

INSIDE

DEMOLITION LOOMS

A West Vancouver house designed by Arthur Erickson will be torn down to make room for a bigger home — unless heritage advocates can step in. **Story B8**



STREET ADVICE

The Children of the Street Society hopes to educate young people about drugs. **B5**



THE VANCOUVER SUN

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FINAL EDITION EDITOR PAUL BUCCI 604-605-2445 • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007 • E-mail pbucci@png.canwest.com

The dreaded needles



Getting two shots simultaneously is one-year-old Adrianna Chambers.

IAN SMITH/VANCOUVER SUN

Trying to ease trauma of those first shots

BY PAMELA FAYERMAN
VANCOUVER SUN

VANCOUVER | Does having two vaccinations at once make the experience any less miserable?

That's what research nurses are trying to answer in a study on infant immunizations, often a huge source of pain and anxiety for babies, parents and even the health professionals giving them.

Researchers, funded by a Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute team grant, are trying to find out if getting

the misery over with faster by having a pair of nurses give simultaneous shots at the count of three into separate sites is preferable to sequential shots.

In the past few years, more vaccinations have been added to the basic immunization schedule so health professionals must often administer three to four vaccines in a single visit. Indeed, by the age of one, babies have had 13 injections for protection against potentially fatal diseases.

The study subjects are too young to have developed pho-

bias about needles but they are infants at the four-month stage who nevertheless require a series of three shots — one against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and hemophilus influenza type B; a second against pneumococcal disease; and the third against hepatitis B.

In the study, babies getting the experimental (simultaneous) approach get the first two shots at the same time and the next shot right after. There are 90 babies in the study; half get the conventional (consecutive) shots and

the other half get simultaneous shots.

Babies at two months and at one year have an even rougher time than the four-month-old babies in the study since they need four vaccinations, one right after another under the conventional, sequential system of vaccine administration.

But the researchers chose four-month-old babies for the study because public health nurses tend to see more babies at that stage.

See **STUDY WILL** B6

Canadian Tire wins big-box victory

VANCOUVER | Council approves controversial Marine Drive store by razor-thin margin

BY KELLY SINOSKI
VANCOUVER SUN

Canadian Tire won a bid Tuesday to develop a big-box shopping complex on Marine Drive, two years after its original proposal was rejected by a previous Vancouver city council.

Council, which now has a majority of Non-Partisan Association members, voted 5-4 Tuesday night to approve the complex, despite complaints from project opponents that it would leave a huge eco-footprint on the environment.

Critics objected to the development's size, which they said would be the equivalent of four and a half football fields.

They also argued it would increase car traffic in the area and undermine other shopping

districts in south Vancouver. COPE Coun. David Cadman wanted the vote delayed, pending a final decision on council's EcoDensity policy, which he said is violated by big-box stores.

Also voting against it were Vision Vancouver councillors Heather Deal, Tim Stevenson and Raymond Louie.

"The majority on the council, the NPA majority, are completely hypocritical," said former councillor and project opponent Anne Roberts after the vote.

"They say they believe in sustainability but they don't give a damn."

She said the decision will open the door for Wal-Mart to return with a proposal for a store in the area.

See **TRAFFIC INCREASE** B6

City sends density plan to public consultation

NPA's Anton suggests taller buildings be allowed in three Vancouver neighbourhoods

BY FRANCES BULA
VANCOUVER SUN

VANCOUVER | City council voted Tuesday to send its new draft EcoDensity plan to the public for three months of consultation.

The decision came despite attacks by opposition councillors that the plan puts too much emphasis on density and almost none on affordable housing.

"We're going to end up with something that creates overcrowding."

"It may be green overcrowding,

but it's still overcrowding," said Vision Vancouver Coun. Heather Deal.

In the end, Deal and her colleagues voted in favour of sending the existing 16-point draft to the public for consultation.

That draft is aimed at setting out some general goals for EcoDensity, an initiative created by Mayor Sam Sullivan in 2006 that aimed to make Vancouver more environmentally friendly.

However, the five opposition councillors didn't support a move by Non-Partisan Association Coun. Suzanne Anton to tack on additional ideas for the public to discuss in the next three months.

See **GREEN PLAN** B6

Cost of litigation keeps young lawyers out of court



IAN MULGREW
VANCOUVER SUN
COLUMNIST

Judge points out the difficulty of gaining courtroom experience

The high cost of civil litigation means young lawyers are failing to receive needed trial experience, B.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Don Brenner insists.

"I think it's a real problem," he said in an interview this week.

"We think there is a vacuum for younger counsel to gain trial experience."

But that's just one of the problems besetting the legal system that rarely receive public attention.

Another, for instance, is that the Supreme Court has been hit with retirements and a death this year that have led to its losing almost 10 per cent of the sitting judges.

On that front, Justice Brenner

said he's hoping Ottawa is on the cusp of appointing a half-dozen or more judges.

The Supreme Court, he noted, normally has a complement of 88 justices (86 regular members and two associate chief justices) but is currently down seven justices.

"That strikes me as a lot," Justice Brenner said. "We had a number of vacancies created this

year coupled with the judicial affairs adviser [who helps evaluate potential candidates for the bench] resigning, so the [federal justice] minister has taken some time to replace that person.

"That has recently happened so I'm cautiously optimistic we'll see some appointments soon."

The concern with young lawyers, however, he maintained is not so easily alleviated. That's because it's complicated.

In part, the situation is a reflection that the cost of legal services is far too high. Many people can't afford to go to court so the number of trials being scheduled is declining in part for that reason.

But also legal system stakeholders in the past few years have been adopting reforms to steer civil and family cases away from trial.

See **TREND SEES** B7

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Study will measure kids' pain Green plan goes out to public for comment

From B1

Two-month-old babies tend to go to doctors for shots.

As well, biochemical measurements of stress levels may be more reliable in the four-month-old babies.

"Nurses are infinitely creative in helping each other out," public health nurse and co-researcher Leslie Mills said when asked about the practicality of delivering two shots at a time, adding the study was launched because of anecdotal reports simultaneous shots could reduce distress and pain. Such distress is sometimes measured in studies through collection of cortisol in saliva because it is a biochemical marker of stress. Cortisol is a hormone produced by adrenal glands and levels can be measured in either blood or saliva.

In the study, nurses do a pre-vaccination measurement of cortisol by collecting a saliva sample, then 20 minutes after the vaccination take another swab for

comparison and analysis. A video of the pre- and post-vaccination time is also done and it is during that taping that signs of stress and pain are documented through such behaviour as crying, grimacing and limb movements.

In the journal *Pediatrics* recently, pain reduction during pediatric immunizations was thoroughly canvassed and the authors, including two Canadians, briefly discussed simultaneous versus sequential vaccinations and suggested simultaneous may be preferred, especially by parents.

The authors said that while injection pain is no "major public health menace" it is clearly dreaded by many, who get tense just thinking about it.

"It behooves us, therefore, to minimize this pain if that can be reasonably accomplished," the article states, adding "... in the era of multiple injections, it seems that parents prefer that multiple injections be given simultaneously rather than sequentially if there are

enough personnel available."

While the article touched on simultaneous vaccinations, it delved deeper into things that seem to heighten distress (excessive parental reassurance or empathy and apology) and behaviours that help decrease distress and good coping methods (humour, distraction). Topical numbing agents like Emla cream and a sweet sucrose solution on a pacifier placed into the mouth of babies under six months are also recommended to reduce distress.

Mills said the study, funded by a \$30,000 grant, is still recruiting four-month-old infants at the North Community Health unit located at 1651 Commercial Drive. Researchers have already enrolled enough subjects at a second site, the Pacific Spirit community health unit. Parents of infants who are interested in taking part in the local study should phone 604-253-3575.

Sun Health Issues Reporter
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From B1

Anton's suggestions, which proposed giving extra density for creating green buildings in certain zones, was criticized on several fronts.

COPE Coun. David Cadman said the additional suggestions appeared to be aimed at just pushing more density into certain areas.

And, he added, "this is a crazy way to make policy" by throwing in ideas at the last minute after staff had been working 18 months to come up with a draft plan.

The opposition, as always, was outvoted 6-5. So both the staff suggestions and Anton's last-minute additions will go out to the public for comment.

The initial city staff 16-point plan going to the public includes:

■ Creating new incentives for developers to build green.

■ Creating new housing types, like laneway housing or secondary suites that are built into new condos.

■ Creating new ways to develop alternative energy and public services in a denser city.

■ Creating an overall plan for a new sustainable city.

As well, people will be asked to consider Anton's ideas, which include:

■ Allowing some higher buildings in Gastown, Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside.

■ Giving developers who build green in the central city 10 per cent more building space than they would normally be allowed.

■ Giving builders in a single-family zone called RS5 the right to extra floor space for the house if they build green.

Staff will come back Feb. 26 with recommendations for a final charter based on what they heard.

The NPA majority rejected a proposal from the opposition that staff be given an extra month to talk to the public and that they be specifically asked to talk to community groups in each one of the city's 22 neighbourhoods.

The EcoDensity initiative has been the subject of controversy almost since the mayor announced it at the World Urban Forum in 2006.

It has been praised by some environmentalists and "smart growth" advocates as an initiative that could make Vancouver a leader in reducing the impact of urban sprawl.

But critics say it is little more than a rebranding of 20 years' worth of existing efforts to create attractive high-density neighbourhoods.

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Traffic increase, size among critics' concerns about 'greenest store' in Canada

From B1

NPA Coun. Suzanne Anton pushed for the store, saying south Vancouver is short of retail and residents are travelling to big-box stores in the suburbs.

NPA councillors Elizabeth Ball, Peter Ladner, B.C. Lee and Kim Capri also voted for the deal; George Chow was absent.

"Having business people stay in Vancouver and business stay in Vancouver is a positive thing," she said.

Canadian Tire has estimated that traffic in the area would increase by 7,500 vehicles per day on a weekday and 10,500 vehicles per day on a Saturday.

But it also says the 250,000-square-foot centre, which will include a Mark's Work Warehouse store and other retail outlets, will be a model of sustainability and the "greenest store" in Canada.

The design — by Kasian Architecture Interior Design — is expected to reduce energy use by 45 per cent above the national energy code while efficient windows and skylights will cut energy use and provide natural light. The design also includes thermally reflective roofing and recycled materials.

The building is aiming for LEED gold status. LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a U.S.-based green building certification system emphasizing sustainable site development.

This is the second time Canadian Tire has tried to develop the Marine Drive site.

Vancouver city council rejected its original application in 2005, along with a Wal-Mart application to develop an adjacent site.

The Marine Drive project is part of the retail chain's plan, announced last month, to open 60 to 70 new stores per year in the next five years.

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