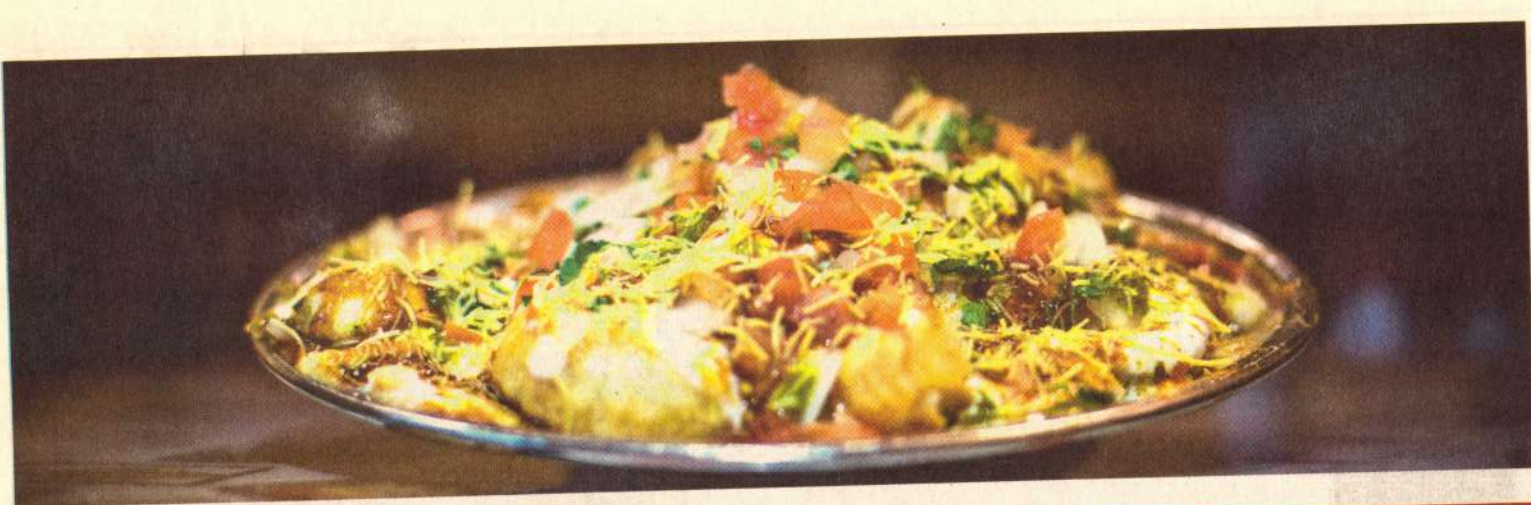




**THE DISH**  
**Gloriously messy, gloriously good**

The new Apna Chaat House in Surrey speaks the language of spice

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

SECTION 5

# Globe British Columbia



Citizens of Shawnigan Lake with Vancouver Island residents show their support for the Save Shawnigan Water Community Action Group. CHAD HIPOLITO FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Since last May, trucks have been rolling into a site near Shawnigan Lake to unload cargo: soil dredged from a Port Moody property in the Lower Mainland.

Under provincial regulations, the soil isn't hazardous; if it were, it would have to be disposed of in a provincially approved hazardous waste facility. But it is "contaminated," meaning the amount of, say, salt, lead or mercury it contains exceeds numerical standards set out in B.C. legislation.

That distinction between hazardous and contaminated means little to Shawnigan Residents Association members and others fighting a pitched battle against the facility, which is

## Drinking in the danger

### ENVIRONMENT

Shawnigan Lake provides drinking water to thousands of people in the watershed, but has been mired in controversy over a nearby hazardous waste facility, **Wendy Stueck** reports

located next to a rock quarry about five kilometres south of, and upslope from, Shawnigan Lake.

"It isn't complicated," Sonia Furstenu, a Cowichan Valley Regional District director, said in Victoria on Thursday, during a break from court proceedings. "They are putting a contaminated waste dump above a lake that provides drinking water for thousands of people, and that's a huge, huge problem."

Since the province granted a permit to the facility in 2013, it has been subject to legal challenges, protests and, most recently, a judicial review triggered when opponents objected to a 2015 Environmental Appeal Board decision that upheld the

permit. Those proceedings took another turn this week, when the Malahat Nation – whose reserve is located close to the site – filed a court application to support the granting of a stay of the permit.

The Malahat said evidence presented to date in the judicial review left them concerned that "proper, independent science" may not have been considered in the decision by the ministry or the board.

The City of Victoria has also weighed in, passing a motion this month in support of revoking the permit for the facility, which has a permit to receive up to 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil per year.

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### CITY LIMITS

## Dangerous liaisons theories highlight the latest in political party lunacy



STEPHEN QUINN

Vision Vancouver Councillor Andrea Reimer can't quite understand what all the fuss is about. Frankly, neither can I, but this week provided yet another illustration of the lunacy of party politics at the civic level.

Ms. Reimer's motion to establish "neighbourhood council liaisons" passed this week with the vote (all too predictably) split along party lines.

What the vote means is that soon, Vancouver city councillors will be assigned a number of neighbourhoods where they will be the designated point person –

a "concierge" of sorts, as the report puts it. The idea is not to champion one neighbourhood over another, but to provide a point of contact for citizens, which sounds innocuous enough. It is in fact something citizens have asked for. What it is not is a ward system.

Vancouver has repeatedly rejected wards – with the last vote on the issue taking place in 2004 when 54 per cent of voters were against the change. The closest vote took place in 1982 with 57 per cent voting in favour, but not making the established

threshold of 60 per cent.

The motion to establish the council liaisons was actually passed in June of 2013 as part of the wider Engaged City Task Force. It was one of 16 "Quick Start" recommendations to improve neighbourhood engagement.

Non-Partisan Association councillors George Affleck and Elizabeth Ball supported the motion back then, with the exception of the section that would establish the neighbourhood council liaisons, and the section that called for participatory budgeting for

neighbourhoods.

"It was so uncontroversial at the time that no resident came to speak to it and apparently even Councillor Affleck forgot that it had happened," Ms. Reimer said in an interview.

Ms. Reimer says the vote this week was about putting a process in place that would allow the city's 22 neighbourhoods to be divided up among councillors.

"Here's the problem the motion solves," Ms. Reimer told council on Wednesday.

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