

## More girls enroll in science courses

Nearly half of all students in Burnaby math, science and technology programs are girls

By Rob Gerein  
Staff Reporter

Efforts to encourage more female students to take traditionally male-dominated courses is paying off, according to a superintendent's report to Burnaby school trustees.

A survey shows 45 per cent of students now enrolled in math, science and technology programs at the senior secondary school level are female. Data was not available to make comparisons with past years.

As of Sept. 30, 1994, there were 3,354 males compared to 2,783 females enrolled in the 18 math, science and technology courses offered in grades 11 and 12 throughout Burnaby's public schools.

The two schools having most success are Burnaby South (880 boys to 812 girls) and Burnaby Central (429 boys to 393 girls). There are two science courses - Biology 11 and Biology 12 - with more females than males. Superintendent Elmer Froese said the issue are complex, "rooted in tradition, culture and sex role stereotypes, which must be addressed sensitively."

A major factor in the imbalance has been the lack of female teachers in the three programs at the secondary level. That's changing, said Froese.

More than 65 per cent of math and science teachers are male. The ratio dips drastically in technology education, however, where only two of 26 teachers are female.

Trustee Marilyn Rushton said she'd like to see more male teachers in elementary schools.

"More men should be encouraged to teach the little ones," she said. "When there's so many single moms, it would be good for some of our children to have a good male role model."



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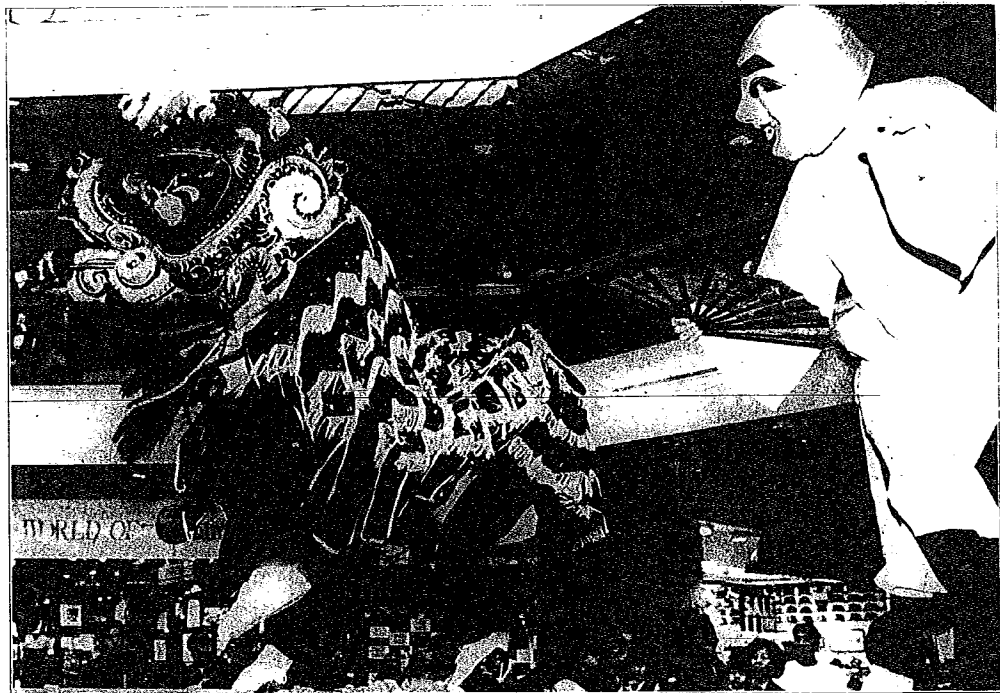


Photo by Brian Langdon

**GONG-HSI-FA-TSAI (HAPPY NEW YEAR):** Metrotown featured a Lion Dance Saturday as part of its Chinese New Year celebrations. Inside the lion are performers Diane Wong, Joe Wilson, Peter Knispel and Paul McCray of the Traditional Kung Fu Training Centre. For those who missed the event, Westminster Quay Public Market will hold the dance this Saturday, starting at 1:30 pm.

## TOWN CENTRE REMAKE

# Brentwood wants to be funky

By David Beattie  
Editor

First it was Edmonds. Now Brentwood, too, is in line for a makeover.

The forgotten child of Burnaby's four designated 'town centres,' - the others are Metrotown, Edmonds and Lougheed - Brentwood is the latest to dare to hope for a total remake.

A new plan based on public input is calling for the transformation of the area from a mishmash of carlots, strip malls, and stores randomly straddling the Lougheed Highway, to a cohesive town centre.

A similar plan for the rejuvenation of Edmonds was approved by council last September.

In the official terminology the planners want a Brentwood with 'village character especially, with regard to providing unifying, high vitality character, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes, boulevard humanizing elements, and lower-scaled building elements along local street frontages.'

The speed at which the plan progresses depends to large extent on whether or not SkyTrain or some other rapid transit is built along the Broadway-Lougheed corridor, as called for by Burnaby council.

That would increase property values sufficiently and bring enough population density to inspire property owners to invest in high-density redevelopment.

Even without rapid transit, however, councillors and planners are optimistic that just the continued rapid population growth of Greater Vancouver makes a new look Brentwood a good prospect.

At least one major land owner, according to council sources, is extremely keen to get cracking on the redevelopment. Woodlands

**Residents and merchants want Brentwood converted from land of strip malls and auto dealerships to pedestrian-friendly 'village' with 'high-vitality' street fronts**

Investments and Manulife lands, which hold some 20 acres between Beta and Delta avenues south of the Lougheed, is raring to go - SkyTrain or no SkyTrain.

None of three councillors interviewed Monday have any particular insight into how keen Brentwood Mall is to play its role in the grand design. The mall is supposed to change from a typical suburban mall surrounded by oceans of blacktop for parking, to a more urban mall surrounded by highrise

with its most recent upgrade and expansion.

Brentwood, he said Tuesday, is the least cohesive of Burnaby's four town centres. "It has not gelled in the way the others have," he declared, "the main thing is for an evolution from the low-intensity, industrial, car-dealership type of centre into a higher-density, residential centre with coffee shops, restaurants, green spaces, street trees and benches."

Rankin expects the transformation to take between 20 and 30 years.

Councillor Dan Johnston wants the intersection of Willingdon and Lougheed, the hub of the town, to become more 'user-friendly,' and the planners are examining how to tame the busy junction.

Johnston sees a strong desire by local residents to live in a more traditional town centre, offering more amenities.

Councillor Doreen Lawson is excited about the plan, which she sees as "an excellent opportunity to create a complete community."

There is an open house on the plan Thursday night, from 6:30 to 9 pm, at the BC Tel Education Centre, at 1795 Willingdon.

The Brentwood area is a 420-acre area bounded on the west by Gilmore Avenue, on the south by the CN/Burlington Northern rail line, on the east by Holdom Avenue and on the north by the edge of several single family, detached house neighborhoods - along Graveley, Brentlawn and Ridgeway drives, and Broadway.



Village character streetscape

towers - office and residential - and stores facing onto a pedestrian streetfront.

Councillor Lee Rankin says the mall lost much of its client base to competing malls some years ago, but has clawed itself back