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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

High 14°C/Low 8°C Partly cloudy

HOCKEY HISTORY



100 YEARS (AND COUNTING)

While Canucks fans long for the next big win, we look back at Vancouver's first Stanley Cup SEE STORY ON PAGE 51

COURTESY HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

CRIME

Facebook scam costs woman \$125,000

A Nanaimo woman in her 70s lost \$125,000 to a man she met online through Facebook, RCMP said Wednesday.

The woman accepted a friend request from a man she didn't know and over several months developed what she believed was a close relationship, police said.

The man, using the name Tom Brown, was supposedly an engineer for an oil company in Africa and was originally from the United Kingdom. He asked the victim for money to fix his work equipment and the money began to flow to the scammer.

The man then claimed he was involved in a serious motor-vehicle accident and asked for more money to deal with the medical emergency.

A supposed friend of the man then contacted the victim, saying Brown had slipped into a coma as a result of the accident.

The woman became suspicious earlier this month, broke off contact and reported the matter to RCMP. NEAL HALL/FOR METRO



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City's ancient past meets today's consumer culture

ART
Sculpture features cars, old-growth tree base

Neal Hall
 For Metro | Vancouver

A new sculpture to be installed Monday beside the Expo Sky-Train line and the Georgia Viaduct in downtown Vancouver will reflect the city's ancient past and its current throw-away consumer culture.

Trans Am Totem will feature an old-growth cedar tree base holding up four crushed cars with a gleaming Trans Am on top.

"It's an attempt to reconcile where we've been and where we are now," explained North Vancouver artist Marcus Bowcott, who has been working on the project for two years for the Vancouver Biennale sculpture exhibition.

He plans to watch it being installed next Monday at Quebec Street and Milross Avenue, located north of Science World.

"It's a contradiction of culture elevated above nature," he said Wednesday in an interview.

"In a sense, we trying to

keep up with technology, but we seem increasingly out of step with nature — not just internally but externally."

Bowcott, 64, taught drawing and painting for 22 years until last year at Capilano University, when the studio art program was eliminated.

He is a graduate of London's prestigious Royal College of Art and became interested in the crumbling car culture when he spent his early years working on the tow boats along the Fraser River, where he saw stacks of crushed cars.

"I noticed cars being used as breakwaters along the Fraser," Bowcott recalled. "I love the design of cars — it's the closest thing people have to sculptures. The sculpture is

“It's a contradiction of culture elevated above nature... The sculpture is a collision, of sorts, a metaphor for us being sealed off from others in our cars.”

Artist Marcus Bowcott

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The idea of mixing car culture with old-growth cedar is an idea he has played with for years in his sculpture and paintings.

The ancient tree base was from Vancouver Island and was donated anonymously.

A successful painter, Bowcott used more than \$40,000 from the sale of his paintings to create Trans Am Totem.

To help pay for the final \$6,500 cost of the heavy equipment needed to lift the work into place Monday, Bowcott launched an Indiegogo campaign.



A rendering of Marcus Bowcott's Trans Am Totem. CONTRIBUTED

HEALTH
Infection detector is 'totally novel'

A B.C. researcher has developed a handheld device that, when placed on a patient's abdomen, can instantly detect urinary tract infections.

Dr. Babak Shadgan, a sports physician and researcher at the University of B.C., said the device could change the way health-care professionals screen for UTIs, an infection of the urinary tract that is common in women, babies and the elderly.

"It's a totally novel concept in medicine," he told Metro. "We hope in the future that this will be a fast and cheaper method for detecting or at least screening people with UTIs."

Shadgan and his team were recently able to diagnose UTIs in 12 pediatric patients using the technology.

The wireless, credit-card-sized optical device works by sending near-infrared beams of light that measure tissue oxygenation in the bladder wall.

Comparing the results with measurements from the patient's thigh as a control site, researchers are able to determine when infections are present.

The current method for detecting UTIs involves analyzing a urine sample in a lab for white blood cells and bacteria, followed by a urine culture, which is expensive.

Still a prototype, the device is in the process of undergoing clinical trials.

If successful, Shadgan said the technology holds promise for patients most at risk of serious complications from UTIs, like children and people with neurologic conditions.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

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