

No playoffs, no payout

Canucks' woeful season a blow to city businesses

As the Vancouver Canucks' final playoff hopes fell apart at the hands of the Anaheim Ducks on Monday, businesses in the foodservice and clothing industries took the final hit of the night.

"It's been one disaster after another and my sales are worse than ever," said VancitySports owner John Czvelka. "This brings back memories of when they were struggling just to make it into the playoffs about seven or eight years ago."

A poor performance from the Canucks combined with not knowing if certain players are going to be traded both contributed to poor sales, Czvelka said.

Mike Jackson, manager of the Granville Sports Corner, said much of the same.

"It hasn't been a typical year, that's for sure," he said. "They're usually good to us and always make the playoffs, but this year it's been difficult."

Both Jackson and Czvelka are looking forward to the soccer season as Whitecaps sales are improving along with anticipated revenue from the approaching World Cup.

Ian Tostenson, president and CEO of the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association, said the thousands of extra people no longer going downtown for the playoffs are going to hit the foodservice industry the hardest.

"We did a study about three years ago and came up with a really consistent number of about a million dollars a (playoff) game," he said. **SAM SMITH/METRO**



Patrons enjoy IV vitamin therapy at the IV Wellness Boutique in Vancouver. **TWITTER**

Swanky IV lounge not just for blue bloods

Vitamin therapy.
Treatment offers much more than a hangover cure: Specialist



EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

With leather reclining chairs, soft lighting, indie music and flat-screen TVs, passersby might mistake the latest business to open in this swanky downtown Vancouver neighbourhood for a typical lounge or spa.

But they do a double take when they look through Yale-town storefront's windows to see plastic bags hanging from

IV stands dripping fluids into customers' veins.

Welcome to the IV Wellness Boutique, the first dedicated intravenous vitamin therapy lounge in the city, and perhaps the country.

While naturopathic physicians around the world provide vitamin drips to help relieve ailments from stress to exhaustion to hangovers — superstar Rihanna even made them famous when she posted a picture of her "party girl drip" on Twitter in 2012 — the co-owners of this clinic believe it's the first with a social, spa-like atmosphere in Canada.

"We tried to take the clinical feel out of a clinic, we tried to make it really beautiful," naturopathic doctor Heidi Rootes

said in between administering treatments Tuesday. "We want people to feel comfortable and relaxed."

It's a world apart from the city's other first clinic involving needles: the supervised injection site in the Downtown Eastside.

A typical 45-minute treatment costs \$150 out of pocket or is covered under extended medical care plans. It must be administered by a physician or a nurse practitioner certified in the practice.

That may not seem relaxing for those who don't like needles, but "that's the biggest stigma, the whole idea of intravenous," said Rootes, who has administered the treatment for eight years.

What's in the solution?

Sugar, saline or sterile water base with preservative-free vitamins, minerals and/or amino acids

Rootes and co-owner Robin Szakacs want to focus on health benefits including energy boosts and back pain relief instead of a party cure, popular in Las Vegas, L.A. and Miami.

The risks are minimal, Rootes said. As with any needle, there's a risk of infection. People are pre-screened before treatment and the procedure is not recommended for those with kidney or heart disease.

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