

RICHMOND REVEALED

Cultural Spectacle

An unparalleled series of visual spectacles will introduce Richmond, BC, Canada to the world during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Each spectacle will tell the story of Richmond's local economy, people, heritage and natural environment.

Asia's legendary supernatural creature visits Richmond for Chinese New Year: The *long* and short of it



A spectacular double-dragon dance featuring 150 metre and 75 metre dragons will visit Richmond, BC on Chinese New Year 2010.

- The dragon is a symbol of luck in the Chinese culture.
- Legends have it that the City of Richmond is a precious pearl in the mouth of the Fraser River and this attracts the dragon. This is why Richmond is known as a lucky city to live in.
- A spectacular double dragon dance with two impressively long dragons will visit Richmond and Richmond's O Zone celebration site on Chinese New Year (Feb. 14, 2010). The Richmond O Zone is an official celebration site of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and runs from February 12 to the 28, 2010.
- The dragons are 150 metres (492 feet) and 75 metres (246 feet) long. They are predominantly green in colour which symbolizes a great harvest, or in modern times, abundance.
- A double dragon dance, rarely seen in Western exhibitions, involves two troupes of dancers intertwining the dragons.
- Part of the dragon myth is the longer the creature, the more luck it will bring.
- Dragons (known as "long" in Chinese) are believed to bring good luck to people, which is reflected in their qualities including great power, dignity, fertility, wisdom and auspiciousness.

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Chinese Character for Dragon.

- A dragon's physical form is a combination of many animals, including the horns of a stag, ears of a bull, eyes of a rabbit, claws of a tiger and the scales of a fish, all on a long serpent's body.
- The dragon dance is a form of traditional dance and performance in Chinese culture often seen in festive celebrations.
- In the dance, a team of people carry the dragon on poles. The team mimics the supposed movements of this spirit in a sinuous, undulating manner. The movements in a performance traditionally symbolize historical roles of dragons demonstrating power and dignity.
- The normal length and size of the body recommended for the dragon is 34 metres (112 feet) and is divided into nine major sections.

Culture in Richmond

- With 57 per cent of Richmond's population made up of immigrants, the most of any city in Canada, cultural and ethnic diversity are celebrated in Richmond as nowhere else.
- Richmond has the largest proportion (40 per cent) of residents of Chinese ancestry among Canadian cities. It also has significant South Asian, Japanese and Filipino communities.
- The City of Richmond is truly a cosmopolitan city, where residents from 125 different ethnic backgrounds intermingle and share their cultural riches, not just during special events, but in every day details such as eat at world renowned restaurants, shop at Asian malls or visit one of North America's largest Buddhist temples.

