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WEEKEND EDITION

THE VANCOUVER SUN

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SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2008

■ Under federal law, the SPCA was forced to put down 1,270 birds

■ Some roosters were found missing eyes and legs, and with horrible injuries

■ Three properties were raided, cockfighting pits were found on two

■ Up to 30 people are expected to face criminal charges

LAW FORCED KILLING OF ROOSTERS

SPCA official
in tears after
putting down
fighting birds

BY LARRY PYNN
and KELLY SINOSKI
VANCOUVER SUN

When two roosters duke it out in a cruel and illegal cockfight, one may die.

But when authorities bust an illegal cockfighting ring, all the birds must die.

The injustice of federal legislation was enough to bring the SPCA's Eileen Deever to tears Friday as the



to carry the backup version. It fits up to 15-inch screens and includes a protective inner compartment, labelled pockets for accessories for those who take organization seriously, plus a side water bottle pocket, and internal file folder section — at \$90.



3 Ubuntu 7.10 on Dell XPS M130n, Inspiron 1420n, Inspiron 1525n and Inspiron 530n desktop, from \$590

For fans of open source software, Dell has launched four consumer computers with Ubuntu 7.10 installed. The computers — desktop and notebook versions — also come with Corel's LinDVD software which lets computer users play copy-protected DVD movies. Dell has made the move in response to demand from Linux enthusiasts. Without the software licensing costs of their Windows-based counterparts, the computers have pretty competitive pricing. The computer maker has a Dell Linux Forum at www.dell.com/community.com and the customizable computers can be found online at www.dell.ca/open



4 SightMate IV920, \$3,600

A little pricier than you might expect for a pair of glasses, these are techno-devices made for people suffering age related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness. The SightMate combines a viewing screen with a digital camera, taking live video feeds and displaying a magnified version with stepped up colour and contrast for people with AMD or other eye diseases. According to the maker, the enhanced imaging gives a view of the environment around them to people who wouldn't otherwise be able to see. Worn like glasses and able to magnify objects up to 12 times, they are billed as being able to help approximately 40 to 60 per cent of patients improve visual acuity. Check them out at www.epeterson.com

But long career in B.C. wine business far from over for 62-year-old

BY MARKE ANDREWS
VANCOUVER SUN

Harry McWatters has finally called it quits as president of Sumac Ridge Estate Winery, but he won't be retiring from the B.C. wine business. McWatters, 62, will remain president and partner of Black Sage Vineyard, a 45-hectare property, and will continue to consult with Vincer Canada, which purchased Sumac Ridge Estate Winery in 2000, or anyone else in the industry in need of his expertise.

He also plans to establish the Okanagan Wine Academy and resume work on an on-and-off project, a cookbook entitled *Wine Country Cooking*, British Columbia.

Also somewhere in there he hopes to ride his new motorcycle and spend time on his horseback.

"It's not really retirement," said McWatters, speaking from the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival at the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre. "I will be establishing a full service winery consulting [business] that will offer opportunities for fledgling wineries or people interested in getting

into the business, maybe steer them clear of some of the pitfalls and give them a chance to deal with experts in the business."

A Toronto native, McWatters moved to Vancouver in 1955, and eventually to Summerland in the Okanagan in 1979. He first worked for Canabollo Wines in 1968 before his move to the Okanagan, where he founded the Sumac Ridge Estate Winery — the province's first estate winery — in 1979.

One year later, he helped establish the Okanagan Wine Festival Society, where he sat as founding president. He is the founding chair of the British Columbia Wine Institute (BCWI), where he is director, and is founding chair of the B.C. Wine Information Centre. He is also vice-president of the Canadian Vintners Association.

"Harry has been instrumental in developing the B.C. wine industry," said Peggy Athans, executive director of the BCWI. "He's been writing our story, and he's been relentless in telling our story throughout the world. Harry believed in our region, that we could produce quality premium wine here. It really pleases us that he's not really retiring, but stay-

ing in the British Columbia wine industry."

McWatters's prime interest in his new life will be to establish the Okanagan Wine Academy. Eventually this could be a one-year or two-year diploma institution, but for now, it will begin modestly, with a one-week session in the fall just prior to the Okanagan Wine Festival, with another four or five one-week sessions in 2009.

"It will start out as a one-week boot camp for wine enthusiasts," said McWatters. "It will be in the vineyards and in the wineries. It will have an anchor property to start with, and I'm looking to give it a more permanent address over the next couple of years."

McWatters said one of his highlights with Sumac Ridge came in 2003, when it was chosen the best winery not only in B.C., but within the entire region (including the U.S. Pacific Northwest).

Some years ago, McWatters had started working on his cookbook and new hopes to get back to it. The book is not about cooking with wine, but rather providing recipes for seasonal dishes in wine country.

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the total number of shares — is a sign of investor excitement about prospects for the industry and confidence in continued commodity-price strength.

That sentiment allowed the industry to raise \$3 billion through new share issues in 2007, which lifted the total assets of the top 100 companies to \$6.6 billion, global accounting consultancy PwC said in its report.

The market-cap gains were made despite the fact that several larger companies graduated in 2007 from the Venture Exchange to the Toronto Stock Exchange, and enhanced by the number of producing companies rising to 17 from 13.

That strength boosted junior miners' predominance on the Venture Exchange to 47 per cent of all listed companies, sixty per cent of which call Vancouver their home.

"Commodity prices continued to play a significant role in growth with prices remaining strong. Emerging markets like China and India helped fuel demand for steel, copper and gold while plans for more nuclear reactors added to the demand for uranium," PwC said.

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Lang Michener LLP Welcomes Darrell Podowski

Lang Michener is pleased to welcome Darrell Podowski to our Vancouver office as a Partner and Chair of our Mining Group. He advises mining and other resource companies on all their resource law requirements in Canada and internationally. In addition to a significant mining and securities law private practice in Canada, Darrell practiced law in Bermuda, served as Corporate Counsel with Teck Cominco Limited, and was an exploration geophysicist with Dome Petroleum Limited and Armo Canada Petroleum Corporation. Darrell is also a Director of the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia.

Lang Michener is a leader in mining and natural resources law, providing legal advice to the Canadian and international mining industry since the late 1920s, representing the interests of mining clients in more than 25 countries.

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Lang Michener LLP Welcomes Darrell Podowski

High performance
It defines our work and our people.

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