



# Advancing a Livable, Resilient Richmond

Annual Address by Mayor Malcolm Brodie

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026





Front Row Centre: Mayor Malcolm Brodie

Front Row Left: (left to right)  
Councillor Alexa Loo / Councillor Bill McNulty

Front Row Right: (left to right)  
Former Councillor Chak Au (served 2011-2026) / Councillor Carol Day

Back Row: (left to right)  
Councillor Andy Hobbs / Councillor Kash Heed / Councillor Laura Gillanders / Councillor Michael Wolfe

## **Advancing a Livable, Resilient Richmond**

2025 will be etched in memory as the year when the Cowichan Lands decision was made by the Supreme Court of British Columbia. In BC, the year will also be remembered for when Canada engaged in a trade war with the USA, its longtime ally and biggest trading partner. For all communities, the past year was one of continued change and adjustment with pressures from interest rates, inflation and shifting market trends. Cities everywhere were among the first to feel the impact of rising demands for service, increased operating costs and evolving public expectations.

Yet, despite these challenges, Richmond remained steady. The City's strong, diverse and resilient economy combined with commitments to careful planning, prudent financial management and disciplined investment helped buffer our community from broader financial pressures. City services remained stable while major infrastructure projects advanced as planned.

Throughout the year, City Council and staff responded to emerging demands. We experienced continued development activity, high levels of participation in community programs and strong engagement across a range of initiatives.

We look ahead with a sense of optimism. Through continued collaboration, thoughtful investment, organizational strength and a focus on community well-being, City Council will ensure that Richmond remains one of the most livable and forward-looking cities in Canada.

### **Economic and Community Outlook**

Over the past year in the British Columbia economy, analysis confirmed moderate growth due to many factors. Rates of inflation began to ease, providing some relief to households and businesses. Although challenges continued in many sectors, this shift gradually strengthened consumer confidence.

Richmond's local economy demonstrated stability. With one of the region's most diverse economies, Richmond experienced strong activity across industrial, commercial and service-based sectors. For instance, the number of issued Richmond business licences increased to more than 14,500 in 2025.

Resident participation also remained strong throughout the year with more than 105,000 residents registered in City programs. This reflected consistent yearly growth for accessible, high quality community services. The City's recognition as Canada's Most Active Community in the ParticipACTION challenge further showcased the strength of local engagement and the importance of programs and amenities that support good health as well as active lifestyles.

Financially, the City remained focused on long-term stability. Despite rising operating and capital costs, Richmond's approach maintained a responsible financial position characterized by disciplined management of reserves, strategic investment and effective long-term planning for the future.

### **Cowichan Lands Decision**

In August, the Supreme Court of BC made an unprecedented decision in the case of *Cowichan Tribes v Canada and others*. The Court's decision involved a declaration of aboriginal title over 800 acres of land in southeast Richmond and, if unchallenged, may affect established fee simple ownership of private property under the *Land Title Act* throughout the Province. The decision introduced real uncertainty into the security of title to land in British Columbia.

Recognizing that the decision must be overturned rather than being negotiated away, the City of Richmond appealed the decision as did all other parties including the federal and provincial governments, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority as well as the Musqueam and Tsawwassen First Nations. The Cowichan First Nation also appealed and is seeking to expand the declared Aboriginal title area to cover the original 1,800 acre claim area.

As the implications of the case raise important questions for homeowners, businesses, lenders, and communities, a number of other parties are expected to intervene in the appeal. The City held a large townhall meeting in late October for affected landowners and the public in order to outline the potentially far-reaching aspects of the decision.

The significant impacts of this decision have attracted national and international attention. The City of Richmond will continue to inform affected landowners, residents and stakeholders as the City attempts to overturn the trial court decision.

## **Housing**

The provision of attainable housing was again one of the most significant areas of focus for City Council throughout the year. The City responded to changing provincial requirements, evolving development trends and the needs of a growing population. Council's long-standing commitment to supporting affordable housing and encouraging well-planned growth guided advancement of the City's Low End Market Rental ("LEMR") Program. Since 2007 this program has proven to be a successful tool for delivering below-market rental units. To date, hundreds of affordable units have been completed or are secured through development approvals with an additional 590 units under application. These units are important as they serve a wide range of residents including working families, seniors, young adults and others who rely on stable rental options to remain in the City.

While working with non-profit partners to deliver affordable housing, the City has leveraged provincial and federal funding. Richmond's newly-formed Housing Office launched an online registry to better support residents searching for appropriate rental housing. Using this tool which mutually benefits residents and housing providers alike, residents can effectively view available and upcoming below-market rental units.

Built on City-owned land in partnership with the Province and the Pathways Clubhouse, an 80-unit housing complex at the north end of No. 2 Road called Rio Vista is soon expected. This housing will assist single people, families and seniors with rental rates to accommodate either low or moderate-income households. Additionally, for women and their children living in difficult circumstances, the City contributed land to complement \$9.1 million federal funding through the CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative Program and \$7.2 million from the BC Housing Provincial fund. This secured 25 transitional units in Harbour House located at Steveston Highway and Railway.

Recognizing the value of collaboration, the City expanded the Affordable Housing Non-Profit Partnership Program to include more than 20 organizations focused on seniors, families, women, newcomers and individuals experiencing housing insecurity. These groups meet regularly to share insights, coordinate efforts and identify opportunities to improve capacity, services and support for vulnerable residents.

Funded by CMHC's Housing Accelerator Fund, City Council approved a \$10 million Affordable Housing Grant Program to support five new affordable housing projects to more quickly deliver a total of 347 new units across the city. The program is designed to help non-profit housing providers bridge funding gaps, secure senior government contributions, and advance projects more quickly from planning to construction. By investing directly in these partnerships, the City is helping to ensure these units remain

affordable and respond to local needs. This investment reinforces Richmond's long-standing commitment to increasing the supply of secure, affordable rental housing while working collaboratively with non-profit partners to deliver stable, community-focused housing solutions.

The City also continued planning for the Aberdeen Rental Residences, a project that includes over 200 affordable rental units near transit and major commercial areas. To be managed by the New Vista Society, this project will provide a mix of units suitable for seniors, families, individuals with disabilities and lower-income working households.

Following several phases of public and stakeholder consultation in the last two years, Council made significant progress in updating the Official Community Plan (OCP) which guides the City's growth. There were additional incursions into local government autonomy for land use planning as the result of restrictions set out in provincial housing legislation.

The first completed component of the OCP update focused on providing housing policies that promote affordability and more rental housing. Particularly along arterial roads and around existing shopping centres, the updated OCP aims to build more complete and connected neighbourhoods with more transportation and housing options alongside nearby shops, services, employment and amenities throughout the City. Also included are shorter-term, actionable policies that define implementation specific to Richmond, while at the same time complying with provincial housing legislation. As part of the process, the City's Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) map and related processes were updated to reflect environmental assets not provincially or federally protected. More updates to the OCP should be considered by Council in the spring.

### **Expansion of Shelter Support**

To provide for the growing demand by Richmond residents who have no home, support continued to expand in 2025 as the City worked closely with partners. Richmond House in the Ironwood area, the community's permanent emergency shelter, continues to operate at full capacity with 60 beds in addition to a waitlist, underscoring the need for additional shelter space. To supplement this capacity, two Temporary Winter Shelters were operated during the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 winter seasons, providing 35 additional spaces each night at South Arm Outdoor Pool and Brighouse Pavilion. Operated every night from early November through late winter, these shelters offer safe, warm overnight accommodation, meals, washroom access, and connections to

services. In 2025/2026, the shelters were fully funded by BC Housing and enhanced with new services, including morning transportation and daytime outreach to help connect clients with resources and follow-up on referrals. The 2025 Homeless Count identified 175 Richmond individuals without a home, an increase of 13 people since 2023. Most importantly, 59% of those identified were sheltered when counted, reflecting a significant increase in the number of sheltered individuals compared to previous years. These efforts demonstrate Richmond's strengthened ability to respond to the unhoused through coordinated partnerships and expanded shelter capacity along with a focus on safety, dignity, and connections to support.

## **Infrastructure and Capital Projects**

As an important component in maintaining safe, reliable and high quality services for residents in a growing community, Richmond continued to advance major infrastructure projects throughout 2025.

The approved capital budget allows construction to progress on several major civic facilities. These include the \$174 million Works Yard Replacement Project which will, over the next decade, modernize one of the City's most important operations centres. To complicate the project throughout the period of construction, the existing Works Yard will continue to operate at full capacity to ensure uninterrupted provision of core services.

Significant progress was also made on the Steveston Community Centre and Library Replacement Project set to open later in 2026. This \$95 million LEED Gold certified facility will serve as a major community hub with modern and accessible spaces for recreation, learning and cultural programs. A number of alternative venues are being used to ensure uninterrupted service during construction.

The Bowling Green Community Activity Centre recently opened to serve residents. This centre for lawn bowling has expanded for broader community use year-round.

The West Richmond Pavilion is currently in the design phase and plans to achieve Passive House building certification, a leading international standard for energy-efficient, high-performance buildings. The Passive House concept focuses on smart design using high levels of insulation, airtight construction and high-performance windows to ensure year-round comfort with minimal mechanical heating or cooling. Such buildings typically achieve 70–90% energy savings compared to conventional facilities. Building users will enjoy stable indoor temperatures, clean air, and a quieter more comfortable building. For the City and broader community, it means lower long-

term operating costs, reduced GHG emissions and a durable facility built to perform well over time.

Across the city, renewal and replacement of basic infrastructure remained a priority. For instance:

1. In 2025, the City replaced more than 4.5 kilometres of aging asbestos cement watermains with modern materials. Richmond's network of water mains, sanitary sewers and drainage systems requires ongoing upgrades to maintain reliability and meet service demands.
2. Drainage and sanitary infrastructure improvements were also completed in several neighbourhoods, including Burkeville and surrounding areas. Upgrades included new pipes, catch basins, manholes and associated road restoration as well as significant investments in stormwater and sanitary system upgrades.
3. Road and sidewalk improvements continued throughout 2025 as part of Council's commitment to maintaining safe and efficient transportation corridors. The city completed 32 kilometres of pavement upgrades, often incorporating sustainable materials such as reclaimed asphalt to reduce environmental impacts. This was in addition to improvements to street lighting, crosswalks, curb ramps and pedestrian connections which enhance safety and accessibility.
4. Parks and public spaces also saw significant investment. The City continued its work to upgrade playgrounds, sports fields, lighting systems, irrigation infrastructure and pathway networks. These improvements support active recreation, increase safety and ensure that our well-maintained parks remain inviting for residents of all ages.

External funding continued to play an important role in the City's capital program. Richmond secured approximately 50 external grants in 2025 to support dyke upgrades, active transportation projects, facility enhancements and climate adaptation initiatives.

## **Climate Sustainability and the Environment**

Throughout the year, climate resilience and environmental sustainability remained major focus areas. Richmond's geographic positioning in the Fraser River offers unique

challenges and opportunities. City Council remains committed to strengthened flood protection, reduced GHG emissions and an enhanced natural environment.

Modernization of Richmond's extensive flood protection system never ends. Our network of dikes, drainage channels and 39 pump stations forms the backbone of our climate adaptation strategy. In 2025, several pump stations underwent significant upgrades to increase capacity, improve operational efficiency and replace aging infrastructure. These improvements ensure an effective system response, especially during periods of heavy rainfall.

Looking to the distant future, the City advanced design work for overall dyke improvements. More than 3,000 metres have been raised over a period of years. The City's Dyke Master Plan, one of the most comprehensive frameworks of its kind, continues to guide these efforts.

Building on more than a decade of leadership in low-carbon energy, Richmond's district energy system currently covers 8.3 million square feet of residential and commercial space. One million square feet were added in 2025. Without involving the use of fossil fuels, district energy provides reliable energy sources for heating, cooling and hot water while significantly reducing GHG emissions when compared to conventional systems. Council also approved the concept design for a new Sewer Heat Recovery Central Energy Plant, which will enable future projects, including affordable housing developments, to connect to low-carbon energy. Together, these investments support Richmond's climate goals while delivering stable, long-term energy solutions for residents and businesses.

Another important aspect of sustainability is the use of low carbon materials for municipal construction. Last year at City Hall, the City piloted the use of low carbon concrete – this is traditional concrete modified to have a lower carbon footprint after replacing some cement with supplemental materials such as fly ash, limestone calcinate clay cement and geopolymers cementless concrete. Without increasing construction costs, this material reduces GHG emissions by approximately 20% while it uses recycled content. The success of this pilot will guide future applications in civic buildings and infrastructure projects.

City Council continued to support circular economy initiatives. For instance, the Bike Reuse Pilot, under which bicycles are refurbished and usable parts are repurposed, resulted in the diversion of hundreds of bikes from disposal. This initiative emphasizes Council's goal of reducing waste while supporting active mobility.

Water conservation remains a key aspect of Richmond's environmental focus. The City continued to support water metering programs, leak detection efforts and public education. As the result, per capita water use remains lower than regional averages. Compared to overall water use when the metering program started, demand has decreased significantly though population growth is strong.

Environmental stewardship continued across parks, natural areas and ecological spaces. In 2025, the City advanced several restoration projects including invasive species removal, native plantings and habitat enhancements. These activities support local biodiversity, improve ecological health and enhance the quality of natural spaces enjoyed by residents.

The City also demonstrated environmental leadership when Council continued the Ecological Network Management Strategy. This long-term plan guides the protection and enhancement of ecosystems across Richmond by identifying key habitat areas, ecological corridors and restoration priorities. Work conducted in 2025 strengthened this network.

Public education and community engagement remain essential components of Richmond's climate and environmental work. The City offered programs and outreach activities focused on waste reduction, water conservation, invasive species management and climate readiness. Our residents strongly participated in these initiatives, thus supporting the City's sustainability goals.

## **Transportation, Engineering and Public Works**

As always, the City's transportation, engineering and public works groups played a central role in supporting Richmond's daily operations throughout 2025. These service areas ensure that residents can travel effectively, utilities function reliably and neighbourhoods are well maintained. The City advanced several key initiatives in these areas to support mobility, enhance safety and accessibility while strengthening core infrastructure including:

1. A significant focus during the year was on ensuring safe transportation. Following the principles of Vision Zero, targeted upgrades at key intersections and corridors were completed such as enhanced lighting, updated pavement markings and measures designed to reduce vehicle speeds while improving visibility. Collectively, these efforts help reduce the incidence of collisions and support safer conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

2. Council continued to respond to requests for neighbourhood traffic calming. Speed limits were reduced to 30 kilometres per hour in several residential areas, including parts of Steveston and Hamilton.
3. In 2025, more than five kilometres of new walking and cycling infrastructure were completed, including portions of the Steveston Highway Multi-Use Pathway, improvements along Lansdowne and Gilbert Roads, widened sidewalks and upgraded cycling lanes.
4. The need for electric vehicle infrastructure grew last year. 83 city charging stations delivered an average of 83,654 kilowatt hours per month through more than 6,300 charging sessions.
5. For the winter season when snow and ice management on the roads is a priority, the City introduced an online public snowplow tracking tool, allowing residents to view progress in real-time during winter storm events. Found at [www.Richmond.ca/snowplow](http://www.Richmond.ca/snowplow) this tool helps residents plan their winter travel, particularly on priority routes.
6. Across the transportation system, accessibility improvements include:
  - (a) Nearly all signalized intersections now feature audible pedestrian signals; and
  - (b) New curb ramps and accessible bus stop pads were installed to support mobility for seniors, people with disabilities and families with strollers.

## **Community Safety**

Community safety continued as an important priority for City Council throughout 2025. As one of the safest communities in Metro Vancouver, this reflects the work of our police, fire-rescue, bylaw and emergency management teams who provide strong, coordinated and professional service.

Richmond RCMP advanced a number of important initiatives during the year. The detachment continued its focus on crime prevention, community engagement and targeted enforcement. Property crime remained an area of emphasis. Ongoing work with local businesses, community groups and volunteers combined with increased patrols, real-time information-sharing and proactive investigations helped reduce incidents in several categories including break and enters as well as shoplifting.

The Boost and Bust program supported retailers by identifying and apprehending repeat shoplifting offenders. Through these efforts, a significant amount of merchandise was recovered and a safer environment was created. The program reflects the RCMP's commitment to working directly with the community to address emerging concerns.

Road safety also remained a priority for the local detachment. Throughout 2025, officers delivered enforcement campaigns focused on distracted or impaired driving and excessive speed. These initiatives were supported by a large group of volunteers and community safety personnel who helped raise awareness at key locations. The combination of enforcement and education helped reduce high-risk behaviour and contributed to safer conditions on the roads.

Support for vulnerable residents continued to strengthen in 2025. The RCMP's Vulnerable Persons Unit worked closely with social service agencies to connect support services to individuals with no home, mental health challenges or personal crises. Regular outreach and early intervention helped reduce repeat calls for service and improved outcomes for individuals in need.

Specialized response teams also continued to play an important role. The Fox 67 mental health car (formerly known as Fox 80), staffed by a police officer and a mental health professional, provided timely support and attended 754 calls for service to assist individuals in crisis. This partnership ensures that residents receive a compassionate and coordinated response. Similarly, the Yankee 30 youth partnership car continued to support young people at risk, attending 986 calls for service and helping to connect those in need with appropriate programs and resources.

Bylaw Enforcement experienced growth in activity and capacity during 2025. Increased oversight of short-term rental violations, construction-related compliance and property use concerns were all addressed.

Richmond Fire-Rescue department continued to provide a high level of service throughout the year. Crews responded to a wide range of incidents including medical calls, structure fires, rescues and hazardous materials events. The department worked to maintain strong response times while advancing ongoing training and preparedness. An example of excellent response was evident in the December fire at the Fraser Place Apartments in Steveston.

Richmond was among the first cities in the region to adopt the new PFAS-free protective gear for frontline firefighters. This equipment reduces exposure to potential

cancer-causing chemicals in the gear and promotes the long-term health and safety of personnel.

Additionally, Richmond Fire-Rescue continued its wildfire risk mitigation planning. Although the community is at lower risk of wildfire than many others, the impacts of climate change and recent events across Canada highlight the need for ongoing vigilance. A detailed wildfire risk assessment was completed in 2025 with recommendations for fuel management, community outreach and enhanced readiness.

The City's Emergency management also continued to prepare across departments and with regional partners. This involved completion of training exercises, updated response plans as well as public education on emergency kits, evacuation planning and risk awareness. These efforts help ensure that Richmond always remains prepared to respond effectively during all major incidents.

### **Technology and Modernization**

Technological advancement across the organization enabled the City to improve service delivery, strengthen internal operations and enhance online access. To support the City's long-term needs, Richmond focused on ensuring that all systems are reliable, user-friendly and up-to date.

For example, a new centralized Budget Planning and Monitoring Tool was implemented to integrate the City's operating, capital and utility budgeting processes into one environment. The new tool enhances data accuracy, improves workflow efficiency and supports better long-term planning through the provision of more timely and comprehensive information.

In development, the City continued to make progress on system modernization. The online MyPermit portal expanded further in 2025, allowing the submission of applications for trade, demolition and tree removal permits. Through the same platform, the City has also enabled online rezoning applications to expedite the early stages of development approvals.

The MyBusiness online system has remained popular for users. For instance in 2025, over 70% of business licenses were renewed online. Upgrades to payment and account management features have made the process easier for local entrepreneurs.

In addition, the City continued to enhance its internal technology infrastructure, particularly to improve cybersecurity, increase network reliability and update systems that support day-to-day civic operations. As cyber threats continue, strong digital protection is essential to safeguard resident and financial information while ensuring the continuity of critical services.

The City also continued to develop approaches for the responsible use of emerging technologies. Staff created guidelines for the ethical implementation of artificial intelligence (AI), ensuring that any future applications meet strict standards for privacy, transparency and accuracy. While the City moves cautiously, early uses of AI demonstrate potential to support data analysis, process automation and service improvements.

A notable project in 2025 had Richmond Fire-Rescue introduce technology to automatically alert drivers about the presence of a nearby emergency vehicle. Using in-vehicle systems, this improves response times and improves vehicle safety.

To expand its use of digital mapping and asset management tools, geographic information systems were introduced to support work in engineering, utilities, transportation and land use planning through accurate spatial data and analysis. These systems assist staff in planning infrastructure improvements and responding to community needs in a timely manner.

For customer service, improvements were made to online payment systems, program registration platforms, booking tools and communication channels to provide residents with more flexibility when engaging City services. These enhancements reduce wait times, improve accessibility and ensure ease of navigation.

As technology plays an increasingly central role in supporting efficient and effective service delivery, progress made in 2025 reflects the City's commitment to modernization and continuous improvement. Looking ahead, the City will continue to invest in systems and tools that support innovation, strengthen resilience and enhance service experiences for residents and businesses.

## **Parks, Recreation, Culture and Community**

The City benefited throughout the year from strong partnerships with senior levels of government, community organizations and local groups. These supported major projects, enhanced community programs and helped reduce financial pressures on our tax base. Richmond's success in securing external funding reflects both the City's

strategic approach and the strength of its relationships with provincial and federal partners.

In 2025, the City was awarded approximately \$9 million in grants to support a range of initiatives including investments in disaster mitigation, agricultural water infrastructure, active transportation, climate adaptation planning and community programming. External grant funding enables the City to deliver important projects more cost-effectively.

Support for cultural programming and community events also remained strong. Provincial and Federal contributions helped fund festivals, heritage initiatives and arts programs that reflect Richmond's diversity and community identity. These events attract residents and visitors from across the region, add to our economy and contribute to Richmond's reputation as a vibrant and inclusive community.

Parks and recreation services played a key role in community life. The City delivered upgrades to several parks and outdoor spaces including trail improvements, lighting enhancements, playground renewals and sports field upgrades. Always guided by community input, key projects completed during the year included improvements at the No. 3 Road Bark Dog Park, upgrades to the Steveston Community Park playground and enhancements to the Brighouse Park baseball diamond. Planning also continued for neighbourhood park renewals and the development of new pickleball courts to meet growing demand. In 2025, the City added seven shared pickleball courts at South Arm Community Park. These investments all ensure that residents have access to high quality recreational amenities and that parks remain safe, welcoming and well maintained. Having assembled the required real estate, the City also continues to plan for the 40-acre Fraser River park on River Road in the City Centre.

Overall, recreation programs saw strong growth throughout 2025. There were increases in participation across aquatics, fitness, arts, and youth and senior activities. For example:

- Minoru Centre for Active Living alone recorded over 940,000 drop-in visits;
- Watermania welcomed over 240,000 visits while outdoor pools recorded over 35,000 visits; and
- The Richmond Olympic Oval and the Richmond Olympic Experience (ROX) recorded over 1.6 million visits.

Together, these numbers demonstrate the consistently strong level of community engagement across the community and reinforce the importance of maintaining accessible, high quality recreation amenities for residents of all ages.

The Recreation Fee Subsidy program expanded by 26% to support individuals and families facing financial challenges, thus ensuring that residents of all ages have the opportunity to participate in activities that promote good health and well-being. These programs remain an important component of Richmond's commitment to full community inclusion.

Richmond's cultural programs and festivals continued to draw strong participation and sponsorship throughout 2025. Local residents and tourists alike were drawn last year to participate in events including:

- The Children's Arts Festival welcomed more than 9,500 children and families. Overall, it has surpassed 100,000 visits since inception in 2009;
- The Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival at Garry Point Park celebrated the blooming of 255 Akebono cherry trees, drawing over 5,000 attendees;
- Doors Open Richmond marked a successful 18<sup>th</sup> edition, featuring 52 partner sites, the highest number since the program began and welcomed more than 23,900 visitors over the weekend;
- Steveston Salmon Festival delivered in partnership with the Steveston Community Society and the Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Society continued its long-standing tradition of celebrating the community on Canada Day, attracting over 80,000 attendees;
- The Richmond Maritime Festival animated the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site with wooden boats, live music, and community exhibits, welcoming more than 40,000 visitors over a weekend;
- Farm Fest brought families together on the Garden City lands to celebrate local agriculture through markets, performances, and educational displays with 2,500 attendees in its first year;
- Culture Days featured 100 free arts and cultural activities delivered by 51 event organizers over a three-week period in September and October. The kick-off weekend alone attracted more than 2,000 attendees, supported by 19 volunteers contributing 219 volunteer hours. Richmond's Culture Days

participation ranked the City first in British Columbia, fourth nationally among mid-sized cities and ninth overall; and

- 32 Neighbourhood Block Parties were hosted across the city and 52 events were supported through Celebration Grants.

These events highlight Richmond's cultural vibrancy and the strong partnerships that support community connection and participation.

The four Richmond Public Library locations continued to serve as essential community hubs by providing print and digital books, digital resources, learning programs and gathering spaces. Recording over one million visits during the year and more than three million items circulated, Richmond's libraries play a significant role in supporting literacy, lifelong learning and community engagement.

Importantly, volunteerism remained strong with more than 19,500 residents registered with the City alone to contribute their time to environmental programs, festivals, community services and cultural initiatives. Their efforts strengthen community spirit and support the delivery of important programs and events.

Richmond's commitment to partnerships, recreation, culture and community programming reflects the values that define our city. These initiatives contribute to our quality of life, support inclusivity and create opportunities for residents to connect. As Richmond continues to grow, these community-building efforts remain essential to maintaining a vibrant and welcoming city.

## **Conclusion**

As we look ahead in 2026, Richmond remains well-positioned to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented. The progress achieved in 2025 reflects the dedication of residents, community partners, volunteers, City Council and City staff who continue to work together to build a strong, inclusive and resilient community.

Among others in 2026, Richmond can look forward to:

1. A range of activities related to the FIFA World Cup;
2. Completion of the Steveston Community Centre and Library;

3. Many milestones in the litigation relating to the Cowichan First Nation land claims and intersection cameras;
4. A visit in the spring by the Japanese Tall Ship, Kaiwo Maru;
5. Construction to extend the Steveston Highway multi-use pathway to No. 5 Road;
6. Further updates to the OCP; and
7. More pickleball courts installed in Southarm Community Park and Burkeville.

While economic uncertainty, housing pressures, climate impacts and land claims will continue to influence our work, Richmond's long-standing commitment to careful planning, responsible financial management and strategic investment provides a stable foundation for the future. City Council continues to prioritize areas involving community well-being, public safety, environmental sustainability and infrastructure renewal.

Richmond's true strength lies in its people. Our diversity, collaboration and shared commitment to community continue to define us. Together, we will continue to plan, invest and adapt in ways that support a healthy, vibrant and sustainable future for all residents.