

THE VICTORIA CHINESE MESSENGER

Victoria Chinese Messenger wishes everyone a happy and prosperous New Year !



Happy New Year - Gong Xi Fa Cai - Gung Hay Fat Choy

恭禧發財

Jan. 2012 (3rd Ed.)

Victoria, British Columbia

THE VICTORIA CHINATOWN LIONESSE CLUB



(Victoria, BC)

With the aim of promoting community service, and in view of a lack of all-female charitable organizations in the Chinese community, the Victoria Chinatown Lions Club sponsored the organization of the

Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club in November 1990. The Victoria Chinatown

Lioness Club was officially born in February 1991 with Lioness Georgina Wong as its charter president. Henceforth, members from various classes, ethnicity, and professions, all worked harmoniously together towards the goal of promoting community services.

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From the beginning, Lioness members have participated in many of the Chinatown Lions' charitable activities such as the popular Lantern festival. For the Lion's Society for Children with Disabilities, they have been involved with Christmas Tree Chipping, the Easter Seal Regatta and the 24 Hour Relay for Kids. They have assisted with the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Mother and Daughter Walk and the Pyjama Party for Children with Down's Syndrome.

Since May 1992, Lioness members have also directed parties of tourists, locals and many school children on tours of our

legendary Victoria Chinatown--- the oldest in Canada. To continue the education of Asian history and culture, in 1994 the Lioness created an annual \$500 scholarship at the University of Victoria.

In November 1993, the Lioness held their first Karaoke Fest. With other Karaoke events to follow, the proceeds eventually enabled the Lioness to make a donation of \$10,000 towards the restoration of the Gate of Harmonious Interest.

1994 was the year that Lioness organized their first annual Chinese New Year's celebration, where participants could enjoy an authentic Chinese meal followed by interesting guest speakers or entertainment provided by our Chinese community. Guest speakers have included Dr. David Lai, John Adams, and Barry Till, to name a few.

Other events that Lioness have brought to Victoria are the Japanese Taiko Drummers and Chinese operas. Their 2002 opera was particularly exciting because it was a fully live Chinese opera combining talented performers from both Victoria and Vancouver!

In 1998, through a successful dinner and auction, the Lionesses were able to donate \$20,000, to assist flood victims in China. Similarly, in 1999, through another event

they were able to raise funds to be donated towards the beautification of Victoria's Chinese cemetery. With the tsunami of 2005, Lioness members organized a fundraising dinner and raised \$35,000 to assist with tsunami relief.

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Nancy Kwan and the Lioness

Lioness Story Continued...

Through the years, the Victoria Chinatown Lioness have also been able to host many

popular authors such as Jan Wong (Beijing Confidential), Denise Chong (Concubine's Children), Paul Yee (Chinatown), Judy Fong Bates (The Year of Finding Memory) and most recently, Lisa See (Snow Flower and the Secret Fan).

In 2010, an exceptional year for the Lionesses, \$15,000 was raised towards the Haiti Relief Fund during that year's first fundraising dinner. That same year, the Lionesses were pleased to play host to their first Hollywood celebrity, Nancy Kwan, who was promoting her autobiographical documentary, Ka Shen's Journey. As a result of her support for the Lioness were able to raise, and give away \$10,000 to various local charities. Also in 2010, the Lionesses were honoured with the National Philanthropy Service Club Award given by the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Canadian Association of Gift Planners.



Lioness Receiving Nat'l Philanthropic Award

Their fundraisers have enabled the Lionesses to donate to many worthy organizations. To name a few, funds have been donated to the Aids Vancouver Island, Our Place, Victoria Conservatory of Music, Women's Sexual Assault Center, the Women's Transition House, Single Women's Resource Centre, Bridges for Women, Lions Foundation for the training of Guide dogs, Queen Alexandra Hospital, the Inter-Cultural Association, Fire victims in the Okanagan, Easter Seal House, Hospice, Kidney Foundation, Lions Society for Children with Disabilities, the Chinatown Care Centre for Seniors, Breast Cancer Society, Ovarian Cancer Society,

and gifts and donations to Santa Anonymous and the Mustard Seed Food Bank.

2011 saw their Club celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Lioness membership, now up to 31 members, enjoyed an evening of festivities. They look forward to many years of service and hope to continue to foster the good spirit of racial harmony, cultural diversity and community fellowship.

Coming Lioness Events:



Some Lioness at a Tree Chipping

On Saturday, January 7th and Sunday, January 8th from 10am-4pm, the Victoria Chinatown Lioness members, their family and members of the Victoria Fire Department will be doing the annual tree chipping at the parking lot at Fort and Foul Bay (where the Safeway and Liquor Store is). Bring your live tree to them. The donations given for this service will all go to the BC Lion's Society for Children with Disabilities.

On Saturday, January 21st at 6pm, the Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club will be having their annual Chinese New Year banquet. The location will be Golden City Restaurant (721 Fisgard Street).



Lioness at their 20th Anniversary. 2011

The Dragon is Coming...

Chinese New Year Day is
January 23, 2012

The Year of the Dragon

Chinese New year, also known as Spring Festival, Chinese Lunar New Year, or Lunar New Year is the largest and most important event celebrated by the Chinese around the world. It begins with the new moon on the first day of the first month of the Chinese Lunar Calendar, and ends with the full moon on the 15th day with a Lantern Festival. Chinese New Year is an official holiday in many countries. It is a time to reconcile, forget old grudges, and wish for a year of happiness and prosperity ahead.

Traditionally, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are celebrated as a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving. On New Year's Eve,



families will often thoroughly clean their homes to sweep away any ill-fortune and make room for good luck. Windows and doors will be decorated with red paper decorations with themes of happiness, wealth, and longevity. A New Year's feast is prepared with such traditional foods as pigs, duck, chicken, sweet delicacies and possibly jiaozi or tang yuan dumplings. After dinner, the family will stay up together all night

playing cards and games, as it is a tradition to keep every light on all night. At midnight, it is common to see firecrackers lighting up the night. The next morning, children will greet their parents and receive their gifts – traditionally money wrapped in red paper packages. The family then starts out to say greetings to friends, family and neighbours, whom they will visit and spend time with over the next few days. The 15 day celebration ends with the Lantern Festival, which is an occasion of shows and folk dances.



In the Chinese tradition, each year is dedicated to a specific animal of the Chinese Zodiac: the Dragon, Horse, Monkey, Rat, Boar, Rabbit, Dog, Rooster, Ox, Tiger, Snake, and Ram are the twelve animals that are part of this tradition. These twelve animals are believed to bestow their characteristics on people who are born during their year. For example, people born in the year of the Rabbit are thought to be soft-spoken, graceful, artistic and naturally reserved, while those born under the sign of the Snake are thought to be self-reliant, skeptical, tenacious deep thinkers.

This year, Chinese New Year will begin on Monday January 23, 2012 and last until February 6, 2012, celebrating the year of the Dragon.

The Dragon is the 5th sign of the Lunar Calendar. The year of the Dragon is expected to be marked with excitement,

unpredictability, exhilaration and intensity as people respond to the spirit of the Dragon with unbridled enthusiasm. One might expect to see caution thrown to the wind, and possibly some hasty moves being made.



People born under the sign of the Dragon are believed to be passionate, generous, brave, and self-assured. At best they are pioneering spirits, and at worst they epitomize the old adage “fools rush in where angels fear to tread.” Dragons are generally blessed with good fortune, although can sometimes be foolhardy with their money. They have a wicked sense of humour and natural flair for fashion - if you want to catch up on the latest fashion trends, consult a Dragon.



Harbourview of Hotel Grand Pacific

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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 to non-profit groups.

Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club Activities:

Victoria Chinatown Lioness Annual Chinese New Year Banquet

On Saturday, January 21st at 6pm, the Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club will be having their annual Chinese New Year banquet. The location will be Golden City Restaurant (721 Fisgard Street) and the cost is \$39.00 per person. The tables will be banquet tables of 10. Besides an authentic 8 course Chinese meal, this year our guest speaker will be Barry Till. Since 1981, Barry has been the Curator of Asian Art at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. He has lectured on numerous museum and university tours throughout China, Mongolia, Tibet, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, Japan and other parts of Asia, and speaks fluent Chinese. He has organized more than 200 exhibitions on Asian art, many of which have travelled throughout Canada and occasionally the US. In 2008 he received an award for distinguished service from the Canadian Museums Association. Barry's talk:

“The Arts of China” will focus on paintings, ceramics, and jade and bronze artefacts. Since

the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria currently has a major exhibition of Chinese Art, the lecture will serve as a great introduction for those who go to view the exhibition which lasts until late April. We hope you will join the Lioness at this event welcoming in the Year of the Dragon!

For more information or to book you seats, please contact Charlayne at thorntonjoe@shaw.ca or 250-744-1985.

Victoria Chinese Community Association and Victoria Chinese Students and Scholars Association January 15, 2012

**Chinese New Year Gala
UVic Farquhar Audition 7:00 PM
Adult \$15 Student \$13
CSSA member \$10 Senior/Kids \$8.00**

Tickets at: University Center Box Office, Tomley's Market, Kings Tax, China Town Global, Right Choice Travel, TT MAT KTV, Yoya Hair Design

Fuller poster online at www.victoriachinesemessenger.com



Victoria Chinese Commerce Association

**January 25, 2012 (NOTE CHANGED DATE DUE TO WEATHER)
Golden City Restaurant
Meet & Greet: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm**

**Tickets:
Reserved Seating \$25 per person
At the Door \$35 per person
email to info@vcca.ca**



Note Date is changed to Jan. 25 due to weather.

**Everyone is a Winner!
at the VCCA Casino!**

Its time for our annual Chinese New Years Celebration Dinner complete with a fun Casino. Your dinner price includes VCCA Casino Bucks to try your hand at the Black Jack Tables. Bring your friends and family to join in the fun! Book your seats early to ensure that you can attend.

Ocean Rain Dance at Bay Center

Ocean Rain Dance Academy is scheduled to perform at 2:30 pm at the Bay Center, first-floor by the elevator, this Saturday. This is part of the downtown celebration of Chinese New Year. If you happen to be there, please go and enjoy the show and have some fun at the Bay Center.

Other Happenings in Chinatown:

Celebrating the Chinese New Year on Sunday, January 29th with a traditional lion dance in Chinatown organized by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and provided by the Wong Sheung Kung Fu Club.

**A HARMONIOUS CELEBRATION
JANUARY 22, 2012 - FREE
CONCERT**

諧和的慶典
A Harmonious Celebration
January 22, 2012 / 2:30pm
Chinese singing, dancing, dragon dance and music – free concert!

日期 時間 維多利亞音樂學院
中國歌曲 舞蹈 音樂 舞獅
出席音樂會 免費入場 隨傳隨貼

Everyone Welcome!
Free Concert featuring VCM Students, Victoria Children's Choir,
Victoria Chinese Public School Choir and Dancers,
and Victoria Chinese Culture Club
Guest Speaker: Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sports & Cultural Development
Master of Ceremonies: Victoria City Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe

Victoria Conservatory of Music
Alix Gooldeen Performance Hall
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CELEBRATE ITS 150TH IN 2012 -
MORE TO COME ON THIS IN THE
COMING ISSUES.....**

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Victoria Chinese Messenger Announcement:

We have established a **Cultural and Historical Advisory Panel**. These are appointments to provide advice and suggest information to VCM on cultural and historical matters of community interest. All appointees are volunteers.

We are very pleased to announce that the following prominent community experts have accepted their appointment to our panel:

Tzu-i Chung, Ph.D. , Curator RBCM

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

Hua Lin, Ph. D., Professor UVic.

Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Councillor City of Victoria

To find out more about the **Cultural and Historical Advisory Panel** go to www.victoriachinesemessenger.com

Chinese New Year Lantern Fundraiser

The **Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society** and **Fairway Market** invite you to raise funds in support of local Dragon Boat Teams and the **BC Cancer Foundation**. We are holding a Chinese New Year Lantern Sale at Fairway Market locations around Victoria and are recruiting volunteers to sell lanterns. The proceeds will benefit the BC Cancer Foundation as well as earn your team credit towards the 2012 Canada Dry Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Registration Fee.

Funds raised for the BC Cancer Foundation will be donated by VDBFS in commemoration of the late Milton Wong and in honour of his contributions to the sport of Dragon Boating and his commitment to the BC Cancer Foundation.

Milton Wong passed away on December 31st, 2011 after battling pancreatic cancer. He leaves behind a legacy of philanthropy, community involvement, and passion for social diversity. In 1989, he cofounded the International Dragon Boat Festival held in Vancouver.

Lantern Sales will take place on **Saturday January 21st, 28th, and February 4th** with shifts running from 9am to 1pm, and 1pm to 5pm at 8 Fairway Market locations around Victoria. **For more information, please contact:**

Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society, Glenys Haskins, Office Manager, 250.704.2500
OfficeManager@victoriadragonboat.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. We are not a community newspaper, but we may report newsworthy happenings. We are not a tabloid, but we may report juicy tidbits. We are not a magazine, but we may bring you articles that are interesting.

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 help make for better communities, grow our community, help others, and bring people together for common purposes.

Our pledge is to be socially responsible and support local community projects.

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info@victoriachinesemessenger.com

If you wish to make a submission for publication, then email it to us for consideration.

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Publication is solely in our discretion. If not published your submission is gratuitous and we do not provide any warranties of non-disclosure. Do not provide information you consider sensitive or confidential as we do not agree to any confidentiality or non-disclosure.

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.



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Please join us and invite your friends to be friends with "Victoria Chinese Messenger" to help grow our friends and checkout our facebook page to support our efforts to bring community to you. We are always looking for more fans. Becoming a fan of VCM facebook page automatically enters for the monthly draw for dinner for two.

www.victoriachinesemessenger.com



Hotel Grand Pacific

Founding Sponsors:

Founding sponsors are visionary sponsors who commit their support and 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 in and support of our community services.

Coming Soon On the Website:

“The Chinese Connection”

If you are in business in oldtowne or serve the greater Victoria Chinese and Asian markets you need to be listed. Are you listed yet? Check out “The Chinese Connection” tab on www.victoriachinesemessenger.com to find out if you are listed yet.

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Our online version is regularly updated with a new “Foodie” comments section.

Look forward to more online content and “news” as we grow our service to community events.

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