



Ram on the run, Page 3



North Toronto's Japa Dog's most popular menu item, the Teriyaki, outside the reader's Richmond food cart.

Japa Dog comes to Richmond

Food cart spices up hot dogs with Japanese toppings

By Matthew Hoekstra
Staff Reporter

A street food phenomenon that's gotten a big hit with Vancouverites is now in Richmond.

Japa Dog began selling its unique hot dogs earlier this month from the Canadian Tire parking lot on No. 3 Road in North Richmond.

The street food vendor operates three hot dog carts in Vancouver and a small Richmond Street restaurant, selling nine different hot dogs with a Japanese twist. The company has attracted plenty of attention from media and university students, whose photos taken by Richmond's Japa Dog have been posted on Facebook and Twitter.

In most cases, hot dogs in the \$4.25 to \$5.25 range, topped with a variety of Japanese toppings and fresh onion. Manager Takashi Tanaka said he can't explain why Japa Dog has become so popular.

"I don't know exactly why," he said. "We'd like to be the biggest hot dog stand in the world."

Tanaka said the company is looking for the world's best hot dog stand, but he's not sure where that is.

Japanese native North Toronto started the business in 2005 and, inspired by success during the 2008 Olympics, is now using international exposure. Tanaka, who was unavailable for an interview, said he'd like to be busy serving new locations in major U.S. cities.

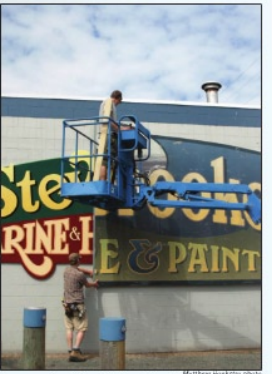
Moncton becomes main street for TV series

Hyped ABC drama is brainchild of *Lost* executive producers

By Matthew Hoekstra
Staff Reporter

It's not every day Steve White struts through Moncton wearing pants that could become a regular sight.

On Tuesday, the actor transformed Moncton Street into the fictional New England town of Snowflake, a set for the new ABC TV series *Once Upon a Time*. The heavily hyped fantasy drama is the brainchild of *Lost* executive producers Joss Whedon and Edward Kitsis, and premieres Oct. 23.



Construction workers on a lift work on the facade of a building that will double as the set for the TV series.

A day after filming, crews removed pipes, took down signs and restored Moncton Street to its normal state. If the series is a success, they'll return regularly. Moncton has already committed to ensuring intercity bus through the town.

According to Sarah Saegging, co-owner of the city's film office, Once Upon a Time has the potential to become the next *Shogun*—another TV series that filmed in Moncton for its quest.

"Snowflake" is so attractive because it plays really well, there's not a lot of high buildings and the people are really friendly," she said.

Location managers are also drawn to the village because it can also easily take on an East Coast or small town California look.

Producers filmed portions of the pilot episode in December in Moncton.

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Once Upon a Time chronicles the lives of fairy tale characters who are stuck in the real world without knowledge of who they really are. The story unfolds around Emma, betrayed by her men to be the missing daughter of Snow White and Prince Charming.

Whedon also takes place elsewhere in Moncton. It stars Ginnifer Goodwin and Lana Parrilla.

Whedon said if the series makes a long-term commitment to Moncton, the benefits are many—especially for the city's film industry, which has been struggling since the closure of the *Once Upon a Time* film studio in March when it was taken over by the TV network, CW, a U.S. cable network, in September.

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RICHMOND REVIEW

July 29, 2011

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ancient Egypt rebuilt with M&M's

By Matthew Hoekstra
Staff Reporter

Ancient Egypt meets candy-coated chocolate at Aberdeen Centre this week. For weeks a Hong Kong design team has been creating a series of sculptures depicting icons of the ancient world—made with M&M's chocolate candies.

The sculptures form part of an interactive exhibition that opens Friday and runs until Sept. 5.

The *Boy King* features reproductions of the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Great Sphinx of Giza, Egyptian themed musical and dance acts and a choreographed water fountain show set to the song "Walk Like An Egyptian" and songs from The Mummy soundtrack. The show also features an actor playing the part of King Tutankhamun, who ruled Egypt for 10 years until his death at age 18.

In advance of the designers' arrival, workers painstakingly sorted boxes of mixed M&M's into bins of red, yellow, green, blue and orange. Separating the colours required the full-time efforts of 10 people for 10 days, according to mall spokesperson Joey Kwan.

"We didn't want to surprise him with all the colours and he had to sort it out."

Then Dio Wong and assistant Henry Leung began leading a team in crafting the chocolatey masterpieces by individually gluing the tiny candies on pre-



Matthew Hoekstra photo
Dio Wong (left) and Henry Leung have replicated scenes of Ancient Egypt by using M&M's candies.

sculpted forms.

"I actually did it before, but much more small scale, using M&M's to recreate the Hong Kong skyline," said Wong, 37, through a translator.

Wong is known primarily as a toy designer, creating concepts for action figures, electronic toys and model kits. He also lends his skills to film production companies for set design and teaches at a design school.

The difficulty in keeping track of the number of M&M's used is only compounded by workers with hunger pangs. Wong has been "well behaved" when it comes to snacking on the coloured building blocks, laughs Aberdeen's Kwan, adding, "But for some of us, we are not that behaved."

The Boy King

- July 29 to Sept. 5 at Aberdeen Centre Central Atrium
- Free; info on corresponding contests and events at aberdeencentre.com or at the exhibition

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