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for aboriginal
youth activism
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Verbatim

Almost Canadian

by ERNA VAN BALEN

It was a cold December night in 2011 and my fiancé and I were aboard a Christmas Carol cruise that had left Coal Harbour just minutes before. Our boat slid along English Bay with the twinkling lights of downtown Vancouver in the background. We hadn't really paid attention to the carol part of the tour name when we booked it and didn't think much of it other than that the cruise must have a Christmas theme. Had it not been for the lyrics that were handed out a bit later, we would have made fools out of ourselves: being from the Netherlands, we didn't know most of the songs that we were supposed to sing.

We had arrived in Vancouver 16 months prior to that moment, and apart from some initial shocks – that you have to pay for incoming phone calls and that turning left at a Vancouver intersection is often a near-death experience – the transition had been pretty smooth. We felt welcome and settled into our workplaces and daily lives quite easily. Anything we didn't know we found out soon enough, absorbing local knowledge like sponges.

On the surface, I look and act like a Vancouverite: I do yoga and have a vegetable garden. I have learned a lot in my two-and-a-half years here. Even though I cannot vote, I know who the mayor is. I even know why Vancouver doesn't have any freeways within its city limits: residents protested in the 1960s against plans to demolish Gastown and build a freeway right through Strathcona.

I can name quite a few Canucks players. And like most Vancouverites, I am interested in history – not the dates-of-major-battles-type we learn back home, but the everyday life of average people. Although I was and still am

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Photo courtesy of Lynn Kavanagh

Advocates not sheepish about animal rights

by MIKE LEE and SHALINI NAYAR

Jason Khaira, then an eager 12th grader in Penticton, was listening to his teacher lecture on animal welfare issues when it dawned on him he needed to change his dietary habits. It wasn't because he had a natural affinity for the cute and cuddly.

"I never really grew up loving animals," he says, "but I thought one day that [eating meat] is not right."

Nearly two decades later Khaira, 32, founded the Sikh Humane Society in 2011, a small non-profit

that works to assist local animal welfare charities and sanctuaries through private donations. Ill-treatment of farm animals, in

to work towards improving the living conditions of animals destined for dinner plates.

National guidelines affecting

cruelty laws, transport and best practices. They also function as an educational resource for farming professionals. The codes

“ [The meat] industry still holds a lot of influence in the code development and revision process, so the balance of interests needs to be improved.

Stephanie Brown, Director of the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals

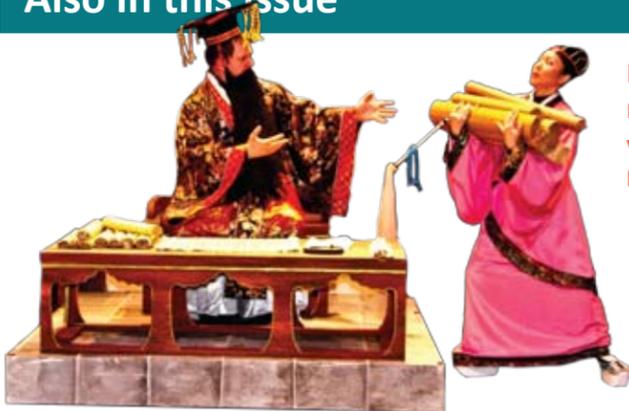
particular, has become a highly visible cause in recent years owing to cruelty scandals involving fast food giants KFC, Wendy's, and Burger King. Khaira hopes

the care of farm animals and acceptable industry standards are presently detailed in Canada's Codes of Practice. The codes review animal handling, animal

affecting beef cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, farmed mink and farmed fox are now under revision and are due to be completed this year.

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My Turn

SERGE CORBEIL

Kind thoughts towards the political class

In this column I decided to call on my better self and broach a subject that may rattle those under the influence of profound cynicism. I will speak in defence of politicians. To govern is anything but restful. And every day I see yet another example confirming that the task of our politicians isn't an easy one.

I know you'll say they chose the job, and right you are. But I don't know of anyone who offers to stand for political office motivated solely by the desire to offset a certain amount of ennui. No, they do so in order to concretely contribute to the welfare of the society in which they live. And they do so, more often than not, under circumstances that do not inspire any great respect for their profession. Nevertheless their toil merits a dose of admiration, though, evidently, a limited one.

We certainly can't deny that political bickering evokes every

reason to turn our backs on our politicians. Their parliamentary squabbles are nothing to look up to and tend to paint a negative portrait of the whole political class. But, this squabbling comes with the territory, as they say.

Of course, a thirst for power motivates the men and women who choose to enter politics. Nevertheless, we should be careful not to associate this with questionable intentions. Obviously, no one starts off on an adventure that will pull them away from their family for very long hours at a time for the pure pleasure of it. It is the power to change the state of affairs that, for a great majority of politicians, is the primary, and often the sole, motivator.

These people's intention is to better our society. And they all do it for what they profoundly believe to be good reasons. True, we all have our own notion of what is best. This is quite nor-

mal: we don't all come from the same mold. What is marvellous in our society is our right to disagree. I can guarantee you that few are the politicians who don't get a taste of others exercising that right on a daily basis.

I go on about the subject because there are, right now, three important leadership races taking place across the country. Liberals from Quebec, Ontario and at the federal level have to choose a new leader soon. I decided to pause for a moment and ponder why so many people aspire to a job that will make life so difficult for them.

The party leader's task is a difficult and very often thankless one. Even though I am not an enthusiastic partisan of Justin Trudeau, one can only admire that a relatively young man with a family has decided to take the jump. Should he win, his whole family will have to make the necessary sacrifices in order for him to bring about the vision he has in store for Canada.

Beyond the fierce partisanship that often animates our political debates and our stance towards those who choose to serve either their country or their province, we should spare them, at least from time to time, a few kind thoughts. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

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But according to Khaira, even new regulations pertaining to the treatment of farm animals are not enforced well enough. Issues needing further reconsideration include the transportation of animals, gestation crates for pigs and animals used for foie gras, among others, he says.

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) leads the development of the codes and their revision. In a process involving seven steps, the Council will first collaborate with a national commodity or industry specialized group to identify the need for a revision and subsequently form a Code Development Committee. The Committee is comprised of members of industry, veterinarians, scientists, and animal welfare groups. The final steps involve a 60-day public comment period followed by revisions to the code based on feedback, if necessary.

The Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals (CCFA) is presently observing the code review process with great interest, says Lynn Kavanagh, a director with the CCFA.

"We are following the revision process closely and plan to submit comments to the draft Beef Code which is currently open for public feedback," Kavanagh says in an email statement sent to *The Source*.

Groups like the CCFA are fighting for stronger legislation advocating farm animal welfare and aim to educate the general public on key issues surrounding the movement. The CCFA is comprised of member



▲ Lynn Kavanagh with her porcine pals at a farm animal sanctuary.

organizations across Canada and counts cultural groups such as the Sikh Humane Society among its ranks of supporters.

Stephanie Brown, who is also a director with the CCFA stresses the importance of public feedback on the code revision process.

"Members of the public who care about farm animals should take the time to comment on the codes," she says. "The more people provide useful and thoughtful comments, the better. Industry still holds a lot of influence in the code development and revision process, so the balance of interests needs to be improved."

Khaira has since provided his own comments to the Committee on prospective code revisions to beef cattle.

The Sikh Humane Society joins a growing global network of groups who are turning to theology as a source of advocacy inspiration. International organizations like the Jewish Vegetarians of North America, the Jewish Vegetarian Society and smaller outfits including the UK-based Quaker Concern for Animals and the Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have been working alongside secular bodies like

PETA to promote animal-friendly diets and practices.

Sikhism incorporates compassion, *daya*, for all living things as one of its five virtues, but Khaira's interest in animal welfare does not stem wholly on religious grounds.

He's vegan by personal preference and says he owes his animal advocacy roots to his teacher who first sparked his interest in the subject. Khaira is also involved in a number of local groups through the social networking site, Meet-up.com, that promote vegetarian and vegan lifestyles.

The Society's objectives are similar to those of its larger cousins, according to him. The group was established primarily as a vehicle to support organizations like the CCFA, he says. The Society's website is sparse, consisting of a single page, a logo, and an email address. There's a reason for the ascetic design, Khaira explains.

"It's part of our religious beliefs not to have pride," he says. "If we give to charity in our own name, it's not [considered] good [because pride is involved]." ✍

www.sikhhumanesociety.org
www.nfacc.ca
www.humanefood.ca

Spencie's View



► "Verbatim" from page 1

surprised that Vancouverites call buildings that are 70 years old 'historic,' I share their interest in how this city developed from a sleepy sawmill town into the multicultural place it is today, and I keep wanting to learn more about it. I even know some facts that many Vancouverites are not aware of: for example, that George Vancouver had Dutch ancestors whose family name was Van Coevorden.

But there's only so much knowledge one can absorb by completing a degree and speaking English to neighbours. I am still missing the simple things you learn by having grown up here. I don't know any children's songs, Christmas songs or the tunes of TV shows that my Canadian-born peers grew up with in the 1980s. I just go blank in situations where these things come up, like parties and other social events.

I once read somewhere – I believe it was in Ian McEwan's novel *Atonement* – that at the beginning of WWII, when England was anticipating a German

invasion, London residents were instructed to ask anyone who they suspected of being a German spy to sing a children's song. The idea was that despite their accent-free English skills, spies wouldn't know any songs and give themselves away. I sometimes feel like one of those spies.

I am sure there are many things I don't know about the Netherlands, but I do know the children's songs. Never did I have so much fun singing as I had at another group event that happened to involve a boat. In 2011, I went back to the Netherlands to attend my friends' wedding. When the newlyweds literally embarked on matrimony on their sailing boat, all the guests stood at the dock singing a song we had all known since we were about three years old. I felt a sense of belonging. And I felt sorry for the best man, who was Polish.

I continue to learn and now that I know that a real Canadian sings about a porcupine in a pine tree, I feel like I'm finally catching up. ✍

"Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes."

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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Aboriginal youth unite through social media

by TYSON CHRISTENSEN

Aboriginal youth activism is on the rise. Across Canada, movements continue to gain momentum, driven both by those who have long been strident advocates for Aboriginal rights and by First Nations youth who may not have been motivated to be a

rienced First Nations leaders to connect and interact with youth in new ways.

One youth who is becoming engaged as never before is Jewlee Big Plume, a member of the Tsuu T'ina First Nation of Alberta, now living in Vancouver and working as a make-up artist. She uses social media to

Social media has played an important role in recent political upheavals and social movements around the world, motivating youth to take action on key issues. The Arab Spring, a revolutionary wave in the Middle East against autocratic regimes, is one such example of how the use of social media can connect people to work

“INM (Idle No More) has really made me proud of my people and excited about all of us standing together.

Jewlee Big Plume, a member of the Tsuu T'ina First Nations of Alberta

part of the cause before. Leaders come and go, but the real success of a movement is when a leader can motivate others to take up the cause as well. The growth of the Idle No More movement shows that this is now taking place among First Nations youth in Canada. One critical factor driving this new engagement is the increasing use of social media, which has allowed expe-

connect with family and friends back in Alberta, but doing so has also helped her to become more aware of First Nations issues and has enabled her to join in the Idle No More discussion.

“I have always been interested in aboriginal issues, being aboriginal, but INM (Idle No More) has really made me proud of my people and excited about all of us standing together,” she said.

for a cause. Organising a protest or demonstration was as simple as sending out a tweet.

In Canada, the power of social media to help organise is also key, but equally important is its ability to generate discussion and awareness. One First Nations leader who has put social media to use is Caleb Bohn, a University of Victoria law student and a member of the Dene First Nation of northern British Columbia. Bohn recently spent time traveling the world and filming *Fractured Land*, a documentary that investigates how indigenous law can be incorporated into current legal systems to create a more sustainable future. Bohn spent time among the Maori of New Zealand and in his ancestral homeland of northern British Columbia, attempting to understand how indigenous and non-indigenous legal systems can be more effectively brought together.

Now back in Canada, Bohn is spreading awareness about issues of concern to First Nations



Photo courtesy of Jewlee Big Plume

▲ When Jewlee Big Plume isn't working as a make-up artist, she's tuned into aboriginal issues of the day through the internet.



▲ #idlenomore has taken Twitter by storm and is now internationally recognized.

through social media, connecting to other Aboriginal youth. Online spaces provide a forum for First Nations youth to join together and become a collective voice on matters that are important to them. They appear to be helping form a community where leaders like Bohn can help engage others and encourage them to learn more about Aboriginal issues.

The Idle No More movement has become a source of pride for its

followers because it has encouraged people to speak out with a common voice and has facilitated a conversation. Led by those like Caleb Bohn, the message is being received and retransmitted by other First Nations youth like Jewlee Big Plume. Social media has played and will continue to play a key role, enabling Aboriginal youth to join in the discussion and speak out on the issues that are important to them. ✎

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Left Bank



Why 'fracking' needs to be an issue in the upcoming provincial election

The B.C. election is coming up soon – May 14, 2013. So, for the next four months, expect this space to be devoted almost exclusively to provincial politics.

After a dozen years in power, the B.C. Liberals are expected to be unceremoniously booted out of office. It's a fate that they richly deserve. Under both Premier Gordon Campbell and his successor, Christy Clark, Liberal administrations have been all about giving more power to corporations.

The scandals, the cuts and the arrogant way it's all been delivered has caught up with the B.C.

new coals mines on line, to rapidly expand infrastructure for the expansion of gas exports and a drive to find new overseas markets for B.C. businesses.

Clark's stance on Enbridge is instructive. After a long period of silence on the controversial proposed tar sands pipeline, Clark came out with five conditions for B.C. accepting the project. There was no mention of climate change, even though campaigners worldwide have focused on the destructive impact of building new tar sands export infrastructure like pipelines.

“The introduction of shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracking methods in British Columbia could present the largest and most destructive industrial force that our waters have ever known.

Petition from the Fort Nelson First Nation

Liberals. Ramming through the HST cost Campbell his job, and Clark has been unable to turn the party's fortunes around. Most polls show a lead in the range of 20 percentage points for the New Democratic Party (NDP).

In an effort to close the gap, the Liberals are pulling out all the stops. If you watched the Golden Globes last week – or, for that matter, just about any other prime time television – you have probably seen the B.C. government's advertising blitz. Oddly, the taxpayer-funded ads boast of Victoria's lack of “careless spending”; the timing and ubiquitousness of the TV spots look like desperation by the Liberals, who of course deny any partisan intent behind the ads.

Campbell's tenure saw deep and vicious attacks against the the labour movement. In terms of the environment, despite the government's pro-business approach it at least nodded to the serious reality of climate change. In 2007 it passed the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Targets Act, requiring a 33 per cent cut in emissions by 2020 and 80 per cent cut by 2050 as compared to 2007 levels. On paper, this is still one of the best climate change policies of any jurisdiction in North America.

As with everything to do with the urgent need to prevent runaway climate change, however, words on paper are no match for facts on the ground, or the profit-hungry corporations looking to extract and sell the fossil fuels beneath the ground.

In Christy Clark's brief stint as premier, it has become abundantly clear she has no intention of seriously trying to meet the legally binding targets her own B.C. Liberal government has established. Concern for climate change has almost vanished entirely from the Liberals public discourse under her tenure; what remains is basically one-note cheerleading for all manner of expansion of the extractive, fossil fuel export business.

Clark's brief stint has featured full-steam-ahead plans to bring

The centrepiece of Clark's economic development plans is B.C.'s Natural Gas Strategy. Canadian Centre for Policy Development economist Marc Lee describes the government as aiming “to double or even triple gas production via fracking in the Northeast, pipeline that gas to the coast, compress it to LNG [Liquid Natural Gas], and ship it to Asia.” According to Lee, “If realized, it would be like putting at least 24 million cars on the roads of the world,” making it “virtually impossible to meet the targets set out in the GHG law.”

The plans to continue the rapid expansion of B.C.'s gas sector are especially alarming given that much of it involves the dangerous practice of hydraulic fracturing, also known as “fracking,” which has been linked to groundwater pollution and earthquakes. Yes, earthquakes. Concerns about the harmful impact of fracking have led many jurisdictions around the world to ban or place a moratorium on the practice.

One would hope that the upcoming B.C. election campaign would be a chance for a serious debate about fracking. But there is little sign of it yet. Environmental NGOs – with some exceptions – have been relatively quiet on the issue. The NDP has indicated support for the LNP projects and associated natural gas pipelines but, has, recently, come out in favour of a “broad public review of fracking.” The B.C. Greens take a clearer position, calling for a moratorium on fracking.

Will fracking be an election issue this May? Well, first voters have to know about the issue, and there's been precious little public education yet.

As is often the case, local First Nations in the affected area have taken the lead in raising the alarm about fracking.

In a petition signed by over 20,000, the Fort Nelson First Nation explains: “The introduction of shale gas extraction and hydraulic fracking methods in British Columbia could present the largest and most destructive industrial force that our waters have ever known.”

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Art helps define what it means to be “intercultural” and “multicultural”

by PHOEBE YU

Art has many definitions, but it is fundamentally used as a means of communication, one that can even transcend cultural boundaries. The Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV) is a group that tries to con-

nect people and create dialogue through arts-based community development projects. “The process of engaging with people is as important as the artistic output,” says Mary Bennett, Program Consultant at CACV. Through their dialogue series, one of the topics of discussion has been the role of community arts in promoting interculturalism. Co-chair of the activities committee, Francis Heng, differentiates interculturalism from multiculturalism by analyzing the way that people in the community interact with each other.

“Multiculturalism, to me, means that people from different backgrounds and different cultures are given equal rights... but there’s no requirement for them to interact with each other. Interculturalism is where interaction becomes the missing link,” he says.

that void by producing performances with an interdisciplinary and intercultural approach. Since being incorporated in 1998, they have produced theatre performances that have combined Asian and Western theatrical traditions to create shows that are accessible to everyone, including

Mandarin, with English as the unifying language. But the piece wasn’t language-centred so the audience could follow the story. For interculturalism to happen, Heng says that people from different cultures have to interact at some point. Heng believes that art can transcend cultural boundaries, so that people of different backgrounds can come together. Even for people who don’t share a common language, working on a project together allows them to overcome the difficulties of trying to connect through words, and instead they can engage with their hands or bodies, says Heng.

In Pangaea Arts productions, language barriers between the actors are overcome through the use of translators. When it



Photo by Pangaea Arts

▲ Performers of Pangaea Arts create theatre productions that combine Asian and Western theatrical traditions.

comes to multi-lingual performances, Specht says that audiences don’t necessarily have to speak the languages used in the play; instead, nuances and meanings are understood through actions and context.

Bennet suggests that we use the right brain when making art, which is the less rational side, where emotions can play a bigger part in our interactions with people. In contrast, the left brain rationalizes and forms critical questions that are used to try to understand a different culture, he says.

As part of their goal to promote community and intercultural understanding through art, CACV is helping to organize volunteers and artists to work on a snake sculpture for the upcoming Chinese New Year celebrations that will welcome in the Year of the Snake.

Heng believes that art is a language that everybody is born with but not always exposed to. For Heng, an artist is someone who sees the world differently and is able to use art as a language with which to communicate.

In his paper, *Interculturalism or Multiculturalism?* Quebec philosopher Charles Taylor argues that multiculturalism encourages the ghettoization of cultures, while interculturalism emphasizes integration. Despite having many culture-themed events around the city, such as the Latin American Film Festival and the Powell Street Festival, Bennett and Heng point out that there are not many arts-based events that focus on integrating different cultures.

Pangaea Arts, a local independent theatre company, tries to fill

non-English speaking audiences.

“A lot of people can’t work in the theatre in Canada because it’s so English-centric,” says Heidi Specht, founder of Pangaea Arts. “I [tried] to create dialogue and bring artists together and see what we can create together by combining our traditional art forms.”

In *Cultural Metaphors*, the first show the theatre troupe produced, musical and theatrical traditions from India, Ireland and China were combined in a cultural fusion that was performed in Gaelic, Sanskrit and



Photo by Phoebe Yu

▲ Members of CACV create a snake for Chinese New Year.

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In order to have more integration between cultures in the arts, Specht believes that training institutions need to change what’s being taught because there’s not much diversity – students are still primarily being trained in the British theatre tradition.

In the future, both Bennett and Heng hope that they can bring more people together to work on art projects, have meaningful dialogues and engage communities. ☞



Illustration by Frits Ahlefeldt-Lauring, Flickr

Digital literacy programs expand at B.C. library system

by SARA WHITTAKER

The Burnaby region of the B.C. library system will expand its free computer training sessions with new classes for seniors starting February 2013. The new courses aim to help a diverse and aging community navigate the rapidly advancing technological world. These courses are part of a collaborative attempt by local libraries to anticipate the unique needs of each community and provide applicable educational resources.

In addition to the introductory classes to MS Word, MS Excel 2007, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, one Burnaby library will now offer sessions on Computer Basics and Internet Basics for Seniors. Training will be available at the Tommy Douglas branch in Burnaby, which is the only branch with a computer lab.

“It is a one time session,” says Roberta Summersgill, manager of the Tommy Douglas branch. “There is often a misunderstanding of this being a consecutive course. It is not. For extended courses the school board is still the best option, but to get your toes wet, you can start with us.”

Each branch offers a broad range of classes, with a different class schedule at each location. The frequency and types of courses vary throughout the year, but there are usually between two and six computer related sessions per month, depending on the budget and demand, says Summersgill.

The seniors’ courses were added after discussions about how the branch could meet the particular needs of its aging community.

“We meet often to report on each other and discuss the possibility of programs considering the different demographic needs of each branch,” said Deb Thomas, deputy chief librarian and manager of the Metrotown branch.

All branches aim to create programs that are inclusive, by “anticipat[ing] the needs of our communities,” said Linda Shineton, manager of the McGill branch.

To meet the demands of their multicultural communities, the branches have hosted other programs, such as basic computer skills in Mandarin and Settlement Programs. The Settlement Programs aim to provide immigrants and refugees with information on accessing resources as well as an orientation to their respective communities. These workshops are offered at multiples sites, times and days of the year.

The Settlement Programs are given in partnership with other government-sponsored job integration programs in Vancouver such as the S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and MOSAIC organizations, and have been offered in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, says Shineton.

See “Digital Literacy” page 8 ►

see

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Community Portrait: Granville Island

Granville Island isn't an island. It's a peninsula. But this minor detail is of little interest to those who live, work and play there.

Another little known fact is that the City of Vancouver used to be named Granville until it was renamed in 1886. A bridge, a street and the peninsula keep the name alive.

What was once an industrial area in the early 1900s is now home to theatres, shops, a public market, restaurants and the Emily Carr University of Art and Design – a dazzling place for all ages.



▲ Father and child play along one of Granville Island's lanes.



▲ Granville Island is flush with street performers, many of whom choose the dock as their stage.



▲ Folks of all ages watch performances on a bench along the dock.



▲ Ten Thousand Villages is run by Mennonites.



▲ Afghan rugs are laid out for all to contemplate taking home with them.

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Facilitators Marcel Chenier, Facilitator and ESL Teacher whose worked at University and College level in Canada, as well as internationally, for many years. Colleen Gillis, a Recruiter with 9 years experience placing new hires with national corporate and independent organizations in Canada.

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APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING!

INTERPLAY
Interactive Workshops for
Canadian Choral Composers

Regina, SK – February 27, 2013
Vancouver, BC – April 10, 2013



Jon Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir will deliver the award winning Interplay: Interactive Workshops for Canadian Choral Composers February 27, 2013 in Regina, SK and April 10, 2013 in Vancouver, BC.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 18, 2013

The application form is available at www.vancouverchamberchoir.com/interplay.htm

During this program, composers are allotted individual rehearsal time (usually 30-45 minutes) with the professional chorus and conductor. This time may be used to test completed work and/or try out new concepts. Choir, conductor and composer dialogue about musical and technical features, strengths, flaws, textures, colours, notations and many other aspects of successful choral writing. Each workshop is closely tailored to the needs and interests of the individual composer.

A cross-section of composers, ranging from full professionals to university composition students and representing varied musical styles from avant garde, concert and church music to school and educational repertoire are chosen to participate in the Interplay workshops.

Composers are also welcome to attend the workshops as observers.

There is no charge to composers for this workshop, thanks to the generous support of the SOCAN Foundation.

Jon Washburn founded the Vancouver Chamber Choir in 1971. Under his guidance, the ensemble has become an amazing success story, ranking with the handful of North America's best professional choruses. In addition to touring and a busy season of concerts, broadcasts and recording, the Choir presents five award-winning educational programs.

Cultural Calendar

January 22–February 5, 2013

by PHOEBE YU

The PuSh Festival is well under way and there is no shortage of theatre performances around town. Although not included in the festival, a number of other productions are worth looking into, such as *Yellow Moon* and *Sisters*. Other notable events are: *Language of Rhythm Project*, *Stayed on Freedom!* and *Louis Herve and Chloe Maillet*.

Free Film Series John Smith: *Shorts* PuSh Festival

Wednesday, January 23
7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
The Cinematheque
1131 Howe St., Vancouver
604-688-3456
www.pushfestival.ca

A showcase of British filmmaker, John Smith's work from the 70s to

Louis Herve and Chloe Maillet

Thursday, January 24
7 p.m.–9 p.m.
Emily Carr University
1399 Johnston St., Vancouver
604-844-3800
www.ecuad.ca

Herve and Maillet create performance-lectures. In this talk, they discuss this practice and their work filming International Institute for Important Items. Open to the public.

Vancouver's Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles

Thursday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.
Museum of Vancouver
1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver
604-736-4431
www.vancouver-historical-society.ca

Retired colonel of the British Columbia Regiment (known as the "Dukes"), Keith Maxwell, will

In 1936, amidst political unrest and problematic personal relationships, two Russian sisters living in a Chinese garrison town long to return to Russia, but financial troubles and a difficult Chinese sister-in-law make this an impossible dream. Tickets: \$47-\$48 adults, \$30 students.

Stayed on Freedom!

Friday, February 1, 8 p.m.
St. Andrews-Wesley
United Church
1012 Nelson St., Vancouver
604-873-7000
www.citysoulchoir.com

Gospel and soul choirs, Marcus Mosely Chorale and City Soul Choir, collaborate for a choir performance, along with vocal trios The Sojourners and a cappella world music trio TriVo. Tickets: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors & students.



▲ City Soul choir take the stage of St. Andrews-Wesley United Church on Friday, February 1, at 8 pm.

the 80s. Often classified as 'structural films,' Smith's work focuses on the illusionary nature of media. Open to the public.

Yellow Moon

January 23–26, 8 p.m.
Studio 16
1545 W 7th Ave, Vancouver
604-736-2616
www.seizieme.ca

Lee is a young man who always gets into trouble. Leila is a young woman from a good family. When something goes wrong, they both flee to the mountains, where they're faced with the question of identity. Tickets \$24-\$27, \$8 rush tickets for students.

First Nations Rights and Law: Deconstructing the Doctrine of Discovery

Thursday, January 24
7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Vancouver Public Library
350 W. Georgia St., Vancouver
604-331-3603
www.vpl.ca

Robert Morales, lawyer and chief negotiator for the Hulqumintum Treaty Group, will discuss the nature and effects of a medieval European law, in which a monarch could claim any land discovered by his or her subjects that wasn't claimed by Christians. Open to the public.

present a talk on the Dukes and their role in shaping Vancouver history. Open to the public.

Language of Rhythm Project

January 26–28
Various Venues
604-879-8611
www.publicdreams.org

Learn different drumming techniques from South Asian, African, Taiko, Brazilian, Vocal, and Indigenous traditions. There will also be a live show by eight musicians working in different styles. Open to the public.

Black Before February: Witnessing the Revolution

Sunday, January 27, 3 p.m.
Roundhouse Community Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews,
Vancouver
604-873-7000
www.vancouver.ca

A preview of Black History Month. Film screening and panel discussion on media, representation, creation and intention. Open to the public.

Sisters

January 31–February 16
Gateway Theatre
6500 Gilbert Rd.,
Richmond
604-270-1812
www.gatewaytheatre.com

Making and Unmaking Nations: Rethinking the Origins of Genocide in Africa

Monday, February 4
4 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
SFU Harbour Centre
Rm. 1600, 515 W. Hastings St.,
Vancouver
778-782-5000
www.events.sfu.ca

A public lecture by Scott Straus, Professor of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, on the origins of genocide in Africa. Open to the public.



▲ Catch Sisters at Gateway Theatre.



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This photo of The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver depicts the Georgia St. entrance. If you look in the centre of the photo you'll notice a lighter colour, and it appears that perhaps the building surface has been sandblasted. However, this area is a photo mural on mesh netting which is attached to scaffolding hidden behind it. The mural extends from the 2nd to the 18th floor, 61m tall and 41m wide.

Vancouver artist Robert Postma created a series of approximately 60 images using a robotic camera head. He then

used a photo stitching package to create a 2 GB file. Finally, printers took the file and lined it up so it could be correctly fitted on the mesh netting, leaving us with this incredible effect.

This technique is a form of photo realism, and has been used on historic buildings undergoing renovation, not only to lessen the dust and debris, but to create a pleasing illusion. Another name associated with this technique is *Trompe-l'oeil*, French for "deceive the eye." It's a painting technique which creates a three dimensional effect. It was used by Greeks as

long ago as the 5th century BCE; ancient Romans employed the technique on murals to create the effect of a larger room, and it can be found in paintings and frescos of the Italian Renaissance period. Today, the technique is still employed in a myriad of art forms like paintings, sculptures, and especially murals painted on the sides of buildings.

According to engineer Alex McCarty, these external renovations at the Fairmont are in year two of a 4-year plan. Behind the photo mural netting, the concrete between the brick work is being re-

pointed. Drain work is also being updated and roofs are being refitted with waterproof membranes.

The Fairmont is the third incarnation of the Hotel Vancouver. The first Hotel Vancouver was built in 1888 at the corner of Georgia and Granville where the former Sears building presently sits. It was built by Canadian Pacific Railroad to house all the people migrating here on its new line. The second Hotel Vancouver, built in 1916 on the same site, was considered one of the finest in the British Empire. It was also built by the CPR and replaced the first Hotel Vancouver

to accommodate Vancouver's ever expanding population. The current Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, across from the Vancouver Art Gallery, was built in 1939 by the Canadian National Railroad, and was the home of the CBC until they moved into their present building at Hamilton and Georgia. Legendary band leader Dal Richards, who is still actively performing at the age of 95, began playing at the Fairmont in 1940 and did so regularly for 25 years.

Don Richardson

► "Digital Literacy" from page 5

She adds that for children, the branches offer programs such as Story Time, Author Visits, Film



Photo courtesy of Deb Thomas

▲ Deb Thomas.

Screening and others that are co-sponsored with organizations like Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Village Museum, and Science World.

The range of programs offered by the B.C. library system will soon expand from information, language and digital literacy, to financial literacy due to a new partnership between the Vancouver Public Library and Vancity Credit Union.

The new classes for seniors are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Classes will be held in the 12-terminal computer lab at the Tommy Douglas branch. Registration for this branch will start on Jan. 25, and classes will begin on Feb. 1. ✉

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PICS Vancouver also offers one-on-one employment assistance, paid on-the-job work experience through our Wage Subsidy program, and a one-stop Career Centre with a broad range of job hunting resources. Funding for all programs is provided by the Ministry of Social Development, Employment and Labour Market Services Division.

Please call 604-324-7733, go to www.pics.bc.ca, or visit us at 200-8161 Main Street, Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.



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