

## MISSING WOMEN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

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lighting create problems, he said. Hunter said that while most boats are lighting and safety requirements, the few that don't put everyone on the water in danger. He expects up to 4,000 boats a night if the weather is good.

"In the afternoon it's not a problem," said Hunter, "But after the fireworks, when it is pitch black and all these boats trying to go home at once, usually high speed and without any lights on,

they are impossible to see."

Two marine unit crafts will be out all four nights, and boat operators who break the rules will be charged, said Hunter, adding that firing off emergency flares is illegal.

Hunter said the barge where fireworks are ignited will be cordoned off and any boat travelling over the barrier will be charged. "Stay outside that area and you'll be safe," he said.

In total, the cost for the extra water and land policing will be \$203,000, which is paid by the Symphony of Fire.

## Family fears worst as woman vanishes in east Vancouver

LINDSAY KINES  
Vancouver Sun

In the time before she went missing, Janet Gail Henry and her sister would talk daily on the telephone, go on picnics in the park, or just sit by the water.

"She loves to go to Stanley Park," Sandra Gagnon said. "She likes to go by the docks, because she said that kind of brings her peace."

But it will be one month on Friday since Gagnon last spoke to her 36-year-old sister, and one month this Sunday since anyone last saw her.



JANET GAIL HENRY

"I really don't know what to think because it's really not like Janet not to call me," Gagnon, 41, said.

The mother of a 12-year-old girl, who lives with her father in McBride, Henry stayed in a rooming house at 367 East Hastings.

However, friends and family say she has not been back to her room in a month. She has not contacted her social worker, and on Wednesday she failed to pick up her welfare cheque.

"My feeling is that something has gone wrong and whoever last saw her is afraid to come forward," said Margaret Prevost, Henry's cousin and a volunteer at the Downtown Eastside Neighborhood Safety Office.

"This is only my feeling. But for a person to be missing that long, there really has to be something wrong."

Constable Dave Dickson, who works out of the safety of has also been looking for Henry. "I've phoned a few people who've said they heard this or heard that. But nothing's turned out so far."

"I'm hoping she's still down here somewhere and hasn't met foul play."

Family members say Henry, who grew up in Alert Bay, has a substance-abuse problem and has tried a number of times to leave the streets.

"I know that she gets sick of downtown and she tries to straighten her life out, but it's really hard for her," Gagnon said.

In any case, Prevost said Henry's problems should not diminish her value as a person, or undermine efforts to find her. "I mean, she's a human being," Prevost said.

Prevost asked for assistance from anybody who has seen Henry, who is described as 160 centimetres (five feet, three inches) tall, 52 kilograms (115 pounds) with reddish brown hair and glasses.

"We have been praying so hard that she is alive. We have to keep that hope, that light at the end of the tunnel, open."

## Boy, 8, shoots sister, 10

Houston RCMP have no plans to lay charges after an eight-year-old boy accidentally shot his 10-year-old sister.

Police said the shooting occurred when the boy was playing with a loaded bolt-action .22-calibre rifle found in the family's Houston home on Tuesday.

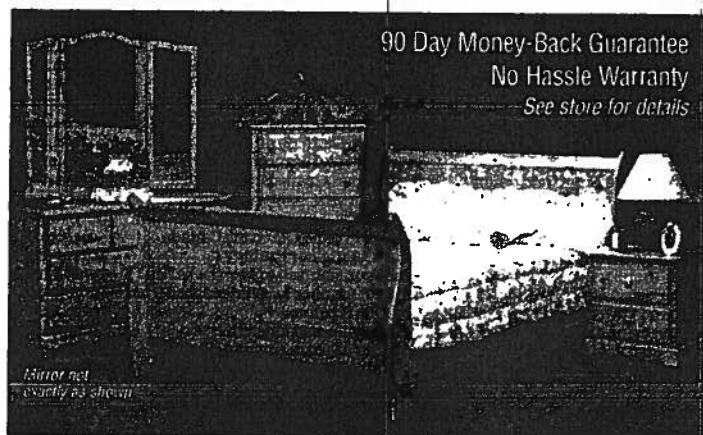
"The rifle went off and hit the girl in the right arm and entered her back," said Corporal R.E. Jones of the Houston RCMP.

She was treated at the Houston medical centre, and later transferred to Mill's Memorial Hospital in Terrace, where she remains in stable condition.

The children's names are not being released. They were home alone with their 10-year-old cousin at the time of the shooting.

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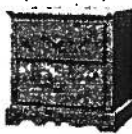
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The Vancouver Sun • Friday, February 14, 1997

B.C. Premier Glen Clark gives view of impending legislation after meeting with prime minister

## Anti-poverty plan must have B.C. clout

Jean Chretien promises a 'fiscal dividend' for the needy after three years budget cuts.

PETER O'NEIL  
Sun Ottawa Bureau  
and Canadian Press

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Jean Chretien's pending anti-poverty plan might amount to little more than a pre-election gimmick unless it includes substantial B.C. proposals to be outlined today, Premier Glen Clark said Thursday.

Clark, who dined with Chretien at the prime minister's residence Thursday night, is due to give a speech here today that will spell out the requirements he says are necessary to ensure an effective national plan.

On Thursday, Chretien told a business audience that three years of budget slashing and deficit fighting are about to pay off in the form of a "fiscal dividend" for those most in need.

But the dividend he has in mind — a program to fight child poverty — will apparently be a small one for now.

Chretien said his goal is to develop "an effective, modern, truly national approach to benefits and services for children and families with children who need our help."

He promised concrete action "in the coming days." Finance Minister Paul Martin will bring down his budget Tuesday.

But Chretien was careful not to raise expectations too high.

"This will not be the solution to the problem," he warned. "It will be the beginning of the solution... a down payment on social justice now that we can afford to make one."

Martin is expected to propose at least



WARM RECEPTION: Prime Minister Jean Chretien is applauded Thursday by members of the Ottawa-Carleton Board of Trade after giving a luncheon speech in Ottawa. Chretien gave hints of new spending in the federal budget.

PETER JONES/Reuter

a \$600-million increase in the federal child tax credit in a bid to fight Canada's child poverty rate. That's about half the amount provincial governments say is necessary.

Clark said if those rumors are true, the federal initiative "will give them some good politics" but won't help cre-

ate a national anti-poverty program.

"Is this for optics for the federal government in a pre-election period, or are we really going to begin to shape a national strategy to deal with child poverty?" Clark said in an interview.

The proposed federal plan is supposed to free up provincial funding for

child poverty, which would be redirected to other forms of assistance such as daycare and school lunches.

But critics have questioned whether there will be measures in a national plan that ensures some provincial governments don't just siphon off the money for other purposes.

"It's a kind of no-strings-attached tax credit, which, insofar as it goes, is of course a step," Clark said.

"But it's not a serious national attempt to deal with a large social program. It's certainly not the way we've built programs in the past."

Clark said he'll address the issue of provincial cooperation at a speech today to the Canadian Council on Social Development.

"That's really the nub of the question."

Clark will also speak on B.C.'s \$200-million family bonus program, which took effect last July, and gives the province's poorest working families up to \$103 per month for each child.

He considers it a model program which, if adopted nationally, would provide an incentive for poor people to choose low paying jobs over welfare.

Clark said he is not troubled by Ottawa's indication that it will build its child poverty plan over time.

"I'm not suggesting that we're going to get the perfect child benefit plan in one year. I think in fact it's not unreasonable to phase in such a plan," he said.

"But it depends on the design and how they intend to proceed."

In his speech Thursday, Chretien also spoke of helping universities and hospitals to modernize their research facilities and other unspecified initiatives in health care.

He put no price tags on anything. But he insisted — as he has done repeatedly — that the government will not abandon the deficit battle and spend irresponsibly.

"We will not budge in our fiscal discipline. We can't give up now... It would just be plain wrong to step back into an era of high deficits and low hopes."

## Prostitute murders on the rise across Canada

One out of every 20 women slain between 1991 and 1995 was involved in the sex trade.

KIM PEMBERTON

Vancouver Sun with Canadian Press

One in 20 women murdered in Canada between 1991 and 1995 were known prostitutes, says a Statistics Canada report on street prostitution released Thursday.

More than one-third of the 63 prostitute murders happened in B.C., says Simon Fraser University criminologist John Lowman, who has done extensive studies on street prostitution.

Lowman said his own study into prostitute murders in B.C. found 26 women were killed between 1991 and 1995.

Lowman said the federal report, which shows most sex-trade workers were killed by customers, is an indictment against politicians for refusing to legalize prostitution and find safe places for women to work.

"Until they do, they will have the blood of prostitutes on their hands," Lowman said.

According to police records, 50 of the victims appeared to have been killed by

customers. Eight others were likely killed by a pimp or in a drug-related incident, while the remaining deaths were at the hands of a partner.

"Prostitutes are blamed for their victimization when in fact the blame should be on the federal government. If the federal government resolved the contradiction in the law, women wouldn't be on the street being preyed upon by misogynist men," Lowman said.

Prostitution is not illegal in Canada. However, it is unlawful to communicate with another purpose for the buying or selling of sexual services.

"It is insane," Lowman said. "We need our politicians to show leadership and address the question of where prostitution should be located."

The study also found more than half of prostitute murders remained unsolved, compared with 20 per cent of all homicides.

"The private nature of a street prostitute's activities can make the identification of a killer very difficult — all the more so when that person is also a stranger," the report states.

The program director of Prostitutes, Alternatives, Counselling and Education in Vancouver said he believes some

police officers have a poor attitude and won't properly investigate violence against prostitutes.

Leonard Cler-Cunningham said he has known of many cases where the sex-trade workers wanted to provide information to police about an assault and had been discouraged from doing so by police.

"We had one woman who was choked until her blood vessels in her eyes broke and the investigating officer said her, 'what do you expect working on the street?'"

Cler-Cunningham said he believes men have gotten the message that society does not care if sex-trade workers are beaten and even murdered and this is why killings have increased against prostitutes. Lowman noted that in the 10 years before 1986, only eight prostitutes were killed in B.C.

The federal report also found that police were more likely to charge women than men with prostitution-related offences in 1995. Police laid 7,646 charges. Women accounted for 55 per cent of the 6,710 people charged with communicating to buy or sell the services of a prostitute.

However, the study noted that there

has been a shift towards charging men more since December 1985. For example, between 1986 and 1995, almost half the people charged with communicating for the purpose of prostitution were male, compared to one-third of men charged between 1977 and 1985.

"This increase may reflect changes in enforcement practices, in that some police agencies are charging more men in an attempt to hold customers more accountable for their participation in the sex trade," the report states.

In Vancouver, police now have a policy of not charging sex-trade workers unless it would help them in some way. Inspector Ken Doern, head of the vice squad, says.

The federal study also showed that once a sex-trade worker was charged, she was dealt with more harshly in court. For example, 39 per cent of women convicted in 1994 were sent to prison compared to only three per cent of men.

In Vancouver, the 6th Annual Women's Memorial March will be held today for the 136 women who have died violent deaths since 1982 in the downtown eastside. The march begins at 10:30 a.m. at Carnegie Community Centre.

## Labrador issue stirs up Quebec

Southam Newspapers

ST-GEORGES-DE-BEAUCHE, Que. — Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard warns that any attempt by Newfoundland to seek a constitutional amendment to change its name to Newfoundland and Labrador would spark a highly divisive and emotional debate.

"This is a very delicate issue, very political, very sensitive. I don't think it would help in Quebec to have this debate now," the premier commented Thursday.

"But it's not for me to decide what the federal government will do with that. But it's a very, very sensitive issue. No government of Quebec has ever formally accepted of the situation."

Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin confirmed Wednesday that he intends to ask the federal government this spring to change the name of his province to include Labrador — a vast area whose borders have been a source of contention between Quebec and Newfoundland for decades.

While the issue was formally resolved by the British Privy Council in 1927, Quebec has refused to formally abandon its claim.

## B.C. support sought for Quebecers wishing to remain in Canada

Across thousands of miles comes a plaintive cry for help. Quebecers who want to remain part of Canada are hoping people from as far away as British Columbia will come forward to offer them support, Montreal lawyer Anthony Housefather says.

He is a municipal councillor for Hampstead, a quiet upper-middle-class part of Montreal that is 86-per-cent English-speaking and aggressively federalist.

Housefather, a fully bilingual anglo whose family has been in Quebec 140 years, is first a federalist. But he says if Quebec should separate he will act as an advocate of "partitionism."

This controversial concept gained new respectability a year ago when it was mentioned by federal Inter-territorial Affairs Minister Stephane



Barbara YAFFE

partition from a separate Quebec.

Hampstead was one of the first, in November, to endorse this idea. Its citizens intend to vote before a third referendum on the question: "Do you want the Town of Hampstead to remain part of Canada? (Resolved) that Hampstead will call upon the Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec and all Canadians to respect and comply with the decision of our residents."

The Parti Quebecois government dismisses the notion of partition. PQ minister Sylvain Simard said in Vancouver last week: "I cannot imagine

hear, but it's not a political project. We'll just wait until it passes."

It won't be that easy, says Housefather, who is active in the federal Liberal party. The movement is being embraced by regions, not streets. And, he insists, these regions would comprise viable geographical entities. "The separatists dismiss it, they say it's a block or a house that wants to partition."

"But in fact you have a whole contiguous chunk from the Ontario border to the end of Montreal. To me, that's very feasible for that area to remain part of Canada."

Housefather is referring to 34 contiguous ridings — in the Outaouais region around Hull and in western and central portions of Montreal — that voted No to separation in the October 1995 referendum.

He says it's illogical to allow separatists to decide their fate and to deny

rent 83 per cent voted No; Jacques Cartier 91 per cent; Robert Baldwin 89 per cent. He says the will of all these Montrealers cannot be ignored.

Housefather wants British Columbians to get involved.

He says that by supporting partition they can help discourage separatism. That's because Quebecers don't even want to think about the fracturing of their province.

Also, as Canadians, B.C. people simply "have an interest in standing up for their brothers and sisters, no matter where they are in the country."

And of course, it's not in B.C.'s interest to "throw away a big part of Canada that wants to stay part of Canada. It makes no sense."

Another reason to speak up is that it may help Canada retain the city of Montreal. Housefather asserts that, without a separatist threat and with

ors of the 19 municipalities are keeping silent on partitionism for fear of retribution from Quebec City — their claims could be amalgamated or their grants reduced.

But "people here wanted the municipalities to act on their behalf because the politicians at the other end have not protecting our rights."

Housefather and other partitionists want a clear statement from Ottawa that it will protect Quebecers' right to remain Canadian.

He also wants provincial governments to make statements in support of the partitionist movement. And it would be helpful if municipalities in B.C. and elsewhere would pass resolutions supporting their pro-partitionist brethren in Quebec.

What is needed from the rest of the country is "moral support," Housefather says.









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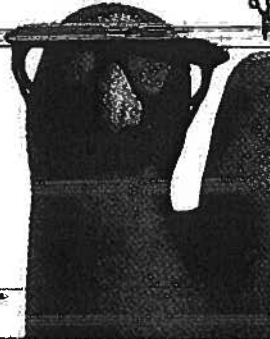
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# Mother fears addicted daughter already dead

By Frank Luba  
Staff Reporter

Worried about his missing friend, Sarah Jean deVries, Wayne Leng is putting up posters all around Vancouver's downtown east side and trying to get her story told.

At her home in Ontario, DeVries' mother Pat is beyond worry.

The former head nurse at Vancouver General Hospital fears her adopted daughter, a drug-addicted prostitute, may already be dead.

"She's 29," said Pat. "This started when she was 12."

"I've been a nurse for 20 years and I've seen a lot of things, but this is the first time I've seen a girl like this."

Pat called the police to say she's either in jail or hospital or already dead, she added of a daughter who wrote poetry and kept journals at the same time as she worked the streets.

"I've been to the hospital several times and I've been to the jail several times. I don't think I've probably given up hope entirely."

"She [Sarah] has HIV, she has hepatitis C. What I do for her now is look after her kids the best I can."

Pat is 60 and divorced from retired



**SARAH JEAN deVRIES**  
no word since April 13

University of B.C. professor Jan deVries, who still lives in Vancouver. She lives with her sister Jean Smith, an author of children's books, and has

custody of her grandchildren — Jeanie, 7, and her half-brother Ben, 2. She shooed Jeanie out of the room during a telephone interview about her lost daughter.

"It's very hard to tell a seven-year-old that somebody is missing," said Pat. "It's something you can't come to terms with, you can't work through, because there's never an end to it."

Leng, who had a short romantic relationship with Sarah, said he just wants to see his friend again. He last saw her April 13.

Nobody has seen or heard from her since — which is unusual, because that period includes Pat's birthday, Mother's Day and Sarah's own birthday. She almost always got in touch with Pat at this time of year.

Leng, an automotive technician, says Sarah underwent "a lot of turmoil" in her 29 years.

He pointed to trouble she experienced as an adoptee of mixed parentage in an all-white west-side family.

"She's been through a lot in her life," he said. "If you could see what she has written, you would realize how awful she feels inside."

## Grow house raided

Mission RCMP have seized \$350,000 worth of marijuana in a raid at a grow operation. The police say they found 438 pot plants growing in a residence and basement on Barr Street. A lone male in the house at the time was arrested and has been charged with growing marijuana. — Staff Reporter

## SEARS

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Media 0532.  
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off.

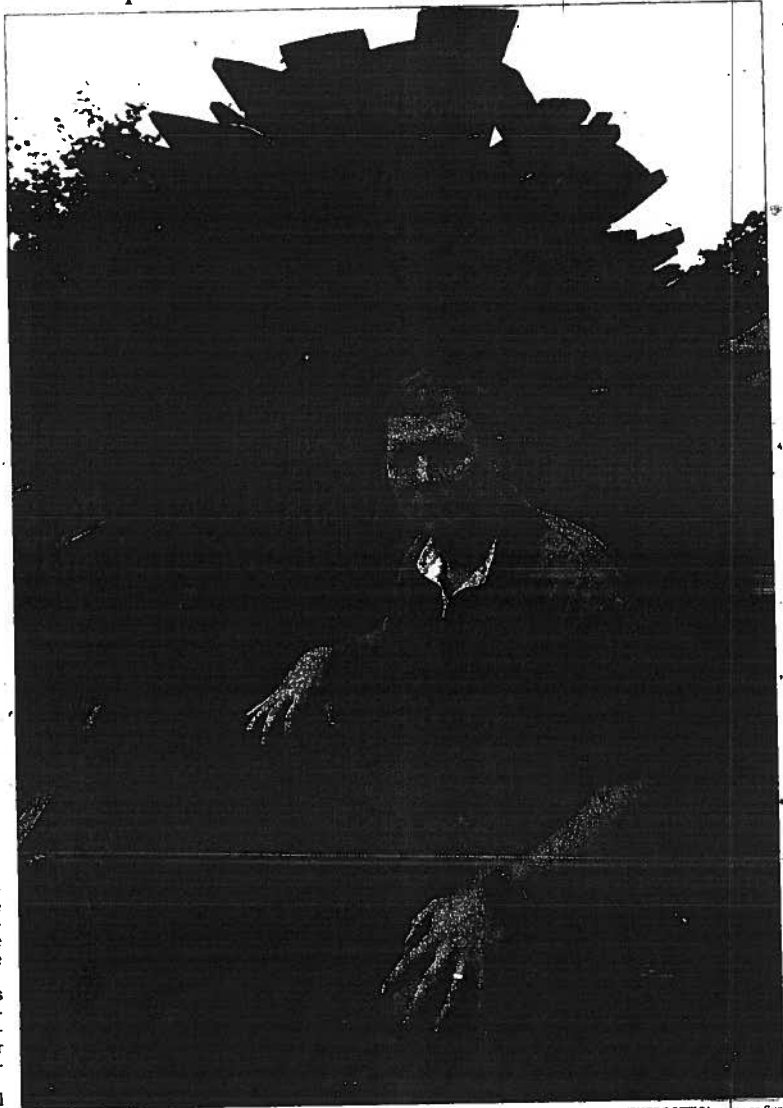
WEST END

CHURCH STARTS PROJECT  
TO ASSIST STREET KIDS

he advocacy office of St.  
il's Anglican Church, which  
vides support and assistance  
needy residents in the West  
k, has launched a project to  
rk with local street kids.  
With funding from Human  
ources Development Cana-  
the office has hired its first  
h outreach worker, Melodie  
ttier.

he Advocacy Office Youth  
reach initiative is modelled  
similar programs found in  
er parts of Vancouver. Trot-  
r will try to find ways to get  
ths... street.

Shipments hide hordes of insect invaders



DIANA NETHERCOTT/Vancouver Sun

**RAW-PACKING BAN SOUGHT:** Eric Allen, head of forest health at the federal Pacific Forestry Cen-  
tre, with wood packing material from China that contained numerous bugs.

Foresters fearful over  
foreign-bug invasion

MARGARET MUNRO  
SUN SCIENCE REPORTER

More than 1,500 six-legged in-  
vaders arrived in Vancouver  
this spring with a shipment of  
Norwegian granite.

Among them was the Euro-  
pean spruce bark beetle, which  
could devastate Canadian  
forests.

"It was shocking," says Eric  
Allen, who was horrified to see  
the steady stream of insects  
crawl out of two small pieces of  
wood used to brace the stone in  
its shipping container.

Most of the 1,500 bugs were  
innocuous-looking beetles, says  
Allen, head of forest health at

the federal Pacific Forestry  
Centre. But if they ever got  
loose in the woods, he says they  
could cost the Canadian forest  
industry hundreds of millions  
of dollars.

The European spruce bark  
beetle was most alarming, he  
says. Its presence prompted  
federal trade officials to contact  
Norwegian authorities and urge  
them to stop using raw wood as  
bracing material.

While that problem appears  
to have been solved, Allen says  
it is just the latest case of way-  
ward — and worrisome — in-  
sects landing in Canada.

SEE INSECTS, B3

Report slams  
investigation of  
sex abuse claims  
against teacher

A Langley school district probe into  
allegations by four girls was a "confused  
tangle of miscalculations," a report says.

HAROLD MUNRO  
VANCOUVER SUN

The Langley school district's  
investigation into sexual assault  
allegations by four young girls  
against a teacher who was ac-  
quitted was a "confused tangle  
of miscalculations," an internal  
inquiry has concluded.

The inquiry's report, released  
this week by the school board,  
stops short of blaming the mis-  
calculations on elected school  
trustees or the individual ad-  
ministrators who investigated  
the abuse complaints — a team  
that included the superinten-  
dent of schools, human re-  
sources manager, principal and  
vice-principal.

The report, which cost the  
school district about \$25,000,  
instead targets the district's "ill-  
defined" written policy for han-  
dling abuse complaints, and  
recommends ways to improve  
them.

The report is also critical of  
the fact that the allegations  
against teacher Garth Douglas  
Jefferies, who was later acquit-  
ted of all charges, were not im-  
mediately taken to a social  
worker at the ministry of chil-  
dren and families. The judge  
who acquitted Jefferies earlier  
this year made similar criti-  
cisms.

"My impression is that there  
was some confusion here as to  
the obligation to report; in part  
because of a belief that the mi-  
nistry, having received a report,  
would take no independent ac-  
tion themselves but would ex-  
pect the employer to look after  
the matter because of lack of  
ministry resources," says the re-  
port by lawyer John Sanderson  
of ADR Chambers, a Vancou-  
ver-based alternative dispute  
resolution group.

Sanderson, who has co-au-  
thored a text book on dispute  
resolution, said in an interview  
Thursday that every school dis-  
trict in the province could learn  
from the Langley experience.

"I think the central lesson is  
to think through how these  
complaints are going to be  
processed," he said.

The lawyer noted that abuse  
allegations against teachers are  
so infrequent that school dis-  
trict policies are rarely tested.

Sanderson interviewed  
school district staff and others  
during his inquiry in Langley

but not the accused teacher, his  
lawyer or the young students  
who made the complaints be-  
cause, he said, he did not want  
to revisit the criminal case. His  
report doesn't identify any of  
the individuals interviewed.

Jefferies was suspended with  
pay from his position as pho-  
tography teacher at Langley  
Fine Arts school in December

SEE SEX ABUSE, B3

Police target  
big increase  
in missing  
women cases

Investigators will look into  
each incident to determine  
if there are any similarities.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver city police are  
concerned about the number of  
missing women who were in-  
volved in drugs and the sex  
trade and have put more re-  
sources into finding them.

The police have outstanding  
files on 10 women who were re-  
ported missing in the past two  
years — including five already  
this year.

By comparison, there is only  
one outstanding file from 1996,  
three from 1995 and one each  
from 1992 and 1986.

In total, Vancouver city police  
have 16 such cases of missing  
males dating back more than a  
decade.

Media liaison Constable Anne  
Drennan said the department  
has assigned a second detective  
to the missing persons section  
to focus on the cases, and inves-  
tigators discussed the issue at a  
meeting Thursday.

"The missing persons section  
has been told to give these par-  
ticular 16 files the highest of  
priorities," Drennan said.

The investigators will review  
all the cases to look for any sim-  
ilarities, such as where the  
SEE DISAPPEARED, B3



DIANA NETHERCOTT/Vancouver Sun

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT:** A  
dead Asian long-horned beetle.

Limited

Floor Sample

Clearance Sale

He says more than 1,000 bugs, mainly beetles, crawled out of the two pieces of wood, which were less than half-a-metre long.

"They were certainly the most prolific pieces of wood we've ever seen," Allen, who is sure to find it up as an example of the problem at coming meetings of the North American Plant Protection Organization.

Canadian officials have proposed that the organization, which includes Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, ban the use of raw and infested wood as packing

at the annual meeting of the organization in Halifax this fall.

Allen, who is keen to see the ban put in place as soon as possible, says it will likely take years to finalize because the issue affects so many sectors and interest groups.

A ban would require, for example, that Canadian industry use dunnage that is insect-free.

A ban would also have to be implemented in a way that will not deter trade with countries like China, which Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the premiers have been trying to pro-

here know little about insects there.

"It's easy to get freaked out about it," says Allen, of the alien insect problem in general. But he takes solace in studies showing that one-third of imported insects, like honey bees, do prove beneficial and another third, like the seven-spotted ladybugs, appear harmless.

But as a forest pathologist, Allen is more familiar with the last third, damaging imports like the gypsy moth, which has devastated forests in parts of Eastern Canada.

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DISAPPEARED from B1

# Serial killer not behind missing-women cases, police official says

women were last seen, the manner in which they disappeared, as well as with whom they associated, including friends, pimps or boyfriends.

Drennan said there is no indication that a serial killer is preying on the women.

Detectives also have to investigate the possibility of a suicide or drug overdose that has gone undiscovered, or that the women were killed in a dispute over drugs.

Downtown Eastside agencies, say the level of violence toward women in the sex trade has increased dramatically in recent years.

"I don't think the public really understands the degree of risk that children and women on the street selling themselves are experiencing these days," John Turvey of the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society said. "It is phenomenally dangerous out there."

"If you don't go missing and you don't end up dead, the likelihood of getting assaulted, raped, kidnapped, abused, robbed, injured is just astronomical."

Turvey said he tends "not to buy into" the theory of a single person responsible for the missing women.

"I just think that a lot of men that have that propensity to be out that these women are ideal victims with very little ramifications when they go missing."

Four of the five women reported missing this year — Ada Prevost, 24; Inga Hall, 46; Sarah deVries, 29 and Cindy Beck, 33 — had worked as prostitutes in the Downtown Eastside.

Police say the other missing woman, Kerry Koski, 38, was addicted to heroin and was known

to frequent the Downtown Eastside.

Maggie deVries, who teaches children's literature at the University of B.C., said she is "95 per cent certain" that her sister, Sarah, has been murdered.

No other scenario makes sense, she said.

"Sarah wouldn't just go away of her own volition and not contact anyone," Maggie deVries said.

Her sister was last seen in the early morning hours of April 14 at the corner of Princess and Hastings. DeVries said her sister was working with another woman, who got into a car with a customer. By the time the car circled the block, Sarah had disappeared from the street corner.

She has not been seen since, nor has she contacted her family — including her seven-year-old daughter and two-year-old son, who live with her mother in Ontario.

Drennan said police investigate the cases as they do any other — interviewing friends, families and acquaintances, contacting welfare offices, distributing posters and entering the descriptions on the Canadian Police Information Computer.

"They're the most difficult cases that we ever are called on to investigate," she said. "Even if we can establish murder — most of these are stranger-to-stranger crimes and those are the toughest to solve."

Drennan said the pool of possible suspects is enormous. "There are literally hundreds and hundreds of men cruising in the Downtown Eastside, cruising the streets, every night. So, you'd have to say, it's almost like searching for a needle in a haystack."

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**Peter Clough**

## District in the doghouse with readers

There was a lot of barking in the background on my voice mail last week. The story about Kathe Jeffries' fight to keep her animal shelter open, despite efforts by her next-door neighbor and the Fraser Valley Regional District to shut her down, produced a flood of response.

Almost all were in support of Kathe. Here's a small sample:

**Tracy Bowering:** I just adopted a dog from Kathe that had been abandoned. Kathe gave this poor little dog the best nurturing to the point where we could take it over. If it weren't for people like her, where would our defenceless animals be?

**Audrey Hayes:** People like Kathe are trying to make right from the wrongs of people who do not spay or neuter their pets. Let her keep her shelter.

**Bob Malpass:** The more people I meet, the more I like my dog — with the exception of ladies like Kathe Jeffries. Somebody should give her a medal.

**Sandra Albright:** Let's change the bylaw. Let's not be silly here.

**Judy Stone, president of Animal Advocate Society:** I've worked closely with Kathe for years. I have the greatest admiration for her. She saves the district a lot of money by doing what she does. The FVRD is using those savings to spend on lawyers to harass her.

**Trevor Fales, 9:** One day we got a husky from Kathe's shelter. When we got home she couldn't do any tricks, but in two months she learned to sit, shake a paw, shake the other paw, the "down" command, come, heel, and almost stay. She got the "most improved dog" award at dog obedience. Please help Kathe so the dogs don't lose their home.

**Sandi:** I'm an animal-health technician at a vet clinic in Langley. If Kathe Jeffries is preventing unwanted, abused or neglected cats and dogs from coming into our clinic as emergency cases or with bellies full of more unwanted cats and dogs, then she is a local hero. The FVRD should realize how valuable her services are and work out a solution.

**Joanne, in Mission:** I'm not sure that I'd want to live next door to someone with 30 dogs but I totally admire her for what she's doing.

A lot of callers wanted to know how they can make a donation to the West Coast Spay and Neuter Society, the organization Kathe runs. The mailing address is: Box 3524, Mission V2Y 4L1.

**ITEMS, COMMENTS:** Call (604) 605-2047. Write: Peter Clough, The Province, 200 Granville St., Vancouver V6C 3N3. E-mail: pclough@pacpress.southam.ca

# Messages on pager say prostitute dead

By Frank Lube  
Staff Reporter

A series of chilling calls has unnerved a man looking for his prostitute friend, whose disappearance from Vancouver's mean streets is part of a police investigation into rising numbers of missing women.

Police say Sarah Jean deVries is among 10 women who've gone missing in the past two years. Four out of the five missing so far this year are prostitutes.

In her file, deVries is described as a drug addict who frequented a bar before going missing April 14.

To Wayne Leng, she was a special friend who kept a journal as she wrestled with her personal



SARAH JEAN deVRIES  
missing since April 14

demons while her adoptive mother, a former head nurse at Vancouver General Hospital,

searched for her two children in Ontario.

Leng has posted deVries' picture around the downtown east side. There's even a \$1,000 reward to anyone calling in the right tip to 1-800-659-1187.

But three phone calls Leng got on his pager Saturday night around midnight left him fearing the worst.

"Sarah's dead," said a man's slightly slurred voice, with music pounding in the background. "So there will be more girls like her dead. There will be more prostitutes who will be one every Friday night. At the busiest time."

The second message contained the same voice but a

slightly different tone. "You'll never find Sarah again," he said, the same music playing in the background. "So just stop looking for her, all right?"

"She doesn't want to be seen and heard from again, all right? So, 'bye. She's dead."

The caller felt compelled to leave one final message.

"This is in regard to Sarah. I just want to let you know that you'll never find her again alive because a friend of mine killed her, and I was there."

Leng says he will give complete tapes of the calls to Vancouver police.

Leng said the mystery caller knew some things about deVries not known by many others.



## From the slopes to the links

Olympic snowboarding gold medalist Rose Rebagliati (left) of Whistler sports a smile as he and his caddy Andrew MacIsaac get a lift from Jan Rosalter at the Links at Crowbush in Lakefield, P.E.I., yesterday. Rebagliati was playing a celebrity-amateur tournament leading up to a pro golf tournament scheduled to start today.

## New West push shifts the problem

By Keith Fraser  
Staff Reporter

A New Westminster citizens' group recently began patrols in city-owned vehicles to rid neighborhoods of prostitutes. The strategy is working — but it's merely moving the problem to Burnaby.

"It's the old analogy of a balloon," says Burnaby Coun. Nick Volkow. "You push down on it on one end and it pops up on the other. That's what's happening here."

"Every once in a while Burnaby pushes on a concerted campaign and pushes them down to New Westminster. Now it's our turn to get them pushed up from New West this way."

Volkow is not sure whether a show of force by Burnaby RCMP would do much good.

But another councillor, Doug Evans, plans to introduce a bylaw if they'll help a Burnaby citizens' group deal with the problem. "Somehow the laws have to be tightened up... to get these pimps," he says.

"They're the problem. Some of these poor women are driven into it... it's really a tragedy."

The latest push has moved hookers from the border of the two cities to the RCMP's jurisdiction. In Burnaby, Edmonton and beyond.





FRIENDS: Elsa Menendes and Alicia de la Roca share each others company amongst the flowers at Queen Elizabeth Park.

CITY LIMITS B5 • SIKH VOTE OVERSEER APPOINTED B3

SECTION  
B

# LOWER MAINLAND

ITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1998

## HEART OF THE CITY PNE

### MOST BACK CONTINUANCE OF FAIR AT SITE, POLL SAYS

A public opinion poll of 700 people commissioned by the Coalition to Save the PNE indicates 70 per cent of Vancouver city residents would like the Hastings Park site developed as a park jointly with the Pacific National Exhibition so the fair can continue to run each year in its current location.

Conducted between September 11 and 14, the poll also included local area residents, 62 per cent of whom wanted the PNE to stay where it is, and others in the Greater Vancouver regional district, 59 per cent of whom wanted the fair to stay.

If a new location for the fair cannot be found by next year and its existence is in jeopardy, public support for a joint-use development of Hastings Park rises, growing to 82 per cent among Vancouver city residents, 69 per cent among others in the GVRD, and 71 per cent among regional residents.

Next year is supposed to be the PNE's last year at the Hastings Park location, at which time organizers were to have found a new home for the 84-year-old fair.

Other poll results were as follows:

- Three in 10 adults in the GVRD visited the PNE this year.
- 42 per cent of GVRD households and 79 per cent of local area households patronized this year's fair.

- On average, GVRD residents visited the PNE twice in the last five years.

- Local area residents attended the fair three years out of the past five.

The random telephone survey was conducted among those aged 18 and over.

## RELIGION

### BISHOP STEPS DOWN TO BECOME CITY PASTOR

Marlin Aadland, B.C.'s Lutheran bishop for the past 13

years, will become the pastor of a small, active Vancouver congregation.

While serving as bishop responsible for 58 B.C. churches, Aadland took public stands on several social issues, including poverty and native Indian causes.

But he says he always wanted to return to the parish.

"I didn't go into the ministry to be a bishop — none of us do — but it seems to transpire that those elected to bishop do have a pastoral bent," he said, after being installed as pastor of the 15-member, 75-member church near Vancouver's city hall.

Members of the B.C. synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada recently elected pastor Ray Schultz as Aadland's successor.

## COMMUNITY WORK

### HYDRO EMPLOYEES GIVE \$180,000 TO AID DEAF KIDS

B.C. Hydro employees have

# Missing women cases probed

Vancouver police will review 40 unsolved cases dating from 1971, but they doubt a serial killer was involved in any disappearances.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver city police have set up a team of officers to review 40 unsolved missing women cases dating back to 1971.

Police say the missing women come from all walks of life and areas of Vancouver. But a significant number — 16 since 1995 —

are women who were involved in drugs and the sex trade on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Inspector Gary Greer, officer in charge of that district, said the team was created to address rumours and concerns in the community.

"They're concerned about what they believe is a great number of missing women who

may have been murdered," he said. "So our step is to put together what we would consider a real list."

Greer is calling the team a "working group" because it is simply trying to get a handle on the numbers, he said.

"We're in no way saying there is a serial murderer out there. We're in no way saying that all

these people missing are dead. We're not saying any of that.

"We are merely, from a community-based policing perspective, trying to respond to a community's concerns with some facts."

Media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said the team will meet to review the existing list, determine if any of the files are linked, or if any of the women have been found in other jurisdictions.

The team will include inves-

tigators from the missing persons, sex offence, and homicide sections, as well as Greer and geographic profiler, Detective Inspector Kim Rossmo.

Rossmo uses a computer program to predict the area where an offender is most likely to live or work, based on where the crimes were committed.

In addition, there are two missing-persons detectives and a civilian member working on the files.

SEE CRIMES, B4

## The West's influence on journalism



JUST THE FACTS: Sing Tao School of Journalism students Jeffrey James (left), Daniel Sieberg, Shelley Wood and Johnny Nunan.

GLENN BAGLO/Vancouver Sun

## Kim Campbell says Clinton should have avoided video

KEN MacQUEEN  
VANCOUVER SUN

Former Canadian prime minister Kim Campbell offered U.S. President Bill Clinton a bit of unsolicited and belated legal advice Thursday: "Face whatever embarrassment you need to, just don't testify in front of the video camera."

She told a session of the women's interest group of the International Bar Association conference here that the most "cyber-literate" presidential ad-

## Sing Tao School of Journalism opens West's first masters program

Thirty per cent of its 17 students are from B.C., but there are no foreign students.

LORI CULBERT  
VANCOUVER SUN

The new Sing Tao School of Journalism is a crucial piece of Western influence in an industry largely based in central Canada, says first-year student Shelley Wood.

She points to Canada's national publications — *The Globe and Mail*, *Southern*'s yet-to-be-published *National Post* and *Maclean's* magazine — all with head offices in Toronto.

And until UBC's Sing Tao school, which will officially be

Sing Tao School of Journalism,  
UBC

- Two-year program, print only (one third of classes offered outside journalism for academic studies)
- Number of students who applied: more than 200
- Accepted: 17 (in future years it will be 25, but officials wanted the first class to be small)

Donna Logan,  
director of the  
Sing Tao School of  
Journalism

University of Western Ontario,  
London

- 12-month program, print and broadcast
- Number of applications for 1998/99: between 150 and 200
- Accepted: 45
- Fees: \$6,673.23 for a full year

Carleton University, Ottawa

- Two-year program, print and broadcast
- Number of applications: about 150
- Accepted: 19 students into the first class

## Tough stand on immigrant criminals pursued

Most signing a petition are themselves newcomers seeking a better life.

KIM BOLAN  
VANCOUVER SUN

Few families know the terror of constant death threats and violence like that of Surrey's *Indo-Canadian Times* newspaper editor Tara Singh Hayer.

Hayer was left paralysed after an assassination attempt a decade ago by a Sikh fundamentalist youth, who was also a refugee claimant at the time.

"Now his daughter Rupinder has started a petition calling on the Canadian government to get tougher with immigrants and refugee claimants who are involved with terrorism or drug

Rupinder Hayer has founded a group called the Canadian Grassroots Community Association and collected more than

10,000 signatures in the past month alone asking the government for a policy of "zero tolerance to terrorism and illegal drug-dealing."

"Canada is our home and the home of our children and their children," the petition states. "This is not an immigration issue, however Canada must not allow abuse of our immigration system."

In an interview, Rupinder Hayer said her father still suffers constant pain from shattered pieces of bullets that doctors were unable to remove.

While that was one of the motivating factors behind her petition, she said the other was the 1985 Air India bombing, which left 329 dead and is believed to have been organized by Sikh separatists living in B.C. No one has yet been charged with the crime, Canada's worst mass murder.

"For me, this started because of Air India. Everybody said something should be done. But no one was doing anything."

NEWS from B1

CRIMES from B1

# OC finds lesson in n's current distress

awyers and judges wanted  
periences as prime minister.

most impossible to keep something secret."  
She used Clinton's problems as an example of how "economic globalization" — free trade in goods, services and information — is changing the society and removing the power of elites and governments to control knowledge and power.  
In a lively question period afterwards, many of the female lawyers and judges from around the world were curious about Campbell's experiences in 1993 as Canada's first and only female prime minister.  
After replacing Brian Mulroney as Conservative leader and prime minister, she led the government into a disastrous election defeat several months later. Democracy, she admitted, can be a "blunt instrument."  
Campbell said she and 21 other current or former female heads of government have



GLENN BAGLO/Vancouver Sun  
**KIM CAMPBELL:** Speaks to International Bar Association.

formed a new organization: The Council of Women World Leaders.

Council members, who met for the first time this April, intend to share their experiences with the next generation of female politicians.

"I'm one of two women who have ever participated in a G-7 Summit [of major industrialized nations] and I think that's shocking," she said. "One of my great interests in life is to go around the world encouraging women to be uppity."

# Students believe journalism school to be independent

Aw became one of Asia's most powerful media executives after inheriting the company in 1954 from his father.

Despite the show of support for the school from some of the industry's most eminent members, there are others who argue it's inappropriate for the program to be sponsored by a large media empire.

Student Jeffrey James, 32, said he pondered the role corporate sponsorship will play in higher education and the independence of the school. But after the first week of study, James said he's confident it won't influence class discussions.

"I don't think it's a legitimate concern. There's enough variety for the professors and the willingness to criticize," said the Hamilton native, who has a background in marketing, a degree in philosophy and wants to be an environmental reporter.

Student Johnny Nunan, 34, said without Sing Tao the school — which has been under discussion for more than 20 years — wouldn't be here today.

"You can look at the name and be somewhat wary, but the end product is we have a top-notch facility," said Nunan, of Dawson City, who worked odd jobs before completing his sociology degree.

Stephen Ward, a former Canadian Press bureau chief and now an associate professor at the school, said the Sing

Tao endowment paid for developing the program, the almost-completed 1,080-square-metre building and some future operating costs. But he said the classes are being run by UBC.

"I know of no interest by the Sing Tao people of wanting to interfere, and at the same time it would be the stupidest move because it would destroy the credibility of the school," said Ward, a 15-year journalist.

Ward says his priorities are to teach students to put news into context for readers, break investigative stories, write a balance of good-news and bad-news articles, and have high ethical standards.



While there are brilliant examples of excellent journalism in this country, some public-opinion polls have placed journalists lower than dog-catchers, lawyers, and absentee senators, he said.

Instead of a traditional campus newspaper, the Sing Tao students will run an on-line version published only on the Internet. Logan said that will prepare them for jobs in more alternative media forms, such as on-line newspapers, company websites, 24-hour all-news radio and television stations, or as technical writers in the software industry.

The University of Western

British Columbia has no history of journalism programs, haven't kept statistics on their graduates' rate of employment. But Catherine McKercher, supervisor of graduate studies in the journalism program, said about 90 per cent of their returning students got summer jobs in 1998 — more than earlier this decade when reporting jobs were scarce.

Nunan, who wants to be a sports or humour writer, believes he will find work in this "intellectual and exciting" field.

"We're in the information age," he said. "If your writing is good, you're always going to have a job."

# Police have no indication a serial killer is responsible

Families of some of the missing women said Thursday they welcome any step that focuses more attention on the cases.

"I think it's a very good thing that they're starting to put more people on to it and to try to find connections and to identify all of those cases," said Maggie DeVries, whose sister, Sarah, is among the missing.

"Maybe that will help them to figure out what's actually going on. It starts to seem more and more as if there's something happening. There's a pattern to this."

Inspector Fred Biddlecombe, who oversees the homicide, sex offence and missing persons sections, is not ruling out the possibility of a serial killer, but he said there is no evidence to suggest that at this point.

There hasn't been one vehicle or one suspect spotted with more than one of the women.

Biddlecombe said there are a number of possible reasons for the unsolved cases.

"They could have wanted to change their names for any number of reasons," he said. "They could have gone to another town with a new identity. They could have gone to the States. They could have married, and they don't want anyone to know what's going on."

Homicide Sergeant Geramy Field said it's also possible the women overdosed on drugs in another city, and are listed as an

in some [cases] of suicide, because you find a piece of clothing and a wallet on a bridge," Biddlecombe said. "Your suspicion is obviously that it may be a suicide, but you don't have a body. So it still is an open missing-persons file."

In one recent case, a woman's name was removed from the list after she was discovered living in Vancouver. Detectives determined that she had been reported missing in 1996 after she fled town with a man wanted on a warrant.

He died in a car crash in Winnipeg and she returned to Vancouver, and police were never notified.

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VANCOUVER SUN

## CORRECTION

correction to our advertisement of  
Thursday, September 17, 1998:

The maximum potential rebate of \$50  
should have read \$20 for \$399 fares.

The maximum potential rebate of \$70  
should have read \$50 for \$199 fares.

The maximum potential rebate of \$100  
should have read \$70 for \$299 fares.

Please accept our apologies for any  
inconvenience this may have caused.



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## Broken part on Lions Gate Bridge snarls rush-hour traffic

## A broken socket delays span opening

By GERRY BELAKT

When one of the hundreds of sockets holding up the Lions Gate Bridge mysteriously broke last Wednesday, engineers spent hours in the West End to decide whether the bridge was still safe to carry rush-hour traffic.

The bridge remained closed while they fired up their computers to sort out the intricacies of stress and load on the 62-year-old landmark, given that one of its cables was hanging limp.

It took a couple of hours in front of computer-generated models before they all agreed it was safe to let traffic roll again.

"We wanted to make sure everything was safe before we opened the bridge," said Geoff Freer, project director for the B.C. Transportation Financing Authority.

He said the authority regrets the inconvenience, but safety is paramount.

Instead of opening at 8 a.m. as previously scheduled, the bridge remained closed until 6:30 a.m., allowing a traffic jam on commuters, buses and commercial vehicles all streamed over to the Second Narrows Bridge.

For a while after the re-opening of the span, buses were still being re-routed following a misunderstanding on the condition of the bridge between Translink and American Bridge Services, the Pittsburgh company that's responsible for completing the \$90-million renovation project.

American Bridge's project manager, Ron Crockett, said he never closed the bridge to buses, he only issued a precautionary warning to Translink about the condition of the bridge.

"We never had divert buses to the other bridge," said Crockett.

The socket that caused all the fuss broke at 3:30 a.m. while workers were taking out the pin holding it in place.

The workers also mounted around the end of the bridge support cables and are attached in the bridge deck by bearings.

Workers were locating the pin in preparation for replacing the second section of bridge deck, which will be done overnight Saturday.

"This isn't broke," said Crockett, holding up the heavy piece of machinery used to remove the pin.

"We don't understand why you need to develop a new 100



WORKERS ARE REPLACING THE BROKEN SOCKET ON THE LIONS GATE BRIDGE. PHOTO BY GERRY BELAKT FOR THE VANCOUVER SUN.

**HOLDING THE CABLES:** Ron Crockett, project manager for the Lions Gate Bridge renovation project, shows the broken socket, which delayed opening of the bridge Wednesday morning.

But there could have been a pile-up of trucks that would have caused a traffic jam on the bridge, he said.

"Instead of the pin falling out, or the socket bending, it broke. It was an unexpected event," he said.

If another break, the bridge will be closed, although engineers could well develop a pin that might "not make this necessary," he said.

Crockett said engineers can use jacks to adjust the load on other support cables to compensate for the one that's broke.

All the original sockets and

## Minister hits school fee for sports fields

Ian Waddell is 'furious,' but the Vancouver school board says it has no choice but to charge an extra \$9 per child a season.

By IAN BRATT

B.C. Sports Minister Ian Waddell said he is "furious" that the Vancouver School Board has decided to charge a fee for children who use playing fields.

"In fairness, I'm not sure if it's a fair charge for the school board to make," Waddell said. "It's a tax on working families who can't afford to pay. It's a tax on working families who can't afford to pay."

Faced with a cash crunch, the Vancouver School Board decided this week to charge youth sport associations a fee to use playing fields. The charge will mean parents will pay an extra \$9 per season for each child who plays on community soccer or basketball teams for the use of grass playing fields.

The money would be used to help maintain about 30 heavily used fields, such as those at the school board's sports fields.

Waddell said the charge would be necessary if the school board continues its \$1.5-billion program.

"The Vancouver government has been very generous in giving them money for their fields and they have to pay for their own maintenance," Waddell said.

"When there is a fee, it's a fee for the school board to maintain the fields. It's a fee for the school board to maintain the fields."

The school board's decision was announced last week. Waddell said he is "furious" that the school board has decided to charge a fee for children who use playing fields.

There isn't any other way to

## Shot fired at home of Sikh moderate

Chief Singh had just been mentioned recently as a possible candidate in B.C. Street temple elections.

By KIM BILAL

Vancouver police are investigating a shooting in South Vancouver that occurred last week at the home of a Sikh moderate.

The shooting occurred at the home of a Sikh moderate who was a candidate in the upcoming B.C. Street temple elections.

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## Another woman added to list of missing

Jennifer Lynn Furlinger brings number of women who disappeared from the Downtown Eastside to 28.

By LINNAY KINES

Police have added another name to the list of women missing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Jennifer Lynn Furlinger, 28, was last seen in December 1999 near Cordova Street and Jackson Avenue in Vancouver.

She was reported missing by her boyfriend on March 30.

Her disappearance brings to 28 the number of women on the list of missing, giving the list a total of 28 women.

The numbers on the list have fluctuated over the years as police have removed or added names. When a \$100,000 reward was announced last summer, there were 28 women on the list.

Police subsequently determined the whereabouts of four of these women. Two were found alive and two had died — one of a drug overdose and the other of a heart attack.

Furlinger's name was added after police exhausted all other investigative means.

Vancouver police officer Lisa Ann Cribb said she was



LOST: Police have added Jennifer Lynn Furlinger, 28, to their list of women missing from the Downtown Eastside.

Furlinger, who is native to the area, has family in Ontario and is a 13-year-old son in the Lower Mainland. The boy was not living with his mother at the time of her disappearance, Cribb said.

Furlinger is described as 5'7", 120 pounds, with dark hair and blue eyes. She has a large mole on her right shoulder. Like the other missing women, she was involved in the sex trade and ad-

dicted to drugs.

Cribb said there are still four members of the missing persons review team working the case.

"Right now, they are in the process of conducting a full review of everything — reviewing all of the data and information received right from the very beginning of the investigation," Cribb said. "Obviously, the hope is that by going through it again with a fresh

mind, we can find out what happened."

The shooting occurred at the home of a Sikh moderate who was a candidate in the upcoming B.C. Street temple elections.

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# Police team to probe disappearances

By Keith Fraser  
Staff Reporter

Vancouver police have assigned eight officers to investigate an increasing number of missing women.

Const. Anne Drennan said yesterday there were five cases last

year and seven so far this year.

That compares with three cases in 1995 and one in 1996 in which women are still missing.

Detectives from the homicide and sexual-offences squad will be involved in a "working group" that will try to find any links between

the cases. Forty women reported missing since 1971 remain unaccounted for.

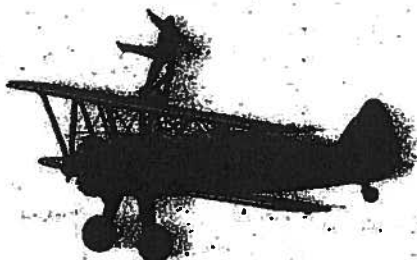
"This number usually goes down as time passes and more information is obtained, particularly when it pertains to women from the downtown east side,"

said Drennan. "They will disappear for a wide variety of reasons. Sometimes if they're involved in the sex trade they'll go to Calgary or Edmonton and just get out of Vancouver."

The officers will interview as many people as possible, to find

out where the missing women hung out and with whom. At the moment, there is no suspect in respect to the disappearances.

Vancouver police are also contacting other police agencies throughout B.C. and in Washington state for any potential leads.



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## Too many dying, too little done: Drug-user group

By Keith Fraser  
Staff Reporter

A group representing drug users is holding a protest today over the huge increase in overdose deaths.

The Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users says it plans to express its anger over government inaction on the issue with placards, coffins and banners at Main and Hastings.

"It's really a thing to understand the grief and outrage," said project coordinator Ann Livingston. "The lack of action around overdose deaths for the fifth or sixth year in a row is real-

ly distressing to drug users."

There have been 254 overdose deaths in B.C. so far this year and almost 2,000 in the past six years.

The group is lobbying for legally prescribed heroin and cocaine and accessible, adequate detox centres.

It also supports "safe injection sites" proposed in a draft report going to the Vancouver-Richmond health

Livingston said governments at the municipal, provincial and federal levels have failed to act. "I think there's blood on all their hands."

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# Reward urged to help solve Downtown Eastside killings

The deaths of prostitutes deserve as much attention as home invasions, an activist says.

CHAD SKELTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

The provincial government and police should put up a \$100,000 reward — the same amount recently offered to catch a pair of home invaders — to help find those responsible for the unsolved murders of dozens of prostitutes on the Downtown Eastside, an activist said Sunday.

"I think it's just as important an issue," said Don Larson, one of the organizers of an annual memorial vigil for murdered women on the Eastside, many of them Aboriginal prostitutes.

The Vancouver police board has offered \$30,000 to catch those responsible for a series of home invasions in Vancouver since 1995. Last week, Premier Glen Clark and Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh committed an additional \$70,000.

While police have steadfastly maintained they are investigating the murders on the Eastside vigorously, Larson said he be-

lieves they aren't being treated seriously. "It's definitely a vulnerable community. These are so-called throwaway people."

Larson said the number of unsolved murders in the Eastside wouldn't be tolerated elsewhere in the city.

Vancouver police spokesman Detective Constable Richard Akin said Sunday that he couldn't comment on the status of the investigation into the murders — only that it is ongoing. Investigating the murders is difficult, he said, because of the transient nature of the victims and the fact that they are likely killed by strangers in many cases.

Akin said the Vancouver police don't have the money to offer a major reward to catch those responsible for the murders, but that it's something the province might want to consider.

"It's probably a worthwhile idea," he said. "To get some kind of incentive to get people talking."



PETER BATTISTONI/Vancouver Sun  
**VIGIL:** A woman takes part in memorial for murdered women.

Dosanjh said he hadn't considered a reward in the Eastside cases, because police have not identified that one person, or group of people, is responsible.

Rewards are rarely given, he said, and pointed out that in the

case of home invasions, the police are seeking two individuals they believe are responsible for the 31 attacks on the elderly.

"If the First Nation women believe that there is a serial killer who has been killing First Nation women, I'd like to hear about it," Dosanjh said.

He said he agreed that the police need to do more work to solve the murder cases but dismissed charges that the crimes are not being taken seriously.

Police have repeatedly said that while they have not ruled out the possibility of a serial killer in the Eastside, they think it's unlikely. That's because there hasn't been one vehicle or one suspect description associated with more than one of the women.

About 20 people came out to the morning vigil at Crab Park Sunday — a vigil held every Valentine's Day. The vigil was followed by a march through the Eastside that included visits to the sites of several of the east side murders. The march has been held every year since 1991.

## Facilitator pro for Musqueam

A spokeswoman for the residents welcomes the federal government's offer.

PETER O'NEIL  
SUN OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA — Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart has offered the Musqueam band council and residents of Musqueam Park a government-appointed professional facilitator to help them iron out their differences.

Residents of Vancouver's Musqueam Park face huge losses in the value of their homes because of a massive court-sanctioned rent increase.

Stewart made the offer after a meeting Friday with Kerry-Lynne Findlay, a lawyer and president of Musqueam Park who was speaking for the residents.

Stewart said she hopes Findlay and the band can meet March 8 and agree to further meetings that would include a facilitator, who could provide non-binding advice and direction.

## Ceiling plaster falls in theatre during show

LARRY PLYNN  
VANCOUVER SUN

Most theatre owners would be happy to have a performer bring down the house. On Saturday, the Vogue Theatre was apologizing for it.

Country-folk artist Lucinda Williams was just starting her set before a sold-out crowd of almost 1,200 Friday at 10 p.m. when a plaster-sized chunk of plaster fell from the ceiling over the middle of the lower orchestra area, showering members of the audience and leaving ragged palm-sized chunks strewn across the centre aisle.

"I couldn't believe it," said theatre-goer Janie Tyerman of Langley, watching safely from the upper balcony. "I was wondering about the people below. It was coming down right over their heads. It shouldn't happen in a venue like that."

But the show went on — in fact, there was no obvious indication Williams even saw the incident — and no one immediately reported being injured.

"We haven't had any complaints," Gary Durban, the Vogue's operations manager, said Saturday in an interview. "That's what I can't believe after seeing the size of the pieces. I was concerned about it. We're very thankful of that and very apologetic. We obviously don't like stuff like this."

He blamed the incident on an employee who ventured into the area above the ceiling earlier Friday to install a new light truss. The employee accidentally loosened a piece of wire mesh and plaster, but never reported the incident to his boss.

Vancouver Sun pop music critic Kerry Gold said she observed chunks of ceiling plaster falling over the lower orchestra area during the November concert by Vancouver rock group 54-40. "When they started up, bits started falling and the band was looking up," she said.

But Durban emphasized employees now have strict orders to report any mishaps that occur when they walk above the ceiling. "It's dealt with. Everything is totally safe and groovy."

STALKING from B1

## Scholarship fund commemorates victim

A women's group plans to hold a candlelight vigil in memory of the student.

"I am haunted by the beautiful face of the young Poonam, whose life has been cut short," Hammell said, adding that stalking "is an act of psychological terrorism that can cause lasting harm."

Harminder Sanghera, of the Indian Mahila (Women's) Association, urged more communication among families so that young people feel comfortable talking to their parents when they are being harassed or stalked. "Everyone has the right to live without being subjected to violence," Sanghera said.

She said while stalking can affect anyone, statistics show that eight out of 10 of its victims are women. She said the association, which has fought violence against women for 25 years, is organizing a candlelight vigil in Poonam's memory at 2 p.m. Feb. 21 outside the Vancouver Art Gallery to create more awareness.

As well, the association along with the women's studies department at Langara College is holding a panel discussion on stalking at the college Feb. 23.

On Sunday, the Randhawa family and a representative of Sir Winston Churchill secondary, where Poonam had been in Grade 12, announced the es-



IAN SMITH/Vancouver Sun  
**MOURNERS SIGN:** Worshippers at Ross Street Temple, where there was a memorial for victims Poonam Randhawa and Peter Grewal, sign petitions for maximum sentences for those responsible.

establishment of the Poonam Randhawa Memorial Scholarship, the first of which will be awarded this year. Donations to the trust fund can be sent to the school at 7055 Heather Street.

School official Nirmaljit Kaur Sandhu said Churchill students

and staff are still struggling to overcome their grief at the loss of the popular student.

"Poonam will be remembered forever as one who brought joy to Churchill," Sandhu said.

FOREST from B1

## Logging and water concerns drive park designation debate

ready believe that it is a park and a park is the best way to manage it. This is some of the finest real estate on the planet."

A report from Johnny Carline, chief executive officer of the Greater Vancouver regional district, warned that the public could be more strenuous in resisting plans for a reservoir if the forest becomes a regional park.

However, both committees were also told Friday that the forest may not be flooded for decades, if ever.

ity could take place. And it's a highly visible face of Seymour.

But Richmond Councillor Corisande Percival-Smith, who is a member of the water committee, maintained there was no reason to change the "demonstration forest" designation.

"It's a straightforward thing. This is a [water] reserve. Let's leave it at that."

The Seymour, Capilano and Coquitlam reservoirs currently supply the region's drinking water.

TRANSIT from B1

## Puil not afraid of commuter backlash

voters on a long-term transportation vision that emphasizes transit improvements at the expense of vehicle owners.

Kingsbury raised the issue Saturday, saying the GVTA should make it a priority to educate the public on the heavy subsidy being paid for automobile use

interview. The public can expect to hear the same kind of message presented on the weekend by Puil and regional transportation officials to sell the region's councillors on the GVTA's 1999 draft budget.

The transportation authority

"We're to facilitate a contract to deal with circumstances Musqueam the reality."

Findlay said to hire a crisis site Park lease independent ward and I out our iss

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## NEWS IN CONTEXT

### JUDICIAL WATCHDOG MUST WALK A FINE LINE

LISA FITTERMAN  
SOUTHIAM NEWSPAPERS

MONTREAL — Who judges the judges?

The spectacle of one judge being sentenced to three years in prison for money-laundering, and of another, outraged that his sexual assault ruling was overturned and criticized by the Supreme Court of Canada, writing a public and hurtful letter, has thrust the Canadian Judicial Council — the ultimate judge of federally appointed magistrates — into the spotlight.

Jeannie Thomas of the council is rather overwhelmed these days, thanks to Quebec Superior Court Justice Robert Flahiff, the convicted money launderer, and John McClung of the Alberta Court of Appeal, whose ill-conceived response to Supreme Court Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé's criticisms touched off a furore.

Despite McClung's apology Monday, the council announced it will begin a review of his conduct after receiving several complaints.

The council also is investigating whether or not Flahiff should be kicked off the bench because he can no longer carry out his duties, as set out under the Judges Act.

Founded in 1971, this is the first time since John Blenvenne of the Quebec Superior Court made his outrageous observations 38 months ago about the Holocaust and the vengeful nature of women that the council has had to respond to so much, so fast.

Said Quebec Bar official Leon Bedard: "I have been working here for 25 years and I have never seen incidents of this magnitude occurring all at once."

Normand Laberge of the Canadian Bar Association noted that both the McClung and Flahiff cases represent firsts, and were inconceivable in the past.

Think of the council as a body that monitors, educates and disciplines the 1,000 federally appointed judges in Canada, akin to a college of physicians or a bar association, but with limited powers and only one possible sanction — a recommendation to fire a judge outright.

SEE THE COURTS, A6

### Twenty women missing; action demanded

DAVID HOGGEN  
and LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver prostitutes and their advocates are calling for a \$100,000 reward to help catch whoever is responsible for the disappearance of more than 20 women they fear have fallen prey to a serial killer.

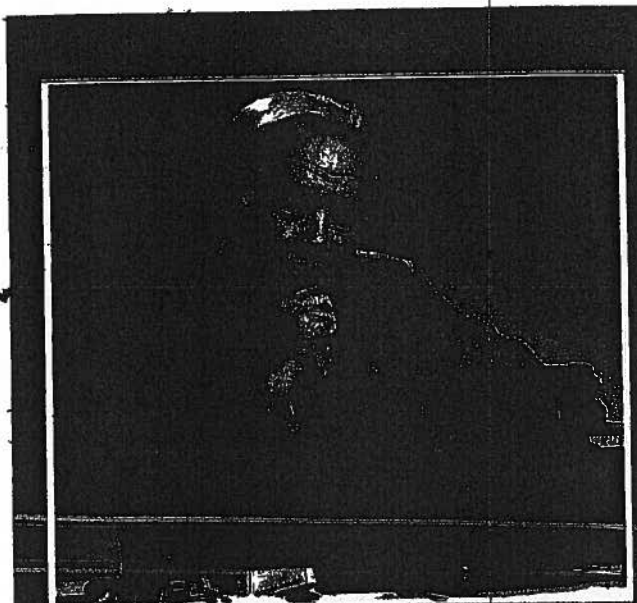
In urging the city to put up the money, the women also called on Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen to increase the number of officers investigating the cases.

"These women have completely disappeared from the face of the earth. If they are not murdered, where are they?" asked Barb Daniel, a director of Grandma's House, a safe house for prostitutes.

SEE MISSING, A2

THE MEAN STREETS, A12-13

# RCMP raids gambling house at site of future charity casino



JEFF LEE  
VANCOUVER SUN

The provincial government awarded one of its new charity casino concessions to a North Burnaby hotel that was already under investigation by both the RCMP and the government's own gambling audit office for illegal gambling.

On Tuesday police raided the North Burnaby Inn and shut down the Lumbermen's Club poker room, arresting 10 employees and detaining at least 50 patrons.

The raid was a result of a five-month investigation, by the RCMP and the provincial gambling audit and investigation office, prompted by several complaints from the public.

But at the same time the police and GAIO were investigating the club, the provincial government was considering a proposal to give the hotel one of its coveted casino licences.

On Dec. 17 — two months after the covert investigation began — Employment and Investment Minister Michael Farnworth gave the hotel approval in principle to open a charity casino. His decision was based in part on the recommendations of an evaluation team of various gaming agencies that included GAIO.

It is unclear whether the minister was aware at the time that the hotel was under police scrutiny for illegal gaming.

Farnworth is in Latin America and cannot be reached for comment. Steve Letts, director of GAIO, said he could not comment.

The hotel's casino application was not without controversy. Burnaby council twice rejected the site, saying it did not fit in with local plans for an old-style shopping district.

However, despite the opposition — and its own earlier promise not to approve casinos in communities that do not have local support — the province gave the site approval in principle.

At the time, Farnworth said the casino would go ahead only if council agreed to rezone the hotel site. Council indicated it would not agree to the change.

Since that time the application has been in limbo while the hotel's owner, Steve Ng, considered his options. Ng did not return calls.

SEE CASINO, A2

Ten employees are arrested, 50 patrons detained after police shut down the Lumbermen's Club poker room in the North Burnaby Inn.

JEFF LEE  
VANCOUVER SUN

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It is unclear whether the minister was aware at the time that the hotel was under police scrutiny for illegal gaming.

Farnworth is in Latin America and cannot be reached for comment. Steve Letts, director of GAIO, said he could not comment.

The hotel's casino application was not without controversy. Burnaby council twice rejected the site, saying it did not fit in with local plans for an old-style shopping district.

However, despite the opposition — and its own earlier promise not to approve casinos in communities that do not have local support — the province gave the site approval in principle.

At the time, Farnworth said the casino would go ahead only if council agreed to rezone the hotel site. Council indicated it would not agree to the change.

Since that time the application has been in limbo while the hotel's owner, Steve Ng, considered his options. Ng did not return calls.

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VAUGHN PALMER, A3  
HE SET THE STANDARD FOR JOURNALISM, B5

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# Privilege, despair and death

Sarah deVries had a lot going for her: an artistic talent, good looks and a good home in West Point Grey. But she was also attracted to the life on the edge — like a number of Vancouver women who are lost, feared dead.

"Will they remember me when I'm gone, or would their lives just carry on?"

Sarah deVries, from her journals.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

She was always writing, always drawing. Even as a child, Sarah deVries had a pen or pencil in her hand, filling notebooks with words and pictures.

"She couldn't stop drawing," her sister Maggie deVries says. "She wanted materials for her art, and if she didn't have any, then she'd just be drawing on a napkin. If she had paints, she'd be painting."

Before she went missing, Sarah deVries had begun work on an alphabet book for her daughter Jeanie.

"She also wrote and couldn't stop writing — no matter what was happening in her life," Maggie says. "She wrote books and books full."

"Unfortunately, a lot of them are gone. I don't know where they are."

Like Sarah herself, they have vanished, lost to Vancouver's streets along with the 19 other women who have gone missing in the past four years.

"What's happened to Sarah, it's just sort of floats," Maggie says. "I can't explain it."

They grew up together in West Point Grey, Sarah the youngest of four and the adopted daughter of a University of B.C. professor and a head nurse at Vancouver General Hospital.

A pretty little girl with curly black hair, Sarah deVries had a sense of humor and an inquisitive laugh.

She had a real zest for life," her mother Pat deVries remembers. "She loved fun; she loved excitement. I guess that's what got her into trouble."

Her birth mother had been a skydiver and when Pat deVries learned of that fact many years later, she exclaimed: "Oh Sarah, no wonder."

Early on, she displayed the same strong will that would define her character in later years.

"I can remember her very clearly, sitting on the couch holding a book upside down," Pat says. "And, I mean, woe betide you if you suggested she wasn't reading. She was four or five at the time, and everybody else in the house could, and it irked her that she was the youngest and in some senses the least powerful person, I guess."

She attended Queen Mary elementary school on Vancouver's west side. She took up horseback riding. "She was gorgeous on a horse," Pat recalls. "Straight back. She was a very alive person."

Nobody can really say what went wrong, or when. "You can't pin it down," Maggie says.

Sarah was nine when her parents split. She remained with her mother. "She was the youngest in the family... and the others had a little more of our more stable years," Pat says. "So in that, in the process of the emotional turmoil that both of us were in, and older kids were in, I guess her needs were neglected."

She was also a black girl in a white family in West Point Grey. "She met up with prejudice," Pat says.

By the time she was 12 or 13, she began running away to Downtown Eastside. "She went down there looking for some sort of connection and went with a girl who was trouble," Pat says.

She would return home for periods of time, occasionally in police custody. But she was already experimenting with drugs.

"I remember feeling helpless."



**SLICES OF LIFE:** A joyful Sarah deVries holds her baby son, Ben (top). Above right, Sarah is pictured with her grandmother, Flora Little, mother Pat and sister Maggie. Above left, three photos depicting Sarah as a toddler, schoolgirl and in her 20s.

Maggie says. "I remember the first time Mom called me and told me Sarah had run away, and how frightening it was. She was my baby sister; she's eight years younger than me."

Eventually, she left for good, although she kept in touch on important occasions. "We'd see her at Christmas and around her birthday," Maggie recalls. "And she would always talk to Mom on Mom's birthday. You know, she might not get the day, but she'd get close. She always, always remembered those things and maintained contact."

Only once did she stay away for an extended period, and then, finally, Pat received a call from St. Paul's hospital on Dec. 22, 1990.

"They said, 'We have your daughter here in labour,'" Maggie recalls. "It was startling."

Pat went to the hospital and

stayed with Sarah until she gave birth to a daughter of her own. Jeanie deVries was born addicted to heroin and cocaine, and after a stay at Sunnyhill Hospital, she went home to live with her grandmother.

That same year, Sarah wound up in jail, and for the first time, her family was hopeful.

"She went through withdrawal cold turkey there, which is pretty brutal," Maggie says. "But she was off drugs. So she did high school equivalency courses. She painted. She put on weight. She just seemed really good."

Oddly, jail was the best thing to happen to Sarah in a long time, and her family planned to take her home. Then corrections officials discharged her a day early.

"They just gave her the cab fare," Maggie says. "They never told us she was getting out. So she just took a cab straight

down town. She returned to life on the streets, selling sex to feed a drug habit. And Pat and Jeanie eventually moved to Ontario, where they still live with Pat's sister, children's author Jean Little.

A few years later, Sarah gave birth to a second child, Benjamin, and after much debate, Pat decided to raise him as well.

"She just felt she had to," Maggie says. "She felt that for both of them — here's a relative, an actual blood relative. Whereas otherwise, neither of them would ever know anyone that was actually related to them biologically."

It has proved to be a prescient decision.

Sarah deVries disappeared a year ago next month at the age of 28. She was working the corner of Hastings and Princess

Streets in the early hours of April 14. A friend was on the opposite corner. She got picked up first, and by the time she circled the block, Sarah had disappeared.

Nobody has seen her since. She has never contacted Maggie or Pat, never called on her birthday, Mother's Day or Christmas.

She missed both her children's birthdays, and left all of her belongings behind.

Pat and Maggie both believe Sarah is dead.

"She was a very generous-hearted person, and cared about her friends," Pat says. "She would never have gone off and left us not knowing."

So later this week, Pat will fly to Vancouver to visit Maggie, and they will attend a meeting at First United Church to plan a memorial service for Sarah and the other missing women. The service will be held May 12,

which would have been Sarah's 30th birthday.

Maggie has already been in contact with the families of four missing women and hopes more will call her in the coming weeks to join in planning and attending the service. "Not many other people can understand what this is like," Maggie says.

Afterwards, they plan to walk to Crab Park where engraved words on a boulder commemorate the people who have lost their lives on the Downtown Eastside. People like Sarah.

"She's gone," Maggie says. "And I need to put a shape to those feelings and be public about them. Planning something like this is something I can do."

"I can't find the person who did it. I can't bring her back. But I can at least do something to show that she mattered."



## The missing: Tragic portraits of women from the Downtown Eastside



**BECK, Cindy Louise** White female, 33 years, 5 foot 8 inches (172 cm), 110 pounds (49 kg), long auburn hair, brown eyes. Last seen approximately September 1997



**EGAN, Stella Catherine** White female, 20 years, 5 foot 7 inches (170 cm), 105 pounds (47 kg), blond shoulder-length hair, blue eyes. Last seen July 1998



**FREY, Marlene Lee** White female, 25 years, 5 foot 8 inches (173 cm), 120 pounds (54 kg), shoulder-length brown hair, hazel eyes. Originally reported missing in Campbell River but disappeared in Vancouver. Last seen August 1997



**CONZALEZ, Catherine Louise** White female, 30 years, 5 foot 3 inches (165 cm), 120 pounds (54 kg), long light brown hair, blue eyes. Last seen March 1995



**GURNEY, Michelle** Native Indian female, 19 years, 5 foot 4 inches (162 cm), 100 pounds (45 kg), long black hair, brown eyes. Last seen December 1998



**HALL, Inga Monique** White female, 46 years, 5 foot 5 inches (165 cm), 135 pounds (61 kg), long brown hair, green eyes. Last seen February 1998



**HALLMARK, Helen Mae** White female, 32 years, 5 foot 5 inches (165 cm), 140 pounds (63 kg), long dark blond hair, hazel eyes. Last seen June 1997



**HENRY, Janet Gall** Native Indian female, 27 years, 5 foot 1 inch (150 cm), 115 pounds (50 kg), brown hair, brown eyes, glasses. Last seen June 1997



**HOLYK, Thynia Marie** Native Indian female, 23 years, 5 foot 6 inches (168 cm), 115 pounds (52 kg), long black curly hair, brown eyes. Last seen in October 1996



**JARDINE, Angela Rebecca** White female, 28 years, 5 foot 6 inches (168 cm), 155 pounds (69 kg), short curly dyed blond hair, brown eyes. Last seen November 1998



**KNIGHT, Catherine Mary** Native Indian female, 22 years, 5 foot 4 inches (163 cm), 100 pounds (45 kg), light brown shoulder-length hair in a shag cut, brown eyes. Last seen April 1995



**KOSKI, Kerry Lynn** White female, 39 years, 5 foot 4 inches (162 cm), 90 pounds (40 kg), shoulder-length blond hair, green eyes, looked malnourished and was underweight. Last seen January 1998



**LANE, Stephanie Marie** Black / Native Indian female, 22 years, 5 foot 4 inches (162 cm), 115 pounds (51 kg), long black wavy hair, brown eyes. Last seen January 1997



**BEHNICK, Diana** White female, 25 years, 5 foot 2 inches (158 cm), 100 pounds (45 kg), brown hair usually in a ponytail, brown eyes. Last seen December 1995



**MURDOCK, Jacqueline Marie** Native Indian female, 27 years, 5 foot 4 inches (163 cm), 130 pounds (59 kg), black hair, brown eyes. Was originally reported missing in Prince George. Last seen August 1997



**PREVOST, Agn. Nathalie** Native Indian female, 25 years, 5 foot 4 inches (162 cm), 108 pounds (49 kg), black shoulder-length hair, brown eyes. Last seen September 1997 but not reported missing until March 1998



**SPENCE, Dorothy Anne** Native Indian female, 36 years, 5 foot 6 inches (168 cm), 130 pounds (59 kg), long black hair, brown eyes. Last seen August 1995



**WILLIAMS, Olivia Gale** Native Indian female, 32 years, 5 foot 4 inches (163 cm), 125 pounds (55 kg), long black hair, brown eyes. Last seen in December 1996 and reported missing in July 1997

# 'Who we will not see tomorrow'

Street workers say society is not doing enough to rescue the troubled, young females who end up mired in drugs and prostitution on the Downtown Eastside. Police say they actively pursue those who abuse the women. For many women, concern comes too late.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Every night, women stop at the WISH drop-in centre on East Hastings before going out to work the streets. And most nights, Joanna Russell gives them each a hug and, like a police staff sergeant to departing troops, urges them to be careful out there.

"And every night when they leave the centre, we're at a point, or at least I am," Russell says, "where we wonder who we're not going to see tomorrow."

With each passing month, the list of the disappeared continues to grow. Vancouver city police have 20 outstanding files on missing "street-involved" women since 1995 — 11 from last year alone.

All lived on the Downtown Eastside, and all were involved in drug, sex trade. None of them took personal belongings with them, nor have they picked up welfare cheques or contacted children and family since disappearing.

One of the latest women to disappear, Marcella Helen Creison, normally called her mother daily. She was last seen Dec. 27.

Just what is happening to all these women remains a subject of heated debate. The police are currently analysing the cases to see if the numbers of unsolved files are higher than previous years, or whether some of these women can be expected to re-surface in another city.

But people and agencies on the Downtown Eastside are convinced that something has gone terribly wrong in their community, and that many of the women are dead.

"This is the worst it's been in the 4 1/2 I've been there," Russell, coordinator of the drop-in centre at First United Church, says.

"I think it's the obvious. There are predators. There are lots of predators out there, and these people are so vulnerable."

John Turvey, executive director of the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society, said women have been going missing for so long, that "it doesn't come as any surprise when people start throwing numbers around that sound like the Green River Killer."

"There are predators. There are lots of predators out there, and these people are so vulnerable."

Joanna Russell

The agencies are calling for a police task force to investigate the missing files, as well as any unsolved murders of women whose bodies have been found dumped in outlying areas.

"If these women were not street-involved, there would be an outpouring of concern and immediate action to find their killer," Jamie Lee Hamilton of Grandma's House safe centre for prostitutes, said this week.

"What are the police waiting for?" Police officials maintain that they have been doing things. They added a second officer — Detective Constable Lori Shenher — to the missing persons section last summer to focus almost exclusively on the outstanding files.

But Shenher and her partner also carry other missing persons cases, and neighbourhood agencies question whether one, or even two people, can handle a workload that includes liaising with families and the media, attending community meetings, contacting other police agencies and still

investigating 20 separate files. Deb McEans, coordinator of the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Safety Office, praised Shenher's hard work and sincerity. "But it's fairly overwhelming for one person to deal with, even for two people to deal with," McEans said.

"I think there has to be a task force put together and some effort put into finding who is doing this," adds Russell. "These are human beings. They're daughters. They're mothers. They're children. They're not throwaways." Sergeant Geramy Field, who oversees the missing persons sections, says police have done extensive work on each of the files. But detectives have found nothing that links them beyond the fact all were involved in drugs or the sex trade and frequented the Downtown Eastside.

All the cases have been submitted to the RCMP for entry on a national computer system for tracking serial killers and rapists.

The cases have also been entered on the Canadian police information computer and its counterpart in the United States.

Investigators have requested dental charts on all the women, and the vast majority have been entered on police computers.

Field also said investigators have interviewed family members and any known friends or associates of the women, in some cases, more than once. During a recent sweep of the Downtown Eastside, police found two women who had been missing for several weeks.

In addition, the missing persons detectives have been liaising with vice and homicide squads, the provincial unsolved homicide unit and a number of RCMP serious crime sections.

The police investigation is usually hampered by the fact that many of the



**CREISON, Marcella Helen** 20 years old, 5 foot 4 inches (163 cm), 120 pounds (54 kg), with light brown hair and brown eyes. Last seen December 1998

women disappeared weeks or, in some cases, months before anyone reported them missing.

This makes it extremely difficult for investigators to pinpoint when or where the woman was last seen, let alone find witnesses.

Further complicating matters is that the women are among the most vulnerable in society.

Sadly, Turvey says, the women are often young and unsophisticated, impaired by drugs or alcohol and work poorly lit industrial areas where there is no traffic and little chance of anyone seeing them get into a car with strangers. In some cases, they also have a mental disability combined with a drug problem — the so-called

"dual diagnoses" all too common on the Downtown Eastside.

"So what predators do is they literally seem to have a profile of what constitutes increased vulnerability," Turvey says. "And they'll literally cruise the street until they find a potential target who might be really young, drug impaired or alcohol impaired, non-white or dual diagnosed."

As much as the term "serial killer" grabs headlines and inspires fear, the truth is that there are numerous predators attacking sex trade workers on a regular basis.

A review of Vancouver Sun files shows at least 25 different men charged with killing prostitutes in B.C. over the past 17 years.

In the past month alone, Vancouver city police arrested two men suspected in a series of sexual assaults against women in the sex trade. One of the men, 26-year-old Anthony B. [redacted], was in his downtown hotel for hours while he assaulted them.

"We've got a population group that is being chronically murdered and maimed," Turvey said. "We know they are. We know they will be in the future, and somehow we've made a choice that their safety is not a priority."

"And the really scary thing is that some place we're comfortable with it. That's what's scary."

### Contact Numbers

Vancouver Police Department  
Detective Constable Lori Shenher:  
717-2634

CrimStoppers: 604-TIPS (8477)

Vancouver Sun  
Reporter Lindsay Kines:  
604-2198 or by e-mail:  
lkines@pacpress.southwest.net



# s must adhere her standards

ons are so infrequent they should not lessen  
urts. But recent incidents show that judges  
tongues as well as they guard our rights.

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Obviously, society confers special and solemn power on judges. It is the unwise judge, like Judge McClung — as it is the unwise politician — who forgets that paradoxically he or she is far more vulnerable than the most humble citizen in the event of a single misstep or maladroitness in public.

Judges guard our rights. They must also guard their tongues. That rule should be reiterated in the wake of the McClung affair.

## Investigation of Clark must be open and fair

No more rights and, certainly, no fewer. Ernie Quantz, assistant deputy attorney-general in the criminal justice division, properly appointed retired B.C. Court of Appeal Justice Martin Taylor as special prosecutor in the investigation of Premier Glen Clark's ties with the owner of a Burnaby club raided by police and shut down for allegedly running illegal gambling games.

Mr. Clark will have all the protections of due process available to any citizen. Mr. Quantz initiated the investigation about which Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh was informed on Tuesday. That independence makes transparent the arm's-length nature of the investigation. Nothing must be allowed to taint this matter.

## Jack Webster will be missed

The thick accent made it clear he came from somewhere else. But no one personified British Columbia's raucous, hothouse character more than Jack Webster.

There was never a dull air when Mr. Webster was in front of the mike or a camera. His wit and opinions became a familiar part of province's public life between the Second World War and Expo 86.

He loved a good story. And for almost four decades his jackhammer voice was an integral part of B.C.'s story. His acid brogue will be missed.

## LETTER OF THE DAY

### on oaths to reinforce moral behaviour

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ance mechanism is a contract  
without a price — an unen-  
forceable agreement.  
When justice is exercised,  
evidence is not always offered  
willingly. Even perjury charges  
are, like loss of trust, depen-  
dent upon discovery of decep-  
tion. Centuries of practice have  
taught us that an unmolested  
witness will be compelled only  
by moral suasion — the con-  
tract that binds the perpetua-  
tor of personal belief system

of moral behaviour. An oath.  
According to Judge Brosi  
Nutting, the oath used in legal  
proceedings is no longer com-  
patible with the multicultural  
character of Canadian society.  
Is this suggesting that the oath  
is exclusive to our cultural tra-

ditions? A Muslim will make a  
qasam. Judge Muttling's young  
aboriginal man used the sweet-  
grass ritual to bind his con-  
science.  
What is apparent is that the  
Christian oath and the pres-  
ence of the Bible have become  
too confining. But to prop the  
straw man up for another beat-  
ing is unnecessary.  
Most of us still pass the buck  
to the divine when our integrity  
needs backstopping. As for a  
more encompassing symbol in  
the ritual of self-binding, we  
could look to the Greeks and Ro-  
mans. They swore fidelity to the  
truth on that supreme instru-  
ment of justice — the sword.

GREGORY PETERSON  
Delta



## WHERE THE BUCKS STOP IN CREDIT UNION MERGER

In every age, during times of turmoil and opportunity, history has documented the success of those individuals who would dare (Surrey Metro ouster petition publicity stunt, president says, March 2). The naysayers have been less fondly recalled.

Twenty-five years ago in B.C. alone there were more than 200 credit unions. Five years ago, there was just over 100. The number is still dropping fast. Ask yourself why.

Opportunity is a wonderful word. It is akin to spotting the brass ring when riding the merry-go-round. Unless you are certain you will fall off your horse in the attempt, who could possibly hold you back from going for it? The assertion that you are quite comfortable with the ride just the way it is could lead to serious misgivings when you come to a complete stop.

Negativism is a contagious and counterproductive disease.

The prime function of a chief executive officer has nothing to do with the day-to-day duties of running the company. There are myriad minions to perform these tasks. The CEO is retained to be a visionary and to secure the needs of the company, not just for the next year, but for the next five-10 years.

I salute Surrey Metro Savings president Lloyd Craig for fulfilling his mandate and envisioning an opportunity for change and growth. I embrace any situation which not only retains jobs, but creates more avenues of challenge and opportunity.

There is no such thing as standing still any more. If you are not growing, you are finished.

FRANK SCHINDELKA  
Self-Directed RRSP  
Department  
Surrey Metro Savings

## LETTERS

Imagine waking one morning to read the prime minister's announcement that in three weeks time Canada would merge with the U.S. A couple of days later a mailout arrives which says: "Big is better." No prior media discussion, no studies, no electoral mandate, no public clamour for change.

This is what has happened to members of Surrey Metro Savings. While other banks were downsizing services and people to the point of oblivion, our credit union was still giving us full services with a personal touch. You felt connected to a live institution and involved in its future.

This merger with Canada Trust has got to be some kind of April Fool's Day joke, but it isn't that time of year yet. You recall similar merger plans by the big banks a year ago and how they were soundly trounced by the public and, thankfully, our minister of finance. Surely somebody must have learned some lessons.

E.O. WIELER  
Surrey

## SARAH DEVRIES WAS A VERY CARING PERSON

I would like to thank Lindsay Kines for writing the story of Sarah deVries, showing her very human and caring side, and about the other missing women in the Downtown Eastside (Privilege, despair and death, Insight, March 3). Sarah did indeed have many, many friends. I have never met anyone who touched me as deeply.

Sarah, whom I met about 5½ years ago, was a very dear friend who disappeared about six hours after she left my

home, leaving her six journals and belongings in my care. Her journals tell a horrid story about the streets of the Downtown Eastside. About how she felt about the way working women were treated.

I am not able yet to part with her journals or belongings. It is still too painful. I thank Sarah's mom, Pat, and her sister, Maggie, for being here for me when I was in despair.

I will never forget the last words we spoke when Sarah left that April 13, 1998: "Be cool my friend. I'll call you."

And then she disappeared.  
WAYNE LENG  
Vancouver

## WE ARE SATIATED WITH APEC INFORMATION

I am baffled. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation inquiry tab is at \$1.3 million and rising — probably exponentially. What for? I think we have been saturated with media coverage on a never-ending story. Yes, the RCMP reacted harshly and, yes, it was unfortunate and, yes, they should know better next time. But what else of significance am I going to learn after the next \$1.3 million of our tax dollars are spent? Enough already.

REEMA FARIS  
West Vancouver

Letters must contain the author's name, address and a daytime telephone number. Maximum length is 300 words. We reserve the right to edit, condense or reject any contribution.

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# WER MAINLAND

THE VANCOUVER SUN

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1999

## SkyTrain station expected to be boost for Coquitlam

A Coquitlam councillor says the site, currently a parking lot at Burnaby's Lougheed Mall, rates the best among several choices.

SCOTT SIMPSON  
VANCOUVER SUN

A new SkyTrain station at Burnaby's Lougheed Mall is expected to boost retail and residential development across the street in Coquitlam.

Coquitlam Councillor Jim Stangier said the chosen location, now the site of a two-storey parking lot paralleling North Road on the east side of the mall, is the best choice among several that were considered.

Lougheed Mall sits directly on the Burnaby side of North Road, the arterial highway that represents the border between Burnaby and Coquitlam.

Like many municipal border areas, the North Road corridor contains several large tracts of land that are underused or are the sites of outdated shopping plazas.

The Burnaby side of North Road is clustered with high-rise residential towers and the mall itself, while it has been clear to

Coquitlam planners that their side of North Road was going to languish until SkyTrain arrived.

Construction of the line, running from New Westminster to Lougheed Mall, through Burnaby to Commercial Drive and Broadway in Vancouver, is expected to begin in May and could be finished by late next year, or early in 2001.

Since the project was announced last year by Premier Glen Clark, Coquitlam planners and politicians have worried

the station would be situated too far west of North Road to do Coquitlam much good.

Monday afternoon's unveiling at a Burnaby elementary school near the mall was the first time Coquitlam councillors got a chance to see the final plans.

"Out of all the options that we were given, besides having it in Coquitlam, this is the best one," Stangier said, adding that the city still wants to see walkways over North Road to permit pedestrian access to the station from Coquitlam.

The Rapid Transit Project Office is proposing that the station

SEE SKYTRAIN, B3



GILLIAN GUESS: No date has been set for contempt hearing.

## Guess accused of violating order imposed by trial judge

Last year, she was convicted of obstruction of justice.

NEAL HALL  
SUN COURT REPORTER

Disgraced former juror Gillian Guess could face more time in jail for defying a judge's order not to publicly disclose the subject of an in-camera hearing held last year.

Special prosecutor Joe Wood began contempt-of-court proceedings against Guess after she disclosed some of the material on a cable television show and her Web site on the Internet last month.

Guess, who was convicted last year of obstruction of justice for having an affair with accused killer Peter Gill during his 1995 murder trial, will have

SEE GUESS, B3

## B.C. can't purchase Burns Bog, owner says

LARRY PYNN  
VANCOUVER SUN

Greater Vancouver residents re deluding themselves if they think the B.C. government is going to buy Burns Bog in Delta or that development of the site is a dead issue, according to one of the owners of the property.

In his first interview since Burns Bog became an environmental cause celebre, Nick Westeinde told *The Vancouver Sun* that it's obvious the province is in no financial position to buy the 2,200 hectares owned by Delta Fraser Properties.

And even if the province had \$5 million to spare — the government's appraised value of the property — the company couldn't sell for that, saying the site is worth "hundreds of millions" if used to grow cranberries or for sand mining.

"It's a non-starter," Westeinde said. "It's not practical or possible. Everyone knows the government doesn't have the money."

At a news conference with the province Feb. 3, Delta Fraser Properties proposed to donate 200 hectares of the 2,200-hectare site for conservation, 40 hectares as a new site for the Pacific National Exhibition and develop the rest for housing, light industry and an entertainment district.

But developers now insist the plan is only preliminary and they are anxious to work with Delta municipality on a plan that is both environmentally and financially acceptable to all parties.

SEE DELTA, B3



DEVELOPMENT STILL AN OPTION: Nick Westeinde and Russ Anthony of Delta Properties stand on Burns Bog. Westeinde says he wants to see an acceptable development proposal for the site.

ROB KROTT/VANCOUVER SUN

## Reappearance of missing woman stuns relative

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

The letter arrived last week, and Felix Parnell has been walking around in a daze ever since.

"I couldn't believe it," he said Monday. "My heart was just pounding really hard. Same with everybody in our family. My wife was just shaking."

A year ago, Parnell went to Vancouver city police and reported his niece, Ada Prevost, missing — one of 20 women who have disappeared from Vancouver's streets in the past four years.

Ever since, he has been hoping to find her.

"For a long time though ... deep inside, I felt that she was gone — that she was dead," Parnell said Monday.

Then, a letter arrived from Arizona State Hospital, and now he is preparing to bring her home alive.

"It's wonderful," Parnell said. "We're in a daze and can't be-

SEE FOUND, B3

The Arts and Crafts Movement...



ASKED THE UNIONS MONDAY TO come back to the bargaining table.

However, CSSEA spokesman Kent Highnam said "the message from government is it's the same monetary offer that was on the table before the strike."

SKYTRAIN from B1

## Coquitlam hopes to encourage redevelopment

be developed as a well-lit, inviting public area that includes coffee shops and other attractions — as well as a bus depot and a commuter drop-off.

That would complement Burnaby's plans to see a major redevelopment and upgrade of the mall itself.

Coquitlam's challenge is twofold.

In order to meet the population commitments that the city made to the Greater Vancouver regional district in order to attract SkyTrain in the first place, the city will have to encourage a surge in high-density residential development in the vicinity.

The city will also encourage redevelopment of aging retail areas in the vicinity — such as the Cariboo Plaza mall located kitty-corner to Loughheed Mall.

Port Moody Councillor Joe Trasolini was less enthusiastic about the plan for the station, saying it does not appear to take into account Port Moody council's request that a future SkyTrain route between Loughheed Mall and Coquitlam Centre avoid Port Moody.

For nearby Burnaby residents, who also opposed other locations, the outstanding issue is that the station not become an attraction for criminals.

Dennis Daciuk, who lives in a nearby condominium, said he's happy he'll have the opportunity to leave his car at home and take SkyTrain downtown.

But his enthusiasm is tempered by a concern that the station could become a trouble spot for the community.

THERE ISN'T any more money to spend."

About 1,000 workers and supporters attended a rally Monday outside the Vancouver public library to hear representatives from the four unions involved — the B.C. Government and

service employees' union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Hospital Employees' Union and the Health Sciences Association.

Members in all four unions voted over 90 per cent for the provincewide strike in an effort

to improve wages and benefits. They have been without a contract since April 1, 1998.

At the rally — which coincided with International Women's Day — participants were told 87 per cent of the striking employees are women, working in the

centre who had been there for 25 years but she'll be retiring soon with no pension," said Sanghera. She said it was difficult for the workers to go on strike, and the fact that they did "shows how strongly they feel about the issue."

B.C. sup Elizabeth E impose he a.m. today Law Courts A three-how Chow death with with penni taped behr tim's skull peated blow The Crow Chownick ness after tl beaten to d persons. No finger the scene b chewing gink linked previously invasion rol in Californi Kylo had record, alth "There's i about his pl Lukkey b for drug tr possessing The trial trio of accu smoking pc arcade and Kylo's bi Kylo, 26, is a charge of He original the other t had his cas he will hav

## Steveston bustles again with unloading of fish

The historic fishing village has a new facility where commercial fishermen are able to land their catch.

CATHERINE BORTER VANCOUVER SUN

Skipper Byron Wright unloaded his catch in Steveston for the first time in 25 years on Monday.

"It feels good to be back here," said the burly fisherman, watching his load of 80 tonnes of herring glisten as it rolled off a conveyor belt into crates a few metres from the edge of the Fraser River. "This is where my roots are, in the fishing part of the community."

Wright's catch was among the first to christen Steveston's first independent off-loading facility.

Located in Steveston's Paramount net loft, the facility was opened by a group of local fishermen, suppliers and associated business people as a place where independent commercial fishermen could land their catch and send it off to processors around the Lower Mainland.

For Steveston, once the heart of B.C.'s fishing industry, it marks the first arrival of fish in large quantities since B.C. Packers closed its operations a few years ago.

"There's enough fish here to give everybody in Vancouver a feed of herring," said Wright, who used to work for B.C. Packers.

The independent landing site allows self-employed fishermen

"It feels good to be back here. This is where my roots are, in the fishing part of the community."

Skipper Byron Wright

to market their own fish, said Chris Day, who manages the facility.

Rather than landing their catch at the dock of a single processor, and selling their load — regardless of species — at a set price, independent fishermen landing here can split their catch, selling different species to different specialty processors who will give a better price for them, Day said.

On Monday, the old net loft was abuzz with activity. Contract workers in heavy rubber boots oversaw the fish, sucked out of Wright's seine boat, the Prosperity, with a vacuum and poured on to a conveyor belt, where it was sorted. Workers packed the fish into large containers, weighed them, packed them in ice, and carried them on forklifts into a truck, scheduled to take them to a nearby freezing facility.

Once all the kinks are worked out in six months' time, Day said the group hopes to convert the site into a commercial auction — unloading the fish before processors and restaurants that would bid on the loads.

The facility runs on a user-pay basis, charging fishermen by the tonne, Day said. Since it

opened last Friday, eight loads of hake and herring had been landed there, and Day said he expected a boat heavy with groundfish to arrive this morning.

Day's group, called the Steveston Seafood Auction Inc., signed a 13-year lease for 790 square metres (8,800 square feet) of the building, at the foot of Triton Road and Westwater Drive, with the Steveston Harbour Authority two months ago.

Much of the equipment stocking the new off-loading site was sold to the group by B.C. Packers.

The opening of the facility does not preclude the opening of another less than a kilometre down the river on the B.C. Packers' site, said the Prosperity's engineer Dave Bell.

Bell is the president of the Steveston Fisheries Alliance, which is looking to open a public fish auction and other fishing-related businesses on the 21-hectare site. When approving a Steveston area plan last year, Richmond city council granted the alliance two years to draft a business plan for a fish auction to operate there.

The alliance has commissioned both a structural review of B.C. Packers' aging processing buildings, as well as a business feasibility study.

Bell said the group is still drafting plans for what fishing-related businesses could form part of the site. Among the ideas is a fish market, a public fish auction for smaller boats, as well as a larger one for commercial fishermen, a seafood restaurant and microcannery.



IAN SMITH/Vancouver Sun  
HEADS FACILITY: Chris Day watches fish come down chute.

GUESS from B1

## Conspiracy charge

to appear before her trial judge, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Raymond Paris, who originally made the non-disclosure order last May at a hearing involving wiretap disclosure.

No date has been set for the contempt hearing.

Wood, a former appeal court judge, was assigned in 1996 to oversee the prosecution of Guess and a subsequent investigation of alleged jury tampering on the part of Gill.

Also filed in support of Wood's application was an affidavit by RCMP Staff Sergeant Don Rinn of the Vancouver major crime section.

The decision to begin contempt proceedings came after Guess appeared Feb. 25 on a Vancouver cable television show and revealed the subject of an in-camera hearing last May before Paris.

At that hearing, from which Guess and the public were excluded, Paris ordered Guess' lawyers not to disclose the matters discussed to their client.

Guess, who refers to the hearing as a "secret court", suggested on the TV show that the reason Peter Gill was never charged with jury tampering was because of a friendship between Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh and Gill's brother, Paul Gill, an active member of the New Democratic Party.

Both Dosanjh and Paul Gill immediately denied the allegation, saying they only discussed NDP business and never discussed the criminal cases of either Guess or Peter Gill.

Guess revealed on the TV show that she came across her trial lawyers' handwritten notes about the hearing after she began representing herself in the B.C. Court of Appeal, where she is appealing her

conviction Justice.

Guess' attorneys' handwritten notes about the hearing after she began representing herself in the B.C. Court of Appeal, where she is appealing her

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Guess a decided is a seven-m Gill and d cused of t ders of Ro jh, who v separately

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Guess h her life be called t evidence" former lo Gill's la recently s an affair v

FOUND from B1

## Missing woman says she wants to come home

lieve it."

Initially, the family didn't know whether to trust the letter. But they took it to Vancouver city police Detective Constable Lori Shenher, who has been investigating the missing women cases, and she verified that Prevost is alive and well and staying at a psychiatric hospital in Arizona.

Parnell, who spoke with his niece and a hospital official by telephone Monday, said Prevost has apparently been in hospital since her birthday on Dec. 29.

In the conversation with her uncle, Prevost said she's eager to return to Canada. Neither the police, nor hospital officials in Arizona provided any information on how Prevost ended up in hospital or why she failed to contact her family for more than a year.

Police media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said there was no indication Prevost had been abducted, or removed from Canada against her will.

Prevost was last seen in September 1997 and her disappearance was reported to police in March 1998. Before her disappearance, she lived on the city's

Downtown Eastside.

Nineteen other cases of missing "street-involved" women have been reported to police in the past four years. The

women's families and advocates have been calling for a police task force to investigate the possibility a serial killer is responsible for the disappearances.

DELTA from B1

## Bog society warns developers risk protests

"We'll try to determine what makes the most practical sense," Westeinde said. "We genuinely want to work with the community to come up with a plan."

However, if no compromise can be reached, he said, the company will have no alternative but to "scalp" the bog by planting cranberry fields and mining for sand deposits beneath the peat moss.

Responding to public pressure, Delta council voted unanimously Feb. 16 to ask the province to acquire the bog either through negotiation or expropriation. But there is nothing

in the motion that rules out council considering a development option for the bog.

Acting Delta mayor Krista Engelland said Monday her first choice is still to purchase the entire 2,200 hectares.

But she said Delta has a duty to consider a formal development application for the site. "The immensity of their project brought such public outcry. It would be in their best interests that they consider the public reaction and modify it to see how they can make it acceptable — if that's possible."

Eliza Olson of the Burns Bog Conservation Society argued

that Delta Fraser Properties' stated value of the property is grossly inflated, as is the company's assessment of the commercial potential for cranberry farming.

But if the company really wants to develop the bog, she would only be too happy to help it start an ecotourism operation. Anything else, and the company can expect a fierce fight from conservationists.

"It's a lot easier to blockade the bog than it is Clayoquot Sound," she warned, referring to massive protests over logging on Vancouver Island in 1993. "You don't have to take a ferry."





# B.C.'s liveliest voices

## Stall shows need to solve missing-women cases

I jumped out of bed at 5 a.m. to run and pick up The Province so I could read Bob Stall's column.

Sandra Gagnon, who has become a friend, had something to say about her sister, Janet Henry, who is one of 20 women now missing from the downtown eastside of Vancouver.

Sandra and I share something in common as my friend Sarah is also missing.

Though I don't know Janet, I have come to know all about her through Sandra. She was a very caring and loving sister and mother.

Unfortunately a very tragic turn on life's winding road appears to have led to Janet's

lifestyle on the eastside.

Still, I see Janet and Sarah as real people — caring people with flaws like all of us but they are loved and missed as much as anyone can be.

Because they lost their way does not make them less than we are.

I urge Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh and Vancouver

Mayor Philip Owen to do the right thing. It is time to post a reward and set up a task force, to show we care, to help find out what has happened to our loved ones, to bring some measure of closure to their families and our friends.

Please.

Wayne Long  
Vancouver

## Talk back

We asked you

About people talking on cell phones while driving:

I've decided that it's very dangerous to be talking on them while driving. I think we have to be forced not to use these while we're driving.

Donald Ross, Chilliwack

I don't think people should be using cell phones while they're driving.

Sharon Noble, Vancouver

Enough of cell phone overuse. It is total inconsideration of others as well as putting lives at risk in a potentially dangerous situation. Cell phone users should pull over as soon as possible when they need to call someone or when the phone rings.

Kathleen Arnold, Burnaby

If the crash statistics on cell phone users and drinking drivers are four times higher than the normal driving public, then why don't we have roadblocks for people who use cell phones?

Thomas Watson, Vancouver

I am for any law that would lead to charges for a person on a cell phone. There are so many near accidents, line crossings, lane wanderings, inconsistent braking and acceleration and slow and fast driving by those on a cell phone. I wish these phones were never in existence. It would make our highways and roads much safer places to drive.

Ed Wakaryk, Surrey

I disagree with any bylaw which bans the use of hand-held phones in cars. It is in the car or boat that one requires such an item.

Sig Weber, Coquitlam

## "killed" by drugs

The Green Door shuts for good

By Shane MacCabe  
Staff Reporter

I survived the Depression and the Second World War, changing palates and urban renewal schemes. But the Green Door does forever today, another casualty of the drug war in Vancouver's downtown.

The lucky cab opened in 1933 as the kitchen for a gambling club, and ever since has served simple, cheap Chinese food on Spartan tables or the stool-and-Archie counter at the back of 111 E. Pender St.

Wallace Chan, who has owned the Green Door for 22 years, says his business has plummeted in the past five years.

Customers drifted away as the cab's entrance, in the alley between Hastings and Pender east of Columbia, slid from funky to depressing to dangerous.

"Drugs," Chan replied, when asked what

killed his business. "Kill the whole area — not only mine, everybody in this area."

Even in the late 1980s, cops, students and the budget-conscious flocked to the windowless nook for ginger beef, black-bean crab or bean-cake hot pots.

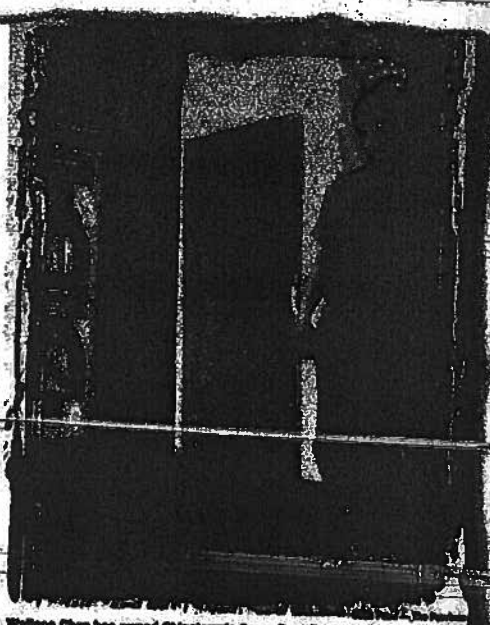
"Now no more busy days," says Chan. "You want to keep your business, you'll find a way."

You see that in other restaurants, but not here. I just want to make a living, that's all."

Chan has no anecdotes of the restaurant's past and no firm plans for his future. He says he and wife Ada are going home to "rest for a while."

Spartan, in its heyday, the Green Door now has a terminal emptiness about it. Regulars have bought the counter and the big chopping block — souvenirs that are, fittingly, more pragmatic than sentimental.

The same can be said of Chan, who, just days before closing, still refused to sell names



Wallace Chan has owned Vancouver's Green Door Restaurant for 22 years.

## Prohibition, not drugs, 'killed' restaurant

Contrary to what your headline and proprietor Wallace Chan would have us believe, the Green Door restaurant was NOT killed by drugs.

It was killed by the failure of

prohibition — that insane and barbarous law that has created an Orwellian nightmare here in Canada where people are punished for what they ingest into their own bodies.

Prohibition creates mayhem and murder on our streets. Prohibition poisons users. Prohibition spreads disease. Prohibition jams our courts, packs our prisons and swal-

lows up billions of taxpayer dollars.

And still our communities are awash with drugs.

Alan Randall,  
Victoria

## Where's Easter reference?

When I looked over The Province on Easter Sunday, I could find no reference to what day we were celebrating.

Other than "Thank goodness, there's still time to hide the Easter eggs," on the editorial page, there was no mention of what is one of the holiest days observed by Christian religions.

The Province did see fit to include a full-page colour article on the East Indian holiday

of Baisakhi. It is fine to include references to all religions, and on Easter Sunday one would expect a little more consideration for the religions that do celebrate the day.

Is this what it has come to, that in our need to be seen to encompass all religions, we eliminate reference to a day celebrated by millions of Canadians?

Joe Bolduc, Langley

## Allowing E.I. scams no joke

The April 1 article on Employment Insurance fraud was printed on an appropriate day.

Too bad it's no joke.

My heart goes out to the poor East Indian workers because it's unscrupulous labour contractors who allegedly initiate the abuse of the workers and the E.I. program.

If we know who the perpetrators are, why is this still going on? It seems investigators don't

want to be seen as picking on a minority. EXCUSE ME?

If you're skin isn't white it's OK to defraud the system?

This is intolerable!

This is about discrimination in Canada and just maybe this is what causes racism to raise its ugly head. Equality and tolerance must be practiced as well as preached from the attorney general's pulpit.

John Neels, Chilliwack



# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1999

## HEART OF THE CITY VANCOUVER

### COMMUNITY CENTRES SEEK \$48-MILLION COMMITMENT

Vancouver's community centre associations are asking for up to \$48 million to renew the city's 22 centres over the next four years.

The presidents of the associations, which are partners with the park board in delivering services at the centres, have asked city council and the park board to "irrevocably commit" \$9 million to \$12 million a year in each of the next three or four years for long-term renewal projects.

The presidents said if neither authority makes a clear commitment within the city's capital plan, the associations will press council to place the matter on this fall's civic election ballot.

The associations have a membership of about 200,000.

## WEST END

### FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE

A 36-year-old woman was fighting for her life in St. Paul's Hospital Monday night after being run over by a Vancouver transit bus.

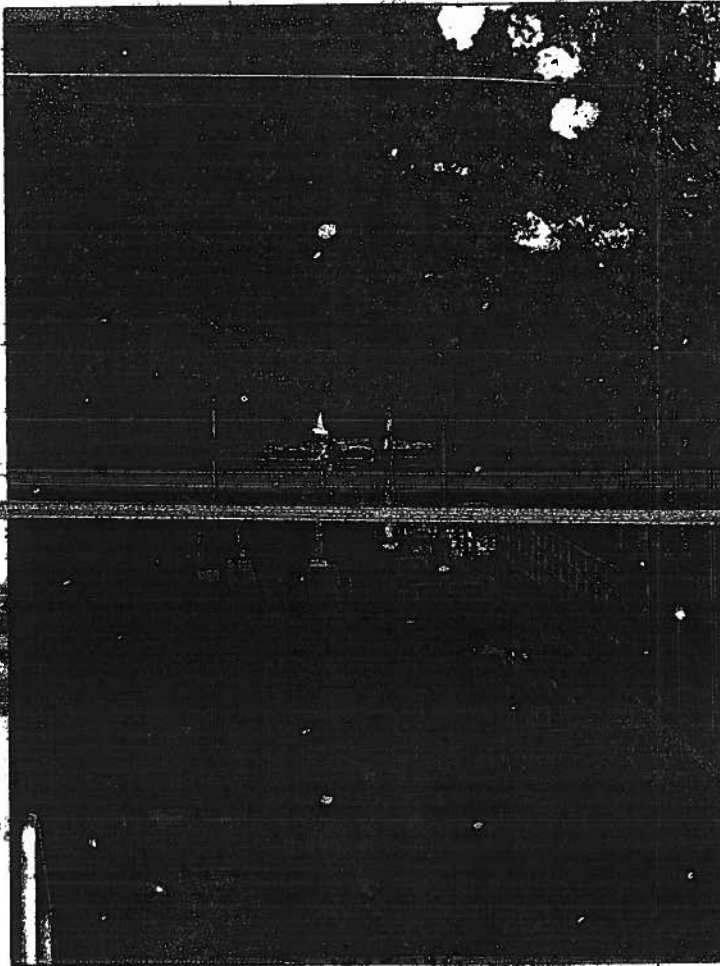
Police say the woman was running to catch the westbound Davie Street bus shortly after 9 p.m. as it pulled away from a bus stop in the 1300-block of Davie Street, just west of Jervis.

Vancouver police Inspector Ken Davies said the woman slipped, falling under the bus's right rear tires. The bus driver, not realizing what happened, drove over her leg, Davies said. The driver then drove for about 15 metres before he realized what happened and stopped.

Davies said the driver tried to help the woman, whose leg was likely to be amputated. It was not known Monday night if she was going to survive.

Davies said the bus driver was extremely traumatized.

## Clouds of spring blossoms



**SPRING STROLL:** A couple walks under cherry trees in full bloom near Burrard Street in Vancouver Monday as petals fall to the sidewalk. Sunny spring conditions are forecast to last throughout today.

## Students claim UBC funds rival

Two top officials are setting up a private university in Squamish while drawing large incomes under UBC leaves-of-absence.

DOUG WARD  
VANCOUVER SUN

The proposed development of a private liberal arts university at Squamish has placed a conflict-of-interest controversy at the University of B.C.

Former UBC president David Strangway and current UBC vice-president Peter Ufford have been the main principals

school could work together to recruit and retain faculty who might otherwise go elsewhere.

Strangway and Ufford have received no pay for their efforts in developing the Squamish proposal over the past year.

SEE STRANGWAY, B3

## Dosanj awaits

police request  
for reward on  
missing women

CHAD SKELTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

The province will put up a reward to help solve the disappearance of 21 women on the Downtown Eastside since 1995 if Vancouver police ask for it, Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh said Monday.

"If, after due deliberation, the request came from the Vancouver police... we would absolutely favourably respond to that," he said in an interview Monday.

But Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen, the chairman of the police board, said Monday he was reluctant to authorize a reward.

SEE MISSING, B3

## Tougher court action needed on violence against women

Malcolm Bruce Leach, a balding 50-year-old with a violent past, has exposed the fear that pervades the lives of women who work the streets of the Downtown Eastside.

More than 20 women from the neighbourhood have been reported missing in the past few years — 11 in the last year alone. Their friends and families believe they are dead.

Some fear a serial killer has been at work, others that there are many human predators stalking our streets, and a few who think nearly two dozen women don't want to be found or have vanished for more reasons, like jumping off the Lions Gate Bridge.

Only two detectives are currently assigned to the missing women's files. Still, the Vancouver police department responded vigorously in the Leach case.

Ian McGrew

Vancouver officers held a press conference to warn the public about a man charged with nine offences involving six women.

In February, Leach was arrested after a woman fled the Argyll Hotel on West Hastings and flagged a pair of police officers.

Her story was incredible: She said she was lured to the hotel, bound with duct tape, chained and severely beaten and sexually assaulted over a nine-hour period. She escaped by asking her attacker to use the washroom.

Inside the hotel room, police said they found photographs showing several other women



bound with duct tape, chains and other ligatures undergoing similar sadistic sexual torture.

Five other women who are willing to come forward and testify have been found and Leach stands charged with nine offences involving six different women.

Yet provincial court judge Edmund Cronin decided last Wednesday that Leach need not be held in jail while awaiting trial.

Police were so angry they called a news conference to

warn the public that Leach is "extremely dangerous." They said Cronin's decision put women at risk, particularly those living in the city's poorest neighbourhood. The Crown began preparing an appeal.

Immediately, too, Jamie-Lee Hamilton, who runs Grandma's House, a drop-in shelter for prostitutes, urged Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh to intervene.

As a result of the outcry, Leach was turned out of the Salvation Army's Dunsmuir House men's shelter and had to turn himself in to the police.

In his own defence, Cronin said the media failed to properly report the stringent conditions on which Leach was released. But do you think it is reasonable that someone accused of offences of this nature be set free on condition he check in once a day with a bail supervisor, stay away from the

Downtown Eastside and observe an 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. curfew?

Cronin said this amounted to "virtual house arrest," but I believe that is an exaggeration and ignores the current climate of fear in the Downtown Eastside.

Leach is only one of numerous men who have been charged with vicious assaults on prostitutes. In another current case, a man charged in the beating of one prostitute planned to turn another into a sex slave and eventually kill her.

Prostitutes in the neighbourhood, therefore, are being urged to register and report their activities so someone can respond if they disappear.

At the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society, forms for the Sex Trade Workers Identification Project ask for details such as times prostitutes work, details on previous "bad dates"

and problems with stalkers: "Who would be most likely to know if you are missing?" is another question in the four-page survey.

Grandma's House compiled similar information, and the two agencies now are thinking about merging their lists into a single registry of street workers, which would be unprecedented in Canada.

Many people also say it's time Victoria and police mounted the same kind of public initiative around the disappearances and violence against women that has been mounted against home invasions. Judges are getting the message: violent burglars must be dealt with severely, but some of them still haven't got it about sexual violence.

You may reach Ian McGrew at imcgregor@pacificnewsouthwest.com or at (604) 605-2195, fax 605-2323.





COLLEEN KIDD/Seattle News Service

**HELPING OUT** Cyndy Vukelic (left) and Dery McClurg of the Guilford Community Partners Association are helping the Surrey group work toward goals such as the creation of a new recreation centre for the area.

## ELSEWHERE IN THE LOWER MAINLAND

### Interest issue raised Squamish school

Not, they add, will a small private campus in Squamish conflict with UBC or other public universities in B.C.

Some of the fiscal pressures the public system is facing. Indeed, say Strangway and Ufford, UBC and the Squamish school could work together to recruit and retain faculty who might otherwise go elsewhere.

Strangway and Ufford have received no pay for their efforts in developing the Squamish proposal over the past year. However, they have continued to receive substantial salaries from UBC through leave-with-pay arrangements.

Strangway retired from UBC's top job in '97, but under his contract during the two six-year terms there, he earned two years of paid leave. He receives \$176,415 for each of those two years, which expire at the end of 1999.

Ufford, the man behind UBC's remarkable fund-raising success through the '90s, deferred part of his annual salary each year so he could take a year off with full pay. He has just completed that year-long leave, during which he worked on a number of projects, including the Squamish university.

He received an annual salary of

\$235,188 for the 1998-99 fiscal year.

The Alma Mater Society (AMS), student council, will ask the UBC ombudsman to look into the salaries of Ufford and Strangway.

It is a long history of an unbiased report (from the ombudsman) to resolve it," said AMS external affairs coordinator Nathan Allen.

"Peter Ufford is paid a huge amount of money to make sure UBC is the best university in Canada. Yet while on a leave he was possibly betraying that duty to UBC by building a competitor to UBC and a private competitor at UBC," Allen said.

UBC official Paula Martin said UBC gave Strangway and Ufford a green light to work on the Squamish project. Strangway and Ufford have kept UBC administrators informed of their activities, she added.

Ufford even went to UBC's conflict commissioner, former chancellor Les Peterson, for a ruling, Martin said. Peterson found that Ufford's work on the Squamish school did not conflict with his position at the Point Grey campus.

UBC does not regard the Squamish school as competition, added Martin. She said new schools bring "diversity" to the post-secondary sector.

### Dosanjh says reward in case of missing women requires police initiative

CHAD SKELTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

been found alive.

For more than a month, activists

to help solve the disappearance of 21 women on the Downtown Eastside since 1995. If Vancouver police ask for it, Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh said Monday.

"If, after due deliberation, the request came from the Vancouver police... we would absolutely favourably respond to that," he said in an interview Monday.

But Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen, the chairman of the police board, said Monday he was reluctant to authorize a reward when police have not come up with any evidence that the missing women have in fact been murdered — or that their disappearances are linked.

Owen said he would bring up the issue of the reward at the next police board meeting later this month.

Since 1995, 21 "street-involved" women, most of them prostitutes and drug addicts, have gone missing from the east side. No bodies have been discovered and only one has

been calling on the province and police to put up a reward to catch what they believe is a serial killer operating in the area.

Earlier this year the province and police put up a \$100,000 reward to catch those responsible for a rash of 30 home invasions against the elderly — one of which left a woman dead.

Then, last week, another \$100,000 reward was offered to solve a series of armed robberies against people in their garages — none of which resulted in injuries. In both cases, the police board donated \$30,000 and the province \$70,000.

Last week, Maggie de Vries, sister of Sarah de Vries — one of the 21 women missing — sent a letter to both Dosanjh and Owen calling on them to offer a reward in the case and to set up a task force to investigate the disappearances.

"It concerns me that there is this perception that we're not doing enough on this issue," Dosanjh said, noting that both provincial rewards were a response to specific police requests for assistance. He said he has asked officials in his ministry to talk to Vancouver police and brief him further about the cases.

But Dosanjh cautioned that rewards are not a "panacea" and are usually offered only when police hit a dead-end in their investigation and believe a reward would draw out more information.

Police have little physical evidence in the cases and no reason to believe the cases are connected or that the women have been murdered.

But while police say they are reluctant to offer a reward without evidence a serial killer really is responsible for the missing women, activists and family members argue a reward is the very thing that could convince someone to come forward with evidence of such a crime.

Dosanjh said the suspicion that some of the women may have simply moved away from Vancouver has led him to also consider the possibility of "mini-rewards" of about \$1,000 each, which would be payable to the women themselves if they notify family or police of their whereabouts.

Monday was a holiday at police headquarters and no one was available to comment on the case or the calls for a reward.

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Page 8: Wilson Street Basketball, 84-1145.

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# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1999

## HEART OF THE CITY

### CRIME

#### CHARGE AGAINST SUSPECT RAISED TO MURDER

Kory Kives, nephew of K-Tel International chairman Philip Kives, faces charges of second-degree murder after the death last week of a taxi driver.

Kives, 23, had been charged with attempted murder and robbery in the stabbing incident, but the charges were upgraded Tuesday after the death of taxi driver Mehdi Nassain Naqvi.

Naqvi was stabbed March 18 and died after being taken off life support last Thursday.

Kives appeared in Vancouver provincial court Tuesday, and was ordered to return on April 16 to set a trial date.

It is not known what brought Kives, a Winnipeg resident, to Vancouver.

Neither Kives' family members nor his lawyer, Phil Kives, returned telephone calls on Tuesday.

Kory Kives' parents own a hotel in Winnipeg.

Naqvi, 53, was the second Black Top-Checkers Cab driver killed while working in the past five years.

### UBC

#### RESEARCH PROJECTS RECEIVE GRANTS

Six University of B.C. research projects have received more than \$2 million in grants from the B.C. Health Research Foundation.

Recipients range in disciplines from obstetrics and gynecology to radiology and zoology. The projects focus on population health issues such as occupational mortality and domestic violence, as well as health services and clinical care.

Researchers will also conduct basic science studies of biomedical challenges such as inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes, Parkinson's disease and duodenal ulcers. UBC human kinetics assistant professor Heather McKay's research focuses on the prevention of osteoporosis.

BCHRF distributed \$3.5 million for 85 research projects at universities, hospitals and community agencies. UBC faculty members participate in more than 4,000 research projects annually and attract upwards of \$135 million per year in research funding.

### LIONS GATE BRIDGE

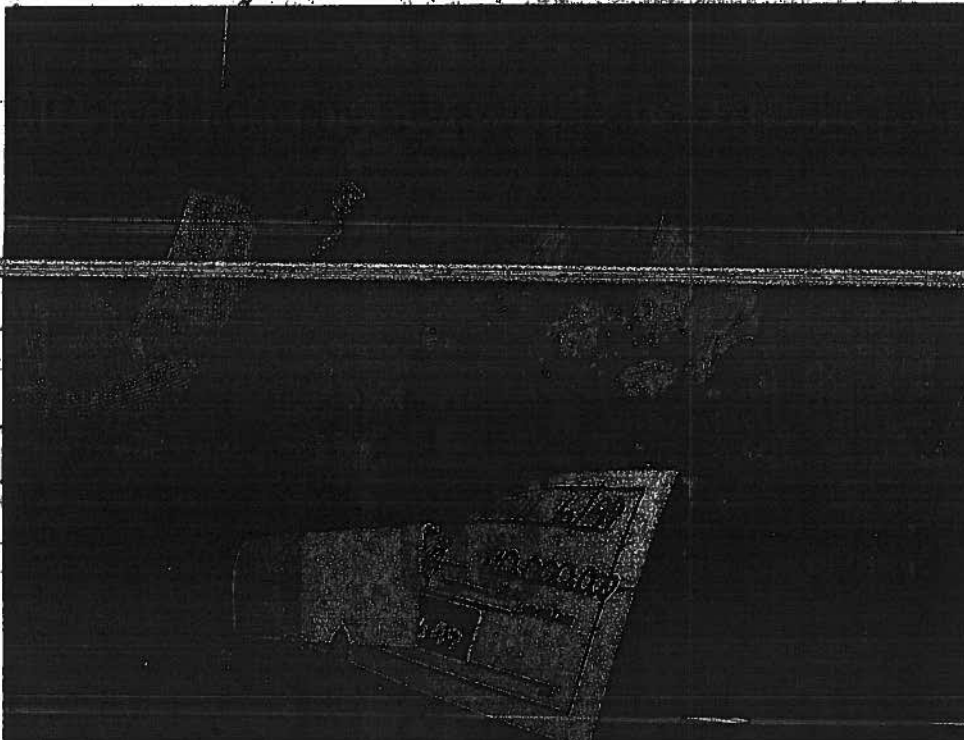
#### MEETING TO OFFER INFORMATION ON CLOSING

An information session on the effects of the Lions Gate Bridge closures will be held tonight at Ridgeview elementary school in West Vancouver.

The North and West Vancouver divisions of the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver will co-host the public information forum, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the school, which is located at 1250 Mathers.

## Police fear Spiderman is back after daring weekend burglaries

Family with the million dollar smiles.



IAN SMITH/Vancouver Sun

**NO FOOLING:** Surrounded by family and overcome with joy, Lorraine Young takes possession of her April 1 \$10-million winnings Tuesday.

## \$10-million lottery win is no April 1 joke

CELIA SANKAR  
VANCOUVER SUN

"Who ever wins \$10-million on April Fool's day?" asks Jim Lajeunesse.

He has to look no further than his mother Lorraine Young for

### Woman run over by bus is expected to lose her right leg

KELLY SINOSKI  
VANCOUVER SUN

Transit users are being reminded not to run after buses after an accident Monday night left a 35-year-old woman in critical condition.

The Vancouver woman, who underwent surgery at St. Paul's Hospital Tuesday, is expected to lose her right leg after she was run over by a transit bus at

SEE BUS, B3

the answer. She found out she had won on April 1, when Lajeunesse brought home the number of the winning 6/49 ticket.

On Tuesday, Lajeunesse, Young and 15 other members of the Maple Ridge family piled into two white stretch limos and cruised to the Richmond office of the B.C. Lottery Corporation, where they got proof positive the whole thing was no joke.

The lottery offices were closed for the Easter holidays and the family had to wait until Tuesday to pick up the prize.

Young, 61, a retired health worker at Riverview hospital, burst into tears as she collected a cheque for \$10-million. She is the second person this year to have won a prize of that size. Seven other winners have taken home cheques of \$1-million or more since the start of the year.

The biggest 6/49 jackpot ever was \$15,000,001, won in 1997. Young, whose husband passed

away seven months ago, plans to share the money among her four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, as well as others; she hasn't worked out how many will enjoy her largesse. "I'm going to be able to look after my family, make sure everybody is happy," she said.

An avid bingo player for the past 25 years, Young purchased

the quick pick at her regular haunt, Haney Bingo Plex in Maple Ridge, last Wednesday. "I just thought I should pick it up there since I wouldn't have had time to get it otherwise," she said.

She was on a winning streak last week. Even as she kept a lid on her million-dollar win, Young went back to the bingo hall Friday and picked up \$90.

## Prostitute group threatens to occupy mayor's office

DAVID HOGGEN  
VANCOUVER SUN

An organization representing Vancouver prostitutes has threatened to occupy Mayor Philip Owen's office over his lack of support for a reward to find 21 women who have disappeared from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

"I have been involved in a takeover of the council chambers in the past, so if the mayor runs away I will do it again," Jamie Lee Hamilton said Tuesday.

Hamilton is director of Grandma's House, a drop-in centre and safe house for Vancouver's homeless.

The man convicted of similar crimes in 1997 was recently released from jail, police say.

VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver police suspect the daring cat burglar they call Spiderman has struck again.

In the latest in a recent rash of burglaries marked by entry through balcony doors, someone climbed seven floors on the outside of a False Creek condominium complex and robbed six suites, some while the occupants slept.

minimum through unlocked or open patio doors," said Vancouver police media liaison Anne Drennan.

Purses and an undisturbed amount of jewelry were taken in the thefts at the Pennington Drive building late Friday and early the next morning.

One victim, who asked not to be named, said he slept through the burglary and wasn't aware he'd been robbed until police knocked on his door and asked him to check for missing valuables.

The unnamed victim said many of the pilfered units were occupied by sleeping residents at the time of the thefts.

Police now are looking into the activities of a man they called Spiderman back in 1997 during a series of similar burglaries. Drennan said that man was recently released from jail.

Police have warned people in Vancouver's populous West End to keep their doors and windows locked, no matter what floor they live on.

The warning came after eight burglaries over a two-week period in which someone robbed apartments on the fourth to seventh floors.

The only clues in the latest crime were a pair of discarded gloves and dirty marks where the suspected Spiderman made his way up the building exterior.

Drennan said the recent robberies have all occurred between midnight and 6 a.m.

"He has hit suites from the fourth floor up to the seventh floor," she said.

In the 1997 series of burglaries, Spiderman struck suites as high as the 14th floor.

In one of the recent incidents, the suspect lived up to his nickname when a victim was awakened and spotted the burglar on the balcony.

"When the suspect on the balcony realized the person inside had spotted him, he immediately jumped over the railing of the balcony and dived on to the balcony below," Drennan said.

## 50,000 People Made A Good Call.

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# Doctor sexually harassed her, former secretary tells hearing

Dr. David Levitt is facing a complaint before B.C. Human Rights tribunal.

KIM PEMBERTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

The former secretary of a Vancouver doctor told a B.C. Human Rights hearing that her employer sexually harassed her shortly after she got the job, and the harassment continued on a daily basis.

"It was a stressful environment — very uncomfortable," said Rosey Guthrie, who worked alone with diabetes specialist Dr. David Levitt from July 1993 to September 1994.

Guthrie testified at the beginning of the hearing Tuesday that initially she tried to be pleasant and wondered if she was being "too sensitive."

But after talking to friends and family, she said she realized Levitt's behaviour was inappropriate. She said she told him his advances — including two attempts to kiss her — made her uncomfortable.

"My health started to deteriorate. . . I'd given it a good 10 months before I knew I had to get out of there. My emotional state wasn't good. I was truly jumpy and stressed."

Guthrie, 24 at the time, said the stress was causing itchiness, hair loss and lack of sleep.

She said she had started to for other work when called her into his office one day after lunch and fired her.

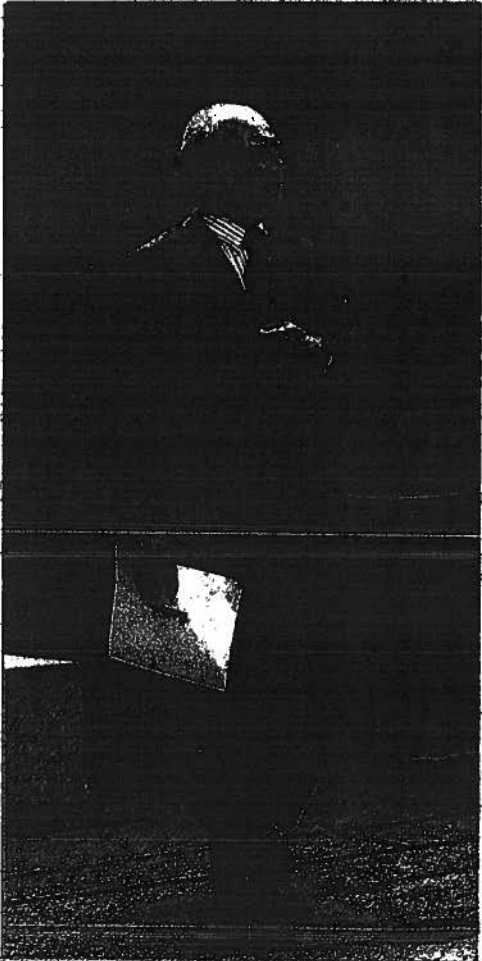
Guthrie said she was shocked because she didn't believe there were any problems with her job performance.

"I believe Dr. Levitt was not happy with my attitude towards his sexual advances so he let me go."

She said that a month earlier,

asked whether she was having personal problems because she wasn't being very friendly to him.

"He asked me to please try to be more pleasant to him and



**ACCUSED PHYSICIAN:** Vancouver doctor David Levitt is shown leaving B.C. Human Rights tribunal hearing on Tuesday.

smile at him more often. I asked him if there was a problem with my work and he said no. It was just my attitude."

Guthrie said she agreed she wasn't being as friendly to him, but told him she didn't invade his comfort zone and she was uncomfortable with him invading hers.

She told the hearing that he would frequently try to hold her hands, would grab her waist when he walked behind her in the office and would comment on her appearance.

She said that the first time he tried to kiss her, she ducked and he made contact with her forehead. A week later, she said, he leaned over and tried again but she pushed him away "and told him to get a grip on himself."

Guthrie said she was angry about being fired, but also relieved. She said she was surprised when he said he expected her to train her replacement during her last two weeks of employment.

"I said 'screw you' and got up and left," she said, adding that he followed her out of the office asking her what she had just said.

"I told him 'This is not the last time you'll hear from me.' I had decided at that time to pursue the sexual harassment that was going on in the office."

He whispered in my ear "You're just one little person. There's nothing you can do about it. He felt pretty invincible at that point and anything I had to say wouldn't be believed or heard."

Guthrie's lawyer, Catherine Sullivan, brought up two letters of reference from Guthrie's subsequent employers, saying it was necessary because she believed the evidence spoke to Guthrie's work capabilities and character.

"Dr. Levitt's position is she lied and is making this up," said Sullivan.

Levitt's lawyer, Chris Hinkson, told B.C. Human Rights

tribunal that Guthrie was fired because she couldn't keep up with transcription work that was a part of her job.

"The hearing continues today.

**MAYOR** from B1

## Sex trade workers want reward posted

couver sex trade workers in the city's poorest neighbourhood.

Her comments came after Owen, chairman of the Vancouver police board, and a Vancouver police media representative indicated they do not favour issuing a reward.

Hamilton and others are asking for a \$100,000 reward for information about 21 Vancouver women who have disappeared since 1995. They believe the women are victims of a serial killer who preys upon Vancouver's sex trade workers in the belief that they are a low priority with law-enforcement officials.

Police, however, maintain there is no evidence the women are victims of crime.

They say the women are involved in either or both the illegal drug or sex trade and could just be missing. The women are sometimes missing for long periods before their disappearance is reported.

Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh said Monday he would favour the province contributing to a reward if a request came from the police.

STAFF REPORTER

## Second person run over by bus

Dave Sweet and Jerry shortly after 9 p.m.

She is the second woman this year to be run over by a bus pulling away from a curb. A 36-year-old Vancouver woman died in January after being crushed under the rear wheels of a bus.

"We certainly do not encourage people to run after the bus. When a bus driver leaves his stop, his priority is to merge into traffic," said Paul Clarke, spokesman for BusLink.

He said bus drivers must follow a policy to ensure the safety of their passengers, many of whom may be standing. He said their focus is on the passengers and not on people trying to catch them.

"This is not a safe thing to do. All it takes is for somebody to bump into someone or trip for something tragic to happen."

But media liaison officer Constable Anne Drennan said offering rewards is usually used as a last-ditch attempt when there are no leads in criminal investigations such as murders, not missing persons.

"Right now, it's difficult to imagine how the reward system would lend itself to this kind of file," Drennan said.

Owen indicated his lack of enthusiasm for a reward in a Vancouver Sun story published Tuesday.

John Turvey, director of the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society, said if a reward is not issued, other possibilities should be considered.

Turvey said the city's poorest prostitutes have been pushed into dark industrial areas by police responding to pressure to keep them away from residential and retail areas. He said more visible policing and lighting could be used to increase safety for sex trade workers.

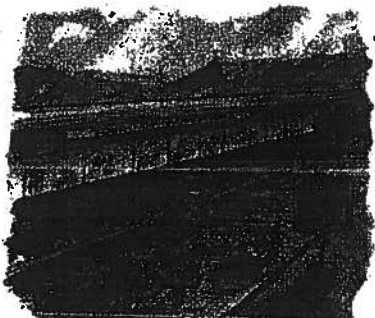
Turvey said police should also consult with prostitutes to negotiate how a police presence could be established in the areas where they do business.

On Monday, the woman was running after the bus westbound on Davie as it pulled away from the curb. Police say she was slipping the side of the bus with the palm of her hand when she slipped and fell under the right rear dual wheels. The bus driver didn't realize what had happened and drove over her right leg, police say. He then drove about 15 meters before he realized what happened and stopped.

Vancouver police Constable Anne Drennan said there were several witnesses at the scene who said the woman was unsteady on her feet as she ran after the bus. Trauma counsellors were called to speak with officers and

In January, Muriel Frances Tanley was with her husband when she ran to stop a bus. Police said she stumbled and fell under the rear wheels and was crushed.

## Dick and Jane's Tournament of Adventure

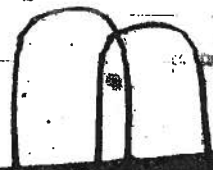


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## Accused murderer 'delusional'

By Andy Ivens  
Staff Reporter

Wing Fu Hau was suffering from a mental disorder when he killed his boss's six-month-old son, his first-degree murder trial in Vancouver heard yesterday.

Hau suffered from "a delusional disorder, persecutory type," clinical psychologist Dr. Karl Williams said in B.C. Supreme Court.

"Mr. Hau believed there was a major conspiracy against him," said Williams, referring to Hau's assertion that the RCMP and his boss's Asian gang, the Big Circle Boys, were conspiring to set him up in a 50-kilogram heroin bust.

Lawyers for Hau, 36, claim he is not criminally responsible for killing Sui Hin Wong on Oct. 9, 1997, by reason of a mental disorder. He is

accused of strangling the baby and then ramming him with a car.

Hau's brother-in-law, Shu Wai Chan, 40, testified Hau acted strangely when he came to his house on the morning of the killing.

"He said someone was trying to harm him," Chan said. Chan said Hau told him he should leave Canada. Chan, his wife and daughter left the next day.

Chan said Hau was swinging hard liquor as he drove off to meet his boss's wife, Shao Jie Yuan, and her baby.

Asked by Crown counsel Mike Luchenko why he left his home, restaurant job and happy life in Canada on the advice of a man who appeared to be drunk, Chan said: "I was scared."

"He said my whole family was at risk."

## Police don't think reward would help

By Lore Grindley  
Staff Reporter

Posting a hefty reward probably wouldn't help locate the 20 women who have vanished from the downtown east side, police said yesterday.

Vancouver police Const. Anne Drennan said rewards are set up to help solve a specific crime or find a specific suspect. With the missing women — all involved in the sex trade or the drug trade — police can't be sure any crime has been committed.

Drennan said there are no witnesses, no bodies and no common suspect.

"There is absolutely nothing that has come to light that indicates that this is a serial killer on the loose," some activists suggest, Drennan said.

Area activists and relatives of the missing women have asked that a reward be offered. Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh has said the government would "absolutely favourably respond" if the police requested reward money.

Drennan said police would consider supporting "mini-rewards" of \$1,000 to the women themselves if they make their whereabouts known to police.

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## The desperate quest for our missing sisters and daughters

MAGGIE DEVRIES

### Voices

My sister, Sarah deVries, disappeared from the Downtown Eastside almost exactly a year ago, on April 14, 1998. Her 30th birthday is approaching, on May 12th. We, her family and the families of other missing women, are planning a memorial for that date.

We are also pressuring the police to take further steps to find out what has happened to our daughters, sisters and mothers. To that end, we have written to Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh and to the chair of the Vancouver police board, Philip Owen. I have been pleased to see in the last few days that the attorney-general, the police board and the police department are seriously considering offering a reward similar to those offered in the cases of the garage robberies and the home invasions.

I have been satisfied with the work that Lori Shenher and Al Howlett, the two detectives assigned to these cases, have done. Detective Shenher has

Despite dedicated detectives, predators believe that women in the poorest part of our city are fair game.

maintained regular contact with my mother and with me. She has taken what we have to say seriously, allowing our knowledge of Sarah to inform her investigation. She has interviewed everyone she could.

She has compared the situation in Vancouver with the situation in other Canadian cities to determine that no more than one or two prostitutes have been reported missing anywhere else. She is compiling data to determine that nowhere near these numbers of prostitutes went missing from Vancouver before 1997. She is dedicated and creative.

But she and her partner have done everything they can. They have no more leads to follow, no one else to interview. They



A TENDER MOMENT: Maggie deVries, left, embraces her sister, Sarah, about four months before Sarah disappeared.

need more information.

More than 20 women have disappeared without leaving a clue as to their whereabouts. I have talked to family members of 10 of those women and in almost every case the mother or

sister believes or suspects that her daughter or sister is dead. And in every case families are desperate to find out what has happened to their loved ones.

Most of the cases are similar to Sarah's: The women kept reg-

ular contact and had lived in the Downtown Eastside for many years. That contact ceased abruptly at the same time that welfare cheques were no longer picked up and the women were no longer seen in their neighbourhood.

A public perception exists that women like my sister lead transient lives. In some cases, they do move from hotel to hotel and even from city to city, but for many years Sarah had a fixed address, and she had been living in the same area for a decade or so. She was a member of her community. When I posted the Downtown Eastside last summer, I discovered that everyone knew my sister and that she was missed.

There is nothing inherently transient about the lifestyles of women who are addicted to drugs and work the streets to support their habits. I think that as they get older, they get more and more tied to one spot. And only one of the missing women was younger than 20, while at least 13 were 25 or older. And most of the families I have spo-

ken to have indicated that their sister or daughter, like Sarah, had lived in the same area for some time.

Sarah couldn't get on a plane; she would have gone into withdrawal. She couldn't buy a bus ticket; she needed all her money to buy drugs.

Police spokespeople say over and over again that no evidence indicates that a crime has been committed. And, indeed, they have found no concrete evidence. But more than 20 cases remain unsolved. More than 20 families are desperate for information. And predators are being sent the message that women in the poorest part of our city are fair game.

So, I would say to the police, it is time to take further steps: to acknowledge a possible pattern, to set up a task force, to offer a reward and to offer police protection to anyone who might be afraid to come forward with information.

The Sun welcomes submissions for Voices, in 500 words or less. Writers whose submissions are selected will be notified. The address for letters to the editor.

## Support to rezone Sasamat Gardens is deeply rooted

Jan Mulgrew's April 11 column, "Rezoning bid stirs up a hornet's nest in West Point Grey, April 1," was very wide of the mark in commenting upon support for rezoning Sasamat Gardens for development.

If he had counted speakers instead of lapel pins, he would have found the majority (53 per cent) spoke in favour of the project. If he had seen the lawn signs in the neighbourhood, he would have noticed that they are confined to 8th and 9th Avenues. There is only one sign on 6th and one on 7th.

He would have also seen that the temperament of those opposed, to what is at the very least a prudent use of our scarce resources, is intimidating to even the stout of heart. The impact on the frail and the elderly can only be imagined and they are the people of this community who stand to benefit the most from the housing options. At least two speakers have withdrawn for health reasons.

If he were to have spoken to just one supporter at that meeting he would have got a very different picture of community opinion. He might have discovered that there is far deeper support for this rezoning than he so superficially reported.

ALEC D. CARUTH  
Vancouver

## Charities eyes \$890-million deficit with envy

As a resident of Ontario I find the headlines that have appeared across Canada regarding B.C.'s "massive" deficit budget of \$890 million to be a trifle amusing. Deficit



## In the case of the Kosovar refugees, heart-strings vie with purse-strings

I have a British friend. I'll call her Elizabeth. During the last 2 1/4 years, Elizabeth has been living and working in Canada. She's 24 years old. She's healthy. She has a master's degree. She's a willing and successful member of society, a caregiver to children. And she pays taxes.

Elizabeth would like to make Canada her home. Raise children here. But she can't. She hasn't racked up enough points to achieve landed immigrant status. She doesn't want much, just permission to stay and carry on contributing to her community. No fanfare. No help.

The irony is that she's being turned down by the same country that is playing a role in creating one of the ugliest humanitarian messes I've witnessed.

In an effort to clean it up, Canada offered to airlift 5,000 Kosovar refugees to our country, although the plan has now been suspended (Canadians back NATO bombing, April 10). Of course, I understand that

What matters most is that we pull together and offer what help we can. We are a society filled with education, wealth and compassion. As a group, we can accomplish a million times more than we can as individuals.

I would like to appeal to everyone from every walk of life to give what they can, whether through financial donations to the Red Cross, UNICEF or another agency.

I encourage our health care providers to volunteer for organizations such as Doctors without Borders. I also encourage people to write to their MPs in an effort to let the refugees know they would be welcome here.

The crisis right now is in Kosovo; tomorrow it could be somewhere else.

SHEILA BEDWELL  
Vancouver

environment. The price of being a Canadian, eh?

It's not that we are unsympathetic to the atrocities in Kosovo. But so many of our own countrymen go without. Strange how people will open their wallets to strangers while their own are starving, unclothed and without shelter.

When was the last time you heard of some corporation sponsoring a poor Canadian family or finding homes and jobs for unemployed Canadians? When was the last time you heard of the Canadian government, without strings attached, providing food, shelter and medical attention to a Canadian family who had come across hard times?

RICK AND CINDY CABLE  
Coquitlam

As a naval veteran of the Gulf War, I have to take issue with the April 5 News in Context article, "Infantry an Achilles heel for U.S. Kosovo plans."

To feature comments by a

may be the ones you are asking for help.

My father's comment on the situation in Kosovo was that if we had had CNN during the Second World War, we would have surrendered two days after Pearl Harbour.

Why are we bombing? Because it worked in Bosnia.

NATO's reasons for bombing Serbia are valid. This is the area that caused the First World War and sowed the seeds for the Second World War. The whole idea of NATO and a united Europe was to prevent another bloodbath.

I do not want to see young men and women come home mangled in mind and body, but to let the Serbians continue their actions against the ethnic Albanians could bring another European war.

Armchair generals always know best and reporters know everything.

I am not impressed.  
THOMAS A. BRAVARD

international proposals to terminate the horror occurring in Kosovo.

Slobodan Milosevic and his government must be brought to justice for their inhumane acts against ethnic Albanians. NATO should continue efforts to rectify the situation and save the people of Kosovo.

MAHMOOD A. AWAN  
Richmond

I was extremely disappointed (and fearful) about an incident that happened to my mother and me as we walked by the Vancouver Art Gallery during a recent rally against the NATO attacks on Serbia.

We were approached by a woman who insisted that we take a pamphlet and listen to her opinion as to why Canada's support of NATO is wrong. When we told her we were not interested in the pamphlet and that our views were different than hers, she got angry and began to scream as she and a col-



[ Evenhanded - 01E-1388 20040202 : 15:20:31 : Box 140 : 0303759 : 1505 ]

YOUR 1999 STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS PAGE

Morning  
showers  
Details,  
Page B24

**SUNDAY**  
**Province**

Sunday, April 25, 1999

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## HAVE THESE 22 WOMEN BEEN MURDERED



# \$100,000 to find out



MAYOR PHILIP OWEN

Vancouver's mayor bends to public pressure and will fight this week to put up a reward to discover whether their disappearance is the work of a serial killer.

**A BOB STALL EXCLUSIVE, Page A16**

**Purr-fect  
pets**  
How to choose  
Take a Break



**Cruise ship  
schedule**  
1999 trips  
Money/A51



**Is it OK for  
sleep with**  
Sharing those

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www.vancouverprovince.com**THESE 22 WOMEN BEEN MURDERED?****\$100,000**  
**to find out**Vancouver's mayor bends to public pressure and will  
this week to put up a reward to discover whether  
their disappearance is the work of a serial killer**BOB STALL EXCLUSIVE, Page A16**

BOB STALL

**Cruise ship  
schedule**

1999 trips

Money/A51

**Is it OK for your toddler to  
sleep with mom and dad?**

Sharing those special moments

You've Got Kids/B4



# BOB STALL Stall Stories

## Mayor to propose skid-row reward

**Warns about wording as he responds to clamour over missing women**

Is a serial killer murdering prostitutes in Vancouver?

Suddenly, it seems that we care to find out.

The mayor of Vancouver is bending under public pressure and this week will propose a \$100,000 reward fund to help discover what has happened to 23 women missing in the past few years from the city's downtown east side.

Mayor Philip Owen tells me he will recommend to the Vancouver police board that a very carefully worded reward, or series of rewards, totalling \$100,000 be offered for information on the disappearances and possible murders of the skid-row prostitutes and drug addicts, some of whose stories have been told here.

The police board, chaired by Owen, meets Wednesday. It has seven members — five provincial appointees and two city representatives — including the mayor as chairman.

The board will vote on Owen's recommendation after a chance to support it because the five provincial members will feel bound by Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh's promise this month to provide the bulk of the reward money if it is requested by police board chairman Owen.

Until our conversation, Owen had given impression he wasn't in favour of a substantial reward in the cases of the missing women. He had said there was no evidence of a serial killer at work and he wouldn't finance "a location service" for hookers.

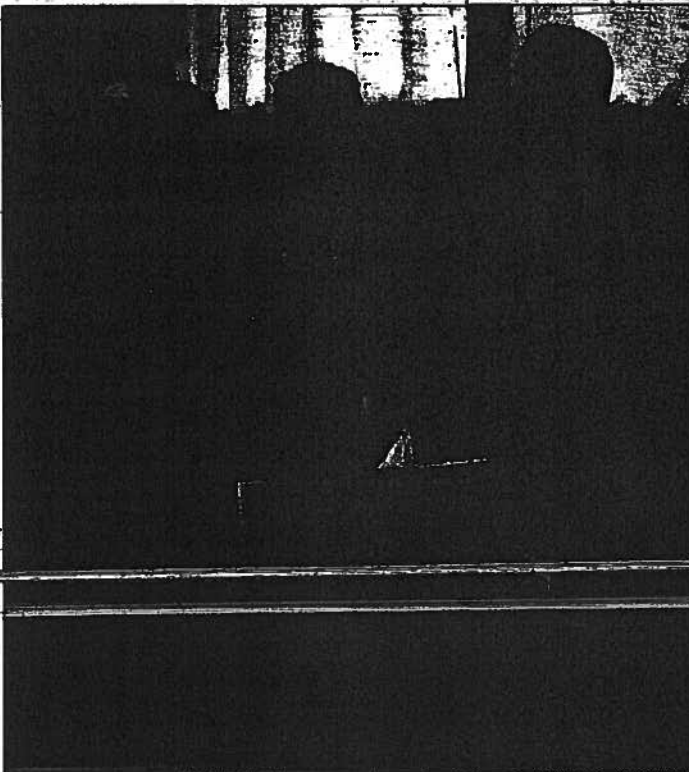
But he showed me that the clamour of the families, media and public has got to him and he has rethought the whole issue.

He confirmed that the B.C. government has offered to put up \$70,000 if Vancouver chips in \$30,000.

The \$100,000 total would be the same as two other rewards offered last month for information leading to arrests of those responsible for a skelm of Lower Mainland home invasions, and those who committed a string of recent garage robberies in west-side Vancouver.

That reward (and obvious concern) for garages in the city's more affluent areas was the mayor's proud brainchild, but it stood in unfortunately clear contrast to the lack of reward (and apparent lack of concern) for the missing prostitutes in the very poorest neighbourhood.

Families of the women who disappeared were quick to point this out in recent weeks. Columns and articles on this page (They aren't from Kerrisdale, and lack of caring real enough) and elsewhere told stories of the missing women.



Stephen Lane, 2, holds a picture of his missing mother, Stephanie Lane. With him are Stephanie's mother, Michele Pineault, brother Michael, 12, and father, George.

They are/were Elaine Allenbach, Cindy Louise Beck, Linda Jean Coombes, Marcella Helen Crelson, Sarah Jean deVries, Sheila Catherine Egan, Marnie Lee Frey, Catherine Louise Gonzalez, Michelle Gurney, Inga Montague Hall, Helen Mag Hallmark, Janet Gail Henry, Tanya-Marlo Holyk, Angela Rebecca Jardine, Catherine Maureen Knight, Kerry Lynn Koski, Stephanie Marie Lane, Jacqueline Michelle McDonnell, Diana Melnick, Jacqueline Maria Murdock, Dorothy Anne Spence, Kathleen Dale Watley, Olivia Gale Williams and other women whose names to date may not have been reported.

They are/were real daughters, mothers and sisters, almost all of whom kept in regular contact with someone until the day they abruptly disappeared, leaving behind their belongings, bank accounts, welfare cheques and no hint of travel plans.

My gut feeling is that some of them have met with foul play," Vancouver Const. Lori Shenher said last week. Shenher is one of

two smart and overworked detectives on the cases full-time. (A third is on temporary assignment with them.)

"This is developing into a very major issue," Mayor Owen said in our conversation, regarding the question of posting a \$100,000 reward. "Everybody's jumping on to it and getting connected."

"I think it's worth having a very close look at it because the press are pointing that out and the public are wanting it, and certainly the families are wanting a little more attention and a little more seriousness."

He said a \$100,000 reward will be posted after the wording is carefully worked out.

"We have to make sure we don't have a big reward out there for a missing person's issue. We don't want a person in Vancouver saying, 'Myster Carol's now in Portland. Send me a hundred thousand bucks.'"

So then you think of making it a reward for information on a homicide of some kind, or some kind of serial activity."

Here, he pointed out, there would be

problems ranging from the feelings of the families to the effects on the women, who may be placed in greater peril.

"Do we want to go on the assumption that they've all been brutally murdered?"

Families could say, "You've already written off my daughter? What if she's badly wounded somewhere? What if she's kidnapped somewhere? Or a hostage somewhere? What if somebody's got her locked up in a cabin somewhere? You've concluded that she's dead. I don't want to conclude that."

Owen worries that the wrong wording on a reward notice could even trigger a murder.

"I have a horror of something like those girls in Belgium who were locked up for almost a year in a basement — and because we put this \$100,000 reward out, he murders them and then two months later, he says, 'I found these bodies'."

"Maybe I'm getting out of line. Maybe my imagination is running ahead, trying to think of all the parameters of it, but it's my job to think of all sides."

His aim, he said, is "to find a way of encouraging someone to come forward with some evidence."

The issue and gives us the evidence we need and doesn't cause some kind of negative situation."

The mayor said he has come to feel deeply for the families of the missing women: "I've got two daughters and three granddaughters and it scares me to think that they'd disappear with some pedophile some punk."

Michele Pineault, mother of Stephanie Marie Lane, who went missing in January 1997, said the mayor's backing of a \$100,000 reward is "marvellous, because it gives a little bit of hope."

Maggie deVries, whose sister Sarah disappeared one year ago this month, said the mayor's commitment is "fantastic" because it provides official acknowledgement that something has happened to the women.

"And it says that their lives are important."

Maggie deVries has organized a memorial service for the 23 women, scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, the day her missing sister Sarah would be 30 years old.

The service will begin at First United Church, East Hastings and Gore, at 2 p.m., and continue at Crab Park, at the foot of Main Street, where a bench will be dedicated to the women. Relatives of the disappeared women will be transported from all over B.C.

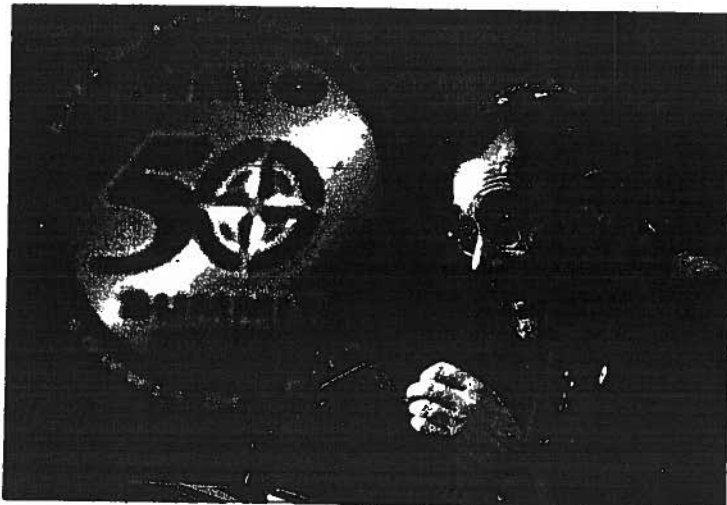
If you can help with donations to augment the cost of the bench, plaque, travel, flowers and catered cheques can be made out to Missing Women Memorial, account 27270-8060-059, and dropped off at any branch of the Bank of Montreal.

Bob Stall writes on Friday and Sunday





## Making plans for measures to follow Milosevic's defeat



VOICES DETERMINATION: NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana speaks at a press conference after final sessions of the NATO Summit in Washington Sunday. Solana said the NATO alliance and all its partners were determined "to reverse the situation in Kosovo."

## NATO promises aid for Yugoslavia's neighbours

U.S. President Bill Clinton joins the pledge for economic and military support, saying at a NATO summit that the countries have accepted risk and hardship to stand by the war efforts of the West.

WASHINGTON — In a strong show of solidarity, North Atlantic Treaty Organization leaders on Sunday promised military support and economic aid to Yugoslavia's neighbours for standing with the West against Slobodan Milosevic.

"Pledging that the struggle of ethnic cleansing will not stain the history books as Europe turns the page into the 21st century, U.S. President Bill Clinton said NATO must now help those countries build a new future."

"We will stand by the neighbouring countries that have accepted risks and hardship in support of this effort," Clinton said at the close of NATO's 50th anniversary summit. "If Mr. Milosevic threatens them, we will help them."

The proposed Balkan reconstruction effort, which could cost billions of dollars a year, NATO, despite the questionable success so far of the air war, are forecasting Milosevic's defeat and planning for what will follow.

Speaking for the alliance as it heads into the millennium, Clinton said, "There has been this breathtaking explosion of freedom. But the old order has not yet been replaced by a new one."

Clinton said NATO's 19 members agreed to choke Milosevic's war machine by implementing an oil embargo over Russian objections and French

misgivings over forcibly searching for weapons.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana on Sunday sought to dismiss the Russian threats of war with a verbal wave. "The Russians, every now and then, they make phrases which go a little bit beyond where they should go."

Solana said on the ABC news program "This Week with the General" that NATO's military commander, was writing a draft plan that considers "all the possibilities so that the embargo can be guaranteed not only by NATO and NATO-friendly countries, but also for others. If it's an embargo, it will apply to everybody."

Defence Secretary William Cohen said the allies expected a plan from their military leadership "in the next few days" on the steps to be taken to implement a naval blockade.

NATO leaders also intend to intensify the air war against Serbia and to secure the return of 1.4 million ethnic Albanians to their home under NATO-led international protection.

"On this, the alliance leaves Washington more united even than it was when we came here," Clinton told reporters at the close of the three-day meeting.

But even as it brandished its military might over Yugoslavia, NATO leaders could not agree on the deployment of ground forces.

Britain and France had earlier signalled that they support-

ed the use of ground forces

they weakened Milosevic's air defences.

Senior British sources told Southern News that NATO was considering a plan to strike at the heart of Belgrade, by entering from the north through Hungary by the end of July. That plan would only be implemented if Milosevic had not been defeated by then.

But in Moscow, Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov said, "We will have to pay more attention to defence." If a ground war is launched, he also said there would be a review of Russian relations with NATO.

In a bid to keep the Russians on side, Clinton spoke with President Boris Yeltsin for an hour on Sunday.

Clinton urged a peaceful solution to the conflict.

But an unprecedented show of unity, NATO leaders met with

states that have borne the brunt of the war in Kosovo.

"The nations of the region have flaked, and even faced armed confrontation with Serbia by facilitating and supporting our campaign to end the bloodshed in Kosovo," Clinton said after meeting with Yugoslavia's seven neighbours.

Albania, Europe's poorest nation, and Macedonia have been particularly hard hit by the crisis, sheltering 640,000 ethnic Albanian refugees fleeing brutal actions by the Serb military. Western leaders also promised

support for Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Slovenia.

"They need help and we are giving it to them," NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said. "We will not tolerate threats against them or attacks on them."

French President Jacques Chirac, at times bucking the British and American bullishness at the summit, issued his own stern warning to Milosevic not to use force against Montenegro.

Throughout the day, western leaders repeated that they wanted to avoid a battle on the high seas over blockading oil shipments to Serbia. The summit authorized NATO military officials to draw up plans to check ships suspected of carrying oil. Russia and Libya are Yugoslavia's two main oil suppliers.

More than 600,000 refugees have fled Kosovo since the agitations began March 24th and hundreds of thousands more are expected to flee.

provincially, with many reported being used as human shields to protect against NATO air strikes.

VILLAGE SLAUGHTERED, AS

## McLachlan cooks up new treat with Madrigal

Malcolm Parry

A singer reveals kitchen secrets, boats launch a cultural discussion and a writer follows success with a bang.



SARAH McLACHLAN launched Madrigal Procs's Plenty: A Collection of Sarah McLachlan's Favourite Recipes at Barbara Jo McInnis's Books To Cooks store Friday. The pop singer's road chef and fellow vegetarian Jaime Lauria, who lives in the Windy City of Chicago, included such

faves as Nicoise and tropical fruit salads.

Cathryn France said Madrigal — a subsidiary of McLachlan's record company, Nettwerk — will offer what may not be a very revealing book about Nettwerk's Barenaked Ladies band.

McLACHLAN, FRANCE — will offer what may not be a very revealing book about Nettwerk's Barenaked Ladies band.

HOWARD WHITE, the Harbour Publishing founder, added to his stature at the B.C. Book Prize gala Saturday, when Harbourite Tom Henry won the Bill Duthie award for West-coastern Boats That Built B.C.

Culture Minister Ian Waddell sent out his own skiff, saying he'd deem 1999 "the year of culture" and host a three-day fall conference to outline "a new cultural policy for B.C."

Greyhound White recalled Dave Barrett's 1972-73 government having a like initiative — Arts Access — then spending its budget on a

WHITEL WADDELL B.C.ers on their cultural needs. Others recalled 1992, when then-Liberal Gordon Wilson beat NDP candidate White for the Powell River-Sunshine Coast seat, thus leaving a vital cultural institution — Harbour — in capable hands and guaranteeing British Columbians the cultural nuttiness of the Wilson-Yaboy soap opera.

GEORGE HUNGERFORD, the one-time Olympic rower who chairs the Salvation Army's local advisory board, got his oar into Hotel Vancouver lunch guests recently, saying the hotel has been here since 1887 "for people to seek refuge and hope, and make new lives for themselves and their families."

For public donations will be May 5, Hungerford said.

GEORGE LAVEROCK, the retired CBC producer and husband of pianist Jane Coop, says he'll direct the 95-concert Festival Vancouver at the Orpheum, Chan Centre and other locales in summer, 2000. The \$3-million event, which sounds like a successor to the 31-year-dead Vancouver International Festival, should include the hockey opera Game Mischance — written not by Puccini (Puckin' it) but Tom Cone and composer Leslie Uyea.

CARELLIN BROOKS, who edited the Arsenal Pulp Press book Bad Jobs, told B.C. Book Prize attendees and Green Thumb Theatre-Vancouver Chamber Choir fund-raiser Jan Harder her opera explosion is about the invention of the explosive Semtex. Alexandra Diebel will score the work, which presumably won't be over until the fat lady blows up.

SUSANNA BELL-IRVING says she and Nancy Donen will run the \$50-ticket breast cancer benefit dinner at the Hollyburn Club April 29. Meanwhile, her author-historian aunt Elizabeth O'Kieley is "holding court and being highly entertaining" in Lions Gate hospital's palliative care centre.

TONY MASSENBURG, the Vancouver Grizzlies CEO, is looking top price, \$900 — just for a dinner date — as Grizzlies Foundation benefits at Club Millennium recently.

"So, what are we, chopped liver?" radio host Pia Shandel asked comic Christine Lipka, who both went for less in bidding by point guard Mike Bibby. French-fingerie retailer Julie Steward and others.

DOWN PARLYSCOPE: There's good rain in Pandemonium, the Ottawa youth women's ensemble. Ditto the \$59-a-bag glass Merlot served at the Grizzlies Foundation dinner.

Donna McLachlan Parry's mparry@pacpress.southern.ca or 605-2984 or fax 605-2323.

## 'Missing women' reward supported

Vancouver's mayor will ask the city's police board to approve a \$100,000 reward to solve a perplexing case.

CHAD SKELTON VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver's mayor will recommend the city's police board approve a \$100,000 reward to help solve the mysterious disappearance of 21 women on the Downtown Eastside since 1995.

Responding to what he called an outpouring of "great concern" from the public, Philip Owen, who chairs the seven-member board, said he will propose the reward at its meeting this Wednesday.

As with two existing \$100,000 awards for both a series of garage robberies and string of garage robberies, Owen will propose the board contribute \$30,000 and ask the province to contribute \$70,000.

Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh said the province "would absolutely favourably respond" to a request from the police board

for a reward in the missing women cases.

On Sunday he repeated that vow. "If a reward helps, we'd be prepared to support it — and pay it," he said.

The mayor cautioned that the reward offer needs to be carefully worded, because the nature of the crime in these cases — and, indeed, whether a crime has even occurred — isn't clear. One concern is that someone could claim the full reward for simply discovering one of the missing women living in another city.

On the other hand, limiting the offer only to information that leads to a murder conviction doesn't address the possibility that some of the women may be held captive, but still are alive. "We can't just go on the assumption that they're all dead," Owen said.

The mayor said he may propose a "two-tiered" reward that would pay out the entire reward to a criminal conviction, but could also provide smaller amounts — perhaps \$5,000 — for locating the whereabouts of

a missing woman who is alive and well, but has lost touch with her family.

Earlier this month, Owen said he was reluctant to authorize a reward in the missing women cases, because police had not requested one. Both the home invasion and garage robbery rewards came after the police department made a specific request for help.

Vancouver police have steadfastly maintained that there is no evidence any of the missing women have been murdered — or that the cases are linked in any way. However, Detective Lori Shearer — one of two officers assigned full-time to the case — has been quoted several times saying she believes at least some of the 21 women are victims of foul play.

Families of the missing women were ecstatic at news of the reward. Since 1995, 22 "stranger-involved" women, most prostitutes and drug addicts, have been found on the east side. No bodies have been recovered and only one has been found alive — leaving 21 still missing.

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# Missing women 'might' be victims of a serial killer

By Adrienne Tanner  
Staff Reporter

Vancouver police Det. Lori Shenher avoids the term "serial killer" like a sticky wad of gum on the sidewalk.

She sees it, acknowledges it and deftly steps around it.

Shenher has dropped the initial police line that the 22 women who have vanished from the downtown east side since 1995 are just as likely to show up alive as dead.

Prostitutes and drug addicts do not lead transient lives. If anything, addiction and poverty trap them on the sticky strip between Powell and Hastings where it is possible to turn a trick and score the matter of minutes.

Police certainly suspect foul play, Shenher says. But is this the work of one serial killer?

**'The police have an oath to protect**

**and serve. Obviously this doesn't apply to a person with Angela's social status'**

**— Deborah Jardine**

pleasant surprise. Two missing women have been found alive. One turned up after two years in an Arizona psychiatric hospital, the other after a few months in Nanaimo.

Shenher has been looking hard for the others since July, when she volunteered to join Det. Al Howlett in the Vancouver police department's missing-persons section to tackle the mystery.

It is proving the ultimate challenge for the young homicide detective.

There are no bodies, no signs of foul play. Just class politics, accusations the police aren't taking the disappearances seriously and a sudden media interest in the case.

Deborah Jardine isn't satisfied with the efforts to find her daughter Angela, who disappeared just before Christmas. Angela lived in the Portland Hotel, was mentally challenged and turned tricks to feed her drug addiction. She called Deborah, who lives in Sparwood, once or twice a month.

When she vanished, police didn't check to see if she'd gone home for the holidays, Deborah says. It also took a month for them to print up a missing-person bulletin.

"The police have an oath to protect and serve. Obviously this doesn't apply to a person with Angela's social status."

Similar criticisms have come from agencies and advocates for the poor in the downtown east side.

Mark Townsend runs the Portland Hotel and knew Angela and a few of the other missing women. He says it wasn't until the media latched on to the story last summer that a second officer was added to the case.

Portland Hotel manager Mark Thompson displays personal effects of Angela Jardine, missing from downtown east side.

The problem is not with Shenher, who Townsend believes cares deeply about the women and is working hard on the case. "It's the higher-ups. There isn't a commitment to this."

Public pressure has now caused politicians to endorse a \$100,000 reward for information on the disappearances. The announcement this weekend has mollified some parents who see it as a sign the police are getting serious about the case.

Shenher is not convinced a reward will yield much of value. Homicide experts say rewards are "very, very seldom" if ever effective.

Cross-country checks to see whether the women are claiming welfare or using health services in other provinces have turned up nothing. Attempts to match unidentified bodies in B.C. with the missing women also struck out. It's possible, but unlikely, that unidentified remains in other provinces or U.S. states may account for one or two others. Missing-person reports are logged on

to a national computer system monitored by police in all provinces.

There is some hope too that a few of the women could be living in other cities under assumed names. Shenher is compiling a list of social-service agencies in Canada and nearby states. Once complete, she will send them photos of the missing women.

Shenher has shifted her investigative focus. She's treating the cases as linked and is hunting for "men who have shown a history of this kind of behaviour."

A glance at the "bad date" sheet circulated on the streets to steer prostitutes away from violent johns proves there is no shortage of men who abuse prostitutes, Shenher would like to talk to them.

Local prostitutes seem to think so. Many have dropped their privacy shields and registered with local community agencies.

Shenher isn't likely to speculate much more about a serial killer. Not, at least, until someone is behind bars.

ANGELA JARDINE, daughter of Deborah Jardine, disappeared just before Christmas.





# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

## HEART OF THE CITY

### TRAFFIC SAFETY DETECTIVE WASN'T WEARING SEATBELT

A respected Vancouver homicide detective was not wearing a seatbelt in an automobile accident that ended his life early Sunday morning.

Detective Rob Forsberg, 43, died almost immediately after his compact car veered off the road and clipped the back of a parked semi-trailer in the 1200-block of Marine Drive.

Vancouver police media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said Monday a seatbelt might have prevented the death.

Forsberg died from a laceration to the throat after being thrown partway through the windshield, then sliding back when the car stopped.

### POLICE TRY TO COMBAT PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES

Vancouver police launched a two-week campaign Monday to combat the increasing number of fatal accidents involving pedestrians.

The campaign was prompted by the deaths of 10 pedestrians among 13 traffic fatalities in less than four months this year.

In 1998, 18 pedestrians were killed in 39 traffic fatalities.

Media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said the campaign will include greater vigilance of offences by pedestrians and drivers who fail to obey traffic safety rules.

Sergeant Steve Schnitzer said one of the major factors has been poor visibility caused by bleak days. The first four traffic deaths in 1999 all involved pedestrians in dark clothing.

Schnitzer said another disturbing trend is the number of elderly people being struck and killed.

Elderly pedestrians often have slower reaction times, may walk bent over because of age and are less aware of their surroundings, he said.

## Fraser River rises as flood fears grow

No trouble is expected if there is a series of warm spells followed by cool weather, or a long-term cool trend.

LARRY FLYNN  
VANCOUVER SUN  
B.C.'s mightiest river is starting to flex its muscles. Warm, sunny weather raised water levels on the Fraser River to 2.62 metres Monday at the

Mission flood gauge, up from 1.29 metres one week ago. The rising water levels are still far below the point at which an official flood alert begins — six metres — but they are evidence that the melt of

massive snowpacks in the Fraser River watershed has finally begun.

The last major flood of the Fraser Valley occurred in 1948, when the gauge at Mission reached 7.6 metres. The highest

flood on record occurred in 1894, reaching 7.92 metres at Mission.

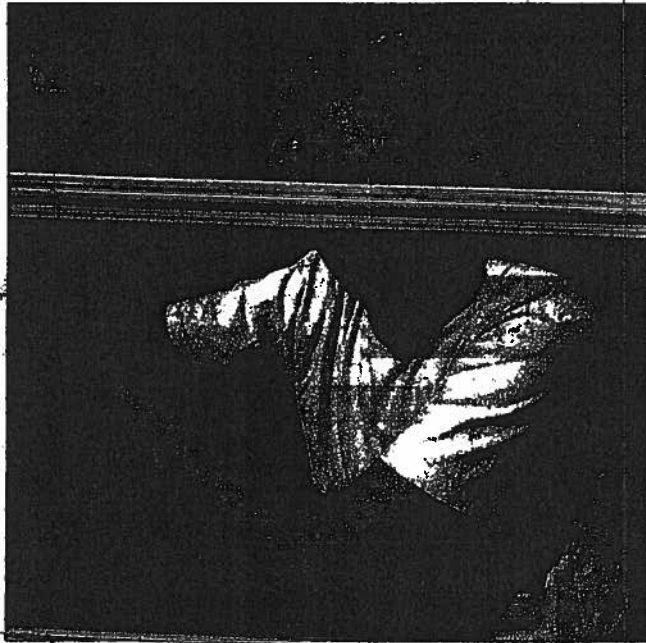
The total water volume flowing through the lower Fraser River this spring is expected to be 20-per-cent above the 30-year normal, with the chance of major flooding rated by the province at something less than

10 per cent. Total water flows as measured at the Hope gauge Monday were 4,510 cubic metres per second, up from 1,950 cubic metres a week ago.

Despite the beginning of the spring thaw at lower elevations, certain high-level snowpacks in

SEE FEARS, B3

### Working to save the salmon



CAUSE FOR CONCERN: Salmon River Enhancement Society chairman Gerry Reist is worried that filling in wetlands to allow industrial development will destroy the salmon-bearing river. Story, B4.

## Reward may endanger women, city police say

Mayor Philip Owen plans to ask the police board to okay a \$30,000 reward for information about 21 missing women.

DAVID HOGGEN  
VANCOUVER SUN

Offering a reward for information about the mysterious

disappearance of 21 women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside could endanger lives if it is not done carefully, police media liaison Constable Anne Drennan warned Monday.

"There is always the possibility that the offering of a reward of huge value might put some of the women who are out there at risk," Drennan said.

Mayor Philip Owen has indicated he intends to ask the Vancouver police board at Wednesday's meeting to approve a \$30,000 reward and request another \$70,000 from the provincial government to aid in the missing persons investigation.

Advocates for people in the Downtown Eastside and relatives of the missing women have exerted increasing pressure on the mayor's office to offer a reward for the missing women.

Owen said he will support the reward if a way can be found to offer it without endangering the safety of any women who could still be alive or unduly reward people who have chosen to drop out of sight. "The more you put into it, the more complicated it becomes," Owen said.

SEE REWARD, B3

## Khalsa credit union boss reinstated

KIM BOLAN  
VANCOUVER SUN

The president of Surrey's Khalsa school has been reinstated as head of the Khalsa Credit Union despite the fact that he is still one of the subjects of an RCMP commercial-crime investigation. The Vancouver Sun has learned.

Ripudaman Singh Malik was returned to the chair's position by a special resolution approved unanimously at the credit union's annual general meeting Sunday, acting board chairman Kulwarr Singh Parmar confirmed Monday.

Malik took a "voluntary" leave from the credit union last fall, after an RCMP raid of the

SEE OFFICIAL, B3

## Lafarge land swap illegal, skeptical neighbours suspect

Shane Simpson, a director of the Burrardview Neighbourhood Association, says east Vancouver residents are stepping up efforts to defeat a plan to build a cement plant near the Second Narrows Bridge.

He said lawyers for the group now are scrutinizing the legality of a land swap that gave Lafarge Canada Ltd. part of the site near New Brighton Park, where it wants to build.

For months now, residents in one of the tinner parts of east Vancouver have sported lawn signs to protest the proposed plant, although Simpson insists they're not against development and their opposition has nothing to do with the Not in My Back Yard syndrome.

"The view for that land has always been that industrial uses are okay," he maintained. "But we've

Ian Mulgrew

Faced with the prospect of a cement plant near their homes, Burrardview residents are fighting the company at every turn.

talked about them in terms of either maritime or marine-related uses or lighter, clean industrial uses."

Simpson says the neighbourhood is fighting for the right to work with the port and the city to find an industrial use that is acceptable.

More than 400 people showed up at a December public meeting to denounce the project. And they've also collected more than 4,000 signatures on a petition



against the plant, which would sit on Burrard Inlet adjacent to the popular family picnic area.

"This is the only part of the working port of Vancouver that abuts up against a residential area," he said.

Lafarge Construction Materials, a division of the country's largest producer of concrete, wants to build the nine-storey plant on waterfront property on Commissioner Street, a short distance west of the Second Narrows

Bridge.

The site is in the port's industrial zone, but is bordered by a residential neighborhood on the escarpment just in-shore.

Sand and gravel would be barged into the site, and cement would be taken in by truck. The materials would be mixed together with water to produce concrete, which would then be transported by trucks to construction sites 12 hours a day, six days a week.

The new plant would be closer to downtown — and therefore would offer cheaper trucking rates — than two existing Lafarge facilities on the Fraser River and in Coquitlam.

Lafarge vice-president Brian Saunders attended the public meeting to allay residents' concerns. He said then the new plant would use state-of-the-art technology to contain pollution and

waste water, but was unavailable Monday to address the latest issues.

Regardless, many of the area's residents remain skeptical. The neighbourhood association has dogged the company at every step of the process.

One of the issues, Simpson said, is that the city, the port and Lafarge did a land swap to build the overpass at Commissioner Street, adjacent to New Brighton Park. That land, plus another parcel of private Lafarge land, is the proposed plant site.

"They swapped land back and forth a number of ways to do that," Simpson said. "A bit of the park was needed to create the overpass. Lafarge, which owned a parcel of land down there, turned it over to the city as replacement park, then the port gave a lot to Lafarge in return for that."

Simpson says that in the legal agreements, there is a clause that acknowledges a concrete plant is going to be built on the site. If the clause means Lafarge already has tacit approval to build the plant, Simpson said, council may have overstepped its authority by not following the proper planning procedures.

"If they have agreed to it, they broke the law, because they don't have the ability to essentially delegate their authority as council though that kind of agreement," Simpson explained. "We're looking at that issue and also we're looking at the environmental questions with the Burrard Environmental Review committee. We have another whole range of concerns to deal with."

You may reach Ian Mulgrew at imulgrew@press.southam.ca or at (604) 685-2525.

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# Delta councillors won't run in next election

Fatigue and low pay take a toll on council members, most of whom will not be standing for re-election.

GERRY BELLEFANT  
VANCOUVER SUN

Of the seven members now occupying seats on Delta council, only George Hawkworth can say it's likely he'll be fighting for his spot in November's civic elections.

And even he doesn't sound too convincing.

"There's a better than 50-percent chance I'll run," said Hawkworth, who is ending his third term as councillor. He was first elected in 1990.

"I felt the last election would be my last, I haven't really made my mind up," he said.

However, three people who definitely have — Mayor Beth

Johnson and councillors Bruce McDonald and Wendy Jeske — say they won't be contesting their seats.

Johnson and Jeske say they are through. The mayor dropped the bombshell a week ago, Jeske a week before that.

McDonald is to run for mayor. "Whatever happens, by this time next year I'll have one less job," said McDonald, who will either quit his day job to become mayor or stay employed as the chief aviation inspector of air traffic control in Western Canada if his bid comes unstuck.

As for the rest, Lois Jackson is also seriously considering running for mayor — another possible thinning of the councillors' ranks.

Often an isolated figure on a council dominated by the IDEA group, Jackson says she has received calls from all parts of

Delta encouraging her to try for mayor.

"And it has nothing really to do with Beth's decision. I was considering running against her anyway," said Jackson, whose attempts to dig into staff expenses ruffled feathers on council and within the bureaucracy.

This leaves Krista Engelland and Vicki Huntington, neither of whom can say for sure they will be seeking another three-year term.

For councillors, it seems the high workload and low pay — 40 or more hours a week at little better than minimum wage — is taking its toll.

"I honestly have to consider the financial implications," said Engelland, who is completing a marketing course at BCIT and actively looking for work.

"It might all depend on finding a job that is flexible enough for

me to continue on council," she said.

"But when you look at the workload and consider what a councillor gets paid — about \$22,000 a year compared to the mayor's \$60,000-plus — it's a large discrepancy," she said.

Huntington reveals local politics but finds it hard to have any sort of normal life when she works 40 hours a week at a job and puts in a similar hours on council business.

"Being on council is definitely worth the effort, but that effort begins to show up in your health and friendships."

"You find yourself scheduling in friends weeks ahead of time and if you do devote any time to health, exercise or friends, your work on council suffers," said Huntington.

"Delta should consider having full-time councillors like they do

in other municipalities where they have office space and staff to help them," she said.

It's Johnson's decision to leave office — and the resulting fallout on council — that promises to make this year's election interesting.

It will give the Malcolm Ashford-led NPA an opportunity to fight for seats that won't have an incumbent blocking the way.

McDonald, whose campaign, describes the NPA as "those guys that come out of the mist at election time" — a metaphor that rolls naturally off the lips of someone who's spent a career in air traffic control.

Johnson says she's done with politics and is looking forward to getting her life back, spending time with her husband Gary and their two children.

and then as mayor in 1990, she denies reports that she is planning to seek a seat in the next provincial election.

"I honestly mean that, and I won't contradict myself," Johnson said, although she admits federal politics could tempt her.

As for her legacy, she is leaving with the admiration of the majority of council.

Hawkworth said she has showed excellent leadership. Engelland said Johnson was her mentor.

McDonald said that during her tenure, Delta has created a solid foundation both financially and administratively.

"We've had outstanding growth in industrial development and have managed to have urban growth without giving up our agricultural land — we haven't lost an acre," said McDonald.

## OFF THE FRONT

KHALSA from B1

## Credit union managers linked to welfare fraud allegations

"They have not been involved in the credit union's affairs since that time. Their decision to step aside is but another example of how they and the credit union recognized their respective responsibilities to the membership and to the credit union system. We thank them for their decision."

Parmar said Monday that the special resolution came from the floor of the meeting and was passed by a show of hands.

"Nobody was against Malik," he said, adding that he didn't know if the resolution was "legal or not legal."

"If Malik comes back, I am view-hair apin," Parmar said.

Both Malik and Uppal have also been named in search warrants involving allegations of welfare fraud against Satnam Khur Reyne, the wife of convicted bomb-maker Inderjit Singh Reyat. Reyat was recently charged after allegedly collecting more than \$100,000 in benefits while being paid by the Satnam Trust, the school's temple and from Malik's own company. All the money is alleged to have gone through the credit union, including cheques where the payee line was blank.

No charges have yet been laid in connection with the school investigation, but former B.C. Appeal Court judge Josiah Wood has been appointed a special prosecutor in the case.

Several credit union members said Monday that Malik should not be allowed to return unless he is cleared in the criminal investigation.

"What has changed?" asked Rajinder Singh Pandher, who has been a candidate for the board. "Until the investigation is over, the status quo should continue."

Pandher, who did not attend Sunday's meeting, said no notice of a special resolution was given to the membership, or more people would have attended the meeting. About 100 of more than 15,000 members were present.

Credit union member Jaswinder Kaur Sahota said it would be damaging to the credit union to have people linked to a criminal investigation back at the financial institution.

"Most people are very concerned," she said, adding that Malik and Uppal have been misleading the members about the RCMP investigation.

"They are always hiding something," said Sahota, who also ran

unsuccessfully for directorship last year.

Neither Malik nor credit union general manager Tarlochan Singh Sandhu returned phone calls Monday.

But Bob Hobart, head of the Financial Institutions Commission, said Monday that he was unaware of Sunday's resolution to return Malik to his position.

Hobart, whose commission regulates credit unions and other financial bodies, said he felt Malik and Uppal had done the right thing in stepping aside last September.

Hobart said that there is no regulation stating someone must resign because they are under investigation or even because they are facing criminal charges.

But he said a credit union must have a "conduct review committee" that assesses if such things have a negative impact on the institution.

"You do want to have confidence in your financial institution, but the directors have to make those decisions," Hobart said. "The directors can ask a person to step down if they feel clearly there is a lack of confidence in the institution because of the behaviour of a director."

SALMON from B1

## Rare species inhabit floodplain endangered by development plan

But if the land is filled, it could kill the stream. Reist says the floodplain is like a sponge, soaking up rainwater and then slowly releasing it into the river. If that sponge is cut off or paved over, water will simply rush into the river from roads, parking lots and buildings. The fast-moving water will scour the gravel streambeds, the salmon spawn in, and wipe out the gentle curves and small pools that give the fish shade.

The Salmon River begins as a stream in Alder Grove, where it winds through the Greater Vancouver Zoological Centre. From there, it turns north and passes

through the sprawling industrial park of Gloucester Estates.

At Gloucester it turns again, weaving west to Fort Langley where it forms a large floodplain around the village before emptying into the Fraser River.

Within the floodplain live three rare species, the Salish sucker, the Nooksack dace, and the Pacific white shrew. All three are endangered.

The floodplain is also a refuge for chinook salmon from the Harrison River. The chinook feed in the river mouth on their migration down the Fraser to the Pacific Ocean.

Beaver, mink, otters and rac-

coons all live along the riverbanks, eating foliage, fish and freshwater mussels.

Reist emphasizes this ecology is slowly disappearing as the floodplain is chipped away.

For the past three years, the enhancement society has monitored the water quality of the river at 10 sites every month. Society members also count the number of salmon returning to spawn every year.

"It costs less to maintain it than to screw it up and fix it," Reist warns.

Langley township has yet to hold a final vote on the Starline Windows development plan.

## Totem pole project unites police, natives

BARLE GALE  
STERLING NEWS SERVICE

Two native carvings marking both an event from the past and new hope for the future were unveiled in White Rock on the weekend.

Haida artist Robert Davidson worked for months on two 4.5-metre (15-foot) totem poles that were set into the ground in the East Beach area Sunday afternoon. The poles are the centerpiece of the new landscaped waterfront Totem Plaza.

The community park was the brainchild of White Rock Constable Mike Lane, a 25-year RCMP veteran. Lane wanted to find a way to mark the Munities' 125th birthday, celebrated last year.

But what started out as a simple concept became much more than a monument to the RCMP's longevity when it expanded to include the province's First Nations people, White Rock residents, RCMP members, business, community groups and council, said project organizer Gabrielle Durning.

"Everyone worked together on making it happen and it came to represent a bridging of cultures



BRIDGING PAST: Native carver Robert Davidson with RCMP Staff Sergeant Jim Fisher.

between the RCMP and the community, the RCMP and First Nations, and even between the First Nations," she said.

Davidson carved the poles in a workshop on the Semiahmoo Reserve, where he's been based for the past decade. He was helped by his son Ben and two brothers from the Semiahmoo

band, Leslie and Lennard Wells, who worked as his apprentices.

One of the two poles erected Sunday was designed by local Coast Salish artist Susan Point, further emphasizing the cooperation between native bands.

Many representatives from the Queen Charlottes and the Coast Salish were present for the unveiling and speech from RCMP aboriginal policing officer Inspector John Grant. He acknowledged problems between the police and the First Nations in the past and urged more cooperation in the future.

Grant apologized on behalf of the police for past transgressions toward First Nations and vowed they would not be repeated.

Money for the totem pole project was raised within the community. The city put up the land and helped with design and landscape construction. Set into the ground around the totem poles are some 200 bronze dedications in the shape of maple leaves, recognizing many people who contributed money to the project.

"What started as an idea written on a napkin has evolved into one of the most heart-warming and inspiring projects," said Lane.

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# The day Angela disappeared

Though different, on skid row she'd found a place to call home

By Adrienne Tanner  
Staff Reporter

Angela Jardine disappeared from her world in a satiny-pink party dress, the kind a bridesmaid would wear.

A splash of colour against the grime of Vancouver's skid row, the gown stood out for Mark Townsend, manager of the Portland Hotel, where Angela had lived for seven years.

It was Nov. 20, 1998, and there was a community safety meeting in Oppenheimer Park, he recalls.

"Angela was there and really excited — in her mind she was hosting the event."

She bounced through the crowd, trying to con reporters into believing she was the police

chief's daughter. Her idea of a joke, Townsend says.

Angela left some time between 3 and 4 p.m. Townsend assumed she was headed for the stroll where she turned tricks to feed her drug habit.

She hasn't been seen since.

Angela is one of 22 women who have vanished from Vancouver's downtown east side since 1995. Like her, they were prostitutes, drug addicts or both.

Police downplayed the disappearances at first, treating the cases as regular missing-persons files. Now Det. Lori Shenher, the lead investigator, says she's investigating them like homicides.

Despite Angela's problems, she always kept in touch with her mother in Sparwood. Deborah Jardine believes something sinister has happened to her daughter.

"She either has to be dead or held against her will for her not to contact me or Mark."

It was never clear exactly what was wrong with Angela, says Deborah, who sought help from countless doctors, counsellors and social workers. But from the beginning, it was obvious she was not a normal child. Her co-ordination was shaky, her speech slow. The behavioural problems started in kindergarten.

Angela would wake up in the night and wander the house.

"She would go into the refrigerator and take all the eggs out and smash them on the floor."

It was these erratic outbursts that condemned her to a life on society's margins.

Beneath the outlandish behaviour was a kind-hearted, sensitive girl few ever got to know. Deborah says: "Even though she used to have a lot of arguments with me, she always used to call me up or make things for me or just come up and give me a hug and say, 'I love you so much, Mom.'"



ANGELA JARDINE  
one of 22 missing women

Angela left home at age 16 and lived briefly in foster care.

Then she moved to Vancouver's downtown east side, where she was soon sucked into the spiral of hard drugs and prostitution. Angela spent her entire 27 years

trying to fit in, Deborah says.

"That's one of the reasons she blended into the east side so well. ... People didn't treat her like she was an outsider."

Angela became a boisterous fixture in her tough milieu. She had a crowd of friends, people she called auntie and uncle who lived in nearby hotels where she crashed from time to time.

In her tiny room, Angela left little behind but photos and memories. Townsend has saved her personal effects, hoping someday she'll show up to claim them.

There is an unopened Christmas gift, her white teddy bear, and clothes folded neatly in four small cardboard boxes.

Buried beneath family photos lie the remnants of her dreams — pages of grade-school homework half done and a romance paperback that would no doubt have stretched her reading abilities. Its title: *The Measure of a Heart*.

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# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1999

## HEART OF THE CITY

### KILLARNEY

#### COMMUNITY CENTRE GETS CASH TO EXPAND FACILITY

The Killarney Community Centre has received \$333,333 as the second payment of a \$1-million community projects grant to help upgrade and expand the centre.

The centre, built in the 1960s, houses a swimming pool, gymnasium and ice rink as well as meeting and activity rooms.

The community centre portion of the building has been demolished and will be replaced by a two-storey, 2,508-square-metre wing with a new gym. Ian Waddell, Vancouver-Fraserview NDP MLA and minister for small business, tourism and culture, said the existing lobby will receive seismic and accessibility upgrades.

## \$100,000 reward okayed in bid to find 21 missing women

LORI CULBERT  
VANCOUVER SUN

The families of 21 women missing from the Downtown Eastside say a \$100,000 reward approved Wednesday is the first step toward finding their relatives and determining if anyone was responsible for their disappearances.

Maggie deVries, whose sister SEE REWARD, B8

## MacPhail firm on SkyTrain plan

The transit minister insists the first and second phases of the proposed extension will go ahead even after talks over cost-sharing with the municipalities' new transportation board break down.

CELIA SANKAR  
VANCOUVER SUN

The B.C. government will go ahead with the first and second phases of the SkyTrain extension whether Lower Mainland municipalities cooperate or not, says Finance Minister Iain MacPhail.

MacPhail, who is also responsible for transit, made the comment after SkyTrain cost-sharing

talks broke down this week between the province and TransLink, the municipalities' transportation board.

The municipalities threatened to withhold the \$600-million to \$800-million they had been scheduled to give the project unless the government increased its contribution.

TransLink chairman George Pull said he doubts the two

phases of the project can be completed for the \$1.9-billion pricetag the province has put on it.

He said he's worried most of the money will be used up on the first phase — which TransLink isn't excited about — and the municipalities will be forced to contribute more if they want the second phase completed.

But MacPhail said the money will cover the project.

The province has proposed a \$1.9-billion package for rapid-transit development, including some \$800 million in transfers to TransLink, she said Wednesday. That's enough to complete phase one, as well as phase two to Coquitlam.

She suggested TransLink does not have the leeway to withhold its contribution.

When TransLink was created by the legislature last year, the province said it would transfer SEE SKYTRAIN, B8

## Recent advances mean patients can remain pain-free after surgery

### 'Peace of mind' delivered with anesthesia

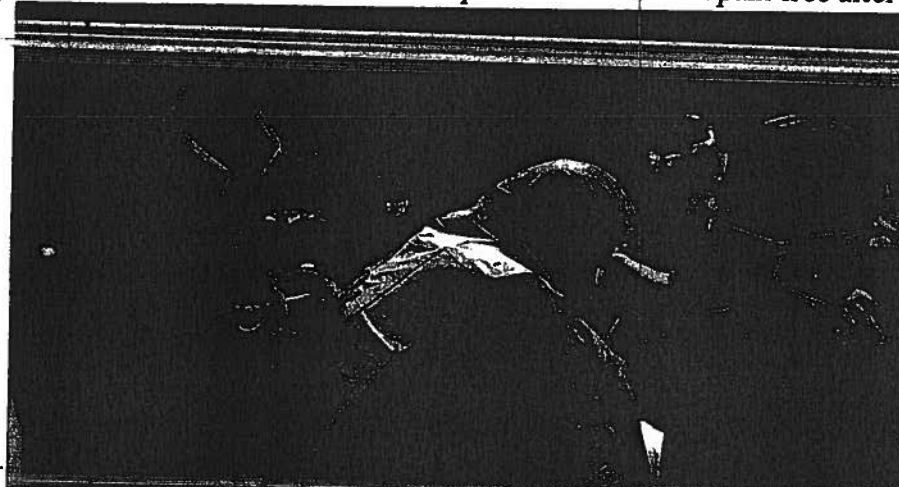
PAMELA FAYERMAN  
SUN HEALTH ISSUES REPORTER

Just 24 hours after enduring one of the most painful surgeries in medicine — the removal of the cancerous part of a lung — Tsawwassen resident Keith Fidgett was sitting up, eating and lucid, without even a trace of pain.

Just a few years ago, a patient having the same major chest surgery as the 55-year-old Fidgett would have been zonked out for days. But recent advances in anesthesia mean patients can get spinal epidurals for pain control immediately before their general anesthetic, so they remain pain free after surgery.

"It's given me peace of mind having good control of the pain and not having to worry about whether nurses are around when I need them," Fidgett said

SEE PAIN, B8



**SOMETHING FOR THE PAIN:** Dr. Raymer Grant (left) and OR nurse Karen Dow prepare patient John Hunchuk for lung surgery at Vancouver General Hospital Wednesday, Canadian Anesthesia Day. The patient is getting a spinal epidural for post-op pain control.

BILL KEAY/Vancouver Sun

## City council fears social costs of updating B.C.'s liquor laws

Ian Mulgrew

Consultant Jo Surich is draining a cup of coffee, shaking his head about reaction to his recommended changes to the provincial liquor laws.

He lists off a handful of speakeasies, restaurants doubling as bars and other liquor peddlars masquerading as responsible licence holders around 12th and Cambie alone.

"You've got to focus on why your licensing in the first place, he tells me, 'that's what matters.' He puts down his cup and counts the three issues off on his fingers: "You want no over-serving, no service to minors and no over-crowding. That's the public policy issue."

His sweeping reforms work toward those ends, he argues, and the worst offenders should be eliminated by a new focus on enforcement that would include annual licence reviews and the now-unthinkable pun-

Many other municipalities have raised a chorus of opposition to the proposals to refurbish the archaic laws.

ishment: licence removal. He also believes the recently unveiled changes won't result in huge numbers of new drinking areas or social disruption.

Vancouver city council isn't so sure. And many other municipalities across the province have raised a chorus of opposition to Surich's proposals to refurbish what nearly everyone agrees are B.C.'s archaic liquor laws.

Their complaints vary: Vancouver, for instance, is leading a charge of council that want a say in liquor licensing, although some smaller municipalities



would rather have nothing to do with such decisions.

Councillor Lynne Kennedy, chairwoman of the liquor licensing commission, complains that the process by which Surich arrived at his recommendations was not open enough. She raises concerns about the vagueness of some recommendations, the potential increase in consumption and the resulting social costs.

Social planners say alcohol abuse costs Vancouver about \$132 million annually and the dearth of treatment services is an

open sore on the city's relationship with the province. If Victoria is opening up liquor sales, council believes, Vancouver should get treatment services.

Not that the city's motives are necessarily pure and without political subtext. Trying to leverage alcohol and drug services out of the province allows the development-oriented council to assuage its well-heeled constituency's social conscience.

Yet the first of two public meetings on Surich's report, presided over by Kennedy Tuesday night at the Dunbar Community Centre, attracted almost no one who wasn't a reporter or a stakeholder.

A score of those who run the city's roughly 1,500 bars, pubs, restaurants, cabarets and lounges showed up to say Surich's recommendations may not be perfect, but they won't spawn Sodom on the Fraser.

If Surich's changes are approved, they said almost unanimously, there would be a welcomed and much greater emphasis on preventing over-service, over-crowding, and service to minors.

They also ridiculed the current regulations that force inspectors to consult "a four-inch-thick book of rules that meticulously defines whether or not a plate of super-nachos served to two medium-sized adults legally constitutes a meal in a licensed restaurant."

And they named a dozen proprietors who are flouting the law to pad their bank accounts. Surich told me he offered to attend the meeting, but the city wasn't interested in his participation. The bottom line for him is "right now, the act is unenforceable."

Surich said he is satisfied with the agreement he has wrung from those who earn a

buck from liquor sales, and he's not about to substantially alter the recommendations in his final report to cabinet May 17. Still, he promised a mechanism for community input for those cities and towns that want it and a separate regulatory process for those that don't. And he said he'll clarify some of his suggestions.

"Let them play politics," he shrugs about his civic opposition. "Although, I don't know any local councillor elected on liquor policy."

Whether council's concern for the social fabric resonates with residents should be obvious at the next meeting May 5 at the Hastings Community Centre Auditorium. The east side of the city stands to suffer the most if council's fears are warranted.

You may reach Ian Mulgrew at imulgrew@pacpress.southam.ca or at (604) 605-2195.

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## Fast facts

Large rewards rarely result in arrests and convictions.

"The big ones are very, very rarely solved by the big money," said Vancouver police Sgt. Gord Elias, co-ordinator for Greater Vancouver CrimeStoppers.

Rewards that remain open include:

■ \$1 million — the largest reward in Canadian history — for information on those responsible for the 1985 Air India tragedy.

■ \$500,000 in the case of the sniper who shot four Canadian doctors who perform abortions, including Vancouver's Dr. Garson Romalis.

■ \$300,000 in the 1993 Burnaby crossbow murder of student Sylvia Leung, 22.

■ \$110,000 in the 1996 murder of Jessica States, 11, of Port Alberni. — Staff Reporter

# Reward for missing women ignores the advice of police

Board bows to clamour but cops still doubt the serial-killer theory

By Adrienne Tanner  
Staff Reporter

Vancouver's police board ignored its department's advice and unanimously approved a \$100,000 reward to aid in the search for 22 missing prostitutes.

Legal experts will design the wording to make sure it isn't an incentive for crimes and can't be claimed by a woman who has merely been hiding.

Yesterday's ruling appeased families and friends of the missing women who feel the case never has received the attention it deserves.

Twenty-two women, most of them drug addicts and prostitutes, have disappeared from the downtown east side since 1995. No bodies have been found.

Rewards were posted in a recent rash of garage robberies and home invasions, said Maggie deVries, whose sister Sarah Jean deVries is among the missing women.

"Refusing to offer a reward in these cases set up an imbalance and it was very, very important to right that balance."

But it may cause problems for police.

Deputy chief Brian McGuinness's remarks were subtle in deference to the families and a recent rash of publicity about the missing women.

But it was clear police do not favour a reward.

Rewards can be effective when police have evidence of a crime and have "holdback" evidence to assess the validity of tips, McGuinness said. In these cases, the police have no leads and therefore no "filter" to weed out hoaxes.

Just because the women were drug-addicted prostitutes doesn't mean police haven't been trying their hardest to find them, McGuinness said.

"It doesn't mean we value them less or consider them throwaways," he said.

A second detective was assigned to the case in June.

And yesterday Const. Dave Dixon joined the three-strong missing-persons unit.

It wasn't enough for Jamie Lee Hamilton, who runs Grandma's

House, a drop-in centre for prostitutes. The allotment of three individuals is not sufficient for this number of crimes, she told the board.

"We need to convert missing status to murder status."

Hamilton said a task force made up of more police officers and community members should be formed to sift through the tips.

McGuinness said the missing-persons team works next door to a 20-officer homicide unit that is always available to help out.

Police continued to downplay fears expressed by interested persons that a serial killer could be responsible for the disappearances.

McGuinness said only that common sense leads them to believe that some of the women have met with foul play.

## Ta-ta to all that, old boy

Stories by Shane McCune  
Staff Reporter

Gentlemen, grab a knot of knickers. Ladies, seize those sausages. Give the wee one a packet of crisps.

Because Marks & Spencer, British-based purveyors of quality comestibles and comfy unmentionables, are giving up on Canada.

After 25 years, the company — known affectionately as Marks & Sparks — said yesterday that all 38 stores in Canada will close this year, throwing about 900 employees out of work.

Under orders from head office, Lower Mainland employees were forbidden to speak to The Province yesterday. But shoppers leaving the Oakridge food shop were saddened by the news.

Elizabeth Haigh and her mother, both born in England, had already been to the chain's discount outlet in Richmond's Lansdowne Mall. "Everybody's all sad," said

Haigh. "People are saying, 'We just popped in to say how sorry we are.'"

Haigh happened to be wearing a tastefully muted ensemble of slacks, sweater and jacket, all bearing the chain's St. Michael label.

Iolanda Pitton isn't British — she came to Canada from Italy 50 years ago — but she's a Marks & Spencer devotee.

"Here, have a candy, it's good for you," she said, opening a new packet of St. Michael fruit crumbles.

Her friend, Jean Benetti, admitted the stores appeal to older people, but said the closure is short-sighted.

"There's another older generation coming along," she said.

Vancouver retail analyst Toni Leung, a partner in Thomas Consultants Inc., said the firm "positioned themselves in no man's land. They're not exactly a department store per se, but they're not a supermarket, either."



David Clark — The Province

Marks & Spencer customers Jean Benetti (left) and Iolanda Pitton.

## Fast facts

Asked what she will miss most about Marks and Spencer.

Kathanne Morgan

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# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

MONDAY, M

## HEART OF THE CITY

### DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE SERVICE PLANNED FOR MISSING WOMEN

A memorial service will be held Wednesday for the 21 women missing from the Downtown Eastside.

The service begins at 2 p.m. at the First United Church at 320 East Hastings, and burgundy ribbons will be available to wear in remembrance.

After the service, flowers will be carried to CRAB Park on Main Street, where a memorial bench will be dedicated to those missing.

Two weeks ago, a \$100,000 reward was put up to aid the investigation.

Since 1995, 22 'street-involved' women, mostly prostitutes and drug addicts, have gone missing from the Downtown Eastside. No bodies have been discovered and only one woman has been found alive, leaving 21 still missing.

Friends and relatives of the missing women believe a serial killer may be responsible for the disappearances.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Missing Women Memorial Bench at any branch of the Bank of Montreal #27270-8060-059, or donations can be made on May 12 at the church or park.

## CHINATOWN

### HERITAGE MONTH OFFERS TEA TRADITIONS

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and Vancouver's Asian Heritage month will co-host a tea party in the garden May 22.

Tea master Bryan Mulvilhill will host the tea extravaganza highlighting the various Asian tea-making traditions.

Samplings of tea, poetry readings and the Japanese tea ceremony from the Chadoyu school will be part of the proceedings.

The party begins at 1 p.m.

## UBC

### RICK, AMANDA HANSEN SPEAK ON EMPOWERMENT

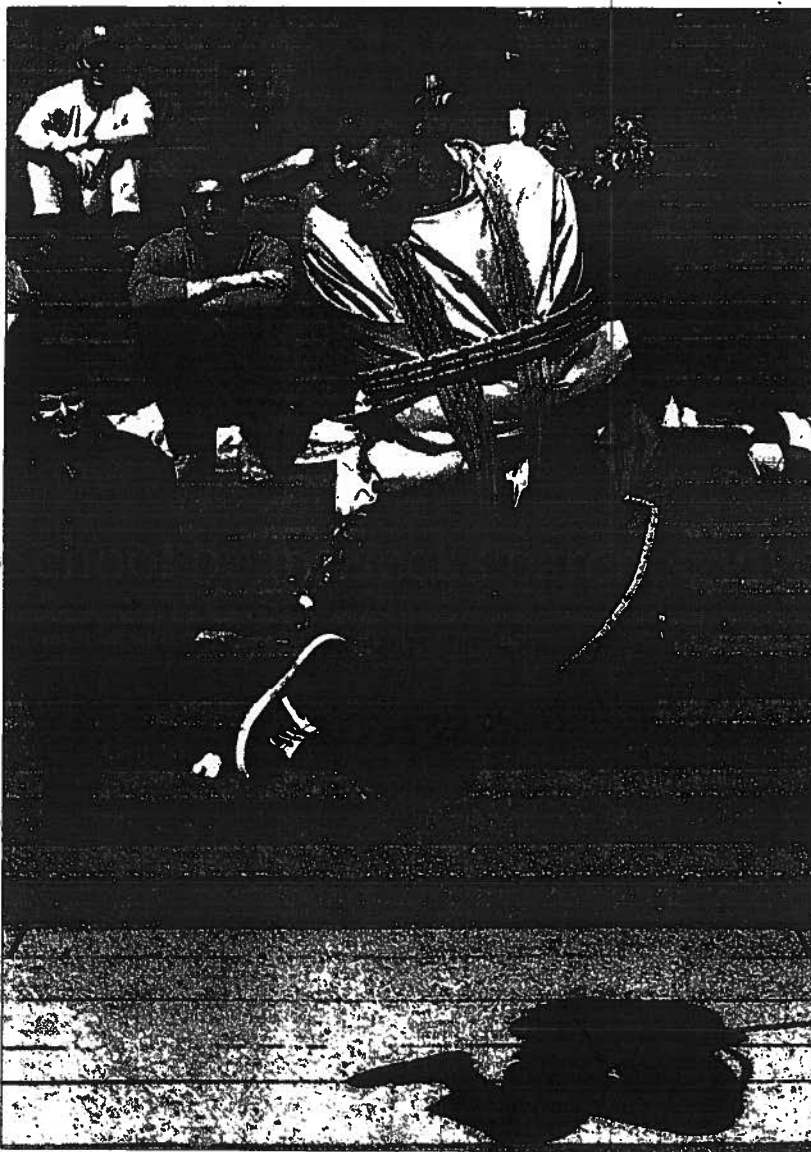
Rick and Amanda Hansen will offer tips on how to make dreams come true when the pair speak at the University of British Columbia's Women's Resource Centre society on May 14.

"This theme fits well with the philosophy of the WRC," said Sigal, director of the Downtown Vancouver centre. "We motivate and empower men and women through support and education to overcome obstacles that would otherwise prevent them from achieving their goals."

The Hansens will discuss how they made their dream of a world wheelchair tour come true and life after the Men in

# New B.C. crime-fighting unit expected to cut RCMP resources

## Escape at the Art Gallery



**CAN'T TIE ME DOWN:** 'Virgo the Eccentric' (aka Don Virgoe) works on getting free from a straight-jacket outside the Vancouver Art Gallery, where he has onlookers tie him up and then tries to escape.

The attorney-general says when it begins it will push the number of vacancies in B.C. past the critical

PETER O'NEIL  
and CATHERINE PORTER  
VANCOUVER SUN

B.C.'s already already-tightly stretched RCMP forces will be further depleted when the province's new crime-fighting team begins to recruit officers this fall, B.C. Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh said Sunday.

Without increased federal funds to recruit cadets, the new Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia will push the number of vacancies in the provincial police force past its already critical 200, he said.

"The Organized Crime Agency will be filled by people from various agencies across the province," Dosanjh said in an interview. "That would leave a void in the other agencies."

The agency is replacing the Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit, which Dosanjh scrapped last fall after a damning report on its efforts to fight a new breed of highly sophisticated criminals.

Dosanjh's comments follow debate in Ottawa last week over federal funding of B.C.'s RCMP.

On Friday, Vancouver Island Reform MP John Duncan added his voice to the list of British Columbians, including Dosanjh and senior west coast Mounties, calling for improved funding.

"When will the minister stop the bleeding, fill the vacant positions and restore the millions of dollars missing from the RCMP's core budget?" Duncan (Vancouver Island North) asked.

Jacques Saada, parliamentary secretary to Solicitor-General Lawrence MacAulay, responded by referring to his briefing notes stating that the B.C. division recently received \$10 million in supplemental funding.

"Let's stop propagating myths and let's stick to the facts," Saada told the Commons.

Duncan said he was troubled by the response because only the day before, Saada asked for specifics on how funding is affecting safety in B.C.

An official in the office said Saada suggested that future in B.C. are a mystery. MP was arguing

SEE RC

## Richmond plans to strict parking

Drivers and lo frustrated by t

CATHERINE  
VANCOU

For the past several years, Howard has arrived to find his residence space already occupied.

As a result of the rules passed by council last November, recourse is to them, and let them feel the discomfort.

Drivers like Howard's spot is extended holiday trucks because that requires to permits before parked vehicles.

But few lot owners even bothered to

Since the new act, only 36 have been issued to across the city one major mall.

But that situation change.

Recognizing the bylaw has created a problem for property owners, staff are solicited for a redrafting including easing location and signs.

Richmond's law enforcement chief, says officials softened their bylaw.

"We're trying to make them. We're not black-and-white the bylaw, but it makes sense," Tokarczyk said.

# School board seeks parents' involvement

Richmond tries to let Asian parents know what they can expect from their schools.

Concerned that not enough Chinese parents are getting involved in their children's education,

traditional school. Last month, Kelly met with leaders of Richmond's Asian

tion between schools and parents. In Richmond, almost half of parents with children in



# Gran suing cops asks for apology

By Jack Keating  
Staff Reporter

A 59-year-old grandmother is suing Vancouver police, saying she was assaulted by riot-squad members outside the Hyatt Regency Hotel Dec. 8.

"The main thing is, I want a public apology and I want the person that punched me in the face disciplined," said Irene MacInnes, a peace activist and retired social worker.

Organizers at the time accused police of using unnecessary force against demonstrators gathered to protest against Prime Minister Jean Chretien on his first visit to Vancouver since the Asia-Pacific summit that led to pepper spraying of student protesters.

## What do you think?

Give us your comments by phone at (604) 605-2029, e-mail at provletters@pacificpress.southam.ca or fax at (604) 605-2099. Be sure to spell your first and last names and give your home town.

Several Hyatt demonstrators were bloodied and required hospital treatment after being clubbed by baton-swinging police.

"He just wilfully punched me in the face with his shield and I went flying," said MacInnes yesterday. "And I want that person who punched me in the face found and

disciplined.

"Our police are there to protect us, and for a policeman to wilfully hit a defenceless woman was totally unwarranted."

"I wasn't threatening in any way at all."

MacInnes and co-plaintiff Bryce Gilroy-Scott, 27, claim in the civil suit filed in B.C. Supreme Court that the police action constituted an unlawful, unnecessary and excessive use of force.

Both claim they were victims of "intentional assault and battery" by Vancouver police.

The suit claims the actions were a violation of their rights of freedom of thought and opinion and freedom of peaceful assembly under the Charter of Rights and

Freedoms.

Police chief Bruce Chambers, Insp. David Jones and Const. Anne Drennan were listed as defendants along with the City of Vancouver.

MacInnes, who suffered a bruised nose and cracked tailbone, is still upset.

"It's important that people are allowed to protest without fearing that they're going to be hit by the police," said MacInnes.

She said she was demonstrating to highlight the plight of homeless people affected by federal government cutbacks.

This is the second civil suit brought against the police department arising from the demonstration of Dec. 8, Drennan said.



Irene MacInnes, 59, says she 'wasn't threatening.'

## Case requires much higher reward: Owen

Authorities should be prepared to pay \$2 million in rewards to solve the disappearances of 21 women from Vancouver's downtown east-side, Mayor Philip Owen said yesterday.

Owen said it may take a \$100,000 reward for each of the women to solve a mystery that has residents of the city's poorest neighbourhood fearing a serial killer.

Attorney-General Iqbal Dosanjh has agreed to put up 70 per cent of a \$100,000 reward for information leading to a conviction in the cases of 21 prostitutes who have vanished since 1995 — the most recent in January 1999.

Police have found no bodies and have no suspects.

"We're not going to be able to solve all 21 of them for \$100,000," Owen said as he walked briskly amid banners and drummers of a march held in tribute to the women.

A spokeswoman for Dosanjh was shocked at Owen's suggestion.

"That proposal has not been put to the ministry or the minister," said Kate Thompson, noting that ministry staff worked with the city and Vancouver police to agree to a first reward, which was approved at a police board meeting last month.

But Owen said he expects legal department in Victoria and Vancouver will work out the issue.

They know what the goal is, he said.

The families want this. The public wants it. Lawyers are lawyers. They sometimes move a little slowly, but I think this could be worked out.

— Canadian Press



Allen Redekop — The Province

A woman holds a flower during a memorial service for 23 missing women.

## Missing women honoured

By Adrienne Tanner  
Staff Reporter

With flowers and song tears and memories, the 21 women who have vanished from the downtown east-side since 1995 were honoured yesterday.

About 300 people crammed into the First United Church to attend a memorial that lasted more than two hours.

In the audience sat grandparents and children, prostitutes and social workers, police officers and a bus driver who said he came out of a sense of community.

All had in some way been touched by the mysterious disappearances.

With the sweet strains of Amazing Grace playing in the background, family members and friends lit candles to honour their loved ones.

Then they spoke, some personally about their grief, others about the broader social evils of drugs and poverty. All of the missing women were prostitutes, drug users or both.

The saddest were from

the children.

"Thank you for coming and remembering my mum," said Janet Henry's daughter Deborah.

"I remember the good things she did for me and the smile she had."

Tragic too, was the grief and guilt of mothers who tried but could not save their children.

"I couldn't help her," said the eloquent mother of Linda Jean Coombes.

The lead investigator in the search for the missing women said she had two wishes. Det. Lori Shearer said she hopes firstly that the families find peace.

"Secondly that the Vancouver police department can provide some answers."

After the ceremony Kathleen McTolland, whose daughter Helen Hallmark is among the missing, said she is trying to come to grips with her daughter's death.

For her the memorial did not bring closure.

That will only come when she finds out how she met her end.



**REMES:** A small motorboat trails a long wake left by a large ferry on a brilliant, sun-dappled stretch of water out of Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver.

PETER BATTISTONI/Vancouver Sun

**CITY LIMITS, B5 • LANGLEY LAWSUIT THREATENED, B3**

SECTION

**B**

# OVER MAINLAND

THE VANCOUVER SUN

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1999

## Hundreds pray for missing women

memorial at First United Church was held for the 21 women who have disappeared from the Downtown Eastside.

KELLY SINOSKI  
VANCOUVER SUN

Four hundred relatives, friends and supporters of 21 women who have disappeared from Vancouver's Downtown

Eastside lit candles, prayed and sang Wednesday in a special memorial service at First United Church.

Native elders, children and men and women packed the

East Hastings church for the 2½-hour ceremony.

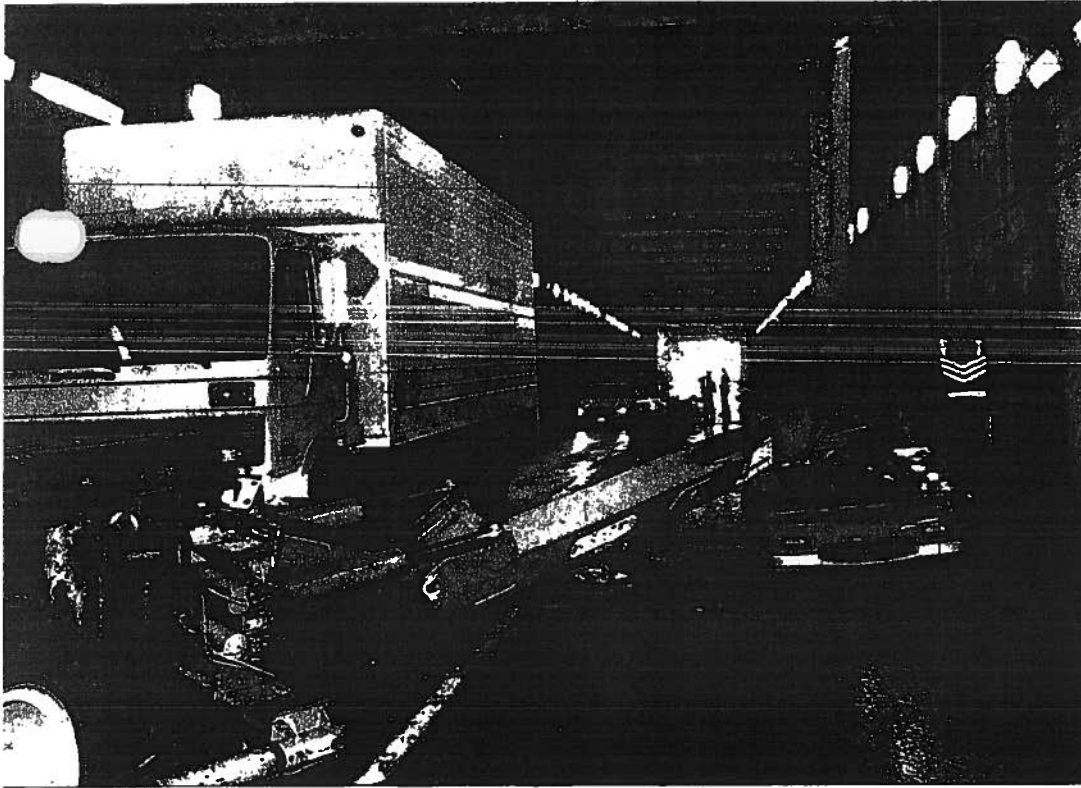
Later, carrying flowers, they marched to CRAB Park where they dedicated a bench to the women.

"I believe God is with my mother wherever she is," said teenager Sandra Koski, whose mother, Kerry Lynn Koski, disappeared in January 1998. "I hope one day she will come

back to us."

Dozens of others spoke tearfully of how the women — their mothers, sisters, daughters and friends — loved life and laugh-  
SEE WOMEN, B4

## Truck makes its mark on tunnel



GLENN BAGLO/Vancouver Sun

## Traffic snarled as truck crane strikes roof of Massey tunnel

CHAD SKELTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

A 15-foot-high crane truck met up with the 14-foot-high Massey tunnel Wednesday, causing an accident that backed up traffic for four hours.

Police said the crane truck entered the south entrance of the tunnel, which connects North Delta and Richmond, about 11 a.m. The vehicle's hydraulic crane hit the roof of the tunnel,

SEE TUNNEL, B4

## Phantom Menace a galactic force in advance sales

JOHN MACKIE  
VANCOUVER SUN

At 10 p.m. Monday night, 19-year-old Michael Lee left his Burnaby home with a tent, a lawn chair and a two-metre cardboard cutout of Darth Vader. His quest: to be the first person in line at Metrotown for the new Star Wars movie, The  
SEE MOVIE, B4

**VERHEIGHT:** Northbound traffic through the Massey Tunnel had to be re-routed after a flatbed truck with an attached crane struck the tunnel roof Wednesday morning. The wreckage of the crane had to be cut from the truck, closing the northbound lanes for hours.

## invention have rendered the projectionist redundant

Ian Mulgrew

...most moviegoers will have not a twinge of conscience as they cross the ticket line to see Star Wars.

may still be picketing when he's a teenager. Resistance, it seems, really is futile.



Prince Rupert remains closed because other unionized staff refuse to cross the picket line. The projectionists are the

theatres the rate is \$30.99 and up, that most earn between \$55,000 and \$70,000. They say one union member took home \$101,000 (gross) in 1998, while everywhere else in Canada they get paid what the job's worth: between \$14 and \$23 an hour.

"The job is really simple," said John Nixon, the Richmond public relations consultant hired to speak for the theatre chains.

Technology has eliminated frequent reel changes and the risk of fire, which had produced the high wages. An archaic pub-

participants that wanted to show films in their pavilions were shocked by the wage rates. Nixon said their complaints led to the law being changed.

Since then, theatres have been able to open without a union projectionist. Yet, because of the collective agreement, Famous Players and Cineplex Odeon continued to pay high wages. In 1990, a projectionist in a six-plex movie complex was making \$59 an hour.

But that year marked the first contract in which workers made

er told me. "They've had numerous disputes across North America and feel starving out the unions for all intents and purposes is the best way to win a dispute."

There's a lot on the table. In addition to the 40 screens slated to open in B.C. by the end of the year, the downtown core will see a Cineplex multiplex at Dunsmuir and Granville, Cineplex is building a 12-plex at Abbott and Pender and Famous Players is looking to expand its downtown screens near



issue with ranchers in the region. Clark's latest foray into regional planning takes the government into an area hard hit by the downturn in the forest industry, with unemployment hovering around 15 per cent, well above the provincial average.

"That number understates the jobless toll, locals say, because it does not count all the self-employed people who have gone under and the others who have seen their earnings shrink over the past couple of years."

"I have never seen it this bad," said John Wilson, the Liberal MLA for Cariboo North, who has lived in the region for 32 years.

made by women in the community. The nine women were chosen from a pool of 158 nominees, all from the Greater Victoria area.

The winners include:

- Arts and Culture: Bess Jillings, Manager of Greater Victoria Arts for seven years until she left the position this spring. Nationally, her art involvement included the formation of a policy for arts service organizations, participation in advisory boards and involvement as a juror for Canada Council Programs.

- Business, Professions and Entrepreneurship: Shellie Gudgeon, owner and operator of

Goode's career in radio and television spans 30 years in Alberta, Ontario and B.C. Her volunteer work extends to non-profit agencies such as the B.C. Lions Society for Children with Disabilities, Victoria Cancer Society and United Way.

- Community Leadership: Carol Pickup. Pickup has served the community for 30 years as a volunteer, hospital trustee, school trustee and board chairwoman, and Saanich councillor since 1987. She also established the Saanich Volunteer Services Society.

- Education Training and Development: Donna Miller. Principal of community education

Community Project for 24 years, Boldt pioneered the Health Fair concept.

- Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Olga Jardine. Jardine has been serving a variety of organizations for 50 years. She broke a barrier in becoming the first female president of the B.C. division of the Red Cross, of which she is still an honorary president.

- Volunteerism: June Carver has volunteered for more than 25 years in more than 20 organizations.

- Young Woman of Distinction: Nicole Rioux. A member of Pacific Coast Savings Youth Advisory Council.

and Burnaby via the Broadway-Lougheed corridor, curving around to the existing SkyTrain line on Columbia Street in New Westminster via Brunette Avenue and Sapperton.

The expansion cost is officially \$1.16 billion. Completion is scheduled for the end of 2001.

Essentially an endorsement of the expansion, Thompson's report does call for greater openness and accountability, keeping the public and the federal and municipal governments more apprised of the project design.

Thompson also supports independent monitors to ensure the expansion project meets environmental standards.

WOMEN from B1

## Memorial aimed at celebrating lives of missing

ter and children. They remembered their last Christmas together, the last time they spoke.

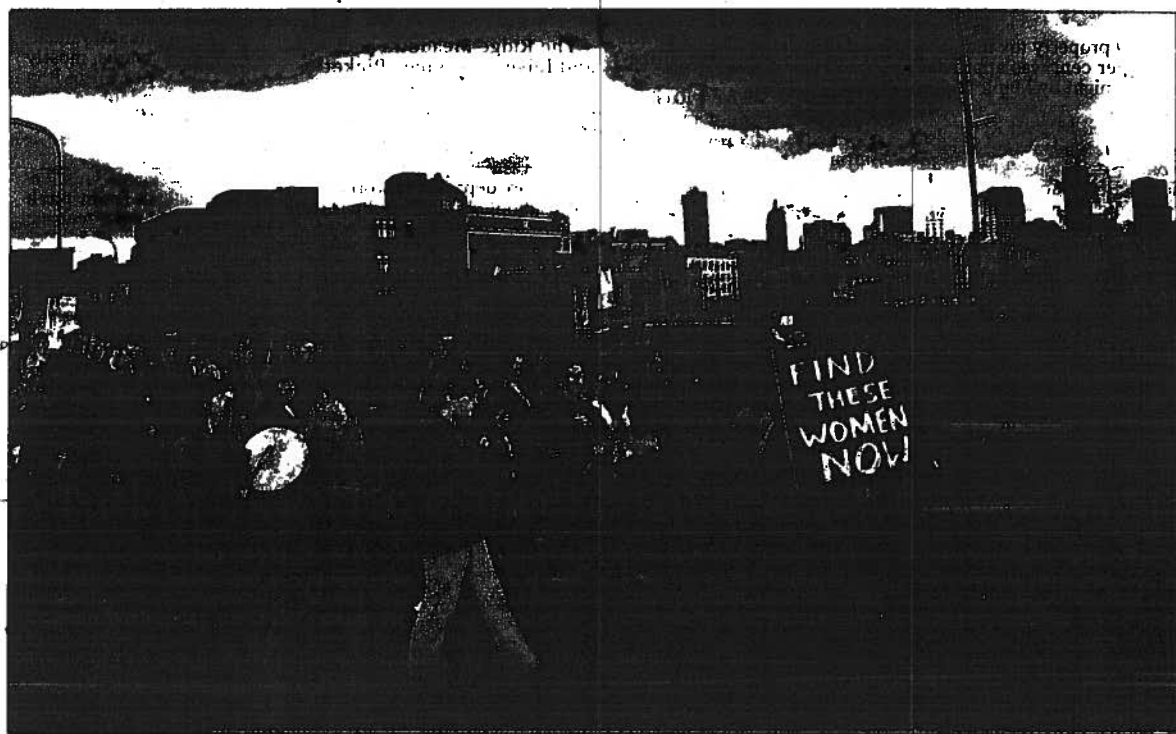
Maggie deVries, whose sister Sarah Jean deVries is missing, recalled how her sister ate her blueberry pancakes last Christmas and danced with her son Benjamin in her arms.

"May you know somehow and somewhere that you are loved and that you always were..." deVries said reading a poem she wrote last June, three months after her sister went missing. "I treasure each moment we have had together over all our years."

The memorial was the first gathering to celebrate the lives of the 22 "street-involved" women, most of them drug addicts and prostitutes, and to help bring a sense of closure to their disappearance.

Since 1995, 22 women have gone missing. No bodies have been discovered and only one woman has been found alive, leaving 21 still missing. Friends and family believe a serial killer may be responsible for the disappearances and have urged the police to find out what happened to their loved ones before anyone else disappears. Two weeks ago, a \$100,000 reward was put up to aid the police investigation.

So far, no evidence has surfaced that would indicate the missing women were victims of foul play. All were sex-trade workers in the Downtown Eastside, they disappeared from the same area, they haven't contact-



STEVE BOSCH/Vancouver-Sun

**DEMANDING ANSWERS:** Several hundred people walk along the waterfront of the Downtown Eastside Wednesday to protest what they say is inaction by authorities in trying to locate more than 20 missing women. Many are thought to be prostitutes and drug-addicted.

ed relatives, and they haven't touched bank accounts or personal property.

Michelle Pineault, whose daughter Stephanie Marie Lane also disappeared, leaving a young son, said she doesn't expect to see her daughter again.

"Today, I hope, is the beginning of a healing process because my daughter has been gone a long time," she said after the ceremony, holding a picture of her pretty, dark-haired daughter. "I grieve every day."

Outside the church, members of Vancouver Rape Relief carried pickets saying "Find these women now" and "Prostitutes are not disposable."

"We expect the police and the RCMP to seriously investigate these women and their cases," spokeswoman Tara Khadem said. "We believe the police response to these missing women has been horrible. To say there isn't enough evidence is horrible."

Vancouver police media liai-

son Constable Anne Drennan said legal experts are still working on the wording of the recently approved \$100,000 reward. She didn't know how long that would take.

Police say the wording of the reward is trickier in this case than in most others because there are so many victims, and some may still be alive but in hiding for various reasons. Two detectives, a constable and a civilian staff member are working full-time on the file.

Laura Linklater, who works with a relief agency in the area, said the disappearance of the 21 women shouldn't be swept under the carpet but should be treated the same way as if the women had disappeared from an affluent area of the city.

"We're lighting candles for our sisters, our daughters, our cousins. We're just honouring their lives because they mean something," Linklater said. "These people were special."

MOVIE from B1

## Fans flock to ticket booths despite mixed reviews from film

*Phantom Menace.*

He was. After all, tickets for the movie didn't actually go on sale until Wednesday at noon, 38 hours after Lee and two friends camped out on the sidewalk outside Metrotown's McEl's cinemas.

By Tuesday night, they had been joined by another 75 *Star Wars* fanatics doing an overnighter in the rain. Many didn't sleep, opting to stay awake and swap stories about Luke Skywalker, Jabba the Hutt and Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"It was cold, very cold," said

soup and hot chocolate. We'd warm up, come back, and 15 minutes later be cold again."

By noon Wednesday, the line was up to 500 people, most of them ready to scoop up the maximum of 12 tickets each. The first show — on Wednesday, May 19 at 12:01 a.m. — quickly sold out.

It doesn't seem to matter that the movie is drawing mixed reviews from critics. The *Star Wars* faithful are pumped about the long-awaited release of the fourth instalment in the series.

Why?

little kids, it has the storyline for people who like movies, it's got strong female role models for women. I love the good guys for being the pure heroes they're supposed to be, and it's got the sinister evil guys — Siskel and Ebert said their all-time favourite evil person was Darth Vader. So how can you go wrong?"

Indeed, Stuart Pollock of Famous Players in Toronto said Wednesday's lineup at Metrotown was matched by lineups at 35 other theatres across Canada.

To cope with the demand — and add even more buzz to

cinemas where *The Phantom Menace* will be showing.

"It's something I don't think we've really seen before," said Pollock, comparing the *Phantom Menace* lineups to something you usually only see at mega rock concerts. "It's been overwhelming."

The marketing of the movie has also been overwhelming. *Star Wars* merchandise seems to be everywhere, including movie theatres — the Pizza Hut and Taco Bell outlets at Metropolis will be selling 17 different toys at \$3.95 a pop, along

through a hole in its noggin).

Toymakers expect to rake in \$2 billion to \$4 billion from *Star Wars* merchandise. (For a sample of what's out there, check out the web site: [www.starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com).)

Judging by the lineup, most *Star Wars* fans are young guys. They're also surprisingly, well, normal.

"I thought they'd be a bunch of geeks," admitted 19-year-old Andrew Morning-Smith. "But there's a lot of great people. We had a great time last night. It was more fun than I've had in a



**WIND IN THEIR SAILS:** Blustery but warm weather had these boaters out practising their skills and getting a taste of sea spray.

**CITY LIMITS B5 • SKYTRAIN STATION FOR BURNABY B4**

SECTION  
**B**

# POWER MAINLAND

605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1999

## Homicide detectives join search

Vancouver city police are expanding their investigation into the disappearance of more than 20 women in the Downtown Eastside drug or sex trade although there is no evidence any were murdered.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver city police have assigned two homicide detectives to a team of officers investigating the disappearance of more than 20 women involved in drugs and/or the sex trade on the Downtown Eastside.

And although police have no proof any of the women has

been murdered, investigators have sought assistance from authorities involved in major serial killer cases in Washington and New York states.

Vancouver homicide Sergeant Geramy Field said the discussions are "more general in nature" and have not focussed on specific suspects or links.

"We've been talking to inves-

tigators from a number of places... to talk about their investigations and how they did it and what they've uncovered and that kind of thing."

She stressed that police have no evidence that a serial killer is at work in Vancouver. "We're just keeping all of our doors open at this point and looking at everything we can."

In particular, she said, police have spoken to investigators working the unsolved Green River killings in Seattle, as well as a Poughkeepsie, N.Y., case in which a man is accused of killing eight women and hiding the bodies in his family's house.

The New York case is particularly interesting to Vancouver police because it began as a missing persons investigation. All but one of the women had been reported missing and, as in Vancouver, they were involved in drugs and the sex trade.

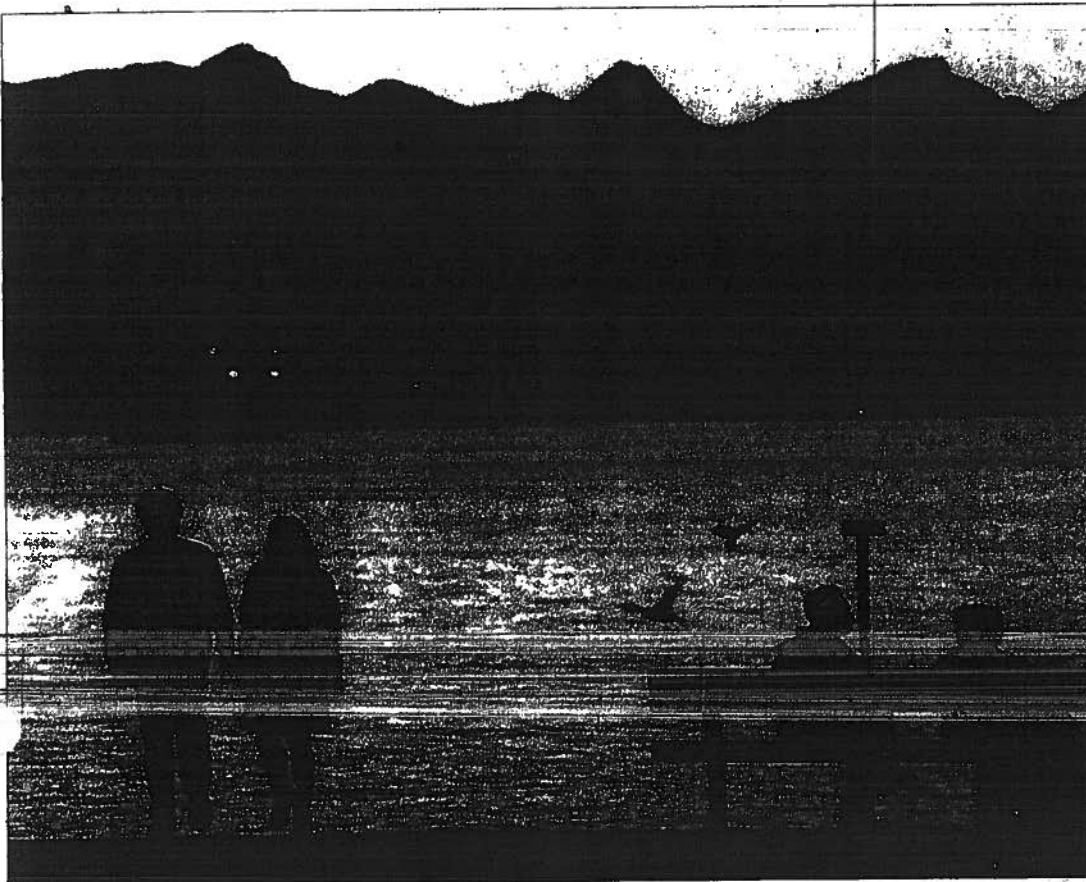
"What we're going to talk to them about is how they conducted their investigations," Field said Thursday. "Sometimes you learn from other people's pitfalls as well as their successes."

At least 20 women have disappeared from the Downtown Eastside in the past three years, and the Vancouver police board recently approved a \$100,000 reward to assist the investigation.

Field, who oversees the missing persons section, said Thurs-

SEE MISSING, B4

*Sunset draws strollers before the weekend clouds roll in*



NICK DIDLICK/Vancouver Sun

## Business calls on city to stay firm in face of strike threat

Any disruption to civic services would be worth it to maintain five-day work schedule, executives say.

CELIA SANKAR  
VANCOUVER SUN

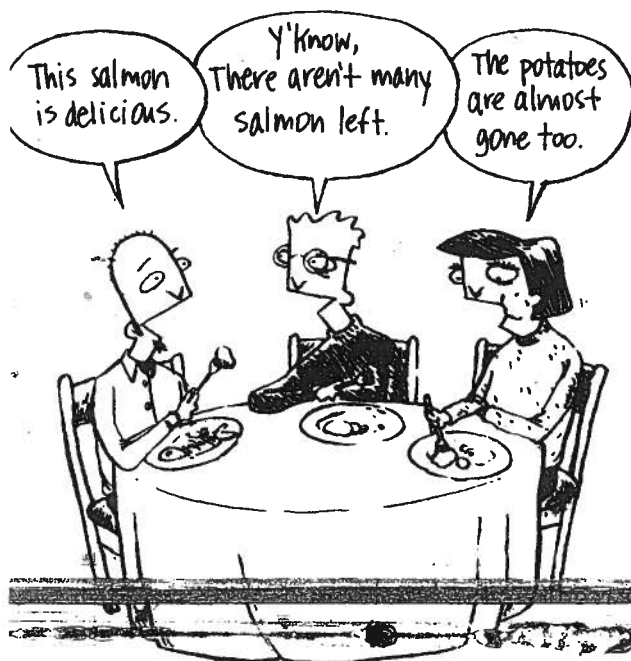
Vancouver's business community is advising the city to stand firm in the face of a threat by civic workers to shut down city hall over the elimination of their compressed work week.

A strike would cripple certain sectors in Vancouver, but business groups say it's worth enduring a labour dispute to maintain the five-day, nine-to-five schedule that city council reinstated Tuesday, after 23 years.

Maureen Enser, executive director of the Urban Development Institute, which represents builders and developers, said the arrangement that allowed some civic employees to work a four-day week and others to work a nine-day fortnight had to go, because it was impractical.

She said her industry wants council to stand firm, even though a strike would slow the processing of various documents needed by the businesses and residents, and would stall the consideration of new appli-

**SPRING BREAK:** A couple holding hands on a stroll along English Bay takes advantage of a postcard May evening while they can. The



## Short on conversation?

fresh takes on books, film, music, west coast culture, and more. It's a new section that's full of things to stimulate conversation and your mind. All with a local flavour. Find out what everyone will be talking about this Saturday night. Saturday's Sun. Call 33-11-SUN today for home delivery.

**THE VANCOUVER SUN**  
**MIX**

day when she heard the government had given the company an extra nine months to file an application.

"It certainly appears as if the province is trying to buy time for the applicant," said Jeske.

"How long has this community got to wait for them to bring in a proposal? It also seems to us like the government is trying to co-opt the environmental opposition to the development and it makes you worry

part of the bog would be saved. The plan also called for the Pacific National Exhibition to be moved to the developed portion of the bog.

However, the PNE plan was abandoned following a public outcry against developing the bog.

Some environmental organizations have vowed to prevent any development of the bog and want the government to purchase it outright from Delta Fraser Properties.

## Student car rally gags too risky, police warn

STERLING NEWS SERVICE

West Vancouver police say the pranks of high school students involved in a rogue car rally have gone too far after two women reported being harassed as they walked down the street two weeks ago.

Sergeant Jim Almas said two 62-year-old women made separate complaints to the police about being touched "inappropriately" on their breasts and buttocks on May 22 by youths who approached them and

from the Ambleside Par 3 golf course and a promotional umbrella from a gas station, in addition to the sexual assaults.

Almas said police intend to hold the suspects fully accountable for their actions, and charges of assault, sexual assault, and theft could be laid.

School board chairman David Stevenson said Sentinel's principal and the school district have been informed about the police investigation and are "disturbed by the apparent lack

the suspects are students at Sentinel secondary school who were taking part in an unsanctioned car rally.

Police say car rallies usually involve a list of harmless activities that teams must complete to earn points. But lately, police say, the activities have become more risky and illegal.

In the recent event, rally participants are suspected of two thefts of golf tees

the students.

The school board will likely consider taking stricter action regarding non-school-related graduation activities that can cause the community grief, Stevenson said.

"And I think what we're going to have to do is set out clearer guidelines to future classes to try and make sure this kind of thing doesn't happen again," he said.

MISSING from B1

## Investigators to survey prostitutes for clues about disappearances

day the department has completed its statistical analysis, which confirms that the number of missing women is abnormally high in the past two years.

But Field cautioned that there could be other factors that account for the sudden rise, such as an increase in deaths related to intravenous drug use and AIDS. It may still be possible to link some of the missing women to unidentified bodies using DNA or dental records, she said.

Still, Field said, the department has assigned two homicide detectives to the files because missing persons investigators have gone to great lengths to locate the women, without success.

"Now we're looking at it from another angle, which may be bringing in the experienced homicide investigators to look at the possibility of serial predator."

She also said investigators will be organizing forums with women on the Downtown Eastside in hopes of eliciting new information.

"One of the things they didn't do in New York, they did a survey of all their prostitutes, and we're going to be doing that."

Field said Vancouver investigators are also working closely with psychological and geographic profilers, although the case involves a lot of guesswork at this point because there are no crime scenes or confirmed homicides.

"We don't have any suspect leads at this point, because again, we don't have a homicide at this point," she said.

The investigators will also be using the department's database of known sex-trade customers as a way of identifying possible suspects, she said.





## Salmon treaty shut-out angers natives

**Fisheries Minister David Anderson says B.C. stakeholders were left out of the talks on a new fish pact because of rhetoric and leaks.**

**JIM BEATTY**

SUN LEGISLATURE BUREAU

VICTORIA — B.C. aboriginal leaders are furious at being frozen out of discussions regarding the Canada-U.S. salmon-sharing deal, claiming their constitutional rights have been trampled.

On Friday, Grand Chief Ed John of the First Nation Summit

said the renewed Pacific Salmon Treaty, which was announced in Vancouver this week and will last 12 years for Fraser River sockeye and 10 years for other salmon species, has ignored the rights and entitlements of aboriginals.

The federal department of fisheries and oceans "has chosen to ignore the legal rights of

First Nations people. There is a high level of frustration and anger within First Nations in dealing with DFO and the federal government with respect to fisheries issues."

As federal Fisheries Minister David Anderson prepared Friday to tour the province promoting the new fishing agreement, those who had not been

consulted in its renewal — B.C. natives, environmentalists, sport fishers and the provincial government — weighed in with their comments.

"Extreme disappointment is an understatement," said Chief Gibby Jacob, a Pacific Salmon commissioner. "There hasn't been any consultation."

By contrast, more than 20 U.S. native tribes were consulted before the Canadian and U.S. governments agreed on the new arrangement.

Anderson said he understands and expected the aboriginal anger.

"The process bruised a number of people," he admitted Friday.

Anderson said B.C. stakeholders were cut out of the process because of the high degree of rhetoric, frustration and leaked information in previous attempts to reach a new accord. He said he couldn't allow some B.C. stakeholders to continue to

SEE TACT, B6

## Court-approved sale of sub torpedoes entrepreneur's dream

## Police prepare reward poster with photos of missing women

**LINDSAY KINES**  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver police plan to release a reward poster featuring the photographs of more than 20 women who have disappeared from the Downtown Eastside.

The wording of the \$100,000 reward is still being reviewed by the city's lawyers. But the poster could be completed as early as next week.

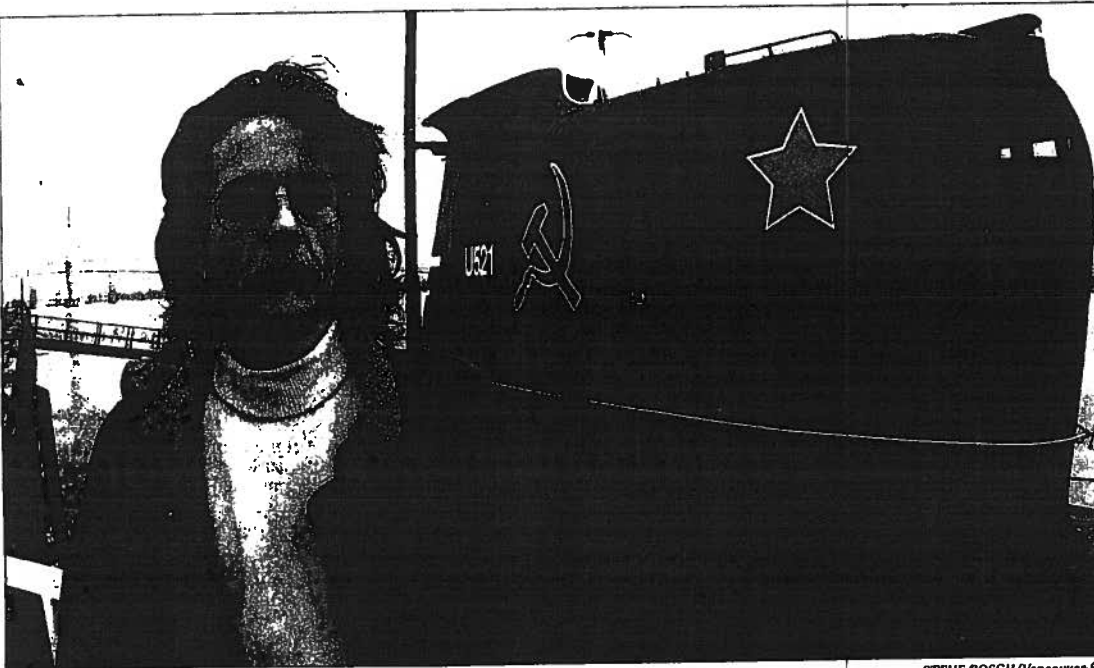
The wording has been particularly tricky because police have no evidence that any of the women has met with foul play. There are no crime scenes, and no bodies have been discovered. "When you're talking about a \$100,000 reward you have to narrow the focus," media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said Friday. "So we've been trying to meet the challenge with the lawyers ... so that it will quite probably pertain mostly to information with respect to foul play and/or any kind of criminal activity surrounding the disappearance of these women."

be released at a press conference and that police are still exploring the possibility of a line to handle calls from the public.

In the meantime, anyone with information on the women's disappearances is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 669-TIPS.

Drennan said the reward poster will include pictures of all 20 women who have disappeared since 1995. The women were involved in drugs and/or the sex trade.

SEE INVESTIGATION, B6



STEVE BOSCH/Vancouver Sun

**CONSIDERS APPEAL:** John Jeffery, who was one of 46 investors who bought the sub from the Russian government for \$1 million, is considering appealing the forced sale of the vessel. Jeffery lost his investment as the New Westminster-based tourist operation went bankrupt.

The former Russian vessel will likely remain open as a tourist attraction in New Westminster this summer.

**BRIAN MORTON**  
VANCOUVER SUN

A Cold War-vintage Russian submarine moored in New Westminster could eventually wind up in Victoria.

That's one of several possibil-

ities being considered by California company that got approval in B.C. Supreme Court this week to buy the 91-metre-long Foxtrot U-521, which opened as a tourist attraction in November 1996 near the Westminster Quay Public Market.

Submarine Attractions of Lake Arrowhead, Calif., will pay about \$370,000 Can for the submarine, which was seized by bailiffs and put up for sale to pay off debts after the local

company, Russian Submarine B.C. Ltd., went into receivership.

Submarine Attractions president Edward Skowron, who has a similar Russian submarine attraction in Long Beach, Calif., said in a telephone interview on Friday that his newest sub will likely remain open for business in New Westminster for the summer before he finds a permanent home for it.

"It's exactly the same as the

one we have now, so it would have to be in a different location [from Long Beach]," he said. "We're looking at San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, but also Victoria. If it was in Victoria, it would most likely be on the waterfront, with high visibility, that sort of thing. But we haven't made any permanent choice."

On Thursday afternoon, the submarine's receiver, Wolrige

SEE SUBMARINE, B6

## Women novel is best judged by those who have read it

VESTIGATION from B5

## Poster includes descriptions of 20 women missing since '95

Of those cases, two were reported to police this year, 10 in 1998, three in 1997, two in 1996 and three in 1995.

The most recent addition to the list is that of Jacquiline McDonnell. The 23-year-old was last seen on Jan. 16 of this year. She was reported missing Feb. 22.

The poster is also expected to include information and some photographs of women who disappeared from 1978 to 1992.

In many cases, the dates and times when the women were last seen is only a best guess by police because the women often were not reported missing for months.

Vancouver police recently assigned two homicide detectives to its team of officers investi-

gating the women's disappearance. Although there is no evidence the women have been murdered, the detectives will examine the possibility of a serial predator.

Investigators have already sought the assistance of authorities working major serial cases in Washington and New York states. Vancouver police say the discussions have been general in nature, and have focused on how law enforcement in those states conducted its investigations.

In addition to the two detectives, Vancouver police have two missing person investigators assigned to the case, as well as geographic and psychological profilers.

FACT from B5

## Sportfishing group welcomes new salmon treaty with U.S.

sit at the negotiating table while barring others.

While B.C. natives don't have signed treaties detailing their fishing entitlements — as in the case in the United States — Anderson said he is well aware of the aboriginal concerns regarding the salmon treaty and considered them before signing the deal.

Nisga'a Chief Joe Gosnell couldn't comment on the specifics of the treaty or how it will effect the Nass River or his tribe's entitlement.

"How will this new arrangement impact on our treaty?" he asked Friday, expressing his

frustration with the federal government. "They demanded consultation on our treaty talks and I have to ask, where was the consultation with major stakeholders in the treaty discussions? Obviously, that did not happen."

The Pacific Salmon Treaty was signed in 1985 but the fish-sharing arrangements in it expired in 1992. Repeated efforts to renew the fish-sharing plan failed, creating acrimony on both sides of the border.

The new agreement, which Anderson says will guarantee

more salmon for Canadians, establishes long-term fishing arrangements that conserve stocks and yet allow each country to catch a percentage of specific salmon species.

In addition, the new agreement creates a \$209-million (\$140 million US) endowment fund — paid for by the U.S. government — to invest in coastal habitat, stock enhancement, science and salmon management.

The lucrative sportfishing industry — which generates millions in the B.C. tourism indus-

try — expresses with the deal.

"We definitely have longer with lines," said Todd Bird, director of the B.C. fishing.

Bird said the agreement will taken foreign B.C. has been fishing.

"The news particularly to countries are fishing is taking

SUBMARINE from B5

## 'Skipper' still conducting to

Mahon Ltd., got permission in court to sell the 1971 diesel-powered submarine to Submarine Attractions.

The court allowed the sale despite opposition by Vancouver resident John Jeffery — one of 40 investors who originally paid the Russian government \$1 million for the submarine. Jeffery wanted the court to delay the sale, so he could try to put together another proposal to keep the company afloat.

The court was also asked to rule if Wolrige Mahon got fair market value for the sub.

"I was hoping to move it from New Westminster to Vancouver harbour," said Jeffery, who said he is considering appealing the court decision allowing the sale.

"I think my proposal was quite do-able. I'm not happy with this [court decision]. I invested \$55,000 and lost it all."

Meanwhile, the submarine's long time "skipper," Gord Michasiw, is still conducting tours in New Westminster.

"I don't know what's going to happen," said Michasiw, who has been asked to keep running the attraction for the time being. "I'd like to talk to them [the new owners]. I've got some ideas myself."

Michasiw said he believes about 200,000 people have toured the sub since it was set up in 1996. However, the number of people showing up has dwindled.

"It comes and goes, but we're

not doing any now. There's a situation here doesn't help."

Michasiw's RSBC's financial stemmed from fine it owned wasn't a success.

RSBC's president, who could comment sub towed to buying it in VI.

The sub, which was missioned in lance mission elsewhere in Vancouver Island.

It had huge: and carried m

## Customs finds 26 kilos of cocaine in freighter from

Canada Customs made its second major drug seizure in less than a week when it found 26 kilograms of cocaine on a ship anchored in English Bay.

Revenue Canada officials boarded the MV Titan on Wednesday and searched the entire vessel with 14 officers and one drug-sniffing dog. Cocaine was found hidden in the ventilation system of the crew's

washroom and among several bags of lime and industrial rags in storage areas in the ship's bow. The Titan's voyage originated in Buenaventura, Colombia.

On May 27, customs officers found more than 63 kilograms of cocaine in two duffel bags atop a shipping container of coffee at the Port of Vancouver.

Customs officers routinely

target high-risk international

Seized drugs handed over in such cases have to investigate. people have transport ship put drugs on drugs were p who was supplied can be next

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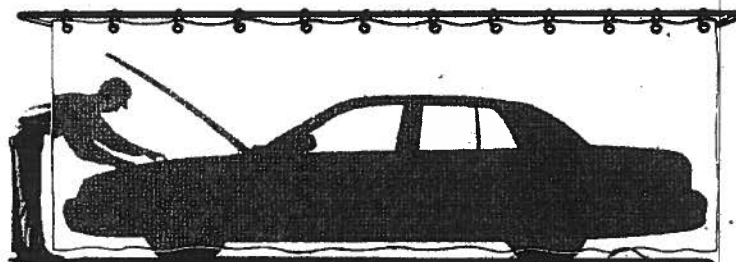
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THE VANCOUVER SUN



## Time for a check-up?



# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1999

## HEART OF THE CITY

### DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE PRIVATE EYES JOIN SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMEN

A private investigation firm is joining the hunt for more than 20 women who have vanished from the streets of the Downtown Eastside since 1995.

Officials with Vancouver-based C.P.A. Confidence Group Enterprises Inc. said Tuesday it will go ahead whether police welcome its efforts or not.

"We'd like to work with police but if they say no, it's too bad," said Darryll Harasemow, investigations director for the company, which is about 10 years old and has 40 staff, including former RCMP and Corrections Canada personnel.

Company president John Pisarski said it's too early to tell how C.P.A.'s tactics will differ from those of Vancouver police. "We're hoping we'll turn over

a stone, maybe a little different than someone else, and we'll be able to come up with something. We're not promising miracles, but we're good investigators and we're good at what we do."

The company has taken no retainer, but has its eye on a \$100,000 reward posted by the Vancouver police board for information in the case. Pisarski noted provincial regulations allow the firm to proceed on a case once a reward has been offered. "We're going on the fact that a reward has been posted," he said. "That gives us entry."

—Canadian Press

### LANGARA COLLEGE PROFESSOR WHO HELD NUDE CLASS SAYS HE'LL SUE

The lawyer for a shamanism instructor who was fired last month by Langara College plans to begin legal action against the college today for wrongful dismissal.

Todd Kerr said his client, Kenneth Aastrup, decided to sue after a meeting Tuesday with college officials fell flat. He asked for the meeting so he could give his views on why almost two dozen students in his course disrobed during a class in April. Aastrup had hoped to persuade the college to rehire him, but Langara refused and the meeting lasted only about five minutes, Kerr said.

The college cancelled its contract with Aastrup shortly after the program manager found out about the nudity, although the college says it has several reasons for dismissing Aastrup. It has refused to give details to The Vancouver Sun, citing privacy laws.

Kerr said Aastrup has never been given reasons for his dismissal. Usually based in Mexico, Aastrup moved to Vancouver earlier this year to teach the course and his work permit for Canada hinges on employment with the college. None of the adult students in the class complained about the course, but college spokeswoman Penny Noble said they agreed later that nudity is inappropriate in a community college course.

## Charges stayed in \$700,000 heist

The Crown decides it cannot prove police didn't coerce statements from the suspects. The loot from the armoured car was recovered.

DOUG WARD  
VANCOUVER SUN

Charges have been stayed against four men accused of stealing more than \$700,000 from a Loomis armoured car in what police say was an inside job.

The stay of proceedings was entered Tuesday after Crown counsel decided it couldn't prove that statements the accused made to the police were voluntary and not coerced.

The incident, which occurred Jan. 13 in New Westminster, was

initially treated as a robbery. But police charged four men with theft after deciding the heist was an inside job staged by the Loomis driver with the help of a federal prison guard and two private security guards.

Police recovered more than \$725,000 within five days of the money going missing. The incident occurred after a Loomis car arrived at the New Westminster Quay to replenish an automatic teller machine.

It was believed to be the biggest heist in New Westmin-

ster history.

Regional Crown counsel Peter Gulbransen said the prosecution's case rested primarily on statements made by the accused to the police.

To succeed in court, counsel had to prove they were made voluntarily, and not obtained by the use of threats, promises or oppressive conduct, said Gulbransen.

The four men arrested were a Loomis driver Desmond Daniel Moore, federal prison guard Brian Michael Bourne and two

private security guards, Gregory Milton and Ernest Morgan. Despite the problems involving evidence, Gulbransen praised New Westminster police for quickly recovering the money.

"They got all the money back and did a very quick job," he said. "I think they should be commended for that. Being a police officer is very tough and getting a statement is very tough."

New Westminster police Inspector Mike Judd said he was disappointed that Crown counsel did not have the "comfort level" it required to proceed to trial.

"We put forward what we felt was the best evidence that we could lawfully obtain and Crown took a different view on it."

"We respect their decision because they have the ultimate responsibility on whether to approve charges."

Judd said the investigation of the case will continue despite the stay of proceedings. Charges can be reactivated within a year of a stay.

Del Sokol, a lawyer for defendant Bourne, said the Crown decided to stay charges after receiving a video or audio tape of police interviews with the defendants.

## West Van whiz scores 98 per cent in national math contest



NICK DIDLICK/Vancouver Sun

**MATHEMATICAL MARVEL:** Daniel Brox (left), a Grade 10 student from Sentinel secondary, tied for the highest math score in Canada's 1999 Euclid Mathematics contest. UBC Professor George Bluman (centre) called the performance of B.C. public school students remarkable.

## Sentinel student, school on math honour roll

B.C.'s public schools and students ranked remarkably well in Euclid competition.

JANET STEFFENHAGEN  
VANCOUVER SUN

A student at West Vancouver's Sentinel secondary who is passionate about math and basketball tied for top marks in a national mathematics contest while Sentinel ranked first

among schools.

Daniel Brox, a Grade 10 student, scored 98 per cent on the annual Euclid mathematics competition, tying with five students from Ontario schools.

Over-all, B.C. public schools and their students performed remarkably well, Professor George Bluman, head of the University of B.C.'s math department and provincial coordinator for the contest, said

Tuesday.

Schools outside Greater Vancouver and Victoria also deserve praise, achieving their best scores in recent memory, said Bluman, a member of the committee that sets the Euclid paper.

Private school results, however, were less impressive, with only one private school student — Vito Sze of St. George's School in Vancouver — among

the 47 B.C. students on the Canadian honour roll.

That's perplexing, Bluman said, because in the contest's early years, almost half the students who scored well were from private schools. Now, private school students have almost fallen off the charts, even though they form a greater percentage of all B.C. students than ever before, he noted.

SEE MATH, B4

## New York wants to hear funeral story

Vancouver funeral director invited to share his vision of the troubled industry.

RICK OUSTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

A Vancouver funeral director is being invited to New York City to share his vision of the future of funerals.

Tom Crean, whose family has operated Kearney Funeral Home for three generations, was issued the invitation after a probe into funerals by New York City hall's consumer affairs department.

The study found that Service Corp. International, the Houston, Texas-based chain that controls more homes than any other conglomerate, charged about 25 per cent more than independent homes, even though economies of scale — the ability to buy in bulk and consolidate services — should allow it to charge less.

SCI owns Ocean View and Forest Lawn cemeteries in Burnaby, and other funeral homes around the Lower Main-

SEE FUNERAL, B4

## Public school lease breaks new ground

JANET STEFFENHAGEN  
VANCOUVER SUN

For the first time, British Columbia has signed a deal that will see a private company construct a public school and lease it back to a school district.

Finance Minister Joy MacPhail announced the deal Monday, bailing it as a cost-effective way of providing a new elementary school in a high-growth area of Abbotsford while not inflating the provin-

SEE LEASE, B4

Our Earthquake Insurance Won't Cost Extra. Not Having it Might.





REFUGEE from B1

# Anguished family man says he'll tell story, not seek revenge

As more displaced Kosovars arrived Wednesday, questions about their future loomed large.

camp in Albania, where United Nations workers were drawing up plans to winterize as late as last week, thousands were hopeful they would be allowed back into Kosovo.

Thousands of others, already en route to sponsoring countries, had not yet heard of the withdrawal. In Vancouver, another 12 refugees arrived at the airport late Wednesday after a stopover at a Halifax military base.

"Their lives have been in such upheaval that the basics, getting shelter, enough food to eat, is the most important thing to them," said Vera Radyo, executive director of the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of B.C.. The umbrella group of agencies is helping settle the more than 900 Kosovar refugees destined to arrive in the province.

"There are no easy answers for them as to what they will be doing next," Radyo said.

For Haxhiavdija, a man now without family, the larger question is whether to stay in Canada and start anew, or try rebuilding out of remnants.

"Inside, it will never be the same," he said, touching his pocket where the envelope is kept. "Back home, it will never be the same. Only this, if there are any smart Serbs, they will not be there when we go back."

Anger nearly drove him into the Kosovo Liberation Army when he returned home to discover the burned house and the charred human remains.

"But the temptation would be to do what they had done," said Haxhiavdija. "I did not want to go down to the level of the beasts."

Rather than strike back at a more powerful enemy, Haxhiavdija said he decided his best action would be to tell others what happened. While staying with an Albanian family before getting the notice from the Canadian government he would be accepted as a refugee, Haxhiavdija sat down at a computer and charted a family tree of all who had been lost.

"I would never forget," he said, "but I wanted people to see how many were dead, just in one family."

Without any way to mark the site where his family died, Haxhiavdija is grateful that he thought to take nine pictures,



IAN SMITH/Vancouver Sun

**GONE:** Behar Haxhiavdija believes his family were all killed by Serb soldiers in Kosovo. He is now in Vancouver, one of 20 medical trauma refugees. Snapshot above, one of the only possessions he carried out, shows (left to right) his wife, Valbona Haxhiavdija, Rina, aged 4, Doruntina, 8, Behar, and Egzon, 5.

placed carefully in an envelope, with him the night he left his house so that his family would be safe.

The pictures are of birthday parties, Christmas dinners and a few taken for no reasons at all, except that they were of his

three children — daughters Doruntina, 8, and Rina, 4, and son Egzon, who turned five on the day he was killed April 2.

## Police undecided on private investigators

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver police reserved decision Wednesday on whether to cooperate with private investigators joining the search for more than 20 missing women on the Downtown Eastside.

C.P.A. Confidence Group Enterprises Inc. has already met with some of the missing women's families. C.P.A. says it has taken no retainer, but has its eye on a \$100,000 reward.

Vancouver police managers discussed the issue briefly at their morning meeting Wednesday.

"I can tell you there's been no decision made yet," media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said. "We will be having a meeting later this week to try and determine what our involvement, if any, would be with this company."

Drennan said private investigators occasionally become involved in cases. "But it isn't something that happens very often in the city of Vancouver." Drennan said police will have to ensure that private firms do not hamper efforts to solve the case.

Maggie deVries, whose sister Sarah is among the missing, welcomes private investigators to the search.

"The more people that try to find out what has happened, the better — as long as they do a good job, and don't interfere in any way with evidence or anything like that."

Police are investigating the disappearance of at least 20 women since 1995. All were involved in drugs or the sex trade, and the case has fuelled speculation they have fallen prey to a serial killer.

Police have no evidence any of the missing women has been murdered. But two homicide detectives were recently assigned to the case, and the police investigative team has also had contact with major serial-killer investigations in Washington and New York states.

The homicide detectives are being included in the working group only to give us a different perspective in terms of the style of the investigation," Drennan said. "This does not, in any way, indicate, nor should it indicate to anybody that, in fact, we believe that all these women have been victims of homicides."

In addition to the homicide detectives, the investigative team includes two officers and a civilian member from the missing persons section, as well as geographic and psychological profilers and Constable Dave Dickson, a veteran beat officer from the Downtown Eastside.

Dickson's temporary assign-

ment to the investigative team has stirred controversy on the Downtown Eastside, where agencies are circulating petitions opposing his removal from the beat.

Deb Mearns, who runs the neighbourhood safety office where Dickson worked, said she understands why the investigation may need him, but said he is also needed on the street, where he is trusted and respected.

The police, however, say Dickson's knowledge of the neighbourhood is precisely why he is so useful on the investigative team.

## Singer 'changed her tune' six times, court told

NEAL HALL  
SUN COURT REPORTER

Vancouver singer Sarah McLachlan's evidence about authorship and arrangement of songs on her 1988 debut album has changed too many times to be believed, a lawyer told B.C. Supreme Court Wednesday.

"She's changed her tune, so to speak, six times," Jonathan Simkin said, citing the various testimony McLachlan has given about who wrote and arranged one of the songs in dispute, *Out of the Shadows*.

"When a person changes their story under oath again and again... I'm sorry, that is not reliable evidence," Simkin told Justice Bruce Cohen.

The lawyer was making his final argument at the civil trial of his client, Darryl Neudorf, who is suing McLachlan, her Vancouver record company, Nettwerk, and her managers Mark Jowett and Terry McBride for copyright infringement.

Neudorf, 34, is a Vancouver record producer who claims he spent three months in 1988 helping produce and develop the songs that launched McLachlan's career.

Neudorf claims he didn't receive proper royalties for co-producing the album *Touch*, which has sold more than 625,000 copies worldwide, and didn't receive credit or royalties for co-writing four songs: *Vox*, *Steaming*, *Sad Clown* and *Strange World*.

Simkin is expected to continue his closing argument today and Friday. Defence lawyer Jennifer Conkie is scheduled to begin her three-day final argument on June 28 at the Vancouver Law Courts.

FLOOD from B1

## B.C. funding covers some losses

people can apply for provincial funding to assist them in recovering some of the uninsurable costs incurred for restoration and cleanup.

The program covers eligible losses for which insurance is not reasonably and readily available. That means if insurance was available but not purchased, residents are out of luck.

Tuesday's storm — accompanied by thunder and lightning — hammered the city with what seemed like a month's worth of weather packed into

one violent six-hour storm.

From six a.m. until noon, it dumped almost 70 millimetres of rain — more than the 50 mm White Rock receives in a typical June.

More than 60 residents were removed from their homes and taken to a reception centre established at Centennial Arena to help displaced people find accommodation. Most were able to return to their homes Wednesday.

However, businesses such as Cosmos Restaurant at 14871 Marine may stay closed for up to

two weeks.

"The damage is at least \$25,000 and we have 15 to 20 employees," said owner George Zambus, who was cleaning and assessing the damage on Wednesday. "Everybody's out of a job. But we'll survive and we'll open up better than before."

Like other business owners, Zambus said it's even worse that the flood happened during the busy tourist season. "This will hurt all summer long, because a lot of tourists won't know how long we're closed for. This is our best time of year."

## Police suspect 5 teens in May incidents



## 3 officers join hunt for missing women

The Vancouver police department is also expected to release a wanted poster later this month announcing a \$100,000 reward in the case of 20 vanished women.

LINDSAY KINES and LORI CUTBERT  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver city police have again expanded the number of officers investigating the disappearance of more than 20 women involved in drugs or the sex trade on the Downtown Eastside.

The department recently added three more officers, bringing the number of full and part-time investigators to eight.

Geographic and psychological profilers, and a civilian employee are also assisting on the case.

Detective Constables Mark Wolthers and Doug Fell, who joined the team last week, are former partners who played a key role in catching child killer Frank Roy three years ago.

Homicide Sergeant Geramy Field, who oversees the missing persons section, said the two officers were added to the team because of their experience and contacts.

"They used to have some good sources in the Mount Pleasant area when they worked together," Field said.

The other addition, Constable Alex Clark will catalogue all the information gathered by the investigators, media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said Tuesday. Clark also has extensive experience on the Downtown Eastside.

Field cautioned that the addition of three officers does not signal a major breakthrough in the case. "It's just given us more manpower to do what we wanted to do in the first place. The department has seen fit to reassign some individuals to give us some help."

At least 20 women have disappeared

from the Downtown Eastside since 1995, and the Vancouver police board recently approved a \$100,000 reward to assist the investigation.

Drennan said a poster announcing the reward is expected to be released the week of July 26.

City lawyers have been struggling over the wording because police have no evidence that any of the women has met with foul play. There are no crime scenes, and no bodies have been discovered.

The reward poster will include pictures of all the women who have disappeared since 1995.

Of those cases, two were reported to police this year, 10 in 1998, three in 1997, two in 1996 and three in 1995.

Drennan said adding police officers with sources in the community and knowledge of the case could trigger someone's memory or lead to new information. She said this will complement the work of the homicide detectives, who will pursue the investigation from a much different angle.

"Because we've got so little evidence, the possibilities are almost endless," she said. "So, we're making sure we cover as many bases as we can. And bringing in people familiar with the Downtown Eastside and the community we think may be the key."

It was an informant who tipped Fell and Wolthers to Roy in 1989 as a possible suspect in a number of unsolved prostitute murders. The two officers passed their information on to major crime detectives, but Roy was never interviewed in the case.

## Maple Ridge ends Dave's World

Dave Anderson threatens to dump what's left of his eclectic 'museum' collection on the steps of city hall.

CHRIS BRYAN  
STERLING NEWS SERVICE

The property's been sold to the district of Maple Ridge, and Dave Alexander's hybrid museum-junk pile that has distracted Loughheed Highway motorists and angered the local government for years is finally closing its doors today.

Alexander has been holding a blow-out sale for the past two weeks to clear out as much as he can before moving.

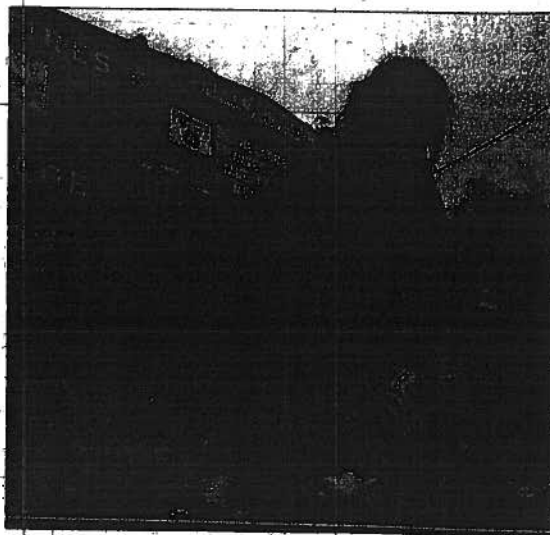
Dave's World housed hundreds of items falling somewhere between garbage and history: half-rusted Tonka trucks, a 100-year-old butter churn, old rotary telephones and a stained glass window from a Nova Scotia church.

Alexander was evasive about details, but indicated he has a parting shot planned for the district. He said he has five trucks organized to take everything that doesn't sell and drop it off at Maple Ridge city hall for "spare storage."

"We're going to put it all around the horse (statue) out front," he said.

The district purchased the property two months ago from Alexander's landlord, Ulrich Zenker. Alexander said he has no plans to set up anywhere else in the near future.

Alexander achieved cult-hero status with some residents after the riot that marked a court-ordered cleanup of the property early in 1998. The middle-of-the-night cleanup sanctioned by the district of Maple Ridge utilized about 100 RCMP officers and municipal workers.



COLLEEN KIDD/Sterling News Service

**TREASURES, TRASH:** Whonnock's Dave Alexander, owner of Dave's World "museum" along the Loughheed Highway, sorts through some of the items he amassed in his collection. Alexander is shutting his doors for good today after battling with the local council for past few years.

After knocking down a wing of Alexander's museum, built in violation of numerous building and safety codes, and hauling away much of his trash and treasure, they left behind a cleanup bill for \$62,000 — a powerful lever used to pry Alexander off the site.

The 53-year-old may be out of

business, but locals could see a lot more of him this fall.

Alexander ran for mayor in 1996, and said he plans to do so again in November. If he wins, he plans to save taxpayers money by furnishing his office with his own things.

"All this is going up to my new office," he said, waving his arms at the thousands of items spread around his property.

Maple Ridge Councillor Ken Stewart said many people will be sorry to see Dave's World go, but the health and safety concerns on the property were too great to ignore.

"I think Dave's an interesting character," Stewart said, "but there comes a point when you're looking at the betterment of your community that you have to apply authority to the rules."

Stewart said if Alexander is going to dump his goods in front of city hall, there's not much the city can do to prevent it.

"We can only react to what he does at this point. I think that would be unwise from his standpoint."

PROSTITUTION from B1

## Pimps, recruiters haunt food fairs at shopping malls to meet teenagers

Sowden said that with school out for the summer, the primary venues for finding new victims are shopping malls.

"Spring break is when everything takes off. The kids are out of school, and that is the highest recruiting time."

"The recruiters and the pimps are on the make trying to groom these kids so that by summertime they have them out on the street."

"The place that they target the kids in the summertime is the food fairs in the malls."

"As a parent I would not allow my 12-, 13-, 14-year-old daughter to be hanging around a food fair in a mall."

Coquitlam Councillor Kent Becker, who chairs a city task force on the sexual abuse of children, noted that B.C. Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh is lobbying counterparts in other provinces to get support for Criminal Code amendments that would raise the age of consent to 16 — thereby keeping younger and more innocent young peo-

Take the double fudge chocolate swirl cake to London.



C28 The Province • B.C.

Tuesday, June 15, 1989

# Lack of bodies doesn't prove there's no serial killer: Expert

Police have no bodies, no crime scenes and no reason to believe that 21 women missing from Vancouver's east-side streets are dead. Their conclusion: No serial killer — probably.

But experts say that's not necessarily correct, and warn that the situation may be much darker than police want to let on. Dr. Deborah Laursweller-Dwyer, a former police officer who teaches a class on serial criminals at the University of Arizona, said that "in many, many instances, serial killers aren't discovered until someone finds a cache of bodies."

As examples, she listed the cases of U.S. killers John Wayne Gacy, Jeffrey Dahmer and Ted Bundy.

Most of the women missing in Vancouver

are prostitutes who have disappeared from the poverty-stricken downtown east side since 1985.

"Vancouver police say the women could be living elsewhere. They are checking welfare rolls and medical records across the country."

"We don't have anything that indicates that in fact there have been 20-plus homicides," said spokeswoman Const. Anne Dremmen.

But relatives of the missing women, and neighbourhood advocates, believe at least some of the women have fallen prey to a serial killer.

Laursweller-Dwyer agrees. "If I had 21 prostitutes missing [from one neighbourhood] I would definitely say it

was a serial killer," she said in a telephone interview.

"The police either have blinders, or they don't want to alarm the citizens."

Another expert said the truth may be much more disturbing.

Prof. Steve Hart, of Simon Fraser University, said there could be more than one murderer preying on east-side prostitutes.

"To me, having one serial murderer would be too easy, because it means you could blame one individual for all the bad stuff, and that's just unlikely," Hart said.



STEVE HART

By definition, a serial murderer has killed at least three times.

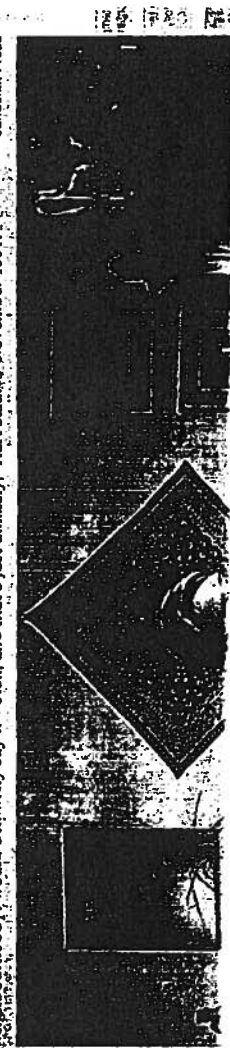
Vancouver investigators have contacted law-enforcement officials all over Canada, the United States, including Det. Tom Jensen of the King county sheriff's office in Washington state.

Jensen is the only investigator still working on the Green River slayings, in which 49 women were murdered between 1982 and 1984. Most were prostitutes or drug addicts. The killer was never caught.

Vancouver police have also contacted the Spokane county sheriff's office, in that area of eastern Washington, a serial killer is being blamed for the deaths of 10 prostitutes and female drug addicts, since November 1987.

— Canadian Press

## 'A big lie' that pot







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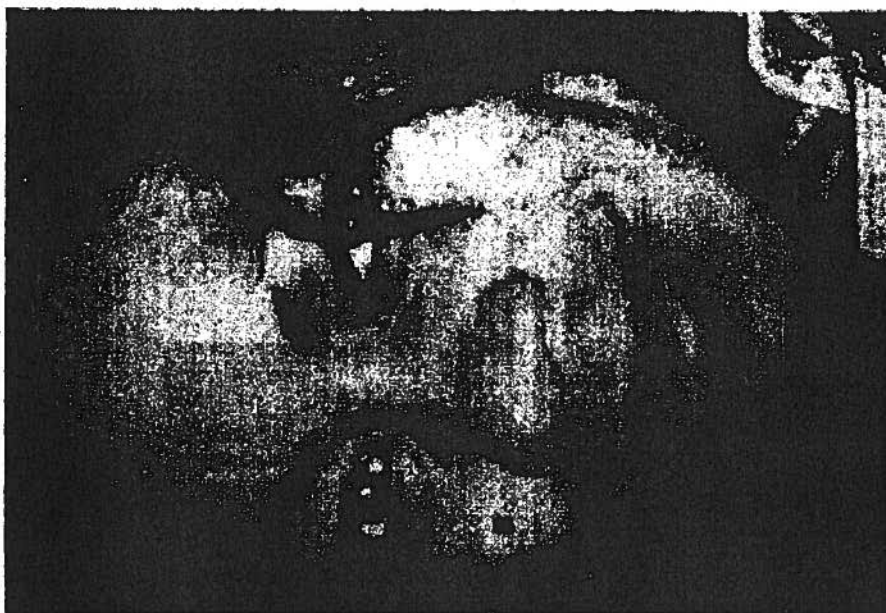
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 Page 215

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# 'Missing' women, mystery headed for TV

America's Most Wanted will air a segment July 31 on Vancouver's more than 20 vanished skid-row hookers to a potential audience of 14 million. Page A4.



One of the missing: Kathleen Dale Wettley, last seen in Vancouver in June 1992.

[ Evenhanded - 01E-1388 20040202 : 15:11:28 : Box 140 : 0303736 : 1505 ]

**A4 The Province • B.C.**

Monday, June 28, 1999

# 'Most Wanted' coming here

**Missing women mystery lures crime-busting TV program to Vancouver**

The crime-busting America's Most Wanted TV show is about to focus on the mystery of more than 20 prostitutes who have vanished from one of Vancouver's downtown east side.

With the blessing of city police, producers of the Fox TV network show will air a segment July 31 on fears that a serial killer is operating in Vancouver.

"This has become a priority for [Vancouver] police," show spokesman Avery Mann said from Washington, D.C.

"We are a friend of the police. They want us to work with them. We are happy to do it."

The punchy show features re-enactments of crimes and news on unsolved cases.

But it faces a challenge in Vancouver. Since 1995, an estimated 23 prostitutes

have vanished from a neighbourhood hit hard by cocaine, heroin and the drug-related spread of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS.

They have left behind children, apart-

ments, bank accounts and social-assistance cheques.

No bodies have been found. Some fear a serial killer or killers are at work. Police are wary about acknowledging that possibility, but have begun treating the cases as a group.

"We have 14 million viewers every week throughout the United States, Canada and in four or five other countries," said Mann.

"If there's someone travelling around or someone who knows something anywhere in North America, they may call in and provide the lead that could lead to an arrest."

Crews from America's Most Wanted will be in Vancouver a few days before July 31 to tape material to introduce the six-minute report, which is already almost complete.

It will feature interviews with relatives of the missing women and prostitutes still working the streets. The report is being prepared by Wanted correspondent Kimberly Halkett, a former anchor with VTV now based in Washington, D.C.

Vancouver police are enthusiastically welcoming the show. "We're more than prepared to work with America's Most Wanted," said spokeswoman Const. Anne Drennan.

— Canadian Press



# Sex offender faces new assessment

A lawyer for Michael Stephen Leopold says he consented to the application because the Crown had only to prove there were reasonable grounds to believe such as assessment was necessary.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

A Vancouver man who told a psychiatrist of his plan to kidnap, torture and kill a prostitute, will be assessed again before the Crown decides whether to try having him jailed indefinitely.

Michael Stephen Leopold, 37, was remanded in custody Monday to the Fraser Regional Correctional Centre.

He is slated to return to court Oct. 1.

Leopold has pleaded guilty to a vicious assault on a prostitute in Vancouver in 1996.

But his case gained national prominence earlier this year when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that a psychiatrist, who was hired by the defence, could reveal to authorities Leopold's plans to kidnap, torture, sexually assault and kill a prostitute.

In the wake of the court's decision, the Crown applied to have Leopold declared a dangerous offender, which could bring an indefinite prison term.

The psychiatrist, Dr. Roy O'Shaughnessy, had been expected to testify Monday as part of the Crown's application to have Leopold assessed by experts.

But defence lawyer Les Mackoff consented to the application, making O'Shaughnessy's testimony unnecessary.

Mackoff said he consented because Crown counsel Colin Sweeney had only to prove there were reasonable grounds to believe that such an assessment was necessary.

"I'm sure that, no matter what kind of cross-examination I conducted of Dr. O'Shaughnessy, that his core opinions... were going to be enough to carry the day," Mackoff said in a telephone interview. "So I thought I could save everybody some time."

Sweeney said the assess-

ment will help determine whether the Crown proceeds with its dangerous-offender application.

Mackoff, meanwhile, dismissed comments by police

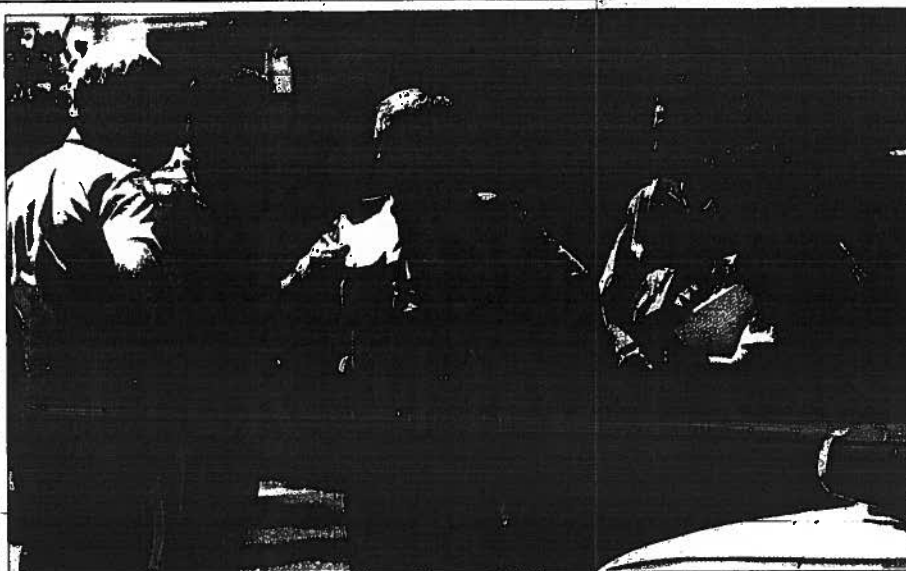
describing Leopold as a "person of interest" in the investigation of 20 women who have gone missing from the Downtown Eastside since 1995.

"That's just the police talking," Mackoff said. "There's not a shred of evidence to suggest Mr. Leopold has committed any offences other than the one with which he is charged and to which he has pleaded guilty."

Mackoff said the police have made no attempt to interview his client in any of the missing women cases.

*"I'm sure that, no matter what kind of cross-examination I conducted of Dr. O'Shaughnessy, that his core opinions... were going to be enough to carry the day."*

Defence lawyer Les Mackoff



MARK VAN MANEN/Vancouver Sun

**HUNTING A SUSPECT:** RCMP officers confer during the search for a man who fled a Surrey apartment building after assaulting a young girl who opened her door to him Monday morning. The girl was taken to hospital and the search for the suspect continues.

## Home intruder assaults Surrey girl

VANCOUVER SUN

Surrey RCMP are searching for a heavy-set white man following the sexual assault of a young girl in her apartment Monday morning.

Sergeant Jack Robinson said the assault happened at 11:30 a.m. in the area of 104

Avenue and 141st Street after the girl, described only as a pre-teen, answered the door when somebody knocked.

The man entered the apartment and assaulted the girl, who was taken to hospital for examination.

The suspect also threat-

ened the girl with a knife and removed her mother's purse when he left.

Police are not releasing any more details of the assault at this time.

The suspect is described as 35 to 38 years old, 175 centimetres (five feet, nine in-

ches), 125 kilograms (275 pounds), with a heavy build and short wavy dark brown hair. He was wearing a dark-coloured T-shirt and beige shorts.

Anyone with information asked to call RCMP at 599-0502.

### B.C.

#### DIGEST

##### TRAIL

#### SQUADRON'S MONUMENT 'TOO UGLY' FOR PARK AREA

A monument recognizing the 50th anniversary of the 44th Field Engineer Squadron is "too ugly" to allow on the lawn of a park area, says city hall.

"It's not art," said Councillor Norm Gabana. "It's a chunk of steel."

The structure, a square metal object approximately three metres wide by 1.5 metres high, would be installed and maintained on a street running along the Columbia River by the armours, council was told.

City staff will meet with the squadron's commanding officer and try and find a suitable solution.

Canadian Press

#### FORT ST. JOHN

#### REGION GETS \$15 MILLION FROM FAIR SHARE DEAL

The Peace River region received \$15 million in provincial taxation revenues from the oil and gas industry in the last fiscal year.

The money is part of the provincial government's Fair Share program that shares the revenues with municipalities close to industry sites.

In the previous year the region received \$6 million.

Fair Share money will be used for regional facilities and infrastructure that are used by workers in the oil and gas industry.

Canadian Press

#### DAWSON CREEK

#### VACANT WINDOWS BECOME GALLERY FOR LOCAL ART

The local art gallery plans to set up local art and privately-owned collections in vacant store windows.

"I think it's important to make our downtown look attractive," said Ellen Corea, administrator of the gallery.

Although the idea is to beautify the town during tourist season, the displays would only stay until the buildings are occupied, she said.

The idea garnered enthusiasm from real-estate agents and artists alike.

Canadian Press

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# Reward posters focus attention on case of 31 missing women

Investigators have included historic cases and those from other jurisdictions in their probe of the disappearances of the women.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver city police will release today a reward poster featuring the photographs of 31 women who have gone missing from the Downtown Eastside since 1978.

More than 20 of those women, who were all involved in drugs or the sex trade, have gone missing in the past four years.

The most recent case is that of Julie Young, who was reported missing July 6.

She was last seen Oct. 9, 1998. In addition, police have added a number of historic cases, as well as those that were reported to other police departments or RCMP detachments.

The press conference to release the poster will be attended by Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh and John Walsh, host

of television's *America's Most Wanted*, which is doing a segment on the missing women.

The provincial government and the Vancouver police board have posted a \$100,000 reward in the case. But city lawyers have been struggling with the wording of the reward, because without bodies or crime scenes, police say they have no proof the women have met with foul play.

Vancouver police currently have eight full and part-time investigators working on the case, which has sparked fears that a serial killer is preying on the women.

Investigators have spoken to their counterparts working on the unsolved Green River killings in Seattle, as well as serial killing cases involving prostitutes in Spokane and Poughkeepsie New York. Police have also used the services of geographic and psychological profilers, and have met with women who work in the sex trade.

## Maritime museum wants to make the move downtown

JEFF LEE  
VANCOUVER SUN

The Vancouver Maritime Museum, including the historic RCMP vessel *St. Roch*, should be moved to downtown Vancouver and out of its cramped and troublesome Vanier Point location in Kitsilano, a study commissioned by the city indicates.

The proposal, which would cost about \$22 million, would permit the museum to expand into a "Maritime Museum of the Pacific" and generate enough tourism and attendance to free it from the need for government operating grants, according to a confidential report obtained by *The Vancouver Sun*.

But the concept, which has yet to be presented to city council, is caught in the middle of an argument between the provincial government, which wants to build an expanded Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, and developer Greystone Properties Ltd.

The museum wants to move downtown to one of two proposed locations, both near the convention centre project, and city council was expected to discuss the consultants' study earlier this month.

However, everything was put on hold after the province and Greystone had a falling out over provincial funding for the proposed \$900-million trade and convention centre. Negotiations between the two are on a back burner, although the Vancouver Port Authority, which owns the land, says the expansion is not dead.

James Delgado, executive director of the Maritime Museum, said he's hopeful Greystone and the province will settle their differences soon.

"The report makes a persuasive argument for us moving downtown, and this city does have a strong maritime connection. Right now, we're not sure what will happen with the convention centre project, but if it does, we'll be in a good position to consider moving to that area," he said.

But even if the convention centre project gets back on track this year, a new museum wouldn't open before 2003.

The \$20,000 study, done by Aldrich Pears Associates and ARA Consulting Group, examined several options, including moving the museum into False Creek and to the federal naval reserve on Deadman's Island in Stanley Park, but discounted them as being unworkable.

It also looked at substantially expanding the current museum, which was built on Kits Point in 1959.

But it concluded any expansion would be strongly opposed by a group of local residents who have mounted repeated political campaigns against the

museum, resulting in declining attendance and unfavourable public attention. It also said the location is too cramped and existing facilities, including the A-frame roof over the *St. Roch*, are in need of substantial repair.

The report suggests building an 18,000-square-metre museum either on port authority lands Greystone has optioned east of Heliport Airways, or in a proposed Vancouver Port Authority administration office at the foot of Main Street.

The new facility would allow the museum to display most of its \$12-million collection. At present it only has room to display less than 10 per cent of the artifacts.

Vancouver Mayor Phillip Owen said he favours moving the museum downtown and thinks the city can convince the federal government to pay for part of the relocation. City council will consider the report in late September after it is reviewed by city staff.

"The museum is an important part of our heritage and it is not well-located. I think there is merit to give this a hard look at moving them downtown and I'd like to see if we can get the funding from somewhere," he said.

Owen said the RCMP may be one source for help in moving the *St. Roch*, which made the crossing of the Northern Passage, to a new downtown home. Although the city now owns the ship, which was declared a national historic monument, the RCMP still considers it their own from a pride point of view, he said.

Deigado said nearly 45 per cent of the museum's \$800,000 operating budget comes from the city, and the province provides another 11 per cent. That compares favourably with a national average subsidy of 73 per cent for other museums, he said. But if the maritime museum can move downtown, it would have the revenue potential to become self-sufficient.

Canadian museums. The consultants' report suggests the museum, with a gift shop, restaurant and other amenities, could produce an annual surplus of \$700,000 by 2007.

Linda Morris, communications manager for the port authority, said the VPA has actively supported the museum over the years and believes it should be expanded.

"We feel the theme and stories they tell are applicable to the story we tell," she said. "A waterfront location downtown would be a good place for the museum, and although there is no firm commitment, we would not be unhappy to see it here."

Greystone president David Podmore was not available for comment.

## Walnut Grove 'boarders getting ready to roll'



**A PARK OF OUR OWN:** Langley teenagers Olen Aasen (left) and Melanie Skolovsky worked to bring their dream of a skateboarding park to Walnut Grove. They say concerns about noise and vandalism from some of the near-by residents are unwarranted.

## Skateboarders look forward to new park

MATTHEW CLAXTON  
STERLING NEWS SERVICE

After more than a year of work and planning, Walnut Grove skateboarders will finally see their dream of a local skateboard park realized this fall, despite the objections of neighbours.

The skate park project was started by Langley Township after it was proposed by Walnut Grove secondary teacher Russ Simpson and several skateboarding students. The boarders helped design the park, which is now under construction southwest of the Walnut Grove Community Centre, and are raising \$15,000 toward its construction.

The RCMP got involved in the project and supports the current location because it will be easy to police. The new park will be a stone's throw from the local community policing station and

in direct view of the clerical offices of the Community Centre. It is the second location for the skate park, which drew criticism from apartment owners across from its first, temporary location.

"It's a necessity," said 16-year-old Melissa Skolovsky. Skolovsky has been involved in organization since the first meetings last year, although she doesn't skateboard herself. Skolovsky said she was tired of seeing her friends kicked out of parking lots, or having to travel by bus to the nearest skateboard park in Langley.

The \$180,000 concrete park will be finished this fall, but the teenagers are still dealing with complaints from the park's neighbours.

"Skateboard parks should not be part of a residential community," Steve Di Castri of the Cedar Creek strata council told

township councillors last week. The Cedar Creek townhouse complex is across 88th Avenue from the new park.

Di Castri said he supported the idea of a skateboard park somewhere, but not at that location. He said residents are worried about increased vandalism by teenagers hanging around at night. The park also drew criticism from apartment owners across from its first, temporary location. Most of the complaints focused on loud parties and the noise from skateboarders on wooden ramps. Some people used the park into the early hours of the morning.

"We've followed the proper procedure," said skateboarder Olen Aasen, 16, in defence of the project.

The students held an open house this spring at the commu-

nity centre before construction started. Aasen and Skolovsky said the architect attended with plans, blueprints and a model of the completed park. Notices were printed in local papers, but only five people attended, Skolovsky said, and none of them voiced any serious complaints.

Both organizers said they doubt skateboarders will bring vandalism or loud parties to the highly visible location.

As for noise, Aasen said the concrete ramps will be much quieter than the plywood surfaces of the temporary park, and Cedar Creek residents should be used to noise living next to 88th Avenue.

"They're living beside the busiest road in Walnut Grove," he said. "A skateboard isn't much competition for a semi truck going by."

TEMPLE from B1

## Existing facility 'overcrowded'

by the International Sikh Youth Federation, is too crowded. "When I go to Dasmesh Darbar, there is a huge crowd there," Sidhu said. "People don't want to wait two hours to bow their head before the holy book."

Sidhu said while he is part of the group planning the temple, he has not been one of the main organizers because he is too busy with his newspaper.

"They did full research," Sidhu said of his group. "They analysed it, they talked to different people. There is an urgent demand."

Sidhu said the proposed location of the new temple is already zoned for a religious institution or church.

And the existing one-storey building is suitable to be used indefinitely as a temple in its current form, Sidhu said.

While some in the Sikh com-

munity support several more temples.

"If we carefully examine the situation, there should be two or three more temples," he said.

Dasmesh Darbar president Jagtar Singh Sandhu said Monday he has no problem with the plan to open another temple near to his.

Inspectors who have visited Dasmesh, at 12885 85th Avenue have noted it is often filled well beyond its official capacity of 300.

Meanwhile, Dasmesh Darbar leaders appeared before Surrey city council for the third week in a row Monday to outline their plan to deal with building code violations that were discovered during a recent city inspection.

A group of visiting religious singers who were staying at the temple illegally have been moved to a nearby house.

B06 from B1.

## Despite lawsuit, bog project still on track

general damages.

Despite the legal sideshow, the proposal to develop Burns Bog remains on track, project manager Ross Anthony said Monday.

"We've been told by the owners that it does not affect their instructions to us to carry on," he said.

The project team is currently preparing for the upcoming public hearing process into the

numbered companies and mortgages. Seaman's numbered company, 3557537 Canada Inc., and Western Delta, the product of two other numbered companies, are the partners behind the Delta Fraser Property Partnership. The key partner behind Western Delta is Laurel McLaughlin of West Vancouver.

The portion of the 4,000-hectare bog currently under scrutiny is 2,200 hectares

light industry and entertainment district.

A proposal to turn some of the site into a new home for the Pacific National Exhibition was dumped in the face of strong opposition to the idea.

The province has said it lacks the money to buy the Delta Fraser Properties lands, estimated to be worth at least \$75 million.

The lands owned by Delta Fraser are encumbered by prop-

erty, which is owed \$2.5 million and which has started foreclosure proceedings against Delta Fraser.

Seaman is a long-time associate of two former Howe Street promoters, Barry Ferguson and Ted Myrah, who have been barred from dealing with the Vancouver Stock Exchange.

Seaman was chair of Bow Valley Resources from 1976-90. He is now a director of several



# America's Most Wanted host applauds police, politicians for handling of case

John Walsh, in Vancouver working on a segment about the disappearance of 31 women, calls the reward 'unprecedented.'

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

The host of America's Most Wanted television show praised police and politicians Tuesday after a reward was offered in a bid to solve the disappearance of 31 women from the city's Downtown Eastside.

Calling it an "unprecedented" move, John Walsh said he had never heard of a \$100,000 reward being offered by public bodies in a case where there is no evidence of foul play.

"I have been all over the United States and Canada in the last 11 years and I have never seen this type of cooperation and this type of action ever taken in the disappearance of women," Walsh said.

"I think this is so unique because these 31 women have disappeared completely and there is no evidence of foul play. There has never been a body."

The unsolved files date back to 1978, but 22 of the women have gone missing in the past four years — including four reported so far in 1999.

Police say many of the women were involved in drugs or the sex trade on the city's crime-ridden Downtown Eastside, and their disappearance has sparked fears a serial killer is at work.

The families of the missing women and advocates for sex-trade workers have been critical of police for not doing more, sooner.

But Walsh, whose show will be airing a segment on the case Saturday night, defended police at a packed media conference to release the reward poster Tuesday.

"The law says that an adult



**ON THE CASE:** John Walsh, host of the Fox Television series America's Most Wanted praised police and politicians for their handling of the case of 31 missing women from the Downtown Eastside at a press conference held Tuesday at the Vancouver police station to release a reward poster.



**JACQUILINE McDONNELL:** Reported missing on Feb. 22, 1999, and last seen Jan. 16.



**ANDREA FAY BORHAVEN:** Reported missing on May 18, 1999, and last seen in 1997.



**JULIE YOUNG:** Reported missing on June 1, 1999, and last seen in October 1998.

taking the kind of steps Vancouver police have on these cases.

"If there is a cunning serial killer in this area, or somebody that has been able to abduct women over a period of time, like the Green River Killer in Seattle, and dispose of bodies, then this

lawful confinement, kidnapping, or murder of any or all of the missing women on the poster. The reward will be decided by the police board, "in its sole discretion, and that decision is final, binding and not reviewable," the poster says.

tives — working on the case. But media liaison Constable Anne Drennan declined to discuss the specifics of the investigation, which has vaulted into the international spotlight in recent months.

America's Most Wanted, which airs on Fox Television, will be doing two other segments in Vancouver. One will focus on abortion provider Dr. Garson Romalis, who was wounded by a sniper in 1994. The fugitive suspect, James Kopp, is also wanted for the killing of a doctor in Buffalo, and two attempts on the lives of doctors in Winnipeg and Hamilton.

The show is also preparing an

killer cases in the United States. Geographic and psychological profilers also have been involved in the case for months, as have the officers who oversee a database of sex-trade customers.

Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh, whose ministry is contributing \$70,000 toward the reward, said the sheer number of women who are missing warrants extraordinary measures.

"It's important we recognize that despite the fact that these women may have worked in the sex trade, they have the right to their dignity, their safety, and their security as much as anyone else in British Columbia or Canada has."

Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen said government officials recognize the families need answers. "It's important that they bring some closure to this. They've had the unknown there for so long, that we've got to try and break the logjam and hopefully some evidence will come forward."

Deputy Chief Constable John Unger, meanwhile, promised that police will respect the women's wishes to remain anonymous, if some have simply relocated and assumed new identities.

"The very best outcome that we could have is that every one of these missing women would phone us and say: 'Here I am. I don't wish to be made it publicly known where I'm located, but here I am to let you know that I'm safe and sound.'"

America's Most Wanted, which airs on Fox Television, will be doing two other segments in Vancouver. One will focus on abortion provider Dr. Garson Romalis, who was wounded by a sniper in 1994. The fugitive suspect, James Kopp, is also wanted for the killing of a doctor in Buffalo, and two attempts on the lives of doctors in Winnipeg and Hamilton.

The show is also preparing an

## SkyTrain bringing jobs to Port Moody

SCOTT SIMPSON  
VANCOUVER SUN

The steady clanging that is resonating across Port Moody this week is the sound of pile drivers preparing the site of a new industrial project.

The clang is emanating from the former site of the IPSCO pipe and steel plant, immediately southeast of Inlet Park, where an international consortium with a \$209-million contract to build the new SkyTrain guideway is setting the stage for a new manufacturing plant.

SAR Transit is driving in piles before pouring the concrete pad on which the new plant will be built. Pending approval from the city, SAR expects to erect the walls and roof in time to start constructing guideway sections in September.

"This is great economic news for Port Moody. It's the single largest employment and tax boost that our city has seen in the past two decades," Mayor Rick Marusyk said.

Marusyk said the city's tax base has been hurt by the closure of both the Petro-Canada and loco refineries, and says the future of the Flavell cedar mill is also uncertain.

"The SCR plant itself will have up to 400 on-site jobs. These will be well-paying jobs."

The plant is expected to operate for three to four years, manufacturing the guideway for the new \$1.2-billion SkyTrain line, from New Westminster north to Lougheed Mall, and east to East Broadway and Clarke Drive in Vancouver.

That period of operation could be extended if SCR is awarded the contract for the \$730-million extension from Lougheed Mall to Coquitlam Train Centre — a section that will be built once the first phase of the project is complete.

disappear, they can go anywhere they want. They can change their name. They can vanish."

"So in light of the fact that there is no evidence of any foul play here, or criminality ... I again say that this is really a unique effort."

Walsh commended police for tackling the issue head-on and publicly stating "something we all feel in our guts: That there may be something very wrong here. It's very unusual for 31 people — no matter what they do, no matter what trade they're in — to disappear like that."

Walsh, whose own son was abducted and murdered, has been critical of cities in the U.S. for not

The poster features photographs of all 31 missing women, as well as their years of birth, dates last seen and when they were reported missing.

Of the 22 women to disappear in the past 4½ years, three were reported missing in 1995, two in 1996, three in 1997, 10 in 1998 and four so far this year.

In many of the cases, however, the women were reported missing months after the date they were last seen, further complicating police efforts to find them.

The reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the un-

board has the option to renew it.

Anyone with information is asked to call the missing persons unit at 772-3415 or toll free at 1-800-993-8799. Details of the cases are available on the Vancouver police website, and people can also call Crime Stoppers at 669-TIPS.

Of the three most recent cases, Julie Young was reported missing to Vancouver city police on June 1 and last seen October of last year; Andrea Fay Borhaven was reported missing May 18 and last seen in 1997; Jacquiline McDonnell, was reported missing Feb. 22 and last seen Jan. 16.

Police currently have eight officers — including homicide de-

to meet regularly with women working in the city's sex trade to obtain possible leads.

In addition, investigators have been in touch with their counterparts working major serial

wanted in the murder of Vancouver high school student Poonam Randhawa. The story first aired last weekend, and Walsh said it prompted five solid tips on Singh's whereabouts.

Walsh said the Coquitlam Train Centre phase is to be completed no later than 2002. The city will receive about \$750,000 a year in local taxes because of improvements to the site, which is now a barren field.

## Housing urged on PoCo farmland

SCOTT SIMPSON  
VANCOUVER SUN

Port Coquitlam council has endorsed a bid by some local farm owners to have their properties removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve.

The properties total about 60 hectares at the eastern edge of the city along the Pitt River and are mostly used for blueberry farming.

The land could contain about 1,300 dwelling units developed for housing and the owners say marginal soil conditions in the area make the properties "unsuitable for intensive agricultural use."

Group spokesman Frank Raynor told council many of the proponents are seniors who would like to realize a profit from their land while they are still able to enjoy it.

Mayor Len Traboulay voiced a similar opinion and said the land is poorly drained and would require truckloads of proper topsoil to render it suitable for farming.

"If you don't go there with good, proper farm boots, your feet get wet. One rutabaga would cost you about \$5 to grow," Traboulay said.

In asking for the city's endorsement, Raynor said the

group expects to need about six months of preparation before it makes a formal request to the Agricultural Land Commission.

A 1989 request was rejected, with commission indicating the land still had good potential for agricultural purposes.

This time, the group felt its proposal would have a greater chance of success if it had the city's endorsement — along with an indication that the land is required for development.

A staff memo indicates the city's supply of raw land for development will be depleted once the adjacent 119-hectare Riverwood subdivision is built.

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## THE MASTERS PROGRAM IN CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Conflict wastes time and money in any organization. It also comes with a cost to society as





An old bylaw requires the city to pay compensation to owners of domestic animals if the animals are killed or injured by dogs.

Councillors, meanwhile, have vowed to review the bylaw.

— Canadian Press

A black and white photograph of a man in a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is holding a large check that is tilted. The check has the text "\$100,000 Reward" at the top, followed by "Identify Suspects in the Kennedy Assassination". Below the text is a grid of small, dark, rectangular images, likely mugshots or identification photos of suspects. The man is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

### Nick Procaro — The Proving

**Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh with the new \$100,000-reward poster.**

## Dosanjh unveils reward poster

**By Jason Proctor**  
**Staff Reporter**

The host of America's Most Wanted has thrown his popular television show's resources into solving the mystery of 31 women missing from Vancouver's downtown east side.

Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Vancouver's top law-enforcement officials yesterday, John Walsh said he hopes international exposure will help crack the case and bring closure to dozens of relatives whose loved ones have vanished in recent years.

"There may be something very wrong here," Walsh told a packed police news conference. "It's very unusual for 31 people — no matter what they do, no matter what trade they're in — to disappear."

Joining Walsh was Attorney-General Ujjal Dosanjh, who unveiled a new

poster, to be distributed North America-wide, offering a \$100,000 reward for information leading to whoever is responsible for kidnapping or killing any or all of the women.

The segment will air this Saturday as part of a show devoted to Vancouver crimes — including the shooting of abortion doctor Garson Komalis, and the hunt for Ninderjit Singh, the prime suspect in the murder of 18 year-old Poonam Randhawa.

Both Walsh and Dosanjh stressed the complexities of dealing with a case in which no evidence of foul play or criminality exists.

Until recently, the number of missing women had been about two dozen, most of whom have vanished since 1995. Police have now added more cases, with one stretching back to 1978.



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## NEWS

## IN CONTEXT

## THE MEGAPLEX MOVES DOWNTOWN

JOHN MACKIE  
VANCOUVER SUN

Movie megaplex mania has swept the Lower Mainland. Six giant multi-screen state-of-the-art complexes have been built in the suburbs in the last two-and-a-half years, and several more are in the planning stages. The lure of the suburban behemoths has dimmed the bright lights of Vancouver's downtown Theatre Row, which has dominated local movie-going since the 1930s. But downtown is about to strike back with the flashiest megaplex of them all.

Paramount Place will be housed in a 13-storey tower at 900 Burrard. The \$80-million project will feature 16 state-of-the-art theatres with 3,400 seats, along with a 260-seat IMAX cinema. It will also have the Lower Mainland's biggest bowling alley (a two-storey job with 40 lanes), a 10-storey-high climbing wall, a roof-top skating rink, 28,000 square feet of restaurant space and 84,000 square feet of retail space.

This isn't a mere movie theatre. It's an "entertainment complex" and it is expected to draw 3.5 million visitors per

weekend. It isn't the only megaplex planned for downtown. A 12-screen, 2,400 seat cinema will be the focal point of a \$125-million development at International Village near Chinatown that opens in November. The International Village development includes a 24-storey residential tower and a mall with 180-200 stores.

Another megaplex planned for Granville and Dunsmead appears to have fallen through, but city planner Mike Kemble says a 12-screen complex might go into the empty lot in the 700-block Granville at Robson, across from Eaton's.

When the dust settles in 2001, there will probably be 41 new movie screens downtown, and about 8,500 seats.

The city sees the new megaplexes as a major part of the changing face of entertainment downtown. The Paramount Place project was fast-tracked through the city's approval process in only 14 weeks. Normally, projects this big take months, even years to get the green light.

SEE DEVELOPMENT, A10

## Police officer to get job back in bike gang case

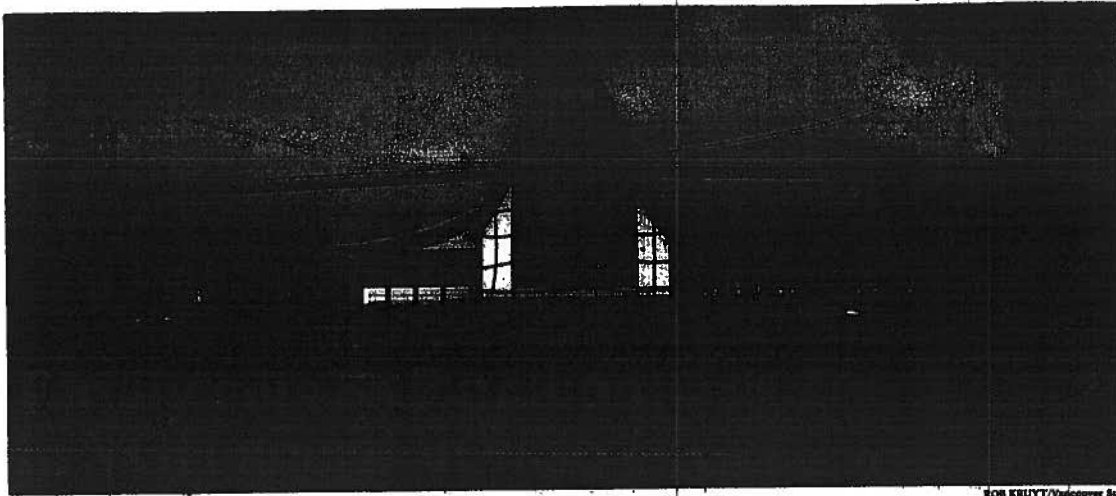
NEAL HALL  
SUN COURT REPORTER

A rookie Vancouver police officer who was dismissed from the force for hanging out at a Hells Angels clubhouse almost three years ago will likely be reinstated by a B.C. Supreme Court ruling released Friday.

Vancouver police media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said the woman officer has been off work without pay since the original disciplinary decision. She didn't know whether the officer would receive back pay for the time she was suspended.

SEE BIKERS, A2

## Trader Vic's sails off to an island in the Pacific



JOE KRUYT/Vancouver Sun

**VOYAGE TO THE VINEYARD:** Trader Vic's heads towards the Lions Gate Bridge on its way to Brentwood Bay where it will be incorporated into a proposed vineyard.

# Jailed rapist a suspect in murders, disappearances

Police are investigating the Mission man's involvement in 7 of 31 missing-women cases.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

A Mission man serving time for rape is being investigated in the murders and disappearances of seven women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, *The Vancouver Sun* has learned.

The RCMP is investigating the man in the murders of four prostitutes in 1995, and in the disappearances of Dorothy Spence, Catherine Knight and Catherine Gonzales, who are

among the 31 women who have gone missing from the Downtown Eastside since 1978.

A leading Mountie in the case is urging the RCMP to dedicate more resources to the investigation immediately "to push this thing through."

The three women went missing the same year that the bodies of Tracy Olajide, Tammy Lee Pipe and Victoria Younker were found dumped in forested areas near Agassiz and Mission. The skeletal remains of Mary

Lidgierre, who also went missing in 1995, were found two years later on Mount Seymour in North Vancouver.

Police say all of the murdered and missing women were involved in the sex trade on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

RCMP Constable Paul McCauley, who has been involved in the case for four years, would not name the man under investigation.

But *The Vancouver Sun* identified him in 1995 as Ronald Richard McCauley, a roofer in Mission.

McCauley, 47, was arrested on a sexual assault charge in Sep-

tember 1995, shortly after the bodies of Olajide and Pipe were discovered. He has been in jail ever since.

Although he has never been charged with any of the murders, he was convicted of the rape in 1996 and recently declared a dangerous offender.

New Westminster lawyer Susan Ludford, who represented McCauley at his dangerous offender hearing, said her client is appealing his conviction and dangerous offender status, and "absolutely denies" any involvement in the murders.

SEE MISSING, A1

## Trader Vic's set to join wine trade

DOLG WARD  
VANCOUVER SUN

An icon of Vancouver night life, the Bayshore hotel's venerable yet kitschy Trader Vic's restaurant, floated away on a barge Friday to its new waterfront home near Victoria.

The new owner of the exotic piece of ersatz Polynesian is David Whiffin, who dreams of using the room that launched a thousand Samoa Fog Cutters, Maui Ramos Fizzes and Tiki Puka Pukas to sell, (gulp), wine.

SEE TRADER VIC'S, A2

## NO PAPER MONDAY

The *Vancouver Sun* will not publish on the B.C. Day holiday Monday.

## WEATHER

### MIXED MENU

The South Sea's it's not, but the West Coast can expect a taste of sunshine today. Complete weather map, B2



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## Family gets \$8.7 million in VGH abortion case

NEAL HALL  
VANCOUVER SUN

A Fraser Valley family whose adoptive daughter was born prematurely after a failed abortion attempt and left for 40 minutes in a hospital room used to store dead fetuses has received an \$8.7-million settlement, the highest of its kind in B.C. and possibly in Canada.

The adoptive mother, Margaret Renaerts, and her brain-damaged child had sued Vancouver General Hospital, a doctor and several nurses after the baby, Ximena, was born prematurely and left for 40 minutes before being resuscitated.

Ximena's natural mother, Nadine Bourne, then 22, had been admitted to Vancouver General on Dec. 16, 1985, after suffering complications from an incomplete abortion at a Bellingham, Wash., clinic three days earlier. She was scheduled for a "dilation and curettage" the next morning to remove what remained in her womb, but gave birth at 3 a.m. to Ximena in a bedpan.

The baby was 26 weeks old and weighed less than a

"It's wonderful we reached a settlement, but Ximena is still living with a disabled body. No one can buy or pay for good health."

Margaret Renaerts, right, with Ximena



IAN LINDSAY/Sun files

kilogram. Despite the baby crying and gasping for air, a nurse took her and left her to die in a room used to store dead fetuses. The hospital's supervising nurse came on the scene 40 minutes later and ordered a Code Blue — an emergency resuscitation of the baby.

Benger argued earlier that the hospital was negligent for fail-

ing to keep Ximena warm, clear her airway and provide oxygen, which caused the baby to suffer brain damage.

An out-of-court settlement was reached last year but only became public this week when the judgment containing details of the settlement was released at the Vancouver Law Courts.

SEE SETTLEMENT, A2

## Chinese tell of long voyage to 'paradise'

PETTI FONG  
VANCOUVER SUN

The men arrived at the Fujian farm villages unexpectedly. They were strangers making promises that seemed too fantastic to be true, but irresistible all the same.

They told villagers stories of a place across the ocean where getting rich was easy if you were willing to work hard for a few years. The price to get to this paradise: \$38,000 U.S.

In exclusive interviews obtained by *The Vancouver Sun*, seven of the refugee claimants now detained at a military base in Esquimalt for the first time told their stories about why they took the voyage.

Canada offered freedom — a place where people weren't risking imprisonment if they had more than one child, and where children could obtain a good education.

But paying for the voyage was difficult. Money came from

SEE MIGRANTS, A8

## QUICK TAKES

### WORLD & NATION

**CABINET SHUFFLE AWAITED**  
Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is expected to give his cabinet a mid-term shake-up as early as Tuesday. **A1**

### MINERS' BODIES RECOVERED

The bodies of 18 of the 21 miners killed in an explosion at the world's deepest gold mine were recovered on Friday in South Africa. **A16**

### CITY & REGION

#### FUNDS EQUAL TO WELFARE

Troubled youths who enter into independent living agreements with the ministry for children and families can expect a housing allowance comparable to that which a single adult on welfare would receive, the deputy minister says. **B6**

### INSIGHT

#### VAN GOGH GONE

The art world was rocked when a Japanese tycoon paid \$82.5 million for Van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr. Gachet*. Now its whereabouts is a mystery. **A21**

### BUSINESS

#### B.C. LAKEVIEW ESTATES GO ON BLOCK IN SEATTLE

Two substantial estates overlooking lakes in the Okanagan region will go on the block in Seattle next weekend, and the auction house conducting the sale says they could be bargains. **E1**

### MIX

#### ERA OF PARANOIA

While our actual risk of becoming victims of disease and crime declines, our paranoia seems to increase. Ken MacQueen reviews two books titled *The Culture of Fear* and calls for a calming reality check. **H1**

### SPORTS

#### PORTER ROWS TO GOLD

Victoria's rowing chiropractor Derek Porter became the first Canadian man to win single sculls gold in the Pan American Games with a victory Friday on Lake Minnetonka. **C3**

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### IN TOUCH

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MISSING from A1

# Suspect called cooperative, even submits DNA samples

Lawyer questions why police continue to investigate McCauley over missing women.

Ludford said McCauley has cooperated with investigators, even agreeing to a recent interview in prison. He has also submitted DNA samples, she said. "And that was voluntary, that wasn't by court order or anything else. You know, the police have that, and they're still pursuing him is beyond me."

Police have long suspected that one person killed Pipe, Olajide, Younker and Lidguerre, and was likely responsible for the disappearance of Spence. But after recent meetings with Vancouver city police, Knight and Gonzales were also identified as possible victims,

McCauley said. "It looks like we're now possibly seven," he said. McCauley said police are also examining unsolved cases of women who went missing in 1991 and 1992 when the person now under investigation received a number of unsolicited letters and phone calls from prison.

McCauley said he is asking the RCMP to dedicate more resources to the case. "I've requested a meeting with all the investigators with participation from the E Division criminal analytical section and the homicide unit to try and dedicate some resources

for a couple of months to push this thing through," he said.

"My feeling is that either we do it now, or the unsolved homicide unit will end up doing it three or five years down the road and they'll be doing the whole file."

McCauley said investigators have about 1,000 exhibits, and have resubmitted 22 for DNA analysis. Police also hope to do a complicated analysis of cellular-telephone records to see if they can track the suspect's movements in 1995.

By tracking the telephone, McCauley said investigators hope to pinpoint whether the person under investigation was in Vancouver when a number of the women went missing.

According to parole board documents, McCauley once told a parole hearing that had he not been arrested for two rapes and attempted murders in the early 1980s he "would have become a serial killer such as Clifford Olson."

McCauley was given a 17-year sentence for the rapes and attempted murders, which occurred in 1982. After serving two-thirds of his sentence, he was given statutory release on Sept. 14, 1994.

His release was suspended in September 1995 when he was being investigated in the rape of a Vancouver prostitute. The woman was picked up at the Astoria Hotel in Vancouver and taken to the Hemlock Valley, where she was raped, beaten and dumped from a truck.

SETTLEMENT from A1

## Girl left severely disabled

Although the hospital had requested it remain sealed, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Paul Williamson found that to seal the settlement portion of the court file would defeat the intent of legislation concerning infant settlements.

"The legislature intended, in my view, that infant settlements would be open to public scrutiny in order that the public may be assured that the best interests of infant plaintiffs have been reasonably protected," the judge noted.

The settlement had been reached two days before a 20-day trial was set to begin. It totalled \$8 million plus \$500,000 for costs and almost \$200,000 for disbursements.

About \$3 million was placed in a structured settlement to provide \$10,000 a month for the girl, who has severe cerebral palsy and requires 24-hour care. She will also get \$100,000 a year for a five-year period beginning in 2003.

At the time the settlement was reached last year, Renaerts called it a bittersweet victory for Ximena, whom Renaerts and her husband adopted six years ago after the child had been in a number of foster homes.

"It's wonderful we reached a settlement, but Ximena is still living with a disabled body," she said. "No one can buy or pay for good health."

Ximena, now 12, is severely physically disabled and mentally handicapped. She is confined to a wheelchair, can talk and crawl but has a mental age of a three-year-old.

Renaerts, having heard rumours of the circumstances of the child's birth, initially spoke to a lawyer, Charles Lugosi, in 1992. Two years later, Lugosi retained Berger's law firm to help investigate and prosecute the child lawsuit that was filed.

The judge noted the investigation by lawyers "was most difficult and time-consuming, given the less-than-forthcoming attitude of the hospital."

The hospital declined to comment Friday.

Williamson said in his 29-page written judgment that the settlement was "the highest settlement ever achieved in a case of this kind."

He concluded that because of the magnitude of the numbers, \$1.8 million would be a reasonable fee for the lawyers acting for the plaintiff.

The legal team — led by Thomas Berger, a former B.C. Supreme Court judge who has returned to practising law — estimated the time devoted to the case was worth \$835,000 and almost \$200,000 was spent on other costs, including flying to Spain to do an examination for discovery of one of the defendants, who had moved overseas and refused to return to Canada.

TRADER VIC'S from A1

## Buyer sees restaurant as chance to invest

What kind of a man is willing to spend \$100,000 — his ball-park figure — to ship Trader Vic's to his Saanich country home?

"One who likes to take risks," says Whiffin, a 50-year-old real estate developer.

"I bought it for \$1,000 and I had the highest bid. The building cost in excess of \$1 million in 1960 and it's in pristine shape."

Trader Vic's restaurant closed at the end of 1995. The Harbour View restaurant, which had been open until recently.

The Bayshore, now undergoing a major renovation, for rezoning reasons handed the city the Trader Vic's site as a park. Whiffin said the building is a wonderful investment opportunity.

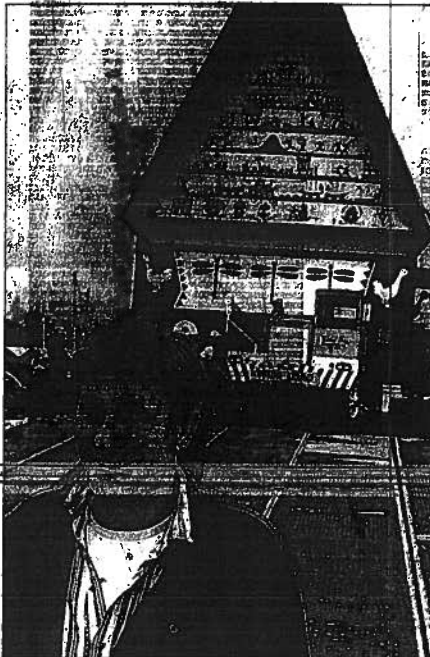
"It's going to increase the value of my land. People will come there for one reason [weddings etc.] and I will be able to promote my wine."

There is no vineyard on Whiffin's large property between Butchart Gardens and the Victoria International Airport.

But Whiffin says there was a vineyard on his property at the turn of the century and there will be again, sometime soon in the new millennium.

Until wine is ready to be uncorked, Whiffin plans to use the 4,000-square-foot Trader Vic's to host weddings, parties, anything.

A Vancouver friend of Whiffin, Richard Hawley of Richard's Model and Talent Agency, said he's not surprised that Whiffin will use Trader



**OUTWARD BOUND:** The new owner of Trader Vic's, David Whiffin, looks away as his purchase is placed on a barge.

Vic's to market wine that does not yet exist.

"David is a visionary. He's a dreamer like Leonardo da Vinci. He's a true eccentric. But don't print that or he'll never talk to me."

The restaurant has been stripped of most of its Polynesian splendor by Trader Vic's, the restaurant chain. The South Sea Island theme will be largely gone, said Whiffin, replaced largely by West Coast native Indian arts and crafts.

But the room, he hopes, will still carry the memories of thousands of British

Columbians for whom Trader Vic's once epitomized big city sophistication.

"It's going to give me a way to market my product [wine]," said Whiffin. "People will know they are going back to something they've already gone to. They'll come for weddings or wakes. People like to have a piece of the past."

Whiffin never uses the word irony but does believe that what was once cool, can be cool again.

"It's like a car. A car becomes obsolete and you get rid of it and buy a new one. And at a



**NAMESAKE:** Victor Bergeron, the original Trader Vic.

certain point that obsolescence becomes desirable."

"I collect old Cadillacs. And now Cadillacs are big. Just like there was a time when people weren't interested in Elvis Presley and now everybody is talking about him. I think he's gone past that point where he's obsolete. He's in his classic stage."

Whiffin added that preserving architectural heritage is in his blood. His mother, Inez O'Reilly, once owned Point Ellice House, one of the capital city's best-known tea-and-tour Victorian stops.

Whiffin said he remembers coming to Trader Vic's for his high school graduation party in the late '60s.

"It was artistic. It had all these little artifacts. It was exotic. It was the place to have fun. It was the place that adults hung out. A place to meet women."

He came later for office parties and other nights on the town but only drank beer and recalls that it was expensive.

"It was geared toward stock brokers and upper-class people. But every now again the riff-raff would get in and party," said Whiffin, with a smile.



BIKERS from A1

## Rookie said she was drunk and gathering information

Drennan said the police department had no comment on the ruling concerning the rookie officer, who is identified in court documents only as Constable M.N.B.

The woman was a Vancouver police recruit — known as a probationary constable — still in training at the police academy when she was involved with

explanations for her behaviour: she was drunk and not thinking properly and she thought she was gathering police intelligence on the Hells Angels.

But the presiding officer at the internal disciplinary proceedings told the recruit that drunkenness cannot be cited as a mitigating factor and she dis-

posed a five-day suspension without pay.

The Vancouver police chief appealed that decision, asking for a judicial review.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Pamela Kirkpatrick found Friday there was nothing unreasonable about the police commission's decision, and dis-





# LOWER MAINLAND

LIVE EDITOR JOHN BRADLEY 605-2115

THE VANCOUVER SUN

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1999

## HEART OF THE CITY

### BICYCLE TREK FOR LIFE RESPIRATORY DOCTOR PUTS HIS LUNGS TO THE TEST

A Vancouver respiratory doctor is putting his own lungs to the test in a 200-kilometre fund-raising bike ride.

Dr. Sverre Vedal, a lung health researcher at Vancouver General Hospital's Respiratory Clinic, is cycling in the B.C. Lung Association's Bicycle Trek for Life & Breath on Saturday, Sept. 11 and Sunday, Sept. 12. About 300 cyclists are expected to take part in the ride, which goes through the Fraser Valley and Washington.

For Vedal, the ride is a chance to increase awareness about the topic he researches — the effect of air pollution on lung health.

"Air quality concerns have existed for some time, but they're more on people's minds these days," said Vedal, who commutes to work by bicycle.

"Pollution concentrations are on the decline, but any improvement we've gained through more efficient automobiles is more than offset by increases in pollution, and increases in the numbers of automobiles on the roads."

To enter the Bicycle Trek for Life & Breath, each cyclist must raise at least \$375. The B.C. Lung Association provides meals, snacks, refreshments, accommodation and mechanical support along the route.

Organizers expect a record number of participants this year. For more information, call the association at 731-5864 or toll-free at 1-800-665-5864.

### PRINCESS BALL

GALA TO FEATURE DISCO, JAZZ, LOUNGE AND AUCTION

A Loving Spoonful and The Vancouver Museum are joining forces for The Princess Ball on Thursday, Sept. 2 at the museum on 1100 Chestnut Street.

Tickets for the event went on sale Aug. 1.

The gala is the last before the exhibit *Dresses for Humanity: An Exhibition of the Dresses of Diana, Princess of Wales* leaves the city on Monday, Sept. 6.

The ball includes a disco, a jazz lounge, a silent auction and a draw for a midnight carriage ride. Tickets are \$30 and are available at the Virgin Megastore, Little Sister's, the Vancouver Museum, A Loving Spoonful, or at the *Dresses for Humanity* Hotline at 415-6375. Doors for the Princess Ball open at 7:30 p.m. Parking is free.

### ART SHOW

MILLENNIUM GALLERY  
HOSTS PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The Millennium Art Gallery is featuring PhotoDocumenting Vancouver, an art show featuring depictions of the city from new and unusual perspectives. The images for the show were created by members of the PhotoDocumenting Vancouver program hosted by Simon Fraser University and the Roundhouse Community Centre. The show opens Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Millennium Art Gallery, 902 Commercial Drive (at Venables).

## Law ends profitable rice-wine sales

Some importers admit their product was killing people, but say they are not responsible for regulating its use.

RICK OUSTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

Sales of Chinese cooking wine grew to a multi-million-dollar business in B.C. before the government moved Thursday to start restricting its sales from corner stores following dozens of deaths linked to the liquor.

Two of the three main companies importing the rice wine into B.C. have since agreed in interviews that their product was killing people, but said it was up to government, and not them, to do something about it. Sun Wah Foods of Richmond imported 20 per cent of the product during the past two years, while Tung Tai Investments of Vancouver brought in 33 per cent and Grand Trading Company of Burnaby imported 45 per cent, provincial records show. About a dozen importers brought in the remaining share of the liquor.

Sold by retailers for as little as \$1.50 a bottle in suburban chain stores and as much as \$3 to \$7 in the Downtown Eastside, the 750,000 litres of the liquor imported to B.C. during the past two years would have retailed for millions of dollars. Some is imported in bulk and bottled locally while some is imported already bottled.

Sun Wah Foods of 2560 Shell Road in Richmond imported the equivalent of about 200,000

bottles of the liquor during the past two years, provincial records show.

Company director Ken Kwai

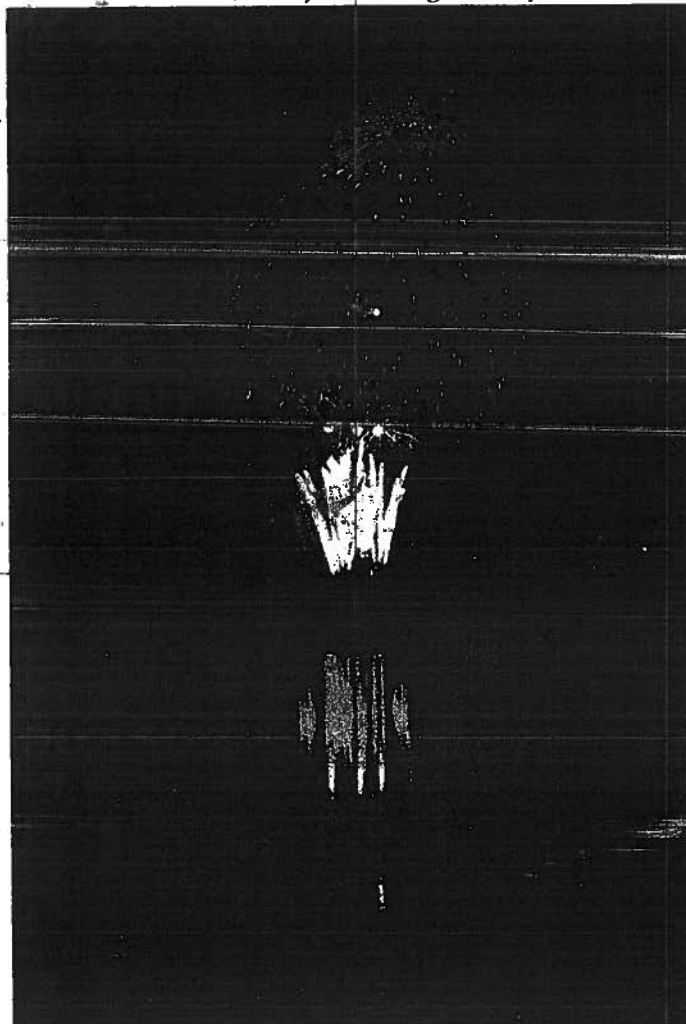
Shing-Tse, who lives in a home on Marguerite Street on Vancouver's west side, said Friday he was "concerned" that the

product he imported was linked to 39 deaths last year and 21 the previous year, along with making dozens of others sick.

But he said he continued to import the liquor even after noticing news reports about the

SEE WINE, B3

## Bombs away over English Bay



**LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT SKY:** The view of the Symphony of Fire display of pyrotechnics as seen from Vancouver's Vanier Park as the Canadian fireworks team opened the competition Saturday.

## Symphony of Fire nets record opening

VANCOUVER SUN

Symphony of Fire celebrated its 10th anniversary with record attendance for a first night.

An estimated 300,000 people attended the Saturday show.

Raymond Greenwood, chairman of the Vancouver Fireworks Society, said that on the technical side, the first Sym-

phony of Fire show went smoothly. However, he said more volunteers were needed to assist at the barricades.

Greenwood said there will be an addition to Wednesday's line-up. At 8:15 p.m. there will be an aerial ballet show featuring pilot Bonn Richardson.

Vancouver police constable

Anne Drennan said police confiscated significantly more alcohol at the beach and SkyTrain station compared to past years.

"We were seizing a lot of cases of beer and bottles of vodka. But it was a good night considering the numbers," she said.

Police have a zero-tolerance policy for liquor at the festival.

## No solid leads generated by TV show, police say

But the broadcast draws 20 tips 'worthy of following up.'

DANIEL SIEBFRG  
VANCOUVER SUN

Vancouver police say they do not have any solid leads on the disappearance of 31 women from the Downtown Eastside despite receiving more than 100 new tips.

The tips came in after the television show *America's Most Wanted* did an episode Saturday about the missing women.

"About 20 of them [tips] are worthy of following up, but none of them are promising at this point," said Constable Anne Drennan Monday. She said investigators are assessing the tips.

Drennan said Vancouver police have a good relationship with the show and considers its endeavours worthwhile.

"Obviously to get the faces of these women out to 15 million viewers is something that's got to be beneficial," she said. "We're hopeful that somebody will know something about somebody that's on the list."

Avery Mann, a spokesman for *America's Most Wanted* said the show generated a positive response from the public.

"I understand that 15 to 20 of the tips have information that police will be following up on," said Mann. "They said there were some names of people they want to investigate further, as well as some other ideas that about the missing women that may add to the investigation."

He added that the number of tips generated by the Saturday show is encouraging.

"When you have 31 people who have gone missing, no matter what line of work they're in, and there's no evidence of foul play, that's a pretty interesting story," said Mann. "There's a mystery there."

The unsolved files date back to 1978, although 22 of the women have gone missing in the past four years — including four reported in 1999.

Two detectives from the Vancouver police department were in Washington, D.C. during the broadcast to review tips as they arrived.

The show also featured an update on the shooting of Vancouver abortion doctor Gary

SEE TIPS, B3

the Bay

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# Upper Capilano residents vow to stop trucks

Over the objections of affected homeowners and North Vancouver district council, the Greater Vancouver water district has decided to use the Mainline road to move 350,000 cubic metres of fill.

BRIAN MURTON  
VANCOUVER SUN

A group of North Vancouver residents says there is absolutely no way it will allow a watershed access road that passes close to members' homes to be used for day reconstruction work.

"We're not going to permit them to use that road. I guarantee," said Michael Murphy, co-chair of the Grouse Woods/Capilano Residents Association.

"There will be major litigation."

His comments came after the Greater Vancouver water district (GVWD) board on Friday rejected a plan to build a separate access road to mitigate the noise and pollution resulting from the work.

A human blockade of the road to stop trucks was also cited as a possibility, though only as a last resort.

Murphy and the residents' association co-chair Francois Du Prez were livid after the board overwhelmingly approved a plan to allow trucks to use the watershed access road, called the Mainline road, that passes just a few metres from the back of 52 homes in the pricey Upper Capilano neighbourhood.

They're particularly angry because the land their houses sit on was sold for housing in 1978 by the GVWD.

Only North Vancouver district Mayor Don Bell, North Vancouver city Mayor Jack Loucks and Surrey Councillor Judy Villeneuve opposed the board's decision to use the Mainline road for the project.

The board's decision — over the objection of North Vancouver district council — means trucks moving 20,000 loads of soil will use the road 15 times an hour, 12 hours a day, six days a week, beginning next year.

The \$20-million project is to repair the Cleveland Dam to prevent seepage from the Capilano Reservoir. The repairs require the removal of 350,000 cubic metres of fill.

Residents had hoped to persuade the board to build a new road that GVWD staff calculate would cost between \$2.8 and \$4.6 million. Residents said the new road's cost would be offset

by additional costs — such as a sound barrier — needed to upgrade the Mainline road.

They also say the Mainline road is narrow and extremely dangerous for both trucks and residents.

Both the district council and residents feel betrayed because last year, GVWD staff discussed a plan to build a two-kilometre bypass road that would take the trucks away from the North Vancouver homes at a cost of \$2.8 million.

But when the proposal went to the water committee earlier this month, the cost was then estimated to be as high as \$4.6 million. That plan was defeated on 5-4 vote by councillors who didn't want to spend the extra money.

Most board members said they too couldn't authorize the expenditure for construction of a new road, because it was too expensive and would require some logging in the watershed. Richmond Councillor

Cunsande Percival-Smith said using the Mainline road is the best option. "Lots of times you have to make hard decisions. You just go and get it done. I would say to the residents that that's part of living in this area. Do you want the dam to collapse?"

Vancouver Councillor Gordon Price said he couldn't justify cutting down trees in the watershed, because it would have implications for water quality.

Surrey Councillor Marvin Hunt noted that the new road would only be moved over about 50 metres from the Mainline road.

"The dollars are simply too

much for [what would be] a very minor benefit."

Bell said after the vote that he was disappointed, noting the amount of logging required to build the new road is not significant.

Asked if the district would join the residents' planned legal challenge, Bell said: "I don't know. We'll have to look at our options."

Jeremy Dalton, Liberal MLA for West Vancouver-Capilano, was also present at Friday's meeting in support of the residents' association. "It was a phoney consultation process," he said of the GVWD's communication with residents on the issue.

## Ottawa seeks \$1.07 million in unpaid taxes from B.C. man

NEAL HALL  
SUN COURT REPORTER

A Vancouver man caught with about \$2 million in stolen goods owes more than \$1 million in unpaid income tax after Revenue Canada did a reassessment of his unreported income after his arrest four years ago.

According to documents filed in B.C. Supreme Court last week by the deputy minister of national revenue, Philip Sy Pin Lam made \$535,635 in 1992, including \$493,700 in unreported income.

Another reassessment for 1989 found Lam sold two houses at \$263 Chambers and 2188 Marine Drive and failed to pay capital gains tax.

Revenue Canada claims that Lam, 44, owes a total of \$1.07 million in unpaid taxes.

To offset some of the outstanding bill, the deputy revenue minister is seeking to obtain 179 guns seized at Lam's home, including eight Uzi sub-machineguns and 53,000 rounds of ammunition.

The government wants to sell the guns and ammunition, which are worth between \$50,000 and \$80,000.

Most of the guns were legally registered in Lam's name but some restricted weapons were not, and many of the guns were found to be stored illegally.

The government wants to make sure Lam doesn't apply to get the guns back after he is sentenced Thursday for possession of restricted weapons and possession of stolen property. Lam pleaded guilty to the charges last May.

Crown prosecutor Robert Rutan is seeking a prison term of more than two years for Lam.

Defence lawyer Bob Bellows urged B.C. Supreme Court Justice Linda Loo not to send Lam to jail, suggesting a suspended or conditional sentence would be appropriate.

In 1995, police were led to Lam's two-storey house at 2215 Rupert after a man paid \$2,000 for a laptop computer, which had been advertised in the Buy & Sell newspaper.

The computer software contained the name of the previous owner. The new owner called the man, asking if he still had the manual for the computer. The previous owner said his computer was stolen during a break-in at his home.

Police raided Lam's home, finding stolen computer equipment strewn all over the house of the former BC Tel employee.

Police found computer equipment stolen from the University of B.C., City of Burnaby, two resort companies and BC Tel, where Lam worked servicing business accounts until he was fired after his arrest for "long-standing performance problems."

Also seized was \$200,000 in cash and bonds — Lam kept large amounts of cash at home to buy stolen goods — and a number of vehicles, including a Porsche, a Lamborghini, a Mazda Miata and a Corvette.

Lam later got back the cash and vehicles after he proved they were not the proceeds of crime.

He had earned a substantial amount of money through his family investing in properties, which were flipped for profit, investigators found.

## Pride parade brings out bevy of colourful participants



KIM KROVIT/Vancouver Sun

**ALL DECKED OUT:** Participants in Vancouver's Gay Pride parade Sunday show off intricate costumes. Police estimate as many as 10,000 people attended the event, up by about 10 per cent over last year. The parade celebrating gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people ran along Denman Street. "There were no problems

at all with the Pride parade," said Constable Anne Drennan. Crowds cheered acting police chief Terry Blythe and a contingent of gay police officers, said Councillor Gordon Price on Monday. Blythe has continued the tradition of former Chief Bruce Chambers, the first police chief in Canada to march in a gay pride parade.

TIPS from BI

## TV broadcasts result in flood of calls to police

Romalas.

That feature generated 40 tips on Saturday.

Romalas was shot and wounded in 1994. Fugitive James Kopp is a suspect.

Kopp is also wanted in connection to the killing of a doctor in Buffalo, and two attempts on the lives of doctors in Winnipeg and Hamilton.

Drennan said that these tips will be turned over to the international task force now handling that investigation.

Last week, an America's Most Wanted show generated five tips on the whereabouts of Ninjer Singh, also known as Ninjer Singh Soor or Bhira Singh, who is wanted in the murder of Vancouver high-school student I'oonam Randhawa.

WINE from BI

## Suppliers say they can't control product's use

product.

"There are many products that are in the market that are not in liquor stores," he said, referring to cleaning supplies and other products containing alcohol. "It's not just the wine."

The cooking wine, which is actually distilled rice liquor, can contain as much as 20 per cent alcohol.

Asked how he felt about his product being linked to death and sickness, Tse said: "It doesn't make me feel good, okay."

He would not say how much money he earned importing the product.

"Not very much. I can tell you that. It's not an incredible amount," Tse said.

He said Sun Wah carries more than 3,000 items, so the impact on his company from restricting the product to sale from liquor

stores will be minimal.

Tracey Tam of Aubrey Street in Burnaby runs Tung Tai Investment Co. with her husband Ka Yu Tam at two locations on East Georgia Street in Vancouver. The company imported 23 per cent of all rice wine sold in B.C. during the past two years, the equivalent of about 230,000 bottles.

"It's hard to control the people who use your product," she said. "You can drink it and pour it in the drain, or you can use it for cooking. We can't control that." She then hung up the phone.

The directors of Grand Trading Company are Kay Mau Chan and Mee Ping Chan, who live at their address as on Regent Road in Burnaby. They could not be reached for comment.

The company imported the equivalent of about 150,000 bottles of the distilled alcohol dur-

ing the past two years for resale in Canada.

The liquor has been allowed to be imported to Canada without the same restrictions as other liquor products in recognition of the cultural needs of Chinese immigrants who use the product in cooking.

But restaurants and cooks consulted by the provincial government said most food preparers would not use a wine for cooking that they could not drink themselves, and while some households might use between one to three bottles of the stuff a year, other cooks pre-

ferred to purchase higher cost wine products from liquor stores for cooking.

The rice liquor was supposed to contain at least 10 per cent salt to ensure it is not used for drinking, but officials at the Liquor Control and Licensing

Branch found in random testing that much of the wine had not been adulterated at all. The liquor with a high salt content has been linked to a number of ailments suffered by users, a provincial study found.

As rice wine became the drink of choice for hard-core alcoholics in the city's Downtown Eastside, the amount imported into Canada increased rapidly, provincial records show.

During 1997, a total of 286,733 litres were imported, a number that grew to 402,596 last year.

Manufacturers of Chinese sausage and barbecue products told a provincial panel studying the issue that rice wine is used in their products, but they usually import in bulk pails. Proposed new legislation would not prohibit that kind of importation.

CAMPUS from BI

## Future of technical university on hold due to pending sale of mall

orientation week starting Aug. 30 for about 75 undergraduates already enrolled.

The tower is supposed to house the campus as well as the information technology division of

"We still are at the discussion stage with the Surrey Place Mall

ing a home-grown technical pool, Geary said.

future." The desk must have been

opment."



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## Da Vinci opener looks at missing prostitute cases

By Ian Bailey

The unsolved disappearances of prostitutes from Vancouver's seamy eastside will loom large in the season premiere of one of CBC TV's most popular shows.

In an unusual mesh of fact and fiction, the real-life case figures in a two-partter that kicks off the second season of the critically acclaimed series *Da Vinci's Inquest*.

"The (missing women) was just such an obvious issue that seemed so present in Vancouver," said Chris Haddock, creator and executive producer of the series about a crusading Vancouver coroner played by Nicholas Campbell.

B.C.'s real-life chief coroner, Larry Campbell — no relation — has advised Haddock on content for the show, which airs Oct. 6.

Since 1978, about 30 prostitutes have vanished from the downtown eastside neighbourhood, fuelling fears that a serial killer is on the loose in the area, ravaged by poverty and HIV linked to drug use.

The convergence of fact and fiction comes as an eight-member Vancouver police team probes the mystery. The *Da Vinci* episode was filmed recently in the downtown eastside by



Rick Loughran — The Province

Anne Wheeler has directed five episodes of CBC's *Da Vinci's Inquest*, including this season's premiere about missing prostitutes.

noted Canadian director Anne Wheeler under the working title *Cinderella's Story*.

"Even while we were shooting, we'd open the morning papers and say, 'Oh my God. Look at this. This is what we're shooting today,'" said Wheeler, who has directed five *Da Vinci* episodes.

"It was a bit disturbing."

# Look!

Look to the Tuesday, September 14th Province for a new fashion monthly. This 12 page feature kicks off with Fall's newest looks, hippest trends and must have items

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## NEWS

## IN CONTEXT MURDERED PROSTITUTE CASES THE TOUGHEST

LINDSAY KINES

VANCOUVER SUN

The murder of Kari Anne Gordon received scant media attention when her body was found on the shores of Little Lillooet Lake near Pemberton in the spring of 1998.

A 26-year-old Vancouver woman, she had worked in the city's sex trade before vanishing in late April 1997 — long before the growing number of missing women on the Downtown East-side became an international story.

Gordon's murder, however, is one of dozens of homicides that have been reviewed by Vancouver city police detectives checking for a link to the disappearance of 31 women from the city's poorest neighbourhood since 1978.

Newspaper and police reports show there have been at least 60 homicides of women working in B.C.'s sex trade or living a similar lifestyle in the past two decades. Unlike the missing, these are cases where police recovered bodies and found clear evidence of foul play, and, as the Gordon case clearly illustrates, they are among the most difficult cases police ever investigate.

Of the 60 victims, the majority lived on the Lower Mainland or Vancouver Island, most of the murders occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and a large number — at least 40 — remain unsolved.

Vancouver detectives working on the missing women files have met with RCMP investigators, as well as members of B.C.'s unsolved homicide unit, to review the cases and check for common threads between the murders and disappearances.

"We haven't found anything that matches at this point," Sergeant Geramy Field, who heads the Vancouver police team of eight officers assigned to the missing files, said. "But we're in constant contact with other investigators."

SEE INVESTIGATION, A6

## Empty Eaton's doesn't worry urban experts

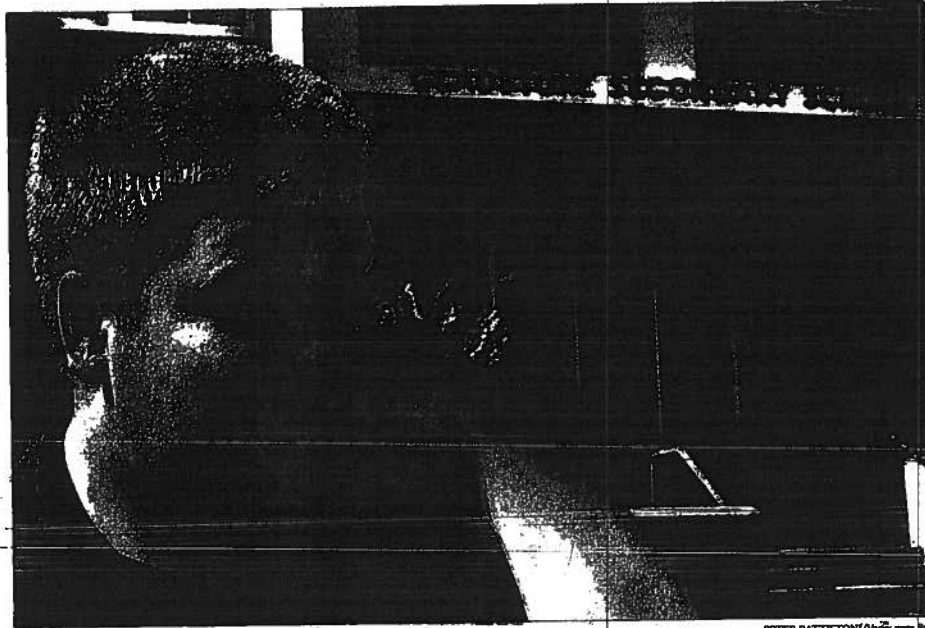
KARENN KRANGLE and  
BRUCE CONSTANTINEAU  
VANCOUVER SUN

The prospect of two major stores — Eaton's and Duthie's — standing empty at one of Vancouver's major downtown intersections doesn't worry urban development experts.

Neither did Monday's news that the downtown Eaton's store was not among those bought by Sears.

"Georgia and Granville is known as the 100-per-cent intersection," said Warren Gill, who teaches urban geography at Simon Fraser University. "It's really quite problematic, and it's seen as a big void, but they're

# Full Vancouver schools leave 40 students sitting at home



**HE YEARNSTO LEARN:** Sixteen-year-old Tyler Delane has been sitting at home for the past two weeks because there is no space at Gladstone secondary. Tyler is one of seven students in Gladstone's catchment area who are unable to attend classes because of a lack of space.

Tyler Delane has missed two weeks of classes while the school district tries to find space for him.

JANET STEFFENHAGEN  
VANCOUVER SUN

Tyler Delane is a Grade 11 student who desperately wants to return to school but he — and 40 other secondary students — are in educational limbo while officials search for space in Vancouver classrooms.

"The schools are full," said Andy Wilson, vice-principal at Gladstone secondary, where Tyler tried to register three weeks ago, before the start of the school year. "But we're doing our best to get all [the students] placed."

Wilson tried to find a spot for Tyler, 16, in nearby schools but when that was unsuccessful, he turned the file over to the district's student reception centre for a wider search. There, it joined 40 other files of left-out students.

Supervisor Catherine Eddy said the students awaiting placement require different programs, which complicates the search for an appropriate school that is also easily accessible by bus. Tyler, for example, still needs one Grade 10 credit.

"We are working incredibly hard to get them into school just as fast as we can," she said Monday. "It's certainly not what we desire. Not at all. Our preference is that all of the children are in school immediately. It's a difficult time for all of us."

Eddy said she has no idea when spaces will be found. "An excellent question," she replied when asked. "The only comment I am going to make on that is I am currently working six days a week to facilitate their prompt entry into school."

SEE SCHOOLS, A2

## Giant earthquake kills at least 400 in Taiwan

ALICE HUNG  
REUTERS

with VANCOUVER SUN

TAIPEI — More than 400 people are dead after a giant earthquake rocked Taiwan today, and officials fear the toll could rise dramatically since at least 1,000 are trapped in collapsed buildings.

State television reported 484 dead, and more than 2,600 people trapped or injured.

A wine factory in central Taiwan, where the earthquake was centred, exploded and a 12-storey concrete apartment and hotel complex in downtown Taipei collapsed like a concertina, trapping more than 100 people.

"The death toll continues to rise and we continue to discover more people being trapped in the collapsed buildings," a spokesman at the government's disaster centre said.

"It is still very difficult to estimate the extent of the damage," State television said some 1,000 people were trapped or buried under debris.



WALLY SANTANA/AP

**SURVIVOR:** A neck brace is applied to a Taiwanese woman who was pulled from a collapsed 12-storey hotel in Taipei.

The earthquake measured 7.6 on the open-ended Richter scale, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Taiwan's weather bureau recorded the intensity at 7.3 and said the earthquake was believed to be

the strongest ever to hit Taiwan.

The earthquake in Turkey last month that killed more than 15,000 people measured 7.3 on the scale.

Most of Taiwan was asleep when the earthquake struck at 1:47 a.m. local time, with its epicentre 12.5 km west of Taiwan's central county of Nantou, a seismically active area.

More than 200 aftershocks — some with an intensity of 4.5 on the Richter scale — were recorded, and the tremors cut off electricity in parts of the island.

President Lee Teng-hui urged people to stay calm and reassured the public the government had mobilized all its resources to handle the disaster.

The stock and currency markets were ordered closed.

Television footage showed people crying for help from the wreckage of fallen buildings in Taipei.

Other victims, semi-naked or wearing pyjamas, were guided down ladders to safety by rescuers.

SEE QUAKE, A2

## 73 Musqueam residents get eviction notice

JEFF LEE  
VANCOUVER SUN

The federal government issued formal notices Monday to 73 leaseholders in Musqueam Park, saying it will evict them if they do not pay back rent owing to the Musqueam Indian band.

The decision came after the department of Indian affairs and northern development decided there was no basis for pursuing a mediated settlement between the band and the leaseholders, who face annual rent increases of about \$22,400.

The department told the leaseholders they have until Oct. 25 to pay their rent and arrears, said Toni Timmermans, a department spokesman.

The decision has been made to enforce the terms of the Musqueam Park leases," she said.

But the Liberal MP for the area, Ted McWhinney, and Kerry Lynn Finlay, a homeowner leading the fight against huge rent increases on the Point Grey properties, said they are

SEE MUSQUEAM, A2

## WEATHER

**REMEMBER THOSE** musical hippie types who sang *I Got You Babe*? We were wondering who kept hitting those flat notes all the time, so we asked a friend who knows these things and he said, "Mostly Sonny." Complete weather map, B2



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## Strike interrupts Empress' historic tea party

CRAIG McINNIS  
SUN LEGISLATURE BUREAU  
VICTORIA — It was still ser-

group of tourists why they should go no farther.

"I just explained that we are

night Sunday in the first strike in the history of 460-room Victoria landmark.

The workers are seeking vari-

skilled employees like Stewart have contributed to the worldwide reputation of the Empress and should be paid accordingly.

INVESTIGATION from A1

# Trail of murdered woman turns into maze for police

The 26-year-old lived on and off the streets, sometimes doing drugs, sometimes the sex trade. She knew many people.

RCMP Sergeant Bob Paulson, one of the investigators on the Gordon case, said in a recent interview that her murder has not been linked to any other killing or disappearance.

"But we certainly have to be open to the possibility that because of her lifestyle, because of her trade, that she could be a victim [in] a group of many."

Obviously, Paulson said, investigators recognize that women in the sex trade are at high risk of being harmed by strangers. "So we're trying to keep abreast of all the developments with the Vancouver sex trade task force, other unsolved prostitute murders, and looking for similar facts in those cases."

But Paulson said the Gordon inquiry is two-pronged, and investigators are also aggressively pursuing the possibility that she was murdered by a friend or associate.

In that regard, the Gordon case demonstrates the challenge of trying to crack a case where the victim may not have known her killer, and where many of the victim's acquaintances live in a community wary of police. Potential witnesses, who are involved in drugs and crime, often stonewall investigators, or if they do talk, their recollection of times and dates is hazy at best.

This is the case with a number of Gordon's friends and acquaintances on the Downtown Eastside, where she lived after running away from home in Prince George at age 13.

"I would go and bring her home, and she'd run away again," her mother, Noreen Gordon said in an interview. "And I'd go and bring her home, until finally the police told me that children have rights too and I could be charged with kidnapping if I forcibly restrained her

and put her in a van and brought her home."

"When she was 18, I finally gave in and signed her over to be a ward of the court because it gave her more advantages and because it took me five years to believe she wasn't coming home."

"It's one of the hardest things I ever had to do in my entire life is give up my child."

"Until this."

Noreen Gordon says she last saw her daughter alive in January 1997. Kari had been home for Christmas and New Year's before returning to Nanaimo, where she was trying to cut her ties to drugs and the Downtown Eastside. She had a young son and she was hoping to regain custody of him from her ex-husband.

"She was over in Nanaimo trying to straighten her life out," Kari's sister, Kjersti Halabisky, said. "... I do know she was trying to get her life together."

Whether she succeeded isn't clear. Her family believes she was free of drugs and no longer

working the streets. "I don't think she was when she was up visiting me," Halabisky said. "I don't think she was into prostitution. I really don't."

Halabisky, however, acknowledges that her sister would relapse from time to time. "So when times were tough, I know she went back using, and probably went back to the streets for that. I don't really know if she'd sell her body to get the drugs. I think at that point she probably would have stolen to get the money for drugs."

Still, her family is unable to say for sure what Kari was doing in the days before she disappeared. After New Year's Day, 1997, neither Noreen Gordon, nor Halabisky, ever heard from Kari again.

Kari Gordon's ex-husband, who has custody of their son and lived in Coquitlam at the time, has told police he last saw Gordon on April 27, 1997.

On that day, Gordon's ex-husband says she was on her way to smoke a joint with a friend before heading back to Nanaimo to pick up her welfare cheque.

Police say the male friend with whom she smoked the joint tells a similar story, although his memory lacks clarity.

Whether Gordon ever got to Nanaimo, however, is unclear. It was her practice to take cabs from the ferry to the house where she stayed. But police have checked with taxi companies and have been unable to find any record of Gordon taking a cab, or anyone who remembers her.

Meanwhile, the man with whom Gordon usually stayed in Nanaimo left B.C. shortly after she was last seen. Police have tracked him down in Toronto and he has told investigators that Gordon was with him on the night she disappeared.

Investigators have contacted social services and determined the cheque was never cashed.

"So did she make it to Nanaimo?" Paulson asks. "And if she did, what happened?"

Less than a year later, on March 18, 1998, three men walking along the shores of Little



**FOUND DEAD:** Kari Gordon disappeared in 1997. Her body was discovered in March 1998 at Little Lillooet Lake, near Pemberton.

Lillooet Lake discovered Gordon's remains. Police say she had been there for some time, her body likely dumped in the water and then deposited at the high-water mark during spring flooding.

The remote spot is located about 30 kilometres south of Highway 99, next to a forestry road that leads to the Baptiste Smith Indian Reserve.

Paulson declined to release any information about how Gordon died or the manner in which the body was left, since that is presumably information known only by police and her killer.

"In this case," he said, "we have a fair bit of information about this scene and about the circumstances under which she died and was put there, and I don't want to disclose that."

He said investigators are currently pursuing a couple of pos-

sible suspects, although "after a certain point, it just becomes big maze."

"Kari knew an awful lot of people," her mother, Noreen Gordon confirmed. "She was a very, very warm person. She would do anything to help anybody, whether she knew them or not."

Whenever she visited her daughter in Vancouver, Noreen Gordon said she was amazed at the number of people Kari seemed to know.

"She was always running into people," Noreen said. "One afternoon out in Vancouver, we'd go downtown... down to Pigeon Park and all that. It would be nothing for her to run into 50 people she knew; my head was just spinning by the time we got back to her place."

Today, more than a year after Gordon's body was found, the homicide investigation could still go one of two ways, Paulson said.

"If the killer is an associate of hers, then we will have investigated that person, and hopefully we'll be able to move this file forward," he said.

But if she was killed by a stranger, the file becomes that much more difficult, because the list of potential suspects becomes enormous.

To date, investigators continue to pursue both angles, and although they have located and interviewed numerous persons of interest, Paulson says: "We haven't been able to categorically eliminate any of them."

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# Two of 31 missing women confirmed dead

A police probe reveals one of the Vancouver women died from heart problems and the other from a drug overdose.

LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

Two of Vancouver's 31 missing women have been confirmed dead, The Vancouver Sun has learned.

One of the women died from heart problems in an Edmonton hospital earlier this year. The other died of a drug overdose in Vancouver in 1994.

Next of kin have been notified.

Media liaison Constable Anne Drennan confirmed late Wednesday that investigators have determined that Karen Anne Smith died in the University of Alberta Hospital on Feb. 13. The cause of death was listed as heart problems related to hepatitis C.

Next of kin in Vancouver were not listed when she was admitted to hospital, and therefore not notified. Drennan said.

"It was as a result of continued checks by the missing persons task force with Alberta social services that her name was located," Drennan said. "Then we had to wait for confirmation from a friend of hers who had identified her at the time of her death. We had to find this person."

Smith was reported missing in April of this year, and listed as last seen in Vancouver in June 1992. She had been living in a series of foster homes and was estranged from her family.

Police now know that she had moved to Edmonton.

In the other case, Drennan said investigators have determined that Linda Jean Coombes died of a heroin overdose in a Commercial Drive bowling alley on Feb. 15, 1994.

There was no identification on Coombes' body, and no match to a missing persons report, Drennan said.

"We had composites drawn and put them out to the public, and the body was never identified," she said.

Coombes' mother reported her daughter missing in August 1994, but the report was never linked to the unidentified female body. Coombes' mother then filed another missing person report again in April of this year.

Drennan said the missing women's task force has been working closely with the B.C. coroner's service. But in Coombes' case, there were no dental records available either for her or the unidentified female body from the bowling alley.

Investigators showed Coombes' mother a picture of the dead woman, but the mother was unable to confirm that it was her daughter.

However, the mother provided a DNA sample to police earlier this year, and the sample was matched to the dead woman in the bowling alley.

"Obviously, we can now provide closure to two of the families, but it is only two out of 31. And we recognize that having found two of the women dead, for whatever reason, doesn't necessarily indicate one way or another the fate of the remaining 29 missing."

Constable Anne Drennan

"Obviously, we can now provide closure to two of the families, but it is only two out of 31," Drennan said. "And

we recognize that having found two of the women dead, for whatever reason, doesn't necessarily indicate one way or another the fate of the remaining 29 missing."

The cases date back to 1978 and all the women, at one time, were involved in drugs or the sex trade on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The case has become an international story over the past year, and raised fears of a serial killer stalking city streets. A \$100,000 reward has been posted for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the unlawful confinement, kidnapping or murder of any or all of the women.

ment, kidnapping or murder of any or all of the women.

"Every door remains open," Drennan said. "The possibility of foul play, serial killer, multiple killers is still out there. And we're not closing that door in any way."

"Still, we are going through every record that is available to us in minute detail to see if perhaps there are more on the list that may have met with similar types of deaths."

Drennan noted, however, that there are no other unidentified deceased females that match the description of any missing women.

## Temple slated for Sun Yat-Sen garden

An anonymous donor will pay for construction of a replica seven-storey pagoda from Fujian province.

KAREN KRANGLE  
VANCOUVER SUN

An anonymous donor who lives in Vancouver has offered to build a Chinese pagoda — the replica of a 13th century one in China — in Vancouver's Sun Yat-Sen gardens.

The seven-level building, to be made of fibreglass resembling terra cotta, with jade-green ceramic roof tiles, received unanimous approval Wednesday from the urban design panel at city hall.

Architect Joe Wai told the panel, composed of architects and landscape architects, that the original, five-level pagoda is in Quanzhou, in Fujian province, and is one of a twin pair built of stone and marble in a former monastery.

He said later the Vancouver building will replicate the relief-work figures and designs on the original's walls.

"I think this will be a wonderful landmark," said Wai, who told the panel the pagoda will also be lit up at night.

He said the bottom level will eventually house a tea room, and the top will be an observation tower.

"You can see quite far from the top level, and that adds a whole dimension to a visit to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen gardens," Wai said.

The pagoda will sit in a corner of the site, now occupied by shrubs, near Keefer and Columbia. Wai said the five floors in between will be empty because the building is meant as a monument.

Asked if he could say who the donor was, Wai replied: "No, and he thinks I'm talking too much already." He did tell the panel the donor was giving the pagoda "as a contribution to this adopted city."

Peter Kwok, vice-president of the Sun Yat-Sen Gardens Society, which is sponsoring the project on behalf of the donor, said he thought the pagoda will be an asset to both Chinatown and the city.

"It's going to be a very distinct structure. I'm very glad we have such support for it," he said.

Panel members had a few concerns about the plaza in front of the project, but otherwise made flattering comments, and supported Wai's decision to extend it to seven storeys.

"It will serve the park and community well," architect Paul Grant said.

Architect James Cheng said he preferred the pagoda with two more storeys: "There are seven levels of enlightenment in Buddhism, so seven is better than five."

Wai said the park board has already approved the project, and it will go to the city's development permit board in a few weeks to get permission to build above the street-level height.

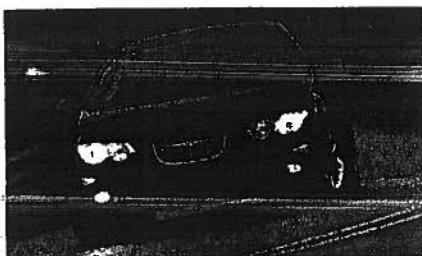
The pagoda needs the final okay from city council because it is located in a historical district.

Wai said he hopes construction can start early in the new year and that it can be completed nine months to a year later.

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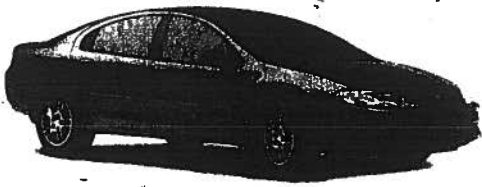
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## Rains wash sun out of summer '99: now brace for winter

KEVIN GRIFFIN  
VANCOUVER SUN

How bad was the summer of 1999?

A disaster, except for the last three weeks of sunny, warm weather in September.

June was a almost a degree and a half colder than normal and with 40 days of rain in June, July and August, the region set a new record for the number of days with precipitation. As for the fall and winter, early indications are for a colder winter than normal.

"Were it not for September, it would have been one of the worst summers in recent memory," said Gary Myers, a climatologist with Environment Canada.

Myers said from June to August, the average daily maximum temperature was 20.3 degrees compared to the normal of 20.9 degrees.

But the real story was earlier in the summer. In June, the average daily maximum temperature is 19.3 degrees. But this past June, the temperature dropped to 17.9 degrees, a decrease of 1.4 degrees.

It warmed in July with the average daily maximum temperature hitting 20.7, still a degree cooler than the normal of 21.7. August was the best month of all with the daily maximum reaching 21.7, only half a degree cooler than the normal. Data for September isn't yet available.

From June to August, the Lower





# EDITORIAL

12

THE VANCOUVER SUN, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

MEMBER OF THE B.C. PRESS COUNCIL • PUBLISHED BY PACIFIC PRESS, A DIVISION OF SOUTHAM INC. • 1-200 GRANVILLE STREET, VANCOUVER B.C. V6C 3H3

## A vision for putting the heart into Surrey

Combining commerce and campus at Surrey Place Mall will give the city a cohesive core. The centre might also fatten ICBC's investment portfolio and anchor a new arts and library centre.

Architect Bing Thom thinks a suburban mall can be turned into Surrey's long-wanted town centre. Now that is an example of thinking outside the box. And people at the Insurance Corp. of B.C., the provincial government and Surrey city hall are betting this intriguing idea can be made to work.

Shopping centres like Surrey Place Mall have tended to kill the hearts of downtowns all over North America. The odd thing about this fast-growing suburb of Vancouver, however, is that it did not have a commercial heart. Into this vacuum stepped Mr. Thom, followed by the others, all of whom had something to contribute once they agreed to cooperate.

B.C.'s newest academy, Technical University, was going to be located near the mall to take advantage of SkyTrain's rapid transit service. The insurance corporation (with an investment portfolio of \$5.6 billion, mostly in stocks and bonds) wanted to add real estate to the mix. The mall was for sale. Surrey Mayor Doug McCallum, visualizing a town centre and a high-tech industry growing up around Tech-BC, offered about five hectares of city-owned land.

The result is a \$240-million development with the university as the anchor — a more reliable anchor than some retail chains might be. More commercial and office space will be added to Surrey Place, helping turn this part of Surrey into a community where people can work near where they live. Regional town centres like this, with good transit service, help curb the growth in commuter traffic into downtown Vancouver. So this plan meshes neatly with the grand scheme for managing growth in the Lower Mainland to limit pollution and preserve green space.

As a Crown corporation subject to political whims, ICBC may not have had much choice in the matter. Is Surrey Place a good investment for ICBC, or was the desire to use the corporation "as a catalyst of social development for the benefit of all British Columbians," to quote the press release, the real reason it bought the mall? The corporation cites an independent analysis that says its potential return could outweigh its return on stocks and bonds. ICBC will also occupy some of the office space. Time will tell if the Surrey Place investment is a good deal financially. But from other perspectives, it makes a lot of sense.

A common sense started to flow when Victoria abandoned its plan to put the new university in some cow pasture where there was no transit service and the potential for creat-

ing a town centre did not exist. Isolating universities from the communities that nourish them, and vice-versa, was a foolish B.C. tradition that should have ended when Simon Fraser University successfully located a campus in downtown Vancouver over, yes, a shopping mall and food fair.

With the university now moved to where the people and the transit are, Surrey's goals of a new library, a performing arts centre and recreation centre look attainable. It could soon be a city in spirit as well as in name.

## Police unit ends anxiety for at least two families

The Vancouver police missing persons task force has not been at work long, but already it has produced praiseworthy results.

The task force has not yet found anything linking the 31 women who have dropped out of sight since 1978. All were involved in prostitution or the drug trade, raising speculation that a serial killer might be responsible for many of the deaths.

No evidence has been added to either support or allay such terrible fears. But the task force has learned the fate of two of the women, one of whom died from heart problems, the other from a drug overdose.

That at least ends the anxiety and uncertainty of their families and friends.

## Citizens worthy of honour

Those named to the Order of Canada get respect, but they rarely get enough recognition. All hail then the British Columbians added to or promoted within this prestigious list: Painter and printmaker Takao Tanabe, Parksville; Diane Loomer, for her work with choir, Yon Kimura Parker, pianist, and Carol Henriquez, visual and performing arts, all of Vancouver; and Elwyn Yost, film critic and television host, West Vancouver.

B.C. will also warmly claim as its own Dawson Creek-born singer Ben Heppner, now of Scarborough, Ont.; and filmmaker Atom Egoy, an, raised in Victoria but now living in Toronto. All have distinguished themselves and brought honour to B.C.

## LETTER OF THE DAY

### Running free through mountains can be dangerous

Mountain madness? One thing not mentioned in the Sept. 18 Weekend section article, "Blazing a new trail", about the joys and benefits of mountain-trail running was that this activity is a decidedly hazardous business.

The majority of trails on British Columbia's mountains are fairly steep and are a rough mixture of loose rock, projecting roots, holes, bumps, low branches and what-have-you. A lot of the time, they are wet, greasy, slippery, muddy and

generally treacherous. All this poses a minimal threat to a reasonably competent and sensibly-booted hiker, but I was appalled when I first encountered people dashing and leaping through this terrain.

As search-and-rescue teams continually emphasize, the mountain environment is an unforgiving one. Those venturing into it should take care (one has to rely completely on one's body to get back safely to civilization) and be properly

equipped for emergencies. Much as I like to see people enjoying themselves in the woods, a runner has only to make one tiny slip to come crashing down, with dire consequences.

This situation would be aggravated by having no protective or extra clothing and only a water bottle and energy bar for sustenance. This would be a most daunting prospect, to say the least.

SAM JOWETT  
Burnaby



## GROUP DOES NOT SPEAK FOR ALL

Speaking as a B.C. taxpayer, it is bad enough to have hundreds of uninvited boat people crushing our shore and exploiting all the benefits that Canada offers to genuine refugees. What upsets me more is having Victor Wong of the Association of Chinese-Canadians acting as an "official spokesman," legitimizing all the boat people's actions.

As a Chinese immigrant, I have a few points to clarify. The association, with fewer than a handful of people, certainly does not represent the views of most Chinese in B.C., let alone Chinese across Canada.

Canada is not a wealthy country, but Canadians would like to do our part to help those fleeing from persecution. I would not like to see Canada's good and genuine intentions being taken advantage of, nor would I like to see Vancouver or Toronto's Chinatowns resemble New York's Chinatown.

Several years ago, when I visited New York, I noticed there were thousands of illegal immigrants camped in a vacant park that took up three square blocks. Every day they would set up a marketing booth selling fish, fruits and vegetables. Within this area, everything was very dirty and crowded. Many of these people from Fujian do not even speak Mandarin and they mingle only with their own kind.

The only solution is to have China make a commitment to stop all illegal immigration. This would be difficult because corruption is widespread from top to bottom in China and throughout most developing countries. On a longer-term basis, the solution would be to improve government structure, stop one-party rule, replace rule by people with rule of law, and

These letters are a selection of those recently published in the Bilingual Forum of Ming Pao.

give people more democracy and freedom. These measures would surely dissuade people in China from taking such a life-risking adventure.

MICHAEL ZEE

## NO SERIOUS BID TO CHANGE POLICY

Judging from what Prime Minister Jean Chrétien recently said about the issue of illegal immigrants, it seems that the federal government has no intention of seriously dealing with the problems in Canada's refugee policy.

The long, drawn-out processing and the inability to deport unqualified refugee claimants are already real headaches. What is more, some claimants denied refugee status after due process are granted immigrant status because "they have been in Canada for a long time." This amounts to encouraging unqualified claimants to procrastinate.

On the other hand, the definition of refugee is too lax, little short of being ridiculous. There have been cases of women from Middle East countries claiming

refugee status on the ground that "there was inequality between the two sexes in their countries" and their applications were approved.

After the federal government has vacillated for some time, the refugee policy finally remains unchanged. I suspect it is partly because the government is infatuated with Canada being recognized as a "superb, humane country," but it is more likely that it has been lobbied by immigration lawyers and agencies providing services for immigrants. If the policy is changed, their interests will certainly be damaged.

CHAK AU

## CHANGE OF FACE, NOT OF SPIRIT

When Glen Clark resigned as premier some weeks ago, several New Democrats called it a fresh beginning for the party. Well, the stepping down certainly marked the birth of a new era, but how different it will be in comparison with the old is greatly in doubt. In fact, I think the "spirit" of Mr. Clark is alive and well in the provincial government.

By standing behind Mr. Clark, all the New Democratic Party MLAs have approved his indecent conduct of fiddling with the budgets and have taken part in the scam, putting partisan interests above the people. Even without Mr. Clark as the premier, this government is a living reminder of deception and illegitimacy.

Mr. Clark's tradition of putting partisan affairs before provincial business is continually observed by our NDP MLAs. As evidence, think about the swapping of ministerial duties between Gordon Wilson and Paul Ramsey.

CLEMENT TONG

## THE LAND OF LOST VOTERS WILL HOLD KEY TO ELECTION

VICTORIA

The ordinary citizen may be inclined to view the delay in selecting a provincial New Democratic Party leader with the same fright induced by the Titanic film. Even though it is only a movie, the sight of innocent people falling into the

Patrick Nagle

The long NDP leadership race will help focus on the rural-urban split. Better for the NDP,



the Deity Herself on a platform with Mr. Campbell.

Notwithstanding that certainty, committed social democratic voters comprise a rolling consensus that has changed drastically in the 27 years since Dave Barrett formed B.C.'s first NDP government in Mr. Barrett's

who voted for Jack Weisgerber last time, the Liberals have yet to resonate audibly with a very disconnected rural B.C. population. Since an election is now at least six months away maybe the Liberals have time to grapple more clearly with the prob-

## THE VANCOUVER SUN

JOHN CRUICKSHANK  
Editor-in-Chief

PATRICIA GRAHAM  
Senior Editor



# Vancouver cops find missing woman

By Jason Proctor  
Staff Reporter

Members of a task force trying to find more than two dozen women missing from Vancouver's downtown east side enjoyed a rare victory yesterday with news that one of their mysteries has been solved.

A hit on one of thousands of Canadian databases provided a medical record. And with a phone call, investigators were able to locate Patricia Gay Perkins — missing since 1978.

"She is alive and well and living in Canada," said Const. Anne Drennan. "She does

not want anybody to know where she lives."

The discovery reduces to 28 the number of women whose whereabouts are being probed by police in an investigation that includes a \$100,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

The case has received international attention, including a segment on the syndicated TV show America's Most Wanted.

Perkins is the third woman to be taken off the list, but the first to be found alive.



PERKINS

One of the other two women died of a drug overdose. Another died of a disease contracted through intravenous drug abuse.

All of the missing women worked in the downtown east side sex trade, and many were addicted to drugs. Police speculate that one or more killers may be at work.

But Drennan said Perkins' case illustrates the difficulties facing the task force. Although last seen at age 22 in 1978, Perkins, now 43, wasn't reported

missing until 1996. She heard about the investigation and knew she was on the list, but made no move to contact authorities.

"Where do you start looking?" said Drennan. "She left in '78 for a new life and she didn't want any connection made between her old life and her new life. She apparently left a one-year-old son here and she does have some family here — but again with no contact."

Drennan also noted that police have not added any new names to the list in 1999 — although they've responded — and cleared — many reports of missing prostitutes.

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WALL OF FAMES The faces of celebrities past and present look down at people walking by Stanley City on Fourth Avenue near Granville Island.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAYS B5

# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR KIM DUNBAR 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1999

### HEART OF THE CITY

#### DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE POLICE LOCATE THIRD MISSING WOMAN

A third woman among the more than two dozen reported missing from the downtown Eastside has been located.

But unlike the two previous women found (after police offered a \$400,000 reward for information about their whereabouts), Patricia Gay Perkins, 43, is alive and well.

Of the two located earlier, one died in an Edmonton hospital from heart problems related to hepatitis C, and the other died of a heart overdose.

Investigators on the Vancouver police missing women task force located Perkins after searching a medical data base. They would not say where in Canada she was located.

Police talked to the woman Wednesday and she was aware she was reported missing but did not come forward because she "wants nothing to do with her former life in Vancouver," said Constable Anne Drennan.

Perkins left behind a one-year-old son when she disappeared in 1978.

Drennan said she cannot remain on the missing list and no new names have been added in the past year.

#### DECEASED FRODO BAGGINS TO BE REBORN

Paul's Angles, 35, plans to play Frodo as a millennium project.

The project is sponsored by Our Millennium, an initiative of the Community Foundations of Canada, which encourages Canadians to do something "collective, lasting and special" in their communities to mark the millennium.

For information, call the Vancouver Foundation's Our Millennium coordinator at 738-5120 or visit [www.ourmillennium.ca](http://www.ourmillennium.ca).

### CRIME

#### CAB DRIVERS ROBBED BY PASSENGERS WITH KNIVES

Two cab drivers were robbed at knife point by fares in two separate incidents Wednesday.

About 8:30 p.m., at East 11th and Windsor, the driver of a McLaren's cab was threatened with a steak knife held at his throat. Police are looking for two white males, approximately 20 years old, described as tall and skinny with short brown hair.

The second robbery happened in the 800 block of Blaney around 10:40 p.m., when a yellow cab driver was robbed at knife point by a fare. The cab driver was able to call for help from two security guards who arrived. A 16-year-old man is facing robbery, theft, and aggravated assault charges. The suspect was found in possession of two knives.

## Vote set on SkyTrain mediation

If employees approve the appointment of a mediator, it would remove the possibility of the Lower Mainland's automated train system being shut down until at least Jan. 9.

IAN BAILEY  
VANCOUVER SUN

SkyTrain workers will vote today on a plan that would lift the threat of a labour-related system shutdown until Jan. 9.

The 330 workers in Local 7000 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees are being asked to approve the appointment of a mediator to try to resolve an ongoing dispute. The dispute, over such issues as staffing levels and 13-day shifts, caused the first labour-related shutdown in SkyTrain's 14-year history last Sunday.

A guarantee of 20 work stoppages over the holiday season could be good news for the esti-

ated 13,000 riders across the Lower Mainland who are relying on the fast train to get to work or school.

"This is certainly a win for transit users who are relying on this system in the holiday season," Jim Kirk, a spokesman for CUPE Local 7000, said.

It means they can breathe easier for a few weeks.

CUPE negotiators and union representatives agreed to seek a mediator at a meeting held after last Sunday's one-day strike.

Both sides are requesting that the provincial labour ministry

appoint Vince Ready, who has handled various mediation assignments for the Labour Relations Board and the ministry.

"We would look at that request quite favourably," said Peter Williams, a spokesman for the labour ministry.

The union — if its members vote for it — has made temporary concessions on controversial stand-

*Flying to freedom with help from a friend*

### Last three birds released after oil-spill cleanup

LARRY FYNN  
VANCOUVER SUN

The last three birds successfully treated for exposure to a devastating oil spill in Vancouver harbour last month were released Thursday to Burrard Inlet by the Wildlife Rescue Association.

Robert Boelens, spokesman for the Burnaby-based association, said a new gull, a western grebe and red-necked grebe were among more than 200 birds handled after the spill.

Of those, about 80 were cleaned, fed and released to the wild, the other 120 or so were either dead on arrival, went unhandled due to their condition, or succumbed later to the effects of oil or handling.

Boelens said volunteers managed to collect only 10 per cent of the estimated 2,000 birds affected by the Nov. 24 spill, the origin of which is still under investigation by federal authorities.

Several bird species such as seagulls, grebes, and cormorants were also affected. The Wildlife Rescue Association and California gulls are officially at risk in B.C., Boelens said.

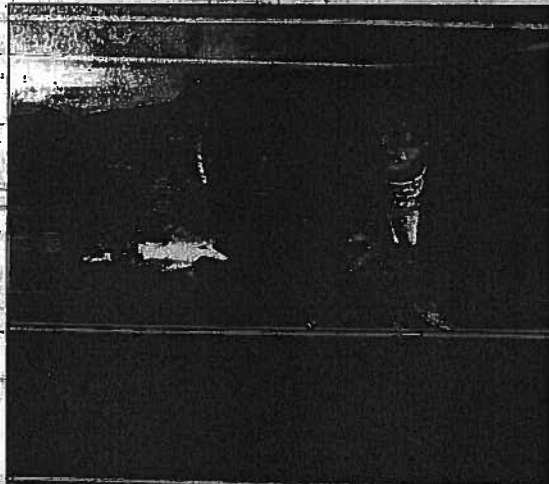
The spill couldn't have come at a worse time, he added, noting that many of the birds had just arrived underweight from long migrations and were ill-equipped to survive the effects of a spill.

Diving waterfowl were especially vulnerable to the effects of the cold water and air once their insulating feathers became fouled.

Other organizations involved in the bird cleanup at the Pacific National Exhibition included Environment Canada, the B.C. environment ministry and the SPCA, backed by more than 300 volunteers.

Fred Berch, regional emergency coordinator for Environment Canada, said the spill is believed to have originated near Vanterm No. 4 dock on the south side of Burrard Inlet. The vegetable oil then spread with the outgoing tide into English Bay and beyond.

An estimated 200 tonnes of vegetable oil was recovered.



TAKING OFF: Liz Thunstrom of the Wildlife Rescue Association releases a new gull, one of more than 200 birds recovered from Burrard Inlet after a large spill on November 24. Only 80 survived.

## Farewell 1999, it's been a splash

LARRY FYNN  
VANCOUVER SUN

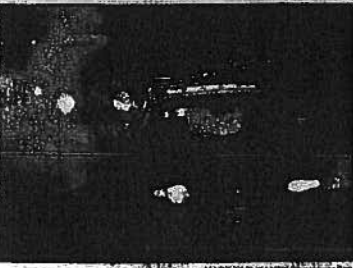
Vancouverites will remember 1999 as The Year of Living Soggy. Residents had their patience and their Gore-tex tested as never before this year.

We've endured 188 days of rain so far — nearing the record of 192 days set in 1961.

"It will be almost impossible to miss this one," Gary Myers, regional superintendent of climate services for Environment Canada, said Thursday. "In fact, we may hit 200 the way we are going."

While Vancouver won't break any records for total rainfall, 1999 is proving to be wetter than usual with 1,358 millimetres of rain — well above the annual average of

SEE WEATHER, B2



BRACKERS: Torrential rain created huge puddles on major roads this week, like this one along Lougheed Highway near Willingdon.

## Special unit 'had no time' in shooting

VANCOUVER SUN

There wasn't enough time to get a special unit to a hotel where a man with mental problems was shot by police this week, a Vancouver police spokeswoman said Thursday.

Constable Anne Drennan said the police force has a unit called "Car 47" that is staffed with a police officer and a mental health worker, but there was no time to call it to the Hampton Hotel, where the fatal shooting occurred.

She said 21 minutes passed between the shooting and the time police first received a 911 call stating a man was threatening himself and others with a knife.

The hotel at 124 Powell is affiliated with the Mental Patients Association of Vancouver.

SEE SHOOTING, B4

## Children's Fund The Vancouver Sun

### North Shore's Avengers fight for human dignity

MICHELLE SIMICK  
VANCOUVER SUN

Alise Rathwell has Down syndrome and she wants people to know about it.

Gene are the days when she couldn't take a bus by herself or was nervous speaking to large groups of people.

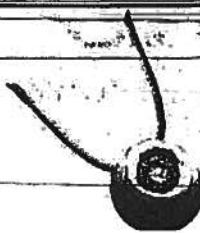
Gene too are the days when she and others like her were made to feel embarrassed about having a disability.

Now thanks to the North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped's "after-school" program, Rathwell wears her own speech and wears to different high schools and companies to talk about

SEE FINDING, B4

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# Another missing woman found

arah Papple  
Reporter

Another woman was taken off Vancouver's missing hooker list, the second in two days.

Cops discovered Rose Ann Jansen in a Canadian health-care data base last Thursday, bringing the missing total down to 27.

"She left the area for personal reasons," said Const. Anne Drennan.

"It doesn't appear she knew she was being looked for."

Jansen, 50, was last seen in the area in October 1991. She was reported missing soon after.

Her family has been called, and they were relieved Jansen was still alive.

"Each of these women have people who care about them, and are worried about them," said Drennan.

Jansen has cleaned up her life since she went missing from the downtown eastside. She was registered in the database after checking into a hospital.

Patricia Gay Perkins was found alive the same way last Wednesday.

There is a \$100,000 reward outstanding for information leading to an arrest in the disappearances of the remaining 27.

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## Lotto

The winning numbers in Saturday's Lotto 6/49 draw were 7, 32, 35, 36, 47 and 48.

The bonus number was 15.

The BC/49 lottery winning numbers Saturday were 2, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 27. The bonus number was 39.

The four Extra winning numbers for B.C. were 19, 34, 46 and 65.

The Lotto Super 7 numbers Friday were 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 38 and 46. The bonus number was 15.

The Extra numbers Friday

were 11, 12, 13 and 50.

The winning number drawn in The Daily 3 on Thursday night was 172. The winning number drawn in The Daily 3 on Friday night was 373.

All these numbers are unofficial.

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# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-2445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2000

## HEART OF THE CITY

### PARKS PROPOSAL AIMS TO REGULATE BUSKING

A proposal to regulate city parks could end busking in the popular area between the bath house and park board offices on English Bay.

A report to the board tonight will propose amending regulations to allow the park board general manager to prohibit performances in city parks.

"The question of busking is a complex one and it has been difficult to find a compromise solution to polarized perspectives," the report says. "While busking on English Bay continues to give pleasure to many, it also has a negative impact on the lives of nearby residents."

The proposed policy would mean buskers could no longer juggle knives, hatchets, chainsaws or flaming objects. It would limit performances to 60 minutes and prohibit audiences or performers from blocking sidewalks, bike routes and park roads.

### LAWSUIT

#### DAMAGES SOUGHT IN COLLAPSE OF FIRE ESCAPE

Cigarette smokers at a party who were told to go outside to smoke have launched a lawsuit after the fire escape they were standing on collapsed, causing them to fall about four metres to the ground.

In their statement of claim, plaintiffs Sadira Rodriguez, Trevor Hindson, Jennifer Cowden, Craig Lahey and Laurence Cowden say the fire escape outside a suite in the 1500 block of West 16th Avenue collapsed at about 10:30 p.m. last June 25.

They claim they suffered a number of injuries, including a compression fracture of a vertebra, a 38-centimetre gash to a thigh and a fractured wrist.

Named in the lawsuit are Janice Greenwood and Melissa Montague, who both rented the apartment, Peter Oxley, who lived in the apartment, and John Pink, Thomas Pink and Joan Pink, the registered owners of the apartment block.

The plaintiffs allege the fire escape collapsed because it was either poorly constructed or poorly maintained and therefore unable to bear the weight of the five people on it.

### CRIME

#### POLICE TO LECTURE TEENS IN FIREWORKS PRANK

Some teenagers in southwest Vancouver will get a lecture from police after being caught pushing powerful fireworks through the front-door mail slots in two homes. No one was injured in the Saturday-night prank.

Esko Kajander of the Vancouver police said the fireworks the teens used were "quite powerful" causing officers to initially believe they were more serious explosives. The fireworks were slipped through mail slots of two homes built near the Musqueam Reserve. There was no serious damage to the houses.

## Affirming 'good' in church-run schools

A United Church of Canada reunion of residential school staff was organized to celebrate the positive side of the experience, while recognizing that, despite good intentions, the system was 'sinful.'

DOUGLAS TODD  
SUN RELIGION REPORTER

Ken McLeod has long wanted someone to listen to his side of the story of Canada's now-notorious residential school system for native Indians.

He got his wish on the weekend.

McLeod, 87, was among dozens of former residential-school staff who gathered from

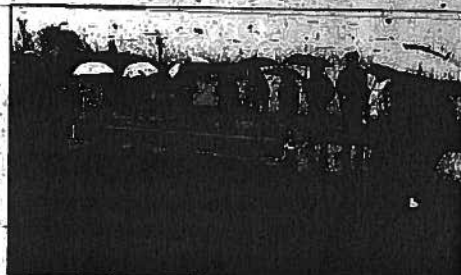
across the country at a rare conference to let it be known that the recent explosion of high-profile residential-school-abuse court cases shouldn't completely overshadow the positive things that also happened at the church-run schools.

"This has been something I've dreamed about for a long time. A lot of good stories have been lost," said McLeod, who worked

in the 1950s and '60s at United Church-run schools in Port Simpson, B.C., and Manitoba.

The United Church of Canada — which has apologized to natives and funneled millions of dollars toward native causes as a way to make up for what it considers its past religious imperialism — organized the private gathering at a Surrey hotel

SEE SCHOOLS, B4



GRAND HOPE/Vancouver Sun

**QUESTIONS:** Friends of Vancouver's missing women gather around a bench in Portside Park that is being dedicated in their memory.

## Park memorializes missing women

Police, family and friends use the occasion to bring attention to the case of 27 missing women.

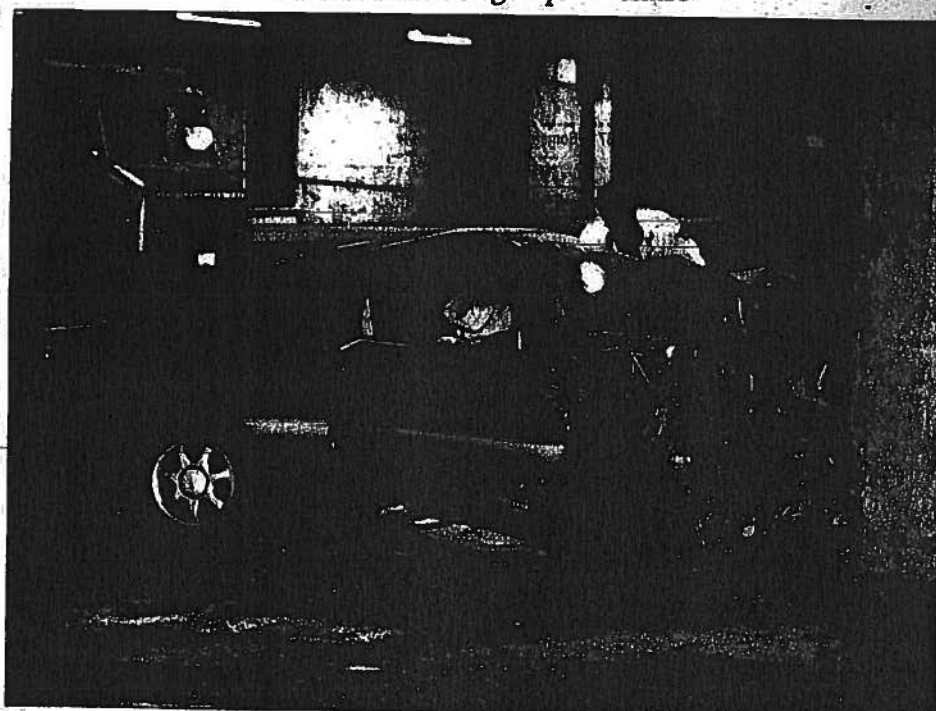
LINDSAY KINES  
VANCOUVER SUN

For a few minutes this weekend, the families and friends of Vancouver's missing women and the police officers who are searching for them gathered in the rain at Portside Park.

Officially, they were there to dedicate a bench in honor of the women. But it was also a chance for the families to once more call attention to the troubling cases, and for the police to reaffirm their commitment to solving them.

Less than a year ago, the disappearance of 31 women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside was making headlines internationally. The city and provincial government offered a \$100,000 reward, and the U.S. television show *America's Most Wanted* aired a story about the women, many of whom were involved in drugs or the sex trade.

SEE MISSING, B3



BILLY COOK/Vancouver Sun

**WRECKAGE:** An emergency worker looks over a vehicle that crashed into a concrete pillar after a police chase on Saturday night.

## Man drives through roadblock, sparks police chase

LOUI CULBERT  
VANCOUVER SUN

A man was taken to hospital with serious injuries early Sunday after slamming into a concrete pillar at Park Royal Shopping Centre while trying to flee West Vancouver police.

Acting Sergeant George Phillipson said the chase began about 2 a.m. Sunday after a car without licence plates drove through a police road check set up to look for impaired drivers.

The suspect "narrowly missed one of the police officers," as he sped from the road block, Phillipson said.

Police stopped the pursuit after a short time, once the suspect drove into a residential area. However, two police vehicles picked up the chase again when the car was spotted near the shopping centre.

"In his attempt to flee the officers, the suspect entered the parking garage at Park Royal South and subsequently struck a concrete pillar," Phillipson said.

He had no further information about the chase or the medical status of the injured man, saying the officers involved were off shift during the day Sunday. More information is expected to be released today, as the investigation continues.

Under rules introduced last year, police in B.C. must consider such things as public safety before starting a chase.

In February, a 16-year-old Alderboro boy died after a stolen van he was driving

SEE CRASH, B4

GERRY BELLETT  
VANCOUVER SUN

Ted Hayden admits the \$4 million he'll spend building a world-class Grand Prix show jumping course on 60 hectares (10 acres) of Ladner farmland probably isn't the best investment he's ever made.

"I guess if you're thinking about return, this isn't the way to go, but you've got to have a passion in life and this is mine," said Hayden of the paddocks, the stables, and the Grand Prix course that now sits in the core of the property on 61st in the very heart of Ladner's equestrian district.

SEE COURSE, B4





# THE VANCOUVER SUN

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FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2000

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PETER BATTISTONE/Vancouver Sun

## The rebirth of Mike Harcourt

*If a man sits by the river long enough, he will see the bodies of his enemies float by.*

— Ancient Chinese proverb

TOM BARRETT  
VANCOUVER SUN

Premier Bonehead is back. But this time there's no bonehead about it. In four years, Mike Harcourt has gone from figure of fun to elder statesman. At the age of 57, the man who was called an indecisive wimp has been transformed into a behind-the-scenes tough guy.

Once the villain of Clayoquot Sound logging protests, he has been transformed into a sustainable development guru. Once a bitter media-basher, he's been transformed into a media commentator. He's credited with helping revive Premier Ujjal Dosanjh's flagging leadership campaign at the beginning of this year and helping guide the transition of power when Dosanjh was victorious.

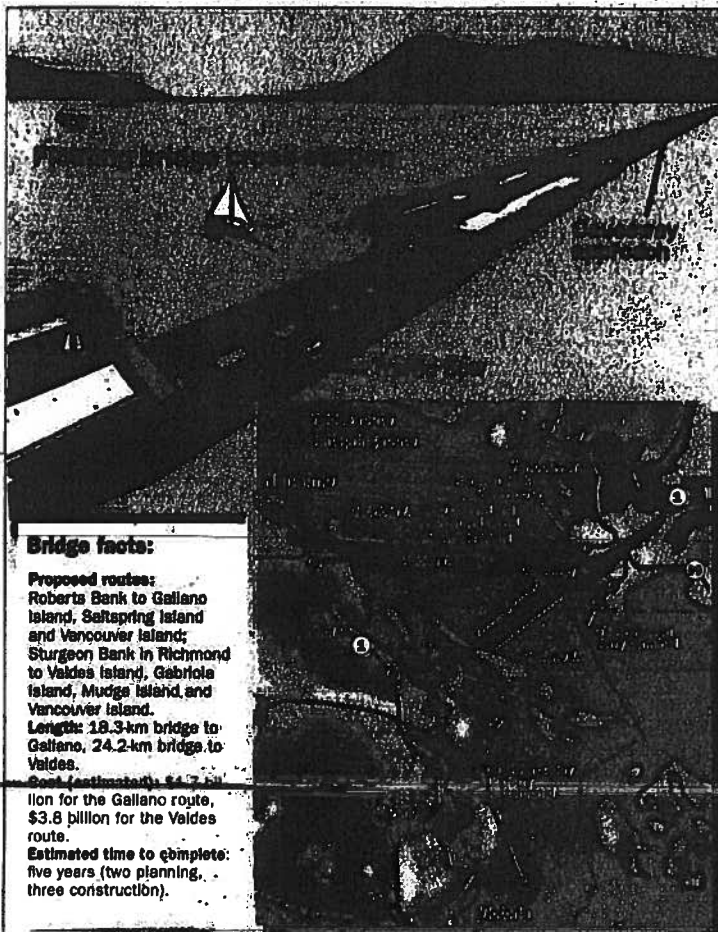
A measure of his effectiveness is reflected in the worries of the premier's advisers, who say Harcourt is developing too high a profile.

Harcourt's leadership style is back in fashion. His hard-nosed successor, Glen Clark, who once looked so decisive in comparison to Harcourt, has been chased from power. Last week, amid the pomp and ceremony of the throne speech, Harcourt sat as an honoured guest on the floor of the legislature, mostly behind the premier's chair. At the other end of the chamber, seats of power, were the desks of Clark and Moe Sihota, the two bad boys who once caused Harcourt so much trouble. Everybody who knows Harcourt talks about how relaxed and happy he is today. For the first time in a long while, he seems comfortable around power.

As it turned out, all Mike Harcourt had to do to gain influence and respect was to let go of power. And wait.

SEE PROFILE, A16

## A fixed link to Vancouver Island



### Bridge facts:

**Proposed routes:**  
Roberts Bank to Galiano Island, Salt Spring Island and Vancouver Island;  
Surgeon Bank in Richmond to Valdes Island, Gabriola Island, Mudge Island and Vancouver Island.  
**Lengths:** 18.3-km bridge to Galiano, 24.2-km bridge to Valdes.

**Cost (estimated):** \$4.7 billion for the Galiano route, \$3.8 billion for the Valdes route.  
**Estimated time to complete:** five years (two planning, three construction).

## Georgia Strait bridge idea refloated

JOHN MACKIE  
VANCOUVER SUN

Forget the fast ferries. Forget the idea of building new ferries. Forget ferries altogether and build a bridge.

That's former Sacred cabinet minister Pat McGeer's solution to the problem of linking the mainland and Vancouver Island — and it's one he feels is inevitable.

"You build it once, and it will last several hundred years," McGeer said in an interview. "It will be in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week, no more lineups, no more cost of operating ferries. It's long overdue."

If McGeer feels a bridge is an idea whose time has come, it's probably because it's one of British Columbia's oldest dreams — and one he has championed for years.

As a cabinet minister in the 1980s, McGeer commissioned two studies on the possibility. Both concluded that it is possible — and even financially viable — to build a bridge across the Georgia Strait.

SEE BRIDGE, A1

## Vancouver police probe serial killer confession

A convicted murderer claims he killed 16 others in Canada and Seattle.

ALISON AULD  
CANADIAN PRESS  
and LORI CULBERT  
VANCOUVER SUN

Police in Vancouver and other cities across Canada and the U.S. are dusting off unsolved homicide files after a man convicted of murder in New Brunswick claimed responsibility for another 16 slayings.

Michael Wayne McGray, 34, who pleaded guilty this week to slitting the throat of Joan Hicks in Moncton, said the other murders occurred in Halifax, Saint John, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Seattle.

Vancouver police media liaison Constable Anne Drennan said the city's homicide unit and the provincial unsolved homicide unit started comparing notes several weeks ago with their counterparts in Eastern Canada, where McGray is charged with killing three other people.

Because McGray has supplied few details about the alleged victims, investigators are looking for any similarities between the crimes he claims to have committed and unsolved murders in B.C.

To date no matches have been found, but obviously we will continue looking, Drennan said.

McGray, a soft-spoken, chillingly articulate man, said Thursday in a telephone interview from his segregated cell in New Brunswick's Penitentiary, that his other victims included several prostitutes and may include a woman.

He said the urge to kill remained in him like a hunger. "From the moment I wake up, every time I'm around people, all I want to do is lean over and need to hurt somebody in order to satisfy me. It's like [a] high for me."

Drennan said it is possible Vancouver officers will fly to New Brunswick to interview McGray. Detective Constable Lori Sherry, the lead investigator on the disappearance of 27 women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, many of them drug-addicted or sex-trade workers, said her curiosity was piqued after hearing about McGray's confessions.

"That's something we'll look at, certainly," Sherry said.

SEE KILLER, A2

## Local officials go after smokers

Restaurants and bars still have to comply with municipal bylaws.

HAROLD MUNRO  
VANCOUVER SUN

A smoking ban remains in effect in most Lower Mainland restaurants, bars and pubs even after a court decision that overturned province-wide smoking regulations.

From West Vancouver to Maple Ridge, regional and municipal officials say they will continue to enforce

municipal smoking bylaws that were not the subject of the court challenge.

These bylaws are not the same across the region, which can confuse those who cross municipal boundaries to eat and drink and find different rules.

Smoking in restaurants is banned in every Lower Mainland municipality except Maple Ridge. Some municipalities allow smoking in licensed establishments, while other jurisdictions have bans that are every bit as

far-reaching as the Workers' Compensation Board regulations declared null and void by the B.C. Supreme Court.

Justice Sunni Stromberg-Steln ruled Wednesday the WCB ban was enacted without proper consultation. The WCB board is expected to decide within the next few days whether to appeal the court decision, hold public hearings on the regulations designed to protect hospitality

SEE SMOKING, A2

## Mayor rejects all special days as Kelowna told to honour gays

DANIEL STERN  
VANCOUVER SUN

The mayor of Kelowna says he won't be proclaiming any more special days, weeks or months after a B.C. Human Rights Tribunal ruled he was being discriminatory when he cut the word "gay" from his

Q TACK  
TAKES

KILLER from A1

## Confessed killer wants 'help'

MICHAEL W. McGRAY:  
Claims he killed 17 people.

'I need help and I'm not going to get it in prison,' he says. 'I want to stop hurting people.'

But in Seattle, the King County sheriff's office said it is unlikely McGray is responsible for the unsolved murders of 49 women, mostly prostitutes or drug addicts, that occurred there between 1982 and 1984, because he would have been so young when the so-called Green River killings were committed.

McGray said he wanted to come forward with the confessions because he needs help and wants to stop what he called a 15-year killing rampage.

McGray's lawyer, Wendell

Maxwell, said he told his client not to speak to the media.

'I think he's crazy to be talking to you people but that's his business,' Maxwell said.

'He won't listen to me. He wants to talk, he's going to talk. But the question is how much of this is truth, how much of this is fiction? Only the police can determine that if they interview him, I suppose.'

McGray, born in Collingwood, Ont., but raised in Yarmouth, N.S., pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the death of Hicks and was sentenced to life.

He is also facing first-degree murder charges for the 1991 slayings of two gay men in Montreal and the 1987 killing of a cab driver in Saint John, N.B. Pre-

liminary hearings on those cases are to be held in May.

McGray, who has drifted from one city to the next since being kicked out of his father's home when he was in his early teens, said he will confess to all of the killings.

He will offer police details, names and dates if he is granted three demands.

'If they want to clear them up, we can do it very fast,' he said, at times becoming emotional when speaking of the medical help he claims to need.

He said he doesn't want to be charged with any of the other murders, since he is already serving a life sentence and won't be eligible for parole for at least 15 years.

(He was sentenced to serve 25 years without parole but, theoretically could be freed sooner under the so-called faint hope

clause that allows for an earlier review.)

He also wants to receive medical treatment, such as psychological counselling and access to medications that would control his rage, for several "mental problems" he claims to suffer from.

And he doesn't want any of the people who witnessed and participated in the alleged crimes to be charged.

In an hour-long interview, McGray said "someone he cares a lot about" helped in luring victims to him over the last few years.

He claimed that in 1985 he and a friend picked up hitchhiker Elizabeth Gail Tucker, 17, of Dartmouth, N.S., and that he stabbed her repeatedly.

No one has ever been charged in the case and he refused to identify his accomplice.

## WORLD &amp; NATION

## SAME-SEX SEMANTICS

is of a bill legalizing same-sex images aren't mollified by the recent's latest wording. A12

## CHELSEA'S HOPE

Chelsea Clinton, at 20, is a sensation in India. A12

## CITY &amp; REGION

## ENTERS CROWNS' FIGHT

torney-General Andrew has applied for a court injunction in a bid to stop Crown prosecutors from proceeding with a four-day withdrawal of charges starting Monday. B1

## INSIGHT

## SING THE WAR ON BUGS

use of antibiotics presents a classic case of how not to science. Doctors overprescribe them, patients misuse them and manufacturers put them in everything. A17

## BUSINESS

## OIL FROM WOOD

aste that is now being used in British Columbia mills could be producing up to 1 million barrels of fuel oil a year, according to a small B.C. company with the technology to extract oil from wood. D1

## ENTERTAINMENT

## OSCAREDICATIONS

atherine Monk and Mark Twain make their fearless fictions on who will win at Oscars, as well as offering their own personal favourites. News and notes from the Academy Awards front. C1

## SPORTS

## CANUCKS NEED HELP

nable to help themselves in Jose on Wednesday, the Vancouver Canucks will need a lot of help from elsewhere if they intend to successfully complete their frantic late-season run at a playoff spot. G1

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SMOKING from A1

## Court decision creates confusion for owners

industry employees from second-hand smoke, or take some other action.

In Vancouver, where a city bylaw prohibits smoking in restaurants, the court ruling has not made it any easier for diners to light up.

"My marching orders are that the bylaw is to be enforced," said Nick Losito, the director of environmental health for the city.

The smoking ban does not apply to bars and pubs.

However, two city councillors said Thursday they expect Vancouver council will move to resolve this inequity very quickly.

Councillor Gordon Price said the smoking ban should be extended to bars and pubs. "I can't see the justification for not doing it."

Councillor Fred Bass, a physician who chairs the tobacco and illness committee of the B.C. Medical Association, agreed.

"I don't think that council should sit back and wait. I would expect that we would have a fair amount of unanimity on this issue."

Indeed, Vancouver council voted in 1996 after a series of emotional public hearings to eliminate smoking in bars and pubs by Jan. 1, 2000. The province then introduced by the WCB on Jan. 1, 2000, a city regulation unnecessary until this week's court decision.

Losito said the amendment covering bars and pubs is written and ready for council consideration whenever the politicians ask for it.

Losito predicts the compliance rate with the smoking ban among city restaurants, which had been 95 to 98 per cent since the WCB regulations came in, will slip now that there is again a non-level playing field in terms of where customers can smoke.

"The court decision will generate some confusion and frustration in the short term," Losito said.

The Vancouver restaurateur and bar owner who led the fight against the WCB smoking ban said any attempt by council to expand the city bylaw would be strenuously opposed.

"I can tell you that there would be rioting in the streets if they tried to do that," Vance Campbell predicted.

He said a group of business owners is already considering a class-action lawsuit against the WCB to recover income lost as a result of the smoking ban.

Campbell estimated business in B.C.'s hospitality industry was down 25 per cent in the first part of this year compared to the same period last year as a result of the smoking ban.

## Smoking rules by region

A look at smoking regulations in restaurants, bars, pubs, lounges, casinos, bingo and pool halls:

**Burnaby:** No smoking in restaurants; 30 per cent non-smoking in bars, pubs, lounges, casinos, bingo and pool halls.

**Coquitlam:** No smoking in restaurants; owners of licensed premises and bingo halls can designate smoking and non-

smoking areas at their discretion.

**Delta:** No smoking.

**Langley City:** No smoking.

**Langley Township:** No smoking.

**Maple Ridge:** 70 per cent non-smoking in restaurants, bars, pubs, lounges; 30 per cent non-smoking in casinos and bingo halls; no smoking in pool halls (70 per cent non-smoking in pool halls that serve food). No smoking in all indoor public

places as of Dec. 31, 2000.

**New Westminster:** No smoking.

**North Vancouver City:** No smoking.

**North Vancouver District:** No smoking.

**Pitt Meadows:** No smoking.

**Port Coquitlam:** No smoking.

**Port Moody:** No smoking.

**Richmond:** No smoking in restaurants, bingo halls and casinos. No restrictions in bars, pubs, lounges and pool halls.

**Surrey:** No smoking in restaurants, bars, pubs, lounges and pool halls. No restrictions on casinos and bingo halls.

**Vancouver:** No smoking in restaurants and pool halls; 30 per cent non-smoking in bars, pubs, lounges, casinos, bingo and pool halls.

**West Vancouver:** No smoking.

**White Rock:** No smoking.

BRIDGE from A1

## Fixed link idea around since 1871

Georgia Strait.

One of the studies — done in 1980 — looked at various options for a fixed link between the

18.3-kilometre floating bridge from Roberts Bank to the middle of Galiano Island, a 3.3-km floating bridge from Galiano to Salt Spring Island and a 2.9-km floating bridge from Salt Spring to Vancouver Island. The cost was estimated at \$1.2 billion. Assuming construction costs have risen two per cent annually, the cost would now be about \$1.7 billion.

The 1985 study opted for another route, away from the politically sensitive southern Gulf Islands. That route would see a 24.2-km floating bridge run from Surrpion Bank off Richmond to Valdes Island. From there, conventional bridges would connect Valdes to Gabriola Island, Gabriola to Mudge Island and Mudge to Vancouver Island. The cost in 1985 was estimated to be \$2.9 billion. Today, it would be about \$3.8 billion.

Lots of money, but it could be recouped in tolls. BC Ferries figures show 11.3 million passengers took the ferries to and from Victoria and Nanaimo in the year ending March 31. In the same period, 3.64 million vehicles took the ferries. If you charged \$10 per person, and \$40 per vehicle, you could recoup about \$250 million per year.

Said McGeer: "You don't have to look very far into the future to see that it's impossible to continue with the system as it now exists."

The idea of a bridge to Vancouver Island has been around since B.C. joined Confederation in 1871. One of the terms for joining Canada was the construction of a railway

to the Coast. At the time, Vancouver Island was far more populated than the mainland, and most people thought the island would be Victoria.

There was a proposal to run the railway from the Cariboo to Bute Inlet, near Campbell River, where Vancouver Island and the mainland are close enough that a bridge seemed feasible. The railway would then have continued down to Victoria. But it all came to naught when the Canadian Pacific Railway chose to run the line up the Fraser Valley to Vancouver.

A century later, building a bridge to Vancouver Island faces several obstacles: the wide expanse of Georgia Strait, the depth of the water and the sheer logistical issues of running the bridge through the Gulf Islands, as well as the impact on the environment.

Ray Cunliffe wrote the 1985 report for Willis Cunliffe Ltd. Delcan Engineering in New Westminster. In an interview, he said a floating bridge is the only viable option, because the water is so deep (300 metres in spots) it would be virtually impossible, or incredibly expensive, to build a regular bridge.

There are several floating bridges in the world, including one in Kelowna and a couple in Seattle.

The basic idea is to construct the bridge

out of floating concrete tubes that would be buckled together. The tubes would be anchored in the bottom by concrete piles attached to concrete or cast-steel anchors. Drivers would cruise along at about 70 km/hour, three metres above Georgia Strait.

Breakwaters on either side of the bridge would protect it from waves and it would be designed to withstand a once-in-century wind of 150 km/hour.

What of the ships that cruise up Georgia Strait into Vancouver?

There were two proposals. The 1980 idea was to submerge two floating tunnels off Roberts Bank and have ships pass over top. This was amended in 1981 to a 2.5 km tunnel and the bottom of the Strait that would emerge onto a man-made island.

The bigger problem might be hopping across the Gulf Islands to save money. On the 1980 study, the estimated cost of the bridge across Georgia Strait was \$2.8 million per kilometre, as opposed to \$2.5 million per mile of highway on the islands.

Cunliffe favours the Galiano/Salt Spring route, because it's the shortest and cheapest.

But McGeer favours the Valdes/Gabriola route, because it would be less impact than building a highway through the more populated southern Gulf Islands.

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ALAN W. HILL  
Executive





# Did he kill on skid row?

**Sex suspect called 'person of interest' in disappearance of 28 women**

By Jason Proctor  
Staff Reporter

Police say they will question a former pimp in relation to 28 women missing from Vancouver's downtown east side.

Barry Thomas Niedermier has been charged in attacks against seven skid-row prostitutes. The 43-year-old Lethbridge, Alta., man faces 14 counts, including assault, sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery, administering of a noxious substance, and unlawful confinement.

Members of the missing women task force built the case against Niedermier, who was convicted 10 years ago for being a pimp to a 14-year-old girl. While none of the 28 missing women is among the alleged victims, police said yesterday they plan to question Niedermier about the disappearances once he's sent back to Vancouver this week from Calgary.

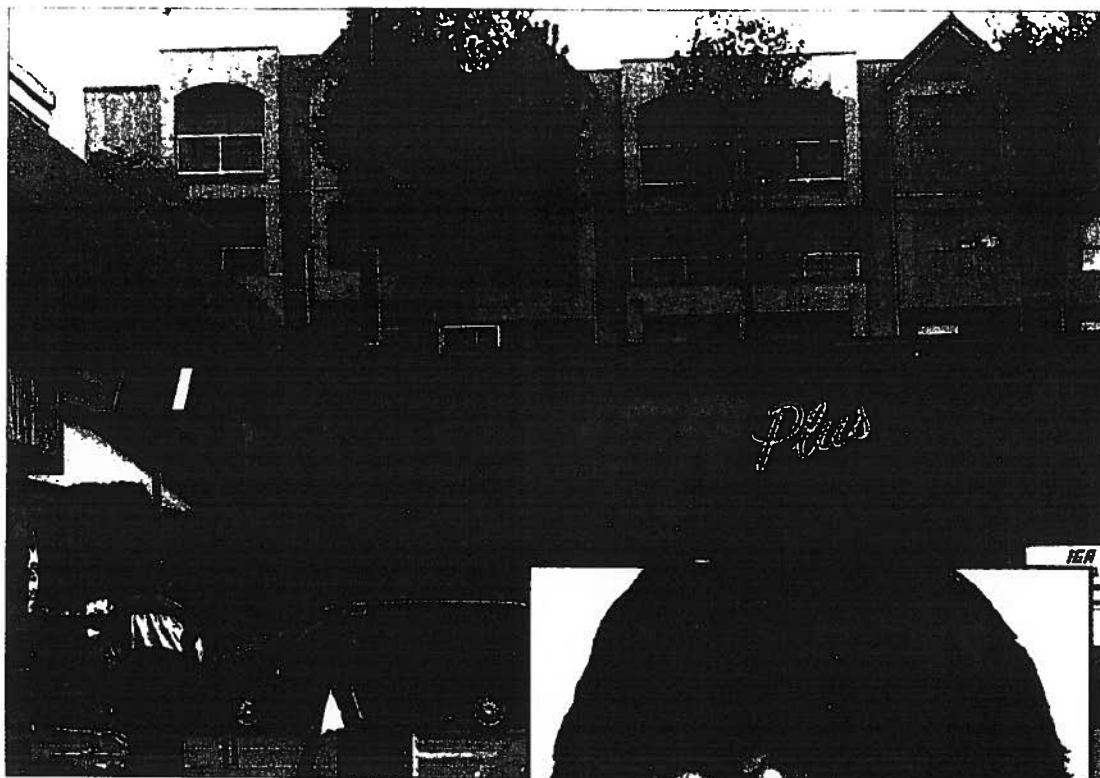
"It's impossible to say at this point whether or not Niedermier may be related to those cases," said Const. Anne Drennan. "Certainly he is a person of interest, and he will continue to be a person of interest."

Residents of the building at Quebec and 12th where Niedermier lived during the years he spent in Vancouver reacted with little surprise yesterday at news of his arrest. A large, tattooed man with long, salt-and-pepper hair, he drove a revolving succession of fancy cars — Lamborghini, Ferrari, Viper.

Police say Niedermier was a "constant driver" with a silver tongue — who could talk people out of their cars for a few days and then think nothing of driving to Calgary and back.

He had loud arguments with girlfriends in the Bix by his apartment and was known to many in his complex for the succession of bedraggled women who passed through his door, and manic behaviour police say was fuelled by an out-of-control drug addiction.

Niedermier used to own Car-



David Clark — The Province

**Garry Niedermier (right), who has been charged with 14 offences, lived on the third floor of the apartment in the background (above) in the 2900-block of Quebec Street in Vancouver. He is to be questioned in the disappearance of 28 women.**



donic's Smoke and Gilt Shop in the mall beneath his apartment. But in 1995 he was charged and heavily fined for selling contraband cigarettes. He eventually lost the business.

"He'll be the perfect 'This is what drugs can do to you' example," said an acquaintance who once watched Niedermier drop \$100 bills out the window of his sports car. He was eventually evicted from his building, and moved back to Lethbridge to live with his mother, who has Alzheimer's.

Police say Niedermier also will be questioned about attacks against women in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge.

Police in Vancouver hope the publicity might encourage other victims to come forward.

Niedermier's name arose as a result of inquiries made by the task force investigating disappearances of 28 drug-addicted prostitutes. A \$100,000 reward has been posted for information leading to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the unlawful confinement, kidnapping or murder of any or all of the women.

Niedermier was sentenced in 1990 to 14 months in prison for pimping a 14-year-old girl who he brought from Calgary to Vancouver.

The officer who arrested him said at the time that the victim was so frightened she wanted her teddy bear returned from the grimy east-side room where she was being kept before agreeing to turn in the pimp.

**'Certainly he is a person of interest, and he will continue to be a person of interest'**

— Const. Anne Drennan



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## Pimp quizzed about missing prostitutes

A man arrested in Alberta faces charges in connection with sexual assaults in Vancouver.

PETTI FONG  
VANCOUVER SUN

A convicted pimp described as a person of interest in connection with missing prostitutes in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside has been arrested in Lethbridge.

Barry Thomas Niedermier, 43, faces a string of charges in connection with brutal sexual assaults from 1995 to 1997 against seven prostitutes working in downtown Vancouver.



BARRY NIEDERMIER

He has been charged with 14 counts of assault, sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery, administering a noxious substance and unlawful confinement.

He will be transferred to Vancouver from Alberta this week after his arrest Friday by Leth-

Vancouver police task force investigating the disappearance of almost 30 prostitutes.

Sources have told *The Vancouver Sun* that Niedermier is also of interest to police in Edmonton and Calgary, where other prostitutes have gone missing. In Calgary, police have been investigating the disappearance of a number of prostitutes in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Vancouver police Constable Anne Drennan said Tuesday that Niedermier is the main suspect in the assaults against the seven prostitutes and continues to be a suspect in a number of other assaults in Vancouver, Lethbridge, Edmonton and Calgary.

"It was as part of the investigation into the missing women that information about Niedermier was received," said Drennan. "There has been no link identified with the missing prostitutes, but we would call him a person of interest and we

SEE ASSAULTS, A1

## Hollywood comes to Squamish



SHOOTING BREAK: Heather Graham (*Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*) and Chris Klein (*Here on Earth*) share a laugh during filming of *Say It Isn't So* in Squamish.

## Coquihalla tolls to stay though target long achieved

But don't expect a break soon from the B.C. government that plans to keep the money flowing.

LARRY PYNN  
VANCOUVER SUN

The B.C. government collected more than \$400 million in tolls on the Coquihalla Highway over the past 14 years, enough to pay for the first phase of the megaproject and 10 times the amount the province originally said it would collect.

But don't expect a break soon

which recently allowed the fiscal milestone to pass with more of the fanfare of the Coquihalla Highway's opening in 1986 and fully plans to keep the money flowing.

"There are currently no plans to remove the tolls," Bruce Methven, a spokesman for the ministry of transportation and highways, confirmed Tuesday.

The toll is collected from vehicles travelling the 115 kilometre

stretch between Hope and Merritt, the highway's first phase that was opened in time for Expo 86 at a cost of \$415 million.

As of the fiscal year ending March 31 this year, the province had exceeded that figure, collecting \$418.8 million from the Coquihalla toll, according to ministry information provided to *The Vancouver Sun*.

The province's Social Credit administration that commissioned the Coquihalla

While in Merritt to attend a cabinet meeting in 1984 — two years before the opening of the highway — then-Social Credit premier Bill Bennett said the toll would not last forever and was meant to pay only for the accelerated charges of completing the project in time for Expo.

Then-minister of highways, the late Alex Fraser, told the legislature in June 1986 a month after the highway opened. "The toll is installed under government policy to help pay for the carrying charges for the step-up in the construction of the Coquihalla."

"It was never put in there to pay for the road itself."

A subsequent public inquiry headed by engineer Doug MacKay found that the toll of fast-tracking the highway in

SEE COQUIHALLA, A2

## TECH KNOW

A SPECIAL  
REPORT ON  
TECHNOLOGY

Whether they make envelopes, steel girders or rock salt, businesses are increasingly turning to online marketing, sales and procurement. The relentless surge in business-to-business e-commerce is permanently shifting the economic playing field.

In today's special 28-page TechKnow report, *The Vancouver Sun* examines the key issues facing Canadians in the world of online business.

Sections, E1, F1

## WEATHER

### DON'T BE POOLED

By the time you're as the sun is in the sky, it's too hot to be in the water. Before the day warms up, complete weather map, B2



## INSIDE

## Hollinger puts small papers up for sale

Hollinger International Inc., the newspaper publisher controlled by Conrad Black, said Tuesday it plans to sell most of its 59 dailies and 300 community papers in North America and is seeking alliances with online partners to boost the Internet presence of the big city papers it will keep — which include its flagship *National Post*, *The Vancouver Sun*, *The Citizen* in Ottawa, *The Gazette* in Montreal, *The Daily Telegraph* in London and the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Candidates for the auction block include the *Victoria Times-Colonist*, *Regina Leader-Post*, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* and the *Windsor Star*. But these will be sold only if they attract premium offers, Hollinger vice-president Peter Atkinson said.

Hollinger, which already operates Canada.com and city-specific Web sites in Vancouver, Ottawa and Montreal has hired merchant bankers Morgan Stanley Dean Witter to explore partnerships with Internet portals.

## Two opposition supporters killed by Zimbabwe gangs

HILARY MACKENZIE  
SOUTHIAM NEWSPAPERS  
AND REUTERS

HARARE — Zimbabwean police arrested five suspects Tuesday after the country's political opposition said two of its supporters had been killed by followers of President Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party.

Nomore Sibanda, a spokesman for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), said one man

had been beaten to death in Sharwa, 80 kilometres north-east of Harare, while the other was killed in the capital. Both died Monday.

A police spokesman said the men died in confrontations between MDC and ZANU-PF youth. He did not give further details.

MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai said the first victim was in a group attacked in a shopping area of Sharwa by a roving gang

claiming to support ZANU-PF. In the same attack MDC leader David Nshaurwa was struck on the head with an axe. Others were also hurt.

No details of the killing in Harare were available.

Shamva MDC organizer Moses Kufandiko said the dead opposition supporter had been asked by his assailants to produce a ZANU-PF membership card.

SEE ZIMBABWE, A1

## B.C. the nation's hotspot for UFO sightings

UFO sightings  
by province, 1999

Nfld.  
PEI  
N.S.  
N.B.



From Surrey to Kimberley, almost half the sightings in Canada come over B.C.

SCOTT EDMONDS  
CANADIAN PRESS  
and JIM BRONSKI  
SOUTHIAM NEWSPAPERS  
WINNIPEG — If the truth re-

Rulkowski, a University of Manitoba science writer and amateur astronomer who has just published the 11th annual survey of sightings.

Almost half the sightings in Canada last year — 118 — were seen over the West Coast. Ontario had 79 reports and after that they drop off sharply.

"B.C. has a UFO hotline and they have a TV show and they publish a magazine and there's really quite a devoted following in B.C.," while that isn't the case in Saskatchewan or New Brunswick.

"So I think that and the larger population base has added to the numbers."

Province	Sightings	Province	Sightings
Alberta	11	Quebec	02
British Columbia	118	Ontario	79
Manitoba	01	Prince Edward Island	00
Ontario	79	Saskatchewan	00
Quebec	02	Yukon	00
Saskatchewan	00	Atlantic	00
Yukon	00	Atlantic	00
Atlantic	00		







# If the Beds' the same, Why not the name?

Have you been mattress shopping lately? If so, you are probably incredibly confused. You simply cannot find the same mattress, in the same color, with the same name in any two competitive mattress stores. In fact, you are actually seeing the same mattress over and over again, in different stores, both the cover, the name on the label and of course the prices are different. This is a deliberate attempt to confuse the consumer and prevent comparative price shopping. **THEY DO NOT WANT YOU TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THESE PRICES.**

Some mattress stores will not even quote you mattress prices over the phone. To avoid phone them and ask them price on a firm Queen Size Sealy Posturepedic mattress set. The prices start at \$800. What are they afraid of? If their mattress prices are as good as they say they advertise them to be, why won't they quote them to you over the phone, and why do they refuse to carry the same models we have? In some cases, this allows them to get away with charging double what we do for essentially the same mattress.

Since you cannot compare one mattress to another, stores can charge whatever they want without fear of getting caught and having to honor a price guarantee. The manufacturing cost of the mattress is often tripled by the time it reaches the customer's home because customers cannot compare prices. Total prices that customers pay for the mattress include several stages of markup, and in some cases, stores that advertise heavily on radio and TV include over \$120 of this cost in each mattress they sell. These costs are recovered through higher retail prices.

At Parker's Mattress Factory Stores, we operate our own factory and sell direct to the customer. No expensive radio and TV advertising, no middleman's markup, no expensive contractor head office figureheads adding to the prices. Quality wise, our mattresses are the same as other brands, and we prove this by doubling the industry standard warranties to 20 full years. Our mattress line has won awards in the media and garnered support from local hotels, firehalls, long-term care facilities, etc. who regularly purchase our house brand.

For example, a top of the line brand name mattress set with 800 coils, pillow top, low profile box spring, and wood or silk on the final quilting, costs over \$4,000 at many mattress stores. We have copied these mattresses in our factory, often using the identical materials purchased from the same suppliers: coils, foam padding, silk, wool, etc. It is all the same. Except that our models sell for \$998 to \$1479. A saving over \$2,500!

Our second best selling model is a direct copy of a top name brand model that sells in other stores for \$1998. Our version of this same mattress will cost you \$698. Our best seller is the 10111 DFLC NF model. This firm mattress set sells for \$468 in a queen size set, and is identical to those we sell to hotels at Whistler. If you are not sold on our "House Brand", we also carry Sealy Posturepedic beds at 50% discount from our major competitors.

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### Better

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incredibly comfortable

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\$109 PER PIECE  
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Double	\$398	per set
Queen	\$448	per set
King	\$698	per set
Twin	\$458	per set
Double	\$598	per set
Queen	\$698	per set
King	\$998	per set
Twin	\$860	per set
Double	\$1058	per set
Queen	\$1198	per set
King	\$1479	per set

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\$109 PER PIECE  
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**Romance Ultra Plush or Ultra Firm**



**Crown Jewel Pillowtop**



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Queen	\$748	per set
King	\$1098	per set
Twin	\$868	per set
Double	\$998	per set
Queen	\$1098	per set
King	\$1478	per set
Twin	N/A	
Double	N/A	
Queen	\$1598	per set
King	\$1998	per set

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## B.C.

### Newsline

## Tentative deal averts threat of garbage strike

A Vancouver garbage strike appears to have been averted after a tentative deal was reached late Tuesday between employees and Wastech Services Ltd.

Voting on the contract won't be completed until May 4. Details are not available because of a media blackout imposed by a mediator. But the executive of Local 115 of the International Union of Operating Engineers is recommending members accept the deal.

A strike could have shut down three transfer stations operated by Wastech in the Lower Mainland and the main landfills in Cache Creek. That would have forced the Greater Vancouver Regional District to cope with the 70 individual truckloads of trash normally delivered daily to Cache Creek.

### Feds ratify treaty

PRINCE GEORGE — Ottawa has ratified a treaty with the McLeod Lake Indian band that includes land and \$30 million in cash. A signing ceremony will be held tomorrow at the McLeod Lake Reserve, 160 kilometres north of Prince George. The B.C. government had ratified the treaty in December, and it was approved by the band's 387 members in a vote in November.

### Reward extended

The \$100,000 reward being offered for the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for killing, kidnapping or confining any of the 27 women missing from Vancouver's downtown east side has been extended for another year. To date, four of the original 31 missing women, most of whom were prostitutes, have been found. The reward, first made available May 1, 1999, has been extended to encourage tips to police about the disappearances, which date back to about 1978.

### Kent locked down

A lockdown at Kent Institution continued yesterday after the stabbing of one inmate by another Tuesday night. The injured prisoner, who is being treated at an outside hospital, is expected to be fine. The lockdown was ordered to search for the weapon used in the attack.

### Ecstasy smuggled in

A 39-year-old Dutch man is in custody after customs officers discovered about 3,000 tablets of ecstasy concealed in the bottom of his travel bag at Vancouver International Airport on Monday. The seizure was in addition to 10,000 tablets of the drug found in a package of cereal sent by overnight courier from London last Thursday to a Vancouver address.





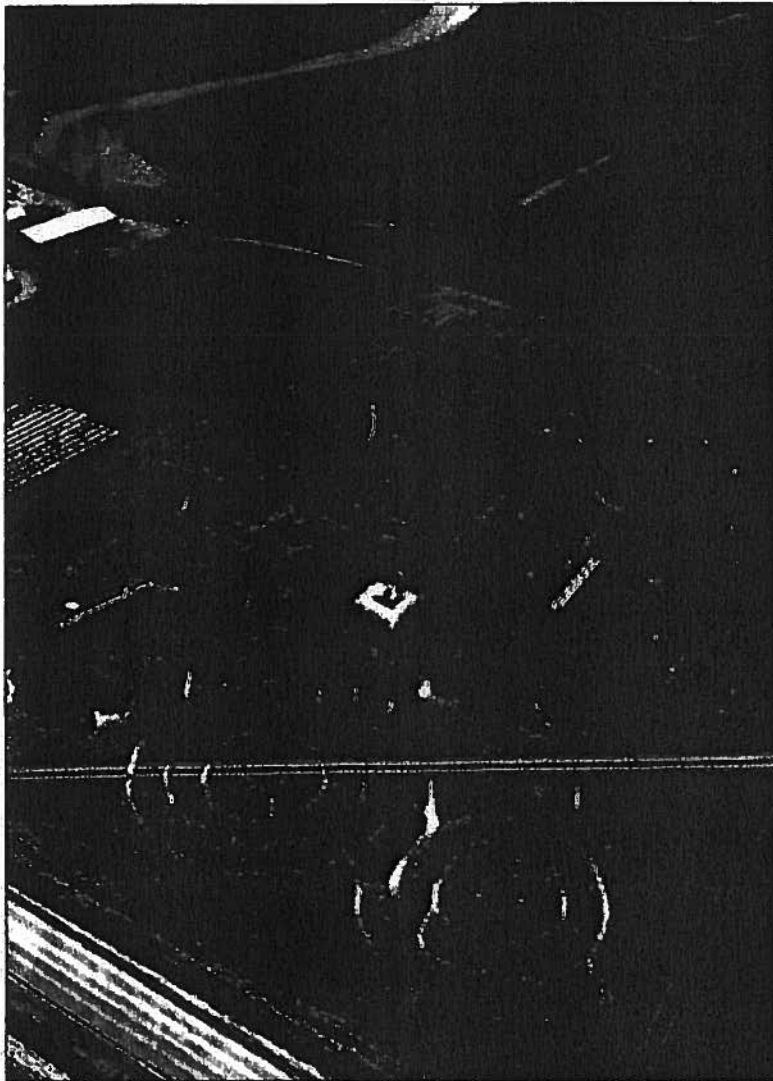
# LOWER MAINLAND

CITY EDITOR JOHN DRABBLE 605-3445

THE VANCOUVER SUN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2000

An amazing maze of maize



Photos by GAIL SMITH/Vancouver Sun

**PLANNED CONFUSION:** Jyl Singh and her husband, Tim, are two farmers with a taste for the unusual. This spring, Jyl set out this corn maze on six acres of their Cloverdale farm on the banks of the Nicomekl River. Below, making their way through it, carrying their distress flag, are Amberly Radec, 12 (left) and friend Michelle Lefgren, 12.

## CURIOUS BEAT PATH TO CORNFIELD MAZE

By SHELLEY SOLMES  
A maize maze is proving to be a big hit at a Cloverdale produce farm.  
People are flocking to the maze laid out by Jyl Singh in a six-acre field at Cloverdale Produce Farms owned by her and her husband Tim.  
On Tuesday, 17-year-old Richard Sapach emerged triumphant through the seemingly

impenetrable wall of corn stalks to declare, "This is a blast."  
"Everyone else was getting lost too. But I beat them. Under an hour," he grinned, sweat pouring down his face.  
On Monday's B.C. Day holiday, just under 1,000 visitors paid \$7 for adults and \$5.50 for kids five and over for the privilege

SEE MAZE, B2



## Wife in hiding as wanted man freed by mistake

Ontario authorities released the Vancouver woman's husband in spite of a Canada-wide arrest warrant.

By LORI CALBERT

A Vancouver man wanted on a Canada-wide arrest warrant for violently beating his wife was mistakenly released by officials in Ontario before he could be returned to B.C. to face charges, Vancouver police say.  
The man's estranged wife has gone into hiding and is under police protection after her relatives spotted the wanted man in Vancouver and believe he is responsible for a recent campaign of harassment.

But a deputy superintendent with the Niagara Detention Centre, near Niagara Falls, Ont., maintains the detaining wrong in releasing Earl Ronald Thompson despite the country-wide warrant.

Thompson, 31, also has a record for violent crimes and fraud convictions from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. And a restraining order issued in June by the B.C. Supreme Court demands he not go near his estranged wife or their children, two girls aged nine and 10.

The arrest warrant was issued for Thompson June 3 after his 33-year-old estranged wife was held against her will, beaten with a poker and threatened with a knife. Her life was also apparently threatened.

Thompson, who lived in a house on West 40th Avenue, faces charges of unlawful confinement, assault causing bodily harm, uttering threats to cause death, and two counts of assault with a weapon, according to court documents.

Although Thompson has not had a steady job for quite some time, he likes to dress in three-piece suits and wears 7.5-centimetre (three-inch) elevator shoes to look taller than his five-foot-five frame, said Vancouver Police Constable Anne Drennon.

The attack occurred when the victim went to visit Thompson to discuss how to divide their furniture.

Her sister parked outside the house and police believe the woman may have been injured more severely if a relative had not been aiding.

Five days later, Thompson was picked up on the warrant while trying to cross into Buffalo, N.Y., at the Ontario border.

When Niagara Regional Police brought him to a Niagara Falls police station to book him, Thompson went berserk — fighting with police officers.

SEE WANTED, B3

## Talks set after walkout by 800 city hall workers

By MIKE HOWELL

Vancouver city hall and the union representing some 2,500 inside workers will return to the negotiating table Friday after about 800 of the workers staged an afternoon walkout Tuesday.  
Both sides agreed late Tuesday to meet with a mediator to restart the talks that broke off last week after Local 15 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees issued 72-hour strike notice.

The union didn't plan Tuesday's five-hour walkout, president Rick Gies said, but he didn't go out of his way to stop it.

"We went from Friday, where the employer was saying it wasn't going to talk to us, to a couple of hours of job action and now a negotiating date," said Gies, who earlier in the day assured the city there would be no job action Tuesday.

SEE CITY WORKERS, B3

## Special city force aimed at solving missing-women mystery cut back

The original team of nine officers has been cut to six as police are receiving fewer tips and leads.

By LORI CALBERT

The Downtown Eastside missing women task force has been downsized, as police are receiving fewer leads and tips in the frustrating case.

The original team of nine officers working on the file has been recently dropped to six, said Vancouver police media relations officer.

"There aren't enough tips and leads everyone's getting more," she said. "Twenty-six women who were involved in the case over the years, have gone missing from the Downtown

Eastside since 1978.

The task force has been trying to determine their whereabouts and whether the disappearances are linked.

The case has raised fears that a serial killer could be stalking vulnerable women in the country's poorest neighbourhood.

Two constables — two who are experts on the Downtown Eastside — have been removed from the file. Still on the task force are two homicide detectives.

Det. Const. Mike Campbell, who has worked the case since 1994, says he will spend the summer reviewing the file.

SEE MISSING, B2







Broken part on Lions Gate Bridge snarls rush-hour traffic

## A broken socket delays span opening

by GERRY BELLETT

When one of the hundreds of sockets holding up the Lions Gate Bridge inexplicably broke early Wednesday, engineers from here to New York had to decide whether the bridge was still safe to carry rush-hour traffic.

The bridge remained closed while they fired up their computers to sort out the intricacies of stress and load on the 62-year-old landmark, given that one of its cables was hanging limp.

It took a couple of hours in front of computer-generated models before they all agreed it was safe to let traffic roll again. "We wanted to make sure everything was safe before we opened the bridge," said Geoff Freer, project director for the B.C. Transportation Financing Authority.

He said the authority regrets the inconvenience, but safety is paramount.

Instead of opening at 6 a.m. as previously announced, the bridge remained closed until 6:30 a.m., allowing a traffic jam on commuters' highways and commercial vehicles all streamed over to the Second Narrows Bridge.

For a while after the re-opening of the span, lanes were still being re-routed following a misunderstanding on the condition of the bridge between Translink and American Bridge Saraceno, the Pittsburgh company that's responsible for completing the \$96-million renovation project.

American Bridge's project manager, Ron Crockett, said he never closed the bridge to buses, he only issued a precautionary warning to Translink about the condition of the bridge.

"We never said divert buses to the other bridge," said Crockett.

The socket that caused all the fuss broke at 3:30 p.m. while workers were taking out the pin holding it in place.

The sockets are mounted around the ends of the bridge support cables and are attached to the bridge deck by large pins.

Workers were loosening the pin in preparation for replacing the seventh section of bridge deck, which will be done overnight Saturday.

"That one broke," said Crockett, looking up the heavy socket and showing a flesh fracture. "We don't understand why. You need to develop about 100



HOLDING THE CULPRIT: Ron Crockett, project manager for the Lions Gate Bridge renovation project, shows the broken hanger socket, which delayed opening of the bridge Wednesday morning.

times pressure to push the pin out.

But there could have been a buildup of rock rust around the pin, which takes enormous pressure to overcome.

"Instead of the pin sliding out, or the socket bending, it broke. It was an unexpected event," he said.

If another hanger, the bridge will be closed, although engineers could well develop a protocol that might "not make this necessary," he said.

Crockett said engineers can use jacks to adjust the load on other support cables to compensate for the one that broke. All the original sockets and

cables will be replaced but that will only happen once the new deck has been laid.

Crews are replacing 34 sections of decking and the work is likely to be completed in about two weeks.

This week will see the completion of the sixth new section, as crews working from the North Shore side of the Lions Gate Bridge are now about halfway to the north bridge tower.

The seventh section will be replaced Saturday after the broken cables at 10 p.m.

Crews are becoming quicker at pulling out the old jacks and replacing them, said project official Pam Ryan.

As a result the bridge won't be closed to buses as expected Saturday.

"We're getting more efficient and instead of having the bridge closed 10-15 hours, we're doing it in 12 hours," said Ryan.

"We expect to be open Sunday by 10 a.m."

Crockett said it will be put in a maintenance lab to see if the failure can be explained.

"We've got to see if there are any flaws in the casting. This is an old part and usually control 50 years ago wasn't as good as it is today," he said.

## Minister hits school fee for sports fields

Ian Waddell is 'furious,' but the Vancouver school board says it has no choice but to charge an extra \$9 per child a season.

by TIM BEATTY

B.C. Sports Minister Ian Waddell lashed out at the Vancouver School Board Wednesday, claiming its proposed financial management spawned an "outrageous" decision to charge a fee for children who use playing fields.

"I'm furious about it," Waddell said. "It's taking away money from working families who can't afford to pay. It's a tax on working families to run sports fields."

Faced with a cash crunch, the Vancouver School Board decided this week to charge youth sport associations a fee to use playing fields. The charge will mean parents will pay an extra \$9 per season for each child who plays on community soccer or baseball fields.

The money would be used to help maintain about 30 heavily used fields, such as those at Burnaby and Coquitlam.

Waddell said the charge would be unnecessary if the board had been managing its finances properly.

Without provincial government grants, the board would have to give their schools and they have to manage their affairs better," Waddell said.

When there is a leaky pipe, they don't change the pipe for it. When there is a leaking pipe, they don't change the pipe for it. When there is a leaking pipe, they don't change the pipe for it.

Barbara Buchanan delivered an equally scathing message to Waddell, saying the province's underfunding of the school board has led to the charge on sports.

"There isn't any other way to

get the money," Buchanan said Wednesday. "We're trying to do cost recovery just to save the assets we've got."

A request for more cash from the province was rejected by Education Minister Gerry Frickley last month, less than a year after Frickley said the province provided the money for school construction and playground facilities but it is the responsibility of the school board to maintain the property.

Buchanan said chronic underfunding by the provincial government has forced the board to annually raise \$30 million for school programs, projects and maintenance.

While the fee will stay for now, Buchanan said the board continues to evaluate other options.

She said the board is attempting to reduce costs by using maintenance equipment with the parks board. Meanwhile, the board may seek federal infrastructure dollars to improve the fields.

The new fee will be a substantial charge for parents, but Buchanan said it will mean fewer children will play sports.

In soccer, for example, parents typically pay between \$40 and \$125 for each child.

At present, the school board charges adult teams about \$350 an hour to use baseball fields and \$450 for soccer fields.

But school board chairman Barbara Buchanan delivered an equally scathing message to Waddell, saying the province's underfunding of the school board has led to the charge on sports.

The fee, which will be \$9 per child a season, is expected to rise to \$15.

The fee is expected to raise \$75,000 a year for field maintenance.

By Tim Beatty

## Shot fired at home of Sikh moderate

Gurbax Singh Bal has been mentioned recently as a possible candidate in Ross Street temple elections.

by KIM SOLAN

Vancouver's Sikh community is celebrating a shooting in south Vancouver Tuesday at the home of a Sikh moderate who was being considered as a candidate in the upcoming Ross Street temple elections.

Gurbax Singh Bal, 77, was sitting in the living room of his home in the 1300 block of East 1st when gunshots rang out about 7:40 p.m.

"I was sitting on the couch and he ran to the front door to see what had happened, and then he was shot," said a man who said he had been in the house, then fled in a small, old-size red car south on Knight Street.

"I don't know who shot him, but he was shot," said Bal, who is recovering from the shock of the attack and his family's concern. "It is very bad. It is shocking."

Bal said he has never been threatened and can think of no other reason why his home was targeted except that his name had been discussed publicly as a candidate for treasurer for the moderate side in the temple elections. A meeting to discuss the slate had been held at the temple Sunday.

"The present executive wanted me to run as cashier. I may be related to that," Bal said.

Retired, he visits the Ross Street temple daily, where he runs social programs for the community. This year alone, the programs have helped more than 1,800 individuals and families.

Bal was on the executive several years ago along with the late friend, Bhai Singh Dhillon, a moderate who was shot and wounded after being kidnapped in a temple in the election.

Dhillon had also been asked to run on the moderate slate in the election, and recently, he had been approached by someone who approached him looking for support, Bal said.

While it has been charged in the 1992 Dhillon shooting, police believe that the shooting was a targeted attack on a Sikh moderate who was being considered as a candidate in the upcoming Ross Street temple elections.

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## Another woman added to list of missing

Jennifer Lynn Furlinger brings number of women who disappeared from the Downtown Eastside to 28.

by LINISAY KINES

Police have added another name to the list of women missing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Jennifer (Jennie) Lynn Furlinger, 26, was last seen in December 1992 near Cordova Street and Jackson Avenue in Vancouver.

She was reported missing by her boyfriend on March 30.

Her disappearance brings to 28 the number of women on the list of missing, giving rise to fears that a serial killer is preying on women in the sex trade.

The numbers on the list have fluctuated over the years as police have removed or added names. When a \$100,000 reward was announced last summer, there were 31 women on the list. Police subsequently determined the whereabouts of four of those women. Two were found alive and two had died — one of a drug overdose and the other of heart problems.

Furlinger's name was added after police exhausted all other investigative means. Vancouver police media liaison Constable Anne Drennon said Wednesday.

"They attempt to follow up any leads that exist," she said. "And when they've exhausted all possibilities from the leads that they've got, then the name is added to the list."



LOST: Police have added Jennifer (Jennie) Lynn Furlinger, 26, to their list of women missing from the Downtown Eastside.

Furlinger, who is native to Idaho, has family in Ontario and a 12-year-old son in the Lower Mainland. The boy was not living with his mother at the time of her disappearance, Drennon said.

Furlinger is described as 170 centimetres tall and 56 kilograms. She has a large tattoo of a cat or panther on her right shoulder. Like the other missing women, she was involved in the sex trade and ad-

ditioned work that you might come up with some leads that they haven't before."

Drennon said it has been "quite some time" since investigators received any new leads on the files, which date back to 1984.

Although the majority of the women disappeared over the past five years.

The file review is expected to be completed in one month. Once it's done, the case will be passed to members of the police's unexplained homicide unit for further analysis. It's hoped the unexplained homicide investigators will be able to provide a different perspective and some fresh leads.

Drennon also noted that two members of the unexplained homicide unit are currently in Washington state last week to review the case of 48-year-old Robert Yates, who is charged with killing a prostitute and drug addict in Spokane. Investigators from the unexplained homicide unit and the RCMP's Violent Crime Liaison Agency System, which tracks social offenders, also attended meeting with Spokane investigators.

"We will, even after the case presentation, there's nothing to indicate that there's a connection," Drennon said.

Spokane police are also in the process of putting together a timeline tracking Yates' movements. "We will of course be interested in that," Drennon said.

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