

THE VICTORIA CHINESE MESSENGER

March 2012 (1st Ed.)

Victoria, British Columbia

VCCA Night Market Returns for 2012

March 2012 Victoria

2012 is the sesquicentennial year of the City of Victoria and the Victoria Chinese Commerce Association has added special features to its 2012 Night Market project in Chinatown.

Last year the VCCA under the leadership of Chair Tony Joe and the support of the City of Victoria, DVBA and the Province of BC put on a pilot project “Chinatown Night Market”. As the first year, it brought many locals and tourists to Chinatown for the entertainment, food and vendors. More on the first year can be found at www.chinatownnightmarket.ca

For four evenings, one in each of June, July, August and September, 2012 the Victoria Chinese Commerce Association will present its 2012 Chinatown Night Market with events to celebrate Victoria’s 150th.



Victoria is where the early Chinese immigrants created the first Chinatown in Canada and today it is the oldest Chinatown in Canada. As a national historic site it is a focal point for the community and a destination for tourists. Chinatown and the Chinese played and plays a large roll in the City of Victoria landscape

For 2012 VCCA proposes to present a series of festival style events in the night market in celebration of the City of Victoria’s sesquicentennial. The Night Market will continue to feature merchants, engage cultural groups and maintain the Asian theme.

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5th Day of the 5th Month - The Awakening of the Dragon - June 20, 2012

This is the year of the Water Dragon and traditionally the dragon boat festival is held on the 5th day of the 5th month. The night market theme will include activity related to both the 5th day of the 5th Month Festival and the Water Dragon. June is chosen as, In 2012, the 5th day of the 5th month should be June 22, 2012 (or June 23, in China).

VCCA Karaoke of the Stars Festival - July 18, 2012

This festival theme recognizes the love to sing of many of our local residents. As many may know Karaoke was an “import” from the east and has grown in popularity in North America. For this evening, VCCA will present the finalists from an online Karaoke contest live on the streets of Chinatown. The competition will be preceded by judged submissions. They hope to engage the larger community to join in for the weeks leading up to the night of the “Karaoke Stars” perform by making submissions for consideration of the selection committee.



Chinese Valentine’s Festival – The Night of Sevens - August 22, 2012 Qixi Jié (七夕節)

Many may not know that there is a Chinese Valentine’s Day. For this year it is August 23, 2012 in China (hence August 22 in Canada). The theme for this night will be for lovers and best friends and present a program that will showcase and educate our community on another cultural event in China. The best designed “Chinese Valentines” may be displayed as lovers and friends demonstrate their affection.

The Autumn Moon Festival - Sept 12, 2012

This evening’s theme will an integration of two Chinese festivals. Each Autumn you will find mooncakes being served in the Chinese community. This is part of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival. For 2012 it would normally fall on September 30, 2012, but it will come early for the VCCA Night Market.

The other festival to join in on the evening theme will be the Lantern Festival. While it falls on Feb 6, 2012. The lanterns lend well to being incorporated for this evening to coincide with the mooncakes found in the mid-autumn festival. Look for hanging lanterns during this evening’s festivities.



Looks like we are in for some fun evenings this year in Chinatown Victoria. Join in with VCCA and our Chinatown merchants to celebrate 150 years for the City of Victoria.

**Enter to Win a dinner for two by
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Monthly draws

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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.**

BC PNP

Regional Business Immigration Provincial Nominee Program

This component of the PNP program provides an avenue for investment ready and qualified entrepreneurs to invest in BC and become permanent residences of Canada. The objective of the business categories are to encourage

economic development, promote job creation and to maintain existing jobs in BC.

To be nominated for the program, the potential immigrants must have the ability to establish themselves successfully in BC and develop and actively manage a business that will provide economic benefits to BC.

The business categories are business skills, regional business and strategic projects. The basic criteria include the following:

- the primary purpose of the business is to earn profits form active income
- the business commercial viability must be probable
- the business must provide economic benefit to BC

What is also interesting is that succession play buy-outs may be available for eligible businesses from retiring owners.

For Victoria, the Regional Business category is interesting for investor entrepreneurs as the level of personal investment remains at the \$200,000 level (as opposed to \$400,000).

The business must create a new job for a Canadian or permanent resident, except in the succession situation. The applicant must take ownership equity of at least 33% of the business and actively participate in the day to day management of the business.

There are other qualifications as well related to the experience, network and funds of the applicant.

An attractive feature is the Fast Track Option, which offers immediate nomination with a conditionally refundable deposit of \$125,000. This deposit is refunded if the applicant meets the conditions of a Performance and Deposit Agreement.

Before we close this short information article, on the business succession, the nominee commits to maintain existing employment of Canadian citizens or permanent residences. This allows BC

residents to keep their jobs and this type of application receives priority processing. However, there are other conditions such as operating the business for a minimum of one full year prior to being considered for nomination (or deposit refund if under a fast track situation) and there must intentions to continue to operate the business.

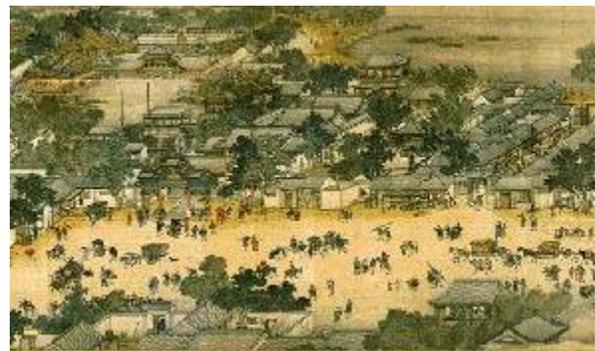
While we have not specifically discussed the business skills or strategic projects, it should be noted that they both require higher investment amounts and have other conditions that apply.

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

Qing Ming Festival

清明节

Qīngmíng Jié



Qing Ming Festival is a traditional Chinese festival (also referred to as Ching Ming in Cantonese). It falls on the 15th day after the spring equinox. Literally Qing Ming means clear and bright in Chinese. Others have referred to it as Pure Brightness Festival or Clear Bright Festival. For this year it will fall on April 5, 2012 (in China).

The name reflects the timing and that people go outside and enjoy the greenery of springtime and to tend to the graves of ancestors. Which is why it is also referred to as Ancestors Day or Tomb

Sweeping Day. In addition to sweeping and cleaning of graves, food is offered and paper gifts and joss are burnt for the departed.

The festival is said to have its roots from about 636 BC and tradition stretching back more than 2500 years.

The festival is an opportunity for celebrants to remember and honour their ancestors at grave sites. The living relatives pray before the ancestors, sweep the tombs, and offer food, tea, wine, etc. The ritual of kowtow (3-9 times) before the tombs or graves is performed in order of patriarchal seniority within the family. Traditionally the relatives will also burn spirit money and other material goods. It is believed that people still have need of these in the afterlife. The rites have a long tradition in Asia and in Southeast Asia the festival is observed faithfully by many. It is also observed by many Chinese in Canada. Some of the Chinese organizations in Victoria continue the tradition by visiting the Chinese Cemetery during Qing Ming each year. After they attend at the cemetery they may celebrate with family at a banquet lunch or dinner thus completing the reunion with the ancestors during Qing Ming.



Harbourview of Hotel Grand Pacific

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.

UVIC HKSA PRESENTS::[Spring FUN Fair 春FUN園遊會 @ UVIC SUB]



On March 24th, HKSA will be hosting our one of the biggest event of 2012 at UVIC Student Union Building(SUB). There will be BAND PERFORMANCE and FREE MINI GAMES (except for rainbow toss)! Food will be provided for FREE but with limited in quantity . This is a great oppor...tunity for you guys to meet new friends before the end of the school year !

香港維港社將於三月二十四號舉辦春FUN園遊會。
當晚將會有樂隊現場演奏和免費攤位遊戲(擲彩虹除外...)
. 食物數量有限, 送完即止!
這是一個非常難得的機會可以讓你們認識更多新朋友!

Ticket will be sold at University Centre starting on Monday, March 5th.
Member with valid HKSA/ TA membership card: \$ 8
Non-member : \$ 10

門票將於三月五日在University Center開始發售
會員價 (持有有效HKSA/TA會員証): 八元正
非會員: 十元正

Victoria Chinatown Lions Club

4th ANNUAL CHINESE DINNER & FUN CASINO NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2012

The Club will be hosting the 4th Annual Chinese Dinner & Fun Casino Night on April 20th at the Golden City Chinese Seafood Restaurant. This is a fund raising event featuring a full course sit down sumptuous dinner. To add to the evening's festivities we will give each guest complimentary poker chips to play in our Fun Casino.

The Victoria Chinatown Lions Club was founded over 50 years ago. During this time our members have volunteered countless hours raising funds to support charities and individuals in need.

Victoria Chinese Commerce Association



How to Succeed with
Business Succession

You've spent years building your business. Now you're looking at starting the next stage of your life. Having a business succession plan that clearly outlines your intentions and goals helps make this transition easier for you, your family and your business.

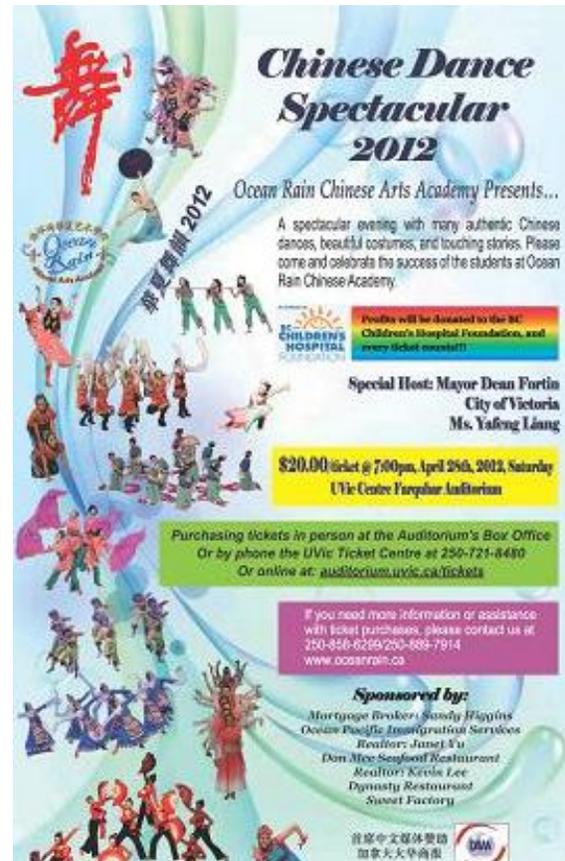
VCCA Meeting March 21, 2012 Guest Speaker Renan Yin - RBC Business Services

Don Mee Restaurant

5:30 pm - Mix & Mingle

6:00 pm - Dinner

\$25. Pre-Registered \$35. at the Door
You are not getting any younger but your business is still going strong . . . how are you ever going to retire and enjoy the fruits of your labours? You can find out at the next VCCA Meeting. Plan to attend and bring your family and friends to hear RBC Business Client Service Representative Renan Yin address Business SuccessionCheck website www.vcca.ca for more information on that and the regular meetings



Chinese Dance Spectacular 2012
Ocean Rain Chinese Arts Academy Presents...

A spectacular evening with many authentic Chinese dances, beautiful costumes, and touching stories. Please come and celebrate the success of the students at Ocean Rain Chinese Academy.

Profits will be donated to the BC Children's Hospital Foundation, and every ticket counts!!!

Special Host: Mayor Dean Fortin
City of Victoria
Ms. Yafeng Liang

\$20.00 ticket @ 7:00pm, April 26th, 2012, Saturday
UVic Centre Forqhar Auditorium

Purchasing tickets in person at the Auditorium's Box Office
Or by phone the UVic Ticket Centre at 250-721-8480
Or online at: auditorium.uvic.ca/tickets

If you need more information or assistance with ticket purchases, please contact us at 250-846-6269/250-689-7914
www.oceanrain.ca

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Victoria Chinese Messenger Announcement:

We are have established our **Community Affairs Advisory Board**, its inaugural members are:

These are appointments to provide advice and suggestions on community affairs and of interest to the Chinese/Asian communities in Victoria and Vancouver Island. We are pleased to announce the inaugural members are:

Alan Lowe, Former and longest serving Mayor of the City of Victoria, Architect, and a very public service record

Tony Joe, Former President of Victoria Real Estate Board, Realtor, Consummate Community Volunteer

Wayne Lee, Chartered Accountant and CGA, Community Volunteer for over 25 years

Charlayne Thornton-Joe, City of Victoria Councillor, Lioness and Consummate Community Volunteer.

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 say 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

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.

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

info@victoriachinesemessenger.com

If you wish to make a submission for publication, then email it to us for consideration. By submitting, you will warrant and represent that you own all copyright to the contents and images submitted. You also warrant that all information is true and verifiable from reliable sources.

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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FACEBOOK

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.

ROVING REPORTERS

Do you want to try your hand at being a Roving Reporter?

Tell us about yourself and the topic that you think would be of interest for you to report on.

If we accept your writeups for publication we will give you credit as a freelance VCM Roving Reporter.

All writeups must be verifiable and accurate.

VCM has sole discretion on publication.

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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