

# RETURN FLIGHT

HISTORIC JOURNEY RECREATED, B5



## CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT PEOPLE COLLECT?

WESTCOAST LIFE, D17

# THE VANCOUVER SUN

FINAL EDITION ☆

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

## WHY ARE PIT WORKERS DYING?

Since May, four Lower Mainland quarry workers have been killed and a Lillooet man narrowly escaped death after being buried for 13 hours

### 70-year-old waited for help in 'little hole'

BY CAM FORTEMS

KAMLOOPS — First came the crack and roar as a slab of rock in the Pavilion limestone quarry broke free, slamming into an excavator clearing waste material from a bench area below.

The excavator's operator, 70-year-old Roy Aspeslet, figures the slab hit the rear of his Caterpillar 330 unit, pushing the cage-reinforced cab forward and helping to protect him from the cascade of rock that kept pouring down as the quarry wall collapsed.



Roy Aspeslet

"It hit right at the back of the seat and knocked me down," the heavy-equipment operator said Wednesday.

"I was sitting down in a little hole in the corner where my feet should be."

The deafening roar was followed by 10 hours of silence and a black void of darkness, punctured only by Aspeslet's own yelling and banging of rock to alert the rescuers he knew would be frantically digging to find him.

"You know people outside love you and need you. It makes you perk up a bit — if there's such a thing as perking up when you're there."

Aspeslet spent about 13 hours, the first 10 without hearing digging efforts from outside, buried in the Caterpillar cab under tonnes of rock before a mine rescue team from quarry operator Graymont Ltd., bolstered by Highland Valley Copper's rescue team, dug the last bit of rock away by hand and watched in amazement as the Lillooet resident crawled out on his own.

See 20-YEAR QUARRY A4



FACEBOOK WEBSITE PHOTO

Kelsey Kristian, 22, was killed at a Stave Lake gravel quarry when the truck she was driving rolled over and pinned her. It was reportedly Kristian's fourth day on the job.

### Government and industry to meet today

BY FIONA ANDERSON  
VANCOUVER SUN

Four quarry workers have died on the job in the Lower Mainland this year, a staggering increase from only one death in the previous five years.

■ In May, 22-year-old Kelsey Kristian was killed at a Stave Lake gravel quarry when the truck she was driving rolled over and pinned her. According to news reports, it was Kristian's fourth day on the job.

■ In June, 32-year-old Scott Ouellette died when the excavator he was driving overturned in a pool of silt at the Fraser Valley Aggregates Quarry in Abbotsford, trapping him. Although he had experience in the industry, he was apparently new to this job.

■ Earlier this month, 58-year-old Dave Rowan drove a mining dump truck off a bank at Cox Quarry on Sumas Mountain, where it slid 30 metres or more before flipping over.

See DEATHS UNACCEPTABLE A4



RICK COLLINS/SPECIAL TO THE VANCOUVER SUN

A trucker evens his load before heading out of Stave Lake Quarries in Mission, where Kelsey Kristian was killed.

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## U.S. cycling hero leads ride

### Lance Armstrong to join cancer research donors in Kelowna and Vancouver

BY JONATHAN FOWLIE  
VANCOUVER SUN

Lance Armstrong, the American bike racer who broke the record for Tour de France victories with seven straight wins, will be in British Columbia this weekend to help raise money for the B.C. Cancer Foundation.

On Saturday, the world-famous cancer survivor will meet with 40 major donors — who have raised an average of \$21,000 for the B.C. Cancer Foundation — for a private 80-km ride and dinner in Kelowna.

On Sunday, Armstrong will be in Vancouver where he'll kick

■ Clean-riding philosophy helps propel Canadian cycling champion Svein Tuft. First in a 3-part series, B1.



director of the leukemia and bone marrow transplant program, said Wednesday the money will help with a variety of research projects.

One of those, he said, seeks to help develop an alternative process for adults who have trouble finding a match for bone marrow transplants.

"This is a big deal," Smith said, "particularly for people who don't have a good match."

B.C. Cancer Foundation spokeswoman Penny Noble said Wednesday there is still time for people to join the Sunday ride, which is split into three routes ranging from 30 to 90 km.

Noble said fundraising for this cause was "very easy," and many participants were able to reach the required totals just by e-mailing friends and family.

See B.C. TEAM A2

## Fat dollar fails to bring discounts in Canada

You need to buy in the U.S. to enjoy savings

BY CARLY WEEKS

OTTAWA — Canadian consumers are seeing incredible discounts and experiencing a major spending-power boost as a result of the meteoric rise of the dollar. The only problem is that in order to actually see those savings, consumers have to spend their money south of the border.

Even though the Canadian dollar has been climbing steadily for more than a year and is nearly at parity this week, prices on everything from books and stationery to cars and electronics are still substantially higher in Canada than in the U.S.

And anyone hoping things will soon change shouldn't hold their breath, according to experts.

"It's the case now where unfor-

tunately you don't see those savings reflected in the goods," said Scotiabank Group economist Meny Grauman.

■ Harvey Enchin: What we should do about the dollar, A17  
■ Canadian dollar set to surpass U.S. greenback: economists, C1

"Unfortunately, prices are quite sticky and that's sort of an economic fact that goes across time and across borders."

For instance, a typical greeting card at an Ottawa Hallmark store is listed at \$2.29 US and \$3.29 Cdn, while another is priced at \$2.49 US and \$3.49 Cdn. A box of stationery costs \$5 US and \$6.99 Cdn.

See VIRTUALLY ALL A2

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