

Archival

IN TODAY'S NEWS

SPEED BUMP CITY

City hall gets fond of using speed bumps to discourage speeding and rat-running/3

MORE CHANGE

School supt. Elmer Froese talks about what's keeping him busy these days /4

Opinion /6 What's On /19-21
Letters /7 Sports /28-29
Entertainment/22 Auto /24-25
Community /12-18 Classifieds /30-38

The News

IN BURNABY

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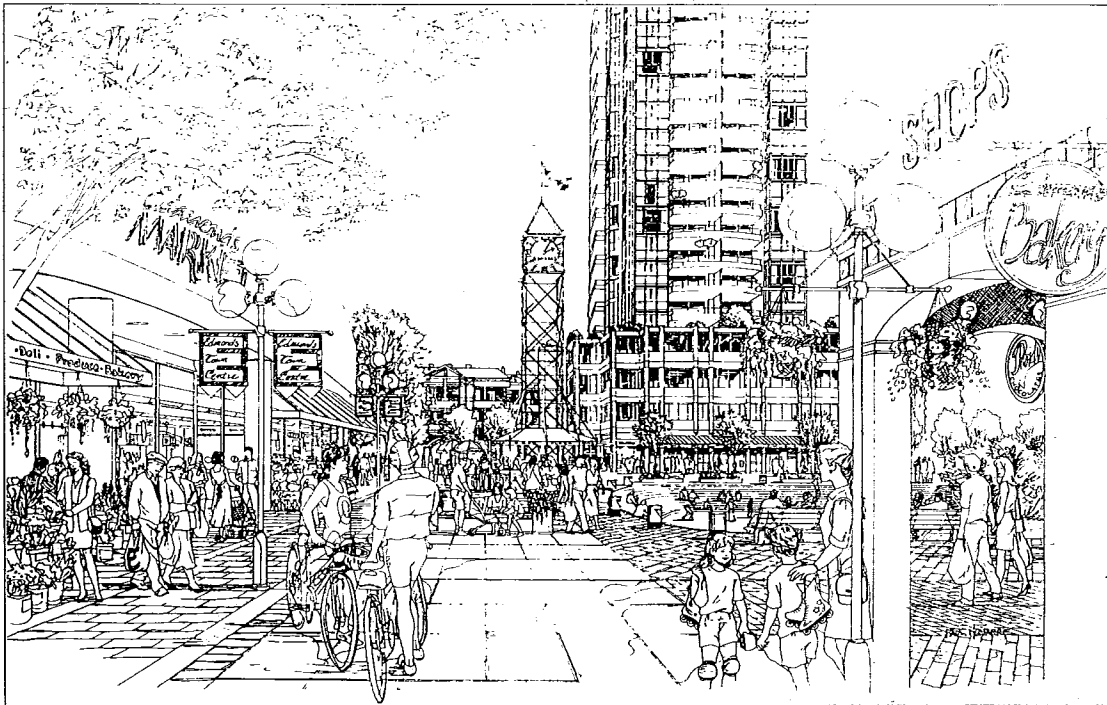
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METAMORPHOSIS



NEW LOOK MIDDLEGATE: The plan calls for more lowrise apartments than before, and conversion of industrial land to housing.

Edmonds wants to be funky

By Gareth Kirkby
Staff Reporter

A citizen-made development plan intended to create a virtually self-sufficient community in the south of Burnaby was approved by city council Monday.

The Edmonds town centre plan was put together in just over 17 months by local residents and city staff in an experiment intended to allow citizens to plan their own neighborhood. Once in place, the plan should allow citizens to work, live, shop and play in their own neighborhood and be able to do it without using a car. The final result won kudos when presented to council.

"It represents creativity or vision," said Coun. Doug Drummond. "It doesn't cause fear or negativity such as has happened

Community-developed plan for two town cores, higher-density housing, street cafes and bike paths

in the past when councils have had to shove development down people's throats." He predicted the neighborhood will develop a very specific identity, comparable to Queen's in New York.

Coun. Jim Young, who chairs the Edmonds area advisory committee that put the plan together said it will turn Edmonds "into one of the most desirable areas to work and live and socialize in Burnaby."

Highlights of the plan include:
• preservation of 77 acres of greenspace along Byrne Creek.
• an additional 1,400 apartment

units over previous plans for 3,300 units. High rises will be located near shopping and the SkyTrain.
• an increase in lowrise apartments and multi-unit lowrise housing from 6,500 to 9,500.
• eventual conversion of 75 acres of industrial land to multi-family units;

• an additional 170 single family infill lots added to the 340 anticipated in previous plans.
• the creation of two core areas: The Middlegate neighborhood and the Edmonds SkyTrain station. As well, the Edmonds-Kingsway area

will be made pedestrian friendly, with funky street cafes.

• extensive pedestrian and bicycle paths.

Mayor Bill Copeland says the Edmonds plan "has turned out so well we see it as a launching pad for a city-wide program. It is truly democracy at work.

The citizens were architects of their own destiny." Copeland originally recommended the citizen-controlled process after examining similar projects in Seattle, Portland and St. Paul's.

But Coun. Young cautioned against quickly duplicating the process. The Edmonds plan involved a great deal of staff and councillor time and council should "look long and hard at our resource base" before launching the idea in other neighborhoods.

BURNABY HOSPITAL

\$1.5 million not good enough, says president

By Gareth Kirkby
Staff Reporter

Thank you very much, but it won't solve our problem.

That's the message from Burnaby Hospital, which received a one-time grant of \$1.5 million from Victoria Monday.

To seriously solve its financial crunch, the hospital needed a permanent increase to its base budget, says president Norm Barth. "Next year we won't have it, and I suppose we will have to make our arguments with our friends in Victoria again."

Board chair Bob Moulds added: "It's a partial solution and a short-term solution." Moulds points to recent audits by the province and an independent consultant which he says both concluded the hospital is already "very efficient compared to other hospitals."

A media release quotes provincial health minister Paul Ramsey as saying his \$50 million pot of one-time only grants — from which the Burnaby grant comes — is intended to "help alleviate pressure for hospitals under duress, while they work to balance their budgets and improve efficiencies."

Moulds says the hospital will have great difficulty balancing the budget as long as the province does not allow all services to be billed to the health plan.



BARTH

As well, the hospital is paying \$500,000 in labor costs to support 22 people transferred from the closed Shaughnessy Hospital because of a contract between the province and workers. Though the hospital has to pay full salary — without compensation from the province — there are no jobs for those workers within the hospital, says Moulds.

Widower drops battle against medical

By Sean Feely
News Contributor

A Burnaby widower dropped his lawsuit of negligence against the B.C. Cancer Agency last week.

Harold Chisamore was in the second week of his legal battle against four agency doctors, the city of Burnaby and two Burnaby

Westminster supreme court. He had been unable to arrange the appearance of an expert witness from the U.S.

Lawyers for the defendants in return agreed not to seek payment of legal costs from Chisamore. Those costs were estimated at \$75,000 for the trial, originally scheduled to run for three weeks.

Chisamore also agreed that he would re-

tion treatment by the B.C. Cancer Agency killed his common-law wife, Marely McRae. He said McRae had received 19 "fatal" doses of radiation after being successfully treated for bowel cancer.

In addition, he alleged treatment by the Burnaby general hospital and local home-care nurses was negligent and insufficient.

However, Chisamore decided he would