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Will a revolutionary  
"spring" come  
to Vancouver?  
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# The Source

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Photo by Iryna Shyroka

## Verbatim

Vancouver: open,  
but not so open

by JEAN-BAPTISTE LASAYGUES

What brought me to Vancouver is neither poverty nor the hope for a better life or even solid projects. Nope, boredom did.

The fatigue from seeing my beloved France going back to its old demons, career prospects as empty as an ice field on a foggy evening, or a love life as exciting as a five hour documentary on stamp collecting in Victorian England. Only one person in the world could drag me out of this boredom: Mr. Jack London.

I read his stories about Canada's Great North and the West Coast over and over. I heard his call from the forest and since nothing was holding me back, I let him take me there, to the other side of the world, to the very place where gold hunters were gathering before leaving for the Klondike.

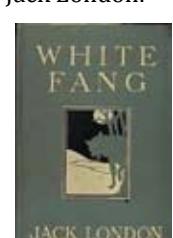
I came here without a goal or any contacts, not even being able to exercise my profession as journalist, in a language that I only moderately mastered.

There was only one thing I could do: listen to the city. Considered a "Terra Incognita" (unknown land) not that long ago, I was astonished by the degree of civilization achieved by its inhabitants in such a short period of time.

Not in regards to the quality or style of buildings though – only the Downtown and Gastown architecture pleased my sense of aesthetic – but by the quality of the human beings who one day, left everything behind to come build this city of peace, calm and quietness.

With the added benefit for any francophone wishing to broaden their knowledge of the language of Shakespeare:

See "Verbatim" page 3 ►



## Putting the spirit of the orthodox back into Easter

by HAYDEN CASE

When we enter the church on Pascha," says Father Justin Hewlett, Rector for St John of Shanghai in East Vancouver. "I cry out 'Christ is risen!' cuing the response, 'Indeed, He is risen!'"

The Orthodox Church in Canada is made up of different denominations such as Greek, Russian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Serbian and Armenian.

With a myriad of cultures and their respective languages involved, the Paschal shout of 'Christ is risen' is bound to become a little complicated.

Father Justin Hewlett has found an excellent way to cater

to the diversity found within his congregation.

"Our custom is to give the Paschal greeting and response in as many languages as we can," says Father Hewlett. "I usually manage to stump most of my parishioners when I shout out in my very rusty Japanese, 'Harisutosu fukkatsu'."

Orthodox Easter, also known as Pascha, is the celebratory finish to a period of 40 days of Lent, plus 1 week called Holy Week, of fasting from meat, fish, and dairy products. Orthodox Christians calculate the date of Easter in accordance with the Julian calendar which was established under Julius Caesar. This means

that Pascha often occurs on the weekend following western Easter. This year, Pascha is held on April 15.

Pascha is a period of intense spiritual discipline in which prayer services are longer, more frequent, and are held in a more somber tone than usual.

"The aim of these spiritual disciplines is repentance," says Hewlett, "To examine our minds and hearts and to change them, or, rather, to allow God to change them as needed."

In the past, traditional religious messages have been primarily passed on over the years through church services, Bible studies, Sunday school, and par-

ables recounted by elders. These teachings have evolved in recent years to include films, documentaries, cartoons, periodicals, and of course, the Internet.

Each generation envelops the Orthodox Church's strong sense of spiritual and moral values found within the family and community.

"Everything starts from Palm Sunday," says Iryna Shyroka, a university student. "You have to go to church to be blessed by a bunch of Palm and holy water. [A] very strong fast starts from that day together with Clean Week. When the Clean Thursday comes you are supposed to clean

See "Easter" page 2 ►

## Also in this issue



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## My Turn

# NDP – Aiming for government

The members of the New Democratic Party's have made their choice and opted for Québec's Thomas Mulcair. Winning after a four day voting spree, the Outremont MP now has the task of preserving not only what was gained during the last federal election, but also of demonstrating that the traditional role of an opposition party is to show that the dream of some day governing the country is not a mere daydream.

I have absolutely no doubt that the federal NDP has made the right choice, if only to hang on to the seats won in Québec during the historic achievement of May 2011. However, the new leader will have to swiftly make himself visible in the Prairie provinces and in the West, if he is seriously considering leading his party to victory. Although the status of official opposition has presented the party with an exceptional platform from which it can demonstrate that it is ready for the big show, the challenge remains enormous.

It is now time for Mulcair to judiciously make use of the important resources, budgetary as well as in matters of visibility, associated with his role as offi-



▲ A Mulcair treat for Canada.

cial opposition. He can draw on an arsenal that will give him a concrete advantage over his real opponent – the Liberal Party.

On the other hand, we can bet that the Conservative Party won't make it easy for the NDP and will quickly try to demean the party in the eyes of the electorate. Think what you will about this kind of tactic, but you have to admit that this sort of thing has worked for the Conservatives, just look at what happened to Stephane Dion and Michael Ignatieff.

That said, the NDP's leadership convention enabled us to study the matching of traditional approaches to leadership conferences with modern technologies. People who couldn't be present in Toronto were still able to participate in the conference and vote in real time for their new leader.

► "Easter" from page 1  
your house, yard and yourself. On Friday you are not supposed to eat, work or listen to any kind of music."



Photo courtesy of Iryna Shyroka

Essentially clean week is the Holy week leading up to Pascha. For Orthodox Christians, this leads to experiences of heightened spiritual enlightenment.

"Saturday is a bit of relief," says Shyroka. "People bake Easter bread and make Pysanka's – dyed eggs."



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One of the most recognizable images associated with Ukrainian Pascha, Pysankas are hard-boiled eggs that have been dyed red to symbolize the blood of Christ.

Pysankas are made by using a rough egg, bee's wax and a stylus, and can be personalized by including individual hopes, dreams and aspirations for the coming seasons.

"Elements of animals will symbolize wealth in your house," says Shyroka. "Plants – rich harvest this year."

Holy week is populated by services, readings, and solemn funeral processions, before culminating in a prayerful vigil over an icon of Christ's body in the tomb. Finally, as the hours before Pascha tumble, the feeling of joy begins to twinkle in the dark.

"Precisely at midnight on Sunday morning, after another solemn and anticipation-filled procession around the church," says Father Hewlett.

"I knock on the door of the tomb and we all enter singing and shouting 'Christ is risen!' into a building newly bedecked with white flowers and ablaze with light."

These new beginnings signify the start of the celebration of Christ's resurrection. So, after

weeks of preparation, what does the holy day itself actually involve? "On Sunday, in the early morning, everybody goes to church to get their Easter baskets blessed," says Shyroka. "When coming home from church the whole family gathers at one table and eats the holy food."

These Holy foods include Easter bread, Pysanka's, sausage, horseradish, butter, cottage cheese, and any other foods given up for lent.

"When the eating is done," says Shyroka. "Youth and children go to the church's yard and play games which involve running, tagging and singing."

Children are involved in every aspect of Pascha: preparing food baskets, joining processions, and playing a part in singing and feasting. Some families and churches also hold Easter-egg hunts.

But Pascha doesn't just end with a large meal and a celebration, the festival of life continues beyond Sunday with all manner of rejoicing known as Bright Week.

"Throughout this period we do not fast," says Father Hewlett. "We greet one another with the exclamation, 'Christ is risen!', and all church services held during this period – even funerals – are exceptionally joyful."

Ultimately, for Orthodox Christians, Pascha comes down to basic humble needs.

"I always remember the day of dyeing eggs," says Shyroka. "When all of the family gets together from different parts of my country, we make Pysanka's, talk, share memories, and are a family." □

The hitch, as I was mentioning in my last column, is that the majority of NDP members did so before the beginning of the augural day. This implies that the people who waited until the weekend to cast their votes probably didn't have a very big influence on the final results.

Candidate Peggy Nash has rightly mentioned after the second round's results that her choice for the third round wouldn't be significant since the majority of members had already voted.

However, the use of online voting by the NDP has served a purpose. The massive cyber attacks that inundated the system used by the NDP and disrupted services don't seem to have had a major impact on the end results. Yet, they send a strong cautionary signal should online voting be an option for a general election.

Even though these malicious attacks only managed to considerably slow down the voting process and the unveiling of results, they could have had a major impact on the end results. Just imagine what would happen if similar grains of sand came to clog the general election's machinery.

One can easily imagine a country, whose regime had more or less honourable values, could have a serious disruption of online voting during general elections. We can now thank the NDP for giving us food for thought before scrapping the time honoured ways of voting. □

Translation Monique Kroeger

## Spencie's View

### I APOLOGIZE FOR MY ACTIONS! ONE IS NOT A TRUE REPUBLICAN UNLESS ONE ENGAGES IN BATTLE?



## Letter to the Editor

Upon reading a recent article about the active Syrian community (as there are many who are not active) and Sawsan Habbal, [I'd like to make] several inferences. One of those is that the people of Syria don't need freedom and democracy. Now, why would anyone not need freedom and democracy? The quotes used from Habbal are typical of those propagandists who have supported totalitarian regimes ruling their nations with an iron fist. They typically try to revise their own history, discounting violence as 'mistakes,' while demonizing those who are oppressed.

As objective reader[s], we'd also [like to] infer that Habbal [is a nice person who was only doing her job, yet these hoodlums who are active in Vancouver in the name of democracy and freedom are harassing, threatening and attacking her.

This is the polar opposite of the truth. For example, the RCMP has investigated none of the activists. RCMP investigations must involve people, and typically require some type of interrogation to understand the full context of the alleged crime. We are in close contact with [the] RCMP informing them [of] our activities on [a] regular basis. Ms. Habbal must know that this is not Syria, and that our police do not exist to carry out the work of a stone-cold regime. Our police in Canada are civil servants who work with the public in order to prevent crime and enforce the law. Habbal, a lawyer, should know [that] our justice system is not run on unfounded accusations, and cheap shots through newspaper articles.

Also, our group has been the victim in numerous circumstances during our peaceful rallies. Just recently, two women – who have been seen spying on our activities before – verbally assaulted several participants in our rally. Like the regime they support, alongside Habbal; once they were confronted, they automatically refuted that they had said or done anything. Now we are hyper-vigilant [of] these types of verbal attacks, but coupled with recent attacks in other parts of Canada, it makes us extremely afraid for our own safety. In Montreal and Calgary, peaceful protests have resulted in attacks by Bashar al-Assad's supporters, the most severe being a young man who needed 18 stitches. Not only are Assad supporters attempting to make us weaker as a group by attacking our rallies, but also the more educated ones, like Habbal, are now using [the] media through *La Source* to attack our reputation and our honest efforts [to raise] awareness and to help the Syrian people.

We may not all be experts in the "art of conversation" like Habbal, as we are not all lawyers, but we are experts in humanity. When a child cries, we wish to dry his or her eyes and when we are able to do something to stop bloodshed, we do it.

*La Source* should retract [the] article and distance itself from the quotes [the] specific reporter made for your company's reputation. This would be beneficial for one main reason: your article benefit[s] a tyrant. Not just any tyrant, but one that is responsible for, according to international human rights organizations, for over 6000 murders since March 2011. The worst moral act possible in the history of mankind is murder, to deprive another of their right to life. Those who condone, support, and cover-up murders are considered accomplices to murder.

The freedom of the Syrian people is near with or without articles and people in Canada.

Long live a free and peaceful Syria,  
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## Left Bank ↘

### When a B.C. Spring finally comes, youth will be helping lead the way

**O**n March 22, Montreal had almost 200,000 people protesting in solidarity with students in Québec who are facing big tuition increases at the hands of the Charest Liberal government. There hasn't been a protest of this size in Canada since a quarter million marched in Montreal against the Iraq War in 2003.

Some have taken to calling the movement supporting Québec students *le printemps érable*, or Maple Spring (in French it doubles as a clever word play on Arab Spring).

Opponents of the student protests note that they have the lowest tuition fees in Canada; they

say that in some sectors a *sauve qui peut* attitude took hold, and unity broke down.

One shameful example is the Nurses Union. They engaged in raiding their union brothers and sisters in the already wounded HEU. So, it was that labour organizations that should have been organizing a united fight back were instead engaged in internecine battle.

During these years of quiet on the streets, the Liberal government declined in public opinion. The HST debacle, among other factors, finished off Gordon Campbell and, picking up the pieces, Christy Clark has disappointed

**“At the first sign of attack, you push back hard and you don’t give an inch.”**

see this as ungrateful. But I think they have the right idea: at the first sign of attack, you push back hard and you don’t give an inch.

This makes me lament the lack of a big fight against our own Liberal government. Actually, the Liberal government in Québec has a lot in common with the B.C. Liberal government.

Pursuing a hard right neoliberal agenda, with occasional moves closer to the political centre, both are ‘Liberal’ parties in name only. In fact, they are pro-corporate coalitions of liberals and conservatives.

When it comes to how much these governments have harmed students, labour and the environment, the balance sheet is worse in B.C. Partly because in 2001 when the Liberals were led by Gordon Campbell, they enjoyed free reign in the first couple years of their mandate, since the opposition NDP had been reduced to just two MLAs. Although to a certain degree, we have ourselves to blame, in that we were not able to fight back as ferociously as they have in Québec.

However, there have been some impressive mobilizations. In early 2002 there were rallies of tens of thousands in both Vancouver and Victoria against government attacks on the labour movement. In

her backers, and proven unable to significantly turn around her party’s popularity.

So, there’s hope for us yet, B.C. For one thing, the Liberal government is fraying badly, and there are signs that key players are looking to abandon Clark’s ship. Just last week Abbotsford MLA John van Dongen ditched the Liberals for the Conservatives in the legislature. More may soon follow him across the floor.

But these are just opportunistic politicians fleeing a sinking ship. Without a renewal of mobilization by social movements and civil society, it is doubtful that much of the regressive legacy of 12 years of Liberal government will be reversed, if and when, they are finally removed from power.

Thankfully, there is some hope on this front too and, like in Québec, a lot of it is coming from students. With B.C. teachers facing massive fines if they go on strike, some of their students have stepped up to support them.

On March 2, thousands of students walked out of classes across the province in support of their teachers. Although the numbers were smaller, the spirited tone hinted at the power of youth and the student protest that manifested on the streets of Montreal.



▲ Students protest in Montréal, Québec.

2004, there was a labour and community pushback against the cuts and privatization targeting the Hospital Employees Union (HEU). And a spirited – and ‘illegal’ – teachers strike in 2005 made a small dent in the Liberal agenda.

But the past half-decade has shown little in the way of popular mobilization against the provincial government. It pains me to

The optimism and confidence of the brand new activists was evident. It makes sense, since the new generation has not suffered through the demoralizing defeats of the past decade.

We may not get anything quite like the Maple Spring here in B.C., but political change is coming to the province. I’m thinking the kids are going to lead the way.



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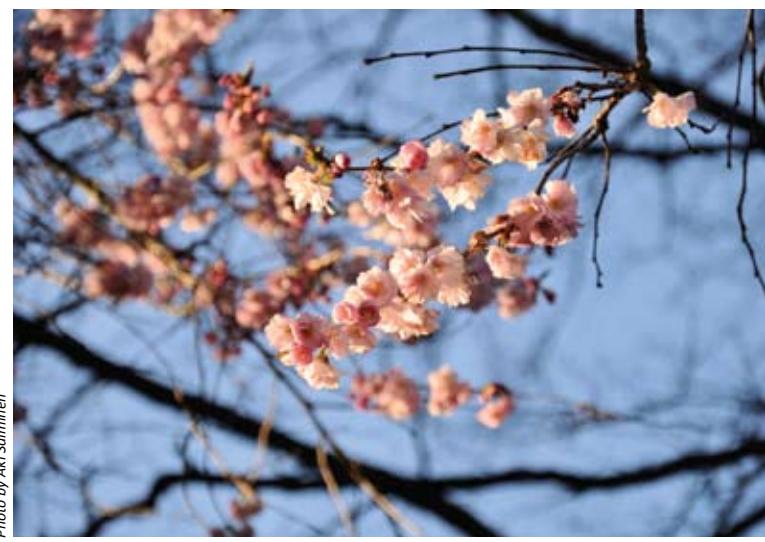
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## Cherry blossoms are here – time for celebration

by MARJO PEKONEN

The spectacular cherry tree-lined boulevards in the West End are the first signs of spring. And April is the month to celebrate the cherry blossoms.

"For [the] Japanese, cherry blossoms are the symbol of new entrance and hope," says Mari Honma, principal of Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall.

She says that for the Japanese, April is the month of a new start, just like January is for Canadians. And just like here, in Japan, the cherry flowers bloom in April.

In Japan, the tradition is to celebrate cherry blossoms with a Hanami festival.

"People gather under cherry trees to eat, drink and enjoy the beauty of the blossoms," says Honma.

Cherry flowers remind Honma and her colleague Mitsuru Haga about Japan.

"What the flowers represent to us goes deep in our history, into the spirits of Samurais," says Haga.

There are over 40,000 ornamental cherry trees blooming in Vancouver. Here in the mosaic of cultures, if you ask people what the cherry blossoms symbolize to them, you'll get different answers depending on the cultural backgrounds represented.

For Linda Poole, founder and director of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, the flowers stand for beauty and joy.

"After a long dreary winter, they [cherry blossoms] are so brave, the first to come and it takes them time to blossom," says Poole. "It makes everybody happy. Vancouver is quite a grey city with greyish mountains, sea and sky."

"The cherry flowers make the city look so great. Everybody feels so proud about Vancouver because it is so pretty. It is the only city in Canada, with so many cherry trees," adds Poole.

People think Vancouver's cherry trees stand for diversity and joy. The blossoms are seen as a source of inspiration for art and poetry, a reminder of home

or something exotic that you do not experience in your home country.

For Anita Kapanen from Finland, cherry flowers are a symbol of a mild winter.

"The cherry blossom represents to me the fact that I'm living in a place where the cherry trees are not killed by harsh winters and the spring is mild enough for the blossom [to] actually happen," says Kapanen, pointing out that in Finland you cannot enjoy this kind of beauty.

Emma Worbeck from Australia, where spring begins the first of September, says that the flowers stand for celebration and homesickness.

"Cherry blossoms remind me of my birthday – in Australia they'd always start to bloom in the week or two leading up to my birthday at the end of August," says Worbeck. "Since moving to Vancouver, I've always found it wrong to see the cherry blossoms blooming in April and not August."

For many in Vancouver, the cherry blossoms also serve to bring people together. According to Poole, "there are people coming from all over the world to see the cherry flowers blooming in Vancouver. I have met so many people under cherry trees and it is easy to start talking there about the beauty of the blossoms."

To commemorate these trees, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival will be in full celebration mode from April 5–28. This year, the theme is Bollywood-style dance.

"Every year I try to celebrate the festival in a different way. This year it is dance," says Poole.

"We are bringing all communities together by providing them [with a chance] to learn the Bollywood umbrella dance."

Poole says that the music is called Zoobie Doobie. In Hindi, she says that it means that, when you are in love, you are also a bit crazy.

So, Poole says, "We are crazy about the cherry blossoms."

For more information about the festival, visit: [www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca)

# Poles etch themselves in history

by ERIC CHU

Attracted by the offer of free lands during the colonial period, Polish-Canadians were one of the earliest settlers in North America. Indeed, by 1885, there were close to 3,000 Poles living in Canada – and over the next century, they continued to immigrate to various parts of the country.

Between 1981 and 1991, the latest major Polish migration after the one in 1885 and in the 1930s, the political situation in Poland gave rise to yet another large Polish migration. This group of new Polish-Canadians consisted of over 95,000 men, women and children.



▲ The Qube: a unique building by a Polish architect.

Today, the Canadian Polish Congress represents roughly one million Polish-Canadians living in Canada. These individuals have contributed significantly to the shaping of Vancouver in various areas such as: agriculture, manufacturing, politics and business.

"Polish-Canadians in Vancouver have performed outstandingly in a variety of careers," says Kazimierz Brusilo, President of the British Columbian branch the Canadian-Polish Congress. "Some became engineers and architects, some became local artists and yet others became influential writers."

One fascinating story about Polish-Canadians in Vancouver is the story of Joe Zebrowski, also known as Walter. He was the founder of Whistler. Zebrowski came to Canada shortly after the Second World War. As a farmer, he made his fortune by establishing chicken farms and delivering eggs from home to home. He soon purchased lands around Whistler Creekside and started his venture as the founder of Whistler.

"That was almost 50 years ago when we used to go up to the mountains of Whistler all the time," says Richard Podgurski, a close friend of Zebrowski and the former branch president of the Canadian Polish Congress. "The roads back then were hardly

usable. It was a very different place."

"Joe would often look around the place and say, 'One day, this will become the most famous tourist sight in Canada. People all over the world will know about it.'

Half a century later, we know that Zebrowski's vision was realized when the 2010 Winter Olympics were held in Whistler.

Another notable Polish-Canadian is the innovative architect, Bogue Babicki, who designed the



▲ Kazimierz Brusilo and Richard Podgurski, the current and former B.C. branch presidents of the Canadian Polish Congress.

"mushroom building," also known as The Qube, located at the intersection of Jervis and West Georgia.

The building was built from the top downward, which means the roof was constructed first. The bottom of the building is

*See "Polish Community" page 6*

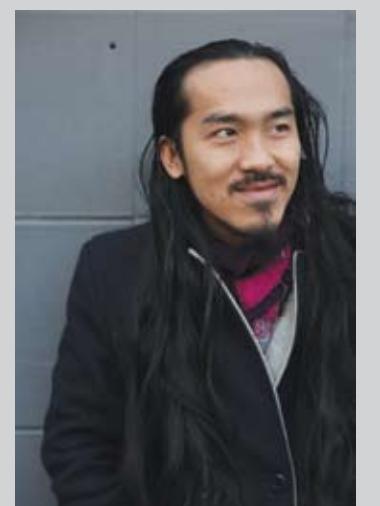
Photo Mosaic by Jan Hilario

## Community Portrait Eyes of the World

We hardly ever look at each other as we stroll down the wet streets of Vancouver. Head hung low, probably to shield ourselves from the rain, we miss the opportunity to view the world through someone else's eyes.

Jan Hilario has captured just a small mosaic of the different people we pass by everyday. So raise your head and stop looking down at the cold, wet concrete, or go to [www.thel-source.com](http://www.thel-source.com) for more faces.

by Samuel Ramos



"A breathtaking display of joy with fiddles." - Brendan Flynn, *Celt in a Twist*

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**CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**

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# Cultural Calendar

April 3-17, 2012

by PHOEBE YU

Spring is here, and its time again for the Cherry Trees to bloom. Don't miss the start of the Cherry Blossom Festival with the *Cherry Jam Concert*. Other notable events are the *Soweto Gospel Choir*, *Sherpas – the True Heroes of Mount Everest* and *Little Iliad*.

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**Tartan Day**

Wed., Apr. 4, 7:30 p.m.–10 p.m.  
SFU Harbour Centre  
Rm. 1420, 515 W. Hastings St.,  
Vancouver  
778-782-5000  
[www.scottish.sfu.ca/events](http://www.scottish.sfu.ca/events)

A celebration of Scottish heritage with songs from the Gaelic choir, dancing from the Vancouver Royal Scottish Country Dance Demonstration Team, and a presentation on the Museum of Scotland. Free admission.

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**Art Deco Chic:  
Talk & Tour with Ivan Sayers**

Thurs., Apr. 5, 7 p.m.  
Museum of Vancouver  
1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver  
604-736-4431  
[www.museumofvancouver.ca](http://www.museumofvancouver.ca)

Join an in-depth talk and tour on one of MOV's exhibits, Art Deco Chic. Learn how 20s and 30s fashion differed from other eras, the story on why the garments on display were chosen, garment construction and techniques, and more. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors / students, \$8 youth, MOV members are free.

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**The Futures of Change:  
Equity, Diversity and  
Intercultural Understanding  
Colloquium**

Thurs., Apr. 5, 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.  
UBC First Nations Longhouse  
1985 West Mall, Vancouver  
604-822-6353  
[www.diversity.ubc.ca](http://www.diversity.ubc.ca)

An interdisciplinary conference featuring the work of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and other members of the university community, on the issues of equity, diversity and intercultural understanding. The colloquium will focus on the areas of health, teaching and learning and community. Free admission, but advanced registration recommended.

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**Cherry Jam Concert**

Thurs., Apr. 5, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
Indoor Concourse,  
Burrard Skytrain Station  
604-257-8120  
[www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca)

Kick off the annual Cherry Blossom Festival with culinary demonstrations, a bento lunch, free umbrella dance lessons, and a concert. Open to the public.

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**Soweto Gospel Choir**

Sat., Apr. 7, 8 p.m.  
Queen Elizabeth Theatre  
630 Hamilton St., Vancouver  
604-684-2787  
[www.caravanbc.com](http://www.caravanbc.com)

The two-time Grammy award winner, Soweto Gospel Choir, from South Africa makes its way into town with their show entitled "African Grace." Tickets \$34–\$61, \$5 discount for students.

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**Carmen Aguirre**

Mon., Apr. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
The Cultch Theatre  
1895 Venables St., Vancouver  
604-251-1766  
[www.thecultch.com](http://www.thecultch.com)

Carmen Aguirre will read from her book, *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter*. The book is a true story of Aguirre's life as an underground revolutionary during the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile. Admission by donation.

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**Sherpas –  
the True Heroes  
of Mount Everest**

Trans-Himalayan Aid Society  
and Reel Causes  
Wed., Apr. 11, 7 p.m.  
VIFF Vancity Theatre  
1181 Seymour St.,  
Vancouver  
604-224-5133  
[www.tras.ca](http://www.tras.ca)

A film detailing the life and work of Nepali Sherpa guides at Mount Everest. There will be a Q & A session with the director, Hari Thapa, via videoconference after the screening. There will also be some handicrafts made by Indian, Tibetan and Nepali artisans for sale. Profits go toward the Trans-Himalayan Aid Society for their work on health and education for youth in the Himalayas. Tickets \$15.

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**Little Iliad**

Apr. 11–14  
The Anderson Street Space  
1405 Anderson St.,  
Granville Island  
604-684-2622  
[www.bocadellupo.com](http://www.bocadellupo.com)

A cross-disciplinary, micro performance, in which the audience listens in to the two actors' Skype conversation as one of them prepares to depart for Afghanistan. One of the characters, Evan is a writer trying to rework the lost Homeric poem, Little Iliad. The two friends' conversation centres on the themes of art and war. See website for details and show schedule. Tickets \$10.

\* \* \*

**Hard Rubber Orchestra  
Plays Mahavishnu Orchestra**

Sat., Apr. 14, 8 p.m.  
SFU Woodwards  
149 W. Hastings St.,  
Vancouver  
604-683-8240  
[www.hardrubber.com](http://www.hardrubber.com)

The 18-piece jazz unit, Hard Rubber Orchestra, will play the music of Mahavishnu Orchestra. The Mahavishnu Orchestra came to life in the 70s, with their fusion of jazz, Indian ragas and rock n' roll, led by guitarist John McLaughlin. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students and seniors.

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**Indulge n' Dance**

Sat., Apr. 14, 8:30 p.m.  
W2 Woodwards  
111 W. Hastings St., Vancouver  
info@socialbites.ca  
[www.socialbites.ca](http://www.socialbites.ca)

An after-dinner event featuring local, up-and-coming pastry makers. Eat and dance the night away to nostalgic 80s and 90s dance tunes. Tickets \$18 – included admission, one treat and one coffee; add-on \$6 ticket for three additional treats.

Street Photography by Denis Bouvier

## The Wonder That Is Ours



I never tire of being reminded of the beauty of our city. And this picture just adds to my amazement. The man in the right foreground is truly standing on the edge of magnificence. How few cities in the world can move us to experience what is extraordinary in life and nature in such a unique way.

We are viewing a seascape and a very modern skyline

in North Vancouver against a backdrop of spectacular mountains and foreboding, constantly changing clouds. The view has the drama of a futuristic film drawing us not only to what we can physically see, but inspiring us to wonder what is beyond those mountains, what direction will our future take?

The tables with the heaters beside them look somewhat alien

and, along with the lone man, seem to be bearing witness to this awesome beauty.

Just outside the West Building of the Vancouver Convention Centre, all of what this area offers is available for public enjoyment, not only for Vancouverites, but for the multitude of people from around the world who visit our city.

*Don Richardson*

most importantly, the place they helped shape as early pioneers.

He emphasizes that the Canadian Polish Congress is a Canadian organization that represents Canadians of Polish descent.

"The congress promotes Polish culture in the context of Canada," says Brusilo. "In other words, we do not only support the voice of the Polish people, but also cultural harmony in Vancouver and the rest of Canada."

► "Polish Community" from page 5 mostly vacant with a large post at the center to support the structure. This gives the building its resemblance to a standing mushroom.

"The idea was conceived when Babicki noticed that buildings were blocking people from enjoying the beautiful scenery of Vancouver," says Podgurski. "So he thought: if we made our buildings into mushroom

shapes, we would be able to see the views better."

Zebrowski and Babicki are only two individuals among many other notable Polish Vancouverites, such as the artist Richard Wojciechowski, and the musician Bozena Lukomska.

Brusilo says that many Polish people have come to think of Canada as their "second motherland." It is a place that nurtures them, protects them, gives them hope, but

## Le français au CSF, c'est bien plus qu'une langue !



Depuis sa création en 1995, le Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offre des programmes et des services éducatifs valorisant le plein épanouissement et l'identité culturelle des apprenantes et apprenants francophones de la province. Le conseil compte aujourd'hui plus de 4 600 élèves, 36 écoles publiques et dessert plus d'une centaine de communautés réparties dans l'ensemble de la province. *Inscrivez votre enfant dans une école du CSF !*

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Conseil scolaire francophone  
de la Colombie-Britannique

[csf.bc.ca](http://csf.bc.ca)