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Friday, March 4, 2011

West Van: 148 pages North Van: 128 pages

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Man drowns after fall into Howe Sound

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AN unidentified man has died after falling into the ocean while apparently late-night crab fishing near Horseshoe Bay.

Investigators believe the victim, who appeared to be in his 40s or 50s, was preparing to set a trap at a boat launch near Montizambert Creek on Howe Sound just before midnight Tuesday when he slipped and tumbled into the water.

Wind and high waves apparently drove the man, who was not wearing a life-jacket, away from shore and to the south. When residents of nearby Sunset Beach heard his calls for help, they phoned 9-1-1. A short time later, however, they reported the calls had stopped.

West Vancouver's Coast Guard Auxiliary unit arrived on scene about half an hour later, and found the man floating just below the surface. They hauled him on board and began CPR, soon joined by a team from a Coast Guard cutter who used a defibrillator, but they were unable to revive him.

The team transported the man to a waiting ambulance at Horseshoe Bay, where paramedics continued to work on him, but he was later pronounced dead.

Squamish RCMP are investigating the incident. They found what appear to be the man's effects, including a crab trap, at the boat launch about 1.5 kilometres from where he was retrieved. Investigators believe they know his identity, but they have not yet confirmed it or notified next of kin.



Blow out

NEWS photo Mike Wakefield

TRUMPETER Rory Hislop performs with the Capilano University Big Band as part of the Vancouver Kiwanis Jazz Band Festival held Feb. 24 and 25 at the Cap U Performing Arts Theatre. Thirty-nine jazz bands and combos participated. The Concert Band and Orchestra Festival concludes today.

Chlorine plant leak sends 4 to LGH

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A chlorine leak at North Vancouver's Canexus plant sent four men to hospital Wednesday.

Emergency crews were called to the Maplewood facility on Amherst Avenue at about 5:30 a.m. after a mixture of chlorine and caustic soda — both of which are involved in the production of bleach — escaped from an outdoor scrubbing tank. Four contractors performing repairs on a neighbouring tank breathed in the fumes, and at least one of them was seriously affected.

Police, fire crews and paramedics arrived a few minutes later

Canexus closed Wednesday to conduct an on-site investigation

to find the leak had been contained and that on-site medical and rescue personnel were already decontaminating the victims.

A woman who was in a vehicle nearby was initially thought to have been exposed as well, but was later deemed to be OK, according to firefighters.

The four exposed workers were taken to Lions Gate Hospital for treatment. Three were released within a few hours, while the fourth — and most seriously affected — was kept for observation,

according to plant manager Rick Denton. None of the workers' injuries were life-threatening, he said, and the final victim was expected to be released soon.

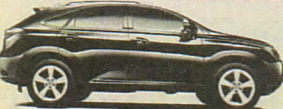
Early media reports that there had been an explosion at the facility had been incorrect, said Denton. Only workers in the immediate vicinity had been affected, and the facility's emergency system had contained the leak immediately, he added.

The plant remained closed Wednesday while Canexus conducted an investigation. At this point, it's still not clear what caused the mishap or how much of the chemical escaped, said Denton.

"We use sensors around the site, and we use a very complicated

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