

Flowers bloom for Year of the Snake



Nicole So, 26, of Vanda Florist in Aberdeen Centre, is surrounded by plants and flowers popular for Chinese New Year. Broomsticks (foreground) are particularly attractive at this time of year for the fortune and good luck they might bring. Vanda is located in the heart of the mall's Chinese New Year flower and gift fair. The fair runs until the end of new year countdown festivities, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9 from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the central atrium.



Martin van den Hemel photo
 The Gilmore Estates boasts 224.5 acres of farmland south of Steveston Highway at No. 4 Road, with 800 feet of Fraser River waterfront.

Gilmore Estates on the block for \$55 million

Property south of Steveston Highway includes 800 feet of waterfront

by Martin van den Hemel
 Staff Reporter

One per cent of Richmond's farmland, south of the way to the waterfront, comprises 10 legal lots and 800 feet of waterfront. The asking price for this, according to realtor Cud, is \$55 million. The Gilmore Estates is also for sale. The Gilmore Estates is owned by the City of Richmond, where states.

Two-week spring break continues in 2014

by Martin van den Hemel
 Staff Reporter
 Local parents gave a resounding yes to the Richmond school district to continue the annual two-week spring break. 80 per cent of the 12,166 respondents answered yes or no preference to the question: "Are you in favour of continuing with the two week spring break which the school district instituted three years ago?" That means for early vacation planners, next year's break has been confirmed as March 17 to 28, 2014. Beyond 2014, however, nothing has been set in stone, said board of education chair Donna Sargent. As mandated by provincial regulations, the spring break will continue to be reviewed annually, though she said future consultations won't be as extensive as the process that just been completed. The survey was conducted between Jan. 9 and 23, and 9,027 parents voted in support of continuing the spring break in its current form. See Page 6

how much fun would it be TO GIVE a perfect A VALENTINE
 www.pricklypear.ca
 123211 NO. 1 ROAD, STEVESTON • 604-262-4737
 WE HAVE GREAT IDEAS FOR GIFTS FOR THOSE YOU LOVE OPEN 9-6 EVERYDAY

community

Photo of good fortune



Matthew Hoekstra photo
 A man lines up a photograph in front of a Chinese New Year gods of fortune display at Aberdeen Centre Wednesday. The mall is hosting various events to celebrate the season, including a countdown celebration on Feb. 9 from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., and a cultural spectacle Feb. 10 from 1:15 to 4 p.m. and Feb. 11 from 12:30 to 4 p.m.



Matthew Hoekstra photo
 Alice Gao adjusts a display of orchids at Aberdeen Centre's Chinese New Year flower and gift fair Wednesday. The fair runs until the end of Chinese New Year countdown festivities, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9 from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the central atrium.

Flower fair for Chinese New Year

Festivities will kick off at Aberdeen Centre for the Chinese New Year with the annual Flower and Gift Fair. To Monday, Feb. 11, during normal mall hours, the mall will be smelling heavenly with the scent of fresh flowers and colourful gifts. The Chinese New Year's Eve countdown will be on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the mall's central atrium, with blessings from the Chinese God of Fortune. On Sunday, Feb. 10, the Golden Dragon and Lion Dance will start at 11 a.m. in the outdoor courtyard, with visits from store to store beginning at noon. Entertainment will be provided by the B.C. Chinese Music Association, Vancouver Academy of Dance, Colors of Dance Academy and Vancouver Cantonese Opera.