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# RICHMOND news

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GOING TO SEED



Roger Philips of the Master Gardeners Association brought along cocooned bees, some of which hatched on the spot during the Seedy Saturday event last weekend.  
*Photo by Gord Goble special to the News*  
■ See more photos in the Pulse section on page 14

## Suspicious device forces evacuation of apartment

Philip Raphael  
Staff Reporter  
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Richmond RCMP evacuated occupants of an apartment building and cordoned off an area along No. 1 Road north from Blundell Road Monday afternoon following the discovery of what turned out to be an unarmed, improvised explosive device inside a vehicle in the building's ground floor garage.

According to Acting Cpl. Dennis Hwang, police received a call around 12:40 p.m. from a resident in the area saying they spotted a suspicious car in the neighbourhood.

When police arrived at the scene in the 7800-block of No. 1 Road, they discovered a "suspicious" item in the vehicle, Hwang said.

Richmond Fire Rescue and B.C. Ambulance personnel were standing by on the perimeter of the scene at No. 1 Road and Blundell Road. During an examination by the RCMP's bomb disposal personnel, the IED was found not to contain any explosive material.

see RESIDENT › page 3

## Woman photographs man groping on transit

Canada Line a 'kind of hunting ground' for predators : Police

Graeme Wood  
Staff Reporter  
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Richmond's large immigrant population and an increasingly crowded Canada Line makes the train good "hunting grounds" for predators, Transit Police warn.

"A lot of ESL students use the transit system and lots of predators recognize this. Because English is not the students' first language or there are cultural issues related to sex assaults — perhaps loss of face and family issues — they're reluctant to report these incidences," said spokesperson Const.

Anne Drennan.

On Friday, Drennan issued a public plea for a young Asian woman to come forward and speak to police regarding an alleged sexual assault she may have been a victim of Thursday morning.

Richmond resident Kathy Yu, 19, who was riding the train from Brighthouse station that day to catch a bus to UBC, made the alleged groping incident public on a University of B.C. Facebook forum.

Yu said she saw a middle aged, Asian man wearing a green army camouflage jacket and blue jeans rubbing his hand against the Asian

woman, believed to be age 18-25.

"I saw her moving away from him, I could tell that she was visibly uncomfortable. I took a picture of him touching her and talked to the police right after I got off the (Canada Line) at Bridgeport," wrote Yu on Facebook, where she posted the photo.

What Yu witnessed is now the subject of a police investigation that may now be linked to other assaults at UBC.

Yu said she stepped off the train alongside the suspect, who was then questioned by police, who also took the man's information.

see DRENNAN › page 3



A SkyTrain rider catches a man groping a woman on the Canada Line. Photo submitted.

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# NEWS

## Leading the way to change

Martha Perkins  
Special to the News

A few years ago, Laura Chen said she would have felt helpless when her Syrian friend told her about that country's bloody conflict, and the horrendous impact it was having on civilians' lives.

But, as a member of R.C. Palmer Secondary's Global Network club, Chen now said she has the confidence, and the skills, to spring into action.

"My friend (a Syrian refugee) didn't want pity," Chen said. "She wanted people to become aware and support the innocent civilians.... She was really upset that no one knew what was going on."

So, as co-president of Global Network, Chen helped organize a campaign to not only inform students about what was happening in Syria but also raise \$500 to help families.

Back when she was in Grade 9, pity would have



From left, Sarah Chen, Cecilia Lee, Rebecca Sayson, Lance Chen and Laura Chen participate in the Student Leadership Showcase at Aberdeen Centre. *Photo submitted by Martha Perkin.*

been the only thing she could offer her friend. However, the Network club's leadership training "really got me to be creative about the things I was passionate about — (it taught me to) put all your heart into what you care about."

"Leadership is a way of standing up for others and starting a conversation," fellow club member Sarah Chen said at the Richmond Student Leadership

Showcase at the Aberdeen Centre on March 6.

Student passion was palpable at each of the booths that circled the mall's fountain as part of the culmination of Education Week activities. A variety of youth groups, took part in the event organized by Jim Ling, the district chair of Rotary International's Interact Clubs, which also had a strong showing.