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## Parks board chief fears loss of autonomy

JEFF HODSON

**METRO VANCOUVER**

March 22, 2010 2:25 a.m.

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A Vancouver Parks commissioner is worried that Canada's only elected parks board may lose some of its autonomy if city hall helps choose its new general manager.

NPA commissioner Ian Robertson said having city manager Dr. Penny Ballem involved in the hiring and management of the new parks GM is "a recipe for disaster."

"I am quite concerned for the future of the board and its independent nature," Robertson said. "We are not like any other board or department in the city."

In a motion before the board tonight, Robertson is calling for the board to be the exclusive body responsible for the hiring and management of the Parks general manager.

However, Vision Parks chair Aaron Jasper said the city has always had some involvement with the hiring of the parks manager.

Candidates will be shortlisted by a recruitment firm for a committee made up of three or four commissioners in addition to Ballem. Their recommendations will then come before the entire board.

"She's there to advise us," Jasper said.

"She's there to help us understand how this person – while they answer to us – is still part of her team ... At no time are we being spoon-fed or told who to hire."

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LONDON, Ont. - Despite winning more than \$20 million Ontario's newest multi-millionaire has no plans to quit her job as a grocery store cashier.

## Real estate agents vote on reform



OTTAWA - Canadian real estate agents have approved proposed reforms to the rules governing the services they offer to home buyers

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## Nova Scotia man dies while trapped in flaming car wreck

SHEET HARBOUR, N.S. - An 18-year-old man is dead after he was trapped in a burning vehicle in the Sheet Harbour, N.S., area Monday.



was the sea of red that washed over the country.

## Huge victory for Obama as U.S. Congress passes health-care reform



WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama has scored the biggest victory of his presidency as Congress approved his signature health care reform bill, bringing near-universal coverage to a wealthy country in which tens of millions of people are uninsured.

## Norwegian women curlers debut loud pants at world championship



SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. - There was a large package waiting for Norway when the team arrived in Swift Current, Sask., for the women's world curling championship.

## Rufus Wainwright on late mother: 'I feel like she's speaking through me'



TORONTO - Barely a month after the funeral of his folk-musician mother, Kate McGarrigle, troubadour Rufus Wainwright was due to make the media rounds for his new album, "All Days Are Nights: Songs for Lulu," out Tuesday.

## Bush, Clinton tour Haitian capital on aid mission



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PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - Former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton toured Haiti's rubble-filled capital Monday to raise aid and investment for a country still reeling from a devastating Jan.

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