



THE NEW VIEW

TAKE A GOOD LOOK

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Surrey to Host the Let's Hear it BC JUNOS Plaza Party

By Chiara Leone



On Saturday, March 15, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Surrey Civic Plaza will come alive with the Let's Hear it BC JUNOS Plaza Party, a free, all-ages music festival celebrating Canadian music. As part of the Let's Hear it BC JUNO Tour, this event brings the energy of the 2025 JUNO Awards to communities across the province ahead of the ceremony in Vancouver on March 30.



The festival features over 30 artists across six stages. It will showcase a mix of country, Punjabi, pop, folk, and more. Attendees can enjoy live music, food trucks, and the 5X Art Party featuring South Asian DJs. Family-friendly programming and performances will take place throughout the plaza, including the City Centre Library and Dominion Restaurant at the Civic Hotel.

Headlining the event are 2025 JUNO nominees Tyler Joe Miller, Chani Nattan, and Inderpal Moga, alongside Punjabi music icon Sarbjit Cheema. Nattan, Moga, and Cheema will also perform a special collaboration that will highlight Surrey's diverse music scene.



Surrey is rapidly establishing itself as Canada's music city," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "This festival celebrates our city's young, thriving, and diverse arts scene and the incredible South Asian talent that calls Surrey home."

Miller, a Surrey-born country star, returns to perform for his hometown fans following the success of his JUNO-nominated album *Going Home*. Nattan and Moga's JUNO-nominated track "COOLIN", in collaboration with Jazzy B, marks a milestone in the newly introduced South Asian Music Recording of the Year category.

330 – 10362 KING GEORGE BLVD., SURREY. BC V3T 2W5

TELEPHONE: (604) 580-2321 || FAX: (604) 580.6321

WEBSITE:
DOWNTOWNSURREYBIA.COM
SURREYCITYCENTRE.CA

TWITTER/X: @DTSURREYBIA

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, OR STORY IDEAS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:
INFO@DOWNTOWNSURREYBIA.COM

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: CHIARA LEONE & NATHAN SCHROEDER

GRAPHIC DESIGN: CHIARA LEONE



Meet Our New Directors

By Chiara Leone

As we move into an exciting new year, we're thrilled to introduce the newest members of the Downtown Surrey BIA Board of Directors. These leaders bring valuable experience and fresh perspectives to help shape the future of Downtown Surrey.

DANIELLA LECK

Daniella Leck joined the DS BIA Board as an interim appointment in September 2024 and now officially continues her role as a director. Representing Central City, Daniella brings knowledge and expertise in property management and commercial operations. Her work focuses on supporting businesses within the complex and ensuring that Central City remains a key destination in Surrey.



GAGAN SOHI

As a Downtown Surrey property owner, Gagan Sohi has a deep understanding of the local real estate landscape. His commitment to the community stems from his long-term investment in the area, with a focus on supporting business growth and economic development. Gagan is eager to contribute his insights as the neighborhood continues to evolve.



DANVEER CHATHA

Danveer Chatha brings extensive experience in commercial banking and real estate financing. As a manager at TD Pacific Real Estate Group, he specializes in supporting businesses with financial solutions that drive growth and stability. His expertise in economic development and investment strategies will be a valuable asset to the DSBIA Board as Downtown Surrey continues to expand and thrive.



DSBIA AGM Recap

By Chiara Leone

The Downtown Surrey BIA recently held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Civic Hotel, bringing together members, business leaders, and community stakeholders.

A key moment was the election of new and returning board members, ensuring strong leadership for the year ahead. Additionally, Surrey Police Chief Norm Lipinski shared insights on public safety and the importance of community collaboration in shaping a safer downtown. The AGM also celebrated local businesses reaching major milestones, recognizing their long-standing contributions to the community.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to another successful AGM, we look forward to another year of progress in Downtown Surrey!



Explore the George – Fresgo Inn

By Nathan Schroeder

Fresgo Inn at 10102 King George Blvd in Surrey Central is a throwback diner, offering classic comfort food in a cool retro setting. Founded by Chef Walter Wolff, this spot has been serving the Lower Mainland for over 50 years, keeping its old-school charm. Stepping inside feels like traveling back to the 70s and 80s, with neon lights, vintage decor, and a self-serve setup that lets customers grab their own water and condiments without waiting on a server.

What keeps people coming back? Huge portions, affordable prices, and a menu packed with familiar favorites. Whether it's a massive burger, a loaded plate of fries, or a classic breakfast, Fresgo is generous with its servings. It's the kind of place where you leave full and satisfied, making it a go-to for locals looking for a solid meal.

The Surrey location carries on the legacy of its former Vancouver counterpart, which once had a dedicated following before closing its doors. Under Chef Wolff's leadership, Fresgo Inn has remained a staple in the community, attracting both longtime customers and newcomers trying to experience a piece of local history.

More than just a restaurant, Fresgo Inn is a blast from the past, where good food and good company take center stage. Fresgo Inn continues to serve up classic comfort food that keeps customers coming back.



Explore the George – Starbucks London Station

By Nathan Schroeder

Located on King George Boulevard in Surrey, the Starbucks at London Station is a go-to spot for commuters, students, and locals looking for a caffeine fix. Whether it's a morning coffee run or a late-night study session, this location is a reliable stop for many.

The space is welcoming, with comfortable seating, people talking and espresso machines running in the background. Starbucks has come a long way from its Seattle roots, expanding across Canada and beyond, but each store still keeps a local feel, and this one is no different.

Being in a growing part of Surrey, this Starbucks attracts a diverse crowd. Regulars come for their usual orders, while others drop by to try seasonal drinks. New features right now are the Iced Cherry Chai Latte or the Iced Lavender Oat Latte. These seasonal additions bring a consistent fresh twist to the menu.

What makes this spot stand out isn't just the drinks, it's the people. The baristas know their customers, the smell of coffee is always inviting, and there's a sense of familiarity that keeps people coming back. It's more than just a coffee shop; it's a comfortable place to take a break from the day.



Celebrate Earth Day at Surrey's Party for the Planet

By Chiara Leone

Mark your calendars—Metro Vancouver's largest Earth Day celebration, Party for the Planet, is back. This free, family-friendly event will take place on Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Surrey Civic Plaza.

Organized by the City of Surrey, Party for the Planet is an annual highlight. It brings together environmental education, entertainment, and community engagement in a fun and interactive setting. Attendees can enjoy a variety of activities for all ages.

This year's lineup includes a craft station hosted by the Downtown Surrey BIA. Attendees can take part in fun Earth Day-themed crafts, a perfect way to get creative while celebrating sustainability. Families can also enjoy children's entertainment. Highlights include Merlin the Magician and a Live-Action Little Mermaid show. There will be live performances across four stages featuring musicians, cultural dance groups, interactive science demonstrations, and a Beatbox Workshop with Wookiez. Beyond the performances, visitors can explore vendor booths, community organization stalls, and hands-on sustainability exhibits that promote eco-conscious living.

How to Get There:

To keep this Earth Day event as eco-friendly as possible, attendees are encouraged to take public transit, bike, or walk to Surrey Civic Plaza (13450-104 Avenue). Parking will be limited, so why not reduce your carbon footprint and make it a green journey?

Stay updated on event details by following @SurreyEvents on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, or visit [here](#) for the latest news.



March Community Calendar

Craft 'N' Yarn Tuesdays, | 6:00pm –8:30pm | City Centre Library Join us for a casual crafting session. Bring your current project to work on in the company of others. Crafters of all kinds, abilities, and ages welcome, but this is not an instructional class. Drop-in. No registration required.

Babytime Wednesdays | 10:00am - 11:00am | City Centre Branch This program is for babies 0-1 and their caregiver. Join us for songs, stories, rhymes and bounces to help your baby develop speech and language skills. After a 30 minute storytime, there will be a social time for babies and their caregivers.! 604.598.7427 or surreylibraries.ca.

Family Storytime Fridays | 1:30pm – 2:30pm | City Centre Branch This program is for children of all ages and their caregivers. Join us for fun stories and songs for the whole family! Help imaginations grow and build a love of reading.

Meat Draws every Saturday and Sunday tickets on sale at 4pm at Whalley Legion #102 - 10626 City Parkway, Surrey.

Live Bands at Whalley Legion every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at Whalley Legion.

01 | Family LEGO® Club 2–4pm. This program is for children of all ages and their caregivers. Join us for family playtime. We provide the LEGO® (and DUPLO®). You provide the ideas. City Centre Library 10350 University Drive, Surrey 120 Contact 604-598-7427 Drop in. No registration required.

04 | LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

07 | High Tea with Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke and 4 other special guests to celebrate International Women's Day while raising funds for SurreyCares Community Foundation, on Friday, March 7 at Civic Hotel. Live entertainment by a string trio with Surrey City Orchestra, "a special surprise performance," a silent auction and more. Tickets \$150 or \$1,400 for 10, surreycares.org/events.

08 | Magnetic North A sonic adventure with the natural world! A Surrey SPARK Stages presentation. 7-8pm Centre Stage at Surrey City Hall 13450 104 Ave, Surrey, Surrey Tickets & pricing Child \$16 | Adult \$21

09 | Family Art Party Make art with friends and family! Surrey Art Gallery - 13750 88 Ave 12-4pm. FREE

11 | Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

12 | LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

14 | Surrey Steps Up Join the movement of positivity! 5-9pm FREE Surrey City Hall, 13450 104 Ave, Surrey

15 | Let's Hear it BC JUNOS Plaza Party 2pm-10pm Civic Plaza Join us for an unforgettable day with: 6 stages, 30+ artists and DJs, Family programming, food trucks.

18 | Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

19 | LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

23 | Family Movie: How to Train Your Dragon 2 -4pm City Centre Library Branch. Free

25 | Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

26 | LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

28 | Ukrainian Soul Food: Perogies, cabbage rolls and borscht, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 13512 108 Ave, Surrey. "Hot takeout or choose to dine in, as well as frozen products to stock your freezer. Cash only. For information, call 604-531-1923 or 604-581-0313.

29 | Surrey Muse: Interdisciplinary art and literature presentation group meets monthly on fourth Saturday (1-4 p.m., City Centre Library, 10350 University Dr. Surrey). Gatherings feature an author, a poet and an artist/performer at varying levels of artistic development, followed by an Open Mic session. Info: surreymuse.wordpress.com.

April Community Calendar

Craft 'N' Yarn Tuesdays, | 6:00pm – 8:30pm | City Centre Library Join us for a casual crafting session. Bring your current project to work on in the company of others. Crafters of all kinds, abilities, and ages welcome, but this is not an instructional class. Drop-in. No registration required.

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01 | Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

02 | LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

05 | Senior's bingo every Saturday from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre in Whalley. Cards are 25 cents each. Telephone registration is required: 604-598-5898.

08 | Karaoke at Whalley Legion 7-11pm

9 | LA Bingo Wednesdays at Whalley Legion from 1-3pm

12 | Senior's bingo every Saturday from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre in Whalley. Cards are 25 cents each. Telephone registration is required: 604-598-5898.

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25 | Ukrainian Soul Food: Perogies, cabbage rolls and borscht available on the final Friday of every month as fundraiser, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 13512 108 Ave, Surrey. "Hot takeout or choose to dine in, as well as frozen products to stock your freezer. Cash only. For information, call 604-531-1923 or 604-581-0313.

26 | Party for the Planet Surrey Civic Plaza 11 am – 7 pm Free Admission Music, displays, family activities, food trucks and more!

26 | Senior's bingo every Saturday from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre in Whalley. Cards are 25 cents each. Telephone registration is required: 604-598-5898.

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Where Are They Now? Catching Up with Former DSBI Intern Quentin Benetti

By Nathan Schroeder

At the Downtown Surrey BIA, we've had the privilege of working with some incredible interns over the years. Many have gone on to do exciting things. One of them is Quentin Benetti, who interned with us during the summer of 2019. Since then, he's built a career in The local film sector. Quentin graduated from Simon Fraser University in Spring 2021 with a major in Communications and a minor in Publishing.

Today, Quentin works as a Communications Coordinator for IATSE 891, which is the union representing BC's film and motion picture workers. He started there as a Communications Assistant right after graduation and was promoted to Coordinator last year. One of the highlights of his job is producing Apple Box Talks, a podcast that features interviews with industry professionals. Podcasting is something he had no experience with before but has grown to love. You can check out this podcast on Spotify.

Reflecting on his time at the DSBI, Quentin credits the localized and hands-on experience he gained, which helped prepare him for a future in communications. He saw great value in his elevated responsibility, from managing social media to helping organize events.

"The comparison I always make is that the first thing I did every morning for the DSBI as an intern was scan social media and post/repost things on our accounts. The first thing I did every morning as an intern at a large multinational communications agency was make a pot of coffee for the office – because that was "the intern's job." I don't even drink coffee in the morning."

One of his favorite memories was working on Movies Under the Stars, a summer event series that made his internship both engaging and rewarding. Quentin says of Movie Under the Stars: "I don't remember ever lamenting the fact that I had to work on a summer Saturday evening."

It's always great to see our former interns thrive, and we're excited to see how Quentin's hard work and experience is leading to opportunities and achievements.

Where Are They Now? Catching Up with Former DSBI Intern Seleena Thandi

By Chiara Leone

Seleena is 26 years old and graduated from Simon Fraser University in Summer 2024 with a BA in Communication. From Fall 2020 to Fall 2021, she worked at the Downtown Surrey BIA, starting as a full-time Communications & Marketing Intern before continuing part-time. She later returned for another full-time internship as the Area Enhancement Intern and stayed on for one final semester.



During her time at the DSBI, Seleena gained valuable experience in communications, marketing, and community engagement. She worked with different groups, from students to local business owners, and developed key professional skills. One of the highlights was working closely with other interns, which made the job more enjoyable. She also appreciated the supportive management style that gave her both structure and independence. "I really appreciate the way that Bonnie manages interns because she will outline each intern's responsibilities, create a general guideline, and then give us the freedom to approach our work in any way that works for us," Seleena shares. "This management style helped me build confidence in how I organize my work and communicate with colleagues and other professionals."

Now, Seleena is a Marketing Coordinator at 5XFest, a non-profit arts organization that amplifies diasporic Punjabi voices through festivals, media, and programming. As a South Asian woman, she is excited to work on initiatives that celebrate her community. Her experience at the DSBI fostered her passion for community engagement, and she is thrilled to continue that work, especially since 5XFest takes place in downtown Surrey, bringing her journey full circle.