

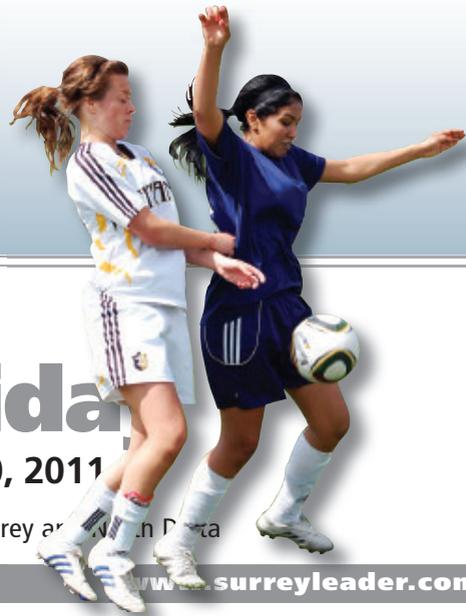


Classic cars in Newton

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Soccer squads in provincial play

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All packaging, printed materials to be collected within 18 months

Blue box recycling in for a big shake-up

by Jeff Nagel

BIG CHANGES may be on the horizon for blue box recycling as we know it.

The provincial government has given an industry group of producers and retailers 18 months to design a plan to collect all packaging and printed materials from consumers.

The new extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiative will bring recycling to cardboard/plastic packaging in stores, restaurant take-out containers, disposable cups and even typically discarded items like candy wrappers and cigarette packages by May of 2014.

The move should go far to plug some remaining holes in B.C.'s recycling system while spurring businesses – which will bear the costs – to design their packaging with the environment in mind.

But it also shifts responsibility for collecting newspapers, cans, bottles and everything else that now goes into municipal blue boxes onto product producers.

That means a potential loss of control for cities used to running local recycling programs.

Metro Vancouver officials say they hope something like blue box curbside pick-up continues.

“Most municipalities are really keen that there be a high level of service,” Metro planning manager Ken Carrusca said. “The fact it’s convenient and easy for residents means there’s a high participation rate.”

But advocates say it’s conceivable the industry stewardship group might reject curbside pick-up and force residents to instead take recyclables to depots instead.

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Ken Carrusca



BOAZ JOSEPH / THE LEADER

Katie Botica, 9, goes up in the wind tunnel for her birthday with Fly Zone Bodyflight operations manager Shane Tully.

Daredevils take flight in Delta

Safe soaring fun available at Canada's only portable wind tunnel

by Kristine Salzmann

WHEN AUTHOR Douglas Adams quipped that the knack to flying is to throw yourself at the ground and miss, he hadn't seen the Fly Zone Bodyflight's wind tunnel.

The Fly Zone offers a controlled environment where people of almost any age can soar without the fear of stepping out of a plane or diving off a high platform.

The facility opened in Tilbury last winter.

Participants are suited up in a body suit, helmet, and ear plugs – the wind tunnel is loud – before watching a trained instructor demonstrate the proper position to start their flight.

One at a time, they lay on the perforated floor of the acrylic tube with arms spread and legs back and out. As the rush of wind and noise increases they are lifted into the air and quickly realize there is more to maintaining balance and control than meets the eye. A trainer stays on hand in the wind tunnel to ensure the participants stay steady – grins plaster most faces that are pushed wider by the force of the airstream.

Owner Peter Zaoralek calls the experience “exhilarating,” and has wanted to bring the activity to all ages since seeing a wind tunnel 12 years ago in Europe.

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Fly Zone: Not just for skydivers

From page 1

"At the time there were only a few wind tunnels in the world, and many of them were indoors," he says, adding most were originally designed to train skydivers.

Since then he has visited 13 other wind tunnels to learn about the technology. His portable, outdoor wind tunnel is the only one of its kind in Canada, he says.

Most of his staff are avid skydivers, although he is not.

"I'm someone who's looking at it from a different perspective, looking at it from the fact that we can bring the sport to all age groups from five-years-old and up."

While it's safe enough for an adventurous five-year-old, the company says it will work all your muscle

groups, particularly your core.

"It's low impact, it's a lot of fun, and you'll feel it tomorrow – it's like a full cardio workout," says Zaoralek.

Fly Zone plans to take the equipment to large events, a few to be announced

"It's low impact, it's a lot of fun, and you'll feel it tomorrow – it's like a full cardio workout."

Peter Zaoralek

soon, he says.

"We're also looking at building a second machine just for the events side, we can keep the other one here in Vancouver."

While the Fly Zone hasn't been open long, Zaoralek says response has been huge due to advertising – they are often booked weeks or months ahead.

He said he chose the Tilbury location, not far east of Deas Island Regional Park, because it's close to his manufacturing suppliers.

"We're looking at manufacturing these for international sale, so a lot of my suppliers are in the Tilbury area and Richmond."

For more information visit www.flyzone.ca



On the run for Special Olympics

Members of the local law enforcement community participate in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run along King George Boulevard Tuesday afternoon. The event, which raises money for Special Olympics B.C., involved about 600 law enforcement members across the province who ran in their local communities.

EVAN SEAL / THE LEADER

Mayors crank up the heat on medical marijuana

Federal lobby group wants Health Canada to require local permits

by Kevin Diakiw

A FEDERAL lobby group will press Health Canada to better regulate the production of medical marijuana.

Since 2003, people with certain medical conditions – such as glaucoma, spinal cord injury, pain or nausea from cancer or HIV and epileptic seizures – have been allowed to use marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Others, who obtained federal licences, have been allowed to grow pot in their home to supply it to those who need it for medical reasons.

The City of Surrey forwarded a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) this month asking Health Canada to require applicants for growing medical pot to first obtain municipal permits.

Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts said Tuesday the initiative was passed both by the Big City Mayors Conference and the FCM.

"We're not debating anything other than if you have a licence, make sure that it's safe, and it's grown in a safe way... and in a safe area," Watts said.

The passage of the FCM resolution comes days after the City of Surrey endorsed the creation of a bylaw requiring municipal permits for those grow-

ing or using medical marijuana.

And those who grow it will have to do so in agriculturally zoned areas.

Critics have said Surrey has no business prying into the private medical business of people using a federally sanctioned drug.

Watts said it's got nothing to do with identifying users.

"We don't care who's using it," Watts said. "I don't want to know who's smoking it. I don't care if you're smoking it."

The FCM resolution and the upcoming Surrey bylaw are about making neighbourhoods safer, Watts said.

Critics of the city's position also say Surrey has enough bad guys to chase without worrying about legitimate marijuana users.

"We can't differentiate right now (between licensed and illegal grows)," Watts said. "So we're wasting a lot of police resources because we don't know that they've got a licence."

Watts said that ultimately it would be better if Health Canada grew the marijuana at their own facilities and distributed it through pharmacies, just like any other drug.

Watts said it's her understanding Health Canada has some answers to the cities' concerns that will be introduced soon.

"I don't want to know who's smoking it. I don't care if you're smoking it."

Mayor Dianne Watts



Bedouin Soundclash is among the live entertainment at this year's Fusion Festival, which takes place in Holland Park July 16-17.

Stage is set for Fusion Festival

Bedouin Soundclash, Jay Sean headlining

by Sheila Reynolds

LAST YEAR, more than 90,000 people partied at the Surrey Fusion Festival.

And with this year's entertainment line-up, there's bound to be at least that many filling Holland Park for the two-day multicultural celebration.

The city has announced it is bringing the award-winning group Bedouin Soundclash, as well as British pop star Jay Sean, to stage.

Bedouin Soundclash are known for their upbeat hits When The Night Feels My Song and Walls Fall Down,

while Jay Sean has exploded on the music scene with top-10 tracks Do You Remember and Down.

As in past years, the Fusion Festival, which takes place July 16-17, will also feature pavilions representing more than 30 cultures which will offer a variety of food, costume, dance and music.

"Fusion Festival is a unique event that celebrates Surrey's cultural diversity, we are pleased that Surrey plays host to B.C.'s largest multicultural festival," said Coun. Barinder Rasode, chair of Surrey's Multicultural

Advisory Committee. "While we enjoy diverse food and world class entertainment we are celebrating that we are all more similar than different."

The festivities kick off July 16 with a Kla-How-Eya pow-wow and then several stages will open with cultural drummers, dancers, musicians and singers.

Other performers over the weekend will include Bombino, Raghav, Leela Gilday, Babe Gurr, Mojo Zydeco, Kytami, Jordan Cook and many more.

Visit www.surrey.ca/fusionfestival for further details.