

NEWS UPDATE

Smokers face tough restrictions

SURREY Smokers will face tougher restrictions when they light up in Surrey this summer after city council approved a bylaw this week to curb the impact of second-hand smoke in public places.

Going green with the Green Team

Formed by The Vancouver Sun and Metropolis at Metrotown and outfitted by Lubelmon, we are a group of volunteers dedicated to doing our part for the environment and making it fun.

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The Green Team's next appearance is on Robson Street on Sunday afternoon. Make sure you pay a visit. You may have your picture taken with the Green Team, and it will likely be posted at vancouvernews.com.

I'll be blogging regularly at vancouvernews.com and will update you on Green Team appearances, our experiences at the events (including photos), and will also provide practical tips on how you can make strides to green your life.

Special to The Vancouver Sun

WESTCOAST BY THE NUMBERS

Payroll earnings edge lower Average weekly earnings of payroll employees in B.C. dipped \$0.48 (0.1 per cent) to \$767.80 (seasonally adjusted) in January from December.



Traffic update

The Vancouver Sun's daily feature from all traffic stations AM730 to help readers with their commutes. Look to this space each day to find information on major road closures and continuing construction to avoid.

AM730 ALL TRAFFIC ALL THE TIME By Michel McDermott AM730 morning anchor

BC150 & FIRST NATIONS

British Columbia is celebrating its 150th birthday. If you are of first nation's ancestry, share your family's journey over the last 150 years.



The immigrant journey

The story of British Columbia is a newcomer's experience. We want to hear them, read them and see them. A journey has many parts. Tell us how you and your family arrived here.



Richmond students head to G-8 Summit

Team from Richmond secondary school will present ideas on poverty, labour practices

VANCOUVER SUN

RICHMOND It was celebration day at Richmond secondary Wednesday, after four students won a national competition against 75 other Canadian teams to go to this year's G-8 Summit in Japan.

There, the four students will get a chance to present their ideas on poverty reduction, the environment, labour practices in the developing world and agriculture to state and federal leaders.

The team, four 16-year-olds who are all in the school's international baccalaureate program, includes Stephanie Liou, who first heard about the competition last year and got the ball rolling.

Goncharov, whose family came to Canada from Belarus five years ago, said the team won on the basis of the policy ideas its members came up with.

"To win, we had to present possible and realistic ideas in the four fields," said Goncharov, who spent the day giving media interviews and taking part in the school assembly held to honour the group's win.

One idea the Richmond group came up with was a suggestion that workers in developing countries form coalitions — kind



National winners are Richmond's Wilson Lou (left), Stephanie Liou, Alex Goncharov, Khalil Kassam.

like unions, but not exactly — that set standards for wages, benefits and age limits for the industrial work they do, which is often for companies from North America and Europe.

That coalition's recommendations would be backed by the national government.

Another idea the Richmond team presented was to develop a system of green labels for products, similar to the labelling used for fair-trade products, which would give consumers a system to understand what they're buying.

could be linked to tax levels, so greener products are charged lower taxes.

Goncharov said one of the nice aspects of working with the team was how democratic its members were. Originally, eight students were on the team because they thought that's what the requirement was. When they discovered only four could be on the team, the group asked each member to submit his or her ideas and they voted anonymously on the Internet to decide which were the best ideas.

The four students, all in Grade

11, will travel to Chitose, Japan, June 21 and prepare until the actual Junior 8 Summit takes place between July 2 and 9. The junior summit is jointly organized by the G-8 presidency and UNICEF.

It aims to advance young people's understanding of global issues and provides a platform for them to discuss these issues and advocate solutions to the world's most powerful leaders, a press release said. The winning team will travel to Japan and meet with teams from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the U.K. and the U.S.

Maple Ridge Elderly Korean hiker missing

A major search effort began Wednesday in the forest north of Rock Ridge Estates in Maple Ridge for a visiting 73-year-old Korean woman who didn't return Tuesday after going for a hike.

Members of search and rescue teams from across Metro Vancouver, RCMP officers, a dog team and a helicopter were involved in the search.

The missing woman, Seung Lee, went out for a hike at about 2 p.m. A search by family members failed to find her.

Her son, Jung Moon Won, said she had hiked in the area before without any problems. RCMP said she has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, but her son said she suffers only from some memory loss.

Lee likely hiked into forest north of Rock Ridge where there are many bike and horse trails. Lee is 5-foot-3, 128 pounds, with dark hair and glasses. She was last seen wearing a white straw-brimmed hat, an ivory coloured jacket, grey pants and red shoes.

Maple Ridge Fire Department Times

Langley Metal thieves take risk

Thieves stealing copper pipe at Langley Community Services on Wednesday could have triggered a deadly natural-gas explosion, officials said.

One or more persons broke into a crawl space beneath the Marion Wells Centre, one of several buildings the LCS operates in the 5300 block of 207th Street.

The thieves tried to cut out copper pipes that carry natural gas, said assistant fire chief Pete Methot. They damaged the pipes and released the gas, but didn't manage to steal anything before they had to flee.

"These individuals appear to be not considering public safety or their safety," said RCMP Cpl. Peter Thiessen.

The accumulation of gas was at dangerous levels, Thiessen said. He noted an explosion that demolished a house in Surrey this week and damaged several others is thought to have been caused by a gas leak.

"This could have been a devastating incident," he said. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used a positive-pressure fan to blow out the contained gas, the smell of which was obvious more than half a block away.

LCS supervisor Christopher Danton said he was happy there was no fire. The agency's main building was untouched in 2005.

Matthew Claxton, Langley Advance

Duncan Prosecutor outlines Oak Bay manslaughter case

William Aaron Sproule is guilty of manslaughter because he participated in a break and enter where someone was killed, Crown prosecutor Dennis Murray told a B.C. Supreme Court jury Wednesday.

Sproule, in his mid-20s, is charged in connection with the Feb. 1, 2004 death of former University of Victoria student Terry McLean at his rented Oak Bay home.

Last June, Sproule's co-accused, Chris Biros, pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and break and enter and was sentenced to 46 months in prison. A manslaughter charge against Biros was stayed in exchange for his testimony.

A third man, who cannot be named under a publication ban, is charged with second-degree murder.

McLean, 21, had been dealing cocaine for about a year when Sproule, Biros and the unnamed man hatched a "drug rip" plot. On the evening of Jan. 31, they met two people at Camosun College who gave them directions to the house on Hunter Road.

They went to the house, looked in the windows and saw Mr. McLean lying on the couch in the living room, either asleep or passed out," Murray said.

Sproule and Biros ransacked the house. The third man stayed downstairs to control McLean. After

Sproule and Biros came downstairs and went outside, the unnamed man said he had given McLean a severe beating.

The pathologist found McLean sustained about 40 blows to the head. His skull was fractured in a number of places.

In September 2004, police introduced an undercover operator, posing as a criminal figure, who befriended Biros over a six-month period, asking if he wanted to become part of a criminal organization. If so, Biros would have to give the crime boss information about a crime he committed so he could be blackmailed if he crossed them.

In April 2005, Biros went to Vancouver for a meeting with "Mr. Big," Murray said. "Mr. Biros was supposed to spill the beans and he did spill the beans."

Once the crime boss had Biros' information, he suggested Biros bring Sproule to Vancouver the next day.

"Mr. Sproule was more cautious than Mr. Biros, but he acknowledged participating in the scenario," Murray said.

Biros and Sproule left the hotel with vague arrangements to contact Mr. Big in the future. The two men were later arrested at Vancouver airport with documents to travel to Greece.

Lindsay Dixon, Canadian News Service

Washington First phase of new Lake Union park opens

SEATTLE — Under sunny skies, the city's newest park, Lake Union Park, opened Wednesday on the south shore of the lake.

"This is the frosting on the cake," said Karen Sillit, who attended the opening with children from the nearby Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's daycare program. She said the children love to visit the site and see the wildlife, but the park will make it more special.

The first 1.6 acres of the 12-acre park has been completed and includes a rebuilt sea wall, terraced steps to the water, a cedar boardwalk, a pedestrian bridge and pathways connecting the park to the Center for Wooden Boats.

Construction began in November 2006. Phase II will begin this summer and be completed in 2010. It will include a model-boat pond, a tree grove with tables and benches; restored shoreline habitat; a 300-foot fountain that kids can play in; and a history trail that will mark the city's cultural, commercial and maritime heritage.

"This is glorious," said Mayor Greg Nickels, as he opened the park. "This was a dream 100 years ago with the Olmstead brothers, but it was an industrial heartland. We have created a new neighborhood."

The Olmstead brothers designed many of Seattle's parks at the turn of the 20th century. Nickels said that within steps of the park are 2,000 housing units. Total cost of the park will be nearly \$30 million US.

Susan Gilmore, Seattle Times

Calgary to use park money to extend peacekeepers' memorial

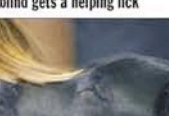
CALGARY — City council will put any leftover money from its Legacy Parks program into extending a wall recognizing fallen Canadian peacekeepers.

The wall, located in Peacekeepers' Park in Garrison Green, is running out of room for names due to the military mission in Afghanistan.

Ald. Ric McIver suggested the city dedicate some money to extending the wall. The rest of council agreed, deciding that any surplus in the Legacy Parks program should be used for the project.

The program, which was estab-

Calgary Charity drive for the blind gets a helping lick



Five-year-old Rosie McDougald received a little puppy kiss Wednesday from Alberta Service Dog-in-training Nelson. McDougald is featured in Comic Vision, a campaign to raise money for the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

lished by council in 2003, is used to create public parks using electricity and natural gas profits from Enmax, which is municipally owned. It was extended for five years in November, when council dedicated another \$75 million.

Most of the money has been set aside for Ralph Klein Park, Central Memorial Park and the Memorial Drive project.

However, there is a contingency as part of the program, so there could be some money leftover for the wall at Peacekeepers' Park.

Canadian News Service

OneGon Historic cannons soaked in fresh water and borax

MANZANITA — How do you protect and preserve two 1,000-pound cannons entombed in a thick mantle of rocks, sand and shells?

The answer sits in a large open shed at Nehalem Bay State Park. Since being uncovered by surging waves and discovered in February by beachcombers, the cannons have been soaking in 350-gallon stock tanks. Historians think they landed on the beach near Arch Cape after the USS Shark sank in 1846 near the mouth of the Columbia River.

The hulking lumps are bathed in fresh water and borax to stem the inexorable tide of corrosion. "If they were exposed to the air, they would quickly dissolve into a pile of dust," Shelley Parker, an Oregon State Parks ranger told a group of 40 fifth- and sixth-graders from the Star of the Sea Catholic school this week.

The Astoria students had a rare, close look beneath the sopping burlap that covers the cannons during the weekly draining and refilling of their tanks.

State parks representative Chris Havel said local, state, federal and U.S. Navy officials are deciding the next step for permanent restoration and preservation. It's expected to take from two to five years, and \$30,000 to \$50,000 to chisel the cannons loose of 162 years of concretions, including iron oxide, sediment, rocks and calcium carbonate.

Stuart Tomlinson, The Oregonian

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