



Newsletter #98 August 2009

Around the House (1) – Communication with the Front Desk

If you need to contact the overnight person at the desk, in the event of noise or anything else of an urgent nature, please phone us. The desktop computer is shut down overnight, so messages sent by e-mail will not be received until the following morning. Thank you.



Around the House (2) – Found Items

We have various unclaimed items at the desk. If you are missing any of the following, please come and talk to us, before we dispose of the articles.

A rechargeable Blackberry battery

A Logitech USB adaptor

A 5.8GHz Telephone handset

A brown T-shirt

A small brown blanket

Other miscellaneous (and sometimes unidentifiable items)

Ask now to avoid disappointment.

Around Town (1) – World Police and Fire Games

The 2009 World Police and Fire Games get under way on Friday, July 31st and run until August 9th. The Games are open to all full-time professional firefighters, law enforcement, customs and correctional officers from around the world. The games are held every two years. They bring together the emergency services community for 10 days of sport, where they celebrate camaraderie, community and competition.

With more than 60 sports on display at over 50 venues, the 2009 World Police and Fire Games will provide hundreds of free opportunities for British Columbians to cheer on 2,500 BC athletes as they take on the world. More than 10,000 athletes are already registered to attend the competition.

According to Games CEO Stuart Ballantyne, the excellent turnout for the Games is a reflection of British Columbia's global reputation as a spectacular tourism destination. "Hitting this mark is especially significant for B.C. tourism when you consider that each registered athlete brings two to three people with them to the Games," he said.

"The men and women who keep B.C. communities safe are some of the fittest athletes in the world, and the Games are a great demonstration of their achievements and of the benefits of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, added Minister of Healthy Living and Sport Ida Chong.

For more information please go to www.2009wpfg.ca.

Around Town (2) – MusicFest Vancouver

From August 2nd until the 16th, MusicFest Vancouver presents hundreds of world-renowned musicians performing live in concert. Nine favourite Vancouver concert venues will be filled with the glorious sounds of choral, chamber, jazz, early music, opera, and world music concerts, totalling almost fifty performances and educational events.



There's also a thematic salute in 2009 to the music and musicians of Germany, including an opening gala concert on August 3rd featuring the brilliant Berlin cabaret singer, Ute Lemper.

Please contact Ticketmaster for all events at 604-280-3311, or via their website.

Around Town (3) - Music of the Whole World: The Inter-Cultural View from Vietnam

This is a Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra educational presentation in collaboration with the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library.

Master musicians Chi Khac and Bic Hoang will introduce audiences to Vietnamese instruments and musical traditions, and will demonstrate their use in inter-cultural ensembles. The presentation - the sixth in the VICO's annual six-part educational series "Music of the Whole World: Explorations of World Music Cultures by Canadian Composers" - will include music listening, discussion and live performance, providing a fascinating window into world music cultures and the process of creating music that builds bridges between them.

Admission is free, and the presentation takes place in the Alice MacKay Hall of the Vancouver Public Library at 7pm on Wednesday August 5th.

Around Town (4) -8th Annual BC Cultural Crawl

Join a self-guided tour of community-initiated events including music, theatre and dance performances, visual arts, festivals, museum and heritage exhibitions, culinary arts, art-walks, studio tours and more.

The crawl kicks off on the August long weekend and continues through until the end of the month of August.

Your journey begins with the Arts & Cultural Guide to BC and continues on www.art-bc.com, where you can view the virtual guide and additional participating communities. You can download itineraries, maps and find all of the resources to help you plan your crawl! Communities and Tourism Vancouver will provide the resources for residents and visitors to create their own artful exploration of our supercultural province!

Please see www.art-bc.com for more details, or call 604-521-7887.

Around Town (5) – Rod Stewart

Rod Stewart returns to the Pacific Northwest with a stop at General Motors Place on Saturday, August 8th, and at the Save-On Foods Memorial Centre on Wednesday, August 12 in Victoria, as part of a limited engagement tour this summer. The tour will provide fans with the perfect summer setting to enjoy hits including *Maggie May*, *Do Ya Think I'm Sexy*, and

Young Turks from Stewart's extraordinary four decade-long career. And by the look of the picture accompanying the promotion for this concert, our Rod hasn't aged at all in all those years!



Note, too, that if you are a BCAA member, you can buy tickets online or over the telephone for as little as \$25! Just see their website for details. Don't miss an evening with Rod Stewart when he rocks his greatest hits in BC!

Around Town (6) – Elvis Costello and the Sugarcane

A visit from Elvis Costello isn't quite the rarity it once was, as of course he is now married to Nanaimo's own Diana Krall. (We don't believe they still live in Nanaimo, however...)

Elvis Costello has followed his musical curiosity in a career spanning more than 30 years. He is perhaps best known for his performances with The Attractions and The Imposters, but has also entered into acclaimed collaborations, including his latest album *Secret, Profane & Sugarcane*, which was released just last June. The album was produced by T Bone Burnett and recorded with some of America's finest players of traditional country music and bluegrass.

Joining Costello on the album and on this concert tour are Jerry Douglas (Dobro), Stuart Duncan (fiddle), Mike Compton (mandolin), Jeff Taylor (accordion) and Dennis Crouch (double bass). In addition to the new album, Costello is also hosting *Spectacle*, a major television interview and musical performance series.

Elvis Costello and his band appear at the Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park on Monday August 24th. The gates open at 5:30pm, and the main event begins at 7pm. Order your tickets now from the usual outlets, to avoid disappointment.

Around Town (7) – Powell Street Festival

The Powell Street Festival is an annual celebration of Japanese Canadian arts, culture and heritage that features something for everyone: dance, music, film and video, visual arts, martial arts demonstrations, an amateur sumo tournament, craft vendors, traditional

displays, and of course, tons of scrumptious Japanese food.



It is now in its 33rd year, and for 2009 it has been temporarily relocated to Woodland Park, at 700 Woodland Drive. This is 4 blocks south of East Hastings Street, just a block and a bit to the west of Commercial Drive.

The Festival is the largest event of its kind in Canada and the longest running community arts festival in the Lower Mainland. It provides a much-needed venue for emerging and established, professional and amateur, and traditional and contemporary artists in the Japanese Canadian and Asian Canadian communities.

It takes place on the first weekend of August, and runs from 11:30am until 7pm. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

Not too far away – North Vancouver

Malcolm Lowry, the author of *Under the Volcano*, was a resident of Dollarton in North Vancouver in the early part of World War II. That is to say, he lived in a decrepit shack on the beach, alternating his time between writing and imbibing. He's now long gone, of course, his cause of death being described as "Death by Misadventure." A mixture of booze and sleeping tablets will do that.



However his period of residency and his literary works are remembered each year at the annual Under the Volcano Festival or Art and Social Change. This year it takes place on Sunday August 9th, in Cates Park, North Vancouver, from noon till 9pm.

Further Afield – Squamish Mountain Festival

The third annual Squamish Mountain Festival takes place from August 12th the 16th. The main focus of the event is on climbing, natch, but it also includes complimentary activities such as yoga, a themed party and for the heartiest out there, their first ever trail run.

There will also be a film festival and photography contest, educational climbing clinics and a Dyno competition. (The editors are offering a small prize for anyone who knows what this is.) Included amongst the list of venues is the Howe Sound Brew Pub, so it isn't all about karabiners and nylon ropes.

See www.squamishmountainfestival.com for more details. Or, just drive towards Whistler until you see a very large rock to your right, and ask for the Adventure Centre.

Paper or Jail?

If you think someone giving you a dirty look in the Safeway line-up as you take your groceries in plastic bags is as bad as things can be, spare a thought for the people of Uganda. That country's government has introduced legislation that will outlaw all plastic bags beginning in 2010, with a remarkable penalty of three years in jail and a \$1,500 fine for anyone caught using one. The government has also established a 120 per cent tax on imported plastic material entering the country.

And Finally –

Seventy-two percent of pet owners kiss their pet before they kiss their spouse after getting home from work. And 18 per cent of pet owners consider their pet a genius.

**Your One Wall Concierge Team:
Eleanor, Kerry, Sunny and Maria.**