



THE VICTORIA CHINESE MESSENGER

维多利亚华人信息

July 2013 (1st Ed.)

Victoria, British Columbia

Festival of the Karaoke Stars at Chinatown Night Market July 10, 2013

The pre-selections and submissions are ongoing and the top ten will be competing live in Chinatown during the night market on July 10, 2013. Be sure to come down and watch the contestants vie for their trophies and prizes.

You can also enjoy the vendors, exhibitors and ambience of the oldest Chinatown in Canada.

The 2013 Chinatown Night Markets bring fun and culture for all ages. Come enjoy the food, vendors and the ambience of old Chinatown. The market is located right on 500 block Fisgard Street, where Chinatown merchants will be open. It will be a chance to wander into some of the eclectic stores in Chinatown too. The markets are between 5 and 9 pm.

Come join in the fun with Victoria Chinese Commerce Association in Chinatown July, August and September.

The night markets are free to the public and is a non-profit event only made possible by sponsors. If you would like to sponsor or advertise in the programs please go to the vcca.ca website and email to VCCA.

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2013 Canada Dry Victoria Dragon Boat Festival

It's almost here! Book your calendar and come down to the 2013 races in the inner harbour on August 16, 17 and 18. Races start on Saturday and finish Sunday.

Throughout the weekend there will be two stages presenting both cultural and local artists entertaining. The food court and vendors will give you plenty to munch on and browse between races.

Friday night don't forget to hang your lanterns with special messages during the "Lights of Courage" campaign to help raise funds for the BC Cancer Foundation.

The festival is title sponsored by Canada Dry and presented by Fairway Markets.

June 9th residents at the Victoria Chinatown Care Centre Celebrated Royal Bank of Canada Day.



Many thanks to the volunteers who spent Sunday with our residents playing mah-jong, taking walks through Chinatown and reading and socializing with them.



Also thanks for the garden clean up! Everyone had a wonderful time; many thanks to our friends at RBC for making this possible!



Check out the new Asia Pulse online at www.victoriachinesemessenger.com

Historical Snippet: It's 1994 and Dragon Boats Invade Victoria's Inner Harbour

In 1994, during the Commonwealth Games ceremonies, an ambitious organization with some connections, the Victoria Chinese Commerce Association ("VCCA" then only 3 years old), felt it was time to introduce dragon boating to Victoria. At that time dragonboating was in its infancy, but highly successful in Vancouver.

It all started with planning the year before in 1993, when then VCCA President Sinclair Mar, committee chair Alan Yuen and other VCCA members proceeded with an idea to bring Dragon Boats to Victoria. As luck would have it, Victoria would be hosting the 1994 Commonwealth Games. More importantly, it would be the last time Hong Kong would be participating in the games because in 1997 Hong Kong would revert to China. The VCCA worked with the Commonwealth Games cultural committees to bring a demonstration race of dragon boats to the Inner Harbour for the first time. Honorary chair, the late Honourable Dr. David Lam (Lt. Gov. of British Columbia at the time), was of great assistance, particularly with his involvement in the start up of dragon boat races and the festival in Vancouver. Together with the help of the likes of late Milton Wong, the cooperation of the Vancouver Festival organization and their event organizers was readily given. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office based in Toronto also helped to bring about the demonstration race. As a result, in 1994, the VCCA was able to bring the first dragon boat races to Victoria as a demonstration race in the Inner Harbour of Victoria during the opening ceremonies of the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

This was the beginning, and the next year, in 1995, the first Victoria Dragon Boat Festival came to fruition. Again the assistance of the Vancouver side was instrumental to this birth. For the next three years VCCA grew the festival from 20 teams racing to 40 teams racing and from a few onsite vendors to a festival atmosphere.

By 1997 the dragon boat festival was taking on a “life of its own” and the VCCA board decided that it was time to separate the operations of the Dragon Boat Festival and the VCCA, and accordingly the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society was formed in August 1997.

Today the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival has grown into a 90 team field over a three-day event and is one of the premier festivals in Victoria. From its inception, as with many dragon boat festivals, it had a strong affiliation with breast cancer survivors and continues the cancer affiliation today.

Of course, it should be mentioned that the support of the City of Victoria, the Harbour Authorities, Transport Canada, Provincial Capital Commission and Maritime Forces Pacific – CFB Esquimalt have also played a huge role in the growth of the festival.

With the growth into a major festival, sponsors were sought who provided financial support and support in kind to ensure the success each year for the festival. Currently the title sponsor is Canada Dry and the presenting sponsor Fairway Market.

The Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society, as the child of the VCCA, now continues to present the festival annually and will be celebrating 19 years of dragon boating in 2013. VCCA members have provided leadership and volunteers for the festival from inception to the present day. The society is independently run to present the festival – which now boasts many vendors (food and merchandise), two entertainment stages, a beer garden and of course 2000 or more paddlers coming to fill the paddlers village and to compete in the races. Some 90,000 people grace the festival site and cheer on their favourite dragon boat teams on the festival weekend. As an economic generator for the region, the festival is estimated to bring over a million dollars into the region’s economy.

Happenings

Happenings are regularly updated
online at
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.

Veronica Yen's Chamber Music

Concert in Victoria
July 6, 2013 at 7 PM
St. Mary's Anglican Church, Oak Bay

*The tickets can be Purchased in Long &
McQuade, Ivy's book store in Oak Bay,
Victoria Conservatory of Music or at the
door.*

Flute: Judith Pazder
Violin: Catheryn Kennedy,
Cello: Zackerine Kennedy
Piano: Veronica Yen

楓華國際藝術節 維多利亞島演出專場節目

Butterfly Troupe Zhejiang Opera and Dance Drama Theatre

July 14, 2013
8 PM

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\$25 at McPherson BoxOffice

A show not to miss !

[西子湖畔彩蝶女]

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演出時間: 演出時間: 7月14日(Sun)

演出地點: 維多利亞音樂學院 音樂廳:
Victoria Conservatory of Music Alix Goolden
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倍受好評

節目表 (Program)

- 一.合奏《采茶舞曲》作曲: 周大风
- 二.二、江南絲竹《歡樂歌》編配: 沈鐵候
- 三.三、絲弦五重奏《陽關三疊》
作曲: 胡登跳
《歡樂的夜晚》作曲: 胡登跳
- 四、笛子與笙《三五七》作曲: 趙松庭
《蔭中鳥》作曲: 劉管樂
- 五、古箏齊奏《戰台風》作曲: 王昌元
- 四.六、二胡齊奏《水鄉小唱》作曲: 李國剛
改編: 孫宇嶸
- 七、舟山鑼鼓《漁舟凱歌》作曲: 朱良楷
顧生安 姜水林 張全夫
- 八、江南絲竹《行街》民間樂曲
《詠南》作曲: 朱毅
- 五.九、嗩吶獨奏《打棗》民間樂曲
- 十、江南絲竹《小霓裳》古曲)
- 十一、彈撥樂合奏《三六》編配 顧冠仁
《燈月交輝》編配 沈鐵候
- 十二、合奏《花好月圓》作曲: 黃貽鈞
- 十三、合奏《花頭台》編配 馬勉之 王天明
杜竹松
- 十四、合奏《紅河谷》根據加拿大民歌改編
編配徐鴻鳴

2013 Canada Dry Victoria

Dragon Boat Festival

August 16, 17 and 18

Inner Harbour and Ship's

Point Downtown

**Tradition in Felicities at the
Royal BC Museum**

There's a new exhibit at the Royal BC Museum running until September. With the help of members of the Chinese community "Tradition in Felicities: Celebrating 155 Years of Victoria's Chinatown at the Royal BC Museum" is open to the public.

It's full of history and artifacts from Victoria's Chinatown, including a special lantern with an internal moving carousel, originally constructed by the Chinese Free Masons and restored by the museum.

Check regularly online at
www.victoriachinesemessenger.com
for updates on articles and
information

Chinatown NIGHT MARKET
In the Heart of Canada's Oldest Chinatown

2013 MARKET SEASON

Family Fun Food
Crafts Culture
Entertainment Market Vendors

500 Block Fisgard Street
5:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

Wed, June 12
Chinatown Celebrates Youth Performances & the Arts

Wed, July 10
Night of the Karaoke Stars

Wed, Aug 14
It's All About Food

Wed, Sept 11
The Sun Sets in Chinatown

more info at
ChinatownNightMarket.ca

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CIC Next Generation Open Data Portal

CIC has launched its much-anticipated next-generation Open Data Portal (data.gc.ca), which will provide unprecedented access to government data and information.

Immigration data is already the most sought information on the Open Data Portal. In fact, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has the six most downloaded datasets on the Portal including information about Canada's immigrants' countries of origin, preferred immigration programs, settlement patterns as well as application inventories and processing times.

According to the Charter, more data will be released via a comprehensive online registry of data holdings and the users will be given unrestricted rights to re-use that data. Standards will be set for data quality, interoperability and comparability, and prioritizes high-value data types for early release. By upholding these principles, Canada is demonstrating its international commitment to transparency and Open Government.

Data.gc.ca contains datasets compiled by over 20 departments and agencies, covering a broad range of topics, from housing, to health and environmental data. The next generation data.gc.ca site features new interactive capabilities and Web 2.0 features, including a new targeted search capabilities and a Developers Corner, where Open Data developers can access specific technical information to assist them in creating user-friendly applications.

The Portal also features the new Open Government Licence, which offers unrestricted re-use of government data and information.

As CIC datasets on the Open Data Portal are already the six most popular among government departments, CIC intends to make even more of information available online in the near future.

New CIC online Help Centre

More than four million people have been helped by Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) new online Help Centre since it was launched just six months ago.

The Help Centre is a one-stop Web portal with an advanced search function where visitors can find quick and direct answers, including how to complete application forms, extend visas as well as other permits, and replace lost documents, such as permanent resident cards. The Help Centre also enables people to easily access help tools, how-to-videos as well as application forms and guides.

The new online Help Centre is part of a growing suite of online Web tools available on the CIC website. This includes the Come to Canada site, which helps potential immigrants to Canada determine the immigration programs they may be eligible for. Also, the new interactive Living in Canada tool for newcomers helps them adjust to life in Canada and find services, including an interactive map that allows people to find settlement organizations in their area.

All these new tools are part of the government's efforts to create a more responsive, user-friendly and efficient immigration process that benefits applicants, immigrants and Canadians alike.

(This information is partly reproduced from information on the CIC or BC PNP website and is provided by Sarina Hoi, BA, MA, RCIC, of Ocean Pacific Immigration Associates Ltd. additional information may be found on the website)

Foodies

Our online version is regularly updated with a “Foodie” comments section. Look forward to more online content and “news” as we grow our service to community events. Here are some snippets for your “digestion”

"...another new try will be Izushi Japanese Restaurant at 980 Blanshard... new recipes and the best halibut cheeks tempura..."

.for some of the best home style noodle soup try out Shanghai Noodle on Quadra Street, just across from Crystal Pool"

"... La Tea Ah on 700 block Fort, just tried their crepe and beef noodle dishes, both were excellent and well priced. For a casual Taiwanese Noodle experience... this is the place in Victoria..."

"... new owners of Forum Seafood Restaurant at 612 Fisgard...try it out and report to us what you think....they do their own Sichuan hot sause...try their Sichuan Menu...hot stuff"

"...how about some BBQ duck?...give Ming's on Quadra a try..."

"... good casual food at casual prices at JJ Morgan's... well satisfied before a movie at University Heights..."



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.

2013 VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY 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 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 or Alan Yuen at yuenfam@shaw.ca

Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club

Meetings are second Monday of the month at Golden City Restaurant. Will need to contact their president for more info (to follow). This 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

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.

Victoria Chinese Messenger Advisory Board and Panel

VCM Community Affairs Advisory Board:

Alan Lowe, Former Mayor of the City of Victoria, Architect

Tony Joe, Former President of Victoria Real Estate Board, Realtor

Wayne Lee, Chartered Accountant and CGA

Charlayne Thornton-Joe, City of Victoria Councilor

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Hua Lin, Ph. D., Professor UVic.

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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

Enter to win a dinner for two by subscribing to receive the Victoria Chinese Messenger!

Monthly draws!

(Prize: \$50.00 Restaurant Certificate)

To subscribe register by email at:

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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.

Previous Winners: D. Bratzer, A. Blainey, J. Ngai, R. Fong, P. Battles, L. McArthur, P. Hannah, B. Hung, L. MacDonald, R. Archibald, B. Cornborough, R. Eng, B. Yan, S. Scott, L. Wong, R. Lalev, for certificates to Ming's Restaurant, Forum Restaurant, Jonathan's Restaurant, Shima Sushi Japanese Restuaranty or Dynasty Restaurant.

Support British Columbia's Knowledge Network:



<http://www.knowledge.ca/>

Editor's note: Knowledge Network is BC's Public Educational Broadcaster. Some people have the honest belief that PBS or some of the public TV stations from Washington are related, but Knowledge is your TV broadcaster belonging to the people of BC. Knowledge relies on support and endowments from viewers and if you wish to donate or contribute to support your own local commercial free and safe programming go to its website and donate.



Please join us and invite your friends to be friends with "Victoria Chinese Messenger"

We have 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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This Month's Feature Organization: Victoria Chinatown Care Foundation

The Victoria Chinatown Care Foundation is the fundraising arm for the Victoria Chinatown Care Centre and is a non-profit society.

The Victoria Chinatown Care Centre is located in the heart of Chinatown at Herald and Government Street, and it is currently going through a major renovation. It was originally built by the Chinese community in January 1982, replacing the old Chinese hospital. The Centre features a spacious lounge on the first floor as well as a lounge on each resident floor. There is also a resident garden that provides therapeutic activity. The VCCC provides services in Chinese and English, and Chinese foods, activities, and care are provided in a culturally sensitive way. The facility is licensed to provide complex care to 31 residents, including an Adult Day Program for seniors living in the community. VCCC provides nutritious meals and snacks, physical exercise, and social connections. VCCC also provides respite care, so family caregivers may have free time from the responsibility of care giving.

History of Dragon Boating

The Dragon Boat Festival - "Duan Wu Jie" in Chinese - is traditionally celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar. Most believe dragon boat festivals were established to commemorate a great patriot poet, Qu Yuan.

But there are other fascinating theories to explain the festival's origins. One is that the festival originated as a ritual response to tabooed "evil days." The fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar is traditionally considered an evil month, and the fifth day is considered particularly bad. Holding a festival

may have been how ancient communities held "evil" at bay.

These old cultural traditions were absorbed by a more recent historical event - the death of the legendary poet and statesman, Qu Yuan.

Qu Yuan served in the court of Emperor Huai during the Warring States Period (475 - 221 BC). He was a wise man, but his struggle against corruption angered greedy court officials. The corrupt power brokers convinced the Emperor to exile Qu Yuan.

During his exile, Qu Yuan traveled, taught, and wrote. But the strain of exile drove him to dark despair. When he heard that his mother country, the Chu State, had been defeated by the strong Qin State, he decided to end his life.

Qu Yuan flung himself into the Miluo River.

According to legend, after hearing Qu Yuan had drowned, local fishermen raced to the spot in their boats to search for his body.

Unable to find him, people threw zongzi (a wrapped glutinous rice dumpling), eggs, and other food into the river to keep the fish away from his body. In the centuries since his suicide, people have commemorated Qu Yuan by recreating the circumstances of his tragic death. They race dragon boats and eat zongzi every year on the anniversary of his death - the fifth day of the fifth month.

Dragon boat races are now held worldwide, and the ideals of Qu Yuan are still honoured - through Taoist ceremonies, the spirit of the paddlers, and the invitation and involvement of the local community. Through the festival's many activities, people are reminded of the importance of loyalty and commitment to the community.

(Reprinted from victoriadragonboat.com)