Poisoned eagles dying

By CHELSEA POWRIE & SEAN HITREK

Bald eagles in the Lower Mainland are dying from lead poisoning in disturbingly high numbers, and according to the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, the culprit may be bullets.

Technology at OWL, acquired around two years ago, allows them to confirm that lead is present in an eagle’s bloodstream and in what quantity, which in turn dictates their treatment decisions. Now, the society’s manager Rob Hope has noticed the incidents of poisoning increasing.

“Normally five per cent of the rehabilitated birds that come to us here are all humans caused,” Hope said. “But we’re seeing more of now it is lead poisoning.”

OWL’s lead testing technology allows for them to save more eagles, but it comes at a cost. Medication for lead poison costs $60 for every ten vials, and the society is going through around two a day. Some extreme cases are even pricier.

“We had a golden eagle a couple years ago that we put six treatments through,” Hope said. “We were probably looking at about $6,000 by the time we got him back to the wild.”

Hope’s theory behind the incident is lead found in bullets, ingested by eagles scavenging the remains where an animal was killed by a hunter. Paul Gibson of the Delta Police Department said there are no laws around hunting cleanup.

“It’s just hunter’s etiquette as far as what’s left behind,” Gibson said.

Juli Ponder, executive director of the University of Minnesota’s Raptor Center and assistant professor of veterinary medicine, confirmed traces of lead from fall sites could do serious harm.

“Just a [fragment] or two the size of a piece of pencil lead is enough to kill a big eagle,” Ponder said.

In B.C., non-toxic shot, meaning less poisonous, is generally required for hunting all waterfowl. In the Lower Mainland, non-toxic shot means less than one per cent lead in weight, is legal, and according to Bryan Mynko, owner of Stillwater Sporting Ltd. in Ladner, explained he sells far more boxes of steel bullets than lead, despite lead being far cheaper.

Mynko also felt hunters often get the hang of using steel bullets. “With steel, it’s a lot more forgiving,” Mynko said.

The city is scheduled to deliver a report on single-resident occupancies, a housing option used by many low-income residents, for the first week of April.
A manpal Sara is permanent- ly confined to an electronic wheelchair after being diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease nearly 12 years ago. His speech is nearly inaudible and he no longer has the physical ability to do the activities that he loves.

Parkinson’s is a long-term degenerative disorder of the nervous system that affects a person’s movement and coordination. On April 11 World Parkinson’s Disease Day will take place around the world to help spread awareness of the disease and the work put forth by organizations dedicated to eradicating it.

Sara, now 60 years old, hopes that medical treatment methods will continue to improve. “I’m hopeful that in two or three years a cure will be found and I shall be able to play soccer, cricket and badminton again, as well as do hula dancing and karate again,” Sara said. “I could utilize my energy and efforts to produce good movies which will contribute words making lives livable.”

Sara immigrated to Canada from India in 1979 and began driving taxis. Years later, he began driving buses for BC Transit. From film-making to detecting buses and taxis, Sara had been more than active in South Vancouver for 35 years. In his spare time, he would write short stories, poetry and plays.

Ujjal Dosanjh, a former B.C. premier and federal Liberal cabinet minister, is a first cousin of Sara Dosanjh. He has followed his accomplishments and he admires Sara’s literary influence in the Punjabi community.

“He’s a brilliant writer, he has done some wonderful short stories, translations of English work to Punjabi. If this (Parkinson’s) hadn’t happened, he would be a writer to reckon with,” Dosanjh said.

Additionally, Dosanjh praises his cousin’s community activism and says Sara helped him in his 1979 NDP campaign. Dosanjh contributes his proac- tive community involvement to their grandfather’s participation in the Indian-independence movement.

“His family was activists, his family was forever. His whole life was about helping the community and helping the Indian people,” Dosanjh said. “That’s what my grandfather did and I think we inherit that partly from him and I think we inherit that partly from my maternal grandfather, who was a freedom fighter. He shares that with me.”

Every few weeks Dosanjh drops by the George Pearson Centre and pay Sara a visit. However, because of privacy restrictions at the centre, residents are unable to use the internet. In the eyes of Dosanjh, this is very limiting for his cousin and is unfortunate because Sara still has a lot of stories that have not yet been published.

“He feels he has a lot to share,” said Dosanjh. “His literature that he wrote is now precluded to some universities in Punjab. He is a very well-known short-story writer back home.”

The only thing that made me think twice about opening the business, is every year I have to pay the property tax,” said Iorio. “I don’t understand how a small business can open up and suc-ceed.”

Being new to Vancouver and having a business success was all Iorio needed, although the business was nearing closure not because of high taxes, but due to a break in. The incident occurred in the first months of opening and with the high valued collectibles stolen, the business was on the verge of closure.

The tough times weren’t over, as the coin business as a whole has been hit hard by the innovations of technology, which has taken the kids out of coin collectin-g.

Iorio explained that when he opened the business, many kids and families in- volved, however video games have taken this aspect away.

Another factor which has pulled the youth out of the hobby, is the lack of involvement from schools.

Iorio explained, that in his younger days’ schools would offer a coin and stamps clubs so like-minded collectors like himself could discuss their collections and trade between one another.

Ujjal Dosanjh visits his cousin Amanpal Sara at the George Pearson Centre. Photo by Sunil Rathnavelu

Entering Chantou Coins & Stamps in South Vancouver you may be startled by the lack of customers or be over-whelmed by the plethora of collectibles and memorabilia. Crossing a coin and stamp shop like Chantou in Vancouver can have become a rite of passage for many.

Giuseppe Iorio, the owner of Chantou Coins & Stamps has been collecting coins since the moment he had some spare change in his pocket. Grow- ing up in Montreal and not being able to afford rare and expensive pieces, the young collector hoarded all coins that were different and caught his eye.

Giuseppe Iorio (left) and a volunteer (right), going through the morning routine of organizing coins and opening the store. Photo by Evan Hagedorn

A young adult can look fine one day, and then three or four months later they are a completely different person,” said Iorio. “It’s very heartbreaking.”

Rose also said that a large number of shelter residents are in the age range of 15–21 years old.

A main goal of Rose’s is to expand her already existing Heavy Mental comedy show, a production to bring awareness to mental health issues. Al- though she has previously performed this show in Vancouver, Rose hopes to increase its popularity outside British Columbia.

“I want to expand it throughout all of Canada,” Rose said. “To get that kind of exposure would be huge.”

Rose recently performed for Yuk Yuks in London, Ontario, her first paid gig outside of B.C. She plans to do more Yuk Yuks Heavy Mental show this April.

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Very common In a given year, one in five experience mental health issues.

Youth at risk Seventy percent of people in the 15 to 24 age group affected by mental health issues.

Life expectancy Mental illness can reduce life expectancy by 10 to 20 years.

SOURCE CENTER FOR ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health in Canada

With a shift to online, only a handful of the shops are left

By EVAN HAGEDORN

Coin collecting shops rarified

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Giuseppe Iorio, the owner of Chantou Coins & Stamps has been collecting coins since the moment he had some spare change in his pocket. Growing up in Montreal and not being able to afford rare and expensive pieces, the young collector hoarded all coins that were different and caught his eye.

This passion for coin collecting and wanted to make a career out of it, however he quickly realized opening a successful shop in Montreal wasn’t possible due to the saturated market. In compensa- tion, the coin collector became a banker – a job which harnessed his passion for coins and money. However, in 1971 after quitting this passion (Parkinson’s) hadn’t happened, he would be a writer to reckon with,” Dosanjh said.

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College nets charity prize

More than $14,000 given to Plan International to help fight malaria in Africa

By SHOJI WHITTIER

Langara has won Rick Mercer’s Spread the Net student challenge, donating almost $14,000 to fight malaria in Africa.

Spread the Net is a charity program established by Rick Mercer of Rick Mercer Report and non-profit organization Plan International Canada, a chapter of the global non-profit organization which aims to improve the lives of children and families in developing countries. The goal of the program is to raise money for anti-malaria mosquito nets for households in Africa.

Malaria kills approximately 429,000 people each year worldwide (World Health Organization), and until recently was the leading cause of death of children in Africa.

Langara donated $14,695, which is more than any other post-secondary school in Canada. Mercer visited Langara on March 7 to thank the college for their donations.

According to Mercer during his interview with CBC, Langara has been donating to Spread the Net for several years.

“(Langara) has been involved in Spread the Net for quite a while. They’ve been fundraising for years now, but this is the first time they’ve won the post-secondary category,” Mercer said.

Many Langara students believe Spread the Net is a cause worth donating to.

Journalism program applicant Mira Galperin is planning on going to Africa for nursing the winning high school and elementary school on Rick Mercer Report Tuesday evening.

MALARIA NUMBERS WORLDWIDE

Half the world at risk

In 2015 there was an estimated 212 million global malaria cases

Children at risk

More than two-thirds of all malaria deaths occur in children under five years old.

Numbers dropping

Since 2010 malaria rates have fallen globally by 29 per cent.

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Langara’s Master Plan still up in the air

Building A’s future uncertain as college mulls seismic upgrades

By DUNCAN ANDERSON

Studios 58 is eager to pack up and move to Granville Island along with Langara’s fine arts department, to be relocated at the college works to bring Building A up to seismic standard.

The theatre program, located in the bowels of the 1976-built concrete facility, has long waited more suitable digs but where it will go when the building is vacated remains unclear.

Kathryn Shaw, Artistic Director of Studio 58, said as far as she knows, the plans for moving Studios 58 to Granville Island are still up in the air.

“If what could happen, I think everyone would be delighted,” Shaw said.

Shaw said the Langara theatre space has water leaks, no backstage space, and its classes lack natural light, among other issues. She suggested that Langara is awaiting funding from the province before making definitive plans.

According to a memo issued by vice president of administration and finance, Victor Sokha, the condition of Building A is currently hindering the quality of teaching and learning. Sokha wrote that the repurposing of the Studio 58 program is jeopardized by the condition of Building A, and may move to Emily Carr University of Art and Design.

The college hasn’t announced whether it will simply mandate Building A, or demolish it. According to the memo, a “request for funding to the Ministry of Advanced Education for a new Creative Arts building or upgrading Building A” have not been received.

Because of “concern over the aging infrastructure of Building A,” the College Board is spending $600,000 on consulting fees as part of an update to the plan, halfway through Langara’s 25-year Master Plan, according to the memo.

Attached to the agenda for an upcoming board meeting this Thursday, the memo outlines a number of issues necessitating an update of the Master Plan. According to the agenda, a seismic evaluation done on Building A in August 2010 by the City of Vancouver suggested it is unsafe in the event of an earthquake, having many “non-structural elements that may affect the structure’s ability to perform during an earthquake.”

Victoria Gibson, a student in the publishing department also located in Building A, said that she is mostly happy with the facilities in her department.

“I don’t have any issues,” she said.
Clockwise from left: Oyster Catcher Rattle is a part of Dick's prized work. He displays two of his well-known masks. SUBMITTED PHOTO DOUGLAS REYNOLDS GALLERY

Carving legend mourned

First Nations artist and advocate Beau Dick, will be missed

By CASSANDRA OSEBONE

Renowned and well-loved Kwakwaka’wakw artist Beau Dick died Tuesday morning at the age of 63.

Before his death, Dick's art was to be featured in Documenta 14, which Scott Watson, director of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at UBC, said was “like the Olympics of the art world.”

The carved masks would have been worn by 30 dancers in a traditional Kwakwaka’wakw dance at the Acropolis in Athens.

Dick was a hereditary chief of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nation in Alert Bay, BC. He was also politically active, and participated in the shaming ceremony at Parliament Hill in 2013 that brought the minimal relationship between First Nations and the federal government.

Peter Lattimer, owner of Vancouver's Lattimer Gallery, knew Beau since childhood. Just yesterday Lattimer received one of Dick's masks to sell on consignment.

“He was able to capture expressions on faces, whether it was portrait masks or animal masks, that really nobody else was able to do,” Lattimer said.

“Jill Baird, Curator of education and public programs at the UBC Museum of Anthropology, said Dick was an important figure and “a fantastic human being.”

“He was both an artist and a chief in his cultural traditions, but he was also an activist in trying to make a change in the world for indigenous people,” she said.

“He was always offering a hug and a smile, willing to share his knowledge.”

— PETER LATTIMER, GALLERY OWNER

Melanie Rose, a local Vancouver artist, said Dick was an important figure and that really be present at the ceremony. He was nervous and scared and vulnerable, and his words and his kindness made me feel completely at ease,” she said, “and helped me to slip into the character of the dance I was doing, to really be present at the ceremony. He had a lot of magic.”

His work is currently displayed in the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, QC.

“First Nations artist and advocate Beau Dick, will be missed in Athens.

How one man decided to advocate for the opioid crisis

By CASS LUCKE

Local comedian Mark Hughes is helping solve Vancouver’s illicit opioid overdose crisis one laugh at a time.

As a recovering addict himself who has lost people to overdose, Hughes organized a second safe injection consistory last night, after the first in December. The aim is to raise money for emergency services provided by the Overdose Prevention Society.

After seven drug-free years, Hughes began using comedy as a creative outlet in 2013 and believes it takes the edge off of life.

“It’s a dark time for people involved in this issue,” Hughes said in regards to the opioid overdose crisis, “I know I’ve turned to laughter during lots of times where I’ve struggled.”

“The tents are important because they’re solidifying ways, not to punish people for [their addiction], but to help them along the way with it,” local comic Chris James said. “It recognizes it as a medical condition rather than a criminal problem.”

Karmik is an organization that offers free overdose training and informed the show’s audience of their services. The venue provided free space for the comics, many of whom have dealt with or are currently dealing with addiction.

Melanie Rose, a local Vancouver comic, has been clean for nine months and performed at the event.

“When everybody’s laughing, they either have done it or know someone who has,” Rose said.

“I think keeping it light, you can say more painful things without having people turn their heads,” she added.

The show’s closing act was Simon Carey Newman, Dick’s relative, said although some people put his cousin on a pedestal, Dick was good at making people feel at ease. Newman recalled the first time he danced at a portal.

“I was nervous and scared and vulnerable, and his words and his kindness made me feel completely at ease,” he said, ”and helped me to slip into the character of the dance I was doing, to really be present at the ceremony. He had a lot of magic.”

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Pole dancing revolution

Views about pole dancing are shifting, says dance instructor

By LAURA BROUGHAM

Entering a room with one wall covered in a black sheet and fairy lights, with multiple poles throughout the room, might be unusual, but not at AVA Fitness.

The fitness venue offers several pole and aerial dancing classes, capturing a growing market in Vancouver. Alex Connolly, a pole dancing instructor at the New Westminster studio and co-organizer of the pole dance community, said the pole dancing community is an accepting and welcoming place for women.

"I was just really inspired by the community and how it encourages women to be confident and own their body, and how it can empower women, whether they're just beginning to ride or experienced riders shop for style. Those who are just beginning to ride shop for safety," Miller said.

"We live in a society where women are constantly told to judge each other and bring each other down," Connolly said. "In the pole community, it's completely opposite."

Pole fitness classes originated in the 90s from Canadian-born Fawnia Mondey and have grown in popularity. "There are now provincial and national pole dancing competitions and the next national competition will take place June 10 in Vancouver," Connolly said. "We're getting better and better with consciousness shift that's gone on and we're getting better and better with women being sexual over time."

"There's been a cultural shift in general, with the growth in awareness of sexism and exotic dance and feminism," said Hayos. "There's a general consciousness shift that's gone on and also we're getting better and better with women having sexual over time."

Cyanne Nisbett, an athlete at AVA Fitness, said that even within her own family there is stigma against it. She often faces criticism when she posts things online, she said, and she's constantly told to judge the stigma around the sport has shifted due to the change in the public perception of women.

"There's no reason not to wear gear. There's no reason not to wear gear. There's no reason not to wear gear."

Motorcycle riders fashionistas seek used gear

By CHRISTOPHER THOROSKI

Riders are not only saving money but they are enhancing their wardrobe as well, thanks to a motorcycle shop that sells second-hand gear.

East Side Re-Rides, located just off Main Street and 16th, is the only second-hand motorcycle gear store in the Lower Mainland. Nearly everything sold at the store is on consignment and it has been this way for the last eight years.

Elaine Miller, owner of the store, introduced to motorcycles at the age of 14. She bought East Side Re-Rides six years ago.

"I was just really inspired by the community and how it encourages women to be confident and own their body, and how it can empower women, whether they're just beginning to ride or experienced riders shop for style. Those who are just beginning to ride shop for safety," Miller said.

Additionally, different riders come to the store for different reasons. Some experienced riders shop for style. Those who are just beginning to ride shop for safety. However, according to ICBC, motorcycle crashes are on the rise in B.C.

In 2011 there was a recorded 2,000 incidents but in 2015 that number jumped up to 2,600. Over the course of that five-year period, the average number of fatal crashes was 32.

Doreen Walmsley, the owner of Dusati Richmond and a motorcycle enthustiasit, said people choose not to wear proper gear, not because of cost, but due to personal preference.

"It's actually quite reasonably priced compared to medical costs if you crash," Walmsley said. "There's no reason not to wear gear."

Spencer Johnston, an employee at East Side Re-Rides, said that it's becoming a lot more popular for people to buy used gear because the price point is much better than regular retail.

"There is an economic trend lately of retail shops making less and less money as people buy online," Johnston said. "It's a community and a lifestyle promoted here...it's something that an online presence can't recreate."

Electric cars in the spotlight

Autoshow highlights green technology, drawing bigger crowds each year to test drive

By KURTIS GREGORY

The 2017 Vancouver International Auto Show is expecting a growing interest in green vehicles this year and is trying to help normalize electric vehicles by highlighting green technology improvements within the industry.

Dorothy Johnston, president and CEO of the New Car Dealers Association of British Columbia who hosts the auto show, said that displaying and allowing for test drives is an effective way of addressing the anxiety consumers have regarding vehicle range.

"Range anxiety has always been a big issue for people and we thought this is a great way to answer some of those questions, give people a chance to get in one, try it out and see that it's just like any car," Qualey said.

Every year the number of people who test-drive electric and green vehicles doubles, according to Qualey, and he expects that trend will continue into the future.

According to Green Car Reports, plug-in vehicles have been growing as a percentage share of the Canadian car market from just .03 per cent in 2011 to as high as .48 per cent in 2016.

The Canadian Green Car of the Year award was introduced as a new category for the show's first day of the show. The award went to the Toyota Prius a hybrid that gets 100 kilometres to the litre. Last year's winner, the 2016 Chevrolet Volt, is a fully electric vehicle that gets 85 kilometres on a charge.

The NCDIA has been working with the provincial government to make access to price deductions easier through the Clean Energy Vehicles British Columbia program. The program offers up to a $5,000 discount on eligible plug-in and hybrid vehicles under $77,000 and $8,600 off of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

While these deductions are available for most electric cars, the Trailhead S, the second most popular EV in Canada, was dropped from the list when the price limit was imposed on March 2, 2016.
Legal heroin: the serious fix

BY SAM MOWERS

Heroin-assisted treatment is a proven step in the right direction, but to end the opioid crisis in Vancouver, drugs like heroin should simply be legalized. These programs use controlled prescriptions of pharmaceutically grade heroin to opiate addicts as a means of treatment. When heroin-assisted treatment was tried in Vancouver between 2001 and 2008, it saw a 70 per cent reduction in illegal heroin use among participants. The treatment would be helpful in dealing with the opioid crisis, but legalizing all drugs would be a more comprehensive solution.

During Prohibition in the U.S., when the production and consumption of alcohol was made illegal, there was a corresponding rise in illegal liquor production (bootlegging) and unregulated drinking spots (speakeasies). This black market also gave rise to criminal activity and gangs. When Prohibition was repealed, crime and incarceration rates fell, new jobs were created and tax revenue increased. This same principle could apply when extended to other illegal substances such as heroin.

Prohibition-era liquor was unsafe to drink, because it was produced in an unregulated environment. This is not unlike the unregulated production of heroin which has led to the deadly presence of fentanyl. If legalized, the production and distribution of heroin could be regulated by the government, which could diminish the risk of drugs tainted with fentanyl. One of the effects of legalization, however, would be the opening of the market to competition from new producers and sellers.

Given that competition, in general, drives down the price of the product, this might actually encourage people to use dangerous substances. But the negative effects of drugs are well known, and can be reinforced through education. After all, affordable alcohol causes many problems, but it is not comparable to Prohibition.

Last year in B.C., 922 people died from overdoses and the number is looking larger for this year. Heroin-assisted treatment programs are undoubtedly effective, but if we really want to save lives and reduce crime, we have to seriously consider legalizing drugs like heroin.

Get on the pole, or stop judging the dancers who do

BY KRISTYNA ANTHONY

I have never been the sort of person who enjoys working out alongside chiseled bodies, in a sea of treadmill monitors. TV’s flash surreal images of bodies out at me. Needless to say, I’ve never been a gym rat. But, as I get older my fitness levels creep closer to the front of my mind each year. I grew up playing baseball and hockey, and then got into a sort of fitness regime, has grown since I travelled from the stages of steady watering holes to become a regular on community centre activity boards. Stigma can be a thorn in the side of progress.

As we learn to relax stringent societal traditions around everything from gender to sexuality to artistic expression, activities like pole dancing give people the freedom to get fit and have fun while they’re doing it.

While pole dancing isn’t exclusive to the female population, it is a community that values support, motivation and body positivity for women. The world is a cold place and often our harshest critics are women – other women and the one we see in the mirror every day. In the same way figure skating provided a creative and artistic sporting activity for me, pole dancing is providing that for others. It’s meant to be a safe space, where it’s okay to exhibit sexual- ity, creative expression, sport and fitness from judgement or intimidation. Where she can do all that?
Walking, texting & talking

Multi-tasking sidewalk pedestrians may share part of the blame in accidents

By SHOJI WHITTIER

March is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, so distracted pedestrians are not getting much attention from ICBC.

Last fall, an Insights West poll showed that 66 per cent of Canadians would support legislation to prohibit distracted walking, or being distracted by a hand-held cellphone while on a roadway.

According to ICBC, about 2,400 pedestrians were injured in crashes in B.C. over the past five years. Sam Corona, ICBC’s senior communications specialist, says it’s unknown how many of those incidents involved distracted pedestrians.

“When you’re reporting a pedestrian being hit, it’s kind of difficult to find out because there’s no claim there at that point, unless there’s a claim attached to the vehicle,” Corona said.

However, students at Langara are frustrated by distracted pedestrians. Peace and conflicts student, Josiah Morris, said he thinks most people can’t handle walking and talking on their phones.

“They don’t have the hand eye coordination to do all things at once,” Morris said. He said they need to learn to walk down the street, have a conversation, and still be aware of cars going 40-50 kilometres per hour.

Others, like Women’s Studies student Naiah Albacea, take note of when and how people handle walking and talking on their phones.

“Whenever I walk, I make sure there’s no one around me, if there’s like a bunch of people, I try not to do it as much,” Albacea said.

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Stopping OD deaths first

Group seeks more heroin-assisted treatment options

By SASHA LAKIC

A s fentanyl continues to kill drug users in British Columbia, physicians and activists are piloting a heroin-assisted treatment that may help reduce the death toll.

At a discussion at SFU campus in Giauerto on Monday night, those activists presented their recommendations to stop opioid overdoses. Clinical trials with hydromorphone, commonly known as Dilaudid, showed that both the crime and the risks associated with injecting opioids are reduced when these drugs are administered in a safe environment. However, the panel said stigma still prevents these methods from being widely used.

D. Scott MacDonald, lead physician at the Providence Crosstown Clinic, said they are trying to stop people from dying.

“Abstinence is not the goal of hydromorphone therapy,” he said. He said the licensed drug is as effective as pharmaceutical heroin, and that instances of street-acquired opiosids fall dramatically, in communities where this therapy has been used. It may also be a more cost effective use of public funds. MacDonald said that tax payers would pay $27,000 per year for someone who is in a therapy program as opposed to $45,000 per year for a person who buys drugs on the street.

“There needs to be medical intervention that is part of health care,” he said. He would like to see interventions become part of the provincial approach to treating drug addiction.

Dore Murray, who represents an advocacy group made up of participating trial patients called Solome/Naomi Association of Patients, says heroin-assisted treatment has been used successfully in Switzerland, and would like to see it used here. He said if that Dilaudid works for the patients in the trial, it should be used more widely.

Previous attempts to introduce medical intervention were met with legal challenges by the federal government, which argued that public safety was at risk with easier access to drugs. In alliance with the Providence clinic and participating patients, Douglas King, lawyer with the PWSF legal society, started a constitutional challenge in 2013 on the basis that the government was discriminating against people with disabilities and putting them at risk.

Despite the criticism levelled on our current government, King said the one thing they did right was to openly allow for heroin-assisted treatment in Vancouver.

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McBarge still unmoored

Floating fast-food restaurant may drop anchor in new harbour

By LAURA BROUGHAM

McBarge may have started as a fast-food outlet, but there are no fast answers about its future now.

The barge, originally built as the first floating McDonald’s for Vancouver’s Expo ’86, moved to Maple Ridge for renovations after mooring in Burrard Inlet for 30 years. Howard Meakin bought the barge in 1999. He is nearly ready to share the changes on the horizon for the McBarge (Friendship 500).

“It’s an exciting venue, it’s world class,” Meakin said. “It will appeal to all people and all countries.”

Tight-lipped Meakin did say that the barge will look different than people remember.

“The roof has to be completely replaced, and we’re putting a new rooftop deck on it, and it will actually have quite a nice display area on the roof deck as well.”

He didn’t give details. “That’s the secret,” Meakin laughed.

David Eaton, the architect working on the project, said two places are being considered to anchor the barge.

“We’re looking at two locations, both have different timelines, both have different aspects to them that make them quite unique in their solutions,” said Eaton.

Susan Stamenkovic, a travel account manager at Brute New World Travel, used to work on the McBarge, and said that she hopes they return the barge to False Creek, as a way to honour the Expo.

“I would actually really like to see it back in False Creek, and turned back into a McDonald’s,” Stamenkovic said in an email. “Looking at the area now, you can’t even tell there was a World Exposition there. This would be a perfect reminder.”

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— SUZAN STAMENKOVIC

TRAVEL MANAGER

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Renovations underway inside the McBarge: a pile of foam, metal, and wood are piled inside the main area.

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EDITOR DONNIE LEE LA MADELEINE | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2 | THE VOICE
By RICA TALAY

Young cross-country racer caps record season in Uganda

Lumb’s coach Chris Johnson said he was very pleased with Lumb’s performance at the championships.

“I was only surprised at how quickly it happened, not that it did happen,” Johnson said.

“I thought it might take a little longer to reach the accomplishment he’s reached, so that speaks to his talent.”

To get used to the humidity and heat in Uganda, Lumb had to do heat acclimatization training at least twice a week.

Since the top cross-country runners come from East African countries, Lumb said it was intimidating to run in the same race with some of the best runners in the world.

“The East African countries are so dominant that you kind of have to realize that it’s not a race against them but it’s a race against the people around you,” Lumb said.

Len Catsline, the media spokesperson for UBC’s department of athletics and recreation, said he was surprised at how quickly Lumb’s room is taking to running.

“We’re very excited that he’s going to be running for UBC for the next four to five years,” Catsline said.

Besides being a cross-country runner, Lumb is also working towards getting a degree in environmental engineering.

“Sometimes when school gets hard I wish I could just be doing school right now and not think about running and sometimes when running is going really well I wish I could just do running,” Lumb said.

“But I’m really glad that I have that balance.”

Coming from an athletic family, Lumb was introduced to skiing at the age of five and up until this year his main sport was cross-country skiing.

According to Johnson, what’s next for Lumb is to try to qualify for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Outdoor Track and Field National Championship in May Right now, recovering from the world championship is the main concern.

Young cross-country racer caps record season in Uganda

Lumb, a 19-year-old freshman at UBC, was the top runner in the men’s division, 18-year-old Lumb, who is a track star for Team Canada finishing the eight-km course in 26:21, placing 54th.

“Lumb had to persist of having to run twice a week,” Johnson said.

“Pretty much the best race I could’ve run with the pace I ran.”

“Lumb has been a natural talent and prepared the appropriate gear to ensure their own safety,” Len Catsline said.

“Floyd’s a good thing that people are aware of these activities in the backcountry and they typically have access to better safety equipment and it’s become a cultural norm to go skiing at the Lululemon head-quarters on Cornwall Ave.

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