

local news IN BRIEF

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- 24 hours news services

Safety in the pool

Wake up, parents: A life-jacket and swimming lessons aren't enough to keep your kids safe around the water this summer, says Safe Kids Canada.

Drowning is the second-leading, injury-related cause of death for Canadian kids under age 14. Each year, about 58 kids die by drowning and 140 more are hospitalized after a near-drowning incident.

And, as backyard and community pools open for the season and B.C.'s lakes slowly warm to swimming temperatures, a Safe Kids Canada-commissioned survey has found many Canadian parents are clueless when it comes to water safety.

While swimming lessons are a great idea, 86 per cent of parents think that's enough to keep their kids from drowning and one third leave their kids unattended if they've taken lessons, said safety advocates.

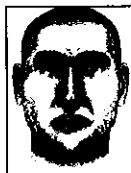
What's more: One third of parents said they would hear splashing, crying and screaming if their child was drowning, but most kids slip quietly underwater before anyone notices.

- Robyn Stubbs, 24 hours

Did you know him?

Police released a sketch of a 2006 homicide victim, found dead in the waters near UBC.

The male body was found on the shore of Tower Beach Oct. 6, 2006 but despite a lengthy investigation and autopsy, homicide investigators still don't know who the victim is.



victim

No further details about the victim are being released because police want people to focus on the sketch.

Anyone with information about the victim is asked to call RCMP at 1-877-543-9217 and quote file 2006-126074.

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- Carmine Marinelli, 24 hours

Rick Hansen meets with Bell employees and executives to Launch a Foundation Partnership and support for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Hansen connects with Bell

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Hansen joined Bell yesterday to help make its sponsorship of the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities.

Hansen is no stranger to the Winter Olympics. He carried the Olympic torch in Calgary's McMahon Stadium at the 1988 Winter Games' opening ceremony.

"One of those highlight moments that you never forget," Hansen said.

"Ken Read came up and passed the flame. Just to touch it was part of most Canadians' aspirations."

Wheelchair-bound Hansen rolled 40,000 kilometres through 34 countries on four continents from March 21, 1985 to May 22, 1987. He raised \$26.1 million for spinal cord research and rehabilitation, as well as wheelchair sports. He also lobbied for universal access for people with disabilities.

The Vancouver Paralympics' March 21, 2010 closing coincides with the 25th anniversary of Hansen's Man in Motion World Tour departure from Oakridge Mall.

- Bob Mackin, 24 hours

Dobell tagged a lobbyist

Ken Dobell, the premier's chief advisor, may like to think of himself as a "content consultant" rather than a lobbyist when talking to the Campbell administration on behalf of the City of Vancouver.

But, according to a report released yesterday by the province's freedom of information and privacy commissioner, he undertook and performed consulting services for the City that constitute lobbying within the meaning of the Lobbyists Registration Act.

The report also found Dobell didn't sign-up with the government's lobbyist registry "within 10 days" after he undertook government relations work for the city, as required by the Act.

Asked whether Dobell would be subject to a fine for the alleged violation - which could mean a slap of up to \$25,000 - Premier Gordon Campbell said, "It's something that will be decided by Crown counsel."

But there was some good news for Dobell in the commissioner's report. David Loukidelis stated "there was in my view no indication by the City or Mr. Dobell to 'hide' his 'advisory roles for the City' nor were they hidden."

- Sean Holman, 24 hours

Pitch for youth to start on world soccer stage

Want your child to walk out onto the pitch with some of the world's best young soccer players?

SOS Children's Villages are currently accepting nominations of B.C. children to be part of match-opening ceremonies for the upcoming FIFA U-20 World Cup.

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by Canada, with Vancouver and Victoria playing several games.

Eligible children are 10 years old, nominated at the *LetsPlayLetsBuild* before June 1.

Randomly picked children will then have the chance to become the country's captain of the pitch to kick off the local match.

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- Rob Kruyt, 24 hours

Christoph Benjamin Kruyt, 8 lbs, 4 oz, was born to 24 hours' photographer Rob Kruyt and his partner Seana Buchanan.

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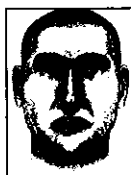
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