

NEWS UPDATE

Man caught leaving Canada Line site with load of copper wiring

VANCOUVER | A man was caught leaving the Canada Line construction site Sunday evening with about 50 kg of copper wire he allegedly ripped out of a tunnel — the latest example of an epidemic of scrap metal theft in the Lower Mainland.

According to police, a security guard working for the project heard banging near 29th Avenue and Cambie Street about 7 p.m.

When the 37-year-old suspect emerged with the wire and bolt cutters, the guard confronted him and called police.

The man, whose name has not been released, is facing charges of theft and breaking and entering.

Steve Crombie, a spokesman with the Canada Line project, said the damage to the tunnel is expected to cost "tens of thousands of dollars" to fix.

But while the repair is a nuisance, it shouldn't cause any delays to the project, he said.

Crombie said thieves have stolen equipment from the Canada Line site before — including a large generator a few months ago — but this is the first time material has been ripped out of a completed section of tunnel.

"It's a pretty bold thing to do," he said. Vancouver police spokesman Const. Howard Chow said metal theft used to be rare but, over the past couple of years, it has become a "huge problem."

The price of scrap copper has risen in recent years to about \$3 a pound, sparking the rash of thefts.

Earlier this month, 340 rural homes in the Cowichan Valley lost telephone service after a thief stole 200 metres of telephone cable. Several municipalities have suffered thefts of wire from street lights.

In response, some cities — including Vancouver and Richmond — have passed bylaws that regulate scrap metal dealers.

Chad Skelton, Vancouver Sun

Officials blame fatal Delta blaze on cigarette

DELTA | A house fire in Delta that killed three young people last year was started by a smouldering cigarette, investigators have confirmed.

On Dec. 12, an early morning fire consumed a house in the 7000 block of 115th Street in North Delta. Sisters Carmen and Cassandra Johnson died as a result of the fire. Cassandra, 12, died at the scene, while a badly burned Carmen, 20, hung on another five days in hospital before succumbing to her injuries on Dec. 17. The fire also killed 20-year-old Jeremy Babyak.

In a short statement released Monday, Delta fire investigators said they have confirmed that a smouldering cigarette left on a couch outside the home caused the fire.

Jonathan Fowlie, Vancouver Sun

Richmond residents face tax hikes

RICHMOND | City taxpayers will pay four per cent more in taxes this year, if city council approves a staff report on additional levels of service.

The report, which goes to the city's finance committee Thursday, recommends the city hire 10 additional RCMP officers, half of which would be hired using money saved through officers being on leave.

The report also recommends the hiring of a new deputy fire chief and other support staff for the fire department, and a new city solicitor — among other things. The additional levels of service, if approved, will increase the city's operating budget by 1.3 per cent. Another one-per-cent increase would be earmarked for reserves, and the remaining 1.65 per cent is to keep pace with inflation.

"My big concern is we're growing but at the same time we're still raising taxes," said Coun. Bill McNulty.

Despite his concern about a four-per-cent tax increase, he supports the hiring of 10 new police officers, but thinks the city could shave one per cent off this year's tax increase by not putting one per cent into reserves.

RCMP staff levels have not kept pace with population growth, the city staff report states. The RCMP had requested 24 new officers, which would have cost \$2.9 million. Senior staff are recommending hiring 10. The report also recommends \$72,000 for an additional RCMP officer for the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team.

If the four-per-cent tax hike is approved, an average homeowner with a \$592,000 home would pay \$67 in additional taxes this year.

Nelson Bennett, Richmond News

Animal shelter closed for cleanup

CHILLIWACK | Fifty animals have been temporarily removed from the Chilliwack SPCA shelter because of a spread of two contagious diseases — parvo and ringworm — brought to the shelter by incoming animals, according to Lorie Chortyk, general manager for the B.C. SPCA.

The 40 cats and 10 dogs, some of which were healthy, have been relocated to some of the 36 B.C. SPCA shelters in the province while staff disinfect the Chilliwack shelter. Some were sent to the Sunshine Coast because they have more available space than most, according to Chortyk.

Those who have animals they would have otherwise brought to the Chilliwack shelter should use the facility in Abbotsford in the meantime.

The diseases were inadvertently brought into the shelter a couple of weeks ago, and the animals were removed on Friday. Chortyk said she wasn't sure how long it would take until the Chilliwack shelter would be reopened, but it would likely be a couple of weeks.

Chilliwack Times

VANCOUVER

Cardiologists address healthy heart fundraiser

February is heart month, according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and there's no better way to celebrate than being good to your hard-working cardiovascular system.

One way to do this is to attend the 10th annual fundraiser for the Healthy Heart Program today at the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Centre at Vancouver General Hospital.

From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., participants can hear from health experts about the risks of heart disease. Admission is by donation.

Cardiologists Dr. Andrew Ignaszewski from St. Paul's Hospital and Dr. Saul Isserow from VGH will deliver short lectures on metabolic syndrome and advances in cardiology, at noon and 12:30 p.m.

The Healthy Heart Program is a rehabilitation and prevention program for individuals with heart dis-

ease, and those with a risk of heart disease. Operating at both VGH and St. Paul's, the program is designed to help participants lead a healthy lifestyle through supervised exercise and education.

About 500 people take part in the VGH program, while St. Paul's program has about 280 participants.

The Healthy Heart fundraiser includes a free lunch, sponsor display tables and a silent auction.

For more information, call the Cardiac Rehab Program at 604-875-5389.

According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, cardiovascular disease accounts for the deaths of more Canadians than any other disease. In 2002 (the latest year for which Statistics Canada has data), cardiovascular disease accounted for 74,626 Canadian deaths.

Vancouver Sun

THE DAILY SPECIAL



IAN SMITH/VANCOUVER SUN

Architects Nick Milkovich (left) and Arthur Erickson show off a very basic model of a building in Olympic athletes village area.

ICON GIVES NOD TO 'BRAZIL MOD'

ARCHITECTURE | The renowned Arthur Erickson brings curving crescents and swooping waves to Vancouver's 2010 Games village called Millennium Water

Punch-drunk from fatigue and firing intensely on all creative cylinders. That's the feel in the design team creating Vancouver's Olympic village these days, as they pull university-style all-nighters and compress a month's work into every week to meet their looming deadline.

Millennium Development, with its dozens of architects, designers and builders, has 32 months and 15 days until it has to hand over the keys to 1,100 units of condos spread out over eight buildings.

The project, which covers nine city blocks, is also supposed to be accompanied by urban gardens, waterfalls and pools, landscaping, commercial spaces and a community centre.

And the whole neighbourhood-in-a-bag is expected to set a new standard for green development in the province, if not North America.

In comparison, it took about seven years to build the Arbutus neighbourhood on the old Molson brewery site in Vancouver, which is the same size as the Olympic village will be in southeast False Creek.

And that project didn't have anything approaching what has gone on in the past 10 months



BY FRANCES BULA
VANCOUVER SUN

with the Olympic village, which has become a drama worthy of Shakespeare if he had taken an interest in urban planning instead of *Richard III*.

The southeast False Creek marathon started out on a sour note after a new city council decided to abandon a previous requirement that one-third of the housing be aimed at middle-income Vancouverites.

Then Millennium won the bid with a \$193-million offer, setting a record for city land prices.

For many, those two events combined to symbolize a feeling that the village, originally planned as a "socially sustainable" mixed community, was going to become just another piece of Vancouver's waterfront sold off to the rich, like others of the recent past.

Then, city planners, a community oversight group, and the developer team spent the summer in epic struggles over how to balance building a leading-edge green project and building something that will make money.

Realtor Bob Rennie, one of a handful of people who has played the role of mediator many times among the parties, said early meetings would have as many as 90 people in them, "most of them with bike helmets and heavy wool sweaters."

Those were the first of what would become a series of debates over the two sustainability goals that are supposed to be part of triple bottom-line thinking in green developments: the environmental and the economic. The environmental advocates wanted a radically innovative project that would be a world model. The economic advocates wanted something that was green, but salable at the top dollar it would take to make the books work.

The developer's insistence on putting in air-conditioning prompted an especially passionate debate over whether air-conditioning could be included in a project that called itself green.

In the fall, one of the team's original architects, Robert A.M.

Stern of New York, was asked politely to withdraw after weeks of pressure on Millennium by city planners and the urban design panel. They wanted the project's most prominent waterfront building to be designed by someone who would express the look and feel of Vancouver, not an outsider — especially an outsider with a history of building neo-classical palaces for New York's money set.

As buildings and details started to take shape, some of the more utopian ideas, like creating mini-forests on every deck, were abandoned.

Then, last month, everyone was knocked off balance by the tragic sudden death of the team's key sustainability consultant, Andy Kesteloo, who was only 47.

Despite all that, the village concept — being called Millennium Water — is starting to emerge on paper, as the city's contractors and crews are busy reshaping the southeast False Creek waterfront, trucking away contaminated soil, and preparing for the construction that needs to start as soon as possible.

Vancouver's iconic Arthur Erickson, brought in to take over the project's most prominent site, has transformed what was



WARD PERRIN/VANCOUVER SUN

People wait in line, in the tunnel from Waterfront SkyTrain station, for the passport office to open in Vancouver's Sinclair Centre as morning commuters head to work.

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Help is on the way to combat kidney stones

Residents of Vancouver Island will get the latest treatment for kidney stones, and get it quicker, following the \$1.3-million purchase of urology equipment, including an electromagnetic, stone-blasting "lithotripter."

The Vancouver Island Health Authority announced purchase of the new equipment Monday.

That means more patients will avail themselves of the best treatment as opposed to suffering discomfort or opting for a more invasive procedure delivered on Vancouver Island.

"It's huge," said Dr. Gary Steinhoff, chief of urology at the Vancouver Island Health Authority, of the lithotripter.

CanWest News Service

THE DAILY SPECIAL

LAW AND ORDER



Curved windows characterize the buildings that 'bookend' the village's east and west borders.

originally envisioned as a wall of solid building on the seawall by splitting it.

It is now two gently curving crescents facing each other, with a public water garden between them.

The community centre to the east, the other prominent waterfront site which he is co-designing with Walter Francl, has become a long, low lantern with colours glowing from the interior through translucent glass. The split roof swoops twice, like waves running along the ocean horizon.

The two pieces, strikingly unlike anything else in Vancouver's forest of silver towers in the downtown peninsula, are what Erickson is calling "Brazil modernism" brought to Vancouver.

Throughout the rest of the village, in spite of continuing concerns about the project simply not having enough time, architects or sustainability expertise to do the best job, people are getting cautiously excited about the innovations in green building and in architecture that are emerging.

"Some pieces of it are close to world-class. The net-zero building — that's leading edge," says Tom Osdoba, the city's sustainability manager, referring to a seniors' residence in the complex that will become the first building in Canada that produces as much energy as it uses.

And the look of the background blocks of the village, which will frame the two individualistic waterfront buildings, will also be something that hasn't been seen in Vancouver before.

The complex combines traditional city blocks with a new style of architecture that is reminiscent to some modern developments in Europe. The mass, height and

groups of buildings are similar to older parts of the city, but the architecture itself is modern.

"This is a very different experiment," says architect James Cheng, until last month a member of the city's urban design panel, who has watched the project evolve slowly. "It's much more like Europe, like the facades at Nice and Cannes, where the buildings define the waterfront."

All of that arose after a particularly painful session between the city's urban design panel and the architecture team last fall, where the panel members drilled the message home that all the plans they'd seen so far didn't express any distinctive identity for the village.

"We did have different opinions, so many that it was obvious we were never going to reconcile them," said architect Stu Lyon. "The city had an image, the developer had an image, the architects had an image. None of those approaches were working really well."

After that, Lyon, whose firm along with Merrick Architecture is doing the non-waterfront buildings, came back to the team with a set of 10 principles that could be used as a guide for the dozen-plus architects as they worked out the hundreds of big-picture concepts and tiny details that form a project this size.

Those principles boil down to:

- Create a link between the public outside and the residents inside buildings by making everything more visible.
- Put hallways around the outside of the buildings.
- Make the elevators and staircases visible.
- Create vertical streets and horizontal sidewalks above the ground.

■ Bring daylight and air in as much as possible.

■ Make terraces and interior courtyards useful and connected.

Developer Shahram Malek has also added his stamp to the project. The two buildings that bookend the village on the east and west will have unusual wave-like facades that curve in and out for the length of the building, an idea he has seen elsewhere and pushed to have included.

That's one piece of a water theme for the whole village, which will not only have Erickson's curved buildings and the curved bookend facades, but a series of waterfalls, pools and other features among the project's intensive efforts to recycle stormwater.

(Every building will have rain-screens, like hat brims, at the top to channel rainwater back to the roof for collection.)

And, although it's not visible yet on the models, these buildings will have more colour than the ascetic steel-and-glass look that has characterized the city's downtown developments for the past 15 years.

But it's hard to know at this point what they're going to really look like. The details of the materials aren't on the models and aren't even nailed down yet.

The first two buildings were scheduled to get their development-approval permits last night even though adjustments were still being redrawn up to the last minute and the urban design panel had never really seen many specifics on the materials.

"The success is going to be in how these buildings are assembled, how the detailing is pulled off," says Scot Hein, the city planner who has been leading the whole process.

The interesting question for many people is how this project might change the city and the development industry, especially given that the developer who chose to take on this project had no history of leading the way in green building.

Osoba said the planning process, while it's been a huge learning curve for many, is having an impact on not just the developer but the city. "It is going to make a big difference. It's changed the way we do things."

Mark Holland, a leading sustainability planner, echoes that even more forcefully. He says the village project is starting to influence private developments being planned throughout the city, and particularly the city's other mega-development, the East Fraser lands project in southeast Vancouver.

"It's kind of setting a standard. All the professionals who worked on it are taking what they've learned to other projects. There's a big transference of southeast False Creek experiences that are being spread across the country," says Holland.

Realtor Bob Rennie, who has pushed more than one developer in the city to move out of his comfort zone, says the project has taught both sides something.

"We're all going through an education of introducing sustainability and green into the mainstream and luxury products."

He believes that developers have to start incorporating green because their clients want it. "I believe the luxury-brand consumer is going to start wearing sustainability as an asset."

Even if there are those who don't care, they will care about the resale value and green will provide extra resale value, he believes.

As a result, the architects and landscape architects have been left fairly free to aggressively pursue new concepts in urban agriculture and building design, say those involved.

"I've seen Millennium let their architects do what they think is right," says Hein.

But Rennie has also pushed back on ideas he thought were impractical, like having a small forest on every deck or eliminating air conditioning.

"These people know more about sustainability than I will ever know, but we have to become the voice of reason on the other side, saying how much will the consumer be willing to live with and willing to pay for."

The project has also introduced a new kind of design process.

Typically, buildings go through heavy scrutiny by city hall and the urban design panel, and they are checked for their conformity to very specific neighbourhood design guidelines.

That has produced a level of good, but not outstanding architecture, as more than one critic has observed.

The time pressure has meant that city planners simply don't have the luxury of vetting every detail.

Some critics say that means the designers don't have the time to think through all the complex issues or to add any sophistication or depth to their work.

But others say the exceptional time crunch has created an atmosphere of white-hot creativity that is a benefit.

"I think it probably will improve the product," says Lyon. "There's less time to waffle."

Hein says the city has had to leave a lot more to the architects than usual — and that's good.

"We don't have a lot of significant architecture," says Hein. "This will maybe free up the industry."

In the meantime, there are two more months of hard design work to go. And then the building begins.

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Arrest made after stabbing near bottle depot becomes Vancouver's first homicide of 2007

VANCOUVER | Police have made an arrest in connection with Vancouver's first homicide of the year.

A 45-year-old man was stabbed to death early Sunday morning, and police say he appears to have been killed during an argument over drugs.

"It appears to be a dispute over drugs and turf retaliation," Const. Howard Chow said Monday, explaining police believe the killing is connected with an earlier stabbing that took place an hour before.

The man, whose name police have not released, was stabbed about 4 a.m. outside the United We Can bottle depot at Main and Hastings.

Chow said the man was taken to hospital, where he later died of his injuries.

Chow said 32-year-old James Larry Moyah of Vancouver has been charged with second-degree murder.



Howard Chow

Chad Skelton, Vancouver Sun

Man charged with assault outside bar

VANCOUVER | A 19-year-old Maple Ridge man suffered serious head injuries early Sunday morning after he tried to help a group of women being harassed outside a downtown Vancouver bar. According to police, the victim tried to intervene when another man turned on him, threw him to the ground and smashed his head against the pavement.

Kevin Newman, a 26-year-old New Westminster resident, has been charged with assault in connection with the incident.

He is due to appear in court on Feb. 22. Police did not release the victim's name.

Chad Skelton, Vancouver Sun

Thieves ram music store, steal guitars

VERNON | Thieves used a pickup truck to ram through the doors of a Vernon music store on Sunday before stealing two guitars.

Police were called to the store by a neighbour who heard a loud crash about 4:30 a.m. The witness reported seeing three men enter the store and throw things into the rear of the pickup.

Two Epiphone guitars, one an Elitist model valued at \$1,700, the other valued at \$300, were stolen. Police say damage to the doors and building was extensive.

The men, one wearing a red hoodie, were driving a dark 1970s-style Chevrolet pickup with square headlights and no canopy. Anyone with information is asked to call Vernon police at 545-7171 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Vancouver Sun

Police officer injured in scuffle

VICTORIA | A Victoria police constable had his elbow and nose broken Sunday night when he was attacked by a man who was stomping on the hoods of cars in a residential neighbourhood.

The bizarre scene unfolded when two police officers found a person they describe as a 36-year-old homeless man jumping up and down on the hoods of cars while screaming, said Insp. Les Sylvén.

The officers tried to taser the man, but it had little effect. Pepper spray and blows from batons were used to get him under control.

Police believe the homeless man suffers mental health and possible drug addiction issues.

Jason Elessard was remanded into custody on one count of assaulting a peace officer Monday. His next court appearance is Feb. 19.

CanWest News Service

Slurs cost supervisor \$5,848

A construction supervisor has been ordered to pay \$5,848 to a former employee he verbally harassed by calling him a "stupid Frenchman" and making demeaning sexual remarks to him in front of other workers, before firing him.

The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal made the order against Avelino Dasilva, a supervisor working for Newway Concrete Forming, for his treatment of Mario Mercier, who is from Quebec.

According to evidence given to the tribunal, Mercier joined the company in September, 2003, and was fired in January, 2004, from a project in Richmond because of absence from work.

Mercier filed an action with the tribunal in June 2004 claiming discrimination because of race, place of origin, physical and mental disability, sex and sexual orientation.

He said he had filed a complaint with the company about Dasilva's comments but that rebounded on him because Dasilva screamed at him and threatened to fire him. Mercier said he began missing work because he couldn't face going to work and that he needed medication to prevent panic attacks.

Tribunal member Diane MacLean found the consequence of Dasilva's "discriminatory remarks was the increased absences which in turn led to Mr. Mercier's termination."

She ordered Dasilva to pay Mercier \$4,000 for injuries to dignity and \$1,848 for lost wages following his dismissal.

Vancouver Sun

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| WESTCOAST BY THE NUMBERS |

Ottawa to keep funding aboriginal program

The federal government has promised to continue funding aboriginal homelessness support services in British Columbia, a local activist says.

The funding commitment from Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC) means that a variety of food banks, shelters and soup kitchens serving aboriginal people in Vancouver will remain in operation, Patrick Stewart, chairman of the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee, said Monday.

A variety of aboriginal service providers in the Downtown Eastside had feared that without a funding commitment, they

would be forced to give their employees notice and shut down services later this month.

These groups sounded the alert last week, demanding to know how much money would be available through the HRDC's new National Homelessness Initiative.

Jeff Scott, a spokesman with Service Canada, which is handling the HRDC funds, confirmed that the money will be made available to prevent any funding gap.

The aboriginal funding provided more than 40,000 meals last year and 15,000 shelter bed nights, Stewart said.

Doug Ward, Vancouver Sun

East Vancouver house hit in drive-by shooting

An east Vancouver neighbourhood was awakened by the sound of gunfire early Monday morning after several shots were fired at a home in what appears to be a drive-by shooting.

No one was injured.

Vancouver police spokesman Const. Howard Chow said a house in the 700-block of East 54th Ave. was shot at several times about 5 a.m. in what police believe was a "targeted hit."

Nine people were home at the time of the shooting, including some children, and one of the bullets only narrowly missed a man sleeping on a couch.

Chow said police have visited the home in the past and its occupants are known to police.

Chad Skelton, Vancouver Sun

Police analysing transcripts of coroner's inquest

The RCMP is analysing transcripts from the coroner's inquest into the police shooting of a Vanderhoof man, as ordered by the Crown.

But the Crown says it stands by its original decision to not lay charges against an officer for Kevin St. Arnaud's death.

Crown spokesman Stan Lowe says the RCMP's major crime section in Prince George is reviewing the transcripts to determine if further information is needed and whether it should be submitted to the Crown for review.

St. Arnaud was shot and killed by RCMP Const. Ryan Sheremetta after police were called to a drug store in Vanderhoof in the early hours of Dec. 19, 2004.

Canadian Press

Snowpack alarm

Heavy snow this winter could lead to flooding in B.C. come spring. A new report says snowpacks are well above normal in much of the province, with some records being posted along the coast and on Vancouver Island:



Source: Statistics Canada - Canadian Social Trends

Vancouver Sun