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12

Arti has spent over 30 years of researching and creating that ultimate cup of coffee.

Photo courtesy Richmond Sentinel



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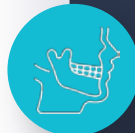
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Richmond to introduce energy-based EV charging fees

The City of Richmond will transition from time-based to energy-based fees at its public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, aligning with regional standards and improving fairness for users.

"Switching to energy-based pricing reflects Richmond's commitment to equitable and accessible electric vehicle charging," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "By aligning fees with actual energy use, we're creating a fairer system for all drivers while supporting the broader shift to zero-emission transportation."

Starting today, the city will begin a 30-day public notification period before the new fee structure goes into effect on Thursday, July 24, 2025.

Since 2020, Richmond has used a time-based pricing model for EV charging, where users are charged based on how long their vehicle is connected to a charger—regardless of how much electricity they consume. This approach was initially adopted to encourage station turnover and promote efficient use, at a time when federal regulations prohibited billing by energy use.

As EV technology has advanced, time-based pricing has become increasingly outdated and inequitable. Vehicles with slower charging speeds—such as older EVs or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)—often end up paying significantly more per kilowatt-hour (kWh) than faster-charging models. This creates cost disparities and potential barriers to broader EV adoption.

In 2023, federal regulations changed to allow EV charging providers to bill users based on actual electricity consumption—enabling more equitable and



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

The City of Richmond will be transitioning from time-based to energy-based fees at its public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

accurate pricing.

Benefits of energy-based pricing include:

- **Fairness:** Users only pay for the energy they consume, eliminating cost disparities between fast- and slow-charging vehicles.
- **Transparency:** Costs are aligned directly with electricity usage, making fees easier for users to understand and compare.
- **Efficiency:** Supports improved station turnover and discourages unnecessary occupancy.

As part of the proposed changes:

- Level 2 chargers will be billed at \$0.2865 (approximately 29 cents) per kWh—an energy-based rate aligned with regional providers while supporting cost neutrality across the City's EV charging network.

- Level 3 fast chargers will have a rate of \$0.3479 (approximately 35 cents) per kWh to reflect increased equipment and operational costs.

- Idle fees will be introduced to encourage efficient use of charging spots. After a five-minute grace period, vehicles occupying a spot but not actively charging will incur the following:

- \$0.05 (five cents) per minute at Level 2 stations (between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.). Idle fees at Level 2 stations will not apply overnight (11

p.m. to 7 a.m.) to support longer charging needs.

- \$0.40 (40 cents) per minute at Level 3 stations (all hours)

For more information, visit richmond.ca/EV.

Summer Reading Clubs now open at RPL

Get ready for an action-packed summer of reading, sharing and learning. Registration for Richmond Public Library (RPL)'s Summer Reading Clubs and July programs is now open.

"Summer reading activities build literacy skills and encourage a lifelong love of reading," says Denise Hui, Library Board Chair. "Last year, over 4,000 children, teens and adults participated in our Summer Reading Clubs and I want to invite community members from across Richmond to join us again this summer as the library continues to create opportunities to learn, connect and belong."

The annual kids' Summer Reading Club, presented in partnership with the British Columbia Library Association, helps kids to maintain and improve their reading skills over the summer in a fun way, making the transition back to the classroom in September smoother. This year's theme is Colour Your Summer. Register at any RPL location to pick up a free reading booklet to track your reading progress. Visit the library

throughout the summer to collect stickers, enter weekly prize draws and attend free programs. We're kicking things off with a visit from Science World on Sunday July 6 to explore forces and motion with spinning, falling and flying demos. Visit yourlibrary.ca/srckids/ to learn more.

Back for a second year, and in collaboration with the City of Richmond, RPL will be offering some unique physical literacy opportunities too—stay tuned for more information.

The Teen Summer Reading Club is back. Teens ages 12 to 18 can pick up a Bingo card at any library location and complete fun challenges for a chance to win prizes like new books, treats from Earnest Ice Cream and Booster Juice, and activity passes for places like West Richmond Pitch & Putt and EXIT Escape Room. Enjoy free programs including a Teen Movie Night, Debate Club, Book Club and Sign Language Club. New this year, the Teen Ambassadors are leading a monthly Teen Board Game

Hang-out

Also, teen artists can also submit their own original artwork for a chance to be featured in next year's Teen Reading Club promotion. Learn more at yourlibrary.ca/srcteens

The popular Richmond Reads Summer Reading Club for adults returns, featuring *The Cost of a Hostage*, a brand-new mystery novel by Canadian author Iona Wishaw. Pick up your Summer Reading Challenge booklets at any library location. Complete at least three challenges for a chance to win a gift basket, with weekly prize draws starting the second week of July. Join three book club discussions on different Iona Wishaw books and register to meet the author in person and listen to her talk about the writing of her newest book at Brighthouse library on Tuesday, July 8. More details are available at yourlibrary.ca/srcadults

More information about what's happening can be found by visiting yourlibrary.ca/ or by calling the library at 604-231-6413.

Board of education announces new K-7 school

The Richmond Board of Education is pleased to announce plans for a K-7 school at 8671 Odlin Crescent. With support from the provincial government, this project represents a major investment in public education infrastructure in Richmond's city centre.

The addition of this elementary school directly aligns with the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan, which emphasizes the importance of creating more space in high-growth areas. In city centre alone, student enrolment has increased by 42 percent over the past four years, and schools originally built for 1,641 students are now serving more than 2,000 students. Addressing this challenge today helps ensure that tomorrow's students will continue to learn in neighbourhood schools.

The site also includes an existing school building that previously operated as a private school. Having a school building already in place, the district can advance the project more quickly and cost effectively than if it were undertaking new construction. With necessary planning and upgrades, the new school could be ready to welcome students as early as September 2026.

"Richmond has experienced significant growth in recent years, and I commend the school district for recognizing this strategic opportunity," said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. "This acquisition will help deliver much-needed student spaces quickly. The new school will be centrally located, and we'll work closely with the district to have it ready for students by 2026—part of our government's broader commitment to create over 80,000 new spaces and deliver for families across B.C."

The total purchase cost of the site, including the existing school facility, was \$60 million. The provincial government contributed \$6 million, with the Richmond School District funding the remaining amount. The sale of the former Steveston Secondary School was fundamental to making this purchase possible. The funds raised



Screen grab via Google Maps

The Richmond Board of Education has purchased a new school site in Richmond's city centre.

from that sale were designated specifically for capital use, meaning they could only be used for major projects such as purchasing land or building schools. Since the sale, the board has advocated to the Province, engaged with the city, and explored a variety of opportunities—all with the goal of investing these funds back into the community in a way that meets the district's long-term infrastructure needs.

"The Board of Education is proud to invest in the future of Richmond by purchasing a new school site to help address enrolment growth in our city centre," said chairperson, Ken Hamaguchi. "The proceeds from the sale of the former Steveston Secondary School were always intended to support the long-term infrastructure needs of our community. Today's announcement reflects the board's commitment to thoughtful planning and to supporting students for years to come."

Moving forward, the district will begin the necessary next steps to prepare the new school for students. This includes undertaking a boundary review process, tentatively scheduled to begin in

Fall 2025. A boundary review will examine which neighbourhoods are assigned to which schools, helping to ensure balanced enrolment across the district. The review will focus on neighbourhoods near the new school and is not expected to impact the majority of students across the district. Families, community members, staff, students and partner groups will have the opportunity to provide input through the process, and their feedback will help inform how the new school integrates into the broader school network.

This announcement represents a significant step forward for the Richmond School District. It reflects a strong investment in the future of students and brings the district closer to opening a new school that will serve the evolving needs of the Richmond community.

"Securing this site in the city centre helps quickly plan for a school where it's needed most for Richmond students and families," said Lisa Beare, minister of education and child care. "This is an important step to making sure students have room to learn and grow close to home."

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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In honour of our soldiers: Lester Finlayson



Photo courtesy City of Richmond

Lester Finlayson is one of 23 young men from Richmond who lost their lives in either World War I, World War II, or in the Korean War, whose names are inscribed on the Richmond Cenotaph.

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

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

Lester Finlayson was born in Calgary, Alberta on Feb. 3, 1921, at the age of four, his family would make the move from Calgary to Richmond where he would grow up. He attended English School, Bridgeport School, and graduated from Richmond High School at the age of 17. Upon graduation, the Finlaysons would return to their native home in Scotland where Lester would join the British Merchant Marine service.

As a member of the British Merchant Ma-

rine service, Lester participated on convoy runs to the Mediterranean and the Northern Atlantic, serving as a 1st Radio Officer on the SS Alresford.

While stationed in Sydney, Nova Scotia on July 6, 1941, Lester and three other sailors aboard a small boat were making their way back to shore when a sudden strong gust of wind capsized the boat. Two of the seamen survived but Lester and fellow seamen Nixon ultimately drowned from the accident. Lester had been knocked unconscious during the capsizing, his body was not recovered until August 2 five miles away in Northern Sydney.

Lester was survived by his sisters Annie and May, his brother Ian, and parents Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Finlayson. In November of 1942, May, Ian, and Mr. and Mrs. Finlayson, made the decision to move back to Richmond. Annie, who had become Mrs. J.L. Stewart, would join the family after some time in Edinburgh.

Although, Lester Finlayson shares the same surname as Graham Alexander Finlayson, there have been no available records to indicate that the two were related.

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42 stores to celebrate Canada Day
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Richmond summer activities for all ages

By MICHAEL COOPER
Contributing student writer



Concerts in the Park.

Screen grab from richmond.ca

1 **Concerts in the Park, July 16** – Enjoy a music-filled summer evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at **Garden City Community Park (6620 Garden City Rd., Richmond)** as part of the City Centre Concerts in the Park series. This free, family friendly event showcases a local singer song writer or acoustic band (recent lineups have included Rob Fillo, Allie McDonald, and Becca Wade), set against the lush backdrop of the park. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, grab a snack from nearby food vendors, and settle in for a relaxing night of live music under the stars.



Nations Cup runs July 18 to 20.

File photo by Chung Chow

2 Richmond is buzzing with anticipation as the **44th Annual Nations Cup soccer tournament** takes over **Hugh Boyd Community Park (9200 No. 1 Rd)** from **July 18 to 20**. This free, three-day event is expected to draw over 1,400 participants and 10,000 spectators, celebrating Richmond's vibrant multicultural community through the universal language of soccer. Teams representing diverse cultures and countries will compete across open age and competitive age rankings for both men's and women's divisions. Beyond the thrilling matches, attendees can enjoy a festive atmosphere with a variety of food trucks and a pitch-side beer garden, making it a perfect outing for families and soccer enthusiasts alike.

3 **Richmond Public Library (RPL)** is kicking off a summer of reading, learning, and fun with the launch of its annual Summer Reading Clubs and July programming. Registration is now open for children, teens, and adults. "Summer reading builds literacy and a lifelong love of books," says Denise Hui, Library Board Chair. "We invite the entire community to take part." This

year's kids' Summer Reading Club, in partnership with the BC Library Association, includes reading booklets, stickers, weekly prizes, and free events, including a Science World visit on July 6. Details: yourlibrary.ca/srckids

Teens aged 12–18 can join by picking up a Bingo card to complete challenges and win prizes like books, ice cream, and activity passes. Programs include movie nights, book clubs, and a new Teen Board Game Hang-out. Teen artists can also submit art for next year's club. Details: yourlibrary.ca/srcteen

Adults can also join Richmond Reads, featuring Iona Whishaw's new mystery novel: *The Cost of a Hostage*. Meet Whishaw in person at Brighthouse Library on July 8. Details: yourlibrary.ca/sradults

For more information, visit yourlibrary.ca or call 604-231-6413.



Photo courtesy Richmond Public Library



Photo courtesy Richmond Nature Park Society

4 Discover the fascinating world of our local creatures as the Richmond Nature Park Society presents its **"Urban Wildlife Exhibit"** at the historic **Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site (5180 Westwater Dr, Richmond)** throughout **July and August**. This engaging and educational exhibit, located in the Seine Net Loft, offers a unique opportunity to learn about the animals that share our urban environment. Visitors can expect to find displays showcasing Richmond wildlife, such as coyotes, raccoons, and even barn owls. The exhibit aims to foster a deeper understanding of these animals and respectful coexistence in our shared spaces. Admission and this special exhibit is free.

The site is open daily from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** during the summer season. Perfect for families and nature enthusiasts of all ages, this exhibit provides a wonderful excuse to a visit to the preserved heritage buildings and scenic waterfront of Britannia Shipyards. Don't miss your chance to explore the "nature in your neighbourhood" this summer.

Steveston Community Park Playground reopen

A beloved community space has received a full replacement. The Steveston Community Park playground, located just northeast of No. 1 Road and Moncton Street, officially re-opened to the public on Tuesday, June 24 following work that began in September 2024.

The renewed playground was designed to be a space where all children can play together, and pays tribute to Steveston Village's rich heritage, incorporating custom play structures and design elements that reflect the area's maritime roots. The playground is built on the same footprint as the original and now offers a more inclusive, accessible and engaging space for children and families of all ages and abilities to play and socialize.

New features include:

- Custom salmon and fishing boat-themed climbers with interactive panels
- A lighthouse tower with two big slides
- A large sand play area with a water table and digger
- A train play structure and double zip line
- Classic favourites like

swings, spinners, slides, a playhouse and spring toys

Accessibility was also a key focus in the playground's redesign. Inclusive elements include:

- Rubberized surfacing connecting play areas
- Accessible entries and play features
- A wheelchair-accessible spinner
- Interactive ground-level play panels and a full support swing

The rubber surfacing included in the playground renewal, which incorporates recycled rubber from BC, was partially funded through a grant from the Tire Stewardship BC Community Grant Program.

For more background information, details on the playground features, and to find answers to frequently asked questions, visit the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal page.

*Photo courtesy
City of Richmond*

The Lighthouse Tower is one of the new features of the Steveston Community Park playground.



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

By MATTHEW CHEUNG
Contributing writer

DISCLAIMER: The following article is for informational and entertainment purposes only, and does not reflect the opinions of the *Richmond Sentinel*. In the last edition of our series, we took a look at the quirky laws and bylaws found in the Province of Newfoundland, as part of our 13-part series. In this edition, we head to the setting of the novel *Anne of Green Gables*, also known as the Province of Prince Edward Island, to see what quirky laws and bylaws were or still are enforced today.

1. Everyone has heard the story of Frosty the Snowman, a jolly happy soul with a corn cob pipe and a button nose and how he had to run during a hot summers day but promised to return someday. Well in Souris, Prince Edward Island, looks like there are some restrictions to Frosty, should he ever return. A bylaw states that on the corner lots of homes in the Town of Souris, snowmen are not permitted to exceed 30 inches in height. The reason for the bylaw is for visibility and road safety reasons, in hopes that drivers' view of the intersection will not be obstructed. As of right now, the bylaw is still enforced, discouraging the creation of such tall snowmen. Looks like Frosty's return in Souris will see him standing shorter than two and a half feet.

2. Given the long and narrow, winding roads in Prince Edward Island, in 1974, the province enacted a law that would alert a driver being taken over that the car behind them is attempting to pass them. According to Section 154 (1)(a) of the Highway Traffic Act "the driver of a vehicle that is overtaking another vehicle shall sound a clearly audible signal by horn to alert the driver of the other vehicle, if necessary." Due to the limited visibility the practice aims to prevent unsafe passing maneuvers. As of right now the law is still enforced, but the practice is rarely enforced as many drivers are unaware that this is a requirement by the law.

3. In 1977, the soft drink industry had undergone a transformation, with the introduction of plastic bottles which costed less than glass, profits were about to skyrocket for those soft drink companies. That is, until the Province of Prince Edward Island enforced a province-wide ban on non-refillable soft drink bottles. Seven years later, the province would add to the list by adding soft drink cans to the list. The provincial ban came due to concerns of littering on roadsides and beaches and in support of local glass-bottle bottlers in hopes of preserving jobs as well. It wasn't until 2008, when the province made the decision to lift the ban and introduce a deposit-return system that provided an incentive to recycle while meeting the demands of consumers for more diverse packaging.

4. In the year 2025, humans have become quite reliant on public transportation and automobiles. From bussing to the grocery store to pick up this week's worth of ingredients to taking a greyhound or train across the country, automobiles have been a great help. That wasn't always the case in Canada, in 1908 a ban on automobiles was enacted. Although there had only been seven automobiles on the island, they were not permitted to travel on the island roads due to the concerns of safety and frightening of horses and livestock. In 1913, amendments to the legislation were made allowing automobiles to travel on island roads for three days of the week. Eventually,



Image generated by AI

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

in 1919, the ban on automobiles was lifted, this permitted the unrestricted use of automobiles, enabling islanders to efficiently travel, transport goods, and as a result of extended usage, improved roads.

5. It would be safe to assume that anyone who grew up in Canada has experienced either the thrill and adrenaline of ringing a doorbell and running away or the confusion of hearing the doorbell being run only to find no one waiting. This act has many names, from ding-dong ditch in the United States to, Knicky-Knack nine doors. Turns out not every person has experienced this as the Municipality of Charlottetown, enacted a bylaw in 1994 called the Noise & Nuisance Bylaw that prohibited "willfully wantonly ringing any doorbell or knocking at any door, building or fence so as to disturb or annoy any person in his dwelling, place of business, or meeting place" is a violation. Till this day the bylaw is still in effect and violators may face fines for what some see as a harmless prank.

6. Did you know that PEI has implemented set funeral-procession etiquette as a supplement of the Highway Traffic Act? The etiquette are as follows; Procession vehicles are to display purple flashing lights and keep headlights on, drivers in the procession must exercise caution at red lights and stop signs, and other drivers must reduce speed by half the post limit and not pass the procession from behind. These practices are not mandatory but willingly followed by locals out of courtesy and community values.

While some of these laws may be outdated and are amusing today, they reflect the unique moments in Prince Edward Island's history. From preserving the charm of rural roads and protecting the local bottle industry to ensuring respectful community conduct, these quirky laws or bylaws offer an insight on the values and concerns of the past and the present.

If you think we missed any quirky laws in the province, feel free to email us at newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca or comment under the post on one of our social media accounts. In the next edition, we look at our last and final province and territory, known for its rich Acadian heritage, natural landscapes, and a world-famous hill that pulls your car up, to see what quirky laws and bylaws were or still are enforced.



B.C. strengthens response to repeat violent offending

Police departments throughout B.C. will have access to more resources to combat repeat violent offending, ensuring they have the tools they need to help keep people, businesses and communities safe.

The province is investing an additional \$6 million in the Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement (SITE) program, building on its success as a critical initiative that is helping police departments target repeat violent offenders and disrupt the cycle of crime.

“With the help of our SITE funding, police have had a number of successes in targeting repeat violent offenders and have recommended 2,676 charges, thanks to the program,” said Garry Begg, minister of public safety and Solicitor General. “We are ensuring SITE remains available to help police agencies expand their abilities to crack down on repeat violent crime more effectively and keep dangerous people off our streets.”

Since the launch of SITE, the program has supported 148 police operations in 38 communities throughout British Columbia. SITE funding has facilitated 5,425 investigations of individuals, 177 of whom were supported by the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII). Police have recommended 2,676 charges resulting from SITE-funded operations, along with substantial seizures of various weapons, drugs and other items such as stolen merchandise and cash that was proceeds of crime.

“The B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) supports the Government of British Columbia for piloting the SITE program as part of the Safer Communities Action Plan,” said Chief Supt. Wendy Mehat, president of the BCACP. “By providing vital operational funding to enhance proactive enforcement and investigative techniques, SITE equips police agencies across the province and jurisdictions to more effectively target prolific and repeat violent offenders. Through strengthened police capacity, we can strengthen public confidence, maintain vibrant downtown cores and ensure safer communities for all British Columbians.”

Introduced in 2023, the SITE program was launched as a three-year initiative to provide operational funding for police departments. The program is administered by the RCMP on behalf of the province, and helps police agencies enhance proactive enforcement and investigative techniques to address repeat violent offending.

Key to the success of the SITE program is its core principles of supporting intelligence-led policing, fostering collaboration and information sharing between law-enforcement agencies, and augmenting the co-ordination of police efforts across jurisdictions, without disrupting other policing priorities.

SITE directly supports the ReVOII, with 12 intervention hubs closely monitoring more than 400 repeat violent offenders under community supervision. Although the two programs operate independently, they work in tandem, with the RCMP B.C. Police Repeat Offending Programs Team supporting police activities related to ReVOII.

Asphalt Paving Advisory 2025

April 20 to November 30, 2025

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

PROPOSED 2025 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS
No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Alderbridge Way to Cambie Road)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Cambie Road to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
No. 3 Road (Capstan Way to Sea Island Way)—Intersections included
Bridgeport Road (No. 5 Road to Sweden Way)—Intersections included
Cambie Road (Shell Road to No.5 Road)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Seacliff Road to Kingsbridge Drive)—Intersections included
No. 6 Road (Bridgeport Road to River Road)—Intersections included
Moncton Street (Railway Avenue to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
Francis Road (Gilbert Road to No. 3 Road)—Intersections included
Francis Road (Railway Avenue to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
River Road (Cambie Road to Capstan Way)—Intersections included
Westminster Highway (No. 7 Road to No. 8 Road)—Intersections included
Vulcan Way (No. 5 Road to No. 6 Road)—Intersections included
Boeing Avenue (Catalina Crescent to Wellington Crescent)—Intersections included
Catalina Crescent (Handley Avenue to Airport Road)—Intersections Included
Douglas Crescent (Wellington Crescent to North end of road)—Intersections Included
Hudson Avenue (Wellington Crescent to Airport Road)—Intersections Included
Bridgeport Road (St. Edwards Drive to Shell Road)—Intersections Included
Cambie Road (No. 4 Road to Shell Road)—Intersections Included
No. 4 Road (Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Bridgeport Road to Vulcan Way)—Intersections included
No. 5 Road (Greenland Drive to Bridgeport Road)—Intersections included
Shell Road (River Drive to River Road)—Intersections included
Wallace Road (Kozier Gate to No. 2 Road)—Intersections included
Williams Road (Parsons Road to Gilbert Road)—Intersections included
Machrina Way (Horseshoe Way to No. 5 Road)—Intersections included
Trumond Avenue (Wellmond Road to Gormond Road)—Intersections included
Garden City Road (Cambie Road to Bridgeport Road)—Intersections included
Boundary Road (Thompson Gate to Westminster Highway)—Intersections included
Kwantlen Street (Alderbridge Way to Alexandra Road)—Intersections included

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

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

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

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

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

Hundreds attend E-Scooter safety event in Richmond



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP

On June 14, hundreds of attendees gathered at Lansdowne Centre to learn about operating e-scooters safely.

Over 300 attendees gathered at Lansdowne Centre on June 14 to learn how to operate e-scooters safely and legally as part of Richmond's ongoing micromobility pilot. Hosted by Richmond RCMP in partnership with the City of Richmond, ICBC, Lime, Vancouver Coastal Health and HUB Cycling, the 2nd Annual E-Scooter Safety & Skills

Challenge aimed to promote safe and responsible e-scooter use.

The event took place on Saturday, June 14, and attracted over 300 community members. Participants received hands-on education in e-scooter operation and road safety. With the rising popularity of e-scooters in Richmond, Richmond RCMP

is committed to ensuring that public safety keeps pace with innovation.

Booths were hosted by Richmond RCMP and ICBC for registration and safety checks, HUB cycling for helmet fittings and orientation, Lime for e-scooter sharing education, and City of Richmond staff who provided road rules and safety guidance. 90 free helmets were distributed to participants during the event.

The skills challenge included five stations: skills assessment, start/stop and balance, slalom and speed control, road practice area, and a station on safety skills and rules of operation.

Key concerns from residents, such as riding on sidewalks and age requirements, were addressed during the event. Several attendees expressed gratitude for the clarity around e-scooter laws, including one parent who confirmed the age requirement (16+) after seeing official materials.

Richmond RCMP continues to support the city's e-scooter pilot as a safe and sustainable mobility solution through active enforcement and ongoing community outreach.

"We are committed to education and enforcement around e-scooter use," said Chief Superintendent Dave Chauhan, Officer in Charge of Richmond RCMP, who attended the event and participated in the skills course. "This event helps us support Richmond's pilot project and build a culture of safety."

To learn more about e-scooter and e-bike rules in Richmond visit the City of Richmond website at richmond.ca

DriveBC updates platform

People driving throughout British Columbia this summer can get access to reliable road and weather conditions on provincial highways with a newly updated DriveBC platform.

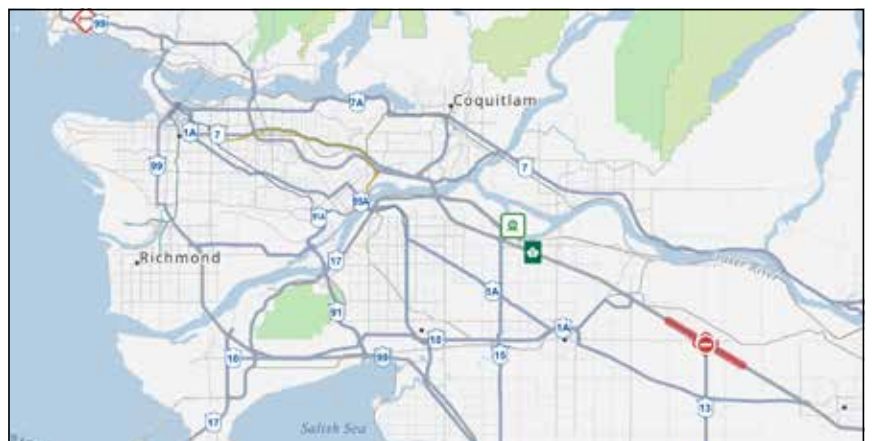
The new DriveBC platform features a simplified map and a cleaner, more intuitive design for desktop and mobile users. A new interactive map replaces the previous mobile text-based layout, offering a more visual, streamlined way to explore road conditions and updates.

The platform integrates provincial and regional travel advisories and bulletins, offering clearer updates on challenging weather conditions, emergencies and other events happening on provincial highways.

People will benefit from DriveBC's improved route planning features, allowing them to focus on specific trips, save their favourite ones and receive customized notifications. The platform's upgraded highway webcams have a simpler layout and enhanced features for faster access to real-time conditions.

Several new tools have been added to better support both the public and commercial drivers in making travel decisions, including new detailed embedded information on border crossings, chain-up areas and inland ferries. More features are planned in the year ahead.

The updates are based on feedback from user surveys, interviews, and



Screen grab via drivebc.ca

DriveBC is rolling out a new enhanced platform featuring a simplified map and a cleaner design for desktop and mobile users.

consultation with the public, commercial drivers and stakeholders. To help the site continually improve, users will be able to provide ongoing feedback.

To help with the transition, users will still have access to the legacy site for a few months: legacy.drivebc.ca

Sockeyes' season ends offering a new beginning

By STEVE ERICKSON
Contributing writer

As one season ends the next season begins and as you can imagine it all starts as ownership looks back on the past season that reflects on the overall performance in all areas.

It's not just the point total at the end of the season but an overall reflection of how the team was built from pre-season to the final whistle at the end of the regular and playoff season that holds everyone accountable.

As this year's season came to an end, we saw changes made that served as a reminder for growth, teaching and overall development for the new players that will be in the line-up at the start of the new season. Training camp was held over the weekend that featured four squads of (roughly) twenty players per squad that could see some players making the team while others might attend a WHL camp in hopes of taking their talent to the next level of the game.

Some players attended the camp so that the coaches could have a look at their skill level and the potential to make the roster in a couple of years. This would give the players the encouragement to perfect their skill level of the game.

Prior to the camp the ownership and the coaching staff take time to meet with the players attending their camp as well as their parents to get a better insight on what their goals might be that go beyond camp.

At this level of the game, players are faced with making various choices regarding what team camps they might be attending as some are by invitation only while others are a "show-up to try out" and based on their skill level they might make the team or are encouraged to come back next season.

One league that the Sockeyes have their sights set on is the BC Elite Hockey League and we are hearing that they have signed Jonathan Zhang who played last season for the Valley West U17 scoring 19 goals and 32 assists for 51 points in only 36 games.

This is only one of the future Sockeyes who will suit up and put his talent level on display at Richmond's Minoru Arena for the coming season. As the Sockeyes are still building a team for the upcoming 2025-26 PJHL season we reflect back on the 1966 Richmond Juniors who were a finalist in BC also noting that in 1976 and 1977 the Richmond Rebels won their league championship.

As you can see, the longevity and success of the Richmond Sockeyes dates back years along with their involvement in the City of Richmond to build the future of the game working with both Richmond Minor Hockey and the now defunct Seafair Minor Hockey once hosted by the arena at No.1 Road and Francis.

This coming season offers several new and unique ideas that are on the horizon for the Sockeyes which will both embrace and welcome new fans to the "Fish Tank" better known as Minoru Arena.



Get involved with the Second Phase of Richmond's Official Community Plan Update

Richmond is asking for your feedback on phase two of its Official Community Plan (OCP) Targeted Update.

Opportunities to participate

Online:

- **Ask a Question:**
LetsTalkRichmond.ca/ocp2050-phase2
- **Survey submission deadline:**
Sunday, July 20, 2025

In-person drop-in open houses:

- June 18, 21, 24, 25
- July 2, 3, 9



To learn more and participate, visit
LetsTalkRichmond.ca/ocp2050-phase2.



The OCP display boards will be available for viewing in the City Hall Galleria during business hours from Wednesday, June 11 to Friday, July 18.

The ultimate experience in coffee flavour

By FLORENCE GORDON
Contributing writer

If you like coffee, you'll "love" coffee after you meet Arti. The *Richmond Sentinel* went on location to film an interview with the owner of Viva Java here in Richmond. The coffee shop may not be big in size but they're huge in love for their craft and that comes from over 30 years of buying coffee beans from 15 different countries and searching every day for the ultimate flavour.

In another Richmond story series, the *Richmond Sentinel* (RS) sat down with Arturo Hagop aka "Arti" (AH) the owner of Viva Java Roasting House.

RS: *We search for stories about local businesses and this is definitely one to share. We're at Viva Java Roasting House and I want to get the address right for you folks in Richmond. It's on the corner of Douglas and Smith streets, across from a little place you may have heard of, Costco. I'm with a man who's been making great coffee for nearly 35 years and he is the owner of this wonderful, very eclectic-cool spot. Thank you Arti for having us.*

AH: You're welcome.

RS: *I want to say Arti, you made me a decaf latte and the taste is fantastic. I hope you agree with me that a good coffee is like a good glass of wine, and as the saying goes you get what you pay for.*

AH: That is so true.

RS: *I understand that when you came to Canada in 1991 you wanted to introduce great coffee to the community.*

AH: That is correct because to me, coffee brewing is a divine obsession. Everybody has some kind of addiction in their life, it could be desserts, it could be alcohol, but for me my addiction is coffee. I dream about coffee in my sleep and the next day I would start making different brews, different roasts, different tastes. I'm never satisfied, I'm always looking for that ultimate taste, ultimate flavour.

RS: *What's interesting too is that you really have a passion about coffee and what you offer. Do you ever have a customer that orders a coffee that's unfamiliar with all that you offer—do you like to give suggestions?*

AH: You would be surprised to learn that 9 out of 10 customers that come to me, know very little about coffee and I love to educate them. My knowledge comes from nearly 35 years of searching the world for the finest beans and how to protect my inventory so that I can offer the ultimate flavour. For example, coffee's shelf life is only two to three weeks. People believe if they store it in the fridge or freezer it's protected, what they don't know is that moisture is coffee's biggest enemy. I say 100 per cent no to refrigeration.

RS: *Let's talk about your inventory and how*



Viva Java in Richmond.

Photo courtesy Richmond Sentinel

popular your beans and coffee are.

AH: I have 15 different origins from which I have purchased coffee beans from and accumulated during the last 30 plus years.

RS: *From the different countries, do you buy from them directly, how does that work?*

AH: I used to import coffee myself but that requires a license from the federal government. It was challenging to find a broker so I have my own suppliers. I'm always looking for that ultimate flavoured coffee.

RS: *Do you actually have a region of the world that you think makes the best coffee or grows the best coffee beans?*

AH: I can say Hawaiian Kona is very famous, a very, nice coffee, and I would say Jamaican Blue Mountain because it's grown in the mountain region and with the ambience and that mountain breeze it has an affect on the coffee. I would say in my mind the number one coffee is the Jamaican Blue Mountain.

I don't sell it because frankly, my cost for the Jamaica Blue Mountain is \$70 a pound. In order to sell it to you, I'd have to charge you \$100 a pound. I understand that there are places selling this product for \$50 a pound, in my estimation they're giving you 10 per cent Jamaican and 90 per cent Colombia and the customer doesn't know better and my conscience won't let me do this.

RS: *When I walked into Viva Java today, I was*

surprised by your creative decor. It feels very warm and inviting. You've got a spectacular old-school machine behind the counter. Can you tell our viewers a little bit about that equipment?

AH: The roasted machine, that is my lifeline. It has a capacity of roasting beans 40 pounds every 40 minutes.

RS: *You've been in the coffee business for a very long time.*

AH: Close to 35 years.

RS: *Arti have you noticed the difference in people's tastes towards coffee today versus 35 years ago where people ordered mainly just black or with added cream. I myself, today I'm drinking a latte. I wasn't doing that 20 years ago.*

AH: Well, thank goodness, the answer is yes. My customers are looking for the ultimate flavor, which I am happy and proud to produce for them and most of them are shocked. They weren't aware of the difference. It brings me joy to please my customers and when they are pleased, I'm pleased too.

When we finished the interview, two airline pilots dropped by, they said they were from Europe and in between flights. They went on line for a place that offers good coffee and saw Viva Java's website, so as Arti does so well he made them one of his special coffees.

To watch the video interview go to richmond-sentinel.ca/videos



Douglas James Scammell

FASHION FOR MEN

A Summer Suit

The warm weather of summer is rapidly approaching. If you're attending an event that requires wearing more dressy clothing especially if you have been invited to a summer wedding or attending one of Vancouver's more classier events like The Cup at Hastings Racecourse in July. It is very important to have breathable clothing that will help keep you looking razor sharp and not look like you're dying from the heat of summer.

I have attended The Cup event at Hastings Racecourse in recent years and often see the women putting full effort into looking their absolute best. Unfortunately some men, not so much. As their website says "dress to impress" it makes me want to suggest men can look their best too.

Just because the weather is nice and warm does not mean you need to dress down for a fancy event, try doing the opposite.



It is a great investment to have a suit and shirts that are versatile for attending these dressy warm weather events we get invited to so that we can

have the best time and look great while attending the events.

First of all, you need to retire your wool fabric dark color suits like charcoal, and dark navy and black. You can bring those back again during the fall season.

You just need to find the right type of materials, fabric, colors and styles.

First you need to find the right fabric and colors that are designed for hot weather.



THE SUIT

I recommend linen fabrics for a suit in the summertime. They embody the essence of summer style with their breezy elegance and relaxed charm. The linen fabric is perfect for summer due to its natural breathability, moisture wicking properties, and ability to allow air circulation, all of which will help keep you cooler and more comfortable in the hot weather.

Here is a more detailed explanation for why a linen fabric suit is perfect for summer time:

Breathability: Linen's open weave and thicker fibers compared to cotton allow for better air circulation, keeping the fabric light and cool against your skin.

Moisture-wicking: Linen excels at absorbing perspiration and releasing it quickly, preventing the fabric from sticking to your body and ensuring you stay dry and comfortable.

UV Protection: Linen can act as a barrier against UV rays, offering some protection from the sun.

Absorbs moisture: Linen can absorb 20 per cent of its weight in moisture allowing it to absorb perspiration without making you feel clammy.

Dries quickly: Linen dries quickly due to its looser weave, which allows air to circulate and evaporate moisture.

Durable: Linen is one of the strongest natural fibers, second only to silk.

Environmentally friendly: Flax, the source of linen, requires less water and pesticides than cotton.

Biodegradable: Untreated, undyed linen is fully biodegradable.

Let me be clear, you will be hot no matter what suit fabric you wear. But the linen fabric is your best choice to help minimize being uncomfortable.

Whether you get your linen suit custom made or

picked from the rack at the department store it is very important that the suit does not have an insulated inner lining. That will help alleviate the heat.

THE ACCESSORIES

To go with your summer suit to help minimize the heat of summer it is important to have the right shirt. Again go with a linen shirt, or a linen part Cotton shirt for all of the same reasons why I said to go with a linen suit.

The shirt however you could go with short sleeve dress shirt underneath your suit jacket to help provide more air for your skin to breathe. If you choose not to wear a tie that's okay too.

For the shoes I recommend going with something more light weight like a loafer style shoe. For socks, go with a no-show socks that will help expose air around your ankles which will allow your skin to breathe.

Lastly, if your event is outside in the heat of the sun another suggestion is to add two other accessories. The right pair of sunglasses, as well as a Panama hat to help provide more shade and keep the sun off of your head.

IN CLOSING

When picking the right outfit for your dressy summer event. Stay away from the dark colors especially dark grey, and black. Pick lighter colors that do not attract the heat like tans, off whites, light blues, and greens.

I have experimented with navy blue suits that were a lighter wool fabric and incorporated them with a linen shirt and no-show socks and that worked out well. It's important to incorporate as much linen as possible.

It is a wise decision for your first warm weather suit to pick a color that is also versatile so that you can mix and match with different color pants, waistcoats and jackets.

That way you will rotate your summer suit outfit looking different each time and also you will get the maximum use and value from your summer wardrobe. In the picture above I show a tan colored suit and below a white suit which can be mixed and matched as shown in the far left photo.



Photos courtesy DJ Scammell

OUR CITY *tonight*

**SPOTLIGHT ON
A SUMMER WINE
A SUMMER READ
A LANDMARK FILM**



Photo courtesy Ethica Wines

THE GRAPE – LA CALA VERMENTINO DI SARDEGNA

Summer and patio season are in full swing, and with that in mind, we turned to one of our wine experts, Andrea Vescovi, Ethica Wine's Regional Sales Manager Western Canada. His suggestion, a delicious wine from the Sella & Mosca Winery and Estate, which was founded in 1899 and is located in northwest region of Sardinia, Italy. Today it is one of the largest estates in Europe. Vescovi chose a wine called *La Cala*, a Vermentino (a light-skinned wine grape variety). "Sella & Mosca vineyards are very close to the ocean, and as such, it gets a lot of ocean spray and salt crystals on to the vineyards which gives the wines salinity," he tells us as we enjoy our first taste of this superb wine. "The result is a wine that is fresh and dry, a classic wine that is perfect for the patio season, and a wine that goes very well with fish." Vescovi mentions this wine can be found on a lot of restaurant wine lists as it grows in popularity. It can also be found in most wine stores. Look for Andrea Vescovi talking about this and other great summer wines from Italy on *Our City Tonight* TV in late July. ethicawines.com

THE READ – MIKE CONNORS: A LIFE OF INTEGRITY IN FILM AND TELEVISION BY BILL TAYLOR

As we continue our spotlight on summer reading, we offer another biography on an actor from another time. Like our subject last month actress Angie Dickinson, Mike Connors climbed the Hollywood ranks in the early 1950's. He is best remembered for the very popular TV series, *Mannix*, which aired from 1967-75, earning him 6 straight *Golden Globe* nominations (and a win in 1970), as well as 4 straight *Emmy* nominations. The show, about a street wise, tough but sensitive, private detective, continues to air nightly on MeTV

and of course on YouTube and other streaming services. Born Krekor Ohanian in 1925, Mike Connors' career spanned nearly 60 years, and included dozens of films and TV shows before and after *Mannix*, and he continued working well into the 21st century, with his last appearance coming in 2007 in an episode of *Two and a Half Men*.

Author Bill Taylor has written an in depth look at a man who was a friend to many, a solid, decent husband and father, as well as a damn good actor whose versatility certainly explained his longevity in the business. As our previous subject, Angie Dickinson, said, "If anyone deserved a good book about their life, it was Mike Connors". bearmanormedia.com

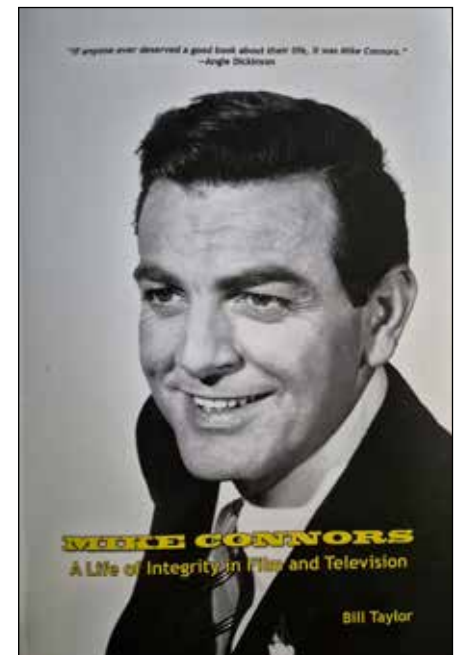


Photo courtesy BearManor Media

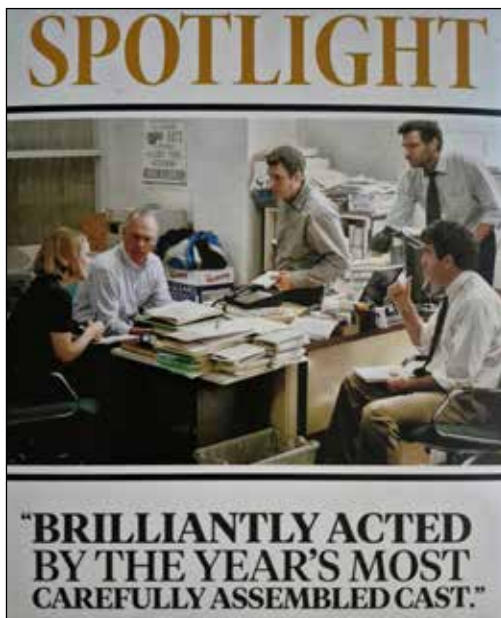


Photo courtesy Netflix

THE VIEW – SPOTLIGHT

It was our #1 movie for 2015, and it was also the *Academy Award* winner for Best Picture that year. *Spotlight* was, and is, an important film whose subject matter disturbed many, and outraged more. The film is set in 2001 and centres around the Spotlight team, 4 investigative journalists from *The Boston Globe*. Together, they tackle tough subjects, no matter who's involved. At the beginning of the film, a new editor (Liev Schreiber) directs the team to look into allegations of sexual abuse by a local Catholic priest. What would follow—the amount of victims and sexual predators—would have a seismic effect on the city, the country and the Catholic Church. This film also reminds us of a time not long ago when newspapers still had the power and the budgets to employ a team like Spotlight. Sadly, with dwindling advertising sales and competition from social media and other platforms, this kind of investigative journalism (in print and other traditional media) is in decline, which is not good for we citizens. The cast of *Spotlight* is solid: Michael Douglas, Rachel McAdams, Mark Ruffalo, Stanley Tucci, and John Slattery. netflix.com

Can't Stop Dancing author lives his dream

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have your dream job? We sat down with a wonderful guest on *Our City Tonight* who certainly epitomizes this concept. This man has had an incredible career: he is a choreographer, a dancer, a writer, a teacher, and now an author. The talented James Hibbard joined us to talk about his new book called *Can't Stop Dancing*.

OCT: James, you are the perfect example of finding something you love to do and you'll never work a day in your life.

JH: It's not work when you play all day and you have a good time all of the time.

OCT: Your book is very interesting and we really enjoyed your one reference—getting good parents is like a life lottery. You grew up in Idaho, which is not exactly dance territory, but you had a really supportive mother and, I sense, a father that really didn't understand what you wanted to do, yet he still got the money together somehow to help you with your chosen way. What a gift that must've been and it must have really helped you to have this support.

JH: Yes, it was wonderful. I call my mother my first and everlasting angel because she made it possible for me to have the opportunity to realize my dreams even though my dad wanted me to be a logger (a major industry in Idaho).

OCT: Which makes sense from where you were growing up.

JH: Absolutely and I even tried to be a logger when I was 16 years old. I drove a logging truck and cut trees down and bucked them, but I knew immediately that was not for me.

OCT: It's a remarkable beginning but it's not to say, that you didn't have challenges. Your mom, of course, had to make sure that you got to your dance lessons in Boise a distance from where you lived, but it paid off because you found yourself in Hollywood and really quickly, you found other angels there to assist you. This was in the early 50s or mid 1950s and other people came into your life



Photo courtesy Ron McDougal



Photo courtesy BearManor Media
James Hibbard famous choreographer.

that helped you along. Not that it was easy, but you seem to have great serendipitous moments in meeting people that assisted to get you to the next level.

JH: This luck just never seemed to stop, and this was from the moment we had a collection of classes at the studio and we didn't have enough money to pay for the whole thing. So, my dad suggested that we should only stay for two weeks. Then my mom and I walked down the street, and I noticed a placard saying Gene Nelson was teaching tap and jazz dance classes and I said let's go into this studio. We went in and the owner of the studio was Nico Charisse, husband of Cyd Charisse. Right away, he sussed out the situation and he gave me a ballet scholarship for the month. And he said, all you have to do is pay my guest teachers. And we still didn't have enough money, so my mother and I went for lunch. We went across the street to the old Rex-all drugstore and there was a sign saying waitress needed. My mom approached the manager and got the job as a waitress and that's how we were able to afford the entire month.

OCT: And at this point you were becoming an educated dancer and you're learning from the best in the 1950s at the height of the big lavish musicals. The musicals are in colour and for people who may not recognize some of the names, this impressed us. Your first TV gig was with Jack Benny on his show and if you had a Mount Rushmore for comedians of the 20th century, he could arguably be on it. That's stepping up into some very high-level areas of entertainment for your first show.

JH: Gene Nelson sent me there to audition for his wife, Miriam Nelson, who was choreographing the show. So, I went there, and I auditioned and I got the job.

OCT: The people that you taught or worked with you or helped during the 1960s were some rather prominent names. You taught the legendary Frank Sinatra how to do a 60s era dance for the movie *Marriage on the Rocks*. You worked and helped Jean Simmons, the suburb actress, in the movie *Elmer Gantry*. And there was Elvis, let's talk about him.

JH: I loved Elvis. He was obviously a mega star, and we all know that. But he was also the kindest, most respectful and polite person for someone of that level that I've ever met.

OCT: Another person that you worked with and fortunately is still with us is Ann-Margret. I bring this up for a number of reasons, I don't think I ever saw anybody have better chemistry with Elvis than Ann-Margret in the movie *Viva Las Vegas*. Did you see that up close?

JH: We felt it and it was electric. They were definitely attracted to each other.

OCT: James, you definitely have a fascinating story to share and we want to thank you for coming by the studio and talking with us today about your book and your journey. One last thing, we understand that you now live in Okanagan Falls, British Columbia.

JH: Yes, we sold our North Vancouver home of many years and now we have a beautiful place up there in the mountains overlooking the lake.

OCT: Thank you to Ben at BearManor Media for bringing us together.

James Hibbard's book is available now and you can listen to an extended version of this interview on our PODCAST at ourcitytonighttv.com



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