

## VCC receives \$33 million for campus expansion

## New VCC aboriginal jewellery program



PHOTO: L. MCKENZIE

From left to right: Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's Pat Semeniuk, Advanced Education Minister Ida Chong, Vancouver Coun. Tim Stevenson and VCC president Dale Dorn have a look at the architect's model.

### New funding means VCC will be better able to serve students

VCC has received \$33 million in provincial funding for a new building that will begin much-needed expansion of the college's campus on Broadway.

"This is great news for the college, its students and its employees," says president Dale Dorn, who joined Advanced Education Minister Ida Chong for the announcement last month at the campus.

"We have been working on our campus expansion plans for some time now," he says. "This funding is a major step forward in giving us the space we need to serve students better and meet current and future needs."

VCC's new building – 125,000 square feet in all – will provide the college with new classrooms, nursing and

See **CAMPUS EXPANSION** on page 8

VCC is launching new training to introduce jewellery-making techniques to aboriginal artists.

Strong demand from the artists themselves prompted VCC to develop the offering, says Jewellery Art and Design department head Maciek Walentowicz, who notes that many of them have learned informally and picked up skills by watching others.

"Native culture is very important to the history and identity of British Columbia," he says. "It's exciting to bring that into jewellery-making, where we'll combine contemporary techniques with traditional aboriginal design."

A separate course will run each summer focusing in detail on a specific jewellery-making technique such as engraving, stone setting and enamelling.

This year's six-week offering will focus on casting, which was chosen to kick off the program given its close tie-in to carving, says Walentowicz. ■

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News  
BriefsGet your groove on:  
VCC plans anniversary party

Are you feelin' groovy?

Vancouver Community College celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and plans are in the works for a major celebration, which will pay homage to VCC's roots in the 1960s and recognize its years of success.

"This is a major milestone for the college, so we want to give it the recognition it deserves – both internally and externally," says Linda Martin, VCC's vice-president of advancement and education services and the chair of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee.

Mark your calendars for the evening of Oct. 14 for the college's anniversary celebration, where the foyer of the downtown campus will be transformed into a party palace, says Martin, complete with theme rooms, displays, refreshments and a disk jockey spinning the tunes from the '60s through to today.

"We have a long history of making a difference in the lives of students," says Martin. "This is the time to celebrate that history and acknowledge everyone involved over the years who worked to make the college a success."

Tickets – \$19.65, a fitting figure – will go on sale over the coming months; the price includes entertainment, buffet-style dinner and a drink.

Watch for more information through e-mails, posters and the Connections newsletter.

Promotional efforts highlighting VCC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary continue their gradual roll-out leading up to October's event. Virtually all college advertising now features the special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary icon, and special versions of the college's billboard campaign will promote the milestone later this year.

Student – aged 66 – completes  
high school at VCC with top marks

Erna Dorotich, aged 66, poses in front of the college's Broadway campus with a textbook from one of her favorite VCC courses – and her marks prove how much she enjoyed it.

**E**rna Dorotich of Vancouver proves you're never too old to learn.

In April she completed her final course in VCC's high school program – at 66 years old. She'll graduate in the fall, when she returns from a few months in Haiti doing volunteer work.

It's just the latest challenge she's tackled – and one of her proudest achievements.

She was the only one of seven children in her family – Ukrainian immigrants to Canada during the Second World War – to go to school; she tried hard to get ahead in her classes, but struggled and began to feel dumb.

Resigned, she dropped out in Grade 10.

Fortunately, she was able to enrol in a practical nursing program that only required Grade 10. She loved nursing, but was never able to be a registered nurse without completing high school; her interest in learning showed, and while working at St. Paul's her colleagues provided her

with new opportunities in different areas of the hospital.

It was only after Dorotich enrolled at VCC in 1996 – taking an accounting course where she earned a B – that she realized maybe she was smart.

With her love of challenges, Dorotich continued at VCC, where she was determined to finish her courses – especially as she was receiving numerous A and A+ marks.

"This experience has opened many windows and doors," she says. "It happened gradually, but I am more knowledgeable.

"I think better of myself. And I am more humble. The more you learn, the more you realize how much you don't know," she says.

Her favorite class is biology, and she credits her accomplishments to VCC's supportive faculty and fellow students, many of whom are now her friends.

Before leaving for Haiti, she dropped by VCC to pick up her final mark on her law exam. It was another A. ■

News  
Briefs

## Appointments

New director of  
aboriginal education and services

Ron Johnston has joined VCC as the director of aboriginal education and services, coming to the college with a broad background in trades as well as academia.

Johnston holds inter-provincial tickets in plumbing and gas-fitting as well as a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and anthropology with a minor in First Nations studies. He has been involved in numerous committees and projects that focus on targeted services for aboriginal people, giving him keen awareness of the issues and challenges aboriginal learners face in post-secondary education.

For the past three years he has worked in aboriginal services for Human Resources Development Canada.

His office is room 4051A, next to Financial Aid on the Broadway campus. Reach him at local 7043.

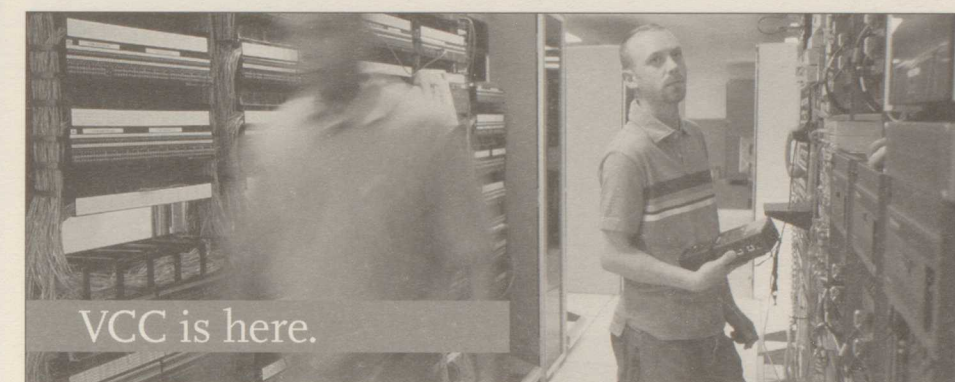
Confidential assistant in  
Advancement and  
Education Services

Lisa Middleton has been appointed as the confidential assistant to Linda Martin, vice-president of advancement and education services, succeeding the retiring Della Glendenning.

Middleton has served in a number of different roles in the college since joining VCC in January 1999. She has a bachelor of arts degree in cultural anthropology/museum studies and is fluent in Spanish.

Glendenning joined VCC in November 1991 as secretary to the director of International Education, and was then appointed confidential assistant to the vice-presidents in August 1994; she has been Martin's assistant since then and will retire at the end of October. "I shall miss her dependability, professionalism and her keen sense of wit," says Martin. "I welcome Lisa to her new position and sadly prepare myself for Della's departure."

See **Appointments** continued on pg 4

VCC designates new centres  
for Technology and Design

VCC is here.

www.vcc.ca  
604.871.7000

Centre for Technology  
Vancouver  
Community  
College

## VCC adds two new centres to its popular "VCC is here" billboard campaign

**V**ancouver Community College has designated two new centres – the Centre for Design and the Centre for Technology – to build on its strength in these areas and boost industry relationships.

"VCC has a solid reputation for high quality in both its design and technology programming," says Sandra Bailey, dean of the college's career, design, trades and technology programs, who oversees the new centres.

"This kind of recognition – new centres – simply adds greater visibility and focus to this part of VCC's training, which will let us serve students and industry better."

At the heart of the new Centre for Design are VCC's jewellery design, digital graphics, hair design and esthetics pro-

grams, which each year see graduates earn peer and industry accolades for their skills, creativity and originality.

VCC's Centre for Technology features the college's electronics, drafting and computer technology programming – all of which enjoy strong industry support.

"It's vital that VCC continues to develop its programming so it's always up-to-date and relevant – which is a big part

of our success," says Bailey. "These new centres give us a forum to do just that through greater connection with the industries that employ our graduates."

Promotion will come by way of the college's ongoing identity advertising, 'VCC is here,' which starting this month expands to feature the new centres in SkyTrain and newspaper ads. ■



VCC is here.

www.vcc.ca  
604.871.7000

Centre for Design  
Vancouver  
Community  
College



## News Briefs

### Appointments (continued)

#### New dean of Language Studies

Alison Norman has accepted the position of dean of Language Studies. Norman comes to this position with a strong background in ESL and a national reputation in language acquisition.

She has been with the college for 25 years and is well known both internally and in the community. She has expressed her excitement about the many opportunities to work with faculty, staff and administration on new initiatives designed to assist new Canadians in accessing the workplace. Norman undertook her new role May 3.

#### 50-50 draw winner

The March winner of the employee 50-50 draw is Sandra Jones from Library Information Services. Congratulations, Sandra.

VCC's 50-50 draw provides funds for entrance scholarships for students from nine district high schools, as well as for dependents of full-time VCC employees. This year, as well, the 50-50 draw supports the 40 special entrance scholarships established to celebrate VCC's 40th anniversary.

Thanks to all participants. If you are not yet in the draw and would like your chance to win, contact Rebecca Davey in the VCC Foundation: local 7148 or e-mail [rdavey@vcc.ca](mailto:rdavey@vcc.ca).

#### Memorial Bench at KEC



Bill Miller (left) and Stuart Scholefield pose on the bench in the KEC courtyard dedicated to Cheryl Draper, on the one-year anniversary of her passing away.

## Career Fair is a resounding success

More than 1,000 students attended VCC's Career Fair, where they took in how-to employment workshops and connected with prospective employers and professional associations.

Faculty gave students extended breaks to attend the event and workshops, covering a range of topics including networking, writing cover letters and résumés, interviewing and negotiating salaries.

Attending to recruit prospective employees were public protection agencies and a host of organizations representing the health, dental, business and financial sectors, as well as those from the hospitality, tourism and restaurant industries.

"I am extremely pleased with our first effort. I know the day was very successful," says Lornell Ridley, VCC's associate director of alumni relations. "We had great feedback from employers who were pleased with both the professionalism of the students and the fair."



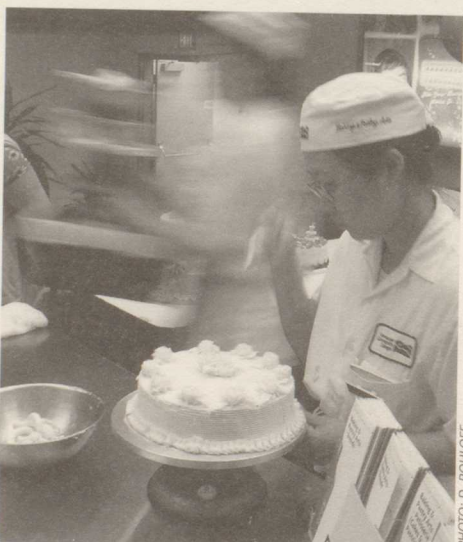
Exhibitors talk to students about opportunities.

"Students and alumni expressed appreciation at the quality of speakers, workshops and selection of exhibitors. It will be bigger and better next year. We now know it works and works well."

VCC's Career Fair has a permanent website at [www.vcc.ca/careerfair](http://www.vcc.ca/careerfair), which features registration and sign-up information for next year's event for both students and employers.

Already, plans are in the works for next year's Career Fair. Organizations interested in hiring VCC students or participating in next year's Career Fair are encouraged to e-mail [careerfair@vcc.ca](mailto:careerfair@vcc.ca).

## Info Night continues to attract attention



VCC baking students ice a cake for Info Night visitors.

VCC's Info Night was again a big success.

They came. They saw. They found info. More than 800 visitors flocked to VCC's downtown campus last month for the college's Information Night, VCC's largest student recruitment event.

New to Information Night this year were special trade show booths, which dramatically increased the professional look of the event, where visitors learned about programs, talked to faculty and found out how to apply.

"The feedback I had from faculty and students was positive – the booths made the event more cohesive," says coordinator Roseanne Ashworth. "These booths made a huge difference in the time and energy we spend on set-up, letting us focus on making sure the event runs smoothly."

Programs from across the college were represented at Info Night, which continues to be a major component of VCC's student recruitment efforts.

Karen de Hann, a stay-at-home mother looking to get back into the workforce, was the winner of the prize basket that included a \$500 tuition coupon as well as other VCC-related prizes.

"I was at the college earlier that day for a typing test for the Pharmacy Technician program," says de Hann, who saw an Info Night ad in the Courier newspaper and had taken a course on career opportunities the month before.

VCC's tuition coupon was a welcome prize and she is planning to use it next term. "I never win anything. I am so excited," she says.

Promotion for Info Night included advertising, direct mail and online initiatives targeted to key audiences that include potential students, parents and high school career counsellors. VCC's next Info Night is set for mid-October. ■

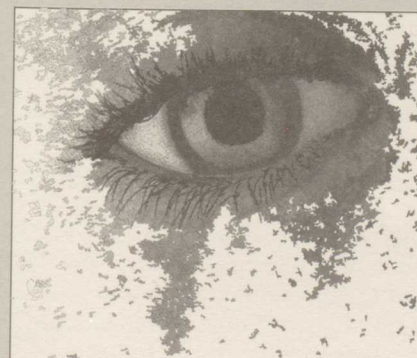
## Coming Events

### VCC jewellers and graphic designers show their stuff



VCC's Jewellery Art and Design and Digital Graphic Design programs are holding their year-end show, opening Thursday, May 19, at 5:30 p.m. at the downtown campus.

All the art can be viewed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily from May 19, to June 3.



### digital mosaic

diverse artists unite

vcc digital graphic design grad show  
opening night thursday, may 19, 2005

reception at 5:30pm  
awards at 6:00pm

vancouver community college  
centre for design

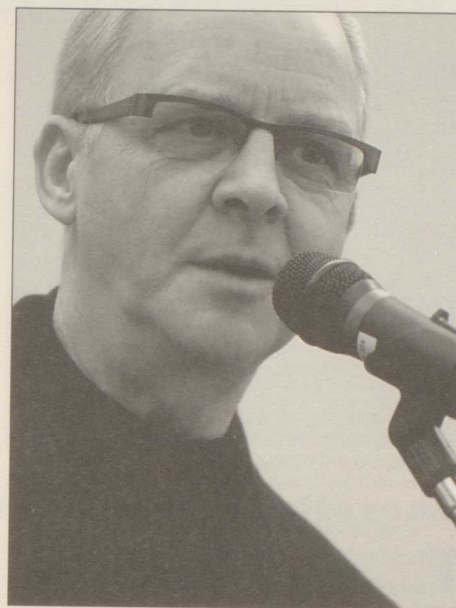
downtown campus  
enter at dunsmuir & hamilton

open for viewing until june 2, 2005

Metropolitan  
FINE PRINTS

Vancouver  
Community  
College

## Top restaurateurs and chefs share experiences with culinary students



John Bishop speaking to VCC's Culinary Arts students.

Award-winning restaurateur John Bishop and famed chef Bruno Marti were among recent guest speakers who shared their insight and experience with VCC's Culinary Arts students.

Bishop, chef and owner of well-known Bishop's restaurant, talked about using top-quality ingredients – he's an avid promoter of organic food and an opponent of genetically modified foods – and urged students to give their best to their craft.

Canadian Federation of Chefs president Marti, chef and owner of La Belle Auberge restaurant, told students how lucky they were to be studying at VCC, which he called the best culinary school in Vancouver.

"We want to provide students with inspiration, which is why we're bringing in the best speakers Vancouver has to offer," says department head Harald Bonkowski. ■

## Cooking up a win – a tough challenge

It was a tough challenge – 12 young chefs from around the Lower Mainland put their culinary craftsmanship to the test for the coveted title of VCC's top culinary arts student.

Crowned the VCC/William Tell Student of the Year was graduate Grace Yam, who is currently working at the Marriott Pinnacle hotel in Vancouver.

Second place went to Sarah Kruk from the Abbotsford Ramada Inn, while Jeff Fagan from the Vancouver Four Seasons hotel captured third.

It was a high-stakes contest that called for the chefs to put their best dishes forward, using all their skills and ingenuity to impress the panel of expert judges with a three-course gourmet meal. Their required ingredients: smoked sablefish, a rack of lamb and Bosc pears.



Grace Yam's winning dessert using the required pears.



Grace Yam, the 2005 VCC/William Tell student of the year.



## Coming Events

### Spring 2005 award ceremonies

VCC's next award ceremonies take place May 26 and 27. Join students and award donors as they celebrate their achievements.

#### Thursday, May 26 – a.m.

Hospitality and Business programs  
Reception in the faculty/staff lounge 10 a.m.

Ceremony in the auditorium 10:30 a.m.

#### Thursday, May 26 – p.m.

Arts and Sciences; ESL, ASL and Deaf Studies, Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Reception in the faculty/staff lounge 1:30 p.m.

Ceremony in the auditorium 2 p.m.

#### Friday, May 27 – a.m.

Career, Design, Trades and Technology programs

Reception in the Faculty/Staff Lounge 10 a.m.

Ceremony in the Auditorium 10:30 a.m.

#### Friday, May 27 – p.m.

Health Sciences programs

Reception in the faculty/staff lounge 1:30 p.m.

Ceremony in the auditorium 2 p.m.

### Retirement party for Marta Goodwin

Thirty years of outstanding work equals one big party.

VCC is hosting a retirement party for the retiring dean of Language Studies/English as a Second Language, American Sign Language and Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The event is Wednesday, May 25, at the King Edward campus employee lounge at 6 p.m. and includes a hot buffet and a cash bar. Tickets covering the buffet and a gift for Marta are \$35.

RSVP by May 11 to Pervin Fahim at local 7024 or via e-mail pfahim@vcc.ca. Payment confirms attendance.

## Donation helps VCC connect aboriginal youth with a future in health care



Evelyn Voyageur, an elder and the BC Director of Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada, speaks.



Pat Bawtinheimer (left) and Ida Teoli, Bell's vice-president of national markets, listen to speeches.

### Innovative health program starts this summer

Telecommunications giant Bell Canada has donated \$200,000 to Vancouver Community College to support a new health careers discovery program for aboriginal youth.

"Community is an important part of what VCC is all about," says college president Dale Dorn, who hosted Bell executives, aboriginal dignitaries and community stakeholders to announce the donation.

"Thanks to generous support from Bell, we are able to launch this new program to benefit the aboriginal community and introduce its youth to the world of careers in health sciences," he says.

This innovative program begins this summer and will serve up to 50 aboriginal students in Grades 8 through 11 from around the Lower Mainland.

Program goals include reducing the high school dropout rate among aboriginal youth, increasing aboriginal participation in health-related careers and helping aboriginal students develop self-care strategies important for those entering health-care careers.

"We have combined several major VCC strengths with this initiative," says Dorn. "Our work with at-risk youth, our current priority for aboriginal initiatives, our community outreach and our high-quality health sciences programming – those are all reflected in this exciting new program."

Statistics show that only 42 per cent of aboriginal students graduate from high school, compared to 80 per cent of the general population; this program not only gives participants

the opportunity to explore careers in health sciences, but is an important step towards addressing the looming shortage of skilled workers in the health-care field.

Students will have the opportunity to create a "career portfolio," which is a requirement for high school graduation.

Participants will receive support throughout their time at VCC; research will track the number of students who complete the program, graduate from high school and enrol in college, technical or university training leading to careers in the health-care field. Students wanting to attend VCC will be able to move smoothly into the college's health sciences training, where a number of spaces are dedicated to aboriginal students.

Bell applauded VCC's similar youth career programs – Stars4SUCCESS among them – and the college's relationships with the health care sector, local school boards and First Nations organizations, which will be key factors in making the initiative a success.

"We are proud to partner with VCC to deliver this innovative educational initiative that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of the participants, and provide them with a path to establish a future in health care," says Ida Teoli, the company's senior vice-president of national markets.

"Bell Canada is committed to building strong, healthy, vibrant communities by investing in programs that benefit youth." ■

## Seeing the signs downtown



### BIGGER. BOLDER. BETTER LIT.

VCC has installed new building signage at its downtown campus, giving the college a greater street presence and higher visibility, particularly to the flood of commuter traffic over the Georgia Viaduct.

New signs – each a sizable 18 feet wide – were installed earlier this spring at the main entrances of the campus as well as at the Dunsmuir-Cambie corner, which sees tens of thousands of cars pass by each day on the way into downtown.

"This really makes it clear that 'VCC is here,'" says college marketing director Stephen Barrington, who worked with facilities director Larry Waddell overseeing the signage planning and implementation.

"We've used the same sign design as at the Broadway campus – which really helps drive home the college's identity to the public," he says.

Municipal approvals took several months, which included a special application to the city for signs several times larger than previously allowed. ■

## New library system for VCC



The group behind VCC's new library system (back): Jacqueline van Dyk, Sheila Singh, Ella-Fay Zaleszak, Melanie Primeau, (front) Michelle Gauthier, Virginia Adams, Melinda Baranieski and Des Dougan. Missing: Lawrence Ng and Lila Heilbrunn.

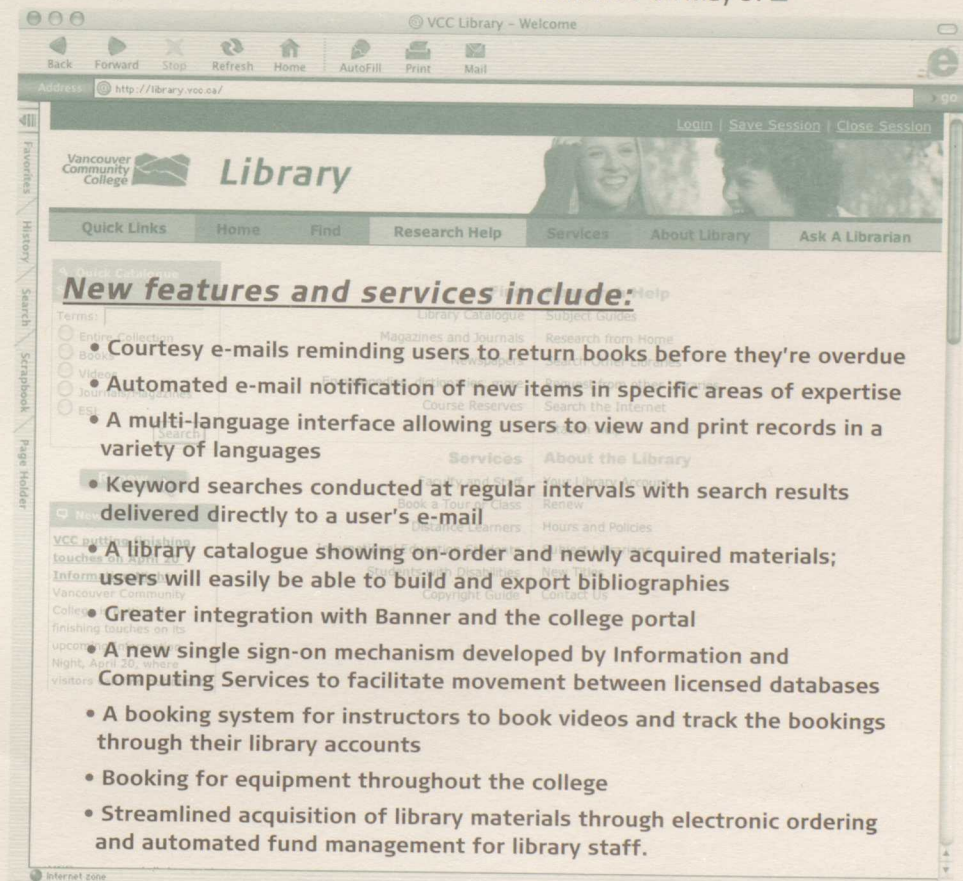
VCC library users can now access an innovative library information system, which makes finding information easier and more efficient through a web interface and targeted services.

Patrons access the library through a portal site – [portal.vcc.ca](http://portal.vcc.ca) – providing one-stop searching for text materials, videos, compact discs, databases and full-text electronic resources; global searching allows users to search multiple databases at the same time, returning direct online links to electronic full-text journal articles.

"Thanks go to Des Dougan and Jacqueline van Dyk, who have managed this exciting project," says Lila Heilbrunn, director of library and learning resources. "We feel confident that our new system will take us well into the future."

Kudos goes to VCC web manager Lawrence Ng for his work redeveloping the library website, [library.vcc.ca](http://library.vcc.ca)

VCC's new system – from a leader in library technology, Visionary Technology in Library Solutions – launched on May 3. ■



### New features and services include:

- Courtesy e-mails reminding users to return books before they're overdue
- Automated e-mail notification of new items in specific areas of expertise
- A multi-language interface allowing users to view and print records in a variety of languages
- Keyword searches conducted at regular intervals with search results delivered directly to a user's e-mail
- A library catalogue showing on-order and newly acquired materials; users will easily be able to build and export bibliographies
- Greater integration with Banner and the college portal
- A new single sign-on mechanism developed by Information and Computing Services to facilitate movement between licensed databases
- A booking system for instructors to book videos and track the bookings through their library accounts
- Booking for equipment throughout the college
- Streamlined acquisition of library materials through electronic ordering and automated fund management for library staff.



## CAMPUS EXPANSION continued from page 1

health sciences labs, computer labs and student study space to help address the pressing need for new facilities at the campus.

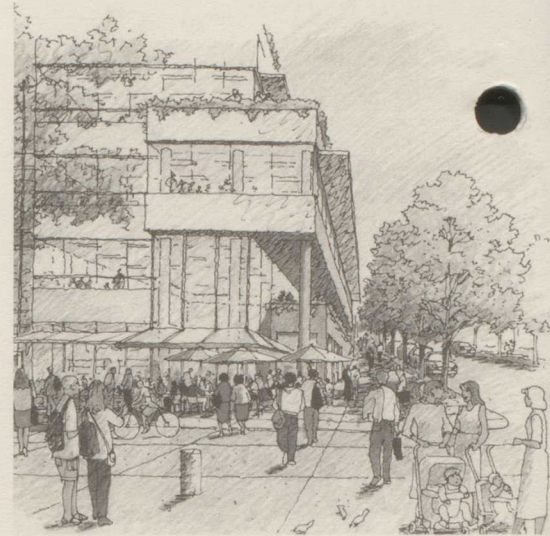
"The King Edward campus is one of the most intensively used campuses in B.C.'s public post-secondary system," says Chong, noting the college's projected growth. "This funding will provide the space needed to accommodate that growth and open up new learning opportunities for people in Vancouver."

VCC will contribute an additional \$15.6 million – a major fundraising campaign is currently in development – towards the construction of the new building and related renovations at both main campuses; total project cost is \$48.6 million.

"A new building and expanded facilities, an improved library and new study space will all have a major impact on learning," says Dorn. "It will help us continue to provide the calibre of programs that students and employers expect from VCC." ■



B.C. Advanced Education Minister Ida Chong speaks.



Architectural rendering of proposed campus development.

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT VCC's Broadway campus development:

- Phase one: A six-storey building
- Located at the southeast corner of Glen and Seventh Avenue
- Approximately 125,000 square feet:
  - Much-needed student study space
  - State-of-the-art training labs for practical nursing, resident care attendant, laboratory assistant and other health programs
  - Simulated hospital wards and pharmacies to give students hands-on experience in a realistic setting
- Included in the development plans: an expanded campus library and learning centre for student research and study
- Project planning began at the end of April
- Ground-breaking anticipated for summer 2006
- This is the first of several phases; long-term plans call for the college to triple the size of its campus on Broadway to 956,000 square feet
- This campus expansion is a key part of VCC's strategic vision
- VCC urgently needs more space to meet current needs and keep pace with projected growth to meet its 10-year education plan through 2013-2014

VCC BROADWAY CAMPUS RENDERINGS COURTESY OF: STANTEC ARCHITECTURE

## Connections

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### Submissions for Connections:

Send details of your upcoming events, department news and achievements to Connections. Due to time constraints, we can only accept electronic submissions. We do, however, accept photos.

Submit your pieces via email to:  
**Karen Wilson, kwilson@vcc.ca.**

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**Please note:** Material may be edited for clarity and length.



[www.vcc.ca](http://www.vcc.ca)



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