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▲ Evening Dress, Donaldson's Vancouver, c. 1938.

Dressed for History and more at the MOV

by LIN WEAVER

The Museum of Vancouver (MOV) was founded by the Art, Historical, and Scientific Association of Vancouver (AHS), which was formed on April 17, 1894 with the objective of cultivating “a taste for the beauties and refinements in life.”

Originally, the building was planned to only house a museum, but a generous gift by the lumber magnate H.R. MacMillan allowed the architect to incorporate a planetarium into the design. As a result, the distinctive roof was added, designed to reflect the shape of a woven basket hat made by Northwest Coast First Nations people.

To this day, the MOV has been true to his original objective. It continues to provide enjoyment and inspiration. It aims to connect the people of Vancouver to one another and expose them to the world through stories, objects, fashion and shared experiences.

Along with its permanent galleries, the Museum of Vancouver typically hosts a number of temporary exhibitions. Four temporary exhibitions are presently being showcased at the museum: *That Which Sustains Us* is about traditions that included Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh cultural experts as well as

environmental historians and forestry researchers; *The City before the City* is an exhibition featuring *čəsnaʔəm*, an important ancestral village of the Musqueam First Nation; *All we Want is More* presents over 70 works by Tobias Wong, the majority from the Wong Estate collection; and the visually

ing of a museum within that context?” says Gosselin. “Of course, a museum is only a tiny part of people’s lives. At the same time it is one of the few institutions dedicated to the learning of the past. Everyone goes to school but not everyone goes to university for 20 years. So where

“ How do people make sense of their past and what is the meaning of a museum within that context?

Viviane Gosselin, director of collections and exhibitions, curator of contemporary culture, Museum of Vancouver

stunning *Dressed for History* is a private collection of women fashion from 1750 to 2000, showcasing how people dress reveals so much about who they are, what they do and what they value.

Why museums?

Viviane Gosselin, director of collections and exhibitions and curator of contemporary culture, shares her perspective when it comes to why museums are key to understanding our lives

“I came to the museum 13 years ago. I was interested in the historical consciousness of visitors. How do people make sense of their past and what is the mean-

do they go? We watch TV, talk to our grandparents and we go to museums. When people visit a museum, how do they connect their lives with what they see?”

Gosselin believes the MOV is the perfect size to explore possibilities and to take chances. Half of the exhibitions come from sharing ideas for what the museum can do for the public. Gosselin states that they try to generate programs that connect to people’s lives.

According to Gosselin, exhibitions take two to three years to develop, including the redevelopment of the museum’s long-term

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Margo Greenwood, a recently appointed senator for British Columbia

June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, an opportunity to learn about the cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis and those who are committed to their well-being.

Last November, The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that the Governor General appointed Dr. Margo Greenwood as an independent senator to fill a vacancy for British Columbia.

Dr. Margo Greenwood is an internationally recognized and highly respected Indigenous scholar of Cree ancestry. She is a researcher, author, mother to three sons, and grandmother to one granddaughter. Dr. Greenwood grew up in Ponoka, Alberta and has lived the majority of her adult life in Vernon, British Columbia.

From a young age, Senator Greenwood credits calling on the power of dreaming to overcome challenges in her life journey. Personally and professionally, her dream – and vision – of bettering the lives of children, families, and communities has evolved over the years. Senator Greenwood is particularly recognized for her commitment to the health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children. While she has travelled around the world, con-

mission on Social Determinants of Health. Nationally, she has served on the National Public Health Expert Advisory Committee for the Assembly of First Nations, the Canadian Council on Social Determinants of Health, the Indigenous Health Advisory Committee for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Public Health Network of Canada. She also participated in the development of three federal early childhood programs: the First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative, the Aboriginal Head Start Urban and Northern Program, and the First Nations Head Start On Reserve Program. She also recently co-authored the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. Provincially, Senator Greenwood serves on the Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and is a Council Member of the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council. She was also a founding member of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, where she served as the inaugural Vice President for 10 years.

When Dr. Greenwood was appointed to the Senate, she was serving in two prominent national capacities alongside her professorship at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC): as Academic Leader of the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health, where she had worked since its inception in 2005; and as interim Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health. Senator Greenwood remains a Professor in the Education Program at UNBC. In 2015, she was named one of the University of British Columbia's top 100 educators.

In recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to society, Senator Greenwood is the recipient of the Golden Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II, for her work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in early childhood education; the Perry Shawana Child Care Advocacy Award from the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society; the National Aboriginal Achievement Award (now the Indspire Award) for Education, from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation; the Academic of the Year Award, from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of BC; and most recently she was appointed to the Order of Canada as an Officer, for her scholarship in early childhood education and her transformational leadership in Indigenous health policy.

For more information visit: <https://sencanada.ca/en/senators/greenwood-margo/>

Source : Senate of Canada



▲ Senator Margo Greenwood.

tributing to policy and program development to improve the lives of Indigenous children and youth, she has made Western Canada her home and represents British Columbia as an Independent Senator. In this capacity, she is deeply committed to promoting and ensuring the continued well-being of all children and families in Canada.

Internationally, Senator Greenwood has worked with UNICEF, the United Nations, the World Forum Foundation, and the Canadian Reference Group to the World Health Organization Com-

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Photo courtesy of Vancouver Public Library

A thousand miles in their shoes: a glimpse into the world of refugee claimants

by LUC MVONO

The United Nations' designated World Refugee Day on June 20th will be a day observed to celebrate and honour "the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution." Last year, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) reported over 90,000 asylum claims, including nearly 4000 from claimants seeking refuge in British Columbia.

The Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP BC) is a politically neutral collective of government, non-government and not-for-profit agencies in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley who advocate for refugee claimants and the organizations that support them.

In honour of World Refugee Day, The Source Newspaper spoke to MAP BC to learn about the commonalities among refugee claimants in Canada, with a focus on British Columbia.

Source: Which countries of origin do most refugee claimants in Canada originate from?

MAP BC: The top 5 countries from January 2022 to March 2023 were Iran, India, Mexico, Colombia and Afghanistan according to the Immigration Refugee Board. We tend to see higher numbers from some nationalities depending on the visa requirements that Canada imposes on different countries. For

instance, Mexican nationals can enter Canada with an Electronic Travel Authorization, which is less costly and more likely to be approved compared to a tourist or student visa that a claimant might try to obtain as a way of coming to Canada.

Another factor is the way in which claimants from different parts of the world get to Canada. For example, most Iranian claimants arrive by air directly from Iran, while the majority of Colombian refugee claimants journey to Canada by land. They often fly into Mexico where they can enter without a visa and then take the perilous journey by land from Mexico into the US and then make their way to the Canadian border. Unfortunately, Canada has just expanded the terms of a bilateral agreement with the US called 'The Safe Third Country Agreement' (STCA), which has essentially closed Canada's doors to most claimants arriving by land.

S: Would you say there is a typical claimant profile in terms of age, status at arrival in Canada or the number of years since their arrival?

MAP BC: There is no typical profile for refugee claimants, no.

We see highly educated professionals. We see people with no formal education. We see youths and seniors. We see people with connections in Canada and those who are completely alone in an unfamiliar culture.

We see people who arrived in Canada as students, tour-

ists and temporary workers and people arriving irregularly who make a claim as soon as they can.

We see LGBTQ individuals from countries where homosexuality is punishable by death. They may have been here for years as students, finally being able to express their true gender identity, so they make a claim for protection in Canada.

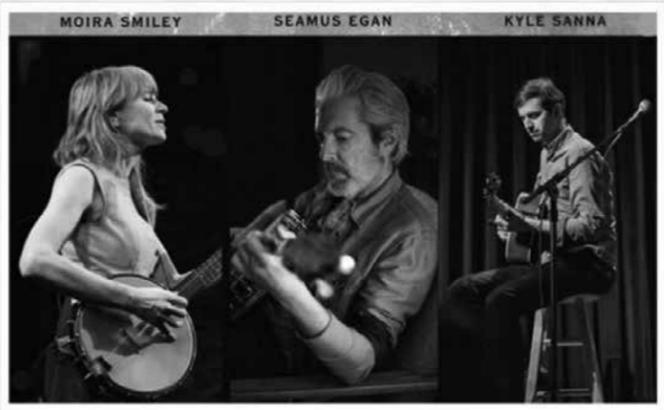
S: Is the refugee claim process one that most can complete on their own, like a visa application?

MAP BC: The refugee claim process is nothing like a visa application. It is a very long process with several steps involving the IRCC, the Canadian Border Services Agency and the Immigration Refugee Board.

Most claimants cannot afford to pay thousands of dollars for a lawyer so they rely on Legal Aid services, which they must apply for and are sometimes denied, so some people do attend their hearings on their own.

Of note, the Supreme Court is currently reviewing the legality of the STCA, and MAP BC has partnered with the Vancouver Public Library to organize this year's World Refugee Day Event to bring attention to this issue. The event is called "The right to safety – is Canada failing refugee claimants?" It will take place on June 20 at 350 W Georgia from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. ✉

For more information please visit: mapbc.org/help



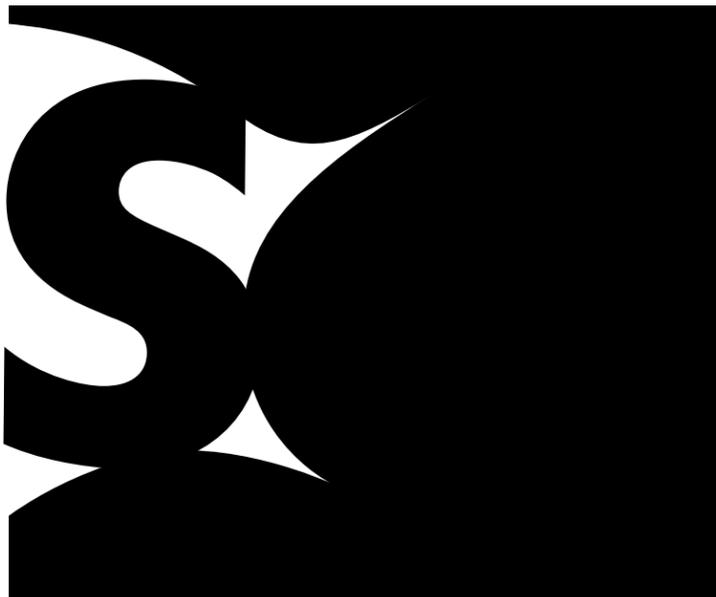
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▲ Dinner Dress, c. 1873.

► "Museum" from page 1 gallery where she hopes visitors will indicate what they want to see and connect. The museum is also looking at environmental justice and climate injustice. In a few weeks it will be opening an exhibition called *Repair and Reclaim, the Mahogany Project*, which is going to be on display for a year.

"We realized that some of our exhibitions ended up being wasteful so we are now engaging the community to donate materials they do not use. As a result, many people now approach us, for example, the film industry," she says. "The excitement of having these materials led us to call out to designers who produced prototypes for us."

Old pieces of wood that were once taking up space and col-

lecting dust are transformed into newly created artifacts. Several artists from around the world were invited to look at these pieces. The pieces will respect traditional methods and concepts but use new technology and new tools.

"The beauty was that materials were transformed not by the museum but by the community coming back to the museum and inspiring people to rethink their use of materials," says Gosselin.

In 2024, the museum is planning a display called *True Tribal*, which is about indigenous tattoo traditions through history and inspired by motifs that were found in traditional baskets. ✉

To know more:
<https://museumofvancouver.ca>

Photo courtesy of Museum of Vancouver

An unsuspected portrait of B.C.'s climate during the Eocene Era

by CYNTHIA LE TAILLANTER-DOS SANTOS

Research recently published in the *International Journal of Plant Sciences* by Rolf Mathewes, professor of paleoecology and palynology at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and co-authors David Greenwood of Brandon University and Tammo Reichgelt of the University of Connecticut uncovered numerous clues that Metro-Vancouver's climate was much warmer and more humid than it is now. The study's origins go back several decades to the late 1960s when Mathewes was an undergraduate, and his supervisor at the time, Professor Robert C. Brooke, found and collected plant fossils from a deposit exposed during the construction of the newly created SFU.

"No other study was available on this particular localization," said Brooke at the time.

The team found that the fossils, dating back to around 40 million years ago, testify unequivocally to the different species of flora that flourished there, including palm trees.

British-Columbia's evolving climate

The findings made by the team of researchers led by Mathewes provide a better vision of what British Columbia's climate looked like during the very distant Eocene period (The Eocene lasted from 55.8 to 33.9 million years ago).

These dozens of plant fossils from the SFU site can substantially contribute to draw a relatively accurate panorama of this region during the late Eocene with Native Palm Trees thriving under 16.8c mid temperature, just before the cooling period that led to our present time.

Proof of their presence in the area during this pre-historic era have been identified with a large fragment of fossilized Palm Leaf. That said, Mathewes wants to clarify that what we now call Burnaby Mountain, at that stage "was probably covered with palm trees, but certainly not an elevation, as it was at a sea-level near the Pacific Ocean and composed of ponds, and rivers' arms."

The conifers that we are used to seeing, symbols of the whole

region, haven't been significantly identified in the current findings. As Mathewes points out, to imagine the B-C Eocene Epoch, "you should consider the region of North-Carolina, around Wilmington (East Coast USA) that shares a lot of similarities," he says. The picture wouldn't be complete as some of the data collected includes some flowers and seeds found mainly in Asia.

Their conclusions are substantial to document scientifically the slow evolution of the local flora in the changing climate conditions. The process was slow and ponderous, but changes were notable. In this context of "man-made Climate Change" that threatens our civ-

“I’m glad I could publish something about these fossils before I retire.

Rolf Mathewes, professor of paleoecology and palynology, Simon Fraser University

ilization, this research could give us some perspective and maybe help us to find a different approach to address it.

There is still much to be discovered, identified, and studied from the pollen samples and a second fossil deposit site. "I still have a few samples to study, especially spores and pollens to complete my work," he says enthusiastically.

A tribute from a former student to his late mentor

If this study is a matter of science, it's also, (and foremost for the author) the story of a study dedicated to his late mentor and supervisor Robert C. Brook.

It all started in the late 1960s, when Mathewes, then an undergrad, hoped to pursue his passion for biology and decided to collaborate with a titular professor in Biology and Paleocology. He embarked on collecting plant fossils brought to the surface by the excavation for the construction of the SFU Campus.

Although these samples were kept on the campus for almost five decades, Mathewes never forgot them. He always thought he should harness the potential of these fossils. He ended up reviving the project initiated by Professor Brook.

"I'm glad I could publish something about these fossils before I retire," he says.

For more information visit: www.sfu.ca/sfunews/media/media-releases/2023/04/sfu-professor-unearts-the-ancient-fossil-plant-history-of-burna.html



Photo courtesy of SFU

▲ Rolf Mathewes recently published his research in the *International Journal of Plant Sciences*.

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Vancouver and Toronto are facing similar cultural challenges

by MARC BÉLIVEAU

The Toronto mayoral election will take place on June 26. Many of the cultural debates that have arisen in the current mayoral race in Canada's largest city also reverberate here on the West Coast. Indeed, several issues raised by cultural organizations in Toronto are very similar to the cultural challenges being faced in Vancouver, according to the BC Alliance for Arts + Culture, an organization that brings together 430 cultural organizations across British Columbia.

In British Columbia, the critical issues are access to affordable housing for cultural spaces, artists, and arts workers, the effect of COVID, and the slow return of the public and arts and culture funding policies.

The Alliance's executive director, Rainbow Robert, believes that it is vital to promote the role and importance of culture during election periods, and to



▲ Rainbow Robert, executive director of BC Alliance for Arts + Culture

do so with all three levels of government. The cultural sector is important for its richness and vitality as well as its economic contribution in connection with the tourist industry.

"Small museums and cultural organizations are essential to the overall health of BC's tourism ecosystem. Tourists enjoy having diverse and varied experiences. Discovering a hidden gem makes a visit memorable," the BC Museums Association recently argued.

Three major cultural issues

According to Robert, many Vancouver artists are at risk of abandoning their craft out of financial necessity, unable to cope with the high housing prices and the rising cost of living. The same is true for the future of several cultural events whose production costs have increased by 30 per cent.

She points out that the COVID period has had its effects, and the resumption of cultural activities with public audiences still worries several producers and organizers. In remote regions, the situation is even more critical because cultural organizations are struggling to survive despite the presence of talented people.

The ingenuity of the cultural milieu

According to Robert, we must rely more on the creativity and ingenuity driving many artistic companies. Collectively and individually, everyone is trying to reinvent their ways, including offering shows in new cultural spaces. With the housing crisis at least, promising solutions are already moving ahead.

She cites the examples of 221A and C-Space at Progress Lab 1422, an organization that has



▲ Progress Lab 1422, a shared creation, development, and presentation space in East Vancouver.

created innovative formulas for facilitating access to production space and housing for artists and administrative space and rehearsal halls for organizations looking for new models for cultural spaces. New strategies are emerging as is sharing between cultural organizations.

Costs are rising, but budgets are not keeping up

At the end of May, the British Columbia Finance Committee held hearings in preparation for the 2024 budget. The BC Alliance for Arts + Culture made a presentation emphasizing two priorities: the funding of cultural infrastructures and an increase in the annual funding of the BC Arts Council.

During her presentation, Robert praised government initiatives that have supported

the resilience of cultural organizations during COVID. Today, one of the challenges is to multiply the use of cultural spaces through a more creative approach allowing new performing studios and accommodations for artists.

In financial terms, Robert believes it is time to ensure the longevity of cultural organizations in British Columbia. To achieve this, the BC Alliance for Arts + Culture requests that the annual budget for the BC Arts Council be increased to \$50 million annually from the current \$39.6 million. According to Robert, the committee gave a favorable reception to the organization's presentation.

Similarly, at the Francophone Cultural Council of British Columbia (CCFCB), Jean-François Packwood also wants more

enthusiastic government support. For him, a pressing Francophone issue remains the recruitment of French-speaking personnel, and the difficulty of presenting francophone artistic events more often across the province. The CCFCB has fourteen Francophone cultural organizations and is also part of the BC Coalition of the Arts.

A most surprising election?

At the end of Toronto's mayoralty vote, two surprising scenarios could take shape. Two women might find themselves guiding the destinies of Toronto and Montreal, and/or there could be two people of Asian origin at the helms of Toronto and Vancouver. ✉

For more information visit: www.allianceforarts.com

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A travelling exhibition of beast and other creatures

by STAFF WRITER

People have been telling stories about mythical beings for thousands of years. These legends, sometimes inspired by oral legends, fossils or living animals, withstand the test of time and continue to intrigue to this day.

Opening at the Museum of Surrey on May 11, 2023, *Giants, Dragons & Unicorns: The World of Mythic Creatures* traces the natural and cultural roots of some of the world's most enduring mythic creatures.

The traveling exhibition from the American Museum of Natural History in New York features unique cultural objects to highlight the similarities and differences in the ways people around the world envision and depict mythic creatures. The exhibition includes models and cast fossils of prehistoric animals to investigate how they could have – through misidentification, speculation, fear, or imagination – inspired the development of several legendary creatures. A sculpture of the African water spirit Mami Wata will be among the exhibition's highlights.

Who is Mami Wata?

According to the Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C., United States), the beautiful, protective, seductive, and at times dangerous, water spirit Mami Wata (Mother Water) is celebrated throughout much of Africa and the African At-



▲ Mami Wata is often portrayed as a mermaid, a snakecharmer, or a combination of both.

lantic. A rich array of arts surrounds her, as well as many other aquatic spirits – all honoring the sacred nature of water. Mami Wata is often portrayed as a mermaid, a snake charmer, or a combination of both. She is widely believed to have “overseas” origins, and her depictions have been influenced by representations of ancient, indigenous African water spirits, European mermaids, Hindu gods and goddesses, and Christian and Muslim saints. She is not only sexy, jealous, and bveguing but also exists in the plural, as the *mami watas* and *papi watas* who comprise part of the vast and uncountable “school” of African water spirits.

African-based faiths honoring these manifestations of Mami Wata continue to flour-

ish in communities throughout the Americas. Mami Wata's presence is pervasive partly because she can bring good fortune in the form of money. As a “capitalist” deity par excellence, her persona developed between the fifteenth and twentieth centuries, the era of growing trade between Africa and the rest of the world. Her very name, which may be translated as “Mother Water,” is pidgin English, a language developed to facilitate trade. Countless enslaved Africans brought to the Americas as part of this “trade” carried with them their beliefs, practices, and arts honoring water spirits such as Mami Wata. Revived, revisualized, and revitalized in the African Atlantic, Mami Wata emerged in new communities and under different guises, among them Lasirèn (Haiti),

Yemanjá (Nigeria), Santa Marta la Dominadora (Dominican Republic), and Oxum (Brazil).

About the American Museum of Natural History

Founded in 1869, the American Museum of Natural History, located in New York, NY, is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions.

It encompasses more than 40 permanent exhibition halls, including the Allison and Roberto Mignone Halls of Gems and Minerals which opened in 2021 – and those in the Rose Center for Earth and Space and the Hayden Planetarium, as well as galleries for temporary exhibitions. The Museum's scientists have access to a world-class research collection of more than 34 million artifacts and specimens, of plants,

animals, fungi, fossils, minerals, rocks, meteorites, human remains, and human cultural artifacts, as well as specialized collections for frozen tissue and genomic and astrophysical data, some of which are billions of years old.

The Museum also holds one of the largest natural history libraries in the world. The Museum's website, digital videos, and apps for mobile devices bring its collections, exhibitions, and educational programs to millions more around the world. ✉

For more information visit:
www.surrey.ca/arts-culture/museum-of-surrey/exhibitions/giants-dragons-unicorns-world-of-mythic-creatures
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Photo courtesy of Simon Yee

Exploring Yukon, the Land of the Midnight Sun

Visiting all 13 provinces and territories of Canada is on my bucket list and so for a week in May, I went up to the Yukon Territory with some friends to not only get away from the hustle and bustle of big city Vancouver, but also to explore a truly picturesque part of Canada.

On our first full day in Whitehorse, my group wanted to hit the ground hiking and so we hiked the 15 km long Miles Canyon Loop. The canyon has a long history as part of the Klondike Gold Rush. Its narrow channels, jagged rocks and swift currents made it treacherous to navigate and waterway traffic had to be regulated by the Northwest Mounted Police. Today, the Miles Canyon Suspension Bridge stands as a historic landmark there, offering a connection across the canyon and serving as a reminder of the past. Hiking the trail provided me the chance to take in its wondrous beauty while retracing the steps of those who ventured through during the gold rush. The canyon's history and natural grandeur are truly awe-inspiring.

In the city proper, I delved into the fascinating history and culture at the Yukon Transportation Museum and the MacBride Museum. It was like stepping back in time, uncovering the stories of the gold rush era and the First Nations people who have inhabited this region for

centuries. The artifacts and exhibits brought the past to life, and I found myself captivated by the tales of resilience and discovery. Another highlight was visiting the Yukon Wildlife Preserve – an absolute delight! I had the chance to observe majestic creatures in their natural habitats, from the bison and caribou to the lynx and arctic foxes. It was a truly humbling experience, reminding me of the importance of conservation and our responsibility to protect these incredible animals.

For several days, my group rented a car and we took the opportunity to further explore the territory. From Whitehorse, I drove the stretch of the Klondike highway connecting Whitehorse with Skagway, Alaska – a town on the Alaskan panhandle made famous as a jumping off point for American prospectors wishing to make the trek further north into the Klondike. The highway takes you through stunning coastal mountains, offering breathtaking vistas of peaks and waterfalls, desert-like sand dunes

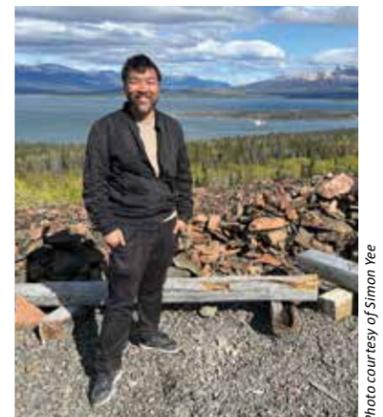


Photo courtesy of Simon Yee

▲ At Kluane National Park and Reserve overlooking Dezadeash Lake.

and the historic town of Carcross, where Indigenous heritage and preserved buildings paint a vivid picture of the past. This remarkable route parallels the route prospectors took during the gold rush and it was truly a pleasure to drive it.

On another day, I drove the stretch of the Alaska Highway between Whitehorse and the Kluane National Park and Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Haines Junction is the town next to the park, and after a visit to a local bakery to eat, we explored a small part of the park, hiking some trails and taking in the amazing beauty of mountain peaks and Dezadeash Lake. The pristine waters of the lake mirrored the surrounding snow-capped peaks, creating a picture-perfect view that will forever be etched in my memory.

One regret I have about the trip is that since I visited in May, there was not enough darkness to see the Aurora Borealis. Perhaps one day I may return to Whitehorse for a couple of days in the winter, just for a chance to see it in all its splendor! 🌌

SIMON YEE

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COMMITTED TEACHER?

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June 13–27, 2023

Cultural Calendar

by SIMON YEE
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The summer solstice is on June 21, marking the official start of the summer season! Celebrate the start of summer this month by checking out the many events happening around the city, both indoors and outdoors. From festivals and pop-up markets to art exhibitions and theatrical plays, there is something for everyone. It's time to get out and enjoy what Metro Vancouver has to offer. Plus, Father's Day is on June 18, so why not take your dad out to some of these places too?

* * *

34th Vancouver Francophone Summer FestivalJune 14–25
www.lecentre culturel.com

Every June since 1990, Le Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver organizes the Festival d'été francophone de Vancouver (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. Their 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!

* * *

ScotFestBC: The 91st British Columbia Highland GamesJune 16–18
www.scotfestbc.com

The 91st British Columbia Highland Games & World Music Festival takes place from June 16 - 18. This year, come for the SFU Pipe Band "in-concert" Friday night, Irish great Sharon Shannon, the Yukon's Gurdeep Pandher, "Piper to the Stars" Lorne Cousin, the world famous REMAX Scottish heavy events, highland dancing and more. There will also be a free World Music Festival on Father's Day, June 18! Music for everyone and something for everyone. Come for the weekend, come for one day, it all takes place at Town Centre Park in Coquitlam on the shores of LaFarge Lake.

* * *

Queer Arts Festival: Queers in SpaceJune 17–28
www.queerartsfestival.com

Futurism and fantasy have always been cornerstones of the



▲ Scandinavian Dancers, Vikings in the Viking Village, with songs, games and a real Viking raid await visitors at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival.

2SLGBTQIA+ experience. What better place to manifest ourselves as the free and empowered superbeings we truly are? For many queer people, the Future is a place where dreams are realized; for others, it's a vital sanctuary from a present-day reality that does not include them. While Queer Arts Festival's 2023 theme *Queers in Space* may evoke cosmic camp and otherworldly voyages, the festival takes these words very seriously as well: this is just as much a call to explore and celebrate the space we occupy, each and every day; to honour our queer elders on whose shoulders we stand; and to celebrate our future, queer trajectories.

* * *

National Indigenous Peoples DayJune 21
www.newwestcity.ca/national-indigenous-peoples-day
www.westvancouver.ca/arts-culture/festivals/national-indigenous-peoples-day
www.surrey.ca/NIPD

The Governor General of Canada proclaimed June 21 as National Indigenous Peoples Day in 1996, as an occasion for Canadians to come together, reflect on and celebrate the unique heritage, traditions and knowledge of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. There are many celebrations happening throughout the Lower Mainland, including events at Holland Park in Surrey, Moody Park in New Westminster and Ambleside Park in West Vancouver. There will be cultural entertainment, physical activities, arts and crafts, Indigenous vendors and storytelling at many of these events. Check out the respective city website for more information.

* * *

What Is Welcome?June 22–Aug. 13
www.belkin.ubc.ca

Join the Belkin Art Gallery at UBC on June 22 at 6 p.m. for the opening reception of What Is

Welcome?, which includes works from the Belkin's collection and long-term residency that question the art institution's language, boundaries and potential for change. From performance to works-in-process that affect institutional practices, the artists included operate with, and at the same time counter, the institution to address the what, how and the why of gallery operations. As galleries and museums strive to make space for new practices and ways of knowing, artists are critical agents in the institution's evolution. In interrogating institutional cultural systems, the artists considered sustaining relevance in the material of living ecologies through exchange, labour and stewardship. Collectively, the works ask the question: What is welcome? Artists include Allyson Clay, Claudia Cuesta, Andrea Fraser, Skeena Reece, ReMatriate Collective, Holly Schmidt, Kika Thorne and Tania Willard.

* * *

The 36th Annual Point Grey FiestaJune 23–2
www.pointgreyfiesta.org

The Point Grey Fiesta is the community's annual start-of-summer event for families and friends. The Fiesta Carnival celebration happens 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.

* * *

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival 2023June 24–25
scandinavianmidsummerfestival.com

There are a number of activities going on that you can enjoy during the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in Burnaby. Among them are two almost full days of

live music with a number of individual artists, groups and choirs. There will be performances by the Scandinavian Dancers and the Vikings in the Viking Village, including songs, games and a real Viking raid – beware of the Norse! At the Midsummer Marketplace, you find over 50 vendors with shopping kiosks with lots of exciting products and crafts. There will be cultural displays, kids' activities, a troll forest, carnival games and a vintage Volvo car show by the Volvo Club of B.C. For the Midsummer beginner – there are two very popular events during the festival that you may not want to miss! The raising of the Midsummer Pole with dance around takes place on Saturday afternoon. The popular and crazy Finnish wife carrying contest takes place on Sunday.

* * *

Surrey Art Gallery: Invisible Fish & The Deep and the ShallowsJune 24–Sept. 3
www.surrey.ca/arts-culture/surrey-art-gallery/exhibitions

The Surrey Art Gallery will open two exhibits for the summer this June: artist Diane Roy's textile art exhibit *The Deep and the Shallows* and a collection of work from Salish artists entitled *Invisible Fish*. Fusing art, science and mythology, Roy's art reminds us of the wonders of the biodiversity around us. *The Deep and the Shallows* presents the largest retrospective of this artist's work to date. Her work often draws inspiration from coastal tidal zones and ecology of the Salish Sea, with sculptures evoking the shapes and latticework forms of corals, sea anemone, urchins and shells. *Invisible Fish* encourages visitors to think of their own relationship to the creeks, rivers and sea that flow through and around this land. Incorporated into the exhibition are tactile ways of experiencing art, including a two and a half-metre touchable block print and a friendly reading nook for all ages.

* * *

Nikkei Garden Farmers Market 2023June–October, Every second and fourth Saturday
<https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/events/nikkei-garden-farmers-market-2023>

The Nikkei Garden Farmers Market returns for its third year this summer! Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the booths of freshly harvested, locally grown produce, savour the delectable, locally crafted food and explore unique artisanal goods made by local makers – all while taking in the seasonal beauty of the Japanese garden. In the previous years, the market has proven to be a delightful gathering place for friends and families, who flocked to this laid-back Sunday market throughout the summer. Located in the heart of Burnaby, this market offers a wide array of Japanese and Japanese-inspired food and goods for visitors to indulge in.

* * *

Greek Day on BroadwayJune 25
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.

* * *

The Seventh FireJune 27–July 4
www.fullcircle.ca

You are invited by the Full Circle First Nations Performance to connect to the medicine that lives within you with *The Seventh Fire*, an immersive audio performance inspired by ceremony. Drawing from Anishinaabe stories and oral traditions, artist Lisa Cooke Ravensbergen invokes sound and story as the somatic link to ancestral realms. The audience enters Lobe Studio, free to stand, sit, lie down or move around according to their ability. As the performance commences, the studio's 4D Sound System envelops all, serving as a portal to dreams and the story of sisters Daanis and Nimise and their grandmother Nokomis. *The Seventh Fire* takes place in the past, present and future, above and below the earth. It is the realm of the spirit, where a better future can be co-conceived.