



# UPDATE

The mission of BCIT is to provide British Columbians with world-class, job-ready skills for career success.



## Putting her best foot forward

Teri Thom was out of work last August.

She didn't have a job but she did have an idea for her own business. Now she's in business for herself – successfully, thank you – with the help of the BCIT Entrepreneurial Skill Training Program.

A single mom, Thom had marketable skills and wanted to make the best of them. Her background: two years running a digital imaging department, nine years as a professional picture framer, three years of art school and desktop publishing.

While looking for work, Thom saw an ad in the Employment Paper for the BCIT program, which is informally dubbed the BEST program.

"It was exactly the kind of training I needed," says Thom. "I knew I wanted to be in business for myself, I had lots of

skills but wasn't sure what direction to take."

That's where the BEST program came in – it's a Self Employment Assistance (SEA) program funded by Human Resources Canada and delivered through BCIT's Venture Development Centre at the Burnaby campus.

Anyone who is on EI and is dedicated to starting a business can apply. Eligibility extends to those who have exhausted EI

*"It was exactly the kind of training I needed."*

benefits in the last three years or maternity/paternity benefits in the last five years.

Once accepted into the BEST program, Thom focused on developing her business plan

and conducting market research to gauge the viability of her business idea, a computer graphics service.

After 12 weeks of training she knew there was a market for her services and she opened her business, TalenTech Computer Imaging.

Today TalenTech Computer Imaging of Burnaby offers computer graphics services developing Web sites, packaging and promotional materials.

Thom has recently formed partnerships with a hardware specialist and a programmer to offer media solutions to her clients.

"If I hadn't taken the BEST program I wouldn't know how to do this," she says referring to a proposal and contract she has just landed. "It gave me the organization skills needed to run my business."



Terri Thom.

"Having a business plan gave me the courage to go to the bank. With my cash flow projections I know that I can afford a loan," she continues. "And when the job's done I know how to ask for payment."

Working from her home office in Burnaby, Thom is looking at a bright future with Web site and advertising contracts in hand.

"The most important thing I learned is that being self-employed means taking responsibility for yourself," she says.

Call at (604) 432-8953 for more details on the BCIT Entrepreneurial Skills Training Program.

— from Lynne Brisdon



## Earth apple award

The award, which is jointly sponsored by BCIT and the Student Association, is part of BCIT's Greening Our Campus, a coordinating program with the goal of fast-tracking improvements in environmental performance on campus.

BCIT President Brian Gillespie will present the award on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22. Closing date for nominations is Monday, April 20.

To register your nomination for the award, call Greg Helten at 451-7060, or fax 432-8464 or e-mail to recycle@bcit.bc.ca.

Please indicate who is involved, what they've done and why you think they should win.

Also, join us in these other Earth Day activities:

- Join us and the Child Care kids for tree and bush planting for habitat enhancement at 1130 at the Guichon Creek duck pond on Earth Day (1/2 hour).
- Take alternative transportation on Earth Day (alternative to the SOV -single occupant vehicle- walking, cycling, transit or carpooling).

Call 451-7060 to register and you'll be entered into a draw to win a free lunch for two from Restauronics.

— from Greg Helten



## Think globally - act personally

April 22 marks the 28th anniversary of Earth Day, an international celebration and demonstration of concern for the environment. Since 1970, participation has grown from 20 million people in North America to include 200 million people in more than 140 countries worldwide.

**The message is simple: individual actions count the most; think globally, act locally.**

On April 22, change your habits to benefit the environment and keep it up all year.

## BREAKFAST SPEAKER SERIES

### Leveraging technology



Simon Witts, general manager, of Microsoft Canada Co.

Maximizing investment with a digital nervous system is something Microsoft believes in. At the March 19 Breakfast Speaker Series Simon Witts, general manager, Microsoft Canada Co., shared his company's ideas surrounding this framework with members of the Vancouver business community.

Reflecting on the history of Microsoft — a \$11.4 billion company today, which has grown exponentially since 1983 when there were only 50 employees — Witts says that delivering business value is what has brought Microsoft to where it is today.

Microsoft's framework for talking about business value systems is a digital nervous system — or building the components done on a PC onto the network of an organization.

"The elements of an optimized digital network are: personalized computer access; Internet connection; common productivity applications; organization wide electronic messaging; and line of business application," explains Witts.

Recognizing that the investment companies make collectively into Information Technology (IT) is "going through the roof," Witts says the question that is being asked by executive

management is "are we getting value out of this investment?"

At Microsoft the digital nervous system is the most important IT investment they make. According to Witts, it works and they are proud of it.

How do you know if you have an effective digital nervous system in place? Witts suggests that this can be measured by evaluating your response to the competition; how your organization can leverage technology to manage planned and unplanned events.

"How well informed would your executive management team be if your competitor made a

sudden move — be it reducing the price, merging with someone else, etc."

An enterprise-wide system (digital nervous system) will allow you to respond efficiently and effectively from the inside of the organization out to the external audience. "Furthermore, your organization can benefit from the incredible advances in technology to maintain your competitive advantage," concludes Witts.

For more information on Microsoft check out their Web site at [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

— from Sheila Rees

# Be a hero

**Blood Donor Clinic**  
**Town Square Conference**  
**Rooms A & B**  
**Friday, April 24 from**  
**0900 to 1530**

There are many regular blood donors among our staff who will be very happy that the Red Cross blood donor clinics are returning to BCIT. We are extra-special because we are also a source of new donors.

### Who can donate?

Healthy individuals weighing at least 110 lb. who are in good health and free from most medication.

### How long does it take?

The actual donation takes about 10 minutes and the whole process takes about an hour. New donors will take a little longer.

### Where does the blood go?

One unit of donated blood can help as many as four patients.

A single liver transplant can require from 10 to 15 units of red cells, 20 to 25 units of plasma and 15 - 20 units of platelets.

It takes more than 1,000 donations to produce the 100,000 units of Factor VIII concentrate often needed to treat a single adult hemophiliac for one year.

Burnaby Hospital likes to start the day with a minimum of 80 units on hand, will match about 10 - 20 patients per day and issue about 500 units per month.

Vancouver General Hospital can issue up to 300 units per day.

### Important

- Remember to eat a substantial meal one to four hours prior to donating.
- Bring identification with you.
- Free juice and cookies.
- If you are unsure if you can donate blood, you can phone the Red Cross at 879-7551.
- Please encourage your co-workers and students to donate.

— from Jan Poersch, Medical Services

# Plan your financial future

*If you're between the ages of 30 and 50 and looking for some information on financial planning, a new workshop offered on April 22 from 1300 - 1600 may answer some of your questions.*

The workshop will cover the stages in your financial life, setting financial goals, using your money in the most effective efficient way, protecting yourself financially, sources of retirement income

and how to best handle the unexpected.

Come to learn more about mortgages, RESPs, RRSPs, disability insurance, line of credit, wills, CPP, OAS/Senior's benefit, private pension plans, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, how to handle leaves of absence and how to achieve the lifestyle you want to lead in retirement.

If you're interested in attending, please contact Lise

Maass in Human resources at 432-8333 or prof lmaass. You may bring a spouse but please be sure to register them (spouses will be charged \$20).

Note; registration is limited but additional sessions in alternate time slots will be offered if there is enough interest. Let us know!

— from Sarah McKee



# Lunch and Learn

**When: Wed, April 15**  
**Topic: Women in the know**  
**Time: 1130 - 1230**  
**Where: RIX Club**

Have you thought about retirement? Do you have any financial goals? It sounds surprising, but many Canadian women may not be

adequately prepared for a comfortable and secure future. You can take control of your financial future. This Lunch and Learn session will address the essential elements of a personal financial plan.

Heather Hesson and Silvana Mameli from the TD Bank will be here to

help you assess your current financial situation and review several investment options to help plan your future financial goals. Through a slide presentation, discussion and information kit, you'll be on your way to managing your own wealth.



# Tired of the Commute?

**Garden Apartments, Townhomes & Detached Homes for Sale**



## Greentree Village

Located directly behind the BCIT Burnaby campus on Wayburne Avenue

**Tim Zimich** tel: 433-2411  
 Re/Max Central, Burnaby cell: 290-5592

# CAMPUS CRIME STOPPERS

### Did you know?

Burnaby's crime rate took a nose-dive in 1997, dropping from 168 offences per 1000 population in 1996 to 139 last year.

### Burnaby crime offences

Type of crime	1995	1996	1997
Break & enter	4648	5383	4495
Motor vehicle theft	3604	3942	3214
Theft from auto	6173	7309	5915
Shoplifting	1855	2703	1882
Vandalism	4377	3653	2550
Total Theft	10583	11949	10129
<b>Total Criminal Code</b>	<b>28868</b>	<b>31284</b>	<b>28128</b>

# Classy finds

**For Sale:** Eight piece dining room suite: six chairs, table, china cabinet in honey oak, very good condition. Asking \$1500. Call Trena at 431-7346.

**For Sale:** Ten PC computer graphics programs with manuals, i.e.: Adobe, Corel Fractal Design, etc. and many third party professional reference manuals, call for details; professional hydraulic drafting table, 36x60, white, clean, good as new. Asking \$400 obo. Call 618-9754.

**For Sale:** Mannequins, mannequins and more mannequins, kids and adult size and some body parts. Cheap. Call and barter. Call Rain at 681-2454.

**For Sale:** Rabbits that need homes: six mth old male neutered, white short hair; four mth old male white with brown ears, litterbox trained; three yr old white female albino. Very friendly and gentle; eight mth

old male neutered dwarf bunny, white with brown ears; one yr old male very large rabbit (30 lbs) brown; two rex rabbits, bonded, must go together, mother and daughter, very gentle. Please call Rae at 298-1363

**For Sale:** Dog crate, extra Large Furrari, brand new. Will fit: lab, retriever, collie size dog. \$75.00 (paid \$125.00 in December). Please call Joan at 321-9112 or local 7094.

**Free:** Purebreed collie, seven yrs old, male (neutered), tattooed, loves other dogs and kids. Very gentle. If you are interested in giving "Baron" a home, please call 857-5550.

**For Sale:** Olympia Orbit B electric typewriter. Asking \$35. Call 8798.

**For Sale:** 1996 Mazda Pick Up. Fully loaded B4000 4X4 auto with extended cab, rear seating and bed mat. All maintenance up to date. Call 807-0834.

**For Sale:** Two bdrm, two level garden townhouse in Green Tree Village. Five min walk to BCIT. Hardwood and ceramic floors, two decks and more. Come see for yourself. Asking \$164,800. Call Pat at 8277 or 439-0865 for more details.

**For Rent:** Three bdrm + den executive house near SFU, private fenced yard, RV parking, double garage on cul de sac, available immediately. Asking \$1600. Call 936-0641 and ask for Endre or Joan.

**For Rent:** Three bdrm updated heritage home in Grandview Woodlands. Avail mid-June to end-Aug (part or all), furn., n/s, n/p. Call 451-7066.

**For Rent:** Whistler studio condo with river and beach access. Reserve now for summer. \$60.00/night, minimum five nights. Non smokers, no pets. Phone Ben at 922-8952 or Local 6788.

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