



Roving stilt-walker
- "nucleus bubbles" at
Vancouver Folk Fest
(Courtesy of Vancouver
Folk Music Festival)

Going Coastal

Summer activity guide

Summer on the Coast is magical. Dazzling blue skies, mountain vistas and azure waters are the colourful palette for a wonderland of things to do—street fairs, open-air markets, festivals, outdoor concerts, sporting events—or simply sipping cocktails on a patio as you watch it all go by! *Coastlines* brings you the best of summer festivals and events across the West Coast.

By Belinda Bruce



King Lear (Christopher Gaze), the Fool (Patti Allen), King Lear/Bard on the Beach (David Cooper)

Theatre

What could be more enchanting than watching classic drama on a beach under an open-ended performance tent where actors perform against a backdrop of the city skyline and mountains?

Experience just this romance of a summer's eve at the 19th annual **Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival** (Until Sept 27) in Vancouver's seaside Vanier Park. The festival has seen its attendance rocket from 6,000 in its first summer to more than 86,000 in 2007. In fact, a sell-out season last year prompted Bard's Founder and Artistic Director Christopher Gaze to extend this year's fest by one week.

Featuring *The Tempest*, *King Lear*, *Twelfth Night* and *Titus Andronicus*, the 2008 festival also showcases the talents of two new young female directors: Meg Roe and Kim Collier directing *Tempest* and *Titus*, respectively. Gaze, who has acted in and directed several plays at Bard over the years, hits a personal milestone this year with the lead role in the great tragedy *King Lear*: "I've played the Fool, Oswald, Cornwall, The Gentleman, but never Lear. It's a big moment in my life."

Why do audiences keep coming back for Bard? "We do it well," says Gaze. "We don't repeat our productions, especially comedies. And Shakespeare keeps audiences coming back. The more you know these plays, the more you discover in them." *INFO*: 1.877.739.0559, www.bardonthebeach.org

If drama under the starry heavens is your drug of choice, you'll also enjoy **Theatre Under the Stars** at Stanley Park's outdoor theatre, Malkin Bowl. Productions run on alternating nights: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (July 9–August 16) and *Annie Get Your Gun* (July 10–August 15). *INFO*: 604.231.7535, www.tuts.ca

Head to Vancouver Island for the **Victoria Fringe Theatre Festival** (August 21–31), featuring hundreds of shows on six downtown stages including Fringekids Fest (August 23, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). *INFO*: www.intrepidtheatre.com

Music

Bop over to the renowned **Vancouver Island MusicFest** (July 11–13) on the Exhibition Grounds in Courtenay to catch any of 200 musical performers play on five stages including The Wailers, Taj Mahal, Earl Scruggs, The Weakerthans and Elliot Brood. You'll also find instructional workshops, yoga sessions, an interactive kiddzone, art displays, a beer and cider tent, food and craft vendors and on-site camping. *INFO*: www.islandmusicfest.com

The **24th Annual Islands Folk Festival** (July 25–27) on the beautiful Providence Farm in Duncan hosts non-stop music featuring over 40 Canadian and international acts, plus BC Clettes Bicycle Dance Team, jamming, workshops, an open stage, food and craft vendors, and a children's activity area. *INFO*: 250.748.3975, www.folkfest.bc.ca



Above: Jericho Beach Park is the beautiful setting for the Vancouver Folk Music Festival (Tourism Vancouver/Dannielle Hayes); Right: Vancouver Folk Fest performers Jayme Stone and Mansa Sissoko fuse blues, folk, and traditional African melodies (Courtesy of Vancouver Folk Music Festival)

Another hot ticket is the inaugural **Pemberton Festival** (July 25–27), a musical weekend taking place at the foot of Mount Currie in Pemberton. The lineup includes Coldplay, Jay-Z, Tom Petty, The Flaming Lips, The Tragically Hip, Death Cab for Cutie, and more. *INFO*: 1.800.594.8499, www.pembertonfestival.com

Over in Gulf Island territory, the **Hornby Island Festival** (July 31–August 9) at Hornby Hall includes classical, jazz, world beat and traditional genres of music, modern dance, children's programming, theatre and spoken word.

For a dose of classical, jazz and world music, head to **Festival Vancouver** (August 3–17) at various venues. This year's programming spotlight is *Music of the Americas* featuring top performers from South and Central America

For one magic weekend each July since 1977, thousands have flocked to the **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** (July 18–20), rain or shine. At its balmy digs in Jericho Beach Park, this three-day open-air event presents an eclectic blend of folk, roots and world music on seven outdoor stages, framed by the dramatic backdrop of ocean and mountains.

Named one of the top 10 outdoor events in North America by *USA Today*, the festival stacks up some world-class entertainment each year. This year's international lineup includes electro-acoustic Indo-Irish fusion band Dehli 2 Dublin, folk-rock star Aimee Mann, New Orleans jazz vocalist John Boutté, Los Angeles' multi-ethnic Ozomatli, African songstress Eneida Marta and the trance-like music of the Moroccan group The Master Musicians of Jajouka. Dedicated to showcasing Canadian talent, homegrown performers include Spirit of the West, Indo-Canadian musician Kiran Ahluwalia, country-punk chanteuse Carolyn Mark and upcoming surf-folk-pop-rock star Hayley Sayles.

More than just concerts, the fest hosts roving performers, music workshops, an artisans market, healing arts and food from around the globe. *INFO*: 604.602.9798, www.thefestival.bc.ca





See beautiful old ships at the Victoria Classic Boat Festival in the Inner Harbour (Tyler Ahlgren)

Sports & Recreation

For some good clean fun, check out the 42nd annual **Great International Bathtub Race** (July 27) in the Nanaimo harbour. From a log tub to a barge tub named "Straight Flush" with a row of toilets, this 57-km race has seen some wild 'race tubs' cross the finish line. The thrilling race is the highlight of the **Nanaimo Marine Festival** (July 24-27), a four-day party offering plenty of other land and water events including the SPCA Pet Parade, Kiddies Carnival and fireworks in the harbour on Saturday, July 26. *INFO:* 250.753.RACE (7223), www.bathtubbing.com

Comox Nautical Days (August 2-4) at Comox Marina is a great family festival happening over the BC Day weekend. *Saturday:* Function Junction Kid's Day, Bullhead Derby, Dragon Boat Festival, Canoe Jousting. *Sunday:* International Bathtub Race, Youth Park Party. *Monday:* parade; Build, Bail & Sail Race, Ceremony of Flags and fireworks. *INFO:* 250.338.1120, www.comox.ca/discover-comox/nautical-days

The **2008 North Island Logger Sports** (August 8-10) in Nunns Creek Park, Campbell River is a celebration of forestry, the area's primary industry. This world-class heritage sporting event depicts the past and present logging practices through entertaining competitions between local and international loggers. *INFO:* 250.287.2005, www.crsalmonfestival.com

The **Youbou Regatta** (August 9) taking place in Arbutus Park, Youbou, is a fun-filled day at the beach with water races and land events for all ages. Festivities include a pancake breakfast, parade, barbecue, outdoor music and adult dance in the evening. *INFO:* 250.745.3712, www.cvr.bc.ca/rec/clr/index.htm

Lace up your cross trainers for the **XTC Campbell River Off-Road Multisport Race** (August 11&12) at McIvor Lake in Campbell River. The day kicks off with the full-distance Off-Road Triathlon & Duathlon and the Trail Run/Walk race, followed by the half distance Off-Road Triathlon & Duathlon. There's also a Kids Race. *INFO:* www.xtccanada.com

The **3rd Annual Discovery Passage Boat Rodeo** (August 17) in Campbell River's Robert Ostler Park brings you a day of water sports featuring a tugboat rodeo, rowboat races, war-canoe, dragon boat racing, sailboat races and various other boating events on the shores of the Discovery Passage.

Heated competition at the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival in the Inner Harbour (Deddeda Stemler/Tourism Victoria)



Tub racer at the Great International Bathtub Race, Nanaimo Marine Festival (The Loyal Nanaimo Bathtub Society)

For a fantastic cultural and sporting event rooted in Chinese history, hit the dragon boat summer racing circuit. While in Nanaimo, check out the **5th Annual Dragon Boat Festival** (July 11-13) in Maffeo-Sutton Park, featuring competing teams from all over BC and the US. *INFO:* 250.754.1991, www.nanaimodragonboat.com. Victoria's Inner Harbour is host to the colourful and exciting **Victoria Dragon Boat Festival** (August 15-17) where 90 teams from across North America race across a 500-metre saltwater course. Enjoy free concerts and movies, Chinese Tea Ceremonies, food at the Asian Bazaar, mahjong and martial arts demonstrations. Don't miss the spectacular Lights of Courage where over 1,000 lanterns are hung, honouring loved ones who have battled cancer. *INFO:* 250.704.2500 www.victoriadragonboat.com

If marine culture floats your boat, visit the **Vancouver Wooden Boat Festival** (August 21-24) on charming Granville Island. This free event hosts hands-on boat building and demonstrations including knot-tying, marine storytellers, boat rides and weekend races.

Sail into the Labour Day long weekend at the **31st Victoria Classic Boat Festival** (August 29-31) in Victoria's Inner Harbour. Walk aboard vessels open to the public or watch smaller boats, both motor and steam, running around the harbour. The Sunday morning Sailpast is always a great spectacle. *INFO:* 250.385.7766, www.classicboatfestival.ca

With so much to see and do, summer never looked better! 🚣

Party BC!

British Columbia celebrates its 150th anniversary through BC 150—a year-long cavalcade of festivals, artwork and events, large and small.

The crowning event is **Festival 150** (August 1-4), a four-day extravaganza of free family-oriented activities taking place in the provincial capital, all around Victoria's beautiful Inner Harbour. "BC150 is about celebrating our diversity, community strength and achievements—and Festival 150 truly captures that spirit," said Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Stan Hagen.

Many favourite annual community events will be part of the festivities including **Symphony Splash** (August 3), a mixture of pops and classics from an orchestra and guest performers set up on a barge moored in the harbour.

Fire Bells & Fanfare will feature a parade and static displays of 70 pieces of historical fire fighting equipment, and the free, dance-oriented **Victoria Electronic Music Festival** (August 2 & 3) takes place in Centennial Square.

Other events include a children's activity zone, a multi-day Best of BC Stage, a showcase of the province's food producers, and a main stage concert finale on the holiday Monday featuring internationally acclaimed BC performers. Free concerts on the Legislative lawns throughout the weekend will include a special acoustic set by Platinum recording artist Sarah McLachlan, big band legend Dal Richards, Burton Cummings, Colin James and many others.

For more information on Festival 150 and a full calendar of events, see www.bcfestival150.ca

"style"—the annual Japanese Canadian festival features sumo wrestling, martial arts demos, Taiko drumming, folk and modern dance, music, visual arts, and Japanese food, crafts and displays. *INFO:* www.powellstreetfestival.com

Another great party is the **Pride Festival** (August 3) at Sunset Beach in Vancouver. Celebrating "30 Years of the Rainbow", the Pride Parade begins at Robson and Thurlow at noon and finishes at Sunset Beach. With 140 parade entries and 385,000 spectators, this is a MUST-SEE summer event. The party continues after the parade with live music on the Vancity Festival Stage, vendors and a beer garden. *INFO:* www.vancouverpride.ca/events

The **9th Vancouver Chinatown Festival** (August 9&10/Columbia & Keefer) is the largest multicultural summer celebration in the neighbourhood. Enjoy food tastings, BMX Bike Stunts Shows, a youth talent show, Chinese folk art demos, kids corner and a sustainable transportation area. *INFO:* www.vancouver-chinatown.com



Top right: Fresh fruit and veggies star at the Organic Islands Festival and Sustainability Expo (Organic Islands Festival/Julie Anderson); Above: Free B Film Festival in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria (Amy Aikman); Bottom right: Strawberries are celebrated at the Organic Islands Fest in Victoria and the Saanich Strawberry Festival (Organic Islands Festival/Julie Anderson)

Literary Arts

Join the fun at the **Duncan-Cowichan Summer Festival** (July 13-19) where you'll find free musical entertainment, rides and activities for the kids and a Grand Parade, all happening in various locations around Duncan. *INFO:* www.cowichanfestival.com

The **Powell Street Festival** (August 2&3) in Vancouver's Oppenheimer Park is an aural and visual delight. This year themed *Sensu*—an all-encompassing, modern Japanese word meaning

Literature lovers should book over to Rockwood Centre in Sechelt for the **Annual Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts** (August 14-17). While readings by Michael Ondaatje, Elizabeth Hay and Chantal Hébert sold out back in May, this year's stellar lineup of authors includes Paul Quarrington, Gail Anderson-Dargatz, Dave Bidini and Will Ferguson, among others. *INFO:* TF: 1.800.565.9631, www.writersfestival.ca



Food & Drink

Summer means fresh fruits and vegetables galore. Foodies will love the **Organic Islands Festival & Sustainability Expo** (July 5&6) at Glendale Garden & Woodlands in Victoria. Proudly Canada's largest outdoor 'green' festival, the food extravaganza includes over 100 exhibits, presentations, natural food demos and entertainment. *INFO:* www.organicislands.ca

Celebrate a particularly sweet berry at the free **Saanich Strawberry Festival** (July 6) in Beaver Lake Park, located in the Saanich district of Victoria. Activities will include a petting farm, pony rides, relay races, arts and craft stations, a pie-eating contest, beach entertainment and more. *INFO:* 250.475.5558

Need a little altitude to 'lift your spirits'? Hike over to Raven Lodge, Mount Washington Alpine Resort. Besides amazing vistas, both the **9th Annual BeerFest** (July 9) and the **10th Annual Alpine Wine Festival** (August 8) offer tastings, a souvenir glass and live music. *INFO:* TF: 1.888.231.1499, www.mountwashington.ca

At the popular **Galiano Wine Festival** (August 9) on beautiful Galiano Island, admission includes unlimited tastings, a crystal wine glass, fresh-made finger food and entertainment by Brad Prevedoros. *INFO:* www.galianoisland.com/winefestival



and the US. *INFO:* 604.688.1152, www.festivalvancouver.ca

Maffeo-Sutton Park in Downtown Nanaimo is the lush setting for **Symphony in the Harbour 2008: Around the World in 80 Minutes** (August 9). The Vancouver Island Symphony, under the direction of Pierre Simard, presents its 8th Annual Symphony in the Harbour, rain or shine. Sponsored by Harbour Air, this **free** community show will feature orchestral favourites for all ages. While there check out **ArtsFair 2008**. Kids activities begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Go Green Symphony Zoo. *INFO:* www.viso.bc.ca/harbour.html

Downtown Nanaimo also hosts **Summertime Blues! 2008** (August 15-17/ 23&24) in Harbourfront Plaza, two weekends of free outdoor Blues concerts. *INFO:* www.nanaimobluesfestival.com

Besides being one of Victoria's most beautiful attractions with 22 ha (55 acres) of gorgeous floral display, **The Butchart Gardens** offers summer entertainment under the stars. Enjoy a different performance each night, from 1940s swing music through to West Coast Celtic or light salon music with a string quartet. And Saturday nights, spread out your blanket on the grass for a spectacular display of pyrotechnics set to music at **Fireworks at Butchart Gardens**. *INFO:* www.butchartgardens.com/ent

Attracting a crowd of nearly 300,000 on Vancouver's English Bay Beach and some of the world's leading fireworks designers, the **HSBC Celebration of Light** (July 23–August 2) is considered one of the most prestigious pyromusical fireworks competitions in the world. *INFO:* www.celebration-of-light.com

July 23: Canada

July 26: USA

July 30: China

August 2: Grand Finale

HSBC Celebration of Light on English Bay, Vancouver (Tourism BC)



Dance

If the idea of "wild visual fantasies in a dizzying continuum" sounds interesting, the **Dancing on the Edge Festival 2008** (July 3-12) is for you. Taking place at the Firehall Arts Centre in downtown Vancouver, the fest celebrates 20 years with cutting-edge dance works exploring the art of dance and the talents of local choreographers. *INFO:* 604.689.0691, www.firehallartscentre.ca



Dancing on the Edge Festival showcases local talent (Tourism Vancouver/Danielle Hayes)

Visual Arts

Fancy a lovely country drive and visual feast all in one? Visit the **Visions Art Studio Tour** (July 4-13) in Duncan where 24 artist studios open their doors for 10 days of extraordinary showings. This self-guided, free tour covers all parts of the Cowichan Valley, taking you to visit painters, sculptors, potters, photographers, jewellery makers, fabric designers and others. *INFO:* www.visionsarttour.ca

The popular **Luminara** in Victoria's Beacon Hill Park (July 21) is an evening sparkling with a pageant of colourful handmade lanterns, creative installations and acoustic music. *INFO:* www.luminaravictoria.com. The **Tofino Lantern Festival** (August 24) in the Tofino Botanical Gardens is equally enchanting. *INFO:* www.raincoasteducation.org

If you miss the open-air wonder of drive-in theatres, every Saturday night in August, enjoy free B-movies under a starry sky at Victoria's **Free B Film Festival** in Beacon Hill Park. Bonus: two 3D Fridays, too. Don't forget to tote your own snacks, flashlights and blankets! *INFO:* www.victoriafilmfestival.com

The **Filberg Festival** (August 1-4) in Comox features more than 120 artisans, great food and lively entertainment for all ages on the beautiful



Luminara promises dazzling lantern displays (Sumeet Wadwha/ Tourism Victoria)

9-acre waterfront Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park. Musical guests include Dustin Bentall, Fred Eaglesmith and Spirit of the West, among others. *INFO:* www.filbergfestival.com

The 20th Anniversary **Vancouver Queer Film Festival** (Aug 14-24), happening at the Stanley Theatre on Granville Street, is **THE** post-pride event. Expect a range of leading-edge programming that pushes the envelope. *INFO:* 604.844.1615, www.outonscreen.com

Culture & Heritage

If you missed the spectacular Tall Ships Victoria festival, which happened in late June, you still have a chance to see some mighty big marine vessels at the **4th Annual Westcoast Maritime Festival** (July 13-16) in Tofino. This boat-lovers fest features dockside tours, day sails and gun battles by the tall ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain, First Nations canoe journeys, static displays of vessels and aircraft at the Coastguard Base, model boat regatta, marine-themed arts and crafts, and food. *INFO:* www.tonquinfoundation.org

Totem, acrylic on canvas, by Duncan artist Leanne Brusatore, Visions Art Studio Tour

