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Playoff thriller



Richmond Colts have booked their ticket into the Grade 9 provincials. *Page 27*

In recent years, chronic pain has become recognized as not just a symptom, but a disorder in itself. The News looks at the latest in pain management. See Friday Feature, pages 10 & 11

Feelin' o the
pain



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NEWS

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PM kicks off celebrations

Prime Minister Stephen Harper paid a surprise visit to Aberdeen Centre late Wednesday evening to take part in the mall's Chinese New Year celebrations. Harper greeted the jam-packed audience in the central courtyard and participated in a traditional dotting of the eyes and tongue of a Chinese Lion, awakening it to greet the Year of the Sheep. Also there was Richmond MP Alice Wong, Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam MP and Minister of Industry James Moore and Richmond Centre MLA Teresa Watt. Joey Kwan, the mall's spokeswoman, said it took about a month of preparations to secure the PM's appearance as security officials from Ottawa paid visits to the bustling mall in the past few weeks. Chinese New Year events continue at Aberdeen Centre today (Friday) and into the weekend with live music and dance performances. *Photo by Gord Goble/Special to the News*

■ More Chinese New Year photos on page 18

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Year of the Sheep welcomed

The crowd at Aberdeen Centre was showered with confetti at the stroke of midnight Wednesday to usher in the Year of the Sheep. Party goers were also treated to a lion dance, music and a surprise visit by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in the centre courtyard. *Photos by Gord Goble/Special to the News*

