



## Embracing cultural diversity with Vancouver's international students

by AUDREY TUNG

Vancouver's post-secondary institutions draw students and faculty members from all over the world. SFU Masters' student Daniel Mundeve, UBC Masters' student Yimei Li, and UBC PhD candidate Felix Boeck relate their experiences of studying and working in Vancouver.



▲ Daniel Mundeve, SFU Masters student.



▲ Yimei Li, Masters student at UBC.



▲ Felix Böck, PhD candidate at UBC.

Daniel Mundeve, who completed his undergraduate degree in Geography at UBC, is currently working towards an MA in International Studies in the Governance and Conflict stream. Having grown up in Tanzania, he retains strong ties to his native country.

His research project revolves around the concept of "Social License to Operate" (SLO), which is loosely defined as the community's acceptability for a project to exist in their area. He is currently analyzing the state of the Tanzanian government's policy support and capacity for implementing SLOs.

What drew Daniel Mundeve to Canada was its rugged landscape and reputation on the world stage.

"I chose Canada because of its great international reputation in terms of humanitarian work and its majestic landscape, especially the Rockies. I am a hiker, so it was not a difficult choice to live within a few hours drive of the Rockies," he says.

UBC's academic prestige and his full scholarship were also key factors in his decision to come to B.C.

Mundeve hopes to return to Tanzania upon graduation to play an active role in its development efforts.

"Actually, that evening of August 13, 2008, when I first boarded the flight from Kilimanjaro International Airport to Vancouver, I was more excited about my return flight than that outbound flight. During my undergraduate and graduate studies, I have made it a priority to look for opportunities to remain connected and to continue to contribute in Tanzania's development efforts," he explains.

He hopes to help his country emulate things that he admires in Canada, though he recognizes that differences must be taken into account.

"Tanzania has a lot to learn from Canada especially in terms of building institutional capacity to ensure an economically and socially stable Tanzania is built. But I continuously remind myself that everything must always be taken in context. What works in Canada does not necessarily mean it will work in Tanzania. So, with all my dreams to bring the good things I have seen in Canada back home, I

continually remind myself that I must also remain sensitive to the cultural and social differences that exist," he says.

Mundeve's role as an agent for change was largely influenced by his experience studying abroad.

"Through my exposure in working and studying internationally, I have learnt to look at a lot of things critically instead of just accepting the 'reality' I witness at home. I see potential for positive change in every situation," he says.

Despite his desire to return to Tanzania, his definition of "home" See "International Students" page 4 >

### Verbatim

"Multiculturalism is new to me"

by CARL DENSEM

Born in Zimbabwe to a white family in the 1980s, I was kept mostly separate from native, black Zimbabweans – albeit less so than a generation before. As I grew up and attended a racially integrated school, I saw this gap slowly shrink before being wedged apart by Robert "Bob" Mugabe, our long-standing dictator-president, as a last ditch effort to remain in power. He is now 91 years old and has ruled since 1980. In the intervening years he marauded the opposition and eviscerated the agrarian economy until the country's top export became its own citizens. In contrast to South Africa, where reconciliation between races was prioritized, Zimbabweans were force-fed a diet of hate.

I left behind this narrow view of ethnic differences when I embarked on a scholarship to an American university in 2004. Wide-eyed and hungry for a better life, I found it refreshing not to know who was upper or lower class and to be indistinguishable from my peers.

My 11 years in the United States made me a product of the "melting pot" of American cultural assimilation, an idea I completely agree with. Recent immigrants should actively integrate and become part of their new community. In theory, this should breed social cohesion and enable national debate without a breakdown into voting blocs based on national origin or ethnicity. Unfortunately, while the goal is admirable, I saw little evidence that new immigrants (myself included) pursued this ideal in earnest. Often the hardship of trying to fully immerse seems to drive newcomers deeper into their own localized communities, at least to begin with.

See "Verbatim" page 7 >

### Also in this issue

Daoism inspires  
artist's work  
Page 8



Taiko drums  
resound down  
the generations  
Page 9



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# Community Profile



Photo by Malgorzata Kowalczyk

## Immigration and integration at heart of the Polish Cultural Festival

by KATY THOMPSON

**Metro Vancouver's Polish community will be holding its third annual Polish Cultural Festival on Sept. 6 and 7 in North Vancouver, presented by Belweder, the non-profit North Shore Polish Association.**

"The main purpose of the society is to keep the Polish culture and tradition alive in our community," says Urszula Sulinska, president of Belweder.

### Waves of immigration

Sulinska, who immigrated to Canada in 1987, says that there have been six waves of Polish immigration to Canada, the first of which occurred in the latter part of the 19th century. Between the World Wars, most new arrivals settled on the prairies. After WWII, many former members of the Polish armed forces, inmates from Nazi concentration camps

and refugees from communist Poland came to Canada to start a new life; over fifty per cent settled in Ontario. The last wave of immigration into Canada, 1981-93, Sulinska says was motivated by Poland's economic and political crisis.

B.C.'s Polish population rested at 128,360 in 2011, roughly half of which resided in Vancouver, says Sulinska. This number is now increasing due to births from Canadians of Polish descent. Immigration rates have decreased over the years as a result of Poland's increasing economic and political stability.

"Immigration to Canada isn't happening as much anymore because Poland is a free country now and there are no political reasons to emigrate. Some people come here because they are looking for skilled workers, but not that many," says Sulinska.

Belweder, founded in 2002, aims to help people who have immigrated here integrate their Polish and Canadian heritages.

"We are helping Polish people better understand Canadian culture and build the bridge between these two cultures," says Sulinska.

### The Polish community today

Belweder promotes Polish education, music and arts by holding local events. Sulinska emphasizes the importance of involving children in these cultural events in order to pass on the Polish culture to the next generation.

Attending a Polish school is an option for parents who want their children to learn about the Polish language and culture. Sulinska says that being able to speak Polish has a number of benefits, including opening communication with overseas family members and pursuing education or employment in Poland. The Church of St. Casimir in Vancouver houses a Polish school that has been issuing high school diplomas since 1953. According to Sulinska, the first

Polish missionaries, pioneers in the creation of the Catholic Church and other faiths, came to Canada as early as 1841 and eventually settled in the parish of St. Casimir in 1944. The church also unites the members of the local Polish community through patriotic demonstrations, prayer groups and a children's choir.

"The Polish church is very buoyant here and the Polish children who have completed the school speak perfect Polish. They are familiar with the history and culture of their people," says Sulinska.

Another association, the Polish Friendship ZGODA Society, was established in 1926 to preserve the Polish identity and language and to help new arrivals settle into their new lives in Canada. In 1959, the society opened the Polish Community Centre on Fraser Street, which offers services such as Polish folk dancing lessons and celebrates traditions like Dozynki, the Polish Harvest Festival.

Sulinska feels that it is important to encourage all community members to get involved in Polish cultural activities, like the annual Polish Cultural Festival.

"Our goal was to share all that is Polish with North Shore's multicultural community," Sulinska says of last year's Polish Cultural Festival. "The event had an educational character, and it was interesting to get to know more people from the North Shore community."

This year's Polish Cultural Festival will include authentic Polish cuisine, folk dancing and a string quartet, among other spectacles. The second day of the festival will be dedicated to children's activities, including face painting and a puppet theatre. ✂

For more information please visit: [www.northvancouver.com/polish-festival-at-lynn-valley-village-north-vancouver/22587/](http://www.northvancouver.com/polish-festival-at-lynn-valley-village-north-vancouver/22587/) [www.belweder.org](http://www.belweder.org) [www.kpk.org/](http://www.kpk.org/)



Photo by Malgorzata Kowalczyk

▲ Ursula Sulinska.



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### Kensington Prairie Fall Festival

Seasonal Fun for Little 'Pumpkins'

Looking for some good ol' fashioned FREE family fun? Join us at Kensington Prairie Community Centre on Saturday, September 19 to celebrate the fall season and all of its offerings. Activities include family games, crafts and face painting.



### Olde Harvest Fair

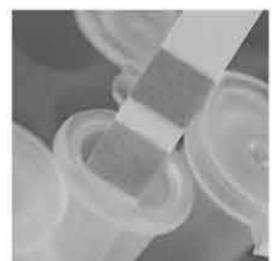
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Postcard

## Explore Trois-Rivières

From June 28 to July 31, I participated in the Explore program at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières. I studied French in an immersion environment with a no-English rule, where you risk being expelled from the program if caught speaking English.

My stay in Trois-Rivières was very exciting from beginning to end. The French immersion gave me a taste of Quebec culture and lifestyle. When I first arrived in Trois-Rivières, being dropped off by Orleans Express and trying to figure out the way to the university, I had no idea that learning French could be such an adventure. From asking for directions, ordering food and meeting the inhabitants of the town, to learning in a classroom and doing workshops and activities with fellow participants of the program, communicating in French has never been so much fun, and it has created memories that I'll never forget.

During the five weeks, I lived on the university campus among 200 other Explore participants in apartment-style dorms. Upon our arrival at the university, we were greeted by the friendly *animateurs* – local students who led all of our Explore activities. We enjoyed thematic Friday *soirées* (dances), outings to downtown Trois-Rivières, Quebec City and Montreal, and other activities such as rock climbing and museum visits. One vivid moment was when we visited Quebec City, walking in Vieux Québec on narrow streets,

somewhat resembling “Diagon Alley” from the Harry Potter movies, with interesting and eclectic boutiques. I remember the hanging flower pots outside restaurant terraces and the street musicians who created an intoxicating atmosphere with their music. I also attended the *Festivoix* of Trois-Rivières, a music festival that took place from June 26 to July 5 in downtown Trois-Rivières. My Explore friends and I sat in a garden listening to captivating jazz music on a Saturday evening.

“ I had no idea that learning French could be such an adventure.

I had an amazing time in Trois-Rivières. I experienced a positive environment while learning French. Having studied some French in high school, I was put in the intermediate level at Explore. After five weeks of immersion, my French had improved a lot. Speaking, listening and writing in French had become second nature. Coming back, I had to tell myself to switch back to English. It was a successful immersion, and it makes me want to continue to learn French on my own. I'm going to miss the French-speaking environment, the quaint houses, the music, the adventures and the people I met in Trois-Rivières.

DANIELLE TAN



▲ Danielle Tan in Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

Photo courtesy of Danielle Tan

North Shore Polish Association Belweder cordially invites you to

## Polish Festival Vancouver

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September 6th 1:00 - 6:30      September 7th 1:00 - 5:00  
Children's Day



**September 6th**  
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Polanie - Folk Dance Group from Calgary  
Polish Canadian soloists  
Music Bands  
Roma Gry - Dancing Group  
Polish food will be served

**September 7th - Children's Day**  
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Polish food will be served

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# Enthusiastic youth take on Tagalog language initiative

by DANIELLE TAN

**James Infante, a fourth-year political science student at the University of British Columbia, recently organized a rally at the celebration of Philippine Independence Day at Slocan Park to campaign towards having the Tagalog language integrated into the school system.**

"The most important part is to have passion and devotion towards the change you want to see

about the Filipino language is that some words have many different meanings and layers to them," explains Infante.

Pandayin is based in the Lower Mainland with about 15 active members. Its membership ranges from high school and university students to young professionals working in neighbourhood houses and in areas of sustainability and international development. The members of Pandayin meet biweekly.

"We meet and talk about lots

campaign, the Pandayin group plans to meet with various mayors and school board members from different cities.

"Just two days ago, we sat with the Mayor of Burnaby, Derek Corrigan. He was very excited and interested in having this put forward in the Burnaby School Board," he says.

The members of Pandayin are working on putting together a website for the Filipino language campaign and launching it to the community that they want to mobilize towards their goals.

## Community discussions and outreach

For the members of Pandayin, developing the campaign has been exciting and fast-paced.

"We're picking up speed on getting to know our culture. Just a few weeks ago, we had a Philippine history discussion," says Infante.

He explains that while some of the members may not know certain facts from Filipino history, their lived experience of what it means to be Filipino, and ancestral knowledge from parents and grandparents, make the conversations interesting and meaningful.

Mable Elmore, the first and only MLA of Filipino heritage, has been a major supporter and inspiration for the Pandayin group.

"We sometimes have meetings in her office, a free space that she offers to us. It's great to have someone who looks like you in leadership and politics," says Infante.

While growing up, Infante never saw members of the Filipino community in leadership positions. He and fellow Pandayin members look forward to continuing their group discussions and opening them up to the public.

"As for next steps, we're working on organizing city-based community groups and forums across the Lower Mainland to talk about how we can best have a course like this put into schools – raising awareness about the value of the Tagalog language," says Infante. ✂

A website for the group, Pandayin, is forthcoming.

## "It's very hard for parents to pass on their language.

*James Infante, leader of Pandayin group*

in your community," says Infante, who is also the leader of the group, Pandayin.

### Pandayin

"We thought that in order for us to get in touch with our heritage and culture, language would be the first step," says Infante.

He has been working on the language campaign with other youth

of social and political issues, and what it means to be a second generation Canadian, Filipino Canadian, or a young person of colour in Canada," he says.

### The language initiative

Since April of this year, the members of Pandayin have had numerous discussions around the desire to connect with their culture and



▲ Ferdaliza Lontok (left), James Infante (centre) and Jaime Tagle (right) at the Pista Ng Bayan celebration of Philippine Independence day on June 6 at Slocan Park.

of Filipino descent, particularly those who identify as second generation Filipino Canadians.

"We decided to call ourselves pandayin, the Tagalog word for 'to forge' or 'to create,'" says Infante.

The members of Pandayin chose this word for its complexity and dynamism – characteristics of their group.

"One of the beautiful things

heritage. Many of them do not know how to speak the Filipino language.

"It's very hard for parents to pass on their language. In the Filipino community, you see a lot of us working middle class jobs, sometimes working two to three jobs; it's tough to have that time spent," explains Infante.

Having initiated the language

► "International Students" from page 1 has evolved over the years.

"I have learned that the answer to the question, 'Will you return home?' is not really as easy as may be assumed. This is partly because the definition of home changes; new relationships, networks and identities get formed," says Mundeve.

Mundeve also enjoys enriching Vancouver's cultural landscape with Tanzanian zeal. Some of his efforts include co-teaching Swahili classes at UBC, organizing social gatherings with non-Tanzanian friends that involve cooking Tanzanian cuisine, dancing, and listening to Tanzanian music, putting on drumming performances and wearing Tanzanian attire – weather permitting.

### Yimei Li, UBC

Yimei Li is an M.Sc. Atmospheric Science student at UBC, conducting her thesis project on air quality in Burns Bog, Delta. Now a Canadian citizen, Li's unique heritage is also rooted in Korea, where her family is from, and China, where she grew up.

Her experiences in Asia have fuelled her passion for her field.

Prior to coming to Canada, however, she was largely unaware of air quality issues.

"I think I am more aware of the air pollution issue than others because I have had personal experiences on this. Before I came to Canada back in 2004, I thought the air quality back in Asia was acceptable and clean for the majority of the time because I do remember clear skies," she says.

It wasn't until she returned to visit that she realized the scope of air quality issues in Korea and China.

"When I went back to visit last year, I was shocked how polluted Asia has become over the decade especially in the springtime. I only remember one or two days with good visibility over my one-month stay in Korea. Same story goes for China, although I did have more clear days in my hometown, which is in the north-eastern part of China," says Li.

### Felix Böck, UBC

Felix Böck, a Wood Science and Engineering graduate student working towards his PhD at UBC, is currently working on developing technology to process bam-

boo into strong wood-hybrid materials. He grew up in Germany, and his work and education have taken him to many places across the globe.

For Böck, Vancouver's vistas evoke the natural landscape of his home in Germany.

"To be honest, my dream was always to travel and discover a place far away from home. Home is the Alps in Germany and after some research about Canada with its endless forests, mountains, lakes and waterfalls I was sold and thought my re-adjustment to a new environment might be not too hard," he says.

He would be reluctant to leave Vancouver, a city he has grown attached to.

"It's hard to think about leaving such a beautiful place which I start calling home and feel homesick when I am traveling. I would miss everything, Vancouver has something that's hard to put in words that I haven't felt anywhere else in the world. From friendly bus-drivers to walking distance to endless beaches or nature outside the city – I love it," he says. ✂



Left Bank



Photo courtesy of CREDO: Cuomo Policy Summit

## Earthquake shakes up debate on fracking in B.C.

Last week a 4.6 magnitude earthquake struck near Fort St. John in northeastern B.C., just a few kilometres from a fracking site operated by Progress Energy. The company was forced to halt operations temporarily while investigators determined the cause of the quake.

Fracking is a shorthand description for hydraulic fracturing, a process where high pressure water is injected deep underground to break-up shale and other rock formations in order to free up gas and oil deposits.

Studies have found links to this industrial technique and earthquakes in other jurisdictions. A recent report by the U.S. Geological Survey confirmed that fracking was linked to earthquakes in at least eight states. Oklahoma, for example, which used to average only a handful of earthquakes greater than magnitude 3.0 per year, saw the number of tremors it suffered increase exponentially following the introduction of fracking over the past decade. In 2011, the state was hit with 60 significant quakes.

Hopefully this latest tremor in B.C. shakes up the political debate in the province. Despite the rapid expansion of this extreme form of fossil fuel extraction, public and media debate has been anemic.

This summer's short legislative session did see a fierce debate over the related plans to massively increase exports of liquefied natural gas from B.C., with the NDP and Greens voting against Christy Clark and the B.C. Liberals' deal with Malaysian-based Petronas for an LNG facility on the northwest coast. The opposition to the deal, however, focused primarily on the lower royalty rates Clark agreed to, and on how many local jobs would actually be created.

It should be noted, of course, that not all LNG exports will be produced from fracked gas; some will come from more conventional gas wells in northern B.C. But the scale of LNG exports projected by the B.C. Liberals will inevitably mean a sharp increase in fracking. At a bare minimum, a moratorium on new projects is needed while the impacts are studied. B.C. needs to stop burying its head in the sand on this, especially since so many other places in the world have banned fracking altogether.

As if the possibility that the fossil fuel industry was creating an epidemic of earthquakes wasn't enough, there were clear reminders this summer that climate change also needed to be part of the discussion when it comes to fracking and LNG.

Green MLA Andrew Weaver tried to get the legislature to hold an emergency session on the topic, "in light of this year's record temperatures, drought, lack of snowpack and forest fires, and with a 90 per cent probability that El Niño will persist into the winter, exacerbating present conditions, whether we as legislators are acting with sufficient urgency and demonstrating the appropriate leadership on preparing for and mitigating the escalating impacts of climate change on our province."

Weaver's motion was shot down, although both the Liberals and NDP did agree to convene a discussion on the topic later this year when the legislature resumes work in Victoria. With arguably the most important climate summit in world history being hosted by the United Nations in Paris this December, B.C. urgently needs to be part of debating this worldwide crisis.



▲ Andrew Weaver, Green MLA.

As with the federal election, it often feels like here in B.C. our political debates basically ignore the existential threat facing the planet. After a summer of wildfires and now a significant fracking-related earthquake, it's time to take climate issues seriously.

The fate of our livable planet is not just one discrete issue amongst many; it is the basic foundation that makes everything else possible. It shouldn't take an earthquake to remind us. ✂

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# HORN OF AFRICA

## EMERGENCY

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# Team revives the spirit and sportsmanship of the Asahi

by SIMON YEE

From 1914 to 1941, the Vancouver Asahi, a baseball team composed of Japanese-Canadian immigrants, thrilled Vancouverites with their unique playing style, teamwork and sportsmanship. They were the only ethnic baseball team to play in the Vancouver senior leagues and won ten city championships in their 27-year history. When World War II broke out, the team was disbanded and the players were dispersed throughout Canada, ending the Asahi dynasty.

Inspired by their legacy, the Shin Asahi, a youth baseball team, will play ball on Sept. 5 and 6 at Richmond's Minoru Park and Vancouver's Nanaimo Park. Formed last October, the team has attracted youth interested in the Asahi history and participated in several goodwill ceremonies celebrating the Japanese-Canadian relationship through baseball.

"It's a proud thing to be a part of, and everyone wants to be a part of it and to learn about what the Asahi baseball meant to the community – so we wanted to carry the tradition," says Russ Kada, one of the Shin Asahi coaches.

### Winning games and respect

The Asahi, which means morning sun in Japanese, was formed by a Powell Street dry cleaner named Harry Miyasaki, who made up a team consisting of first and second-generation Japanese-Canadian immigrants. In an era where power hitting, homers and slugers were prevalent among Anglo players, the Asahi distinguished themselves by employing the "brain ball" playing style, emphasizing speed and precision bunt-



▲ The Shin Asahi warm up during one of their training clinics.

ing – enabling players to steal bases with a single bunt. This technique helped the physically smaller Japanese players compete competitively with their Caucasian counterparts.

"Everyone bunted in order to get first base and a steal. They won championships with that strategy," says Sammy Takahashi, one of the Shin Asahi youth club founders, reminiscing about the original team. "Instead of the power hit, it was the power hip."

In recent years, the Asahi has been increasingly recognized and honoured for their contributions to baseball and the community. The *Sleeping Tigers* documentary, their induction into the Canadian Baseball and B.C. Sport Hall of Fames and an annual tribute game held at Oppenheimer Park, the home field where the Asahi played their greatest games, are among the various ways the Asahi is re-entering the civic consciousness today.

### Shin Asahi taking up the mantle

The origin of the Shin Asahi team was sparked by the movie

*The Vancouver Asahi* which premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival last September. Inspired by that dramatic retelling of the historical team, the Shin Asahi was formed with 15 youth playing their first exhibition game on Oct. 11, 2014. But it almost didn't happen.

"It was raining for two weeks [leading up to the game day] – and we were shaking our heads and thinking we would just do a ceremony [for the 100th anniversary]. But I remember the night before – I looked up – and saw a dragon in the sky [clarification: a dragon-shaped cloud set against the setting sun]," says Takahashi. "I had chills going up and down my spine – perhaps we could still be lucky."

On the day of their first game, it did indeed stop raining, allowing the legacy game to take place. He felt it was a sign of approval from the legendary players.

"The spirit of the Asahi must have been happy that we revived the tradition," Takahashi says.

Since then, the club has been involved with promoting the Asahi legacy throughout the community and beyond, such as representing the Asahi at the Vancouver Yokohama Golden Jubilee and organizing medal presentations to Asahi players' relatives. They also travelled to Japan to play ball and promote the team spirit, following in the footsteps of the original Asahi team, who toured Japan in 1921.

In the future, they hope to join a league in order to train and compete regularly and to re-establish the Asahi tradition of "brain ball" in 21st-century Vancouver baseball.

"The team and interest level from all ethnic backgrounds who want to be a part of this is growing. And it's been a lot of fun at the same time," says Kada.

To learn more about the historical Vancouver Asahi team, visit [www.virtualmuseum.ca](http://www.virtualmuseum.ca)

To learn more about today's Shin Asahi team and their upcoming Asahi Legacy Games, visit [www.asahibaseball.com](http://www.asahibaseball.com)

## Chat goes into the Dutch-Taiwanese connection

by JACQUELINE SALOMÉ

Cheryl Robbins, an expert on Taiwanese indigenous tourism and the Dutch-Taiwanese connection, will speak to an outdoor audience on Granville Street for Vancouver's 26th annual TAIWANfest. A celebration of arts and culture rooted in the Mandarin-speaking community, TAIWANfest will showcase music, dance, film, food, fine art and fashion along seven festival routes on Granville Street and Robson Square.

As one of several speakers at TAIWANfest, Robbins will discuss two topics important to the Dutch-Taiwanese connection: the Dutch occupation in the 17th century and travel to Taiwan's indigenous communities. Marking the boundary between Taiwan's prehistory and modern history, the Dutch occupation is still told in the oral histories of tribes living in Taiwan's indigenous communities today. These communities, according to Robbins, are areas of vast natural beauty that permit ecotourism alongside cultural tourism.

"It is my hope that attendees will come away with a different perspective of Taiwan and be in-



▲ Cheryl Robbins, speaker and author.

spired to visit Taiwan and learn about its rich history and culture, while at the same time enjoying its natural beauty," says Robbins.

Following the completion of her degree in zoology in California, American-born Robbins originally visited Taiwan with the intention of staying for one year. After quickly coming to enjoy life in the country, she has continued to live there for 26 years, working as a reporter and media editor and now as a licensed tour guide specializing in tours to indigenous communities.

"Having somebody like that to share perspective is quite interesting, not just for anyone who

is interested in indigenous cultures but also for the Taiwanese to learn about Taiwan," adds Charlie Wu, managing director of the Asian Canadian Special Events Association that organizes TAIWANfest.

### The Dutch legacy

At TAIWANfest, Robbins will share some of the history of the Dutch-Taiwanese connection and the little known facts about the bilateral relationship. Her talk will touch on the early interactions between the Dutch and Taiwanese indigenous tribes and the subsequent intermarriages that led to many Taiwanese claiming Dutch ancestry. Robbins will also speak to the impact of the Dutch on current Taiwanese cultural industries, language, historic maritime trade and even the Dutch influence on the naming of Taiwan.

"There was probably not any place on Taiwan that the Dutch did not set foot. Thus, there are traces of Dutch activity and stories all around the island," Robbins says.

Robbins' expertise in the Dutch-Taiwanese relationship comes from her co-authorship of a book titled *The Real Taiwan and the Dutch: Travelling Notes from*

*the Netherlands Representative*. Menno Goedhart, the Netherlands' representative to Taiwan, connected with Robbins during interviews she conducted as a reporter and editor at Taiwan News in Taipei. The two quickly realized their shared interest in Taiwan's indigenous culture and proceeded to write a book that reveals lesser known stories about Dutch interactions with Taiwan's indigenous people during the colonial period. Robbins has also published a series of guidebooks titled *A Foreigner's Travel Guide to Taiwan's Indigenous Areas*.

"Most people know that the Dutch ruled Taiwan for almost four decades during the 17th century. They have visited Anping Fort and Chikanlou in Tainan City, and thus are familiar with the Dutch presence in that part of Taiwan. However, there is so much more to the Dutch-Taiwanese history than that," says Robbins.

TAIWANfest attendees will have two opportunities to hear Robbins' lecture. She will speak at the Formosa Chat on Sept. 5 as well as the Hope Chat on Sept. 6, both to be held on Granville Street. For more information about TAIWANfest, visit [www.taiwanfest.ca](http://www.taiwanfest.ca)

## Simon Fraser University students make strides in personal computing

by KATE MURRAY

**Five Engineering Science students at Simon Fraser University have joined together to create a screenless computer. The team, named ObelXTech, created the LumenX<sup>3</sup> as part of their Senior Capstone Design Project.**

ObelXTech CEO Gary Yu says, “The goal of the class is to use all the knowledge and skills we learned throughout our times in school to engineer a product or service for entrepreneurship.”

When asked how they came up with the idea to create a computer without a screen, team member Michael Ng explains that it was inspired by the film *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, which shows a cube that can project a computer interface onto a table.

“Computer users will no longer be limited by the size and fragility of a physical screen.”

*Michael Ng, co-creator of the LumenX<sup>3</sup>*

“We found that was a very attractive idea and it had lots of potential in real life,” says Ng. “We decided to take on the challenge to make it real.”

### Beyond the screen

According to Ng, the concept of a screenless computer is not a new one.

“Various companies have tried different approaches, but due to technological limitations during past times, the idea wasn’t very

while, instead of requiring a keyboard and mouse for input, it tracks your fingers to recognize input gestures. The description of the product is quite simple – really, bringing it all to life is the where the challenge lies,” says Mok.

All five members of ObelX-Tech – Herman Mak, Davin Mok, Michael Ng, Carmen Tang and Gary Yu – attend Simon Fraser University and are currently in the Systems Engineering course with concentrations in Business Administration, Electronics and Engineering Science, to name a few.

### A step forward

Ng, the only one in his family to study engineering, hails from Macau and believes that the LumenX<sup>3</sup> is a step forward for technology.

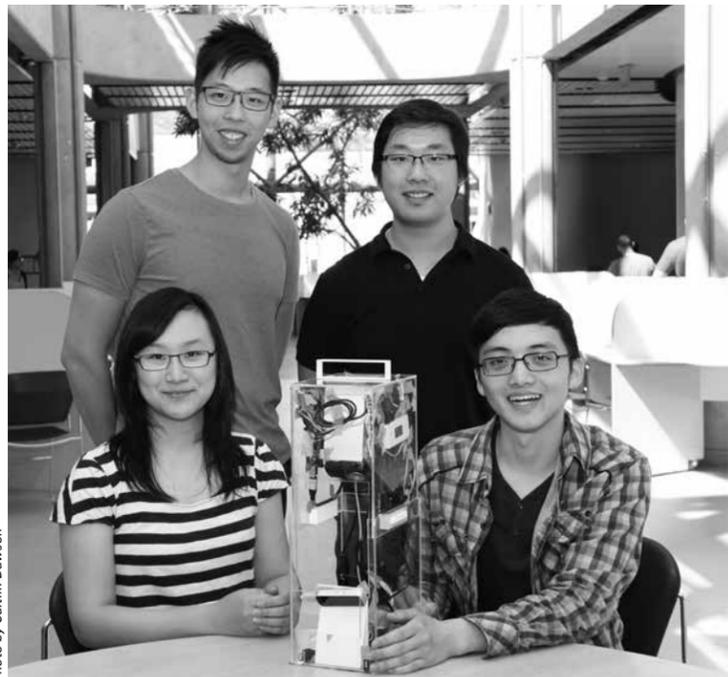
“It means computer users will no longer be limited by the size and fragility of a physical screen; this can also help to enhance multi-user collaboration in various scenarios,” he says.

The computer runs on Windows 8, the most current operating system at the time of creation, and unlike most phones and tablets, it can be used as a personal computer or laptop.

Tang points out that projection opens up more ways for people to see and interact with our data without being limited physically.

“It’s a field that has lots of potential and many benefits over screens that will make it a popular R&D [Research and Development] area in the near future,” she says.

When asked what the future held for personal computers, Mok explains: “With the development of artificial intelligence, robotic assistants like the ones you see in *I, Robot* or *Humans* can be a reality. Despite all the worry



▲ Engineering science students, clockwise from top left: Herman Mak, Mike Ng, Gary Yu, Carmen Tang and their screenless computer the LumenX<sup>3</sup> (not pictured: Davin Mok).

appealing to the common public. And when we started the project, we concluded that the technology nowadays is mature enough for us to revive this idea and make it into a usable and appealing product,” he says.

With the huge strides being made in personal computing technologies, the concept of screenless computers is now becoming a reality. Davin Mok, one of the five team members who created the computer, explains how it works.

“It operates like any other computer, but instead of having a physical screen, it outputs visual data through a projector. Mean-

about how artificial intelligence could potentially be the cause of human extinction, I still think it is something very cool that I hope to be able to see in my lifetime.”

Presently, the ObelXTech team has no plans to mass produce the LumenX<sup>3</sup>, but they are always looking forward to the next stage of developing their product.

“Now that we have a proof-of-concept working, we are researching ways to make the projections and touch detection even better, with improved hardware and software. We are definitely open to mass producing in the future,” explains Yu. ☞



▲ From left to right: Guangzhou Mayor Chen Jianhua, Vancouver Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer and Vancouver Public Library chief librarian Sandra Singh celebrate Vancouver and Guangzhou’s 30 years as sister cities.

## Guangzhou and Vancouver celebrate 30 years of sharing knowledge

by FLORENCE HWANG

**A brand new Encyclopedia of Guangzhou graces the shelves of the Vancouver Public Library (VPL), a gift from the Guangzhou Library to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Vancouver and Guangzhou.**

“It will be a superb resource for our community,” says VPL chief librarian Sandra Singh of the 540-volume set presented by Guangzhou mayor Chen Jianhua on a recent visit to Vancouver.

The encyclopedia is a collection of over 3,500 pieces of classical literature and historical documents and records from Guangzhou. Written by approximately 2,000 writers over a period of 10 years, the encyclopedia covers records as far back as the Qin and Han Dynasties (202 BC) up to the mid-20th century.

Singh is excited about the benefits the encyclopedia will provide to library patrons.

“Thanks to the donation, local residents and researchers can access rich and authentic resources about the culture and history of Guangzhou, to promote cultural exchanges and strengthen ties between the sister cities of Guangzhou and Vancouver,” she says

### Exchanging exhibitions

VPL recently sent a collection of current Canadian published titles to Guangzhou for its collection and has hosted exhibits and displays that highlight the relationship with Guangzhou.

“We were pleased to create the Window of Guangzhou display in our Central Library in recognition of this relationship. As well, we are hosting Guangzhou’s Cantonese Photo Exhibition for the month of July at the Central Library,” says Singh.

The relationship between the two libraries began with an invitation from Guangzhou Library to Vancouver Public Library to present a paper at an international conference commemorating the opening of the new Guangzhou Library.

Spearheaded by Chen, the project of compiling and publishing of the Encyclopedia of Guangzhou was launched 10 years ago and Chen has been instrumental in getting this project successfully completed.

“From there, the partnership agreement was signed and we began to exchange collections and discuss other opportunities. In 2015, we launched a genealogy partnership: Vancouver residents can now email the Guangzhou Library directly for genealogy reference service through VPL,” says Singh.

### Long history of sharing

These exchanges and partnerships between the libraries of the cities are just one part of the sister city relationship begun in 1985.

Fred Mah, one of the founding members of the Vancouver-Guangzhou Friendship Society and current president of the B.C.-Guangdong Business Council, has long been a strong advocate of close ties between Vancouver and Guangzhou.

However, he notes that Vancouver’s sister city was almost quite different. Initially, city staff recommended twinning between Vancouver and Shanghai.

“As Chinese Canadians we felt that it was inappropriate to twin with Shanghai because most of us are from Guangdong or descendants of people from Guangdong and that Shanghai was way too big for Vancouver,” says Mah.

During the last 30 years the Friendship Society has arranged projects including introducing businesses to China and sharing knowledge in different ways. In 1988, UBC Hospital surgical staff demonstrated two surgical techniques to GZ number 1 Hospital staff through satellite transmission.

The Friendship Society has also acted as a bridge to develop relationships between other cities and institutions in B.C. and Guangdong. They include the twinning of Burnaby and Zhongshan, the Port of Vancouver and Guangzhou and B.C. Women and Children’s Hospital to GZ’s counterpart.

Student and cultural exchanges have also been part of the relationship, including photo and art exhibits as well as performing arts such as Cantonese Opera. The renowned Guangdong Experimental High School Choir is twinned with Gladstone High School in Vancouver.

In the future, Mah would like to see more student and cultural exchanges, which he thinks allow people to develop a better understanding of one another. ☞

For more information, visit [guides.vpl.ca/ccg/back\\_to\\_china](http://guides.vpl.ca/ccg/back_to_china)

### ► “Verbatim” from page 1

It is from these multiple identities that I now look onto Canadian multiculturalism. Four months into life in Canada, I lean positive for a few reasons.

By nature we are curious as to where people around us are from, how they came to be here and what their preoccupations are. In the United States, it is often considered rude, or at minimum a faux pas, to inquire about a stranger’s origin. I understand why: noticing our differences somehow divides us, giving the assumption of “foreign-ness” based on one’s skin colour or dress. It’s “un-American.” In Canada, I have found that these sorts of rudimentary curiosities are gracefully permitted and returned in kind. It’s enjoyable and natural and the mere fact that some-

one asks should be taken at face value, as a polite and inquisitive icebreaker.

Encouraging new immigrants to hold fast to their own culture imbues society with a rich sense of history in a country whose own past is short. Defying logic, this encouragement often brings people closer together. The pervasive cultural festivals and vibrant neighbourhoods support understanding in a way that the melting pot would find difficult. Asking people to revel in who they are empowers them to learn about others and gel in a collage of backgrounds. Who would have thought?

So is there a cohesive idea of what exactly a Canadian is? While Canadians are comfortable being a motley crew, the rest of world can be more demanding. Are they brash? Curious?

Dependable? Canadians await their defining category.

Even my own family, who still live in Zimbabwe, were quizzical when I told them I was moving to Canada. “But why?” they asked, “There’s nothing there.” An interesting reaction despite how far and wide Canadians like to travel and their renowned friendliness.

Watching my first Canada Day celebration recently, I noticed this is a popular question for leaders too. They were incessantly asked to nail down this vast country’s character, often in a sentence.

All of this makes me confident I chose well. It’s impossible to nail down a single person’s personality in a sentence, how can we possibly expect to qualify an entire country. ☞

# Taiwanese festival brings communities together

by KATRINA TRASK

**On Sept. 4–7, the Asian-Canadian Special Events Association will hold its annual TaiwanFest in Vancouver to celebrate the culture, film, music and art of Taiwan.**

Managing director Charlie Wu says that the festival started 26 years ago as an indoor concert of classical music and has gradually expanded to a multi-disciplinary festival. Even today it continues to expand in its venue, support and sponsorships.

"Since we moved downtown in 2010, we are trying to work with other organizations and downtown communities. One of our partners is the downtown Vancouver Better Business Bureau and this year we are partnering with SFU Public Square," he says

## Community belongingness and cultural diversity

Wu, who was born in Taiwan, became involved with TaiwanFest 16 years ago as a way to help the Taiwanese community and the festival gain support from other communities.

"I started in 1999 as a sponsorship coordinator and gradually I got more involved.

In 2001, I was asked to take over the festival as managing director," says Wu.

The aim of this festival, Wu notes, is to connect Taiwanese Canadians and to share their culture with others.

"It allows Taiwanese Canadians to come together to remember

their roots and allow younger generations of Taiwanese Canadians to learn about their roots. It also allows the opportunity for Taiwanese Canadians to share their heritage with other Canadians. So we use TaiwanFest as a way to build communities in Canada," he says.

Wu finds that the festival's inter-community and multicultural aims have also resonated with him as he has learned a lot about his Taiwanese roots and the importance of Taiwan.

## Formosa Chat series

One of the highlights of this year's festival is the Formosa chat series, which is a platform for members of the community and participants in the festival to share their stories of Taiwan and Taiwanese culture.

"[Hsu Hui Chang] is going to discuss his involvement in building one of the tallest buildings in the world, Taipei 101," says Wu.

Jasmine Chang is another speaker who will discuss her involvement with a project in the Formosa chat series.

"She is going to talk about her work on a ripple effect project that was done in Africa," he says.

Wu says that there are not only going to be Taiwanese speakers talking about their own heritage, but also Taiwanese and non-Taiwanese speakers who will be sharing experiences of foreigners in Taiwan.

"There is going to be a lady who has lived in Taiwan with Swedes in the coastal mountain and she is going to talk about the les-



Photo courtesy of Asian Canadian Special Events Association

sons she has learned from them. There is also going to be a talk from an American who has been living in Taiwan for the last 25 years doing tours of indigenous areas," says Wu.

At the community level, there will be a Taiwanese author speaking who writes both in Taiwanese and English.

"A lot of people think Taiwanese is not a written language, but

she actually writes in Taiwanese. And there's a story of why she does what she does," says Wu.

Wu himself will also participate in the series, to talk about some behind-the-scenes aspects of the festival, specifically where the TaiwanFest gets its inspiration from in organizing events, presentations and activities. Wu believes that it is important to inform attendees

of why specific programming was chosen.

"A lot of people go to a festival and they do not really know why things are there, they are there to appreciate the presentations. But I thought there could be a lesson or two shared or learned if I provide a bit of the background," says Wu. ✉

For more information: [www.taiwanfest.ca](http://www.taiwanfest.ca)



MOSAIC Settlement Services  
604 254 9626 ext 255  
elam@mosaicbc.com  
[www.mosaicbc.com/settlement-services](http://www.mosaicbc.com/settlement-services)

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Registrations start now for free Burnaby and Vancouver seniors' activities for the fall

MOSAIC Seniors Club provides free activities for immigrant seniors age 55 and above. We also provide workshops and individual support on topics relevant to seniors. We run activities such as walking clubs, English conversation classes and field trips. Come make new friends, practice English, get information and have fun! Volunteer language support available in many languages. For more information, or to register, call:

#### Burnaby South: 5902 Kingsway || 604 438 8214

Basic computer classes, English conversation circles, Persian calligraphy, DIY class

#### Burnaby North: 2055 Rosser Avenue || 604 292 3907

English conversation circles, Taichi class

#### Vancouver: 1720 Grant St || 604 254 9626 ext 273

English conversation circles, basic computer classes

For the Vancouver location, there is priority for Permanent Residents.

### SEPTEMBER SENIORS' WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

#### Healthy Eating for Seniors

- September 8, 10am–12pm
- MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway
- 604 438 8214

#### Healthy Brain

- September 11, 1:30–3pm
- Brentwood Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Ave, Burnaby
- 604 292 3907

#### Hypertension

- September 15, 10am–12pm
- MOSAIC Burnaby Centre for Immigrants, 5902 Kingsway
- 604 438 8214

#### Vision

Vision is so vital to our daily living. As people get older, it is normal for their vision to change. It is important to learn to protect your vision. In this workshop, you will learn about: the structure of the eye, major eye diseases of older adults, as well as prevention and treatments

- September 21, 10am–12pm
- MOSAIC Vancouver, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 1720 Grant St
- Daisy 604 254 9626 ext 273

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.

## J.S. BACH'S BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS

Friday, September 18 at 7:30pm  
Vancouver Playhouse

### FREE EVENT AT HODSON MANOR!



On September 25, between 4:30-6:30 at Hodson Manor, Members of the PBO, Alexander Weimann and Matthew White host *The Path to Performance*, an open-rehearsal and discussion about collaborative plans for the 2016-17 Season.

EMV staff are back in the office and wrapping things up after an extremely exciting summer festival. We enjoyed some absolutely fabulous concerts and want to thank our audiences, volunteers and supporters for making "Music for Queens" so successful. It is hard to believe it, but we are already gearing up for our annual concert series that will begin with a performance of **J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos** on Friday, September 18th at the Vancouver Playhouse. Featuring an orchestra of over 20 musicians this event is already selling well so purchase your tickets soon. Tickets this year are by reservation and you can [choose your seats](#) using our easy to use online service.

For the first time this year, **EMV will partner with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra** to produce four concerts featuring large-scale baroque orchestra and soloists. The first program will feature Bach's Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 2 and 4, as well as concertos for solo recorder and solo trumpet by Georg Philipp Telemann. Soloists include baroque trumpeter Kris Kwapis and recorder virtuoso Vincent Lauzer from Montreal. This concert is generously sponsored by Ingrid Söchting.

Early Music Vancouver | [staff@earlymusic.bc.ca](mailto:staff@earlymusic.bc.ca) | <http://www.earlymusic.bc.ca>  
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# Art as experience: enhancing the bridge of understanding

by NICOLE ALIVOJVODIC

From Canada's East Coast, self-taught visual artist Shayla Perreault showcases her inspired work in *Not The Dao* presented by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden. The exhibit reinforces the Garden's philosophy of creating a "window to another world" by offering viewers an experience which cannot be explained with words.

Perreault's self-proclaimed obsession with symbolism comes from the way it can communicate things that language can not. If words had the same capacity to communicate as art does, Perreault says, then she wouldn't need to paint!

Making the shift from her previous job as a finance manager, Perreault was no longer willing to accept "practical" ideas from others about what her career should be.

"I had a strong will to do what I'd wanted to do since I was three," says Perreault.

## An artistic inclination

Born in Fredericton, Perreault is no stranger to relocating as she has moved over 20 times. While English is her first language, she was born to a French father, went to a francophone school and lived in a francophone community with her French husband for 10 years. Now the operations manager at Vancouver's Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, she continues to live her dream of being an artist.

Although she is self-taught, Perreault credits the city of Moncton and its dynamic arts scene for a lot of her training.

"While they didn't teach technique or tell me how to paint, discussions about art in general, good books and visiting innumerable art exhibits fed my practice," says Perreault, about her training as an artist.

Art has been in her family for centuries and was something



▲ One of Perreault's paintings.

Perreault fell naturally into.

"Art became an alternative language, or even a code. Topics and conversation about something you normally wouldn't talk about with a stranger were safe," says Perreault.

However, taking her talent and



▲ Shayla Perreault at work.

turning it into a career was not something Perreault had always planned on.

"You don't approach galleries unless you've gone to art school!" she told her husband.

But he didn't listen and showed his wife's portfolio to a gallery that supported emerging artists, kick-starting Perreault's career as a full-time artist.

## International inspirations

Having had artistic inclinations from a young age, Perreault remembers the strong impressions left by the illustrations of Japanese artist Kinuko Craft.

"It took me to a fantasy world that continues to enrich my imagination and inform my painting activity," says Perreault.

Building on this foundation, Perreault continues as an adult to borrow practices from Japanese painters of the Edo Period.

"Just as they did, my paintings encourage meditation on the physical and spiritual."

The vulnerability that comes with the presentation of one's artwork became increasingly easy for Perreault as she realized that if the viewer understands the painting and the emotion behind it, then they've probably had a similar experience.

"If you've ever had someone interpret your dream and it surprises you with understanding and accuracy but you don't necessarily believe in dream inter-

pretation, you know how this feels. It baffled at first as much as it was thrilling."

## Experiential understanding

The title of Perreault's exhibition comes from the thought provoking quote: "The Dao that can be explained is not the Dao."

While there are ideas in Daoism that align with the making of the pieces in her show, this is not a Daoist show.

"Spirituality and philosophy can be very personal things, and I don't identify with any particular philosophy or religion," says Perreault. "I would say Daoist thought has had an influence on me, since I work every day surrounded by the Garden which is built with the intention to express such concepts."

The *Not the Dao* exhibit runs from Sept. 3 to 30 and offers the viewer the chance to experience that which cannot be explained with words.

Had Leticia Sanchez, Chair of the Art Committee, not seen Perreault's work, got the support of the rest of the staff and insisted the show be at the Garden, it probably wouldn't have happened.

"I'm lucky to have had such incredible people in my life, supporting me to do what I love," says Perreault. ✍

The art exhibition *Not the Dao* will take place Sept. 3–30. For more information: [www.vancouverchinesegarden.com](http://www.vancouverchinesegarden.com)



# MINGEI

JAPAN'S ENDURING FOLK ARTS  
JUNE 20 – OCTOBER 11, 2015

June 27, 3 – 5pm Artist Talk + Opening  
Celebration with  
Amaury Saint-Gilles

MINGEI <民芸> (min=people, gei=art), featuring objects collected by Amaury Saint-Gilles from across Japan during the 1980s and published in his book *Mingei: Japan's Enduring Folk Art*, offers an intimate glimpse into the world of the unknown craftspeople of Japan.

Over 100 works: charming items of daily use made of wood, bamboo, paper, straw, shell, lacquers, clay, metal, stone and other materials are presented in collaboration with the Canadian Society for Asian Arts. Curated by Margo Palmer, Sam Carter, and Sherri Kajiwara.

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national museum  
& cultural centre

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Burnaby, BC V5E 4M7  
[www.nikkeiplace.org](http://www.nikkeiplace.org)

 vantage point

**BOSS**

Save the Date!  
October 15, 2015



**boss** adj.  
/'bos/  
1. great  
2. outstanding

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**WHEN**  
Oct. 15, 2015

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## Fundraising Gala

2015

SAVE THE DATE

**FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER  
25<sup>TH</sup>**

Grand Ballroom  
at 7pm



As a community-based charity "Il Centro" depends on the support of the community to fulfill its mandate: "to promote Italian Culture, Language and Heritage and share these values with other communities." The funds raised during this gala will be used to enhance Il Centro's cultural and language programs.

Doors open at 6:00pm, dinner program starts at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$100.

Entertainment by the Cory Weeds Quartet.

# Cultural Calendar

August 25–September 28, 2015

by SALENA TRAN

School is just around the corner, so what better way to spend the rest of the summer than by attending fun-filled events? From theatre events to festivals, there will be no shortages of events this time around! Grab a few friends, go with family or even attend some of these events by yourself because you won't want to miss them.

\*\*\*

## Papergirl

Aug. 24–28  
Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre  
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver  
www.roundhouse.ca  
(604) 713-1800

The premise behind Papergirl, the project that combines art, philanthropy and bikes is a simple one; art should be accessible to everyone. Papergirl is an international art movement that brings artists from all ages and backgrounds together and redefines street-art. Powered by volunteers, this exciting new twist on art brings artwork to unsuspecting members of the public via pedal-power. For more information on the exhibit, please visit the website.

\*\*\*

## Celebration of Ukrainian

Independence with Bria Blessing  
Aug. 26, 6–10 p.m.  
St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church  
550 West 14th Ave., Vancouver  
www.facebook.com/events/121963154804655



▲ Bria Blessing hosts a charity event for wounded Ukrainian soldiers.

Join fellow Ukrainian-Canadians at St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church for Ukrainian Independence Day! This important celebration and charity event includes fun Ukrainian activities for the children as well as a wonderful concert that adults will enjoy. The concerts include many well-known artists such as Bria Blessing. Proceeds will go towards injured Ukrainian soldiers wounded in conflict in Eastern Ukraine. For more information on the event, please visit their facebook page.

\*\*\*

## 2015 Vancouver International Tap Dance Festival

Aug. 27–30  
Various Locations, Vancouver  
www.vantapdance.com  
(604) 253-0293

Put on your tap dancing shoes, lace up and get ready for the 2015 Vancouver International Tap Dance Festival! There are many fun and exciting events happening all across the Lower Mainland. Enjoy an exciting tap-dance boat cruise, or watch one of the many

shows happening! Everyone's invited to participate, celebrate and experience the unique art that is tap dancing. For more information on tickets and scheduling, please visit the website.

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## "Animal Symphony" Art Activity Day

Aug. 29, 12–3 p.m.  
Contemporary Art Gallery  
555 Nelson St., Vancouver  
www.contemporaryartgallery.ca

Hosted by the Contemporary Art Gallery and in partnership with ArtStarts, every last Saturday of every month is Free Family Day. This month's edition is all about animal sounds and symphonies! The event features free exhibition tours and free drop-in art making for kids of all ages. For more information, please visit the website.

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## Epic Music in the Park

Aug. 30, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Edmonds Community Centre Plaza  
7433 Edmonds St., Vancouver  
www.epiccommunity.ca

E.P.I.C holds its 2nd annual series of free outdoor music concerts. Held at the Edmonds Community Centre Plaza, the purpose of the concert series is to bring together up-and-coming artists and professional artists to create a sense of community. This family-friendly event allows for a nice evening of music listening in the Edmonds Community. Bring a blanket, some snacks and make a night out of this amazing free event!

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## Vancouver Chopin Society Presents Eric Lu

Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Tom Lee Music Hall  
929 Granville St., Vancouver  
www.chopinsociety.org

Vancouver Chopin Society Presents Eric Lu for their Young Talent Concert series. Eric Lu was born in 1997 and has since performed in venues all over the world. With many awards to his name, Eric Lu comes to Vancouver to perform in the Tom Lee Music Hall. Come and watch in awe as Eric Lu astounds you with his talent at the young age of 17.

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## Labour Day Fair

Sept. 7, 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Burnaby Village Museum & Carousel  
6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby  
www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca  
(604) 297-4557

## 2015 Summer Intensive Teen Exhibition

Sept. 3, 12–7 p.m.  
Contemporary Art Gallery  
555 Nelson St., Vancouver  
www.contemporaryartgallery.ca

Come and join the teens of the CAG's first annual Summer Intensive for teens. This exhibition

displays the work of youth that participated in the program. The teens learned new techniques and skills by working closely with leading artists, curators and educators from the Vancouver art community. For more information on the event, please visit the website.

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## MACHINENOiSY – PROX:IMITY RE:MIX

Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Evergreen Cultural Centre  
1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam  
www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca  
(604) 927-6550

Evergreen Cultural Centre and Vancouver-based contemporary dance group MACHINENOiSY team up together to offer youth the opportunity to explore dance. PROX:IMITY RE:MIX is aimed at youth ages 15-24 who are interested in being part of a dance and multi-media creation. The two week project culminates in a final performance that the students have created. For more information, please visit the website.

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## Free Drive-In Movie: Stand By Me

Sept. 6, 7 p.m.  
River District, Corner of East Kent Road and Boundary  
8683 Kerr St., Vancouver

Do you ever miss the 80s when drive-in movies were the big fad? Do you miss the comfort of your own car while being able to watch a classic movie? If so, you're in luck because the last instalment of Free Drive-In Movies is presented by Wesgroup! This final drive-in presents the hit classic, *Stand By Me!* Travel back in time to enjoy a classic drive-in movie experience with family and friends! For more information, please visit the website.

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## So Long Summer Slide Show

September 8, 7 p.m.  
Vancouver Art Gallery  
750 Hornby St., Vancouver  
www.vanartgallery.bc.ca

Photographer David Wisdom is presenting So Long Summer Slide Show at the Vancouver Art Gallery on September 8, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a selection of photographic works by local artists with musical accompaniment. The Source's Street Photographer Denis Bouverier will be presenting along with acclaimed artists Sophia Burke, Aaron Carpenter, Adad Hannah, Doug Lander, Alex Morrison and other special guests.

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Photo by Wayne Ng

## Taiko drumming creates lasting bonds for all ages

by NAOMI TSE

The Roku Shichi Taiko group, one of Vancouver's only youth taiko groups, will be performing at Minoru Park for the Richmond World Maritime Festival (Sept. 5). Elementary school teacher Doug Masuhara originally started the group based out of Admiral Seymour Elementary School, where he was teaching at the time. Now ten years later, Roku Shichi Taiko is performing all over Greater Vancouver.

Masuhara started learning taiko 15 years ago when his children became involved in taiko lessons at the Steveston Buddhist Temple. As a Vancouver native, Masuhara was not immersed in Japanese culture growing up. But through taiko drumming, he discovered something about Japanese culture that sparked his interest.

"I have only been to Japan once," says Masuhara. "I only learned to count to ten in Japanese after I started learning taiko."

An opportunity for Masuhara to start a taiko group arose after a taiko workshop was held at his elementary school and the students were keen on learning more. Soon he was able to get a grant to buy more equipment and uniforms for his students.

Masuhara says his group is in search of a new identity. Their current name "Roku Shichi" means six or seven, implying the group will have six or seven members playing at a performance. Currently, the group consists of students who were formerly from Seymour elementary and Waverly elementary, as well as some new students from Douglas elementary. Masuhara says they do not actively recruit students.

### Connecting through taiko

One of the first students to join the taiko group was Kevin Tran, 17. He continues, with his older and younger brother, to practice and perform with Masuhara.

"It [taiko] has a lot of meaning for me, and even if I learn other instruments it won't mean as much," says Tran. "I was hooked after learning."

He says learning taiko has given him the opportunity to perform at major shows and venues: the experience has improved his confidence on stage.

Masuhara says he tries to provide experiences for the youth

to be the stars of the show. Last week, they had the opportunity to play at the BC Lions halftime show.

Besides being able to perform more, Ryan Ng, 14, says being a part of the taiko group has allowed him to call them family.

"I wouldn't have met my two best friends and I'd be at home a lot," says Ng.

Kayla Charchuk, 14, who is half-Japanese with a mix of European heritage, says through learning drumming and participating in festivals, she has been able to connect more with her roots.

"It's a way to grasp a part of Japanese culture that I don't usually see," says Charchuk.

Although Masuhara is not an expert in taiko, he tries to incorporate Japanese cultural elements into his teaching, such as: by explaining the roots of a song; by incorporating other Japanese instruments; and by teaching the specific Japanese drumming words used to learn a song.

### Taiko 55

With the success of the youth group, Masuhara was approached by the senior coordinator of South Arm Community Centre to help start a taiko group for seniors. The group, which he calls Taiko 55, is taught by his two daughters.

Masuhara says interest in the senior group is growing: he started with only one class and has now added two more intermediate classes.

Shelley Hamaguchi and Mabel Oikawa have been with the group since the beginning, where they first met and became friends. Both women are Chinese and both have married a Japanese man. Initially, Hamaguchi was pleased to learn how to drum, but after going to extra practice sessions with the youth group, she realized the unexpected benefit of being able to play with the kids.

"It's an amazing experience because we all bonded together young and old alike," says Hamaguchi.

Hamaguchi adds they may be the only intergenerational taiko group in Vancouver.

"We've taught them that we can keep up too!" says Oikawa.

For more information on joining the Taiko 55 group, please visit [www.richmond.ca/parksrec/centres/southarmcentre/programsandevents.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/parksrec/centres/southarmcentre/programsandevents.htm).

# Musette Caffe

Musette may seem a curious name for a bike café unless you are into following bike races. In this case, a musette is a small lightweight cotton shoulder bag filled with food and drink for racing cyclists. It's grabbed by a moving rider, contents removed and then discarded.

In late 19th century France, a musette was a bellows-blown bagpipe associated with bal-musette, a style of French music which people danced to in bars and cafés, a kind of precursor to a ballroom, but nothing so formal. There were variations of the musette and various types of dance, which promoted sensual dancing with easy, fast steps. These dance/music forms reached their height in the mid-20th century in France and are presently undergoing a revival.

Musette Caffe has two locations, the first established about three years ago, located in an alley off the east side of Burrard St. between Drake St. and Davie St. just behind European Breads Bakery. There's currently an entrance down a small alley off Burrard to the right of the bakery. The second location developed over a year later is located in Chinatown at 75 East Pender St.

Both locations cater to bicycle enthusiasts as well as the general public. You can park your bike inside in bike stands made from recycled metal piping and there is TV monitoring for bikes parked outside. Both cafés show live international bike races on the TV screens.

Like the musette food bag and the bal-musette, the cafés



offer food and drink and owners Thomas Eleizegui and Anthony Bain metaphorically dance in sync highlighting their various specialities. Both are bike enthusiasts and have been friends for many years. Eleizegui has a background in retail, and sells cycling apparel and accessories from a boutique area in his Burrard café. He has also started a Musette cycling team and organized social cycling groups. He has the main responsibility for the Burrard location while Bain manages the Pender location. Bain has a background in the food industry, and his focus is there – both partners are coffee aficionados and this is a highlight at the cafés. They also offer yogurt & granola, waffles, sandwiches, soups, desserts, pastries and sodas.

But it's the interior design and decoration that blow you away and both owners have contributed. The walls are covered with bike memorabilia: vintage musettes, each one different, photos of various international bike racers, classic racing bikes including a Bianchi at the Pender location painted in traditional celeste, a turquoise, teal colour. This green is mirrored in the coffee cups form Parallel 49 Coffee, and at the Burrard location, in the espresso machine, an old dial telephone as well as sundry other items.

There are vintage ceiling panels used for the facing of the coffee bars, light fixtures made from bicycle parts, and a clock made from bicycle gears. Vintage furniture is found throughout the

cafés with the Burrard location featuring a set of Tolix Model A chairs created by French metalworker Xavier Pauchard in 1934 to make use of galvanized steel in the production of furniture. There is much more to see but that necessitates a visit.

The location of the original Musette Caffe on Burrard was never considered to be permanent and will soon need to be vacated as nearly the whole block in which it sits becomes Burrard Place. Reliance Properties Ltd., is developing the property with Jim Pattison Developments Ltd., as part of a large project that will take up most of the downtown block bordered by Burrard, Davie, Drake and Hornby Streets. When finished, the Burrard Place development will include a mix

of residential, office and public space including a new LGBTG centre, and the third-tallest residential tower in Vancouver. It will retain an upscaled version of the Jim Pattison's Toyota dealership, which has been located at Burrard and Drake for 42 years.

Musette Caffe on Burrard will continue for the next little while until the plan is finalized for its new location on the west side of Burrard near Drake St. There's a plan to model the new café on the Roubaix Velodrome locker/shower room in Roubaix, France where the historical Paris-Roubaix race finishes. It's the most famous locker room in all of cycling.

Don Richardson

Recipe by Jen dela Luna

## Chicken, bacon and mushroom pasty

Pasty. Bridie. Calzone. Empanada. Pastel. Knish. They come in different names from different cultures, but the concept is the same: delicious filling encased in dough (flaky or crumbly, buttery or breaded), baked or fried, served hot or cold. Having just returned from my trip to England and Scotland, I had my fair share of Cornish pasties and Forfar bridies. They were fresh baked in the morning and delicious hot, but having a second one at room temp for lunch was just as rewarding! Don't just take my word for it, though; historically, Cornish pasties were made and designed for miners to carry into the mines with them. It's the perfect portable meal, no utensils required!

These handheld pies can be made in bulk and frozen; it's great to make on the weekend then just bake off individually throughout the week. From traditional English steak & ale pasties to Italian chicken pesto calzones and everything in between, the filling options are limitless. Today's recipe is another English classic, and can even be made with leftovers (Sunday's roast chicken is the week's pie filling) – nothing goes to waste.

Whether you're a uni stu-

dent on the go, busy at the office, or picnicking after a long hike, these pies fit the bill... and fit in your lunchbox. Enjoy!

### Ingredients

- 2 large chicken breasts (or 3–4 boneless, skinless thighs), pan-seared or roasted and cubed
- 3 rashers of thick cut bacon, diced
- 10–12 large button mushrooms
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 2 heaping tbsp. all purpose flour
- 1 ½–2 cups milk (depending on how thick or runny you would like the filling)
- Depending on the texture you're looking for, boxed flaky pastry or fresh pizza dough are readily available at supermarkets nowadays. Shortcrust pastry is also quick and easy to make at home, with just four ingredients: a 2:1 ratio of all purpose flour to butter (rubbed into the flour until it resembles coarse meal), a pinch of salt, and a few tablespoons of cold water to bring it all together. The dough can be made and rested well in advance, or

while your filling is chilling down.

### Method

1. In a deep saucepan, render the fat out of the bacon until it browns and begins to crisp up.
2. Add in the diced mushrooms, onion and garlic, and sauté using the bacon fat. You may need to add a pat of butter or a drizzle of oil to help it along. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.
3. Once cooked down, scoop out into a bowl and set aside. In the same pot, melt the butter and whisk in the flour to create a roux.
4. Slowly add the milk, continuing to whisk so clumps don't form. As the mixture heats it will thicken into a sauce.
5. Stir the mushroom mixture into the sauce along with the chicken, and simmer on low heat for a few minutes, adjusting the seasoning as necessary. Keep in mind that the filling should be slightly over seasoned, so that it isn't bland when combined with the pastry. Also note that the sauce consistency should be relatively thick – too runny, and it could turn the pasty into a soupy mess. Ensure the mixture is at room temperature



▲ Pasty – perfect for the lunchbox.

6. or cold before putting the pasty together.
6. Roll the dough out to approximately ¼" thick, and cut out 6" circles.
7. Scoop generous tablespoons of the filling into the centre of the circle, ensuring there's enough room around it to seal the dough.
8. Though pasties are traditionally crimped to one side, some others are crimped across the top. You can seal the dough both practically and decoratively by crimping, folding or pinching – or even just by pressing down with the tines of a fork.
9. Bake the pasties on a parchment-lined tray at 375°F for approximately 18 minutes, or until golden brown.
10. Serve hot... or cool, pack it in your lunchbox, and take it with you!