

local news IN BRIEF

■ VOTE FOR ME, LATER

With the federal election eating up headlines, some civic politicians are trying to stay on the radar with their own elections still scheduled for November. Vancouver mayoral hopeful Peter Ladner yesterday said federal politicians should focus on crime, housing affordability, social housing, drug treatment and transportation infrastructure.

■ UP A TREE

A Vancouver man who made the news recently for fighting an unsuccessful court battle to keep a pirate ship tree fort in his yard says he wants to run with centre-left civic party Vision Vancouver. Self-described "tree fort Dad" Andrew Dewberry says his recent court spat with the city led him to realize he could spark "creative changes."

■ WHAT'S YOUR ISSUE?

A new website originating in Vancouver aims to encourage voters to vote for the environment – and not for the Conservatives. Its founders say www.voteformclimate.ca aims to encourage "strategic voting" in close Conservative ridings and reduce vote splitting among left-of-Tory parties.

■ C'MON, BIG MONEY!

In the days before the federal election was officially called, the Conservatives made billions in new spending promises. That included \$20.9 million for transportation projects here in B.C.

■ VOTE FOR ME, THREE

Liberal Gerry Lenoski this weekend said he wanted to run for his party in the Burnaby-New Westminster riding, which is currently controlled by the New Democrats.

- 24 hours news services

RED BULL SOAPBOX DERBY

Rockin' the street

At least we didn't crash, right?

With none other than Britney Spears – or reporter Matt Kieltka – at the wheel, 24 hours of Speed finished somewhere in the middle pack yesterday during the first ever Red Bull Soapbox race in Canada.

And we'll blame our lack of podium on the paparazzi. Darn media.

In the end, though, as the cliché says, everyone who showed up was a winner.

The sun was scorching, the crowds were cheering, and the race was definitely refreshing.

Creativity was also aplenty as 50 crews of four brought their homemade mobiles down to W. 4th Avenue to not only compete for the fastest time, but to entertain the mass of spectators.

From the Ambiguously Gay Duo to Noah's Ark, soapbox cars came in all variety, and the best part of the 520-metre long course? The crashes, of course.

When all was said and done, the Golden Shower crew from North Vancouver claimed the soapbox crown, with The Gravediggers and White Snake coming in second and third, respectively.

"The race was unbelievable," said Ben Boogaerts of Golden Shower. "We felt first place before we even went into the race and just came through in the end."

Danger Zone took home the People's Choice Award – where audience got to vote for their favourite.

- Hosea Cheung, 24 hours



- Rob Kruyt, 24 hours

You're Not Sushi You're Chicken, takes a nasty spill alongside Dome Six Less Two in the Red Bull Soapbox Race along Vancouver's West 4th Avenue yesterday.



- photos by Rob Kruyt, 24 hours

Clockwise from the top: Soapbox team Noah's Ark flies down the street; the Ferrari Red Bullet team tries to intimidate their Soapbox opponents before the race; crowds pile on rooftops to take in the spectacle.



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