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- Weekly UK news review
- What's on in BC this month
- BC jobs, relocation, housing
- Discussion Forum
- Days out
- UK & Canadian Recipes

What's on this month?

Jazz Fest International

www.jazzvictoria.ca
Victoria June 25 - July 4, 2010

British Heritage Festival

www.britishheritagefestival.com
Nanaimo July 10, 10am Beban Park

Caribbean Street Festival

www.caribbeanfest.ca
Maple Ridge July 10/11 2010

Butchart Gardens Fireworks

Tel: 250 652 4422
Victoria July - Sept, 2010

BeerFest

www.mountwashington.ca
Mount Washington Alpine Resort,
Courtenay, July 9, 2010

Vancouver Island Music Fest

www.islandmusicfest.com
Comox July 9-11 2010

Harrison Festival of the Arts

www.harrisonfestival.com
Harrison Hot Springs, July 10-18

Vancouver Manx Society Picnic

nellrod.deakin@gmail.com
Stanley Park July 18 10am - 4pm

St. Mark's Fair Giant outdoor flea

market 250-752-5414
Qualicum Beach, July 24, 2010

Caravan Farm

www.caravanarmtheatre.com Outdoor theatre staged with six horse drawn wagons & live music
Armstrong July 20 - August 22 2010

Bathtub Racing World Championships

www.bathtubbing.com
Nanaimo, July 25 2010

More info on these and other events can be found at www.BritsinBC.com. To list your event EM: info@britsinbc.com

Messing about in boats (or bathtubs)...

Back in 1967 a rather crazy bunch of people decided to construct seaworthy (ish) crafts from bathtubs and race them across the Straits of Georgia from Nanaimo to Vancouver's Fisherman's Cove. The event was part of Nanaimo's Centennial year celebrations and attracted over 200 starters. Incredibly 47 vessels completed the 36 mile course through the choppy waters in that first year. Now in its 44th year, the "Great" International World Championship Bathtub Race takes place on July 25th 2010. However, more than four decades on from the inaugural event, this Championship is now an integral part of the 4 day Nanaimo Marine Festival. The Marine Festival showcases other land and sea based spectacles for locals and visitors to enjoy.

The festivities begin on July 22nd with the opening of the LNBS Marine Festival Food Fair, a Kiddies Harborside Playdock, Kiddies Karnival, "TIM HORTONS" Marine Festival Entertainment Stage and children's programs at Maffeo Sutton and Swy-a-lana Lagoon parks adjacent to the Nanaimo Harbor. You'll also find static displays on boat safety, the military, water sports and more.

On Saturday, July 24th at 10:30 AM the annual "Sail Past on Wheels Fun Parade" takes place through the Old City Quarter and the City Center followed by the finals of the LNBS World Championship Waiters Race. In the evening Vancouver Islands premier fireworks display the spectacular Festival of Lights &



Music fireworks display takes place in the Nanaimo harbor at 10:00 PM.

Finally, on Sunday, join the thousands of excited spectators as the 44th annual "Great" International World Championship Bathtub Race starts at 11:00 AM sharp in Nanaimo harbor. The race lasts for approximately one and a half hours and you can cheer people across the official "Pepsi Finish Line" located at Departure Bay beach while enjoying the many food and refreshment booths.

For more information on this event: www.bathtubbing.com (250) 753-7223

Below Left: an intrepid "bathtubber" of unknown date negotiating the choppy waters on the Strait of Georgia. Photo courtesy of the Loyal Nanaimo Bathtub Society.

"Canadianisms"

Poutine -A bowl of chips (or fries as we say in Canada) covered with cheese curds (!) and gravy. Yummy. (No, seriously, it's really good).

Double-double -When you order a coffee from Tim Hortons (the great value Canadian coffee and doughnut institution that thrives despite our close proximity to Starbucks HQ in Seattle), the term double-double refers to a coffee with 2 creams and 2 sugars in it.

Waterside Dining

In anticipation of the summer weather arriving (hopefully) during July, we asked people to name their favourite waterside restaurant. Here's a few of their answers to wet your appetite:

Sandbar Seafood Restaurant, Granville Island, Vancouver (www.vancouverdine.com)

Watershed Grill (on the Mamquam River) Government Rd, Brackendale, Squamish (604) 898-6665

Waterfront Restaurant, Gibsons www.waterfrontgibsons.com

Aura, Victoria BC (The Inn at Laurel Point) www.aurarestaurant.ca

The Pointe, Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino www.wickinn.com

Lund Hotel, Pub & Inn (Sunshine Coast) www.lundhotel.com

Kelowna Dinner Cruises (get out on the lake!) www.kelownadinnercruises.com

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At Brits In BC the writing team is made up of British ex-pats who live, work and play in British Columbia. Each has experienced the excitement and struggles of settling into a new community and here they share stories, adventures and personal views to help others make the most of B.C. The articles express the personal opinion of our contributors and are in no way intended to offend or insult any other group or organization. While every effort is made to ensure our content is accurate Brits in B.C Publications nor any other party involved in the preparation of this material warrants that the information contained herein is in every respect accurate or complete, and they are not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from the use of such. Readers are encouraged to confirm the information contained here with other sources. Thank you.

Bard on the Beach

To go, or not to go? That is the question. Well we would have to suggest that you go!

Every year, "Bard on the Beach" is a fixture in Vanier Park, Vancouver. Marquees are erected, furniture is moved in, refreshments are put on, and the talented performing Artists delight audiences with a variety of Shakespearian favourites. Bard was established in 1990 with a mandate to provide Vancouver residents and tourists with affordable, accessible Shakespearean productions of the finest quality.

We'll admit that this may be a world away from The Royal Shakespeare Company performing at Stratford-upon-Avon, but it has a sense of occasion nevertheless. If you are able to put the sounds of the city in the background, you'll find yourself truly enjoying the "open air" theatre experience with quality acting.

This years performances include the trusted favourites, "Antony and Cleopatra" and "Henry V," and if comedy is your thing, "Much Ado about Nothing" and the ever endearing "Falstaff" are playing.

Also available from "Bard on the Beach" is a great deal for dinner, theatre and fireworks on the evenings of the "Celebration of Light" fireworks displays over English Bay.

Enjoy a performance of either "Falstaff" or "Much Ado about Nothing" with an extended interval and casual salmon BBQ with front row seats over English Bay during the fireworks before resuming the second part of the play.

Running now until September 25th. For show times and availability check www.bardonthebeach.org for details or call the box office on 6047390559.



Big plans for your "Big Day"

The advertising slogans say it all. "Beautiful" British Columbia, "Super, Natural" British Columbia, "The best place on earth" and so it goes on.

There is no doubt that British Columbia is indeed blessed with some of the most beautiful and unspoiled scenery in the world. As a result, BC offers every conceivable option, for your perfect wedding venue. From a traditional church service to a country house, stylish city ceremonies or simple, nature inspired nuptial's in the great outdoors. Here are just a few suggestions to get you thinking about the possibilities....

Places of worship: try the Yellow pages to look up churches and other places of worship in your local area. St Ann's church on the historic O'Keefe's ranch just north of Vernon is a non-denominational option and your guests will benefit from the other facilities of the ranch being close at hand.

Heritage style: Grand heritage homes such as the English Inn in Victoria, a quaint farm (London Heritage Farm in Richmond BC) or even a fruit packing house like the Laurel Packing House in Kelowna. Grand and glamorous or simple country chic—heritage venues are in abundance. With so many to chose from try contacting local historical societies or chat with a wedding planner for the inside scoop on special venues in your ideal location.

Spas & Retreats: the famously romantic and picturesque Wikannish Inn on Long beach in Tofino is an obvious choice here. Or you could soak up the atmosphere at one of the many hot springs resorts in BC such as Halcyon Hot springs just north of Nakusp.

Wineries: there are many to chose from but to name a few... Gray Monk, Cedar Creek, Hainle, and Summerhill estate wineries all offer varying options for weddings and receptions.

Mountains: thanks to the abundance of ski resorts in BC many mountains offer easy access, mountain top restaurants or even extreme heli-catering locations and services! Grouse Mountain, Mount Washington and Whistler Blackcomb are some of the larger resorts that cater to wedding parties.

Parks: public parks provide beautiful open spaces and stunning floral displays. Many offer wedding venue options and some have restaurants or pavilions within their grounds to cater to your every need.

Beaches, Art Galleries & Museums, Golf & Country Clubs, Large Yachts or even your own backyard are all worth exploring too. The list of possibilities is limitless. Contact info for these venues and further suggestions for your big day can be found on our website www.BritsInBC.com or visit specialist wedding sites like www.mycanadianwedding.com

Canadian Facts: The Trans-Canada highway, completed in 1962 goes from St John's NFLD to Victoria, BC. At 7,604 Kilometres, it is the longest national highway in the world.

Comments & Advertising

In order to continuously improve this newsletter and to provide articles and information of interest to our readers, please forward comments and ideas to: info@britsinbc.com.

For advertising rates please email info@britsinbc.com or call 6048485560. Thank you.

Grasmere Gingerbread

8oz butter or hard margarine
8oz soft brown sugar
1 lb all-purpose flour
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp cream of tartar
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
Pinch of Salt
1 tbsp golden syrup

Set oven to 375 degrees F, or Gas Mark 3.

Grease a shallow rectangular tin (12 inches x 7 inches)

Beat together butter and sugar in a mixing bowl.

Stir in the syrup, then add the rest of the ingredients, sieved together, and mix well.

Put the mixture into the tin and press down firmly with a floured fork.

Bake for 40-60 mins.

Leave in the tin to cool but cut into fingers while still warm.



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The biggest British heritage festival in BC, July 10 2010, Beban Park, Nanaimo

Boasting 8 hours of British fun including a classic car show, Medieval village, Morris dancing, a brass band and a host of British themed vendors offering food, drink and products, the British Heritage festival in Nanaimo is a great place to meet other Brits and enjoy a day of festivities. Even if you are not British why not pop along to sample some traditional British culinary delights and entertainment?

This year the festival has split to cater more specifically to two different crowds. From 12 noon to 4pm a more senior vibe will be ideal for OAP's and others seeking a genteel experience. Entry is just \$3 for seniors (regular adult entry price \$5) and they will find a tea room, bacon butties and even a display of Mini's to swoon over. This early part of the event includes performances by the Nanaimo Brit Club, Morris Dancers, English country dancers and Bob Mair on the main stage. A Punch & Judy show, Little Mountain Brass, Wench & a Bloke will all be found performing at varying times on the village green.

While many of these performers and activities continue into the later part of day, 4:15-6:30pm sees the introduction of Beatles tribute band, The Fab Fouever on the main stage. There live performance is sure to inject a burst of energy into the crowd. Accompanied by drinks from the Fox & Hound pub's stand located beside the stage, and with food offerings featuring a Happy Hour from 5:15pm the event will end on a toe tapping high note.

To make the festival more accessible to Vancouver based Brits, they are now offering a bus service. Catch the Ferry from Horseshoe Bay at 11:40am and the bus will meet you at Departure Bay to take you up to the Festival site. The bus costs only \$4 each way. Email Paulkmeade@shaw.ca to book your space!

For more information about this years festival visit www.britishheritagefestival.com or check the events page on our website www.BritsInBC.com

Did you know... (information from www.gov.bc.ca)

- B.C.'s population was 4.405 million people as of December 2008.
- British Columbia is home to people of many different origins, cultural traditions, languages, ethnicities, and religions.
- B.C.'s aboriginal people are known as First Nations. There are 197 First Nations bands in the province, such as the Gitksan, Haida, Nisga'a and Squamish.
- The top 10 languages spoken are now (according to the 2001 Census): English, Chinese (including Cantonese and Mandarin), Punjabi, German, French, Tagalog, Spanish, Italian, Korean, and Dutch.
- Each year, over 40,000 immigrants from around the world arrive in B.C.

