

ʔi ɬeʔ nem ʔənxasəŋ!,
我們出去走走啦!,
Let's Take a Walk!
Page 5



The Source

forum of diversity

15th anniversary
1999–2014

Vol 14 No 10 | June 10–24, 2014

www.thelasource.com



Illustration by Afshin Sabouki

Verbatim

Beyond tolerance, a simple fact

by VINCENT PICHARD

Before my astonished eyes there they stood. Two lightly bronzed men with brilliant smiles, smartly dressed. With disarming ease they displayed a bond which left no doubt, these two shared more than a simple friendship.

To see two gay men hand in hand or kissing in public in Vancouver is nothing unusual or shocking. Since my arrival in January I've encountered many such couples and will undoubtedly see more. But the couple that drew my attention this April afternoon

“To see two gay men hand in hand or kissing in public in Vancouver is nothing unusual or shocking.

were as convincing as they were imaginary.

I gazed into the storefront of a well-known ready-to-wear chain downtown when all of a sudden I noticed, towards the back, the display for the summer collection portraying two fictional lovers. To the side another display: same graphics, different clothes, different models. A man and a woman this time.

In Canada and in particular here on the edge of the Pacific, the acceptance of differences has gone beyond the stage of tolerance. It has become fact. I cannot imagine the number of people in France who would widen their eyes and sigh when stumbling across such an ad. Based on the homophobic discourse last year before the adoption of the same sex marriage act, I think the number would fill BC Place even on a Canucks game night.

France may well boast of being the home of the Rights

See “Verbatim” page 5 ➤

The challenges of pursuing soccer stardom

by SIMON YEE

Despite the popularity of recreational soccer, many Canadian youth soccer players face significant challenges pursuing a career in soccer due to an underdeveloped soccer system and limited opportunities to progress professionally.

“Canadian soccer is making it almost impossible for a youth player to develop into an elite level soccer player if they are not streamed into the top tier of soccer by the time they are 12,” writes former

Vancouver Whitecaps head coach Martin Rennie on his blog.

“Young Canadian players that are coming out of youth academies, high schools and colleges are almost all below the standard required to play in Major League Soccer.”

Recreational Soccer Participation on the rise

According to a 2013 Department of Canadian Heritage report on sports participation, soccer is the most regularly played sport by both boys and girls aged 5 to 14, followed by swimming and

hockey. In addition, soccer was the only major sport that increased in overall participation between 2005 and 2010.

Style Mabanta is one of this cohort of young and enthusiastic soccer players. Wearing his Lionel Messi Argentina jersey, Mabanta and the other kids happily go through exercises and mini-games together at Renfrew Community Centre, one of many recreational soccer programs available throughout the Lower Mainland. Children as young as two learn the fundamentals of the game and basic techniques.

Most importantly, the kids have a chance to interact with others in a gym setting and make new friends.

“Did you see me?” asks Mabanta after the hour-long soccer session. “I had the ball so many times!”

The problems of the Canadian soccer system

Although there are plenty of opportunities to play soccer in Vancouver, when it comes to producing players at an elite professional level, the situation is much less encouraging.

See “Soccer” page 6 ➤

Also in this issue

Desi dogs: unique social street dogs
Page 6



The Play, Fall, Rest, Dance project
Page 8




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My Turn

Elections in Ontario – a foretaste of the Federal elections?

The electoral campaign in Ontario is now over. Don't worry if you weren't really aware of it – it seems that even those most concerned with the

Hence the acute interest in the province shown by the federal parties. For Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau, the choices made

“For Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau, the choices made by Ontario’s electorate will be a harbinger of which issues are on voters’ minds.

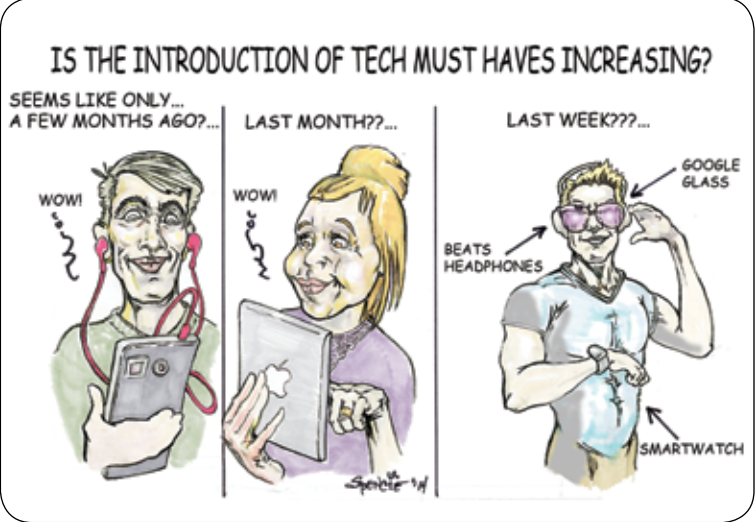
elections, Ontario’s electorate, didn’t pay much attention. Some, however, have kept a close eye on what has been happening in the most populous Canadian province: the federal political parties. The reason why is quite simple. Ontario is a microcosm of the country’s electoral map as a whole. The Ontario elections could serve as a crystal ball for predicting the three main federal parties’ futures. And, needless to say, the province is home to a score of federal ridings.

by Ontario’s electorate will be a harbinger of which issues are on voters’ minds. This should serve them well in the months to come, as they will be honing their thoughts before presenting their platform for the next federal election, a platform based on the Ontario election’s results. The Liberals will probably be the ones to get the most out of this election. We already know that the Ontario Liberals’ campaign has mostly focused on voters from the major urban

hands of these populated centres, and especially Montreal, where they bit the dust in 2011. But they will also turn their interest towards voters from ridings in the fringe areas. This was Kathleen Wynne’s challenge in Ontario. This is why many lessons will be learned from the Ontario elections. The NDP, on the other hand, is not without its own challenges. They’ve seen the Liberal Party invade their political space these past few months. This is a formula Justin’s Trudeau’s federal Liberals seem to want to adopt. We’ll see how the elections turn out in Ontario but there is little doubt that there isn’t enough room for two major political parties sharing more or less the same political cards. Whatever the results may be, the campaign in Ontario will have served as an experimental political laboratory for federal strategists. Let’s see how they perform in a little less than a year.

Translation Monique Kroeger

Spencie's View





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▲ Ontario Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne with federal Liberal leader Justin Trudeau.



▲ Tim Hudak, Ontario Progressive Conservative leader.

centres. The Progressive Conservatives have mainly campaigned in the fringe areas of Toronto and the more rural regions in order to attract votes. This particular tactic, performed across the country in the past by the Conservatives, has served Stephen Harper’s party very well to date. Take, for example, British Columbia, where Harper’s troops have mainly concentrated their efforts in rural areas, yet have not ignored ridings on the outskirts of Vancouver. In fact, it looks like the federal Conservatives have pretty well given up on the idea of making gains in the most populous ridings in Canada. And, as proven by the 2011 elections, they don’t need to. As for Trudeau’s Liberals, gaining power will rest in the



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Photo: Dr. Maryam Mahwash, Friday Mosque of Isfahan

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Week One - Foundational

- Orientalism, Islam, and Muslim Societies and Cultures
- Pre-Muslim Contexts: Change and Continuity
- The Formation and Development of Islamicate Civilization
- Thinking of Scripture: Text and Context in the Qur'an
- Exemplary Persons: Prophets, Mystics, and Messiahs
- Classical and Contemporary Perspectives of Islamic Law
- Cosmopolitan and Local Contexts of Muslim Sexuality and Gender
- Muslim Empires and States: Early Modern and Modern Trajectories
- Islamic Reform: Patterns and Transmissions
- The Arab Spring and Its Implications

Week Two - Mysticism and Popular Culture in Muslim Contexts

- Mysticism and the Mystical in Islam
- The Emergence and Development of Mystical Ideas and Orders
- Reasoning with Mysticism: Ideas and Poetics
- Mysticism in the Modern Age
- Pluralism, Cultures, and Identities
- Non-Sufi forms of the Mystical
- Popular Culture, Power, and Rebellion: Cinema
- Pluralism, Mysticism, and Culture in the Diaspora
- (Re)imagining Rumi across Cultures
- Mysticism, Classicism, and Music in Iran

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NOTE: For professional reasons, Serge Corbeil is no longer able to provide political commentary for *The Source*. We warmly thank him for his contribution over the past 7 years.

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Happy Birthday to The Source: celebrating 15 years of bilingual reporting

by MIKE LEE

Fifteen years ago, on this month, Mamadou Gangué introduced Vancouver to *The Source* in the paper’s first editorial. The four-paragraph missive set the tone for a decade and a half of local journalism that continues to pry open the city’s steel and concrete shell to further reveal its radiating heart of diversity.

“[The community] newspaper plays an essential role,” Gangué wrote back in June 1999. “It is an integral part of a social circle, it helps anchor us and provides direction in a great metropolis.”

He envisioned *The Source* as a new beacon for cultural and ethnic masses at a community level. He saw his brainchild – a bilingual Anglo-French newspaper – as a complementary addi-

Canada had to take as it evolved into a modern democracy with universal suffrage.

Leah Mintha gave readers a glimpse into the views and opinions of Vancouver’s Indonesian community on page two, set against the backdrop of East Timor’s 1999 independence referendum. Mintha interviewed students and dissidents to illustrate how events taking place half a world away can still impact the lives of local people.

Ayelet Tsabari’s whimsical piece about a local group at the Vancouver Multicultural Society and its take on cultural understanding through roleplaying was a light-hearted peek at the dynamics of multicultural exchanges and how getting new immigrants to “be Canadian” is not as simple as it sounds. Tsabari’s colourful narration underscored that even multicul-



Photo by Laura R. Copes

▲ Aging beautifully – The Source then and now.

tion to other community papers that cement together the city’s multicultural mosaic.

The modest endeavour that began one summer nearly 20 years ago has since blossomed into a thriving publication that captured the 2011 Cultural Harmony Award and the Baldwin-LaFontaine Award in 2013 for the paper’s commitment to bilingualism. As *The Source’s* editorial staff steadily expanded over the years, so, too, did the opportunities to wax lyrical about Vancouver’s inclusive, international soul. The first issue, dated June 2, 1999, totaled 12 combined pages of English and French content. Current issues feature anywhere from 20 to 30 pages of reporting that dig deep into issues that plague or inspire.

In the course of its life so far, *The Source* has continued its tradition of covering everything from community festivals to local reactions to international events under its diversity mandate. A look back at some of the highlights from the June 1999 issue shows the paper’s commitment to sharing the perspectives of Vancouver’s multitude of communities has not flagged in the intervening years.

Dominic Brown’s – and *The Source’s* – first cover story revisited the up-hill battle fought by Canadian minorities for the right to vote. Brown’s incisive submission traced the struggle for enfranchisement in a telling recount of one of the roads

tural societies can sometimes be mired in fear and intolerance.

Suzanna Starcevic’s story on Mexican journalist and documentarian Rocco Trigueros examined one man’s drive to change the Latin community’s profile in Canada. Starcevic’s intimate interview with Trigueros brought to light his desire to rehabilitate an ethnic community defined and, according to him, vilified by popular media.

Beatriz Garcia-Arteaga wrote the first submission for the Verbatim column – now a regular and well-loved part of *The Source* – that documents the thoughts and feelings of contributors who have experienced the apprehension and elation of stepping outside familiar boundaries. Garcia-Arteaga’s laid bare for readers her journey from new arrival to proud Canadian.

Like any great metropolis, Vancouver is in a constant state of flux as the fortunes of its communities rise, stagnate and fall, only to repeat the cycle anew. In the 15 years since *The Source* made its debut, the paper has made a conscious effort of keeping a finger on the city’s communal pulse and reporting on people, places and events that shape the city.

“We will never forget that your ideas are the driving forces behind *The Source*,” Gangué wrote back in 1999. That sentiment continues to hold true in 2014 and will, no doubt, continue to dictate the paper’s course in the years and decades to come. ✍

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



Inscrivez votre enfant dans une des écoles publiques du CSF !

Depuis sa création en 1995, le Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offre des programmes et des services éducatifs valorisant le plein épanouissement et l'identité culturelle des apprenants et apprenantes francophones de la province. Le conseil compte aujourd'hui plus de 5 000 élèves, 37 écoles publiques et dessert plus d'une centaine de communautés réparties dans l'ensemble de la province.

- programme d'enseignement public de la maternelle à la 12^e année;
- services à la petite enfance;
- service de transport scolaire;
- programme d'anglais de qualité; haut niveau de réussite scolaire; portables pour tous;
- programmes de musique, théâtre, etc.





DERRICK O'KEEFE

Left Bank



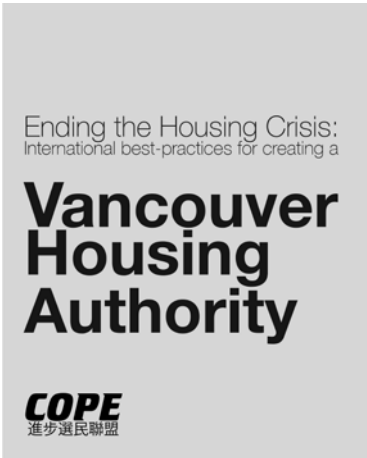
Vancouver's affordability crisis:
No more excuses, we need action

When it comes to Vancouver's crisis of housing affordability, our city's municipal politicians are better at making excuses than at taking action. As I've noted previously in this space, Vision Vancouver resorted to pointing the finger at other levels of government to explain away this year's shockingly high homelessness count numbers. One of the problems, of course, is that Vision has been reluctant to really take the gloves off and put strong, public demands on the provincial government. That tends to happen when both levels of gov-

ernment are backed by the same developer and big money interests. Despite Vision's acute awareness of the lack of municipal decision-making and financing powers, they are nevertheless headlining their 2014 re-election efforts with two other issues that rely heavily on the actions of other levels of government. The Broadway Skytrain expansion – a flagship issue – will require huge amounts of support and funding from Victoria and/or Ottawa. And the Kinder Morgan pipeline, which Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vision have admirably been very vocal about opposing, will of course be decided at the level of the federal government, after the National Energy Board give its inevitable rubber stamp. The biggest problem with Vision's excuse-making around housing, however, is that municipal governments are not powerless. Especially a municipality as big and as wealthy as the City of Vancouver. There are things we could and should be doing right now. It's just that the available policy tools would piss off the major developers who back the governing party. One effective measure for tackling the affordability crisis is being proposed by the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE). They are calling for a local Housing Authority with some real teeth, and the proposal is serious and deserves wide discussion. COPE has outlined its case for a new Housing Authority in a 100-page report, released earlier this year. The report is a breath of fresh air. First of all, it puts Vancouver's failure in global context. It's much harder to accept excuses for homelessness and unaffordability when local policies are contrasted with practical measures implemented elsewhere. The report examines what we might learn from public housing in mega-cities like Singapore, Hong Kong, New York and Toronto, as well as smaller municipalities like Whistler. Some of the statistical comparisons are staggering. Only three per cent of Vancouverites live in public housing, whereas in Vienna its 60 per cent. The Austrian city is an important example; "Red Vienna" is known globally for its stringent caps on rent and ample affordable housing in the city's downtown core.

“It's much harder to accept excuses for homelessness and unaffordability when local policies are contrasted with practical measures implemented elsewhere.

Stockholm is a particularly instructive example for Vancouver, because the Swedish city manages its own public housing. In the context of a disinterested BC provincial government, and a federal government that abandoned its support of social housing back in the 1990s, Vancouver and other cities will be forced to go it alone in many ways. Stockholm hints at what might be possible, if we could muster the political will. Swedish renters also benefit from a strong legacy of public housing construction: from 1965–1975 alone one million units were built. Historically, rent was set at 20% of a workers' total income. That brings us to a major problem with the discourse around affordability locally. Vision Vancouver hasn't agreed on a clear definition of the term, and many councillors seem to understand affordability as synonymous with building more rental stock. The COPE report, and many other housing advocates, are seeking a clear definition of affordability as 30% of total household income. (Not as good as the Swedes' old standard, but much better than no definition at all.)



COPE's report concludes with a 10-point summary of policy recommendations. Each one is sensible and achievable, and implementation of all or part of this program will go a long way to alleviating this city's affordability crisis. Vision Councillor Geoff Meggs, quoted in the Vancouver Sun, dismissed the recommendations around funding: "COPE's proposal is to raise taxes, expropriate land and get into large scale development. That looks like three strikes and out from a public opinion perspective." That pretty much captures the essence of two different political perspectives. One is to remain basically powerless other than to get the odd concession from omnipotent developers; the other reimagines the role of government as something that aggressively delivers urgent human needs and tackles entrenched privilege and unequal distribution of land and wealth. Which way Vancouver goes in the future is up to us. Whatever party you support, COPE's report deserves a close reading and more public debate. Check it out here: www.cope.bc.ca/housing.pdf

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June 23: Job Search Programs to Help You: speaker from MOSAIC Employment Services
June 24: Personality & Career Choices
Time: 1–3pm
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Registration required: Call 604 438 8214 ext 115

PR Card Renewal Process (Korean)

Time: June 16, 10am–12pm
Venue: MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway
Registration required: Call 604 438 8214 ext 123

Interview Skills & Self-Esteem

Time: June 16, 5–7pm
Venue: MOSAIC Northeast Employment Services Centre, 312–2555 Commercial Drive
Registration required: Call 604 254 9626 ext 273

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Time: June 17 & 19, 5–8:30pm
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Time: June 20, 10am–4pm
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Registration required: Call 604 306 3307

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Join us for a one-time meet-up to make new friends and to practise English. A free light lunch is provided. Priority for Permanent Residents.
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Join us for fun group workshops for youth on banking, driving, health, post-secondary education, social benefits and subsidies, and informational field trips to courts, Douglas College and to learn about First Nations and other Canadian heritage sites.
Time: June 16–July 11
Venue: MOSAIC Moving Ahead Office, #310–7155 Kingsway
Registration required: Call 604 779 1398

MOSAIC is a multilingual non-profit organization dedicated to addressing issues that affect immigrants and refugees in the course of their settlement and integration into Canadian society.

After 150 years of solitude: Revitalizing the stories of Chinese-Canadians and B.C. First Nations

by WILL TAO

Thanks to the work of local historians and writers, the intertwined history of early Chinese migrants and B.C. First Nations is now being preserved and revitalized.

First encounters

Arriving in Canada beginning in the 18th century, Chinese migrants and traders found themselves searching for new opportunities. This led many Chinese to venture into various small cities and towns in B.C., such as Prince Rupert, Hazelton, Lytton, Yale, and Osoyoos to pursue employment. Often single men who had left their wives and children in China, some began to intermarry with the local First Nations women.

Professor Jean Barman of the University of British Columbia, who will be presented with the George Woodcock Award on June 21 in recognition of her outstanding literary career, has documented at least 30 such relationships in her work.

“It’s impossible to write about British Columbia’s history without being aware of the important roles played by Indigenous peoples and by arrivals from China, be it in the gold fields or by Chinese men and Indigenous women having families together,” Barman says.

Lily Chow, an author and leading scholar on Chinese-First Nations history, describes how Aboriginal and Chinese men also formed close

working and personal relationships that ranged from working together in gold mines and building railways to gambling and trading lessons on hunting and cooking. The relationship was often frustrated, however, by a colonial government that would frequently grant land and water rights to Chinese individuals to the detriment of First Nations.

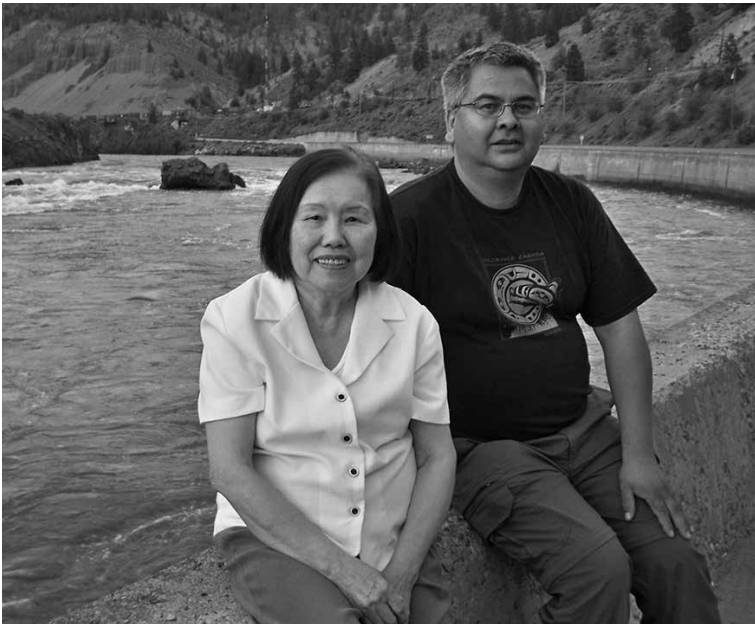
Unfortunately, there is still a large gap in our knowledge of both this period and the 100 years that followed.

“The main reason [for the gap] is the lack of documentation in this period [from Chinese and First Nations’ perspectives]. Also, urbanization saw many Chinese immigrants move to big cities and congregate in Chinatowns, for protection and jobs,” explains Chow.

Young historian looking to fill in the gaps

Sarah Ling is a fourth-generation Chinese-Canadian from Prince Rupert who has conducted extensive research into the interactions between the Musqueam Nation and early Chinese migrants who lived and worked as market gardeners on the Musqueam reserve. She also uncovered her own family’s rich history of interaction with First Nation peoples. Ling learned that her great-great uncle, Mah Bon Quen, was the first Chinese merchant in Prince Rupert and made a living trading with local Haida, Tsimshian, and Gitksan people.

For Ling, it is integral to learn from local elders and knowledge



▲ Lily Chow with John Haugen.

keepers. Their stories have revealed that relations between Chinese and First Nations were often respectful and mutually beneficial. In many cases, both peoples supported one another in the face of marginalization, racism, and assimilationist and destructive policies imposed by the Canadian government.

Ling noted that today there is a lack of knowledge of Indigenous topics and issues among all Canadians.

“Many Canadians and recent newcomers to Canada hold misconceptions of First Nations peoples, due to the instances of misrepresentation and appropriation that pervade mainstream media, not only in North America but globally,” says Ling.

Ling points out that the majority of the new wave of Asian migrants to Canada, much like Canadians themselves, know little about Canada’s First Nations peoples before they arrive and often are only exposed to misrepresentations and stereotypes.

Building tomorrow’s Chinese-Canadian/First Nations narrative

Barman, Chow, and Ling all believe that a greater emphasis needs to be placed on teaching the importance of local First Nations communities and on our collective responsibility to learn about our shared histories.

Barman believes that the next step in furthering the relationship is better communication.

She recommends that more events take place within both Aboriginal and Chinese-Canadian communities, to share first-hand narratives and histories.


“Conducting workshops, seminars, and conferences for the general Canadian public would be beneficial, particularly for newer immigrants,” says Chow.

Chow points out that progress has been made, but that more work needed to be done by the federal and provincial governments to integrate the history of Chinese and First Nations into the curriculum.

Ling agrees and points to the provincial curriculum as a major source of misconceptions held by Canadians. Ling suggests that recent resources such as the “First Peoples: A Guide for Newcomers” created by the City of Vancouver and the UBC Chinese Canadian Stories project are steps in the right direction.

With increasing foreign investment from China, particularly within the natural resource sector, Ling also believes that the relationship between First Nations and Chinese is entering a new phase.

“Unfortunately, Indigenous communities across Canada often have to rally against the government and large companies in order for proper community consultation to take place. Consultation is critical in order to protect their unique histories, cultures, and unceded lands. Failure to consult compromises Aboriginal title, rights, and treaties,” Ling says. ✂



THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN

(PŘÍHODY LIŠKY BYSTROUŠKY)

LEOŠ JANÁČEK (1854–1928) // Sung in Czech

June 26, 27, 28, // 7:30 pm | June 29 // 2:00 pm | Old Auditorium | UBC Campus

UBCOPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2014
Media Contact: Miles Linklater
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UBC Opera Joined by Conductor David Agler, and Members of the Celebrated Vancouver Opera Orchestra for a Riveting Production of Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Vancouver, BC – The **UBC Opera Ensemble** is thrilled to announce that **David Alger**, Artistic Director of the prestigious Wexford Festival Opera, and former Music Director of the Vancouver Opera, will conduct members of the **Vancouver Opera Orchestra** in its presentation of Janáček’s charming opera *The Cunning Little Vixen* for four performances, June 26–29, 2014, on stage at the **UBC Old Auditorium**.

THE STORY: Inspired by a comic strip and premiered in 1924, Leoš Janáček and librettist Rudolf Těsnohlídek’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* is an endearing and enlightened glance at the circle of life amongst a cast of woodland characters. Usually seen as a fairytale, this piece also provides us with a revealing insight into nature’s struggle to survive the devastating footprint of humanity.

THE MUSIC: The score contains some of Janáček’s most enchanting music. Dream sequences, the wedding march of the foxes, and the magnificent finale of ‘When evening arrives’ paint a glorious picture of the countryside Janáček loved so much. The inspiration for *The Cunning Little Vixen* came from Rudolf Těsnohlídek’s serialized novella called *Vixen Sharp-Ears* (a vixen is a female fox). While composing, he found himself moving away from the self-consciously dramatic style that had characterized some of his earlier operas, and managed to fully integrate the folk-style that had been increasingly fascinating him.

The opera is noted for actually possessing a fair amount of experimental content, including scenes of ballet and mime.

THE PRODUCTION: The magnificent set is designed by the Head of UBC Theatre, **Prof. Robert Gardiner**. **Jeremy Baxter** returns to the Ensemble to create the lighting design. Stage director, **Prof. Nancy Hermiston** is joined by conductor **David Agler**, along with members of the **Vancouver Opera Orchestra**.

THE CAST: The talented singers from the **UBC Opera Ensemble** have come together from across Canada and the world to prepare this masterpiece for Vancouver. All roles are double cast with the Vixen performed by **Hilary Young** and **Stephanie Nakagawa**, the Fox by **Laura Miller** and **Simone McIntosh**, the Forester by **Sheldon Baxter** and **Micah Schroeder**, Harašta (the poacher) by **Geoff Schellenberg** and **Kyle Lehmann**, the Priest by **Elliot Harder** and **Duncan Watts-Grant** and the School Master by **Erik Schwarzhoff** and **Sung San Oh**.

The Cunning Little Vixen by Leoš Janáček | UBC Opera Ensemble with members of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra
In Czech with English surtitles™. Libretto adapted by the composer from a serialized novella (daily comic) by Rudolf Těsnohlídek and Stanislav Lolek

UBC Old Auditorium, 6344 Memorial Road | June 26, 27, 28, at 7:30 pm | June 29 at 2:00 pm

Tickets are available at <http://ubcopera.universitytickets.com>, by telephone at 604.822.6725, or in-person at the UBC Old Auditorium Box Office. Adult \$37/Senior \$27/Non-UBC Student \$20/UBC Student \$15

These opera performances are made possible through the generous assistance of the David Spencer Endowment Fund at UBC.

► “Verbatim” from page 1 of Man but sometimes forgets that not everyone there is singing the same tune. In comparison, Vancouver plays the avant-garde role. Here nothing is more banal than to be tattooed head to toe, to have torn jeans and a pierced nose or to wear a veil. Wedged between sea and mountains the city stirs your imagination. Vancouver fascinates me.

Never mind my sketchy English that contradicts what I had been told: “Immersion? Nothing better!” or “It’s a matter of two or three months. Four at the very most!” I’m now in my fifth month and despite many intensive private lessons at a Coal Harbour school, mastering the language of Shakespeare remains as unattain-

yoga mats tucked under their arms. I notice all the bike paths and the multicoloured garbage bins placed side by side, each bin destined to receive a precise type of refuse. Getting it right as sorting your garbage can be more complex than you think in Vancouver.

However I also notice countless used plastic cups – with straw in lid – thrown away daily. I look upon the homeless on the sidewalks and the customers eating more than they can possibly consume in certain restaurants. The same ones that buy their groceries in an oversized XXL format. With a bitter smile I pay my monthly rent which I know to be higher than elsewhere in Canada. “Mild weather has its price,” I’ve been told.



▲ A culture of tolerance.

able as the tip of one of those glass skyscrapers. Unable to express myself with ease and nonchalance, I instead contemplate the world around me.

I observe those travelers who thank the bus driver upon exiting, the dog walkers picking up after their pet, the athletic types with shapely calves and

Multicultural Vancouver, green Vancouver, Vancouver the showpiece of consumerism. You may hear these truths over and over again but they will mean nothing to you until they have been experienced. Vancouver isn’t paradise but is worthy of a stop along the way. ✂

A dog of a different breed – the desi street dog

by KRISTY MCGILVRAY

A tiny puppy, rescued in a marketplace in Mussoorie, India during a monsoon in 2003, inspired an organization that has since connected hundreds of Indian street dogs with grateful North American owners. The movement that became Adopt an Indian Desi Dog (AAIDD) began during that monsoon when Barbara Gard was teaching at a school called Woodstock International.

Gard was in a market when the monsoon started and took refuge in a small shop nearby. In the roadway, she saw a tiny puppy screaming and looking for shelter. She asked the shop keeper if he knew anything about the puppy and they discussed the topic of suffering street animals. She watched a group of school boys pick up the puppy in a newspaper. To her dismay, they were going to throw the puppy over a cliff. Gard scooped the puppy up, placed him under her jacket and continued with her shopping. She called him Francis; he was five to six weeks old and weighed about five pounds. “He was tiny and scrawny,” says Gard. Her passion and purpose had been set in motion.

Working to help Desi dogs

She visited India a couple more times, bringing puppies back

with her despite her dog sitter’s, friends’ and colleagues’ protests. She went through all the channels, and spent many hours discovering how to work with airlines and their cargo requirements. She met Dr. Choudhary in 2006.

“He tracked me down in Delhi and said he’d been waiting for me” she says.

Dr. Choudhary’s Pet Clinic is a veterinary clinic located in New Delhi. Dr. Choudhary helped her board and treat five puppies she rescued in Mussoorie during that visit.

Adopt an Indian Desi Dog (AAIDD), located in Abbotsford,

B.C., started in 2009 with an airlift of 11 puppies. Dr. Choudhary again helped Gard with the paperwork and health checks. Gard remembers that it was an incredibly complicated first year for AAIDD. Dr. Choudhary continued to stay in contact with Gard, asking for more and more puppies to be rescued and brought back to North America. During September to December of 2009 she rescued 25 dogs; in 2010 she set a goal of 50 and in 2011 she set a goal of 100, and met each goal.

A fateful meeting

This was fortunate for Chelsea

Newcombe and Jeremy Newcombe, a couple who adopted a sweet and sensitive puppy just over two years ago named Chloe. Chelsea Newcombe has lived in India and knows the plight of the native Desi dog. They learned of the Desi adoption option through a website called Petfinder.

Then, as they were walking along the seawall in Olympic Village, they happened upon a Desi dog meetup. They were able to meet the people behind AAIDD, the Desi dogs and their owners.

“It must be fate, they were thinking about it and then ran into them,” Chelsea Newcombe says.


Jeremy Newcombe says that they had both owned dogs before, but Chloe, being a Desi dog, is quite different. Chelsea Newcombe says she was more cat-like than dog-like – she is very independent. As well, she is quite clever, which has its challenges as they cannot bribe her. She is very sensitive to their moods and emotions and can tell if one of them is upset. When she senses a person is upset she will go over and try to placate the party, says Chelsea Newcombe.

Kathy Gibson is a dog trainer who works closely with Gard and Desi owners. He says that the Desi “are almost a true dog, as the dogs have been domesticated. They are quite amenable to human beings and easy to train.”

Desi dogs respond best to training that allows them to fully express themselves. A good approach is to treat them like a child when they are puppies, as their learning patterns, approach to learning and approach to relationships are similar. With the street dogs, their breeding and their genetics are about living along side humans and being very social, but they also live in a community with themselves, says Gibson.

“They have strong family situations and have really clear, strong communication which is closer to what wild animals have, but they aren’t considered wild animals.”

Due to their uniqueness, Desi dogs do not respond well to typical obedience training. Like wolf hybrids, an animal Gibson has worked with, Desi dogs protect their own interests. If a person is able to show that he or she can do that, they are quite willing to cooperate, learn and work within the relationship.

The Desi dog becomes part of a person’s family, a companion and a friend, and contributes as much to the household as that person does, but in its own way. The Desi dog is not for every family situation, but if a person puts the time, effort and money into training they will gain another faithful family member. 



▲ Barbara with some desi dogs at Adopt an Indian Desi Dog (AAIDD).

► “Soccer” from page 1

“There’s no development in Canadian soccer,” says Jonathan Friedman, 24. “When you play youth soccer, once you get to a certain age, there’s no place where older players can really develop.”

Friedman, Theo Finseth, 19, and Sylvan Hamburger, 20, are supervisory staff for the Britannia Micro Footie program at the Britannia Community Services Centre. Established in 1993, the program hosts boys and girls spring soccer games of approximately 1300 kids in various age groups from 4–15, as well as a casual drop-in co-ed program for teens over 16.

Friedman says young soccer kids here in British Columbia are no different from kids anywhere else in the world when it comes to the passion, dedication, and love for the sport. But the soccer system here doesn’t cultivate and encourage this passion as they grow older.



▲ Recreational soccer programs enable youth like Style to learn the fundamentals of the game.

“They kind of lose their drive,” says Friedman. “In Europe, for example, if you play for the Barcelona youth team at age 9, there’s always that dream driving those kids to keep playing.”

“You can be a very talented player, but if you haven’t been properly scouted by the time you’re 13 or 14, you will find it very difficult to overcome certain barriers,” adds Finseth.

Trying to cultivate one’s professional soccer skill by going to Europe after playing university

soccer and graduating also poses additional challenges.

Friedman related an anecdote about a friend who moved to Scotland to play for Celtic F.C.’s youth reserve team. His friend wasn’t treated well by the players there, who felt he was taking a spot that should have gone to a local player.

“If you go to Europe as a 22-year-old, teams are not going to sign you because they have kids who are younger, who are equally as good as you, and who have come up through the ranks. They would ask, ‘why should we give you a job as a foreigner?’” says Friedman.

A space to develop skills


So what can be done to improve the system here for youth who dream of soccer stardom?

In a series of posts on his blog, Rennie argues that youth leagues need to have a clear philosophy and curriculum to ensure players are learning the game effectively. Having good qualified coaches would provide mentors as well as knowledgeable instructors.

A Canadian professional league with at least eight teams and greater private investment in facilities, tournaments and community outreach are other steps that Rennie argues would help move Canada toward becoming a soccer country that provides opportunities for prospective professionals to develop their skills, advance through the ranks and become an elite player, perhaps even a world soccer legend.

“It is fantastic that so many volunteers give kids in Canada a chance to play soccer,” writes Rennie. “Now we have to give them and the career coaches the tools they are craving to take Canadian soccer to another level.”

Until then, Canadians will have to cheer for another national team at this upcoming World Cup.

“My favourite team is Germany, but in this World Cup, I would like to see Brazil take it. Just because I feel it would be great for the host country, the event, and the sport as a whole,” says Finseth. 

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Video: Jan Lozam | Costume: John Carlo Pagunaling
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Here’s what’s happening at Surrey’s heritage facilities in June

SURREY MUSEUM

17710 – 56A Avenue
604-592-6956
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @ASurreyMuseum

MUSEUM INFO

Surrey Museum – Unique artifacts, images and interactive displays in a stunning and modern space that highlights Surrey’s history. Attractive space for programs, changing feature exhibits, Hooser Textile Centre. Hours: Tuesdays–Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Admission sponsored by Friends Society.

EXHIBITIONS

Kids Celebrate!

This lively exhibition for kids of all ages explores the diversity of cultural celebrations in Canada. Discover 13 celebrations through the seasons with hands-on activities and artifacts. Music, dance, food, decoration, costume and games show that the tradition of celebrating is something everyone shares. From the Canadian Museum of History. On display June 7–September 6.

Komagata Maru: 100 Years Later

Personalized through image, sound and video, this exhibit tells the social story of the Komagata Maru – a steamship carrying 376 passengers from Punjab, India that was refused entry into British Columbia by Canadian immigration officers in 1914. On display to July 12.

PROGRAMS

Make Believe Birthday Parties

Celebrate your birthday with the Surrey Museum! Invite your friends then choose one of our fun themes: Trains, Pirates, Ancient Egypt, Classic Greek Mythology, or Medieval Europe. Must pre-book at 604-592-6956. Saturdays: 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. \$13.50 per child, birthday child is free

Discovery Saturday: Doors Open

The Surrey Museum is yours to explore! Listen to live fiddle music from 11am to 12noon, watch fibre arts demonstrations, explore the exhibit galleries, tour the Museum’s collection storage with the curator, watch performances by The Re-Enactors heritage re-enactment troupe, make pioneer crafts, and enjoy old-fashioned refreshments. Saturday, June 21, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. All ages, by donation.

Register for Museum Summer Day Camps!

Museum summer day camps invite kids to explore the world, experiment with science, and learn about history, all while having fun! Themes include Greek mythology, technology, space, and world celebrations. Please call 604-592-6956 for info and to register. Tuesdays–Thursdays in July & August.

HISTORIC STEWART FARM

13723 Crescent Road, Surrey
604-592-6956
www.surrey.ca/heritage
Twitter: @StewartFarm1

HISTORIC STEWART FARM INFO

Tour the charming restored 1894 farmhouse, pole barn and heritage gardens, try old-fashioned crafts, take part in a program or special event, and imagine pioneer life at the turn of the 19th century. Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.; Saturday: 12 noon–4 p.m. Sunday: 12 noon–4 p.m. (May–August). Entrance by donation.

PROGRAMS

Old-Fashioned Birthday Parties

Party like a pioneer! Celebrate your child’s special day the way kids might have done 100 years ago. An instructor will lead partiers in traditional games and a craft to take home. You supply the cake, and let the kids make the ice-cream! Must prebook at 604-592-6956. Saturdays: 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. \$13.50/child (birthday child is free).

Farm Tots: Water and Boats

Row, row, row your boat! Get ready to discover beautiful boats and wonderful water through songs, crafts and old-fashioned stories. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. 1 session \$5 (1–3yrs) Thursday, June 12, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Father’s Day Open House

Float your boat and get on track! See real large scale trains from the Greater Vancouver Garden Railway Club and discover the boating world of Surrey today and long ago. Make a train or boat craft and relax on the verandah with coffee and lemonade. Sunday, June 15, 12 noon–3:00 p.m. All ages, by donation.

Strawberry Tea

Book your group, family, or bring a friend to enjoy tea, local strawberries and hand-churned ice cream served on the verandah of the heritage farmhouse. Must pre-register at 604-592-6956. 1 session \$15 (6yrs+). Wednesday, June 18–Saturday, June 21. 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Register for Farm Summer Day Camps!

Spend your summer at the farm! Kids unplug from phones and devices and explore old-fashioned farm chores, boats and rivers, early settlers, or Victorian parties. Please call 604-592-6956 for info and to register. Tuesdays–Fridays in July & August.

Celebrating Scandinavian Midsummer with wife carrying and Viking living

by SIMON YEE

The 19th annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival will be held on the grounds of the Scandinavian Community Centre on June 21–22, as well as an Ember Skies Dance for patrons 19 years of age and older on June 20. The feature attractions at the festival include a beer garden, live music, cultural displays, food vendors, competitions and door prizes.

Organized by the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Committee, the festival is the largest fundraising event for the Scandinavian Community Centre Society. Monica Olofsson, one of the festival’s entertainment organizers for several years, says over 300 volunteers and performers showcase some of the most popular traditions and customs of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, as well as some Canadian resourcefulness and flair.

Traditions remembered and re-invented

The midsummer tradition originates back to the 10th century when the Vikings celebrated the brightest time of the year.

“The oldest custom at Midsummer is, as in other parts of Europe, the lighting of a great bonfire, but in these latitudes the shortest night of the year was not the right time for dancing around a fire,” says Ann Nielsen, the festival’s publicist.

So the bonfire custom was replaced with the decorating and erecting of a maypole full of garlands and flower rings as part of May Day celebrations.

“However, because of the cold northern climate, there were not enough leaves and flowers to be found on May 1, hence the transformation of the continental maypole into a ‘Midsummer Pole,’ raised in June,” Nielsen explains.

Norse games, folk dancing, and feasts take place around the maypole for the duration of the midsummer.

The Viking Village exhibit has been an essential mainstay of the festival for many years. Members of the Reik Félag, a Norse Culture Recreation Society, dress up as Vikings circa 1000 A.D., live and work in authentic Viking tents, tell stories and stay in character for the two days of the festival.

“They educate the public about the Viking way of life by living it. They dress, cook, act and look like the Vikings we all have heard about. They even teach sword fighting and pillaging to the kids. It’s a great living display,” Olofsson says.

For the sixth time, the festival will host their version of a Finnish competition: The Wife Carrying Contest.

“Men in olden Finland would walk to a neighboring village and carry away the woman he wanted to be his wife, displaying his determination and worthiness,” says Karina Ramsay, the wife carrying contest organizer. “Nowadays, this has evolved into the present day Wife Carrying Contest, complete with obstacles and water hazards.”

The World Wife Carrying Championships have been held in Sonkajärvi, Finland since 1992, where a husband carries his wife around a course replete with obstacles and water hazards.

“Our contest is a lot smaller and does not have a water hazard (yet),” Ramsay says.

But like the larger Finnish contest, the grand prize is the



▲ At the Viking Village.



▲ The Wife Carrying Contest.

The theme for this year’s festival is Nordic Design. Each Nordic country will be featuring historical and contemporary artistic design pieces, such as fashion, furniture and household items.

Food and accessories

Local artists will be present to show off their craftsmanship of Scandinavian jewelry, clothes, toys and other accessories. The festival will serve traditional Scandinavian foods, such as *Janssons Frestelse* (a Swedish casserole), *Smørrebrød* (a Danish open-faced sandwich), Swedish meatballs with pickled herring, Norwegian waffles, Icelandic cookies and deserts from all five Nordic countries.

same: winning the wife’s weight in beer!

Other events at the festival include the Paavo Nurmi Run, a 10 km run along Burnaby Lake in honour of the nine-time Olympic Gold medalist, Paavo Nurmi, “The Flying Finn,” a vintage Volvo car show hosted by the Volvo Club of BC, and hourly live Nordic music. Over 5,000 people throughout the Lower Mainland are estimated to partake in the festivities.

For more information about the festival, please visit www.scandinavianmidsummerfestival.com. For more information about the Paavo Nurmi Run and the Wife Carrying Contest, visit www.vcn.bc.ca.



Photo by Valerie Salez

▲ Henry unleashes his creative spontaneity during a creative session for grunt gallery's Play, Fall, Rest, Dance installation.

The artistry of play: installation showcases children's art

by SONJA GRGAR

Play, Fall, Rest, Dance, an art installation currently running at Vancouver's grunt gallery until July 5th, is poised to defy the notion that good art is necessarily the product of structured creative efforts of adults. Instead, the project involves artist Valerie Salez working with four children with disabilities in order to create art in a spontaneous fashion where kids take the creative lead.

Beyond structure

Play follows on the heels of Salez's residency at the Open Space gallery in Victoria last summer where she worked with 20 children during one-time three-hour sessions over the course of two months. Much like here at grunt, she was given an empty gallery space and then encouraged the children to use a multitude of materials (textiles, beads, paper, plastic piping, metal, to name a few) to create anything they desired.

Salez says that both projects fall into the realm of social relational art which involves interaction with spaces and materials, and that they provided a much needed break from her private art practice which often deals with dark subject matter.

"I needed to have fun, to loosen up, to not care about structure and outcome, and I needed it to be a tactile experience," she says.

Salez connected with Glenn Alteen, program director at grunt gallery, in order to revive some of the concepts of her Open Space residency at grunt, but this time focusing on children with disabilities.

"Disability arts is an important field at the moment with some very important voices speak-

ing out and producing work that is really challenging the status quo," says Alteen.

Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture partnered with grunt in order to inform the various organizations that work with children with disabilities about Play. "Our goal at Kickstart is to support artists with disabilities, and to promote the creation of authentic, non-sentimental expressions of disability," says artistic director Emma Kivisild.

In the end, four children were selected to participate in Play: two boys with autism ages eight and nine, a 12-year old girl with intellectual challenges, and a nine-year old girl with a medically complex condition.

Letting the kids take the lead

Unlike in her Victoria residency, Salez will be working with each of the children over the course of four sessions which will allow her to form a closer rapport with them, as well as to better observe their artistic development.

Though she is the children's assistant and facilitator, Salez encourages the kids to take the artistic lead. This means that each session begins with her showing the child the supply room, and encouraging them to choose their own materials, as well as to come up with creative and spontaneous ways of using them.

"Most kids are overwhelmed when they realize that they get to make all the choices. Like adults, they are [initially] full of restraint, fears, and hesitation, and worry that they are going to do something wrong," says Salez.

She explains that it is important to her to give the kids the license to go wild if they want to within grunt space because art making in schools often involves a physical restraint of sitting at a desk.

"An art gallery is usually a place

where kids aren't allowed to touch anything, and adults made everything. Once the children realize that they are the artists now, they feel a sense of importance, and they take it very seriously," says Salez.

Though she is just starting to work with the children on Play



Photo by Valerie Salez

▲ Amelie goes big with a paint roller during an art-making session.

Salez is already noticing the unique challenges of engaging with children with disabilities, particularly in a setting where neither parents nor other children are present.

One of the boys with autism that is participating in the project was very excited by the creative possibilities, yet also overwhelmed by them: he spent his first session alternating between being engaged with his artwork, and expressing the desire to finish and go home.

Salez doesn't have any structured goals for the project in mind other than facilitating the free flow of children's creativity, and she hopes that gallery visitors will approach their work with the same respect usually reserved for art made by adults.

Kivisild echoes this sentiment: "My hope is that the project will be judged as the good art that I know it will be...the art will be informed by disability, but it will [ultimately] be about the human experience." ✍

Visitors are invited to view the evolving Play, Fall, Rest, Dance installation throughout the month of June, as well as to attend its opening reception on June 26th. For more information on the project, as well as to view a blog tracking its progress, visit www.grunt.ca. For more on Valerie Salez, go to www.wooloo.org/valeriesalez

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Photo by Valerie Salez

▲ Isabelle uses a staple gun to put finishing touches on her sculpture installation.

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A long embarkment home: Haida cedar artist in Vancouver

by ALISON CHIANG

For local artist Todd Giihlgigaa DeVries, his story is a web of many different experiences: a tumultuous childhood, the search for identity, reuniting with his birth mother, becoming a cedar weaver and finding a place to call home.

The early evening sun is still shining bright, but DeVries prefers to stay cool under a tree as he discusses cedar weaving. He points to a cedar tree outside his weaving studio at 711 Keefer St.

Weaving's mystical allure found DeVries in 1999 while staying at a friend's cabin.

"I'm not one for visions," says DeVries.

Looking after his friend's garden one day, DeVries says, "it suddenly went all silver on me." There were silver trees and what

looked like a silver moon beaming. A silver woman appeared.

DeVries wasn't sure what to make of the experience and after some research, he found out it was the story of the Old Woman in the forest.

"If you ever meet her, she'll give you the gift of basketry," explains DeVries.

Weaving an identity

DeVries befriended a local artist in the city who convinced him to set up shop here in the Strathcona community.

The studio used to be a field house and now serves as a gathering place for weaving enthusiasts. Various strips of tree bark are intertwined along the entrance fence to the studio. Neatly tucked away in the corner of Maclean Park, it's a blink-and-you-miss-it kind of place.

DeVries' studio was first of its kind and helped pave the way for other local artists in the city.

"We were guinea pigs" says DeVries. These days, many of the fieldhouses in and around Strathcona have been converted into artist studios.

DeVries has worked with some fairly important people in the city. He says a woman joined him and some other weavers for an entire month before they even had the field

"She was impressed that I was weaving soon after I found her," said DeVries.

Embracing the Haida culture: Weaving is sharing and inclusive

DeVries pauses and lays his hand on a nearby tree. "I enjoy repetitious stuff. Weaving is one of those, too," says DeVries,

DeVries says the community can use more of that: bringing people together and being able to connect.

For DeVries, weaving here in Vancouver, is home; a place where he truly belongs. ✂

For more information about Todd DeVries, visit www.ithkilgaa.co.nr

“A lot of people here in Vancouver are used to nails, glue, zippers – but weaving requires none of those, and yet everything holds together.

Todd Giihlgigaa DeVries, weaver

house. DeVries says she worked very diligently on her basket, which turned out quite well.

"I didn't know it was the mayor's wife – Amy Robertson. We went, 'whoa!' We had no idea. We never talk politics," says DeVries.

As we talk amongst the buzz of laughing children and talking adults in Maclean Park, people inside DeVries' studio are having dinner before tonight's weaving session.

"I'll get everyone to bring food. Try to keep it informal," says DeVries, about his style of teaching and sharing.

Unravelling family knots

Adopted at the age of four by a Dutch family living in Toronto, DeVries grew up knowing he was different than his family and others. The DeVries, who had an automotive business, never talked about the young DeVries' heritage and this decision made it difficult to fit in with peers.

"Indian was a bad word," says DeVries, who recounts a childhood of abuse.

In 1992, DeVries received a gift that would send his life in a new direction.

A friend gave him a ticket, for Vancouver, and said, "Go. Go find yourself."

DeVries was able to locate his biological mother in British Columbia and reclaimed his Haida status. Reunited with the woman he had been separated from for so many years, DeVries came to the realization not all family reunions have Hollywood endings.

"When I found her, she was still lost. My years in foster care broke her heart," says DeVries.

Despite the difficulties between mother and son, she still offered DeVries praise.

who describes it as not thinking but doing.

When DeVries completed his first project – a hat – it took him only 10 days, instead of the estimated two to three months for most people.

In search of more weaving training, DeVries' return to Vancouver in 2010 was fuelled by his intention to learn signatures in Haida weaving: how to personalize a project.

This time around, Vancouver proved to be fruitful for DeVries. He found an Elder mentor in the Haida community and was able to get major exposure for his work.

DeVries offers a practical approach for interested weavers.

"Weaving teaches people how to relate. A lot of people here in Vancouver are used to nails, glue, zippers – but weaving requires none of those, and yet everything holds together," says DeVries.

Gift of the Cedar Tree Workshops
June 18, 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
June 27, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
VPL Britannia Branch
1661 Napier St., Vancouver



Photo by Alison Chiang

▲ Todd DeVries, wearing a cedar bark headband, says the trees are like grandmothers past: offering great wisdom and support.



Photo by Alison Chiang

▲ Todd DeVries gets a handle on some bark while fellow weavers examine a basket in the making.



Photo by Alison Chiang

▲ Let the weaving begin! Tuesday night at the weaving studio.

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Sacred Sands: the making of a Mandala

by JAKE MCGRAIL

Tibetan monks will be creating a Sand Mandala at the Sacred Sands exhibit this June at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden under the supervision of Venerable Khenpo Sondam Rinpoche. Sand Mandalas are intricate art made of powdered gems. It is only recently the Dalai Lama has permitted the Mandalas to be made in public as a means of teaching others about Tibetan culture.

Sand Mandalas have been around for a very long time. They were invented in antiquity, in Tibet. The same patterns have been used for thousands of years. A Mandala represents a Buddha’s divine place of residence. John Robinson is a member of a meditation group based in Kitsilano that invited three Tibetan Buddhist monks, from a monastery in Toronto, to perform the ancient tradition of making a Sand Mandala.

“These designs are very ancient,” says Robinson. “Some patterns no one knows who created them - that’s how old they are.”

**Sand Mandalas:
A distinct art form**

The mandalas, with the materials and tools used, are a particular kind of art.

detail in creating the mandala; but with multiple men working on it, this means a smaller mandala can take over a week to finish. Some of the bigger Mandalas have shifts of men working on them so it can be done quicker.

Impermanence

The work is often done in the open, and sometimes a breeze could blow powder away. One April, in New Jersey, a three-year-old boy jumped on top of the display and played in the powder. The Mandala was salvaged, but it was very smudged.

The monks could have been very upset, but working with nature’s elements has life lessons.

“That [leaving it in the open] is a risk we take,” says Robinson. “If it is destroyed, in some way, it is a reminder of the fact that everything is impermanent. And even if you work long and hard at it, it will still eventually vanish forever.”

The monks in New Jersey were hours away from ceremoniously destroying the Mandala, which is another important part of the tradition.

“They have a ceremony where there is chants and music,” says Robinson. “Then the head monk slowly sweeps the sand off the board and they wrap it up.”

The sand is then thrown into the river, or any body of water, which has a meaning as well.



▲ Mandalas – ephemeral works of art.

“What they do is take pretty semi-precious stones, ground them up into a powder so they look and feel like different color sand,” says Robinson. “They take a board and draw a pattern on it with chalk, and put down the sand.”

How they put down the sand is unique too.

A very narrow tube has the powder poured in it. A stick is rubbed on the tube, which vibrates the tube and allows only one grain to fall out at a time. This process allows for intricate

“By working very hard on it, what they are doing is putting energy in the sand, and that energy is love and compassion, hope for peace, hope for unity and all positive things. The sand is filled with all these good things, and when you put it in the ocean or river that energy is released [and] it spreads all over the world.”

Sacred Sands will be at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden from June 11–17.



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June 10–24, 2014

Cultural Calendar

by ANASTASIA SCHERDERS

There is no denying that sunshine and pleasant weather energize Vancouverites, inspiring us to enjoy some of the vibrant events that pair perfectly with sunny days, warm evenings and flip flops. During these blissful summer days, you may find yourself entering Shakespeare’s fairyland at Vanier Park, eating a savoury gyro at Greek Day on West Broadway or dancing to DJ spun beats on a car-free Commercial Drive!

Bard on the Beach
June 11–Sept. 20
Vanier Park, Vancouver
www.bardonthebeach.org
604.739.0559

Bard on the Beach, one of Canada’s largest not-for-profit professional Shakespeare Festivals, is celebrating its 25th season! This year’s festival features A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Tempest, and other dramas, operas, lectures and special events. All events take place in scenic Vanier Park. Tickets \$30–\$43 or all plays for \$145.

The 20th Vancouver International Storytelling Festival
June 13–15
Various locations
www.vancouverstorytelling.org
604.876.2272

This year’s festival, titled “A Cabinet of Curiosities,” presents a full weekend of captivating encounters with some of the most animated storytellers in the city. From epics to personal narratives, traditional folk stories to fairytales, visitors and residents alike will discover something to celebrate, reflect upon and learn from. Tickets are available at the door or in advance through their website.



▲ Scott Bellis plays Bottom in the fantastical world of A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

An Evening with Oliver Stone
June 14, 8:00 p.m.
Vogue Theatre
918 Granville St., Vancouver
www.vancouverbiennale.com/
event/oliver-stone/

Academy Award winning director Oliver Stone presents an episode from his newest documentary series *The Untold History of the United States*. During the day, he will hold a Master Class at SFU Woodward’s for film enthusiasts.



▲ Celebrating the neighbourhood on Vancouver Car-free Day.

Both events provide a rare opportunity for the public to engage with one of the most stimulating and provocative filmmakers of the 21st century. Tickets \$25.

Vancouver Draw Down
June 14
Various locations
www.vancouverdrawdown.com

Now in its 5th year, Vancouver Draw Down invites Vancouverites of all ages to take part in hands-on drawing events throughout the city. Workshops, developed and led by professional artists, offer the opportunity to explore drawing in person and online. This day-long celebration focuses on the process and pleasure of drawing. Free or free with admission.

Car Free Day on Commercial Drive
June 15, 12–7 p.m.
Commercial Drive (from Venables to Grandview)
www.carfreevancouver.org

Commercial Drive is the birthplace of *Car Free Vancouver Day*. This year’s festival provides 15 blocks of fun with roller disco, parading drummers, healing gardens and DJs spinning beats. Come join your neighbours, and bring your energy and creativity to the street!

Vancouver International Jazz Festival
June 20–July 1
Various locations
www.coastaljazz.ca

The largest jazz festival in British Columbia, this annual summer event includes 1800 musicians, 400 concerts and 40 venues across Vancouver. Many events are free.

Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival
June 20–22
Creekside Community Centre, Concord Pacific Place (next to Science World), Creekside Park and the waters of False Creek, Vancouver
www.dragonboatbc.ca



▲ Dragon boats make a splash in False Creek.

A yearly multicultural event designed to bring Vancouverites together for fun, food, boat racing, music and more. Over 100,000 attendees are expected, as well as over 180 dragon boat teams from around the world. Free.

Greek Day on Broadway
June 22, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.
West Broadway (from MacDonald to Blenheim), Vancouver
www.greekday.com

This award-winning, family-friendly event attracts more than 100,000 people every year. Come celebrate all things Greek at this Broadway street festival, with live entertainment and, of course, lots of delectable food. Free.

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

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



Feature Event CRIME AFTER CRIME

June 19 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open 6:30 p.m.
SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema
149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

This riveting doc is a true-life legal thriller, a genre built on suspense, intrigue and discovery. The story’s twists and turns will have you on the edge of your seat. And the dedication, determination and friendship of an unlikely cast of characters working tirelessly to free a woman accused of murdering her abusive husband will inspire you, move you – and have you cheering with joy!

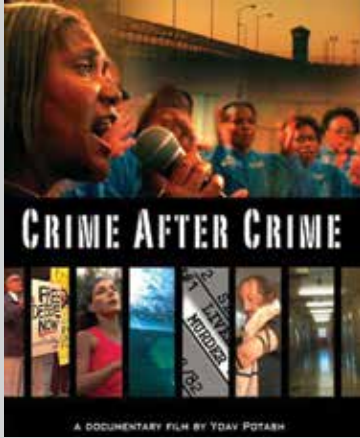
Pre-film introductory panel with Battered Woman Support Services and Skype interview with Elizabeth Sheehy, author “Defending Battered Women on Trial”. Stay after the film for a Skype Q&A with Director Yoav Potash.

Advanced tickets: Reel Causes Members \$10, Non-Members \$12. Visit reelcauses.org to buy. At the door: Reel Causes Members \$13, Non-Members \$15. CASH ONLY.

In Support of



Battered Women’s Support Services provides education, advocacy and support services to assist all battered women in its aim to work towards the elimination of violence and to work from a feminist perspective that promotes equality for all women.



Gumhead

Come to the Howe St. side of the Vancouver Art gallery and celebrate *Gumhead*. It's the 7-foot steel-reinforced fiberglass sculpture of West Vancouver artist Douglas Coupland's head. It's meant to be an interactive installation with the public participating by sticking gum all over it. The public becomes an artist participating in a transformative experience, changing the nature of the original piece. Part of Coupland's intent is to provide an outlet for his on-going concern over the defacement of public art. He is both annoyed and fascinated by defacement, and has expressed this in many of his works. *Gumhead* is also a culminating work of many of Coupland's large-scale representations of the human head and body.

So who is Coupland? If you've seen Terry Fox Memorial outside BC Place, or the Digital Orca beside the waterfront Vancouver Convention Centre, these are his designs. Coupland has been described as a modern day Renaissance man, being an accomplished writer, designer and artist. His novel *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* won international acclaim in the early 90's. He comments on contemporary life through his writing, painting, photography, and installations. He was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2013.

Inside the Vancouver Art Gallery, in conjunction with *Gumhead*, his legacy as a visual artist is being celebrated in the first museum survey of his career. His solo exhibition: *Douglas Coupland: everywhere is anywhere is anything is everything is amazing*. His work can be described as prolific, precise and profound. The manner in which he orders found objects to comment on Canadian life and the political, social and environmental issues in our digital age is brilliant. Although the issues he portrays are serious, there



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is a hopeful expectancy about his work. This is partially achieved through his use of bright colours and whimsical use of Lego in some of his designs. Originating from an interactive use of Lego with the public, one installation in the exhibition features fu-

turistic buildings made of Lego. Vancouver architects could gain some inspiration here. Another installation uses toy missiles, old globes streaked with oil, railroad tracks and a miniature train, all surrounding an NSA building, evoking a frightful present and

future. *Ice Storm* is a huge metallic sculpture representing a downed transmission tower during the winter ice storms of 1998 in eastern Canada. It's a powerful message where nature has technology on its knees. Coupland's VAG exhibition is a

must see – I have only scraped the surface of an exhibition I would describe as being delightful, inspiring and thought-provoking. It is currently on until September 1.

Don Richardson

Recipe by Chef Ben Kiely

First Nations sweet bannock bread

This sweet bannock bread is very simple to make and yields great results. I also like to use the bannock to make French toast for breakfast the next day.

Original recipe makes 1 loaf.

Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1-1/2 cups water

Method

1. Measure flour, salt, and baking powder into a large bowl. Stir to mix. Pour melted butter and water over flour mixture. Stir with fork to make a ball.
2. Turn dough out on a lightly floured surface, and knead gently about 10 times. Pat into a flat circle 3/4 to 1 inch thick.
3. Cook in a greased frying pan over medium heat, allowing about 15 minutes for each side. Use two lifters for easy turning. May also be baked on a greased baking sheet at 350°F for 25 to 30 minutes.



Photo courtesy of Ben Kiely

▲ Tasty bannock hot from the pan.

A stylized logo consisting of a large, bold, white letter 'S' on a teal background. The 'S' is formed by two curved shapes that meet at the top and bottom, creating a continuous loop.

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