

The Lions are coming



by Penny Lim

The Red Lion

Chinese New Year's in the air. I followed my nose for Chinese cuisine downtown. A warm welcome at Vancouver Community College to join their Lunar New Year's celebration. Two divine Spring rolls made by Sonny Ho's Asian Culinary class, choose a lucky money bag, fortune cookie, and more.

In a flash, the drumming heralded the most brilliant red lion bursting upon us! Dazzle and frenzy choreography. Fancy energetic footwork. The speed. The pace! Red beauty in action. Everything was perfect. A day of pure JOY.

"When it's fun, it's not hard work," commented the head dancer.

Golden Swan - Chau Luen Athletics

Lunar New Year at the Golden Swan. Lovely Golden Swan restaurant seats hundreds with good service. Snacks provided were good. Chau Luen Athletics large lion team provided the drama. That drum beat is catchy! A political affair.

All photos by Penny Lim

Continued on page 2

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The Lions are coming: Continued from page 1

Gong and drum awaited call to start. The magnificent lion head stole the show! Part of the act sees the banner rolled out of lion's mouth. Up front against wall of golden phoenix and dragon, politicians took centre stage. We rushed to photograph the fast-moving lion circulating the packed audience. Happy new Year.



Lunar New Year celebration at Renfrew Park Community Centre



Congratulations to Angela and her wonderful team who thrilled us all by their comprehensive lion dance. Their attention to finer details, clear explanation to happy audience, moreover, the kind patience towards children. What an experience for me! To be included by Angela who beckoned me over to record painting the dots over the lion. Most thrilling climax is the lion capturing its lucky red money bag vigorously scattering the lettuce around.



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Luck, Care, and Community: Why This Seniors Lottery Matters

by Amber Webber

Across our community, many families have a personal connection to long-term care - whether through a parent, grandparent, neighbour, or friend. At a time when long-term care is facing increasing pressure, small acts of community support can make a meaningful difference. That's the spirit behind *Luck Be a Senior Tonight*, a charity lottery in support of Three Links Care Society.

The 50/50 lottery offers participants the chance to win half of the jackpot, while the remaining proceeds support the ongoing work of Three Links Care Society. More importantly, it provides a simple way for the community to stand alongside seniors who rely on long-term care and supportive housing services.

Three Links Care Society has been caring for seniors in Vancouver for generations, offering a safe and welcoming place to live for those with complex care needs and limited incomes. Like many nonprofit care providers, the organization is navigating rising costs, increased demand, and funding gaps that make community-based fundraising more important than ever.

While government funding covers essential care, it does not always stretch far enough to support the full experience of daily life in care. Community fundraising helps ensure seniors continue to feel connected, supported, and valued - not just cared for. It allows organizations like Three Links to respond to changing needs, create warm and engaging environments, and maintain the sense of dignity that every senior deserves.

The *Luck Be a Senior Tonight* lottery is about more than a potential prize. It's a reminder that long-term care is not separate from the community - it is part of it. The funds raised help sustain the compassionate work happening every day behind the scenes and reinforce the role neighbours, families, and local supporters play in the wellbeing of seniors.

As our population ages and demand for care continues to grow, community involvement remains a vital part of sustaining nonprofit long-term care. Participating in the lottery is one way to show care and connection, ensuring seniors continue to receive support that respects their independence, comfort, and quality of life.



Tickets are available now, and every entry helps strengthen care close to home. Sometimes, the greatest win is knowing you've helped make life a little better for someone else. Purchase your ticket at www.threelinks.com

Tax Clinic in person season: Feb 28 – May 2, 2026

Files dropped off after this date will still be processed, but there are no guarantees that it will be filed by Wednesday, April 30th, 2026 (only impacts clients that expect to owe taxes).

Link to make an appointment for Tax Clinic 15 days before the appointment date:

<https://regportal.cnh.bc.ca> or Call 604-428-9142 to make an appointment. We have two locations:

Saturday: 10-3pm at 5288 Joyce St. Vancouver (in person)

Friday: 1-6pm at 3690 Vanness Ave. Vancouver (Drop off & in person)

We can help:	Suggested CRA Income Threshold Guidelines are:	
• Seniors (Pensioners)	Family size	Total family income
• Indigenous Peoples	1 person	\$40,000
• Fix-income earners	2 persons	\$55,000
• Social Assistance recipients	3 persons	\$60,000
• Housing insecure (BC Housing)	4 persons	\$65,000
• Folks with (dis)abilities	5 persons	\$70,000
• Youth (generally 16 and over)	More than 5 persons	\$70,000, plus \$5,000 for each additional person(s)
• Housing insecure (BC Housing)	Family size includes an individual, or a couple, and their dependents	

Donations: Service is free of charge. Donations are always appreciated. The income tax program is volunteer coordinated and operated.

Drop off Tax service Locations:

(Where you drop off is where you will pick up)

Collingwood Neighbourhood House **Annex:**

3690 Vanness Ave (entrance is facing the court yard) (T- junction of Ormidale and Foster Ave)

Entrance located under the **Tax Clinic** Banner

604-428-9142

Mon to Fri: 10am to 7pm

Sat and Sun: 10am to 4pm



The following is a paid advertisement by Adrian Dix, MLA for Vancouver/Renfrew

Dear Neighbours,



Our office ushered in the Lunar New Year of the Horse with zest, thanks to the energetic lion dance organized by the Collingwood BIA and the Hon Sing Athletic Club. Thank you to the lion dancers for bringing so much festive energy along Kingsway and around the neighbourhood.

Nominate a neighbour!

The Order of British Columbia, the Province's top honour, celebrates outstanding achievement, excellence or distinction that has benefited the province or reached beyond its borders. Former or current residents of B.C. who have made extraordinary contributions are eligible. Posthumous nominations are not accepted.

The Medal of Good Citizenship recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to their local communities on a volunteer basis. This prestigious honour recognizes acts of selflessness, generosity and contributions to the betterment of someone's local community. Young people between 15 and 25, and posthumous nominations are welcome.

Nominations for both honours must reach the Honours and Awards Secretariat by Tuesday, April 7, 2026, to be considered next year.

Help recognize extraordinary people in British Columbia by nominating someone today.

To submit a nomination for the Order of British Columbia, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/honours-and-awards/order-of-bc/submitting-nomination>

To submit a nomination for the Medal of Good Citizenship, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/honours-and-awards/medal-good-citizenship/submitting-nomination>

HealthLink BC

8-1-1 is a free-of-charge provincial health information and advice phone line available in British Columbia. The 8-1-1 phone line is operated by HealthLink BC, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

By calling 8-1-1, you can speak to a health service navigator, who can help you find health information and services; or connect you directly with a registered nurse, a registered dietitian, a qualified exercise professional, or a pharmacist. Any one of these healthcare professionals will help you get the support you need to manage your health concerns, or those of your family.

As always, my community office, at 5022 Joyce St. Vancouver, is open to provide services for constituents in person with appointments and via phone and email. Please give us a call at 604-660-0314 or email us at adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca, and we will get in touch with you as soon as we can. 聯絡本辦事處請電郵 adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca 或致電 604-660-0314. 如欲親臨敬請預約。

Thank you very much for all that you're doing and take care.

Sincerely,

Adrian Dix
MLA for Vancouver-Renfrew



Collingwood Corner The Abbey, Myth or Truth?

by Loretta Houben

COMMUNITY NEWS 社区新闻

The mission of this non-profit publication is to provide the residents, businesses and organizations of Renfrew/Collingwood with a medium for community communication.

Paul Reid: editorial and layout coordinator
Lisa Symons: sales and distribution coordinator
Kayla Isomura: web and social media coordinator

Contributors:

Loretta Houben, Penny Lim, Jenny Zhang, Ricardo Cerna, Amber Webber, Hannah Babki, Jenny EngChan, St. Mary's Elementary

We want to hear from you!

Yes, You! Send comments, community events, press releases by regular post, fax or e-mail. Suggestions for improving the paper are welcome.

We welcome appropriate, unsolicited editorial submissions if accompanied by the author's real name, address and telephone number. The author should retain the original as we cannot return submissions without prior agreement nor does submission guarantee publication. We reserve the right to make editorial changes.

The Renfrew/Collingwood Community News does not necessarily support the views of its contributors.

Next submission deadline: Mar. 15

The Renfrew-Collingwood Community News is an initiative of the Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH).

You Can Find the RC Community News @

Libraries, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Renfrew Park Community Centre, The Italian Cultural Centre, Collingwood Policing Office, other organizations, religious institutions, schools, laundromats, Starbucks, Rona, Superstore, Canadian Tire, Walmart, London Drugs and Safeway coffee shops, restaurants, markets, corner stores, other businesses, and coffee tables all over Renfrew-Collingwood.

Contact the RCCNews

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Renfrew/Collingwood Community News
Collingwood Neighbourhood House
5288 Joyce Street
Vancouver, BC V5R 6C9

Do you remember the haunted looking and rather creepy abbey located on the NE corner of Kingsway and Aberdeen streets? For years I've been searching for clues about it, as I saw it back in the 1970s, when my sister and I would go for long walks in the neighborhood. I've never heard what the abbey really was until recently.

I finally discovered that the abbey did indeed exist. According to a Vancouver Sun article, dated October 28, 1944, the abbey was built on the site of an old well where the Collingwood pioneers got their water. The abbey resembled Netley Abbey in Hampshire England, and it was built in 1920 according to the directories, at 2929 Kingsway. It was renumbered in 1930 to 3545 Kingsway where it remained until the 1980s when it was demolished.

Steep moss stone steps led down to the grounds, after entering a wooden gate. Moss filled rocky paths and miniature bridges across tiny streams gave the Abbey an authentic English countryside appearance. The front archways of old weathered stone, some brought as far away as Hope, had walls going four feet into the ground. The pathways are lined by large hanging cages of birds. Inside the Abbey is a bird sanctuary, an aviary, owned by Eric and Elizabeth Cleathero. They started out with seven birds in 1937, and in 1944 had a collection of 500, including finches, budgerigars (budgies), canaries and Chinese pheasants.

A pink and white Australian parrot welcomes each visitor with "Do you want a cup of tea?" Eric began his hobby at age six, and his wife now does most of the work raising the birds, as Eric suffered from shell shock in WWI, and is partially incapacitated. The aviaries are filled



Archways of old weathered stones, moss-filled rocky paths and miniature bridges across tiny streams give "The Abbey" an authentic English countryside appearance.

A photo of the mysterious but real Abbey located at 3545 Kingsway, 1944.

Photo by George Young, Vancouver Sun.



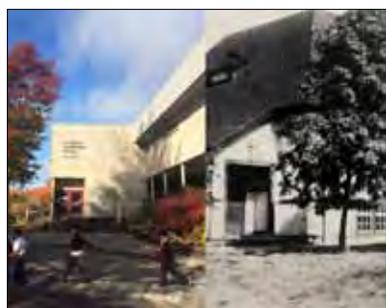
Mrs. Cleathero holding Teddy, a talking bird which she trained to say, "Would you like a cup of tea?" to each visitor to the Abbey, an aviary. Photo by George Young, Vancouver Sun.

with swings, ladders, merry-go-rounds, and bells, plus the cages for the birds. Tourists visit from all over Canada and beyond. The Cleatheros don't teach the birds they sell to talk, but the new owners do. Apparently, the budgies are easily taught and have a large vocabulary, but they must begin at 6 months of age.

I found another article about The Abbey in the Vancouver Sun, dated October 27, 1945, written by Albert Foote, bard of Collingwood for many years. It describes the inside of the manor house behind the "ruins" of the Abbey, and how the Cleatheros sell and ship the birds all over North America. The Abbey was popular and continued into 1955. I don't know when it ceased being an aviary, or what it was used for afterwards.



St. Mary's Elementary School: Celebrating 95 Years of Catholic Education and Growth in the Renfrew-Collingwood Neighbourhood



For nearly a decade, St. Mary's Elementary School has provided Catholic education and community life in Vancouver's Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood.

St. Mary's (Vancouver) is one of 46 Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA). The original school opened in 1931 at 5295 Joyce Road (later Joyce Street), serving 70 students in Grades 1-7, taught by the Sisters of the Child Jesus. As enrollment grew, more classes were added, with Grade 12 available by 1937. By the 1970s, the school focused on kindergarten to grade 7 and eventually enrolled more than 190 students. As the original building reached the end



of its effective life, the parish built the current school building, located at 5239 Joyce Street. It was completed in 1980 and constructed on top of an existing parish auditorium.

With the new school, teaching transitioned to lay staff, as the Sisters of the Child Jesus last taught in the school in 1980-81, though they remained active in St. Mary's Parish until January 2026. Between 2009 and 2025, the school's lower level was reconfigured, and a portable annex was added to create new classrooms. Today, St. Mary's serves over 300 students.



To meet the needs of a growing community and replace the aging building, St. Mary's Parish decided to redevelop its campus and also rebuild its third school as a modern, double-streamed facility with two classes per grade. The new school will offer

new learning spaces, enhance programs, and ensure long-term sustainability. This parish is com-

mitted to serving future generations of students and parishioners while remaining rooted in our community.

Our mission is to provide a high-quality education rooted in Catholic teachings. We encourage students to develop a personal relationship with Jesus and live out their faith within the community through a Christian virtue program and staff witness. We also look to the Saints as role models, as they exemplify faith, hope, and love. We are the "St. Mary's SAINTS" and are proud to represent our school during field trips, at public events, and during inter-school athletic competitions. For 95 years, St. Mary's Elementary School has served the Renfrew-Collingwood community, with generations of families returning year after year. As one parent shared, St. Mary's feels "just like home"—a testament to the welcoming, loving, faith-filled environment we strive to provide.



Following Jesus' example of service, we seek to connect and build community through partnerships and outreach. Students contribute

to local arts and beautification initiatives and events like the CNH Street Banner project and CBIA *Joyce Street Clean-Up Party*. Our choir performs at community and senior events, and we support many charities and food banks



with food and toiletries, such as Covenant House and the CNH Morning Star Breakfast program. We value collaboration with local organizations, businesses, and civic leaders to learn from one another and become stronger together.



From its humble beginnings as a small parish school to its place today as a larger multicultural Catholic community, St. Mary's has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability. We are hopeful for a new and expanded school and remain committed to nurturing hearts, minds, and spirits—honouring its rich legacy, including the Sisters of the Child Jesus, while embracing the next chapter of growth.

We will celebrate our 95th Anniversary with the community throughout 2026, including our Spring Festival on May 12 at 7:00pm in the church. All classes, choirs, and bands will be performing, showcasing their learning in fine arts. We are deeply grateful to St. Mary's Parish and our families for their ongoing support and commitment to faith-based education, and to our neighbourhood partners and businesses for their collaboration.



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Holy Saturday Retreat

You are warmly invited to an intentional and nourishing day of rest in your Lenten season.



Karen Brodie at work on the 14 Stations of the Cross.

Since 2009, renowned liturgical fabric artist Karen Brodie has undertaken the design of the 14 Stations of the Cross, a mini-pilgrimage of Jesus' journey from condemnation by Pilate to the Cross. These designs for fabric art have been toured across B.C. in 5 separate tours.

Originally designed as illustrations, and then

after having Station 9, "Shattered", made in fabric for an exhibition in 2017, Karen has now completed the monumental feat of bringing all 14 Stations to life in vibrant textile art. The production process began in January of 2025 and was completed in December of that same

year. Each design, now complete, is inspired by a reflection and prayer from one of 14 diverse, international, ecumenical clergy, personally invited by Karen. The result is a deeply moving and inclusive spiritual experience. Even during early tours and showings of the sketches, participants from all spiritual backgrounds have found the art powerful and meaningful.

Karen's artwork is currently on display at Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia. Karen's hope is that this artwork will speak to everyone, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.



ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA 

Sacred Journeys

An Artistic Meditation by textile artist Karen Brodie

Italian Cultural Centre Gallery;
Vancouver, (3075 Slocan Street)
22 January – April 6, 2026

Curator: Angela Clarke, Ph.D.

The artist's work, which is a textile interpretation of the *Stations of the Cross*, seeks to engage the viewer in a contemplative practice.

While we associate the *Stations of the Cross* with an archaic catholic practice, Karen Brodie seeks to revivify this ritual, combining it with the meditative labyrinth. Brodie's *Stations of the Cross* is a non-denominational focused meditation, which all of us, regardless of our spiritual background and beliefs can participate in.

In the age of social media where the individual is **reduced** to an image fit for the screen, Brodie's work asks us to remove ourselves from the world wide web. Instead, she redirects us to our inner world which exists only in our quietude. Her series *Stations of the Cross* requires each of us to walk silently with ourselves, stopping mindfully at each artistic detour she constructs. At every juncture in her meditative series, we are invited to ask ourselves fundamental questions about ourselves, our beliefs and the universal nature of humanity.



Answering a call to create

Karen's path to a career making liturgical fabric art began with a diploma in fashion design at the Phyllis Herndl College of Fashion 1988-89. Early jobs, pattern drafting, cutting and sewing in small factories, brought Karen to the technique of fabric appliqué. Self employment with these skills began in 1991 in Vancouver, B.C. with custom dressmaking, and the beginning of liturgical (church) art as Karen applied her new skills of fabric appliqué. Her life-long involvement in church, as well as a stint as a youth ministry worker, brought her to the intersection of these two passions.

For more than a quarter of a century from her studio in rural Golden, B.C., Karen's sole work has been producing liturgical fabric art. This work has led to a large portfolio, being commissioned by churches and individuals of many Christian denominations across the continent and beyond. This includes hundreds of clergy and deacon stoles, vestments, altar sets, and banners large and small.

Now in 2026, Karen has completed all 14 Stations in fabric appliqué — a monumental undertaking for 12 months! Each design, now complete, is inspired by a reflection and prayer from one of 14 diverse, international, ecumenical clergy, personally invited by Karen. The result is a deeply moving and inclusive spiritual experience. Even during early tours and showings of the sketches, participants from all spiritual backgrounds have found the art powerful and meaningful.

Karen's hope is that this artwork will speak to everyone, wherever they are on their spiritual journey



Eating Out In RC: Sabor Mexicano Part 2

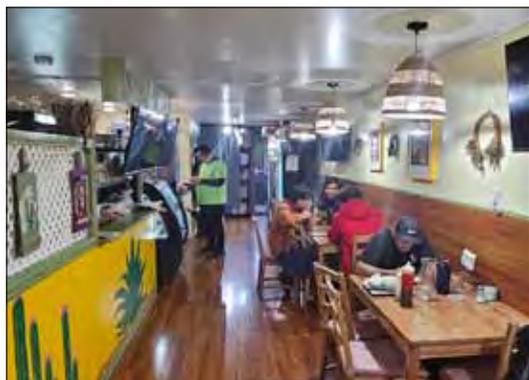
by Paul Reid

Sabor Mexicano
2665 Kingsway (across from Norquay Park)
Phone: 604-566-3445

Yes, even on a rainy day, it's always warm and bright in Sabor Mexicano. This is the long awaited part two of my first trip to Sabor Mexicano, way back in February of 2024, when I sampled those magnificent Gorditas. As promised, that was just an appetizer and I am here to tell you more as Sabor Mexicano deserves our full attention.

The owners of Sabor Mexicano Restaurant pride themselves on making homemade-style recipes with premium ingredients sourced directly from Mexico. Their menu is carefully crafted with a wide variety of traditional Mexican dishes such as tacos, gorditas, burritos, huaraches, birrias, tortas, tostadas, tamales, pozoles, and more.

I returned with my accomplice, who happens to be from Mexico, so she knows a good Menudo soup when she tastes one. And that is exactly what she did after ordering a big bowl (\$19.50). Menudo soup combines red chili pep-



per, beef feet, beef tripe, cilantro, onion, lime and rice; served with two tortillas. Not exactly in my personal 'gringo' taste zone, but my accomplice was in heaven.

It was hard to decide with so many fine choices, but I finally settled on a Pambazo, which is a crispy grilled bun topped with chorizo and potatoes in guajillo pepper sauce (\$10). Really delicious; *loved* that crispy bun.

Also, I ordered the Chicken Enmoladas: Tortillas dipped in mole sauce and stuffed with fresh cooked chicken, cheese and cream; served with rice and beans (\$19.75).

For drinks, my darling accomplice and I split a Fresh fruit water (Mango)



Top: Chicken Enmoladas
Above: Pambazo
Left: Menudo Soup

which was very fresh and delicious indeed (\$7); we also split a slice of 3 Leches Cake (\$5) which was a sweet way to end our dinner.

We both really enjoyed our times at Sabor Mexicano. This really is

authentic Mexican cooking that you really should investigate. As they say in Mexico, Buen Provecho!, which translates loosely as "Enjoy your meal". We certainly did.

Thank you Sabor Mexicano!

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Renfrew Park Community Community Centre

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Spring 2026 Brochure Available Now

Check it Out!

Did you know Renfrew offers Rentals?
To learn more visit us at www.renfrewcc.com/facilities/rentals

B.C. Seniors Week June 1-7

We invite you to join us for a week of free workshops, social activities, and more! Check out our brochure for more info.

Volunteer Training For Youth

This training is for youth wanting to volunteer in Renfrew Park Community Centre day camps. This training provides hands on experience, enhances your skills in problem solving, conflict resolution and teaches you how to lead activities and games. Pre-registration required and age requirements are strictly adhered to. If you have questions, please email renfrew.volunteers@vancouver.ca

Thu Jun 18 5:00-7:00PM
Free #611286

Did you know?

Renfrew Park Community Association Membership is FREE! Ask us.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN SENIORS SOCIAL BRIDGE

FREE!

Apr 1 - Jun 24
Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:30
#612401

Visit Renfrew Park Community Centre This Spring!

Swimming Pool Schedule

Location and Hours

Upcoming Special Events at Renfrew Park Community Center

<p>Earth Day Cook-Along</p> <p>Join us for an Earth Day cooking session that highlights climate friendly crops. prepare dishes to taste as well as take home.</p> <p>Wed Apr 22 12:30PM-2:30PM \$15.00 #614348</p>	<p>Make Plant Based Pilau</p> <p>Join us for Sawar Plaw, a delicious Kurdish pilaf made with bulgur - a climate-smart whole grain - and carbon efficient mushrooms.</p> <p>Wed May 20 12:30PM-2:30PM \$15.00 #614363</p>	<p>Gardening with Arthritis</p> <p>Join us for this informative workshop hosted by VCH OASIS. Where you will learn tips and tricks to help improve gardening with arthritis.</p> <p>Tue Jun 9 10:00AM-11:30AM Free #613915</p>
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Spring registration Centre programs March 15th
Swimming lessons March 17th

Connect with us @RenfrewParkCC



What's happening at Collingwood Branch



2985 Kingsway | 604.665.3953
 Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.30am - 7pm
 Thursday & Friday: 9.30am - 6pm
 Saturday: 9.30am - 5pm
 Sunday: 9.30am - 5pm

For complete listings visit www.vpl.ca/events

EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

Babytime
 Thursdays, Jan 15 – Mar 12
 10:30 am (30 min)
 Rhymes, songs, bounces, fingerplays, and stories for babies and their caregivers.
 For ages 0-18 months | Drop-in

Baby Stay & Play
 Thursdays, Jan 15 – Mar 12
 11:00 am (30 min)
 Drop in for independent playtime with your baby and connect with other families.
 For ages 0-18 months | Drop-in

Family Storytime
 Fridays, Jan 16 – Mar 13
 10:30 am (30 min)
 Songs, rhymes, and stories for children of all ages and abilities with their caregivers.
 For ages 0-5 | Drop-in

Family Stay & Play
 Fridays, Jan 16 – Mar 13
 11:00 am (30 min)
 Drop in for independent playtime with your children and connect with other families.
 For ages 0-5 | Drop-in

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS: SPRING BREAK!

Art on the iPad
 Wed, Mar 18
 2:30 pm (60 min)
 Calling everyone who loves to draw! We start on paper and switch to drawing with fun art apps on library iPads
 For Grades 3-7 | Registration required

Babysitters Club Party
 Fri, Mar 20
 2:30 pm (60 min)
 Celebrate your favourite characters with fun crafts and games inspired by the characters from the Babysitters Club!
 For Grades K-7 | Drop-in

Jumbo Board Games
 Wed, Mar 25
 2:30 pm (60 min)
 Have giant-sized fun with the library's collection of jumbo board games! We are playing Jumbo Jenga, Jumbo Snakes & Ladders, and Jumbo Sorry.
 For Grades K-7 | Drop-in

Squish: Grossology
 Fri, Mar 27
 2:30 pm (60 min)
 Join us for books, games and slimy creations as we explore the icky, sticky world.
 For Grades K-7 | Drop-in



Family Board Games
 Saturdays, Jan 3 – Mar 28
 2:30 pm (60 min)
 Drop in to play with the library's collection of board games.
 For Grades K-7 | Drop-in

ADULT PROGRAMS

Coffee Connect
 Thursdays
 9:30 – 11:00 am
 Drop in for a free cup of tea or coffee and meet your neighbours. Everyone is welcome!

ESL Conversation Practice
 Every second Tuesday
 Mar 3 & 17 & 31
 5:30 (60 min)
 Meet new friends and practice your English conversation skills with other English language learners. This is a supportive and casual meet-up. For intermediate speakers.

For complete listings visit www.vpl.ca/events

Renfrew Branch

2969 E 22nd Ave. Contact | 604.257.8705

All programs are FREE. For more information, visit www.vpl.ca/events.

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

LEGO Block Party
 Wednesday, Mar 4 & 18, 3:30pm-4:30pm
 Drop in for some LEGO building fun! Grades K-7.

Make It: Stamp Pictures
 Wednesday, Mar 11, 3:30pm-4:30pm
 Drop in to make your own picture or comic using stamps. For Grades K - 7.

Tiny Town
 Thursday, Mar 19, 2:00pm-3:00pm
 Have you ever wanted to be an architect or city planner? Here's your chance! Join other kids in creating miniature buildings and then work together to lay out your town. For Grades K - 7.
 Drop-in.

Make It: Paper Plant
 Wednesday, Mar 25, 3:30pm-4:30pm
 Drop in while we create beautiful handmade plants out of paper.
 Grades K-7.

Art on the iPad
 Thursday, Mar 26, 2:00pm-3:00pm.
 Calling everyone who loves to draw! We start on paper and switch to drawing with fun art apps on library iPads. For Grades 3-7.
 Registration required.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Babytime
 Mondays, Mar 2 & 9. 11:00-11:30am and 1:30-2:00pm. Drop-in.
 Rhymes, songs, bounces, fingerplays and stories for parents and caregivers with their babies. Recommended for newborns to approximately 18 months.



Family Storytime
 Mondays, Mar 2 & 9. 10:00-10:30am. Drop-in.
 A program for parents and caregivers with young children. Songs, rhymes and stories are shared. Suitable for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy and learn together.

Toddler Box Party
 Mondays, Mar 16 & 23. 9:30-11:00am. Drop-in.
 A special box party just for toddlers. We'll provide crayons, music and cardboard boxes of all sizes to play with and draw on; you provide the toddlers! For ages 1-3.

Family Movies
 Fridays, 3:30-5:15pm. Drop-in.
 Visit the library and enjoy free, kid-friendly movies. For children and their accompanying caregivers.
 March 6: *A Bug's Life*
 March 13: *Hit Pig!*
 March 20: *Moana 2*
 March 27: *How To Train Your Dragon*

ADULTS

Coffee Connection
 Tuesdays, 10:00-11:00am. Drop-in.
 Drop in for coffee and other light refreshments. Play board games, do a crossword, or chat with your neighbours.

ESL Conversation Club
 Thursdays, 10:00-11:00am. Drop-in.
 Meet new friends and practice your English conversation skills with other English language learners. This is a supportive and casual meet-up. For intermediate speakers.

Adult Colouring Club
 Fridays, 10:00-11:00am. Drop-in.
 Relax and enjoy the many benefits of colouring with like-minded creatives. We'll provide the colouring pages and pencil crayons!

Board Games Social for Adults
 Tuesdays, Mar 3, 17, & 31.
 5:45-7:45pm. Drop-in.
 Connect with friends or make new ones over board games at the library! Bring your own, or select something from our game collection. Players of all levels are welcome.

Story Circle
 Wednesday, Mar 4, 10:00-11:00am
 This monthly program is for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, friends and caregivers. Join us in an accessible, relaxed and fun community setting for stories, music and more!
 Registration is required. Register at www.vpl.ca/events

Vancouver Life Salon in Chinese 溫哥華生活沙龍
 Tuesday, Mar 17, 2:30-4:00pm.
 Register at www.vpl.ca/events 請線上登記: www.vpl.ca/events

Welcome to Vancouver! In this salon we explore various aspects of life in Vancouver: socio-cultural, political, economic, environmental, leisure and wellness. Each month we select a theme for open discussion, creating an exclusive, diverse and respectful space for conversation and sharing.

This month, we will be sharing a first-hand account of an immigrant's story of success. From a rural boy in northern China to Vancouver, local entrepreneur and author Daoping Bao, shares his journey of immigration, personal growth, and building a new life in Canada, offering inspiration to newcomers. Conducted in Mandarin. Register at vpl.ca

歡迎安居溫哥華! 在這裡我們探討溫哥華生活的方方面面, 社會文化、政經環境、休閒養生等等, 每月一次一個主題暢所欲言, 共創一個平等、多元、尊重的聊天分享空間。

本月分享: 從農村撿糞少年到北美企業家。《從超級恐龍玩家到泰坦尼克號船長》作者、本地企業家鮑道平分享他從一個華北農村少年, 到成年後移民溫哥華, 英語開不了口, 但一直堅持“允許自己學習與成長”, 現在一家人在溫哥華生活的其樂融融。鮑先生將分享他的成功故事, 激勵新移民融入本地生活。由丹越傳媒創始人勞曉紅 (Eileen Lao) 主持。普通話活動





Collingwood Neighbourhood House

H I G H L I G H T S



Joyce Location: 5288 Joyce St. ; **Tel:** 604-435-0323 / **Annex Location:** 3690 Vanness Ave. ; **Tel:** 604-428-9142 / **Visit:** www.cnh.bc.ca

CNH announces upcoming fundraising gala on May 23

by Collingwood Neighbourhood House

Celebrate a milestone with Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH) at our 40th Anniversary Fundraiser Gala on Saturday, May 23!

Featuring live music, canapés and the opportunity to participate in our silent auction, raffle and 50/50, this inaugural event aims to raise funds for core programs and essential services at CNH.

- Date: Saturday, May 23, 2026 (6 to 9:30 pm)
- Tickets: \$130
- Location: Anvil Centre (777 Columbia St, New Westminster)

For more information, visit cnh.bc.ca/gala.

Filling the gap

In 2025, CNH experienced a significant funding loss, which continues to impact hundreds of participants who rely on support and connection at CNH. As a result, we're hosting our fundraiser gala to address this gap. From connecting isolated seniors to providing food to low-income residents and creating space for Indigenous youth, funds raised from this event will be directed back into serving our community.

Event performers and emcee

We are excited to announce that our line-up for the event features award-winning singer/song-writer Krystle Dos Santos and TheBrowniez, a band that has grown with the support of our youth settlement program. In addition, Francis Arevalo, a local artist and storyteller, will be emceeing the evening.

Krystle Dos Santos: Headliner



Krystle Dos Santos is a 2x Western Canadian award-winning singer/songwriter and performer. Her award-winning self-titled album was released in 2008, followed by *Fame Fatale* in 2011. *BLOOM|BURN*, her 3rd studio release, awarded her the WCMA for R&B artist of the year in 2020. From singing on stage with Stevie Wonder and Michael Bublé to theatre performances on stages all around North America, Krystle brings her eclectic

style, powerful vocal prowess and magnetic charm to every performance she delivers. Catch her sharing the story of Canadian civil rights icon Viola Desmond in her original co-creation, *Hey Viola!*, or with her new country/rock project Orchard Sky in venues across our beautiful country.

Learn more about Krystle at: krystledossantos.com.

TheBrowniez: Opener



TheBrowniez formed in April 2024 in a high school guitar class, but what started as a class project quickly turned into a serious creative outlet. Blending alt rock, indie rock, soft rock, and blues, the band builds their sound around clean tones, emotional depth, and tight musicianship. Nash fronts the group on vocals and rhythm guitar, joined by Jaden on bass, Dean on lead guitar, Andre on drums, Louis on piano, and Liam on rhythm guitar — six musicians connected by brotherhood and a shared drive to write original music. Drawing from their diverse Filipino, Nepalese, and Chinese roots, TheBrowniez reflect Vancouver's culture while carving out a sound that feels both modern and timeless. Their music leans vibey and raw, focused on feel and connection rather than volume. At 16–17, they're already building a catalog of originals and laying the foundation for something built to last.

Listen to TheBrowniez at: [instagram.com/thebrowniezzz](https://www.instagram.com/thebrowniezzz).

Francis Arevalo: Emcee



From the intersection of Francis Arevalo's Filipino heritage, knack for language, and lifelong love for hip-hop, he creates music to explore self, connect, share love, cultivate growth, light up darkness, and question the worlds around us. He hopes each song can be both fuel and fire to keep you going and keep you company, day in and day out. Through each performance, he strives to energize, empower, gather, and inspire his community. Having developed in the local

poetry slam scene as a teenager, the common thread throughout the different sounds of his discography is his personal storytelling, thoughtful messages, and clever lyricism, refined over the years. *DOMINION-ATED* describes his music as if he has "found and embraced a truth deep within himself, that he sees the world not through rose-coloured glasses, but in shades of optimism, hope, and beauty.

Learn more about Francis at: francisarevalo.com.

Supporting the event

- Event tickets are \$130 each and include service fee, general admission and canapés provided by Truffles Fine Foods; for more information, visit cnh.bc.ca/gala
- Get involved by sponsoring our event or making a donation to our silent auction and raffle; email blepps@cnh.bc.ca for details
- Can't make the event, but want to support CNH? Donate any amount online at cnh.bc.ca/donate



March 2026

Lunar New Year – Year of the Fire Horse – February 28th 11:00-2pm

We thank all of those who stopped to watch the lions perform along Kingsway and Joyce Street on February 28th. Thank you to all the businesses and organizations who participated in receiving blessings from the lions. Our gratitude to the Hon Sing Athletic Club for their amazing lion dance performances. We end with a lion duel that is spectacular! Collingwood BIA staff and Collingwood Guardians gave out lucky red envelopes. We wish everyone a healthy, prosperous and happy Year of the Horse. Photos on Instagram @shopcollingwood

Celebrating Year in Business

The CBIA will be recognizing the many businesses who have been operating for over 30+ years, 20 years and 10 years. Certificates will be presented to each business and an event in April. Date will be confirmed along with the location. Check back next month for full details.

NEW YEAR COLLINGWOOD MEMBERS SURVEY

Please fill out the members survey [Link](#). The survey will help guide us to building a vision for Joyce Collingwood for the next five years. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey.

Joyce Street Clean Up Party – April 25

This will be the 4th annual Joyce Street Clean Up Party. The Collingwood BIA, Collingwood Community Policing Centre, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, St. Mary’s School and Adrian Dix’s Constituency office partner together to coordinate this community event. To volunteer for the clean up email info@shopcollingwood.ca

Meet at St. Mary’s School return back to the school for a hot dog BBQ. All are welcome.

Welcome to some of our Newer Businesses in Collingwood

You may have noticed a few new faces at the corner of Kingsway & Rupert Street.

- Anytime Golf Vancouver - #8 – 3003 Kingsway
- Noople Noodle House (The Sea House Fish & Chips inside) #7- 3003 Kingsway
- Wings Up #9 – 3003 Kingsway

Further along Kingsway

- John’s Fades – 3475 Kingsway
- Chingonas Cabrones The Boot Company – 3487 Kingsway

Not new but moved location

- Yo-Bones BBQ - #3 -3475 Kingsway enter from the alley

Shop Collingwood! It’s good for business.

CALENDAR

MARCH 8

Daylight Saving Time



MARCH 17

St. Patrick’s Day



MARCH 16-27

Spring Break



How to Reach Us:

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W: shopcollingwood.ca



Spring for Our Souls

Art and Fragments by: Ricardo Cerna

Spring arrives like a whisper from the universe, gently reminding us that it is always possible to begin again. The days grow longer, the light becomes more generous, and the air fills with a hope that makes no noise yet can be felt. Nature, wise and patient, teaches us that every blossoming has its time, that nothing is forced, and that even after the longest winter, life insists on emerging. This season invites us to release what weighs us down, to let go of what no longer nourishes the soul, and to allow ourselves to smile without reason, simply because we are alive.

May this spring also be a call to stop wasting time thinking about how we "should" be. Every morning we open our eyes is a privilege and a blessing, because not everyone has that opportunity today. Living with awareness is being grateful for the simple things: a ray of sunlight on the face, an unhurried walk, a laugh shared from the heart. The best revenge will always be not to resemble those who caused us harm—choosing kindness, calm, and coherence with who we truly are.

May this spring find us lighter, more alive, and with our hearts open to all the good that is yet to come. May we bring our minds into good order, because from that harmony true tranquility is born. Let us bloom at our own pace, with gratitude, with love, and with the certainty that always—always—it is possible to begin again.



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