

# canada



Southern Manitoba is basking in the warmth of a last summer's hurrah. Temperatures reached 30 C Sunday, 12 C above the average.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Board takes trustee to court

B.C. official refused to resign post after moving

By **TARA CAMPBELL**  
for Metro Vancouver

A school board trustee who moved to Nova Scotia and refused to resign her post is

being taken to court by the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School Board.

"The legal opinion we have obtained points us to believe she cannot retain her position as a trustee while living in Nova Scotia," said Cheryl Ashlee, the chair of the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Board.

Nel Joostema, who has



### salary still being collected

» In the meantime Joostema continues to receive her \$17,000 salary, which is standard pay for trustees.

served as a trustee in the district for more than 23 years, said she made plans to return to B.C. every two months, as well as participate in board meetings via telephone.

"All I want to do is fulfil my commitment to the people of Pitt Meadows and finish out my term," Joostema said. "I have no intention of running again in 2008."

But the majority of trustees believe Joostema should resign.

"This is not personal, it's about having to do what is right," Ashlee said.

The board is in the midst of seeking legal counsel and gathering the necessary information to take its case to B.C. Supreme Court.

## American activist stuck in Canada

By **TARA CAMPBELL**  
for Metro Vancouver

After having most of her personal belongings seized at the Peace Arch border last Thursday, political activist Alison Bovine was ready to plead her case yesterday, only to learn hours before her admissibility hearing had been cancelled.

The hearing was set to determine whether Bodine would be deported back to the United States and refused entrance into Canada for the next two years.

"I still haven't heard from the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) — it was a reporter who told me the hearing had been cancelled," Bodine said.

An Immigration and Refugee Board spokesperson said the CBSA withdrew its request for an admissibility hearing, but the case could still end up coming back to them at a later date.

When Bodine, an American, was detained last week, her passport, birth certificate, vehicle and other personal belongings were seized.

### » news In Brief



» **BYELECTION** In the traditionally Liberal Outremont riding in Quebec, the NDP's Thomas Mulcair, a former provincial Liberal minister, trounced Jocelyn Coulon in a federal byelection last night. With 120 of 168 polls reporting, Mulcair had 49 per cent of the vote, compared to 28 per cent for Coulon. Also last night, *CBC News Online* reports Conservative candidate Denis Lebel won the riding of Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean, with 172 of 194 polls reporting. The riding had been held by the Bloc for 15 years. In Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, Bloc candidate Eve-Mary Thai Thi Lac had a slim lead on Conservative Bernard Barré.

» **VISA** The European Union threatened yesterday to take action if Canada did not drop by the end of the year visa requirements for citizens from at least one new EU member from the ex-Soviet bloc. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Investigators search for crash clues

Survivors speak of heavy rain, trees bent over in wind

Thai rescue workers dragged the last bodies yesterday from the charred wreckage of a budget airliner that crashed while trying to land in a fierce monsoon storm on the resort island of Phuket, killing 89 people.

Having recovered the flight data recorders, investigators were sifting through the gutted fuselage for clues as to why the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 veered off the runway before smashing into a wooded embankment and bursting into flames.

Survivors spoke of torrential rain and trees bent over in the wind as the plane ap-



CHAWWAT SUBPASOM/REUTERS

Rescue workers survey the site of a plane crash yesterday at Phuket's airport. Sunday's crash killed 89 people.

proached the "Pearl of the Andaman" isle, famed for its white-sand beaches, azure waters and nightlife.

Deputy Transport Minister

Sansern Wongcha-um said the final death toll was 34 Thais and 55 foreigners, many of them Europeans on holiday.

The Indonesian flight captain and his Thai co-pilot were both killed, but 41 people survived a crash likely to raise more safety questions about the budget carriers that have sprung up across Asia in the last decade.

The coastal airstrip, known to be tricky for landing even without Sunday's driving rain and wind, reopened to commercial flights late yesterday, shortly after a government plane carrying Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont was allowed to land.

Surayud brought flowers and fruit for the injured, who were being treated in hospitals, which less than three years ago were helping thousands hit by the Indian Ocean tsunami. **REUTERS**