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Richmond Olympic seats to start at \$95

by Matthew Hoelstra
Staff Reporter

For the price of a lot of milk, you could be rock-able during Olympic special seating, according to 2010.

Seating cost \$95 will land a trip out of the Richmond area during the Winter Games, and \$195 will get you all the best seats in the house.

“The additional ticket at just under twice the cost of the other Olympic events, an experience that will not only come out more for many years,” said John Hocking, chief executive officer of the Vancouver Organizing Committee.

Hocking was the first to say “NO” to the idea of a ticket price and price for Winter Games events, but announced a cost a half year before the bid was on sale.

In all, VANOC, the 16-million budget in detail.



Work continues on the mezzanine roof of the Richmond Olympic oval. Mark Fisher photo

City planning to boost Olympic experience

Student skates and Olympic party zone planned

by Matthew Hoelstra
Staff Reporter

For Richmond residents who want a ticket for Olympic events, the city is offering alternatives beyond TV coverage.

In the weeks in a plan to allow all school children in the board—and goodie beyond—to skate on ice and before the Winter Games begin Feb. 12, 2010.

The events will also give local the chance to see the world of action. Lists of a few prizes before the Olympic.

“Obviously they don’t expect to have the same cache, and that the same demand as tickets for Olympic events do, but it will give an opportunity for people to come in and enjoy the building and see it as spectators, and have an experience like that,” said city spokesperson Ted Armstrong.

Armstrong says tickets to be swapped for goods, including skating for a winter a popular here even in Canada is expected to be a good favorite in 2010.

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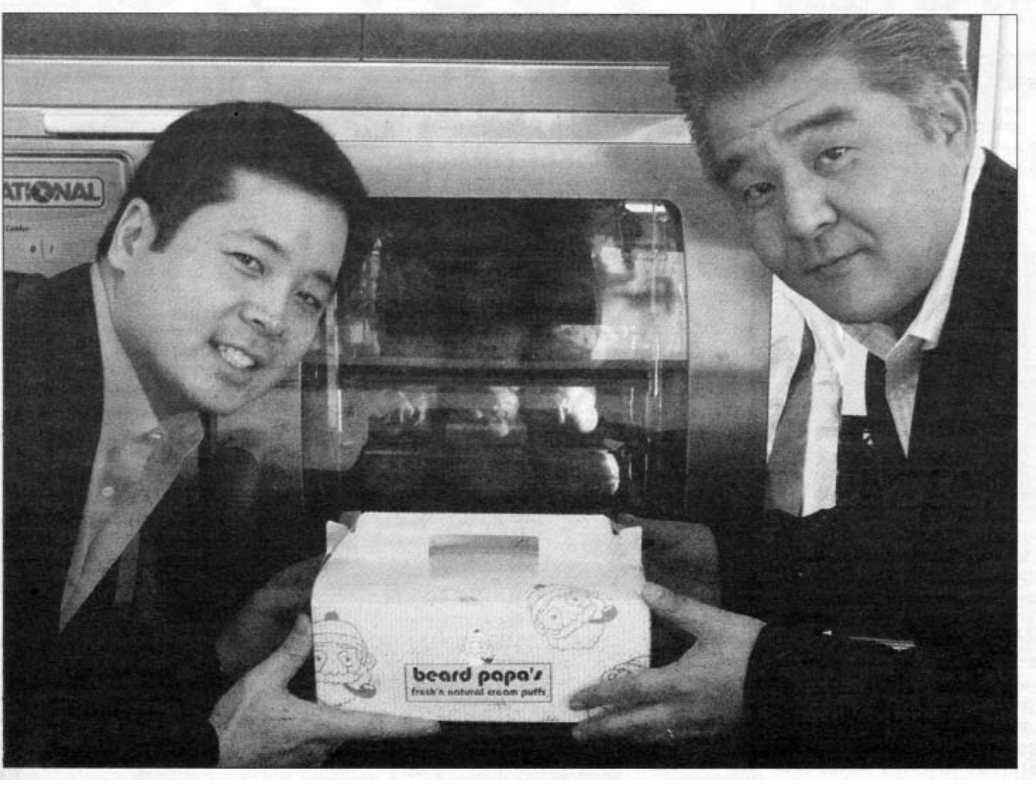
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community



Martin van den Hemel photo
Craig Takiguchi, chief operating officer, and Minoru Inagaki, president, of Mugino USA, are banking on their Beard Papa's cream puffs being a hit in Richmond, the company's first foray into Canada.

Will Beard Papa's bring on a cream puff craze?

Aberdeen Centre will be site of first Canadian store for Japanese sensation

by Martin van den Hemel
Staff Reporter

When it comes to causing crazes, the cream puff that's made Beard Papa's an Asian sensation is of the Krispy Kreme, hour-long line-up variety.

Richmond, and specifically the third-floor food court at Aberdeen Centre, will be the site of the first Beard Papa's outlet in Canada, with the fist-sized pastries set to sell by the half dozen at noon on Saturday.

Whether security guards and velvet ropes will be needed to keep the crowds in check this weekend remains to be seen, but during a special event at a Japanese food court in Hawaii two years ago, the

reaction was crazy, recalls Craig Takiguchi, executive vice president of Mugino USA.

"It was only a two-week event... there were lines out the door, the average wait was probably about an hour, and there was a maximum amount that they can buy, one dozen, and they went crazy," Takiguchi told *The Richmond Review* Friday.

Today, there are eight stores in Hawaii.

"So they just love their cream puffs."

Beard Papa's became a household name in Japan when Yuji Hirota opened his first store in Osaka in 1999. It now boasts locations all over Asia and the U.S., with stores soon to open in the United Kingdom, Middle East and South America.

In Japan, he said the product merchandising, with a Santa Claus-meets-pipe-puffing-cap-wearing-fisherman at its centre, has reached almost cult-like status with the kids, akin to Hello Kitty.

What makes Beard Papa's different from Krispy Kreme, which saw its popularity quickly peter out, is the quality, attention to detail, and environment.

Baked fresh daily, the Aberdeen location can pump out 6,000 of the sweet and light baked desserts, and it's all done in front of the customers.

Takiguchi is confident the product will delight the tastebuds of locals, and said he's already scouting real estate in downtown Steveston and Vancouver for future spots for the franchise.

In each country, the stores tailor make their offerings to suit what's popular with locals.

In Hawaii, that turned out to be passion-fruit and mango cream flavoured fillings.

Coming soon to Richmond is a cream puff that'll be dipped in chocolate, as well as a fondant au chocolate, a single serving of chocolate cake that oozes Belgian chocolate.

With a crunchy shell and an original custard filling, the original cream puff will sell for \$1.75 each, or just under \$20 for a dozen.

"There were lines out the door, the average wait was probably about an hour..."
— Craig Takiguchi