

Fire at recycling plant suspicious

KELOWNA — A fire at the Cascades recycling plant is considered suspicious.

On Friday morning around midnight, the Kelowna Fire Department received a 911 call reporting two large fires at the recycling plant at 144 Cambro Rd.

Engine 3 arrived first on scene and quickly knocked down the fire, said Eric Simpson, platoon captain.

No other buildings or property were involved in the fire.

The fire is being considered suspicious, said Kelowna RCMP Const. Jesse O'Donaghey.

"Initial findings at the scene are that two pallets located with packed recycling material was ablaze," he said. "No structures were affected by the fire, which was contained to the two pallets."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the RCMP at 250-762-3300 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 to remain anonymous.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

TSX composite	14,226.78 + 89.79	▲
Dow index	17,807.06 - 31.50	▼
Oil futures (July contract)	US\$48.62 - \$0.55	▼
Canadian dollar	77.26 US + 0.95	▲
Gold futures (August contract)	US\$1,242.90 + \$30.30	▲

TORONTO — The Toronto stock market entered what some consider bull market territory Friday, finishing the session more than 20 per cent above its January low, while the loonie soared nearly one cent following disappointing jobs numbers south of the border.

The S&P/TSX composite index gained 89.79 points to 14,226.78 as the global gold, materials, and metals and mining sectors outpacing the overall market. With its latest gain, the TSX now is 20.1 per cent above its Jan. 20 close of 11,843.11.

— The Canadian Press

Thousands of new college grads heading into the working world

CONTRIBUTED

As one Okanagan College business student will note when she addresses her graduating class today, it was often the most challenging moments of her studies that best prepared her for the future.

Jessica Lenz is completing a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) honours degree specializing in accounting, and for the past year has been a student researcher with the Scotiabank Centre for Non-profit Excellence at the Kelowna campus. She recently presented her findings at the Canadian Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship national conference in Guelph, Ont.

"It was so beneficial to have real-world opportunities to engage with and learn from business leaders in our community," said Lenz, who now plans to pursue her CPA certification.

"It was very challenging, but also very fulfilling as a student to be a part of research that has application to people's businesses and livelihoods locally, and has the potential to bring about positive change."

Lenz is among the more than 1,450 students who will be recognized at the convocation ceremonies. She will also take the stage to give the student address and will be presented with the Silver Governor General's Academic Medal and Bachelor of Business Administration Medal, as the graduand with the highest graduating grade average in an Okanagan College baccalaureate

program and the BBA program this year.

"Receiving the Silver Governor General's medal was one of the goals I have pushed myself toward for a long time," said Lenz.

"It's an incredible feeling to realize a goal like this. I can't wait to be at the ceremony with all my fellow graduates who share the same pride of accomplishment."

The college recognized the achievements of nearly 1,000 trades students at a commencement ceremony Friday night.

Today, 481 credentials will be conferred to students in academic and vocational programs and include: 129 bachelor's degrees, 55 associate degrees, 270 diplomas, and 27 certificates.

The morning ceremony starts at 10:30 a.m., and will see students from arts, science, engineering technologies, computer science, and health and social development programs receive their credentials. Local forest hydrologist, Dr. Rita Winkler, and Mission Hill's Anthony von Mandl, will address the morning graduating class.

At the afternoon ceremony starting at 1:30, Okanagan College will confer degrees, diplomas and certificates to graduates of the Okanagan College School of Business. After being recognized as Honorary Fellow on Saturday afternoon, Kelowna entrepreneur Bill Redmond will address the next wave of business leaders.

This weekend's ceremonies represent three of the college's six annual convocation ceremonies. The first convocation



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ceremony of the year was held in January, and 310 credentials were awarded to students.

Two additional ceremonies will be held later in June. A cere-

mony in Vernon will be held on June 27.

The final summer convocation in Kelowna will take place on June 29.

LOTTERIES

Did you win?

LOTTO MAX: The winning numbers in Friday's draw were 12, 21, 28, 37, 40, 43 and 47. The bonus number was 11.

EXTRA: Friday's winning numbers were 1, 37, 57 and 74.

In the event of a discrepancy between these numbers and the official winning numbers list, the latter shall prevail.

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New

Continued from page A1

"The Ombudsperson is an unbiased third party and as such, the district will await his comments."

Van Alphen said that the Board will definitely not seek the services of the special adviser until the final report is received from the Ombudsman. At that time, they may or may not opt to use the adviser.

"We need to find out what the Ombudsman has to say. We did supply him with everything we had, all of the paperwork he requested. With a special adviser... it's a huge overlap."

Support Summerland Schools member Meghan Steele described the board's action as a stalling tactic.

"We are very disappointed," Steele said. "We will, for sure, now be requesting that Minister Mike Bernier invoke Bill 11 and assign a special adviser immediately. Denying the special adviser in favour of the Ombudsman, they (board) know it's a lengthy and non-binding process. The money brought forward by MLA Ashton came with his specific request that it be used to keep the schools open."

Steele said legal action by the Trout Creek parents still remains an option.

Van Alphen agreed there is a \$1.9 million surplus but said most of the money has been mandated for Aboriginal education along with other grants that have specific purposes not related to keeping schools open.

After reviewing the press release, Ashton expressed concerns.

"I'm glad to see this is going to the board for consideration, but with the next meeting not until the middle of June when school is winding down, I thought a special, extraordinary meeting would have been more appropriate," Ashton said. "We are offering to pay for a special adviser, I'm not sure why they'd turn that down. I'm hoping they discuss this at their June 13 meeting and accept the Ministry's offer."

McNicoll Park Middle School in Penticton will also close its doors June 30. That decision was met with almost no opposition from the school community.

Kelowna

Continued from page A1

Dankoski, meanwhile, was sentenced to two years in jail for his role in the Kelowna conspiracy.

No reasons for his sentence have been made public.

Nor did the investigating agency, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, announce that he had been charged despite doing so in similar gang murder cases with multiple defendants.

Gordon Comer, of the B.C. Attorney General's criminal justice branch, said the public wasn't informed about Dankoski's

case because "there was nothing about this particular matter which required a media statement."

"The plea and sentencing were dealt with in the normal course," he said in an email. "As there are related files that are currently before the courts, we are unable to comment further about this particular matter."

Less than three weeks before Dankoski was sentenced, the criminal justice branch advised the media to be in court for the guilty plea of Sophon Sek, a gangster who helped the Surrey Six killers access the apartment where they gunned down six people in October 2007.

Sek had been charged with

manslaughter, but that was dropped after a deal was struck between his lawyer and the Crown in which he pleaded guilty to a single count of break and enter instead.

He was sentenced to a year in jail.

CFSEU Staff Sgt. Lindsey Houghton said he couldn't comment on Dankoski's charge or conviction or say why the matter wasn't released to the public.

Dankoski, 31, was an associate of the late Sukh Dhak and his brother Gurmit. Sukh was shot to death in Burnaby in 2012, while his other brother was gunned down at Metrotown mall in 2010.

Dankoski had several run-ins

with police in 2014 and 2015. He was charged in September 2014 with resisting and assaulting a peace officer in Kelowna. In January 2015 he was charged with unauthorized possession of a firearm and knowingly possessing a firearm without a licence. In March, he was charged with theft and possession of stolen property in Kelowna. He May 2015, he was charged in Surrey with breaching court conditions. In July, he was charged with assault.

But according to the online court database, all of his outstanding charges were stayed in January 2016 when he appeared first in Kelowna and then in Surrey provincial court.

Mounties looking for owner of cash found by transit rider

The Okanagan Saturday

Kelowna RCMP are looking for the owner of an envelope of cash found on a bus.

On Wednesday at 8:52 a.m., a transit rider reported finding an envelope of cash to the RCMP.

"Police have determined that the honest finder was a passenger on a transit bus from UBCO to West Kelowna when they found the money," said Const.

Jesse O'Donaghey.

"They interrupted their trip to exit the bus in downtown Kelowna to turn the money over to police."

The owner of the money will have to provide the exact total of the cash found including its denominations and the unique markings on the envelope.

If you can prove you are the owner of the money, you are asked to contact the Kelowna RCMP at 250-762-3300.

PENTICTON

2 men charged with fraud over hockey dorm ordered to stand trial

BY JAMES MILLER
The Okanagan Saturday

Two men charged with fraud in relation to Penticton's failed hockey dormitory project have been committed to trial.

Former Okanagan residents Loren Reagan and Mike Elphicke, who now reside in Calgary, are both accused of fraud over \$5,000, theft over \$5,000 and unauthorized management of a lottery scheme all of which were alleged to have occurred in 2011.

Following a four-day preliminary

inquiry which concluded Friday afternoon in Penticton, a judge has ordered the two to stand trial in B.C. Supreme Court. During the inquiry, 14 witnesses were called. Reagan was absent for the week and represented by Calgary lawyer Kim Ross. Elfeckie, who is presently receiving kidney dialysis treatments in Kelowna while in the Okanagan, was present throughout.

A trial date will be set July 18. Crown counsel Patrick Fullerton hopes the trial — which will be before a judge alone — can proceed "within one year."

Wildfire

Continued from page A1

Suncor is working to restore the refinery and restart the remaining oilsands operations to provide more crude oil input to its system, said Seetal.

The Interior is the only region in B.C. affected by the gas shortage, because most of

the Okanagan's gas is delivered from Edmonton along Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline, said Dan McTeague, senior petroleum analyst at GasBuddy.com.

"If you can't produce enough gas, it means the pipeline itself doesn't have enough supply," he said. "Suncor has not been able to produce enough gasoline to meet its own obligations."

Areas outside the Okanagan, including Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island, are

not affected by this shortage because their gas comes from suppliers in Burnaby and Washington, said McTeague.

The gasoline shortage comes as prices have recently spiked 10 cents in Kelowna.

While the Petro-Canada shortages might not have caused a spike in prices yet, it isn't helping, said McTeague.

"It won't help bring them down," he said. "If you have a shortage in the system, it'll keep prices up artificially."