

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

VIEWFINDER | A sign blends into the sweeping lines atop the new office tower advertising the Central City complex in Surrey. | IAN LINDSAY / Vancouver Sun



THE VANCOUVER SUN

SECTION B

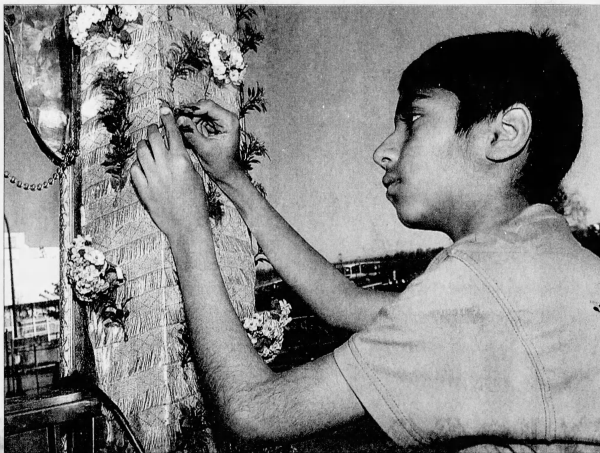
WEST COAST

THE COLOURS OF EASTER | B2-3

NEWS

FATAL BEATING VICTIM WAS DISABLED | B6

EDITOR VALERIE CASSETON 604-605-2125 • FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2004 • E-mail vcasseton@png.canwest.com FINAL EDITION



Arandeep Gill, 11, adjusts some decorations on one of the floats that will be in the Vancouver Baisakhi parade on Saturday.

Religious, cultural celebration to draw more than 100,000 Sikhs

Parades in Surrey, Vancouver mark highlight of calendar similar to Christmas

BY KIM PEMBERTON

LOWER MAINLAND | More than 100,000 Indo-Canadians from B.C. and across North America are expected to take part in two separate parades Saturday in Surrey and Vancouver to celebrate the Sikh religious festival of Baisakhi.

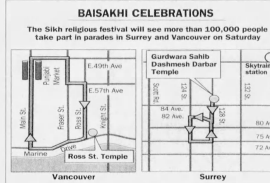
The event marks the baptism of Sikhism in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the 10 Sikh gurus. It is also a cultural celebration of the Punjabi wheat harvest.

"This is the highlight of the year for us," said Sukhpreet Singh of the Gurdwara Sahib Dashes Darbar temple in Surrey.

"In Christianity, you look forward to Christmas. This is like that for us. It's where everyone takes their holiday. It's a great atmosphere."

Singh estimates 60,000 to 80,000 people will attend the parade that starts at the temple at 12885-85th Ave. at 10:30 a.m.

Another parade will begin at the same time in Vancouver, at



food along the routes of the parades, which promise to be very colourful, with lots of orange and blue — prominent colours in the religion.

This is the 25th year for the parade in Vancouver, while Surrey is staging its fifth.

Singh said the event is so large it's necessary for the two communities to hold their own celebrations.

"The Indo-Canadian community in Surrey is so large and the community in Vancouver is so

large we need two parades. One alone couldn't handle the numbers," he said.

As well, Singh said there are many Sikhs from across Canada and the United States coming to B.C. for the event.

"It's also a time for us to get together with different organizations to discuss different issues. To share ideas like how to have better operations of the temple," he said.

Both temples have invited the Canadian Armed Forces and the police to be part of the parade. For Sikhs, Baisakhi is the celebration of the birth of the Khalsa, which refers to the Brotherhood of the Pure Ones: orthodox Sikhs who are baptized and wear the five Ks, created by the tenth guru.

The five Ks are physical symbols of the religion that many Sikhs maintain today.

They are the kesh (unshorn hair, hence the turban); kara (iron bangle), which is worn on the wrist to remind the wearer daily of God; kanga (comb); kirpan (sword); and kachehra (undergarments).

Manning Park visitors decry clearcuts

ENVIRONMENT | Liberals okay logging in Silverdaisy Creek area

BY LARRY PYN

VANCOUVER SUN

MANNING PARK | Visitors to Manning Provincial Park are being greeted by clearcuts due to a B.C. Liberal government decision to allow logging in a drought hole — an area excluded from the park, but fully surrounded by park — that has existed since Manning's creation in 1941.

The decision to allow logging in the Silverdaisy Creek area, within a management area for the endangered northern spotted owl, has outraged environmentalists, who charge Premier Gordon Campbell is violating the spirit of his election promise not to log or mine in parks.

"I think it's terrible," Joe Foy of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee said Thursday. "It erodes citizens' trust in government. The people have been supremely ripped off here."

The area currently being clearcut was excluded from the park decades ago because of a mineral claim. But the province two years ago put the area on its forest development plan.

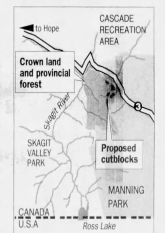
Ivis Wood Products of Yarrow won the November tender bid, started logging in January, and should be wrapped up by early summer.

Foy said he feels deceived because he was informed in the 1990s that the New Democratic Party government planned to pass a management plan effectively preventing logging in the area. But he said that never happened before the Liberals took office in 2001.

"They've used a loophole," said Foy, who first heard about the logging from a citizen who had called RCMP to report timber poachers at work in the park.

"This area is not a park, but it was promised as a park. The government has made a huge mistake."

The area being logged, near Cayuse Flats, is fully bounded by



70,844-hectare Manning Park, a wilderness east of Hope within the North Cascade Mountains. A total of 105 hectares — an area one-quarter the size of Stanley Park — are being clearcut in five cut blocks, with the prospect for more logging to be authorized in perhaps five years.

The province stands to earn about \$1.4 million in stumpage fees from the cutting of 59,667 cubic metres of Douglas fir, western red cedar, spruce, balsam and hemlock, after costs such as planning, silviculture and bridge building are deducted.

Jerry Kenah, a timber sales manager for the B.C. Forests

See NOTHING B4

Specialty bird owners allowed to appeal

Exemption from cull may be granted to some breeds, veterinarian says

BY NEAL HALL

VANCOUVER SUN

FRASER VALLEY | Owners of specialty and exotic birds that face possible slaughter to stop the spread of the avian flu virus in the Fraser Valley will have an appeal process to save their birds, an official with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced Thursday.

"We're talking about giving exemptions to specialty birds," Cornelius Kiley, CIFA's regional veterinarian, told reporters at a news conference in Abbotsford.

"We will be looking at other groups of birds in zoos."

But the sad reality is that poultry flocks are susceptible to the highly contagious virus and will have to be destroyed, even if they

See MEAT CAN B4

It's that time of year to cheer — baseball's back

I don't do hockey. I grew up in the Vancouver of the '50s where no one played hockey



SHELLEY FRALIC VANCOUVER SUN COLUMNIST

I have been waiting for this Friday for months, on tee-shirts, planning where I'll be, who I'll be with and what I'll be eating. And drinking. I've got my trusty T-shirt and hat, embli-

zoned with the team logo, and I'll be wearing them, proudly.

I'm ready to focus on my favourite players, keep tabs on the stats, and preserve my vocal cords for what will surely be hours of non-stop cheering.

Because it's all about game night, and I have the fever.

Baseball, my beloved baseball, is back.

Oh.

You thought this was about hockey.

Sorry, I don't do hockey. Don't get hockey. Hockey, you might say, is just not in my blood.

There I said it.

And here it comes again: I actually don't like hockey.

Not for me the excitable early

morning office chat dissecting a robbed goal of the night before, or the tacky Canadian Tire Vancouver Canucks flag flapping from my car window, or the incessant speculation about who will next fracture whose limb as part of some neanderthal retaliatory code a la Brashear or Bertuzzi.

It's not easy being mean about Canada's cherished national sport, especially since Wednesday, which saw the home team "draw first blood" against the Calgary Flames, pitching our little town into a tizzy, and especially since I work in a newsroom with a lively, dedicated sports staff that, given the choice, would paper the daily section with nothing but hockey stories.

But I know I'm not the only one out there harbouring this dirty little secret.

And like anyone trying to mount a credible defence, I even have a theory about it.

And it's this: I am not from a place of white weather.

I was born and raised right here, the only place in our country where snow is rare, where ice is even rarer, but for the odd gin and tonic, and where there are no little frozen backyard ponds in winter that fathers can smooth over so little skates don't catch on the bumps.

I grew up in Vancouver in the 1950s. In all of the city, there was only a handful of indoor ice rinks.

and no one much played hockey, as child or adult, or even talked about it. (Okay, notwithstanding the illustrious Vancouver Millionaires, who won a Stanley Cup. Eighty-nine years ago.)

I simply don't have a hockey history, not like the hundreds of thousands of people who moved here from parts east and brought with them their genetic love of the game. It's understandable, their blind devotion — the venerable Montreal Canadiens are the oldest 100 years old. The Canucks aren't even middle-aged.

I've spent more time with my cat, there are those in my own little circle of locally-born fami-

See MAY 7 LOOMS B6

Meat can be moved after risk factor reviewed: CFIA

From B1
are pets, he said.

Ron Lewis, B.C.'s chief veterinarian and head of the provincial Animal Health Centre, said he spoke Thursday with officials in the Netherlands, which experienced a similar bird flu outbreak last year that resulted in 25 million birds being killed.

That country decided to exempt specially and genetically unique birds, he said. Officials decided earlier that indoor pet birds such as budgies and canaries—but not backyard flocks—would be exempt from the "depopulation" order.

For the moment, officials are concentrating on high-risk poultry farms in the Fraser Valley close to epicentre of the virus outbreak that led to the federal government order this week to destroy 10 million chickens, turkeys, geese, quail, ostrich and other domestic birds.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency also announced Thursday that a protocol will be established next week to allow the shipment of Fraser Valley poultry products to other other parts of B.C. and across Canada.

The plan will allow tonnes of poultry in B.C. freezers to be shipped to stores across the country because the danger of the meat spreading the virus is

"next to nil," federal Agriculture Minister Bob Speller said Thursday.

"It has been determined now we should be able to ship that product across Canada as long as we make sure it's segregated from the other products," he said. "There is very low risk for that meat," Speller said at the close of a meeting of the country's agriculture ministers. "It's next to nil in terms of the threat to human health or animal health."

CFIA decided the meat can be moved after reviewing the risk factors and consulting with officials in Europe and the U.S. to ensure the procedures to be adopted are acceptable.

Four B.C. poultry groups—the B.C. Chicken Growers Association, B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Producers, B.C. Egg Producers and B.C. Turkey Producers—welcomed the decision.

"Health authorities have made it clear that poultry products sent to market from avian influenza-free farms in the Fraser Valley are safe to eat," said Ray Nickel of the B.C. Poultry Committee, which represents a number of poultry producer groups.

"Consumers can be confident that all eggs and chicken at grocery stores and restaurants will be of the exceptional quality they have come to expect," he said.

Farms in the Fraser Valley and

Lower Mainland represent 80 per cent of the B.C. poultry industry, which employs about 5,000 people and generates more than \$1 billion a year.

The industry has lost more than \$10 million to date due to the virus outbreak and depopulation plan, which is expected to cost the industry hundreds of millions of dollars. A compensation plan is in the works for poultry producers and processors. So far, about 500,000 birds in the Fraser Valley have been killed to wipe out the virus. Work to dispose of birds will continue during the Easter weekend. A total of 20 commercial flocks in the Abbotsford area have tested positive for the virus.

Only two people have tested positive for the virus, resulting in red eyes and mild flu-like symptoms, but another 17 people with symptoms are still under investigation. Anyone who suspects they might have contracted the virus is asked to report to public health officials.

CFIA workers and contract labourers at infected farms are getting flu vaccinations and drugs as preventive measures.

There are also strict disinfection controls involving clothing, equipment and vehicles in the control area, which stretches from Georgia Strait to Hope.

with Canadian Press

Nothing controversial with cutting, logger says

From B1

The government never placed a time limit on that exploration, after which the area could be rolled into the park and lost to industrial development.

The area now being logged also never factored into the province's continuing protected areas strategy.

Kennah said he is not aware of parks officials complaining about the logging.

Bill Barisoff, the minister of water, land and air protection who is responsible for spotted owls, referred calls Thursday to the forests ministry.

Foy said his beef is mainly with the forests ministry, not Ivys Wood Products, a valued-added family operation.

"When their customers find out—and they will—this will hurt their business," he said.

Jim Wiens, one of four brothers who run Ivys Wood Products, said he sees nothing controversial about the logging operation.

"I don't know if you can call it a complete clearcut," he said. "They don't call it clearcutting anymore. It's variable retention. You leave some wood behind, at random. There are some areas more open than others, obviously."

Kennah confirmed the logging is visible to motorists on Highway 3 near Cayuse Flats.

He added that while the Silverdaisy Creek area is within a provincial spotted owl management area, the logged trees are second-growth and not prime owl habitat.

In a submission to federal Environment Minister David Anderson, environmental groups have urged Ottawa to issue an emergency order under the Species At Risk Act to protect the habitat of Canada's spotted owl.



Bonnie Curtis, owner of Goldwing Ostrich Products, would be devastated if her 50 birds had to be destroyed because of crisis.

Ostriches may be spared flu cull

BY LARRY PYNNE
VANCOUVER SUN

ALDERGROVE | Commercial ostrich producers in the Fraser Valley are hopeful their stock might yet be spared from the massive slaughter of domestic birds aimed at stopping the spread of avian flu.

Federal authorities are reviewing research literature to determine if ostriches and other flightless birds such as emus and rheas, pose a risk during the avian crisis.

Dr. Blaine Thompson, a veterinarian with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, said Wednesday studies from South Africa and Europe have documented 20- to 30-per-cent losses of ostriches from avian influenza viruses.

But those studies "do not incriminate" the particular

influenza sub-type that is currently spreading in the Fraser Valley. "There is a question mark," Thompson said, noting there are no ostrich farms in the immediate hot zone around Matsqui Prairie.

That is positive news, for Bonnie Curtis, owner of Goldwing Ostrich Products in Aldergrove, who'd been told earlier to "prepare for the worst."

Curtis said destruction of her 50 animals (raised outdoors on two hectares) would be devastating, especially the loss of her seven breeding birds, stock that cannot be easily replaced. "You can't just go and pick up new breeders," she said. "They don't just lay an egg in six months."

It takes two to three years to establish a breeding ostrich, five years to reach peak production, said Curtis, who has been raising ostriches for 11 years.

Our Fish Stories Come True

Reel us in on-line for all our fishing packages:
www.obmg.com
or call 1-800-663-7090

MV SALMON SEEKER
QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS, B.C.

MV CHARLOTTE PRINCESS
QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS, B.C.

OAK BAY MARINE GROUP | In Beautiful Coastal British Columbia

The weekend starts Thursday

Get out. Have fun.

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dear subscribers,

Recently, we undertook a project to redesign and relaunch our vancouver.sun.com website. In developing this project, one of our primary objectives was to increase the value, services and options offered to our newspaper readers. We wanted to create a complete news and information package that was easily accessible, up to date and free to our loyal subscribers.

The newly designed vancouver.sun.com features all the news and information you have come to expect from The Vancouver Sun, including all of our columnists and special features. In addition, our website features a searchable 7-day archive of stories, breaking news updates, exclusive subscriber-only content and the ability to access your trusted news source from anywhere, at any time.

Most importantly it's completely free to all 6-day subscribers of The Vancouver Sun. It's included as added value in your newspaper subscription package. To access these great features, simply go to www.vancouver.sun.com, follow the registration instructions and you will have complete access to our website so that you can enjoy all the benefits of being a daily subscriber to The Vancouver Sun.

I invite you to visit www.vancouver.sun.com and register today. I also hope that you will let us know what you think of The Vancouver Sun online. We welcome your feedback at sunfeedback@png.canwest.com.

Sincerely,

Dennis Skulsky
President & Publisher
The Vancouver Sun

THE VANCOUVER SUN
vancouver.sun.com

PART OF THE CANADA.COM NETWORK



online
ANYTIME