

Exploring the tastes of Richmond's Golden Village Page 17

the richmond REVIEW

ESTABLISHED 1942

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

40 PAGES

Province drops ALR appointee

Long-time Richmond farmer
commented on Garden City lands

by Jeff Nagel and
Matthew Hoekstra

Staff Reporters

A retired Richmond businessman named to oversee Agricultural Land Reserve changes has been widely

tasked from his new post because of his publicly backed controversial plans to develop the Garden City lands.

Bill Jones was one of two new commissioners named to the Agricultural Land Commission's three-member South Coast panel, but his appointment came

under fire this week from New Democrats who said any decision he might make would be tainted by the appearance of bias.

Jones spoke in favour of the 56-acre Garden City lands ALR exclusion at a public hearing held by the commission's outgoing panel April 25—two days after Agriculture Minister Pat

approved his appointment. "He had made a representation on a file that he would actually be ruling on," Bell said Wednesday. "He said I discussed it and felt it was inappropriate, so he and I decided that his appointment should be restricted."

Reached yesterday, Jones said the situation is a "personal embarrassment" and said he had no idea he was about to be named to the panel before speaking at last week's meeting.

I submit a CV to see if I might be an appropriate nominee and I know I was being considered, but I had no idea how many others," he said. "It has turned out that in fact I had been appointed but no one bothered to tell me."

Now retired from his Westminster Highway nursery operation, Jones said he has no axe to grind. He supports the removal of the Garden City lands from the ALR provided park and green space is part of the site's future. He insists the land isn't suitable for farming because of the cost of operating a farm on a swampy parcel bounded by four major roads.

"The job one of senior government and municipal government is to ensure that no, absolutely no viable farmland is taken out. That's the key word, viable. That land, the Garden City lands, is not viable. I don't care what they say. There's no way anybody could make it work as a farm."

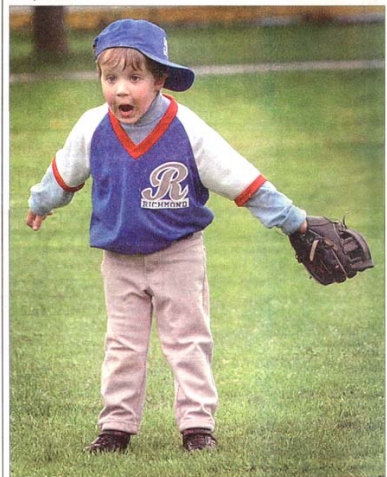
Jones said he had no idea he was about to be named to the panel before speaking at last week's meeting.

There's no far no replacement for Jones nor a third appointment to fill out the panel which will decide the fate of the Garden City lands and make a decision on a controversial application to withdraw 1,100 acres of farmland on Barrington Island for a business/industrial park.

Reached yesterday, Jones said the situation is a "personal embarrassment" and said he had no idea he was about to be named to the panel before speaking at last week's meeting.

"It had been suggested to me that

Wow, a hit!



After a quiet day at the plate, Ben Patis of the Richmond Tornadoes reacts after the opposing Cardinals got a base hit. The T-ball contest took place Saturday at Whiteside Field.

Celebrate Mom at Blundell Centre

A-W 2-can Dine for only \$9.99

A-W 2-Grandpa Burgers for \$7

Enjoy 2 Topp Burgers w/ 2 Buns
Burgers, 2 regular fries and 2 regular A-W Hot Beers all for the great price of \$9.99

Enjoy 2 Topp Burgers w/ 2 Buns
Burgers, 2 regular fries and 2 regular A-W Hot Beers all for the great price of \$7.00

WWW.RICHMONDREVIEW.COM OFFICE: 604-247-3700 NEWSROOM: 604-247-3730 DELIVERY: 604-247-3716 Black Press

Thursday, May 4, 2006

arts & entertainment



Mark Patrick photo

Parisa Thom, Tourism Richmond liaison for Golden Village, will take Food for Thought and readers on a tour of the city's best Chinese restaurants beginning May 18.

The four corners of China

From Page 19

Northern food became known as Beijing dishes, using wheat flour to make dumplings, stuffed breads, noodles, and steamed buns. The Southern food, known as Cantonese, is vital to Chinese food with lots of rice, dainty light food, and a love of condiments such as *hoisin* sauce and plum sauce. *Dim sum* originated in Southern China and means "little dishes". The word *yumcha* means to drink tea at brunch, eat "little dishes" and chat for hours, a totally social event. In the West, dim sum has come to represent the *yumcha* experience.

Western food is known as Sichuan (Szechuan), the place for flavour and home of hot and spicy *kung pao*. The Eastern food,

Shanghai dishes, uses lots of seafood in a variety of sweet, salty, sour, and fragrant. Each of the four corners of China claims their food is the most satisfying eating. Undoubtedly, each is correct because each place offers distinct tastes.

For the next several weeks, Parisa and I will taste our way through the cuisines of the four corners of China, all found right here in Richmond in a concentrated area. Unfortunately I have exhausted my word count this week, but isn't anticipation part of the pleasure of planning an adventure? Start the adventure May 18 when we visit Shanghai River Restaurant.

Arlene Kroeker writes about food every Thursday in The Richmond Review.