



THE VANCOUVER SUN
WESTCOAST

REPTILE REFUGE | B2-3

NEWS

B.C.'S MONEY-LAUNDERING

EDITOR VALERIE CASSELTON 604-605-2125 • MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2004 • E-mail vcasselton@png.canwest.com



Architect Bing Thom's new Aberdeen Centre at Hazelbridge Way and Cambie includes the first public art credit for an architectural feature.

East meets West at Aberdeen

The new Richmond mall will include several new-to-Vancouver retailers from Asia



TREVOR BODDY
VANCOUVER SUN
COLUMNIST

The traditional lion dance that will inaugurate Richmond's all-new Aberdeen Centre next Saturday is likely the most "Chinatown" thing you'll probably see in this spanking-new, high-tech retail palace.

Fairchild Media chief and mall developer Thomas Fung is eager to escape the visual clichés—as well as the limited marketing potential—of both the "Old Chinatown" of Vancouver's Pender Street, and the "New Chinatown" flanking Richmond's No. 3 Road, just outside the doors of the \$100-million first phase of his mall. Accordingly, his commercial tenant legal agreements oblige Aberdeen merchants to ban permanent Chinese-language signs, inside and out.

Fung travelled the world for two years lining up new-to-North-America retailers. These include not only the wildly popular Daiso—the \$2-a-shot retailer that he describes as "The Wal-Mart of Japan," but also "HanZone, Korea's most prestigious department store, plus what you might call the 'Ikea of Thailand.'"

Fung steered the latter chain into

two separate Aberdeen Mall locations to showcase their Bangkok-built bargain-priced furniture, one outlet featuring Western-style items, the other "contemporary Asian" in look.

Hey, you Vancouver-area retailers of any ethnicity who still pile the same old, predictably ratty merchandise to the rafters: Come see the future at the new Aberdeen Centre.

While Fung assembled the merchants he wanted, engaging and energetic mall manager Danny Leung worked with architects and municipal officials, securing a needed Richmond road re-alignment, and the Lower Mainland's first public art credit for an architectural feature. This is the stunning custom coloured glass randomly arrayed over the mall's ever-curving walls, a range of translucent and opaque panels that look equally gem-like by day or by night, while making a huge

building appear livelier and more human in scale. Architect Bing Thom had pioneered this architectural device — admittedly in earth tones, not the incandescent primary hues used here — in his Surrey Central City, reviewed in last week's column.

Fung and Leung have even quietly suggested that mall merchants retain an English speaker on every shift, a "hands-across-the border" breakthrough for this area of Richmond.

In Fung's previous Aberdeen Mall here — totally demolished to make way for Bing Thom's latest invigoration of our visually under-achieving suburbs — the media baron and developer had observed us "gwai lo" taking quick first looks around, then retreating to the known retail fixes of Lansdowne Mall nearby, never to return.

See BOWLING ALLEY B4

B.C. a head under

PRINCE GEORGE | C
is under i

BY JANET S
VANCOUVER

THE PROVINCE | The h
agency has quit his jo
ment Friday that a sp
asked to look into his p

Douglas Walls advis
authority, within B.C.'s
opment ministry, that
responsibilities given t

David Driscoll, the au
he wasn't surprised by
he couldn't deliver on h
cumstances," Driscoll s

The attorney-general
day that Vancouver law
named as a special pros
report on Walls' busi
George in the late 1990

Walls, who is marrie
Gordon Campbell and i
Prince George-Ominec
has denied any wrongd

The RCMP said its c
recommended charges
and management" of t
car dealership. But po
includes Walls, who on

See UNTENDER

Alleged s 25 more

VANCOUVER | Addition
early as today against
of sadistic sexual assaul
ers and overseas childr
said Sunday.

Donald Michel Bakke
five counts of sexual a
one count of unlawful c
women, but police say t
the iceberg."

Constable Anne Dren
least 25 more charges w
ning as early as today.

Bakker, 40, was arres
the Vancouver waterfro
emerging from bushes
sex-trade worker.

He was carrying a sp
said they found a video o
disturbing images invol
ers. He is now being in
51 local women and at
Southeast Asia.

Police have located o

Spear points tell story of B.C.'s first residents

BY LARRY PYNN
VANCOUVER SUN

THE PROVINCE | Pieces of two spear points discovered in a remote limestone cave on B.C.'s Queen Charlotte Islands represent the oldest evidence

"It's early and it's interesting," Parks Canada archeologist Daryl Fedje said last week from Victoria.

The dates for human occupation compare with around 13,000 years from Santa Rosa Island in California and 11,600 years from Prince of Wales

tions in Alaska, B.C. and California provide "very nice" linkage, suggesting early humans first moved from one ice-free refuge to another, rather than along an ice-free inland corridor.

The Queen Charlottes cave — known simply as K-1 — is yielding a

