

VANCOUVER ISLAND HOMESTAY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
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An Enjoyable Evening out for the Students

This November, Ken, the owner of the Blethering Place invited us all to join him for a great ESL evening! For the students who joined us from the many schools in Victoria, it was a wonderful experience. As well as exciting activities, there were great photo opportunities. There was a retired RCMP Commissioner in his dress uniform, a professional town crier, and others in historical costumes. Ken walked us all through the etiquette and procedures of enjoying a traditional Devonshire Tea and the food . . .the food was wonderful. There was a great time to be had by all. Because of the success, Ken and Joan will probably invite us all back sometime in the new year - probably February for another different but equally exciting evening. We, at the Association, are also looking forward to sponsoring many more events to bring the staff and students of the island even closer together. Wilson's Transportation has even hinted at a special Christmas light tour.

Long-Term Homestay: The Good and the not so Good

We have hosted foreign students in our home for the past two decades. We try to include them as a part of our family. Just when we think that we had seen and heard everything, another unusual situation arises.

We are very sensitive to cultural differences, and we try to help our students make adaptations to Canadian Culture.

It has been our experience that on the whole these young adults are trying very, very hard to learn English while adapting to a new culture.

However, some situations that arise in our home we have come to attribute to just bad manners.

Here are some things that we really appreciate from our students:

1. Clear the table after a meal. Put your dishes in the dishwasher.
2. Rinse the tub and sink after using the bathroom.
3. Keep your bedroom tidy, vacuumed, and launder the linens.
4. Bring home a treat every now and then.
5. Remember special occasions.
6. Make all of your own travel arrangements - especially for get-away weekends.
7. Clean up the kitchen, especially the stove top and pots after cooking.
8. Make a phone call home before four o'clock, if you are not coming home for dinner.

9. Turn off the lights if you are no longer in the room.
10. Make sure that if the host family plans a special outing, well in advance, that you do not plan anything else to do that day.
11. Be very quiet if you are coming home late at night
12. Obey the family and household rules. Even if you are here for six months, the rules don't fade.
13. Use the plug to fill the sink, and do not run the water down the drain. Conservation of water is important.
14. Help carry in the groceries and put them away.
15. Put the coffee on if you are the first one up in the morning.
16. Stay in touch with us after you leave our home. We care about what you are doing and where you are going.

Here is a list of things that we never expected to say:

1. Please don't do any physical exercises in the livingroom. Go outside or join the YMCA.
2. Don't expect that it would be polite to change the channel while everyone is watching television.
3. Don't leave your room to prowl the house, to watch television, to use the computer, to prepare food, after we have gone to bed for the night. Do you think we can't hear you?
4. Don't pick at your bare feet in the livingroom.
5. Don't change the curtains around in the house because you like another set better than the ones in your bedroom.
6. Don't use Scotch tape to post photos on your bedroom wall. Instead, use the provided bulletin board.
7. Don't stay on the phone with your friends for 40, 50, 60 or more minutes at a time. The phone is for our whole family.
8. Don't expect to have a second daily shower to wash your hair and feet. Wash them during your first and only shower.
9. Don't expect to take extra food to school for lunch, especially cheese, eggs, fish, and meat. We know that your friends live in apartments, and bring rice for lunch. It might make you feel good to share your food, but we cannot afford to feed your friends.

11. Don't go through our bathroom cupboards and drawers looking for our toothpaste, shampoo, soaps and deodorants. Please buy your own toiletries.
12. Don't expect help with your homework after eleven p.m.
13. Don't expect to have a shower when the rest of the household is sleeping.
14. Don't come to us to announce, "Today, I move." only to expect that we will be delighted to help you move at the last minute.
15. Don't sit down at the dinner table and announce that you want something different for dinner, and then get up and go to the kitchen and make it . One student said, "I don't think so. I don't like . . ." We would never do this in someone else's home.

- Ralf and Jennifer

DID YOU KNOW? BY PETE UNYA **CHRISTMAS**

Christmas is an important part of the Canadian year. It is traditionally the most important holiday celebrated here. It is a time to spend with family and friends. Since the season is upon us again I thought that I would share a couple of important things with you about Christmas.

One. You have seen pictures of jolly old St. Nicholas in his red suit. It would be interesting to trace the origins of his name - maybe we'll do that next year. This year, we will briefly discuss his suit. Did you know that Santa found his red and white suit in Canada? Apparently, the first time he was spotted wearing his now traditional North American garb was in a Canadian advertisement for Cola-Cola.

Two. The true meaning of Christmas. Two thousand years ago a small child was born in Jerusalem. This child was to grow-up and change the world forever. His name was Jesus. He is the Christ that was prophesied many generations ago. Now, two millennia later, his followers and those in the nations they founded come together this time of year to remember the birth of their Saviour.

Have a merry Christmas. If you get a chance, I encourage you to take in a Christmas Pageant or a Christmas Eve service, somewhere this year and learn more about the true meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas from all of us here at the Homestay Association.

For a Good Time, Come see Grandpa

Have you ever been to a brothel? Have you ever been in jail? Is your student old enough to visit a saloon? Are their pictures of them on the run? Would you like some?

We are in no way suggesting that international students become involved in international crime but why not have a fun old time photo of your students?

Grandpa's Antique Photo Studio has a number of great sets for you and your students to choose from: The Western Bar, The Victorian Livingroom & Fireplace, 5¢ Hot Baths Brothel, NWMP 1898 Jail, The Garden Trellis, The Saloon Door, Roaring 20's Hideout, Victoria Photo Parlour, Klondike Kate's Finishing School for Young Women.

2000 was Grandpa's 20th anniversary in Canada. His antique photo studio has been in Victoria for 5 years. Grandpa's Studio is located right on Wharf street near Yates. It has many photos to choose from.

Grandpa truly appreciates the many students and other visitors he gets throughout the year. When you arrive at his welcoming studio and are greeted by his friendly staff you will notice a number of pamphlets in many different languages including Japanese, Cantonese and Russian.

If you would like to get together some of your friends for a fun time group photo, grandpa is even willing to offer a discount. Please call him first to find out about group rates.

Grandpa's Antique Photo Studio is one of the Vancouver Island Homestay Association's newest sponsors.

For more information please feel free to contact Grandpa at (250) 920 3800 or check out his interesting web site, www.grandpasphotos.com.

40 Years on the Harbour

2001 is the fortieth anniversary of the Royal London Wax Museum! The Wax Museum has been an important feature on the Inner Harbour. Also, speaking of important events, Canada and the U.S. have had their last elections of the twentieth Century and to celebrate the Museum has a new figure for you to admire. Come and see! Also while we are speaking about historic figures, we should mention the results for the Wax Museum's man of the century. The votes of the museum's and web site's visitors :

10. Martin Luther King Jr.
9. Bill Gates
8. Ronald Reagan
7. Dhali Lama
6. Mahatma Gandhi
5. Billy Graham
4. Nelson Mandela
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt
2. Winston Churchill
1. Albert Einstein

Interesting selections. It looks like there were a lot of our American cousins voting. No Pearson, Trudeau, Banting? Oh well, the people have voted and those selected did definitely

shape different parts of the world. Come to the Wax Museum and see all of your favourite characters from days gone by.

Also, students and teachers, you may be interested in the Professor's Page coming soon to the waxworld website. Among other things that will be on that page, the professor will include antiquated laws that remain on the books. For example, citizens of York are permitted to launch an arrow at any Scotsman spotted within city walls -except on Sundays. On Sunday however, a Welshman can be on the receiving end of an arrow if spotted in Cathedral Close in Hereford.

We'll see you soon at the Wax Museum!

HISTORY OF AFTERNOON TEA

How did the old ritual of afternoon tea all begin? Let me tell you.

Anna, Seventh Duchess of Bedford, is reported to have originated the idea of afternoon tea, in the early eighteenth century. The reason being that she grew very hungry between lunch and dinner, and therefore conceived the idea of having tea served around two o'clock in the afternoon to ward off hunger pangs. More to the point, she conceived the idea at approximately the same time the Earl of Sandwich invented the concept of putting a filling between two slices of bread. These new habits quickly became very fashionable and afternoon tea became a great opportunity for meeting with friends and having a good old "blether"!

One can still experience a full afternoon tea at the Blethering Place on Oak Bay Avenue. When we surveyed various students in Victoria about their favourite places, the Blethering place was named as one of the restaurants that one wouldn't want to miss.

As well as the afternoon tea ritual, the Blethering Place Tea room sponsors many exciting events. They were gracious enough to host a special ESL evening for us in November and are looking forward to inviting ESL students back again in February for a very special event.

A few performers that frequent the tea room are the acclaimed harpist and songwriter Sheila Ryan and Eric McQuillan and Mike Edwards with their 'Wig and Thistle Show'. Eric and Mike provide a lively exciting show that encourages laughter, singing and great audience participation. Sheila presents an enjoyable evening of lively Scottish and Irish music for all the patrons. Welcome to Oak Bay and the Blethering Place,

We look forward to seeing you.

SPECIAL HOMESTAY ASSOCIATION'S CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY TRUFFLES

The perfect easy Christmas treat by Susan Ramsay . . .

1 1/2 cups of chocolate chips
2 Tablespoons of heavy cream
1 Tablespoon of butter

2 Tablespoons of seedless raspberry jam
Chocolate coating

Microwave chocolate chips, cream and butter on high for 1 1/2 minutes. Then stir in the jam. Mix until it is smooth - be sure that the chips are melted. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze for 20 minutes. Then roll into 1" balls and dip them into the chocolate coating.

MARIAM'S MEDITERANEAN PASTA SALAD

At 'N-JOY Catering, almost every dish is home-made and handmade and often the recipe has been developed by our own staff. Here is an example of a simple dish:

Ingredients:

7 oz. of uncooked rottini
1/2 cup of fresh, shelled peas or frozen, thawed peas
1/3 cup of diced red peppers
1/3 cup of diced red onions
1/4 cup of slivered Kalamata olives
1 tablespoon of grated Romano or Parmesan cheese
1 1/2 tablespoons of freshly squeezed lemon juice
2/3 cup of purchased mayonnaise
2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil