City of Richmond

# Agenda

## General Purposes Committee

**Anderson Room, City Hall**
**6911 No. 3 Road**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2026**
**4:00 p.m.**

Pg. # ITEM

## MINUTES

**GP-4** ***Motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on October 19, 2026.***

## LAW AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

1. **APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR PRIMARY LIQUOR LICENCE # 307706 STRUCTURAL CHANGE (CAPACITY INCREASE) XTREME BOWLING ENTERTAINMENT CORP., DBA: SPLITSVILLE RIVERPORT – OPERATING AT 14200 ENTERTAINMENT BOULEVARD UNIT 150**
(File Ref. No. 12-8375-3) (REDMS No. 8526008)

**GP-9** See Page **GP-9** for full report

***Designated Speaker: Mark Corrado***

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

***(1) That the application from Xtreme Bowling Entertainment Corp. doing business as, Splitsville Riverport, seeking a permanent amendment to Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 307706; for a Structural Change (Capacity Increase) to 500 persons, currently set at 460 persons, be supported; and***

***(2) That a letter be sent to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, which includes the information as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, advising that Council recommends the approval of the amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence as described in Recommendation 1 of this report.***

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

2. **UPDATE ON IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA (IRCC) FUNDING REDUCTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CHANGES**
(File Ref. No. 07-3300-01) (REDMS No. 8552770)

**GP-21**

See Page **GP-21** for full report

***Designated Speaker: Dorothy Jo***

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

***That a letter be prepared for the Mayor's signature addressed to senior levels of government, including the Prime Minister of Canada; the Premier of British Columbia; the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills; and Richmond's Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly, advocating for the reinstatement of funding for intermediate and advanced English language training and the development of a sustainable funding model that is informed by immigration targets and responds to newcomers' needs.***

## PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE DIVISION

3. **CITY SIGNATURE AND COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM 2027**
(File Ref. No. 11-7400-01) (REDMS No. 8524208)

**GP-29**

See Page **GP-29** for full report

***Designated Speakers: Dee Bowley & Marie Fenwick***

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

***(1) That the City Signature and Community Events Program 2027, as outlined in Table 1 of the report titled "City Signature and Community Events Program 2027", dated October 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, be approved for the following events and initiatives:***

***(a) Children's Arts Festival;***

***(b) Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival;***

***(c) Doors Open Richmond;***

***(d) Community Celebration Grant Program;***

***(e) Neighbourhood Block Party Program;***

***(f) Steveston Salmon Festival;***

***(g) Richmond Maritime Festival; and***

***(h) Richmond Farm Fest.***

***(2) That the expenditures totaling $1,115,000 for the City Signature and Community Events Program 2027 with funding of $960,000 from the Rate Stabilization Account, $95,000 estimated sponsorship and $60,000 estimated grant revenue be included in the 2027 budget process.***

## ADJOURNMENT

City of Richmond

Minutes

# General Purposes Committee

Date: Monday, October 19, 2026

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Laura Gillanders
Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Alexa Loo
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Michael Wolfe

Absent: Councillor Kash Heed

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

It was moved and seconded
***That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on September 21, 2026, be adopted as circulated.***

**CARRIED**

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

1. **DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES WAIVER FOR SUPPORTIVE LIVING HOUSING AT 11771 FENTIMAN PLACE**
(File Ref. No. 08-4105-01) (REDMS No. 8555614)

It was moved and seconded
***(1) That Development Cost Charges Waiver for Supportive Housing (11771 Fentiman Place) Bylaw No. 10805 be introduced and given first, second and third readings; and***

*(2) That the estimated DCC offset of $2.98M be funded from the Rate Stabilization Account. The final DCC offset amount will be included in the Consolidated 5-Year Financial Plan upon issuance of the building permit.*

**CARRIED**

2. **HOUSING TARGET ORDER**
(File Ref. No. 12-8360-01) (REDMS No. 8296448)

It was moved and seconded

*(1) That the completed Housing Target Progress Report be forwarded to the BC Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs; and*

*(2) That the Housing Target Progress Report be published on the City of Richmond website.*

**CARRIED**

3. **PILOT PROGRAM FOR ON-DEMAND / IRREVOCABLE SURETY BONDS – ONE-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW**
(File Ref. No. 08-4105-01) (REDMS No. 8535022)

It was moved and seconded

***That the report titled "Pilot Program for On-Demand / Irrevocable Surety Bonds – One-Year Implementation Review", from the General Manager, Planning and Development, dated September 21, 2026, be received for information.***

The question on the motion was not called as in response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) the Provincial legislation and the Development Cost Charges (DCC) regulations mandate the DCC installment schedule requiring developers pay 25 percent of DCC's at building permit issuance, with the remaining 75 percent due at the earlier of occupancy permit issuance of four years after the Building Permit is issued, (ii) the $50 million limit for the Initial Surety Bond Pilot Program was intended to be a sufficient buffer against any potential financial risk, while staff gain experience with surety bonds as a relatively new form of security for the city, (iii) the cap provides a buffer to ensure the City can assess and manage risks associated with holding development securities in this form, and (v) feedback through the development industry and through ongoing permitting optimization work may inform future program adjustments. Council expressed interest in receiving a future update summarizing the feedback.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED.**

# ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

4. **AWARD OF CONTRACT – 8522Q – SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VALVES & HYDRANTS**
(File Ref. No. 10-6000-00) (REDMS No. 8519436)

It was moved and seconded

*(1) That Contract 8522Q – Supply and Delivery of Valves & Hydrants be awarded in two parts for an initial three-year term commencing November 1, 2026, as follows:*

*(a) the supply and delivery of valves be awarded to Fred Surridge Ltd. for an estimated contract value of $651,000, excluding taxes; and*

*(b) the supply and delivery of hydrants be awarded to Andrew Sheret Ltd. for an estimated contract value of $726,000, excluding taxes;*

*for a combined contract value of $1,377,000, excluding taxes, as described in the report titled "Award of Contract – 8522Q – Supply and Delivery of Valves & Hydrants," dated September 16, 2026, from the Director, Public Works;*

*(2) That the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to execute the contracts and all related documents with Fred Surridge Ltd. and Andrew Sheret Ltd.; and*

*(3) That the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, be authorized to extend the initial three-year contracts for up to two additional one year terms, to a maximum total term of five years, for a maximum aggregate contract value of $2,329,000, excluding taxes.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued with respect to the procurement process and the recommended split of the award of contract.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

5. **TOP 20 COLLISION-PRONE INTERSECTIONS UPDATE 2026**
(File Ref. No. 10-6500-01) (REDMS No. 8489120)

It was moved and seconded
***That the report titled "Top 20 Collision-Prone Intersections Update 2026", from the General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, dated September 22, 2026, be received for information.***

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued with respect to further review of the removal of channelized right-turn islands at intersections.

In response to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) medium-term improvements focus on targeted upgrades rather than a full intersection reconstruction, (ii) road realignment would be costly and would require assessment of the benefits compared to the cost, (iii) research generally indicates channelized right turns have approximately four times the collision rate of conventional right turns, (v) the higher collision rate is calculated relative to traffic volume, not solely by the total number of vehicles using the intersection, and (vi) modifications to curb returns at Steveston Highway and No. 2 Road are under review.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

## PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE DIVISION

6. **WEST RICHMOND PAVILION PUBLIC ART CONCEPT PROPOSAL**
(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-376) (REDMS No. 8394151)

It was moved and seconded
***That the concept proposal Postures of Resilience by artists Lee-Anne Harder and Aaron Harder, as presented in the report titled "West Richmond Pavilion Public Art Concept Proposal," dated September 14, 2026, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, be approved.***

The question on the motion was not called as in response to a query from Committee, staff advised that the proposed Public Art at the West Richmond Pavilion will be permanent art work.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

## ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
***That the meeting adjourn (4:19 p.m.).***

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Monday, October 19, 2026.

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Chair

Raman Grewal
Legislative Services Associate

City of Richmond

# Report to Committee

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **To:** | General Purposes Committee | **Date:** | September 3, 2026 |
| **From:** | Anthony Capuccinello Iraci<br>General Manager, Law and Community Safety | **File:** | 12-8375-3/2025-Vol 01 |
| **Re:** | **Application For a Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 307706 Structural Change (Capacity Increase) Xtreme Bowling Entertainment Corp., dba: Splitsville Riverport – Operating at 14200 Entertainment Boulevard Unit 150** | | |

## Staff Recommendations

1. That the application from Xtreme Bowling Entertainment Corp. doing business as, Splitsville Riverport, seeking a permanent amendment to Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 307706; for a Structural Change (Capacity Increase) to 500 persons, currently set at 460 persons, be supported; and

2. That a letter be sent to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, which includes the information as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, advising that Council recommends the approval of the amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence as described in Recommendation 1 of this report.


## Executive Summary

This Report requests that Council endorse amending the existing Liquor Licence for Splitsville Riverport, with premises located at 14200 Entertainment Boulevard Unit 150, to allow a capacity increase of 40 additional people to a maximum of 500 people.

Council's endorsement is required by the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) for all new liquor primary licences or amendments to existing Liquor Licences. Should Council choose to endorse this amendment, a letter will be sent to the LCRB who has the final authority to approve all such amendments.

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) issues licences in accordance with the Liquor Control and Licensing Act (Act) and the Regulations made pursuant to the Act.

This Report pertains to an application to the LCRB and the City of Richmond by Xtreme Bowling Entertainment Corp., doing business as and hereinafter referred to as, Splitsville Riverport, for an amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 307706, proposing a structural change, capacity increase to 500 persons. The total person capacity is currently set at 460 persons. This amounts to an increase of 40 persons. The liquor service hours currently in effect will not change, set at 10:00 AM to 2:00 AM, Monday to Sunday.

The City of Richmond is given the opportunity to provide written comments by way of a resolution to the LCRB with respect to the liquor licence amendment application for an amendment to the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence. The process requires the local government to provide comments with respect to the following criteria:

- the location of the establishment;
- the proximity of the establishment to other social or recreational facilities and public buildings;
- the person capacity and hours of liquor service of the establishment;
- the impact of noise on the community in the immediate vicinity of the establishment; and
- the impact on the community if the application is approved.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

> *Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.*

### Analysis

Location of the Establishment

Splitsville Riverport is currently operating a licenced restaurant as well as a ten and five pin bowling centre along with an amusement centre located at 14200 Entertainment Blvd Unit 150 and 180. Splitsville Riverport is doing structural changes with permits to amalgamate the two units under the active unit number of 150. The location map is appended as Attachment 2.

The property is Zoned Entertainment and Athletics (CEA) with the following relevant permitted uses respective to this application:

- Liquor primary establishment;
- Restaurant;

- Recreation, indoor.
- Amusement centre

Splitsville Riverport is situated in a commercial use area focusing on sports and entertainment. There are approximately 17 establishments covering a wide footprint. The largest, being a movie theatre followed by a City owned skating arena and swimming pool. The businesses in this area range from entertainment, sports, indoor recreation, retail shops and restaurants. There are also some residential complexes east of Splitsville Riverport.

The Bowling Alley and restaurant have been operating in this area since 1997 and under Splitsville Riverport ownership since 2023. Since the change of ownership, no issues have arisen regarding non-compliance in respect of City bylaws.

The overall footprint of the Splitsville Riverport's bowling establishment and the restaurant will remain unchanged other than the licenced service areas as a result of the interior modifications that are underway with approved permits to have both units 150 and 180 recognized as one unit under the unit number of 150. This will also provide an increase of occupancy by 40 persons.

Proximity of the Establishment to Other Social, Recreational and Public Building

There are no schools or parks within 500 metres of Splitsville Riverport. There are two recreation buildings, Watermania and Richmond Ice Centre, situated in the vicinity of Splitsville Riverport. There is also one other liquor primary establishment within the vicinity of Splitsville Riverport.

Person Capacity and hours of Liquor Service of the Establishment

Splitsville Riverport is seeking approval for an increase to person capacity by an additional 40 persons for the existing Liquor Primary Licence currently set at 405 indoor and 55 outdoor patio for a total of 460 persons. This increase if approved will provide person capacity to 500 persons.

The applicants operating hours of liquor service will remain unchanged as currently set at Monday to Sunday, 10:00 AM to next day 2:00 AM, which is consistent with City Policy 9400.

Splitsville Riverport owners operate sixteen sites across Canada where they are committed to creating and enhancing their family friendly sites. Splitsville Riverport provided a letter of Interest appended as Attachment 3.

The Impact of Noise on the Community in the Immediate Vicinity of the Establishment

The location of Splitsville Riverport is situated in a zone that provides for athletic and entertainment uses. There are various athletic, recreational and entertainment facilities within this area. There are also other restaurants and businesses frequently visited by the public. There have been no reported issues for Splitsville Riverport to date. The capacity increase to the Liquor Licence should not change the impact of noise in this area to a greater extent than already exists.

Summary of Community consultation process and comments

The City's community consultation process for reviewing applications for liquor-related licences is prescribed by the Development Application Fees Bylaw No. 8951, which under Section 1.8.1 calls for:

> 1.8.1 Every **applicant** seeking approval from the **City** in connection with:
>
> (a) a licence to serve liquor under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act and Regulations*;
>
> must proceed in accordance with subsection 1.8.2.
>
> 1.8.2 Pursuant to an application under subsection 1.8.1, every **applicant** must:
>
> (b) post and maintain on the subject property a clearly visible sign which indicates:
> (i) type of licence or amendment application;
> (ii) proposed person capacity;
> (iii) type of entertainment (if application is for patron participation entertainment); and
> (iv) proposed hours of liquor service; and
>
> (c) publish a notice in at least three consecutive editions of a newspaper that is distributed at least weekly in the area affected by the application, providing the same information required in subsection 1.8.2(b) above.

The required signage was posted on August 2, 2026 and three advertisements were published in the local newspaper on August 02, 2026, August 04, 2026 and August 05, 2026.

In addition to the advertised signage and public notice requirements, staff sent letters to businesses, residents and property owners within a 50 meter radius of the new establishment. On July 31, 2026, a total of 295 letters were mailed out to businesses, residents and property owners. The letter provided information on the proposed liquor licence amendment and contained instructions to comment on the application. The period for commenting for all public notifications ended September 01, 2026.

Based on the community consultative process described, the City received two responses opposed to this application. The concerns of the first opposition was that this would lead to more traffic, more noise and future problems. The letter is appended as Attachment 4.

The second response was emailed and response reflected concerns adversely affecting peace and Tranquility, traffic congestion and parking, noise pollution and public safety and security. The email is appended as Attachment 5.

All feedback and responses have been analyzed and staff conclude that these concerns can be mitigated by the operator continuing to follow the terms and conditions of the Liquor and

Cannabis Regulation Branch. In addition, existing municipal bylaws, along with regular inspections and enforcement, are sufficient to further mitigate the public's concerns with this application.

Other Agency Comments

As part of the review process, staff requested comments from other agencies and departments such as Vancouver Coastal Health, the Richmond RCMP, Richmond Fire-Rescue and the Building Approvals. These agencies and departments generally provide comments on the compliance history of the applicant's operations and premises. All of the agencies and departments expressed no concerns regarding this application.

## Budgetary Implications

None

## Conclusion

Both the community consultation process and due diligence around Splitsville Riverport's proposed amendment application to its Liquor Primary Liquor Licence surfaced no significant risks. The analysis concluded there should be no noticeable potential impact from noise, no significant impact on the community and with only two comments received, no concerns from the majority of the public in this area. There were no concerns raised by City departments or other agencies. It is, therefore, recommended that the application from Splitsville Riverport to operate a Liquor Primary Licence with an increase in person capacity to 500 be supported.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Corrado, Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing

## Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Victor Duarte, Program Manager, Business Licence and reviewed by Fire-Rescue. RCMP and Building Approvals.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Particulars of Application and City Comments
Att. 2: 50 Meter & Location Map
Att. 3: Letter of Intent
Att. 4: Opposed Letter # 1
Att. 5: Opposed Letter # 2

**Re: Application to Amend Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 307706 – Structural Change (Capacity Increase) – Splitsville Riverport – 14200 Entertainment Boulevard Unit 150, Richmond, BC**

1. That the application from Xtreme Bowling Entertainment Corporation., doing business as: Splitsville Riverport, operating at, 14200 Entertainment Blvd. Unit 150, requesting an increase to occupancy to 500 persons to Liquor Licence # 307706, be supported for:

    a) A permanent change to structural change to 500 persons capacity;
    **i. From**, Patio 1 – 30; Person 01 – 145; Patio 2 – 25; Person 02 – 260: (Total – 460)
    **ii. To,** Patio 1 – 25; Person 01 – 160; Patio 2 – 30: Person 02 – 285: (Total – 500)

    b) Hours of Liquor Service to remain the same as currently permitted set as, Monday to Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 AM.

2. That a letter be sent to Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch advising that Council supports the amendment for a permanent change to Structural Change (Capacity Increase) to 500 persons for Liquor Primary Liquor Licence # 307706, with the hours as listed above; and

3. Council's comments on the prescribed criteria (Section 71 of the Liquor Control and Licencing Regulations) are as follows:

    a) The impact of additional noise and traffic in the area of the establishment was considered;

    b) The potential impact on the community was assessed through a community consultation process; and

    c) Given that this is an amendment to an existing licence, there is no history of non-compliance with this establishment;

    d) As the operation of a licenced establishment may affect nearby residents, businesses and property owners, the City gathered the views of the community through a community consultation process as follows:

        i) Residents, businesses and property owners within a 50 meter radius of the establishment were notified by letter. The letter provided information on the application with instructions on how to submit comments or concerns; and

        ii) Signage was posted at the subject property, and three public notices were published in a newspaper distributed locally. The signage and public notice

provided information on the application with instructions on how to submit comments and concerns.

e) Council's comments on the general impact of the views of residents, businesses and property owners are as follows:

   i) The community consultation process was completed within 90 days of the application process; and

   ii) The community consultation process determined only two comments were received opposed to this application.

f) Council recommends the approval of the application for the reasons that this application has not been objected to by the majority of the residents, businesses and property owners in the area and community.

City of Richmond

Attachment 2




# #150 - 14200 Entertainment Blvd
## 50 Meter Map

Original Date: 09/03/26
Revision Date:

Note: Dimensions are in METRES

July 20 2026 **Via Email**

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

**Re:** Increase in Occupancy to an existing Liquor Primary
**Address:** 180-14200 Entertainment Blvd, Richmond BC V6W 1K3
**Richmond File Number: 12-8275-30-001/2025--Vol 01**

**Background**
Splitsville Bowl Richmond Riverport, Richmond, is BC's premier bowling alley and entertainment destination. Formerly home to Lucky 9 Lanes, the licensee acquired this venue in 2023.

As of the date of this letter, they have proudly own and operate sixteen sites, across Canada. Splitsville transformed the Richmond site into a world-class entertainment complex packed with 34 ten-pin lanes, a fully loaded arcade, and a Kitchen + Bar, where lane-side food and drinks are available.

As part of their ongoing commitment to creating and enhancing their family friendly site, Splitsville is making application to increase their occupant load on their existing liquor primary.

**Hours of Operation**
The applicant is currently licensed for hours of operation from 10am - 2am every day of the week. They are not proposing to amend these hours

**Site Layout & Proposed Service Area**
The liquor primary is comprised of two distinct indoors areas, the bowling area and the restaurant area, along with two patios. The patios have no proposed changed to occupancy. The proposed occupancy breakdown is as follows:

Person 01 - 160 persons
Person 02 - 285 persons
Patio 1 - 25 persons
Patio 2 - 30 persons
Total Person capacity: 500 persons

**Proposed Capacity**
The applicant is seeking a capacity 500 persons throughout all areas.


604.314.0176 | rebecca@thriveadvisors.ca | thriveadvisors.ca | It's easier than you think™

**Food Services**
Splitsville offers a wide array of food and beverage one site. Including traditional pub fare such as pizza, wings, burgers and even vegetarian options. There are family friendly options for kids and the licensee prides themselves on adapting their appetizers, mains and shareables based on consumer demand.

**Composition of Neighbourhood**
Splitsville is located in the Riverport Leisure Park complex in the southeast area of Richmond. There is a mixture of commercial and entertainment facilities including Cineplex Cinemas, an aquatic enter and ice center.

**Endorsements**
The applicant holds a family food service condition endorsement; there are no additional endorsements being requested.

Yours truly,

Rebecca Hardin

**Rebecca Hardin**
Liquor and Cannabis Advisor

This is in response to the notice regarding an increase for capacity application in my neighborhood.Xtreme Bowling Entertainment Corp,doing business as Splitsville Riverport,has applied for an amendment to LP Liquor License to increase occupancy currently set at 460 persons to 500 persons.We live at the apartment complex behind it,and we are totally against it.This will lead to more traffic,more noise and future problems.

Joseph Tian Seng
406-14300 Riverport Way
Richmond,B.C.
V6W 0A4
604 2709210

## Duarte, Victor

**To:** Duarte, Victor
**Subject:** RE: Objection to Proposed Capacity Increase – LP Liquor Licence # 307706 (Splitsville Riverport)

**From:** siu lai <cne900sl@yahoo.ca>
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2026 10:17 AM
**To:** BusLic <BusLic@richmond.ca>
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed Capacity Increase – LP Liquor Licence # 307706 (Splitsville Riverport)

You don't often get email from cne900sl@yahoo.ca. Learn why this is important

**City of Richmond Security Warning:** This email was sent from an external source outside the City. Please do not click or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and the content is safe..

Dear City of Richmond Business Licences Department,

I am writing as a property owner at **14300 Riverport Way #202** to formally submit my strong objection to the proposed capacity increase for **Xtreme Bowling Entertainment Corporation (doing business as Splitsville Riverport)** located at 150 – 14200 Entertainment Blvd., Richmond, BC (LP Liquor Licence # 307706).

I strongly oppose increasing the maximum occupancy by 40 persons (from 460 to 500 persons). Given that the establishment operates liquor service until 2:00 AM every day of the week, allowing an additional 40 patrons will significantly deteriorate the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Specifically, this capacity increase will adversely affect our community in the following ways:

1. **Peace and Tranquility:** Our residential neighborhood relies on a quiet and safe environment. Adding more late-night patrons directly undermines the livability and peaceful nature of this community.
2. **Traffic Congestion and Parking:** An increased occupancy limit will generate additional vehicular traffic and parking demands, creating unnecessary congestion on our local streets late at night.
3. **Noise Pollution:** Increased capacity at a liquor-primary establishment will inevitably escalate late-night noise levels, disturbing nearby residents during sleeping hours.
4. **Public Safety and Security:** Higher numbers of late-night alcohol-consuming patrons raise serious concerns regarding community safety, public disturbances, and security risks in the immediate area.

As a local property owner, I respectfully request that the City of Richmond **deny** this application. At a minimum, the capacity should remain capped at its current level (460 persons), though I strongly urge the City to consider **reducing** the permitted capacity to safeguard our community's well-being.

Thank you for considering my feedback on this matter. Please confirm receipt of this email objection.

Sincerely,

Siu LAI

City of Richmond

# Report to Committee

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **To:** | General Purposes Committee | **Date:** | October 13, 2026 |
| **From:** | Wayne Craig<br>General Manager, Planning and Development | **File:** | 07-3300-01/2026-Vol 01 |
| **Re:** | **Update on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Funding Reductions and Eligibility Changes** | | |

## Staff Recommendation

That a letter be prepared for the Mayor's signature addressed to senior levels of government, including the Prime Minister of Canada; the Premier of British Columbia; the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills; and Richmond's Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly, advocating for the reinstatement of funding for intermediate and advanced English language training and the development of a sustainable funding model that is informed by immigration targets and responds to newcomers' needs.


## Executive Summary

This report outlines the ongoing impacts of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) settlement funding reductions, particularly the discontinuation of intermediate and advanced Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) programs, which has significantly limited access to English language training for newcomers seeking to pursue further education, employment and long-term settlement opportunities.

As settlement funding falls under the jurisdiction of senior levels of government, it is recommended that a letter be prepared for senior federal and provincial elected officials, including the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of British Columbia, advocating for the reinstatement of funding for intermediate and advanced English language training and the development of a sustainable settlement funding model that is informed by immigration targets and responds to newcomers' needs.

## Staff Report

### Origin

This report provides an update on recent IRCC funding reductions and changes to eligibility for IRCC-funded settlement services, and their implications for newcomer integration in Richmond.

On June 9, 2025, the report titled "Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Funding Cuts" was presented to Council, highlighting the impacts of IRCC funding cuts on settlement programs, local immigrant-serving agencies and Richmond residents.

Following the report, the City sent letters to the federal government on July 10, 2025, advocating for the reinstatement of IRCC funding for settlement programs in Richmond and the development of a sustainable funding model to ensure continued access to a range of newcomer supports amid changing immigration targets.

The City also submitted a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in June 2025 (Attachment 1), requesting that the Province advocate to the federal government for the immediate reinstatement of IRCC funding for settlement programs. The resolution further called on the Province to advocate for the Government of Canada to engage with provincial and local governments, settlement service providers and recent immigrants to develop a long-term, stable funding model that ensures the continued delivery of settlement services and supports for newcomers, regardless of fluctuations in immigration targets.

In its response to the City, which was received on December 10, 2025 (Attachment 2), the federal government indicated that settlement service funding is determined by the projected number of permanent residents arriving in Canada. As fewer newcomers are expected to arrive between 2025 and 2028, the overall federal funding for settlement services has been reduced. Despite these reductions, the federal government advised that the full range of IRCC-funded settlement services remains available to eligible clients in Richmond.

In response to the City's UBCM resolution in April 2026 (Attachment 1), the Ministry of Post Education and Future Skills acknowledged local governments' concerns that changes to IRCC funding could negatively affect newcomers' access to supports essential for labour market participation and social integration. The Ministry specifically noted the discontinuation of IRCC-funded higher-level language programs and the potential long-term implications for newcomers' ability to secure high-skilled employment and maintain strong labour market participation.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement and Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

> *1.2 Advocate for the needs of Richmond in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.*
>
> *6.4 Support vulnerable populations through collaborative and sustainable programs and services.*

## Analysis

### Background

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is the federal department responsible for managing immigration, refugee protection and citizenship. As part of its mandate, IRCC funds settlement organizations to deliver programs and services that help newcomers settle and adapt to life in Canada.

On October 24, 2024, the Government of Canada announced significant reductions to permanent resident admission targets under its 2025–2027 Immigration Levels Plan. The revised targets aimed to ease pressures on housing, infrastructure and public services while supporting sustainable, long-term population growth. Compared with the previous 2024–2026 plan, which targeted 500,000 permanent resident admissions annually, the revised plan set targets of 395,000 in 2025, 380,000 in 2026 and 365,000 in 2027.

Following the 2024 announcement, immigrant-serving organizations across Canada were informed of changes to IRCC funding to align with the projected number of permanent resident admissions. One program affected by these reductions is Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC), which provides free English language training to eligible adult newcomers. IRCC has introduced a phased restructuring of LINC programming, prioritizing foundational language skills while discontinuing intermediate and advanced level instruction:

- **Stage 1 Basic Language Ability:** Foundational language classes remain a priority, supporting newcomers with limited English proficiency in developing basic communication skills. Completion of Stage 1 level helps newcomers meet the language requirement for Canadian citizenship.
- **Stage 2 Intermediate Language Ability:** These classes were discontinued effective September 1, 2026. They helped newcomers develop the English skills needed to communicate beyond basic needs, participate in group discussions and understand materials such as news articles.
- **Stage 3 Advanced Language Ability:** These classes were discontinued effective September 1, 2025. They helped newcomers develop the English proficiency needed for academic study and high-level professional work environments.

In March 2026, IRCC announced changes to the eligibility requirements for economic class permanent residents. Economic class immigrants are selected based on their skills, qualifications and potential to contribute to Canada's economy. The main categories of economic immigrants in Canada are skilled workers, business immigrants and provincial and territorial nominees. Skilled workers make up the majority of Canada’s economic class permanent residents. They are individuals whose education, work experience and other qualifications align with the needs of the Canadian labour market. Effective April 1, 2026, economic class permanent residents can access IRCC-funded settlement services for up to six years after obtaining permanent resident status. Effective April 1, 2027, this period will be reduced to up to five years. Previously, permanent residents could access IRCC-funded settlement services regardless of how long they had held permanent resident status, subject to applicable program eligibility requirements. These changes may limit newcomers’ access to language training, employment support and other settlement services, particularly for those who require longer-term support to establish themselves in Canada.

The discontinuation of Stage 2 and Stage 3 LINC classes, combined with the new time limits on eligibility for settlement services, has raised concerns about newcomers' ability to achieve meaningful labour market integration and social inclusion. Without access to free intermediate and advanced level English instruction through LINC, newcomers may need to pay for private language training to develop the language skills required for further education, professional accreditation and employment in skilled occupations. These additional costs may create financial barriers, particularly for newcomers who are unemployed, underemployed or working in low-wage jobs.

Impacts of IRCC Funding Cuts on Settlement Services in Richmond

A number of Richmond-based service providers have been affected by IRCC funding reductions, resulting in discontinued services, reduced programming and staff layoffs. These reductions have disrupted newcomer programming across Richmond, limiting access to culturally responsive services and reducing agencies' capacities to provide comprehensive, wrap-around supports.

Prior to the 2024 announcement, seven organizations received IRCC funding to deliver settlement services in Richmond: Back in Motion, Chimo Community Services (Chimo), Richmond Family Place, Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS), Richmond School District No. 38, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and ISS*of*BC. Currently, only four organizations, Back in Motion, Richmond School District No. 38, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and ISS*of*BC, receive IRCC funding to deliver settlement programs in Richmond, with only S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and ISS*of*BC offering LINC programs.

Although Chimo, Richmond Family Place and RMCS no longer receive funding from IRCC to deliver settlement services, they continue to provide programs and support to newcomers. However, reduced funding has forced these organizations to scale back programming and lay off staff, further limiting their capacity to address newcomers' diverse settlement needs.

These service gaps are expected to widen further. ISSofBC recently informed the City that, effective April 1, 2027, it will discontinue its LINC program in Richmond and cease local operations as part of an effort to streamline its services across the Lower Mainland. As a result, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. will become the sole provider of LINC classes in Richmond.

To date in 2026, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has offered 22 LINC classes serving 396 students, while ISS*of*BC has offered 11 LINC classes serving 170 students in Richmond. These programs play an important role in supporting newcomers' English language learning and settlement. S.U.C.C.E.S.S. has indicated that it intends to maintain the current number of LINC classes after April 1, 2027. However, it remains to be seen whether the existing level of programming will adequately meet the needs of Richmond's newcomer population, particularly in light of the loss of a longstanding service provider.

Access to intermediate and advanced English language training is also increasingly limited following the discontinuation of Stage 2 and Stage 3 LINC programs. Back in Motion is currently the only provider of intermediate-level language training in Richmond through its Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants (CPSI) program, funded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and IRCC. The program offers language upgrading as part of its support for immigrants seeking employment in careers aligned with their qualifications; however, access to this training is limited to participants pursuing employment in specific sectors or industries. Back in Motion has also reported declining program participation, as many newcomers do not meet the minimum English proficiency requirement for admission to the CPSI program.

As a result, newcomers who have completed Stage 1 LINC classes but need to further develop their English skills have limited options beyond fee-based language courses. The cost of these courses may create an additional barrier for newcomers seeking to improve their English proficiency to pursue further education, expand their employment opportunities and support their long-term settlement goals.

Local Supports for Newcomers

Richmond has the highest proportion of immigrants in Canada with approximately 60 per cent of its population born outside the country and is the fourth-largest recipient of recent immigrants in British Columbia. Between 2016 to 2021, Richmond welcomed 13,705 recent immigrants. As a result, IRCC funding reductions and changes to settlement service eligibility disproportionately affect Richmond's newcomer population by limiting access to essential supports needed to establish themselves and participate fully in the community.

The Council-adopted Cultural Harmony Plan guides the City's efforts to support Richmond's diverse newcomer population by working with community partners to identify and reduce barriers to newcomers' full participation in the community. The City is also an active member of the Richmond Local Immigration Partnership (RLIP) network, a community planning network that brings together immigrant-serving organizations to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for newcomers.

The following section highlights programs and services available in Richmond that support newcomers' English language development, employment and settlement, including those supported by the City:

- **City of Richmond Immigrant Mentorship Program:** Since 2025, the City has partnered with the Immigrant Employment Council of BC to deliver this program, which connects newcomers with City staff mentors to help them navigate employment barriers and pursue opportunities aligned with their skills and qualifications.
- **Richmond Public Library:** The Library offers English conversation circles for adults and youth through partnerships with organizations such as the Richmond School District's Settlement Workers in Schools program.
- **Community Associations and Societies:** Various Community Associations and Societies offer introductory English language programs at City recreation centres. For example, English Conversation programs are offered for adults aged 55 and older at City Centre Community Centre, South Arm Community and West Richmond Community Centre, and seasonal English Beginner 55+ classes are offered at the Minoru Seniors Centre.

While these initiatives provide valuable opportunities to practice English, develop basic language skills and build social connections, they do not replace formal language instruction. Informal learning opportunities, such as conversation circles, generally do not provide the formal language-level assessment or recognized Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) credentials required for entry into certain programs, including Career Paths for Skilled Immigrants. As a result, newcomers who need to improve their English proficiency before accessing further education or employment supports may face gaps in available services.

As federally funded LINC programs fall outside the City's jurisdiction, the City's role is primarily to support newcomers through local initiatives, partnerships and advocacy. Continued advocacy for the restoration of IRCC funding is therefore essential to help ensure that Richmond's newcomer population has access to the language training and settlement services needed to participate fully in community life and pursue education and employment opportunities.

Advocacy to Senior Levels of Government

Pursuant to Council direction, letters will be prepared for the Mayor's signature and addressed to senior levels of government, including the Prime Minister of Canada; the Premier of British Columbia; the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills; and Richmond's Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly, advocating for the reinstatement of funding for intermediate and advanced English language training and the development of a sustainable funding model that responds to newcomers' needs.

The letters will emphasize the need for IRCC to develop a sustainable funding model for settlement service providers that considers not only the projected number of newcomers arriving in Canada, but also the ongoing demand for services among immigrants already residing in the community. This includes continued access to language training and other supports that are essential for labour market participation and social integration.

## Budgetary Implications

None.

## Conclusion

The City remains committed to working with government and community partners to build a welcoming and inclusive Richmond where newcomers can thrive. Recent IRCC funding cuts and eligibility changes have reduced access to essential settlement services, particularly intermediate and advanced language programs that support labour market integration and social inclusion. As immigration and settlement services remain primarily a federal responsibility, the City will continue to advocate for the reinstatement of funding for these programs. Sustained federal funding is essential to ensure Richmond can respond to newcomers' evolving needs and support their successful integration into the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Somerville, Director, Community Social Development

## Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning and reviewed by Recreation & Sport Services and Richmond Public Library.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1 UBCM Resolution and Response: Reinstatement of Federal Funding for Settlement Programs

2 Response from the Government of Canada's Ministerial Enquiries Division

## NR118 Reinstatement of Federal Funding for Settlement Programs — Richmond

Whereas Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), as of April 1, 2025, has reduced or discontinued funding to organizations providing immigrant and refugee settlement programs in communities across British Columbia in response to reductions in federal immigration levels planned over the next three years;

And whereas the reduction and discontinuation of federal funding for settlement programs immediately reduces the availability of and access to services and supports that are vital to the social and economic integration of approximately 200,000 recent immigrants currently living in British Columbia (2021 Census):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province advocate to the federal government to immediately reinstate Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada funding for settlement programs to BC organizations that were funded in 2024 for a multi-year period;

And be it further resolved that the Province be requested to advocate to the Government of Canada to conduct an engagement process with provincial and local governments, community-based service providers of settlement programs, and recent immigrants to inform the development of a long-term, stable funding model that ensures continued provision of supports that help newcomers to thrive in Canada, regardless of fluctuations in immigration targets

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills**

The Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills shares local governments' concern that the recent changes to settlement program funding by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will have a detrimental impact on newcomer access to supports essential to their labour market participation and social integration in British Columbia. This includes IRCC's decision to discontinue higher-level language programming, and the resulting long-term implications for newcomers to secure high-skilled jobs and maintain strong labour market participation.

Through various intergovernmental channels, the Ministry continues to articulate these concerns to IRCC and is actively engaged in raising awareness of the impacts of these funding changes with the federal government as well as advocating for solutions that ensure the best outcomes for newcomers and the Province. This includes urging the federal government to ensure that a wide variety of perspectives, such as community organizations and other levels of government, are engaged. The Ministry remains committed to ensure newcomers in British Columbia have equitable access to the supports they need to contribute to British Columbia's workforce and thrive.

Copied & distributed to all Councillors
Date: Dec 10, 2025
Initials: GB
cc: Serena Lusk
SMT
Jason Kida
Kim Somerville

His Worship Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor
City of Richmond
mayorea@richmond.ca

2025-01363989

Dear Mayor Brodie:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 10, 2025, addressed to the Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, expressing your interest to meet with the Minister and discuss funding for settlement and integration services in Richmond. I have been asked to respond to your concerns, and I apologize for the delay in responding.

Regarding settlement services funding, the total amount available is determined by the number of permanent residents expected to arrive, as outlined in the Multi-Year Levels Plan. Since fewer newcomers are projected to arrive in 2025–2028, there is an associated decrease to the overall federal settlement services envelope. Additional information about Canada's immigration levels, including the recently announced 2026-2028 Immigration Levels plan, can be viewed at: Canada's immigration levels - Canada.ca.

Regarding funding for settlement services in Richmond, all proposals from service provider organizations went through a thorough review process. Funding decisions reflect the expected permanent resident arrivals and the number of clients served. Additionally, these decisions aim to streamline services, reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and ensure value for money. Despite these reductions, the full suite of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) funded settlement services remains available to eligible clients in Richmond, in both official languages.

The Government of Canada recognizes the significant role municipal governments play across the country in the successful integration of newcomers. Integration is a collective responsibility of all levels of government, and IRCC remains committed to collaborating with municipalities and exploring opportunities to strengthen such collaboration.

With regard to your request to meet the Minister, Arash Rahmani, Senior Advisor in the Office of the Minister, may be contacted at: arash.rahmani@cic.gc.ca.

Thank you for expressing your concerns. I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

G. Holmes
Ministerial Enquiries Division

**This electronic address is not available for reply.**

City of Richmond

# Report to Committee

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **To:** | General Purposes Committee | **Date:** | October 22, 2026 |
| **From:** | Elizabeth Ayers<br>General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture | **File:** | 11-7400-01/2025-Vol 01 |
| **Re:** | **City Signature and Community Events Program 2027** | | |

## Staff Recommendations

1. That the City Signature and Community Events Program 2027, as outlined in Table 1 of the report titled "City Signature and Community Events Program 2027", dated October 22, 2026, from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, be approved for the following events and initiatives:

    a) Children's Arts Festival;
    b) Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival;
    c) Doors Open Richmond;
    d) Community Celebration Grant Program;
    e) Neighbourhood Block Party Program;
    f) Steveston Salmon Festival;
    g) Richmond Maritime Festival; and
    h) Richmond Farm Fest.

2. That the expenditures totaling $1,115,000 for the City Signature and Community Events Program 2027 with funding of $960,000 from the Rate Stabilization Account, $95,000 estimated sponsorship and $60,000 estimated grant revenue be included in the 2027 budget process.


## Executive Summary

On October 21, 2024, Council approved the City of Richmond Signature and Community Events Plan for 2025–2029 (the Plan). The program of events and initiatives proposed for 2027 supports the Council-endorsed Plan as well as other Council-endorsed strategies.
Events enrich the lives of residents by providing opportunities for the community to connect, learn, and celebrate together. Events contribute to social and economic wellbeing, provide valuable volunteer opportunities, build a sense of community and enhance quality of life.

This report provides information about the 2026 event program as well as recommendations for 2027, including additional planning work for a future Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event.

Should Council approve the report a one-time additional level funding request of $960,000 will be brought forward for consideration as part of the 2027 budget process.

## Staff Report

### Origin

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the 2026 City signature and community events program, the proposed program of events and initiatives for 2027 and an associated budget for consideration as part of the 2027 budget process.

Additionally, this report responds to a Council resolution and recommends next steps for a Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event. At the November 24, 2025, Council meeting, Council endorsed the report titled "City Signature and Community Events Program 2026", dated October 27, 2025, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services which included the following resolution:

> *That a Community Festive Lights Event at Minoru Lake be investigated, including timing, budget and potential partnerships.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

> *Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.*

This report also supports a number of Council endorsed strategies including: The City of Richmond Signature and Community Event Plan 2025–2029, The Richmond Arts Strategy 2026–2031, Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029, City of Richmond Youth Strategy 2022–2032, City of Richmond Seniors Strategy 2022–2032, City of Richmond Accessibility Plan 2023–2033, the Richmond Tourism Master Plan and the Steveston Heritage Interpretive Framework.

### Analysis

#### Background

Events enrich the lives of residents by providing opportunities for the community to connect, learn, and celebrate together. Events contribute to social and economic wellbeing, provide valuable volunteer opportunities, build a sense of community and enhance quality of life.

On October 21, 2024, Council approved the City of Richmond Signature and Community Events Plan 2025–2029 (the Plan). The program of events and initiatives proposed for 2027 supports the Council-endorsed Plan, including the Guiding Principles for City events:

1. Build capacity of local event organizers by prioritizing and investing in community-driven events;
2. Provide opportunities for Richmond residents and community groups to collaborate, contribute and participate;
3. Maximize social connections and foster sense of community pride and belonging for both volunteers and event participants;
4. Celebrate local themes, cultural diversity, and include programming that is uniquely Richmond;

5. Advance the City's environmental sustainability and accessibility goals;
6. Ensure events are safe, well-organized and sustainably funded; and
7. Encourage and support the development of unique events with a regional draw that bring economic and community benefit and raise the profile of Richmond.

## Overview of 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program

With over 225,000 attendees at City events, 42 Community Celebration Grant-funded events, and 28 Neighborhood Block Parties, the 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program was well received by the community. It included a full program of annual signature events as well as the Ships to Shore event in May featuring a visit from the Japanese Tall Ship, the Kaiwo Maru, and the Richmond Celebrates Soccer Program in June and July. An overview of the 2026 program can be found in Attachment 1.

## Proposed 2027 City Signature and Community Events Program

The proposed 2027 Signature and Community Events Program detailed below supports the delivery of a mix of events, including neighbourhood, community, and city-wide events that align with the Council-approved Plan. Accessibility and community safety will continue to be a priority in the planning of events in 2027. All of the proposed events are in alignment with the Council-approved Plan and its guiding principles.

### Children's Arts Festival 2027

*Proposed Program – February 15 to 19, 2027*

Similar to the 2026 program, the proposed 2027 program will include arts education experiences at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex on Family Day with community centres added through the school days component. All programs will be led by professional artist instructors in a wide variety of arts disciplines, including visual, literary, performance, media arts and more.

The school days program, with the support of Richmond School District No. 38, will run from February 17 to 19, 2027. School days programming will be offered at community centres throughout Richmond.

The objective of the event is to engage Richmond’s children and expand their horizons through a large assortment of culturally and artistically diverse activities such as:

- Participatory art activations;
- Drop-in Art in Action stations;
- Arts and culture workshops; and
- Performances led by local artists and art educators.

The Children's Arts Festival represents a unique opportunity for residents, youth and artists to come together to build community. The festival strives to instill awareness and youth engagement in the arts to fulfill the goals outlined in the Richmond Arts Strategy.

*Proposed 2027 Budget of $113,000; City funding $78,000 plus an estimated $35,000 in sponsorship.*

**Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival**
*Proposed Program – April 4, 2027*

The proposed 2027 festival theme will be 祝 "Iwai" or "Shuku" which translates as Celebration or to Celebrate. This theme was chosen by the festival organizing committee to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival. The organizing committee will be commemorating the 10th anniversary with additional programming for this festival, which has emerged as a major spring event to bring visitors together to enjoy the transient beauty of the cherry blossoms.

As initially envisioned by the B.C. Wakayama Kenjin Kai, the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the natural and transient beauty of the 255 Akebono cherry trees in bloom at Garry Point Park, while providing festival visitors the opportunity to experience unique Japanese customs and traditions. As in past years, this year's festival will feature performances, demonstrations and hands-on activities provided by local Japanese craftspeople.

For one year only, the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival includes a request for funding support for additional programming. This would include an additional tent with special anniversary programming, including information about the history of the Wakayama Kenjin Kai and the festival.

*Proposed 2027 Budget of $74,000: City funding of $69,000 (inclusive of the one-time request for $10,000 for additional anniversary programming) plus an estimated $5,000 in grants.*

**Doors Open Richmond**
*Proposed Program – June 5 to 6, 2027*

Doors Open Richmond is an annual two-day event featuring free opportunities to explore behind the scenes in Richmond's unique places. The event promotes intercultural understanding by allowing visitors unique opportunities to explore cultural, faith-based, municipal and other sites. Working with these sites, Doors Open Richmond helps organizations and communities share their cultural practices with the public in their own way and with their voice. It also helps newcomers to Richmond to understand various services available in the community.

For its 20th year, the Richmond Museum Society will support the delivery of programming at over 40 sites across the city, offering a shuttle bus program for faith-based organizations along No. 5 Road and various cultural centres, and providing online programming for sites unable to invite public inside a facility. To enable the delivery of these activities, the event will be supported again by a robust volunteer ambassador program.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary, the organizing committee is looking to hold a recognition event to recognize the significant contributions of the participating sites and their volunteers and add additional program elements to celebrate the anniversary including a 20th anniversary poster contest.

As in previous years, any additional funds the Richmond Museum Society secures through grants and/or sponsorship will be used for program enhancements.

*Proposed 2027 Budget of $61,000: City funding of $46,000 (inclusive of a one-time request for $6,000 for additional anniversary programming) plus an estimated $15,000 in grants.*

**Community Celebration Grant Program**
*Proposed Program – June 1 to December 31, 2027*

The proposed Community Celebration Grants will provide up to $2,000 of funding opportunities for Richmond-based non-profit groups to host an event open to the public, subject to Council approval. Eligibility and evaluation criteria include:

- Richmond-based non-profit groups, including faith-based groups, Parent Advisory Committees, and Student Councils;
- Event must be held in Richmond;
- Event must demonstrate alignment with program objectives including creating events that build community in Richmond;
- Event must take place outside of regular working hours to ensure a diverse range of people are able to attend;
- Event must be free and open to the public;
- Organizer must demonstrate the ability to host events that welcome all community members and must agree to promote their event through the City's Event calendar and at City facilities;
- If required, applicants must complete the Richmond Event Approval Coordination Team (REACT) application and are subject to REACT approval;
- Applicant must demonstrate capacity to safely host the proposed event outlined in the application and provide a realistic estimate of resources needed and total budget required; and
- Applicant must provide a final report including, copy of receipts and two photos of the event with signed photo waivers.

Events associated with a political party or those that have received funding from another City of Richmond grant program are not eligible.

The proposed 2027 Community Celebration Grant Program will be launched in Q1 2027. Proposed grant recipients will be brought for Council approval in Q2 2027 for events to be held June 1 to December 31, 2027.

*Proposed 2027 Budget: $60,000 of City funding.*

**Neighbourhood Block Party Program**

This program offers up to $500 of funding for neighbourhood groups to connect, create a sense of community, and enhance safety and awareness in neighbourhoods. Block parties can take place in a variety of spaces, including parks, on local streets or on private property. Proposed eligibility and evaluation criteria include:

- Applicants must be two Richmond-based residents living in the same neighbourhood street or block (two individuals not living in the same household) and/or a strata complex;
- Block party must be held in Richmond;

- Block party must demonstrate alignment with program objectives including creating events that build community in Richmond;
- Block party must be free to the Richmond residents in that neighbourhood, street or block;
- Applicants must demonstrate capacity to safely host the proposed event and provide a realistic estimate of resources needed and total budget required;
- If required, applicants must complete a REACT application and are subject to REACT approval; and
- Applicants must provide a final report, including a copy of receipts and two photos of the event with signed photo waivers.

Block parties associated with a political party are not eligible.

If approved, the Neighbourhood Block Party Program will be launched in Q1 2027, and applicants will be able to apply for up to $500 of funding for a Neighbourhood Block Party held between May 21 and October 11, 2027. Applications will be reviewed and approved as they are received.

*Proposed 2027 Budget: $20,000 of City funding.*

**Steveston Salmon Festival / Canada Day**
*Proposed Program – July 1, 2027*

Working in partnership with the Steveston Community Society, Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society and the Steveston Salmon Festival Planning Committee, the 2027 event is anticipated to include many of the same elements as the 2026 festival, including the parade, performance stages and entertainment throughout the site, the Japanese Cultural Show, children's activities, the Salmon Run Youth area, the traditional Salmon Bake, Chow Mein booth and food trucks. The footprint of the event will differ from previous years as the new Steveston Community Centre and Library will be open to the public.

The Steveston Salmon Festival Planning Committee is exploring options to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the festival and may bring an additional request to Council at a later date.

*Proposed 2027 Budget of $417,000: City funding of $367,000 plus an estimated $25,000 in sponsorship and $25,000 in grants.*

As in previous years, any additional funds the Steveston Community Society/Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society secures through grants and/or sponsorship will be used for program enhancements.

**Richmond Maritime Festival**
*Proposed Program – August 21 to 22, 2027*

The Richmond Maritime Festival continues to serve as one of Richmond's signature events, showcasing the diverse cultural and maritime heritage of Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site and Steveston. In 2027, this will be accomplished through visiting heritage wooden boats, cultural activities, performances and maritime-themed displays.

*Proposed 2027 Budget of $253,000: City funding of $213,000 plus an estimated $25,000 in sponsorship and $15,000 in grants.*

As in previous years, any additional funds brought forward by the Richmond Arts Coalition or Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society through grants and sponsorships will be used for program enhancements.

**Richmond Farm Fest**
*Proposed Program – September 12, 2027*

This one-day event delivered in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University at the Garden City Lands celebrates Richmond's rich agricultural heritage and exciting future. This family-friendly event brings together the best of farming, food, and community in the heart of the city. Agriculture is a vital part of Richmond's cultural and economic story. With over 200 active farms, thriving restaurants, and a strong connection to land and food, Richmond is a hub for urban agriculture and unique culinary experiences.

In 2027, the festival will once again feature opportunities to learn about local agriculture, food security, the history of agriculture in Richmond and the local farm community. The site will feature a children's area, food trucks, local music, and the popular hay wagon ride.

*Proposed 2027 Budget of $67,000: City funding of $57,000 plus an estimated $10,000 in sponsorships.*

## Budgetary Implications

*Table 1 – Proposed 2027 City Event Budget:*

| Event | 2026 City Funding | 2026 Actuals/Estimated Net Costs to City as of Sep 30, 2026 | 2027 Proposed City Funding | 2027 Estimated Sponsorship and Grant Revenue | 2027 Total Proposed City Event Program Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Children's Arts Festival (CAF) (February 15–19). | $72,800 | $72,800 | $78,000 | $35,000 | $113,000 |
| Children's Arts Festival (CAF) (February 15–19) City Events Contingency. | | $3,197 | | | |
| Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival (April 4). | $57,300 | $55,216 | $59,000 | $5,000 | $64,000 |
| Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival Anniversary (1 year only) | | | $10,000 | | $10,000 |
| Doors Open Richmond (June 5–6). | $41,400 | $39,019 | $40,000 | $15,000 | $55,000 |

| Event | 2026 City Funding | 2026 Actuals/Estimated Net Costs to City as of Sep 30, 2026 | 2027 Proposed City Funding | 2027 Estimated Sponsorship and Grant Revenue | 2027 Total Proposed City Event Program Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Doors Open Richmond Anniversary (1 year only) | | | $6,000 | | $6,000 |
| Community Celebration Grant Program (June – December). | $58,000 | $55,228 * | $60,000 | | $60,000 |
| Neighbourhood Block Party Program Fund (May – October). * | $20,000 | $13,477 * | $20,000 | | $20,000 |
| Steveston Salmon Festival/ Canada Day (July 1). * | $359,000 | $359,000 * | $367,000 | $50,000 | $417,000 |
| Steveston Salmon Festival Contingency (1 Year Only 2026). | $50,000 | $0 | $0 | | $0 |
| Richmond Maritime Festival (August 21–22). * | $208,300 | $208,300 * | $213,000 | $40,000 | $253,000 |
| Richmond Farm Fest (September 12). * | $56,100 | $56,100 * | $57,000 | $10,000 | $67,000 |
| Community Event Safety Enhancements* (1 Year only 2026). | $55,000 | $53,000 * | $0 | | $0 |
| Subtotal | $977,900 | $915,337* | $910,000 | $155,000 | $1,065,000 |
| **City Events Contingency** | **$50,000** | | **$50,000** | | **$50,000** |
| **Total** | **$1,027,900** | **$915,337*** | **$960,000** | **$155,000** | **$1,115,000** |

*Estimated net expenses by year end. Any unspent funds from the 2026 event program will be returned to the Rate Stabilization Account.

Should Council approve the 2027 City Events Program, the proposed total budget of $1,115,000 with funding of $960,000 from the Rate Stabilization Account, $95,000 estimated sponsorship and $60,000 estimated grant revenue will be included in the 2027 budget process. The proposed budget for each City event, and the Community Celebration Grant Program budget, has been increased by 2

per cent to represent the cost of living. Some event costs are expected to increase by more than 2 per cent. If the event cannot be scaled to accommodate this increase, the contingency fund may be used. The proposed budget for the Neighborhood Block Party Program remains the same as the program was not fully subscribed to in 2026. The $155,000 estimate for grants and sponsorships represents a 55 per cent increase from the $99,427 that was received in 2026. Any additional sponsorship or grants above the budgeted targets will be used for budget relief. In addition to the City budget identified above, that community partners also pursue grants, sponsorships and in-kind support for events. As in previous years, funding and in-kind support secured by community partners will be used for program enhancement.

Consistent with previous years, an event contingency of $50,000 is included in the proposed budget to address any unanticipated challenges that may arise with any individual event. This may include things such as production issues related to weather, increased rental costs, additional safety requirements, event alterations due to construction, and/or sponsorships or grant shortfalls.

Should any contingency funding be needed, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, would preapprove any expenses to be charged to contingency.

**Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event**

Richmond has historically marked the winter holiday season with light installations along major roadways and at prominent public locations throughout the City. The proposed Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event (Event) is an addition to this City-wide program. Intended to celebrate light during a time of the year many cultures celebrate renewal and the New Year, the Event would bring the community together to enjoy specialty light displays in Minoru Park, concentrated around Minoru Lake. See Attachment 2 for the proposed location. The Event would be programmed with landscape lighting displays, specialty features, cultural programming and refreshments. Several community partners including City Centre Community Association, Gateway Theatre Society, the Richmond Arts Coalition, the Richmond Lawn Bowling Club, and the Highway to Heaven Association have expressed an interest in collaborating on this new Event.

The Event would be free to attend with the light features and decorations illuminated every evening after sunset, ending at 10:00pm for approximately 10 weeks. While the Event's related infrastructure (lights, equipment, etc.) would remain in place for the duration of the Event, during the day, Minoru Park would remain open for regular use as a park space for walking and recreation.

The Event would include the following elements to activate the park space:

- Light Displays and Decorations: Enchanting displays of lights and decorations would be available for the Event that the public can enjoy daily during the evening hours when the lighting features are activated. See Attachment 3 for examples. Two lighting strategies are proposed to be implemented in the landscape around the Lake;
    - Landscape Lighting: Vegetation (trees, shrubs, etc.) and landscape features (bridges, fountain, handrails and the lake edge) would be illuminated in creative ways to create a fully immersive illuminated experience for visitors; and
    - Specialty Light Features and Decorations: Light sculptures and seasonally themed features would be strategically located throughout the Event space. Functioning as landmarks, these features would guide visitors as they walk through the Event space.

These focal points become opportunities for taking photos with visitors posting their experiences on social media platforms, further promoting the Event;

- Animating the Lake: The Lake's surface would add a dynamic multi-sensory element due to the surface's reflective quality, thus becoming an additional meaningful and interactive programming opportunity. For example, floating lantern festivals are held in many Asian countries; and
- Celebrating Cultures: The Event will include activities and refreshments highlighting Richmond's vibrant culture. Enhanced offerings of food, music and arts could focus on seasonal holidays such as Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year and Lunar New Year.

Initial feasibility work has been completed and staff will continue to work with community partners to better understand their proposed contributions to the event, pursue sponsorship and report back with more information and a refined budget for Council consideration. It is anticipated that a report will be brought back in Q2 of 2027.

**Community Event Safety Enhancements**

In 2026, Council approved additional funding to enhance safety at community events. The following actions were implemented in 2026:

- In alignment with the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia's *Risk Management Guide for Local Government Community Events*, an Event Safety Plan worksheet was developed for all Richmond Event Approval Coordination Team (REACT) applications. The worksheet is designed to help event organizers identify potential risks associated with their events and develop appropriate mitigation measures. The worksheet was added to the REACT webpage and implemented for all events beginning in spring 2026;
- Portable event bollards, traffic delineators and traffic cones were purchased and made available for community event organizers; and
- Staff attended several REACT-approved community events during the 2026 event season to observe event operations; ensure safety plans and measures were implemented appropriately and support community safety. At this time, it is not anticipated that this level of staff attendance will be required in 2027.

Community event safety will continue to be supported in future years through the REACT application process and using the new resources outlined above. Funding for additional safety measures is not required in 2027.

## Conclusion

Events enrich the lives of residents by providing opportunities for the community to connect, contribute, learn, and celebrate together. They contribute to social and economic well-being, foster community resiliency, build community capacity and a sense of community identity and contribute to a vibrant city with a strong sense of place and distinct identity. The proposed program of events and initiatives for 2027, provides opportunities for the City to work collaboratively with a range of community organizations to safely deliver on several priorities identified in the Plan and it is recommended it be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Fenwick
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

**Report Contributors**

This report was prepared by Dee Bowley-Cowan, Program Manager, Events and Alex Kurnicki, Manager, Parks Programs and reviewed by: Business Services, Finance, Parks Services, Recreation and Sport Services, RCMP, and Richmond Fire Rescue.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

Att. 1: Overview of 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program
2: Proposed Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event Location Map
3: Example of Festive Lights Displays

## Overview of 2026 City Signature and Community Events Program

The following is an overview of the Council approved event program for 2026.

### Children's Arts Festival

The annual Children's Arts Festival (CAF) is the City's signature event for children, families and educators. The 17th year included two components: a free public event held on BC Family Day, February 16, 2026, at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex, and school days programming held February 18–20, 2026, at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex and five community centres across the city. The CAF celebrates the power of the arts to foster understanding and connection among families and communities across generations and cultures, building community, inspiring curiosity, and exploring through play. The CAF was supported by East Richmond Community Association, City Centre Community Association, Hamilton Community Association, Thompson Community Association, and South Arm Community, the Richmond Public Library and Richmond School District No. 38.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 9,000 people attended the festival during the Family Day public event on February 17, 2025;
- 833 children representing 35 classes from 17 Richmond elementary schools participated in the school days program from February 18 to February 20, 2026, at the Richmond Library/Cultural Centre and Annex and community centres (Cambie, City Centre, Hamilton, Thompson and South Arm);
- 55 volunteers contributed 443 volunteer hours;
- 205 performers/artists;
- 74 social media stories;
- 480,120 ad impressions;
- 3,364 clicks to the website; and
- 2 food trucks.

### Images of the Children's Arts Festival 2026




**Photo credit: Alisha Weng**

**Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival**

Celebrating the arrival of spring and the blooming of Garry Point Park's 255 Akebono cherry trees, this annual event is produced in partnership with representatives from the BC Wakayama Kenjin Kai. Held on April 12, 2026, the event featured live performances, demonstrations, food from a local restaurant and food trucks, Japanese cultural displays, and children's crafts and activities. The 2026 Cherry Blossom Festival theme was ありがとう (Arigato), meaning thank you, to extend gratitude to the festival's volunteering performers and supporters from the Japanese Canadian community. The Sister City Advisory Committee once again displayed chochin (paper) lanterns and visitors could take a photo at the Sister City Advisory Committee selfie stations.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 6,000 visitors attended the festival;
- 34 volunteers contributed 213 hours;
- 51 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was two hours;
- Visitor origins were 41 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver;
- 287,601 ad impressions;
- 4,373 clicks to the website; and
- 10 food trucks.

**Image of the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival 2026**



**Photo credit: Alisha Weng**

**Ships to Shore – Kaiwo Maru**

After a month-long journey from Japan, the Kaiwo Maru arrived in Richmond on Thursday, April 30, 2026, and was greeted by the community. The Ships to Shore event included two days of public programming in Garry Point Park and a one-day school education program.

The three-day festival included ship boarding and viewing, food trucks, and local performances on three stages (Neptune Stage, Dockside Stage or Coracle Stage). Visitors were also able to enjoy the Makers Corner featuring a selection of artisan vendors offering handcrafted goods inspired by culture, creativity and craftsmanship. At Partner's Circle visitors were able to explore

interactive activations and cultural experiences from local community partners detailed below, and kite demonstrations by a local kite club.

On the school day, students from the Richmond School District No. 38 participated in an onboard educational program, which included a classroom manual and tour of the Kaiwo Maru.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 70,000 visitors attended the festival;
- 2,450 visitors boarded the ship;
- 711 students from 28 classes participated in the onboard school program;
- 130 volunteers contributed 1,045 hours;
- 70 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over two hours;
- Visitor origins were 52 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver;
- 75 social media stories;
- 1,680,000 ad impressions;
- 151,959 clicks to the website;
- 15 food trucks; and
- Participation from local community organizations and sites, including Britannia Heritage Shipyard National Historic Site, Gulf of Georgia National Historic Site, Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee, Steveston Japanese Language School, Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, and Tonari Gumi.

**Images of the Ships to Shore – Kaiwo Maru Event 2026**





**Photo credit: Amber Pacific Studios**

**Doors Open Richmond**

The 19th year of Doors Open Richmond was held on June 6 to 7, 2026, offering visitors a diverse range of free cultural, historical, artistic and community-based experiences offered at 45 partner sites. The 2026 event welcomed seven new partners including the Alexandra District Energy Utility, artist Marion Webber and the Richmond Arts Coalition.

The event reflected Richmond's diverse communities and heritage, with participating sites representing Musqueam, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Catholic, Filipino, Buddhist, Japanese, Baha'i and Chinese communities. Two new videos were produced for the event, highlighting the Philippine Cultural Arts Society of British Columbia and Musqueam Elder Mary Point.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 20,000 visitors attended the sites;
- 1,453 participants attended 12 pre-registered programs, including guided tours of Richmond City Hall and two guided bus tours;
- 532 volunteers contributed 3,246 hours;
- 5 performers/artists;
- 125 social media stories;
- 452,652 ad impressions;
- 623,000 clicks to the website; and
- To enhance accessibility, participating sites identified the languages spoken by their volunteers and representatives during the Doors Open weekend. Collectively, the participating sites offered support in 22 different languages, reflecting Richmond's linguistic and cultural diversity.

**Images of Richmond Doors Open 2026**






**Photo Credit: Paradigm Creative Productions**

**Community Celebration Grant Program**

The 2026 Community Celebration Grant Program was launched on January 12, 2026, through the City's website, social media platforms, direct outreach to past applicants, and postings in community facilities across Richmond. Richmond-based not-for-profit organizations, not-for-profit faith-based groups, Parent Advisory Committees, and School Student Councils

were invited to submit creative proposals for free public events aimed at bringing residents together from diverse backgrounds through shared interests, arts and culture.

In total, 56 applications were received by the February 8, 2026, deadline. 40 projects received funding, totalling $55,228. Originally, 42 projects received funding totalling $58,000, however two applicants returned their grant funding upon making the decision to cancel their event in 2026.

Participation highlights include:

- Individual event participation ranged from 25 to 500 people;
- 7 Richmond Parent Advisory Committees events;
- 28 Richmond-based not-for-profit organization events;
- 5 Richmond-based not-for-profit faith-based groups; and
- Activities delivered through the grant included intercultural celebrations, an outdoor concert series held by Minoru Seniors Society, art activities in the park, a community carnival at Spul'u'Kwuks Elementary School and sporting events, including the Dolphin Park Classic.

**Richmond Neighbourhood Block Party Program**

The 2026 Richmond Neighbourhood Block Party Program was launched on March 30, 2026, and was promoted through the City's website, Parks, Recreation and Culture e-News, social media channels, and targeted outreach to Richmond School District No. 38, Community Associations and Societies, and Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities.

The program encouraged Richmond residents to strengthen neighbourhood connections and foster a sense of community by hosting block parties in a variety of spaces, including local parks, streets, and private strata properties. Funding was available to pairs of residents – living in the same neighbourhood but in different households/strata or Richmond Block Watch Captains – who applied to organize a free block party for their neighbours.

28 out of 31 applications were approved for a combined total of $13,477 of funding.

The first block party took place on June 20, 2026, and the final block party took place on October 9, 2026. The 2026 intake period concluded on September 13, 2026.

Program Highlights:

- 14 Strata neighbourhood block parties;
- 3 Block Watch block parties;
- 11 Neighbourhood block parties;
- Block parties were hosted in more than 10 neighbourhoods across Richmond, with the majority held in the Steveston, East Cambie, and Brighouse;
- Funding supported expenses such as table and chair rentals, food, lawn game rentals, sustainable initiatives such as compostable utensils and dishes, barricade rentals and marketing materials; and

- Activities included barbeques, a pancake breakfast, children's crafts, games, face-painting, and neighbourhood bingo.

**Richmond Celebrates Soccer Program**

Richmond hosted a range of initiatives and events including a grant program, a kick-off event, nine community watch parties and a signature event during the FIFA World Cup '26 period from June 12 to July 19, 2026. This program was delivered in partnership with Tourism Richmond and the Richmond Hotels Association.

Overall Program marketing highlights include:

- 75 social media stories;
- 5,490,000 ad impressions; and
- 73,056 clicks to the website.

***Kickoff Event – June 12, 2026***

The Richmond Celebrates Soccer program kicked off at the Richmond Olympic Oval on June 12, 2026. The event included a school component where students enjoyed soccer activities on the field, visited the Richmond Olympic Experience, and engaged with players from the Vancouver Rise Football team, Fusion Soccer Club and Foosball Canada. In addition to the on-field demonstrations and activities, the event featured match viewing and a music performance.

Participation highlights include:

- 3,400 visitors attended the festival;
- 1,300 children representing over 45 classes from Richmond elementary schools participated;
- 10 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over two hours;
- Visitor origins were 76 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver;
- 12 on field activities, plus the Richmond Public Library To Go Van and visits to the Richmond Olympic Experience;
- Two local soccer clubs; and
- Sport trivia between the two matches.

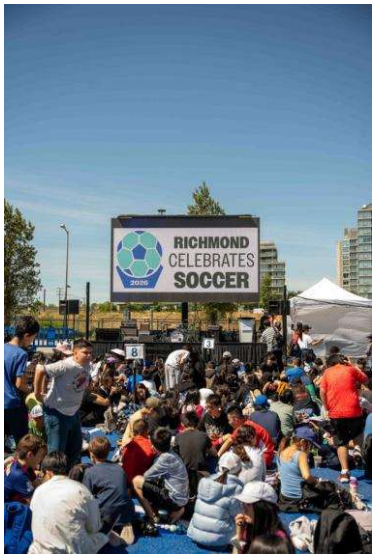



**Photo credit: Richmond Olympic Oval**

***Hamilton Soccer Slam Event – June 14, 2026***

The Hamilton Soccer Slam hosted by the Hamilton Community Association on June 14, 2026, at Hamilton Community Park featured a match between Japan and the Netherlands, celebrating the global appeal of the sport while gathering in a shared community space.

Additional activities included Soccer try-it lessons, target kicking challenges, soccer-themed bouncy castles, an inflatable soccer field, and bubble soccer obstacle course encouraging people of all ages and abilities to connect through physical activity and play. Together, these activities created an inclusive and engaging event that celebrated diversity, promoted cultural exchange, and strengthened community connections.

Participation highlights include:

- 300 visitors attended the community event;
- 16 volunteers contributed 112 hours; and
- 1 performer.



**Photo credit: Hamilton Community Association**

***Golden Boot Gathering Event – June 18, 2026***

The Golden Boot Gathering, hosted by the Minoru Senior Society on June 18, 2026, at the Minoru Centre for Active Living Plaza featured two matches; Switzerland versus Bosnia and Herzegovina and Canada versus Qatar.

Additional activities included food, soccer-themed crafts, a DJ, and popcorn. The event encouraged collaboration among community organizations including the Minoru Seniors Society and the Richmond Public Library. Following the event, the Seniors Centre at Minoru Centre continued to see a diverse population come together to watch soccer matches on TV inside the Center.

Participation highlights include:

- 600 visitors attended the community event;
- 39 volunteers contributed 234 hours; and
- 3 performers/artists.



**Photo credit: Minoru Seniors Society**

***City Centre Celebrates Soccer – June 21, 2026 – City Centre Community Association***

The City Centre Celebrates Soccer hosted by City Centre Community Association on June 21, 2026, at Garden City Community Park featured a match between New Zealand and Egypt. Many attendees came to support the Egyptian team, creating a vibrant atmosphere by waving flags and celebrating together throughout the match.

Additional activities included a performance by a youth band, inflatable attractions, and lawn games, creating a welcoming and engaging environment for families and community members. Together, these activities encouraged intercultural interaction, celebrated cultural diversity, and promoted greater understanding within the community.

Participation highlights include:

- 400 visitors that attended the community event;
- 13 volunteers contributed 78 hours; and
- 5 performers/artists.



**Photo credit: City Centre Community Association**

***Community Soccer Fest – June 24, 2026 – Thompson Community Association***

The Community Soccer Fest hosted by Thompson Community Association on June 24, 2026, at Thompson Community Park featured three matches on the big screen: Switzerland versus Canada, Scotland versus Brazil and Czechia versus Mexico.

Additional activities included live entertainment, healthy snacks and refreshments, and soccer-themed inflatables. The event brought together a wide range of community partners to animate Thompson Community Park, including Richmond Football Club, Friends of the Richmond Public Library, Rompers Preschool, Terra Nova Nature School, local musicians, food vendors, volunteers, and schools in the neighbourhood.

Participation highlights include:

- 1,500 visitors attended the community event;
- 30 volunteers contributed 240 hours; and
- 10 performers/artists.



**Photo credit: Thompson Community Association**

***United by Soccer – July 6, 2026, South Arm Community Association***

The United by Soccer hosted by South Arm Community Association on July 6, 2026, at South Arm Community Park featured the round 16 match between Switzerland and Columbia.

Additional activities included interactive soccer activities and demonstrations, dance and singing performance by local artists and community booths. Community members met through games and other engaging activities, made new friends and experience the spirit of building community connection.

Participation highlights include:

- 800 visitors attended the community event;
- 50 volunteers contributed 150 hours; and
- 25 performers/artists.



**Photo Credit: South Arm Community Association**

***Cambie Kickoff – July 7, 2026 – East Richmond Community Association***

The Cambie Kickoff hosted by East Richmond Community Association on July 7, 2026, at King George Community Park featured the match between Portugal and Spain.

Additional activities included interactive soccer activities and community booths. The event brought people together through sport. Soccer served as a universal language, encouraging participants of all ages, cultures, and abilities to connect through interactive activities, games, and shared experiences.

Participation highlights include:

- 400 visitors attended the community event;
- 11 volunteers contributed 66 hours; and
- 1 performer.



**Photo credit: East Richmond Community Association**

***Burkeville Soccer Celebration – July 11, 2026 – Sea Island Community Association***

Burkeville Soccer Celebration hosted by the Sea Island Community Association on July 11, 2026, at Burkeville Neighbourhood Park featured two matches: Norway vs England and Argentina vs Switzerland.

Additional activities included interactive soccer activities in the park, creating a fun and accessible space where families, neighbours, and visitors could gather and engage with one another. The event also fostered collaboration by bringing together local organizations, including Richmond Football Club, whose participation added engaging recreational opportunities and strengthened community partnerships. Their involvement helped animate the park while connecting residents with local programs and services.

Participation highlights include:

- 800 visitors attended the community event;
- 8 volunteers contributed 48 hours; and
- 4 performers/artists.



**Photo credit: Sea Island Community Association**

***West Richmond Celebrates Soccer – July 14, 2026 – West Richmond Community Association***

West Richmond Celebrates Soccer hosted by the West Richmond Community Association on July 14, 2026, at Hugh Boyd Community Park featured the France vs Spain match.

Additional activities included several opportunities to learn about soccer, develop basic soccer skills, and learn about soccer programs from Richmond United FC and Fusion coaches and players.

All attendees were able to participate in a Latin Dance Party, learn about programming offered at West Richmond and other community facilities, and celebrate the FIFA World Cup together as a diverse community.

Participation highlights include:

- 650 visitors attended the community event; and
- 24 volunteers contributed 144 hours.



**Photo credit: West Richmond Community Association**

***Steveston Celebrates Soccer – July 18, 2026 – Steveston Community Association***

Steveston Celebrates Soccer hosted by the Steveston Community Association on July 18, 2026, at Steveston Community Park featured the FIFA World Cup bronze medal match, France vs England.

Additional activities included family-friendly carnival games, inflatables, face painting, and community performances creating a vibrant neighbourhood gathering space. Steveston Celebrates Soccer was an inclusive event that brought people of all ages and backgrounds together through sport and community.

Participation highlights include:

- 700 visitors attended the community event;
- 35 volunteers contributed 210 hours; and
- 6 performers/artists.



**Photo credit: Steveston Community Society**

***The Final - July 19, 2026 – City of Richmond***

The Final event of the Richmond Celebrates Soccer was held July 19, 2026, at Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park.

The event included a welcome ceremony and watch party where soccer enthusiasts cheered on Spain vs Argentina as they competed for the World Cup 26. The site was activated with a variety of soccer-themed demonstrations, stilt soccer, soccer themed crafts and activities, local performers, and food trucks. The festival ended with the finale of local band Uncle Strut on the main stage.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 5,400 visitors attended the event;
- 20 volunteers contributed 84 hours;
- Over 30 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over two hours;
- Visitor origins were 63 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, Burnaby and Delta; and
- 9 food trucks.






**Photo credit: Amber Pacific Studios**

**Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant**

The 2026 Richmond Celebrates Soccer Community Celebration Grant Program was launched on January 12, 2026, through the City's website, social media platforms, direct outreach to past applicants, and postings in community facilities across Richmond. Richmond-based not-for-profit organizations, not-for-profit faith-based groups, Parent Advisory Committees, and School Student Councils were invited to submit creative proposals for free public events aimed at bringing residents together from diverse backgrounds through shared interests, arts and culture. All approved events were to be delivered between June 11 and July 19, 2026.

In total, eight applications were received by the February 8, 2026, deadline. Five projects received funding, totalling $10,000, and all projects were delivered.

Participation highlights include:

- Event participation ranged from 25 to 200;
- 5 Richmond-based not-for-profit organization events; and
- Activities delivered through the grant included soccer-themed programming, including a watch party at Hugh Boyd Park during the Richmond Youth Soccer tournament, a multicultural story exchange at the Richmond Caring Place hosted by Richmond Multicultural Community Services, and soccer-themed sport activities during the Sunset Fraser Team Sport Festival at the Burnett/Thompson Community Park – Lacrosse Box.

**Richmond Celebrates Soccer Neighbourhood Block Party Fund**

For 2026 only, Richmond Celebrates Soccer Neighbourhood Block Party Program was launched on March 30, 2026, and was promoted through the City's website, Parks, Recreation and Culture e-News, social media channels, and targeted outreach to Richmond School District No. 38, Community Associations and Societies, and City-operated Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities.

The program encouraged Richmond residents to strengthen neighbourhood connections and foster a sense of community by hosting soccer-themed block parties in a variety of spaces, including local parks, streets, and private strata properties. Funding was available to pairs of residents – living in the same neighbourhood and/or but in different households/strata or Richmond Block Watch Captains – who applied to organize a free block party for their neighbours.

4 applications were received for the 2026 program. All 4 Richmond Celebrates Soccer Neighbourhood Block Parties were approved and received a combined total of $1,800.

The first block party took place on June 12, 2026, and the final block party took place on July 18, 2026. The 2026 intake period for this stream concluded on July 19, 2026.

Program Highlights:

- 2 Richmond Strata neighbourhood block parties;
- 2 Richmond Neighbourhood block parties;
- Block parties were hosted in 3 neighbourhoods across Richmond: Steveston, Brighouse, and Ironwood; and
- Activities included barbeques, watch parties, and soccer-related sports activities

**Steveston Salmon Festival / Canada Day**

The 79th Annual Steveston Salmon Festival was once again successfully delivered in partnership with the Steveston Community Society and the Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society. This year's event was in alignment with the same vision theme from 2024 and 2025: "It's about COMMUNITY".

The 79th annual Steveston Salmon Festival on July 1, 2026, included:

- The Steveston Salmon Festival Parade, Salmon Bake and Chow Mein Community Food Booth, and market/trade show;
- A welcome ceremony including local, federal and provincial government and First Nations representatives;
- Traditional Steveston Salmon Festival programming, including the Japanese Cultural show and demonstrations:
- Sponsor Row zone for the festival's dedicated community groups and vendors;
- Activities for both youth and children at Sammy's Fun Zone and the Salmon Run Youth Zone, including performances by young up-and-coming artists and a local community group like the Buttery Biscuits on the Catch of Day stage;
- New for 2026 was the additional soccer program which including stilt soccer, soccer activation with a local soccer club, soccer darts and soccer skills;
- A variety of artist and performers across the site; and
- A grand finale performance by Barney Bentall and the Legendary Hearts at the Spirit of Steveston Zone stage.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 70,000 visitors to the festival;
- 250 volunteers contributed 1,500 hours;
- 40 local performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over 2 hours;
- Visitor origins were 45 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby;
- 51 social media stories;
- 1,250,000 ad impressions;
- 13,850 clicks to the website;
- 18 food trucks; and
- 86 parade participants.






**Photo credit: Amber Pacific Studios**

**Richmond Maritime Festival**

The 23rd annual Richmond Maritime Festival animated the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site on August 22 to 23, 2026. The event program featured 12 wooden and working boats along the dock including local restored heritage boats, maritime-themed décor and installations throughout the site, live music on two stages, roving performers and musicians, popular hands-on activities, multicultural array of food vendors, and community booths. The River Queen boat rides presented by Tourism Richmond were a popular attraction for the visitors.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 30,000 visitors to the festival;
- 68 volunteers contributed 600 hours;
- 134 performers/artists;
- Average time spent at the event was over 2 hours;
- Visitor origins were 41 per cent Richmond residents with a strong regional visitation from Vancouver, Burnaby and Delta;
- 88 social media stories;
- 691,000 ad impressions;
- 172,000 clicks to the website; and
- 11 food trucks.





**Photo credit: Alisha Weng**

**Richmond Farm Fest**

On September 13, 2026, Richmond Farm Fest, in partnership with the Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), returned to Garden City Lands for a free, family-friendly celebration of farming, food and community. The festival featured a farmer and artisans' market, cooking demonstrations from Black and Blue Steakhouse head chef Jonathon Lee, food trucks, KPU's Brew Barn, a Little Farmers kids' zone, agricultural and garden displays, farm wagon tours and live local performances featuring Richmond's own Rachel Chiu. Visitors immersed themselves in the agricultural heart of the city by exploring Richmond's agricultural story, enjoying a plant labyrinth, old fashion farm Olympics and learning about sustainability.

Participation highlights include:

- Over 5,000 people visited the festival;

- 72 volunteers contributed 417 hours;
- 16 performers/artists;
- 739,040 ad impressions;
- 48,116 clicks to the website; and
- 6 food trucks.

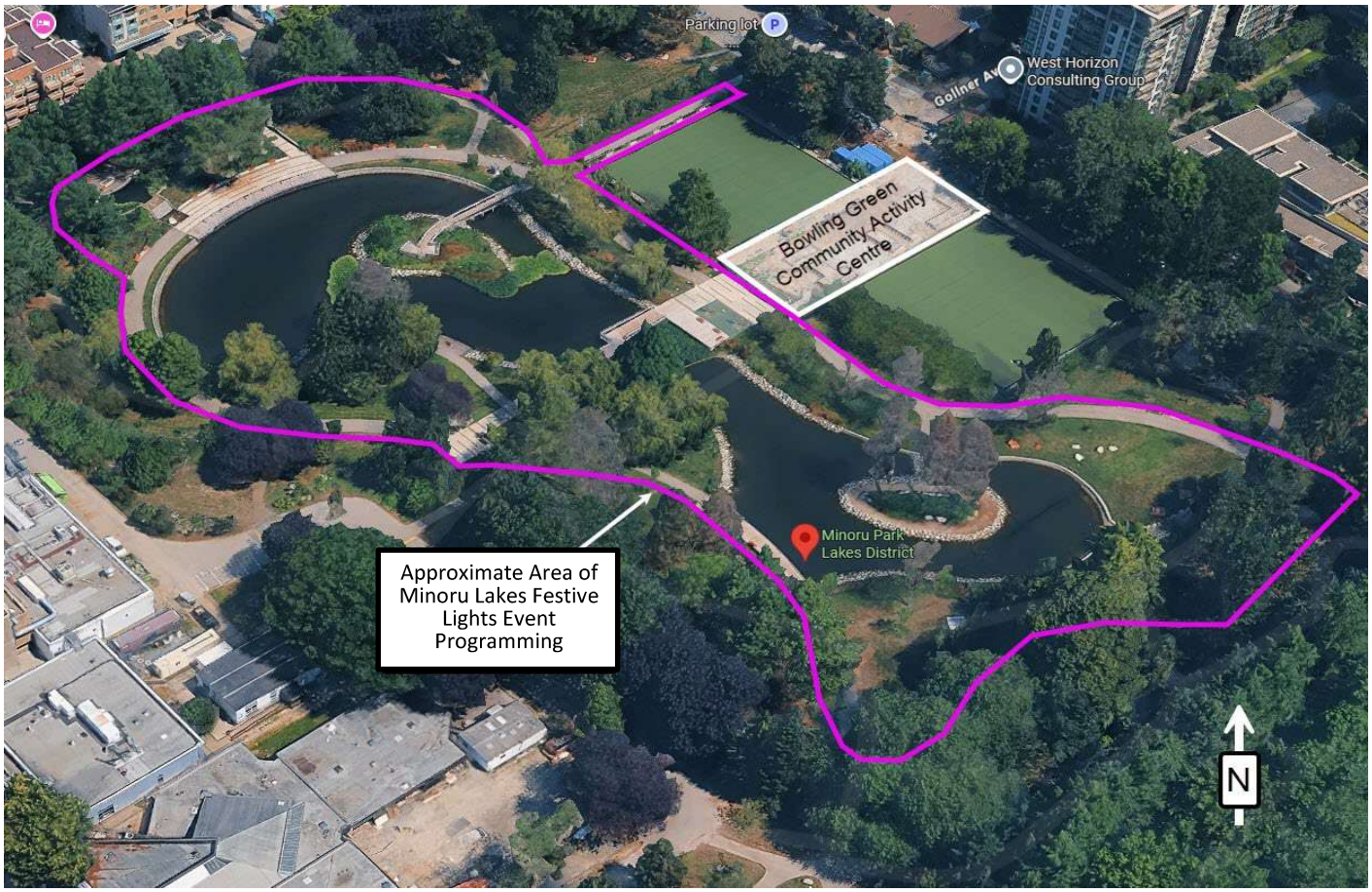




**Photo credit: Francis Burgos**

# Proposed Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event Location Map

*Figure 1 – Location of the Minoru Lakes Festive Lights Event*



# Examples of Festive Light Displays





Above: Examples of large-scale seasonal light displays in a park setting.



Left: An example of large-scale seasonal light displays reflecting on the adjacent water feature.

Below: Examples of custom light structures and features.



