

NEWS UPDATE

**Search on for two missing men after Canadian fishing boat capsizes off Washington**

SEATTLE — A U.S. Coast Guard cutter and helicopter were searching Wednesday for two men after a B.C. fishing boat capsized off the northwest tip of Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

Two people were rescued Tuesday evening after the 24-metre Ucluelet-based *Ocean Tor* capsized. Two crew members without survival suits were still missing Wednesday, U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Kurt Fredrickson said.

Fredrickson said the Coast Guard still considered the missing men's recovery a rescue, though they had spent the night in the cold Pacific without protective clothing.

"It's still an ongoing search until we hear otherwise," Fredrickson said.

The missing men were identified as Kelly Broderick, 49, and Miles Anderson, 42. Their hometowns were not available, Fredrickson said.

Skipper Wade Mathison, 31, was plucked from the hull of his overturned vessel and a Canadian fisheries observer, Reginald Westcott, 33, was found in the water shortly before nightfall Tuesday, Coast Guard Lt. Matthew Michaelis said.

Both were taken aboard another B.C. fishing boat, the *Osprey No. 1* of Vancouver and headed back to Ucluelet on the west coast of Vancouver Island early Wednesday.

Associated Press

**Burnaby's Ashley Leitao is ousted from Canadian Idol competition**

TORONTO | A downcast Ashley Leitao was ousted from the *Canadian Idol* competition on Wednesday night, receiving the fewest votes of the nine contenders remaining on the show.

Leitao, 18, of Burnaby, had performed Stevie Wonder's hit *Sir Duke* on the program Tuesday.

She appeared to fight back tears as host Ben Mulroney described her professionalism, dedication and talent.

"This show has been lucky to have you here," he told Leitao, who claims Celine Dion as her favourite Canadian singer.

Leitao, who describes herself as "a fun, easy-going Portuguese girl," thanked the judges and everyone who helped make her dream come true so far.

Melissa O'Neil of Calgary and Josh Palmer of Saskatoon were the others in the bottom three, prompting judge Jake Gold to remark that "obviously western Canada is not doing their job and supporting their own."

Altogether, more than 2.4 million ballots were cast. Four females and four males remain in the competition.

Canadian Press



BILL KEAY/VANCOUVER SUN

Building inspector John Schiffer checks out the plumbing and mechanical system in a house on Steveston Highway in Richmond.

# HOUSES CAN BE FULL OF HORROR STORIES

**REAL ESTATE** | Inspectors can save buyers a bundle of money by pointing out problems before they sign



PETER BATTISTONI/VANCOUVER SUN

Vince Burnett, owner of Superior Home Inspections checks out a crawl space in a home in Fort Langley.



BY PETER WILSON  
VANCOUVER SUN

The 5,000-square-foot Shaughnessy mansion had rats running everywhere.

"The place was just filled with them — the garage, the attic, the basement area," said Vancouver house inspector John Schiffer, who was looking the place over earlier this year for a prospective buyer. "I could see the rats walking down the wall when I opened the garage door."

Bad news for the seller. If there's one thing that puts people off buying a place, especially women, Schiffer said, it's rodents. "People get nervous and start

walking around the room instead of sitting down," said Schiffer, of Quality Home Inspections.

In today's hot real estate market, Schiffer is one of more than 300 British Columbia home and property inspectors constantly on the go, usually working for prospective buyers who don't want to face a horror story after purchasing a house.

A pre-purchase inspection, at an average cost of \$350 in the Lower Mainland, can mean anything from simple peace of mind for a buyer — when no problems are found — to savings of as much as \$25,000.

Vince Burnett of Superior Home Inspections — who writes some 500 reports a year — was examining a \$900,000 house in Surrey recently when he found that concrete porches had been built so they sloped toward the house. Water was flowing into the walls.

"All the exterior framing on that side was just rotted right out," said Burnett. "And there were ants living in there and they were just loving it."

The likely repair bill? About \$20,000, said Burnett.

In another Surrey house, with three suites, Burnett found that four stoves, two or three dryers and a suite with electrical heat were all being run from a 60-amp service.

"And there were four or five

things double-plugged into the mains as well," said Burnett. "It was just a dog's breakfast."

Burnett estimated a \$4,000 to \$5,000 repair bill.

In a house in East Vancouver, Rose Marie Moore found a huge infestation of carpenter ants.

"They were in the walls and all over the place," said Moore, of RMC Insight Building Consultants Inc. "The house was very damp. Then you know a lot of damage has been done."

A second East Vancouver house held a far more dangerous problem, Moore said.

"It had a front balcony off the second or third floor and the railing was so loose that if anybody had leaned on it they would have fallen off," said Moore. "The door was open, so people could go on this deck easily. This was a major safety hazard."

And, added Moore, increasingly inspectors are seeing homes that have been used for grow-ops or have mould problems.

In the Okanagan, there are different problems, such as termites and unstable soil, said Owen Dickie of Oyama-based Home-Pro Inspection, who writes some 300 reports a year.

"Simple things such as cutting down a tree can change the moisture content of the soil and affect the structure of the house," Dickie said. "It's not the roots that have done that, it's just that the tree was absorbing moisture."

A thorough house inspection, Moore said, can take an average of 3.5 to four hours, including client consultation time and an inspector can do two a day comfortably.

In today's market, some inspections are done during the open house, so a knowledgeable offer can be made quickly if a bidding war breaks out.

Dickie cautions that inspectors screen for the signs and symptoms of major problems and concerns. If they've been hidden, or disguised, home inspectors alone



Jonathan Young and Tara Fynn are featured in *Vasily the Luckless*, a Boca del Lupo production playing in Stanley Park from today to Aug. 14

## THINGS TO DO

Our daily guide to how to spend your summer days.

- Arts
- Music
- Sports Event
- Special Events
- Kids' Turn

**3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

**Vasily the Luckless**  
Stanley Park, free, 604 684 2622.

**Why go:** Boca del Lupo's spectacular outdoor show is based on a Russian folk tale about a hapless fugitive; James Fagan Tait captained the script; performers include Alex Ferguson, Tara Fynn and others.

**10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Go Wild at the Ecology Centre**  
Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre, 3663 Park Road, North Vancouver, 604-981-3103.

**Why go:** Mmm, crickets. Kids aged nine to 12 can learn basics of forest survival.

**8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.**

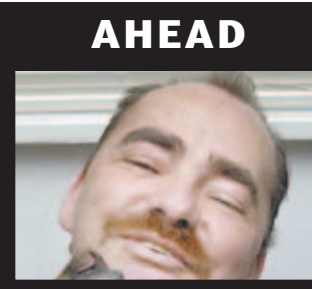
**Abbotsford Agrifair**  
Abbotsford Exhibition Grounds, Haida Drive, through Aug. 1, www.agrifair.ca

**Why go:** With its slogan, "It's Corn to be Wild," who could resist? Old-time country fair, featuring market, six stages, rodeo, midway and more, begins today with a horse show, features pig races mid-afternoon, and wraps with fireworks.

**9 p.m.**

**Turin Brakes**  
Richard's on Richards, 604-280-4444.

**Why go:** "Up above the clouds / It is always a blue sky," sings the fragile folk-pop duo from U.K. on their third album *JackinABox*.



AHEAD

URBAN ADVOCATE

**Police advise youngster to take traffic fears to principal**

**Q** I live in a new area south of 104th Avenue and have to cross this very busy, major road to get to my school and the park. Cars speed way over the 50 km/hour limit and do not stop. The City of Surrey won't do anything. Could you please help me and the other 40 or more kids on my street? I am 12 years old and do not like risking my life every day.

**M. Ferguson, Surrey**

**A** The Surrey RCMP did a speed watch at this location and also met with the family. The place where concerns such as these are examined is the City Traffic Operations committee that meets once a month. A representative of the school district also sits on the board. Children's concerns should be directed to the principal of their school who will pass it on to the board representative on the committee. This school district also has a safety manager. The city engineering department then does a comprehensive survey of the location. Crosswalks in most cases near schools require some form of supervision. Additionally, signage can be added and recently the city has begun construction of road-narrowing techniques at crosswalks. It is from this coordinated effort that long-term remedies will flow.

**Const. Marc Searle, Media Relations Officer, Surrey Detachment, RCMP**



Do you have a neighbourhood concern? Send a brief 50-word description of your question to The Urban Advocate at fax 604-605-2522, e-mail: advocate@png.carwest.com or mail: Urban Advocate, c/o Wendy Nordvik-Carr, The Vancouver Sun, Ste. 1, 200 Granville Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3N3. Include your name, address and daytime phone number.

PRINCE GEORGE

**City warned of potential RV backlash if parking-lot ban enforced**

Prince George could face a backlash from the recreation vehicle community if it attempts to stop motorhomes camping on big-box store parking lots, an RV website editor warns.

Chuck Woodbury of the Washington state-based rvtravel.com says Prince George would risk being black-marked by the close-knit RV community.

"If they decide that they're going to legislate so that people can't stay anywhere except in an RV park, city council members had better hope their e-mail addresses don't become public because they will be jammed by RVers if the word gets out," Woodbury said Tuesday.

The practice of staying overnight for free on parking lots violates the city's zoning bylaw, but RV park owners complain the bylaw is not enforced. Large groups of motorhomes have been seen parked at the local Wal-Mart and Costco.

Blue Spruce RV Park owner Ted McAfee said his business has dropped by about 30 per cent since Wal-Mart opened.

Prince George Citizen

PRINCE GEORGE

**Scientists trying to remove dinosaur print from creek**

Scientists hope to remove an important dinosaur footprint track from a creek in northern B.C. this week.

Paleontologist Rich McCrea of the Peace Region Paleontology Research Centre says if the set of ankylosaur — a four-footed armoured animal that would have looked like an armadillo — prints near Tumbler Ridge aren't removed, they may deteriorate.

"It's in the middle of a creek so every year the spring runoff brings a lot of gravel and stuff that impact it and we've noticed that the tracks are starting to show signs of wear from being in the creek so long," he said.

Scientists have been working to trim the young ankylosaur track to help remove it intact from the creek bed, hopefully using a helicopter. The slab containing the fossilized footprints weighs about 900 kilograms. "It's one of the first records of juvenile ankylosaurs for tracks anywhere in the world, so it's pretty exciting."

Canadian Press

THE DAILY SPECIAL LOOKS AT: