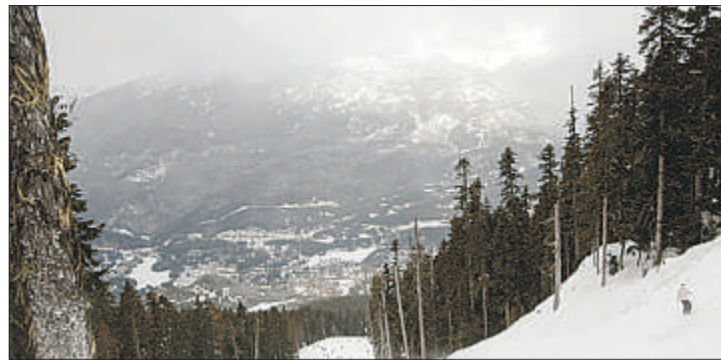


INSIDE

BRUSH WITH DEATH

The 21-year-old snowboarder who survived a 75-metre plunge off a Whistler cliff has a 'very adventurous streak,' his mother says. **Story B2**



TREE CHIP

Want to know how to get rid of that tinder-dry Christmas tree? **Story B2**



THE VANCOUVER SUN

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POLICE PARK GANGSTER'S 'TANK' | B4

FINAL EDITION EDITOR PAUL BUCCI 604-605-2445 • THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008 • E-mail pbucci@png.canwest.com

Air Canada hangar houses Challenger map of B.C.

Mapping a future for a B.C. icon

BY KELLY SINOSKI
VANCOUVER SUN

VANCOUVER | Some of them are too young to have even heard of the Challenger map, but B.C. schoolchildren will be called on to help piece the world's largest relief map back together again.

Once the pride of the PNE's B.C. Pavilion before it was dismantled in 1997 and stuck in storage, the 24- by 23-metre topographical map last week found a new rent-free temporary home at an Air Canada hangar.

Now efforts are about to begin to restore the 196-piece wooden map to its former glory in hopes it can become the "masterpiece" of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

"What we're doing is repainting it and taking it into the 21st century with special effects," said Alan Clapp, best known for helping in the development of Granville Island.

"It's like putting a jigsaw puzzle back together. We want British Columbians to be part of redoing the map. Once it's repainted it'll look like a jewel."

Clapp said schoolchildren will be a big factor in the restoration of the piece of folk art that took mining and forestry millionaire George Challenger seven years to build. It was finished in 1952.

He is also appealing to business people to donate \$2,500 toward the restoration. In exchange, they will become guardians of a piece of the map, which will highlight B.C.'s dormant volcanoes, beetle infestation zones and



COURTESY KEITH NEVILLE-SMITH

Worker checks out chunk of map as it is moved into a temporary home (above) at an Air Canada hangar; it took a tractor-trailer unit to move the huge masterpiece.



weather patterns along with its mountains, valleys and rivers.

Cleaning and restoring the map is expected to cost about \$250,000, he said.

He also envisions a high-tech display that will link visitors to the province's attractions such as waterslides and

business opportunities.

The map has been in storage for the past decade at a Bekins warehouse in Richmond. Bekins has forgiven the Challenger Map Foundation more than \$150,000 in unpaid storage fees.

"To think one man and his wife built this, it's just a mira-

cle," Clapp said.

"It's so accurate. All the elevations are right on."

Putting the map back together is a first step in the continuing battle to find it a permanent home, Clapp said.

See **CLAPP WANTS** B4

Real estate value jumps \$110 billion

B.C. | Province's assessments increase by 16 per cent to top \$940 billion

BY DERRICK PENNER
VANCOUVER SUN

Another record year of construction and continued high demand for property in 2007 pumped up the assessed value of B.C.'s real estate by 16 per cent to top \$940 billion, the B.C. Assessment Authority says.

BC Assessment mailed out property assessments to property owners Dec. 31, and on Wednesday released several reports on property values around the province.

BC Assessment said new construction accounted for some \$21.6 billion of the increase, and the authority added 36,905 properties to B.C.'s property rolls, which now total 1.82 million

addresses.

That means most of the increase in provincial property values, some \$110 billion, represents inflation in real estate markets that have risen for the last seven years.

"Obviously we've had strong economic growth so we continue to see fairly strong growth in pretty well all aspects of real estate markets across the province," Mark Katz, area assessor for the South Fraser region in the Lower Mainland, said Wednesday.

Across the Lower Mainland, Katz said property assessment increases in the range of 10 to 20 per cent were not uncommon.

See **B.C. BOASTS** B3

Petition demands second Pickton trial

Relatives of 20 missing women among first 200 signatures on online appeal to Oppal

BY LORI CULBERT
VANCOUVER SUN

VANCOUVER | An online petition is demanding B.C.'s Crown prosecutors go ahead with a second trial against Robert (Willie) Pickton to determine whether the convicted serial killer murdered another 20 women.

Relatives of some of the 20 women started the new year by signing the petition, posted Jan. 1 by an Ottawa resident who closely watched Pickton's first trial, which ended last month with six second-degree murder convictions.

"I feel it's extremely important that they go ahead with the second trial," Lilliane Beaudoin, sister of Dianne Rock, said in an interview from her home in Welland, Ont.

"We need justice too. This is my sister. We need someone to be held accountable."

Beaudoin, her husband and her mother all signed the petition, which by its second day had about 200 signatures.

The former Port Coquitlam pig farmer was charged with killing 26 women who disappeared from the Downtown Eastside.

A Supreme Court judge split his charges into two trials, fearing one mega-trial would be too difficult for a single jury.

See **VICTIM'S MOTHER** B4

Criminal legal system being asked to provide what it can't



IAN MULGREW
VANCOUVER SUN
COLUMNIST

Community court opening this year is needed because social net is so frayed

B.C. Attorney-General Wally Oppal in his year-end interviews emphasized the need for reform and change to the legal system.

Many judges, some his former benchmates, say they agree wholeheartedly.

Lawyers, well, you'll always find one to argue the contrary, but the bar also appears in favour

of moving down the same path. Yet, progress is slow to nonexistent.

Why? For nearly a decade now, for instance, the need to integrate social services with the legal system has been obvious.

Other problems are equally apparent — from the high cost of legal services to archaic process rules.

Yet, concrete solutions remain elusive. Sure, improving any institution is like turning an ocean liner; it takes time.

But in this case, help appears to be arriving more than a little late.

Consider that this year — in 2008! — we will inaugurate Vancouver's first true "community court." It is essentially a pilot pro-

gram of quickstep proceedings for nuisance inner-city offenders who pose little risk of violence.

Why has it taken so long to establish this much-needed project? And why will it deal only with those crimes committed on the downtown peninsula west of Clark Drive?

One of the biggest concerns in the criminal system for more than a decade has been repeat offenders — often addicted and

usually homeless — who commit petty offences. It is positively medieval to imprison them and you can't sentence them to house arrest since they have no address, so what do you do?

The Street Crime Working Group, a blue-ribbon committee of legal stakeholders, confirmed this epidemic in its September 2005 report.

See **OFFENDERS SAP** B4

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