



**THE VICTORIA
CHINESE MESSENGER**

维多利亚华人信息

January 2014 (1st Ed.)

Victoria, British Columbia

**Gong Xi Fa Cai
Gong Hey Fat Choy
恭禧發財**



**January 31 marks the
beginning of the
Year of the
Wooden Horse**

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**2014: Year of the
Wooden Horse**

This year, Chinese New Years falls on January 31st, 2014, which marks the beginning of the Year of the Horse. Specifically, this will be the year of the Wood Horse. According to Taoist tradition, there are 5 elements that

represent the activities of the Yin and Yang forces which are manifested in the changing cycles of nature. These elements, or phases of energy, are Wood, Metal, Water, Earth, and Fire. These elements are constantly changing in a circular movement, allowing for harmony in nature's cycles. According to the 5 element theory, the Horse is the



strongest Fire animal of the 12 zodiacs, while Wood signifies growth and development. The combination of Wood with Horse's fiery nature will allow for this year's affairs to be open and honest.

Furthermore, the Year of the Wood Horse is a time for adventure, fast victories, and unexpected romance. Travel is encouraged, and production will be rewarded. According to Chinese astrology, a Horse year will bring good fortune and luck. Thus, this is the year to take more chances and make significant

changes in your life! One must act fast in a Horse year, but you can do so with confidence knowing luck is on your side. However, do remember to apply common sense in choosing the best times to act.

Celebrating Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, marks the first day of the New Year in the Chinese calendar. This is not only China's most important holiday, but it is also the longest, lasting 15 days. Traditionally, Chinese New Year was a time to honor one's ancestors as well as deities. Nowadays, customs and traditions relating to the celebration of Chinese New Year vary widely. However, typically on the evening before Chinese New Year's Day there will be an

annual family reunion dinner, as this holiday is very family-oriented. It is also customary for families to do a thorough cleanse of their house to sweep away any ill-fortune and allow for all incoming luck.

Since the Spring Festival marks the beginning of a brand new year, it is often regarded as an omen of the year. Chinese New Year celebrations are intended to bring luck, health, and wealth in the coming year. Windows and doors are often decorated with red paper-cuts and couplets with themes of "happiness", "good fortune" and "longevity". Furthermore, many people have taboos about this time. For example, words such as "death", "ghost", or "illness" are never used during conversation. Additionally, many avoid taking medicine on this day, as they believe that this will result in sickness for the entire year.

There are several other very common Chinese New Year traditions. On the Eve of the New Year, following the reunion feast, often the whole family will stay awake playing board games and watching special New Year TV programs. Every light in the house is meant to be kept on, and at midnight fireworks and firecrackers light up the sky. The next morning children receive their presents, which are red paper packages containing cash. The day is spent greeting ones neighbors and relatives with wishes for a happy New Year. This is considered a time for reconciliation, and gifts are frequently exchanged in the following days. The festivities also often include street parades, where the main attraction is typically the dragon and lion dance. New Year celebrations eventually conclude with the lantern festival, which takes place on the 15th day of spring, and following this life becomes routine once again.

Food

Considering the emphasis placed on food within the Chinese culture, it is no surprise that it plays a prominent role during Chinese New Year celebrations. Certain foods are considered to be "lucky", and these are served throughout the two weeks of celebration. Foods can be deemed lucky for several different reasons. Often, significance is based on the food's actual appearance. For example,

noodles represent a long life and spring rolls indicate wealth (based on their resemblance to gold bars), while serving a whole chicken symbolizes family unity.

However, food can also gain significance based on the way the Chinese word for it sounds. For instance, lettuce in Chinese sounds similar to rising fortune, and thus lettuce wraps are considered to be a lucky food. Furthermore, tangerines and oranges sound like luck and wealth, respectively, and therefore are distributed liberally throughout the Chinese New Year celebrations.

One of the most popular dishes during the New Years Eve reunion dinner is “jiazo”, or, dumplings. Both cold and hot dishes are served during the feast, and fish is a very important dish. The word for fish is “yu”, which sounds similar to the words for wish and abundance. Thus, eating fish expresses people’s desire to have a wealthy year. It is customary to serve fish at the end of the evening meal.

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.

Victoria Chinese Commerce Association

January 15 , 2014

Don Mee Seafood Restarurant
on Fisgard Street, Victoria BC

Meet & Greet at 5:30 pm

Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm

Register online at www.vcca.ca

2014 Victoria Chinese New Year Gala - Celebration of the Year of Horse



Celebration of the most predominant Chinese festival with dancing, music, singing, comedy, drama, magic and more. This celebration is organized together by Victoria Chinese Community Association (VicCCA) and Victoria Chinese Students and scholars Association (CSSA). The show features modern and traditional performances by BC's Chinese community artists, groups, societies and individuals including Victoria Society Of Chinese Performing Arts, Sunshine Fitness Club of Victoria, Victoria Chinese Culture Club et al.

University Center Farquhar Auditorim
19:00 to 22:00
All Tickets \$10.00
UVic Ticket Centere
(250) 721-8480

A Harmonious Celebration 2014 Year of the Horse Victoria Conservatory of Music

Sunday, January 26, 2014

2:30-3:30 pm

Alex Goolden Performance Hall

Free Event

This free family-friendly event will feature traditional Chinese dancing and music including the Chinese Lion Dance by the Wong Sheung Hung Fut Kung Fu Club, Victoria Chinese Culture Club Dancers in costume, VCM strings and keyboard students performing with faculty and much more. Master of Ceremonies for the event is Alan Lowe, former Victoria Mayor.

<http://vcm.bc.ca/events/harmonious-celebration-2014/>

Olivia Chow Event

Victoria Chinatown Lioness has a few more seats left for our MP Olivia Chow event as she launches her book:

“Olivia: My Canadian Journey” on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8th.at 6pm at Golden City Restaurant (721 Fisgard Street). The cost is \$50.00 per person which includes an 8 course traditional Chinese banquet, all taxes and gratuity.

Seats can be booked by contacting event chair, Charlayne Thornton-Joe at: thorntonjoe@shaw.ca

Books will be on sale at the event and MP Chow will be happy to autograph it for you!

Emergency Room: Life and Death at VGH ***A series not to miss on Knowledge!***



Kevin Eastwood, director and co-executive producer of Emergency Room: Life and Death at VGH, chats with Dr. Doug McKnight, right, outside Vancouver General Hospital.
(Rafal Gerszak For The Globe and Mail)

"Opening of a new TV series – not a fictional ER-type drama, but a documentary series shot for British Columbia’s public broadcaster, Knowledge Network. Filmed at Vancouver General Hospital over six months in 2013, Emergency Room: Life and Death at VGH tiptoes through an ethical minefield in order to deliver what its creators strongly believe is important television; a peek behind the curtain at the hugely pressing issue of public health care."
(From Marsha Lederman, *Globe & Mail* Jan. 7, 2013)

January 21 on Knowledge Network - this a don't miss series and perhaps one the most important documentaries of this year - is not a reality show. Further info at www.knowledge.ca/er

Go online: Afterwards there is a thought provoking online program for you to participate in dealing with real life questions for you to ponder. Do participate it will help you better understand yourself and others.

Check regularly online at
www.victoriachinesemessenger.com

for updates on articles and information

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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 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.

Regional Business Succession Option

The Regional Business Succession Option provides the opportunity to purchase and take over an existing business in British Columbia. The Regional Business Succession Option is one of the three different categories (compared below) in which you can apply to the B.C. Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) as a business immigrant. The Regional Business Succession Option should be a consideration if you wish to purchase an existing business outside of the Vancouver or Abbotsford metropolitan areas. It is worth noting that applications in this category may receive priority processing and have few job creation requirements.

To be eligible, you must meet the criteria for one of the Business immigration categories (including the investment requirements), there must be a complete change in ownership of the business, and the business being purchased must meet specific eligibility criteria. As the business must be operated for a

minimum of one full year before BC PNP will consider nominating you for permanent residence, the Regional Business Succession Option is best suited to those immigrants who wish to

operate a business long-term. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/Investing-in-B-C/Business-Succession.aspx>

	ENTREPRENEUR	REGIONAL ENTREPRENEUR	STRATEGIC PROJECTS
Place of Business	Anywhere in B.C. (including Vancouver and Abbotsford)	Outside of Vancouver and Abbotsford	Anywhere in B.C. (including Vancouver and Abbotsford)
Minimum investment in a business	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$500,000
Job creation requirements (Full-time of full-time equivalents)	Three new jobs	One new job	Three new jobs for each key staff member proposed
Personal net worth	\$800,000	\$400,000	Not applicable, but must demonstrate a record of good business practices and successful business operations
Ability to propose a key staff member?	Yes. The principal applicant can propose one key staff member in the application.	No.	Yes. Up to five.

Table from: WelcomeBC – Business Immigration <http://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate/About-the-BC-PNP/Investing-in-B-C/Differences-at-a-glance.aspx>

(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)

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

OpportunitiesBC

OpportunitiesBC is an online searchable database of business and project opportunities within British Columbia suitable for foreign investment. The aim of OpportunitiesBC is to attract more foreign investment into BC. The database allows BC companies and Economic Development Officers to list possible business opportunities in their communities and connect with foreign investors and potential immigrants interested in doing business in the province. The portal allows foreign visitors to explore opportunities in BC communities, to assess opportunities by type, size, price and location.

To search or submit an opportunity, or for more information, please visit www.opportunitiesbc.ca

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 at 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 January 16, 2014
11:30 am to 1 pm at Shima Sushi on
Wharf Street. To join the meeting email
orb@orbusnetworks.com**



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.

We rely on Sponsors, Advertisers and Supporters to provide our publications. To Sponsor, Advertise or Support us, please email: info@victoriachinesemessenger.com

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:

info@victoriachinesemessenger.com
***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 Restaurant or Dynasty Restaurant.

Victoria Chinese Messenger Advisory Board and Panel

VCM Community Affairs Advisory Board:

Ida Chong, CGA. Former MLA and Cabinet Minister

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

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

Wayne Lee, Chartered Accountant and CGA

Charlayne Thornton-Joe, City of Victoria Councilor

Cultural and Historical Advisory Panel:

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David C. Lai, Ph. D., Professor Emeritus UVic.

Hua Lin, Ph. D., Professor UVic.

Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Councilor City of Victoria



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.



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. If you wish to donate or contribute to support your local commercial-free and safe programming Network, visit the above website and please donate.

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Consult us for honest advice from
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Celebrate Chinese New Year January 31, 2014

Here are some Chinese Food
restaurants in or about Chinatown:

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

Ocean Garden Restaurant

568 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC V8W 1R4
250-360-2818

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

