



Shark fin bill awaits vote

Federal politicians set for debate over whether to ban shark fin imports

by Matthew Hoekstra

Civic politicians will soon learn if a shark fin ban will find traction on Parliament Hill, as a federal bill seeking to prohibit imports is set for a vote Monday.
NDP MP Poitras is seeking to veto a majority of votes to approve second reading of Bill C-385. The proposed legislation is aimed at halting the practice of shark finning, which Donnelly described in the House as "heinous."
It was introduced as a private member's bill—bills that rarely become law—but that hasn't deterred the Vancouver Animal Defenders League, which has now moved on from lobbying local governments.
"We're in the home stretch right now," said activist Anthony Marx, who urged Richmond council in July 2012 to ban shark fin. "We're doing a campaign of contacting all the MPs, both by e-mail and by phone."
Marx is concentrating on the government's Conservative MPs, saying he believes members of the NDP and Liberal parties are already in support.
It's not clear when Richmond's MPs stand. Neither Richmond MP Alice Wong nor Delta Richmond East MP Kerry-Lynn Fryday were available for comment yesterday. But last year Wong came out in support of restaurants serving shark fin soup by slapping a bowl at The Jade Seafood Restaurant for Chinese meals.



The Goosinator is a bright orange goose-scaaring machine, whose inventor says it is a food ally to a farmer

Snow geese could meet their match in \$3,000 invention

by Matthew Hoekstra

Snow geese in Richmond have clearly never met the Goosinator.
At least that's what backers of the goose-scaaring invention would say, including the owner of a golf course who enthusiastically lauded: "I don't know where you have the Goosinator."
A cross between a border collie and remote-controlled boat, the Goosinator is an orange model airplane-like creation designed for hazing problem geese. The

operator controls the one-metre-long Goosinator to chase fowl over flat terrain— it speeds up to 40 km/h.
Director of sales David Colton said the City of Denver already has two of the \$3,000 units and eight more on order in an effort to control an invasion of Canadian geese.
"They've found out that the Goosinator is the only thing that works. It's humans, it's not helpful, it just scares the geese out of those areas," he said by telephone from Wisconsin. The Goosinator just sends them back into the wild.
Bandy Klassen, of Colorado created the Goosinator out of "space age foam" and designed it to go where dogs can't. It's painted orange—a colour researchers have found

lightens geese a long filled in Richmond to help urban v development of to chase away geese fields. A lot snow geese m Colton, who to Richmond them. That is find solutions t "The geese a because this into open water. Although ge they eventually designed for hazing problem geese. The

Shark fin bans

- Cocquytan: Ban endorsed May 14, 2012
- Jfert Monday: Bylaw adopted May 22, 2012
- Abbotsford: Resolution to research ban Sept. 10, 2012
- City of North Vancouver: Bylaw adopted Oct. 1, 2012
- Nanaimo: Bylaw adopted Oct. 1, 2012
- Maple Ridge: Bylaw adopted Nov. 13, 2012
- Langley Township: Ban endorsed Oct. 22, 2012
- Langley City: Resolution adopted Oct. 22, 2012
- White Rock: Resolution adopted Oct. 29, 2012
- New Westminster: Bylaw adopted Dec. 10, 2012

*Source: Corporation of Delta

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THE RICHMOND REVIEW
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Shopping for Chinese New Year decorations at Aberdeen Centre.

Celebrating the Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year marks the beginning of the new year according to the Chinese lunisolar calendar.

Each Chinese new year, which is known as Spring Festival in China, is represented by one of 12 creatures. 2013 is the Year of the Snake.

One of the more important elements of the Chinese New Year is the reunion dinner. For the reunion dinner, which is held on the eve of the new year, families traditionally gather in the parents' home or the home of the eldest brother, though many families now gather in a restaurant.

A reunion dinner typically includes a lavish spread that can feature a variety of dishes like chicken, fish and pork.

Chinese New Year celebrations last for 15 days. During these celebrations, students and migrant workers return home, and much of the country is in transit. The festivities culminate on Chap Goh Mei, or the 15th night, which also involves a family meal as well as music and decorations.

The Snake is the sixth sign of the Chinese Zodiac. Enigmatic, intuit-

ive, introspective, and refined, the Snake in the house is considered a good omen because it means your family will not starve. People born in the Year of the Snake are considered keen, cunning, intelligent, wise and good at business. They also are typically sophisticated, and their choices for home decoration are cultured.

The origin of Chinese New Year is not entirely certain. One legend suggests that there was once a monster called Nian, who appeared each spring to attack Chinese villages. Legend has it that during these attacks Nian would eat anything to come in his path, be it plants, animals and even human beings.

Fearful of Nian's return, villagers one spring hung red paper on their doors and lit bamboo on fire when Nian arrived. The bright colours and crackling of bamboo burning startled Nian, who turned and fled.

Since then, Chinese people hang red paper and lanterns outside their homes and loud noises, particularly those from firecrackers, are common on the eve of the new year.

This year the Chinese New Year will be celebrated on February 10.

Eight auspicious ways to celebrate Chinese New Year

Tourism Richmond crafts list aimed at getting the most out of Year of the Snake festivities

Red and gold streamers, tasseled lanterns and paper-cut snake motifs are appearing in shop windows across Richmond.

This year, the Lunar New Year falls on Sunday, Feb. 10, and Richmond is again playing host to one of the most extensive two-week Chinese New Year celebrations.

Thousands will flock to Chinese restaurants and malls to welcome the Year of the Snake with fireworks, well-wishing rituals, live music, a new year countdown, Chinese flower and gift fairs, colourful lion and dragon dances and, of course, authentic food.

Tourism Richmond compiled a list of the top eight ways to celebrate the season.

•Eat your way to prosperity: Food is central to Chinese New Year celebrations. It's believed that eating auspicious foods like whole fish and lettuce wraps will bring fortune and good luck.



See Page B8 The lion's dance is a popular part of Chinese New Year.

KUNG HEY FAT CHOY!

WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

蛇年快樂!



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The Year of the Snake

Cannery marks the New Year

To celebrate Lunar New Year, discover the important contribution of Chinese workers to the fishing industry at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site. A scavenger hunt will lead children through the Cannery and the children's craft area will feature activities such as making a money pouch, discovering the mysteries of the Chinese zodiac and a fun chopstick game.

The activities will be available February 9 through 17th.

As an additional attraction for Family Day, Parks Canada is offering a complimentary youth admission (age 6 to 16) when one adult admission is purchased. This will be valid February 9 and 11 at the Cannery.

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site of Canada is operated by the non-profit Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society, on behalf of Parks Canada. See www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com for info.

Flower fair kicks off Chinese New Year

Aberdeen Centre hosts flower and gift fair from Feb. 6 to 11

Festivities will kick off at Aberdeen Centre for the Chinese New Year with the annual Flower and Gift Fair.

From Wednesday, Feb. 6 to Monday, Feb. 11, during normal mall hours, the mall will be smelling heavenly with the scent of fresh flowers and colourful gifts.

The Chinese New Year's Eve countdown will be on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the mall's central atrium, with blessings from the Chinese God of Fortune.

On Sunday, Feb. 10, the Golden Dragon and Lion Dance will start at 11 a.m. in the outdoor courtyard, with visits from store to store beginning at noon.

Entertainment will be provided by the B.C. Chinese Music Association, Vancouver Academy of Dance, Colors of Dance Academy and Vancouver Cantonese Opera.

The Tom Lee Year of the Snake Concert runs from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Aberdeen Centre is located at 4400 Hazelbridge Way.

—by Martin van den Hemel