



Bridging
the gap for
Asian elders
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Remembrance Day

It doesn't matter what side you're on

by RIC MOORE

Sung Hak Kim has lived in Canada for three years since coming from South Korea. Kim, executive secretary of the Korean Society of BC, remembers the public and government officials meeting in the national cemetery in Seoul with the format similar to Canada's events – military bands, gun salutes and the placing of wreaths at the base of monuments.

“Although it is not a national holiday, June 6 is Memorial Day and is held to commemorate the men and women who died while

serving in the Korean War,” Kim explains.

After the ceremony is finished, government officials go back to

“After [that], we all watched special movies on television including war movies,” Kim remembers.

Korean and Canadian war veterans in Canada recognize this date with a joint ceremony held in Burnaby Park.

“We didn't have anything like Victory Square in Italy, as we were on the wrong side during the war.

Edda Onesti, Italian immigrant

work while the public visit their family's tombs. Then, families have lunch in their homes and share stories of the bravery of family members who died in the wars. A bow is made in acknowledgement to each deceased person.

Countries outside of the commonwealth conduct memorials for wars and events on dates that are unique to their country's history. June 25, Kim explains, marks the day the Korean War started, resulting in over 2 million civilian casualties. Both

“A lot of South Koreans visit Tofino's Radar Hill on Vancouver Island where a radar station was located during World War II. The Kap'yong Memorial commemorates the involvement of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.”
See “Remembrance Day” page 2 >

Verbatim

Childhood in Vancouver

by KATE KOVALEVA

As someone who grew up both in Canada and Russia, I have witnessed how children are viewed and treated in two very different societies – both as a child and now as an observant adult. I was 10 years old when I arrived to Canada from Russia, and a change seemed to have happened almost overnight.

The way a society views its children depends on many factors. New ideas, popular opinion, religion and culture all play a role. So does time. For instance, according to Patricia Demers' *From Instruction to Delight: an anthology of children's literature to 1850*, there were few books available specifically for children in England in the 1600s. And those tailored to them existed for the primary purpose of spiritual nourishment. By the end of the 17th century, this changed. Supposedly authors and book publishers realized that children loved stories, and the market began to grow with penny books, fairy tales, medieval romances and fables.

Growing up in Russia, I felt that there were strict rules about being obedient, formal and polite with adults. In school, we had to sit with our backs straight, hands crossed on the desk in front. If you wanted to answer a question in class, you would lift your hand so carefully that your elbow still touched the desk. Anything more vigorous and unruly, and you'd be sent far, far away.

Outside though, kids were virtually free to do whatever they wished in their own time. My brother and I happily roamed the streets of our city, playing with stray dogs and building tree houses. Adult supervision was unnecessary – the Soviet Union era had virtually no supervision.
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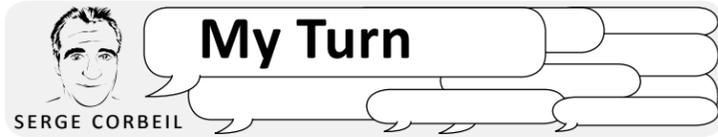


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How to buy an election

In a few days, 240 million American voters will be invited to go to the polls in their respective states to elect their president.

The citizens of the United States of America will make their choice amid a most confused atmosphere, thanks to a slew of advertisements. Those who are not yet under the spell of an increasing and world-wide cynicism will have a tough time resisting it.

Although the name United States of America evokes a regrouping of states united for the common good, and suggests a measure of equality, the reality is quite different. When the time comes to choose the next tenant of the White House, some states carry a lot more weight than others.

In fact, just a handful of them hold the balance of power.

We think here, of course, of Florida and New York, California and Texas, states that represent over a quarter of the Electoral College. These are determining places. Because, let's not forget, whether

it's Barack Obama or Mitt Romney who gets the most votes is irrelevant. What they must do in order to grab the victory is to attain the magic number 270, the number of electors from the Electoral College required to claim majority.

This system has been implemented from the American Constitution by the United States' Founding Fathers in order to reach a compromise between a President chosen by Congress and the one the people favor. They chose a system that highlights both.

Results in at least two of these great states are a given. California will vote for Obama and Texas for Romney. The State of New York will probably go for Obama. His management performance during Hurricane Sandy will serve him well. As for Florida, time will tell.

Still, many observers think that Ohio, with its 18 electors, could readily decide on the fate of the next president. This state has done so in the past 11 presidential

elections. Its electors are particularly fussed over during electoral campaigns. Judging by the explosion of advertising expenses in this state, stakes are high. We can only surmise that its citizens must be fed up with those ads constantly bombarding them.

Imagine for a moment a provincial electoral campaign during which the two main candidates would hog the airwaves. I know that we have our share of electoral ads during campaigns, but we are a far cry from coming anywhere near the ongoing assault of publicity our neighbors down south have to contend with.

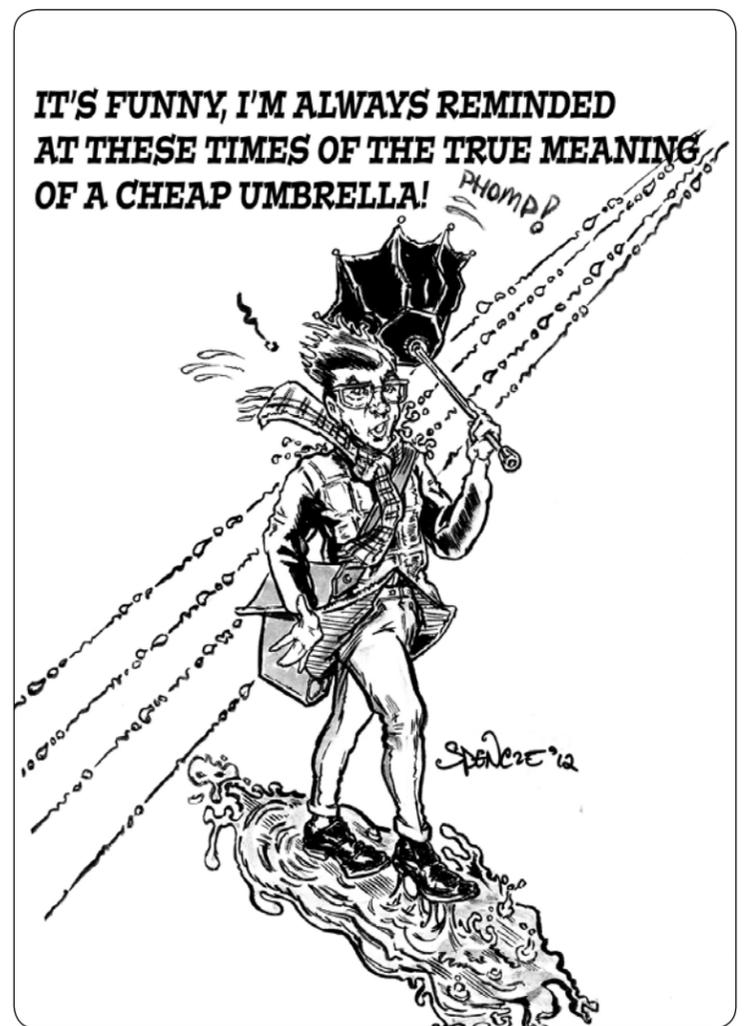
Let's take Ohio as an example. It is said that in the last month alone, 58,000 ads were aired. At 30 seconds each, this means that a single station would have showed nothing but political ads for 20 straight days.

The cost of this seduction campaign: 128 million dollars, apparently. On the national scene, the obscenity of it all is magnified by some 915,000 ads, according to the Wesleyan Media Project.

Some will see signs of a healthy democracy in this. I, for one, see a more disquieting side – the near indecent financial health of American political parties. ✍

Translation Monique Kroeger

Spencie's View



► "Remembrance Day" from page 1
nadian Light Infantry, during the Korean War," Kim states proudly.

Italian Traditions

For the past 62 years, Italy has conducted a ceremonial laying of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Rome's Victoriano monument, the site of official military ceremonies. But this event is commonly regarded by residents and tourists as nei-

della Repubblica is a bigger, more popular ceremony. The festival, held on June 2, pays tribute to the Italian people's vote for a republican government after the Second World War and the fall of fascism.

The event is so popular it's even held in other cities such as New York, where celebrations are an all day event. Onesti is greatly involved in the cultural centre's June 2 celebrations, with approximately 300 people attending each

edge the strength of the military forces rather than remember the fallen soldiers and civilians.

Hakimi goes back frequently for business and feels deeply when still seeing people who were gassed and have missing limbs.

"When walking down the streets, it's always in your face."

He doesn't go to the Vancouver memorials, but he always wears a poppy and contributes to the veteran's fund.

Canadian celebrations

Cameron Cathcart, Chairman of the Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee, states that ceremonies have been a tradition since 1924 at Victory Square.

He says that there has been a spike in Vancouver's attendance since 2004, which is two years after the Canadian military got involved in Afghanistan.

"The fatalities of our soldiers started people thinking about our involvement in past and present wars," says Cathcart.

Remembrance Day on November 11 is acknowledged in Commonwealth countries and their allied countries during the wars. According to Statistic Canada, 2011, the median age in Canada is 40.6 years, and prior to Cathcart's observations in 2004 it seemed less people were able to relate to the two world wars and the Korean War, which ended in 1953. However the tide appears to be turning as now, in greater numbers, we remember our past and present soldiers during Remembrance Day.

Hopefully the spike of people attending ceremonies will continue, as well as the number of countries that participate. If the number of countries Cathcart describes represented at Victory Square are any indication, it will. "There are approximately 35

Remembrance Day Events in Vancouver

Lighting the Torch
at Jack Poole Plaza

Regiment Band plays at the
Remembrance Day Parade
and Ceremony

UBC Remembrance Day
Ceremony

Remembrance Day Ceremony
at Victory Square

South Memorial Park
Remembrance Day Ceremony

Japanese Monument at
Stanley Park Remembrance
Day Ceremony

15th Field Artillery Regiment
Remembrance Day Ceremony

Remembrance Day
in Chinatown

For more information, visit www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance



▲ Members of the Korean Society of BC

ther aesthetically pleasing nor inviting enough to attend in great numbers.

"We didn't have anything like Victory Square in Italy, as we were on the wrong side during the war – we had nothing to celebrate," says Edda Onesti, who came from Pisa, Italy 10 years ago.

Onesti, a school administrator at the Italian Cultural Centre Society, states that in Italy the Festa

year. But she still remembers her mother's only thoughts of the war – the violence and the poor.

Iranian Views

Bardi Hakimi, who came to Canada 22 years ago from Iran, didn't attend any of the military parades to show off Iran's defense.

"I sympathize with the young men who have nothing to do with war but get called into it. Nothing has changed there all these years," he states.

Each September, Iran commemorates Sacred Defense Week to acknowledge the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war, commonly known as the First Persian Gulf War. It's a parade to acknowl-

consular representatives and 12 other countries that attend the ceremony. That and 6,000 to 8,000 people with young families attending makes me feel proud."

He encourages everyone to contribute to the Veteran's Fund, purchase a poppy, wear it proudly and attend a Remembrance Day event near you. ✍

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Women look at beauty through cultural mirrors

by NICOLE LAWSON

When Misbah Naseer, 27, came to Canada from Saudi Arabia at the age of 12, her idea of beautiful was completely different from her peers in grade eight.

In her view, gaining an understanding of what immigrants think about beauty when they come to Canada would be interesting.

“What does it mean to be beautiful from a young immigrant’s

tremely fashion-forward due to its proximity to Europe. She says it was a shock to come from a place of 12 million people, where there is more plastic surgery done than in LA, to descend on a population of only 600,000.

“I have now been here longer than I was in Saudi Arabia, and jeans are [my] culture to me now.

Misbah Naseer, immigrant from Saudi Arabia.

“When I moved here, it was all about pop stars, Britney Spears, Katie Holmes in Dawson Creek,” says Naseer, a research analyst for the Government of Canada in Vancouver.

“My exposure was more traditional Bollywood, and it wasn’t as modern.”

It didn’t take long for Naseer, who wore a hijab and long clothing because of her cultural and religious beliefs, to figure out what was considered beautiful in her new country.

“The more skin you show, the tighter your clothes were, the more beautiful you were. The more I covered up, the more I got made fun of. People would ask, why are you hiding? Because you’re so ugly?”

According to Wendy Chan, a sociology and anthropology professor at Simon Fraser University (SFU), immigrant’s perceptions of beauty in our society haven’t been well studied.

Chan says that, although there’s a lot of discussion around what constitutes beauty, there hasn’t been much research done on young immigrant or minority group perspectives.

perspective?” she asks.

Struggling with differences in style

Bahar Sassani, 33, moved to Winnipeg from Tehran, Iran at age 17 and says that on the first day of school she went home and cried because people were in sweatpants.

“I had never seen this. I was used to well-dressed people, even with [a] headdress on, it was the nicest headdress.”

Sassani, a Vancouver executive manager, says Tehran was ex-

Growing up, Sassani says her mother taught her that hair and make-up should be done according to the latest fashion trends, and being slim was very important. She was used to seeing her mother wearing the latest brand names and was allowed to wear make-up from the age of 15 on.

Jo-Anne Lee, a sociologist teaching women’s studies at the University of Victoria, suggests that the type of reaction Sassani had to Canadian society around notions of beauty and style isn’t surprising.

“Many immigrants are coming from world class, cosmopolitan cities with Prada and from places that are manufacturing the clothes and fashion we’re consuming.”

Lee says the perception some have of immigrants with traditional ideals of beauty from the ‘60s or ‘70s should be put out of our minds.

“We’re in a global culture and they’re consuming media just like us.”

What the men think

Joseph Nakhla, 39, came to Canada from Egypt at 16. He says he wasn’t shocked by the pop stars



▲ Misbah Naseer, 27, has changed her view of beauty since arriving in Canada.

Photo courtesy of Misbah Naseer

and short skirts when arriving in Canada, because pop culture had made its way to Egypt, and he had been exposed through media.

However Nakhla, founder and CEO of Vancouver-based company bazinga!, says growing up he believed beauty started and stopped at the face.

“When you heard a girl was beautiful, you’d get a screen shot of the face to define beauty.”

But, in Canada, he says everything became compartmentalized.

“The whole package got bigger – is your nose too big or small? Are your hips too big? Are your legs nice?”

Nakhla says that being an attractive guy in Egypt was all about being athletic. In Canada, he says the quest to be good looking doesn’t stop at one thing.

“First you have to make money, and drive a nice car and have your hair a certain way – I didn’t feel

that peer pressure in Egypt,” says Nakhla.

Beauty Redefined

Fifteen years later, Nasser says she has redefined beauty on her own terms and incorporates what she likes about Canadian style with her religious beliefs. Instead of the traditional Pakistani clothes she used to wear in high school, she is comfortable in western clothes.

“I have now been here longer than I was in Saudi Arabia, and jeans are [my] culture to me now.”

She continues to wear her hijab and says that, outside of Canada, she was taught that if most of your body is covered, all that’s left to define a person’s beauty are conversations, intelligence and what you say. Nasser says her basic definition of beauty hasn’t changed much since she arrived.

“For me beauty is not about being skinny, it’s about being smart.”



▲ Bahar Sassani.

Photo courtesy of Bahar Sassani



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Left Bank


Media democracy is essential to challenging Harper and the status quo

Last weekend was the 12th annual Media Democracy Day in Vancouver. For me, it was a time to consider the connection between the political challenges we face and the ways that information is disseminated and shared in our society.

With technology, we live in a time of unprecedented information abundance. However, the concentration of ownership and corporate nature of most media – both traditional and social – means that progressive voices have an uphill battle getting an equal hearing in the public discussion. Vital ideas are often excluded or buried under a mountain of pro status quo editorials and ubiquitous corporate advertising.

“Twitter – with its open, public conversations, and its users’ tendencies to use humour, wit and creativity – goes against everything about the way the Harper government likes to communicate.

In Canada, we suffer under a federal government that carefully manages and targets its messages. The idea of media democracy – which means the availability of diverse critical views, but also an informed and engaged public – is antithetical to the Harper government’s whole project.

The whole premise of Stephen Harper’s government really appears to be that people are, and will remain, uninformed. And that, even if they are informed, they will fail to act, or at least they will only act on their fears.

So, it is that Harper and his government communicates with unrelenting cynicism. Every utterance, every sports or military related tweet, every press release and every tightly controlled media conference or photo-op aims only to convey a specific message to a specific targeted voter.

If you are not a targeted voter, Harper does not care, and he hopes and assumes you don’t care too much, either. The term media democracy implies citizens who are not just carefully reading a healthy range of media, but producing and distributing their own media.

This is where the power of social media comes in, and it should not be underestimated. Twitter and Facebook have proven to be catalysts and amplifiers of movements that have shaken the world in recent months and years, from the Arab Spring, to Occupy Wall Street and Quebec’s Maple Spring. Social media didn’t, by any means, make those movements happen, but it did help to multiply their impacts once they got going.

Love it or hate it, social media has become a crucial part of the modern agora – it’s a key place where the issues of the day are debated. Twitter – with its open, public conversations, and its users’ tendencies to use humour, wit and creativity – goes against

everything about the way the Harper government likes to communicate. Once a serious movement takes shape in Canada, social media will be crucial, and this government’s careful managing of the media may unravel once and for all.

For all these reasons, media democracy is essential to defeating Harper’s agenda, but also to challenging the systems that Harper serves. I’m talking about capitalism, imperialism, patriarchy and neo-colonialism, among others.

Part of the democracy we need in the media is more frequent, sharp debates in which things are called by their actual names. Instead, in the mainstream media at present, we tend to have a bunch of people

– usually white and middle class – on TV segments like CBC’s *At Issue*. They always agree with and defend the system, tend to dismiss or outright mock protests and, more often than not, they more or less agree with each other.

You can’t say that we have media democracy in Canada when you have a public broadcaster whose flagship political discussion segment acts as if the political spectrum only goes from the centre-right to the right. At the very least, one of the four panels on *At Issue* should be openly progressive, if not explicitly left-wing in their views.

We live in times of big and serious crises – economic, social and ecological. As a prerequisite for solving these problems, we need to be discussing and debating big and serious ideas.

In my opinion, for example, the continuation of capitalist business-as-usual is incompatible with the long-term survival of the human race. At first blush, for many people, that statement might seem a bit crazy. But that’s only because we almost never hear such things in the media.

But, given the shocking signs of the impact that climate change is already having – and the frightening record melting taking place in the Arctic and Greenland – to me, the crazy thing is that we are not constantly debating whether capitalism needs to go. In our mainstream media, it’s hard to even find serious discussion about whether the system needs to be seriously reformed.

We must change who controls the present, or we risk having no future, or a future too barbaric to dare imagine. An important part of these efforts must be directed to changing the media landscape and making it more diverse and representative of the full range of people and views in our society. ✉

see

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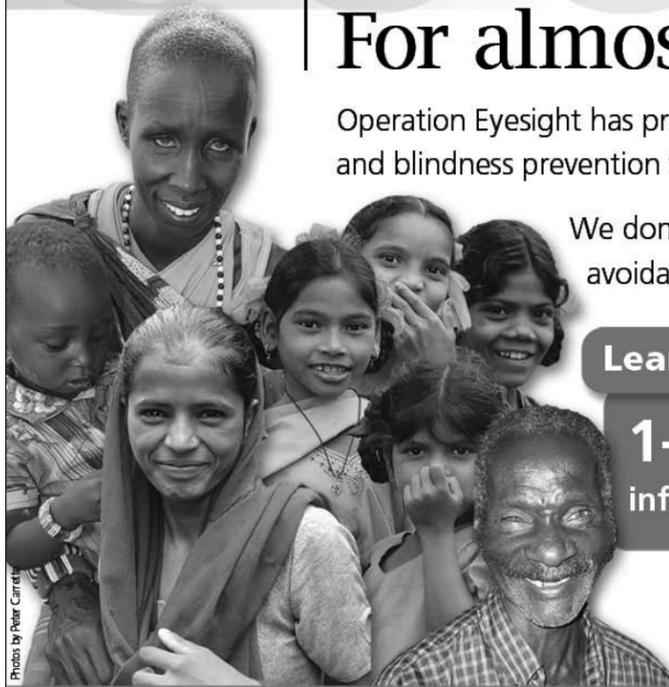
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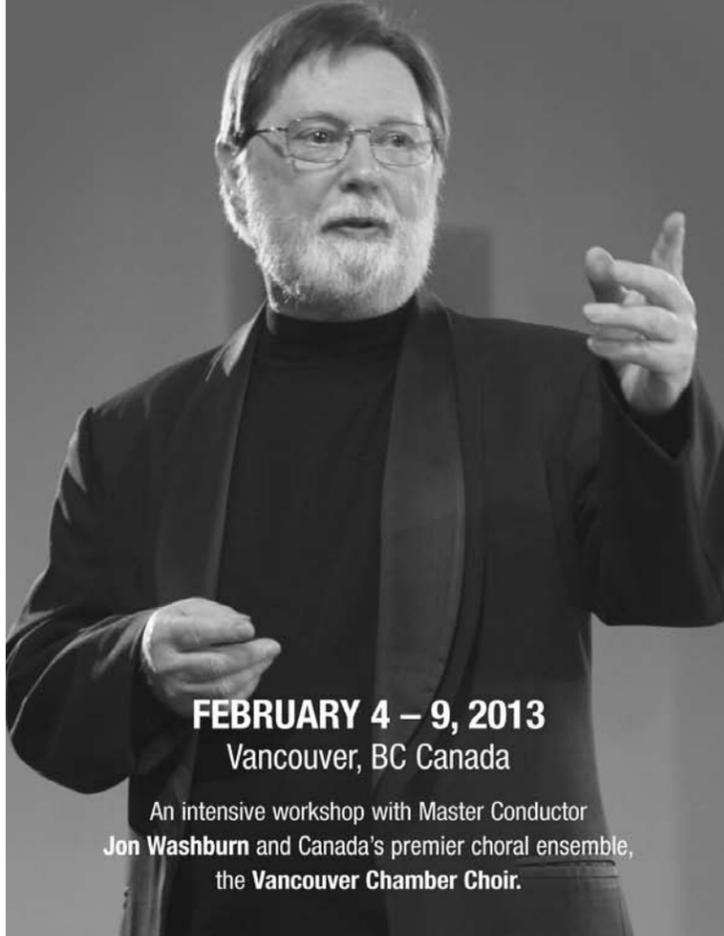
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Asians search for alternative to a nursing home, find hope

by JUSTINE LEONHARDT

Afzal Mangalji, is a social worker with Vancouver Coastal Health. He says that South Asian and Chinese seniors are struggling between traditional and modern practices of senior care.

He says this includes the challenges of integrating with a different culture, language barriers, expectation that elder family members will be taken care by other family, and how family members in home countries view how this care should evolve. Which means that South Asian and Chinese families are forced to look at other options besides the traditional North American nursing home.

For South Asian and Chinese seniors living in Canada the expectation is that children will take care of their parents when they are no longer able to care for themselves. But, due to migration to urban centres and even other parts of the world for employment, it is becoming a cultural practice that is harder to actualize.

Anne Murphy, Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian Studies at University of British Columbia (UBC), agrees that there is a strong urge to take care of elders in Asian culture, whereas social life in Canada is somewhat divided.

"Life is more integrated and multigenerational among South Asian cultures," says Murphy.

The approach to aging and illness is also quite different. In



Photo by Anne Roberts, Flickr

▲ Families around Metro Vancouver try to find proper housing for their elders.

South Asian and Chinese culture, it is quite common that elders will pass away in the home whereas, in Western culture, this is less likely.

Bridging the cultural divide

Guru Nanak Niwas, a facility for assisted and independent living in Surrey developed by Progressive Intercultural Community Services non-profit society (PICS), seeks to bridge the gap between divergent cultures by providing specialized senior housing and care within the South Asian community.

The facility consists of two different types of housing. While independent living offers a

multitude of programs and recreational activities for seniors who can live on their own, the assisted living housing provides the option for those who need help with daily activities, but do not require the care provided in a nursing home.

While seniors from all backgrounds are welcome, the Guru Nanak Niwas centre serves traditional South Asian food and includes staff members who speak Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and English. With a current waiting list of 165 people, the demand exists for more centres of this kind in Greater Vancouver.

"It's a great means of integration" says Charan Gill, the founding president of PICS (1987).

With a two-year moratorium imposed on parents and grandparents of immigrants to Canada in order to catch up to the quantity of requests, an option like Guru Nanak Niwas becomes even more beneficial to the integration of the South Asian and Chinese communities.

Balwant Sanghera, president of Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society, says seniors have earned a special place.

"They have raised children [and] they have done the best they could to help their family." ✍



Photo courtesy of Fraser Health

▲ Guru Nanak Niwas, a South Asian assisted and independent living facility in Surrey.

► "Verbatim" from page 1

tually wiped out crime, except for the political kind.

Half way through our long journey to Canada, our plane landed in Amsterdam, and our father took us aside and said that children in Canada were treated differently in our new country. The adults, he insisted, were less strict. My brother and I were ecstatic to hear this.

In two weeks, we were enrolled in an elementary school in quiet Burnaby, B.C. and quickly set about proving our dad's theory correct. The first rules of politeness and obedience to be sacrificed were asking the teacher for permission to go to the bathroom or for a break. Why ask when you can just leave the class and wander the empty playground? Play in the mud. It was often muddy because it rained a lot here compared to Russia.

Not understanding the language also helped because, although I swear my teacher was upset with me, she kept smiling and saying something calm and

reassuring. She never once raised her voice or threatened to hit me with a ruler for skipping class. Lesson unlearned.

In a total reversal from my experience in Russia, although the adults were less strict, kids enjoyed fewer freedoms in society. Suddenly, we couldn't just do whatever we wanted to outside. We could sit on the floor at school, socialize with other kids during class activities and raise our hands as high as we wanted to, but we couldn't walk to school by ourselves anymore or wander at night. The level of adult supervision in Vancouver surprised us. Author Warwick Cairns has been quoted as saying that, in terms of probability, you'd have to leave a child outside for 750,000 years for them to be abducted by a stranger in North America.

Instead of telling an eight- and a nine-year-old to get some fresh air outside, the adults felt obligated to tag along to the park. We saw no ten-year-olds biking on the street without their parents. People looked at you funny if you were under the age of 12 and de-

cidated to go the store or on the bus alone. I suppose all those things can be unsafe. But still, we were surprised. The attention was nice though, funny as it was.

Teachers in Vancouver are unlike anything I've experienced before. They look at you and listen, and many seem to really care about you. Other adults, too, seem less stressed out. They greet you on the street, especially if one of you has a small dog or a child and you're in a slightly quieter part of town.

I was walking with my grandmother to the store once, and a perfect stranger said hello and asked us how we were doing. He smiled and there was a friendly twinkle in his eyes. My grandmother stopped and stared at him in rising panic.

"What did he want from us?" she asked me in Russian. "We're fine, thanks!" I was quick to exclaim to him.

Interacting with nice, super caring adults, I had quickly learned to be polite, again. ✍



▲ Manchurian Prawns, a dish available at the Chili Pepper House, an Indian-Chinese fusion restaurant.

Photo by Phoebe Yu

Flavours of fusion connect food and identity

by PHOEBE YU

The link is undeniable: Food is at the forefront of India's cultural landscape, and the complexity and diversity of the Indian identity is reflected in the variety of regional dishes found in Indian cuisine.

"In India, the taste, the culture, the language, the attire changes within 150 miles," says Abhishek Roy, owner and chef of Atithi Restaurant.

Regional Flavours

Roy, who grew up in Rajasthan in the northwest of India and whose parents come from the eastern state of West Bengal, is no stranger to the different tastes of Indian cuisine.

According to Roy, seafood and rice are plentiful in eastern Indian cuisine. In the northwest, they use a lot of milk, cream and grains because of the dry weather. In southern India, coconut is abundant in many of the dishes.



▲ Abhishek Roy in his restaurant, Atithi Restaurant.

Nowadays, Roy says that India has changed substantially – more people like to dine out and appreciate dishes from different parts of the world. The most popular foreign cuisine in India is Chinese food or, more specifically, Indian-Chinese fusion.

Indian-Chinese cuisine used to exist only in India, a result of centuries of Chinese migrant workers in the country, but has now come to Vancouver.

Home cooked fusion

Brothers Peter and Paul Yang were born in Kolkata, West Ben-

gal, and are ethnically Chinese. They operate Chili Pepper House, an Indian-Chinese fusion restaurant. Peter is the chef, while Paul is the manager.

Peter blends his own style with Indian-inspired ingredients and dishes from West Bengal state, like his own curry sauce and a house special chicken with tandoori and Chinese

of people travelling to and from Vancouver.

"I don't think there's any other way to make anybody happier than to serve them with a good plate of food," he says.

To Tostenson, food is a total reflection of our culture.

"We go to restaurants that reflect our tastes, and we take people with us that reflect our

“I don't think there's any other way to make anybody happier than to serve them with a good plate of food.

Abhishek Roy, owner and chef, Atithi Restaurant

ingredients, adjusting the taste and spiciness according to the customers' palate.

"For us, we use Chinese and Indian spices combined together, so it's a very good balance of these two countries," he says.

Paul says that the kind of food they serve is nothing new for them because they've always had it back home in India, where Indian-Chinese cuisine is considered mainstream.

In Vancouver, the brothers host many Indian and Chinese cus-

culture and our sociability," he says.

Food and Culture

Both brothers acknowledge how the cultures they grew up in are reflected through their dishes. While they speak Chinese, practice Chinese traditions and eat Chinese food, they do sometimes speak Hindi and make Indian dishes at home as well.

In recent years, Roy has noticed a change in India's food landscape. He says there are



▲ Peter and Paul Yang, owners of the Chili Pepper House.

tomers, as well as people from other ethnic backgrounds.

Ian Tostenson, president of the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association, explains that almost any restaurant in Vancouver now will use different flavours from around the world to offer fusion dishes, due to the high amount

more and more restaurants serving foreign cuisine as the cities become increasingly metropolitan, and the middle class are dining out more often to get a taste of the world.

Roy stresses that the role of food in Indian culture is unique to their way of life. ☞

Photo by Phoebe Yu

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Vancouver Chamber Choir

JON WASHBURN, CONDUCTOR

PACIFICA SINGERS BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH MULTI-MEDIA CONCERT MPEG Vespers

7:00pm Sunday, November 18, 2012
 St. James' Anglican Church
 303 East Cordova Street (at Gore), Vancouver

Pacifica Singers, the associate vocal ensemble of the Vancouver Chamber Choir organization, charts new territory with MPEG VESPERS, a multi-media choral concert that will unite modern film technology with Renaissance music in the candlelit sanctuary of St. James' Anglican Church.

In a traditional fashion, the choir will perform from the choir loft of the majestic church, while local film phenomenon Phil Jack will shoot the concert live and project it in real time, creating an on-screen spectacle to complement the choir's soundscape.

The program features William Byrd, Anton Bruckner and Gregorian chant. The event promises to be one of transcendence and spectacle.

This unique concert will be Pacifica Singers' first with new director Kevin Zakresky, as he takes the choir in exciting, cutting-edge directions. "I have always been awestruck by the beautiful architecture and atmosphere of St. James," said Zakresky. "It will be the perfect place for the austere counterpoint of William Byrd and the brilliant camerawork of Phil Jack, a young filmmaker who is known for his collaborations with local music groups."

Admission is by donation.

Vancouver Chamber Choir
 www.vancouverchamberchoir.com
 info@vancouverchamberchoir.com 604-738-6822
 1254 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6H 1B6

Photo Mosaic by Ana Chi

International Village

International village is where east meets west – literally and metaphorically. Located at 88 West Pender Street, it sits at the centre of the city; dividing the downtown core and East Vancouver. Metaphorically it has combined the flavours of Asia with Chinese and Japanese stores, and Western culture represented by a movie theatre, fast food restaurants and big name coffee shops. Ana Chi takes a look at what a rainy day at International Village looks like.

For more of Ana's photos, visit our website at www.thelasource.com



▲ Man walks past a sushi shop.



▲ Just outside of the Stadium-Chinatown Skytrain station, a globe greets those visiting the International Village.



▲ Abbott Street serves as a gateway to Chinatown.



▲ The Lotus Hotel is on Abbott Street.



▲ Cineplex Odeon has a prominent place at the International Village.



2012 Play Development Readings

The Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre's MSG Theatre Lab is an exciting new program where three playwrights (emerging or established) are chosen yearly to work with a carefully selected dramaturge on their manuscript for 5 months, with a stage reading in the 6th month for further development from actors, directors and audience members. After each reading, there will be a Q & A with the audience and the creative participants in the MSG Theatre.

Ga Ting

Minh Ly, playwright
Thurs., Nov. 15, 7:30 pm
Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre,
7646 Prince Albert St.,
Vancouver

Minh Ly presents his play *Ga Ting* (developed in partnership with Screaming Weenie productions) at the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre's MSG Theatre Lab. This reading will feature Brian J. Sutton playing Matthew, Laara Ong as Mai and BC Lee as David with Jovanni Sy directing this riveting play about Chinese parents coming to terms with their homosexual son – which remains a taboo subject in Asian-Canadian families. Chris Gatchalian provides dramaturgy.

New work inspired from *The Measure of A Man*

JJ Lee, playwright
Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 pm
Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre,
7646 Prince Albert St.,
Vancouver

JJ Lee has written a new play inspired by his Governor General nominated book, *The Measure of A Man*. Raugi Yu will read as John Jason with Richard Wolfe, directing and with dramaturgy from Tetsuro Shigematsu. Come hear this first draft from the critically acclaimed writer, JJ Lee.

Also, there will be a discussion on *What the Future of Theatre in Vancouver will Look Like*. Audience members are invited to share what they would like to see on stage. VACT is engaging the community to determine what they want in terms of theatre programming in Vancouver.

Deep Water

Loretta Seto, playwright
Sun, Nov. 18, 7:30 pm
Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre,
7646 Prince Albert St.,
Vancouver

Loretta Seto presents her newest work, *Deep Water* – a one-woman play that deals with relationships and mental illness – another subject matter that is only whispered about in Asian cultures. Andrea Yu will read as Janice with Lynna Goldhar Smith directing and Dr. Ray Hsu as Dramaturge.

FREE ADMISSION

RSVP to tickets@vact.ca with full name and play(s)/date(s) you would like to attend. One ticket/reading per email.

For more information, please visit www.vact.ca



VACT (Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre) aims to produce quality plays in which Asian Canadians take on culturally and artistically significant roles. VACT works to dispel Asian stereotypes by producing leading and/or supporting roles where Asian-Canadians are depicted realistically in the performing arts.

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to find out how we can best help you.



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Cultural Calendar

November 6–20, 2012

by PHOEBE YU

During the cold, wet season, it's best to stay warm and dry indoors with some theatrical entertainment like Charlie Chaplin in *City Lights*, *The Tempest Replica* and *Jazz Canadiana*. You can also get your shopping done early by visiting the Marpole Christmas Sale, or the Make It! Marketplace.

War and Peace by Opera Bravissima

Thursday, November 8, 7 p.m.
Pigeon Park Savings
92 E. Hastings St.
604-678-8276
www.sfuwoodwards.ca

A night of opera music, sponsored by Pigeon Park Savings and PHS Community Services Society and SFU. Free admission.

Charlie Chaplin in City Lights

Thursday, November 8, 8 p.m.
The Orpheum, 601 Smithe St.
604-876-3434
www.vancouver Symphony.ca

In celebration of the Orpheum's 85th anniversary, you're invited to a special screening of Charlie Chaplin's film, *City Lights*, accompanied by an orchestra performing the soundtrack live. A pre-concert talk with film history teacher, critic and historian, Michael van den Bos kicks off the evening at 7:05 p.m. Single tickets: \$45 adults, \$40.50 seniors and \$33.75 students.

Vancouver Celebrates Diwali

November 3–10
Diwali Downtown:
Roundhouse Community Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews
Multiple Venues for workshops
www.vandiwali.ca

This year's celebration features 5 events at different locations. The 9th annual event will include mu-



▲ Diwali celebrations begin on November 3 through to November 10. Visit www.vandiwali.ca for information about how to get involved.

sic, dancers, workshops and exhibitions. Check the website for specific details regarding showtimes and workshops. Admission to Diwali Downtown: By donation (suggested \$5).

The Tempest Replica

November 9–10, 8 p.m.
Vancouver Playhouse
600 Hamilton St., Vancouver
604-801-6225
www.dancehouse.ca

Choreographer Crystal Pite with her dance company, Kidd Pivot, produces a performance based

on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, exploring the themes of revenge and forgiveness. Single tickets: \$63–\$70.

Marpole Christmas Sale

Saturday, November 10,
10 a.m.–3 p.m.
St. Augustine's Parish Hall
8680 Hudson St.
604-261-0131
www.marpolehistorical.ca

The Marpole Museum and Historical Society is having a Christmas sale with baked goods, crafts and refreshments from local vendors, with silent auction and raffle. Open to the public.

Circle Craft Christmas Market

November 7–11
Vancouver Convention Centre West
1055 Canada Place



▲ Some of the wares at Circle Craft Christmas Market.

604-689-8232
www.circlecraft.net/
Christmas-Market

The 39th annual event by Circle Craft Co-operative will feature over 300 artisans from across Canada including fashion artists, glass-blowers, wood-workers and more. Also included will be artist demonstrations, fashion shows and live entertainment. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$10 students. Discount if purchased online.

Make It!

November 8–11
Croatian Cultural Centre
3250 Commercial Dr.
604-683-2000
www.makeitproductions.com

An exhibition and marketplace for handmade fashion, accessories, art, jewellery and more by Canada's urban artisans, designers and crafters. Licensed bar and live music. Open to the public.

Vancouver Jewish Film Festival

November 7–15
Multiple Venues
Office: 604.266.0245
www.vjff.org

The second largest Jewish film festival in Canada presents its 24th annual event. This year's

festival will include a mix of films, discussions, and multiple events. Visit the website for screening locations. Tickets: "5 Ticket Packs" \$55, festival passes \$30–\$144.

Olga Zakharova and Julie Emerson Art Exhibit

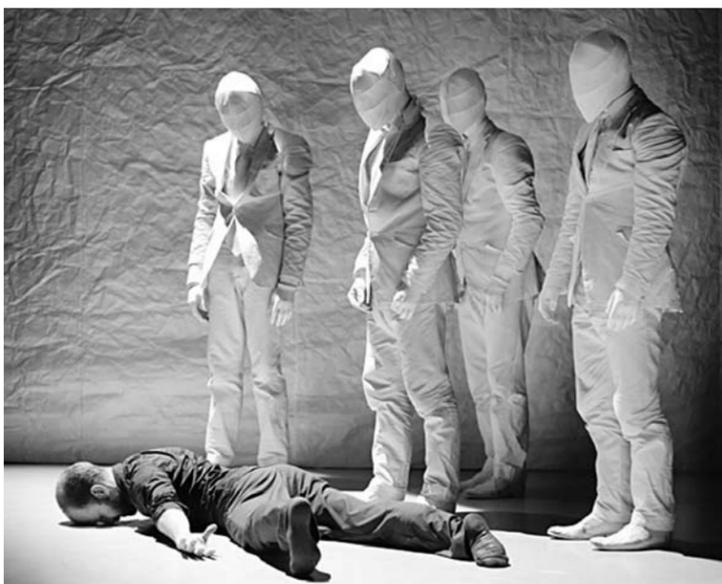
Until November 13
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
North Vancouver District Hall
355 W. Queens Rd.,
North Vancouver
604-988-6844
www.nvartscouncil.ca

Olga Zakharova's oil on canvas paintings make use of nature – grand trees, twisted roots and the play of light. Julie Emerson's sculptures are constructed with wood, plastic, metal and stone, then covered with silk. Open to the public.

Memory Festival

November 13–18
Roundhouse Community Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews
604-713-1800
www.roundhouse.ca

The memory festival is a series of public events with a focus on public and private memories. The festival will feature work by visual artists, photography, theatre and live readings. Open to the public.



▲ Dancers display their talent in *The Tempest Replica*.

Photo by Jörg Baumann, courtesy of Kidd Pivot

Photo courtesy of Circle Craft

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 10:00am-3:00pm
 Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre | 13458 - 107A Avenue
 Registration# 305439

Saturday October 27th - Presented in English
 9:00am-3:00pm
 Newton Recreation Centre | 13730 - 72 Avenue (gym)
 Registration# 4305440

Saturday November 17th - Presented in Mandarin
 10:00am-3:00pm
 Guildford Recreation Centre | 15105 - 105th Avenue
 Registration# 4305441

Saturday December 1st - Presented in English
 9:00am-3:00pm
 South Surrey Recreation Centre | 14601 - 20th Avenue
 Registration# 4305442

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- 2 At any City of Surrey's Community or Seniors Centres
- 3 www.surrey.ca/register Community or Senior's Centres

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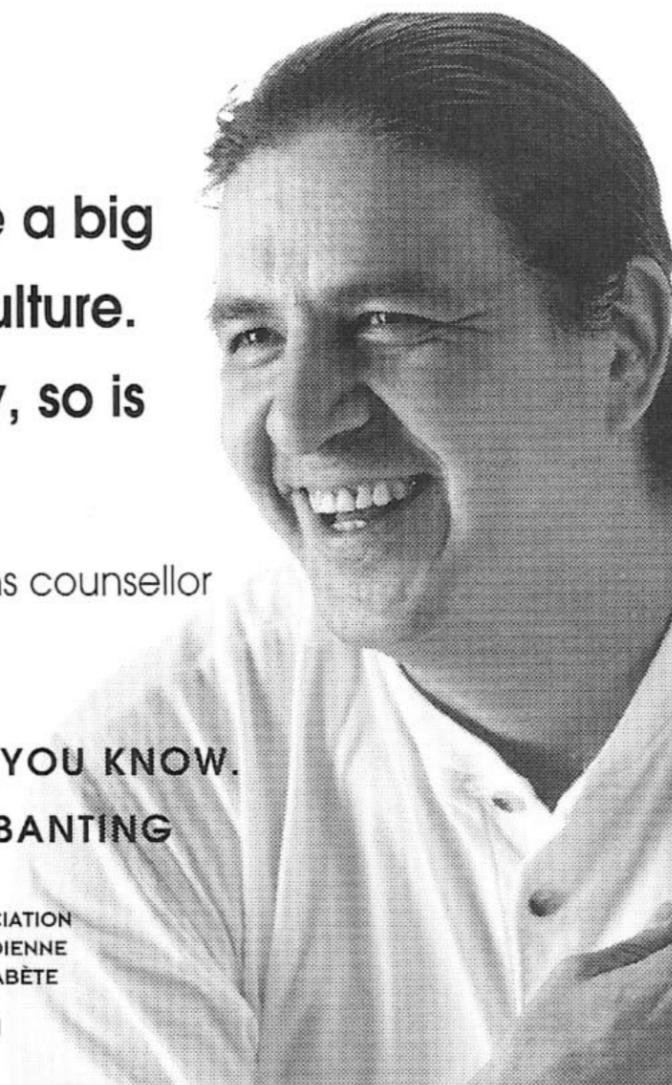
“Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes.”

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

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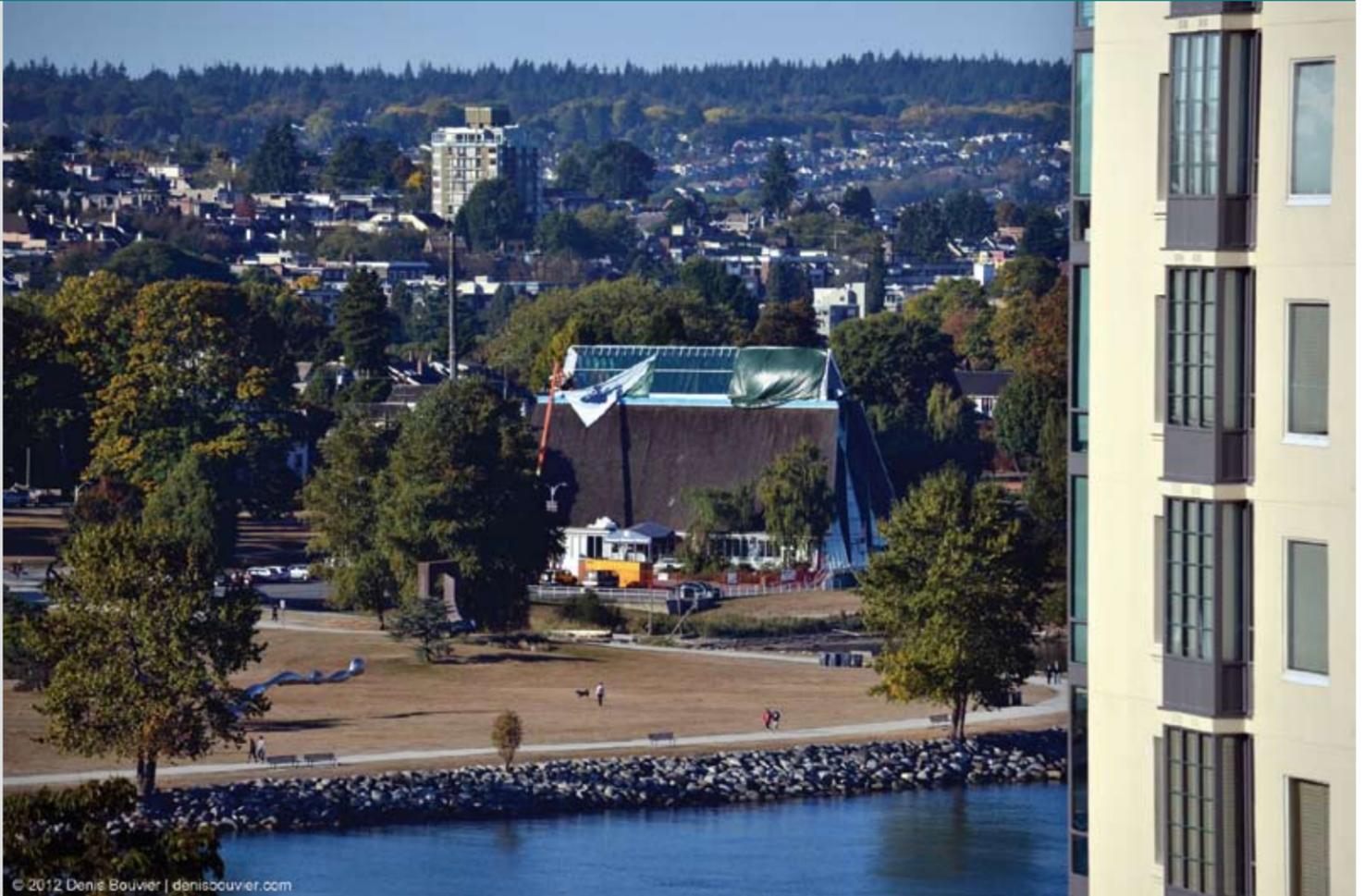
The incredible St. Roch

Beautifully located at Kits Point in Vanier Park, just east of Kits Beach is the 20 metre shingle and glass A-frame which houses the St. Roch, a wooden schooner built for the RCMP in 1928. It's part of the Vancouver Maritime Museum (VMM) and is a national historic site. This stunning view was photographed from a West End tower.

Currently under repair, the museum has been allotted \$902,000 by the City of Vancouver for upgrades. It was slated for closure in 2008 when there was a proposal to merge it with a new National Maritime Centre in North Vancouver, but that project was scrapped in January 2010 due to lack of provincial support.

The St. Roch has an illustrious history:

Specially designed to withstand Arctic winters, when it would be frozen in ice, it functioned as a mini government in the far north. Using dog teams, RCMP would conduct patrols, investigate crimes, settle domestic disputes, collect taxes, deliver the mail, provide medical treatment and transport Inuit children to and from residential schools. It survived 12 winters functioning in this



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way, frozen in ice for 10 months at a time.

It was the first ship to sail the Northwest Passage from west to east over a 2-year period (1940-42). In 1944, it travelled the Northwest Passage from the east to west in just 80 days over a more northerly route, and it was the first ship to circumnavigate North America in 1950.

The St. Roch was decommissioned in 1954. In 1958, it was

put into dry dock at its present location while the Vancouver Maritime Museum was built next to it. In 1966, the protective A-frame was built around the St. Roch.

Besides the St. Roch, the VMM has a collection of more than 170,000 objects including 35,000 artifacts, 20,000 books, 262 original paintings and artwork and 114,000 photographs, many

of valuable historical significance. In future, the VMM plans to expand its facilities to better present its collection.

Also of significance is the two-story restored Ben Franklin submersible which stands in front of the museum. Commissioned by NASA in 1969, it was used in some of the deepest sea dives ever to explore how people would react in an enclosed capsule. The lessons

learned have been applied to today's International Space Station. The sub also made the first dive in search of the Titanic.

Although partially closed for repairs, the VMM still has many exhibits open. Just check the website: vancouvermaritimemuseum.com

Don Richardson

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VANCOUVER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

vjff.org | 604.266.0245

Wed Nov 7 7:00 PM
A Bottle in the Gaza Sea
 The Festival's opening film follows the burgeoning friendship prompted by a message in a bottle, thrown into the Gaza Sea. Reception to follow.
 Admission \$20 Annual Membership \$2

Tue Nov 13 9:15 PM
The Day I Saw Your Heart
 A 20-something commitment-phobe, her sister who is trying to adopt and their cynical father whose third wife is expecting. Aren't families complicated!
 Admission \$13 Seniors \$10

Sat Nov 10 9:15 PM
Let My People Go!
 Poor Reuben! His life is falling apart in this charmingly offbeat French comedy about a gay Jewish man who just can't catch a break.
 Admission \$13 Seniors \$10

Wed Nov 14 9:15 PM
OSS 117: Lost in Rio
 The Academy Award winning director and actor behind "The Artist" bring us this politically incorrect hysterical spyspoof.
 Admission \$13 Seniors \$10