

local news IN BRIEF

■ CUPE STRIKE

Vision Vancouver city councillor Raymond Louie held a news conference yesterday on the sidewalk at city hall, announcing a proposal by a number of councillors and park board commissioners to restart negotiations with the help of a mediator to assist in the bargaining process.

■ MEDICAL EVAC

A 60-year-old cruise ship passenger aboard the MSN Noordam was hoisted to a helicopter by military search-and-rescue technicians yesterday. On the advice of the doctor on board the ship, she was transported to Port Hardy Hospital.

■ TRANSFER CLOSED

Due to increased waste flows, the Matsqui and Coquitlam transfer stations will be closed tomorrow. Alternative disposal options are the North Shore and Surrey transfer stations, although long line-ups at those facilities can be expected.

■ TRANSLINK STINK

B.C. Liberal Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon has taken critical steps to restructure TransLink without following the democratic process, said NDP transportation critic Maurine Karagianis yesterday. Karagianis said that Falcon's aggressive agenda does nothing to address transportation challenges in the region.

■ AIDS CHOPPER

AIDS Vancouver is launching its Custom Chopper Raffle to spread the word about the deadly disease. The prize motorcycle is a 2007 Phantom Chopper designed by Vancouver Chopper owner Troy Teather, and comes with an 88 cubic-inch Harley Davidson engine and a '70s throw-back James Brown paint theme.

- 24 hours news services

Roadmap to the wired city

With Wi-Fi hotspots popping up all over the city, the wireless world is nothing new to Vancouver.

But could there be a day when people can access the Internet from any public bus? According to New Westminster's Novax Industries, the technology is already here.

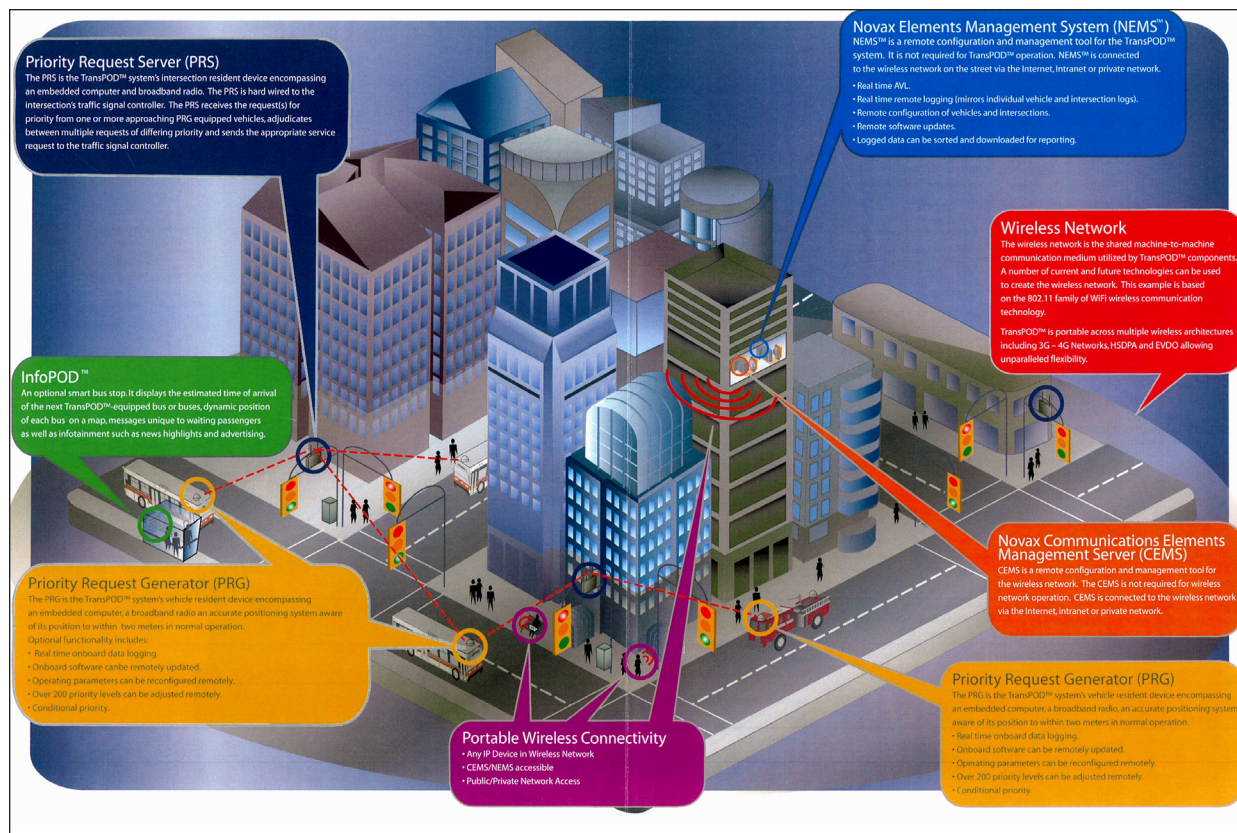
By piggybacking off the city's existing intersection traffic signal controllers, Novax's Larry Daluz says, an all-encompassing digital network could be set up on the streets of Vancouver in no time.

"Wireless itself has become quite pervasive in everyday life," said Daluz, director of Novax's wireless services. "We see a way in which these can integrate into the traffic systems of a city."

The company's latest project, TransPOD, is a wireless broadband environment designed to give transit vehicles priority through signalized intersections, remote telemetry and enhanced communication.

For transit users, it means less time at red lights and more reliable service.

TransPOD's operational features are already being implemented in Toronto and



Edmonton and TransLink is evaluating it for use in Vancouver – but Daluz told *24 hours* the service is capable of much more.

The full-fledged vision for

TransPOD includes information stations at all bus stops that show riders where the nearest bus is and estimate a time of arrival.

It also creates a city-wide

wireless network that can be used by the public to access the Internet from any bus or intersection.

"It's fairly easy to do. Those features are already built into

the infrastructure," Daluz explained. "It's really up to the municipality to decide what to do with it."

Welcome to the future.

- Matt Kieltyka, *24 hours*

SUPPORT FOR MEN

Coming to grips with losing a spouse

For men used to having a firm grip on life, being faced with the prospect of losing a spouse to cancer is a chilling one.

It's an experience Rob Barrett struggled with when his wife of 27 years, Diana, was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

"Devastating doesn't even come close to describing what it's like," Barrett told *24 hours*. "You spend your time picking yourself off the ground like one freight train after another just hit you."

As if the emotional toll wasn't enough, Barrett was forced to navigate an alien medical system as he cared for his wife.

He felt powerless.

It was almost too much to bear until he realized he wasn't alone.

At his wife's request, in the spring of 2006 Barrett reluctantly – "it's a guy thing" – agreed to sit in on a pilot B.C. Cancer Agency support group for men whose spouses have cancer.

"I went into it thinking it would be a one-time thing," admitted Barrett. "But then you start talking to the other guys and you realize, 'Hey, I've been down that road too' and you start helping each other."

The two-hour monthly sessions feel more like a locker room than a sterile counselling office, Barrett said, but the results are the same.

"It's a group for guys who don't like groups, but it's become an important part of their lives," said John Christopherson, the group's clinical counsellor.

Diana passed away a year ago, but Barrett still attends to mentor other men dealing with the fear he once had.

Men who are interested in attending or learning more about the group are encouraged to contact John Christopherson at 604-877-6000, extension 2190.

Just don't expect any of that sissy group-hug stuff.

- Matt Kieltyka, *24 hours*



- Rob Krutz, *24 hours*

John Christopherson runs a support group for men.



SUN MEDIA
CORPORATION
A QUEBECOR MEDIA COMPANY

VANCOUVER
24 HOURS
is published
Monday-Friday
and distributed free.

REACH US AT:
(604) 322-2340
1070 SE Marine Dr.
Vancouver, B.C., V5X 2V4

Publisher
Amber Ogilvie
amber.ogilvie@24hrs.ca

Editor-in-chief
Dean Broughton
dean.broughton@24hrs.ca

Director of Sales
Elena Dunn
elena.dunn@24hrs.ca

CONTACTS

Editorial
Tel: (604) 322-2356
Fax: (604) 322-3026
news@24hrs.ca

Distribution & Reader Services
Philip Tan
van.distribution@24hrs.ca
(604) 322-2353

Advertising

Tel: (604) 322-2371
Fax: (604) 322-3036

PRINTING Quebecor World
Chairman Jim Pattison
Vice-chairman Pierre Francoeur
President Glen Clark
Vice President, New Business Development Bob Harris



PLEASE RECYCLE

www.24hrs.ca