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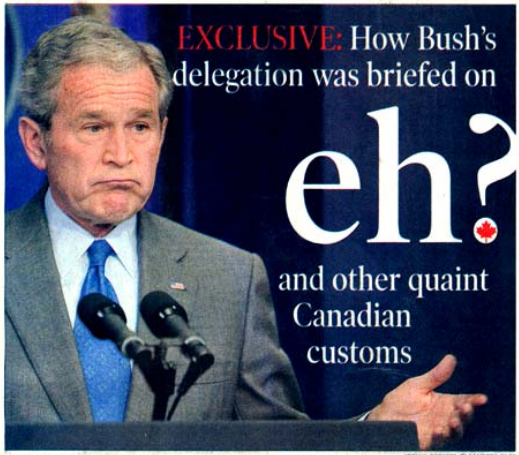
THE VANCOUVER SUN

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EXCLUSIVE: How Bush's delegation was briefed on eh? and other quaint Canadian customs

Northern neighbours are a bit different, 2004 visitors were told

BY CHAD SKELTON
VANCOUVER

When U.S. President George W. Bush visited Canada in 2004, members of his delegation were provided with a "protocol guide" to help them understand the language and customs of the foreigners. Among the advice: how to decipher what Canadians mean when they put "eh" at the end of a sentence. "Eh," the guide helpfully explained, is pronounced "ay."

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See the FOI documents at vancouver.sun.com/zappertrail. Do you speak Canadian? Comment on your favourite Canucks slang at vancouver.sun.com/under-the-hood.

Geoffrey Ballard, 1932-2008

Visionary blazed fuel-cell trail

BY RANDY SHORE
VANCOUVER

B.C. scientist and businessman Geoffrey Ballard helped the world usher in the hydrogen age. Ballard died Saturday afternoon at Lions Gate Hospital from complications due to liver disease. He was 75.

the birth of the hydrogen economy. "He knew that it would take decades, but he felt at the end that the momentum was unstoppable," he said. The Burnaby-based company that Geoffrey Ballard founded has been leading the way in the development of hydrogen fuel cell systems since 1983. Ballard Power Systems has

online



REAL ESTATE PRICE DROP SIGNALS CYCLE CHANGE

Benchmark prices for all property types have dipped 2.1 per cent

BY DERRICK FENNER
VANCOUVER

Month-over-month declines in real estate prices across many Lower Mainland property markets are another sign the overall market cycle has run its course, according to one housing economist. The so-called benchmark price for all property types tracked in Metro Vancouver, excluding Surrey, have dipped 2.1 per cent since May to hit \$56,605 at the end of July, the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver reported Tuesday.

In the Fraser Valley markets, which include Surrey, there were also month-to-month drops in prices in July with the biggest decline in average single-family-home price. The average Surrey house price of \$230,232 was down six per cent from the month before.

Carmen Muir, chief economist for the B.C. Real Estate Association, said he doesn't believe there was a housing bubble that has now burst, but said there has been a change in the cycle.

"Typically at the end of a market cycle you will see home prices remain flat, or even come off a few percentage points, a year, until the next cycle begins," Muir said in an interview. "That's what we're looking at right now." He added, but "during a complete deterioration in the provincial economy and mortgage interest rates climbing rapidly, that's kind of what we see in terms of what market activity is showing us."

INSIDE
Street race leaves man on life support and recommending charges against a street race in Delta turned deadly. Story B1

THE VANCOUVER SUN

August 6, 2008

Richmond's Aberdeen Centre will open at the crack of dawn

From B1

He will start with CBC television, but will also live up usee.com to to get live Mandarin-language coverage on the computer for his parents and in-laws, who don't speak English.

His kids, who have grown up here, will likely flit between both, he says.

Wang has other options too. He is a subscriber to Kylin TV, a service that delivers live television broadcasting and on-demand movies from China over the Internet to a set-top box.

He might also tap Phoenix Television, a Mandarin-language broadcaster that is China's version of CNN, which he receives in his Shaw cable package.

Yet another option: Golden Phoenix Restaurant on Nanaimo Street near Broadway in East Vancouver usually opens for dim sum at 9 a.m., but on Friday, the doors will swing open at 5 a.m. so patrons can watch live coverage of the opening ceremonies on the restaurant's 60 inch TV screen.

Those looking to ring in the Games with the irreplaceable buzz of thousands of people crammed in to watch a single

giant television screen will head to Aberdeen Centre in Richmond at the crack of dawn Friday.

At 5 a.m., the centre's doors will open for a special party. Eight minutes later, at exactly 8:08 p.m. Beijing time, the opening ceremonies will begin and a 28-by-22-foot screen in the mall's atrium will carry CBC's English-language coverage of the three-hour extravaganza.

James Wang

He has many options to watch the Beijing Olympics.



All the while, until 10 a.m., there will be a free pancake breakfast, a lucky draw, a fashion show, face-painting and performances including lion dance, music, gymnastics, and tai chi.

"The next games are here so, this is sort of the last opening ceremonies to an Olympics before they're in our home town, so we want to celebrate that and recognize that," said Ed Gavsie,

chairman of the Richmond Spirit of B.C. Committee, which is presenting the event along with several community partners.

The local festivities will highlight Richmond's ties to Qingdao, its Chinese friendship city and the host for the Summer Games sailing events.

Danny Leung, senior vice-president and general manager of Aberdeen Centre, said the 2008 Summer Olympics are special for the Chinese community.

"I think it will be a big, big thing for our community, as well as the whole world, because the venue is Beijing," Leung said. "I think we will feel honoured to host the Games in our country."

Last week, Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie honoured his community's connection to the Games by declaring Friday as Beijing 8.8.08 Day in Richmond.

Over the weekend, the City of Vancouver will host an Olympic and Paralympic Games celebration in Chinatown on Keefer Street between Carrall and Columbia streets. There will be bands, appearances by athletic stars of the past and other performances.

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with a file from The Richmond News