

WEEKEND EDITION

THE VANCOUVER SUN

BREAKING NEWS ONLINE AT vancouver.sun.com

FINAL EDITION

SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2008

POWERFUL RISK: B.C.'s electrical network is seriously stressed

Hydro wants to pay industrial users to shut down on peak winter days. News, A4

Inside the blackout: How The Vancouver Sun managed to get through three days of darkness. News, A6-7



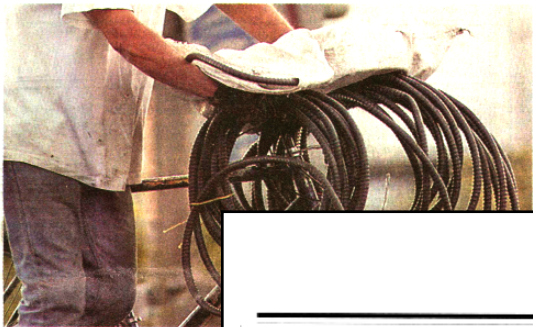
ONE FOR THE AGED

Cam Cole on 53-year-old Greg Norman, who is just one stroke off the lead at the British Open. Sports, I1



MAKING MUSIC AND MEMORIES

B.C.'s biggest rock festival is less than a week away — can Pemberton live up to fans' expectations? Arts & Life, G1



COPPER

The Sun goes undercover for cable thieves and the

WESTCOAST NEWS

Cycle race looking for sponsors

TOWN TALK | Tour de Gastown has been Canada's premier cycle race for 25 years



MALCOLM PARRY
VANCOUVER SUN

COLUMNIST

SPRINTING FOR SPONSORS: Beijing-bound **Gina Grain** and **Andrew Pinfold** won the women's and men's Tour de Gastown cycle races under sunny skies Wednesday. But what would really warm up the 25-year-old event, its almost 40,000 fans and the beneficiary B.C. Cancer Agency, would be a big-time title sponsor.

The event's ranking as Canada's premier cycle race surely makes it appealing to a financial organization, resource corporation or some such. Its present champion sponsor is the St. Regis Hotel, whose owner, developer **Rob Macdonald**, joined BCCA senior VP **Nick Locke** in Wednesday's prize ceremony. Club-and-bar veteran **Vance Campbell** represented the nearby Canvas Lounge, which hosted pre- and post-race events.

Major title-sponsorship would also likely draw \$10,000-range corporate-hospitality participants like **Eileen Finnegan's** Vancouver Litigation Support Services firm, which entertained trackside. One of Finnegan's guests, Wedgewood hotel owner **Eleni Skalbani**, produced a \$10,000 cheque for BCCA. One can imagine more such spontaneous donations in another dozen such marquees erected temporarily on Water Street. Let's hope the 2009 Tour de Gastown will be a fund-raising tour de force for the B.C. Cancer Agency, which was obliged to guarantee city costs for this year's running.

MOUTHS OF BABES: *Vancouver Sun* reporter **Chris Parry** writes too well to be related to me. In our Sports section July 14, he noted that the show-stealer at a wake for B.C. Lions water-boy-turned-president **Bob Ackles** was granddaughter **Robyn Molly Ackles**. That five-year-old broke into a speech by dad and Calgary Stampeders president **Scott Ackles** to ask: "What is a waterboy?"

Sadly, Parry's story ran sans photo. But here's one of Robyn emulating her late grandpa's career-starting role. Maybe she'll grow to be a pro-football titan, too, and write her own book: *Watergirl*.

WISH YOU WERE THERE?: Linerie ruled on far-West Georgia Street Wednesday, when the Axis hair salon held its yearly benefit for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada. By day, with owner **Foster Eastman** and general manager **Renee Sarich's** stylists working sans outerwear, some male clients came for cuts likely and left with extensions or perms. A subsequent concert and doff-a-thon was billed as the Pink Floyd Dark Side of the Moon Linerie Show.

Eastman played **David Gilmour**-style guitar behind ever-bright tenor saxist **Kirsten Nash**. For those feeling comfortably numb, city-based Inner Ring Circus members **Hector Adam**, **Nestor Aguirre** and **Mike Gonzalez** tossed themselves around like spent tissue, and Tantra Fitness owner **Tammy Morris** did hard-body contortions on a stripper-pole.

Morris — www.vancouverpoledancer.com — has turned that skill into a comfortable living, with 15 staff in False Creek and Langley, and a downtown location imminent. Her classes are for women only, although two men take ones she conducts at the University of B.C., where anti-discrimination rules apply. "Men are naturally strong in their upper bodies," she said. "But we get many more who want to watch classes rather than take them."

FED BY FUNG: Property, media and merchandising mogul **Thomas Fung** turned down a transpacific future by heeding wife **Amy's** wish to decline major ownership of a Hong Kong firm with a market capitalization of \$3.6 billion Cdn. Now he's stepped into the past with the youthful coif and garb he debuted at a garden party for 120 at the Fungs' University District home.

Helping emcee was Victoria political aide **Barinder Sall**, whose boss, Attorney-General **Wally Oppal**, missed the food by hurrying to a **Stevie Wonder** concert. Mayor **Sam Sullivan** stayed, his appetite possibly impaired by having political-career snuffer **Peter Ladner** as a tablemate.

More diplomatically, People's Republic of China Consul General **Yang Qiang** smiled through a Mandarin-language speech interpreted by banker, city councillor and now-S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Chinese social-services agency CEO **Tung Chan**.

"The relationship between Canada and China is One, Two, Three," Qiang said. "One: Chinese are first among immigrants here. Two: China is Canada's second-in-volume business partner. Three: After English and French, Chinese is Canada's third language — but in B.C. is Number 2."

Soon to return to Beijing, Qiang said: "I will tell the people there: 'If you want to see what Heaven is like, go to B.C.'"

Meanwhile, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. speaks in other tongues. A recent collaboration with HSBC Bank Canada saw it launch the Multi Lingual Info Line, with aid for immigrants offered in Punjabi and Korean as well as Mandarin and Cantonese.

MARCHONS, MARCHONS: With a Paris posting imminent, consul-general **Luc Serot Almeras** bid adieu to French nationals, friends and especially veterans at a Bastille Day luncheon Monday. He awarded France's Medaille Militaire to Czech-born **Adolf Illichmann** who fought with the Foreign Legion at Dien Bien Phu and survived six months of imprisonment that killed seven out of 10.

He now owns a Kelowna deli and catering firm — www.illichmanns.com — that is heavy on wursts, shinken speck, bierschinken, landjager, etc., but does have Vietnamese spring rolls on the take-out menu.

malcolmparry@shaw.ca - 604-929-8456