



BEST RESTAURANT GUIDE
110 BEST PLACES TO DINE IN THE LOWER MAINLAND: WESTCOAST LIFE, D1

THE VANCOUVER SUN

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WE WARNED OF ER DEATHS: MDs

Doctors complaining of sub-par care for 3 years, reports show

BY KARRA TAYLOR

Emergency? What emergency?

Internal hospital documents, obtained Wednesday, show doctors at three Vancouver hospitals have been complaining for three years about the quality of emergency care. The documents, which were obtained by the Vancouver Sun, show that doctors at St. Paul's, St. Michael's and St. Ann's hospitals have been complaining about the quality of emergency care for three years. The documents also show that doctors at these hospitals have been complaining about the quality of emergency care for three years.

Vanoc banks on windfall from lotto

BY KEVIN LEE

Like parking in hotel lots, the Vancouver Olympic Village is a place where the odds are in the organizers' favor. The Vancouver Olympic Village is a place where the odds are in the organizers' favor. The Vancouver Olympic Village is a place where the odds are in the organizers' favor.

U.S. would keep \$1B for lumber industry and Katrina relief in softwood deal

Cash grab: U.S. wants to keep 20% of duties collected
Industry: Canadian lumber heads meet to decide response
Provinces: Ontario rejects deal, B.C. and Quebec silent

BY GORDON HAMILTON



Areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina would share in \$1 billion retained by the U.S. in softwood duties, a proposed settlement states.

Ontario rejected a U.S. softwood settlement plan to Canada's lumber producers Wednesday, asking them to approve a deal that includes export from Ontario to the United States. The U.S. wants to keep 20% of duties collected on Canadian lumber. The industry is meeting to decide how to respond. Ontario and Quebec are silent on the matter.

U.S. firm looks at buying Whistler Blackcomb

BY WENYI LEUNG

Investment Corp.

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THE VANCOUVER SUN

April 27, 2006

Aberdeen's Fung stays put as council approves Canada Line stop

TRADE TALK | Shopping centre owner vying for development rights on speed skating oval site



MALCOLM PARRY
VANCOUVER SUN

COLUMNIST

THOMAS FUNG, the Fairchild Group chair, likely applauded Richmond City Council's approval Monday of the name Aberdeen for a Canada Line transit station at Number Three Rd. and Cambie Rd.

The station will abut the \$60-million Aberdeen Residence complex that is being built as an extension of his \$135-million Aberdeen Centre mall. Both projects were designed by city architect Bing Thom.

For completion in January, 2007, Aberdeen Residence contains three floors of commercial space and six of condominiums. The latter units broke Richmond's \$500-per-square-foot price barrier when sales began in October.

As for the station, Fung might have departed from it — symbolically, at least — for a permanent return to Hong Kong. That's because a major investment bank has offered to back him to acquire the majority shareholding position in a Hong Kong-based company with a market capitalization of HK\$25 billion, or about \$3.6 billion Cdn.

The offer, which is to expire May 1, also includes "very substantial stock options and other incentives," Fung said. The investment bank's interest is to double the corporation's share price within 18 months, he added.

By press time, having received wife Amy's opinion, Fung seemed likely to stay here.

Not that he is chained to what he calls his local "small empire." Fung flies often to China, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand and elsewhere, sourcing large MOQs (minimum order quantities) of fashion, household and other goods and retailing them for five to 10 per cent over cost.

Some goods move through Aberdeen Centre's Fung-owned Living Colours store, which he said will soon open outlets in downtown Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary. Thousands of others — priced at \$2 or less — are racked at his two-floor Daiso store, which he said is the only one in North America. More still are listed on the www.santayaya.com website, and Fung said his Supercard system offers buyers further discounts.

Fung's self-owned Thomson and Fenn trading company — its faux-British name echoes those of traditional Hong Kong taipan firms — also wholesales Italian fashion goods to Japan, avoiding New York middlemen and "double shipping and taxation."

Meanwhile, Fung and others are vying for development rights on the 2010 Olympics speed-skating-oval site. The winning bidder will be disclosed May 17, by which time Fung may have forgotten about that big-leagues job offer.

ANDREW TURNER, the Telus human-resources VP, is chairman of Affinity Auto Group Inc. That's the five-year-old leasing firm that recently branched out to sell exotic and luxury cars from a Burrard-at-Second showroom.

Affinity's other principals — **Trevor Kramer** and **Cornelis Bobeldijk** — and finance VP **Martin Spencer** call urbane British moneyman Turner a "silent partner." They likely mean silent in the manner of an Aston Martin's refined-but-authoritative exhaust note, say.

Turner was hardly silent when asked if Affinity might lease vehicles



Andrew Turner, Cornelis Bobeldijk, Trevor Kramer and Martin Spencer of Affinity Auto are adding luxury-car sales to its leasing operations.



Thomas Fung is building the \$60-million Aberdeen Residence and seemingly not moving his own to Hong Kong.

to Telus. "Absolutely not," he replied. Still, Telus boss and Ferrari fan **Darren Entwistle** would doubtless approve of a deep-blue Ferrari 612 Scaglietti coupe Affinity sold recently for \$380,000. Otherwise, the three-month-old firm is moving 15 cars monthly at an average price of slightly over \$50,000, Kramer said.

EDGAR KAISER's forebears used to make their own cars — more than 700,000 at their Willow Run, Mich., factory — as well as ocean-going ships, hydro dams, steel-making plants and other big stuff. And while the 1947-to-1953 Kaiser-Frazer and later Henry J automobiles didn't harm nearby Detroit's Big Three manufacturers, they helped hoist the likes of Nash, Packard and Studebaker into history's crusher.

Today, Kaiser-clan scion Edgar's focus is harm reduction. He, wife **Sue** and the 20-year-old Kaiser Foundation he heads as chair-CEO will sharpen that purview at the Four Seasons hotel May 1, when banqueting guests will see \$10,000 national harm-reduction awards — www.kaiserfoundation.ca 604-681-1888 — presented in six categories. They'll acknowledge excellence in public policy, community programming, aboriginal programming, mental health and substance-abuse programming, leadership, and youth leadership.

The function will kick off the week-long International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm here. Its next running will be in Toronto April 16, 2007, Kaiser says.

Kaiser, 63, who once chaired and headed the Bank of B.C., the Denver Broncos Football Club and the Kaiser Steel Corp., has seen drug-related harm close to home. He also cheerily admits that, "unlike that former president of the U.S., I did inhale."



Edgar Kaiser says his National Harm Reduction Awards program has recruited sponsors it couldn't have interested five years ago.

Despite being a recovering tobacco smoker, he's somewhat breathless now over his awards program having recruited a left-to-right-wing advisory panel that includes finance-minister-turned-ambassador **Michael Wilson** and union-scrapper-turned-Canadian Labour Congress president **Ken Georgetti**. Also advising: Canadian Council of Chief Executives CEO **Tom D'Aquino**, and First Nations Summit Grand Chief **Ed John**.

The awards program's national founding partners include Chevron Canada, CIBC, Coast Capital Savings Credit Union, and Power Corp.

"You couldn't have got partners like that five years ago," says Kaiser, who believes harm reduction's time has come. He also hopes that, having allied himself to harm-reduction, Mayor **Sam Sullivan** will come to the banquet.

However, Kaiser says he isn't the anonymous donor of a possible \$500,000 for harm-reduction programs Sullivan referred to recently.

As for the banquet, alcohol will be available at a reception beforehand. "But, if you want a drink at the dinner," Kaiser says, smiling, "frankly, folks, no!"

STANLEY YASIN, 52, kicked off his project for a 220-room Westin resort hotel in Kelowna this week.

"It's worth a conservative \$140 million," the Montreal-born developer said while powwowing with Stantec Architecture principal **Alan Hartley** and staff Tuesday. "But, every project I have ever done has got bigger, so this could be \$150 million."

Either way, it's a pile more than the \$18 million of his nearby Summerland Resort project's first phase, or the \$12-million second phase being built now. Ditto the 80,000-square-foot Westside Village complex he built in Victoria, with a thoroughfare named after his



Stanley Yasin will develop the \$140-million Westin Kelowna hotel and maybe regain his three handicap.

dad, Joe Yasin Way. But it's less of a breakthrough than Summerland Resorts, which Yasin says baffled appraisers when he brought the ski-resort concept down to lake level. He built his first such resort, at Apex, in 1990, and several others since.

As for the Westin — which is owned by Saje Enterprises (Kelowna) Ltd. and will be operated by Starwood Hotel & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. — Yasin says: "My experience told me Kelowna didn't need another three-floor, wood-frame hotel. It needed a four-star-plus place, where folks like **Elton John** and **Rod Stewart** could stay." He was referring to the pop stars who performed recently in what Yasin called "one of the world's fastest-growing cities."

Amen, said Platinum Project Marketing principal **George Wong**, likening the Westin Kelowna to the Four Seasons Whistler and saying its units will sell in the \$250,000-\$2 million range. Wong predicted the Lower Mainland, Alberta and the U.S.-Europe will each account for 30 per-cent of the project's buyers, with the remaining 10 percent from "wherever."

It's a handy account for Platinum Projects, which sold \$530-million worth of real estate in 2005, Wong said, "and is shooting for a billion this year."

Richmond-resident Yasin may spend some spare time in Kelowna shooting to get his golf handicap back to the three-four range. A former hockey goalie-left winger and Quebec-championship-level badminton player, Yasin said his golf short game "is as good as anyone's in the world." He also loves golf because "the more you play, the harder it gets."

Unlike property development, it seems.

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