

Trustees vote themselves raises

Double-digit raises for school board as it cuts district budget by \$4.4 million

By **DON PLANT**
The Daily Courier

Despite district-wide cutbacks, the chair and vice-chairs of the local school board voted themselves higher raises than previously reported.

The board approved boosting trustee salaries to \$17,261 from \$15,204 (13.5 per cent) at the board's annual general meeting in December. District staff had recommended a two-per-cent raise for all board

positions. Board members also supported jacking up the vice-chair's annual pay to \$18,135 from \$15,812 (14.7 per cent). The position is shared by trustees Rolli Cacchioni and Anna Hunt-Binkley.

Board chairwoman Moyra Baxter received the biggest raise. She now collects \$19,461 — an 18.5 per cent hike from \$16,420 last year.

This newspaper originally reported an across-the-board raise of 13.5 per cent. Trustee Gail Scanlon, who proposed the salary increases, said the vice chair and chair got greater raises proportionally because they have "more responsibility."

Scanlon examined six other B.C. school districts with similar numbers of students to calculate the new salaries. Three of the districts had slightly high-

er enrolments (Richmond, Burnaby and Coquitlam) and three slightly lower (Victoria, Langley and Abbotsford).

"I averaged them out. I took what the numbers were for other districts and came up with a formula for our district," Scanlon said.

Baxter was unavailable for comment Wednesday. Secretary-Treasurer Larry Paul agreed the chair and vice-chair have more responsibility and activities to juggle.

"The chair does attend a lot more meetings than trustees, and the vice-chair somewhat more," he said.

Trustee Shelly Nicholl was the only board member to vote against the raises.

Civic awards

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Skier Steve Omischl is the male athlete of the year. He won his third World Cup men's overall aerials title and became the first person to perform a quadruple twisting triple back-flip with two twists on the last flip.

Wendy McCracken was singled out for the city's arts award. She volunteered more than 2,000 hours in the arts last year, devoting time to the Okanagan Symphony, the local arts council, Okanagan Arts magazine and other projects.

Chad Abrahamson earned the nod in the teenage arts category. Now 18, he has sung, acted and danced in 16 musicals. He led music and drama workshops in Sandspit and sings with two local choirs. Lukas Bonnett won the Augie Ciancone Memorial Award (male). He's been captain or co-captain of the rugby, basketball and volleyball teams, plays football and placed second in the Valley in the hammer throw and triple jump.

Danielle Hennig won the female award. A straight-A student, she was captain of her school's field-hockey team and was offered a university scholarship in Grade 11. She worked for two weeks with Sudanese refugees in Egypt.

Garth Vickers scooped the Bob Giordano Memorial Award. A high-school teacher, he has coached special-needs kids in numerous sports and is head coach of the B.C.'s special-Olympics cross-country team.

Clarence Johnson won the Anita Tozer Memorial Award. He drives the city's float in parades around the province and has helped garner seven first-place ribbons.

Kelly Scott's world-champion rink won the World Women's Championships in curling last year and is now working toward the 2010 Olympics. The team won the Bryan Couling Memorial Athletic award.

The Central Okanagan Hospice Association was honoured for its work to build the hospice. And the Scotiabank Group won the Corporate Community of the Year award.



Architect's drawing

The Aqua project proposed for Lakeshore Road could link a new beach to the Mission Creek Greenway.

Mission development could create new public beach

By Daily Courier Staff

People using the Mission Creek Greenway could one day walk directly onto a new public beach at Okanagan Lake.

The Aqua waterfront development proposal, which includes 430 residences, was recommended for approval this week by members of the city's advisory planning commission.

"I think the idea of providing a direct link from the end of the Greenway to a new beach is just great," commission chairman Rolli Cacchioni said Wednesday.

Currently, the Greenway, a popular recreational corridor, dead-ends

at Lakeshore Road, a few hundred metres from Okanagan Lake.

Aqua would cover more than six acres immediately south of the Eldorado Hotel. Plans show towers of 19, 17 and 15 storeys, as well as a number of smaller buildings.

As well as the public access from the end of the Greenway to the lake, there would be a 400-foot long public beach, pier, slips for day moorage, restaurant and spa.

"We're very pleased with the APC's support," said Randy Shier, president of the development firm, Mission Group. "We think this is a unique, exciting project that will be the talk of Kelowna's waterfront."

There is some concern, however,

about whether infrastructure in the area can support the project.

Last year, city staff recommended that no new major developments within the KLO-South Pandosy neighborhood be approved, pending a comprehensive review of the ability of roads, sewer and water lines to service such projects.

However, developers can still try to have city council approve their projects, making the case that the development cost charges they pay and other improvements will provide adequate servicing to their projects.

The APC's support is a recommendation only. City council is expected to consider by July whether to formally approve the project.

RELIGION

Churches team up for Missions Now events next week

By **DARREN HANDSCHUH**
The Daily Courier

When most people think of a missionary, they envision someone travelling to developing countries and preaching the word of God.

While this is true in some cases, a week-long mission event in Kelowna will show people how they can also be a missionary in their own backyard.

Missions Now kicks off Sunday at Trinity Baptist Church, 1905 Springfield Rd., with music by Christian band Starfield.

David Nasser, who escaped Iran with his family in 1979 during the revolution, will be the featured speaker. The event starts at 6 p.m. with Starfield taking to the stage about 7:30.

Admission is free and everyone is invited. Trinity pastor Jack McLaughlin expects a large number of youth will descend upon the church for the concert.

McLaughlin said Missions Now marks the first time in many years area churches have banded together to host an event.

While the five largest churches in the city are hosting the biggest events, McLaughlin said many smaller churches are also playing a role. By coming together, the places of worship are demonstrating "the unified church in our community."

Missions Now will continue throughout the week with numerous speakers, rallies, concerts and informational events.

Laurence East, with Willow Park Church, said individual churches will hold different events. The opening event at Trinity and a closing rally at Evangel Church, 3261 Gordon Dr., on May 2 will be the two main inter-church events and up to 15 churches are expected to be represented.

The closing rally will start at 7 p.m. and feature speaker Tony Campolo. Jon Buller and Corey Doak will provide music.

There will also be more than 30 organizations on hand to provide information on various missionary opportunities — both at home and abroad.

"We want people to understand there are plenty of opportunities to reach into people's lives right on their doorstep," said East, adding the church has a mandate to spread the word of Jesus Christ no matter where they are.

For a full list of events, times and places, go to www.missionsnowkelowna.ca.

OBITUARIES



BAL - MOHINDER SINGH

passed away on Monday, April 21, 2008 at the age of 80. Survived by his loving wife Gurmit Kaur, son: Chanchal Bal and his wife Barb of Kelowna; daughter-in-law: Rani Bal of Kelowna; six grandchildren: Sukhpaul, Mandeep, Davinder, Dilraj, Diljot, Daljit and extended family; nephews and nieces, Sital Singh Bal, Swaranjeet Kaur Bal, Bhupinder Kaur Nijjar and their families. Sadly predeceased by son: Avtar Singh Bal and nephew Charanjit Singh Bal. A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 1:00 pm at the Chapel of Springfield Funeral Home, 2020 Springfield Road, Kelowna, BC with a Prayer Service to follow at the Okanagan Sikh Temple, 1101 North Rutland Road, Kelowna, BC. A gift in living memory of Mohinder will be made to "Holding Hands for Hospice" by Springfield Funeral Home. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.springfieldfuneralhome.com, 250-860-7077.



COMBER, JESSIE ISABELLA (NEE MACKAY)

born in Tain, Scotland February 20th, 1918 passed away on April 21st, 2008 at Kelowna General Hospital.

Jessie was predeceased by her husband George Frederick Comber. She will be lovingly remembered by her family Richard (Christal), Joan (David), Ryan (Cindy), Kristen (Mike), Kim, Natalie, Amanda, Braeden, Larkin and Annika. We would like to thank the staff at KGH for their exceptional treatment of both Jessie and the family. We would also like to thank Mona for always going above and beyond. A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, April 26th, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. at St. Aidan's Church, 380 Leathead Rd, Kelowna, BC with Rev. Isaac Graham officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Kelowna General Hospital Foundation, 2268 Pandosy Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 9Z9 would be appreciated. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.mem.com Arrangements entrusted to VALLEYVIEW FUNERAL HOME - Honoured Provider of Dignity Memorial (250) 765-3147.



LISSIMORE, JESSIE MARGARET

Passed away peacefully Sat, April 19, 2008 at the age of 76 years. She is survived by her loving husband Reg, sons Tom (Anita), Bill (Audrey), Mark (Debbie). Daughters Arlene (Brian) Artindale, Laura (Jeff) McKinnon, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, brothers Bob and John Stinert and sisters Francis, Elvina and Florence. Sisters-in-law Stella Lissimore and Irene Fish. Many Nieces and Nephews. A family memorial will be held at the Wainwright Cemetery at a later date. Jessie was owner of the Petite style shop/Pink Lady in Wainwright for many years. She will be sadly missed by all and will remain in our hearts always. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to a charity of your choice.

THORN, BARBARA 62, passed away on April 11th, 2008 in Quesnel, B.C. She was in the presence of both her Children Doug Thorn of Chilliwack, and Cathy Stavast of Quesnel. Barb was born in Vancouver on October 7th, 1944. Barbara graduated from Vancouver Tech, and remained in the lower mainland raising her children and working, until 1997 when she moved to Kelowna. She continued her long time Employment at BC Tel/Telus in Kelowna, and loved living in the beautiful Okanagan. Barb was very active. She enjoyed taking in the arts, spending time with her many friends, walking, biking, and had been a member of the Stroke of Luck Dragon Boat Team. The times she treasured most were those with her son, daughter, and 3 grandsons, Chris, Jeff and Nick. Barb was predeceased by her Father James Jennings. Barb is survived by her Mother Flora; brother Bob. Sister Dianne; Son & Daughter; 3 grandsons; and many loving friends and relatives. A Celebration of Life will be held ON SATURDAY APRIL 26TH BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 5:00PM PIs e-mail cat_stav66@hotmail.com for address.

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