



MAYOR BRODIE

**Mayor reviews
2023-2024**

08-09



*Beautiful smiles
created by the artisans
at Esthetics Denture
Studio*



ADVANTAGES & BENEFITS

OF BEING AN ESTHETICS DENTURE STUDIO PATIENT

- Alex Hupka has 26 years of experience as a registered dental technician and 22 years of experience as a registered dentist.
- A Combined experience of 48 years in the dental field produces results of esthetic beauty with unparalleled accuracy in all our products.
- Natural beauty esthetics and function, immaculate attention to detail.
- We provide integrated treatment planning with your dentist or surgeon.
- Implant-supported and retained denture treatment planning and engineering.
- Highest quality dental materials available with no compromise.
- We have an in-house laboratory to maintain product and quality control for all your needs.
- 5-year warranty against breakage during eating.
- Free home care kit, including professional denture cleaner with new cosmetic and partial dentures for the lifetime of being our patient.

COSMETIC PRECISION DENTURE SYSTEM

- Premium quality Cosmetic Precision Dentures instill confidence and provide optimum function while eating, speaking, and laughing. Sophisticated instrumentation records facial and anatomical information to recreate your natural smile and the youthful facial contours of your lips and cheeks.
- Our premium quality teeth duplicate natural teeth. Our premium teeth contours are designed to match your skeletal type with feminine and masculine characteristics to accentuate your appeal.



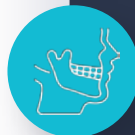
Esthetics

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



Contours

Naturally sculpted tissue surfaces make Cosmetic Precision Dentures almost indistinguishable from natural tissues.



Health

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



Biocompatibility

Dense equalized materials aid in preventing stain and odour buildup.

**ALEX
HUPKA**
RD, RDT,
Denturist.



No referral needed, call to book your **free consultation**

📞 **604-279-9151** 🌐 **bcdenturist.ca**



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

Community invited to host interactive events

Richmond's artists and cultural organizations are invited to register and host free events during the 15th annual Culture Days, a three-week celebration of arts and culture taking place between Sept. 20 and Oct. 13.

Culture Days, celebrated nationally and experienced locally, shines a spotlight on the talents of artists, chefs, dancers, designers, makers, musicians, performers, photographers, writers and others who open their work spaces to the public or present free, hands-on or instructional activities.

For artists and other creative individuals, Culture Days is a unique opportunity to share arts and culture practices and introduce residents and visitors to Richmond's vibrant arts and culture community. For groups and organizations, Culture Days is a recognized platform to increase community engagement, reach new audiences and enhance member recruitment.

Richmond is consistently recognized as being among Culture Days' top 10 most engaged cities in the country with a wide array of free, participatory



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Richmond's artist and cultural organizations are invited to register and host free events during the 15th annual Culture Days.

activities to discover across the city and online.

Through participation in the program, Richmond-based organizers will receive promotional support through a robust multi-tiered marketing campaign from the City of Richmond, BC Culture Days and the national Culture Days organization. Events and activities registered by Wednesday, July 31 become eligible for promotion at all three levels.

Event registration is now open at culturedays.ca. The website offers free resources to plan events, inspiration for in-person and online activities, and resources for Indigenous

cultural programs, volunteer management, documenting events and a school engagement toolkit.

In addition to marketing support, the city can offer support in connecting event hosts to creative spaces and venues. For more information about Culture Days in Richmond, visit richmond.ca/CultureDays or email culture@richmond.ca.

A new mural by Richmond artist

Visitors to the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex (7660 Minoru Gate) are now welcomed by a new mural, *Seasons of Colour*, by Richmond artist Laura Kwok.

The artwork incorporates the main themes and narratives that were contributed by community members at several public engagement activities held last fall. The mural depicts three themes, one for each side of the triangular building:

- Sea & Sky depicts waves and clouds interspersed with symbolic elements to represent local wildlife, such as a heron feathers and salmon scales. Indigenous aquatic plants, including cattails and pond lilies, are shown against a vibrant sunset sky.

- Art & Music presents natural imagery such as sunflowers, moonflowers and clover with musical instruments and pottery to represent a home for the arts to flourish. The gradient colours symbolize the transition from day to night.

- Flora & Fauna celebrates Richmond's natural heritage through plants and wildlife, including a Saskatoon berry, snail shell, cedar, cranberries, yarrow, salal, a ladybug and a strawflower.

Artist Bio

Laura Kwok is an illustrator and muralist living and working in Richmond. Captivated by the



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Visitors to the Richmond Cultural Centre Annex are now welcomed by a new mural, *Seasons of Colour*, by Richmond artist Laura Kwok.

beauty of nature and inspired by the grandeur of the natural world, her recent work focuses on capturing the fluid and ethereal life cycles of flowers and creating a personal language of floral symbolism as a means of self-expression.

Laura is curious about how art plays a therapeutic role in healing humans, creating connections and strengthening communities.

For more information about the Richmond Public Art Program, visit richmond.ca/publicart

Five Richmond students awarded up to \$44,000

Five grade 12 students in Richmond were awarded a Beedie Luminaries scholarship of up to \$44,000. Dorothy Yuen and Taixi Wang from Hugh McRoberts Secondary, Menam Mehmood from R.C. Palmer Secondary, Mackenna Liggat from Richmond Christian Secondary School, and Kelly Huang from Richmond Secondary. These scholarships recognize promising B.C. students who have faced life challenges and adversity with determination and resilience.

"I'm so honoured to have been chosen as a recipient. Receiving this scholarship is not only a means of achieving my dreams, but a place where I can find opportunities and connection in the years to come. If you're going into Grade 12 next year, apply! It isn't just about the money, it's about the support you receive and recognition for your accomplishments." – Menam Mahmood, Richmond

"Receiving this scholarship is immense. It opens the door for my pursuit of higher education and serves as recognition of my determination and passion. I am reminded yet again that help is always around us and there is this wonderful community which continues to support students. If you are an aspiring student who faces financial adversity, look no further than Beedie Luminaries." – Taixi Wang, Richmond

This graduation season, Ryan Beedie, through his foundation, Beedie Luminaries, awarded \$7.4 million in scholarships to deserving students across B.C. The scholarships, worth up to \$44,000 each for undergraduate studies and \$50,000 for graduate studies, will go to 113 Grade 12 students, 13 graduate students, 14 refugee and immigrant students and 27 single parents. Since 2019, Beedie Luminaries has awarded a total of \$35 million in scholarships to 792 students from communities across the province.

"Over the past five years, it has been inspiring to watch Beedie Luminaries scholarship recipients thrive, successfully complete their studies and begin their careers while overcoming many challenges in their lives," says Ryan Beedie. "I feel strongly that cost should not be a barrier to education. That's why we are trying to level the playing field and provide more students facing barriers with opportunities to reach new heights that may seem otherwise impossible."

Beedie Luminaries' SHINE (Soaring Higher IN Education) scholarship program supports promising Grade 12 students who are facing financial barriers to attending post-secondary and provides them with up to \$44,000 over four years as well as additional wrap-around resources in the form of mentors, student success managers, peer support groups, paid internships and ongoing support from the Beedie Luminaries community.

This year's SHINE scholarship recipients come from 63 high schools in 25 communities across B.C. Of these students, 50 per cent come from single-parent or legal guardian families and 31 per cent will be the first in their immediate family to pursue post-secondary education.



DOROTHY YUEN



TAIXI WANG



MENAM MEHMOOD



MACKENNA LIGGAT



KELLY HUANG

Since the first Beedie Luminaries scholarships were awarded in 2019, several recipients have already finished their undergraduate studies and advanced on to graduate studies or began their careers.

"Being a Beedie Luminary while navigating my BCom degree at UBC was a game-changer," says Ivy Liao, a Beedie Luminaries scholarship recipient from Vancouver who has since completed her bachelor's degree and is now pursuing graduate studies. "Beedie Luminaries' comprehensive support enabled me to learn so much from my mentor, form close friendships with incredible Luminaries from various schools and disciplines, and boldly pursue my passions through clubs, internships, and opportunities I never imagined possible."

"Studying law had interested me for years, but it always felt out of reach," continues Liao. "Now, as a recipient of Beedie Luminaries' Graduate Studies Award, I will be commencing my studies in the Juris Doctor Program at UBC this fall with the hope of giving back to my community of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and being an advocate for those who are unheard. Beedie Luminaries has changed my life; I am forever grateful and aspire to pay it forward."

"Since we launched, we have heard from so many students facing barriers in their lives, each with different educational and career goals," continues Beedie. "That's why we expanded Beedie Luminaries to cover a spectrum of educational and training opportunities and provide support to a broader range of students. Today, we have targeted programs for high school students, single parents, refugees, graduate students and, most recently, students who want to pursue a career in the skilled trades."

To complement Beedie Luminaries' four existing scholarship programs (SHINE for Grade 12 students, RISE for refugees, SPARK for single parents and Grad Studies for graduate students), the organization launched BUILD in May of this year. BUILD supports students who want to learn a skilled trade by providing scholarships worth up to \$20,000 towards their Red Seal accreditation and by connecting them to apprenticeship opportunities through a partnership with the Independent Contractors and Business Association.

In BUILD's 2025 pilot cohort, only students enrolled in the carpenter, electrician, plumber, welder or sheet metal worker programs at BCIT will be eligible. In the future, Beedie Luminaries intends to expand eligibility to include all 15 public post-secondary institutions offering trades programs in B.C.

Beedie Luminaries was founded on Nov. 13, 2018 with a \$50-million donation from Ryan Beedie that coincided with his 50th birthday. Since then, it has grown into one of the most comprehensive scholarship programs in Canada.

Students who are interested in applying to be part of next year's cohort are encouraged to follow Beedie Luminaries on social media or visit beedieluminaries.ca. The application period for the 2025 cohort will open in fall 2024.

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Advertising & Sponsorship
marketing@richmondsentinel.ca
778-325-1297

Newsroom
newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca
778-297-5005



Download our app
from the
App Store or
Google Play Store.

In honour of our soldiers: Elvet Baxter McCutcheon

By MICHAEL COOPER
Student writer

Elvet (Elvie) Baxter McCutcheon was born on May 30, 1914, in Saskatchewan. He later moved to Richmond in 1922, where he attended English school. He, with his mother and brother, lived at his grandfather's farm on No. 3 Road. In 1927, he attended Bridgeport High School for one year and then Richmond High School, leaving in 1929. Elvie took a commercial course at King Edward High School for another year and then worked as a farmer for several years.

From the age of 17, he also worked for the Marpole *Richmond Review* as a sports writer. Elvie was very involved with lacrosse, both as a player and as an executive member of many sports, including basketball, rugby, swimming, and golf. In 1934, he entered the carpet and lino trade and joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1940 as a salesman.

On enlistment in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Vancouver on Feb. 28, 1941, he was posted to bases in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan for training. Elvie embarked for England in October 1943. Elvie wrote back to the *Richmond Review* in January 1944, describing conditions in England. He served on several bases in England, and his final posting was at RAF Cranwell.



A poppy engraved road sign of McCutcheon Place.

Screen grab from Google Maps

On Jan. 16, 1945, the #420 Snowy Owl Squadron was engaged in night operations against Madgeborg, Germany, when Halifax aircraft #NA 183 was shot down over Bokensdorf. Four members of the crew, including Elvie, were killed instantly, and the remaining four survivors became prisoners of war. Flight Lieutenant Pilot Officer Elvet

McCutcheon was buried at Bokensdorf and later exhumed and re-buried in the Limmer British Cemetery, Hanover, Germany. Elvie was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross effective Jan. 15, 1945. The city of Richmond continues to honor Elvie's service through McCutcheon Place, which still stands today between Francis and Gilbert.



**BLUNDELL
CENTRE**

**SHOP THE BEST
SUMMER
DEALS
AT BLUNDELL CENTRE**

42 stores to find the best deals
Located at Blundell & No 2 Road



Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada) donates \$43,000

Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada) raised funds during the temple's Bathing the Buddha Ceremony and Charity Bazaar on May 12 and donated \$43,000 towards Richmond Hospital Foundation for Richmond Hospital's Birth Centre.

"Health care is a universal need," says Venerable Master Tze Cheng, the Abbot of Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada). "In celebration of Buddha's birthday and Mothers' Day, we decided to support women's health this year. We want to lend our compassion to help improve health care for women and the new lives being born in Richmond. We are pleased to donate partial proceeds from our Bathing the Buddha Ceremony and Lingyen Charity Bazaar to help fund two important pieces of equipment for Richmond Hospital's Birth Centre."

Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada) has been supporting Richmond Hospital Foundation since 2008; they have donated towards the Medical Imaging Centre Campaign for the future Yurkovich Family Pavilion, contributed towards the COVID-19 Response Fund, and helped purchase a new gastroscop for the Gastroenterology Department at Richmond Hospital.

"We are grateful to have Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada)'s ongoing support," shares Spencer Gall, Campaign Director of Richmond Hospital Foundation. "This donation will directly enhance the quality of care and support provided to new-



Photo courtesy Richmond Hospital Foundation

From left to right: Shuai Gu, Philanthropy Manager, Richmond Hospital Foundation; Jessie Wang, Philanthropy Coordinator, Richmond Hospital Foundation; Venerable Master Tze Cheng, Abbot, Lingyen Mountain Temple; Atwood Fung, Philanthropy Officer, Richmond Hospital Foundation.

borns and their mothers. We wish to express our sincerest gratitude for Lingyen Mountain Temple (Canada)'s compassion and big heart towards the people in Richmond and for improving health care services at Richmond Hospital."

The donation will be used to purchase an infant bedside monitor and an incubator for the Richmond Hospital Birth Centre. A bedside monitor

observes vitals and conducts cardiac screening tests for newborns, while an incubator regulates the temperature of newborns when ongoing thermal regulation is required.

To learn about how you can also support Richmond Hospital Foundation, visit richmondhospitalfoundation.com/ways-to-give/all-the-ways-to-give/

HAPPY CANADA DAY!



from all of us at **The Maple Residences**
Seniors independent living in beautiful Steveston Village



4071 Chatham St • 604-277-4519 • www.themapleresidences.com

New Wild-Caught Outpost opening in Steveston

To celebrate the beginning of the wild BC salmon season, BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood is excited to announce a new outpost at the Steveston Fisherman's Wharf, since June 28, the outpost will be selling BC wild-caught seafood until the end of summer.

Based out of Ladner, BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood (BCLSPS) provides the freshest, wild-caught seafood directly from fishermen to customers. Customers are guaranteed only sustainable, antibiotic-free and hormone-free live, fresh or frozen spot prawns, salmon, sablefish, lingcod, halibut, and more. Thousands of happy customers buy from BCLSPS all year round.

Between June 28 and the end of summer (exact date to be announced), customers can stop by the BCLSPS boat at Steveston Fisherman's Wharf at 3866 Bayview Street on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Product availability varies on a weekly basis and pre-order reservations will be announced via email newsletter and social media. Walk-up customers are always welcome.

"We have loyal customers across Greater Vancouver and we are always looking for ways to get the products to them faster and easier," says Darin



Photo courtesy BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood
From June 28 till the end of summer, a new wild BC salmon outpost by BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood will be selling BC wild-caught seafood.

Chung of BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood. "We look forward to seeing returning customers as well as meeting new customers in Steveston."

During the fresh sockeye salmon season, BCLSPS also offers pre-order pickup and walk-up sales at Ladner Wharf (5000 Elliott Street, Delta) from Wednesdays to Sundays at 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Pre-order pickup at False Creek Fisherman's Wharf is available on designated dates. Customers should follow BCLSPS on social media at @bclivespotprawns or sign up for their email newsletter for updates on hours, product availability, and special promotions.

BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood provides the freshest, wild-caught seafood directly from our network of fishing families to customers. As a 100 per cent owner-operated, small business based out of Ladner, BC, customers are guaranteed only fishermen-direct, sustainable, 100 per cent traceable, antibiotic-free, hormone-free spot prawns, salmon, sablefish, halibut, and other live, fresh, or frozen seafood

products. BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood also ship to major cities in Alberta, Toronto, and Saskatoon. BC Live Spot Prawns & Seafood is open 7 days a week at bclivespotprawns.com. Fishermen-Direct Wild-Caught.

For more information, visit bclivespotprawns.com



**STEVESTON
SALMON FESTIVAL**
It's about COMMUNITY

**THANK YOU
FOR COMING!**



STEVESTONSALMONFEST.CA



Richmond

Annual interview with Mayor Malcolm Brodie

By FLORENCE GORDON
Contributing writer

The *Richmond Sentinel*, Jim Gordon (JG) sat down with Mayor Malcolm Brodie (MB) to review the city's annual report.

JG: *It's a great pleasure once again to welcome you Mr. Mayor. It's been a year and before we get into today's issues, I want to put into perspective for our viewers when I say you've been in office for over 20 years it's because it's very rare these days. There are some cities that seem to change their mayor every term.*

MB: Richmond has a history of longevity, since 1973 I'm the third mayor. We had 17 years with Gil Blair, eleven years with Greg Halsey-Brandt, and I've been mayor for about 23 years. So, it's been a good run. The beauty of longevity, from the city's point of view, obviously, is that when council comes up with plans, if you can be here long enough to see those plans through, it's a big advantage.

JG: *That's a great testament to a mayor that plans can be implemented or may occur long after they're gone from this role. It must be gratifying to see some of the things, that you were supporting eight or nine years ago are now a reality.*

MB: Some of the initiatives are short lived, but yes, five to ten years for a project is not a long time to make it happen. Look at the Steveston Community Center, we've been talking about that at least ten, twelve years. It takes a long time for an initiative to be built, to get all the approvals together before going ahead with it.

JG: *We have lots to talk about, as we do every year, sir. An issue that was important and top of people's minds a year ago still is, and that's housing and affordability. How are you and the council members ensuring stable and affordable housing for Richmond's residents?*

MB: Cities are growing and the number of people coming into the cities is growing dramatically. Immigration is also very strong.

First of all, having enough housing units for the people who want to live here is important. Secondly, the market has taken the price of housing up so dramatically that affordable housing or for housing to be affordable, is a contradiction. When you're talking about an average house price or unit price here in Richmond it's something like a million and a half dollars. How many people can afford that? So, affordability is a big deal, as is availability.

JG: *I've always found it challenging because it's so subjective, that, as you said, some people can afford a million-dollar condo or home, most people can't. The thing that goes almost hand in hand right behind housing and affordability, is homelessness. Can we talk about what the city is doing to address this as well?*

MB: I remember when I was growing up and hearing my parents and grandparents talking about the days of the depression, and whole encampments of people who had no home. Overtime, there was little evidence of any such thing. Today, for a whole host of reasons, the number of people who have no home has grown and so that's necessitated our city council's attention.

Even though, it's a provincial responsibility, we have a duty to assist in any way we can. Eight, ten years ago, we didn't have a shelter, now we have a shelter during the winter months when the weather gets cold. We have a couple of centers where they can come in from the elements at night. We have the two housing units for people who have no home and we have a project called *Storeys* on Granville near City Hall, where various social agencies have available housing. There's this whole area that we've had to become involved in, and the taxpayers of course, have supported the project to help those who simply have no home.

JG: *I understand that this concern includes a lot of different categories that you have to address.*

MB: There are people who are living in tents or living in the shelters, who do have a job and for a variety of different reasons they are homeless. The reasons can be very complex, substance use being one or mental health issues. Again, the city has had to do what we can to assist those who are in need.

JG: *One of the topics that has been consistent in the four years since we first started engaging in these talks is community safety. No community is always 100 per cent safe. You and I talked about this a number of times where COVID-19 and a number of other factors has been a contributing factor of not feeling as safe. I understand that the city has incorporated more community RCMP officers.*



Mayor Malcolm Brodie with interviewer Jim Gordon.

MB: People need to feel safe. I think one of the big evolutions, in public safety is the fact that if a person is acting out or committing a crime of some sort in public, traditionally the police would arrive and lock the person up. Today, we have a program called Fox 80—an RCMP officer goes along with a medical clinician who is specially trained.

JG: *Since we last talked, you just launched a program called Yankee 30 youth program can you tell our viewers about this program?*

MB: It's a partnership between the city, the province and the RCMP, where like the Fox 80 program you have the clinician and the RCMP working together. You also have various social workers that work with the police, to review the situation and individuals involved. The program is to understand the situation better and provide assistance for those who need assistance.

JG: *I'm going to switch topics here and talk about climate change. I know from past discussions the city has been very proactive. Can you update our viewers with where the city is on this important subject?*

MB: Probably the biggest factor is that we are an island city, at sea level or maybe a meter above sea level, depending on where you are, so we have to take steps to make sure that we have flood protection. We are taking flood protection very, very seriously. We started a long-term program to raise all the dikes all the way around the city. It's a big job, 49 km dikes to hold the water out and 39 pump stations to keep the inland dry. We know that we are at risk of flooding, and it is important to be proactive if we don't, we will pay the price.

JG: *Mr. Mayor, you released a community energy emissions plan to guide the city to achieve 50 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. Can you explain how this will be achieved?*

MB: I think provincially, every city is coming up with their own plan as to how to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, which are so damaging to the environment. By 2030, we want to have reduced our emissions by 50 per cent, and by 2050, we want to reduce them down to zero. That's a tall order, but we are taking steps in that direction.

Probably one of the biggest programs, and one that I'm really very proud of is,



Photo by Richmond Sentinel

we have been working since the 1990's to densify the city center. In the last year, there were two more buildings bringing the total to 60 buildings that are hooked up to district energy. In the next decade, it's going to be tenfold more than that. So, all the new buildings you're seeing in Richmond, are being heated and cooled by non-fossil-based energy sources.

JG: Along that line, let's talk about infrastructure. Are there any updates since we talked in early 2023?

MB: Probably one of the biggest decisions we made, and it's been a long time coming, we were looking for land for our public workshop, which is currently on Lynas Lane and Westminster Highway. It was originally built 25 to 30 years ago. We looked at a couple different sites where we could relocate the public works yard. We finally came up with the plan to leave it where it is. We can consolidate the activities there and make it more efficient. We now know that the investment in that site was worthwhile. Included in the corner of that site is the recycling depot. We've won awards for the recycling depot and it's been used as a model for many other cities.

JG: One of the things that we've talked about before, is when times are tough, the first things that usually get cut from budget or removed to the back burner are the arts and festivals. One of the things I love about your city is that you kept the arts vibrant and alive.

MB: There was a time when we did suffer and that was during the pandemic. Some of the events could continue but most of them we had to put on hold. But now we're back to full blown events. For example, the Steveston Salmon Festival, which we put on in conjunction with the Steveston Community center is back up to the full day celebration.

We have the two-day Maritime Festival celebrating the tradition of the maritime industry here in the City of Richmond. We have the Children's Art Festival, Doors Open, Cherry Blossom Festival and many more activities all of them are free to the user and are family friendly.

JG: I want to mention, too, one thing that you do very well is to attract big events. I'm citing one and that's the Canadian Adult Recreational Hockey associ-

ation the World Cup, that brought 1,600 participants. That's a fantastic promotion for the city and the economy.

MB: That was enormous. It was supposed to be held in 2020 and canceled because of the pandemic. In 2022, it was postponed again, and finally held in 2023. Players came from around the world including Ukraine.

There were 1,600 players, plus families and coaches that brought a positive impact to our economy and tourist industry.

JG: Sometimes there's a perception with cities and government that they're not moving paperwork fast enough in terms of helping businesses and developers. I'm looking at stats that the city issued for building permits with an overall construction value exceeding \$900 million.

MB: I give credit to the province and the federal government because they've been giving financial support not only for projects, but they've been giving money to the cities under various programs to assist us with our process so you can build more houses quicker. If you can process your applications quicker, more efficiently and effectively, you will then produce more living units. Some of the more routine permits you can now apply for online twenty-four seven—for example a simple plumbing permit that doesn't require a lot of staff analysis. We're expanding that program because many of the permits that are more complicated requires staff review. It's complicated, but we're getting there and it will mean we can issue the permits without people having to spend a lot of time coming back and forth to city hall.

JG: One of the other strong points I find from a communication angle, which is my line of business, is that the city is very proactive when it comes to communicating. You yourself Mr. Mayor, you're very strong on social media. Since we last talked you launched a program called Let's Talk Richmond.

MB: That's a program that has grown over the years. It's an Internet based application where people can address a range of subjects and can send in their comments for us to review. I regularly get hard copies of what people are saying on the Let's Talk Richmond.

Additionally, if we have a particular program or initiative that we want feedback on from the public, we put it on Let's Talk Richmond and receive specific feedback on that particular initiative and it's linked to our website, which gets millions of views as well as social media.

JG: You mentioned a new website was launched since we last spoke.

MB: That's right. It's better organized, user friendly and it's quicker and easier to search information—go to the city website Richmond.ca

JG: Let's wrap things up, as we always do—looking forward. Can we talk about important projects that you are working on and the completion of certain infrastructure projects or can you talk about the top two or three projects you're focusing on.

MB: Okay, the first one is TransLink, and the Capstan station. We knew that North Richmond was redeveloping. We went to the major land holders in the area, the Pinnacles, Concord Pacific, and a few others, they agreed that they would levy a fee per unit which would ultimately be put towards the Capstan station for the Canada Line. It should be finished this year and it's largely funded by the growth in that particular area because the station enhances that particular area.

The Steveston Community Center and library is another major project, it's almost a hundred million dollars, it has started to come out of the ground.

The third project is the George Massey Tunnel, a provincial project. We're keeping the pressure on that project to make sure that it doesn't go off the rails. The Steveston highway overpass is now being completed, it has to be twinned as part of the project. The latest projection is it'll be about 2028-2030 by the time it's open. As part of the project, we're working with hydro to commit to putting the transmission lines in the new tunnel like they are now.

JG: It's always a pleasure to sit and talk with you, sir. We should do this more than once a year, we do appreciate your time. We should say to our viewers we are sitting in the Council Chambers here at city hall and are grateful for the opportunity.

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

• florence@richmondsentinel.ca

Asphalt Paving Advisory

April 20 to November 30, 2024

The City of Richmond has contracted Save On Black Top Ltd. to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond **from April 20 to November 30, 2024.**

PROPOSED 2024 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to Cambie Road)—Bridgeport Road intersection not included. Cambie Road Intersection included
Cambie Road (Shell Road to No. 5 Road)—Intersections included
Bridgeport Road (Viking Way to Sweden Way)—Intersections included
No.4 Road and Alderbridge Way Intersection
Westminster Highway (Gilbert Road to No. 3 Road)—Intersections included
Beckwith Road (Sexsmith Road to Smith Street)—Intersections included
Blundell Road—(No. 4 Road to No.5 Road)—No. 4 Road Intersection included
No. 1 Road (Francis Road to Blundell Road)—Intersections included
No. 1 Road (Westminster Highway to Granville Avenue)—Intersections included
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to Vulcan Way)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road)—Intersections included
Vulcan Way (No. 5 Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included
Garden City Road (Cambie Road to Bridgeport Road) —Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Seadliff Road to Kingsbridge Drive)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Alderbridge Way to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
Burkeville Subdivision includes Catalina Crescent, Douglas Crescent, Hudson Avenue, Boeing Avenue
Kwantlen Street (Alderbridge Way to Alexandra Road)—Alexandra Road Intersection included
Machrina Way (Horseshoe Way to No. 5 Road)
22000 Block Westminster Highway (MOTI—McLean Avenue) including McLean Avenue Intersection
Knight Street (Southbound Lanes from Bridge Deck to 50m South)
Knight Street South Bound On and Off Ramps at Bridgeport Road
Steveston Highway (Westbound Lanes from Shell Road to No.5 Road)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Bridgeport Road to River Drive)—Intersections included
Shell Road (Hammersmith Gate to Steveston Highway)
Jacombs Rd (Cambie Road—Bathgate Way)—Intersections included
Bathgate Way (Sweden Way—Jacombs Road) Intersections included
Hammersmith Gate (Shell Road to Hammersmith Way) Intersections included
Leonard Road (Ryan Road to Williams Road)—Intersections included
Maddocks Road (Aintree Crescent to Shell Road)—Intersections included
Boundary Road (Thompson Gate to Westminster Highway) including Thompson Gate intersection
Blundell Road (Sidaway Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included

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

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

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

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

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



Photo courtesy Chloe Lu
BC Team national figure skater and Richmond BC student, Chloe Lu, crowned Miss Teenage Richmond 2024.

BC Team National Figure Skater named Miss Teenage Richmond 2024

16-year-old Chloe Lu was crowned as Miss Teenage Richmond 2024 at the Delta Hotels Vancouver Downtown Suites. Chloe is a competitive figure skater who has represented BC at several national competitions. She is currently in grade 11, attending Hugh McRoberts Secondary School. Chloe received the highest score amongst 10 BC contestants after several rounds of competition, including an interview with the judges, a fitness wear presentation, an evening gown presentation, a runway competition, online voting and an on-stage performance in front of a live audience. She will be going to the national competition in Toronto in July 2024, running for the title of Miss Teenage Canada 2024 by Pageant Group Canada against 40+ other teenage girls across Canada.

Chloe was first introduced to pageantry through her mom's colleague although at first. Upon learning about the incredible experience and the internal growth and benefits, Chloe was captivated to begin her journey in pageantry. Chloe conducted her first interview back in October of 2023, and began training in early January 2024 after meeting her coach, Ariel Cao. Since January, Chloe has met with her coach on a weekly basis through Zoom and in person, vigorously preparing for her very first pageant in April.

Her platform is on mental health, specifically in sports and also creating a safe learning environment for young Canadian athletes. She is approaching her 10th year as a competitive figure skater and hopes to end abuse and cruelty in all learning environments. She is currently a figure skating coach to young developing athletes, and is passionate about sharing her love for skating with others. As a national finalist, Chloe is motivated to advocate for inclusivity so that all Canadian athletes are empowered to chase after their dreams.

In the months to come, she will be volunteering all across the Greater Vancouver area and fundraising for The Canadian Mental Health Association. Contact her at ChloeLu2021@gmail.com for appearance/sponsorship inquiries; she loves getting involved with her community. In July, an online voting portal will open on catchthecrown.com for the People's Choice Award. Follow her journey on Instagram [@Misschloelu](https://www.instagram.com/Misschloelu).

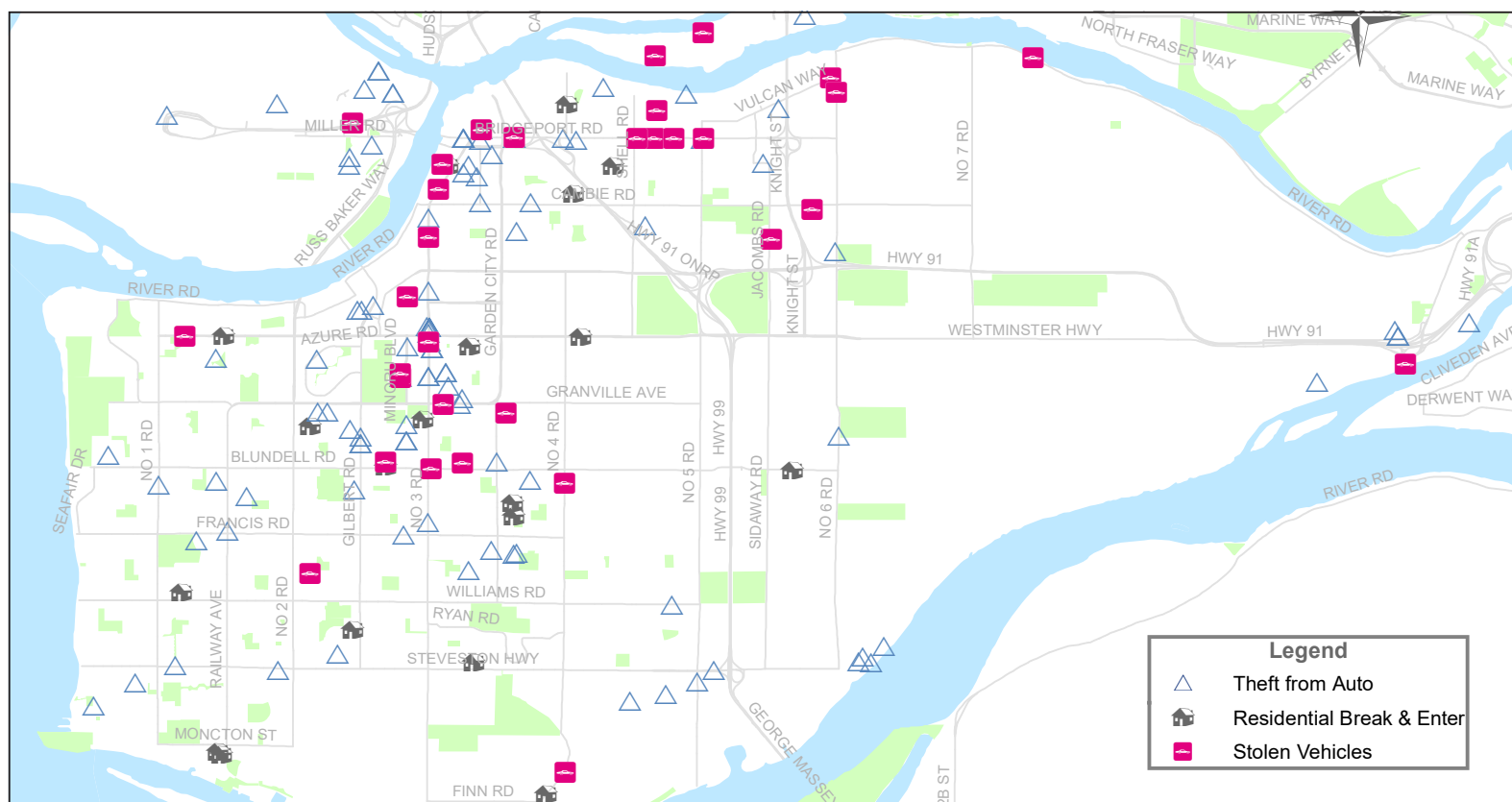
"If I had a wish to change the world, I would wish that all dreams came true and everybody succeeds," says Chloe.

"I am determined to inspire youth to follow their aspirations by promoting perseverance and an undefeated demeanour and be a beacon of hope to my community," says Chloe.



RCMP

Crime Map May 1 - 31, 2024



B.C.'s future powered by clean energy

For the first time, BC Hydro will provide rebates for the installation of rooftop solar and battery-storage systems, making it easier for people and businesses to generate their own electricity, reduce their energy bills and deliver clean energy back to the electricity grid.

The new program supports the province's new clean-energy strategy that was released Thursday, June 27, 2024. The strategy focuses on building an economy powered by clean energy, creating new jobs and opportunities, and keeping electricity affordable.

"We need more clean energy to power our homes, businesses and industries, to power a growing economy and to power our future," said Josie Osborne, minister of energy, mines and low carbon innovation. "British Columbians are up for the challenge. That's why we are providing new BC Hydro rebates for rooftop solar panels and battery storage so that more people across the province can generate electricity, save on their energy bills and help build a clean economy."

Eligible homeowners can receive BC Hydro rebates totalling as much as \$10,000 for installing a qualified solar photovoltaic (PV) system and battery-storage system together. BC Hydro will also be rolling out targeted rebates for apartment buildings, schools, community organizations, local governments, small businesses, social-housing provid-

ers and Indigenous communities, which could go up to \$50,000 to \$150,000 based on the individual customer.

The rebates will be available later in July.

In addition to helping BC Hydro customers save on their energy bills, adding more renewable generation and storage options helps strengthen the overall electricity system by reducing demand on the grid.

Providing solar rebates is part of Powering Our Future: B.C.'s Clean Energy Strategy, which outlines the actions government is taking to accelerate the shift to clean energy and create new opportunities for people and businesses throughout British Columbia, including:

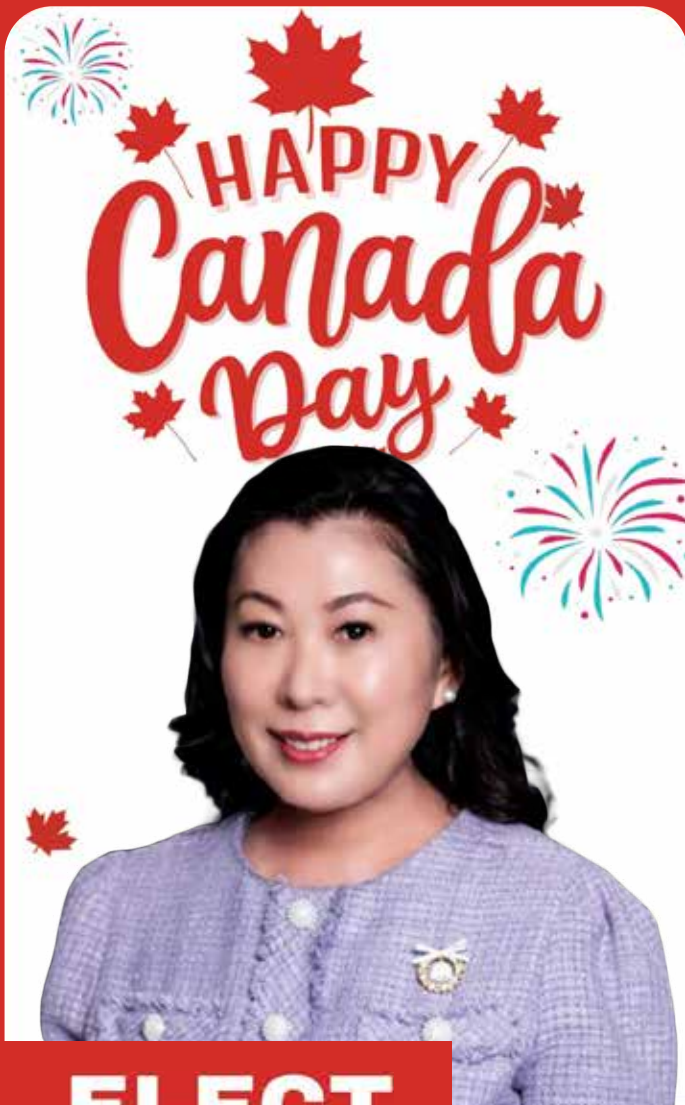
- investing more than \$700 million in BC Hydro energy-efficient programs over the next three years—a 60 per cent increase from BC Hydro's last energy-efficiency budget;
- streamlining upgrades and new customer connections to BC Hydro's electricity grid to support the construction of new housing;
- conducting regular, competitive calls for power every two years to ensure B.C. has clean electricity;
- increasing target for renewable fuels produced in B.C. to 1.5 billion litres per year by 2023;

"By ramping up B.C.'s production of clean energy and using it more efficiently, we can drive economic growth for communities all over the province and

ensure households, businesses and industries can power up with clean energy, from renewable electricity like wind and solar to biofuels, hydrogen and renewable natural gas," Osborne said. "This will not only help fight climate change that threatens our communities, it is one of the job-creation opportunities of our generation."

The strategy builds on activities already underway to meet the growing demand for affordable, clean energy and to get that energy to people and businesses when and where they need it. These include BC Hydro's current competitive call for power—the first in more than 15 years—and its updated 10-year capital plan, which include approximately \$40 billion in capital investments and will create as many as 14,000 construction jobs annually. The B.C. Hydrogen Strategy is also designed to attract investment in clean-hydrogen projects, such as HTEC's recently announced \$900-million H2 Gateway project to build a provincewide network of fuelling stations and production facilities.

To advance this strategy, government will engage with key stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples on implementation by identifying the priority objectives, actions and timelines that will ensure B.C. accelerates its production of affordable and reliable clean energy to support the Province's CleanBC, economic development and affordability goals.



ELECT

**YUAN,
WENDY**

RICHMOND CENTRE

BC UNITED

Authorized by Aaron Fedora, Financial Agent, 604-606-6000

A new mobile BC Service

A new mobile service centre is increasing access to government services for people who are unable to visit a Service BC office in person.

"We have heard from many that accessing government services can be challenging for a variety of reasons," said Lisa Beare, minister of citizens' services. "We're bringing government services to the people to help everyone access the government services they need, whether it's issuing ID to newcomers or supporting people who have been impacted by wildfires and floods."

The mobile service centre van is in addition to the 65 Service BC offices throughout the province. The van offers the majority of the 300 government services available in an office, including renewing drivers' licences and issuing BCID cards.

The Service BC van can be mobilized to provide additional supports to evacuation centres assisting people affected by a natural disaster, such as wildfire or flooding.

"This is a much-needed service for our community and surrounding communities," said Lenore Reid, community advocate, Heiltsuk Tribal Council. "We were able to book 78 local residents for BCIDs, BC Services Cards and vehicle licence renewals. We received calls of thanks from community members who were so happy to receive this service and we look forward to this continued service."

In another recent test run, the Service BC van staff received overwhelmingly positive feedback after helping a woman from a remote area obtain her first photo identification in 30 years. Providing people with easier access to photo ID can empower people attempting to move out of poverty, especially when securing housing and other supports.

"We believe that every citizen deserves access to government services that can improve their lives," said Vicki Kipps, executive director, Maple Ridge Community Services.

Province creates clearer pathways for workers coming to B.C.

The province is creating clearer pathways for international workers coming to B.C., making it harder for predatory recruiters and other bad actors to take advantage of people.

To do this, the province is updating the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) selection criteria to better reflect the level of education, experience and language skills that set people up for career success in British Columbia. These updates will lead to better outcomes for people and help them understand what is required to be nominated for permanent residency in Canada through the BC PNP.

The BC PNP is one of several pathways available to newcomers who want to build a good life in British Columbia. It is the province's only tool for directly selecting immigrants for permanent residency. The program helps identify people who will strengthen B.C.'s economy and prioritizes workers in health care, construction, early childhood education and other in-demand jobs.

The BC PNP is competitive, but some recruiters misrepresent it as an easy pathway to permanent residency. These updates will give people a better understanding of the education, experience and language skills that they need to be considered for nomination.

The program updates align with new measures to protect international students from predatory institutions and recruiters, such as:

- a new three-stream structure for graduates of bachelor's, master's and doctorate programs;
- increased language requirements for most streams; and
- continued prioritization for people who work in-demand jobs and bring economic benefit to B.C.

Richmond Stories: Everglade Development

In this edition of Richmond Stories, the *Richmond Sentinel* interviews three-time Georgie Award winning real estate development company Everglade Development to discuss their company's journey since the start of 2010.

Jim Gordon (JG): *Here in the Richmond Sentinel offices, our Richmond story spotlight is a wonderful company called Everglade Development. Joining us is Jack Ma (JM), the managing director, and Sam Chen (SC), the marketing manager. Let's start off with, Everglade was founded in 2016, a real estate development company based in Richmond. Jack I'll start with you, give our viewers a little insight into the company.*

JM: Thank you Jim, my partner and I founded Everglade Development in 2016. We started off in the construction in the early 2010's in single family development. Around 2016, we wanted to challenge ourselves, take advantage of the opportunity, as well as the market, and enter the multi-family sector. In 2017, we founded our very first project, a beautiful 12-unit boutique townhouse project in Richmond, on No.2 Road. Since then, that project helped us determine our foundation to grow. We've completed two projects in Richmond with more happening right now.

JG: *You talk about taking it to the next level, was that a major step to go from putting together individual homes to these townhouse complexes?*

JM: Absolutely, I think it was a major step, in terms of product type as it is different. When you're looking at single-family sectoral buildings, the construction, overall planning, and requirements of it is quite different than compared to multi-family. I think we were fortunate in terms of having that first project here in Richmond. The construct-ability is not that much bigger of a challenge. We managed it and we gained our experience and learned how to do it properly.

JG: *Sam, as the Marketing Manager, when do you come into the equation?*

SC: As the marketing manager of Everglade Development, is very unique because we are really picky with our projects. We look at a city, a plot of land that's available, and then first decide what type of building we're going to put on this assembled land. I actually start early with market research, to study the demographic occupying this community that we're going to be crafting. Is it going to be rental or is it going to be residential strata, and then plan the project's identity.

JG: *Jack, coming back to you, all they talk about in the news is housing, housing, housing, we need affordable, affordable, affordable. Do you see in eight, nine years, what you're looking to build changing as the government keeps stating, we need to build this and this? Has that changed what you are doing project-wise?*

JM: Meeting the needs of affordability is a very serious issue. As a company, that's part of this equation, we are a huge supporter in terms of addressing the affordability issue. I'm sure everybody in different levels of this business will have to find their ways of addressing it. Back to what Sam said earlier, in all of our projects, from the beginning is finding that right identity and understanding who our buyers are and what the end users are looking for. What can they afford, and let's not do anything out of their acceptance level.

JG: *Now it's time to get to the big awards—Everglade cleaned up. Modesty aside at the Georgie Awards, as you said Jack, you would have been happy to win one, nice acknowledgment, you won three; Best Project Identity, Best*



Photo courtesy Everglade Development
Everglade Development was recently awarded three Georgie Awards for their upcoming project; Oakhaus.

Advertising Campaign, and Best Corporate Project Website. Sam, talk about the experience and what this means to Everglade going forward.

SC: Winning these awards, meant a lot to us. It was actually our third year submitting for these awards. This year had been a very pivotal year for us because our Oakridge project on West 41st Avenue, OAKHAUS. As OAKHAUS was currently in the construction stage, we didn't qualify for the categories like the build awards like Best Kitchen, Best Suites. We submitted (our project) from an angle of protecting what the project is going to become. The Bauhaus Identity factor of it, how we present that information on the website and also on digital assets on social media, campaigns, advertisements, YouTube, things

like that. For us, it really is a reinforcing factor to continue doing what we do best, in that we're seeing success now in our advertising and early stages of delivering these homes to their homeowners, and we're very excited for what's to come when the residents move in later this year.

JG: *Jack, what does the future hold for Everglades, especially after winning these awards?*

JM: These awards have been extremely rewarding. We're a few months away from the completion of this project, to have not just one, but three Awards is recognition of what we have accomplished so far. We want to finish this project strong and deliver to the new homeowners in the next few months. In the future, we have about four more townhome projects in the Greater Vancouver area. We're creating homes in larger communities anywhere from 50 to 80 townhome products in one community and we're situating projects in transit-friendly areas, close to Skytrain stations and family friendly areas.

JG: *I would like to end on a positive note. Winning three awards is a huge accomplishment. I know you never went looking for press, but I wanted to bring up that your company were also involved in a really wonderful campaign with Richmond Hospital. Can you elaborate a little on your community work?*

JM: It goes back to the very first project we were doing. I remember that was when we first brought that project to the market, January of 2020. March comes around, and that's when this craziness started happening COVID-19. By April or May we realized this is the single largest issue and problem we've seen in our world, in our time. My partners and I, and my other colleagues, decided to do our part.

My partner was one of the first to reach out to the Richmond Hospital. We determined this is the direction we can actually play a part to make a difference. We set a target to raise \$100,000 to go towards Richmond Hospital to purchase equipment. We started a GoFundMe page, did a full launch campaign for about a month, went to all our own friends, family, and the entire community and received so much support. In the end we put together \$55,000, that we brought to the Richmond Hospital. It was extremely rewarding and we're looking forward to do more.

JG: *Sam, for those interested in finding out more information on Everglade, where can they go?*

SC: They can follow us at Everglade Development on Instagram, and also visit our website everglade.ca

For the full video interview, visit richmondsentinel.ca/videos

OUR CITY *tonight*

SPOTLIGHT ON
A SUMMER WINE,
TREATS AND A FILM



Photo courtesy Dream Wines

THE SUMMER SIP – *Astrolabe Sauvignon Blanc 2022*

We were in need of a delicious white wine, perfect for that evening (or afternoon) on a patio with friends. We turned to one of our 'wine experts', Tim Arnold, BC account manager for Dream Wines. His suggestion: Astrolabe Sauvignon Blanc 2022, from the Marlborough region in New Zealand. "This Sauvignon Blanc checks all the right boxes," Arnold tells us, "fresh and vibrant with loads of complexity, and full of flavour, ready to drink." As we enjoy a sip of this perfect wine for summer, Arnold tell us that Wine Spectator recently awarded Astrolabe #15 from the *Top 100 Wines From Around the World*. What about food pairings? There are many options that go perfectly with the Astrolabe Sauvignon Blanc. "Cheese is a true match made in heaven with this wine," Arnold says, "especially a goat cheese, Brie, Fontina or Gouda." He also recommends pairings with shellfish, oysters, clams, spot prawns, lobster, crab, or scallops. "And try drinking Astrolabe the next time you eat sushi," he tells us, "as this Sauvignon Blanc makes for a gentle pairing for fresh sushi rolls with white fish, shrimp tempura and vegetable rolls." The best news about this superb wine, it's very reasonably priced. dreamwines.ca

THE SUMMER VIEW – *Brats*

If you came of age during that wonderful, crazy decade of the 1980's, the term, *Brat Pack*, may conjure up memories of iconic movies like *St. Elmo's Fire*, *Pretty in Pink* and *The Breakfast Club*, and with it, a group of young actors who helped shape and define that era. Now, many decades later, comes a new documentary called *Brats*, directed by one of those young actors, Andrew McCarthy. The film examines (and also re-unites) McCarthy with his fellow *Brat Packers* including Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Ally Sheedy, Emilio Estevez, Jon Cryer, Lea Thompson, and Timothy Hutton to talk about what it meant to be part of this group of talented group of actors-movie stars. *Brats* is available for home viewing on disney.com and hulu.com



Photo courtesy Disney+

THE SUMMER TREAT – *Oenome! Chocolates*

One of the things we like about doing our TV show (and writing these accompanying articles) is discovering and showcasing young entrepreneurs and their success. Melody Hu studied Molecular Neuroscience, Behavioural Neuroscience and Brain Anatomy at the University of British Columbia and graduated with a BSc. In 2020, she created Oenome! Chocolates, which specializes in high-quality, organic, and low-sugar treats. Hu combined her science background with a passion for desserts, and in doing so, developed phenomenally tasty chocolates with low sugar and no unhealthy fats. "We craft our chocolates using only natural, minimally processed ingredients such as tea, spices, nuts, and freeze-dried fruits packed with minerals, essential amino acids, and vitamins," Hu tells us, "and these good ingredients allow our bars to offer a lingering flavour that develop into fragrances and aromas, far more enjoyable than chemical or artificial flavours." Oenome! uses high-quality chocolates made of 100 per cent cacao and real cocoa butter (and fair-traded chocolates which support small cocoa farmers in Peru). All their artisan chocolates are made fresh, without refined or inverted sugar, syrup, and no lecithin or other emulsifiers. oenome!chocolate.com



Photo courtesy Melody Hu

Award-winning journalist shares travel experience

Steve Burgess is a Vancouver-based writer and a broadcaster, whose honours include two Canadian national magazine awards. He's also a contributing editor for the *Tyee*. He is an award-winning documentary director and the author of a brand-new book called *Reservations, the Pleasures and the Perils of Travel*.

OCT: Congratulations on the new book and ironically, we read it while travelling this past week. It's a great collection of your thoughts and your experiences. Please let our readers have a little sample of what they can expect in this book because you have really encapsulated about 25 years' worth of travel and stories.

SB: The funny thing is, that I dedicated the book to David Beers, who is the founder of the *Tyee*. To understand how the book turned out, you have to also understand the fights that Dave and I had when I told him I wanted to write a travel book. I just thought that I'm going to tell stories, but Dave was saying that I had to make it more than that. Of course, I resisted and kindly kicked back but what he was saying is I have got to add a journalistic element. He told me I had to delve into bigger issues. So, I reluctantly took his advice and what the book turned out to be is a combination of stories from my travels but all of the stories jump off into discussions of the issues that face the travel and tourism industry right now.

OCT: One of the things we found in your book is this discussion on sustainability and the balance between the environment and people wanting to see everything. It's not as easy to fix as people seem to think, is it?

SB: The thing is, if someone's going to Rome, you can't tell them don't go to the Colosseum because it's too crowded. We know that you have to go to the Colosseum, but the thing is I think if you can get beyond that you're going to have a richer experience. Sure, go to the Colosseum and the fountains then wander the streets and find the small little joys and the hidden treasures because there's so many of them in Rome.

When you think about Japan, something like 98 per cent of the tourists go on what's called the Golden Route which is Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and



Photo courtesy Steve Burgess

Steve Burgess is travelling to promote his new book.

also Mount Fuji. There are a lot of other places to see in northern Japan that are begging for tourists and where the people appreciate your business. I went to a little town called Miyama where they have these beautiful, thatched cottages and it's so quiet. When you think of Tokyo, you think of hyper urban. This place is as quiet as a library and it's beautiful plus they need the tourism to keep the town growing. So, there are places like that you can find.

OCT: It's interesting too because I was telling you that only 48 hours ago, I was in one of my favourite towns in Mexico and I hadn't been there in five years and it was overwhelming with an explosion of people. I could see other towns on their way to becoming that as well just like you talk about. One thing I love in your book is why you travel. You talk about that little place in Japan, where they've got a giant statue of Buddha thinking this would draw tourism and it didn't, so it's not always—build it and they will come.

SB: Not only that and I love this about this little town, it was a surreal experience for me because I was just on a little putt-putt train going to a town called Ferano and I looked over and saw this thing that was like a gleaming vision of a giant Buddhist Statue of Liberty in the middle of nowhere and then the train moved on. I found out later that there was a number of them that were built throughout Japan, and it turned out to be a flop.

The other thing I found out about this town was their previous attempt to draw tourists was something called Canadian World. So, what would you imagine Canadian World to be, maybe a bunch of guys riding around with a Stanley Cup...or a bunch of provincial premiers complaining about healthcare funding? No, it was actually and specifically Anne of Green Gables World. They called it Canadian world, but it was really Anne of Green Gables which is hugely popular in Japan.

OCT: We love Italy, and you mention it in your book about the hotel you always stay at and you are doing what you tell people to do is to just get out there and find great spots. Walk the streets and explore. Your love affair with Italy goes way back and it helped you with your fashion you said too.

SB: Absolutely, originally there was more in the book about that, but I decided to dial it back. I realized it might not be a great topic to have an epiphany about, but I had one of those moments in life where I had an epiphany.

It was on my first visit to Rome, and I was in a T-shirt and the little shorts with the backpack, and I just might as well have had a big sign saying Tourist. I was looking around at all these other people, and I was feeling ashamed. I was sitting in a café, and I saw these two young Italian men crossing the square. As I looked up, I saw what they were wearing, and I didn't realize it at the time, but I was imprinting on them like a baby gosling imprinting on his mother.

After that, I realized what those guys were to me was a role model. I thought that's what I want to be. I want to look like that. It's not simple and it's not complicated. Sure, it's not the deepest thing to have an epiphany about, but that was one of those moments where it just changed my life.

OCT: Steve, this is such a great read, and we really enjoyed it. And as we said earlier, if you travel, this is a book you want to read. And we should give the readers a little tease here. There's also a romance that weaves throughout this whole book. And that's all we're going to say.

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



RICHMOND SENTINEL SPONSORS

OUR CITY TONIGHT
JIM GORDON & LEETA LIEPINS

airing on CHEK TV Sundays Novus Entertainment

at 10:30 DAILY



OUR CITY TONIGHT



RICHMOND'S NEWEST SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY



Independent Living, Assisted Living and
Full Care Suites available

MOVE IN TODAY!

Call our Sales & Leasing Team at
604.214.5700 or sales@hhsr.ca

Exceptional Senior Living

hhsr.ca
23100 Garripie Avenue, Richmond B.C. V6V 0B9