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**Company donates
medical helicopter**

08

Photo courtesy Helijet

Helijet, HQ in Richmond donated a medically equipped helicopter to Ukraine and they trained 2 Ukraine pilots and 2 engineers.



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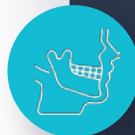
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Ideas welcomed for Hugh Boyd Parkplayground

The City of Richmond is beginning the process of renewing the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground and is seeking input from Richmond residents. The public is invited to attend one of two drop-in style open houses or complete an online feedback form to share ideas and learn more about the planning process.

The open house sessions will include activities for all ages, information boards, refreshments and more. Parks department staff will be in attendance to answer questions.

The open house will take place at West Richmond Community Centre

located at 9180 No. 1 Road on:

- Saturday, March 1 from 9 to 11 a.m.

The public may also visit LetsTalkRichmond.ca/HughBoyd Playground to view the information boards and complete an online survey. The deadline to submit feedback is 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 9.

Feedback gathered will help shape the development of a concept plan for the playground's renewal. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

For more information, call the city's Parks Department at 604-244-1208.



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The public is invited to share ideas and feedback on the renewal of the Hugh Boyd Community Park playground.

Applications for Major Projects Oversight Committee

The City of Richmond is accepting applications for the newly established Major Projects Oversight Committee. Individuals with executive expertise in capital project management, construction, finance, engineering, law, or related fields are strongly encouraged to apply by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

The city will continue its rigorous processes and comprehensive approach for managing major capital construction projects, ensuring compliance with deliverables, budget, and schedule. The committee will function in an advisory capacity, offering independent advice and feedback throughout the design, development and construction milestones of the city's major capital projects exceeding \$50 million.

In addition, the new committee will strengthen existing oversights and enhance evaluations of value for money, adopting industry-leading best practices while ensuring alignment with council-approved project goals. With multiple layers of transparency and control already in place, this comprehensive approach will ensure even more successful, on-time, and on-budget project delivery.

The committee will comprise up to five subject matter experts. Additionally, council may appoint a council liaison, and the director of facilities and project development will serve as the staff liaison.

Appointments will be for a two-year term, with quarterly in-person meetings at Richmond City Hall. Subject matter expert committee members will be remunerated \$500 for each meeting attended.

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their resume and cover letter by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 by:

- email to cityclerks@richmond.ca, or
- mail/drop-off at Richmond City Hall, Attention City Clerk's Office, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC, V6Y 2C1.

All applicants will be contacted in due course, once the selection process has concluded.

For more details visit richmond.ca/city-hall/city-council/boards/oversight.htm. Please direct questions to the Project Development department at projectdevelopment@richmond.ca or call 604-247-4936.

Children learn about empathy and inclusion

Students at Renaissance Kids daycare in Richmond got a hands-on lesson connected to the Invictus Games earlier this week.

The Invictus Games, which took place this year in Vancouver and Whistler from Feb. 8 to 16, biennially bring together 550 wounded, injured, and sick military service personnel. The Games were first held in 2014 and founded by Prince Harry with the goal of demonstrating athletes' post-injury capability.

At Renaissance Kids, a familiar obstacle course activity got a twist: students wore sunglasses or covered their hands with fuzzy socks to complete the course with one of their five senses altered. After completing the course, they discussed how it felt different and perhaps more difficult than before. Through this activity, children got a glimpse of what it could feel like to compete in a sport as an athlete



Photo courtesy Renaissance Kids

Daycare students took part in a unique obstacle course to learn about the Invictus Games.

with an injury or physical disability.

In addition to the obstacle course, the school's seven junior kindergarten classes also took part in an Invictus Games-themed circle time activity, craft, and language arts lesson. The immersive lesson helped students learn about empathy and determination through recognition of the Invictus Games and its mission.

"We felt it was important for our students to learn about the Invictus Games, as it brought a real-world event into the classroom that highlights inclusion, overcoming adversity, and camaraderie through sport," said Renaissance Kids education and operations specialist Karen Proulx. "The children gained insight into the Games through fun, hands-on activities such as running adaptive obstacle courses and creating their own medals, which was lots of fun."

Support Pink Shirt Day by wearing pink on Feb. 26

The City of Richmond, Richmond School District No. 38, Richmond Fire-Rescue, Richmond RCMP and Richmond Public Library are inviting everyone to wear pink on Wednesday, Feb. 26 in recognition of Pink Shirt Day, to help promote kindness and raise awareness against bullying.

Pink Shirt Day activities taking place in the community on and around Feb. 26 include:

- An effects of bullying installation at Cambie Community Centre
- Anti-bullying bulletin boards at South Arm Community Centre
- Anti-bullying sessions and fun activities at City Centre Community Centre
- Pink Shirt Day book displays at all four Richmond Public Library branches
- Richmond Fire-Rescue duty crews wearing pink epaulettes on their uniforms
- Encouragement by School District No. 38 for schools to access online resources, including Pink Shirt Day and SOGI123 websites
- Richmond-RCMP Community Engagement Team, including the Youth Section, visiting schools throughout Richmond.

For a listing of Pink Shirt Day activities and initiatives, check out richmond.ca/PinkShirtDay.

About Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day originated in 2007 when Travis Price and David Shepherd, two high school students from Nova Scotia, learned a Grade 9 student had been bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. Shortly after, both students



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The City of Richmond supports the upcoming Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday Feb. 26. (Left to right): Councillors Michael Wolfe, Bill McNulty, Alexa Loo; Mayor Malcolm Brodie; Councillors Carol Day and Andy Hobbs.

distributed pink shirts to their fellow students in solidarity. This act of kindness sparked what is now known as Pink Shirt Day—an international anti-bullying movement.

City revokes proposed supportive housing project



Photo via letstalkhousingbc.ca

The City of Richmond has revoked plans for a 90-unit supportive housing project.

Richmond City Council has advised the provincial government that it has revoked plans for a 90-unit supportive housing project proposed for the city-owned Cambie Road and Sexsmith Road site in Richmond.

The decision to end the government-funded project follows a recent announcement by the Minister of Housing to relaunch the project after placing it on hold prior to the last provincial election while it examined alternative locations.

"Council heard loud and clear from the community that it had concerns with this location and that the provincial government alarmed residents when it suspended the process before reinstating it," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie, alongside members of council.

"While we need projects to support our residents, we must also listen to, and respect, community wishes," he said. "Any permanent support-

ive housing location should meet the needs of both residents and the community. Government failed to do this by simply relaunching the project in a location that would clearly no longer have community support."

Brodie pointed to the lack of transparency about five other possible sites government apparently reviewed prior to returning to the Cambie/Sexsmith location. "Neither council nor city staff have been told the location of those five sites, nor how they were supposedly evaluated," said Brodie.

The proposed government-funded project, led by BC Housing on city-owned land, would have provided 90 units of permanent supportive housing for those currently residing in two temporary supportive housing buildings, Alderbridge and Aster Place. Those facilities are also funded by BC Housing with leases expiring in late 2027.

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In honour of our soldiers: Lewis Ord Riddell Tucker

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

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

Lewis Ord Riddell Tucker was born on July 19, 1906 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, along his life's journey he would find himself living in the Steveston area, working as an oil salesman with the marine Imperial Oil Agency. Prior to working as an oil salesman, Tucker was also a professional soldier, he joined the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada at the age of 21 on Jan. 12, 1928. His hardworking and dedication would see him rise to the rank of Sergeant.

On September 8, 1939, Tucker would re-enlist into the army, immediately gaining the rank of provisional Company Sergeant Major. His journey would see him reach Aldershot, England in January 1940. A month before his two year anniversary in England, Tucker was admitted to the 15th General Hospital in Bramshott for a week in December 1941. After recovering, Tucker would return to his duties and be given the rank of Lieutenant on March 5, 1942. A month later, he would be married to Lieutenant Eleanor Margaret James who was a nursing sister at the hospital he had spent time in.

Tucker would take on the role of instructor at the officer training course on Oct. 21, 1942. Just three days later, tragedy would strike. During a live mortar training session that saw Lieutenant Tucker in charge of 15 men, each soldier was tasked with loading and firing a high explosive bomb. After approximately 10 rounds had been fired, an unusually loud explosion would go off, wounding the Lieutenant.

It was discovered that the previous mortar had failed to go off and had to be



Screen grab from Google Maps

A poppy engraved street sign of Tucker Avenue.

removed, but the reason for the explosion remains unclear till this day.

Injured from the explosion, the lieutenant was taken to the 15th General Hospital, succumbing to his injuries one day later. He would be buried at Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey England.

He was survived by his wife, Eleanor Margaret James, and his mother, Gertrude Mary Jarvis from Steveston.

On Feb. 4, 1946, the Richmond city council, made the decision to adopt a road name after Lieutenant Lewis Ord Tucker. Tucker avenue can be found in West Richmond near the intersection of No 1 Road and Granville Avenue.

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Laws you didn't know existed

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

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

With all the chaos and hate going on around the world, we wanted to bring back some fun in the world of news. Inspired by a fellow colleague, the *Richmond Sentinel* presents a new 13-part series that explores a few of the most ridiculous sounding laws and bylaws that each province and territory had enforced.

Starting off the series, it is only right that we begin with the Province of British Columbia. Some city bylaws in past history include the prohibition of kite flying, snowball fights, tree climbing and many more.

1. In the township of Esquimalt, BC, an old law that was present before it was repealed at the time was the prohibition of snowball fights in certain areas. The prohibition in city limits was due to the fear of potential injuries and potential property damage. (BC Magazine)

2. In Victoria, British Columbia, an old bylaws that was in effect is that it is unlawful to ride a horse on the sidewalk. These two bylaws date back to the late 19th or early 20th century when horses were a common method of transportation. During that time, the prohibition of riding on side walks was made to ensure pedestrians were safe and to maintain order in urban areas. It was also around the time that horse-drawn carriages and wagons began the method of transportation. (Daily Hive)

3. Vancouver has a few bylaws or laws that just sound absurd. Starting with a bylaw involving the trees in public parks, climbing trees in public parks are prohibited. Like all previous bylaws, this bylaw originated in the early 20th century, in an attempt to prevent damage to trees and protect urban greenery. To this day, it is still a present bylaw but not enforced. (City of Vancouver, 2009)

4. From 1947 to 1986, the City of Vancouver made it illegal to sell stoves on Wednesdays within city limits. The theoretical reason behind this bylaw was an attempt to control the sale of certain goods post-World War II. (BC Magazine)

5. A couple of bylaws in the City of Vancouver that appear to be common sense are the prohibition of slingshots and the prohibition of leaving your car unlocked. Both these mid-20th century bylaws were introduced to ensure public safety, as well as prevent property damage and theft. (City of North Vancouver, 1984)

6. In the City of Kelowna, in order to preserve the safety and use of public spaces dumping snow on public property is prohibited in urban areas. (City of Kelowna)



Image generated by AI

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

Moving onto some more provincial laws that date back to the 19th century, we look at the wearing a mask in public, disturbing weddings or funerals, and the use of profanity.

7. Starting with a law that ensures the safety of its users in the Province of British Columbia, painting a wooden ladder is illegal according to the Workers Compensation Act of British Columbia. The reason behind this law is that painting a wooden ladder could hide potential cracks which could lead to unsafe use. Users are encouraged to use a transparent protective coating instead that reinforces the wooden ladder and allows for proper inspection. (BC Laws)

8. Another provincial law that does not sound true is disturbing a wedding or funeral. According to the Provincial Criminal Code of Canada, it is illegal to willfully disturb a religious or lawful assembly, which includes weddings and funerals. Dat-

ing back to the late 19th century, the law was introduced to reflect societal values of respect and maintain public order. This law does come as a bit of a surprise as some weddings include the portion where the officiant asks the audience if the two should not be wed. Although that phrase is not mandatory, should an audience member object in a disruptive manner, this could be seen as willfully disturbing a religious assembly. (Criminal Code, 1985)

9. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, wearing masks was not seen as the norm when one had fallen sick. Did you know, that in the early 20th century, there was a law that prohibited the wearing of mask in public without permission? This law can be found under the Criminal Code addressing disguise with intent, stating that "anyone who, with intent to commit an indictable offence, wears a mask or disguise is guilty of an indictable offence and liable for up to ten years". (Criminal Code, 1985)

10. As time has gone on, the use of profanity has increased and become normalized in today's society. In the late 19th and early 20th century however, the use of profanity was not as accepted due to the conservative values. The Province of British Columbia at one point had a law that prohibited the use of public swearing in order to uphold community standards of decency. Although this law is no longer enforced, it is still upheld to a certain degree and states that "anyone who, not being in a dwelling-house, causes a disturbance in or near a public place, by fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing or using insulting or obscene language". (Criminal Code, 1985)

Who would have thought something as fun as a snowball fight or climbing a tree would be considered illegal at one point. If you think that we missed an interesting law feel free to send us an email at newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca or comment under one of our social media accounts. Next edition, we will visit the peculiar laws in Alberta.



Photo courtesy Gateway Theatre
Gateway Theatre is celebrating its 40th anniversary of story telling and community connection in Richmond with a dynamic lineup of events on March 8, 2025.

Gateway Theatre celebrates 40 years of story telling

For four decades, Gateway Theatre has been the heart of performing arts in Richmond, bringing stories to life and fostering a deep connection with the community. As the company celebrates its 40th anniversary, Gateway Theatre is marking this milestone with a dynamic lineup of events, including a special edition of *The Flame: Anniversary Edition* storytelling showcase and *Ruby Reflections: 40th Anniversary Gala*—both taking place on March 8, 2025.

"Gateway Theatre has been an integral part of Richmond's cultural landscape for 40 years, providing a space where stories are shared, voices are heard, and creativity flourishes," says Barbara Tomasic, Gateway Theatre's artistic executive director. "This anniversary is not just about celebrating our history—it's about looking ahead to an exciting future of theatre in our community."

1. *The Flame: Anniversary Edition*

Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in Studio B, Gateway Theatre
Pay-What-You-Will

On March 8, 2025, Gateway Theatre hosts *The Flame: Anniversary Edition*, a captivating storytelling event featuring true personal stories told live on stage. This special anniversary edition of *The Flame* will highlight inspiring and heartfelt tales hosted by Deborah Williams, award-winning actor and one of the creators of *Mom's the Word*. Reflecting on the experiences that have shaped both individuals and the community, *The Flame* features "true stories told by the people who lived them." Audiences can expect an afternoon of laughter, nostalgia, and powerful storytelling that embodies Gateway's legacy of fostering meaningful connections through the arts. Early booking is encouraged as the 2024 performance sold out.

2. *Ruby Reflections: 40th Anniversary Gala*

Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. doors open with the performance beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Gateway Theatre,

\$140 per person (includes a tax receipt for \$90)

Gateway Theatre will host its *Ruby Reflections: 40th Anniversary Fundraising Gala*, an unforgettable evening of elegance, entertainment, and celebration. The *Ruby Reflections* gala will be an evening that celebrates Gateway's rich history of inspiring stories, artistic excellence, and community connection. On this special night, raise a glass to the remarkable talent that has graced the stage at Gateway and the passionate supporters who have made it all possible. The evening will begin with a special edition of *The Flame* on the Mainstage that includes stories and songs by former performers Josh Epstein, Jason Sakaki, Tiana Jung, Beverley Elliot, Barbara Tomasic and many more. This will be followed by a catered cocktail reception where we celebrate supporters and artists, reflecting on four decades of transformative theatre. Funds from this evening and our silent auction will go towards our wonderful season and support our programs for emerging artists including the launch of the Gateway Theatre Artistic Development Program.

Since opening its doors in 1984, Gateway Theatre has been a hub for artistic excellence, education, and cultural enrichment in Richmond. From producing

beloved plays and musicals to providing educational opportunities for young artists, Gateway has continuously evolved to meet the needs of its diverse and growing community. Over the past four decades, thousands of performers, creators, and audiences have walked through its doors, making it a cherished institution in the local and national arts scene.

Adds Tomasic, "As we celebrate 40 years, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of Gateway's journey—our artists, audiences, volunteers, and donors. Four decades of passion and support have allowed us to thrive, and we look forward to the next chapter of storytelling at Gateway."

For more details on the 40th anniversary celebrations and upcoming productions, visit gatewaytheatre.com

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**PROUD TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF
RICHMOND CENTRE**

Helijet donates medical helicopter to Ukraine

Helijet International is donating a fully operational, medically equipped helicopter from its fleet to be used for missions of mercy in Ukraine. Helijet has signed an agreement with a consortium of Canadian and Ukrainian non-governmental organizations Maple Hope Foundation, the Ukrainian World Congress, and Initiative E+ to accept the delivery and title of a Sikorsky S-76A air ambulance helicopter. Together, the three organizations have been working with Helijet over the span of eight months to arrange the shipment of the aircraft to Ukraine.

The Sikorsky S-76A is a fully equipped air medical helicopter that Helijet had previously provided under contract to the Ministry of Health for patient transport in B.C. The aircraft has now been recently removed from that service but still has years of flight capability remaining. The gift is made on condition that the helicopter is used solely for non-commercial, humanitarian, and medical evacuation missions to airlift individuals in need of urgent medical care to hospitals in Ukraine.

In November, Helijet and the Vancouver-based Maple Hope Foundation hosted two pilots and two engineers from Ukraine who came here to receive flight, maintenance and deployment training for the helicopter at Helijet's Richmond, B.C. base of operations. To assist in the shipment of the helicopter, the Maple Hope Foundation also launched a national online crowdfunding campaign that allowed Ukrainians from across Canada join the mission of delivering this life-saving helicopter. The campaign raised \$101,530 in three weeks from more than 730 donors.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, that began in February 2022, Helijet has also been providing relief assistance on other fronts including facilitating the staging of medical supply shipments coordinated and secured by Maple Hope Foundation bound for Ukraine at its Richmond hangar. Helijet president Danny Sitnam and his family opened their home in April of 2022 and supported a family of three, fleeing from the Ukraine until they could find a home of their own in Vancouver.

"We've since become great friends with this family," said Sitnam. "Supporting them was just the start of a commitment we made at Helijet to help Maple Hope Foundation as the unrelenting struggle with Russia continues for the people of Ukraine."

"This project represents the culmination of a deeply meaningful partnership between Helijet and our organization, one that began during a time of crisis. When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and displaced Ukrainians began arriving in Canada in unprecedented numbers, Danny Sitnam and his family were among the first to extend a helping hand. Since that moment, Danny and the entire Helijet team have been unwavering in their support of Maple Hope's relief efforts for Ukraine. Helijet's donation of the Sikorsky S-76 medevac helicopter is not only extraordinarily generous, but also historically



Photo courtesy Helijet International

From left to right: Danny Sitnam, Helijet chief executive officer; Svitlana Kominko, co-founder and chief executive officer of Maple Hope Foundation; Andrew Potichnyj, director at Unite with Ukraine.

significant, demonstrating the resolve of Canadians united in support for Ukraine during the third year of the full-scale invasion—not through words, but bold, transformative actions that will directly save lives".

—Svitlana Kominko, chief executive officer, Maple Hope Foundation

"The incredible donation of the Sikorsky S-76A medevac helicopter by Helijet is a powerful testament to the unbreakable bond and unwavering support from Ukraine's allies in Canada. This life-saving air ambulance will be a game-changer, delivering critical medical aid to those suffering in the war-torn regions of Ukraine. On behalf of the Ukrainian World Congress, I extend my deepest gratitude to Danny Sitnam and the entire Helijet team for their heroic commitment to aiding the people of Ukraine during these challenging times. We also owe immense thanks to the Maple Hope Foundation for their relentless dedication to making this collaboration possible. Together, we are not

just saving lives; we are igniting hope and making a monumental impact."

—Paul Grod, president, Ukrainian World Congress

COMING FULL CIRCLE: A MEDEVAC HELICOPTER WITH UKRAINIAN ROOTS

Appropriately enough, the Sikorsky S-76A donated is a product of U.S. based Sikorsky Aircraft founded a century ago by Kyiv-born helicopter inventor Igor Sikorsky shortly after he emigrated to the United States.

His son Sergei Sikorsky also worked for the company during his long career in aviation and today carries on the family's aviation legacy. "When my father and his company developed this aircraft, I'm sure he never would have predicted that the people of Ukraine, who now find life very difficult, would benefit decades later from his genius and expertise. The Sikorsky name has been synonymous with helicopter innovation for 100 years and now will be part of this generous effort that comes full circle to help today's generation in his very own homeland."



Photo courtesy Pace Group Communications

Helijet is donating a Sikorsky S-76A medevac helicopter to people of Ukraine to transport victims injured in war with Russia.

Richmond Sockeyes focused on winning

By STEVE ERICKSON
Contributing writer

2024 - 2025 Season Wrap Up

The Sockeyes wrapped up January playing eight games both home and away outscoring their opposition by a 31-29 margin as they head into the final stretch of the regular season focused on the upcoming playoffs.

All teams in the PJHL played 48 games that saw the Sockeyes finish with an impressive record of 32 wins, 11 losses, 3 overtime losses, 2 shootout losses while recording a commanding 244 goals for and 137 against.

It's the time of the season that given where they sit in the standings head coach Cullen Revel can manage the roster to "sit out" the odd player that allows him to dress extra players who fill roster slots. In doing so it allows Cullen and staff to evaluate or rather watch the growth of future players who are focused on "cracking" the roster for the upcoming season.

The Sockeyes continued their involvement with various teams, clubs and organizations within the city offering them the opportunity to embrace a "Sockeyes night" welcoming them to the organization.

In conversation with various individuals and organizations they continue to tell me "they are extremely impressed with not only the on-ice product of the Sockeyes but also the professional manner in which they deal with all organizations."

The Alumni

January saw the return of the Alumni Game that saw an impressive crowd on hand to take in the fun festivities in addition to watching the talent from former Alumni players as well as the current roster. Reaching out means literally that they attended the Minoru Centre for Active Living where the clinics offers in-person information on a wide range of programs, services and supports specifically for



Photos courtesy of Richmond Sockeyes
Sockeye players on the ice and community work.

those 55+ years that live in Richmond.

In addition, they also had a special night focused on working with the BC Special Olympics with proceeds going to the program as the Tunnel Series returned with the Delta Ice Hawks focused on pulling out a win.

All Star Game

The Sockeyes were elated to send players to the PJHL All-Star game hosted by the Port Coquitlam Trailblazers that saw all players live up to all expectations as to why they were named to the roster.

Wrap Up

With the regular season wrapping up the Sockeyes finished the regular season on February 5, hosting to the Coastal Tsunami that saw them easily dismantle the Tsunami pulling off an impressive 8-1 win.

They dominated the Tsunami, outshooting the visitors by an impressive 46-24 margin that saw

Alex Kielmann named the game's first star, Nicholas Noren second star and Caleb Cruz the game's third star.

2025 Playoffs

With the playoffs around the corner the match-up would see them face-off against the White Rock Whalers that saw them dominate game one pulling out a commanding 7-2 win.

Game two of the best of seven series saw them return home that saw a close, tight-checking game that saw the game tied after one with the Whalers getting the game's first goal only to have Nicholas Kolb getting the tying goal 2:09 later.

The game remained tied until the third when William Huo got his first giving the Sockeyes a 2-1 lead in a contest that saw the Whalers pull their "tender" in the late stage of the third that saw William Huo get his second of the game and the clinching game winning goal. "As of February 21, the Sockeyes held a 2-1 series lead against the White Rock Whalers.

Catch exciting Sockeyes PJHL Playoff Hockey at the Minoru Arena; commonly known to those in the hockey world as the "Fish Tank"

A message to the community of Richmond

By FLORENCE GORDON
Contributing writer

You don't have to know the rules of the game, to be won over by the Richmond Sockeyes' hockey team. Fans pay a lot of money for tickets to an NHL game when we've got great hockey in our backyard (Minoru Arena). I grew up around hockey and I can't believe how fast and how skilled these players are. Sure it's their dream one day to be drafted by an NHL team but when a group of young men age 16 to 20 come together and work as hard as they do on the ice, it's exhausting just to watch.

Many are still in school so they have a heavy load with academics, practice, training and game night which by the way, they also volunteer to help out in our community. Some players are away from their home and family during hockey season and billeted which makes it challenging to stay so dedicated and responsible.

On Monday night, a group of us attended game two of the playoffs, and my friends who played a lot of sports, were blown away at how fast and aggressive the game was—they will be back to support them. Recently I had the opportunity to review testimonials from former Sockeye players, some of whom have gone on to play for the NHL. Every one of them praised the Sockeye organization for treating them like a family, for supporting a scholarship fund and ensuring the players have medical, dental, physio and nutritional support.

There's just one ingredient missing. Without the fans to cheer them on it's really tough. Since the Richmond Sentinel got involved as a sponsor we really have seen first hand what a great night of entertainment for only \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students and children under age six free.

Please come out and cheer them on throughout the playoffs. Every Thursday night at Minoru Arena 7:30 p.m.—you won't be disappointed.

In their own words...

Support local. Buy local.



Chak Au
Councillor

As trade tensions continue between Canada and the United States, municipalities across British Columbia are re-examining their procurement policies to ensure local businesses remain competitive and resilient.

While free trade agreements have required Canadian cities to open their markets to international suppliers, recent developments have prompted questions about whether municipalities should prioritize local procurement to support Canadian industries.

We cannot ignore the impact of U.S. tariffs and the broader economic implications for local businesses. Many Canadian companies face increased costs, supply chain disruptions, and economic uncertainty due to shifting trade policies. In response, several B.C. municipalities—including Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Victoria, Delta, and Maple Ridge—have taken steps to review or adjust their procurement policies to strengthen their local economies.

A Growing Municipal Movement

Vancouver launched a review of

procurement practices to ensure more municipal dollars support Canadian suppliers. Similarly, Surrey recently cancelled a proposed contract with a U.S.-based company in favor of working with local businesses. Others have taken steps to reassess their purchasing strategies, recognizing that investing in Canadian businesses helps sustain jobs and economic stability.

Maple Ridge initiated a comprehensive review of its procurement policies to explore ways to prioritize Canadian-made goods and services. This move reflects a growing understanding that municipalities play a key role in reinforcing economic resilience at the local level.

Why Local Procurement Matters

Supporting Canadian and local suppliers is not just a response to trade tensions—it strengthens our economy. By keeping procurement dollars within Canada, we can:

- Support local businesses and jobs: Choosing local suppliers creates employment opportunities and strengthens small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Reduce economic vulnerability: Dependence on foreign suppliers leaves cities exposed to trade disruptions and supply chain instability.
- Align with sustainability goals: Sourcing products and services locally reduces transportation emissions and supports



environmental sustainability.

- Promote economic fairness: Foreign protectionist policies remind us of the need to ensure fairness in our own procurement decisions.

Looking Ahead

Richmond is not blind to this economic challenge and opportunity. Around 75 per cent of City contracts are already locally sourced, and Council recently endorsed a review of procurement practices to reinforce that approach.

We also supported initiatives to promote buying local, and will strengthen efforts to build awareness of our many local businesses and where to find them and their products.

Council's actions and the broader conversation around procurement highlights the importance of economic resilience in a shifting global landscape. Cities can play a critical role in strengthening Canada's economy. With increasing momentum across B.C., the time to explore these options and buy local has never been more relevant.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

The City of Richmond Council and Committee Meetings are available online. Watch live or view previous meetings by visiting richmond.ca/WatchOnline.

For further information, meeting schedules and assistance in participating either virtually or in person, please visit richmond.ca/CityHall or contact the City Clerk's Office at 604-276-4007 or CityClerk@richmond.ca.

Feb 25 | 4:00pm
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

Feb 26 | 3:30pm
Development Permit Panel

Mar 3 | 4:00pm
General Purposes Committee followed by Finance Committee

Mar 4 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee

Mar 10 | 7:00pm
Council Meeting

Mar 11 | 4:00pm
Community Safety Committee

Mar 12 | 3:30pm
Development Permit Panel

Mar 17 | 4:00pm
General Purposes Committee

Mar 17 | 7:00pm
Public Hearing

Mar 18 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee

Mar 19 | 4:00pm
Public Works and Transportation Committee

Mar 24 | 7:00pm
Council Meeting



For meeting agendas and reports, visit richmond.ca/CityHall. Meeting schedule subject to change

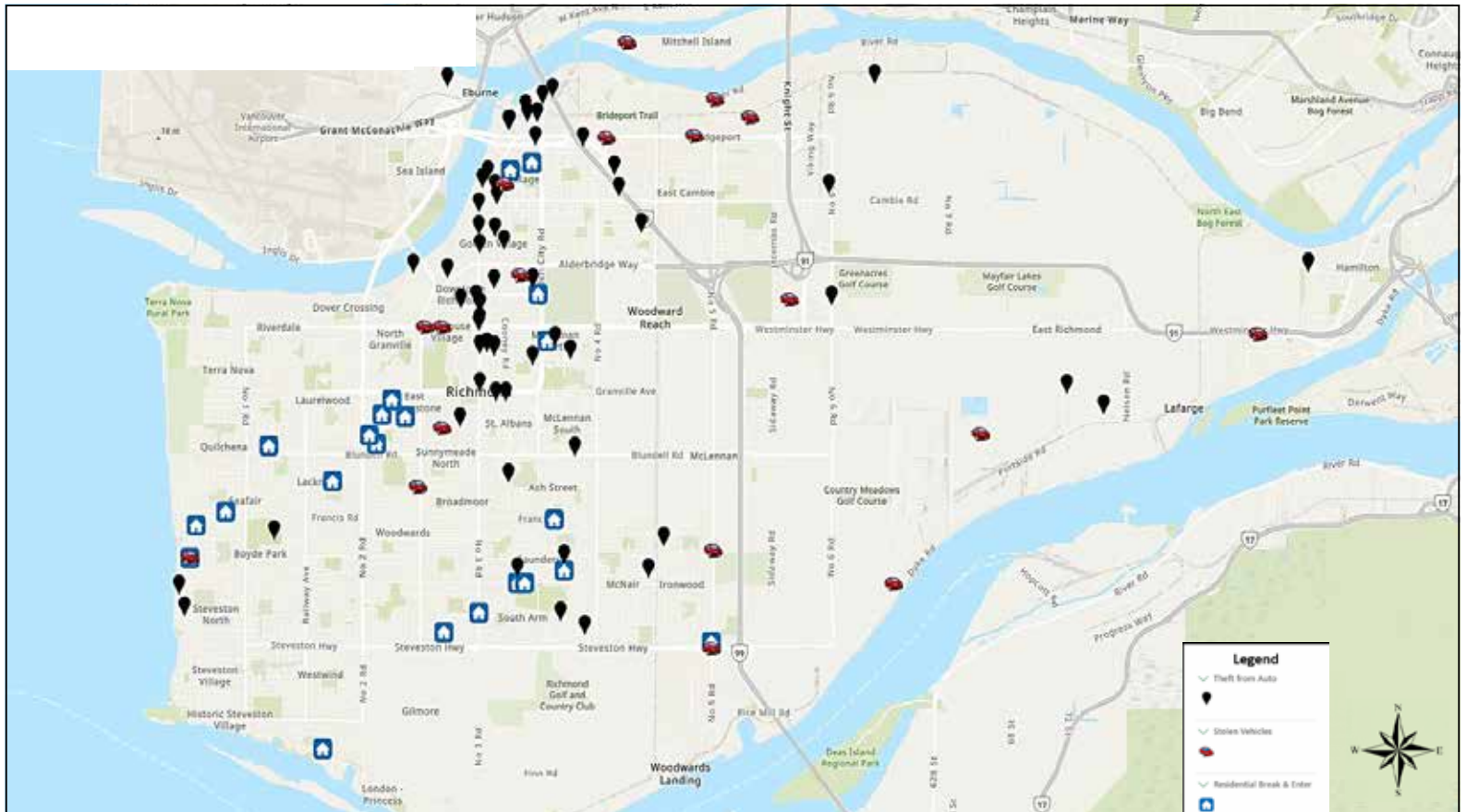
Visit richmond.ca/WatchOnline to link to live streaming or watch archived video.





RCMP

Crime Map Jan. 1 - 31, 2025



Fraudsters posing as Asian telecom service targeting Richmond Chinese community

Richmond RCMP Economic Crime Unit (ECU) is warning the Chinese community in Richmond following five reports involving fraudsters posing as employees from an Asian based telecom service. These five incidents have resulted in losses of over \$400,000.00.

The first report was received Dec. 24, 2024. In all cases, the victims receive a call from someone posing as a representative of a legitimate Asian telecom service that provides phone, VOIP and TV services. During the course of the conversation the victim gets "transferred" to an alleged Chinese police officer who indicates their phone number has been used illegally and they must pay in order to avoid deportation and arrest.

"This appears to be a new version of the foreign police scam. Fraudsters will make slight changes to their tactics or approach in an attempt to lure in new victims," says Corporal Denise Kam, Richmond RCMP ECU.

In 2024 in Richmond alone over \$38 million was reported lost by victims to fraud. Richmond



Photo by Jaana Björk

RCMP recommends regularly checking the Canada Anti-Fraud Centre website to stay up-to-date with the latest frauds and scams in Canada.

Public warning as new fraud emerges in Richmond

Richmond RCMP Economic Crime Unit is warning the public about a new fraud in Richmond.

On Jan. 14, 2025 Richmond RCMP received a report of a scam where the victim was allegedly

instructed by the fraudster to purchase gold. According to the victim she received a warning on her computer requesting she call a 1-888 phone number. When she called it, she was advised there was pornography on her device and her accounts had been compromised. The victim later received a callback instructing her to purchase gold from a business in Richmond. Fortunately, before providing the gold as payment, she spoke with staff at her local bank who assisted her in realizing it was a scam.

The victim reported this incident to police as she feared the fraudsters have access to her personal information.

"This is the first reported incident of this type of fraud we've received in Richmond, however, we are aware of an investigation on Vancouver Island involving this modus operandi which is why we are issuing this public warning", says Corporal Michael Ber, Richmond RCMP Economic Crime Unit, "We are working tirelessly to try and educate the public on fraud trends to help stem the tide of victimization."

In 2024 in Richmond alone over \$38 million was reported lost by victims to fraud. Richmond RCMP recommends regularly checking the Canada Anti-Fraud Centre website to stay up-to-date with the latest frauds and scams in Canada.



Douglas James Scammell

Fashion For Men - The Bomber Jacket & Boots

In this article I am going to talk about the bomber jacket which is a timeless addition to your wardrobe and casual boots. First the bomber jacket originated from military issued clothing, then through out the years, fashion designers and clothing manufacturers added the jacket for men into casual everyday fashion and made it's way to high-end fashion as well.



The military bomber jacket was made to be versatile for functionality as it was a lightweight jacket that kept aircrews warm. There were many different models of bomber jackets issued to all of the military air forces.

The A-2 is without a doubt the most famous of all the WWII flight bomber jacket designs. Standardized on May 29th 1931 as the regulation Army Air Corp intermediate flight jacket that was used until the end of WWII. The official color was seal brown shown here. But this was also represented in many various shades.

This particular jacket was worn by many WW II heroes notably Colonel James Doolittle who lead

the first attack on Tokyo Japan for the United States, after the attack on Pearl Harbour, and worn by movie star Jimmy Stewart and most famously worn by actor Steve McQueen in the classic WW II film *The Great Escape* (1963).

Seen below is a picture of one particular model the A-2 Jacket which was a standard issue for the U.S. Army Air Force during WW II.

Today this jacket is an iconic piece of clothing that goes great with a pair of jeans or a nice pair of dress pants. It is perfect to wear on cooler days during fall and early spring.

MENS CASUAL BOOT WEAR

There are many types of boots that a gentleman can incorporate into their everyday wear.

Anywhere from the traditional cowboy boot, Chelsea boot, chukka desert boot, the classic moc boot, and many different styles of a military combat boot one of my favorite is the iron ranger.

Finding the right boot for both comfort and look as well as wearing the right boot for the right type of recreation will make every gentleman feel great.

Chelsea Boot: The Chelsea boot is a great boot for both dressy or casual wear that goes with a pair of jeans and sometimes I like to wear them with a suit. If the weather is a bit wet outside I will wear the Chelsea boots instead of my best pair of dress shoes with a suit to help keep my feet dry.

The Chelsea boots often have a snug fit and are ankle high that has a loop or tab of fabric at the back of the boot, allowing the boot to be pulled on and off as shown below:



The Chelsea boot's history dates back to the Victorian era. The boot became popular for horse riding as well as walking. The name "Chelsea boot" was named by a London cobbler Thomas Cotton in the 1800's and had an enormous resurgence in the UK in the 1960's when it was worn by British bands like The Beatles, and The Rolling Stones.

Chukka Boot / Desert Boot: Looks a little similar to the Chelsea boot. But the Chukka / Desert boot has laces and is often made out of suede fabric.

The boot looks great dressed up with a suit as well as casually worn with a pair of jeans. I suggest you don't wear them in the rain as I learned from experience the rain will ruin the suede finish.

The history of the Desert Boot goes back to the 1940's where south African soldiers' old military boots failed them out on the desert terrain. They wanted something that was both lightweight and grippy which led to the creation of a boot with a suede upper on a crepe sole.

The Chukka boot was very popular with actor Steve McQueen who wore them on and off the screen as featured in his classic movie *The Thom-*

as Crown Affair (1968). The same boot made resurgence with Daniel Craig's James Bond in the movie *Spectre* (2015) where he wore the same model boot that Steve McQueen wore back in 1968.



Moc Toe Boot: The classic Moc style boot shown in the photo below along with a Bomber Jacket.



The Moc toe boot originated in the early 20th century as a work boot for farmers, hunters and factory workers. They became popular as a fashion statement and are now worn for a variety of purposes. They are known for their durability, comfort because they are very lightweight.

These boots are a perfect accent to a casual fall appearance when paired with a pair of jeans. One of the reasons for its popularity is that a decent pair of moc-toe boots may be worn on the job or out on the town.

Iron Ranger Boot: The Iron Ranger is a work steal-toe laced-up boot that is manufactured in Minnesota, U.S.A. originally as a work boot for miners in the 1800's.

By 1922, the model that remains unchanged to this day was launched. The boots are incredibly great when working on a construction site or on the ranch or a personal work project. They also look great dressed up with a pair of casual dress pants or a nice pair of jeans.





Joe Biz — *by Joe Leary*

Canada's first McDonald's Restaurant

1967 was an historic year across our True North Strong and Free.

It was Canada's Centennial, marking 100 years since Confederation and Montreal played host to the world with the International and Universal Exposition known as 'Expo 67'.

In sports, the Toronto Maple Leafs won their 13th Stanley Cup—the last thus far—and in the world of fast food, McDonald's took a bold leap and expanded beyond its US borders, launching their first Canadian location.

With a growing chain of restaurants already scattered across the United States, founder Ray Kroc wanted to develop his hamburger brand internationally.

He decided that the most logical starting growth point would be Canada. And on June 1, 1967, the Golden Arches on No. 3 Road were open to the Canadian public.

One might ask: why Richmond for the pivotal first location outside of the US?

Dave Doroghy can supply that answer.

An advertising executive for DDB (Palmer Jarvis) in the eighties—he directed the McDonald's Western Canada account for a number of years and recalled from experience as noted in his book, *111 Places in Vancouver That You Must Not Miss*.

"McDonald's founder Ray Kroc was looking for three things when he ventured outside of the USA, with his newly minted fast-food concept," says Doroghy.

"First of all, he wanted a place where land was cheap to build on.

"Secondly, Kroc envisioned an area, or subdivision that was rapidly growing and more importantly,

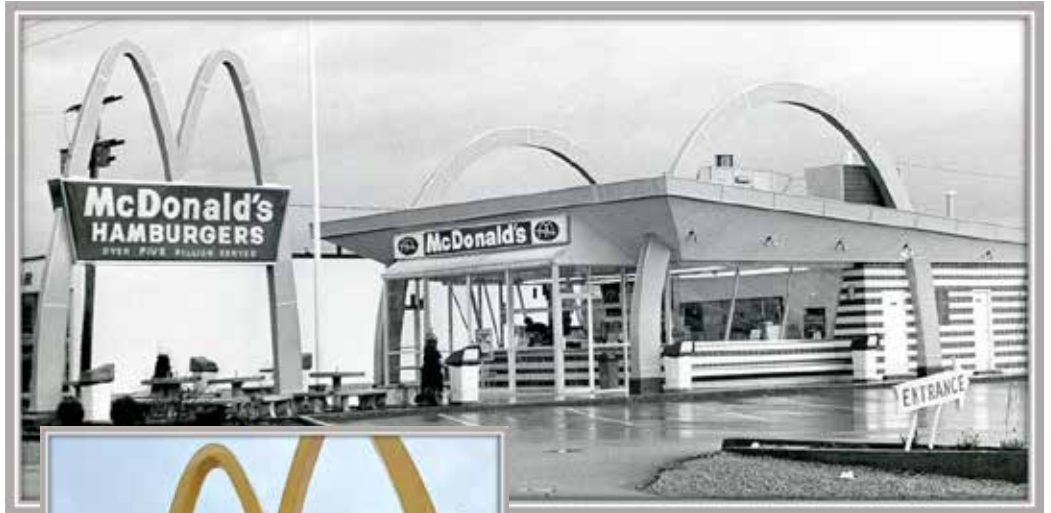


Photo courtesy McDonald's Canada
1967 original McDonald's, No 3 Road.



Photo courtesy Scott Jensen
Joe Guzzo, owner of nine McDonald's locations.

growing with families; as young, busy families in the suburbs were what he knew—from experience—that his restaurants would succeed.

"And the final point I find most interesting" he noted.

"Kroc knew that for him to launch the foreign venture, he would have to be hands-on for the planning, set-up, start-up and roll-out".

As such, it would require numerous trips north to oversee the first location outside of the US and Kroc wanted his time to be well-managed.

"He insisted it be near an airport to make it easier for him", adds Doroghy.

Richmond made sense on every level.

Not surprisingly, Ray Kroc had an immediate hit on his hands as folks from far and wide welcomed McDonald's to Richmond, way back then.

Locals eagerly flocked to this flourishing food empire from all corners of the Lower Mainland with appetites, curious to sample the restaurant's legendary fare, such as the Big Mac (listed at \$.65), alongside \$.26 French Fries and Apple Pies in 1967 pricing.

58 years later, the original No. 3 Road location has undergone considerable renovations and even a geographical repositioning.

But the store remains a tribute to McDonald's

rich legacy as being not only Canada's first, but their first international location.

Joe Guzzo is the franchise owner of this iconic location.

As a longtime McDonald's employee, the Burnaby-raised—son of immigrants—worked his way up the 'Golden Arches' corporate ladder over the years.

Starting in 1975 as a crew member—earning \$2.05 per hour—Guzzo brought an unbridled enthusiasm for the business that remains evident to this day.

"I never really left McDonald's," he says.

"I stuck around and started growing through the company full-time as a crew chief and swing manager".

It was suggested that Guzzo was management material.

His answer: "Why not"?

Guzzo's goal was to advance as high as he could on the corporate side; perhaps even aspire to become president of McDonald's Canada.

"Along the way I saw some of my friends become franchisees and I thought that was pretty good because you have more control of your time, the corporate world is more hectic".

Coincidentally, Guzzo's first franchise purchase was Canada's number two location on Marine Drive at Manitoba Street.

That was 2009.

In 2014, Guzzo purchased the original Canadian flagship on Number 3 Road.

His McDonald's portfolio today boasts of nine locations and the affable owner still emits a passion and fondness for the company, reminiscent of that teenage crew member in Burnaby.

Spending six days a week tending to his numerous stores, Guzzo still delights in talking McDonald's with customers and crew alike.

"McDonald's is a great company to work for and for franchisees," he adds.

"They really protect the brand."

If you have not checked out this little piece of Canadian history, check it out at 7120 No. 3 Road.

OUR CITY *tonight*

SPOTLIGHT ON
TWO WONDERFUL
NEW FILMS AND 50 YEAR-OLD
CLASSIC FOR WINTER VIEWING

THE VIEW #1 – PARTHENOPE

Italian writer/director, Paolo Sorrentino, first came to our attention back in 2014 when his *The Great Beauty* won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. We've been big fans ever since, even more so after seeing his 2022 Oscar nominated film, *The Hand of God*. His latest film is called *Parthenope*. It's the story of a beautiful, smart, young woman named *Parthenope* growing up in Naples in the 1960's/70's (she is named after mythological Greek siren credited with founding ancient Naples). Her teen years are spent enjoying carefree summers that, like youth, never last as long as we'd like. As she grows, her journey involves the study of anthropology and a rigid but caring professor, flirtation with acting and writing, tragic loss, and a roomful of lovers, including a powerful bishop, who are all intoxicated with *Parthenope*'s alluring beauty and charm. But still she searches, never marrying and at times deep in sadness—as one character in the film says, "time flows alongside the pain." Sorrentino, who continues a love affair with his hometown of Naples (beautifully captured by cinematographer, Daria D'Antonio), has created a story and a character that reminds one of the great writer/director, Federico Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, with *Parthenope* as a younger, female version of the lost, cynical reporter, Marcello. The *Parthenope* cast is superb, led by newcomer Celeste Dalla Porta in the title role, along with Gary Oldman as the sad, alcoholic, writer, John Cheever, Luisa Ranieri as the aging diva actress, and Peppe Lanzetta as the Bishop. mongrelmedia.com



Photo courtesy Route 504 PR

THE VIEW #2 – MY DEAD FRIEND ZOE

My Dead Friend Zoe is the story of an Army veteran named Merit who, after her tour in Afghanistan, is struggling with PTSD, and isolating herself from the world with the constant presence of her best friend, Zoe, who is dead. Merit avoids a veteran support group and the counselor (Morgan Freeman), and seems distant, almost estranged, from her mother and (Gloria Reuben) and her grandfather (Ed Harris) who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. But Merit knows she can't continue in this state, and though she is comforted by the company of Zoe, she decides to care for her grandfather and in doing so, possibly care for herself and deal with the horror she can't bring herself to confront. *My Dead Friend Zoe* is touching, heartfelt, sensitive, but also funny and dark, and it benefits from an excellent supporting cast and the two leads—Sonequa Martin-Green as Merit and Natalie Morales as Zoe. The film—which won the Audience Award at the prestigious SXSW 2024—was inspired by its director/co-writer, Kyle Hausmann-Stokes' tour of duty in Iraq as a paratrooper and convoy commander. route504pr.com

THE VIEW #3 – THE CLASSIC – JAWS

If you were heading to a movie theatre 50 summers ago, chances are this classic film was part of your 1975. *JAWS* created the "summer blockbuster" that year and the summer season for movies has never been the same (or longer if you're a Hollywood studio exec trying to market a summer film in mid-May). But *JAWS* is more than a cultural phenomenon that made going into the water a very scary thing for millions of people, it's also a very good film. In the beginning it was a best-selling book that was to be made into a movie by a "novice" director and young kid named Steven Spielberg. With CGI still years away, the shark would have to be built and operated by technicians, but the film was over budget and behind schedule because the mechanical shark kept breaking down. As a result it was seen a lot less in the film than planned. It was a brilliant piece of luck as it only added to audience fear when combined with John William's brilliant, ominous musical score. It also benefitted from an all-star cast including Roy Scheider as police chief Martin Brody, Richard Dreyfuss as the marine biologist, Robert Shaw as the professional shark hunter, Murray Hamilton as the inept mayor, and Lorraine Gary Brody's wife. The script—scary, dramatic, and at times, silly and funny—was written by the book's author, Peter Benchley, and Carl Gottlieb. If you've never seen it, or if it has been years since you have, this 50 year film will not disappoint! universalpictures.com

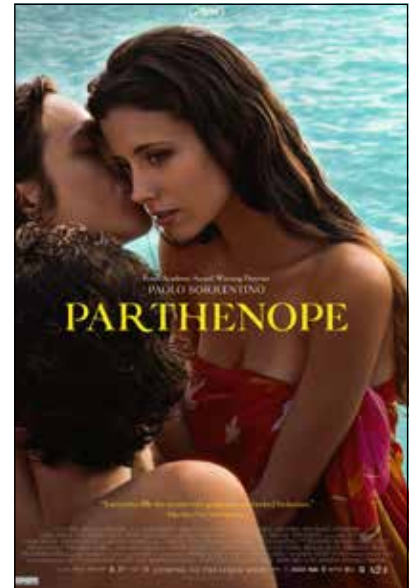


Photo courtesy Mongrel Media

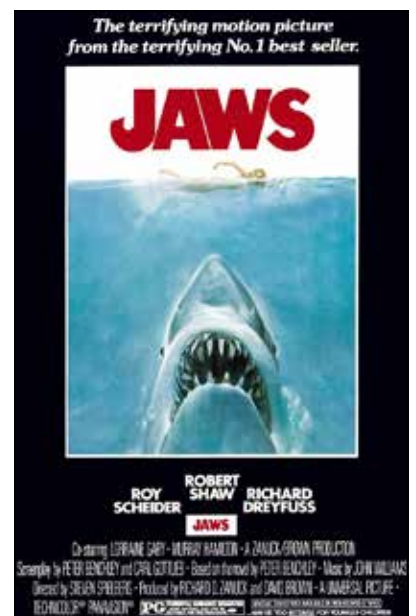


Photo courtesy Universal Pictures

Talented Vancouver singer releases a new album

Our City Tonight sat down with popular local pop/rock singer-songwriter Matthew Presidente. He has independently released six full-length records while also performing his original music at well-known venues like The Roxy, The Railway Club, The Backstage Lounge, XXXVR, and Numbers Cabaret.

OCT: *You left your long career in hospitality in 2022 to pursue your music full time. Since then, you have released eight singles and toured throughout British Columbia. And now you have a new album that was just released, let's talk about this project that took four years of passionate dedication to come about.*

MP: Yes, four years, it took a long time for a number of reasons and not one of them was that pandemic thing that we all had to endure.

OCT: *Indeed, we all do remember that, and in fact we had you on the show remotely so we all managed to maneuver through that rough time.*

MP: The album took a little bit longer than usual, and most of the reason is that we put much more effort into it. These days being a musician, it is very accessible to be able to make music from home. We have the technology and the software that make it a little easier for people to do this. And that's what I used to do. But for this newest album, we went back into the studio. We used all real instruments, and we hired all sorts of different musicians. A more involved process like this, takes a bit of time, but it's got the quality. I really love this project, and I truly love how it's turned out.

OCT: *The new album is called Chosen Sun, tell us about that.*

MP: The reason for the name, and that referring to "sun" as in sunshine. It's basically about following your own path.

OCT: *Well that's certainly what you have done.*

MP: Yes, I have and as you mentioned, a couple of years ago I did decide to leave my long-term career in hospitality to really focus entirely on music. You can understand at this age for me it's now a hustle. But it's always been my real passion and it's what I love to do. That is also where the theme of this record kind of started.

OCT: *We have known you for a long time and as always being a happy person, which comes through in your music. Of course, that's why you were previously in the hospitality industry. So many people love you and remember*



Photo courtesy Matthew Presidente
Matthew Presidente, musician, singer, songwriter.

you and now you're able to put that kind of passion and energy into your music full-time. We have seen you live, and your music is wonderful to experience. We highly recommend to everybody get out to see you if they're able to, your concerts are unforgettable.

MP: Our band is also doing earlier shows now so it's not all about staying up really late anymore.

OCT: *That's good news for us, and you do tend to appeal to a wide range of music lovers. Your music is catchy and energetic, and your live show is one not to miss. Let's finish up by talking a little bit about the journey that you have taken from getting started in music at an early age.*

MP: I've played piano all my life and developed all my bad habits while pretty young. As a teenager, I started getting out there and simply finding shows to perform at. What I always say to young musicians is to go out and perform as much as possible. We see so many bedroom artists these days on social media platforms. Some of them are great at making music, but they don't get out there in person, which is so valuable for a young musician.

I have found that playing live was what has given me the confidence over the years and given me the chops to go play live anywhere and then take it to the next level. I have had so many years of performing

live under my belt, which includes hauling around equipment and gear to different venues and playing in all sorts of different places. I have played everything from seedy bars to nice festival stages and also everything from playing in front of friends as well as excited music lovers, right down to a crowd that is not interested in listening to us at all. This is the way you can learn so much by doing these performances. And so, after about 20 years of doing just that, I have got to a point where I feel comfortable doing music and gigs full-time to earn a living.

OCT: *You certainly are an accomplished musician. This full-length album is called Chosen Sun and is available now. It does seem that the younger generations are coming back to listen to CDs.*

MP: We are finding that CDs are trending a little bit currently but of course you can still listen to the album on streaming. The music is available on Spotify, Apple Music, or whatever you want to stream. Plus, if you go to my website, you can find out where we're touring and when.

For more information matthewpresidente.com

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