



KERRISDALE CAMERAS
BC's #1 Photographic Experts Since 1961

OVER
60
YEARS

7 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU
Vancouver | North Vancouver | Burnaby
Victoria | Richmond | Langley | Coquitlam



CANADIANS BAILING OUT OF U.S.?

Poll suggests many plan to sell homes **A5**



SPALDING AT CHAN CENTRE

Strong start to season **A9**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025

SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912

POSTMEDIA

NEWS

PALMER

Horgan memoir recalls tough LNG Canada decision **A3**

SALMON

Experts warn of ongoing decline in sockeye **A4**

NP

CANADA

Poillievre says he'll push PM to axe 'carbon tax 2.0' **NP1**

SPORTS

UBC

Former Lion Jones now a co-ordinator for T-Birds **NP11**

Activate your ePaper – it's included with your subscription. Scan the QR code or visit epaper.vancouversun.com



\$3.33 plus GST
\$4.29 minimum in outlying areas

Developer eyes unsightly parcel

Architect working to transform former driving range in Burnaby

JOANNE LEE-YOUNG

In northeast Burnaby, a stretch of Hastings Street between Kensington and Sperling avenues, near the gateway to Simon Fraser University's main campus, is a study in contrasts.

On the south side of the corridor sits a busy strip mall, the Kensington Square Shopping Centre, anchored by a Safeway and a Shoppers Drug Mart, and filled in with an assortment of small businesses

— restaurants, a barber, a physiotherapy clinic.

On the north side sits a sprawling and unsightly 10-acre parcel of concrete, yellow grass and overgrown shrubs — the site of a once-thriving three-deck golf driving range that opened with great fanfare in the mid-1990s but shuttered in 2011. Save for a suspicious fire in 2016 that destroyed the abandoned main structure, the site — which has an assessed value of more than \$100 million — has

remained dormant ever since. A section of the range's towering netting is all that remains. The parking lot is littered with detritus: a collapsed lamp post, a burnt-out desk chair, empty bags of dog food, a can of White Claw.

But this could all start to shift in the years ahead.

Veteran local architect James Cheng, who has created some of Vancouver's most memorable buildings and projects, is working with developer Wall Financial Group to transform the site at 6555 Hastings St. into what he says could be comparable to Whistler Village, just in a more urban setting.

"We are envisioning a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use village centre with a car-free corso as the main street, as the heart of the community," said Cheng, who is working with Wall on a rezoning application for the City of Burnaby.

"It is designed as a village centre gathering place with the typical neighbourhood conveniences, such as a major drugstore, food store, child care, and, of course, restaurants and other amenities."

The vision includes creating a new half-acre park with uninterrupted views to the North Shore mountains.

SEE PROJECT ON **A2**



Architect James Cheng is working with developer Wall Financial Group to transform a stretch of Hastings Street between Kensington and Sperling avenues in Burnaby from a disused driving range site into what he says could be comparable to a more urban Whistler Village. **ARLEN REDEKOP**

SFU's new course on AI breaks ground by using an artificial teaching assistant

J.J. ADAMS

Simon Fraser University's newest class will have an unpaid expert on hand to answer questions about her field. And she's only three months old.

"She" is anthropomorphizing the issue, though. Kia is an artificial intelligence persona developed by SFU's iViz research lab, headed by professor Steve DiPaola.

And Kia, in what's believed to be a world first, will be assisting DiPaola in teaching his new course: IAT 111: Artificial Intelligence Today and Tomorrow.

The class, which is open to any students, is an explainer of sorts.

Its aim is to battle misinformation about AI and give students an idea of how to adapt it in their future fields.

"There's so many issues going on that I really needed to be teaching this to a much more significant audience," said DiPaola.

"There's such disinformation about what these systems are and what they aren't. I think I gave over 40 talks last year to try and really explain to the general public what it is, what it isn't, and how we can deal with it better for the future."

"This is the world that (my students) are moving into, and they really need to understand it. So by

anthropomorphizing AI like this, I think people are just very comfortable to ask it questions. Its job is that we can stop and ask its opinion as an AI on an AI topic, and then we can even debate with it, which is kind of fun and exciting."

He stressed that Kia is not a replacement for any human role, nor will it be involved in grading papers or similar functions.

"Kia is there only to wait for us to ask her questions. She's kind of an AI representative," he said. "Imagine we've brought her in knowing that we want somebody who knows a lot about AI to answer questions."

SEE SFU ON **A6**

SCENE

FOOD

Golden Smell Mee part of a legacy **A10**

FRINGE

Festival offers another great lineup of offbeat shows **A11**

FINAL DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1

1-877-WIN-HOME • pneprizehome.ca

Chances are 1 in 861,000 (total tickets for sale) to win a grand prize.

BC Gaming Event Licence #160800

Problem Gambling Help Line 1-888-795-6111
www.bcreponsiblegambling.ca

Know your limit, play within it.

19+