

Vancouver fan courts 'Twilight' stars for good cause, good time

Elisa Cotton is a diehard "Twilight" devotee. The Clark College student and mother of two from Vancouver has read all the books, seen the movie about 15 times and founded the fan site talkingtwilight.com. Now, with the help of Vancouver resident **Lisa McGraham** and **Michele Biernat** of Portland, Cotton is bringing some of the film's stars to the area for a "Twilight" convention.

The event is Aug. 28-30 in Portland as a fundraiser for Doernbecher Children's Hospital, and **Peter Facinelli**, **Ayanna Berkshire** and **Christian Serratos** are already signed on for all three days.

Facinelli tackles the character of Dr. Carlisle Cullen; Portland actress Berkshire plays Cora, a waitress at the cafe that Bella and her father frequent; and Serratos plays Angela Weber,



Vancouver residents Elisa Cotton, left, and Lisa McGraham are organizing a "Twilight" convention.

Bella's friend.

"At first I couldn't believe it," said Cotton, 37. "We're really excited."

That enthusiasm was contagious.

"It just sounded like it was going to be a really fun oppor-



Ayanna Berkshire



Peter Facinelli



Christian Serratos

tunity," Berkshire said. "It's so nice to be able to get outside of my norm in my own town and get a glimpse of something different."

In addition to Berkshire, Serratos and Facinelli, Cotton is hoping to book more "Twilight" stars for the convention, which will include tours to filming locations in nearby cities such as Kalama and St. Helens, Ore., and a prom modeled after the school dance Edward and Bella attend.

Cotton got the idea to organize a "Twilight" event after struggling to find any in the area.

"Of all the places that you should go to, you'd think the area where they filmed it would be a given," she said.

Vancouver jockey gets visit from prize patrol

When **Joe Crispin's** wife said someone was at the door for him, he never expected to find the Publishers Clearing House Prize Patrol. Crispin, a 48-year-old jockey, had just woken up from a nap after training at

Emerald Downs race track in Auburn. He was greeted at the door by a cheering crowd.

"I'm still surprised," the Vancouver resident said.

Crispin has entered Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes for years, and his efforts finally paid off this month with a \$1,000 prize.

"They brought flowers and a big check (made out to his given name, Jose). It was wild," Crispin said.

Crispin has had many victories in recent years, battling back from addiction to achieve record-number wins at Portland Meadows.

He plans to use the \$1,000 to pay bills and still has his eye on Publishers Clearing House's million-plus dollar prizes.

"Hopefully I can hit the big one someday," he said. "Anything's possible if you just keep



Hazel Dell jockey Joe Crispin wins \$1,000 from Publishers Clearing House.

doing something."

Bits 'n' Pieces appears Mondays and Fridays. If you have a story you'd like to share, call Features Editor Elisa Williams, 360-735-4561, or e-mail elisa.williams@columbian.com.