

WEDNESDAY

SHORT CUTS

Top stories in Burnaby this week.

NEWS

By Don Button

Ald. Doug Evans was appalled by the amount of refuse he found in Byrne Creek ravine, and neighbors will be surveyed by Douglas College on their attitude towards the ravine park (pg. 3).

A faulty timer very nearly caused a meltdown at a Burnaby bees wax factory Saturday afternoon (pg. 5).

Forest Grove residents will be asked to choose between two urban trail routes at public meetings in June (pg. 5).

Speeders beware: Police are cracking down (pg. 2).

CENTENNIAL

By Claudio D'Andrea

The big official Centennial opening weekend is less than two weeks away (pg. 3).

Pixie McGeachie writes about Burnaby's last big May celebration in 1927 (pg. 12).

ENTERTAINMENT

By Claudio D'Andrea

Wesburn Wranglers came away from a U.S. competition with several medals (pg. 15).

Young dancers Camilla Fishwick and Michael Davis reunite in *Coppelia* at James Cowan Theatre (pg. 15).

Burnaby Central alumni Murray Sawchuk, a magician, and Hairless Joe, a rock band, headline the school's talent show next week (pg. 16).

Maple Leaf Singers packed 'em in at Massey (pg. 19).

HOME & GARDEN

By Don Button

The News' Home Improvement supplement features a man and his tulips and tips for do-it-yourselfers (pgs. 39-46)

SPORTS

By Mike McQuillan

Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club once again came out on top. Spurred on by national champions Jeff Thue and Chris Wilson, local grapplers were named top club in Canada and helped B.C. win a national title last weekend at Simon Fraser University (pg. 33).

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Not so suite: Burnaby orders basement apartment filled in

By Guido Marziali
Staff Reporter

A so-called monster house on Portland St. is about to be cut down to size.

Burnaby staff intend to demand the removal of an illegal basement suite built over the past year, or if the owners fail to comply, to remove it themselves. The three-bedroom suite was excavated illegally from inside the house and increased total square footage to 4,800 square feet from 3,575.

Mayor Bill Copeland conceded Monday that the backfilling order is a drastic move, but plan-

ner Tony Parr replied the municipality could not ignore a complaint received by a neighbor, and the suite was obviously out of compliance.

Complicating the situation is that the house was put up for sale earlier this year, then withdrawn from the market when Burnaby responded to the complaint by registering the contravention on title. Any purchaser would be responsible for filling in the suite.

Owners Drago and Anita Sladich pleaded their case unsuccessfully before council Monday. They argued that the suite is for relatives and is not being rented.

"I know we broke the bylaws here, but I'm not the only one," Anita Sladich told *The News*

Tuesday. Excavated cellar suites are common, she said, but in other people's cases, "their neighbors haven't finked on them."

Sladich said she wanted to sell the house only because their neighbors have been cold or downright hostile.

"They're mostly older here, they've lived here all their lives, and I guess seeing this big house come up - they just didn't like it. They're judging us by our house, not as people. I don't know if it's jealousy ... they just don't leave you alone here."

The Sladichs will now consult with their lawyer. Anita Sladich says that if they can't keep the suite, they will definitely move.



Ang Gregson, the first female to qualify for the annual B.C. Chrysler Trouble Shooting contest, discusses a problem with teammate Damon Sturrock. Ten teams of high school auto mechanics gathered at Kensington Park Arena in Burnaby Friday to chase down mechanical flaws for points.

News photo by Marcus Oleniuk

BRENTWOOD TOWN CENTRE

High-density promoted in draft plan

By Guido Marziali
Staff Reporter

Brentwood Mall was once the largest in British Columbia, and now Burnaby councillors believe the town centre's rebirth is near.

Ald. Derek Corrigan told council Monday he believes a SkyTrain route through Brentwood is now being seriously considered by the provincial government. Corri-

gan has strong links to Victoria: he and other Burnaby councillors have been lobbying Finance Minister Glen Clark. They have argued that the long-term benefits to Burnaby and the eastern suburbs outweigh the project's cost, estimated to run to between \$600 and \$900 million.

To further the case, Burnaby is starting a review of Brentwood Town Centre to show Victoria how the municipality would place high density development along the SkyTrain route.

Ald. Doug Drummond said the vast areas of commercial and light industrial land south of Lougheed could be upzoned and redeveloped without major impact on residential neighborhoods.

"To me this is really a bonus. It allows much more growth."

Other tentative plans include apartment highrises and a park between Lougheed and Ridgeway Dr. Brochures explaining the draft have been mailed to residents, and open houses are planned.