By Steve Braverman
STEVE BRAVERMAN

Another obstacle has been placed on the tracks of the provincial government's SkyTrain extension project.

The owners of the Lonsdale Mall will press the SkyTrain planning process by refusing to sell the province a piece of land it needs for the proposed station near the east Burnaby shopping centre.

But a spokesperson for the Rapid Transit Project 2001 office says the province would simply acquire the property if it comes to that stage.

Rick Arbour, vice-president of Western Canada for 20V1C Management Inc., the management company of the mall, says the land will be withheld mainly because of the RTPO's choice for station location near the shopping centre.

"We don't agree with the planning and a combination of various additions to the site such as SkyTrain guideway construction and bus loop relocation," Arbour said. "A coordination of things means we can't use the site. They're designating our site."

The land in question is a triangular piece of property at the corner of Austin Road and Lonsdale Highway near Sears now being used for parking.

The RTPO chose this site for a SkyTrain station against the wishes of Lonsdale Mall as well as the cities.

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**RETAIL NEWS**

**BRANDI LASANER** of Burnaby was the winner of Charlie's Chocolate Factory $125.00 Chocolate Santa draw.

Brandi is a Grade 12 student at Cariboo Hill Secondary who is planning to go to Vanouver Community College to specialize in Hotel Administration.
Mayor offers to delay Lake City SkyTrain stop

By Steve Braverman

A group of concerned parents is saying 'no way' to a SkyTrain station at Lake City Way. In response to their complaints, Burnaby mayor Doug Drummond said he'd consider putting off the opening of a station at Lake City Way until 2005 if the provincial government brings SkyTrain directly into Lougheed Mall.

The way it stands now, a SkyTrain station will be built near Lougheed Mall at the corner of Austin Road and Lougheed Highway as well as Lake City Way.

Sonja Ross, whose two children attend Seaforth elementary, opposes the Lake City Way station because it's within 500 meters of the school. "We have an open field behind our school with a park area, and we feel that this attracts, of course, drug dealers," Ross said. "There is no precedent for an elementary school next to SkyTrain."

She also says the students will be negatively affected by the noise of trains starting and stopping all day long.

Ross and other parents are now petitioning the neighbourhood to delete the proposed station. The petition will be submitted to city council, which supports the Lake City Way station.

Drummond, Burnaby's representative on the TransLink board, said he'd look at constructing just the base for a SkyTrain station at Lake City Way on the condition that the current Lougheed Mall station location is reconsidered.

"I'm totally upset with the planning of SkyTrain in Burnaby," Drummond said. "I would consider not building the station at this time if the province rights a wrong with the location of a station in Lougheed Mall. Anybody you talk to in the city will say it's a monstrous mistake not to locate a station in the mall."

The Rapid Transit Project 2000 office, the arm of the provincial government for the SkyTrain extension project, pencilled in Lake City Way as the site for a future station in the original plan.

But the city of Burnaby pushed for a station to be built in the first phase of construction and received $14 million funding for it from TransLink, the regional authority on transportation.

Drummond maintains a SkyTrain stop is needed at Lake City Way where many new businesses including high tech companies are setting up shop. "A station there... will reduce the number of cars going to Lake City Way. That area is going through a metamorphosis," he said.

As for the crime, Drummond pointed out that the city of Burnaby has undertaken a number of anti-crime initiatives including participation in a multi-jurisdictional police task force.

He says the province is also looking to install turnstiles in SkyTrain stations as well as establish a new police force exclusively for SkyTrain.

Expropriation could resolve dispute

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