

**MEAT LOAF**, right, is coming to Vancouver on March 2. Tickets for the Pacific Coliseum show go on sale this Friday. Prices range from \$45 to \$89.

SOURCE: news1130.com



**B.C. FERRIES** held a keel-laying ceremony for a new 125-car ferry at Vancouver Shipyards in North Vancouver yesterday. The ferry will enter service by the summer of 2008.

Metro Vancouver



# Wind storm latest wild weather

## Hydro working to restore power to 190,000 last night

Strong winds gusting up to 90 km/h left more than 80,000 people without power across the Lower Mainland yesterday.

Power lines were downed, trees fell and the Stanley Park Causeway and Stanley Park Drive were closed for several

hours, which meant the Lions Gate Bridge was also closed.

Lights were also out at many Lower Mainland inter-sections, causing traffic chaos.

B.C. Hydro spokeswoman Elisha Moreno said the severity of the storm caught the utility by surprise.

"We didn't expect the winds to be as strong. We have seen gusts of 90 km/h, and that's throwing some

branches and trees around, and causing some extensive outages."

B.C. Hydro had all available crews and contract staff working through the day and night. Additional staff was being brought in from the Interior to help.

Moreno added that most customers without power were in Surrey and that some problems had to be assessed overnight before problems

could be fixed. She said power wouldn't be restored to some customers until at least this morning.

Across the B.C. South Coast, in all, 190,000 were without power last night.

On Vancouver Island, Port Alberni resident Susan Jones said the town is being swept by hurricane-force winds that have knocked out most power.

This is the latest in a series

### travel delays

► Several B.C. Ferries sailings between the Northern Gulf Islands were cancelled and a number of sailings between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island were delayed.

SOURCE: CANADIAN PRESS

of storms that have brought wind, rain and snow to the south B.C. coast since early November.

METRO VANCOUVER

## Pneumonia outbreak hits Downtown Eastside

There's an outbreak of pneumonia on the drug-infested Downtown Eastside and health authorities are responding with a full-scale immunization program.

Dozens of people have become sick in recent weeks and some have died. For the next three weeks, teams of nurses will visit bars, alleyways and hotels to vaccinate people, with the aim of inoculating five thousand residents. Doctor Patricia Daly of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority said the health agency is trying to prevent the disease from infecting even more residents.

CANADIAN PRESS

# Granville shops cope with Canada Line blasting

## Some offering incentives to keep customers coming

By SARAH RIPPLINGER for Metro Vancouver

The Granville Street shopping strip could have been mistaken for a battlefield yesterday as construction crews blasted through the bedrock in preparation for Canada Line construction.

### schedule

► Construction began October 16 and is scheduled for completion in late August 2009.

The blasts, fenced-off streets and debris have scared off some customers during the peak holiday season.

And it hasn't been pleasant for workers either.

By 2 p.m., Café Crêpe supervisor Alison Eastman said she had already endured six blasts.

"It kind of affects my eardrums," Eastman said, adding that she is concerned



A woman walks by the intersection of Granville and Robson streets. Behind the fences, local retailers are open for business.

the noise could affect her pregnancy.

Ryan Abarintos, 21, said he has noticed a decline in business at the Mantique clothing store.

"When they started digging and started working on it a little more it got slower," Abarintos said.

Dean Milner, district manager of Eco Outdoor Sports,

said there is a positive side to the fenced-off sidewalks. At least it forces passersby closer to store entrances.

To bolster traffic, 31 businesses offered 15 per cent

discounts from October to November. Yesterday, they awarded \$1,500 to a shopper, Alyssa Pritchard, 28, as part of a contest aimed at attracting visitors to the area.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

► **SHOOTINGS** A 26-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman were arrested Saturday morning in South Vancouver for repeatedly firing weapons, including handguns, a rifle and a shotgun, in their basement. The pair was "very intoxicated," police said.

► **HOUSING** B.C. Housing is launching an investigation into the Downtown Eastside Residents Association following allegations that it was unfairly securing housing for its members. Vancouver police said the matter is not criminal and they are not investigating.

► **SAFETY** A two-week pedestrian safety campaign by Vancouver police resulted in more than 2,000 tickets. There have been 24 fatal collisions so far in 2006. Of those, 11 were pedestrians.

► **INJURY** A New Westminster police officer suffered a crushed ankle after being hit by a drunk driver while ticketing another motorist. Const. Shaun Machesney, 47, a five-year veteran, was struck while she walked across a road check on Sunday morning.

METRO VANCOUVER NEWS SERVICES

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