

# Council approves minor variances for IH building

By RON SEYMOUR

The Daily Courier

Building variances granted by the city for construction of the new Interior Health complex in downtown Kelowna are relatively minor, Mayor Colin Basran says.

The changes, unanimously approved by council, are reasonable given the significance of the building toward revitalizing downtown, Basran said Wednesday.

And he also said the variances will help reduce the project's cost, which he described as good news for taxpayers.

"At the end of the day, we have to recognize there is only one taxpayer," Basran said. "We have to be conscious of spending taxpayers' money wisely."

Council on Tuesday granted several variances for construction of the IH building's fifth floor, similar to variances already approved for the lower levels.

Essentially, the variances allow for a building that is much wider than would normally be permitted in the C-7 zone. Also, the building will not have the kind of stepped-back appearance for the upper floors that is designed to reduce massing from street level.

About 800 Interior Health workers, transferred from other locations around Kelowna, will work out of the new building at the corner of Doyle Avenue and St. Paul Street when it opens next year. When the project was announced in 2012, it was hailed as a major boost for downtown given the number of high-paid health care employees who will work there.

"Given the great value this project will bring to downtown, council was supportive of granting these minor variances," Basran said.

Without the variances, he said, the building would likely have had to been constructed as a taller tower, something he said would



Artist's rendering

**This is what the new Interior Health building on Doyle Avenue is supposed to look like when employees start moving in next year.**

have been both more costly for Interior Health and not likely to have been appreciated by the public.

"You wouldn't want to see these govern-

ment workers in a fancy, high-rise glass tower," Basran said. "This is an institutional building. Not every building in downtown Kelowna has to be iconic."



GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

Rylie Gallagher, owner of Wibit Water Park in City Park, says business is down since smoke from U.S. forest fires rolled into the Valley on Sunday.

## Smoke

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These numbers are down from peak readings of 391 micrograms per cubic metre on Sunday afternoon and above 200 micrograms per cubic metre on Monday.

"We expect the smoke conditions to continue until Friday," said Tarek Ayache, air

quality meteorologist. "We are expecting a weather system to move in by the weekend to bring in precipitation."

Ayache said the predicted precipitation will bring a "big relief in the smoky conditions."

Environment Canada is predicting a high of 28 C on Thursday, accompanied by "wide-spread smoke."

Friday is expected to be 25 C with showers. The government's air quality forecast for Thursday is a 6, which represents "moderate risk."

## Well-known criminal hospitalized

PENTICTON — A high-profile criminal accused most recently of shooting a man on a bush road near Oliver has been hospitalized while awaiting trial.

Ronald Arthur Teneycke was due Wednesday in provincial court in Penticton, but was a no-show.

Court heard Teneycke, who was set to appear via videoconference from Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre, is in hospital.

Defence counsel Michael Welsh had the matter put over until Sept. 23.

"We were going to be adjourning it anyway because I still have very incomplete disclosure on this matter," he said.

Outside court, Welsh shook his head when asked if knew the nature of Teneycke's med-

ical emergency.

A gaunt-looking Teneycke told the Herald in May he'd had a portion of his bowel removed, a procedure he claimed made him unfit to serve a 90-day intermittent sentence.

A judge ultimately declined to put the sentence on hold while he recovered, and Teneycke officially became a fugitive when he failed report for jail at the Penticton RCMP detachment on June 26.

While on the lam, Teneycke allegedly held up Eastside Grocery in Oliver and shot a man who's truck he stole on a bush road east of the community. Teneycke was arrested in a Cawston orchard on July 23 and has been in jail since. He faces 12 new charges.

— *Penticton Herald*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### TODAY

#### Park and Play

Fun activities for all ages in parks across the city. Today's events take place at Whitman-Glen Park, 308 Whitman Rd. Time: 5-8 p.m.

#### Kelowna Stroke Recovery Club

Stroke survivors, caregivers and family members welcome. For more info call: Eva, 250-763-0556. Location: St. Aidan's Anglican Church, 380 Leathad Rd. Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### Sizzling Salsa

Open to all levels of dance. Partners not required. Includes half hour lesson. \$5 at the door. Pay for three and bring one free. Location: Rotary Centre for the Arts, 421 Cawston Ave., 8:15 p.m.

#### SMART Recovery Meeting

Addiction recovery based on scientific concepts. Find sobriety through participation in a free, self-empowering, science-based mutual help group. Website: smartokanagan.org. Location: Bridge Youth and Family Services , portable 2, 760 Hwy. 33 W. Time: 7 p.m.

#### Community lunch and fellowship

First timers lunch is free all other times \$3. Enjoy this weekly meet, for life-confirming energy. No registration needed, just turn up. For more info, call Shonu at 250-870-8470. Location: Mainstreet Community Church, 1580 Bernard Ave. Time: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

#### Adult grief support group

Anyone who has lost a loved one is invited to a safe space where you can share your journey and receive support from others. Admission is free, drop in, no pre-registration required. For more info, email pauline@hospicecoha.org. Location:

Central Okanagan Hospice Association, 204 – 1456 St. Paul St. Time: 1-2:30 p.m.

#### Seniors meet

Seniors with an energy for life join this club for friendly fun. Call Helen on 778-478-7865 to confirm attendance. Location: Parkinson Senior Centre, 1700 Parkinson Way. Time: 11:30 a.m.

### FRIDAY

#### Zumba for 50+

Zumba class at Parkinson Activity Centre, fun and fitness with lively music. Info: 250-762-4108. Location: 1700 Parkinson Way. Time: 8:30 a.m.

#### Park and Play

— Fun activities for all ages in parks across the city. Today's activities take place at Jack Robertson Park, 1655 Willow Cres. Time: 5-8 p.m.

#### Women's counselling group

A professionally led counselling group for women who want to heal from unhealthy or abusive childhood and/or partner relationships, at the Kelowna Family Centre. This is a morning drop-in group, admission free. Info and start times: 250-860-3181. Location: 204 – 347 Leon Ave.

#### Seniors songsters

Seniors sing every Friday afternoon at care homes around Kelowna and Lake Country. To register, call Sharon, 250-717-5690.

#### Cribbage

Mission Senior Centre cribbage group is looking for new members. Anyone over 50 is welcome. Info: 250-763-2781. Location: 4398 Hobson Rd. Time: 1 p.m.

#### Music in the Park

Final concert of the summer will feature Adam Fitzpatrick doing Elvis Presley and rising artists, beginning at 6:45 at Memorial Park in West Kelowna, beside the Johnson-Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre. Fitzpatrick performs at 8 p.m. The fun includes food vendors and activities on-site for kids.

**Fall activities are about to resume. Send your group's meeting and activity information to calendar@ok.bc.ca.**

## New

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Burnaby Now newspaper in February that Kaardal's departure was neither a firing nor a resignation.

"It was kind of a mutual agreement where the board wanted to move in a different direction and he wanted to pursue other options," Burton said at the time. "It's just one of those things in a relationship that happens when you want to travel in different paths."

Kaardal's settlement agreement, obtained by the Burnaby Now newspaper through a freedom of information request, showed he used up vacation and gratuity days while collecting full salary, benefits, and a \$9,151 car allowance until July 17.

The Burnaby board of education then formally terminated Kaardal "without cause," kicking off an 18-month "notice period" during which Kaardal will continue to collect salary and benefits until Jan. 17, 2017.

In 2013-14, Kaardal was paid \$215,702 in salary and benefits, according to the Burnaby

school district's most recent executive compensation report.

However, the severance agreement states the severance payments to Kaardal would end if he got a public sector job in B.C. during the notice period, unless that job paid less than he had been earning in Burnaby.

If that is the case, Burnaby would top up Kaardal's salary to his old level until Jan. 17, 2017.

In each of the past three years, Gloster was paid \$196,000 in salary and benefits, according to the school district's most recent executive compensation report.

But Cacchioni said there was no direct relationship between Gloster's salary as outgoing superintendent and Kaardal's as the new top official.

Kaardal's salary, which will become known next fall when the school board is obliged by provincial law to release the information, was set through reference to his experience, current salaries paid superintendents of similar districts elsewhere, and some other negotiating factors, Cacchioni said.

School board chairwoman Moyra Baxter could not be immediately reached Wednesday.

nikki harrison

Entries go to:

nikkiharrisonphotocontest@ok.bc.ca

Deadline for entries is August 31st.

Please note we may use letters and or photos on our website, facebook page or in paper during the contest.

THE DAILY COURIER