

BURNABY Newsleader

Circulation: 941-6397 Office: 438-6397 Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1999

SkyTrain leaves no room for Sears: mall

Proposed Lougheed SkyTrain station will make the Sears site 'useless,' mall management says

By Mike McQuillan
NewsLeader Staff

The proposed Lougheed SkyTrain station will force the Sears outlet store to find a new location.

Rick Armour, with Lougheed Mall's management company, said the mall has stopped negotiating with the Rapid Transit Project Office (RTPO) because it would lead to Sears having to close its doors. The proposed sta-

tion and bus loop, located on the north side of Lougheed Highway and straddling Austin Avenue, would reduce the store's parking lot so much that Sears will no longer be able to conduct business, said Armour. He also noted the space would be unusable for future tenants.

"We've chosen not to negotiate with RTPO. We consider the plan that cur-

rently exists is not a good plan," said Armour. "It's detrimental to our site, across the street at the Sears site. There's nothing to negotiate. The only thing to negotiate is the demise of my tenant over there."

"Our position is that the combination of the use of the site for a bus loop, the extension of Government [Street] and the SkyTrain station,

leaves us with a site that is largely useless to us," he added.

Armour said the owners of Lougheed Mall and the Sears site, Ontario Pension Board Realty, will not sell the land to the province so the SkyTrain line and station can be built there. Instead, they have chosen to fight the province when it begins the

CONTINUED PAGE 2 - SEE ROOM

Christmas light display a gift from the heart

It started out as a simple light display but because Florence Chandra became obsessed with making it perfect, it became the Winter Wonder of Woodhurst.

With the help of boyfriend Dave Bourgeois and other family and friends, the Burnaby woman created a Christmas light display that features precisely 11,684 lights.

The spectacle can be seen at 7897 Woodhurst Drive.

Chandra took time off work and spent 12-to-18 hours per day labouring over her lights. She began preparing the project in October as a way of honouring her father Michael and raising awareness for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

The icicle display alone took three weeks to complete.

"It was all worth it," Chandra said. "I'd never done lights before - it was always something my parents did when I was younger. And when I grew up the party was always at

someone else's house. When we finally had everything in place I was like: "Oh my god! It actually turned out. It's very pretty."

Both Michael Chandra and Florence's brother Francis suffer from diabetes type II. Michael Chandra was also diagnosed with kidney failure two years ago and is currently on the waiting list to have a kidney transplant.

"He didn't really know why this was going on until just a few days ago when he saw the Canadian Diabetes Association banner being put up. Beforehand he was just overwhelmed watching (Dave and I) working on his house and garden, thinking we were crazy," Florence Chandra said. "When it was all done he thought it was great."

So too must have B.C. Hydro. Chandra has placed a donation box in front of the house for anyone wishing to make a contribution to the diabetes association.



Photo by Mario Barteil

Florence Chandra spent many hours decorating her family's home on Woodhurst Dr., as a tribute to her father, Mike, who's had diabetes for more than 20 years.

DEMO SALE EVERYTHING! NO GST!

Serta & Simmons MATTRESS

GANWOOD QUALITY SOLID WOOD

FUTON WAREHOUSE 421-8964

#108-4501 North Rd., Bly

Five arrested in foiled kidnapping

A Burnaby man is safe after being kidnapped and held for two days. Police have arrested five suspects and charged them with kidnapping and extortion.

Investigators say the man was taken from his 5000-block Carson Street home Saturday night when three men burst into the residence armed with a machete.

The 18-year-old man was blindfolded, forced into the truck of his mother's lux-

ury automobile, and driven to a Vancouver residence.

The man was held for two days while his life was threatened. The kidnappers demanded more than \$225,000 for his safe return.

On Monday afternoon, the victim convinced his capturers to take him to his bank at Metrotown Mall where he would be able to obtain the ransom. Burnaby RCMP were alerted once the man and his

two kidnappers entered the bank. The suspects were then arrested in the mall's parking lot.

Further investigation led police to a home in the 1900-block of East 2nd Avenue where the man had been held. With the assistance of the Vancouver emergency response team, RCMP arrested two more suspects.

A fifth suspect was taken into custody Tuesday afternoon.

Antique and Old House Resource Shoppe

MOORE PAINTS

A STRIKE OF RESILIENCE

The Best in Paint & Service!

700-12th St. New Westminster

521-5209

Thieves steal Christmas dinners

Food hampers destined for needy families is stolen before it can be delivered

By Janis Cleugh
MetroValley News Service

Thieves stole the Christmas spirit last week when they pinched hampers from local families in need.

The hampers were stored in two trucks parked outside the Burquitlam Lions' warehouse on Schoolhouse Street.

Lions members and volunteers had been sorting through the wares all last week to deliver boxes to 1,100 families in Coquitlam, Burnaby and New Westminster.

But culprits pried their way into the ve-

hicles Thursday night - depriving 20 families of their Christmas meal.

"Obviously, someone's eating very well," Lions member Larry Fleming said. "I guess we made a mistake because the trucks weren't right up against the building."

"There was still some room for them to get the boxes out. I don't know how they did it," he said.

As well, the crooks broke a window to one of the trucks to swipe an emergency radio. Fleming believes at least three people were involved in the operation, and were monitoring the site while trucks of food were moving in and out last week.

It is the first time in 30 years that the Burquitlam Lions' hamper project has been targeted. Fortunately, the Lions' had enough money to buy more food.

"That's \$2,000 that could've gone to

somebody else," Fleming said. "We worked all year for this. It's terrible something like this has to happen before Christmas."

Safeway vouchers were also passed out to needy families by the benevolent local group.

Wendie Macrae, spokesperson for SHARE, the agency which controls the food bank, praised the Burquitlam Lions for supplying the cash, however, she said SHARE would have stepped in with more hampers for the 20 families if the Lions hadn't. "They purchased extra food so that the families wouldn't do without," Macrae said. "It's really a tragic event that this has to occur but we are living in a time when these types of things happen."

Anyone with information on the missing hampers is urged to call Cpl. Jeff Ketola at Coquitlam RCMP at 945-1550.

SkyTrain leaves no room: mall

CONTINUED FROM FRONT
process of expropriating the land.

The mall owners, the cities of Burnaby and Coquitlam and residents want the station to be located where the mall's bus loop currently sits. According to TransLink, that location was abandoned because the mall's two-storey parking lot would have to be relocated at a cost of more than \$20 million.

Christy Clark, MLA for the local provincial riding, believes the RTPO probably didn't negotiate in good faith with the mall.

"If the land owner wants it there, the city

and the public want it there, why wouldn't the government put it there? The police even want it there. It's really hard to fathom how incompetent the RTPO has been on this," said Clark.

"There seems to be this view from the government that they're going to do this for the people, its going to be good for the people whether they like it or not," added the Liberal MLA. "Citizens should be guiding government, not the other way around."

Members of the Lougheed Area Resident's Association still hope to change

the province's mind on the station location, even though SkyTrain line construction has already begun on either side of the site. Jim Fraser from LARA said the group has met with various levels of government, hoping to have their message heard.

Fraser said some members of LARA believe civil disobedience is the only option left for them to stop construction. "We hope it doesn't come to that," he said.

Paul Skelthorne, with RTPO, said some contracts for the station had already been let. The RTPO still plans to hold a public meeting on the station's design.



Acupuncture Medical Clinic


- Painful Menstruation • Back Pain
- Knee Pain • Stop Smoking • Shoulder Pain/Stress
- Stiff Neck • Lower Back Pain • Migraine Headache
- Allergies • Traffic Accident

DRUG FREE!

#402 - 4538 Kingsway, Burnaby 431-9043
Center of Willingdon and Kingsway
(Take elevator at entrance to new HSBC Bank at the Crystal)
OPEN: MONDAY-FRIDAY 10am-6pm • SATURDAY 10am-3pm


FREE
WITH THIS AD

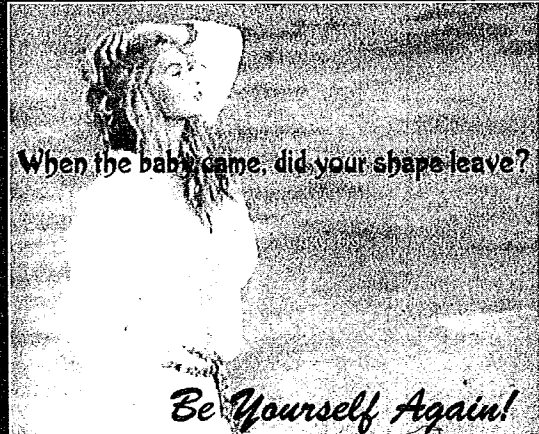
Christmas Gifts for a Lifetime



(Free appraisal with purchase)

CHRISTMAS HOURS:
Mon. Dec. 20 - Fri. Dec. 24 10am-6pm

 **Trio Diamond & Gold Jewellery**
4669 Kingsway, Burnaby **437-0318**




When the baby came, did your shape leave?

Be Yourself Again!

Breast and Abdominal Restoration

Dr. Ross C. Horton, Inc.
Cosmetic, Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgery
#505 - 4885 Kingsway, Burnaby 435-8483

Metrotown Surgical Centre
A Private Surgical Facility with General Anesthesia
#503 - 4885 Kingsway, Burnaby 435-8410



EXTRA eyewear

\$88
Complete Pair
of Eyeglasses

40% OFF
Frames & Lenses

50% OFF
ALL SUNGLASSES
Without Exceptions

Buy 1 PAIR EYEGLASSES
at the regular price and
get 1 PAIR SUNGLASSES
FREE

PLEASE ASK FOR MORE DETAILS.

EXTRA eyewear **\$10 OFF**
in addition to any discount
Upon purchase of \$50 or more

EXTRA eyewear **CRYSTAL SQUARE** Ground floor
1615 - 4500 Kingsway (at Willingdon)
Burnaby • Tel 433-2233