Immigration and diversity:
Inclusion drives Canadian values

by Eliano Rossi

“Canada is like a beautiful painting made up of different colours,” says Farid Rohani, a life member of the Laurier Institute in Vancouver.

Tolerance, inclusiveness and openness are just a few examples of the values that always distinguished Canadian society in the world. But with immigration policies changing under the last government, giving more importance to economic growth, some citizens feel there may be negative consequences for the local society.

The image of a painting, as described by Rohani, symbolizes the harmony of a country that has increased its ethnic and cultural diversity over the years. Rohani explains that it is a blend of the values that old and new Canadians follow that creates such a “great picture.”

Threat to Canadian values?
A series of experts were interviewed to see if they feel the cultural challenges that accompany multiculturalism are changing traditional Canadian values.

According to Richard Johnston, Canada research chair in Public Opinion, Elections, and Representation at UBC, Canada is still a great model of integration in the world. “While many countries, especially in Europe, are struggling to drive the changes brought by multiculturalism into their societies, we managed it better than others,” says Johnston.

All the experts interviewed agreed on the fact that this result was possible because of one of the most important values that has always distinguished Canada in the world: inclusion.

“In Europe when you are an immigrant, you become a citizen, you are just like the others,” says Rohani.

Johnston, however, feels that some recent immigration policies may undermine this “framework of inclusion.” When asked whether immigration has shifted from a nation-building goal to one of economic growth, Johnston had this to say:

“In the case of temporary workers who emigrate for a limited time and don’t get to participate in the political and social life of the country, it would be harder to accept and follow the Canadian model of integration in the world.”

The idea of diversity in Vancouver has always seemed paradoxical to me for this reason: Vancouver is home to many different ethnicities and cultures; however, these seem to be largely segregated into separate enclaves and neighbourhoods.

This then leads me to consider the follow-up question of whether this “mosaic” of cultural diversity, as it is often referred to in the Canadian context, offers more than a cultural assimilation or “melting pot” approach.

When we think about Vancouver as one of the most multicultural and diverse cities in the country it’s important to consider how this diversity is represented in the social and geographical makeup of the city and what kind of diversity this suggests.

Growing up in Vancouver, I learned to distinguish between neighbourhoods based on their dominant ethnicity, and I found I could explain my cultural background simply by listing a few activities I participated in. There is an understanding among residents of Metro Vancouver, much like the well-known attitude of New Yorkers, that the neighbourhood in which you live says something about who you are.

In 2011 the Vancouver Sun created an online interactive map, which outlined ethnic enclaves in the Lower Mainland, notably Chinese Richmond, South Asian Surrey and Filipino Burnaby. Within Vancouver proper there are also similar neighbourhoods defined by their ethnic makeup such as Ladie’s Chinese Commercial Drive and Greek West Broadway.

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Although I was born and raised in Vancouver, my paternal family immigrated from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my maternal family from Croatia and my 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Keeping Welsh traditions alive

by CURTIS SEUFERT

True to its traditions of song and poetry, in association with the Vancouver Welsh Society, the Welsh community will once again be presenting the Vancouver Men’s Welsh Choir performing “Sounds of Christmas.” The performance will include traditional carols and other holiday songs. This event is being held on Dec. 8 at the Surrey Arts Centre as part of Surrey Civic Theatres’ “Surrey Spectacular Series.”

While the Vancouver Welsh Society has strong ties to the men’s choir, they do more than just collaborate with the choir, having a long history on their own. The Society was established more than a century ago in 1907 and has since been promoting and encouraging those who are from or who have family from Wales, to celebrate and learn more about their Welsh culture and heritage.

Welsh history in Vancouver

The Society claims guardianship of the history of Welsh migration to British Columbia. Eifion Williams, the Society’s historian, recounts that Welsh immigration was tied heavily to British Columbia’s economic growth in the mid-20th century.

“The earliest Welsh immigrants came to Western Canada to participate in the fur trade and there was a large influx during the Cariboo gold rush… Vancouver blossomed later, following its selection as the terminus of the transcontinental railroad, following which there were several building booms,” says Williams.

Williams notes that many Welsh immigrants prospered through various economic avenues on the West Coast of opportunity, from Columbia’s economic growth in the mid-20th century.

Wondering about Wales

Though Wales shares an island with England and most of Scotland, Neysa Haq, leader of a Welsh choral group named the Cambrian Hall, location of the Vancouver Welsh Society.

The Vancouver Men’s Welsh Choir will perform Dec. 9.

Cambrian Hall, location of the Vancouver Welsh Society.

Though Wales is even its own country with its own language and culture. “I find that many people have absolutely no idea who or what the Welsh are. They seem to know the Irish and Scots are different, they make more noise than us.”

An important part of Welsh culture, in particular, is the language. The Society is associated with other Welsh groups that deal with language such as The Dylan Thomas Circle which centers around works of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas. The Vancouver Men’s Male Choir sings a variety of genres of songs, from show tunes to sea shanties (work songs organized on merchant sailing ships). Some other established groups are The Vancouver Men’s Welsh Choir, and the Cambrian Circle Singers.

Haqq notes that until as recently as 1914, there were still many in Wales only that spoke Welsh, a Brythonic branch of the Celtic language. Welsh is the oldest living European language.

“We are the Celtic group who have actually held on to our language,” Haqq says.

In a move to help keep Welsh language alive and well in Vancouver, Antoine Minard, vice president of the Society, teaches free weekly classes for the Society.

Indeed, while many in the club are either Welsh or have family that are Welsh, Minard emphasizes that the club welcomes those who are interested in Welsh culture even if they don’t have a Welsh background.

“In the past, we have held esteddfod (poetry festivals), fielded rugby teams, and had trips around the Lower Mainland. We invite anyone with an interest in the Welsh community to come along and join,” says Minard.

For more information on “Sounds of Christmas,” visit www.vwmc.ca.

For more on the Vancouver Welsh Society and their events, visit www.vwlshsociety.com.
In an interview for The Source, Teresa Wat, Minister for International Trade and the Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism, talks about multiculturalism in Canada based on her personal experience.

Wat believes that communication between groups is essential in promoting multiculturalism. “We should take advantage of the leverage of diverse communities as essential to promote the economy,” she says.

Wat left journalism to engage in politics, motivated by what she believes would be the wish of her late husband. The two both studied journalism together in Hong Kong. “My husband would always say, ‘You do not do just one thing in life.’ One has to have a colourful life and give back to the community.”

Through the geographic lens Wat says Canada was the first country to adopt multiculturalism as an official policy in 1971. “The whole country embraces multiculturalism,” says Wat. “Vancouver and Toronto stick out because we both are diverse communities, but we are different in terms of ethnicity. Vancouver is located on the Pacific Rim, so more Asian countries intend to come to Vancouver. I can give you some figures: 17.4 per cent from China, 12.2 from India, and then the Philippines, Korea and Malaysia.”

Promoting international trade Wat still has professional, political and family ties with Hong Kong where she grew up, and feels she can use them to promote international trade. “For a local Canadian, it’s difficult to promote exporting to Asia, because they do not speak the languages; they do not know how the system works; but if a Chinese and local Canadian work together, I can help them because I know how to do business in Asia,” says Wat.

Wat has been organizing various round tables with Chinese, she first came to Canada, although she had a MA in Communications from the University of Hawaii and was fully bilingual, she could not get any responses to her job inquiries— even for jobs requiring little to no qualifications or experience.

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Minister Teresa Wat on Multiculturalism

by JALLEH KERMANSHAI

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Cultural understanding — a must Wat believes cross-cultural understanding is improving. When

Punjabi, Korean, Japanese and Filipino communities in order to promote Canadian exporting to Asia. “This is how I see multiculturalism: it is not that we are not continuing to celebrate multiculturalism through festivals or programs to eliminate racism... but we want to leverage the multicultural community to promote the economy,” says Wat.

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Despite all the excitement about the defeat of the Harper government, in B.C. the political status quo still seems unmovable. Riddled with scandals, and having weathered many dips in popularity over nearly 15 years in office, the B.C. Liberals and Christy Clark nevertheless seem relatively secure in power.

With a year and a half until the next provincial election, the battle lines are already starting to take shape. For opponents of the B.C. government and supporters of the B.C. NDP, a decade and a half out of power and still reeling from a shocking loss in 2013, there are reasons to be cautiously optimistic.

The first encouraging sign from the NDP is their renewed willingness to take the gloves off with the B.C. Liberals. Under new leader John Horgan, the party no longer hedges or softens their criticism as much. Back when Carole James was in charge, the NDP always seemed to be “concerned” about government measures, rather than actually opposed to them. Under Adrian Dix, the party overdid the collegiality in an effort to avoid a war of personal attacks. Politeness didn’t pay, as the Liberals took low and cheap shots at Dix before and during the 2013 campaign. Horgan looks more like he’s enjoying himself than any recent NDP leader, and he is not above taking a gratuitous snarky shot at the premier on social media or working on green jobs and clean energy. This changed PowerBC early in order to soften potential attacks against their opposition to the Site C mega-project, which the B.C. Liberals are proceeding to build despite court challenges by First Nations and anger from local residents in the Peace region.

The alternatives outlined in PowerBC are encouraging steps in the right direction. The NDP calls for a province-wide expansion of retrofit programs, which would create jobs while boosting energy efficiency. And it calls for new investments in developing the province’s vast potential for new renewable sources of energy.

The NDP made the PowerBC announcement at the B.C. Institute of Technology, praised by clean energy advocates, and highlighted by clean energy provided by B.C. Power.

The NDP also raised one important concern: “By far the most efficient way to meet B.C.’s future energy needs is to save energy now. Here at BCIT we showed that it is possible to achieve a 75 per cent reduction in energy demand with deep building retrofits.”

The Sierra Club of B.C. also welcomed PowerBC, although they raised one important concern: We commend the opposition for recognizing that clean energy can provide jobs for B.C. families while protecting our environment. In fact clean energy can support many more jobs than those in the oil and gas sector. A future with 100 per cent renewable energy is 100 per cent possible. However what goes unmentioned in this plan is also notable, specifically fracking and LNG.

It is not possible to be a climate leader and promote fracking and LNG exports.

Indeed. Premier Clark often gives the impression her only plan is LNG, spending much of her time and energy boosting the potential for new fossil fuel exports from B.C. PowerBC is an encouraging first step in a different direction for the province, toward a more diversified economic vision and a more rational approach in a world threatened by climate catastrophe.

Over the next year and a half, it is essential that labour, environmental groups and all of civil society work on clarifying and implementing this vision of a province working on green jobs and powered by clean energy.

PowerBC: NDP plan calls for more clean energy, green jobs

Doris O’Keefe

The Source
Finding the recipe: spit, roe and pigments in traditional First Nations paint

by Simon Yee

The spit was the key. That part of life was the most commonly used wood and was used to craft many things such as totem poles, canoe paddles, and the many various pigments they used included red ochre, bone black, green earth. However, in the late 19th century, First Nations incorporated European paintings, thus leading to the development of their painting tradition.

"First, Nations would choose what was the easiest method, because the main goal was to finish the objects, not to maintain the techniques," says Lee. "They would go for what was most convenient." So, as part of their class project on "wood finishing of the past" suggested by their course professor, Philip Evans, Lee and Lube sought to rediscover this indigenous knowledge. From their research, they knew the ingredients First Nations would have used, but it did not explain the method and technique of how to mix and create paint from those ingredients.

After a few failed attempts with other approaches, such as alcohol and water, the method of Anthropology's Bill McMullan suggested they try chewing salmon eggs. This tip provided them with the best results. From the salmon-roe/saliva mixture, especially the red and black colours, showed the perfect resemblance to artifacts on display at MOA. Lee and Lube surmised that one of the saliva enzymes, like amylase, plays an important role in breaking down or softening the salmon roe membrane.

"Hopefully our research, such as determining ratio of saliva and roe and pigment mixture, among other data, can prove helpful," says Lube.

To follow up their research, Lee and Lube are going to examine how the paint will fade over time by exposing the painted wood to the weather outdoors for several months. "The paint [on the cedar wood] is currently very rough and grainy, but maybe after being exposed outdoors, bigger particles would come off, leaving a smoother texture and perhaps will provide a visual appearance similar to those artifacts at the museum," says Lube.

Pros and cons Because the finishes were made using natural pigments, Lee and Lube think that on an environmental level, the choices they made will be made available to the public on the MOA and/or the UBC Library Archive.

Work in progress: Ph.D. candidate studies Chinese integration

by Florence Hwang

A doctoral student is challenging the way Canadians perceive how Chinese immigrants adapt to life in Canada. By comparing cultural practices in countries, particularly in terms of psychological and behavioural changes.

Yidan Zhu, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education at OISE at University of Toronto, participated in a recent conference for the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association. "The purpose of Canadian immigration policy has been shifted from long-term nation-building to short-term economic development," says Zhu.

Working on an ethnography, in an immigration settlement organization in Vancouver, Zhu's goal is to raise questions about the integration or adjustment of Chinese immigrants in Canada; and highlight the unequal social and political relations in their daily lives in Canada.

Cultural adjustments Zhu is critical of the fourth-stage process of cultural adjustment for international students in English-speaking countries.

"Cultural adjustment should be understood as a complex psychological and social activity that significantly impacts students' identity construction, career choice and language learning practice," says Zhu.

Her research also looks into how Chinese immigrants, as adult learners, reconstruct their identities; reorient to adopt Western ways of thinking and skills; and learn English as a second language through their practices with the local and global society.

Zhu's research also looks into how they relocate, restructure knowledge, adapt the cultural gaps, and produce their own knowledge in the multicultural and multilingual society of Canada.

"By examining Chinese immigrants' embodied experiences with Canadian local society, such as walking, cycling, traveling activities, etc, I will try to understand how these changes among new immigrants' identity construction, language learning and embodied practices in a global and transnational context," says Zhu.

She notes the patterns have changed in terms of the Chinese adaptation in Canada and varies from temporal-spatial to economic patterns. "In the temporal-spatial pattern, the changing Chinese communities or neighbourhoods in Greater Vancouver that offer spaces for newcomers' settlement practice become the major issue," says Zhu.

She focuses on the South Vancouver Neighborhood House, which provides settlement and learning short-term programs for Chinese newcomers. After several weeks, Zhu says, they move on.

"Therefore, the temporariness makes settlement even more difficult and inconsistent," says Zhu. "In the economic pattern, the Chinese adaptation to the Canadian life becomes much faster due to the globalized and neoliberal re-structuring."

"One example of how Chinese adapt to Canadian life is in the change of diet. Most Chinese immigrants don't really like western-style food, so during the identity reconstruction process they start to learn western-style eating habits."

"The fact that they don't change their eating style, but also their lifestyle in order to integrate to the local neighborhood, I think is very interesting. Due to their hard work, she found many Chinese newcomers changed their living styles to become a good neighbor in the community, such as cleaning their backyard and recycling the garbage."

Negotiating adjustments Zhu feels how Chinese make adjustments through psychological cultural practices is not a step-by-step or linear process.

"It could be understood as a 'negotiating' process. In terms of psychological and cultural adjustment, I think one of the most important things is identity (re)construction," says Zhu.

Zhu says Chinese newcomers have a strong sense of identity, where home is, and what their purpose is in settling in Canada. The recognition of their long struggle and mental work that lead an identity reconstructing process that will largely interact with the other societies and the face they portray lives in Canada," says Zhu.

She hopes her studies could provide policymakers with multiple-level governments' references to rethink their multicultural policies by taking a standpoint from Chinese newcomers, international students, migrant workers or Chinese-Canadians. The Source
When migrants couldn’t afford to live in the city, they moved into the suburbs.

Phinder Dulai, poet

“In Victoria, there’s been a process of inversion where the downtown has transformed. What used to represent the downtown such as ethnic enclaves, industries and things we associate with the downtown have migrated to the periphery, to places like Surrey,” says Strom.

“It is this theme of inversion that is central to the symposium,” according to Strom, the old traditional downtown is more akin to a modern suburb. Because of the nature of migration, diversity has flourished and the idea of the white middle-class suburb has changed in the last 200 years and early 21st century. “Writers and artists are very interested in capturing this dynamic of inversion,” says Strom.

A related theme of the symposium is the concept of the super suburb, which is a suburb with a population that exceeds 250,000. “The one thing that is really important about the super suburb is the demographic profile and the profile of new communities that settle in the place. When one says inverse, it’s almost claiming a peripheral space within a post-colonial context. When migrants couldn’t afford to live in the city, they moved into the suburbs,” explains Dulai.

“They talk about emancipation. And that is a part of celebration,” explains Dulai. “What their specific subject matter is and how they speak to it is totally different.”

One of the writers in the symposium is Sudha Binning, who moved to Canada from India in 1965. His latest work, Fauji Banta Singh, is a collection of short stories that relate the experience of Vancouver’s Sikh community.

“One of his stories spans the Downtown Eastside and Surrey, and there’s this relationship between the two places,” says Strom.

Voseen Dawan, who moved to Surrey from the UK 10 years ago, talks about everyday realities, about a big-box store clerk and other labourers in a post-industrial world. In a similar vein, John Armstrong details his experiences working at kitchen processing plants and industrial farms in his collection, Wiper.

“A whole other group of writers who are featured in this symposium really look at this space of adolescence and memories of their experiences,” adds Strom.

Judy McInnes is one such author. Strom points out that her book, Snitch, is largely based on her experiences growing up in Surrey.

For more information, visit www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/12284.aspx.

Artists and writers from across the South of Fraser region will gather later this month to examine and in many cases celebrate the diversity of the region as part of a symposium called Sound Thinking: Voicing the City In/verse.

Surrey poet and symposium co-convenor Phinder Dulai explains, “It’s about the uttered voice; it’s about the spoken word. It’s about tension; it’s about a response to the current and living moment,” he says.

Jordan Strom, curator of the Surrey Art Gallery and symposium co-convenor, adds that the project is presented in conjunction with a series of art exhibitions called Views from the Southbank.

“Producers are using the written word and the spoken word to articulate their experience here,” he says.

Inverting the city

“The idea of inversion and the idea of inverse is a play on the verse in poetry,” says Strom, explaining the symposium’s title.

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Creating art as a vehicle for communication to help transcend boundaries is the focus of the contemporary art exhibition presented by local Ismaili Muslim artists in Yaletown’s Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre (Nov. 23–Dec. 1). The show, Odyssey: Past Meets Present, features 15 artists who explore, in their art works, how their past influences their present. While they are all local artists, they have diverse backgrounds and roots in countries like Uganda, Afghanistan, Pakistan or Switzerland.

“I asked the artists to look into their past and find out what influences them today and how that shows up in their art work,” says Taslim Samji, the exhibition’s curator.

It resulted in a huge variety of topics, ranging from common themes in history like love, lust and creed to artists reviewing political conditions, such as injustice done to women.

Personal motifs can be found in the art works as well, such as the pieces from an Afghan artist who draws portraits of young children and people from his home country.

“Ismaili Muslim artists draw on the past and present by
Sandra Zimmermann

Thanks to the diversity of the artists, Samji anticipates the exhibition to connect with all kinds of people. Since the exhibition takes place in Yaletown, the curator expects many Vancouverites living in the downtown area to visit the show, as well as people from within the Ismaili community.

“We also promote it within the community and they will for sure come to support us,” too,” she says.

Odyssey: Past Meets Present is Samji’s second community exhibition as a curator in the Roundhouse Community Centre after Intersections in 2013. While some of the artists from back then are the same as in “Odyssey,” Samji explains it was her goal to find new artists for the 2015 exhibition, which is why two-thirds of the participants are new.

“I want this community of artists to grow,” says Samji, who hopes the artists will connect among each other and possibly collaborate in the future.

Art creates understanding

The pieces of the interdisciplinary exhibition include digital media, short film, painting, sculpture, pottery, and more.

“So many themes that come up in the art of the Ismaili Muslims are also common to other communities,” she says. “Like gender bias, love, political conditions. All are common around the globe.”

She hopes to show that commonality can be found even within diversity and to create understanding among different communities.

“When we don’t understand people that’s when they feel foreign to us and there is fear,” she says, adding she wishes to build bridges between communities.

For more information, please visit www.roundhouse.ca.
The Vancouver Turkish Film Festival is returning for the second time this Dec. 4–7. This year’s VTFF is dedicated to women filmmakers, with 14 of the 29 films presented directed by women. The Vancity Theatre will be hosting the festival, which will feature twice as many films as last year.

With the support of the Turkish Ministry of Culture of Tourism as principal funder, this year’s VTFF has nearly doubled the number of films in its programming compared to last year. The Turkish film industry is so prolific, says Hakan Burcuoglu, founder of VTFF, that the festival requires a large selection of films in order to fairly represent the industry. “There are too many good films to share. We just can’t help it,” he says.

An homage to women filmmakers

“I haven’t yet seen another country that comes quite as close to having such a representation of women filmmakers on the international stage,” says Burcuoglu. “This is astonishing for Turkey, let alone any country.”

Their gala film Not So Far Away was directed by Turkan Soray, a prolific actress, who is also the most recognized face of Yesilcam, the golden age of Turkish cinema, says Burcuoglu. “MOTHERLAND by Senem Tuzen and Until I Lose My Breath by Emine Emel Balci are the two stand-outs that I think everybody should come out and see,” says Burcuoglu.

The allure of Turkish cinema

“There is no denying the universal success of Turkish cinema—it has a certain aesthetic, which people have come to love, and more importantly, expect,” says Burcuoglu. The strength of Turkish films, he says, is to tell “grounded, humble stories that resonate universally,” and do so with few ingredients. “If cinema is indeed considered the art of subtraction, we excel at it. Vancouver cinephiles are seasoned—they have good taste and high expectations,” he says.

A growing success

From the start, Burcuoglu wanted to bring Turkish cinema to Vancouver’s cinephiles. “As a Turkish-Canadian cineaste who harbours a profound love for Turkish cinema, I always felt it was my responsibility to facilitate a platform that would introduce the best of contemporary Turkish cinema to this beautiful city,” he says.

The table was set,” says Burcuoglu of last year’s first VTFF, which took place in December of 2014. “Naturally, we were unsure (and quite nervous) as to how it was going to be received. In the end Vancouverites gave us an astounding reception with seventy per cent occupancy and five sell-out shows,” he says.

VTFF has now become a part of the Golden Horn Film Festival family—a not-for-profit organization based out of Montreal whose mandate is to showcase Turkish cinema across major Canadian cities. After successful events in Montreal and Toronto, VTFF constitutes the third and final leg of the 2015 Golden Horn event calendar.

For more information or to get tickets, please visit the Vancouver Turkish Film Festival website: www.vtff.org.
SURREY MUSEUM
1770 – 56 Avenue
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @SurreyMuseum

MUSEUM INFO
Surrey Museum – Explore our new interactive Kids Gallery, try your hand at a new craft in the Textile Centre, register your children for programs that blend play with history and science. Hours: Tuesdays-Fridays 9:00am-4:00pm; Saturdays, 10:00am-NEW! Open Sundays, 12noon-5pm starting Oct 14. Admission sponsored by Friends Society.

EXHIBITIONS

Amazing Optical Illusions Before 3D movies there were optical illusions like thaumatrope and view finders. Explore hands on optical illusions like buoyant beeshives and Rockabily rolled bangs from an expert stylist, then capture your new look in our vintage photo booth. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. 1 session $18 (12-15yrs). Thursday, November 26, 6:00pm-9:00pm.

Curious Tykes: Gold Rush Adventure Eureka, what a time your child will have to hunt for gold. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. 1 session $11 (3-5yrs). Friday, November 27, 10:00am-12noon.

HISTORIC STEWART FARM
17723 Crescent Road, Surrey
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @StewartFarms

HISTORIC STEWART FARM INFO
Tour the 1894 farmhouse with a costumed guide and imagine pioneer life at the turn of the 19th century. Bring your easel or camera to capture the scenery, and enjoy a walk on the scenic grounds. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-4:00pm; Saturday, 12noon-5pm. Closed on Sundays, holidays and stat holidays. Entrance by donation.

PROGRAMS
Pro-D Day Camp: Toys & Games Young toymakers create their own vintage toys and play Victoria. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. 1 session $15 (9-12yrs). Friday, November 27, 9:00am-3:00pm.

Felted Christmas Ornaments Kids watch the magic happen when they combine colorful wool and friction to make their own felted Christmas ornaments. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. 1 session $15 (9-12yrs). Thursday, November 26, 6:00pm-9:00pm.

FARM INFO
For further information, visit www.surrey.ca/heritage

SURREY ARCHIVES
1750 – 65 Avenue
Info 604-592-6499
www.surrey.ca/heritage

War Veterans’ Stories Local World War I and II secrets.Wednesday, November 26, 6:00pm-9:00pm.

SURREY MUSEUM
1770 – 56 Avenue
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @SurreyMuseum

DISCOVERY SATURDAY:
ROARING TWENTIES
This family-friendly event is the bee’s knees! Jazz babies of all ages will enjoy swing dance performances and 1920s music, and make a feathered head piece or snappy bowtie to look the part. Saturday, November 28, 10:00am-4:00pm. All ages, by donation.

Very Vintage: Hair Affair Learn how to pull off fashionable finger waves, boycott beehives and Rockabily rolled bangs from an expert stylist, then capture your new look in our vintage photo booth. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. 1 session $15 (16yrs+). Friday, November 27, 10:00am-12noon.

“Is your opinion of other races or religions really yours?” That is the question that the movie Bonjour Ji poses. The film shows how people’s interactions are influenced by our own perceptions, which are in turn based on assumptions. The movie is being presented at the fifth annual Vancouver International South Asian Film Festival (VISAFF) from Nov 27-29.

“Today the world is shrinking. We are watching movies from other cultures in different languages and that’s great. Divinity is a reality. It inspires us, ignites words to millions of people. This is one of the common points of view shared by the team of Bonjour Ji. “Today the world is shrinking. We are watching movies from other cultures in different languages and that’s great. Divinity is a reality. It inspires us, ignites perceptions them. The film is about the assumptions we hold about people from other religions, races and communities, and how this pre-judging impacts our interactions with other people. Difficulty helps you to be awake, aware and alive. I am impressed with how stories from the whole world are similar in their differences,” says the French actor Ben Meneghini who

**Diversity always remains the key word**

Movies are a medium used to express yourself and to spread your passion to others, to make people feel good about their own culture, and to show diversity and how important it is to preserve the stories of people in their own country. “Bonjour means ‘hello’ in French, and the word ‘ji’ is used in Hindi and Urdu to show respect to the individual whose name it is appended to. ‘Bonjour ji’ could be translated as “Hello Mr. Sir.”

Kassoana chose this title to illustrate how French and Indian people show respect and humanity to each other. “In a way, it symbolizes unity in diversity,” says Kassoana.

**By HAKIM FERBIA**

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**By HAKIM FERBIA**
**Seeing the beauty in the mundane**

*by Sophia Delafontaine*

An established photographer who focuses on the concept of Zen, David Young is a contributing artist in the current District Foyer Gallery exhibition, alongside artist Frances Solar.

Young's love of nature was enforced by a childhood spent in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where he was influenced by his surroundings. Since obtaining his first camera at the age of 12, Young has been expanding his artistic eye for colours within natural elements, compositions and textures.

**The allure of the everyday**

Looking for beauty and meaning in everyday life, Young focuses on the concept of Zen in his photography. The artist has been a Zen Buddhist for many years.

"Zen is a religion of everyday life, based upon the belief that meaning and beauty can be found in ordinary events and surroundings," he says.

While the majority of photographers tend to look for dramatic and piercing shots (such as action shots), Young focuses on everyday subjects that may be overlooked: reflections, driftwood, rock faces and arbutus bark.

"I like these subjects because every time I take a walk near our home, new photographic opportunities present themselves," says Young.

The photographer draws much of his inspiration from aspects of everyday life. He gives the example of rocks, boulders, caves and driftwood washed up on the beach. Young explains how these things can look different depending upon the amount of light, whether something is wet or dry, or the various types of reflections that occur as a result of wind or light on the water's surface.

"If one looks closely enough, an uprooted tree can be a natural gallery with a variety of interesting areas. Often these areas may be no more than several inches in diameter, but when framed by a camera, they can have abstract painterly qualities that are quite beautiful."

To make an impact on people and the way they view the world through his work is an important goal for the artist. People frequently ask Young what he is doing when taking a close-up photo of a tree or rock.

"After I explain, they say that world around us blossoms to reveal the beauty of nature, enhanced by the artistic eye," adds Young.

The North Shore is the best place you could choose to exhibit artwork with a Zen theme. Young sees this venue as appropriate for his work's purpose.

"My photographs will be seen by ordinary people going about the business of everyday life rather than by those who go to galleries to see professional art," explains Young.

Young believes that beauty and meaning can be found in mundane activities and surroundings, which fits with his Zen philosophy.

**The takeaway**

Young has a positive expectation and outlook on the potential audience response to his work.

"It will give me encouragement to find new ways to exhibit my photographs and to make my philosophy known to a wider audience," says Young.

Ultimately, Young hopes to inspire others through his photographs to see the ordinary in an extraordinary way. And he hopes his audience will be stimulated to look more closely at ordinary objects in their environments.

This year’s District Foyer Gallery exhibition takes place from Nov. 4 to Jan. 5, 2016 at the North Vancouver District Hall. For more information, please visit www.nvarts council.ca.
November 24–December 8, 2015

by JAKE McGRAIL

Brigitta Kocsis: Universal Gravitation
Oct. 26–Dec. 27
McGill Library
4595 Albert St., Burnaby

Kocsis’ recent series of work is filled with mechanics, human forms and wonderful abstract elements. Her pieces reflect technology’s interaction with the physical, material world. The exhibition allows the audience to drift between the wonderfully ambiguous shapes and forms.

* * *

In Focus 2015
Nov. 26
The Imperial
319 Main St., Vancouver
www.infocusvancouver.com

Celebrate the talented photographers on hand, and enjoy a night of live music, food, beer and wine. Purchase beautiful photos and apparel with all the proceeds going to charities. For more information, please visit their website.

* * *

Vetta Chamber Music Presents introducing the Next Generation
Nov. 26–27
West Point Grey United Church
4595 W 8th Ave., Vancouver
www.vettamusic.com

One of Vetta’s missions is to provide opportunities for emerging professional musicians. Twenty-six year old Talissa Blackman will be on stage at this performance, which will showcase the pianist’s great skill and talent.

* * *

Raven Spirit Dance and The Dance Centre Present Earth Song
Nov. 26–28
Scotiabank Dance Centre
677 Davie St., Vancouver
www.ravenspiritdance.com

This double bill of contemporary Aboriginal dance features Michelle Olson’s Northern Journey and Starr Muranko’s Spirit of Earth. Both works are inspired by and express the land and art we carry within us.

* * *

Arts Club Theatre Company Presents Peter and the Starcatcher
Nov. 26–Dec. 27
Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre
162 W 1st Ave., Vancouver
www.artstickets.com

Follow the journey of the beloved Peter Pan from a lonely orphan to a hero. Watch as Peter finds Neverland and fights greedy pirates while he and his friends protect the magical Starstuff.

* * *

SOS Children’s Gingerbread Village
Nov. 27–Dec. 31
The Spirit Gallery
Grouse Mountain
www.sosbc.org

As they have done for 21 years now, SOS Children’s Village BC will be turning The Spirit Gallery at Grouse Mountain into an enchanting village of extraordinary gingerbread houses. Vote for your favourite house out of the dozens of jaw-dropping creations.

Canyon Lights at Capilano Suspension Bridge
Nov. 27-Jan. 3
Capilano Suspension Bridge
2755 Capilano Rd., North Vancouver
www.capbridge.com

Canyon Lights is back for its 10th season as it once again lights up the bridge, Treetops Adventure, Cliffwalk, the rainforest and the Canyon with festive and enchanting lights. Visit the world’s tallest Christmas tree, and decorate gingerbread cookies during your stay!

* * *

Elements with Metaphor
Nov. 28
Arts Club Gallery
808 Richards St., Vancouver
www.artstickets.com

Metaphor is a crew of hip-hop artists who build community empowerment through their performances. Elements combines poetry, rap, beatbox, percussion and much more to create a single great performance.

* * *

Jubilate Vocal Ensemble Presents Winter Light 2015
Nov. 28
Canadian Memorial Church
1825 W 16th Ave, Vancouver
www.jubilate.ca

The Jubilate Vocal Ensemble is back for their third holiday themed performance. Join the choir as they navigate the dark and cold season with a warm and upbeat performance that will have you smiling.

* * *

Family Day at PDA: Lantern Making and All Things Small
Nov. 29
Place des Arts
1328 W 8th Ave., Coquitlam
www.placevedesarts.ca

Bring the whole family down to Place des Arts to take in beautiful art, participate in drop-in workshops for all ages inspired by artists and create your own lantern in preparation for the annual celebration of light.

* * *

18th Annual European Union Film Festival
Nov. 27–Dec. 9
The Cinematheque
1131 Howe St., Vancouver
www.artsclub.com

The annual showcase of films made across Europe is back with the largest film collection yet. Watch entries from all 28 members of the European Union, with a huge variety of films for everyone.

* * *

5KUDF
Dec. 3
Vancouver Convention Centre Pacific Terrace
1055 Canada Place, Vancouver
www.5kudf.com

Take part in a run or walk along five kilometers of the Vancouver Seawall, hosted by the International Diabetes Federation, to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle in preventing and controlling diabetes.

* * *

Rogers Santa Claus Parade
Dec. 6
Downtown Vancouver
925 West Georgia St, Vancouver
www.santaclausparade.ca

Kick off the holiday season with the 12th annual Rogers Santa Claus parade! Watch marching bands, dance troupes and festive floats roll past, and get into the spirit of giving with monetary and non-perishable food donations to the Vancouver Food Bank society.

* * *

Shaping identity: Local, regional and national society.

According to Johnston, this could even be a source of worry. “The uptake for citizenship, so far, has been very high. It gave to a large body of the population the possibility to participate in the decision-making process, which is quite a big thing,” he says. “It created a lot of leaders and communities and that helped them to feel as active parts of the society.”

Gregory Millard, chair and facult}

ulty member of the Department of Political Science at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, feels that the concerns about Canadian values is exaggerated. “These values aren’t changing so much and the challenges that Canada is facing today aren’t so different from the ones faced during the 70s,” he says.

Shaping identity through public policies

Millard explains that debates and the struggle to find general consensus on sensitive topics like gender parity, sexual habits or religious issues are normal in every country. He feels, however, that Canada today is divided by a big debate: liberal versus intolerants. Reflecting on how Canadian society was divided during the golden age of Liberalism, referring to Pierre Trudeau’s time in office during the late 1960s to the early 80s, Millard says:

“We often romanticize those years, but even then there was an exclusive Canada opposed to a more open and welcoming country,” says Millard.

According to the Rohani, Millard and Johnston, what seems to be changing is the way Canadians identify themselves as a nation, with institutions playing a major role in balancing the lack of cultural and religious homogeneity that less diverse countries seem to have.

“All the values that our liberal democracy expresses – freedom of speech, choice and movement – are at the basis of our multicultural society,” says Rohani.

“Public policies are also a way of defining Canadian character,” says Millard, “For example, the health care system makes us feel Canadian.”

National symbols and unity

Johnston adds that symbols are also becoming increasingly important for first and second-generation immigrants.

“We are a kind of supermarket. We have symbols for everyone.” Aside from the flag, which was a great political success, every ethnic community finds here something familiar with their country of origin. An example comes from the last Remembrance day,” says Johnston.

On Remembrance Day, Victory Square in Downtown Vancouver was full of people, young and old and of different origins. Together, they celebrated an event that had much to do with Canada’s association with the British Empire.

“For people who come from ex-British colonies, it is easy to recognize themselves. The police uniform here is similar to the British one. The architecture of some of the public buildings can look familiar. All of these things help us feel united. Johnston says.

Johnston also says we shouldn’t underestimate the importance of sports in bringing Canadians together as a cohesive unit and keeping traditions alive.

“Think about hockey, which is very Canadian,” he says. “If you go to a hockey game today you’ll see a great diversity of parents with their children on the ice. It is quite something. Some sports are better than others in achieving these results, and our hockey is becoming one of them.”

* * *

Values” from page 1

an system of values.”

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Gregory Millard, chair and facult}
Ah, yes, Vancouver in November. The weather outside is frightful –
(from Glamorgan cows, now a
Wales as my next assignment
was a delightful surprise.

Selsig Morgannwg – Glamorgan Sausages

Recipe by Jen dela Luna

Ingredients
• 200 g Welsh cheddar or
caerphilly, grated/crumbled
• 150 g Breadcrumbs, plus more
for breading
• 1 tsp Powdered English mustard (Colman’s is optimum!)
• A few sprigs of fresh thyme
• 2 Eggs
• Salt and freshly cracked
black pepper

Method
1. Heat up some oil or butter in a small pan and sweat the leeks
until softened. Keep this on a lower heat so the leeks don’t
brown. Once done, set aside.
2. In a large bowl, mix the cheese, breadcrumbs, powdered
mustard, and thyme. Be sure to only get the thyme leaves,
not the twigs!
3. In a separate bowl, crack two eggs and one egg yolk, and set
the third egg white aside. Mix salt and pepper into the eggs,
then pour this mix over the cheese.
4. Stir to incorporate, followed
by the leeks. The eggs along
with the warmth of the leeks
will cause the mixture to
bind. If you pick up some of
this “dough,” it should be able
to hold its shape unaided. If it
requires some more moisture,
add a splash of milk.
5. With clean hands, scoop out
golf ball sized chunks of the
mixture and shape into logs or
patties – whichever your pref-
erence.
6. Using the egg white you
set aside earlier as coating,
dip each shape into the egg
white, followed by a coating
of breadcrumbs, and repeat
for all the pieces (this recipe
ought to yield approximately
20).
7. Set these aside in the refrigera-
tor for at least 15 minutes just
to let them set and firm up.
8. In a skillet on medium-high
heat, fry the patties – no
more than 1.5 minutes on each
side, until golden brown,
then transfer onto paper
towels to drain excess oil.
Serve immediately!

And since we have the sausages – Let us eat! Let us eat! Let us eat!

Human Structures

Human Structures, a sculpture by Jonathan Borofsky, is de-
picted here in False Creek’s Hinge Park facing Habitat Is-
land, an urban sanctuary for lo-
cal flora and fauna. B.C. Place is
in the background lit with the colours of the French flag. The sculpture is both physical and metaphysical. Physically, it’s composed of 64 painted and moulded galvanized steel fig-
ures. It’s seven metres tall and weighs 2,560 kilograms.

All the figures are connected
physically, and by implication
throughout their uniformity but dif-
terent colours speak to our com-
mon humanity, despite differen-
cies of race, beliefs and gender.

Borofsky’s art strives to empha-
sitize the positive and buoyant
aspect of human nature espe-
cially in today’s world filled with
adverse events. We have only
to look at B.C. Place in the back-
ground lit up with the colours of
France to stand in solidarity in
the face of the recent massacre
in Paris. This makes Borofsky’s
work all the more poignant. It’s
about diversity and inclusive-
ness – what we need to hold dear,
enrich and celebrate if this world
is ever to change for the better.

Borofsky’s sculpture is part of
the Vancouver Biennale (2014–
2016). Its theme is “Open Bor-
ders/Crossroads Vancouver.”
How perfectly the message of
his sculpture fits in with theme
and location. It’s in a beauti-
fal open setting on False Creek
next to Olympic Village, the
former residence of Olym-
pic Athletes from all over the
world who competed together
peacefully.

Borofsky is a US-based, inter-
nationally acclaimed artist. He
has versions of Human Struc-
tures in San Francisco and Bei-
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