

Index	News	3	Seafair heads to Quebec
	Editorial	10	
	Letters	11	Seafair Islanders will be competing against Moscow, Detroit and others in next month's prestigious Quebec International Pee Wee Hockey Tournament
	Chief & Joe	12	
	The Staff	14	
	Sports	24	
	Classified	26	

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009

# Richmond News

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL SPORTS, NEWS, WEATHER AND ENTERTAINMENT! WWW.RICHMOND-NEWS.COM



Fireworks and confetti mark the stroke of midnight at Aberdeen Centre's Chinese New Year countdown celebration (above). A ribbon dancer from the Ping Academy of Dance was among the many performers at the celebration.

## TASER 'Nobody seemed to be doing anything' Fire captain calls RCMP 'unprofessional'

By Richard Bennett  
rbennet@richmondnews.com

Richmond RCMP officers who refused to take handcuffs off of an unconscious Polish immigrant they had just Tasered at Vancouver International Airport were described by a Richmond firefighter as "unprofessional" Tuesday at the Strathwood Inquiry.

Kate Graham, a fire captain at the Sea Island Fire Hall, was one of the first responders on the scene after Robert Dzikowski was Tasered by Richmond RCMP on Oct. 14, 2007.

About 90 seconds after Richmond firefighters arrived, paramedics with B.C. Ambulance showed up. They found Dzikowski lying face-down, head turned to the side, with his hands cuffed behind his back. He appeared to be unconscious.

When they arrived, Graham and more of the fire hall staff were administering CPR or other kind of aid to Dzikowski.

Nor did they appear to be encouraging him. In fact, he said three of the officers were standing about 10 metres away, and another was about five metres away.

## ECONOMY Axe set to fall on 14 city employees

By Alan Campbell  
camp@richmondnews.com

The City of Richmond is expected to slash 14 jobs as part of cost-cutting measures aimed at keeping 2009 property tax increases down.

It's thought to have been more than 10 years since the city has been forced to lay off employees. But after the city's operating budget was projected to city council's finance committee Monday morning, it became evident that Richmond is not immune from the current global economic crisis.

The committee heard how many of the proposed job cuts, which will save the city \$900,000, will be made up of temporary full-time workers, such as seasonal employees.

Also included in the belt-tightening, set to be approved by council, are a series of administrative cutbacks at city hall and a trimming of services.

All the measures being taken are to minimize the impact on the taxpayer, who are being asked to stump up an extra three per cent this year.

Richard Nazareth, meeting coordinator, said a union representative approached the committee and asked that they be given more time to prepare for the proposed layoffs.

"This came as quite a surprise about the layoffs," he said. "I would ask that the committee set the matter back to staff so that we can be part of the process."

Andrew Nazareth, the city's general manager of business and financial services, told the committee that staff had gone through a laborious process before making the recommendations.

"It's been a very thorough process here and (the city) is not immune to the financial pressures faced by everyone," he said.

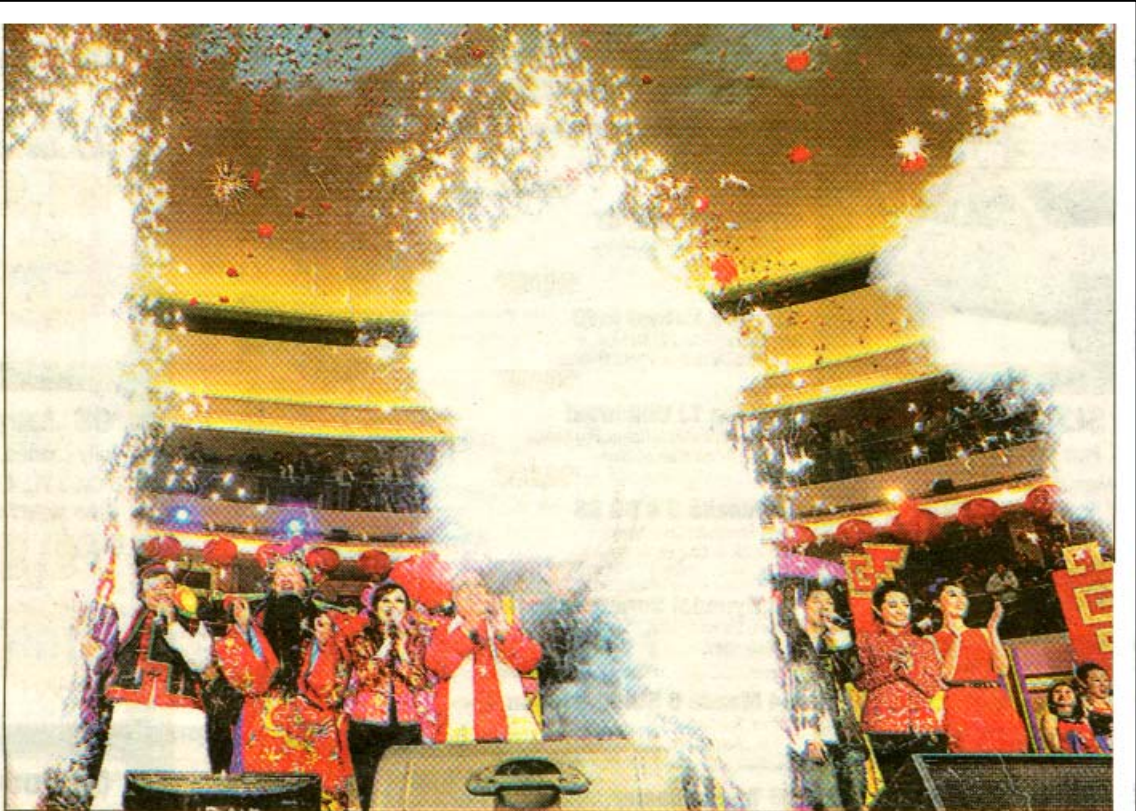
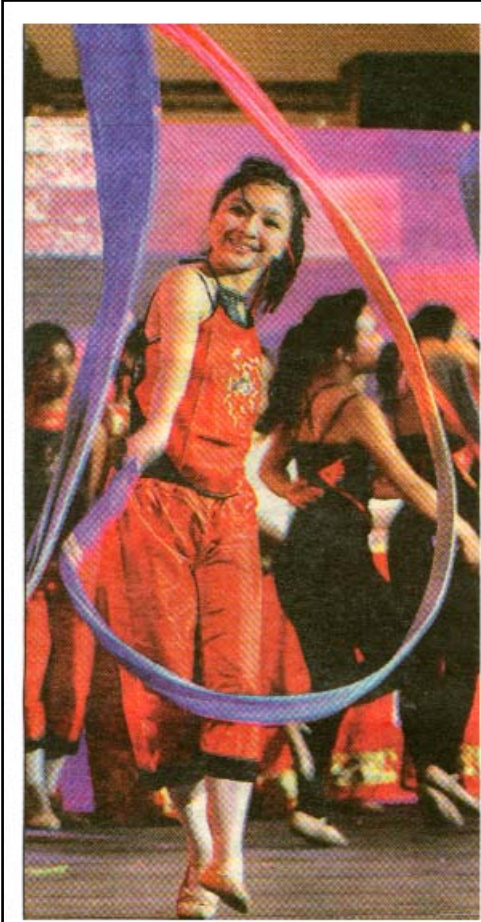
"Any time we go through a belt-tightening phase there will be uncomfortable decisions. But we can't just sit here and have increasing rates, and we want to make sure there's as minimal an impact as possible on active levels."

It's recommended that the two full-time city staff being laid off, who are currently working, will be a planning assistant and a building inspector.

The part-time Strathwood Museum assistant position, which has just been filled after years of searching, will be axed. Four seasonal parka staff will not be hired this year, saving the city \$100,000.

Among the non-staff cost-cutting tactics...

**Return-It BOTTLE DEPOT** \$1.00  
8171 Westminister Hwy.  
Mon-Sat 8:45-6:30 Sun 10-5  
(604) 780-4858



CHUNG CHOW/RICHMOND NEWS

Fireworks and confetti mark the stroke of midnight at Aberdeen Centre's Chinese New Year countdown celebration (above). A ribbon dancer from the Ping Academy of Dance was among the many performers at the celebration.