



City employee fired after \$200,000 allegedly goes missing

by Martin van den Hemel  
Staff Reporter

A City of Richmond employee has been fired and Richmond Mountain is investigating after it was learned that some \$200,000 allegedly went missing from the South Arm Community Association.

City of Richmond spokesperson Ted Townsend said last fall, some financial irregularities were discovered involving funds belonging to the community association.

The city took immediate action and commenced an investigation, and suspended a city employee. That employee has since been terminated.

Townsend said the allegations go back at least five years, but noted that since the Richmond RCMP are still investigating, he can't comment beyond that. No charges have yet been laid.

Coun. Linda Barnes, the city's representative with South Arm Community Association, said other local associations and non-profit groups have been contacted to ensure existing checks and balances are being followed, and that steps are being taken to "ensure in the future more stringent checks and balances are there."

Asked if she was surprised by the allegations, Barnes said, "To be honest, it happens."

But she said whenever somebody works for the city or an association in a position of trust, she's surprised when that trust is broken.

The Review has been told the fired worker had access to cash and the power to approve billings at South Arm.

Just last week, Debbie Ladd was sentenced to two years in prison, and ordered to reimburse the Richmond Youth Soccer Association more than \$50,000 for stealing from the club while she was its chair and treasurer between 1998 and 2003. Ladd pled guilty to redirecting the as-

Kevin Stone with his Imperial Water Dragon sculpture at River Rock Casino Resort. Matthew Hoekstra photo

**Dragon keeps eye on casino**

3.7-metre high sculpture arrived at River Rock for Chinese New Year

years. Stone crafted the 3,629-kilogram (8,000-pound) beast out of 16-gauge surgical grade stainless steel. The Imperial Water Dragon will rest in Richmond for the first six months of the Year of the Dragon.

"I really wanted to do my homework and that's captured the essence of a real Chinese water dragon," said Stone, noting the importance of the water dragon's fortune in Chinese culture. "I wanted to make it as good as a painting and produce it in steel that would

stainless steel sculptures in the world. He found his calling eight years ago, after his employer asked him to craft a stainless steel gargoyle.

Stone creates his pieces by hand. Cuts are made using a power shear or grinder equipped with cut-off wheels. Pieces are then welded together, ground down and polished to a mirror finish.

Located near River Rock's Carve Lounge in a public outdoor courtyard, Imperial Water Dragon stands 3.7 metres tall and, with its

Artist Kevin Stone helped unveil a mammoth dragon at River Rock Casino Resort. Working seven days

EVERYTHING ALL IN ONE PLACE

Community Association

NEWSRICHMOND

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Richmond Review • Page 19

Chinese New Year at Aberdeen Centre

**Year of the Dragon**

Aberdeen Centre was bursting with excitement and anticipation last Sunday evening as people of all ages got ready to welcome in the Chinese New Year together at the mall's Countdown Night to the Year of the Dragon.

The mall was packed with over 6,000 people attending the event, which was hosted by Fairchild.

"Every year we steadily increase in people," said Joey Kwan, the promotion and public relations manager at Aberdeen Centre.

The crowd that the event attracts has diversified as well.

"It became more of a cultural event for everyone," she said.

The night featured plenty of entertainment leading up to the official countdown including live music, dancers, and games for the audience to participate in.

The God of Fortune even came out and passed around red envelopes with candy in them.

There were plenty of opportunities to get in some shopping for the New Year too.

Each year they have many traditional vendors come out, but they bring in new ones as well.

"Every year [guests] get new surprises," said Kwan.

When it was finally time for the official countdown there was no shortage of energy in the crowd.

As midnight hit cheers rang throughout the entire mall.

**Amanda Oye** covers the social scene for *The Review*. Reach her at [amanda.oye@telus.net](mailto:amanda.oye@telus.net).



**Around Town**  
Amanda Oye



The God of Fortune (Coun. Bill McNulty) and Tina Lin.



Tay Phung, Bobo Wong, Nathan Wong, Kit Wong, Nu Khong and Sam Guzc Huynh.



San Chau, Gallant Ng, Karson Ng, Hannah Ng and Regina Chau.



Jeannine Boyd and Tim Graham.



Will Chan and Megan Hill.



Keke Ma and Michelle Li.



Walden Lo.