

GO EXPLORE

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ATTRACTIONS

Historic

Craigdarroch Castle. 1050 Joan Cres., daily 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 250-592-5323.

Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites. 603 Fort Rodd Hill Rd. Daily 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 250-478-5849. pc.gc.ca/fortroddhill

Point Ellice House National Historic Site: 2616 Pleasant St. Closed for the season. 250-385-5578.

Saanich Historical Artifacts Society. Heritage Acres, 7321 Lochside Dr., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. 250-652-5522.

St. Ann's Academy, 835 Humboldt St. Historic chapel and interior, 1-4 p.m. Thursday to Sunday. 250-953-8828. friendsofstannacademy.com

Museums

Ashton Armoury Museum. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon, 724 Vanalman Ave. 250-363-8346 or ashtonarmymuseum.ca

British Columbia Aviation Museum. Daily 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 1910 Norseman Rd., Sidney. 250-655-3300 or bcam.net

CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum. Naden (off Admirals Road). 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. 250-363-4312 or navalandmilitarymuseum.org

Canadian Scottish (Princess Mary's) Museum. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Donation. Wheelchair accessible. Bay Street Armoury, 715 Bay St. Parking on Field Street. 250-363-8753.

Nanaimo Museum. 100 Museum Way, Nanaimo,

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. nanaimomuseum.ca

Ross Bay Villa House Museum. 1490 Fairfield Rd. Tours every Saturday, 2 p.m. Cost: \$5. rossbayvilla.org

Royal British Columbia Museum. 675 Belleville St. Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Archives 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri and 1-5 p.m. Saturday. Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in B.C. to June 2017. Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the First World War film: Answering the Call. Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibit, to April 6. 250-356-7226 or royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Saanich Pioneer Society, Log Cabin Museum and Archives. 7910 Polo Park Crescent, open Saturday noon-3 p.m. saanichpioneersociety.org

Sidney Historical Museum.

Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2423 Beacon Ave., Sidney. 250-655-6355. sidneymuseum.ca

Sooke Region Museum. Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 2070 Phillips Rd., Sooke. 250-642-6351 or sookeregionmuseum.com

Victoria Police Museum. Monday-Friday 1-4 p.m. 850 Caledonia Ave. 250-656-0853.

Family

The Bug Zoo, 631 Courtney St., Closed for renovation through January. 250-384-BUGS or bugzoo.bc.ca.

Imax Victoria inside the Royal B.C. Museum, 675 Belleville St. Hourly from 10 a.m. until early evening. 250-480-4887. imaxvictoria.com

Miniature World, 649 Humboldt St.

Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 250-385-9731. miniatureworld.com

Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre, 9811 Seaport Pl. in Sidney Pier Building, Sidney; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. 250-665-7511, oceandiscovery.ca

Sidney Museum 10th Annual Lego Exhibit, 2423 Beacon Ave., daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. to March 31.

Victoria Butterfly Gardens, 1461 Benvenuto Ave., Brentwood Bay. Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 250-652-3822 or 1-877-722-0272. butterflygardens.com

Gardens

Abkhazi Garden, 1964 Fairfield Rd. Garden open daily, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The Teahouse, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to March 31. 250-598-8096 or conservancy.bc.ca/abkhazi

Butchart Gardens. Daily to Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 250-652-5256 or butchartgardens.com.

Finnerty Gardens at the University of Victoria. Free and open year-round dawn to dusk. Entrance near Interfaith Chapel, parking lot 6. 250-721-7014; uvic.ca/finnerty/

Gardens at HCP. Daily 9-6 p.m. 505 Quayle Rd. 250-479-6162.

Government House Gardens. Dawn to dusk, 1401 Rockland Ave. Free. Tours at 250-356-5139.

Hatley Park Gardens. 10 a.m. to dusk. 250-391-2666 or hatleypark.ca

Parks

Goldstream Provincial Park. Open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 250-478-9414.

Hatley Park National Historic Site. 2005 Sooke Rd., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 250-391-2666. hatleypark.ca

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., weekends noon-4 p.m. swanlake.bc.ca



CONCERTS

Classical music, for a song

This is the week to check out the local talent on Victoria's classical music scene. Three concerts are offered, admission by donation.

Christ Church Cathedral's Friday lunchtime recital, Eine Kleine Lunch Musik, features Wendy Stofer and Jane Edler-Davis.

The duo will play a collection of four-hand piano music, with a program of audience-pleasing music by Moritz Moszkowski, Erik Satie, Antonin Dvorak, Johannes Brahms and Arvo Part.

Admission by donation. The recital runs 12:15 to 1 p.m. at the cathedral, Quadra Street at Rockland Avenue.

For details, please contact Catherine Allen at the church or christchurchcathedral.bc.ca.

Saturday afternoon's Emerging Artists Alumni Series: Trio Dolce is the first of a new concert series showcasing the diverse talents of University of Victoria's School of Music alumni.

Performers Shawn Earle, clarinet; Laine Longton, cello; and Clare Yuan, piano, present Romantic Intuition, with Ludwig van Beethoven's Trio in B-flat major Op. 11, Nino Rota's Trio for clarinet, cello and piano, and Trio in A minor, Op. 114 by Johannes Brahms.

Admission by donation. The performance runs from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at UVic's Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin Building, B-Wing.

The Vancouver International Song Institute and the University of Victoria School of Music present All Around the Circle: An Evening of Lieder and Song on Saturday night.

Performers include soprano Martha Guth, tenor Benjamin Butterfield, baritone Tyler Duncan and pianists Erika Loewen and Laura Loewen.

The educational institute has been a groundbreaking centre for Art Song study, performance, and creation for musicians since 2007.

Proceeds from this concert will be used for student scholarships and operating costs for the institute.

Admission is by donation. The performance starts at 8 p.m.

The last two performances take place in the Philip T. Young Recital Hall, MacLaurin Building, Room B-125 at UVic.

For details, go to finearts.uvic.ca.



ADRIAN LAM, TIMES COLONIST

Frank Hudson, director of Victoria Whisky Festival, and Colin Southcombe show off a sampling of spirits at The Sticky Wicket in Victoria. The festival runs Thursday to Sunday at the Hotel Grand Pacific.

Whisky fest spotlights Canadian distilleries



CHECK IT OUT

In the United States, the most sought-after ambassador from Canada is not a person, but a spirit. Canadian whisky is immensely popular south of the border, amounting to more than 200 million bottles exported annually.

Attendees at the 10th annual Victoria Whisky Festival this weekend will be able to sample Canadian whiskies that are produced solely for export and not usually available here.

"Canadian distilleries have been making whisky for more than 250 years," said Davin de Kergommeaux, a trained sommelier who has been writing and talking about whisky for more than 12 years.

"Canadian whisky was, until Bourbon surpassed it in 2010, the best-selling whisky in the U.S. for many years."

Aficionados at the three-day festival will be able to sample about two dozen Canadian whiskies as well as 250 made by 50 distilleries from eight countries. For the first time, France has joined the lineup, which includes Scotland, Ireland, England, United States, Japan, Taiwan and India.

While the number of labels on hand at the festival is exciting, what is even more impressive is the number of single-barrel and small-batch whiskies.

"Some are smooth and then there are others who kick you right in the face," said de Kergommeaux, who is also a judge for the 5th annual Whisky Awards.

He said distillers have started to craft premium product to appeal to connoisseurs in the last five years.

"They have really upped their game. We now have some \$50 bot-

tlers that taste like \$200 bottles of scotch."

Over the years, there's been a growing interest in the art of whisky tasting. The festival has responded with 36 master classes led by presenters from around the world.

There are eight consumer product tastings leading up to the Grand Tasting event on Saturday evening.

The festival supports a variety of charities. By this year, they will have donated more than \$200,000 to organizations including the T.L.C., Fund For Kids and Victoria Crime Stoppers.

Tickets to the grand tastings are \$52, classes are \$33. The Consumer Tasting is \$125 and VIP Consumer Tasting \$175. Whisky awards presentation and dinner \$65. Some tastings are already sold out. Events run Thursday to Sunday at the Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St.

For information, go to victoriawhiskyfestival.com.



CHECK IT OUT

Learn how Victorians coped with war

The Friends of the B.C. Archives are hosting Victoria — A City Goes to War, a lecture by Jim Kemping, on Sunday.

Kemping is a Ph.D. student in history at the University of Victoria and a retired army colonel. His talk will focus on how local residents coped with the First World War.

He has authorized two websites as part of his work: birthofaregiment.com, which examines the formation of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and acitygoestowar.ca, which provides much of the research and archival material for his talk.

Admission \$5. The event runs 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Newcombe Hall at the Royal B.C. Museum, 675 Belleville St.

For information, go to royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

Spend an evening with Joe Clark

Spend an evening with the Right Honourable Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada, on Monday.

The federal politician will be in town to discuss themes in his book *How We Lead: Canada in a Century of Change* and what Canada's role should be on the international stage.

The presentation is part of the Eminent Canadian Speakers Series, hosted by the Saanich Gulf Islands Green Party.

Tickets \$18.25. Doors open at 6:30, event runs 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Ave. Sidney. Box office 250-656-0275 or marywinspear.ca/event/evening-right-honourable-joe-clark.

Gallery starts new year with two openings



VISUAL ART

January brings tours, panel discussions, music and the launch of two new exhibitions at The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

First opened in 1951, the gallery boasts the largest

public collection of art in British Columbia, with almost 18,000 works of art showcased in seven galleries.

Visitors can browse the gallery at their leisure or join drop-in tours on Saturdays and Sundays. Art-theory tours, with more in-depth discussion, take place on the third, Thursday and Friday of the month. The gallery also offers custom group as well as school tours.

The gallery stages

15 exhibitions a year. Current exhibitions include Shin Hanga, the new print movement of early 20th century Japan, Conversations with Lucie Rie and Emily Carr and the Young Generation.

Family Sunday events take place once a month, with activities such as storytelling and crafts geared toward making the day memorable for younger audiences. The theme of the day reflects one of the gallery's ongoing exhibits.

In January, the gallery will hold its Winter Season Opening, featuring two new exhibits. The public is treated to admission by donation at this event.

On permanent display is the work of Emily Carr, with an exhibition that includes paintings, excerpts from her books and archival images.

At the end of the month, the gallery kicks off the 6th season of Jazz at the Gallery, a series of Sunday afternoon performances by

talented West Coast musicians. The concerts run until Apr. 26.

Admission is \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students, and free for members. An annual family \$75 membership includes two adults and up to four children 17 and under. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and holidays at 1040 Moss St. Details at aggv.ca.