



# The Source

forum of diversity

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Photo courtesy of The North Shore Cricket Club

## Verbatim

### Home for now

by SIMON WILLIAMS-IM

**Y***ou only live once* is a truthful concept, and in many ways it played a role in inspiring my husband and me to relocate to Canada. My home – the UK – is a mess as the international world looks on amused at the fall of the once dominating nation. As a gay couple living in South Korea, we knew that South Korea was still failing on human rights, even under a leader who has a background in human rights.

I admit that my motivation to move to Canada wasn't strong. I had visited Canada several times and didn't plan to return – taking English language assessment tests (IELTS) wasn't on my to-do list!

Our arrival from Seoul's Incheon airport to a small airport, which doesn't have much sparkle to it, confirmed in my mind that maybe Vancouver wasn't destined to be our home.

Nevertheless, we worked our way through the "old school" airport to meet the immigration officers, who welcomed us to Canada as new residents – all from immigrant families themselves and all very friendly.

We then spent a week exploring the city and finding our feet, including registering for our SIN (social insurance number) at Service Canada, opening bank accounts and getting new phone plans.

Opening bank accounts was a lesson in itself. Each bank offered appealing benefits for new immigrant accounts, and the overly friendly service was uncomfortable for a Brit who isn't used to this chatty tone. As someone who has lived in Korea where business is done quickly with little chit-chat, this kind of service was a little irritating, but this is the Canadian way!

See "Verbatim" page 8 >

# Sports, cultures and comradery

by BETTY SHEA

**Mens Sana in Corpore Sano. The Roman poet Juvenal argued that "a healthy mind in a healthy body" is the basis of human happiness.**

Playing a sport brings not only the physical rewards of a healthier body, but also a wealth of mental benefits. This philosophy is shared by players, coaches and team organizers across the many sports clubs in B.C.

### A cultural and holistic approach to sports

"We see sport as good medicine and as preventative medicine," says

Lara Mussell, Director of Sports at Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (ISPARC), a not-for-profit organization working to support a healthier future for Indigenous communities in B.C.

"We take a holistic approach to sport so there's recognition that not only are there physical benefits to sport participation, but there can be cultural, spiritual, emotional and intellectual benefits," says Mussell. She explains that ISPARC supports sports programs that are community-driven, taking guidance from the communities themselves on the type of sports to develop.

Mussell gives examples of how communities reconnect to their

culture and heritage through sports. To revive their tradition as a paddling community, the Ditidaht Nation on Vancouver Island partnered with ISPARC to launch a canoe camp. The resulting enthusiasm among the community's youth led to the inclusion of canoeing in their school curriculum.

Another example is the Osoyoos Indian Band who worked to establish an archery program. "They knew some kids who already knew how to use a bow and arrow from hunting with their families," explains Mussell. Since then, they have launched a top-class Indigenous archery club called the Twisted Arrows. "We get eight spots for Team BC ar-

chers to participate in the North American Indigenous Games and last time about five of those spots came from kids who came from the Twisted Arrows club," says Mussell. "They are competing at international games and at provincial and national events. They are doing some great things in their community."

### Comradery and competition

One of Canada's oldest sports clubs is here on Vancouver's North Shore. Founded in 1921, the North Shore Cricket Club (NSCC) is now in its 97th year. The club's archives are full of pictures and artifacts that document its evolution

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## Also in this issue



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explores the  
human-nature  
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# Cultural Spotlight



Photo by courtesy of Sarah Zafar

## Happy Eid in Vancouver

by COLLEEN ADDISON

**Muslim festival Eid ul-Fitr is little celebrated in Vancouver, but Sarah Zafar and her fellow volunteers are aiming to change that. On June 17, they are organizing Vancouver's first ever Eid ul-Fitr Festival. It's Muslim tradition with a Vancouver twist.**

"This is one of the Islamic celebrations [for] all Muslims around the world. It's a joy, just like we have Chinese New Year, Diwali and Christmas here," says Zafar, an Afghani who moved to Vancouver after a childhood spent in India. "Every Islamic country celebrates it, but then every celebration adds a bit of local culture to it."

The festival, which mixes Afghan and other traditions will be held at the Royal Palace Hall in Burnaby. Members of the public and local Afghan communities are all welcome.

### Balloons and bolani

Eid ul-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month in which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset to honour the publication of the Koran.

"People celebrate because they devoted themselves to God in a spiritual way," explains Zafar. "They fasted and they obeyed. So they deserve a celebration now."

Like many holidays, though, there are local traditions and differences.

"Everybody will have a different story about Eid," Zafar says. "What did they do. What did Eid mean to them."

A Western Eid ul-Fitr, for example, is different than the ones that Zafar experienced as a child.

"Everyone hugs and says 'Eid Mubarak,' which means 'happy Eid,'" she says. "We give money pockets to the kids. Every child gets money. But here it's better to give a gift; it's wrapped, so kids like to open it. And usually kids here don't go to the stores at all, except with their parents."



Photo by courtesy of Sarah Zafar

▲ Mehndi henna designs.

So here in the West, when Eid comes, parents usually buy gifts for their children."

The Eid ul-Fitr Festival 2018, designed by Zafar and four fellow members of the Afghan Community Volunteers, has maintained this holiday flexibility by including Western elements with traditional Afghan ones. According to Zafar, the festival will provide cotton candy, face painting and balloon animals.

"We have piñata games. We're playing hot potato. [But] there's henna available. We have a lot of traditional Afghan cuisine. Bolani is one of the stuffed Afghan cuisine; you put potatoes in it, and onions and then you fry it. It's stuffed dough, fried," she says.

Zafar explains that Eid, as a festival, is new for many Muslims who remember quieter celebrations.

"We used to go to each other's houses. And we have [a significant number] of Afghans in India. It took time to go to each other's houses and stay for tea or lunch or dinner. That's what we Afghans do; we go to each other's houses," she says.

Here in Vancouver, though, Zafar and her fellow volunteers wanted their children to experience the holiday with others.

"We said 'What about the kids now?' A lot of kids do their best to fast. I really want [my kids] to be hanging out with other kids and to enjoy it," Zafar explains.

### A better life

The five volunteers in charge of the Eid ul-Fitr have different childhood experiences both of Eid and of immigration.

"I grew up in New Delhi. My grandfather sponsored all his children to go there. I was one or two years old. There was a war with Russia, [and] people had to emigrate. In India, we aren't residents so we don't have benefits like schooling. We can't find jobs, unless we have education," Zafar says.

Zafar is happy she managed to come to Canada.

"We immigrated to Canada for a better life. As an immigrant, you have to go to a country like Canada. They gave us our rights. I'm very grateful," she says. ✍

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# Refugees each have unique stories to tell

by RAMAN KANG

**Sina Yetbarek and her family arrived in Canada just over four years ago from Uganda.**

"World Refugee Day is a day to raise awareness of the aspects and challenges of what a refugee goes through before becoming a refugee, during, and when they arrive to the new country by starting a new life all over again," she says. "I think World Refugee Day is to remember everyone who lost their lives - to make it to a better country, a safer country."

Yetbarek, a settlement worker, along with Hanadi Ibrahim, a visiting scientist in the chemistry department at Simon Fraser University (SFU), and Martina Scholtens, family physician, clin-

Born in Eritrea, East Africa, Yetbarek's parents later decided to move to Uganda where they would live for six years in the hopes of coming to Canada as refugees.

"It was not a stable condition and we had to leave for safety and education purposes," she says. "You don't live for the moment, you're always living for the future, you're looking forward to moving, to coming to Canada."

For Yetbarek, Uganda is like a second home to her but she is aware it's not safe.

"It just terrifies you and you don't feel safe, but living there for six years, I got used to it," she says.

Because of all she has today, Yetbarek wants to go back to Uganda and work there someday. She says she is passion-

**"From the first step at the airport, you are treated as Canadian and it's a multicultural country so you will never feel like you are different.**

*Hanadi Ibrahim, a visiting scientist at SFU*

ical instructor at UBC, and author will be sharing their stories during the World Refugee Day event at Burnaby Public Library June 19.

### A time to reflect

"Each refugee has a different story," says Ibrahim, who came to Canada in 2013 after fleeing from Syria.

Both Ibrahim and Yetbarek left their home countries: Ibrahim with her husband, Yetbarek with her parents and seven siblings.

"To become a refugee is not an easy process. People flee their country for many reasons but not everyone safely makes it to another country. Many people die in the process," says Yetbarek.

When demonstrations and violence began in Syria, Ibrahim decided to speak out and use her platform as a professor to voice her opinion. She released a video calling for a strike among professors, but was the only one to participate.

When authorities started looking for her, knowing others had ended up in prison, tortured or dead, she decided to flee to France, where she had previously completed her PhD.

There she was granted political refugee status and shortly after made the move to Canada.

"As a Syrian, World Refugee Day is very important to draw attention to the challenges refugees have. It's important to know what's happening," says Ibrahim.

"We have to remember the people who couldn't make it to countries like Canada, and for us who did to be grateful and to give back or contribute to the community," says Yetbarek. "I want to use every second to give back to my country and go back to help people in Uganda and other newcomers."

### Leaving home

"Most people don't choose to be a refugee, but because of circumstances they have to leave their country," says Yetbarek.

ate about working in a refugee camp, especially with helping women and children.

### Coming to Canada

"It's not easy to come to Canada with your family and have to adjust to a new system," says Yetbarek. "I felt like if I fully integrate into Canadian society I would lose my identity."

It's not a straightforward thing, it has many layers to it says Yetbarek.

For Ibrahim, her sense of belonging began as she took her first steps in a Canadian airport.

"From the first step at the airport, you are treated as Canadian and it's a multicultural country so you will never feel like you are different," she says.

Both Yetbarek and Ibrahim had difficulties adjusting to their new home. Yetbarek strug-



▲ Hanadi Ibrahim will share her experience at World Refugee Day.

gled with accessing education and Ibrahim with employment.

Currently, Ibrahim works at Simon Fraser University through help from Scholars at Risk, an organization who understood her situation; and Yetbarek is a settlement worker for ISS of BC, the same organization that helped her when she first came to Canada.

"I want to represent other people to tell them that anything is possible," says Yetbarek.

For more information, please visit [www.issbc.org](http://www.issbc.org)

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# Autism finds its rhythm

by HARPAUL GILL

**“Rock for Autism is a concept found all over the world, and we need support to graduate to becoming a charity that supports as many of these folks as possible. Why? Because these are the people who remind us of our own humanity, and in our own humility we should work with them as we work with others,” says Guy Picard, a dad who is leading the second annual Rock for Autism festival.**

Rock for Autism will be hosted in the tri cities area on Father’s Day, June 17.

## A growing audience

Despite its short history, Rock for Autism has grown quickly and considerably since its founding. The event was originally inspired by a young autistic musician named Luc Picard, Picard’s son, who played music at the Paddlewheeler Pub in New Westminster during open mic nights. With the young musician’s growing popularity, his family and the Paddlewheeler Pub sought to attract other musicians with autism. Even-

the remarkable but often overlooked talent that people with autism possess. According to the organization, there are 45000 adults living with autism, and 60% of this population are unemployed – even though many have the skill sets and motivation that are needed to be successful.

“Rock for Autism is in its early days, so our focus right now is on Autism Spectrum Disorder. It will be a natural thing for people with other developmental disabilities to approach us, and we expect to be thrilled and amazed as the future unfolds,” says Picard.

## A good place to recruit

Rock for Autism’s mission is to bring attention to this issue as well as to provide training opportunities for organizations looking to hire individuals with autism and other intellectual disabilities. It also seeks to raise funds for the programs that are already in existence that help people with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) obtain and maintain paid employment.

This advocacy persists year round as does its fundraising activities.



▲ Luc Picard, young musician with Autism.

tually, in 2017, the first Rock For Autism was held. Initially it featured three musicians with autism. The public response to the festival was so positive that founder Picard expanded the venue to take place at Rocky Point Park in Port Moody. This time around, over eight local bands, with clever names that are a play on autism like O.C./D.C., are expected to perform over a seven hour period.

“This year we start with a set featuring Au-star Luc Picard on guitar, along with Dirk and Richard from Retrosomics, and Steve Lindsay of Storm Surge on drums,” says Picard.

To a large extent the festival exists to highlight and showcase

“There are many win-win situations to look at where persons on the spectrum fit well and contribute not only to the bottom line but to the overall morale of the company,” says Picard.

To this end, the festival has partnered with Autism B.C., one of the oldest Autism advocacy organizations in Canada, and Lindsay Music. ✍

Rock for Autism will be held at Rocky Point Park in Port Moody. Attendance is free of charge and donations can be made through the Rock for Autism website.

For more information, please visit [www.inclusionbc.org/events/2018-06-17/rock-autism](http://www.inclusionbc.org/events/2018-06-17/rock-autism)



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📍 Tommy Douglas Burnaby Public Library, 7311 Kingsway, Burnaby

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Activities at MOSAIC 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

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When: Tuesdays, until June 19, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Activities at MOSAIC 5902 Kingsway, Burnaby

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Activities at Brentwood Community Resource Centre, 2055 Rosser Avenue, Burnaby

#### Wai Dan Gong

When: Fridays, until June 22, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

#### Tai Chi

When: Fridays, until June 22, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Contact: Eliza 604 292 3907 or [echan@mosaicbc.org](mailto:echan@mosaicbc.org)

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🕒 June 25, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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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.

# Two exhibitions mark the re-opening of the Bill Reid Gallery

by SIMON WILLIAMS-IM

Coinciding with its 10th anniversary, the recently renovated Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art is ready to welcome Vancouverites and visitors alike.

Working in association with the Cultural Sharing Program, the gallery will present *Home Away from Home* produced by Samantha Nock (Cree-Metis) and Nicole Bird (Haida), and *Body Language: Reawakening Cultural Tattooing of the Northwest*, running June 8, 2018–January 13, 2019.

"It's really exciting to showcase Indigenous cultures in Vancouver," says Laurie Buckley, the gallery's marketing specialist. "The new gallery space will enable a different perspective of works by Carnegie Centre from across communities to be on show for all people."

The exhibition will offer a mixture of art, photographs, and writing that will guide visitors through words and art. As a community, the Program has decided to create a wall hanging in "the style of a button blanket to represent them, their relationship to the gallery and their community." Other pieces included in the exhibition will feature the kinds of projects worked on in the program, such

as drumsticks, drums, rattles, weavings, and drawings.

## A home to celebrate all cultures

*Home Away from Home* marks the launch of the Bryan and Audrey Williams Gallery on the mezzanine level that offers a focused exhibition area that goes alongside the new Hummingbird Gathering Space, a space for educational and public events such as hands-on workshops and artist presentations.

"I am excited that this exhibition showcases a different perspective on how Indigenous cultures are celebrated in the city and am happy that that our visitors will now be aware that this important program exists in our community (the Downtown Eastside)," says Nock.

The Cultural Sharing Program works to not only celebrate Indigenous culture but across communities with events such as Chinese New Year and the Jewish festival of Chanukah. Although it's a place for urban Indigenous peoples in Vancouver to meet and create community, the space remains open to all people regardless of race or ethnicity.

"The group itself is composed of mainly Indigenous folks, but also has members that are not, but everyone is part of the community," says Nock.



▲ Artifacts from the Home Away from Home exhibition.

The gallery will also hold events for the whole community including writing groups, jazz bands, karaoke, dances, concerts, presentations and performances.

## Tattoos and culture

The gallery will also host *Body Language: Reawakening Cultural Tattooing of the Northwest*, the first exhibition to explore the history of Indigenous tattooing, piercing and accessory on the

Northwest Coast with a variety of exhibits, photographs and paintings to be explored. Historically tattoos were a celebration along with a recognition of life's special moments, such as potlatches or ranking. Lip, nose and ear piercing were linked to rank and status but were banned in 1885. Thereafter, such designs were added to clothing and jewellery instead.

Visitors can explore the history, symbolism, oral traditions, songs



▲ The Carnegie Cultural Sharing Program will participate in workshops at the Bill Reid Gallery.

and artistry through this exhibition put together by Guest Curator, Dion Kaszas (Nlaka'pamux), and the works of artists Nakkita Trimble (Nisga'a); Nahaan (Tlingit); Corey Bulpitt (Haida); and Dean Hunt (Heiltsuk).

"Our new light-filled, open space is both human in scale and majestic – it is a beautiful platform that allows us to honour Reid by bringing Indigenous and other peoples together through art," says Alexandra Montgomery, Director and CEO of the Bill Reid Gallery.

The gallery will open its doors free of charge and will offer free family events June 16 and 17, including storytelling, live performances and interactive sculpture, to mark the anniversary.

For more information, please visit [www.billreidgallery.ca](http://www.billreidgallery.ca)

► "Sports" from page 1 through the years. Often referred to as a gentleman's game, cricket itself is a sport steeped in tradition. "Until 1952 the Naval band used to inaugurate the season's first game," says Bhavjit Jauhar, President of the NSCC. "We can only imagine how elegant it was."

Jauhar has served as the President of the NSCC since 2013. He and other volunteers work hard to organize the four teams that the club enters in the BC Mainland Cricket League (BCMCL).

"The main reason we do it is because of our passion for the game and the pleasure we derive from seeing the people in the community making friends and moments which become an everlasting memory," says Jauhar. "The effort is completely worth it as our club is going to be 100 years old and we feel proud that we are keeping and carrying forward this legacy for future generations and youngsters."

At the end of the day, it's the players' passion for their sport that carries a team forward. What motivates people to join a sports club?

Alton van Straalen is one of the newest members of the NSCC. Originally from western Australia, van Straalen and his family moved to Canada last summer. Having made strong friendships playing cricket in the past, one of the top priorities for him after his move was to join a cricket team. He believes that it is a good way to build a social network.

"I wanted to find a local club because I wanted to meet local people," says van Straalen. He attends training once a week and plays a game over the weekend. For him, cricket, and sports in general, fulfill three different functions.

"You've got comradery, you've got the social aspect, and then when you get on the field, you've got the

competitiveness too," says van Straalen. "I need all three things in my life. Sports let you compete at a friendly level and they satisfy that desire to compete."

"The other thing that I like about cricket is that you can play it as you get older," says van Straalen. "It's there for years to come."

## Many opportunities to participate

The NSCC host four weekly games on their training grounds of Norgate Park and Inter River Park, and invite visiting teams from all over the Lower Mainland to participate. With one of the lowest season fees for any outdoor sport, and four teams ranging from division one to seven in the BCMCL, the NSCC offers an opportunity for all levels of players to enjoy the sport.

For younger players up to 12 years, the NSCC offers Kanga Cricket, which is played with a much softer ball. The club would also like to restart their women's team, but currently do not have enough players to enter a team in the BCMCL.

ISPARC has six regional sports coordinators across the province promoting a variety of sports ranging from archery to ultimate frisbee. The activities are hosted by Indigenous communities and are open to the public. ISPARC has an inclusive approach to sports participation. Although they target Indigenous communities and Indigenous youth, they publish an activities calendar on their website to garner interest from a wider audience.

"Ultimately, sport participation is about building a better society with healthier and happier citizens," says Mussell.

For more information, please visit: [www.nscricket.com](http://www.nscricket.com) [www.isparc.ca/event-calendar](http://www.isparc.ca/event-calendar)

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# Metamorphosis: a new hope

by VICTOR VAN DER MERWE

Directed by Velcrow Ripper and Nova Ami, the documentary *Metamorphosis* is being called a “poem for the planet” by the National Film Board of Canada. It looks at the true scale of the global environmental crisis. From forest fires that consume communities, species vanishing at an astounding rate and entire ecosystems collapsing, *Metamorphosis* covers it all.

*Metamorphosis* also delves into the efforts made by people to adapt and preserve the planet. For example, architects in Milan design urban towers covered with trees and bushes that reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, produce oxygen and give new life to the city. New innovations such as this are driving change. Vancity Theatre will be hosting the B.C. premiere of *Metamorphosis* on June 26.

## Change as motivation

The devastating events and changes that unfolded after a



▲ Directors Nova Ami (left) and Velcrow Ripper (right).



▲ Bosco Verticale 1, Milan.

natural disaster inspired the two filmmakers.

“When we first started talking about the film, typhoon Haiyan had just happened in the Philippines and over 6000 people had been killed. We were struck by the tragedy of it all and how it changed people’s lives and how we are changing because of what is happening to our planet,” says Ami.

When it came to constructing the film and sticking to its theme, the monarch butterfly was an obvious metaphor.

“During our creative process we had themes we used as scaffolding for the film. We started with chrysalis followed by crisis followed by catharsis and then symbiosis. So the metaphor of the butterfly going through metamorphosis was something we thought was

quite apt for our species,” adds Ami.

During the filming of *Metamorphosis*, the husband and wife team had their own big change: going from being a family of two, to a family of three.

“The biggest surprise during the filming was having a baby while making a movie. We spent three years traveling around the world and he came with us,” says Ripper.

“We just basically had to be open to whatever was happening at the moment and we couldn’t plan certain things. We never made a film before while having a baby so everything was a surprise,” says Ami.

## Garden pools and small changes

The film shows how for residents in Phoenix, Arizona, swimming pools are repurposed

into backyard ecosystems, lush with plants and fish that generate food for people. In California, a company is installing solar panels in underserved communities. This gives clean energy to families who would not have had access to it before and also creates a new industry that cannot be outsourced. It talks of changes great and small that can be implemented.

“We don’t have to change our backyard swimming pools into garden pools, but we can learn to repurpose what we already have and use that instead of always buying something new. This is how we stop the disposable culture and keep everything in use,” Ripper explains.

## Immersive filmmaking

Woven through the stories of change are also stories of artists

tackling the subject matter of climate change: one such artist is Jean Paul Bourdier, a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, who photographs models covered in body paint and then blends them into the wild or a stark environment. Both Ami and Ripper agree that when it came to challenges in the filming process, Bourdier was definitely a tough one.

“Of all the things we filmed his shoot was really hard. We off-roaded to these really remote places... we did not know where we were going. We just followed him and his gear,” says Ami.

“It was the desert, it was hot and in the Utah backlands he paints people and merges them with the landscape. At one point we volunteered to be painted,” adds Ripper.

## Opportunity for transformation

Ami and Ripper hope the film does not just educate but also inspires the audience.

“I hope they see that hope is a choice and that they can either decide to give up or choose hope,” Ami says.

Ripper adds that the film’s overall message is to see crisis as an opportunity for change.

“We wanted to do something that is different. We wanted to do something that was inspiring and beautiful and it is a movie to see on the big screen. It’s not like you go and eat your greens and watch this film,” they agree. ✍

For more information, please visit [www.nfb.ca/film/metamorphosis](http://www.nfb.ca/film/metamorphosis)

# A suitcase and a story

by BRITTANY THOMSON

Vancouver-based portrait photographer, Kayla Isomura grew up with a passion for storytelling.

Between working three different jobs, Isomura made a name for herself in photography and now has her own gallery exhibit about Japanese internment in Canada during World War II. *The Suitcase Project* opens June 16 and runs till September 2 at the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre in Burnaby.

## A whole life in one suitcase

Growing up a fourth generation Japanese Canadian, Isomura felt a void. She didn’t know many other Japanese Canadians or that her own grandparents and great grandparents had been interned during World War II. Having not learned about the Japanese internment in Canada in school, and desiring more impactful work, Isomura set out to educate herself.

Inspired by a recent backpacking trip to New Zealand, Isomura kept thinking about how her grandparents would’ve lost everything they couldn’t carry. If she was forced to leave her home and never return, what would she take? She wanted to create a discussion about interment, so she pitched the idea to Director/Curator Sherri Kajiwarra at the Nikkei National Museum and

Cultural Centre in Burnaby and created a job for herself. Kajiwarra was not only supportive of Isomura’s idea, but insisted that she show the project at the museum.

While working as an intern curator, Isomura was able to create *The Suitcase Project*, a multimedia exhibit asking yonsei and gosei (4th and 5th generation Japanese Canadians and Americans) what they would pack if uprooted from their homes at a moment’s notice similar to their ancestors during World War II.

With portrait photography and interviews with the subjects, the exhibit is meant to be an interactive experience for all who attend. Isomura’s exhibit forces its attendees to ask themselves these difficult questions: what do I really need? Practical vs. sentimental? What is truly important?

“The project expanded outside of the question of ‘packing’ and became a larger conversation about our generation and what it looks like to be a Japanese Canadian,” Isomura says.

The project came together rather quickly when gallery space unexpectedly opened up at the museum this summer. Isomura started photographing subjects in January and is now in the final stages of preparation. She originally expected to just be showing photographs, but her background in journalism encouraged her to incorporate

film and interviews with the exhibit.

There will be over 40 photos displayed, with some subjects getting a secondary photograph to show what they would’ve packed if forcibly removed from their homes. There will also be a film with 20 different vignettes showing interviews and the photography process.

## Displacement impact still felt

Isomura still feels the impact of the Japanese internment decades later. She believes it played a huge role in who she is. Relatives were spread out across Canada and many were not allowed to return to the



▲ Kayla Isomura, self portrait with bags for *The Suitcase Project*.

West Coast after the war. Language, identity and culture were lost. Isomura hopes to give a voice to those who were silenced for many years as well as educate those in her generation who, like her, feel that they’re missing a large part of their heritage.

“Our current generation, in our particular group of Japanese Canadians and Japanese Americans, are not facing the same form of discrimination as our ancestors. I was curious what people in my generation’s mindset would be if in the same situation,” she says.

Isomura plans to expand the exhibit once officially wrapped in September. She wants to create an online version, which will include podcast files of extended interviews with her subjects. With the expansion, Isomura hopes to reach a broader audience and allow those subjects who aren’t from Vancouver the ability to access the gallery after its run. As for her own goals, she hopes the exhibit will lead to more projects, especially those that leave a greater impact on the audience.

“No matter what generation you’re in, whether or not you have a connection to Japanese internment, or if you’re even in the Japanese community, I think there’s a lot to learn from hearing people share their stories,” she says. ✍

For more information, visit [www.centre.nikkeiplace.org](http://www.centre.nikkeiplace.org)

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## Romani music with an international flair

by JAKE MCGRAIL

**A group of musicians, with various cultural backgrounds, share their distinct and unique music to a perhaps less aware North American audience.**

Parno Drom, a band influenced by the Eastern European Romani style of music will be performing at the Heritage Grill in New Westminster on June 19.

### A musical smorgasbord

Parno Drom was formed in 2011 by Bob Kozak, a Polish born accordionist and music director who has been involved in the B.C. music scene for decades. When he contacted a few musicians he knew, and put out a call looking for new ones, Kozak searched for those he felt could best handle the music he wanted to play.

many are sung in multiple dialects – and even the beat is liable to change mid-song.

“Lots of times even one song can change tempos three, four times,” says Kozak. “The only way for musicians to perform it well: they have to feel the music. It comes from the heart.”

### A distinct performance

For Kozak, the question of what music he wanted to play was obvious. Parno Drom specializes in Eastern European Romani music, which is what he has loved his entire life.

“It’s a little bit different,” says Kozak, “and people will find we sing very romantically and happily, with fast changing rhythms and beats. I grew up with this style, it’s in my heart.”

While focusing on a style of music that isn’t familiar to many people in B.C. can be disadva-

“ We now have quite a few different styles of Romani music, so when you listen to it you can find elements from Arabic music, Greek music, Polish, Russian, Spanish music...it’s all mixed.

*Bob Kozak, Polish born accordionist and music director*

“I was looking for musicians that can handle Romani music,” he says. “Not everyone can play Romani music; you can be the best sheet-reader, but if you don’t feel it you won’t be able to follow with it.”

Out of his auditions emerged the still-evolving group that makes up Parno Drom. It is a nationality-rich ensemble, with Kozak’s Polish roots complemented by some from Russia, Ukraine, Venezuela and others; this large range of countries fitting the Romani influence they play with. Better known by the name “Gypsy” (which is considered a derogatory term by many), the Romani people emigrated from India centuries ago,

geous in some respects, Kozak sees the challenge of introducing it to be a worthwhile one.

“I want there to be a great variety in music,” he says. “We’re living in a multicultural community, and if we have a variety of music everyone can find something for themselves. I like the challenge, to introduce something that is not around here too much yet.”

The group, who also offer their services at private functions, gives performances across the Lower Mainland throughout the year.

“The show brings lots of happiness, lots of colours, lots of flavours,” says Kozak. “We are a very energetic group, and we



▲ The group Parno Drom is made up of musicians from various cultural backgrounds.

and spread all across Europe and into the Americas. Evidence of this travelling manifested itself in their music.

“As they travelled through all these different countries,” says Kozak, “they would pick up music from all the different cultures. We now have quite a few different styles of Romani music, so when you listen to it you can find elements from Arabic music, Greek music, Polish, Russian, Spanish music...it’s all mixed.”

This blending of cultures and styles is evident even in individual tunes. Each song can be a musical tour of its own – as

sing in all different Romani dialects. The music is very friendly, it comes from the heart.”

For those who might not have experienced Romani music before, Kozak hopes those attending will come with an open mind and a readiness to have a fun night.

“Be yourself, be loose. I would like for people to see how Romani artists perform, and this music [is] for all ages. I don’t know exactly how else to describe it; the best way is to come see us at the show!” he says. ☞

For more information, visit [www.parnodrom.com](http://www.parnodrom.com)



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# Cultural Calendar

June 12–26, 2018

by SIMON YEE

The summer solstice is on June 21, marking the official start of summer! There are plenty of events going on around the city, both indoors and outdoors, for you to check out and enjoy. From festivals and pop-up markets to art exhibitions and theatrical plays, there is something for everyone. Plus, Father's Day is on June 17, so why not take your dad out to some of these places too?

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## Ninotchka

June 8–23  
Coast Capital Playhouse,  
White Rock  
[www.whiterockplayers.ca](http://www.whiterockplayers.ca)

The 73rd season of the White Rock Players' Club will close this June with an adaptation of Hungarian playwright Melchior Lengyel's play *Ninotchka*, playing at the Coast Capital Playhouse in White Rock. The Soviets are set on recovering the Romanovs' lost treasures. When a charming French art collector proves to be more obstinate than they expected, the government sends out their best agent, Ninotchka. A summer romance set in Paris and featuring Soviet spies, royal treasures and joie de vivre, Lengyel's play delivers a sharp and timely critique of Cold War-era politics. For tickets and more information, visit the Players' website.

\*\*\*

## Festival d'été francophone de Vancouver

June 14–23  
Various venues around Vancouver  
[www.lecentre culturel.com](http://www.lecentre culturel.com)

Every June since 1990, Le Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver

organizes the Vancouver Francophone Summer Festival, one of the most important cultural and musical francophone events in Western Canada. Discover more than a week of concerts under the banner of international francophone music. In a lively atmosphere, thousands of people come together to hear artists from across Canada and around the world. The festival audience is not limited to the francophone and francophile community, but includes the population of Vancouver at large as well as tourists who are interested in taking in a cultural experience that is unique on the West Coast! For a complete listing of events and performances, please visit the festival website.

\*\*\*

## Jeff Ladouceur: Pearl Path

June 15–Aug. 19  
Burnaby Art Gallery  
[www.burnabyartgallery.ca](http://www.burnabyartgallery.ca)

The Burnaby Art Gallery will be featuring the works of Victoria artist Jeff Ladouceur, a prominent figure within Canada's tradition of contemporary drawing. His world is populated by a slowly morphing cast of old-timey, comic-inspired characters: droopy elephants, big-nosed salesmen and bubble babies rendered with a dizzying level of detail. This is Ladouceur's first solo exhibition with a Canadian art museum and will be the largest number of works shown in one institution to date. A book, which includes a written piece by renowned Canadian author Sheila Heti, coincides with this exhibition. There will be an opening reception on June 14 in the evening. Check out the gallery's website for more information.

\*\*\*

## BC Highland Games and Scottish Festival

June 16  
Percy Perry Stadium, Coquitlam  
[www.bchighlandgames.com](http://www.bchighlandgames.com)

Celebrate Scotland, the northernmost constituent country of the United Kingdom, at Percy Perry Stadium in Coquitlam on June 16. There will be caber tossing, highland dancing and bagpipe competitions as well as plenty of Scottish delicacies to try, like haggis and Irn Bru. There will also be a beer garden for the adult crowd. Please check out the Highland Games website for more information.

\*\*\*

## Car Free Day

June 16–17, July 8  
West End, Main Street and Commercial Drive, Vancouver  
[www.carfreevancouver.org](http://www.carfreevancouver.org)

Take transit, bike or walk to the Car Free Day festivals happening throughout Vancouver on the June 16 weekend. Harkening back to a time where streets were primarily used by pedestrians, these carless festivals hope to reclaim the streets from traffic to not only cut down on car exhaust, but to also foster community spirit by allowing artists, local residents, performers, artisans, non-profits and businesses to interact and engage with each other. For more information about the festivals, please visit the website.

\*\*\*

## Queer Arts Festival

June 16–28  
Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre, Vancouver  
[www.queerartsfestival.com](http://www.queerartsfestival.com)

The Queer Arts Festival returns to the Roundhouse to celebrate its

10th anniversary in order to push boundaries and foster dialogue and conversation about gender and sexuality through the visual arts. This year's multidisciplinary festival features exhibits and performances about alternative histories: celebrating lives in actions unnoticed, voices unheard, lost stories of self and races won in forgotten Herstories/Ourstories. Check out the festival's website for a complete list of shows and performances.

\*\*\*

## National Indigenous Day at Trout Lake

June 21, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Trout Lake, Vancouver  
[www.bcnationalindigenousday.com](http://www.bcnationalindigenousday.com)

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit people will gather at Trout Lake to share their spirit, experiences, stories, songs, art and dance with each other and the community – with a day full of entertainment, activities and fun planned for the whole family. There will be an all-day food truck village, a traditional Pow Wow, canoe tours of Trout Lake, a fun family photo booth, a friendship walk and arts and crafts vendors. For information about this event, please visit their website.

\*\*\*

## Scandinavian Midsummer Festival

June 22–24  
Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby  
[scandinavianmidsummerfestival.com](http://scandinavianmidsummerfestival.com)

The Scandinavian Midsummer Festival returns to Burnaby once again to celebrate the food, dance, music and culture of the Nordic peoples. Perennial favourites such as the wife-carrying contest, the

Paavo Nurmi run and the raising of the midsummer pole will be featured. On June 22, in the evening, there will be an adults-only Ember Skies kickoff party. For a complete schedule of events, please visit the festival website.

\*\*\*

## Point Grey Fiesta

June 22–24  
Trimble Park, Vancouver  
[www.pointgreyfiesta.org](http://www.pointgreyfiesta.org)

The Point Grey Fiesta is the community's annual start-of-summer event for families and friends. Starting with a Saturday parade on West 10th Avenue, the Saturday celebration continues in Trimble Park with stage performances, activities and exhibitors. Carnival rides in Trimble Park operate from Friday to Sunday. With the exception of the carnival rides and midway games, Fiesta entertainment and children's activities are free of charge. For more information, please visit the fiesta's website.

\*\*\*

## Greek Day on Broadway

June 24, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.  
Broadway between Macdonald and Blenheim, Vancouver  
[www.greekday.com](http://www.greekday.com)

Greek Day on Broadway is the largest one-day Greek festival in Vancouver, which aims to share the rich Greek culture that spans 2500 years of history, including over 100 years of social and cultural contributions to the City of Vancouver. A five block stretch on Broadway is closed off to traffic to make room for a world of delicious Greek food and drink, market vendors, entertainment and live music offering a laid back, yet lively Greek atmosphere.

## Recipe by Jen dela Luna

# Fritule

All right, you'll have to forgive me here. Fritule, a Croatian dessert akin to a mini doughnut (but with a kick), is typically served at Christmastime. That being said, summer is around the corner and this Canadian gal just couldn't say no to the idea of sitting on the balcony, soaking up some rays and snacking on warm fritule.

The citrus zest makes the fritule bright, and though they're typically made with raisins, I enjoy substituting them with cranberries – the little fruit jewels are a nice surprise when you bite into the crunchy-yet-fluffy treats. The secret is to maintain the right temperature whilst frying – too high and you'll burn the fritule, too low and they'll soak up too much oil.

Create your own variations and flavour contrasts and personalize your fritule – perfect any time of year, not just the holidays!

### Ingredients

- 500 g all purpose flour
- 1 tsp instant yeast
- 50 g brown sugar
- zest of ½ orange
- zest of ½ lemon
- 50 g egg
- 1 tsp vanilla



- 40 mL bourbon or brandy
- 200 mL warm milk
- 65 g dried cranberries or raisins
- vegetable oil for frying
- sugar (powdered or granulated, for dusting/rolling)

### Method

1. In a large bowl, combine the flour, yeast, and brown sugar thoroughly, followed by the citrus zest, egg, vanilla and alcohol, stirring with a wooden spoon.
2. Slowly add in the warm milk,

incorporating it and creating a very thick batter.

3. Once the batter is formed, mix in the cranberries, then let the batter sit to thicken even further. The batter should be "droppable" from a spoon. I do prefer mine on the thicker side rather than runny, as they will yield a rounder "drop" as opposed to a longer irregular shape.
4. In a dutch oven (or home deep fryer, if you have one), heat the oil (at least 2" deep in a dutch oven) to 350°F.
5. Gently drop heaping teaspoonfuls of the batter into the oil (they will expand). Be sure not to overcrowd the fryer, so the temperature doesn't drop drastically. The fritule will only take 30 seconds on each side, and no more than about 2 minutes total, until they are golden brown on all sides.
6. Transfer the fritule to a paper towel lined plate to drain any excess oil.
7. At this point you can either sprinkle powdered sugar overtop before serving, or rolling the fritule in granulated sugar (I prefer the texture of granulated!)
8. Enjoy warm as a snack or dessert! Enjoy!

### ► "Verbatim" from page 1

Shopping for a phone deal was incredibly similar to shopping for a bank account. There is something that people arriving in Canada should know: think about your credit check before you apply for either of these – your choices impact your line of credit.

I found looking for a job incredibly hard in Canada. There are jobs out there, but the salaries in Korea are much better. I have had a few jobs in five months: from working in a Canadian office that reminded me of working in England, to working in a call centre, to working in a commercial coffee shop that opened my eyes to the more personal customer service provided in independent shops.

Now I am back in a job similar to one I had in Korea, but I'm thinking about new options and ideas. Vancouver seems to be a place that may not make the list of a place to call home, but you just never know – things might change (after all marriage was never on my list either).

Vancouver is home for now. Maybe we will stay long-term, or maybe we won't. The city is becoming familiar, the nature is attractive, but the city is clearly one that can be labelled as "a work in progress." I've fallen in love with the natural beauty, and for a city boy who loves the "bally-bally" (Korean for "quick quick") lifestyle, that is quite an achievement. Van-



▲ Canadian diversity – a work in progress

couver offers golden gems in mountains, water views, beach views and coffee shops.

A while ago I was interviewed by a local TV company about the issue of homelessness, and as I was questioned, I realized that my new home is one of so many social issues. It is a city that really needs better management.

Furthermore, since I am married to a Korean, I've realized that there is a problem with racial issues. Now, more than ever, I wish I spoke Korean fluently and could close my ears to English and the comments made about Chinese, Koreans and "foreigners."

I see here a divided yet united place that is in need of better management: we need to look to the future, not wake up to a mess tomorrow.

Canada can really shine but needs to learn from immigrants, just as much as from locals. You're more flexible than most places, so make it shine! ✨