



THE VICTORIA CHINESE MESSENGER

维多利亚华人信息

Sept. 2014 (1st Ed.)

Victoria, British Columbia

Mid-Autumn Festival



Mid-Autumn Festival falls on Sept 8, 2014 this year. On the Chinese calendar the festival is held on the 15th day of the eighth month. It is the official harvest festival celebrated by Chinese and Vietnamese peoples.

In China it is a cultural heritage festival and is a public holiday. It is sometimes referred to as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival. You can get mooncakes now in many of the local Chinese grocery stores in Chinatown, Fairway Markets or even locally made at the Halibut House restaurant on Cloverdale.

The festival celebrate family gathering, harvesting crops, thanksgiving for the

harvest and praying for such things as good fortune, longevity and beauty.

Early origins were from the Shang Dynasty but as a festival gained popularity during the Tang Dynasy (618-902 CE).

Nowadays it is occasion for outdoor reunions among friends and relatives to eat mooncakes and watch the moon, the symbol of harmony and unity. You could also see dragon and lion dances as part of such celebrations. In some places you would see brightly lit lanterns. Another tradition is to write riddles on the lanterns and have others guess the answers.

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琵琶行 白居易



元和十年，予左迁九江郡司马。明年秋，送客湓浦口，闻舟中夜弹琵琶者。听其音，铮铮然有京都声。问其人，本长安倡女，尝学琵琶于穆、曹二善才。年长色衰，委身为贾人妇。遂命酒，使快弹数曲。曲罢悯然，自叙少小时欢乐事，今漂沦憔悴，转徙于江湖间。予出官二年，恬然自安，感斯人言，是夕始觉有迁谪意。因为长句，歌以赠之，凡六百一十六言。命曰《琵琶行》。

浔阳江头夜送客，枫叶荻花秋瑟瑟。
主人下马客在船，举酒欲饮无管弦。
醉不成欢惨将别，别时茫茫江浸月。
忽闻水上琵琶声，主人忘却在客不发。
寻声音可辨者谁？琵琶声停欲语迟。
移船相近邀相见，添酒回灯重开宴。
千呼万唤始出来，犹抱琵琶半遮面。
转轴拨弦三两声，未成曲调先有情。
弦弦掩抑声声思，似诉平生不得志。
低眉信手续续弹，说尽心中无限事。
轻拢慢捻抹复挑，初为霓裳后六么。
大弦嘈嘈如急雨，小弦切切如私语。
嘈嘈切切错杂弹，大珠小珠落玉盘。
间关莺语花底滑，幽咽泉流水下难。
冰泉冷涩弦凝绝，凝绝不通声暂歇。
别有幽愁暗恨生，此时无声胜有声。

银瓶乍破水浆迸，铁骑突出刀枪鸣。
曲终收拨当心画，四弦一声如裂帛。
东船西舫悄无言，唯见江心秋月白。
沉吟放拨插弦中，整顿衣裳起敛容。
自言本是京城女，家在虾蟆陵下住。
十三学得琵琶成，名属教坊第一部。
曲罢曾教善才服，妆成每被秋娘妒。
五陵年少争缠头，一曲红绡不知数。
钿头银篦击节碎，血色罗裙翻酒污。
今年欢笑复明年，秋月春风等闲度。
弟走从军阿姨死，暮去朝来颜色故。
门前冷落鞍马稀，老大嫁作商人妇。
商人重利轻别离，前月浮梁买茶去。
去来江口守空船，绕船明月江水寒。
夜深忽梦少年事，梦啼妆泪红阑干。
我闻琵琶已叹息，又闻此语重唧唧。
同是天涯沦落人，相逢何必曾相识！
我从去年辞帝京，谪居卧病浔阳城。
浔阳地僻无音乐，终岁不闻丝竹声。
住近湓江地低湿，黄芦苦竹绕宅生。
其间旦暮闻何物？杜鹃啼血猿哀鸣。
春江花朝秋月夜，往往取酒还独倾。
岂无山歌与村笛，呕哑嘲哳难为听。
今夜闻君琵琶语，如听仙乐耳暂明。
莫辞更坐弹一曲，为君翻作琵琶行。
感我此言良久立，却坐促织弦急。
凄凄不似向前声，满座重闻皆掩泣。
座中泣下谁最多？江州司马青衫湿。

Song of the Lute Player By Bai Juyi

"In the tenth year of the reign of Yuanhe, I was demoted to the assistant prefectship of Jiujiang. The next autumn, while seeing a friend off at Pengpu, I heard someone strumming a lute in a boat at night, playing with the touch of a musician from the capital. I found upon inquiry that the lutist was a courtesan from Chang'an who had learned from the musicians Mu and Cao but growing old and losing her looks, she had married a merchant. Then I ordered drinks and asked her to play a few tunes. After

playing, in deep distress, she told me of the pleasures of her youth and said now that her beauty had faded she was drifting from place to place by rivers and lakes. In my two years as an official away from the capital I had been resigned enough, my mind at peace, but moved by her tale that night I began to take my demotion and exile to heart. So I wrote a long poem and presented it to her. It has 612 words and I call it the Song of the Lute Player.”

By the Xunyang River a guest is seen off
one night;
Chill the autumn, red the maple leaves and
in flower the reeds;
The host alights from his horse, the guest is
aboard,
They raise their cups to drink but have no
music.
Drunk without joy, in sadness they must
part;
At the time of parting the river seems
steeped in moonlight;
Suddenly out on the water a lute is heard;
The host forgets to turn back, the guest
delays going.
Seeking the sound in the dark, we ask who is
the player.
The lute is silent, hesitant the reply.
Rowing closer, we ask if we may meet the
musician,
Call for more wine, trim the lamp and
resume our feast;
Only after a thousand entreaties does she
appear,
Her face half-hidden behind the lute in her
arms.
She tunes up and plucks the strings a few
times,
Touching our hearts before even the tune is
played;
Each chord strikes a pensive note
As if voicing the disillusion of a lifetime;
Her head is bent, her fingers stray over the
strings
Pouring out the infinite sorrows of her heart.
Lightly she pinches in the strings, slowly she
strums and plucks them;
First The Rainbow Garments, then The Six
Minor Notes.

The high notes wail like pelting rain,
The low notes whisper like soft confidences;
Wailing and whispering interweave
Like pearls large and small cascading on a
plate of jade,
Like a warbling oriole gliding below the
blossom,
Like a mountain brook purling down a bank,
Till the brook turns to ice, the strings seem
about to snap,
About to snap, and for one instant all is still
Only an undertone of quiet grief
Is more poignant in the silence than any
sound;
Then a silver bottle is smashed, out gushes
the water,
Armoured riders charge, their swords and
lances clang!
When the tune ends, she draws her pick full
across
And the four strings give a sound like the
tearing of silk.
Right and left of the boat all is silence —
We see only the autumn moon, silver in
midstream.
Pensively she puts the pick between the
strings,
Straightens her clothes, rises and composes
herself.
She is, she says, a girl from the capital
Whose family once lived at the foot of Toad
Hill.
At thirteen she learned to play the lute
And ranked first among the musicians;
Her playing was admired by the old masters,
Her looks were the envy of other courtesans;
Youths from wealthy districts vied in their
gifts to engage her,
A single song brought her countless rolls of
red silk;
Men smashed jeweled and silver trinkets to
mark the beat;
Silk skirts as red as blood were stained by
spilt wine.
Pleasure and laughter from one year to the
next.
While the autumn moon and spring breeze
passed unheeded.
Then her brother joined the army, her aunt
died,
The days and nights slipped by and her

beauty fades,
 No more carriages and horsemen thronged
 her gate,
 And growing old she became a merchant's
 wife.
 The merchant thought only of profit: to seek
 it he leaves her.
 Two months ago he went to Fuliang to buy
 tea,
 Leaving her alone in the boat at the mouth
 of the river;
 All around the moonlight is bright, the river
 is cold,
 And late at night, dreaming of her girlhood,
 She cries in her sleep, staining her rouged
 cheeks with tears.
 The music of her lute has made me sigh,
 And now she tells this plaintive tale of
 sorrow;
 We are both ill-starred, drifting on the face
 of the earth;
 No matter if we were strangers before this
 encounter.
 Last year I bade the imperial city farewell;
 A demoted official, I lay ill in Xunyang;
 Xunyang is a paltry place without any
 music,
 For one year I heard no wind instruments,
 no strings.
 Now I live on the low, damp flat by the
 River Pen,
 Round my house yellow reeds and bitter
 bamboos grow rife;
 From dawn till dusk I hear no other sounds
 But the wailing of night-jars and the
 moaning of apes.
 On a day of spring blossoms by the river or
 moonlit night in autumn
 I often call for wine and drink alone;
 Of course, there are rustic songs and village
 pipes,
 But their shrill discordant notes grate on my
 ears;
 Tonight listening to your lute playing
 Was like hearing fairy music; it gladdened
 my ears.
 Don't refuse, but sit down and play another
 tune,
 And I'll write a Song of the Lute Player for
 you.

Touched by my words, she stands there for
 some time,
 Then goes back to her seat and played with
 quickened tempo
 Music sadder far than the first melody,
 And at the sound not a man of us has dry
 eyes.
 The assistant prefect of Jiangzhou is so
 moved
 That his blue coat is wet with tears.

Chinese National Day



The words National Day, appeared in Chinese
 language as early as in the Western Jin
 Dynasty (265 - 316 AD). In ancient China, it
 usually fell on the day when the emperor
 ascended the throne or was born. Nowadays, it
 is celebrated on October 1st every year to
 commemorate the founding of People's
 Republic of China. On that day, lots of large-
 scaled activities are held nationwide. Besides,
 the seven-day holiday from Oct. 1st to 7th is
 the so-called "Golden Week", during which
 more and more Chinese people go traveling
 around the country.

Origin

October 1st, 1949 was the memorial day for
 the founding of the People's Republic of
 China. One thing should be noted is that the
 PRC was not founded on that day, but on
 September 21st, 1949. The grand ceremony
 held at Tiananmen Square on October 1st,

1949 was to celebrate the forming of the Central People's Government of the brand new country. Later on October 2nd, 1949, the new government passed the 'Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China' and declared October 1 to be the National Day. Ever since 1950, every October 1st has been grandly celebrated by Chinese people.

Customs

Military Review & Parade at Tiananmen Square.

Altogether 14 military reviews have been held on October 1st since 1949. The most representative and influential ones include the military reviews on the founding ceremony, the 5th anniversary, 10th anniversary, 35th anniversary, 50th anniversary and 60th anniversary. Those impressive military reviews have attracted people from both home and abroad to watch. Following the military reviews are usually huge parades by common people to express their patriotic feelings. The Military Review & Parade is now held in a small scale every 5 years and in a large scale every 10 years.

Other Celebration Activities
Other activities like flag-raising ceremonies, dance and song shows, firework displays and painting and calligraphy exhibitions are also held to celebrate the National Day. If one loves shopping, National Day is a great time, for many shopping malls offer big discounts during the holiday.



Holiday Schedule

The legal holiday for National Day is currently

3 days in mainland China, 2 days in Macau and 1 day in Hong Kong. In mainland, the 3-day is usually connected with the weekends ahead and after, hence people can enjoy a 7-day holiday from Oct. 1st to 7th, which is the well-known "Golden Week". This is the longest public holiday in China besides the Spring Festival holiday. Falling in the autumn generally with clear weather and comfortable temperature, the holiday is a popular period for travel.

Travel Tips

During the Golden Week, lots of Chinese go traveling. It leads to a sea of people at attraction sites; train tickets difficult to get; flight tickets cost more than usual; and hotel rooms in short supply...

To make your travel in China easier and more comfortable, here are some tips for reference:

1. If possible, avoid traveling during the "Golden Week". One can make it just before or after the "crowding period". During those time periods, there are usually fewer tourists, the cost is comparatively lower, and the visit is more satisfying.

2. If one really needs to travel during the National Day holiday, try to avoid the first two days and the last day of the "Golden Week". Because they are the busiest time for transportation system, when the flight tickets are highest and train and long-distance bus tickets are hardest to buy. Also, the first two days are usually the most crowded at the attraction sites, especially the famous ones.

3. Avoid hot destinations. These places are always crowded of visitors during the "Golden Week". Choose some not so famous tourism cities and attractions, where there are fewer visitors and one can enjoy the scene more leisurely.

4. Book flight / train tickets and hotel rooms in advance. There may be more discounts for flight tickets if one books earlier. For trains in China, the tickets are available 20 days prior to departure. The thing is the train tickets may be booked up in minutes once available, so please be prepared. The hotel rooms in hot travel

destinations are also in demand. In case there is no place to stay, one should better book them in advance too. If one happens to book rooms upon arrival, try your luck at some business hotels.

Happenings

VICTORIA CHINESE COMMERCE ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting: September TBA
**Check the VCCA website in
September for more details**

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2014 COMMUNITY
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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.. 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

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 Demand Remains Strong

The demand for BC PNP remains strong. As of August 25, 2014 the BC PNP website reports that current processing times for the Regional Business Succession Option is now 9-12 month. An increase from the last time I wrote on this.

The other business immigration categories is reported as "currently

processing applications received in May 2012.”

For the skills immigration categories, the processing time is between 5-6 months.

More Start-ups

CIC is working on the Start-up Visa’s potential for attracting entrepreneurs to Canada who have the vision and ability to build innovative companies that can create jobs and long-term prosperity. In August the minister welcomed two successful applicants in Vancouver, BC.

Launched in 2013, the Start-up Visa Program brings together Canadian venture capital funds, angel investor groups and business incubators with entrepreneurs from abroad.

The Start-up Visa Program is an important part of the government’s plan to build a fast and flexible economic immigration system, with a primary focus on meeting the new and emerging needs of the Canadian economy. Some quick facts:

- The Start-up Visa Program, the first of its kind in the world, links experienced Canadian private sector firms with innovative foreign entrepreneurs who want to launch their start-up companies in Canada.
- In July, the first successful applicants were welcomed to Canada after gaining the support of GrowLab Ventures of Vancouver.
- In January 2015, CIC will launch a new electronic application management system called Express Entry, which will offer a faster and more effective way to

welcome economic immigrants to Canada than ever before.

(This summary is prepared by Sarina Hoi, BA, MA, RCIC of Ocean Pacific Immigration Associates Ltd. from information from the CIC or PNP website. To contact Sarina Hoi email: shoi@oceanpacificca.com or through www.oceanpacificca.com.)

Foodies

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

“...want casual.. try out the fish street tacos at Browns social house...on Douglas...”

“...need a happy hour...Glo at Jutland has reasonable appies between 2 to 5....”

“...ok where can you get some dim sum? Go to Golden City or Don Mee... one just next to the Hudson Market and one in the heart of Chinatown...”

“...still liking the dumplings at Raymond’s add some of their own hot sauce and voila you have a taste and decent heat sensation...”

“...a new tapas coming – Bodega Tapa & Wine.. gonna to be right next to the existing famous Tapas Bar in trounce alley...”

“... so don’t forget 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...”

“...spicy seafood noodle soup - have you had some healthy noodle soup at Shanghai Noodle on Quadra Street yet?... just across from Crystal Pool...”

“...the keg after 9 pm has some good and inexpensive appy’s...”

“...or what about the deep fried chicken bits at La Tea Ah on Fort...”

“... still got Don Mee’s on my list for dim sum, particularly the traditionally Cantonese ones...”



Hotel Grand Pacific

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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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in foods, arts and fashions. – In addition to
the fun, raffles and prizes we will have:

Dr. Pan's Chinese Music Consort,
Premier of an Original composition by
composer, Sarina Hoi, and Fashion Show
from fashion boutiques in the city.

TICKETS ARE \$ 85 PER PERSON

Tax receipt of \$ 25 will be issued upon request.

**Purchase before Sept 15, 2014
For Early Bird Price of \$75 per
person**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

Gayle Chong, Co-chair
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Mai Lai, Co-chair
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Art & Soul Legacy Gala



Victoria Chinatown Care Foundation's
fundraising event this year will be an Art
& Soul Legacy Gala dinner, on
Saturday, November 15, 2014 at the Da
Vinci Centre, 195 Bay St., at Tyee Rd.
The evening will celebrate Chinese and
Western influences in foods, arts and
fashions. The evening will consist of
arts/music interludes by Dr. Pan's
Chinese Music Consort, an original
composition by composer, Sarina Hoi,
and fashions provided by fashion
boutiques in the city.

The Care Centre provides care to frail
elders and is open to all cultures. It has
been providing special care to elders in
our community for over 25 years. The
Foundation is now directing efforts to
creating a Legacy Endowment Fund as
the needs of an aging facility require
early vision and foresight from the
community and our foundation. The
foundation is a registered non-profit
organization that relies on the generosity
of the community to support programs at
the Centre.

This year will be the start of their
Legacy Fund at the fundraiser. The
Legacy Fund is to provide for the future
of the centre.

