Richmond News
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Competitive edge
Forty-three city workers make $100,000 or more, which may seem high, but it's what the city has to pay to remain competitive, says Mayor Malcolm Brodie 7

Clairvoyant connection
British medium Roy Andrew Bennett will connect with members of the audience — and their dead loved ones — at the River Rock Show Theatre July 9. 17

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A hungry T-Rex eyes unsuspecting shopper at Aberdeen Centre. The popular dinosaur is part of the mall's new Jurassic Alive exhibit, which opened July 1. See story on page 18

Something fishy about airport expansion

$200-million project includes 114,000-litre marine aquarium

By Eve Finkenson
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Getting the fish to co-operate with security processes was the toughest part of building the new 114,000 litre aquarium at the YVR's International Terminal, jokes John Nightingale, president and CEO of the Vancouver Aquarium, which oversaw the project.

"This is outside of Canada, and it was really hard to get the fish to line up to go through security, but we succeeded," Nightingale said with a laugh when asked about project challenges.

The aquarium, which will house 850 marine animals, is part of an elaborate West Coast-inspired design that includes a 50-metre creek running between the aquarium and a pair of large carvings by First Nations artist Dempsey Bob titled *Fog Woman and Raven*.

The carvings were also unveiled with a Musqueam dedication at the opening of the terminal's expansion.

While Nightingale's comments about screening schools of fish was said in jest, in fact dealing with security issues was the single biggest headache in constructing not just the aquarium but the whole expansion, said Ray Zibrik, president of YVR Project Management, the subsidiary contracted to build the $500 million complex.

The concept for the project was conceived more than a decade ago — when were heard, designs were drawn, shovels hit the ground. But everything came to a screeching halt with 9/11.

"Security became much tighter, just getting workers in and out of the site became a huge challenge."

The horrific terrorist attacks also put a damper on flying enthusiasm, which meant airport revenue dried up dramatically.

The whole idea was shelved for five years.

Once the industry bounced back, the project was reignited.

"But putting the whole thing on hold

see *Airport* page 3

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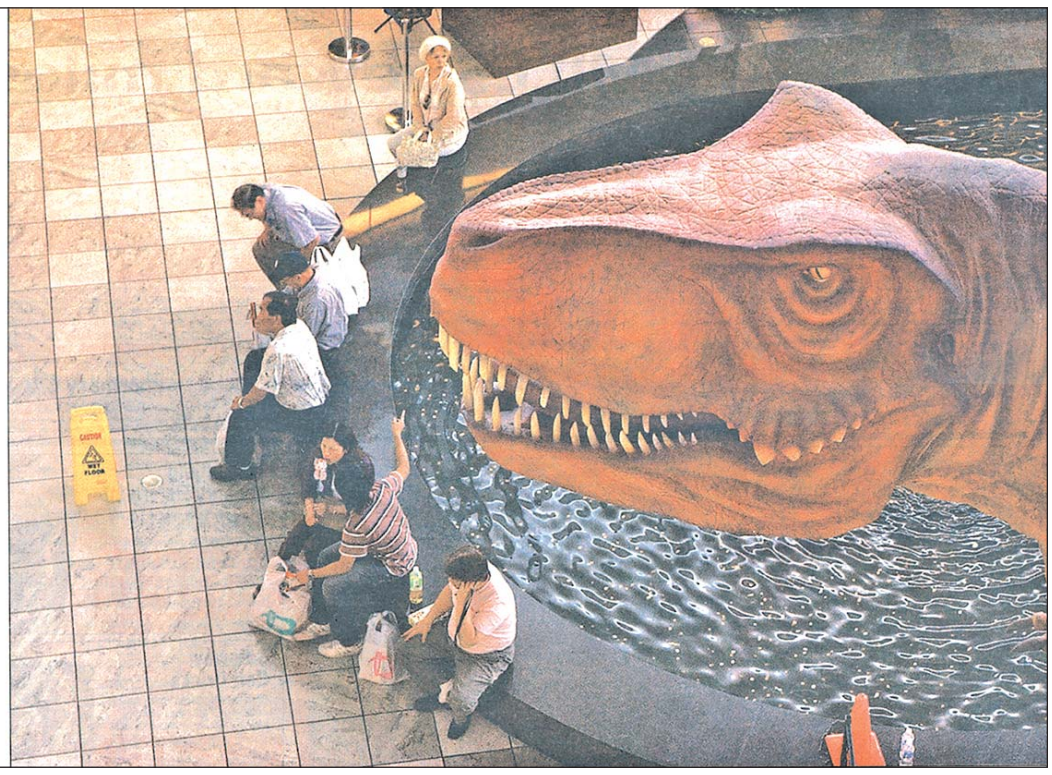

Brett Beadle/ Richmond News
A hungry T-Rex eyes unsuspecting shoppers at Aberdeen Centre. The popular dinosaur is part of the mall's new Jurassic Alive exhibit, which opened July 1. See story on page 18

Dinos dominate Aberdeen Centre

By Michelle Hopkins
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Roarrrrrr....

Baring his teeth, the 22-foot-tall Tyrannosaurus Rex rumbles to life, flexing his forelegs and shaking his gigantic tail.

Shoppers in the atrium at Aberdeen Centre were astonished, as the prehistoric creature breathed in and out, and blinked at them.

The T-Rex is part of an interactive, dinosaur show titled Jurassic Alive, which growled into the mall July 1.

"We decided to offer this during the summer as a free activity that is fun and exciting, but meaningful and educational," explains Joey Kwan, promotions and public relations manager for the Richmond mall. "Every hour, a Jurassic Park coloured fountain show with music like the theme song from *The Flintstones*, will shoot illuminated water 30-feet into the air."

The exhibition includes two life-sized animatronic dinosaurs, modeled after actual North American fossils, an actual ancient fossil, and skeleton display of various dinosaurs (discovered in China), in a setting reminiscent of their actual surroundings.

Shoppers can go back in time, some 200 million years ago, when all that roamed the earth were massive, prehistoric animals. The show is a replica from a Chinese museum, explains Thomas Fung, chairman and CEO of the Fairchild Group, which owns and operates Aberdeen Centre.

"The show should appeal to a cross-section of people," says Fung.

Children and children-at-heart can also learn about the Protoceratops, a tame, plant-eating dinosaur, which will actually lay eggs during the performance.

The interactive Jurassic Alive runs now through Sept. 15 at Aberdeen Centre for visitors of all ages. The 15-minute water and animated shows start at noon and run every hour until 6 p.m.

This is just the beginning for Aberdeen Centre. The plan is to offer more interactive, educational shows to the public on an ongoing basis.

"We are already looking into a life-scale Elvis Presley exhibit and Marilyn Monroe one as well," adds Fung.

The shopping centre is located at 4151 Hazelbridge Way. Visit www.aberdeen-centre.com for more information.