires (dare I say billionaires) are today made in a day, than in a year 30 years ago. This leads to an enormous tipping of the value scales, and with that comes the mentality “I’ll pay anything to get it.” Now, a producer can bottle a few hundred cases of wine, albeit great wine and all the stars will align for this brand to reach iconic heights, forever holding a “cult wine” status. The smaller the production, the greater the heights reached.

Once that happens, the producer need only sit back and wait for the Parker scores and the inevitable offers to purchase the winery, as for *Screaming Eagle*. In 2006, the winery was purchased for \$30 million by Charles Banks and Stanley Kroenke, both with ties to the NBA through money management and ownership of the Denver Nuggets. Kroenke’s other major holdings include the Los Angeles Rams (NFL), the Colorado Avalanche (NHL), Arsenal F.C. (Premier League), and the Kroenke Group, a real estate company.

So, it would seem that, more than anything else, what creates a cult wine is image. The image of quality, the image of elusiveness and the image of being accessible only to a select few. These few have the right contacts, the right timing and - most of all - unlimited money to spend. And this puts the buyers themselves into a cult of their own. Can anyone say, “sold to the highest bidder?”

Can
anyone
say,
“sold
to the
highest
bidder?”

B.C. hosting national wildfire symposium - An opportunity for leaders, experts to help shape future of wildland firefighting in Canada

B.C. has invited stakeholders, experts, Indigenous partners and government representatives from throughout the country to a wildfire symposium in Vancouver on Dec. 5, 2025. Focus will be the 2025 wildfire season, wildfire technology, active forest management and national readiness for future wildfires and includes advancing discussions on a national leadership strategy and stronger collaboration that will shape the framework of wildfire resiliency in Canada. Enhancing a national framework for wildfire resilience, including the challenges and opportunities people and communities are facing, is one intended outcome for the upcoming symposium on wildfires to be hosted in B.C.

National wildfire symposium

After the second-worst wildfire season nationally, B.C. is leading the symposium to bring together national and international experts, provincial, federal and territorial governments, as well as key industry and Indigenous partners, with the goal of sharing best practices and considering mitigation and preparation steps for 2026.

"As wildfire seasons become more severe and complex, it's paramount that we co-ordinate our national response capabilities to protect the safety, health and economic well-being of communities from coast to coast," said Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests. "In order to meet these challenges head on, B.C. is taking initiative by creating the opportunity for leaders and experts to come together, reflect on lessons learned and shape the path forward to help keep people throughout Canada safe." Canada's forests and communities are facing increasingly severe wildfire seasons that have devastated ecosystems, displaced people and strained national capacity.

The event will include panel discussions and presentations focusing on:

- 2025 wildfire season in B.C. and throughout Canada
- Shared experiences in prevention, suppression, recovery and adaptation
- Technology's role in wildland firefighting
- Strengthening intergovernmental co-ordination and national readiness

2025 B.C. wildfire summary

While less destructive than previous seasons, the 2025 wildfire season still affected nearly every region in B.C. Since April 1, 2025, more than 1,350 wildfires burned an estimated 886,360 hectares of land in B.C. The 2025 season compared to the past five years:

- 2024: 1,697 wildfires, 1,081,159 hectares burned
- 2023: 2,293 wildfires, 2,840,104 hectares burned
- 2022: 1,801 wildfires, 135,235 hectares burned
- 2021: 1,647 wildfires, 869,300 hectares burned
- 2020: 670 wildfires, 14,536 hectares burned

To date, wildfires this season resulted in 42 evacuation orders, which affected approximately 2,600 properties, and 91 evacuation alerts, which affected approximately 6,950 properties.

- 2024: 51 orders issued, 112 alerts
- 2023: 208 orders issued, 386 alerts
- 2022: 15 orders issued, 43 alerts
- 2021: 181 orders issued, 304 alerts
- 2020: 3 orders issued, 9 alerts

The BC Wildfire Service deployed personnel and equipment to support Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and California, U.S. "Wildfires and their impacts on communities are becoming more frequent and severe across the country due to climate change," said Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Man-

agement and Climate Readiness. "This symposium is about learning from the shared experiences of our neighbours and building a safer future for all Canadians."

B.C. leading in research and innovation

B.C. is exploring new technologies, approaches and research opportunities to build safer, more resilient communities. This includes:

- Research into the health impacts of wildfire smoke, ash and dust to wildland firefighters
- Evaluating automated wildfire risk and fire-growth modelling software to enhance wildfire planning and response studying the best ways to create FireSmart structures and communities

"We know that part of the reason B.C.'s 2025 wildfire season was less destructive than previous years is because of the investments made to better support staff, utilize new technologies, improve mitigation efforts and ensure the BC Wildfire Service has capacity year-round," Parmar said.

Wildfires are a reality on the landscape in British Columbia and throughout Canada. The Province is continuing to build on the lessons learned by implementing wildfire predictive technology, utilizing more night-vision resources and working collaboratively with local, national and international partners to ensure a future that is more resilient.

Actions Taken in BC

Increased hiring and year-round staff

- The BC Wildfire Service has seen the number of permanent full-time staff increase by more than 56%, with further expansions planned.
- Ahead of the 2025 season, BC Wildfire Service had more than 600 year-round positions to enhance operational readiness.
- These positions include fire crew leaders and front-line staff who work in structure protection, prevention and risk reduction, as well as wildfire land-based recovery.

Night-vision capability

- The BC Wildfire Service doubled the size of its night-vision capable fleet to four helicopters.
- More Night Vision Imaging Systems (NVIS) flight officers were trained to safely support night operations.
- 260 missions were completed provincially, including wildfire detection, reconnaissance and water delivery.

Prevention investments

As part of Budget 2025, \$40 million was allocated to the BC Wildfire Service to support programs that support resiliency, including wildfire-risk-reduction projects, cultural and prescribed fire, FireSmart initiatives, and more. This work includes:

- Completing nearly 200 wildfire-risk-reduction projects treating approximately 2,440 hectares of land, including 16 prescribed burns covering an additional 790 hectares
- Firesmart funding allocated to 280 communities in B.C., including 132 First Nations and 148 local governments

Predictive technology

Advancements in the development of a provincewide wildfire camera network with AI-assisted smoke detection to enhance situational awareness, improve operational response and provide data for wildfire research. The joint research project with UBC Okanagan co-ordinated with communities, local government, First Nations and industry to identify potential new locations for camera monitoring throughout B.C.

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Richmond RCMP arrest 10 individuals in latest "Boost and Bust" retail theft operation

In November, 2025, Richmond RCMP conducted a "Boost and Bust" retail theft operation that resulted in 10 arrests.

Part of ongoing efforts to reduce property crime and enhance community safety in Richmond, the operation involved collaboration between Frontline officers, the Property Crime Unit (PCU), and local businesses.

Results:

Ten individuals were arrested, the majority of whom reside outside Richmond. Charges are pending.

Approximately \$3,000 worth of alleged stolen goods were recovered, with clothing and food being the most targeted items. Social services referrals were offered to all individuals arrested. Richmond RCMP conducts **regular Boost and Bust operations** throughout the year as part of targeted

enforcement efforts, informed by local crime trend data. Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts have identified retail theft as a continuing issue in the downtown core area of Richmond.

Quote:

"Retail theft impacts businesses, employees, and the community," said Staff Sergeant Simon Lee, Richmond RCMP Watch Commander. "In many cases, stolen food and clothing ends up being resold, which poses public health and safety risks. This program aims to hold offenders accountable while connecting individuals to support services."

This initiative is part of Richmond RCMP's commitment to crime reduction and community safety. Boost and Bust operations in Richmond are supported by BC's Community Safety and Targeted Enforcement Program (CSTEP).

Richmond Chamber of Commerce 2025 Business Awards

On November 20, top business leaders in Richmond were recognized at the 48th Annual Business Excellence Awards with awards handed out in 11 categories.

The event, "Celebrating 100 Years of Business Excellence" paid tribute to the Chamber's century-long role in supporting local business and economic growth. Throughout the evening, both sponsors and recipients spoke about their deep roots in Richmond and the pride they feel in serving the community. The night highlighted the remarkable accomplishments of businesses across many sectors, showcasing the breadth of talent in the city.

"It was wonderful to meet with the thirty-three finalists and their team members throughout this process and to celebrate their many achievements" said Shaena Furlong, President & CEO of the Richmond Chamber.

The full list of 2025 Business Excellence Award Recipients is as follows:

Association of the Year:	Developmental Disabilities Association
Green Business of the Year:	IKEA Richmond
Young Entrepreneur of the Year:	Pho 37 Restaurant
Outstanding Workplace of Year:	Strength Through Motion
New Business of the Year:	Nook Co-Working and Event Space
Innovative Enterprise of the Year:	Icicle Technologies Inc.
Outstanding Service Award:	505-Junk
Business Leadership of the Year:	Herband Naturals
Small Business of the Year:	Ask Hair Studio
Mid-Size Business of the Year:	Mti
Large Business of the Year:	Helijet International Inc

'Lost Canadians' legislation becomes law after Senate approval

By FLORENCE GORDON
Contributing writer

In September 2025, I wrote a compelling story as told by two local Vancouver citizens one of which is the author of *Lost Canadians*. He became the voice for hundreds of thousands of others like himself, now collectively known as the "lost Canadians". After a long battle the results are in.

The "Lost Canadians" legislation, which aims to fix Canada's unconstitutional citizenship, received royal assent Thursday after being approved by the Senate on November 19, 2025.

The journey is such a valuable lesson in Canadian history it was important to republish their story and to recognize if people work together the David and Goliath belief can be achieved. Here's their story...

When Vancouver-born Don Chapman was six years old, he was stripped of his Canadian citizenship, thanks to an arcane provision of the 1947 Canadian Citizenship Act. Years later, he was stunned to discover that he was not a Canadian citizen so he began his David and Goliath battle to change Canada's discriminatory citizenship laws. He's since become the voice for hundreds of thousands of others like himself, now collectively known as the "lost Canadians".

Children born on military bases overseas were affected, as were tens of thousands of Second World War brides and their children. Perhaps the most stunning of all: Canada didn't recognize some living Second World War veterans as citizens. In riveting, hard-hitting prose, Chapman describes his fight to rectify this deep social injustice. He renders in heartbreaking detail the stories of "lost Canadians" who've had their identities torn from them.

After decades, Don's quest has restored citizenship to around one million people. He's been fighting the government ever since, becoming the face of the Canadian citizenship rights movement. He coined the phrase "lost Canadians" that is now used widely to describe other Canadians in his position. He has testified several times before both the House and Senate and has been interviewed by major media outlets around the world and has spoken at various universities and organizations worldwide.

In a recent interview on *Our City Tonight* with David McCann (DMc) he introduced us to his colleague Don Chapman (DC) who shared a very interesting story that needs to be told.

DMc: "I first met Don Chapman when I was at an induction ceremony to receive *Officer of the Order of Canada* from the Governor General and Don was receiving a *Meritorious Service Cross*. Don shared a story with me that is very near and dear to my heart and my family's heart. My father was born in Ontario and served in the Second World War. He met my mother in London, England who was born and raised in London, they fell in love and were married in London, while he was still in the armed forces. My sister was born in London and when the war ended, they moved to Ottawa where I was born. The Canadian government at that time announced upon arrival that all war brides were considered Canadian citizens. So, my family lived all these years believing this to be true. I will be forever grateful to Don Chapman for helping my mother and sister to achieve their Canadian citizenship and to think this all came from a chance meeting with a perfect stranger who has done this act of kindness along with Jacqueline Scott for almost a million other Canadians".

RS: Don, can you explain this incredible story and why you became the author of *The Lost Canadians*.

DC: "Up until a few years ago, most Canadians had never heard of the term "lost Canadians" which affected a million people who were being denied their Canadian citizenship, mainly due to an outdated Canada's citizenship law."

DMc: "I'm so delighted that Don came into my life and my family owes him a debt of gratitude. My mother is buried beside my father in

Ontario as a Canadian citizen through Don's efforts."

RS: If I were to ask 10 Canadians if they knew about the "lost Canadians", would they know?

DC: "Possibly most would have an idea, but it wouldn't be accurate. First, it's not just the Canadian public but also parliamentarians as well. Even though this welcome statement to war brides was given - the law on the books was never updated."

RS: David in your family's case your mother and sister lived all these years not knowing they were not Canadian citizens. Bill C-37 was passed but unknown to so many - is that correct?

Note: The "War Brides Bill" Bill C-37 was passed in 2009, which was designed to restore Canadian citizenship to many individuals who had unknowingly lost it, including Canadian war brides and their children who were affected by outdated provisions in earlier citizenship laws. These individuals often considered themselves Canadian but found themselves without proof of citizenship when applying for government services, leading to complications and potential loss of entitlements. Bill C-37 aimed to resolve these issues and grant citizenship retroactively to most affected individuals. Library of Parliament

A second Bill C-24 has been used for different legislative purposes at different times, with the most prominent being the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act of 2014, which significantly changed the Citizenship Act to update eligibility, strengthen security measures, and allow for the revocation of citizenship in certain cases for dual citizens. Library of Parliament

DMc: "I'd like to introduce you to Jacqueline Jackie Scott (JS), whose story is very similar to mine".

JS: "In 2004, I needed to find my citizenship certificate as my mother did not keep any of our family documents. I wrote to the government asking for this document and a year later I received a letter back saying I wasn't a Canadian. My father was a Canadian citizen who was a soldier in the Second World War. He met my mother in London, England they fell in love but, were told they could not marry while he was still in the service, so I was born pre-marriage. It was only 10 years ago that I discovered that I was not officially a Canadian, even though I was raised in Canada by my Canadian father. I decided to take my case to a Federal Court in Vancouver and launched a legal fight for Canadian citizenship that could set a precedent for those who call themselves "lost Canadians". The Judge was prepared to rule in my favour but his decision would not help others in my situation, so I decided I couldn't do this just for me, that the decision had to be for everyone in my position."

Chapman, an advocate working with Scott, believes Scott's case challenged the government's reluctance to recognize many other so-called "lost Canadians". Jackie Scott's Application Record was filed March 26, 2013 - people in her situation were recognized through Bill C-24 and Bill C-37.

Don Chapman is the author of the publication *The Lost Canadians*.



Sockeyes hold 1st place after 23 games

By STEVE ERICKSON
Sports Writer

The Sockeyes looked focused as they headed into their home series against the rival Delta Ice Hawks who were trailing the Sockeyes in overall standings and hoping to close the gap.

While thoughts were on the game the main focus was on the tragic loss of Mission City Outlaws head coach Martin Hak who tragically passed away following a fatal car crash in Maple Ridge. He was named the Outlaws' Head Coach in the offseason after winning back-to-back Stonehouse Cup Championships as an assistant coach with the Ridge Meadows Flames.

Following this somber moment the Sockeyes made a special presentation to "Kids Sport Richmond" for the amount of ten thousand dollars which will help less privileged kids in Richmond who were previously not able to play.

In a previous game on October 23, the players added pink stick tape in support of "Breast Cancer Awareness" for Hockey Fights Cancer where the players announced who they were fighting for.

November 13 saw the Sockeyes recognize the 2nd anniversary since the Sockeyes retired Ray Sawada's jersey that saw Ray's father, Jack Sawada dropping the puck with a special thank you to Chris Batalha (the Chairman of KidSport) for collecting the Play like Ray cheque.

The Sockeyer's recognized several players who reached a milestone in their career playing in Richmond and are as follows: Quinn Orr on playing 100 PJHL games while with both the Whalers and the Sockeyes, he has acquired 20 goals and 39 assists.

Congratulations also go out to Mattias Uyeda who has also played in 100 PJHL games all with the Sockeyes managing to score 26 goals and 95 assists!

In addition, David Yoon for recently hitting 150 PJHL points and in 81 games with both the Wolf Pack and the Sockeyes, he has scored 62 goals and 94 assists, as well adding Dylan Nazareth to the 100 game milestone.

While we're on the subject of 'unsung hero's' let's not forget the Sockeyes Director of Operations and General Manager Will Kump who reached a milestone of 200 PJHL wins as the General Manager.

Richmond played as the home team in the series against their "Tunnel Series Rival" the Delta Ice Hawks that saw the teams split the pair of games with Delta pulling out a close 3-2 win having outshot the Sockeyes 47-21.

The first period was scoreless while the Sockeyes Kai Adano opened the scoring 3:19 in the second period only to have Delta grab three goals, two of which were on the power play in a contest that was chippy at times through the first two periods.

David Yoon pulled the Sockeyes within one goal at 13:05 as they continued to press only to be turned aside given the play of Armaan Kaila who was peppered with 47 shots, many of which were labelled.

Two nights later saw the Sockeyes turn the tables on Delta in their new home opening the scoring a short 46 seconds in with Nick Kovich (8th) followed by five unanswered goals that saw Delta respond with a pair closing the period with a 6-2 finish.

While the first period was chippy and filled with goals, it's fair to say the fans were clearly entertained by the Sockeyes who continued to press, that saw both teams trade goals and a second period that saw Delta outshot 14-9.

Delta pressed only to be turned aside by the stellar play of Massimo



Richmond Sockeyes Tribute to Martin Hak.

Photo courtesy Richmond Sockeyes

Urbani in a game that was a battle of the "tenders" while the third was scoreless with the Sockeyes pulling out a 7-3 win outshooting Delta 37-23. Sockeyes' Captain Teo Lin (1G/1A) was named first star, William Huo (1G/1A) and Ji Hung Jang (1G/1A) was named third.

Returning home they were facing the Langley Trappers again starting with an impressive start with David Yoon (21st) opening the scoring 40 seconds in with Orr setting him up which was followed by Orr (5th) at 6:37. Trappers Dalton Toma got Langley on the board at 7:40 pulling them within one goal that saw Richmond take a 2-1 lead to the dressing room while outshooting the Trappers by 17-9.

David Yoon got his second goal of the game a short 19 seconds in the second period only to have Trappers' Ian Burns slide one past Massimo Urbani at 7:18 that saw the Sockeyes take a 3-2 lead after forty minutes in a period that saw Langley finish the second period holding a 12-11 shot total.

The third period was all Sockeyes that saw them pepper "tender" Dwayne Cruz with three goals while allowing one for the Trappers which ironically was a power-play goal in a game that saw 1st star to David Yoon, Teo Lin (2nd) while Trappers' Ian Burns named third star with Sockeyes managing a 6-3 win.

The following night saw Richmond visit the TrailBlazers in a game that saw goal scoring from some who have been off the score sheet over the past while Carter Voll (8th) opened the scoring 4:54 followed by teams trading goals with the Sockeyes taking a 3-1 lead after one period.

At times the game was a chippy match-up but in the second period the fans saw the players focus on scoring goals rather than sitting in the "sin-bin" with the teams trading goals in the second while the third period was all Sockeyes' hammering three past "tender" Nicholas Muc for a 6-2 win.

For the second consecutive game the scoring was more of a strong team work ethic with Beaudy Beaudin (10th) and Dylan Nazareth (15th) getting on the scoresheet adding to their productivity. Beaudin 1G/2A) was named first star with Sockeyes' "tender" Alan Peregrin (44SA/42SV) while TrailBlazers' Austin Pavan named third.

Wrapping up the past two weeks saw a trip to Chilliwack in a game that was dominated by Sockeyes' powerful, explosive, offensive power outshooting the Jets 53-30 after sixty minutes. The Sockeyes locked up the three stars with first star to Dylan Nazareth (2G/0A), Massimo Urbani 2nd star (30 SA/28 SV) with third star to David Yoon (0G/3A) which solidified the Sockeyes to hold onto first place.

At the time of publication, the Sockeyes have an impressive record of 21 wins, 2 losses, scoring 128 goals for and 46 against through 23 games and return home November 27th for a match-up against the Burnaby Steelers at 7:00 pm.



Douglas James Scammell

FASHION FOR MEN A Power Suit

A Gentleman must have some power suits in their arsenal of suits.

As today's companies accept a more relaxed dress code, the power suit might seem to some as an unnecessary thing of the past. But is that really the case?

In today's modern dress-down world if you search on Instagram for example you will find men all over the world that are reinventing the world of power suit dressing. What is a power suit? Today's idea of power suits are a bit different from yesterday's power suit dressing but some things will remain the same. Let me first explain the evolution of power suit dressing of yesteryears.

HISTORY

Towards the end of the 1960's men's suit fashion transformed, moving away from the boxy, conservative styles with thin lapels to more bolder style, usually pinstriped or darker patterns that were very flashy and very bold.

From the 1970's to 1990's the power suit for men became a symbol of authority and ambition and was tailored to convey dominance in the corporate world. It was usually worn by those looking to climb the corporate ladder and make a statement of intent. The power suit worked really well for successful businessmen. A gentleman wearing a power suit looked the part and would be treated with respect and also it would be fair to say a good role model for apprentices who wanted to emulate a person of success. Lawyers, salesmen, stock brokers, and politicians who wore a powerful suit would likely be more intimidating and successful than people who wore a less fashionable wardrobe.

The power suit was defined by a tailoring style that included wider lapels, more loose relaxed



fits, heavier shoulder padding and longer baggier lengths, as well as longer ties. A power suit would have a much sharper look than a basic suit and tie. Double breasted, or 3 piece the suit would be paired with suspenders and shirts that featured pinstripes and solid collars and cuffs. Very much like the fictional movie character Gordon Gekko portrayed by Michael Douglas in the movie *Wall Street* (1988) or Leonardo DiCaprio's character in movie *The Wolf Of Wall Street* (2013) that takes place in the decade of the 1990's.

Moving into the first 2 decades of 21st century however, the art of wearing power suits began to sadly decline when people started to wear less dressier clothes in the workplace. Not all however, Lawyers, and some professionals stayed strong when it came to fashion in the business world, but most would settle for suits that were off the rack. Dress codes really began to decline with more people working remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic and when companies announced their back-to-work rule people were much less interested in the art of dressing their best to make a great first impression.

RESURGENCE

The good news is when the world opened back up again after Covid-19 pandemic powerful suits began to make comebacks although nowhere near where they used to be at their peak in the 1980's and 1990's. But the complete resurgence story is still unfinished.

The modern power suit is also a lot different from the power suit of yesteryears. Today my own perception of a power suit is a made to measure suit. Meaning your measurements are sent

to a factory where the suit is made custom with machine precision to the fabrics and buttons the customer has chosen. Final adjustments and tailoring is then done in the shop with the customer when the ordered suit returns from the factory. Or Bespoke which is a suit that is tailored from scratch to your body and stitched by hand by a tailor with no machines. Certainly not something off the rack that is baggier in the legs and arms and shoulders. Selecting a fabric that is pinstriped or a bold pattern and adding the details like wide lapel, sometimes pic stitching on the seams and lapels and most noticeably the fit which is more slim fitting depending on your body type.



There are really 5 reasons a modern day power suit has made a comeback.

1. Demonstrates a level of respect.
2. Attracts positive attention. People will gravitate to you and this will help enhance your network and your business and social opportunities.
3. Enhances first impressions.
4. A presence of confidence and credibility.
5. When you look good, you feel good and the power of confidence can be an unstoppable force.

There are now many great custom made to measure and bespoke suit shops that are now in the greater Vancouver area.

The demand for quality suits has gone up more and more now that people once again appreciate the value of dressing for success for the right occasion or environment.

Photos courtesy DJ Scammell

OUR CITY *Tonight*

**SPOTLIGHT ON
HOME VIEWING & A CONCERT**

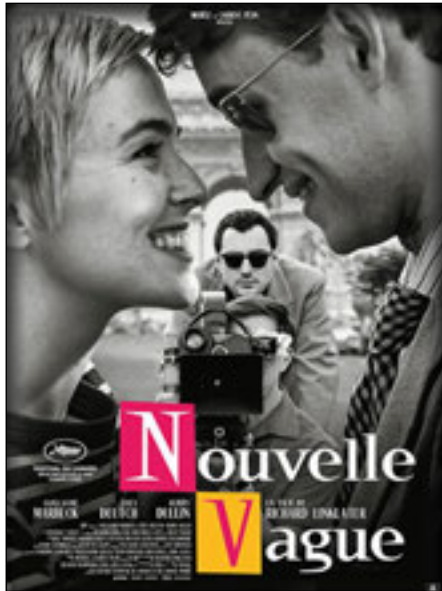


Photo courtesy Netflix

THE VIEW #1 – NOUVELLE VAGUE

One of the 20th Century's most creative film movements occurred in France in the late 1950's, when a group of film critics, who were also aspiring filmmakers, finally starting making their own films. Led by Francois Truffaut's critically acclaimed film, *The 400 Blows*, (1959), French New Wave took world cinema by storm with their rejection of traditional filmmaking, and new approaches to the telling a story, as well as editing and visual style. Now comes a film about one of those young filmmakers and his landmark first feature, *Breathless* (1960). It was written and directed by the now legendary Jean-Luc Goddard, and it starred Hollywood actress, Jean Seberg, and newcomer (and also, now legendary), Jean-Paul Belmondo. It was a chaotic shoot, the producer threatened to pull financing, Seberg threatened to quit, and Belmondo was told his career (which had barely begun) would be ruined. But today, it is considered a masterpiece. That is the setting for Richard Linklater's wonderful new film, *Nouvelle Vague*, which takes viewers behind the scenes - from Goodard's desire to see his work on the screen, to convincing the "money men" to back him despite having very little in the way of a script, to keeping his cast and crew intact when most had lost faith in what he was trying to accomplish. This film is not for everyone, but if you're a lover of classic film or wish to learn more about its history, then *Nouvelle Vague* is definitely worth viewing. It's now available on Netflix. www.netflix.com

THE SHOW – THE ANDY KIM CHRISTMAS

He is a Canadian music icon, with legendary songs and plenty of awards (including the Officer of the Order of Canada). He is also a gracious and kind individual, something we discovered recently when he appeared on *Our City Tonight*. He is Andy Kim, and from those first hit singles in the late 1960's, *How'd We Ever Get This Way* and *Sugar Sugar*, to his 1970's world #1, *Rock Me Gently*, he has never stopped making music and entertaining fans all over the world. Which leads us to this good news: Andy Kim will be here in Richmond December 13th at the River Rock Casino with the Westcoast debut of his annual *Andy Kim Christmas*. Along with his great talent, guest artists will include an all-star roster of Canadian music

icons like Tom Cochrane, 5440, Dan Hill, Men Without Hats, and Lee Aaron. Even more good news: proceeds will benefit *Variety – the Children's Charity of BC*, supporting children with disabilities and complex health needs across the province. "We're honoured to be the beneficiary of the first-ever Andy Kim Christmas event in Vancouver in an inspiring evening of music and generosity," said Andrea Tang, CEO of *Variety – the Children's Charity of B.C.* www.andykimmusic.com & www.variety.bc.ca



Photo courtesy Andy Kim



Photo courtesy Netflix

THE VIEW #2 – IN YOUR DREAMS

Recently, on *Our City Tonight*, we had opportunity to chat with another kind and gifted artist, this one is Writer/Director, Alex Woo. He is also the Founder and CEO of KuKu Studios. Their first animated feature is called *In Your Dreams* and it's now available for home viewing on *Netflix*. It tells the story of Stevie and her kid brother, Elliot, who are worried that their loving mom and dad may be having problems. Adding to that worry, there's a chance mom may except a job in another town. With the assistance of an old book Eliot has, the two siblings find themselves on a wild adventure in their dreams to a strange and absurd landscape. Their goal – if they can avoid the queen of nightmares, zombie breakfast foods and, most importantly, waking up – is to find a way to the Sandman who can grant their one wish: to have a perfect family. There's lots here for the whole family to enjoy – and to possibly discuss afterwards, including family and the challenges they sometimes face. Alex Woo – who spent years as a Story Artist at the iconic animation studio, Pixar - has taken all that he learned there, along with experiences from his own childhood, and put it all into this wonderful film. www.netflix.com

Singer's sweet success from 'Sugar Sugar' to 'Order of Canada'

This artist was involved with the creation of a song that is unique in pop music history. In August 1969, the comic book characters of Archie Comics jumped off the page and into number one on the Billboard charts. The song is Sugar Sugar, the co-songwriter was Andy Kim. He had many more hits and a very interesting history.

OCT: *Thank you for joining us, your music which we love, was very much a part of our youth. You are a music icon.*

AK: You know they call you an icon once you get older, but of course we all get older.

OCT: *You have six decades of a great musical career. One of the things that is amazing about your career is that, you were a 16-year-old kid from Montreal who got into the Brill Building which was music central at the time. Let's talk about how you managed to get hired because this was ground zero for rock and roll music back then.*

AK: I think the most important question was, why I got on a bus from Montreal to New York in search of record producer, Jeff Barry.

The truth is, I grew up in a tenement housing in Montreal, and we really didn't have much. My brothers had a transistor radio, so I borrowed the transistor radio one night and there was a lot of static, but I eventually heard WABC in New York and American DJ, Cousin Brucie's rock radio show. That changed my life. It gave me the ability to dream of something outside of the box I was in. There were also magazines at the time, that told you who the songwriters were and included their address. They called it Tin Pan Alley at one point and the Brill Building was that.

OCT: *Just to give people a perspective, it goes back to the time where people like Carole King, Neil Sedaka, Neil Diamond were writing music. How did it feel as a young lad from Montreal being in the middle of that kind of creativity?*

AK: I didn't feel anything but, how lucky I was to be there. I didn't show up with a résumé, I showed up as a dreamer and that's who I am. There's a difference between wishing and dreaming. Wishing never gets you anywhere, it was so important in my life to escape the tenement of



Photo courtesy
Andy Kim

Andy Kim, award-winning singer/songwriter

Montreal and just get on a bus to go to New York City (I didn't even know there was customs at the border to deal with). It sounds amazing, but to me it was just a natural thing to do.

OCT: *We call it strength, but you said it was the naivety that comes when you're at that age. You have two songs that we want to talk about, and we never grow tired of hearing. One of those is 'Sugar Sugar'. And very soon after getting into the Brill Building you have a really big hit and that was 'How'd We Ever Get This Way' in 1968.*

AK: I wrote about something that I fantasized about - it's about the ability to understand what love is. I really didn't know what love was like. Of course I loved my mom, dad and my brothers but to actually meet someone and to have this passion within you and then to know it's all ephemeral gives me cause to look back on it now and I thank her for the song, but I don't regret my life.

OCT: *That's a wonderful way to look at that experience. You also wrote a song that went number one all over the world, and it also is one of those songs that you never grow tired of hearing which is a song called 'Rock Me Gently' in 1974.*

AK: It is an interesting situation for me because, within the Brill Building while under all those pro-

ducers' vision you're only as good as your last two minutes and 30 seconds. Which meant, you better have a hit or else you're not there anymore. I had had enough hits but there was a big change going on and everybody was leaving the Brill Building.

Not everybody but a lot of people and Jeff Barry being one of them moved to LA. For me at that point, if I can take a line from one of my songs, although I was young, I was on the 'back porch' of my career.

I think the second or third day that I was in LA, I met someone and we went to dinner in Malibu. We walked the beach in Malibu and by the time I got home it was 4 o'clock in the morning. I picked up the guitar, and I wrote 'Rock Me Gently'. As simple as it is, if you read the lyrics slowly, you'll understand what happened. It is embarrassing when you're older talking about stuff like this, but we know that don't we.

OCT: *You have definitely left your mark and I don't want to age anybody, but that song is 51 years old now and it is still as good as it was when we first heard it as a kids. One of the other things to love about your career is that you've never stopped.*

One of the great tributes to you is that in 2015 you put together an album with popular musicians like 'Broken Social Scene', who did an album with you. This introduced you to a whole new audience. Artists like 'Feist', and as I said, 'Broken Social Scene', were able to introduce your music to a whole new generation. That must have been very heartwarming.

AK: That wasn't my idea. I bumped into someone named Kevin Drew and he said "I'd like to produce your next album". I told him I don't think anyone's waiting for my next album, but he said "I am". We wrote the album together and I ended up doing the David Letterman show just a couple weeks before he retired. Kevin and I went to LA together and we ended up singing Sugar Sugar with Courtney Love. That's what I would call an extremely lucky Canadian to be honest with you.

Andy Kim is in the Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame, Canada's Walk of Fame for songwriters, Hit Parade Hall of Fame, he is a multiple Juno award winner, and was awarded the Order of Canada in 2023. To watch the entire interview in full go to richmondsentinel.ca/videos



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