



Peter Dushop with \$3.6-million prize. He bought 6/49 ticket for the Aug. 15, 2007, draw. Deadline to collect was three weeks away.

Jackpot winner holds back 49 weeks

Young man says he needed time to think about effects on others

WENDY McLELLAN
Canwest News Service

VANCOUVER — You're a 24-year-old single guy and you just matched all the numbers on your 6/49 lottery ticket.

You just won \$3.6 million. What's the first thing you'd do?

Would you tuck the winning ticket in a safety deposit box? For 49 weeks?

"I just needed some time to figure out what was going on, how it would affect me and the people around me," said

Peter Dushop, the Maple Ridge realtor who finally picked up his cheque for \$3,693,414 yesterday at B.C. Lottery Corp.'s Richmond headquarters.

The one-year deadline to collect on the ticket was just three weeks away.

"Winning \$1,000 is exciting, but \$3.6 million is kind of life-changing," said Dushop.

In his case, it wasn't life-changing right away. He bought the ticket for last year's Aug. 15 draw, and a couple of weeks later checked the

ticket and realized he was a winner.

He signed the back, stuck it in a bank vault and kept on working.

He didn't buy a new car. He didn't buy a house.

He rents his place, "but that's going to change soon," he said with a smile as he folded his lottery cheque and slipped it away.

The only person who knew Dushop had become a multimillionaire was his mom.

Yesterday morning, he told his girlfriend to expect a big surprise.

If Dushop had cashed in his ticket 49 weeks ago, an interest rate of three per cent would have earned him about

\$100,000 on his winnings.

"I definitely thought about the interest, but in relation to the overall prize, I thought it was worth taking the time to just come to terms with everything," he said.

Now that he's taken almost a year to think, Dushop said he plans to take a vacation "somewhere hot" and invest his winnings.

"I'm going to let the money grow — it's never going to deplete," he said. "I'm a big believer in real estate."

He also plans to keep working.

"I want to keep things as they are. I really don't know if I know what's going on yet. There's still a bit of disbelief."

B.C. Lotteries collect record \$2.6 billion

Slot machines in bingo halls boost revenue as 6/49, Super 7 decline

GERRY BELLETT
Canwest News Service

VANCOUVER — The B.C. Lottery Corporation set a revenue record of \$2.6 billion in 2007, \$64 million more than expected.

The increase was aided by higher revenues from bingo halls, a number of which now are equipped with slot machines. The result was a payout to the B.C. government of almost \$1.1 billion after prize money and expenses were deducted.

However, there was a reduction in revenue from lotteries such as 6/49, Super 7 and scratch-and-win tickets.

Lotto spokeswoman Robin Cook said with new games on the market — everything from Nintendo Wii to online poker — "people aren't as attracted to the traditional games."

Cook said a 2007 scandal might have had an indirect effect. An investigation by the B.C. ombudsman into reports that some lotto retailers were cashing in winning tickets at a

far higher rate than should be expected eventually resulted in B.C. Lottery CEO and president Vic Poleschuk being fired.

The ombudsman found the Crown corporation hadn't done enough to prevent dishonest retailers from stealing customers' winning tickets.

This led B.C. Lottery chairman John McLernon to describe the 2007-08 fiscal year as one of the most challenging in the corporation's 23-year history.

Cook said it also delayed the launch of new lottery games designed to stimulate lagging lottery sales as corporate resources were instead diverted into following up on the ombudsman's recommendations.

But scandal or not, the bottom line didn't look bad.

"Total gaming revenue of \$2.6 billion surpassed the year's budget by \$64.2 million while net income of \$1,088.9 million exceeded budget by \$55.9 million," McLernon said in the corporation's annual report.

Although last year was a

bumper year for profits, McLernon warned there are challenges ahead. "As the gaming entertainment business has become increasingly competitive and complex, BCLC faces a number of risks: competition from neighbouring gaming jurisdictions, changing consumer needs and Internet gaming, rapidly evolving technologies, a shortage of skilled labour and shifts in social attitudes," he said.

McLernon said BCLC's strategic plan to upgrade and develop fewer but higher-quality casinos that would offer more diverse forms of entertainment continued last year with the addition of slot machines to Hastings Racecourse Casino, the opening of the Starlight Casino and upgrades to Fraser Downs and Treasure Cove casinos.

"The revitalization of commercial bingo gaming gained ground with the opening of seven Chance-branded community gaming centres," he said.

The take from the province's 30 bingo halls — of which only 12 carry slot machines — rose by more than \$41 million over 2006-07. In total, revenue raised in bingo halls and the

Chance centres was \$260,154,394 last year compared to \$218,902,894 the year before, a 19-per-cent increase.

After expenses, the profit was \$63.2 million — \$19 more than anticipated. But lottery revenues were \$48.1 million below what had been anticipated. Revenue from lottery tickets was \$976.9 million.

It had been anticipated this revenue would be \$1,025 million. After expenses this resulted in a profit of \$263.9 million.

McLernon said the lottery shortfall was the result of the postponement of several planned new games as BCLC had to redirect significant resources to implementing recommendations from the ombudsman's report. Casino revenues were above anticipated levels.

Revenue from casinos totalled \$1.322 billion, \$82 million more than was anticipated in the budget.

When expenses were deducted this resulted in the province earning \$761.8 million from 17 casinos, which have a total of 7,837 slot machines and 481 gaming tables in operation.

Cowichan Lodge deserves to stay, supporters say

Health authority faces demands to scrap closure at meeting today

CINDY E. HARNETT
Times Colonist

With moral and legal support behind them, presenters at a Vancouver Island Health Authority board meeting — expected to attract hundreds in Qualicum Beach tomorrow — will ask directors to scrap closure of Cowichan Lodge.

Joanna Neilson, 56, whose 83-year-old husband spent the last six months of his life at Cowichan Lodge last year, will ask VIHA to stop the "rush" to move residents out by September, until an appeal is heard in late August, and ultimately change its mind on the closure.

"I hope that in our presentation we can persuade them to rethink this situation and make a different decision," said Neilson.

"I hope they will listen," said Neilson, especially since "there was no public consultation" on the closing.

On July 2, VIHA chief medical health officer Richard Stanwick granted an exemption, requested by VIHA in late June, to reduce the 12-month notice period required under section 14(1) of the Adult Care Regulations for the closure of Cowichan Lodge, to a 60-day notice period. The 94 beds are among 350 complex care beds to close this year because more than 700 new beds will open.

People like Neilson, on behalf of residents of Cowichan Lodge, have appealed that exemption. On Friday, they were granted a stay order suspending VIHA's ability to proceed with its 60-day closure plan until the appeal is heard.

"We hope we win the appeal but that will still only hold off the closure until next June," Neilson said. "We really hope in the interim that the decision [of the closure] will be reversed."

However, VIHA is opposing both the stay order for people who choose to move voluntarily and any talk of stopping the closure claiming it was "the right decision." VIHA chief executive officer Howard Waldner said Friday that many residents "want to move, so we're continuing to move ahead."

"VIHA believes the September closure offers residents the greatest options in relocation," reads a VIHA factsheet.

VIHA spokesperson Shannon Marshall said VIHA has a contract with the private operators of the new Sunridge Place in Duncan to fill its complex care beds — with or without Cowichan Lodge residents — by September.

Cowichan Lodge residents now have preference to move into the spaces available but "obviously we can't hold them indefinitely and once those spaces are filled then residents are going to have to be moved based on the Ministry of Health's first-bed policy," said Marshall. That means the first available bed could be anywhere on the island, if on the island at all.

Neilson said VIHA is employing bullying and intimidation tactics to prompt the moves — it's "a take it or lose it" attitude.

NDP leader Carole James said residents and families "are scared they won't be given a choice. It's heartbreaking."

Opposition to the stay and the appeal demonstrates VIHA's arrogance and the B.C. Liberal government's lack of caring, James said. "They are driving forward regardless of the concerns of residents and families and seniors." She will attend the VIHA board meeting Wednesday.

Joanna Gislason, of Caroline Law in Vancouver, said residents are being given the "impossible choice" to move now or face moving elsewhere in B.C.

The B.C. Nurses Union has hired two lawyers who are currently taking affidavits from community members, family and residents who claim they weren't consulted about the closure or a transition period to close. The lawyers are also gathering medical evidence from doctors on the appropriateness of accelerating the 12-month notification period for the closure.

The lawyers are currently focussed on winning the appeal, with suggestions there will be a subsequent legal battle to keep the lodge open permanently. "I think it's safe to say there will be additional [legal] action," Gislason said.

"Clearly there's been a huge outcry from residents, family and the community that they had a political promise made to them that Cowichan Lodge would not be closed and that the new Sunridge Place would not be a replacement facility but an additional facility [in the community]," Gislason said.

Neilson said she was at development permit and rezoning meetings and specifically heard Cowichan Lodge, publicly funded and operated, would not close upon the building of Sunridge Place, publicly funded but privately operated.

"We would never have agreed to forfeit the lodge," Neilson said. "It was never mentioned."

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Seaplane makes emergency landing in San Juan Islands

Times Colonist

Four people are safe after the seaplane in which they were travelling made an emergency landing in the San Juan Islands yesterday.

Tony Pleasants, an investigator with the Transportation Safety Board, said in a telephone interview from Vancouver that the plane, a Twin Otter, landed near Stuart Island at 12:17 p.m.

Pleasants said the pilot landed the plane, belonging to West Coast Air, after a fire warning activated for the right engine. Canadian and U.S.

coast guard responded and the plane was subsequently towed to Roche Harbor at the north end of San Juan Island.

Pleasants said the engine will be taken apart to determine what caused the warning to go off.

The plane was travelling from Victoria to Vancouver Harbour.

All people on board were subsequently taken to Richmond.

A statement issued on behalf of West Coast Air said the Transportation Safety Board and Transport Canada have been notified.

Hiker airlifted to hospital

A 27-year-old female hiker who suffered a leg injury was airlifted from the Sooke Hills to hospital Sunday evening.

The hiker had been rock climbing on Sugarloaf Mountain when she fell six metres and injured her right leg, said Capt. SueEllen McGowan of 19 Wing at CFB Comox.

The rescue took place 20 kilometres west of Victoria at about dusk. A Cormorant helicopter from 442 Squadron arrived on the scene to face a challenging rescue due to the poor light conditions, choppy wind and mountainous terrain.

Two search and rescue technicians were lowered to the area, assisted by ground-based members of the Juan de Fuca search and rescue team.

The woman was in significant pain but never complained as she was carried to a point on the mountain where she could be hoisted to the helicopter, said SAR tech Sgt. Andrew MacKenzie in a press release.

She was taken to Victoria General Hospital.

Her condition has not been made public.

— Times Colonist

Couple accused of assault, extortion in money dispute

Times Colonist

Two Victoria residents have been charged with assaulting and extorting money from victims during an alleged home invasion.

Two victims were kept inside an Esquimalt home against their will Friday in an apparent dispute over money, said Sgt. Grant Hamilton, police spokesperson. "We do believe they were forced to provide money to the suspects."

The police Emergency Response Team stormed the house, on Sturdee Street near Lyall Street, and arrested a man and a woman in their 40s.

It appears the suspects targeted the victims, but did not know them personally, said Hamilton.

John Masters, 40, and Maria Mantagano, 43, face charges of break and enter, assault with a weapon, forcible confinement and extortion.

Victim admits drugs had role in stabbing

The victim of a stabbing in Victoria's Centennial Square last week is not co-operating with investigators and it is unlikely his attacker will be charged, police say.

The 24-year-old man was stabbed in the chest July 21 outside a portable washroom in the city square around 12:30 p.m. He

told police drugs were involved in the dispute, said Sgt. Grant Hamilton, Victoria police spokesperson.

"We have identified the person responsible, but without the co-operation of the victim the file will be very difficult to bring to court," said Hamilton.

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