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Small dog scares bear off

Scout is a small dog in West Vancouver. He is a Pomeranian. He weighs only six pounds (about 2.7 kilograms).

The door to his home was open on August 4. A black bear walked into the house. The bear sniffed the TV. The bear ate Scout's food.

Scout was not scared. He barked at the bear. He chased the bear out of the house. The bear ran into the yard. Scout chased him. He barked all the way.

Scout's owner is Kayla Kleine. She was shocked. She grabbed bear spray. But the bear was already gone.

Kleine said Scout is brave. She is proud of him.

Bears live in the area. Kleine says she will close the door now. But she knows Scout will always protect his home.



Scout scared a bear off.



Scan to see Scout chase the bear.

Adapted from Global News
Photo: YouTube/Global News

Chappell Roan sings about Saskatchewan

Chappell Roan is an American singer and songwriter.

She wrote a new song called *The Subway*. In it, she sings, "I'm moving to Saskatchewan."

Saskatchewan is one of the biggest provinces in Canada, but only about 1.2 million people live there.

She says she picked the word because it rhymed with "gone." She also says more people should know about the province.

After the song came out, people searched for "Saskatchewan" online. The province hopes more tourists will visit.

Roan has never visited Saskatchewan. But she says she will sing there one day.

What is the song about?

Roan says the song is about a breakup. The singer loved a woman. The woman left her. The singer makes a promise. If she is still sad in four months, she will move to Saskatchewan.

Adapted from CTV News and Capital FM • Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Justin Higuchi



Chappell Roan is a singer and songwriter.



Scan to hear Chappell Roan sing about Saskatchewan.

Lost wedding rings found in landfill

Steve and Jeannine Van Ysseldyk live in Mission. They went to see a movie on August 13. They brought home a big bag of popcorn.

When Jeannine got out of the car, the popcorn spilled on the lawn. She used her hand to scoop it up. Then, the popcorn bag was thrown into the compost bin.

The next day, Jeannine noticed her two wedding rings were missing.

Steve checked their home camera. It showed Jeannine wearing her rings the night before. He realized the rings must be in the popcorn bag. The compost truck had already picked it up.

The next morning, Steve went to the Mission Sanitary Landfill. He asked a man who processes compost to help. That man used an excavator to scoop through the piles of compost. Steve searched in the stinky compost on his hands and knees.

In only fifteen minutes, Steve found the popcorn bag. Inside, he found both rings. He phoned Jeannine right away. She was shocked and happy.

The couple felt very lucky to have the rings back.

Adapted from CBC News • Photo: YouTube/CTV News



Jeannine Van Ysseldyk got back her lost wedding rings.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes in B.C. 📖

British Columbia is an earthquake province. Earthquakes hit here more often than in other parts of Canada. Scientists call this seismic activity.

B.C.'s biggest earthquake struck in 1700. It shook the land and caused a tsunami that crossed the Pacific Ocean.

People in B.C. felt earthquakes in August. One was near Haida Gwaii. Another was near Lake Cowichan. These quakes stayed small, but they remind us that a bigger one could strike at any time.

We cannot stop earthquakes, but we can prepare. B.C. holds drills and practice days each year. These events help people learn what to do when the ground shakes.

Adapted from Earthquakes Canada • Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Nikater



There was an earthquake near Lake Cowichan this summer.

The Great BC ShakeOut 📖

Each year, people join the Great British Columbia ShakeOut. It is the biggest earthquake drill in the province.

Last year, more than 800,000 people joined. Families, schools, workplaces and community groups took part.

The next drill is on October 16 at 10:16 a.m. Taking part is easy. First, register online at shakeoutbc.ca. Then on that day at 10:16 a.m., practise “Drop, Cover, Hold On.”

ShakeOut is important because earthquakes can happen anytime.

How to join

- Go to shakeoutbc.ca.
- Click “Register” and fill in your name, school or group.
- Mark October 16 at 10:16 a.m. on your calendar.
- On that day, practise “Drop, Cover, Hold On” with your family, class or group. Use the ShakeOutBC audio or video to guide your drill.

Adapted from Great British Columbia ShakeOut • Photo: Canva



The next earthquake drill is on October 16 at 10:16 a.m.



Scan to see the Great BC ShakeOut drill.

Earthquake safety tips 📖

1. Have an emergency kit ready. Include food, water and supplies for everyone in your home.
2. Secure shelves, TVs and other heavy things so they will not fall and hurt you during an earthquake.
3. Make a family meeting plan in case phones do not work. Choose a safe place to meet.

Adapted from Great British Columbia ShakeOut • Photo: Government of BC



Prepare a small emergency kit for everyone in your home.

How to DUCK 📖

D = Drop



Drop to your hands and knees so you don't fall.

U = Under



Go under a strong table or desk for safety.

C = Cover



Cover your head and neck with one arm. Use the other arm to hold on.

K = Keep holding on



Keep holding on until the shaking stops.

If you can't get under a table:



Move to an inside wall. Protect your head with your arms.

Adapted from ShakeOut BC
Photos: Gail Hanney

Library Month

October is Library Month

October is Library Month in Canada. Libraries across the country hold special events to celebrate.

It is a time to show why libraries are important. Libraries bring people together. Libraries have free programs. Children can enjoy story time. Newcomers can take English classes. Adults and teens can join book clubs. People can learn how to use computers.

Libraries have more than books. They have movies, games, puzzles, audiobooks and ebooks. Many libraries have computers. Librarians can help you find resources.



Libraries offer free programs like story time.

Adapted from Canadian Federation of Library Associations • Photo: Canva

How to get a public library card

1. Go to your local library public branch.
2. Bring one piece of photo ID like a BC Services Card or driver's licence.
3. If your ID does not show your address, bring something that does like a bill.
4. Library staff will help you sign up.

Adapted from Vancouver Public Library

One card for many public libraries

The BC OneCard lets you use more than 240 public libraries, not just the one near your home.

How to get the BC OneCard:

1. First, get a library card at your home library.
2. Take your library card and ID to another library in B.C.
3. Ask for the BC OneCard.

Adapted from Government of BC • Photo: Maureen Kehler



This is the BC OneCard.

Bruce Parisian Library

The Bruce Parisian Library is an Indigenous library at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

Parisian is a Cree leader and was executive director of the Friendship Centre for 18 years. He bought the first Indigenous books. Now the library has more than 5,500 Indigenous books or stories written by Indigenous authors.

Anyone can join. It costs one dollar a year.

Go to vnfc.ca

Adapted from Victoria Native Friendship Centre • Photo: Victoria Native Friendship Centre/Nadya Comeau



The Bruce Parisian Library has Indigenous books.

October

International Day of the Girl Child



International Day of the Girl Child is October 11. It celebrates girls and their rights. The theme this year is "Girls' vision for the future."

Photo: Unsplash/Streetwindy

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is October 13. It is a day to give thanks. In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday in October. People often eat a turkey dinner with their family and friends.

Photo: Unsplash/Megan Watson

Persons Day



Persons Day is October 18. Before 1929, only men were legally called "persons." Five women challenged this in court. A judge ruled that women are "persons" under the law. These women are known as the Famous Five.

Photo: Government of Canada

Halloween



Halloween is October 31. People carve pumpkins to make jack-o'-lanterns. Adults and children wear costumes. Children travel from home to home. They say, "Trick or Treat." Neighbours give them candy.

Photo: Pexels/Charles Parker

Potatoes

Many kinds of potatoes

B.C. grows many kinds of potatoes. Each kind looks different and has its own name. You can cook potatoes in many ways. Here are some you might see in the store.

1. Nugget



This potato is small and round. It can have white, red or yellow skin. It is quick to cook and good for roasting or steaming.

Photo: Unsplash/Hai Nguyen

3. Russet



This potato has rough, brown skin. It is good for baked potatoes, French fries and roasting. It is not good for boiling, because it breaks apart.

Photo: Canva

5. Fingerling



This potato is small, long and finger-shaped. It has a buttery, nutty taste. It is good for roasting and salads.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Foodista

2. Yellow Flesh



This potato is golden brown on the outside and yellow inside. It was first grown in Delta, B.C., in 1987. It is good for mashed or roasted potatoes.

Photo: Pexels/Daisy Anderson

4. Kennebec



This potato is light tan with thin skin and white flesh. It is an heirloom potato and easy to peel. It is good for French fries.

Photo: BCFresh

6. Red



This potato has red skin and white flesh. It is creamy inside and holds its shape when cooked. It is good for boiling, roasting and making potato salad.

Photo: Unsplash/Zoshua Colah

Pan-roasted potatoes recipe



Pan-roasted fingerling potatoes are a perfect side dish.

Enjoy these potatoes as a side dish. This recipe makes four servings.

What you need:

- 1 pound potatoes
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 teaspoons dried herbs like thyme, rosemary or sage
- 6 cloves fresh garlic, peeled
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ground pepper for taste

What you do:

1. Wash and dry the potatoes.
2. Cut each potato in half, the long way.
3. Heat a pan on the stove over medium-high heat. Add oil and a little salt.
4. Put the potatoes in the pan, cut side down. Add garlic. Cook for 7–8 minutes.
5. Add six sage leaves. Turn the heat to low. Cover with lid. Cook 10–12 minutes, until easily pierced with a fork.
6. Sprinkle with pepper and remaining herbs. Serve warm.

Adapted from BCFresh • Photo: Canva

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