



## THE VICTORIA CHINESE MESSENGER

### 维多利亚华人信息

February 2014 (1st Ed.)

Victoria, British Columbia

### Valentine's Day in China



(image from: <http://wallpapers.dgreetings.com/chinese-valentine-day/chinese-valentine-card4-800.htm>)

February 14, although initially Valentine's Day in Western culture, is also celebrated as Valentine's Day in China, especially in big cities like Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

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### How to Say Valentine's Day in Chinese

情人节 (Valentine's Day):

qíng-rén-jié or /ching-rnn-jyeh /

情人节快乐 (Happy Valentine's Day):

qíng-rén-jié kuài-lè or /ching-rnn-jyeh

kwwhy-ler/

Chinese people have adopted many of the Western traditions of Valentine's Day, such as exchanging gifts or making a special date with a loved one. On this day, large amounts of chocolate will be on sale in supermarkets, cinemas will be much busier than usual, and the price of flowers, restaurants and hotels could be much higher. Chinese people have also started their own traditions for Valentine's Day, where a husband might prepare a rich dinner, or buy an elegant dress, for his wife on this day, to show his appreciation.

In China, most of the gifts for Valentine's Day are the same as in Western culture. Gifts from gentlemen can include flowers (traditionally red roses), chocolates, jewelry, a dress, a fashionable bag, underwear (if in a serious relationship), a comb etc. Gifts from ladies can include a watch, a tie, a shirt, a

shaver, a wallet, a lighter etc. There are also gifts that should not be given on Valentine's Day. Yellow roses should not be given, as presenting yellow roses to somebody generally symbolizes the declaration of breaking up. An umbrella should not be given, as the Chinese for "umbrella" is 伞 (sǎn), which sounds the same as 散 (sǎn), which means 'breaking up'. Shoes should also not be given as a gift for a loved one, as presenting shoes implies "packing off your love."

### Ancient Chinese Valentine's Days

In China, there are two festivals that have a similar function to Western Valentine's Day: Lantern Festival and Double Seven Festival.

#### Lantern Festival

It was tradition that ladies, especially unmarried girls from respectable families and humble homes) were forbidden to go out in ancient China. Only during the Lantern Festival could ladies go out to appreciate the colorful lantern exhibitions, and possibly for a date. As such, Lantern Festival was like a Chinese Valentine's Day in ancient China. Nowadays, people still go out for dates on the evening of Lantern Festival.

#### Double Seven Festival

Double Seven Festival (aka Qixi Festival) is recognized as Chinese Valentine's Day for its romantic legend about two stars: Altair and Vega. Altair is said to be Niu Lang (a poor but industrious cowherd), Vega is said to be Zhi Nü (the seventh daughter of the lord of heaven), and a romantic love story is told of the two.



(image from:  
<http://ellenwhitehurst.tumblr.com/post/918341235/happy-chinese-valentines-day>)

### Valentine's Day Sayings

但愿人长久, 千里共婵娟 (dàn yuàn rén cháng jiǔ, qiān lǐ gòng chán juān)  
Though miles apart, sharing the beauty of the graceful moonlight, we wish long-lasting lover.

执子之手, 与子偕老 (zhí zǐ zhī shǒu, yǔ zǐ xié lǎo)

With you I made an agreement: when I grasped your hand and I vowed to spend the rest of my life with you.

有情人终成眷属 (yǒu qíng rén zhōng chéng juàn shǔ)

All shall be well, Jack shall have Jill. Love will find a way.

爱你一万年 (ài nǐ yí wàn nián)

Love you forever.

我爱你, 就像老鼠爱大米 (wǒ ài nǐ jiù xiàng lǎo shǔ ài dà mǐ)

I love you as mice love rice.

### Groundhog Day

In North America, Groundhog Day is a fairly recent tradition. The day's historical roots stretch back to ancient pagan midwinter celebrations and the medieval Christian feast of Candlemas. It goes, according to folklore, that if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, then spring will come early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow, and the winter weather will continue for six more weeks. Groundhog Day takes place on February 2, every year.



## Chinese Groundhog Day

In China, Groundhog Day is synonymous with Chinese Insects Awake Day or Excited Insects Day as one of the 24 Chinese solar divisions.

On this day, hibernated animals should come back and rejoice the arrival of Spring, as it marks the beginning of new life. This includes creepy crawly insects and bugs, which most people would rather go without seeing. On this day, it is tradition to beat paper tigers that symbolize your enemies, such that you will be free of trouble and misfortune.

Canal Street in Wanchai is the most famous street for beating paper. Many old ladies will sell incense sticks and yellow paper tigers. It is then up to you to write your enemy's name on the paper tiger before paying an old lady \$50 to have the paper tiger beaten with a shoe.

Some people even go as far as tucking a photo of the enemy into the paper tiger. Chinese Groundhog Day/Excited Insects Day typically falls on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day of March each year.



(Woman beating a yellow paper tiger  
image take from: <http://www.hkfastfacts.com/Chinese-culture/Chinese-groundhog-day.htm#.Ut8K3TfTncs>)

## Happenings

Happenings are regularly updated online at  
[www.victoriachinesemessenger.com](http://www.victoriachinesemessenger.com)

Our Public Service and Community Service Happenings column is published under our sole discretion and is published information as a free service.

### Victoria Chinese Commerce Association

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER & CASINO NIGHT!

Mark Feb 5 on your calendar as the night to go ALL IN at the VCCA CASINO. Bring Friends and Family and enjoy a fabulous Chinese New Year Dinner. Your ticket price includes \$10,000 of VCCA Money for your enjoyment at the Tables.

**February 5, 2014**  
**Golden City Restaurant**  
**Meet & Greet 5:30 pm**  
**Dinner: 6:00 pm**  
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Register online at: [www.vcca.ca](http://www.vcca.ca)

Check regularly online at  
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## **2014 COMMUNITY 2014 VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT**

**Please note that the listed organizations are not limited to persons of Chinese descent.**

### **Victoria Chinese Commerce Association**

New projects on the go...including the need for volunteers for the 2014 Chinatown Night Market! Find out more:

Check website [www.vcca.ca](http://www.vcca.ca) for more

information on that and the regular meetings.

### **Victoria Chinatown Lions Club**

If you wish to serve the community, the Victoria Chinatown Lions Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday at Golden City Restaurant. Contact Art Quon at [art.quon@rbc.com](mailto:art.quon@rbc.com) or Alan Yuen at [yuenfam@shaw.ca](mailto:yuenfam@shaw.ca)

### **Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club**

Meetings are second Monday of the month at Golden City Restaurant.. You will need to contact their president for more info. This is a very active club which has won awards for its philanthropy.

### **Victoria Chinatown Care Foundation**

Mandate is to support and fundraise for the needs of the Victoria Chinatown Care Centre located in Chinatown. Volunteers for fundraising events. For information on the foundation go to [www.chinatowncarefoundation.com](http://www.chinatowncarefoundation.com)

### **Victoria Chinese Messenger**

You can also volunteer by submitting foodie tips, articles and photos of Victoria things, places and events for posting on our facebook or online publications.

## **BC PNP Business Immigration: Applying as an Entrepreneur**

If you are an entrepreneur ready to invest in and actively manage a business in British Columbia, you may be eligible for the BC Provincial Nominee Program's (PNP) Business Immigration stream. This stream accelerates the permanent residence application process for individuals who can

establish themselves in B.C. and develops a business that will provide significant economic benefits to the province. To qualify, you must meet specific personal net worth thresholds, make a minimum investment in an eligible business, be actively involved in the daily management of the business, and create one or more new jobs for Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Please note that meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee approval.

You can apply to the PNP as a business immigrant in one of three categories.

The [Entrepreneur category](#) is the best choice if:

- You would like to start or purchase and expand a business anywhere in B.C.
- You have a personal net worth of at least \$800,000.
- You intend to invest at least \$400,000 in (and acquire at least one-third equity ownership of) the business.
- You can commit to creating at least three new jobs for Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- You would like to propose one key staff member on your application.

The [Regional Entrepreneur category](#) is the best choice if:

- You would like to start or purchase and expand a business outside of the Vancouver and Abbotsford metropolitan areas.
- You have a personal net worth of at least \$400,000.
- You intend to invest at least \$200,000 in (and acquire at least one-third equity ownership of) the business.

- You can commit to creating at least one new job for a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

The [Strategic Projects category](#) is the best choice if:

- Your company is interested in setting up a B.C.-based operation (such as a branch office or subsidiary) anywhere in the province.
- Your company intends to make an equity investment of at least \$500,000 in the business.
- You would like to propose up to five key staff members on the application and you can commit to create at least three new jobs for each key staff member.

The [Regional Business Succession Option](#) is a good choice if you intend to purchase and manage an existing B.C. business. This option applies to all business immigration categories where the business is located outside of the Vancouver and Abbotsford metropolitan areas. This category offers priority processing and includes reduced job creation requirements.

The Business Immigration application process has two phases:

- In phase one, you sign a Performance Agreement and are initially supported for a two-year work permit.
- In phase two, you arrive in B.C. on the work permit, establish and actively manage your business, and complete the investment and job-creation requirements.

Applicants are nominated by the BC PNP for Permanent Residence in Canada only when they satisfy the terms of their Performance Agreement.

For more information on the process for

each category, email for the specific category summary you wish to have more detail on.

*(This summary is prepared by Sarina Hoi, BA, MA, RCIC of Ocean Pacific Immigration Associates Ltd. from information from the BC PNP website as of January 2014. A review of BC PNP is needed for the timing of any application as changes occur regularly for immigration related matters in Canada/BC. To contact Sarina Hoi email: [shoi@oceanpacificca.com](mailto:shoi@oceanpacificca.com) or through [www.oceanpacificca.com](http://www.oceanpacificca.com).)*

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## Foodies

**Our online version is regularly updated with a “Foodie” comments section. Here are some snippets for your “digestion”:**

*“... back to Shima Sushi again... they are doing a short term beginning of the year promotion of all you can eat for only \$28 during dinner hours... not just sushi and sashimi but you can try almost everything on the menu in smaller bites...”*

*“...those who haven’t been back to “Lure” at the Delta Ocean Pointe may want to try out some of the menu items now... great scallops and calamari on the appy menu...”*

*“...there were some nice surprises last time at Raymond’s on Blanshard, try the dumplings and the fish and tofu hotpot... both are worth the taste, and use some of their own hot sauce with the dumplings...”*

*“... the Mark at the Hotel Grand Pacific provides award winning fine dining under Executive Chef Rick Choy... there you can enjoy some great wines with their inventive creations...”*

*“... have you hadr some healthy noodle soup att Shanghai Noodle on Quadra Street yet?... just across from Crystal Pool...”*

*“...Forum Seafood Restaurant at 612 Fisgard...try it out and report to us what you think...the Cantonese Style of the old Forum*

*seems to be making a comeback and their own spicy Sichuan hot sauce is very good...”*



*Hotel Grand Pacific*

### **Founding Sponsors:**

Founding sponsors are visionary sponsors who commit their support to us, to the Chinese/Asian community in Victoria and to the Oldtowne districts of the Chinatown, Oldtowne and Design areas in Victoria. They have committed as longer term sponsors to support the sustainability of the community service provided by Victoria Chinese Messenger. We thank them for their faith and support of our community services.

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**Next Meeting:  
February 20, 2014, 11:30 am to 1 pm**

**Black Olive Restaurant on Pandora Ave.**  
**To join the meeting email:**  
[orb@orbusnetworks.com](mailto:orb@orbusnetworks.com)

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## **About the Victoria Chinese Messenger:**

We bring and report on happenings in the community. Our focus is on public and community service within the context of your social networks. Our goal is to bring the community closer and to pass on social happenings and community service events. Join us as we work with you to make our community a better place. Help us use social media to make for better communities, grow our community, help others, and bring people together for common purposes.

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Happenings: Submit your events, news, or interesting facts. Our Public Service and Community Service column may publish information as a free service to non-profit groups. Again, any publication of information provided is in our sole discretion

### **Publisher:**

Spectrum Community Messenger Group Inc.

### **Editors:**

Anisha Lagah

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**\*Please include your name and email**

(If you are the winner of the dinner for two, additional information will be required to arrange for delivery of the prize. Information is subject to our privacy policy.)

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CGA. Former MLA and Cabinet Minister

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#### **Charlayne Thornton-Joe,**

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## Valentine's Days for the Whole Year?



Throughout China, there are some people who celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month, rather than just in February. For those who celebrate this way, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of each month of the year has a special and distinct meaning. Want to learn more about Chinese Monthly Valentine's Day?

### January 14th: Diary Valentine's Day

This marks the start of the whole New Year! This is the time to make up a plan to express your love for the entire year. Let's plant a seed of love in our heart! Write down your love on the first page of your diary, and start your journey of love!



### February 14th: Traditional Valentine's Day

Do you like him/her? Then give him/her a large box of chocolates that contain your love! You may want to be the first one to give the chocolates, or, just surrender your love to the delicious chocolates!

### March 14th: White Valentine's Day

Finally! Have you received his/her love message? Or his/her love chocolates? Today, you can finally return his/her love back. On this day, those who have received the chocolates will get a chance to send their love to their lovers and enjoy the sweet chocolates together!



### April 14th: Black Valentine's Day

Who said that Valentine's Day is only for people who are in love? This is the Valentine's Day for people who are still waiting for their true love to show up. Maybe they haven't received any chocolates or gifts yet, but on this day, those who are not in love will get together, comfort and

support each other. Those who celebrate this day will dress up in black clothes, eat black bean noodles, and drink black coffee.



### May 14th: Yellow & Rose Valentine's Day

Okay, you two have been together for a while, do you really like him/her? Is he/she the one you've been looking for? It is time for you to show your love! Too shy? That's okay! Just send your partner a rose; White



rose: we should just be friends, yellow rose: you are my best friend, red rose: you are the love of my life!

### June 14th: Kiss Valentine's Day

You received the red rose? Clean your teeth and chew a mouthful of gum! You are going to kiss your lover! If you get caught kissing on the street, just say, "Kiss Day"!



### July 14th: Silver Valentine's Day

It may now be the time for you to tell the whole world that you love each other. Take your lover home and let the "others" pay for your whole day's dating schedule! What's



more? Perhaps pick out your favorite silver ring for one another!

### August 14th: Green Valentine's Day

Go enjoy the beauty of nature together! You could go hiking, climbing, or explore the great outdoors together while holding hands, just like on your first date.



### September 14th: Music/Photo Valentine's Day



Have you been practicing your song for months? It's time to sing it out loud! Let the moment freeze in time when you look into his/her eyes and sing your love into his/her heart.



### October 14th: Wine Valentine's Day

On this quiet beautiful night, light the candles and taste the nectar with your lover. Just like wine, love needs your patience and care. Oops.... underage? Why not drink juice together!



### November 14th: Orange Juice & Movie Valentine's Day



Do you have time tonight? Let's go watch a movie together! Don't forget to pick up some orange juice!

### December 14th: Hug Valentine's Day

It's been a year, and we still love each other, even deeper. Though it is snowing outside, we are together, holding one another. Being with you, I no longer feel cold.



## 每月都过情人节?

在中国, 有很多人不止二月十四日在庆祝情人节, 他们每月14日都在庆祝情人节。对于他们而言, 每月的14日都是情人节, 并且具有特殊的意义。你想知道这些情人节都代表什么意思吗?

### 1月14日: 日记情人节

这意味着新一年的开始, 也是你爱的旅程的开始。为了你爱的人好好计划一个全年旅程吧。

首先, 让我们在心中播种下一颗爱的种子! 在日记上写下你爱的宣言, 启程吧!

### 2月14日: 传统情人节

你喜欢他/她吗? 那就赶快送他/她一盒甜蜜的巧克力吧! 如果你想做第一个送他/她巧克力的人就要赶快咯! 或者, 就向甜蜜的巧克力投降吧!

### 3月14日：白色情人节

终于等到这一天了！你收到他/她的答复了吗？还是收到他/她送的巧克力了？今天，你终于可以知道他/她的答复了。在这一天，上个月收到巧克力的人要送还给巧克力来表明心意。然后，一起享受美味甜蜜的巧克力啦！

### 4月14日：黑色情人节

谁说情人节只属于情侣？

这是单身情人节！也许他们还没有收到巧克力，也许他们正在等待那个人的出现，但是在这一天，他们会聚在一起，互相安慰，互相支持。他们会穿上黑色的衣服，吃黑豆面，喝黑咖啡。爱情，需要耐心等待。

### 5月14日：黄/红玫瑰情人节

好吧，你们已经在一起一段时间了，你喜欢他/她吗？他/她是你要找的那个人吗？是时候表达你的心意了！不好意思？没关系，只要送给你的情人一朵玫瑰，就明白啦！白玫瑰：我们可能做朋友更好。黄玫瑰：你是我最好的朋友。红玫瑰：你是我一生挚爱。

### 6月14日：亲吻情人节

你收到了红玫瑰？赶快去刷牙，或者大嚼口香糖！因为，你们即将要亲吻彼此啦！如果你们看到别人也在亲吻？就说“亲吻情人节快乐！”

### 7月14日：银色情人节

也许是时候和全世界宣告你们的爱情了！带你的爱人回家，让“别人”为你们今天的约会买单吧！还有什么？为彼此挑选一个钟爱的银饰来纪念你们的爱情吧！

### 8月14日：绿色情人节

一起去享受大自然吧！你们可以去野营，登山或者一起在户外手牵手地散步，享受阳光。就像你们最初约会那样。

### 9月14日：音乐/相片情人节

你已经练习这首歌曲很久了？

现在是要大声唱出来的时候了！让时间停住在那一瞬间，当你将爱唱入他/她心中。

### 10月14日：红酒情人节

在这静谧的夜晚，点燃蜡烛，和你爱的人一起品尝美酒吧。如同红酒一样，爱情需要耐心呵护。啊。。。没到年龄？那就喝果汁吧。

### 11月14日：橙汁和电影情人节

今晚有时间？一起去看电影吧！别忘了带上橙汁哦！

### 12月14日：拥抱情人节

已经一年了！你们依然深爱彼此。虽然外面在下雪，但是你们拥抱在一起。与彼相拥，不再畏惧寒冷。

*Believe it or not...just enjoy the months to come.*



Please join us and invite your friends to be friends with "Victoria Chinese Messenger" We have over 1000 friends and would love you to join the VCM Facebook Community. Liking our page will help our growth as well.

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## Do's and Don'ts of Ordering Chinese Food



There are certain do's and don't to consider when ordering Chinese food. For those who enjoy authentic Chinese cuisine, there is nothing worse than ordering your meal and receiving a plate of lumpy rice, meat covered in brown sauce or grease-saturated broccoli. This is what we call Chinese food, American-style. So, what can you do to avoid this bad dining experience? Consider the following tips.

The best way to ensure you get an authentic Chinese dining experience is to send signals that you expect a Chinese, not Chinese-American, meal. In some Chinese restaurants, staff have inherited traditions about what Americans want at a table, from tableware, to flavors, to a couple of fortune cookies with the cheque at the end. To break down the culinary barriers, change the way you think about the meal. For many, eating out is merely an opportunity to eat too much fat, starch, sugar and salt. In Chinese culture, composing a meal is also meant to be an aesthetic experience, as well as one about taste. So, when choosing restaurants, choose locations that have a high percentage of Chinese customers.

When you sit down, a waiter may bring you the accessories of a Chinese-American meal: forks, glasses of ice water, a dish of plum sauce, and a bowl of fried chow mein noodles. If you wish to get authentic Chinese food, this is not the way to start. Send them back, and ask for chopsticks and tea. If your chopstick skills are weak, this is a great opportunity to practice. And tea has been the traditional accompaniment to Chinese food for over a millennium. (Don't add milk and sugar!)



Now for the ordering. In Chinese culture, this weighty task is usually given to the host or head of the family. Following the example of the sages, you're to select dishes that honor the cuisine, ingredients, and skills of the chef. If you're in a

Cantonese restaurant, avoid ordering a spicy Sichuan specialty like mapo tofu. And if you're in a Sichuan restaurant, don't ask for dishes that aren't greasy and spicy—just go to another kind of restaurant. Stay away from dim sum at dinner, because that's a late morning and lunchtime food. Don't be tempted by the sushi or pad thai noodles on the menu; they're better at Japanese and Thai restaurants. Steer clear also of "healthy" dishes like steamed chicken with broccoli, which were invented to indulge American medical obsessions. Actually, you'll find most of the unhealthy dishes—deep-fried and covered in gloppy sauce, like General Tso's chicken—on the Chinese-American side of the menu. If you are unsure of what to order, look at what the Chinese patrons at other tables are eating for clues, or ask the waiter to recommend some authentic Chinese dishes.

The guiding principle of a good Chinese meal is for the dishes to have balance (ying and yang). Dishes should offer a pleasing variety of seasonally appropriate ingredients (meat, seafood, vegetable, tofu, etc.); cooking methods (stir-fried, red-cooked, steamed, braised, stewed, soups, etc.); flavors (bitter, sour, sweet, pungent, salty); colors; and textures. A good meal is more than an occasion to fill one's stomach. The Chinese believe that there's a direct connection between our health and the food we eat. If the dishes are appropriately balanced, not only is our mental and physiological well-being restored but so is our relationship to the natural world.

Finally, enjoy your food communally. A Chinese meal is a social event meant to break down boundaries, not build them. So, next time you plan to go out for Chinese food, consider the above guidelines to ensure you get the most out of your dining experience.

(Some content taken from The Atlantic – Do's and Don'ts of Ordering Chinese by Andrew Coe:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2010/07/the-dos-and-donts-of-ordering-chinese/60324/>)



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## Sinclair Mar, JD

马醒华律师也是加拿大卑诗省及维多利亚市多个社区服务团体的创会会长、主席和董事；包括中华商会、华人疗养院、教育电视、华人信息、维多利亚端午节会、奥博商业网络社区基金等等；并荣获多个社区服务奖项。

## Chinese Traditionally Celebrate Chinese New Year for 15 days (Jan 31 to Feb. 14)

Here are some Chinese Food  
restaurants in town:

### Don Mee Seafood Restaurant

538 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W  
250-383-1032

### Forum Chinese Seafood Restaurant

612 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W 1R6  
250-385-3288

### Golden City Restaurant

721 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W  
250-386-8404

### Fan Tan Café

549 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W 1R5  
250-383-1611

### Dynasty Restaurant

546 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W 1R4  
250-388-6818

### Raymond's Restaurant

815 Cloverdale Ave, Victoria, BC V8X 2S9  
250-380-1881

### Sun Wah Chinese Restaurant

1515 Cook St., Victoria, BC V8T 3N7  
250-381-8966

### Ming's Restaurant

1321 Quadra St., Victoria, BC V8V 3N4  
250-385-4405

