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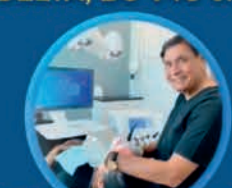
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Fundraiser Reveals Harrowing Details of Ontario Sikh Couple's Tragic Shooting

"This story is horrifying, terrible and real," mentioned the fundraiser created by a friend of the Sikh family who became the victim of a deadly shooting in Caledon, Ontario. The Sikh family was shot down by unidentified people on November 20, 2023 when they were preparing to go to sleep in their rented house in Caledon, Ontario, on the border of Brampton, Canada. Although none of the victims' identities has been revealed by the police, according to media reports it was a Sikh family of a father, a mother, and a daughter who were shot in the Caledon home. They were living in their rented



Death bed - Harbhajan Kaur



Funeral-Jagtar Singh



portion of a house on Mayfield Road along with their son and daughter.

Indian news agency IANS and Toronto Star in news articles said that the police

found Jagtar Singh (57) dead on the scene, and rushed his wife Harbhajan Kaur (55) and their daughter to hospital with life-threatening injuries. Harbhajan Kaur died in

hospital 13 days later. According to the information posted on the GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/help-innocent-gursikh-family-6brutally-shot-down>), the couple were Jagtar Singh and Harbhajan Kaur. To cut rental costs, the family shared this house along with some close friends of their son.

Continued on page 9

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Vancouver Schools' Sikh Clubs giving back to community

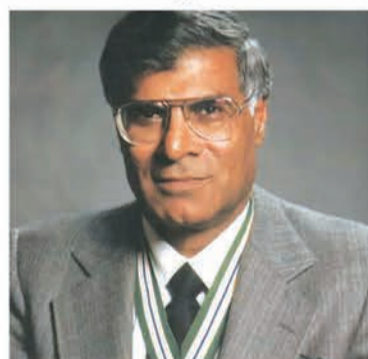


Students at David Thompson and John Oliver High Schools in Vancouver, actively imbibing Sikh values through their Sikh Clubs, are embracing the spirit of selfless service, or 'seva.' Inspired by the altruistic efforts of Victor Ghirra's annual Toy Drive, Sikh Club members decided to follow suit. Ghirra, a silent benefactor, served BC Children's Hospital without seeking recognition. In the footsteps of this benevolence, students united to collect toys for less fortunate children. This heartwarming story, highlighting the positive impact of Sikh Clubs in fostering community engagement and self-expression, is authored by a Grade 9 student from David Thompson Secondary School. (Read Mya Kooner's article on Page 25)

In Memoriam: Dr Gurdev Singh Gill Indo-Canadian Community Pioneer Dr Gill Dies In Chandigarh

It is with profound sadness that the Gill family has announced the demise of Doctor Gurdev Singh Gill in Chandigarh, Punjab, India, on December 17, 2023. He was husband of Jasinder, father to Sanjiv (Mala) and Jasmine, Simran (Drish) and Tina (Jagat), grandfather to Imran (Chelsey), Rahul, Javed (Veer) and Iqroop. He was the proud great-grandfather of Arjan.

Dr. Gill was predeceased by his first wife Narinder, parents Dilbag and Gurbachan, and his siblings Parlad, Darshan, and Bhagwant. Dr. Gill was a special person whose impact in the lives of people in both Canada and India goes far beyond what anyone can read or see today. Born in the village of Kharoudi, Punjab, in November 1931, he came from humble beginnings and bravely left for Can-



ada via boat in 1949. He worked in a mill in Duncan, finished grade 12 and went on to graduate from UBC in 1957 with his medical degree. He was the first Canadian of Indian origin to practice medicine in Canada, for 40 years at an office in New Westminster, B.C. where he lived and raised his family.

Continued on page 11

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Preety Panesar Arrested For Alleged Murder Of Woman With “Familial Relationship”



One day after a woman's body was discovered in Delta, B.C., police have announced charges against another woman with a “familial relationship” Department (DPD) responded to a Ladner residence following the discovery of a deceased woman. Subsequent investigation conclusively determined that the woman's death was the result of homicide. Shortly thereafter, the DPD arrested a suspect, 28-year-old Preety Teena Kaur Panesar, who

has been formally charged with 1st-degree murder in connection to the death. “A familial relationship exists between Panesar and the deceased woman. Presently, Panesar is in custody. In consideration of the ongoing investigation and legal proceedings, no further details will be disclosed at this time. The Delta Police Department extends sincere condolences to the Panesar family during this challenging period,” said Delta Police Department in a release.

Narendra Modi Breaks Silence On Pannun Murder Plot Allegation

Responding for the first time to allegations of the Indian Government's involvement in an assassination plot in the US, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said he will “look into” any evidence and maintained that a “few incidents” would not derail the US-India ties.

In an interview with a UK Newspaper Financial Times, the Indian PM sought to play down the diplomatic impact of a US indictment last month that claimed an Indian official directed the attempted murder of designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on American soil.

“If someone gives us any information, we would definitely look into it,” Modi said. “If a citizen of ours has done anything good or bad, we are ready to look into it. Our commitment is to the rule of law.”

“India in 2020 designated Pannun as a terrorist, which he denies. It has also repeatedly accused western countries of not taking seriously its security concerns about Sikh separatism, which has a long and bloody history in South Asia,” wrote Financial Times.

Modi said India was “deeply concerned about the activities of certain extremist groups based overseas.” He added: “These elements, under the guise of freedom



of expression, have engaged in intimidation and incited violence.”

The US and Canadian cases have raised alarm about India's possible role in extrajudicial killings. Canadian PM Justin Trudeau announced in the Parliament that Canada has some credible information about India's involvement in the murder of Surrey Gurdwara President Hardeep Singh Nijjar. After a few months, a US court unsealed an indictment with a bombshell investigation and hit a huge blow to India at the diplomatic front in which they have charged an Indian-origin narcotics smuggler,

Nikhil Gupta, alias Nick (52), for participating in a plot to assassinate US-based Pannun.

“Security and counter-terrorism co-operation has been a key component of our partnership,” he added. “I don't think it is appropriate to link a few incidents with diplomatic relations between the two countries.”

Modi visited Washington for a state visit in June and Biden visited New Delhi for the G20 summit in September. Both leaders also agreed this year to expand co-operation in areas ranging from high tech to defence.

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Surrey City Council Turns Back School District's 10-year Capital Plan

Mayor blames province for imposing housing regulations which will increase students in Surrey schools

In a unanimous vote this week, the Surrey City Council turned back the Surrey School District's 10-year Capital Plan Eligible School Sites Proposal. According to city, the rejection was based

on concerns that the plan did not account for the new provincial legislation of Bills 44, 46 and 47. Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke said, "The school district's plan was prepared in early fall, well ahead of the new provincial housing regulations, which is why Council has asked them to go back and reassess their plan.

She said the ramifications of the new housing regulations will likely result in a significant increase in the number of students in Surrey. Council, unanimously, disagrees with the School Board's projection of students in its 10-year Capital Plan.

To date, it is fair to say that with the roughly 400 portables at Surrey schools, the student projections have been consistently underestimated. To suggest Council's action is anything other than advocating for the best interests of students is grossly inaccurate and offensive.

Surrey is doing our part in building new housing, but the province has to ensure there is adequate infrastructure to accommodate the growth. Whether it is new healthcare facilities, transit or schools, critical services have to be in place if we are going to build all the new housing that the province wants us to.

"While it is unprecedented for Council to ask the Surrey School Board to reassess their plan, it is also unprecedented for the province to impose new housing regulations on municipalities without any consideration of local planning or zoning. The province needs to understand building new homes in isolation may solve one problem, but it creates a whole new host of others," she added.

Surrey School District acknowledging the rejection of the City said, "This proposal



is shared with the City of Surrey on an annual basis. The methodology behind its calculation undergoes a rigorous review and approval process before it reaches Council, including scrutiny and approval by our Board. The template used for this purpose is developed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, aligning with the requirements outlined in the Local Government Act (Sections 571-581)."

In accordance with legislation, the rejection of the proposal triggers a notification to the Minister of Education and Child Care who will appoint a facilitator to assist in resolving differences between the local government and the school board.

"Our district is committed to working collaboratively with the City of Surrey to navigate these challenges and uphold our shared commitment to providing quality education while adapting to the evolving needs of our growing community," said Laurie Larsen, Chair of the Surrey Board of Education.

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Guru Nanak Food Bank Delta Hosts Community-Centered Training For New Delta Police officers

DELTA, BC: Guru Nanak Food Bank's (GNFB) Delta location hosted a community-centered training session for the new recruits of the Delta Police Department to enhance community engagement and foster understanding.

"This ground-breaking program marks a significant milestone, as for the first time in Canada, police recruits concluded their final training program at a community food bank," said Neeraj Walia, GNFB.

The inaugural event took place at the Guru Nanak Food Bank Delta Branch, where four new recruits immersed themselves in a comprehensive training program designed to provide them with a deeper understanding of the community they will serve. The training, led by the Operational Head, began with an insightful session on the history of Guru Nanak Food Bank and its core values.

The recruits were given insights into Sikhism and its values, an introduction to the local language, and a tour of the food bank facilities. The program also included interactive sessions, hands-on experiences, and a keynote address by Gyani Narinder Singh, the Founder and President of Guru Nanak Food Bank.

Chief Neil Dubord of the Delta Police Department expressed his support for this unique partnership and congratulated the recruits on embracing a novel approach to community-oriented training. "This initiative is a shining example of collaboration between law enforcement and the community. We believe that understanding the diverse communities we serve is essential to building trust and ensuring effective policing," Chief Dubord stated.

"This inaugural session marks the beginning of a ground-breaking initiative, and Guru Nanak Food Bank Delta anticipates the participation of many more new officers in the future. It signifies a unique approach to recruitment, where the food bank becomes an integral part of the training center for new police officers," Walia informed.

Gyani Narinder Singh shared insights into the vision and motivation behind the establishment of Guru Nanak Food Bank. "We are honored to be part of this initiative, bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community. Through programs like these, we aim to create a more inclusive and empathetic environment," said Singh.

"As the recruits embark on their roles as officers of the Delta Police Department, Guru Nanak Food Bank Delta wishes them success and hopes that the lessons learned during their time at the food bank will serve as a guiding light in their careers.



The food bank looks forward to continued collaboration with the Delta Police Department in

creating a safer, more inclusive, and engaged community," he added.



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PM Announces \$115 Million To Fast-Track Housing In Vancouver, While Surrey Not A Recipient

VANCOUVER, BC: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in Vancouver last week to announce that the federal government has reached an agreement with the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, to fast-track over 3,200 new housing units over the next three years. This work will help spur the construction of more than 40,000 homes over the next decade and help meet the demand in Vancouver. Under the Housing Accelerator Fund, this agreement will provide almost \$115 million to eliminate barriers to build the housing we need, faster. It will allow for high density development including multiplexes and apartment



governments unlock new housing supply through innovative approaches. It asks for innovative action plans from local governments, and once approved, provides upfront funding to ensure the timely building of new homes, as well as additional funds upon delivering results. Local governments are encouraged to think big and be bold in their approaches, which could include accelerating project timelines, allowing increased housing density, and encouraging affordable housing units. The City of Vancouver's Housing Action Plan aims to build more housing with a variety of density to meet the needs of the local community. Surrey Board of Trade's President & CEO Anita Huberman said, "The Fall Economic Statement indicated that nearly 23% of all Housing Accelerator Funding was earmarked for Quebec while affordability and housing costs in Metro Vancouver, and specifically Surrey, are some of the highest in the country. Only one BC city was listed while other provinces, specifically Ontario, had many city investments. Surrey needs our fair share of infrastructure investments."

buildings, help fast-track development processes, and build housing near public transit. As part of the agreement, Vancouver will work to streamline re-zoning laws, expand affordable rental programs, cut red tape, and unlock non-market housing. These initiatives are going to significantly improve the way housing is built in one of Canada's largest cities. "Like so many cities across Canada, Vancouver needs more homes, and fast. That's why we're working with mayors across the country to cut red tape and change the way we build housing. Today's announcement with Vancouver will help build more homes, faster, so that every Canadian has a good place to call their own," said Trudeau. The Housing Accelerator Fund is a \$4 billion initiative from the Government that will run until 2026-27. It is designed to help cities, towns, and Indigenous

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Indo-Canadian Family that lost family member to Cancer appeals to donate to BC Cancer

Kenny and Satwant Jarna-na lost their daughter Elisa Lok to cancer recently. The family is now actively working with donors and communities across B.C. to inspire investment in BC Cancer.

On behalf of Elisa, the family is fundraising partner of BC Cancer. The purpose is to be a catalyst, powering world class innovation while supporting deeply personal cancer journeys. The family has set a target of \$20,000 and is appealing to the public to contribute to BC Cancer.

The fundraiser is a way of expressing their appreciation for the staff and professionals who worked relentlessly and provided excellent care to Elisa before she passed away on October 17, 2023 from stage 4 cancer.

Elisa Lok's family, friends and relatives are strongly urging the public to donate generously to these worthwhile causes.

According to them, during her long journey, Elisa endured countless surgeries, over 200 rounds of chemotherapy treatments, 30 rounds of radiation treatments and an endless amount of CT, MRI and Pet scans.

The doctors, nurses and other health professionals on her team were excellent. All of them worked very hard to make sure that Elisa got the best quality of care. Consequently, because of their efforts and the dedication of staff at the BC Cancer Agency and Richmond General Hospital they were able to extend her life by eight years. It enabled her to



spend more time with her parents, husband, children, family, and friends.

Elisa was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2011. She had a surgery which was successful but 5 years later the cancer had come back and spread to her lungs. She was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer at that time in 2016. She gallantly fought her cancer for eight long years. She had over 200 rounds of chemotherapy, 30 rounds of

radiation and countless surgeries to help eradicate her cancer. Elisa was a warrior! She fought so hard, right to the end.

"Elisa wouldn't have been able to extend her life for so long in stage 4 if she didn't have the amazing help of BC Cancer Agency, amazing oncologists and other doctors / nurses who treated her so well. We can not count how many CT, MRI, Pet scans, and surgeries she had to go through to support her battle. All of this costs money and the BC Cancer Foundation needs your support to ensure that others can get the services they need, just like Elisa received," said the family.

To learn more and donate visit: <https://donate.bccancerfoundation.com/goto/elisalok>.

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Surrey City Council Approves Changes To Reduce Processing Times By Several Months

During its Regular Council Meeting this week, Surrey City Council approved changes that exempt apartment buildings up to six stories and commercial/office buildings up to three stories from requiring Advisory Design Panel (ADP) review, provided they are supported by staff. These changes, combined with an earlier exemption of townhouse and industrial projects from urban design review, are estimated to reduce the number of projects at the ADP by 60-70% and save several months on development application timelines.

Council also approved a motion from Councillor Pardeep Kooner directing staff to report back as to whether building permits for new homes could be submitted for review after the preliminary layout approval process and prior to final subdivision in order to reduce the time for building permit issuance.

"With the housing crisis in mind, this Council is taking steps to speed up our development application timelines," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "I thank our ded-

icated staff for working quickly to find solutions that will help significantly reduce processing times, while not compromising urban design outcomes. These changes will result in homes being built faster, and in turn, better meet our growing community's vital need for new housing."

"With these changes, Council is making it faster and easier to go through the development process," said Councillor Kooner, who introduced several motions related to the changes. "We recognize the challenges that long wait times and complicated application processes present which is why we will continue to look for new and innovative ways to find efficiencies and simplify the process."

The approved changes will:

- exempt low-rise (up to six storey) apartment buildings and low-rise (up to three storey) commercial retail and office buildings from ADP review, provided they are supported through urban design staff review;
- allow an option for high-rise (more than

six storey) residential and mixed-use developments and larger (more than three storeys) commercial and select major projects to be scheduled for ADP review either prior to introduction to Council, or following third reading and/or Council's "approval to draft" a Development Permit but before final approval at the applicant's discretion, provided they are supported through urban design staff review; and

• refer projects to an ADP review prior to introduction to Council if the design is not supported through urban design staff review. In such cases, the ADP will function as a "second opinion" and will form part of staff's recommendations to Council. Staff will amend internal procedures and practices and will bring forward amendments to the Terms of Reference for the ADP for Council's approval. Click here to read the full corporate report.

Previously, all high-rise and low-rise apartments and mixed-use development applications, commercial developments above a density of 0.5 FAR or 2,000 sq. m (20,000

sq. ft.) of floor space, major industrial developments, and select civic projects are referred to the ADP for comment prior to being introduced to Council.

The ADP is a volunteer body established by Surrey City Council with the primary mandate of providing third-party, expert, peer advice to Council on the design qualities of development applications that are subject to a Development Permit for form and character.

Council also approved improvements to Engineering development processes, including earlier involvement with Engineering staff to provide greater clarity on servicing requirements, accelerating review timelines, integrate the Erosion and Sediment Control processes, and expand the use of surety bonds as an alternate form of security for Servicing Agreements to reduce carrying costs to the developer. Click here to read more about the Engineering development changes. Click here to learn more about Erosion and Sediment Control amendments.

Surrey City Plans To Widen The Remaining Stretch On 64 Avenue Between 177B To 184 Street

The 64 Avenue in Surrey is an important east-west connector linking Surrey residents to City of Delta and the Township of Langley. It's a busy corridor expected to get even busier especially in the east with the Surrey Langley SkyTrain to Clayton and a future Surrey hospital in Cloverdale. The city announced that it has already widened much of 64 Avenue from two to four travel lanes



with improved walking and cycling pathways. Next, plan is to widen the stretch between 177B to 184 Street.



The construction is expected to start in January 2024 and be completed in December 2024.

Key improvements will include repaving and widening the road from two to four travel lanes to reduce

congestion and prepare for future growth, improving access, safety and circulation with a new traffic signal at 64 Ave and 180 Street and pedestrian crossing and adding multi-use paths on the south side of the street for safer cycling and walking. According to the City, "In order to widen the road for additional lanes and multi-use paths, it will be necessary to remove on-street parking."



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Continued from Page 01

Indo-Canadian Community Pioneer Dr Gill Dies In Chandigarh

When Dr. Gill arrived here it was at a time when South Asians were not treated as equal members of society. He became a Canadian Citizen in 1954, and continued to experience and witness human rights issues faced by other immigrants or new Canadians of colour. Watching these things happen in his new home country, he started an organization that helped new immigrants as they landed in Canada from India.

During the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s he co-founded the East Indian Welfare Society, and traveled to Ottawa to lobby the Canadian Government (meeting with then Prime Minister John Diefenbaker) for improved conditions for our community.

He was instrumental in family reunification so women in India could come to Canada and join their families. As immigration increased, when people arrived

he helped them integrate into society. He also lobbied to ensure those with education and skills from foreign jurisdictions were recognized and could get a job in their chosen profession in Canada.

Throughout his life Dr Gill was a very active pioneer within the Sikh community, serving as the President of the Khalsa Diwan Society beginning at the Second Avenue Temple in Vancouver. His instrumental leadership role spanned raising funds for the building of the Ross Street Gurdwara in 1970, through to and including a major role in establishing the No. 5 Road Temple in Richmond (India Cultural Centre of Canada – Gurdwara Nanak Niwas)

Remarkably, all this was done on top of his day job as a physician where he treated so many in the community and saved many lives. His office was more than a traditional Doctor's office. It was a com-

munity hall. Indo-Canadians across Metro Vancouver came to Dr. Gill's office for more than treatment. They came for guidance, advice and help.

Dr. Gill retired from practicing medicine in 1995, but his work was only beginning. Through the Indo-Canadian Friendship Society, which he founded in 1974, he enhanced the lives of millions through village improvement projects in Punjab. Through this work he directly supported 27 villages by providing greater access to drinking water, providing local schools with computers and technology, and assisting in the construction of waste-water treatment plants, sewage disposal systems, paved concrete roads, solar street lighting and the empowerment of women. In recognition of his life's work, Dr. Gill has received significant recognition throughout the years. This includes: being the first Canadian of Indian origin to

receive the Order of BC (1990); named among the 'Vancouver Sun 100' most influential Indo-Canadians in British Columbia; additionally receiving an honorary doctoral degree in 1996 from his alma mater UBC (D.Sc. (Hons.)), the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), UBC's Global Citizenship Alumni Achievement Award (2013) and the MAA Wallace Wilson Leadership Award (2018) also from UBC. He touched the lives of so many in Canada and India.

It is often said that a rising tide lifts all boats. For so many people in both Canada and India, Gurdev Singh Gill was that rising tide. May he rest in peace.

(Contributed by Indo-Canadian Friendship Society of BC. For further information contact: Hon. Herb Dhaliwal, President, I.C.F.S.B.C., honouringdocgill@gmail.com)

Continued from Page 01

Fundraiser Created To Support Deceased Ontario Sikh Couple Describes Horrifying Details Of Shooting

The brother and the sister came as students in Canada few years ago and had now sponsored their parents as visitors so that they all can spend some quality time together.

"On Nov 20, 2023, at around 11:30 pm, unknown armed people stormed into their house and killed Singh on the spot. Showing extreme cruelty, they shot 55-year-old Harbhajan Kaur with more than 20 bullets, the old lady underwent numerous surgeries after this horrible incident as bullets damaged her stomach,

uterus, intestine, leg, diaphragm, kidneys, and lungs. She ultimately lost the battle of life after suffering for 13 days in hospital. The butchers didn't stop there, they shot the daughter of this family with more than 11 bullets and left her fighting between life and death. Deeply traumatized and severely wounded, she has not spoken a word since the incident has happened, doctors say they are unsure of whether she will be able to speak ever or no. She is still in critical condition," the Fundraiser mentioned.

The father was cremated on 26th November. The woman's funeral is to be held in a few days. To pay for the hospital bills and funeral costs, a lot of funds will be required, mentioned the Fundraiser.

Police informed the public about the shooting. "A 57-year-old man from Caledon was found dead, while two others were rushed to the hospital with serious injuries. On Monday this week, police said a 55-year-old woman from Caledon succumbed to her injuries. The third victim remains in the hospital in

critical condition," the police said without releasing the names of the victims. Police said they believe multiple people were involved in the homicide.

"One was last seen entering a black pickup truck, which then travelled westbound on Mayfield Road," OPP stated in a release.

Investigators released images of a truck believed to be involved in the homicide, which they believe was later involved in a vehicle fire on Olde Baseline Road and Creditview Road.

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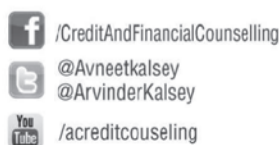
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Manpreet Singh of Brampton charged for importing cocaine

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) informed that on December 4, 2023, a commercial truck entered Canada at the Blue Water Bridge port of entry in Point Edward, Ontario, and was referred for a secondary examination. During the inspection of the trailer, border services officers discovered boxes containing 52 kg of suspected cocaine.

The CBSA arrested Manpreet Singh, 27, of Brampton, Ontario, and seized the suspected narcotics. The RCMP took custody of the subject and the evidence and formally charged Singh with importation and possession of cocaine. The matter is currently before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Sarnia, Ontario. "Border services officers are committed to protecting our borders and ensuring the security of our communities. We work in partnership with the RCMP to prevent illegal activity at the border and to keep Canadians safe from illegal drugs," said



An Nguyen, Director, St.Clair District Operations. From January 1 to October 31, 2023, the CBSA in the Southern Ontario Region seized approximately 1,312 kg of narcotics.

New Research Centre for St Paul's is Good News, But Surrey Memorial Is Struggling

SURREY: Surrey First Councillor Linda Annis is calling on Surrey's MLAs to "flex their muscle" in Victoria when it comes to getting better healthcare and education in their city.

"The provincial government just announced a \$638-million state-of-the-art research centre at the new St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, meanwhile Surrey Memorial now has a "temporary" portable parked outside its front door and the hospital is about to move people to a nearby motel for care," said Annis. "When it comes to healthcare and education in our city, I want our local MLAs to start flexing their muscle more in Victoria."

Annis said the research centre at the new St Paul's Hospital is definitely good news, but it's hard to understand why

Surrey Memorial, which has so many issues, isn't getting the attention and resources it needs.

"The hallways at Surrey Memorial are packed with patients, the maternity ward is operating well above capacity, and now they are moving people to a nearby motel because we don't have the capacity or facilities people need," added Annis. "Together with the portable parked across from the entrance of Surrey Memorial it just feels like we are given band-aid solutions when what we need is a serious commitment to give our city the healthcare facilities and resources it needs and deserves. The same is true when it comes to education, where we have become the portables capital of British Columbia and can't keep up with student enrollment.

"I want to call on all of our MLAs to work together to put our city first, and start demanding more from Victoria," said Annis. "I don't think we use our political clout in Victoria enough, and I think that's partly our fault at city hall because we tend to think in terms of us and them, rather than getting our MLAs and MPs together with council to better understand the priorities of our city and pushing our MPs and MLAs to be genuine voices in Ottawa and Victoria for our city.

"We're about to become the biggest city in the province, yet we're way behind when it comes to healthcare, education and even transit. For instance, the new line between Surrey centre and downtown Langley is good news, but it is the first major transit investment in our city since 1986. The same is true for the 168-bed hospital coming to Cloverdale. It's needed, but looking at our growth it will also be overwhelmed on day one. The city, province and federal government need to do a better job of planning for the growth and future that is obviously part of this city going forward. Surrey is growing, and that is not about to change any time soon. We need more, we deserve more, and if we don't speak up about it no one will do that for us. We can't allow a lack of action from Victoria and Ottawa to define our future."



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Brampton's Jayant Bhatia charged in international cyber fraud of \$500,000

Ontario's Peel Region police have charged 34-year-old Jayant Bhatia from Brampton in connection with a transnational technical support scam that targeted more than 330 Canadians, many of whom were elderly.

Charges came after a year-long investigation of a cyber-enabled fraud scheme by Peel Regional Police Cyber Support Services and the Fraud Bureau, with assistance from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) and U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Bhatia is charged with Unauthorized Use of a Computer, Fraud Over \$5000, and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime

in connection with a transnational computer technical support scam that targeted elderly victims across Canada.

The technical support scam tricked victims into believing that their personal computers were infected with a virus or malware through various means, including spam phone calls or pop-up ads that would appear on the victims' computer screens.

Victims were then put in contact with call centre agents who convinced them to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars for unnecessary computer repair services. In some cases, victims were tricked into allowing these call centre agents to access their computers remotely. Approx-

imately 330 Canadians fell victim to this scam, with fraud losses estimated at \$500,000.00.

The three business names primarily used to defraud the victims are A2Z Consultants Group Inc., QB Services, and SSS Consultants.

The scam operated in Brampton, New Delhi, India, and New York/New Jersey, USA. Authorities in India and the United States have also laid charges against the people who participated in this fraud scheme.

"Police will investigate computer scams and fraudulent activities that jeopardize our community's personal information



and digital well-being. As the use of technology continues to evolve, so do the methods employed by online threat actors seeking to exploit unsuspecting individuals. Peel Regional Police recognizes the importance of a secure online environment for our community members. We remain committed in our efforts to combat computer scams and online fraud, and we encourage the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities." Detective Sergeant Matthew Hutchinson, Intelligence Services, Cyber Support and Digital Forensics

Police report 3 fatal motor vehicle, pedestrian collisions in Surrey in one week

The Surrey since last week has reported serious collisions on the city roads which have resulted in either serious injuries or death of the people involved in the accidents.

On December 15, 2023 at 2:39 am, the Surrey RCMP responded to a motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian in the 7300 block of 138 Street.

Surrey Fire Department and BC Ambu-

lance Service also attended and despite efforts of all involved the pedestrian was declared deceased at scene. "Based on initial observations and the report received by police, the deceased person was believed to have been a pedestrian. Through further investigation it has been determined that the deceased person was actually passenger who was ejected from the vehicle," said Cpl. Sarbjit Sangha.

On December 21, 2023 at 6:36 am, the Surrey RCMP responded to a motor vehicle collision involving a dump truck and an SUV in the 12200-block of 80 Avenue. Despite lifesaving efforts, one person was declared deceased at the scene.

On December 22, 2023 at 5:53 am, Surrey RCMP received a report of a pedestri-

an struck at the intersection of 176 Street at 64 Avenue. The victim was treated by BC Ambulance Service and transported to Royal Columbian Hospital with critical injuries.

Anyone with information, including dash cam footage in the areas is asked to contact the Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502.

Simmi Sandhu steps down as chair of Civil Resolution Tribunal

VICTORIA, BC: Simmi K. Sandhu, chair of the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT), has stepped step away from the role effective Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023.

Sandhu was appointed chair in June 2022 after a merit-based competition and following seven years as chair of the Property Assessment Appeal Board. Her commitment to administrative law and the attorney general tribunal sector spans more than two decades.

The Civil Resolution Tribunal is Canada's first online tribunal. It offers people an accessible, affordable way to resolve disputes without needing a lawyer or attending court.

Under Sandhu's guidance, the CRT made significant strides in promoting accessibility, equity and efficiency within the justice system. Her work focused on serving marginalized clients and prioritizing culturally appropriate justice services for Indigenous people, including the hiring of navigators for Indigenous parties. Most notably, Sandhu championed the

creation of a community advisory council comprised of Indigenous lawyers and educators to review the CRT's processes, identify barriers and provide recommendations to address those barriers. She also spearheaded the translation of 12 informational videos on the CRT into Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi and Tagalog. Finally, Sandhu ensured that the CRT developed accessible, victim-centred and trauma-informed processes under the new Intimate Images Protection Act.

Sandhu will continue her work as president and judge of the United Nations Appeal Tribunal having been appointed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2018.

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, the Office of the Attorney General thanks Simmi Sandhu for her years of service to the Province and for her contributions as chair of the CRT.

Until a merit-based competition can be completed to appoint the next chair, Shelley Lopez, current vice-chair, will be the acting chair of the CRT.

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Indo-Canadian Workers Release 2024 Calendar Honouring People of Palestine

The Indo-Canadian Workers Association (ICWA) released the 2024 commemorative calendar, which is dedicated to the people of Palestine, and celebrates their 75 year long, ongoing struggle against Zionist settler colonialism and apartheid. The ICWA has been releasing a commemorative calendar every year since 2008. "In previous years, we have used our calendar to honour and show solidarity to various causes, events, and milestones, with themes primarily centred around India. Hence the last five years have seen the ICWA calendar featuring the 2021 Indian farmers' protests,



revolutionaries of the Ghadar Party and the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, amongst others," said ICWA in a release. The photograph for the 2024

calendar has been deliberately chosen to highlight the loss and displacement that Palestinians as a people have faced, and their eternal, and rightful longing for return.

Palestinians have been living under increasingly brutal occupation since 1948. They have been brutalized, marginalized, and made refugees in their own land. The



ICWA leadership ceremonially releasing the 2024 calendar

Zionist state of Israel has kept eating away into Palestinian territory through illegal settlements, enabled through the Israeli military and with the tacit support of the United States government and its Western allies that sadly includes Canada too. This, despite there being a groundswell of support for Palestinian liberation in almost all Western countries today. The current Israeli campaign in Gaza, purportedly in response to the deadly attack carried out by Palestinian fighters aligned with the Palestinian group Hamas, that regrettably claimed more than 1200 lives, has thus far killed over 13000 Palestinians, almost half of them being children. "The campaign has been criticized by international agencies like the United Nations and Human Rights Watch and the United Nations General Assembly has even passed a resolution for a permanent ceasefire, once that was passed with overwhelming support. However, Israel, supported by the West, has consistently refused to heed to international pressure, and carried out its indiscriminate bombing campaign of Gaza, targeting hospitals, schools, United Nations' facilities and news media at will. Over 50 journalists and tens of United Nations aid workers have also been killed thus far," the release mentioned. The actions of Israel have been called out as reprehensible by all neutral observers, and the UN General Secretary has himself referred to this collective punishment of an entire people by Israel, and especially the acts of targeting hospitals and civilians, as war crimes. ICWA believes that a system of apartheid, fueled by anti-Arab racism and a colonial mindset, exists in the current Israeli political establishment, something which can ultimately harm the Israeli society itself in the near future. Hence, the ICWA believes that as a progressive organization, it becomes our moral imperative to stand firm with our comrades in Palestine.

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It is with very deepest sorrow we are sharing this sad news of our beloved father Sardar Avtar Singh Mangat (Retired I.G. BSF) has left for his final abode passing on December 15th at 11:30 am peacefully. His memory will live in our hearts forever. Waheguru Ji keeps his noble soul in his peaceful fold forever.

The funeral will take place on 29th December 10 AM at Riverside Funeral Home, 7410 Hopcott Road, Delta BC, followed by Antim Ardas at Gurdwara Sahib Brookside, 8365 - 140 Street, Surrey, BC
Family Contacts: Amar Mangat: 604-307-6687
Jas Mangat: 778-875-0872

Police Remind Public To Report Gang Lifestyle After Recent Shooting In Delta

DELTA, BC: On December 14th, 2023, at approximately 5:45 pm, a shooting occurred in the 11100 block of 82nd Ave. One person was severely injured in that shooting and is receiving care at the hospital - this person remains in critical condition. Shortly after the shooting in Delta, the Surrey RCMP responded to a call of a vehicle on fire. Delta Police Department (DPD) investigators believe the burning vehicle is associated with the Delta shooting and have since assumed this investigation from the Surrey RCMP. The recovery of a burning vehicle following a shooting is a hallmark of the recent spate of violence involving the ongoing BC Gang Conflict. Naturally, community members become concerned any time a shooting

or other significant violence occurs in their neighbourhood – this incident is no different. The DPD would like to assure the public that this shooting was targeted due to those involved being associated with the current BC Gang Conflict. In addition, currently, this shooting has no direct links to other recently publicized investigations involving violence which have occurred in the lower mainland in the last couple of weeks.

Shootings are inherently dangerous to the public. Open-air shootings which can occur at any time during the day have significant potential consequences to the general public whether in a residential neighbourhood, shopping center or other public space. The risks whereby the public can become unintended victims of gang violence cannot be understated.

Gang violence is precipitated primarily by the lucrative illicit drug trade. Despite historical, current, and future law enforcement projects targeting those involved in gangs and the illicit drug trade, problems persist with the ongoing gang violence due in part to the recruitment of primarily young people into the lifestyle on the promise of wealth and notoriety.

The only way to disrupt these events is to disrupt the lifestyle. People closest to gang members and drug dealers have the most power to make this change by coming forward and aiding the police in intervening.

Sitting back and remaining quiet will not help end the cycle of violence. If you or someone you care about is involved in the gang lifestyle, please contact End-Gang-Life at 604-897-6023 or gangintervention@cfseu.bc.ca

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Commercial Leading Indicator Resumes Decline in Third Quarter

The BCREA Commercial Leading Indicator (CLI) fell 0.6 points to 145.5 in the third quarter of 2023, while the six-month moving average fell to 146.3 points. Compared to the same quarter in 2022, the index was down by 3.2 per cent.

The CLI rose in the employment category while declining in the economic and financial categories. A 5 per cent increase in office employment (finance, insurance, and real estate) more than counteracted a 2 per cent drop in manufacturing employment, causing a net increase in the index's employment component from the second quarter. Meanwhile, modest declines in inflation-adjusted retail sales, wholesale trade, and



manufacturing sales combined to pull the economic component into negative territory. Finally, rising spreads between corporate and government borrowing costs indicated growing borrowing costs for developers and pulled the financial component downwards. At the same time, a drop in average prices of Real Estate Investment Trusts further dragged the financial component into negative territory.

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Charming light-filled custom-built rancher, walking distance to Semiahmoo Secondary & Bayridge Elementary. 3 br, 2 full baths, 1,981 sq ft. Bamboo floors, freshly painted, newer roof, new furnace & hot water tank. Extra large rectangular lot, almost 8,200 sq ft w potential lane access at rear. Beautiful sunny back yard for gardening & children to play, w large stamped concrete patio area & spacious shed. Huge kitchen w eating area overlooking garden. King-sized master bedroom w walk in closet & ensuite. Sunroom makes perfect office or flex space. Soaring vaulted ceiling in family room w gas fireplace. Lots of skylights. First time ever on the market.
www.cotala.com/67357

\$499,000

MLS# R2706879

307 - 13959 16 Ave, South Surrey

Corner Penthouse... Lovely bright end unit with view of trees in quiet location at back of complex. Updated kitchen, bedrooms, lighting, paint and flooring. Open floor plan. Peace of mind: rainscreened building, new roof, energy efficient thermal windows. Well respected family complex with solid contingency fund has huge rooftop deck with partial sea view, clubhouse, library, large well-equipped workshop, exercise room, sauna, car wash. 1 underground parking and locker. Age 50+ complex, no rentals, no pets. Strata fees incl hot water. Move in ready. Welcome home. Photos and Floorplan: www.cotala.com/66009

SOLD

- 24555 44 Ave Langley
- Ph2002 2959 Glen Drive Coquitlam
- 308 5377 201A Street Langley
- Lot 10 Foxglove Ln, Bowen Island
- 206-15288 22 Ave South Surrey
- 62 - 15233 34 Ave South Surrey

502 - 388 Kootenay Street

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Great investment property \$1,500,000.

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Large 1.3 Acres development site for sale in the heart of Fleetwood. Location Location potential to acquire 3.25 floor space Ratio (FSR)

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124st and 84ave.
Total 13,146,
on 2 levels.
LEASED
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**Warehouse
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2637sq ft, Newton area 124st and 82ave., end of January. \$17 sq ft. plus \$6 additional rent.

WAREHOUSE

3000sq ft. warehouse, 1500sq. ft. up and down, near payal business center
Call for details

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2817 Sqft in Newton area.
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NEWTON WAREHOUSE

available January 1304sq ft., with approved paint booth warehouse for sale or lease.
Only \$1,200,000

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Space Scott Road and 84th ave area 982 Sq FT, Available each 2024 exposure 1100sq ft plus \$11 additional rent, ideal for Physiotherapy clinic
LEASED

14379 66A AVENUE

Open House Saturday 2PM to 4PM



6 BED - 4 BATHS - 10,318 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This Beautiful House sits over a 10318 Sq. Feet Lot in prime neighbourhood of East Newton & features with Three Bedrooms & Two Washrooms including extra large master bedroom with ensuite and a Balcony, Huge Living Room, Dining Room & a separate Family Room UPSTAIRS. Downstairs comes with two mortgage helpers (2+1), Fully Renovated with lot of updates like both new Kitchens, Bathrooms, flooring, Lighting, Hot Water tank & Furnace. Enjoy the tranquility & quietness of Cul-de-sac with your morning tea sitting on the Front Patio. Close to all Amenities.

ASKING 1,599,000

1001 14881 103A AVENUE



2 BED - 2 BATHS

Welcome to Your Dream Home! Best Opportunity for the first time home buyers & nature lovers to enjoy the scenic beauty, spectacular north shore & panoramic coastal mountain views. This amazing Corner unit features with 2 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms with a Huge Master Bedroom Ensuite, A Good Size Living Room, Dining Room with fully renovated kitchen with quartz countertops & new kitchen cabinets, New stainless steel appliances & pot lights. All these appliances & renovations were done two years ago. Carpet in the whole unit is one year old. You are minutes walk to Guildford Town Centre, TNT Supermarket, dining, public library and highways. The maintenance fees include gas & hot water, One Storage locker & One Parking. There is also a bike room and lots of outdoor Visitor Parking.

ASKING 589,000

9097 BROADWAY STREET



3 BED - 1 BATH - 10,019 SF LOT

Builder's Alert! The Property is sub dividable and has been rezoned R1-C. PLA Application has been submitted to City & is in process. Excellent Heritage style home with three bedrooms and one bathroom . Large Private backyard.

ASKING 1,599,000

11956 98 AVENUE, SURREY



7 BED - 5 BATHS - 6,600 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This beautiful renovated home at a prime location in a quiet neighbourhood of Royal Heights features with 7 Bedrooms & 5 Washrooms, very spacious open concept kitchen with quartz countertops & stainless steel appliances, Huge Living Room & Family Room, tons of Natural Light, Stone front, Glass Railing, Air Conditioning Upstairs. 2+1 Bedroom Suites as great mortgage helpers. Enjoy your morning tea in the open front deck or the covered sundeck in the backyard. Easy Access to Hwy 17, Scott Rd Skytrain station, Schools and Shopping.

ASKING 1,699,000

7028 142 STREET, SURREY



5 BED - 5 BATHS - 7,107 SF

Welcome to this well-maintained and updated home in the heart of Newton with over 7100 sqft lot with 77 feet front just steps away from school and Bus Stops. Upstairs there are 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms with a living room, dining room and kitchen along with a bonus Family room. There are 2 separate balconies off the Family & Living Room. 2 Mortgage helpers (1 bedroom each) currently rented to Nice tenants. There is one full extra bath Downstairs. This home has lots of options to rent. The home features an updated kitchen (2015) updated washrooms (2017) and has been freshly painted. The roof has been updated as well in 2017. Walking distance to George Vanier Elementary school, daycare and to public transportation. THIS IS A MUST SEE!! Please book your private Showings.

ASKING 1,699,000

10095 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, CHILLIWACK



4 BED - 2 BATHS - 9,750 SF LOT

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This is a well kept home in one of the best & prime neighbourhood of Fairfield Island in Chilliwack. This Beautiful Rancher with Basement house sits on a huge 9750 Sq. Feet Lot with a wide frontage of 75 feet & a Subdivision Potential (Please confirm with City) features with 3 Bedrooms & 1.5 Washroom on the main floor with a spacious kitchen equipped with Stainless Steel appliances. Downstairs you got a very spacious space, complete with two large Recreation/family rooms plus a bedroom and storage area. Roof was replaced 2-3 years back. Close to all shopping amenities, plenty of schools nearby and more parks within walking distance than any other neighbourhood.

ASKING 929,000

5758 131 A STREET SURREY

EXCLUSIVE LISTING



11BED - 11 BATHS - 20,255 SF LOT

Beautiful House under construction on Most Prime Area of PANORAMA RIDGE

ASKING 4,000,000

5748 123 Street Surrey

SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!



7 BED - 8 BATHS - 20,211 SF

Welcome to Your Dream Home! This Beautiful & Luxurious Architectural Masterpiece on a CORNER HALF ACRE LOT in the most prestigious neighbourhood of Panorama Ridge Features with Elegant Porte- Couchette Hotel Like Entrance with circular driveway, Italian Bricks Exterior, Open Concept Kitchen with Custom Italian Cabinets & Italian Black Marble, High Ceiling, Gorgeous sunken Living Room with oversized windows, which provide excellent Lighting, Circular Cherrywood Staircases, Huge Family Room & Dining Room with Master Ensuite on the Main Floor, High End Wool

ASKING 2,999,000

MASSAGE PARLOUR FOR SALE IN SURREY



Location! Location! Location! Great opportunity to own a well established & profitable MASSAGE CENTRE in the prime neighborhood of East Newton. The seller is running this centre for last eight years & wish to retire. This unit has three massage chambers with one chamber for tradition Indian Ayurvedic Shirodhara Table & a separate kitchen area & washroom. Lease is expiring in March 2024 but has two renewal options of 5 years each but the seller is getting it renewed by himself. Please contact for more info.

ASKING 249,999

MASSAGE PARLOUR IN RICHMOND



Location! Location! Location! Great Opportunity to own a MASSAGE CENTRE in the prime neighbourhood of Steveston Village in Richmond. The Seller wishes to retire. This unit has three massage chambers & a separate kitchen area & washroom. Please contact listing realtor for more info.

ASKING 99,000

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Sanjh 2023 Multicultural Festival to be held in Surrey

Sanjh Foundation announced the much-anticipated Sanjh 2023 Multicultural Festival, a spectacular event showcasing the richness of cultural diversity through the mediums of Music, Poetry, and Dance. The festival is scheduled to take place at the Concert Hall at Faith Lutheran Church, 7086 124 St, Surrey, BC V3W 3W8, on December 22 and 23, 2023.

The Sanjh 2023 Multicultural Festival will kick off with a Poetry Festival on Friday, December 22, 2023, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This evening promises to be an enchanting exploration of linguistic expression, featuring talented poets who will captivate audiences with their verses and narratives.

The festivities continue on Saturday, December 23, 2023, with the Music and Dance Festival, scheduled from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. This lively celebration will showcase an array of musical performances and dance forms, bringing together artists from diverse backgrounds to create a truly immersive and unforgettable experience.

Both events are hosted at the Concert Hall at Faith Lutheran Church, providing an intimate and acoustically rich setting for the audience to engage with the performances. Entry to the Sanjh 2023 Multicultural Festival is free, allowing everyone to participate in this celebration of art and culture.

"We are excited to present the Sanjh 2023 Multicultural Festival, an event that celebrates the diversity of our community through the universal languages of music, poetry, and dance. This festival aims to create a space where different cultures can come together, share their unique expressions, and foster a sense of unity and understanding," says Gagandeep Singh, President of Sanjh



Foundation. Sanjh Foundation invites everyone to attend this free and inclusive festival, providing an opportunity to experience the richness of cultural heritage and artistic expression.

Sanjh Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting cultural diversity and fostering a sense of community through the arts. The foundation organizes events and initiatives that celebrate various cultural expressions, bringing people together to share and appreciate the richness of our multicultural society.

For more information, please contact: Gagandeep Singh, President, Sanjh Foundation

SFU Students Visit Gurdwara Nanak Niwas

Students from Dr. Jason Brown's Humanities 130 class at Simon Fraser University, led by Dr. Brown, visited Gurdwara Nanak Niwas on Saturday, December 16. This course deals with Introduction to Faiths of the World. Richmond's #5 Road, aka Highway to Heaven is a very popular place to learn about different religions. Their trip started with a visit to Gurdwara Nanak Niwas. On behalf the Gurdwara Management Commit-



tee it was an honour for me to welcome them to the Gurdwara and talk about the Sikh religion, culture and the South Asian community. It generated a very good discussion. After the tour of the Gurdwara and a very enjoyable discussion about Sikhism, the students and Dr. Brown enjoyed a very delicious vegetarian lunch (langar). Before moving on to the Az-Zahraa Shia Islamic Community Mosque next door they thanked the management for a very warm welcome. Balwant Sanghera



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14317 31A AVENUE, SURREY



Architectural elegance at it's finest; this West Vancouver-inspired property is located within the prestigious Elgin Park Estates neighborhood in South Surrey. This extravagant home portrays the unique blend of timeless sophistication and secluded park-style living. Sitting on approximately 14,000 sqft of land, this property offers 6488 sqft of luxurious living space; meticulous by design, it features four opulent bedrooms upstairs and similarly one spacious bedroom on the main floor. The kitchen is equipped with Miele appliances throughout and features a beautiful transparent wine cabinet. Furthermore, the property possesses an abundance of outdoor entertainment space in conjunction with a designated theatre room, gymnasium, games room, and bar. Call now to book your private showing!

#92 15111 EDMUND DRIVE



Welcome to Townsend! This beautiful unit is one of the largest in the entire complex, boasting 1,976 sq ft. of living space. Built in 2019 by award-winning builder, Polygon, this beautiful townhome features 4 spacious bedrooms - 3 on the top floor, and 1 on the ground floor as guest quarters, 3.5 bathrooms, as well as a grand main floor which includes a large family room and separate dining area. The guest quarters on the ground floor feature a spacious bedroom and a full bathroom, and a double side-by-side garage. In addition to the double garage, there are an additional two parking spots outside. The home has been exceptionally maintained by its current owners. Call to book your private showing today.

UNIT 2808 13615 FRASER HWY



Welcome to King George Hub, built by PCI is one of the most sought-after locations in central Surrey. Move in or Invest in the fastest-growing city in BC. This bright north-facing unit is located in the master-planned community with all of your needs at your doorstep. The unit is finished with laminate flooring, quartz countertops, and wall-to-wall windows for natural light. The unit has one parking, one storage locker, and an already paid-for EV charger.

LOT B 20444 46A AVENUE, LANGLEY



9000 sqft lot available to build your dream home in Langley City's one of the best pockets. You can build a 3 story house on a flat rectangular lot. The location is close to all shopping and the newly approved sky train.

LOT A 33734 MAYFAIR AVENUE, SURREY

Welcome to Central Abbotsford this brand new three-lot subdivision. The lots will be ready to build in 4-6 months. You can build a 3600sqft home.



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**1698 SLATER AVENUE,
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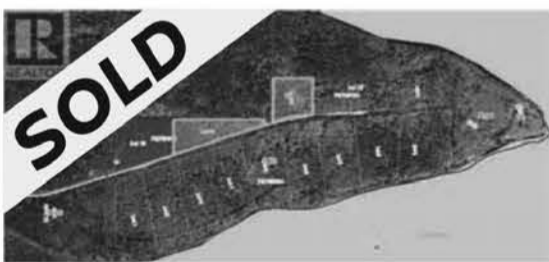
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**5192 MANOR ST,
BURNABY**



ASKING **\$1,567,000**

**259 HOLLY AVENUE,
KAMLOOPS**



ASKING **\$675,000**

**56-8168 136A ST,
SURREY**



ASKING **\$795,000**

**5533 CHESTNUT CRE,
LADNER**



ASKING **\$1,325,000**

**16669 31B,
SOUTH SURREY**



ASKING **\$2,640,000**

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BC's wrestlers Amar Dhesi and Nishan Randhawa win 2023 Olympics Trials



Canadian wrestlers battled to earn the right to be Canada's representative at one of 12 weight classes (six in men's freestyle, six in women's wrestling) and attempt to qualify the weight class for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

According to Wrestling Canada, the 97kg weight class came down to Abbotsford, British Columbia's Nishan Randhawa, the number one ranked wrestler, and Upper Tantallon, Nova Scotia's Riley Otto, the number two ranked. Randhawa took control of the contest with a 7-0 win in the first round. He followed it with another strong performance, winning the second 9-0.

The 125kg weight class was an all-British Columbia match up between top ranked Surrey's Amar Dhesi and three seed, Abbotsford's Jorowar Dhinsa. Dhinsa defeated Niagara Falls, Ontario's Richard DesChatelets, during the morning session and with an injury to the number two seed, advanced to the final against Dhesi. Dhesi earned a quick fall in the opening match

and then Dhesi scored another fall in the second match to take the best of three.

Vancouver Police Department Deputy Chief Constable too to social media to congratulate Amar Dhesi on his success. "Congratulations to VancouverPD's Amar Dhesi for winning the 2023 Canadian Olympic Team trials in Edmonton, Alberta. Successful 1st step in qualifying for the #2024ParisOlympicGames. VPD happy to support his bid for Canadian Gold."

Now that the winners have been crowned, they still need to qualify their respective weight classes internationally to earn their spot at the 2024 Olympics. Their next opportunity will come at the Pan-American Olympic Qualifier Feb. 28- March 1 in Acapulco, Mexico.

Surrey's own Dhesi won a gold medal in the men's 125kg wrestling event, and Abbotsford's wrestler Nishan Randhawa won a gold medal in the 97-kilo category at the Birmingham Commonwealth games in 2022.

VIPAN SHARMA

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NEW LISTING

\$1,649,000

Listing ID: R2577672

Well cared 4 bed/2 bath 2185sf House . Large FLAT LOT, Great Location to walk to Uptown or Beach. Open floor plan is perfect for family living. New Paint Bright Kitchen & dining with walk-out to oversized side deck. Hardwood floors throughout. Living upstairs boasts a feature Fireplace. Spacious Kitchen Lower level has 2-Bedroom Suite with separate entry. Large Double garage with storage. Earl Marriott French Immersion Sec & WR Elementary +(Peace Arch) French Immersion Catchment. Large deck 578sqft nice patio 105sqft with double garage. Buyer agent to verify with city for duplex option. VIEWING SATURDAY 6:00pm to 8:00pm AND SUNDAY 1:00PM TO 5:00PM.

2880 169 ST., SURREY

NEW LISTING

\$3,599,000

Listing ID: R2584077

Welcome to North Grandview Estate! Immaculate Mansion on quiet serene street on very private one acre lot. All custom designed and extremely high quality construction. Lots of updates made recently inside the house, Garage and in backyard landscaping, Breathtaking garden of Eden. Enter through the 8' high double solid oak doors into the grand foyer, 4 tier "Wiltshire" Gold plated chandelier, 8 zone radiant hot water in all three floor heating, 2 by 6 construction with Truss Joist "silent floor" 12 on centre. The formal living room offers a 20' double trayed ceiling featuring intricate mouldings and woodwork. There is a butler's pantry, Two staircases, Fully finished basement triple garage, plus much more! South ridge School nearby, Showing Saturday and Sunday 2:00Pm to 4:00Pm.

THREE TOWNHOUSE SITE AVAILABLE IN LANGLEY FOR MORE DETAIL CALL VIPAN SHARMA.

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\$3,678,400

Listing ID: \$3,678,400

This offering represents an opportunity to secure 1.6 acres of prime townhome development land in the Central Fraser Valley in the Township of Langley. **SOLD** designated for 12-40 units. Investment Potential. Close to all shopping and amenities. An exclusive opportunity to invest in one of Canada's fastest developing communities. *

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<p>2.5 Acres Development Land</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>	<p>2.5 Acres Development Land</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>	<p>3437 264 St, Aldergrove 5.5 Acre Industrial Land \$10,000,000</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>
<p>2.5 Acres Development Land</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>	<p>14512 90 AVE</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>	<p>#403-4830 Bennett St., Burnaby</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>
<p>#28-6971-122 A ST</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>	<p>SOLD</p> <p>Lot No 16 20662 76b Langley Land</p>	<p>15847 Russell Ave, White Rock</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>
<p>#211 9202 Horne St., Burnaby</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">SOLD</p>		

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FORECLOSURE!

Panorama Ridge, 2.92 Acres Subdevidable Lot, Close to Golf Course.

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FORECLOSURE!

Chilliwack 16,000 sq.ft, 10+ Years Old Home, 5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, Good Neighborhood.

\$999,000

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Mental-health, substance-use supports available during holiday season

VICTORIA - While the holiday season is a time for celebrations, it can also be a time of year when people may feel lonely, stressed or triggered.

The past few years have been difficult for people due to global unrest, the lasting impacts of natural disasters and the pandemic. On top of this, people in B.C. continue to lose friends, family and community members to unrelenting toxic-drug poisonings.

These challenges can adversely affect people's mental health. If you are struggling emotionally or if you know someone who is, please reach out for help. Crisis supports and resources are available online, over the phone and in person.

People continue to be affected by the devastating effects of the poisoned-drug supply. It is a very dangerous time for people who use illicit street drugs. It is important that those who use drugs get them tested and do not use alone. The Province has a wide range of life-saving services available, such as drug checking, supervised-consumption sites, prescribed pharmaceutical alternatives, treatment and recovery, and more.

The Province has expanded mental-health and substance-use care to meet people where they are at, no matter where they are in their journey, so they can connect to the care that is right for them. If you or someone you know is struggling this sea-



son and beyond, please know that care is available.

Learn More:

To learn about mental-health and substance-use supports in B.C., visit: <https://helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca/>

he holiday season is a time to enjoy and celebrate and it's also a time to take special care of your mental health and the mental health of those close to you. If you need support during the holidays or any time of the year, please reach out. Help is available.

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B.C. improving services, wait times for tenants, landlords

VICTORIA, BC: Renters and landlords in B.C. are seeing faster and more efficient residential tenancy dispute resolutions thanks to government's recent service improvements.

"Nothing is more frustrating for renters and landlords than when the relationship breaks down. It is vitally important that they get clear resolutions faster," said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing. "That's why we have made significant investments to improve wait times. We have made great strides over this past year to address these issues with exceptional results. The actions we are taking will only continue to speed up service and increase user clarity as we work towards ensuring that renters and landlords can easily access the ser-

vices they need."

Dispute resolution services at the Province's Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) have substantially improved in several ways over the last year, including:

- a 48% reduction in all tenancy dispute hearing wait times, including down to nine weeks for a standard hearing from about 16 weeks a year ago;
- dispute resolution application processing times take, on average, about 1.4 days compared to nearly 10 days in November 2022;
- the average wait time for service by phone is now less than seven minutes compared to more than 17 minutes last November; and
- response times to general emails now take an average of

one business day.

These improvements have occurred despite increases in both dispute applications and inquiries. The RTB saw a 10% increase in applications in 2023, averaging 2,005 applications per month, compared to an average of 1,811 per month in 2022.

"Going through a residential tenancy dispute process should be as easy, fast and hassle-free as possible, especially as this is already a stressful situation for tenants who simply want their homes to be safe, secure and stable," said Spencer Chandra Herbert, Premier's Liaison for Renters. "These improvements to processes and faster service are a great step in the right direction as we work to better support B.C. tenants in ensuring they have the

dependable homes they need and deserve."

The improved services are the result of approximately \$15.6 million in additional funding, a 40% budget increase, the Province committed to the RTB in December 2022 to speed up and strengthen residential tenancy dispute resolution. The budget increase allowed the RTB to create nearly 50 full-time staff positions, including a doubling of the size of the Compliance and Enforcement Unit. The expanded capacity has allowed the unit to intervene more quickly to resolve issues that affect the livelihood of tenants and landlords in cases where serious and repeated violations of the Residential Tenancy Act occur.

"Timely access to justice at the

Residential Tenancy Branch is critical for both landlords and tenants," said David Hutniak, CEO of LandlordBC. "While there's more work to be done, members have been telling us that they are seeing promising improvements to wait times. LandlordBC looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the branch to build upon these early encouraging results."

Alongside improvements to wait times, the RTB has also launched updated web content as part of the Province's continued commitment to make the branch's services and information more accessible to tenants and landlords. The new website, which launched on Dec. 7, was designed by asking users what was and was not working.

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Two Vancouver High School Sikh Clubs creating positive space for students to be themselves and give back to the community

By Mya Kaur Kooner

When students from David Thompson and John Oliver High School Sikh Clubs heard the story of Victor Ghirra Toy Drive, they felt inspired to collect toys to bring Christmas cheer to more kids in need. They decided to help local elementary school children in need.

Victor was involved in many philanthropic initiatives, but one good cause that Victor was really touched by was the BC Children's Hospital. He bought toys worth thousands of dollars every Christmas and donated them to the hospital for children that needed them. He would never tell them who he was or where the toys were from. It was later found that Victor had made trips to the hospital for over a dozen years.

Mr. Aman Grewal, David Thompson Teacher and Sikh Club Sponsor said: "The David Thompson and John Oliver Sikh Club kids enjoyed collecting toys to honor Victor's vision and love for giving. It profoundly changed both groups having seen what quiet service like Victor's can do to change a community to envision a common goal for the good."

Students made announcements at their schools, shared posts on social media, spread word to their families, and friends, and started collection boxes at their schools. The collection of toys started out slow, but as awareness grew more people learned why students were collecting



Aman Grewal, David Thompson Teacher and Sikh Club Sponsor with Member of Parliament for Vancouver South: Harjit Sajjan

toys and the boxes started filling up.

The toy drive was only one of the many events that David Thompson Sikh Club has done over the school year. Founded in 2014 by Mr. Grewal, the Sikh Clubs aimed to give students a place to come together and share their cultural identity. Mr. Grewal wanted to let students know they are capable of anything in this world and set their sights on any positive path; they can achieve it. The club aims to promote education, self-growth and realizing youth's potential.

"I wanted to show students a truer image of Sikhi. My goal was to create visible unity amongst them as a starting point to address behaviors that were counterproductive to their interests. Sikh Club, in the spirit of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, will give (not

receive) and will donate endlessly without "fundraising." The Guru's treasures are vast, and I have always guided students to know that Sikh's have always been the heroes for all, the warriors for justice, and the bearers of that burden. We do not complain, we do not say we can't. We envision, pray, and watch Guru Ji's magic unfold," he said.

Sikh Club creates a positive space for students to be themselves, work together and give back to the community. At David Thompson Secondary School, the students have celebrated Vaisakhi, Diwali and Gurburab with their school community

Through Sikh Club students learn what selfless service is about. For students it's not about getting recognition for the work, it's about doing 'seva'



Students of John Oliver High School Sikh Club

for the community. That's why the students were so touched by Victor Ghirra's story – how he selflessly gave to BC Children's Hospital year after year without any form of recognition. Students came together and made a difference just the way Victor would of.

Students contacted local elementary schools to find out how they could help. Elementary School Administrators gave wish lists from students whose families need some support during the holidays. The local high schools' Sikh Club toy collections were put into the grand toy count for the 17th Annual Victor Ghirra Toy Drive for 25 good causes – where there were 2,600 toys gathered together. From there, the wish lists of the elementary schools were taken and fulfilled in addition to the toys collected by the Sikh Clubs.

Last week, both high school Sikh Clubs visited elementary schools to deliver the toys. There was joy on the faces of Administrators when they saw the toy collections that students brought in. The actions of these Sikh Clubs is making an impact over the holidays for dozens of students in the community.

In addition to the toy drive, Sikh Club students will reach out to elementary schools to do: mentorship programs, get involved in sports and community events.

Mr. Grewal hopes to support and help other high schools in British Columbia create Sikh clubs to do noble deeds in the community. If you would like to get involved or help support Sikh Club's community outreach please email: asgrewal@vsb.bc.ca

(Mya Kaur Kooner is Grade 9 Student of David Thompson Secondary School)

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Animal Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga Reveals Ranbir Kapoor Was His "First Choice" For The Film

New Delhi: Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal* is ruling the box office and how. The film, starring Ranbir Kapoor in the lead, released on December 1 and emerged as a blockbuster. Now, in an exclusive chat with India Today, Sandeep Reddy Vanga opened up about the thundering response to the film and the reason behind choosing Ranbir Kapoor. On being asked if the *Barfi* actor was his first choice, he immediately said yes. "Ranbir was my first choice for *Animal*, there was nobody else. In the beginning, when I had the idea right after *Kabir Singh*, I met him after a few months and told Ranbir that I was thinking along these lines, I gave him 10-15 minutes of narration, just the beginning, middle, and end.



We told him about the craft and just the character transition. He said Sandeep this sounds very interesting, finish the script and we will do it. Just based on the 10 minutes narration he said yes to the film."

Speaking about the box-office collection, the *Animal* director said, "I was expecting the film to do well, I knew it would do 600 crores to 700 crores but wasn't expecting these huge numbers. It has already crossed the 800

crores mark, which was a surprise for me and I am very happy with the collection. Even with the reviews, the film has done great numbers at the box office and as a filmmaker, I am happy." On Day 20, the action-drama, revolving around a complex father-son relationship, made ₹ 5 crore at the domestic box office, as per Sacnilk. With the film's great business on the third Wednesday, *Animal*'s total collection now stands at ₹ 528.69 crore, the report added. On day 19, the Sandeep Reddy Vanga directorial earned ₹ 5 crore at the Indian box office. While *Animal* is headlined by Ranbir essaying the role of Ranvijay Singh Balbir, the movie also features Rashmika Mandanna, Bobby Deol, Triptii Dimri, Anil Kapoor, and Shakti

Kapoor. *Animal* hit the theatres on December 1, when it clashed with Vicky Kaushal's *Sam Bahadur*—directed by Meghna Gulzar.

Raveena Tandon's Adorable Birthday Wish For "Darling Friend" Govinda. Actor Replies



New Delhi: Raveena Tandon shared an adorable post for her frequent on-screen collaborator Govinda on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Raveena shared a video of the song *Ladka Deewana* from *Dulhe Raja* on her Instagram feed. Raveena also wrote an extensive note. It read, "My dearest Darling friend Chichi, @govinda_heronol This was our first song together after many misses of getting a chance to work with each other, we finally started *Dulhe Raja*, with the blessings of Kali Mata, and Harmesh ji at the helm. After the very first shot of this song together, I knew this is the beginning of a very long association. Here's to our films and friendship together for so many years! Happy Happy Birthday my friend @govinda_heronol! Chiranjeevibhava. Jai Bholenath! Samarthbhava, Aayushmaanbhava."

Govinda also replied to the post and wrote, "Thank you so much for your wishes my dearest Rav @officialraveenatandon Believe me I knew it too I told Harmesh ji apki picture se zyada aapke gaane challenge aur gaane se bhi zyada apke Hero Heroine Zintak hai! Lots of love. Jai Bholenath Har Har Mahadev." FYI, Govinda and Raveena acted in *Dulhe Raja* and it was directed by Harmesh Malhotra. Take a look at the post here:

Govinda and Raveena Tandon share a cordial relationship. They were spotted together at Diwali parties this year. Raveena shared a few images from Manish Malhotra and Shilpa Shetty's Diwali parties on her Instagram. In one picture, Govinda can be seen with Raveena and her children. Raveena captioned the post, "And the celebrations continue.... A walk with Mahadev, my friendly neighbour #mrs.anwar, my two princesses, Deepavali (Deepa, lamps) and valli (in a row) and the party with friends like family. #diwalidump."

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When Saira Banu Wore "The Most Gorgeous" Saree To Mughal-E-Azam Premiere To Impress Dilip Kumar

Veteran Bollywood actress Saira Banu often treats fans to fun anecdotes, both professional and personal. A case in point is her latest Instagram post, where she has spoken about her love for sarees – the Indian garment that she calls the "most beautiful dress in the world". Sharing several throwback images of her young self in sarees, Saira Banu wrote, "As a child, I was much of a tree-climbing tomboy but even then, I was fascinated by the drape of Appaji's beautiful ensembles in the sarees she wore. I was hardly 13 or 14 when Appaji sent letters to London along with goodies, where she once sent me a Saree on my request. A saree is the most beautiful dress in the world accentuating a woman's femininity, and grace, as well as emphasising her oomph!" Speaking about her first real saree moment, Saira Banu continued, "With gifts that would come, once came a beautiful white and gold Banarasi saree trimmed with bright red. Of course, I rushed at



it trying to drape it and pounced on it, Goodness knows how! I was crestfallen because it slipped here and there until Sultan Bhai and Ammaji helped. As I draped it, I was bashful wearing it and Sultan Bhai took pictures of me blushing away to glory, clutching the saree like a

wooden peg, and wearing dangling earrings to complete the look!"

Saira Banu also confessed to dressing up in a saree specially to impress her future husband, Dilip Kumar. Explaining that it was for the premiere of Dilip Kumar and Madhubala's Mughal-E-Azam, which the actor "absconded from", Saira Banu added: "During the holidays, we were invited to the premiere of Mughal-E-Azam and I badgered my mother to dish out the most gorgeous saree. My idea was to make Sahib [Dilip Kumar] notice me, the selected saree was so heavy that I was swinging back and forth, hanging on for dear life. But Oh! Guess What Happened? My six-days preparations of beautiful efforts at my face, skin, and long lustrous hair went in vain as Sahib absconded from the premiere."

Speaking about her work in films and the role of fashion – and sarees, in particular – in her filmography, Saira Banu revealed, "Slowly I became a pro since

my mother brought a revolution in saree wear designed out of Crepe Silk and Hand Embroidery like the one I wore in my film Aayi Milan Ki Bela and the song Bura Maan Gaye and Tumhein Kya Doon Main Dil Kay Sivay. These sarees became "Saira Banu Aaye Milan Ki Bela Sarees" starting the newest trend. Later, the "Forest Sprite Saree" in Shagird became a rage! People stopped my car in busy streets to scream "Aiyaa", the famous refrain in Shagird."

She further said, "After marrying Sahib, from the Crepe Sarees, I was persuaded by him to wear fluffier fabrics like Organza and Organdy as he laughingly ventured that Pathan's "Biwi" should look quite substantial to hold! I was quite slim when I married him and there was a change of colour in my wardrobe that he preferred from Whites to Off Whites, Creamy and Beige. I am still all for Whites and Off Whites."

Katrina Kaif Reveals Malaika Was Her Role Model During Early Modelling Days

In a new interview, Katrina Kaif said she wanted to be only a model when she moved to Mumbai, and Malaika Arora was one of her role models. Katrina Kaif has claimed Malaika Arora was a "role model" during her early modelling days in Mumbai. In a new interview with Mashable India, Katrina looked back at her journey. She revealed that she only wanted to be a model when she moved to Mumbai and acting happened to her by accident. (Also Read: Merry Christmas trailer: Katrina Kaif, Vijay Sethupath-starrer is a Sriram Raghavan thriller set to a Christmas carol)

What Katrina said

"When I started off as a model in Bombay, my intention was to be a model. My role models were Madhu Sapre and Lakshmi Menon. Those were the supermodels of that time. And even Malaika actually. She was still modelling at that time. They were the women I looked up to. And that's what I wanted to be as a model," Katrina said.

Katrina and Malaika go a long way back

While Katrina and Malaika have never worked together, they once had a peculiar connection. Katrina was dating her Tiger 3 co-star Salman Khan when his younger brother, actor and producer Arbaaz Khan, was married to Malaika. While Katrina later dated actor Ranbir Kapoor before marrying actor



Vicky Kaushal in 2021, Malaika divorced Arbaaz in 2017 before she started dating actor Arjun Kapoor. Malaika started off in 1997 as a VJ on MTV. She then entered the modelling world and appeared in Bally Sagoo's memorable 1997 music video of Gur Naalo Ishq Mitha. She made her Bollywood debut with the iconic dance song Chaiyya Chaiyya alongside Shah Rukh Khan in Mani Ratnam's 1998 romantic film Dil Se. Malaika went on to do dance songs in movies for the next 25 years, right up till Anirudh Iyer's An Action Hero last year, where she shook a leg with Ayushmann Khurrana on Aap Jaisa Koi. She was also seen in the Disney+ Hotstar reality series Moving in with Malaika last year.

Koffee With Karan 8: How Karan Johar And Ajay Devgn Ended Rift - "Took Us A Minute"



New Delhi: Ajay Devgn and filmmaker Rohit Shetty were Karan Johar's new guests on his chat show Koffee With Karan 8. The duo talked about their love for cinema extensively. They also talked about success, failures and personal equations. Before ending the episode, Karan Johar talked about how he and Ajay Devgn made up after their infamous rift. "But before I end, I just want to say about the graciousness of Ajay Devgn, whatever the misconception was, we didn't speak, Kajol and I didn't speak I am sure that he must have had a troubled time with his own wife because we are such close friends but he is really gracious." He added, "We were in the same studio and I said I want to meet him and he agreed to meet me immediately and I went into his van and from the very first meet, he said lets not talk about anything. You are close to Kajol, we are one industry and it took a minute for us to go back to normalcy." Ajay Devgn added, "I think its a very short life. Whoever is right or wrong, it doesn't matter, just

move on." Karan Johar then recalled, "Kajol called me an said, never are you ever going to be released on the same day as my husband. I said, I anyway, never like to clash. With Ajay, never."

During the Rapid Fire round, Karan Johar asked Ajay, "Who's your sworn enemy in the industry?" The actor said, "Once upon a time you [Karan Johar]." KJo added, "Sorry, I wasn't expecting that. I don't know why am I blushing. It's not a compliment."

The dynamics of Karan Johar and Ajay Devgn's relationship changed in 2016, during the box office clash of Karan Johar-directed Ae Dil Hai Mushkil and Ajay Devgn-led Shivaay. Karan Johar even wrote about how his fight with Ajay Devgn hampered his relationship with Kajol in his autobiography, titled An Unsuitable Boy. However, Kajol and Karan brought an end to their prolonged fight and Kajol and Ajay Devgn even made an appearance on Karan Johar's talk show Koffee With Karan 6 back in 2018.

On Dunki Release Day, Shaan Reveals Why His Song Dropped From The Film

New Delhi: On Dunki release day, singer Shaan revealed that a song titled, Durr kahi Durr, was dropped from the Rajkumar Hiarni directorial. Shaan and Shreya Ghoshal have sung the song. However, Shaan also explained the reason behind dropping the song and mentioned there's no rift between him and the director. Shaan began his post on X like this, "Good Morning !!! Aaj #Dunki Day hai ... im super excited!! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT !! I'm sure Everyone is Going to love the Movie !!!" He then explained the reason behind why his song was dropped. He wrote, "I just want to clear the air about why my song was not part of the film .. the song, a beautiful breezy duet (with @shreyaghoshal) "Durr kahi Durr" was recorded and also picturised in Kashmir .. but on



the edit table .. it was RajuHirani's call to drop the song .. (after a lot of contemplation..) He was very transparent about it with me.. and I really appreciate that.. and I fully understand that the film is top priority. Hopefully, You will get to hear the song in his future project .. but not in Dunki..."

There were diverse reactions to the post shared by X users. A user wrote, "Really disappointing to hear that @singer_shaan sir... Was expecting something memorable like "Char Kadam" from you after a long time.. Can you ask them to release it as a deleted song later.. Please.." Another user commented, "I am sad as it looks like a good song was taken away from us but hope we will really get to hear it someday or even if they just release the audio that would be enough."

release it as a deleted song later.. Please.." Another user commented, "I am sad as it looks like a good song was taken away from us but hope we will really get to hear it someday or even if they just release the audio that would be enough."



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