

Burnaby **now**



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for the new year**

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Members walk, saying Chevron misled them

Oil seep triggers resignation of four members of Chevron's community advisory panel

Jennifer Moreau
staff reporter

Members of Chevron's community advisory panel are walking out with criticism over how the company has handled the ongoing oil seep at its North Burnaby refinery.

"We're not participating anymore because we feel they are misleading us about the seep," said Judi Marshall, a long-time panel member and one of the original founders of BRACE – Burnaby Residents Against Chevron Expansion.

The seep Marshall's referring to is the mix of gas, diesel and crude oil that's been leeching from the refinery since April 2010. While no independent measuring has been done, Marshall suspects there's more oil than the three to seven tablespoons per day that Chevron has estimated. Besides that, Marshall was critical over how long Chevron took to notify the panel members of the problem. The seep was first discovered on April 21, and although relevant authorities were told, the panel didn't hear about it till May 18. According to Marshall, it's not clear if Chevron has any intentions of notifying the panel if something similar happens in the future.

As a result, Marshall and three other BRACE members are leaving the panel.

"We just feel we can be more effective working outside, because we're just

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Larry Wright/BURNABY NOW

Out of the BRACE: Judi Marshall, left, and Dianne Alsop have left a residents' advisory committee for Chevron in protest over how the company has handled the ongoing oil seep at its North Burnaby refinery.

Bloy is the 'most-gifted' MLA in the province

Jennifer Moreau
staff reporter

Burnaby-Lougheed's Harry Bloy has garnered some attention as the "most gifted" MLA after the public disclosure statements of provincial politicians were released on Dec. 17.

The annual statements reveal MLAs' income, assets, liabilities and any gifts they've received.

In all, Bloy took \$14,500 worth of trips to China and Korea. While his riding association pitched in \$2,500, the rest was covered by foreign sources.

Bloy said the trips were about promot-

ing the province as a place to invest and do business and connecting people from B.C. companies with China.

"For some of the groups, they've never been to China before, and they wanted to see how it operated. Other ones were going with business proposals, looking for money from Chinese investors, or looking to sell

their products or concepts from British Columbia," Bloy said.

As for a trip to Korea, Bloy is the government liaison to the Korean community, and he was invited, along with a couple hundred other Canadians, to attend the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

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HERE & NOW
Jennifer Moreau

SFU honours seniors

SFU's gerontology research centre gave a handful of local seniors awards for their exemplary volunteer work in the community. **Kaehar Singh Aujla, Georgie Cole, Mary Horton, Grace Joe and Thomas Mark** were among those singled out for their work helping others. Any volunteers 65 and older are eligible, as are seniors' organizations.

"We, at the gerontology research centre, feel very privileged to have an opportunity to honour so many excellent volunteers this year," said the centre's Raymond Adams. Apart from one person and one organization, all of the winners were from Burnaby.

Bureau benefit

A fundraiser at the Burnaby Village Museum on Dec. 16 netted more than \$12,000 for the Burnaby Christmas Bureau.

Several politicians and prominent community members attended, including **Wanda Mulholland** from the Burnaby Homeless Task Force, **Kimberly Barwich** from the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House, city councillor **Pietro Calendino**, MP **Peter Julian**, MLA **Kathy Corrigan** and **Nancy Stagg** from the Burnaby Village Museum.

In all, the bureau collected \$12,300 and counting. The city pitched in with a \$5,000 grant.

Book giveaway

I have a signed copy of *Yi Fao, Speaking Through Memory*, authored by **Jim Wolf** and **Patricia Owen**, to give away. Wolf is a longtime New Westminster resident and the city of Burnaby's heritage planner.

Yi fao means "second port," a reference to New Westminster being the second port of entry for British Columbia, after Victoria. The book chronicles the history of New Westminster's Chinese community from 1858 to 1980.

The first person to e-mail jmoreau@burnabynow.com with Yi Fao in the subject line gets the book. Don't forget your full mailing address.

Correction

In the Dec. 29 issue, I mentioned that Burnaby Family Life received more than \$260,000. That figure should have read \$25,000, a portion of \$260,000 divided between many B.C. groups. We regret the error.



Larry Wright/BURNABY NOW

Just toss it: Decluttering duo Susan Borax and Heather Knittel, of Good Riddance Professional Organizing Solutions, suggest paring down unnecessary ornaments, extra strings of lights, and getting rid of that extra tree stand.

A clean start for 2011

Burnaby company, Good Riddance, helps clients clean up the post-holiday mess.

Janaya Fuller-Evans
staff reporter

On the first day of Christmas, my uncle gave to me, another baseball cap I didn't need.

On the second day of Christmas, my husband brought to me, two extra tree stands and a box of Christmas lights tangled like weeds.

This is the time of year when all the holiday junk we've accumulated is pulled out of storage, just as our friends and relations give us more to add to the pile.

If the thought of facing down the collection of Christmas past and presents has you in a panic, fret not.

Susan Borax and Heather Knittel, of Good Riddance Professional Organizing Solutions, Inc., have some suggestions that might help.

Burnaby residents Borax and Knittel — who have just published *Good Riddance: Showing Clutter the Door* — say they get a lot of calls at this time of year.

"Typically, in early January, we find people thinking about this," Borax says, about decluttering.

She adds that it is a time when many people make resolutions to get organized.

The key, according to Knittel, is to get rid

of the things that are meaningless, such as stacks of cookie tins.

On the Christmas front, getting rid of old decorations that just sit in boxes and never get used, as well as those "hairballs of lights" that accumulate, is a good idea, Borax says.

"Not all Christmas decorations are created equal," she adds.

For those wanting to sell the decorations, they should wait until next fall if they want to sell on consignment. Otherwise, the decorations can be donated to thrift stores or non-profits, the pair says.

Many people buy and keep multiples of things as well, such as tree stands, Knittel says, in case one breaks. But that isn't something that's likely to happen, she points out.

The end of December and January can be a good time to find deals, particularly on decorations, but people should focus on only replacing or buying what they've noticed is missing on the tree, Knittel says.

Borax recommends a one-in, one-out strategy, where anything bought results in something being removed from the home.

"Your house is not going to expand," she says.

As for those pesky presents — the ones you don't really need or want, and only take up additional space — donate them, the pair suggests.

When people come to Borax and Knittel, unable to get rid of something because it has a particular memory attached to it, the pair tries to help them move past the emo-

tional hold of the object.

"We tell them, it's OK to let go," Knittel says

"What they're planning to let go of, someone will make use of," Borax adds.

Good Riddance helps clients pass on donations to organizations such as the Dixon Transition Society, as well.

Clients usually contact Good Riddance when "they're at the end of their rope," Knittel says.

And clients run the gamut from people downsizing to those with disabilities, who need a well-organized space, they say.

While everyone's organizing style is different, Borax says, most people collect the same things.

Empty baking tins, baseball hat collections, old luggage, and *National Geographic* and *Reader's Digest* magazines are some of the things that result in clutter in most people's homes, Knittel adds.

Their new book, *Good Riddance: Showing Clutter the Door*, is designed to help people deal with these clutter collections.

The pair starting working together six years ago, when Borax had an opportunity to start a business, and discovered she could be a professional organizer.

Knittel had an interest in feng shui, and joined the business, at first on a part-time basis while working at Global Television.

For post-holiday tips from Borax and Knittel, go to www.burnabynow.com.

And for more information on the company's available services, go to: www.goodriddance.ca.