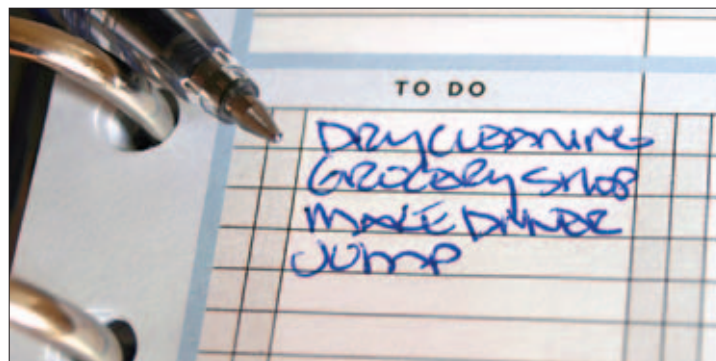


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Returning to the calendar of regular events is a welcome change from a frenetic holiday pace that includes shortbread for breakfast. **Story B3**



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THE VANCOUVER SUN

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EDITOR PAUL BUCCI 604-605-2445 • SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2007 • E-mail pbucci@png.canwest.com D

## Security breach delays YVR flights

**RICHMOND** | Planes grounded until man not screened properly is located

BY LARRY PYNN and DARAH HANSEN VANCOUVER SUN

International flights were delayed for hours and thousands of passengers inconvenienced Friday at Vancouver International Airport during the busiest part of the day after a man who'd been carrying an excessive amount of liquid went through the security area without being properly screened.

The incident started at about 11:30 a.m., when a South Korea-bound passenger was found to be carrying an excessive amount of liquid at the pre-board screening area, explained Anna-Karina Tabunar, of the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority.

The passenger was told he could either transport the liquid as checked luggage — which would have delayed him — or give the liquids to a family member outside the screening area to be taken on a later flight, she said.

The man chose the latter option, Tabunar said, but then he proceeded through the screening area without being rescreened. Although it seemed a simple mistake, airport officials



BILL KEAY/VANCOUVER SUN

Security concerns caused delays at Vancouver airport Friday as international passengers had to wait in a line that spanned the terminal.

couldn't take any chances and decided to suspend further international departures and to rescreen passengers.

"It doesn't look like anything mali-

cious, just a mistake," she said. "It was purely a precaution to close the operations until we locate this passenger."

The international terminal resumed normal operations shortly before 3

p.m., after the passenger was located and deemed not to pose a security threat. RCMP, however, detained him for questioning.

"It seems it was a misunderstanding on his part," Tabunar said.

Ten flights were delayed from taking off during the incident, affecting

See **PASSENGERS DELAYED** B6



BILL KEAY/VANCOUVER SUN

RCMP officers walk carefully through a park near Lynas Lane, looking for clues from the shooting on Thursday night.

## Shooting 'not a random act'

Police say park shooting likely linked to gangs; residents narrowly escape injury from stray shots

BY GLENN BOHN and DOUG WARD VANCOUVER SUN

**RICHMOND** | It was only "by the grace of God" that residents living near the scene of a shootout Thursday night were not injured or killed, RCMP Cpl. Peter Thiessen said Friday.

Thiessen said an "excessive amount of shots" were fired by gunmen at a park and bullets entered a few nearby homes. "The people who were in this park last night have absolutely no regard for public safety," Thiessen said.

Three people suffered serious injuries in the shootings, but they are not considered life-threatening, said Thiessen.

So far there have been no arrests.

"The likelihood that this is a gang involvement is high," he said.

"I can't say that definitively. I can tell you this was certainly not a random act. This was certainly a targeted act."

Thiessen said witnesses have given information to police, but he declined to provide any specific details about the police investigation.

"We are dealing with a fairly "substantial, significant and complex crime scene that covers quite an area."

He also wouldn't comment on the kinds of weapons used, the possible motivations of the gunmen or the identify of any suspects or victims.

The residents of a high-end apartment complex near Dover Park said they heard a hail of gunfire near their homes.

Some looked to the sky for fireworks, but saw none. Others with views of the park were drawn to vehicles on Lynas Lane, the north-south road beside the flat, grass-covered neighbourhood park.

Witness Dennis Sham came home from work and saw two parked vehicles on the road, with headlights on and the motors running. Nothing seemed threatening. He thought people in the two vehicles were just having a conversation.

The silence was shattered a few

See **SHOTS SOUNDED** B6

## Wanted: A few lines to welcome the cherry blossoms

Poets are invited to express themselves with a haiku



PETE McMARTIN VANCOUVER SUN COLUMNIST

Probably, given the weather lately, we're some few weeks away from the first cherry blossoms appearing, and in honour of that event the folks at the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival are holding their second annual Haiku Invitational contest. Poets have until Jan. 17 to get their moments of zen down and send them in.

(Winners will enjoy something approximating immortality:

Their haiku will be inscribed on a stone to be set at the foot of a cherry tree at the Burrard Street SkyTrain station. Submit your haiku at [www.vancouvercherryblossomfestival.com](http://www.vancouvercherryblossomfestival.com))

Haiku is Japan's biggest export after Sony, and last year's invitational attracted about 1,000 entries from as far away as Brazil, New Zealand and Romania.

The best of last year's bunch, I thought, and one of the winners,

was by Barry Goodmann of Hackensack, N.J.. You could imagine a whole life, or lives, out of his three short lines. He wrote:

*cherry blossoms  
I fold my resume  
into a crane*

Festival organizers wouldn't allow me to look at this year's submissions — they're awfully security-conscious for poets — but a source did manage to provide me with one of the more

notable entries.

It was written by none other than Premier Gordon Campbell, who has been known to dabble in writing. As far as I know, this is his only published haiku.

You read it here first:  
*Feel the blossom's breath  
White petals fall at my feet  
Life each day is new*

That's it. As you can see, the premier chose to follow the old five-seven-five syllable structure that North American English teachers seem to feel haiku rigid-

ly observes, which it doesn't. As for the merits of the piece, I believe that as a poet Campbell makes an excellent politician.

As is often the case in government, Campbell's haiku begins well and ends badly. The first line of the poem is nice, with its alliterative evocation of a gentle breeze, and the second line has a calm clarity to it. You can see the slow drifting-down of petals around the premier's shoes.

See **ART AS** B6

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