

Burnaby now



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Drivers get speeding wake-up call in Burnaby

Stefania Seccia
staff reporter

A temporary digital traffic sign in Burnaby did more than throw up a car's speed. It flashed a photo of the vehicle, too, if it was illegally speeding in a school zone, for all to see.

With 540,000 B.C. students returning to school this week, the Community Against Preventable Injuries (also known as Preventable) wanted to remind drivers in a unique way to pay attention to the 30 km/hour school zones.

According to the organization, statistics show that two B.C. children could die by a pedestrian-related injury during the first week of school.

"With our campaign it makes people pause for a moment and think about their speed," said Allan Lamb, spokesperson for Preventable and president/chief operating officer of the BCAA Road Safety Foundation. "It is a discreet, subtle and hopefully strong way to get people to drive safely."

Last year, three pedestrians were killed by traffic incidents in Burnaby, Lamb said, adding that September and October are two major months for pedestrian incidents.

"As children head back to school, everyone needs to be reminded of school zones," Lamb

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Beauty and charm: Competitive contestants battle it out in the 1985 California Young American Miss pageant in Awkward Stage Productions' *Smile: The Musical*, opening Sept. 8.

Photo contributed/
AWKWARD
STAGE
PRODUCTIONS

Fringe pageant with a punch

Burnaby performers shine in beauty pageant musical

Julie MacLellan
staff reporter

Brittany Gee-Moore and Julia Di Spirito aren't complaining about being up early on a summer morning.

They're used to it after nearly a month of rehearsing five days a week for *Smile: The Musical*, taking to the stage as part of the Vancouver International Fringe Festival starting Sept. 8.

Besides, the hard work involved in rehearsing isn't work at all, really.

"I prefer to be here than to be somewhere around the world, because I think it's a lot

more fun," Brittany says with a grin.

The 14-year-old Burnaby resident, who's heading into Grade 10 at Stratford Hall, is out at Carousel Theatre's Granville Island studio on a Wednesday morning to rehearse for the Awkward Stage Productions musical.

The Broadway musical about a teenage beauty pageant was written by Marvin Hamlisch and Howard Ashman and, in this incarnation, is being staged by two young casts. Awkward Stage double-casts every production, with one junior cast and one senior cast. Last year, both casts were made up of high school students; this year, the senior cast includes post-secondary performers aged 18 to 25.

Brittany and Julia – a 15-year-old who's heading into Grade 10 at Burnaby North Secondary – are part of the musical's junior cast. Having a chance to work with the more experienced senior cast is something both young performers enjoy.

"The whole part of Awkward Stage Productions is a mentoring process," Julia explains. "It's really nice to see someone else play the same role as you. No double will play the role exactly the same, but it's nice to have someone else to share the experience with."

"We help each other with harmonies and choreography and the blocking," Brittany

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Sign: 'The speed triggers the image on the screen'

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said. "We see a lot of pedestrian-related injuries in September and October with children aged five to 14 years at the greatest risk for pedestrian-related fatalities."

"The key to reducing serious injuries truly is behaviours and attitudes – with this innovative digital billboard, we're reminding drivers to have a word with yourself and make smart driving decisions."

The three paneled digital billboard was situated by Burnaby schools for two days this week before going off to Surrey for another two days.

"It's a marriage of both the laser speed gun police use and traffic cameras," Lamb said. "The speed triggers the image on the screen."

This is the first time this technology has been used in North America, according to Lamb.

"We put the sign in Burnaby and Surrey, not because there's a higher risk or anything, but because they were both very receptive when we made initial contact,"

Lamb added.

The left and right panels are static and read, "Before you rush through here, have a word with yourself."

Earlier this week, cars speeding past Aubrey Elementary would see their car in the middle panel pictured with the words "School Zone" at the top and "Slow Down!" at the bottom for 20 seconds.

"Children are vulnerable on the roads so we want to encourage drivers to slow down and take caution around school zones to maximize road safety," Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan said. "We believe in saving lives and reducing injuries. Partnering with Preventable on this campaign will help us achieve these goals."

Although the sign will only be up for the first week back to school, Lamb said it is a sufficient amount of time to get the attention of drivers and make a difference.

Last year, Preventable received international attention for its 3D illusion pavement image of a small girl chasing a ball, as another preventable injury initiative – another first in Canada.



Jason Lang/BURNABY NOW

Sign of the times: With school back in session, a safety organization hopes that a unique sign showing speeding vehicles in a school zone will remind drivers to be cautious while on the roads.

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604-422-8900
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City of Burnaby

Request for Proposals Allocation of Community Space

The City is inviting proposals from Burnaby-based non-profit community organizations for the lease of all or part of a future City-owned space. The successful proponent would be expected to provide services and programs which respond to priority social, cultural or activity needs of Burnaby residents and which complement existing programs/services, particularly in north Burnaby.

Through the City's Community Benefit Bonus Policy, the City will gain title to a community amenity space, with a gross floor area of 6,000 square feet, that is being developed as part of an approved high-rise residential development at 2085 Rosser Avenue (at Lougheed Highway). The amenity space will be located in a stand-alone, two-storey building on the southwest corner of Rosser Avenue and Lougheed Highway. The net leasable floor area will depend on the design of the space and the area required for circulation such as stairs, elevator and entry lobby (at a minimum, about 15% (900 square feet) of the gross floor area will be required for circulation).

An information session for interested non-profit organizations will be held at Burnaby City Hall on Thursday, September 15, 2011 from 2 – 3:30 p.m. in the Council Committee Room.

The Request for Proposals package can be found on the B.C. Bid Website at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca or through the following link: www.burnaby.ca (click on **Bid Opportunities, Results & FAQs**). Please direct any questions about the RFP to purchasing@burnaby.ca or 604-294-7370.

Deadline for submission of proposals is 3 p.m., Monday, October 3, 2011



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