

TOWN TALK

# Cliff adds another edge to his CV with university leadership award

Public service heights: Corporate heavies gather for SFU shindig honouring community service



Malcolm Parry

**S**TILL CLIMBING: Given the corporate and public service heights to which he's scaled, **Ronald Cliff** sure has the right family name. His CV shows him occupying more chairs than you'd find around a boardroom table. They include those at Canfor, Heathcliff Properties, Terasen and even this newspaper's former ownership group. With an eye to enhancing its ever-more-dignified status, Simon Fraser University bestowed its President's Distinguished Community Leadership Award on him Thursday. Cliff almost had an eye out, too, having undergone surgery on both peepers that morning.

SFU president **Andrew Petter** and chancellor **Carole Taylor** welcomed former chancellor **Joe Segal**, who walked in after breaking his neck five months ago and narrowly escaping paralysis.

As for neck snapping, another corporate heavy was entering the Four Seasons Hotel ballroom when a person behind him said: "I'm looking for a good used car."

"And I've got one for you," said multi-billionaire industrialist **Jim Pattison**, whirling around, ready as ever to move a late-model cream puff from one of his lots.

**BLOOMIN' LOVELY:** The trees themselves always put on a big show. But **Linda Poole**, who founded the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival in 2005, has complemented the extravagant pink blooms by creating events that also take place citywide. This year's jollity began at Tojo's restaurant, where **Hidekazu Tojo** had fellow chefs **Nobu Ochi**, **Takayuki Omi**, **Daryle Nagata**, **Kazuya Matsuka** and **Masahito Iwamoto** visit from their own eateries to cook for Sakura Night, which was named for the trees. Attendees were encouraged to wear pink. Former city parks commissioner **Korina Houghton** upped the ante, with a cherry-blossom patterned dress sourced at Le Chateau that morning.

**PIE IN THE SKY:** Having climbed the tallest mountains on six continents, **Ravil Changoulou** will have city-based Freshslice Pizza sponsor his attempt on Everest in May. Should he reach the summit on a Tuesday, perhaps he'll be served a pizza slice with any topping for \$1.29.

**HE SHOOTS. THEY SCORE:** Tyro impresario **Vernard Goud** returned to Seymour Street's Five Sixty club this week with another fashion-oriented benefit for Beauty Night. That's the organization former screen actress **Caroline MacGillivray** founded in 2000 to help disadvantaged women look and feel better. Her father **Alex** had a generation of Sun readers feel or at least dine

better via the hundreds of restaurant reviews he wrote.

As well as involving fashion models on stage, Goud's event drew several higher-priced ones as observers. They came to meet the event's honouree, Coquitlam-raised former pro soccer striker **Raphael Mazzucco**, who routinely photographs global supermodels for advertisers and major magazines, including many of Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit edition.

**RAISING THE BAR:** Since the Gotham steakhouse opened in 1999, an art-deco-style mural painting of cocktail patrons and a dog has overlooked its adjacent bar. Ready for Gotham's 15th-anniversary party Thursday, artist **Shannon Belkin** created another large work, this time for the restaurant proper. She's known widely for portraying horses, roosters, other animals and, most notably, pet bulldog Stinky. Likely at the urging of close friend and Gotham president-general partner **Neil Aisenstat**, she returned to the hues of her barroom work to create what Endall Elliot architecture firm principal **Malcolm Elliot** called "a major selfie." The two-metre-high painting may be the first public image of Belkin herself. Fittingly, given the locale, it's a most appetizing one.

**TOO MANY PLAYERS?** In the equally favoured Hawksworth lounge on Thursday sat Delta Group president **Bruce Langereis**, who spearheaded the Hotel Georgia redevelopment (architects: Endall Elliot). He was enjoying frosties with a chap whose hopes for the season got equally iced. That was Vancouver Canucks general manager **Mike Gillis**, who had taken shots at coach **John Tortorella** earlier that day. Asked if his and Langereis' barroom powwow entailed remarking the team, Gillis said: "No. We'll do that at 7:15 tomorrow morning."

**FITS ALL:** Imagine paying \$300 online for a T-shirt from L.A.-based Enfants Riches Deprimés — it means depressed rich kids — only to find it too small. Far from crying the blues, **Buster Kruse** tossed the ritzy-punky black garment to sister **Eleu** who pushed it aside until, learning the price, she wore it to the Gotham party — without paying, natch.

**BUY THE BOOK:** Anyone wondering about the demise of book publishing needed only to be at Granville Street's Joe's Apartment bar-club Thursday. That's when the West Coast Book Prize Society announced its 2014 finalists. All 35 of them. Authors present who can afford \$110, and not all can, will be at the Renaissance Vancouver Harbourside hotel May 3 for the prize gala and final chapter of this dramatic story.

**DOWN PARRYSOPE:** As the pace of liberalization quickens, maybe we'll see high-flying airlines start serving marijuana-based beverages and baked goods to nervous passengers or indeed everybody but those on the flight deck.

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Former parks commissioner Korina Houghton wore a theme-matching dress for restaurateur Hidekazu Tojo's Sakura Night kickoff for the Cherry Blossom Festival Linda Poole founded in 2005.



Richards International Model Management's Rya Berkelaar, left, Eva Gii, Rachel Leteta and Danielle Taylor attended a Beauty Night benefit.



Receiving Simon Fraser University's community leadership award, Ronald Cliff was feted by varsity president Andrew Petter.



When a \$300 Enfants Riches Deprimés T-shirt purchased online proved too small, Buster Kruse tossed it to right-sized sister Eleu.



Caroline MacGillivray released famed fashion shooter Raphael Mazzucco supporting Beauty Night's programs for disadvantaged women.



Gotham president Neil Aisenstat had Shannon Belkin make a large painting of herself for the steakhouse's 15th anniversary.



Mother Yule and sister Fiona Goud at a fashion-show event he staged to benefit Beauty Night.