



WINTER WONDERLAND



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09



Hon. Kelly Greene
MLA for Richmond-Steveston

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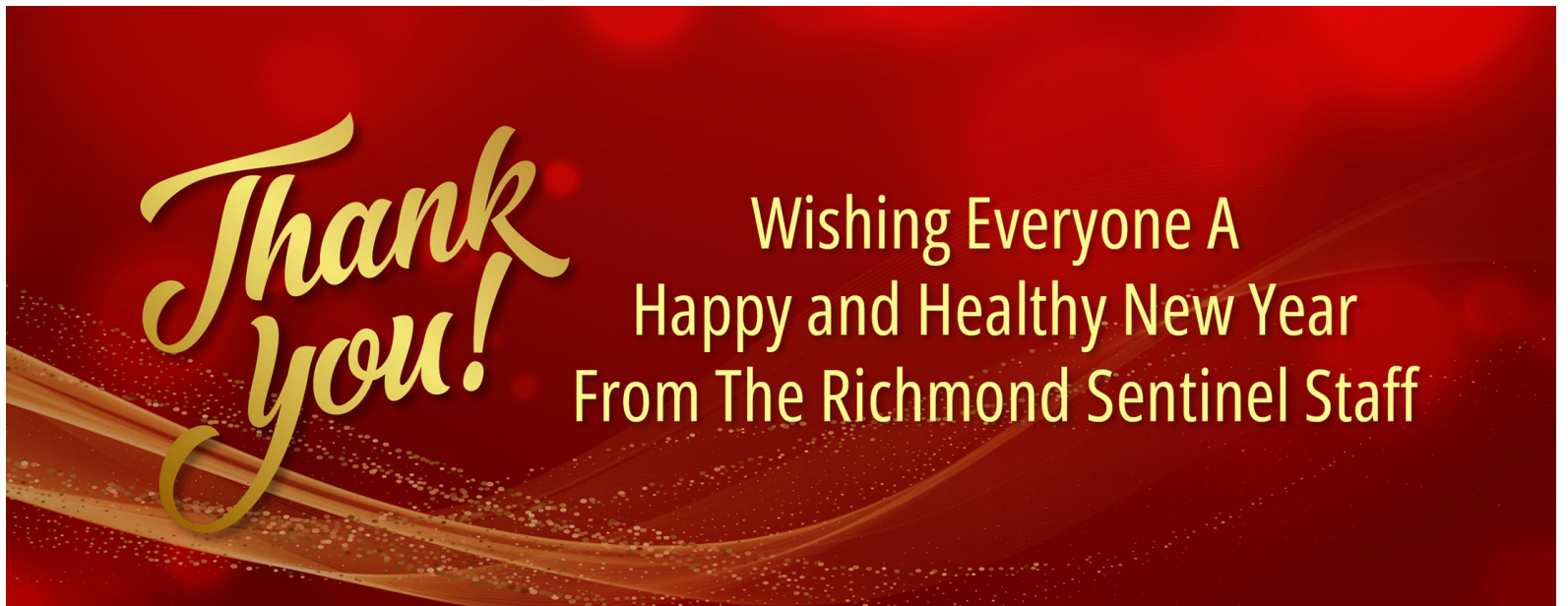
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richmond.ca/WinterBreak





While staying true to the original vision to publish Richmond news and events that would provide information for new members of the community and our local residents, the Richmond Sentinel continued to add news about BC, Canada and international countries in print and on-line. In 2025 we added writers that brought an entertainment and lifestyle factor and uncovered stories that readers in Richmond could relate to or have an interest in, while supporting community events and charities in print and through the lens of a camera.

In 2025, the video division has never been busier filming interviews which aired on Richmond Sentinel YouTube channel, the website, published in the Richmond Sentinel community newspaper and some stories aired on national TV. We uncovered hidden gems in the business community, covered sports awards, an amazing journey of a helicopter from Richmond to Ukraine, and filming the many candidates during the Federal election to mention just a few. We added a social media team and graphic artist as well as an animator/videographer to publish a product we're very proud of. I encourage our readers to go to our website and view in detail the many stories we provided in 2025 at richmondsentinel.ca/videos or www.richmondsentinel.ca/editions

We continued a partnership in 2025 with a national weekly TV series, **Our City Tonight** providing our community with an entertainment factor adding interviews in print and video with artists, singers, song writers, authors, actors, travel, and the food and wine industry.

Interviews on film and in print with Rika Mansingh a certified dietitian and award-winning author have been very educational offering lots of healthy lifestyle ideas. As well, Joe Leary a well-known media broadcaster will continue to share stories from his experience from years of interviewing on radio and in print. Douglas Scammel writes about his passion for men's fashion but with a twist of history added. And just this month, Richard Goodine, joined the Sentinel family, a man who has a vast knowledge of wine from his worldly travels. And finally sports media writer Steven Erikson, who provides a play-by-play article on the Richmond Sockeyes Jr. A Hockey games, a team that the Richmond Sentinel are proud to sponsor.

The **Richmond Sentinel**, welcomes any suggestions and would like to thank you for your support over the years and from our home to yours, we wish you and your loved ones good health and happiness in 2026. newsroom@richmondsentinel.ca

Florence Gordon

Print & Media Division

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SENTINEL**
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Joe Biz — *by Joe Leary*

TV Turned a Page With 'Sports Page'

For over a quarter century 'Sports Page' was more than just a TV show — it was a nightly tradition. Debuting on CKVU (UTV) in 1977, the 30-minute late night sports recap became essential viewing with fans hungry for highlights and humour; presented with a distinct West Coast voice. Before the 24-hour national sports networks era, the 'Page' — as it was affectionately known — was where plays of the day came alive. It was a simple premise.

"Sports Page transcended the traditional sports-cast and gave its strong following a solid half-hour of highlights," says Tom Mayenknecht, Sports Business Commentator; host of The Sport Market on Sportsnet 650 and Marketing Communications Executive with Emblematica Brand Builders.

"It delivered the goods but dug deeper on local stories than anyone during its heyday". The 'Secret Sauce' was the 'Page's' execution and roster of engaging sports anchors that made it even more magical. There was no glossy corporate polish and no affiliation with Toronto. It was a stand-alone local production. 'Sports Page' was a fast-paced; slightly irreverent look at the day in sports; hosted by the very best in the business. Personalities such as Paul Carson, Barry Macdonald, Don Taylor, Dave Randorf and John Shorthouse were the key drivers of its success — all would become household names, and some would further shape sports broadcasting across Canada and beyond.

Chief among them was Randorf. Long associated with TSN and Sportsnet in Toronto after his time at 'The Page', Randorf currently broadcasts the television play-by-play for the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning. As an alumnus of the heralded show, the affable host is quick to boast proudly of his affiliation. "I grew up in North Delta watch-



Page Sports Team Dave Randorf, Paul Carson, Don Taylor *Photo courtesy of TV Week June 11, 1994*

ing Sports Page", says Randorf.

"To find myself a few years later sitting in that host chair at 11pm was one of the most exciting times of my career. We really had something special. Our boss, the late Paul Carson let us be ourselves and have fun. We could be loose on the air and crack some jokes; we grew playoff beards in the 1994 Canucks playoff run and we always put local first.

"Whether it was the latest Canucks news or a feature on an unknown, up-and-coming high school basketball player named Steve Nash. And we were a great team — the whole crew. I had so many laughs in that room every single day. I smile just thinking about Don Taylor chirping everyone as soon as they walked in. Add it all up and that was the energy that came out on the air at 11pm".

"The Page' blazed a trail with its unique charm and fan following. "It was impossible to spend a half hour with those hosts and not have a smile on your face," adds Mayenknecht.

The show's roots stretched back to an era when Vancouver was finding its professional sporting identity.

The BC Lions were CFL contenders, but the Canucks were still searching for their first real taste of success.

The Whitecaps had achieved earlier acclaim in the NASL days, while the NBA Grizzlies were yet to make their mark.

'Sports Page' became the connective tissue. It celebrated not just professional teams but high school tournaments, local heroes and even obscure sports that rarely got airtime elsewhere.

The local focus was prime. A junior hockey

player's goal or a high school track athlete's accomplishment could easily find video of themselves featured between the nightly highlights. That grassroots commitment gave the 'Page' its authentic flavour — part community bulletin board, part comedy act. "The unique take on highlights, the made-in-Vancouver jokes; the bloopers and the signature personality of 'Sports Page' built the show into a unicorn of fan engagement," says Mayenknecht. "It became a community unto itself and made the connection something special. A prime example was 'Yulin' with the Page'; the annual two-part series that became synonymous with the holiday season — and I mean synonymous!

"It was Christmas for sports fans."

But authenticity doesn't necessarily translate to longevity in broadcasting and by the early 2000s, the television landscape had changed. National networks like TSN and Sportsnet were dominating with slicker production, real-time updates and multi-platform coverage. Viewers were shifting online, and the economics of local sports programming became harder to justify.

In 2005, 'Sports Page' signed off after 28 years. For fans, that final broadcast was a genuine gut punch as it was the end of an era. Yet the spirit of the 'Page' never really disappeared. Its alumni went on to anchor both local and national broadcasts and radio shows, further shaping Canadian sports media. More importantly, the 'Page' ethos — that sports should be fun and rooted in community — continues to echo amid the city's media landscape.

'Sports Page' was honored with an exhibit in the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2017 celebrating its 40th anniversary.

"That was one of the most popular special exhibits ever rolled out", says Mayenknecht; who doubles as the BC Sports Hall of Fame chair.

Today, when fans reminisce about 'Sports Page' it's with a reverence reserved for something truly unique. More than just highlights and scores; it was the heartbeat of local sports culture — a nightly gathering of fans and storytellers who loved the game and the city in equal measures. "My last time hosting 'Sports Page' was July 1995," adds Randorf. "I remember getting a little choked up signing off telling viewers that I was moving on. To this day — all these years later — I don't go more than a couple of months without somebody somewhere coming up to me and saying: "Loved watching you on the 'Page' — you guys made it so much fun."

"For that half-hour, 6 nights a week, 'Sports Page' mattered to people and I'm very proud to have been a part of that". And within that 30 minutes, Vancouver saw itself reflected through the lens of sport, camaraderie and intense local pride.



“
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WINE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Richard Goodine

Vice President of
Hospitality Development
Skye Avenue

The Richmond Sentinel sat down in a filmed interview with Richard Goodine to talk about the holiday season. Richard Goodine is a man with decades of experience in the service and the wine industries. Of course, he's here to talk about some great wines for the holiday season. But also, we should also mention he's our newest columnist.

RS: We wanted to talk first about your career and why our editor and I were so keen to get you involved because of your great experience in the wine industry.

RG: It's funny, I didn't grow up in a wine culture. My parents, I think maybe once or twice when I was a

kid, I might have seen a bottle of Baby Duck on the dinner table at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I moved to Vancouver, I guess, in 1988 after I worked in Alberta for the Olympics, and I was hired at what many people will know as the very famous Cannery Seafood restaurant on the waterfront. And I love telling this story. A gentleman named Kevin Chestnut sat me down at table 32, and he opened up a wine I'd never heard of. I still remember it vividly. It was 1985, Grgich Hills Chardonnay. And he explained what I was smelling and what I was tasting, and I was hooked. I started studying, traveling and researching to learn more about this craft. I managed to make an amazing life which has taken me all over the world because of my fascination for this great industry. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to drink a \$50,000 a bottle of wine at somebody else's expense.

RS: One of the things Richard, you've accomplished is that you're a guy that restaurants love to bring in to increase their knowledge of wine. But you also, have a great sense of selecting a product for those who just want a nice happy-hour wine.

RG: I often hear, I was told to buy this wine or, some people like to add another substance to their wine or some just simply think it has to be expensive to be worthy. I believe it's your decision what you buy and how you serve it. Sometimes what's exciting is finding a really good value white or red wine that is served during happy hour.

RS: And with friends like you who have been kind enough to pass on some great quality wines that are under \$20 I'm learning to appreciate this advice.

RG: Most people don't believe this, but the average bottle of wine sold in British Columbia is about \$16 and here's a funny story. Years ago I was moving to Thailand and I couldn't take my wines with me and I had an amazing collection of Italian wines. Some of them three or four hundred dollars a bottle. I didn't want to leave them behind. So I had a big party at my house with a bunch of really dear friends. The next day one of my friends asked me to take him shopping for wine because the wines I poured at my party were amazing. So I asked, "what are you willing to spend?" He said, \$25 a bottle. I said, "well, you're not going to be very happy then, compared to last night."

I think when people have the chance to drink a great wine, they're usually enamored by it. I've been on Rock Star private yachts drinking a thousand or fifteen-hundred-dollar bottle of Screaming Eagle, the truth is, I get as much kick out of a Grand Cru Burgundy or when I go to the store and I try out a \$16 bottle of wine and it works, I'm happy.

RS: We're going to talk about a couple of wines that you brought with you, and I'm happy to say are from BC.

RG: The reason I brought two BC wines with me today is that, I was at



Martin's Lane - Simes Vineyard Pinot Noir 2022

Photos courtesy Mark Butschler of Mark Anthony Wine and Spirit

Mission Hill about a week ago. First of all, an amazing facility and Anthony Von Mendel has done an amazing job of helping to put the Okanagan on the map and I've brought two excellent wines today that are at a pretty premium price point, but I think they're as good an example of quality as you will get anywhere in the world.

John Symes was a winemaker for many years for Anthony Von Mendel so there's a particular vineyard that's named the Simes Vineyard and Martin's Lane is considered to be one of these benchmark brands under their portfolio. And what we are sampling today is the Simes Vineyard Martin's Lane Pinot Noir.

This is as close as you're going to get to a Premier Cru Burgundy. It's about the same price point. This is about \$105 a bottle retail. But, you know, going to that value discussion that we were having for the month of December, like at Sky, we're giving this for \$23 for a 5-ounce glass.

RS: We should mention, of course, your long-time connection as VP of Hospitality & Development for Sky Avenue in Surrey.

RG: We're in our third year now, but it's a relentless business, and it is one that people don't understand. When you are passionate about the industry you want to create great food, great wine and great experiences. Today is one of those experiences. I brought a white BC Chardonnay and I think you're going to be exceptionally impressed by this wine.

RS: I've always said to people, if you don't like Chardonnay, you haven't had a good glass. Am I right?

RG: You're sacrificing something if you don't allow yourself the opportunity to try it. I've done many seminars where I've said, "how many people hate Chardonnay?" And they raise their hands immediately. But the second question I ask, "how many like Chablis?" Their hands go up right away. And I have said, "that's Chardonnay, 100%." So it just comes down to perception.

RS: I think this is as good a Chardonnay as you'll find in Canada. What would you pair this with?

RG: Oh, so many things. Scallops with Risotto. I do a Chicken Coq Au Vin with white wine instead of with red wine and an amazing Spaetzle, a beautiful Salmon or a Carbonara pasta.

RS: During the interview Richard talked about great ideas for Christmas gifts and why to choose the right glass for the right wine along with other interesting comments in the video interview which you can watch in full detail at: richmondsentinel.ca/videos/richardgoodine



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Note: Richmond City Hall is closed
December 25, 2025 until January 2, 2026

Free Saturday Matinee Concerts

November 29

11:30 AM: Dr. Libby Yu Piano Studio
1:30 PM: BC Registered Music Teachers' Association (Richmond)

December 6

12:30 PM: Peggy Yip Music Studio
2:00 PM: Phyllis Tang's Music Studio
3:30 PM: Richmond Music School

December 13

2:00 PM: Sound Direction School of Music
3:30 PM: Childlike Faith Academy of Music and Theatre

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OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



In their own words...

A season to reflect and support each other



**Andy
Hobbs**
Councillor

As we turn the page on another year, my thoughts go to the people in our community who need a little extra support—and to the many ways we show generosity here in Richmond. Giving takes many forms, and over the past weeks we've been reminded just how quickly our community steps forward when help is needed.

That was especially evident on December 2, when a fire displaced dozens of residents from their homes. By the next morning, the outpouring of goodwill was impressive with many residents offering food, clothing and other items. While that support was truly appreciated, we directed people to the Canadian Red Cross, which works closely with the City, to ensure assistance reached people effectively. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation can do so by visiting redcross.ca or calling 1-888-800-6493.

City Council's five strategic focus areas strengthen our community and embedded throughout, are values such as safety, resilience, relationships, accessibility, inclusion, diversity, and respect. These threads are woven into the community fabric, ensuring our success as an appealing, livable and caring community.

Our Council, staff and community partners work diligently to ensure programs are effective

with accessibility and affordability being key considerations. Over 102,000 residents registered for programs last year and with over 1.7 million paid visits to centres, pools and other facilities.

The Fee Subsidy Program provides lower cost opportunities to those in need and 60% of the registrants were children. Seniors can access low-cost fitness classes, transportation assistance, and social programs that help them stay connected. Families and individuals facing financial challenges benefit from affordable childcare, community meals, and housing support programs. Parks, community centres, and libraries are all part of this network, offering safe, welcoming spaces where everyone can connect and thrive.

Community Celebration Grants assist organizations including Air Cadets, Chimo, Kajaks, Minoru Seniors Society and Richmond Family Place. The Snow Angels Program pairs volunteers with seniors over 65 in need of assistance with snow removal due to mobility issues, illness or physical disabilities. Snow Angels is popular and improves safety for our seniors.

Initiatives like the Richmond RCMP's 11th Annual Toy Drive partnered with Richmond



Councillor Hobbs playing hockey with Sockeyes at RCMP Xmas Toy Drive

Photo courtesy Sylvester Law

Cares Richmond Gives Christmas Fund, Richmond Sockeyes, Richmond Fire Service, and community stakeholders. The event gathered a record 33,000 donations for families in our community.

Each year, John Lennon's iconic *Happy Christmas* gives me pause to consider, "So this is Christmas and what have you done?" Council, staff and community partners work together every day, throughout the year, to ensure Richmond is a caring and livable city.

Wishing you peace, warmth, and connection in the weeks ahead.

To learn more about Richmond's programs, please visit richmond.ca.

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

Meeting schedule subject to change.

Jan 5 | 4:00pm
General Purposes Committee
followed by Finance Committee

Jan 6 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee

Jan 12 | 7:00pm
Council Meeting

Jan 13 | 4:00pm
Community Safety Committee

Jan 14 | 3:30pm
Development Permit Panel

Jan 19 | 4:00pm
General Purposes Committee

Jan 19 | 7:00pm
Public Hearing

Jan 20 | 4:00pm
Planning Committee





City of Richmond

News Release

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

December 10, 2025

Richmond approves proposed 2026 operating and capital budgets

Richmond, BC – Richmond City Council has approved the proposed 2026 operating and capital budgets to support infrastructure, community services and safety.

The proposed operating budget will result in a 3.04 per cent tax increase. This is equivalent to approximately \$71 per year (approximately 19 cents a day) for the average residential property with an assessed value of \$1,319,103 (2025 average).

The proposed operating budget includes several items, such as hiring four Richmond RCMP officers, funding for housing initiatives, a one per cent increase in funding community infrastructure investment based on Council's long-term financial management strategy, and final funding amounts required to operate the expanded Steveston Community Centre and Library.

The budget also addresses increases in costs from senior levels of government. These increases are partially offset by increasing revenue estimates, reducing expense budgets for temporary job vacancies within the City, and reducing the annual contribution to the Richmond Olympic Oval. The Rate Stabilization Account will be used to offset \$1.8 million in operating costs, reducing the tax impact by 0.55 per cent.

The proposed \$245.7 million capital budget will fund 89 projects. This includes \$74.0 million of additional funding for the first phase of the City Works Yard replacement—a multi-year project; \$33.6 million for flood protection programs such as dike improvements, drainage upgrades, canal stabilization, and utility upgrades; and \$50.0 million for strategic land purchases. Other allocations include funding for parks, information technology, and a fire vehicle and equipment.

The proposed capital and operating budget reports, along with the YouTube recording of the December 8, 2025 Council Meeting, are available at citycouncil.richmond.ca

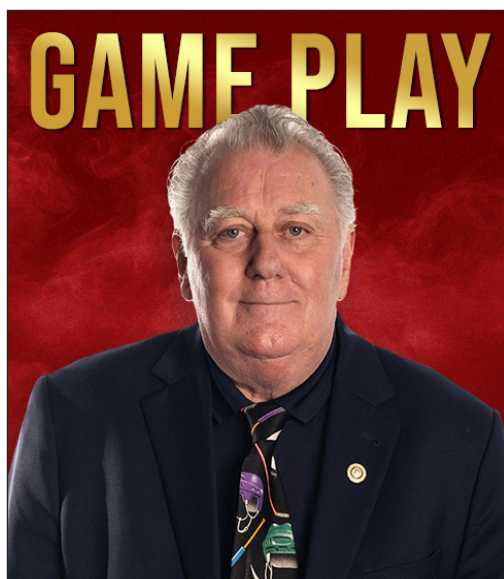
Proposed 5 Year Financial Plan

Each year, the City develops a 5 Year Financial Plan as required under the *Community Charter*. As part of this process, Council reviews and approves three annual budgets, which together form the foundation of the 5 year plan.

- The operating budget funds general City services based on the service level approved by Council. This budget also includes one-time expenditures with no tax impact.
- The capital budget funds the investment in and maintenance of City infrastructure, facilities and other capital assets to serve Richmond residents and businesses.
- The utility budget funds water, sewer, flood protection, garbage and recycling services.

Together, these 2026 budgets were presented to Council as the proposed Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2026-2030) Bylaw No. 10727 at the December 8, 2025 Council meeting.

Now that the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2026-2030) Bylaw 10727 has been introduced and given, first, second and third readings, **the City will undertake public consultation in early January 2026** through [LetsTalkRichmond.ca](https://letsTalkRichmond.ca). After feedback has been received, reviewed and provided to Council, the 5 Year Financial Plan bylaw will go back to Council for adoption.



Steve Erickson

Season's Greeting From The Richmond Sockeyes

Holding a commanding lead in league standings entering December puts extra pressure on everyone from the players to coaches as well as ownership and when I reflect on the season play to date it's obvious everyone is on the same page. It's not easy to continue to dominate league play and when you reflect on the number of games along with the hectic schedule they have, injuries can and will take its toll.

Thankfully the Sockeyes haven't had many, at least for the first three months of the season, but it's something that all teams go through which has the team utilize call-ups to fill the necessary spots. Entering December the Sockeyes would be facing teams who are eager to pull out a "Win" pulling closer in the standing setting up a stronger playoff finish which isn't that far off.

December starts off with a visit from the Coastal Tsunami in a game that was close body checking from the opening face-off that was scoreless until 19:55 of the first period that saw the Tsunami take an early lead after one goal on a power play. To the surprise of many the first was closer than many expected as the Sockeyes narrowly held a

14-10 lead in shots setting up another fast-paced second period that saw the Tsunami get their second goal of the game at 10:48.

Again the shots remained close with the Sockeyes holding a 30-23 lead after two setting up the third only to allow the Tsunami get their third at 6:49 forcing additional pressure entering the third period. Sockeyes sniper David Yoon (23rd) got them on the board at 9:07 with assists to Quinn Orr and William Huo which set up an exciting finish that saw the coaching staff pull Massimo Urbani for the extra attacker only to have the Tsunami get an empty net goal heading home with a 4-1 win. The loss would see the Sockeyes refocus as their next game was against the Trail Blazers that saw David Yoon continue his scoring streak on the power play at 1:52 with William Huo and David Nazareth with helpers taking a 1-0 lead after the first period.

The home squad pressed and evened the score at 10:02 that saw the game change with Brody Lindal (12th) set up by Captain Teo Lin at 13:09 taking a 2-1 lead after two setting up an exciting third. Focus was the game plan setting up their third of the game with Teo Lin (15th) getting a PP marker with William Huo sending him in on the left side which would be short lived.

The home squad got one back 52 second later pulling within one making it a 3-2 game continuing to drive to the net pulling their goalie getting their third goal of the game forcing O/T that would see both teams have chances. After several chances by each team the game winning goal was delivered by David Yoon pulling out the win at 3:53 heading home with his second of the game helping the Sockeyes maintain first place in league play.

David Yoon (2G/1A) was named first star, Po. Coq's tender Nicholas Muc (46Shots Against/42Saves) named second and William Huo (0/G/2A) named third star as the two teams have a rematch December 11th. The Sockeyes held their annual Christmas lunch at the Steveston Seafood House that was a fun-filled day that put the players' voices on display singing Carols that featured a sing-off that won't see them enter a talent contest.

I had a chance to talk with Head Coach Scott Hewson to get his take on the first part of the season with him telling me "we had a lot of veteran players step up their game this year having fun instilling a strong compete level to the game." I asked about the team that was put together by ownership and GM Will Kump mentioning "the coaching staff along with the players are having a lot of fun while learning while at the same time

having a positive start to the season."

Q. What have you personally learned coming over from North Shore?

A. The players here are all wanting to continue their hockey path to improve on competing, work ethic, learning systems and playing the right way to get themselves to the next level of the game. They have all come here and bought into the system and our plan knowing that the players have taken on accountability themselves with less deflecting on others.

Q. Who has more pressure, the players or the coaching staff?

A. There's a bit of a balance with both as the players are asked to come in early for extra opportunities to practice along with the extra expectation on the coaching staff to deliver.

Q. Did you expect to be sitting in first place with such a remarkable record nearing the Christmas break?

A. Not really but the group of players that Stu and Will brought in was there, it's just been a great surprise for me personally starting off my Junior career with such a positive record at this point but now the standard has been set."

Q. Was it difficult to get new players to adjust to the system?

A. Typically the league is the middle ground for the players to get to a higher junior level and that's where they have to improve on following the system to get rewarded.

Q. What's the hardest part for you as coach and your coaching staff?

A. It's teaching the players to buy into the system and play together as a team, reaping the benefits when it happens.

Q. How do you keep the team focused given the success to date when everyone is chasing you?

A. It's tough as you get every team's best game coming for you, so you can't take a day off, if you sit back the teams that work hard will beat you.

Scott gives lots of credit to his coaching staff mentioning "It's a team game and I couldn't do it alone with the success being open communication."

As we enter the Christmas holidays we thank and sincerely appreciate the support from the volunteers, the fans and our sponsors for all their continued support throughout the season. On behalf of Steve Daniel, producer Dylan and camera operator Isaiah for your "kind words" for all home games with a special "THANKS" to the RICHMOND SENTINEL for the ongoing support. We wish you and your Family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2026.



SINCE 1972

RICHMOND SOCKEYES





Douglas James Scammell

FASHION FOR MEN A Dress Shoe

Another great dress shoe style that can really make your suit choice look that much sharper are to add the Monkstrap shoes. They are a dress shoe with no laces but designed with a buckle strap instead. There are 3 different styles: the Single Monkstrap, as well as the double monk strap and lastly the Cutaway monks.

1. Single Monk: The single monk has one broad strap that closes the shoe across the instep. It is typically kept closed by a saddle buckle made of metal. Some men's designs feature wider tongues for more comfort. The single monk is a great choice for a subtle yet stylish look.



2. Double Monk: As you might have guessed, double monk shoes feature two straps rather than one. Some see this merely as a fashion statement, but it is really not. The purpose of the second strap is to give a better fit. Double monks are better for narrower feet because the second strap holds them more securely in place.



3. Cutaway Monks: The straps on traditional monks point downward towards the sole. Not so with a cutaway. The Cutaway's straps tend to point back towards the heel. Cutaways can be either single or double strapped.

HISTORY

Through my research there is no exact date when the monkstrap shoes were first made. However, there is a connection to the life of monks in the middle ages.

The simple life of monks took place mainly in monasteries and close surrounding garden areas. The monks usually wore sandals, which soon turned out to be not very suitable for manual labor in rougher terrains. So, the sandal was transformed into a closed leather shoe with a buckle, the forerunner of today's monkstrap shoe.

The monkstrap shoe was innovated in the late 19th century by English shoe maker Edward Green creating the style we know today. During that time, the monk shoe gained popularity in England, and it was often worn by gentlemen on formal occasions.

Well into the 20th century the single monk strap was the most popular choice but moving into the 20th century the double strap monk has become more popular. There are 3 types of designs in production today and are available by lots for major luxury brands as well as your custom shoe makers. The third design has 3 straps instead of 2 but in all fairness they are not very popular and in my opinion, I do not think they look good, it's overkill.

PRESENT DAY

Today, monk strap shoes are an integral part of a classic gentleman's shoe wardrobe and the double monks have even achieved a certain kind of mainstream appeal. When I was doing my research I read that in Mediterranean countries especially, men often wear partially or completely unbuckled double monks to underline their nonchalant look. Not sure how comfortable that would be because I like to have my monk strap shoes buckled up for comfort as well as being able to walk properly... it would be like walking with your shoelaces untied.

The experts say the monk strap style shoes are not appropriate for a black tie or very formal events however, they do say Oxford lace style shoes are preferred. The monk shoe, no matter what model you like, is a very versatile choice and can be worn in both business and casual settings. I think they work best with your suits, but will also work great with more casual wear like your chino pants or other casual trousers as well as jeans.

Another plus when it comes to buying a pair of monk strap shoes is they are available in all different price points. I recommend to anyone to find a pair that is made from a quality leather and as long as you take care of them the maintenance should be minimum. They can be a life-long purchase.

Photos courtesy DJ Scammell





OUR CITY tonight

Season's Greetings

SPOTLIGHT ON
GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON VIEWING

THE VIEW #1 – MARTY SUPREME

Timothee Chalamet, who delivered a great performance as Bob Dylan in last year's *A Complete Unknown*, is back with another great performance, this one loosely based on, and inspired by, 1950's table tennis prodigy, Marty Reisner. In the film, the character is known as Marty Mauser. Mauser's sole focus – when he's not scheming or scamming to raise money for expenses – is to become the world champion in table tennis. Fighting for respect for himself, and the sport which, at the time, was only really popular in a handful of countries like Japan, Mauser makes a deal anywhere, anytime and with anyone – while also staying one step ahead of angry family members, a woman who loves him, and the local police. Chalamet, who has proven his talents in a number of demanding roles at a young age, fills his portrayal of Marty Mauser with so much cringe-worthy, obnoxious, and ingratiating behaviour, it is tough to watch at times. But the performance is still top notch and worthy of an Oscar nomination. The strong supporting cast also deserves mention including several actors we've not seen in a while: Gwyneth Paltrow and Fran Drescher. Also part of the cast is Canadian businessman and TV personality, Kevin O'Leary, who delivers a surprisingly strong performance as Paltrow's successful husband and possible patron to Mauser's mission. Look for *Marty Supreme* in theatres Dec 25th. www.elevationpictures.com



Photo courtesy
Elevation Pictures

THE VIEW #2 – JAY KELLY



Photo courtesy Netflix

George Clooney has been acting, writing, directing and producing movies for over 30 years, which includes an Oscar. Before that, a dozen years in a list of TV shows until the hospital drama, *ER*, made him a star in 1994. Now comes his latest film called *Jay Kelly*, which has been described as a "coming-of-age story about adults". Directed and Co-Written by the Noah Baumbach (*The Squid and the Whale*, *Barbie*, *Talented Mr. Fox*), the story introduces us to successful actor and movie star, Jay Kelly, just after he's just completed his latest film. He's dealing with that emptiness, but also grieving the loss of the director/mentor who made him a star. He'd also like to spend some time with his youngest daughter but she's headed to Europe for the summer. Realizing a lifetime achievement award from an Italian film festival might be the opportunity to see his daughter, Kelly drags his entire "team" on a last minute trip to Europe. That team is made up of a group of spectacular actors including Laura Dern, Emily Mortimer (who Co-Wrote the script), and Adam Sandler, who delivers a wonderfully sweet performance as Kelly's manager. As for Clooney portraying Jay Kelly, the professional similarities can't be ignored. The personal ones, who can know, though it does have a feel to it like when actors comedically portray themselves in shows like *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. That aside, George Clooney does deliver a deep and nuanced performance that he may not have been able to deliver 10 years ago. This is the perfect time for him to play this character who is the same age. Throughout the film, Jay Kelly is examining his life, the decisions he's made as well as the sacrifices made, something I'm sure Clooney has done as well. Look for *Jay Kelly* on Netflix. www.netflix.com

THE VIEW #3 – ONE MORE SHOT

We must admit, we love time travel films. Though there is always flaws (big or small) that you have to ignore, it is a genre that has never worn on us – or fans from around the world. One of the appeals is the idea of "what if". What if we could go back in time and change something or someone. That's the premise for the new comedy, *One More Shot*, which comes to us from Australia. The setting is a house party on Dec 31st, 1999, and a small group of friends are gathering to send off the 2nd millennium and hopefully not deal with Y2K (remember that fear?). One of those friends is Minnie, a mid-30's anesthesiologist, who discovers that her ex-fiancée is back in town. Her hopes are high for a reunion and possible second chance. Wanting to calm her nerves after reuniting with her ex at the party, she takes a sip from a mysterious 10-year-old bottle of tequila, and suddenly she's back in time – only a handful of minutes – but enough to correct any mistakes and miscues from that night. What Minnie discovers, though, is that going back and correcting moments from the night aren't as easy as she first thinks. Emily Browning, who has a long resume of film and TV work, is wonderful as Minnie, funny and buffoonish at times, but also sad and wistful as she reflects on life choices and how fate has led her to where she is on the last day of 1999. *One More Shot* is available now for home viewing. www.vortexpex.com



Photo courtesy Vortex Media

Accomplished animator releases first independent feature film

Alex Woo is an American animator, filmmaker, and the founder and CEO of Kuku Studios, an independent animation studio. Alex participated as a story artist for Pixar Studios on several major, well-known films, including *Ratatouille*, *Wall-E*, *Cars 2*, *Finding Dory*, *The Good Dinosaur*, and the *Incredibles 2*. He recently directed and co-wrote the original animated feature film *In Your Dreams* which premiered on Netflix in November 2025.

OCT: Congratulations on this film, you have had a long career in the animated world of movies. The new film is wonderful for families. What we really love about this film is that it shows a family that's not perfect. The love is still there and that really resonated. Let's talk about this family.

AW: The movie is about Stevie and Elliott, two siblings who live in the Midwest in Minnesota, which is where I grew up. Their family is going through some changes and of course you know change is hard for kids. Stevie tries to adapt as she's the eldest sibling. And like the movie, I'm the oldest sibling and can relate. Stevie tries to keep her family together and keep things as they are. This is a very personal film as it is sort of based off of what happened to me when I was a kid. When I was about six or seven years old, I woke up one morning and my mom was at the front door with her bags packed. She had to gently explain to me and my brother that she was going away for a little while to figure things out for herself and for our family. I think my parents got married quite young, so I think parenthood was sort of thrust upon them quickly. She had to figure out who she was, what she wanted to do, and who she wanted to be. I totally understand that now but as a kid it's very scary. I think you just want your family to be whole, to be together and perfect. This movie is very much an exploration of imperfect people with imperfect parents in an imperfect family. The key is realizing that that's okay and that's what life is about. It's imperfect, messy and it's the coming together and getting through those messy times that makes a family a family. It's what makes life meaningful.



Alex Woo brings vast expertise to his new family film

Photo courtesy Alex Woo

OCT: One of the parts that we really liked about this film is that there's no guilty parties here. No one is right or wrong. This is just parents doing what they do with no lack of love. As a creator of children's films, is there a lot of discussion as to what kids can absorb, not only as the characters but also the viewers? The kids, Stevie and Elliott, travel into a dream world to meet Mr. Sandman to get their wish granted. Was there a discussion about how much kids can digest?

AW: Yes, we obviously had to think about the audience and what they're able to digest, what's palatable for them. We worked with a lot of child psychologists, and we showed two or three of them the film early on to get their insights. It was validating for us because we explored a lot of different emotions and we kind of didn't hold back. I wanted to approach this movie to tell the story as honestly and as authentically as possible. When I was a kid, I went through a lot of emotions when this was happening to my family. This is why we have Stevie and Elliott go through all those dif-

ferent emotions. The psychologists were happy to see that because these moments are very challenging for kids and they do go through every single emotion that you can imagine.

OCT: We I love the storyline that you created when they must go to this magical world full of scary cereals. There's one great line that we know we're never going to hear again when one of the characters says "Dad, there's a dead girl in my cereal". You need to add these magical elements, so you don't manipulate the children viewers but it's a great way to get them hooked into what you're trying to tell them. Would that be correct?

AW: Yes, absolutely. I mean we tried to create something cinematically that people haven't seen before. That's what encourages me to go to the movies. I want to see something new and fresh. I also want to see something funny and be entertained. That's what I love about going to the movies. It can take you through this emotional roller coaster, and you feel every single emotion. The best movies do that, they give you comedy, drama, adventure, and action.

OCT: It is remarkable to see how far animated films have come, where you can say this film is not just a top film in the animated category, it is a top 10 movie. You've had a great history in your career and spent time as a story artist at Pixar Animation Studios, a studio that was involved with movies that everybody knows. You're an Emmy winner. Let's talk about how much that helped you in your career and how you were able to finally step out on your own with Kuku Studios.

AW: I loved working at that studio, and it was instrumental for me. I love the people there and I loved my time there. I feel so lucky to have worked with some of the greatest filmmakers in our generation. I learned so much from them and everything that I have learned about film making in cinema, I really learned during my time there. I brought all that knowledge to this new film and to Kuku Studios. Hopefully I'm able to add my own sort of spin to things and make things my own.

In Your Dreams is now available for streaming on Netflix.



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