The Best of Richmond

Sherry Elasoff

Best guilty pleasures

Many will gasp when I admit I don’t give a hoot about doughnuts. But only in Richmond can you get my two favorite weaknesses—Beard Papa’s cream puffs and Yoohan’s coconut bread. If I didn’t live here, I’d get these couriered to me.

Best ‘work-arounds’

If you’re a true Richmondite, you know how to avoid traffic jams by using alternate routes.

will get your shopping done before the end of lunch, use late night store hours early in the week to your advantage, and avoid No. 3 Road like the plague, particularly on the weekend throughhrough during Canada Line construction on other days it can be a ghost town and worth giving a go).

Best hidden gems

If you haven’t strolled around the little lake in Minaru Park, you’re missing the best part of Richmond’s largest park. Located between Gateway Theatre and Richmond Centre, its entrances aren’t obvious—the easiest path to find is to the left of Minaru Chapel. Watch, but don’t feed: butterflies, ducks, or lawn bowlers.

Best robots in our midst

State-of-the-art facilities at Richmond Public Library include particularly cool robotic DVD dispensers. Book your DVDs from their online catalogue, then pick them up for a free three-day loan. Yes, free. Give them back to the robot when you’re done.

Best reason to get off the couch

You can circumnavigate Richmond on 4.75 km of dyke trails. Probably not all at once. Whichever part you pick is fantastic for its views. Have a picnic, go fishing, fly a kite, or walk your cat (I purposefully avoid the “d-” word because their owners generate so many letters to the editor.)
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food

Readers’ Best of Richmond

Loaf of bread
1. Cobs
2. Stevenson Bakery
3. Romania Country Bread
Also: "Elise Lai's bread."

Bubble Tea
1. Bubble King
2. Pearl Castle
3. Toploe Express

Chinese food
1. PP Restaurant (tie)
2. Danny's (tie)
3. Kiko

Curry
1. Curry Express (tie)
2. La Tandoor (tie)
3. Mui Garden
4. Tandoori Kona (tie)
5. Thai House (tie)
Also mentioned: "James's Momo," "John Currie."

Dessert
1. Diplomat Bakery
2. Tapenade Bistro
3. DuVey Green

Fine Dining
1. Tapenade Bistro
2. Pap's Restaurant
3. Stevenson Seafood House
Also mentioned: "Wendy's."

First Date
1. Stevenson
2. Tapenade Bistro
3. The Zone Bowling

Fish & Chips
1. Pap's
2. Dave's
3. Places

Food Court
1. Richmond Centre
2. Lortdowen Centre
3. Aberdeen Centre

Greek
1. Mad Greek
2. Kikitos Taverna
3. Fellios Greek Restaurant

Italian
1. Pap's
2. Passano's

Italian Tomato
Also mentioned: "Lindsay Civello."

Kid Friendly
1. White Spot
2. McDonalds
3. Old Spaghetti Factory

Late Night Munchies
1. Boston Pizza
2. PP Restaurant
3. McDonald's

Place to take out of town guests
1. Stevenson
2. Pap's
3. Tapenade Bistro
Also mentioned: "Quinno's."

Pho
1. Pho Hoi
2. Pho Lan
3. Pho Viet

Pizza
1. Stevenson Pizza
2. Pizza Hut

3. Round Table Pizza

Produce
1. Ron's Farm Market
2. Richmond Country Farms
3. Langley Farm Market

Pub Grub
1. Flying Beaver
2. Peggy Dwy
3. O'Nuere's

Shrimp Dumpling
1. Sun Shui Wah
2. Shi Shi
3. Fisherman's Terrace

South East Asian
1. Tropicana
2. Thai House
3. Kona (tie)
3. Karl House (tie)

Sushi
1. Richmond Sushi
2. Ichiro
3. Seta Japanese Restaurant

Best place to handle a hot tamale
Que Pasa South-of-the-border food in south Richmond.

Que Pasa Mexican Foods (12031 No. 5 Rd.). Widely available in supermarkets, Que Pasa tortilla chips and salsa are a party standby. But Mexican food lovers should go to the source and check out Que Pasa's Richmond store and deli. Besides burritos, enchiladas and fajitas, there's a fine selection of salsas, sopes, beans, peppers and many specialty products (though sadly, no miel de chile, which is corn fungus, pungent and delicious). There's also mounds of those tasty white corn tortillas, two types of chips, tamales and more. Plus there's a lot of Mexicans on staff who can pass along cooking tips.
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Quitting smoking is the single most important thing you can do for your health.
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www.richmondaddictions.ca

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Best place to buy knickknacks
1. Dollar
2. Pieces
3. Dollar Store

Flower shop
1. Super Grocer Steveston
2. Forget-Me-Not
3. Touch of Class

Women’s clothing store
1. Artizia
2. Flamingo Row
3. Winners

Shoe store
1. Aldo
2. Stepin’ Out
3. Payless

Gardening store
1. Prickly Pear
2. Art Knapp
3. Home Depot

Home decor store
1. Home Sense
2. IKEA
3. Home Depot

New car dealer
1. Richmond Subaru
2. Richmond Toyota
3. Open Road Toyota

Auto repair shop
1. Juan’s Auto Service
2. Nobby’s
3. Craftsmen Collision (tie)

Best toy shop
1. Splash
2. Toys R Us

Best mechanic
1. Juan Recaro
2. Herman at Herman’s Auto Repair
3. Al Sakamoto of Nobby’s

Best car salesperson
1. Jamie Tschere
2. Ben Li of Richmond Honda
3. Edward Sri of Open Road Lexus

2. Second Look Auto Body (tie)
3. South Seas Auto Body (tie)
3. Hanna Collision (tie)

Program Partner:
Health Canada
Best night of entertainment if you like music

RichCity Idol, the local singing competition among Richmond high school students, is three hours jam-packed with some of the best young voices in the city. Sure, there’s the American Idol TV show, but there’s no Simon, and the aspirations are genuine. Next RichCity Idol is May 29 at Gateway Theatre.

RichCity Idol features top singers from each of Richmond’s high schools.

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