



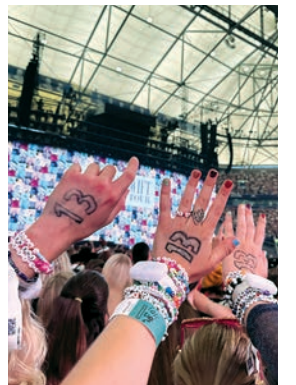
Holiday recipes

Page 2



Calendar

Page 3



Swifties

Page 4

Holiday train helps food banks

The CPKC Holiday Train is a special train. It starts in Montreal and travels across Canada and the U.S. during the holiday season.

The train is very long—about 1,000 feet. It has 14 cars covered in bright, colourful lights. One car is a stage where musicians play live music at each stop.

The train helps food banks. People watch the show for free and bring food or money to give to the food bank.



The CPKC Holiday Train will make stops in B.C.

The train will visit towns in B.C. from December 16 to December 20. Musicians Magic! and Sofia Camara will play at each stop. The train will stop in Golden, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, Kamloops, Port Moody and more.

Did you know?

- CPKC stands for Canadian Pacific Kansas City.



Scan to see the CPKC Holiday Train.

Adapted from To Do Canada and CPKC
Photo: Wikimedia/Chad Davies from Minneapolis, United States

BC NDP wins election

The 2024 Provincial General Election was on October 19. Over two million people voted. Premier David Eby and the New Democratic Party (NDP) won enough votes to lead the government again.

A riding is an area in the province where people vote to choose one person to represent them in the government.

People voted in 93 ridings to choose a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) to represent them. The NDP won in 47 ridings, the Conservative Party won in 44 and the Green Party won in 2. Eby and the NDP won enough seats to have a majority government.



Premier David Eby is the leader of the New Democratic Party of BC.

“We are listening to the message voters sent with this close election and will be getting to work on today’s tough challenges right away,” Premier Eby said.

The NDP won three elections in a row for the first time.

Adapted from CTV News • Photo: Wikimedia Commons/BC NDP

Two male flamingos hatch baby chick

Two male flamingos live at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. They are at least 40 years old.

The zoo staff saw the two flamingos taking turns sitting on a nest. They were pretending to care for an egg.

The staff gave them a fake egg to see what they would do. The flamingos sat on the fake egg and kept it warm. So, the staff gave them a real egg to hatch.

Soon, the baby chick hatched. The chick looked like a cotton ball.

The two flamingos took turns feeding their chick with special milk male and female flamingos can make.

Many animals of the same sex can raise babies together. This helps keep their species strong.

The two flamingos are doing a good job raising the chick.

Adapted from CBC News • Photo: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance



These are the flamingos with their baby chick.



Scan to see the flamingos.

Holiday recipes

Holidays are a special time to make and share food. Our readers shared their favourite holiday recipes, along with the reasons these dishes are special to them or important to their culture.

Rice balls

Every time Mabel's grandchildren visits her, they love making food together. This recipe is easy for them to make and they love it. Sometimes she also makes this recipe to share with friends because rice balls are easy to carry.

What you need:

- 1 cup cooked sushi rice
- 3 tablespoons shredded dried pork (tuna or mayonnaise with hard boiled eggs as replacement)
- 1 teaspoon furikake rice seasoning* (optional)

What you do:

1. Place $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of cooked rice on a piece of 12" x 8" plastic wrap.
2. Add $\frac{1}{3}$ portion of the shredded dried pork in the centre of the rice.
3. Wrap in plastic wrap and form the rice into a ball around the filling.
4. Unwrap the plastic wrap and sprinkle the rice seasoning on the rice balls.

You can make three rice balls with the above ingredients.

*Furikake rice seasoning can be purchased at most Asian grocery stores.

Submitted by Mabel Cheng • Photo: Mabel Cheng



These are rice balls.

Dalgona candy

Dalgona candy is a traditional treat from Korea. It became famous after it was shown on the Korean television show called Squid Game.

What you need:

- 2 tablespoons of white sugar
- a pinch of baking soda
- a little bit of oil

What you do:

1. Place sugar into a large metal ladle over medium heat.
2. Stir the sugar with a wooden chopstick until it melts into a light caramel colour.
3. Remove ladle from heat. Add a pinch of baking soda to the caramelized sugar and mix well.
4. Pour the mixture onto parchment paper in two equal circles.
5. Use a lightly oiled measuring cup to press the candy into a flat and even layer about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.
6. Let the measuring cup rest there for about 8 seconds.
7. Remove and use a cookie cutter to add a shape in the centre.
8. Leave it to cool and enjoy!



This is dalgona candy.

Submitted by Soonhwa Hwang • Photo: iStock/Ika Rahma

Ajiaco Santafereno

Ajiaco Santafereno or Colombian chicken potato soup is made with chicken, potatoes, corn and an herb called guascas. This herb can be found in Latin and South American markets or ordered online.

Ajiaco is usually prepared as a Christmas dish. This dish is special to Solange Peña because it reminds her of family gatherings and the flavours of her home country.



This is Ajiaco Santafereno soup.

What you need:

- 2 boneless and skinless chicken breasts
- 2 ears of corn, husked and split into halves
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3-5 sprigs of cilantro
- 1 clove of garlic
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of guascas
- 4 medium white potatoes
- 4 medium yellow potatoes
- 10.5 cups of water
- salt to taste

What you do:

1. Place the chicken, garlic, onion, cilantro, a part of the guascas and corn into a large pot. Add the water, a bit of salt and bring to a boil.
2. Peel the potatoes, wash them well and cut them into slices or medium cubes. Keep them in cold water.
3. Once the broth boils, remove the cilantro, onion and chicken. Set aside the chicken for later.
4. Add the potatoes. Lower the heat to medium and add salt for taste. Stir gently and add the rest of the guascas. Lower the heat to minimum and simmer until potatoes are tender.
5. Shred the chicken breasts and return to the pot.
6. Serve the soup hot with avocado, cream and capers on the side.

Submitted by Solange Peña • Photo: iStock/Mabelin Santos

2025 Calendar

*Statutory Holidays

January

January 1 – New Year’s Day*
January 29 – Lunar New Year



February

February 14 – Valentine’s Day
February 17 – Family Day*



March

March 9 – Daylight Saving Time begins



April

April 18 – Good Friday*
April 22 – Earth Day



May

May 11 – Mother’s Day
May 19 – Victoria Day*



June

June 15 – Father’s Day



July

July 1 – Canada Day*



August

August 4 – BC Day*



September

September 1 – Labour Day*
September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*



October

October 13 – Thanksgiving*
October 31 – Halloween



November

November 2 – Daylight Saving Time ends
November 11 – Remembrance Day*



December

December 25 – Christmas Day*
December 31 – New Year’s Eve



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift's concerts are good for business

Taylor Swift will be performing in Vancouver this December. Tickets for all three shows at BC Place from December 6 to 8 have sold out.

More than 163,000 fans will be in the city. Fans spend money on travel, food and shopping.

Experts say businesses will make more money because of this. Altogether, fans might spend over \$157 million.



Taylor Swift fans will spend money in Vancouver.

Adapted from *Vancouver Sun*
Photo: iStock/AnnaStills

Lindsey wins tickets

Lindsey entered a contest and won two tickets to Taylor Swift's concert on December 7 at BC Place. She shared her story with us.

Lindsey wrote: "Rogers included a note about the contest in my phone bill. The note said I could win Taylor Swift tickets, so I clicked on it.

I wrote why I wanted to go. I said I wanted to take my great-niece Lexi and make a special memory. I also said Taylor Swift is a good role model for young girls.

I couldn't believe it! I can't wait to take Lexi to her first concert."

Editor's Note: To protect privacy, we changed the names in this story.

Taylor Swift Quiz

How well do you know Taylor Swift? Take our quiz.

1. What year did she release her first album?

- (a) 2004
- (b) 2006
- (c) 2008



2. What is her middle name?

- (a) Allison
- (b) Amanda
- (c) Ashley



3. What do people who love Taylor Swift's music call themselves?

- (a) Taylorians
- (b) Swifties
- (c) Swift-nation



4. She is dating National Football League (NFL) player Travis Kelce. What team does he play for?

- (a) New England Patriots
- (b) Dallas Cowboys
- (c) Kansas City Chiefs



Answers: 1.(b) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (c)

Adapted from Wikipedia Commons • Photos: Shutterstock/Catrina Haze, Wikimedia Commons/ Paolo Villaneuva, Wikimedia Commons/ Sally-Marie Böhm, Wikimedia Commons/ Master Sgt. Michael Crame

The Westcoast Reader




Decoda Literacy Solutions
980 – 1125 Howe St. Vancouver, BC V6Z 2K8

Senior Editor: Gail Hanney
Production and Instructional
Materials Editor: Jade Chan
Design: studiochartreuse.ca

© The Westcoast Reader
Vol 44/No 4/ISSN 0822-7225

The Westcoast Reader is published by Decoda Literacy Solutions in partnership with Camosun College. We are grateful for financial assistance from the BC Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

The Westcoast Reader is for learners improving their reading skills.

Level 1  Level 2  Level 3 

How to subscribe

Groups, programs and individuals can subscribe to The Westcoast Reader. A one-year subscription is 10 issues.

For prices and to order, contact:

Online: www.thewestcoastreader.com
Phone: 604-681-4199
E-mail: wcr@decoda.ca

Decoda
Literacy Solutions

 Visit us and download the Teachers' Notes at: www.thewestcoastreader.com