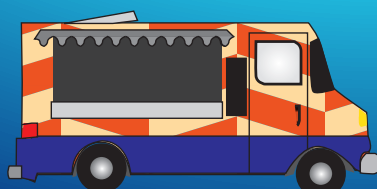
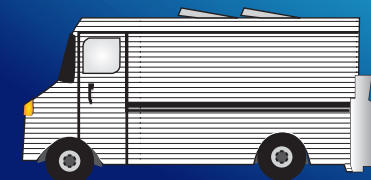
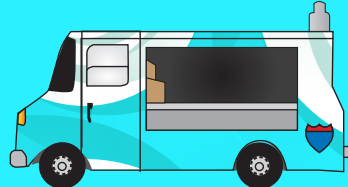
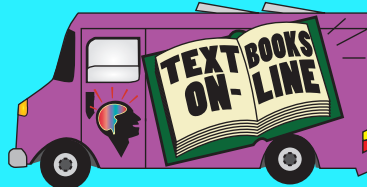
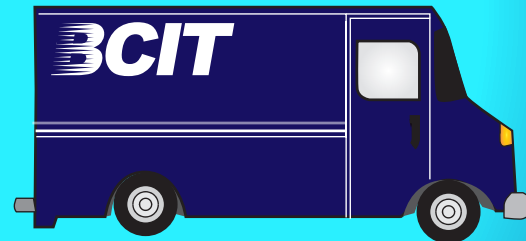
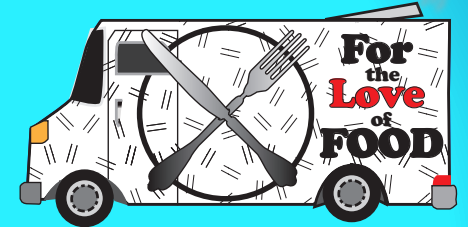
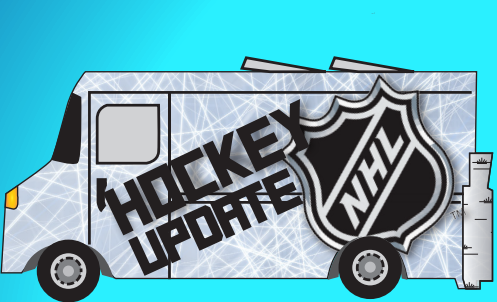
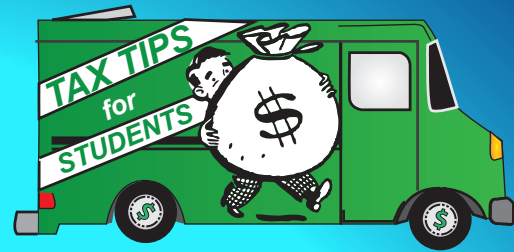
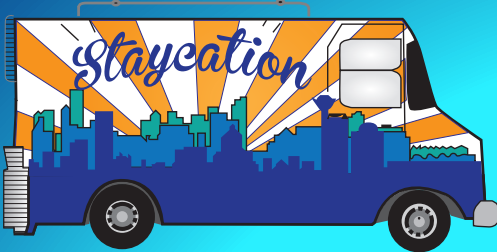


# Link

magazine



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# // Letter From The Editor

## POST-OLYMPIC GLORY HANGOVER

On February 23, the world saw an unusual conclusion to the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, when a two-storey-tall plush bear blew out the Olympic flame.

What makes the world's audiences quiver at the edge of their seats throughout those three weeks?

Perhaps the Games symbolize the world's nations' ideological rivalry through friendly competition among the nations' best athletes; in 2014, 88 nations put aside their differences to participate in Winter Games. But the Games also demonstrate the strength of hu-

man spirit, achievements of a strong will, and the ability to overcome failure, no matter how colossal it may seem. And perhaps the reason we get so absorbed in the action is that these goals aren't unique to Olympic athletes.

There are people in all walks of life whose unfaltering determination helps them make great achievements and inspires others to do the same. Our team at *Link Magazine* likes telling these people's stories in hopes to inspire you, in your lives on and off BCIT campus, to soar to great heights.

In this issue, we talk with Mr. Gay Canada 2014, who wishes to see his pageant title help youth celebrate diversity, we explore a BCIT program that changed lives of several First Nations' students, and of course, discuss how the 2014 Winter Olympics made our chests swell with pride for our country.

Until next time—never let your inner flame burn out.

Olsy Sorokina  
Associate Editor

# Link

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As a member of Canadian University Press (CUP), *Link* adheres to the CUP code of ethics and will not publish any material designed by the editors to be sexist, racist, homo/heterophobic, or in poor taste.

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# Mr. GAY CANADA

by Shannon Waters

Christopher Wee describes himself first and foremost as a teacher; he has taught both in Canada and Asia. While teaching in Asia, Christopher was discovered as a model, which eventually led to an acting career. Instead of getting caught up in fame and fancy parties, Christopher saw his new role as a way to spread a message of acceptance that he continues to work on today.



When I asked Wee about the Mr. Gay Canada pageant, he said he hadn't even heard about it until this year. "I was young, I've always loved pageants. I always watched them—Ms. Universe, Ms. World—with my mom" Wee said.

It was his interest in activism that led him to discover the competition. "I'd always known these ladies have a platform for charity and I wondered if I could do something like that." He Googled the term 'Mr. Gay World' and found that Mr. Gay Canada was a pre-cursor to competing on the world stage.

Christopher is the first Mr. Gay Canada contestant to make a clean sweep of the competition's titles. He was not only crowned Mr. Gay Canada 2014, he also walked away with the Mr. Congeniality, National Costume and People's Choice Awards.

For the National Costume competition, instead of choosing a typical costume like Mountie, lumberjack or hockey player, Christopher went with the robes of a Supreme Court Justice.

"I thought it would be a good costume because Canada is so progressive in its human rights, we've always been a leader in that," he said. "The Supreme Court Justice costume speaks to a national philosophy, a belief behind what we're striving for in the world. I didn't expect to win, there were so many other amazing costumes, but I did."

Christopher is also the first Asian-Canadian winner of the Mr. Gay Canada title. When I asked him what he planned to do with his title, Christopher had an immediate answer:

"My platform has always been with youth because I teach. In Canada, we have the Gay/Straight Alliance and in BC, we have Out in Schools. But I'd like to build on that – I think we need support programs in every school. I bet every school has an annual club and every school has a student council and now, pretty much every school has an anti-bullying campaign with the pink T-shirt day. So why not make a club in every school that celebrates diversity?"

While the terms 'tolerance' and 'inclusion' have been used in the past to promote acceptance of homosexuality, Christopher feels that the words fall short of what he wants to achieve.

"Words have associations. Say 'gay' and all the stereotypes come up. Even straight has stereotypes. I want there to be a club or a program in all schools that is worded differently so that people don't have those associations. The word 'diversity' has positive associations and lacks the stigma of, say, 'tolerance' or 'inclusiveness.'"

His determination stems from his own experiences as a gay teenager. Although he was never bullied for his sexuality, Christopher said he still felt isolated in school. He said he has also seen glimpses of those same experiences in some of his students.

While there are now programs in place to support and empower gay youth, Christopher feels they could go further. Christopher has been in touch with various youth support and education organizations in an effort to get his message out.





photo courtesy Gay Calgary magazine

*“All of those voices unified can change a few politicians’ minds, can change the country.”*

He started Hi5Diversity on Twitter, but he wants to promote it in schools and on Facebook.

“I think a celebration of diversity would work. I would like to start High Five Diversity. Little kids are taught to high five when they do something good – it has a positive association.” Christopher has even been in touch with Tim Stevens, Vancouver’s ambassador to Sochi, and the two have made plans to connect when Tim returns home.

In our discussion of the Sochi Olympics, Christopher remained positive and said he was glad that a boycott of the event never materialized. “What better way to draw attention, to get it out into the world, than to have the world’s athletes there and the press that goes with that? Maybe the world unified and all of those voices unified can change a few politicians’ minds, can change the country,” he said. “I think when we have social issues, they need to be addressed and out there.”

While he doesn’t support Russia’s anti-gay policies in the least, Christopher feels that an approach that

is active and positive will be most effective.

“I think there are two sides to the activism coin – why not be on the positive side? If everyone can leave ‘ah-ha!’ moments for others, instead of negative impacts, I think our world would be so different.”

He said that seeing various Olympic athletes wearing rainbow logos and other LGBTQ-supporting gear has given him goosebumps.

“Those rainbows – the world knows what the rainbow means, what it represents. And they know what pink represents and what the red ribbon represents. We all know those symbols and when they see them, people make that connection.”

I asked Christopher if he had any role models for his activism. He mentioned both Ellen DeGeneres and President Barack Obama, as well as Chris Morrissey, of the Rainbow Refugee Association. He also mentioned the current Mr. Gay World, a title that Christopher will be competing for in August. Although to some, pageants may seem

frivolous and their participants fame-hungry, Christopher said that’s not what interests him.

“I know what it’s like to have celebrity and to be in the papers. It’s irrelevant to me. It’s what you do behind the name and the title that matters,” he said. “So I want to be really prepared for that and, regardless of the results, I know that, being on the world stage, my voice will be bigger. And if I win? Wow – that’s another sash that will launch me to a different level in terms of what I can do.”

With six months to go before the Mr. Gay World competition, Christopher has lots of time to put his current sash to good use. With his boundless energy and effortless enthusiasm, I have little doubt that Mr. Gay Canada 2014 will send a loud clear message that diversity is to be celebrated.

Follow Christopher Wee on Twitter @ChristopherWee and on Facebook. He also holds the Twitter handle @WeeChristopher as a platform for his hi5Diversity program.

# Working Hard in their Own Backyard

How a program at BCIT changed the lives of 10 Aboriginal students

by Allison Tanner

Last summer, the provincial government gave BCIT just over \$100,000 for an Aboriginal community-based program.



When a young man from Haida Gwaii got into the compressed ecological restoration program at BCIT,

his buddies told him he was a fool to move to Vancouver. The program coordinator, Ken Ashley built the course from the Ecological Restoration degree offered at BCIT, calling it 'ER Lite'.

Ashley described the reaction the Haida Gwaii man's friends had. "They said, you'll be lying in a back alley in downtown Vancouver with a needle stuck in your arm if you go down to Vancouver," said Ashley. That man arrived weighing "maybe 90 pounds."

"He hadn't had a meal in a long time. Got in the program and I think he gained weight while he was in the program," said Ashley. The graduates were all hired to continue restoring MacKay Creek through the fall and again this spring. "When he got hired, he phoned his buddies back at home and said 'Hey guess what? I got a job,'" described Ashley.

In the backyard of Squamish lies MacKay Creek, in desperate need of restoration. One hundred percent of the 10 students who took the certificate course landed jobs within a week of graduation.

Ashley, put the funding from the province to use and created a condensed version of his program. Thinking the Squamish Nation would be the best place to advertise, Ashley put up flyers to recruit students. Danielle Nahanee's mother got her hands on



one of these flyers and in an instant signed her daughter up for the program. "I had no clue what I was signed up for," Nahanee said. She was the only girl in a class full of men and yet Ashley said she quickly rose to the top of the class. She was "the queen bee."

"It felt good being the only female you know, just showing them we can do just as much as they can," Nahanee said. "When we started working they were like, oh I can do this and rope all this, and I'm like ya, I'm a girl and I can do that too."

It is a very physically demanding program. Nahanee said she enjoyed going out and working with her hands. She works best in a hands-on program.

Julia Alards-Tomalin, an ER Lite instructor, a self-proclaimed plant nerd, said she tried to keep her students out of the classroom and working with soil and plants.



"I personally tried to have a variety of things, usually a lecture and then a field trip each day," Alards-Tomalin explained. After her students graduated, she continued working with them as their supervisor at the MacKay Creek restoration that continued into the fall. She says the work will start up again in March.

"I'm glad I did it," Nahanee said. "It opened my eyes to a lot of what I didn't know before."

It was *Link Magazine* that informed Ashley the provincial government had announced close to \$5.6 million in funding for the Aboriginal community-based programs across BC for 2014/2015. He says he plans to make this year's ER Lite course a little bit heavier.

*Pictured here: Kyle Gagnon, Joseph Thorne, William Guerrero, Allen Lewis Sr., Allen Lewis Jr., Thomas Ryan, Donald Schwoob and Julia Alards-Tomalin restore McKay Creek by removing invasive plants like Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry, adding soil rich in organic matter, and planting Native plants along the banks as the final step. (photos by Deanna MacTavish)*





# MAKE YOUR MOVE



Your next move will set your career in motion

College transfer student Courtney Lockhart always knew she wanted to pursue a career in politics. What she didn't know was that a degree from the University of Lethbridge would take her from Lethbridge all the way to Capitol Hill.

Courtney secured a co-op position at Global Centurion in Washington, D.C., an organization focused on the abolition of modern slavery. Not only did Courtney

see former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton give a speech at the Department of State, but her work allowed her to see the impact of human rights advocacy first-hand.

Recognized on the national stage as one of Canada's top-three undergraduate institutions (2014 Maclean's University Rankings) and one of Canada's top-three undergraduate research universities (RESEARCH Infosource,

2013), uLethbridge provides students opportunities to take their education outside the classroom – something that Courtney says gave her insight into future jobs.

The uLethbridge Faculty of Arts and Science offers more than 30 transfer and post-diploma programs for you to choose from. After completing your diploma, earn a degree in as little as two years.

Our co-operative education and internship opportunities let you explore your interests while gaining practical experience that will give you the skills and experience to shape your career.

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> **DISCOVER.**[ulethbridge.ca/artsci](https://ulethbridge.ca/artsci)

Campuses in Lethbridge | Calgary | Edmonton

\*Terms and conditions apply

# NEKNOMINATIONS

## The Social Media Drinking Game

by Ria Renouf

If you visited YouTube, Facebook, or Twitter in the last month, then you must have noticed a pandemic taking over the Internet world.

Neknomination – also known as “neck and nominate” – involves consuming a large amount of alcohol (originally beer, but many have switched over to hard liquor), then challenging friends to do the same thing within 24 hours of the original posting.

The craze started in Ireland with Ross Samson, a rugby player, who filmed himself drinking a beer and nominated ‘everyone who didn’t have a birthday’ last Christmas Day. Though Samson has done this every year, his video garnered more shares than usual. People from all over the world were soon sharing their own neknominations, aspiring to outdo one another.

Although drinking games aren’t new to society, Vancouver Coastal Health’s Kerrie Watt said the neknomination taps into social media to harness its power.

*“It’s based on a certain level of social pressure.”*

“We’ve seen drinking games like quarters and beer pong, things like that. With neknomination, because we are a society where everything is available to us all of the time, we’re connected in a way we haven’t ever been,” Watt explained. “We can challenge peers around the globe. The level and speed of the competitive environment is alarming.”

According to Watt, there is no archetype when it comes to who does and doesn’t participate. “It’s based on a certain level of social pressure, but those who aren’t self-confident could use this as a vehicle of social acceptance. At the end of the day it’s more about where [the participant is] in their own lives when they get nominated.”

Although downing liquor in one go might be one’s idea of gaining social credentials, Watt said people tend to forget that alcohol is a poison, which has to pass through the body’s filtration system twice before it can be broken down.

“One drink takes sixty to ninety minutes to neutralize. Adding another drink slows down the filtration process. That’s why when people say ‘pace your drinks,’ it means something. It helps your body and doesn’t overtax the system,” Watt said.

However, nominees may not actually be ignorant of the effects of fast alcohol consumption. One anonymous participant, “James,” has told *Link Magazine* that the experience left him feeling fine physically, and no harmful effects (aside from the obviously present intoxication) were felt.

“It was fun nominating friends, give a chance to communicate with them. I was nominated by a friend, and I feel like I was held to it, and must do it!” he said. “If not, I feel like I’m letting people down.”

While downing alcohol in record times has been the prime objective of the original form of neknomination, some nominees chose to participate differently. Conducting random acts of kindness – feeding homeless people in South Africa, or handing out care packages in Kelowna – allows some to use their neknominations for the better.

Thus, before one pops open a bottle of vodka, and guzzles it down, Watt advised taking a step back to consider how a neknomination could affect you – not just physically, but morally.

“It’s not morally regulating friends. It’s about getting them to ask themselves who they are. Just make sure when you’re making such choices, you’re remembered for the right reasons.”

*Want to know more about how this trend took off on social media? Check out [www.linknewspaper.ca](http://www.linknewspaper.ca) for a timeline of Neknomination.*



# GOLDEN Memories

by Cory Correia

The 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia couldn't attract the Canadian viewership and support that was demonstrated during the Vancouver games, especially with the twelve-hour time difference, but there were still some memorable events that will live on for more than a moment.

## **By The Numbers:**

224 Canadian athletes  
3rd in medal count  
10 gold, 10 silver, 5 bronze.

## **Bobsleigh – Gold x1**

Canada's closing ceremony flag bearers Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse became the first women to win back-to-back titles in the bobsleigh competition. Canadians will remember the handwritten note from bobsledders Humphries and Moyes to the women's hockey team, encouraging them to believe in their potential in the hours leading up to the gold medal game.

## **Cross Country Skiing**

Canadian pride was also felt when cross-country coach Justin Wadsworth rushed to help a Russian skier when one of his skis broke during the race.

## **Curling – Gold x2**

The sweep was also complete in curling, where the rinks of Jennifer Jones and Brad Jacobs finished on top of the podium with definitive wins.

## **Hockey – Gold x2**

At the top of the list are certainly the men's and women's ice hockey teams repeating as champions. Captained by Sidney Crosby, and backstopped by Carey Price, the defensive-minded squad allowed just 3 goals in the entire tournament. And the women's team provided the most nail-biting performance of the games, coming back from a two goal deficit with minutes left in the final period to win the gold against the often rival Team USA.

## **Moguls – Gold x2, Silver x1**

The first athlete to ever win a gold medal for Canada on home soil, Alexandre Bilodeau defended his title in moguls after taking a break from the sport between Olympics. The Dufour-Lapointe sisters finished one and two in the women's moguls competition.

## **Speed Skating – Silver x1, Bronze x1**

Speed skater, Junio Gilmore exhibited what it means to be a teammate and representative for his country by relinquishing his position in the men's 1000 metre race to his friend and top contender Denny Morrison, who had fallen during qualifications. Gilmore thought Morrison would have a better chance to win a medal for their country and so he did, taking home the silver as Gilmore's family cheered him on like he was their own son.



Hosting its first games since Moscow in 1980, this was Russia's opportunity to showcase a contemporary Russia to the world. The southern resort town of Sochi took the world away from Russia's big cities and big problems. The focus was on sport, not anti-homosexual legislation, terrorist threats or corruption. Despite the early embarrassment of empty seats, and the unfinished or poorly constructed buildings that spawned the popular Twitter account @SochiProblems, the host nation finished on top of the medal standings without incident. During the closing ceremonies, the mascot of the Sochi games, the Polar Bear, shed a tear and blew out the Olympic flame as a celebratory time in Russia's history came to a close, and the linger of a wonderful distraction begins to dissipate.



**WOMEN'S ONLY**

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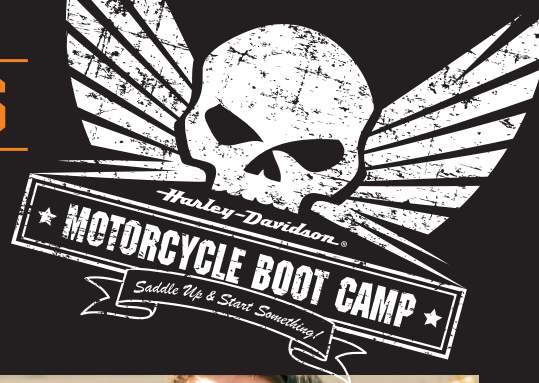
**THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2014**

**6:00PM - 9:00PM**

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**GUYS**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2014**

**11:00AM - 3:00PM**

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# TAX TIME



Year  
Année 2013

**T4**  
STATEMENT OF REMUNERATION PAID

It's that time of year again, but don't stress because BCITSA in partnership with the Financial Management Association (FMA) is offering a FREE tax service with volunteers trained by CRA.

30-minute appointments will be happening every Wednesday from **March 26th** until **April 30th** from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm.

Check in (if you have registered) or drop in at the registration table that will be in SE6 outside Telus theatre on Wednesday afternoons on the days the sessions are held. Sessions will be held in 2 classrooms in SE6. Volunteers are FMGT students.

14 You **MUST** bring:

Other eligible expenses/deductions:

16 USB drive

24 Health insurance premiums paid

17 CRA Notice of Assessment

26 Other medical/dental expenses

18 Tax Slips - T4, T4A, T4E, T5, T3, RC-62, T2202A

44 Monthly transit passes

20 SIN or ITN

46 Interest paid on student loans

52 Mailing address/Postal code

50 Moving expenses

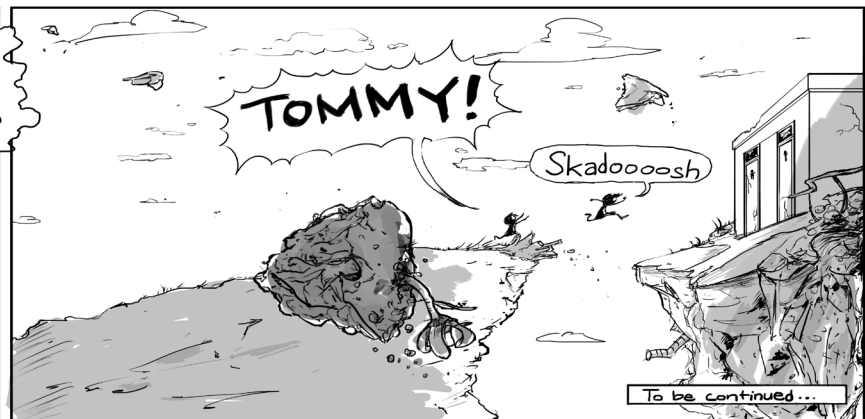
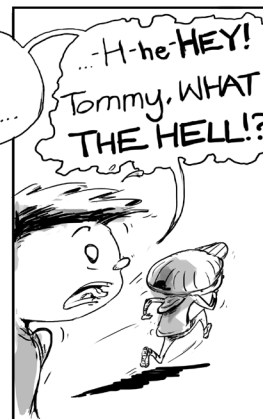
55 CRA Notice of Assessment

56 Eligible child care expenses

Sign-Up for your 30m. at [www.bcitfma.com](http://www.bcitfma.com)

For more info: visit the UConnect office SE2 Rm 286 (Burnaby Campus)

The End and All That Hype (cont.)  
by Carlo Puche



### LYNN CANYON

*(3993 Peters Road, North Vancouver)*

The Capilano suspension bridge gets all of the North Shore attention, but locals know that if you want to check out the raw beauty of glacial canyons and a dizzying bridge, you can do it for free at Lynn Canyon.

Bonus: no crowds, and you can get there by bus!

### LIGHTHOUSE PARK

*(4915 Beacon Ln, West Vancouver)*

Another great stop on the North shore, this place features beautiful walking trails, a gorgeous old lighthouse, and a killer view of downtown Vancouver. Stop at Lonsdale Quay on the way home for snacks at the market and a lovely seaside promenade.

### MARITIME MUSEUM

*(1905 Ogden Ave)*

If the Arctic is more your thing, check out this nautical museum at Vanier Park. They have the St. Roche, a fully preserved 1940s icebreaker that you can climb all over. Fun fact: St. Roche was the first ship to successfully navigate the Northwest Passage.

# Stay vancouver





## SCIENCE WORLD: AFTER DARK

(1455 Quebec St)

Yes, we know, Science World is awesome. What would make it better? How about beer and wine service, and no kids? This is not a joke. Check the website for upcoming dates, and remember to bring your ID.

## JIMI HENDRIX SHRINE.

(207 Union St)

Very much a labour of love, the oddball Jimi Hendrix shrine has mystified commuters on the Adanac Bikeway for years. Before Vancouver's viaducts were built, the area was known as Hogans Alley and was home to Vancouver's African American community. Hendrix's grandmother, Nora, used to work in the building that now houses what has to be the city's quirkiest tourist attraction.

# cation over

by Simon Little

## MICROBREWERIES

(various)

Vancouver is in the middle of a beer renaissance. Consider a brewery crawl through either of Vancouver's emerging brewery districts. In Mount Pleasant, you can visit Brassneck, 33 Acres, and R&B Brewing. A little further East, Storm, Parallel 49, Bomber, and Powell St. Brewing are all walking distance from Commercial and Hastings. Most have excellent tasting rooms, and they are often amenable to showing you the brewhouse.



# Meals on Wheels



by Rhianna Schmunk

Nothing brings students together quite like food does. If one student spots another with a tasty-looking snack, it's likely they'll ask where that delicious looking morsel came from. The snack-holder will then gush about their fabulous find and how they got this much food for how much (!) and suddenly, two students are bonded together over the never-ending quest to find a great meal for the perfect price.

Recently, the BCIT Student Association spotted the ice-breaking potential that food can play in the relationship-building process on campus, and started to wonder about how to merge the two together, perhaps drawing inspiration from one of Vancouver's breakout snack-fests.

Over fifteen food trucks came together for the third annual Street Food City event in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery to create a village of trucks boasting all kinds of delicacies. The trucks held the potential to provide a universal place for nearly anybody to rendezvous and chow down on whatever they fancy.

Dougie Luv, who is on the board of directors for SFC, describes the food truck society as a community in itself: one that enjoys sharing the bond created over good food and quality connections.

Luv says that creating a similar community here at BCIT is an exciting possibility.

"BCIT would be the ultimate set-up for trucks. It's a big campus – you have a big parking lot really close to campus and it would be really easy to get everyone to come out and participate... it's a great, great location" he insists.

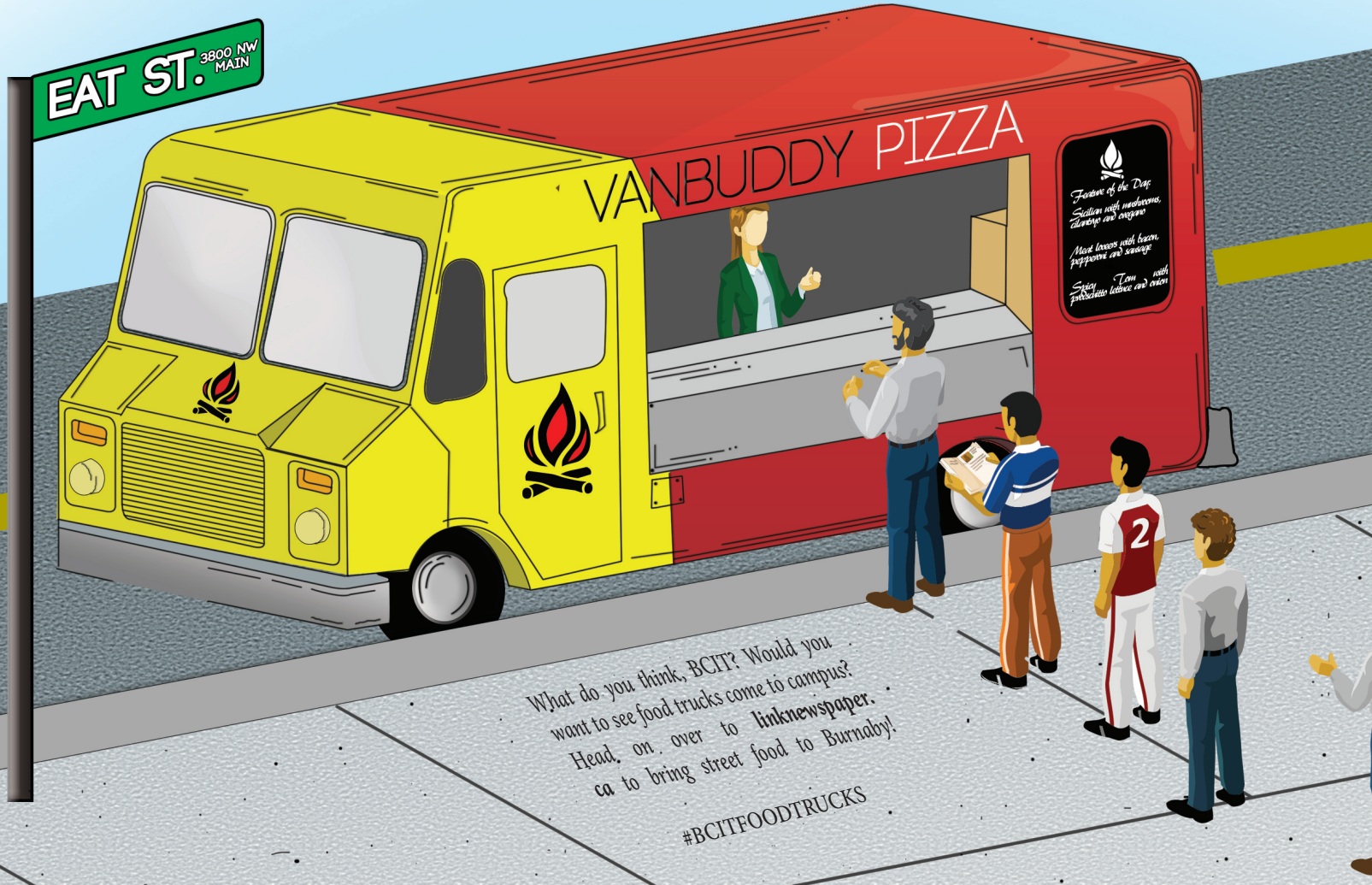
However, BCIT's Director of Food Services, Chris Koroneos told *Link Magazine* that unfortunately, it's not that easy. "When you look at campus as a whole, there's really only one spot that makes any sense: in front of the pub. They can't park there because that would take away from [Mugs] revenue."

The Student Association and Compass Canada need to give their approval for any other food service provider (such as food trucks) to operate

on campus. Compass coordinates all food services on campus, and their policies dictate that they can't allow any food service provider to come to campus if it would threaten the existing facilities.

Koroneos explains that the revenue which comes from places like Professor Mugs or Triple O's is important to preserve, because Compass reinvests some of that money into programs or scholarships for BCIT students. Any loss in food service revenue would be a loss for these causes.

Both Koroneos and Ian Morton, who is the Events and Programs Manager for the BCITSA, say this isn't the first time someone has looked into the possibility of food trucks on campus. They say that they didn't get enough student response to move forward with the possibility of coordinating another location.





# For the love of food!

A student's guide to simple, delicious, and nutritious home cooking

by **Francesca Lucia**

Those who know me know I love to cook. After a busy day at school or work, my favorite place to escape to is my kitchen. It's a place where I can be creative and enjoy what I make. However, it hasn't always been that way. The kitchen used to be a very frightening place for me as it can be for many people, especially those with busy schedules. After noticing how much money I was spending on eating out, I realized I needed to face my fear of the kitchen and get cooking. I quickly discovered the many benefits to cooking at home. It's cheaper, healthier, and a lot of fun!



## FRANCESCA'S FANTASTIC PASTA SALAD

(Makes 5 - 6 servings)

### INGREDIENTS:

- 375g Pasta (a shorter noodle works best for a pasta salad, such as Rotini, Penne, or Bowties)
- 1 Carrot
- 1 Celery stalk
- 3 - 4 Asparagus spears
- 1/2 Bell pepper
- 1 Tsp. Salt
- 1 Tsp. Pepper

### DRESSING

- 375g Pasta (a shorter noodle works best for a pasta salad, such as Rotini, Penne, or Bowties)
- 1 Carrot
- 1 Celery stalk
- 3 - 4 Asparagus spears
- 1/2 Bell pepper
- 1 Tsp. Salt
- 1 Tsp. Pepper

### DIRECTIONS

Put a pot of water to boil. Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse pasta with cold water. Transfer pasta to a large bowl. Chop carrot, celery stalk, asparagus spears, and bell pepper as seen in photo. In a small pot, boil the already chopped asparagus for about 2 minutes. Drain and rinse with cold water. Combine vegetables with pasta. Mix olive oil, balsamic vinegar, red wine vinegar, and oregano. Add the dressing to the pasta salad and stir well. Top off the dish with salt and pepper. Bon appétit! It is ready to enjoy!

### TRY THIS!

- Experiment with the dressing. Add some other herbs like dried or fresh basil. A store bought dressing could also be used, such as Italian dressing. Keep in mind, if you use a creamy dressing, this salad will only be good for no more than 4 days.
- Make this salad a main dish by adding a protein to it. Chicken, smoked salmon, or ham all go great with this salad.
- Add or substitute ingredients of your choice. Black olives, feta cheese, and green beans are great additions to this dish!

.....  
The most important tip I  
have for those wanting to get  
cooking is to not be afraid to  
break the rules. A kitchen is a  
place where rules are meant  
to be broken! A recipe should  
be treated like a guideline. Be  
creative by adding in some  
of your own ingredients.  
.....

**DID YOU KNOW?** BCITSA offers a FREE monthly cooking class for students interested in learning to cook simple gourmet meals.

- Held in the Food Technology Lab (SW 1)
- Runs from 5 - 7pm
- 3 - 5 course menu is taught in less than two hours!
- The class is geared to help students cook gourmet but quick meals from scratch in a community-style kitchen
- Best part? You get to enjoy all the food at the end of the class and can also take some home!

Visit the Uconnect Center in the Great Hall or [www.bcitsa.ca/programs/crash-course-cooking](http://www.bcitsa.ca/programs/crash-course-cooking)  
for more information on signing up for the next available course



by Sukh Purewal



We all knew this year's Vancouver Canucks were not going to be as good as years past. The team's older; they're getting used to a new coach. They don't have the luxury of beating up the weak Northwest division this season. In fact, they are in the league's toughest division which has a lot to do with their struggles

The good news for the Canucks is their goaltending is just too good to miss the playoffs, the bad news is that won't be good enough to carry them through. The team just can't buy a goal to save

their lives. That's where the problem lies. They mustered just 7 goals on their 5 game road trip before the Olympic break.

Henrik Sedin was hurt and no one stepped up in his absence. Daniel Sedin didn't score in over a month. He had 104 points a few seasons ago and won the Art Ross Trophy. He's on pace for 55 points this season.

The best we can hope for is that Mike Gillis doesn't mortgage the future for a playoff run this season.

The team is one, maybe two pieces away from contending again, but it all starts with getting someone who can put the puck in the back of the net. The fans have known the team needs a goal scorer since the loss in the Stanley Cup Final. It seems like management is finally coming to that realization.

*What do you think? Can the Canucks turn it around? Tweet us @linkBCIT or post on our Facebook Wall with your opinion!*

## UPDATE: OPEN TEXTBOOKS

by Liana Garde

Back in our November issue, we told you how the province of British Columbia launched its open textbook program. Funded by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, the program aims to provide instructors and students with affordable and easily accessible educational resources. Users also have the option to modify an existing open textbook, without obtaining additional permission of the copyright holder.

We decided to ask around campus and see how (if at all), the open textbook program has affected the BCIT community thus far.



**Andy Huang,**  
Cisco Certified Network  
Professional

"I don't know anything about the open textbook project. We are not required to purchase printed textbooks. We usually get our reading materials online."

**Harman Paul,**  
Power and Process  
Engineering

"I would still prefer purchasing and using printed textbooks as it is much easier to read than electronic books."

**Danielle Samels,**  
Environmental Engineering

"I have no knowledge about it. But if the course requires us to purchase open textbooks, yes, I would purchase open textbooks because it is cheaper than traditional printed books."

**Ronald Kessler,**  
BCIT Faculty

"The open textbook program affects me as I am also an author. I don't get royalties for my time writing books, but with traditional printed textbooks, students could access the on-line version of the course and answer practice exam questions that will help them understand the course better."



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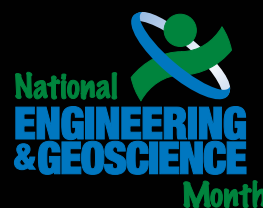
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MARCH 2014

# The Goldcliffe Chronicles pt.3

## The silver lance of Olyndicus

By Mitchell Sayers

*Cast beneath the ocean's wave  
A resting slumber, a watery grave  
There lies off Santorini coast  
An item of power evil craves the most*



*"In the wrong hands it  
could be devastating."*

### Italy, present day

The Italian sun gave my body a particularly vibrant energy. I was on the island of Capri, enjoying retirement and the simple pleasures. The weather was warm, the breeze salty and cool. Living life among the island population, I went to great lengths to blend in. My house was simple and my scooter aged and worn. I had sacrificed luxury for the basic necessities. My dream was always to get away from it all, and this was my escape. Three months in, I was starting to enjoy the pace of life that accompanied my retirement. I was just beginning to settle in. That was until...

### 24 hours prior...

Exiting the restaurant, I turned left and wandered down a warm, dusty alley. There were lights above me, splashing over the apartment balconies. As I walked forward, the lights danced around me like fireflies. The alley was dark but not devoid of life. A man sat on the back steps of a unit, puffing a cigarette and humming a song I didn't recognize.

As I passed him, I picked up my stride. Conversing with strangers at this time of night was never a joy of mine. Sure enough, as I whisked past the man he called out to me. I was startled to hear a distinct English accent. "Mister Goldcliff? No?"

Not stopping my pace, I ushered in a polished response, "You must have me mistaken, sir." I was sure I had done and

said just enough to not cause suspicion. "You should probably consider not spraying Yves St. Laurent. It's not hard to smell the wealthy amongst the peasants."

I calmly turned around and looked at the man directly in the eyes. He had a glazed-over stare, as if he was peering around me.

"Yes, I am blind." He confidently muttered after a few seconds of silence, as if he had repeated that exact line hundreds of times before.

"Please allow me to introduce myself, I am Samuel L. Pattson. Professor in Archaeology at the University of Birmingham. I was sent by the Opus Del society, they mentioned you worked briefly with them on this matter before."

My knowledge was swiftly retrieved. I knew exactly what he was talking about. The Opus Del society was a secret society of archaeologists and museum directors. Their mission: to protect and ensure some of the world's most formidable relics were never to be discovered and used for evil.

"I see. Well, that is no longer any of my concern, those days are far behind me. I no longer work for Opus Del or the British Government, I am retired."

I could tell this response did not sit well with Mr. Pattson. His lip curled into a worrisome grimace.

"Do you think they would have sent me here to track you if it was not for a matter of great importance? There's a ship, the Lady Esteban, sunk off the Santorini coast. The Greeks have begun the excavation, and it's only a matter of time. I assume you know what I speak of."

"Yes, it sunk almost twenty years ago, for all intentions never to be found. The members of the Opus Del and I undertook that mission in utmost secrecy and pledged that no hands ever grasped the silver lance of Olyndicus again. It went down to where it now rests, in a completely covert manner."

Mr. Pattson's demeanour changed and he offered up some more information.

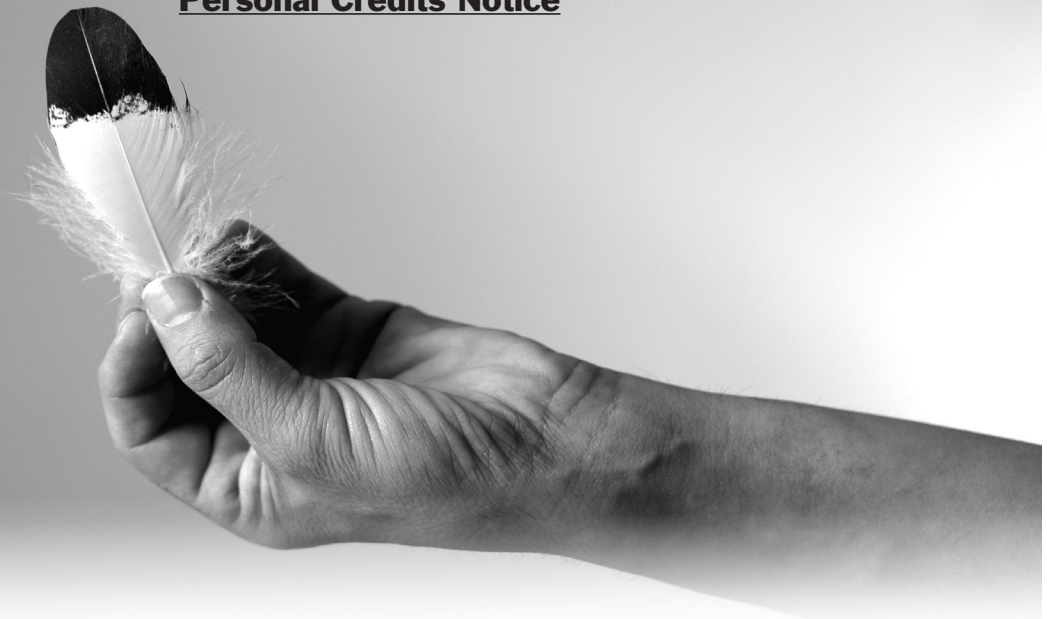
"Yes, and in the wrong hands it could be devastating. It appears one of the society members has defected and received a payout from the Greek government in exchange for the location of the Esteban. Mr Goldcliff, you have the greatest knowledge of this matter. Even in your old age, we were sure you would remember the importance of it all; the importance of protecting Britain and beyond."

"My old age is not of importance, I promised to never let the Olyndicus resurface for as long as I lived," I told Mr. Pattson.

To be continued...



## **Personal Credits Notice**



**If you received a Common Experience Payment, you could get \$3,000 in Personal Credits for educational programs and services.**

### **The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The healing continues.**

Since 2007, almost 80,000 former students have received a Common Experience Payment ("CEP") as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. CEP recipients are now eligible to receive non-cash Personal Credits of up to \$3,000, for either themselves or certain family members, for educational programs and services.

**What are Personal Credits?** Personal Credits may be used for a wide range of educational programs and services, including those provided by universities, colleges, trade or training schools, Indigenous Institutions of Higher Learning, or which relate to literacy or trades, as well as programs and services related to Aboriginal identities, histories, cultures or languages.

**How much are Personal Credits?** Adequate funds are available for each CEP recipient to receive up to \$3,000 in Personal Credits, depending on your approved educational expenses.

**Which educational entities and groups are included?** A list of approved educational entities and groups has been jointly developed by Canada, the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit representatives. If an educational entity or group is not on the list, please consult the website for more information.

**Will I receive a cheque?** No. Cheques will be issued directly to the educational entity or group providing the service.

**Who can use Personal Credits?** CEP recipients can use the full amount themselves or give part or all of their Personal Credits to certain family members such as a spouse, child, grandchild or sibling,

as defined in the terms and conditions. Personal Credits of multiple CEP recipients can be combined to support a group learning activity.

**How can I get Personal Credits?** Each CEP recipient will be mailed an Acknowledgement Form. If you do not receive an Acknowledgement Form by the end of January 2014, please call 1-866-343-1858. Completed Acknowledgement Forms should be returned as soon as possible and must be postmarked no later than **October 31, 2014**.

**How do I redeem my Personal Credits?** Once approved, you will be sent a personalized Redemption Form for each individual using Personal Credits at each educational entity or group. Once the Form is received, provide it to the educational entity or group listed. The educational entity or group must then complete and mail back the Redemption Form postmarked no later than **December 1, 2014**.

#### **What happens to unused Personal Credits?**

The value of unused Personal Credits will be transferred to the National Indian

Brotherhood Trust Fund and Inuvialuit Education Foundation for educational programs.

For more information, including how Personal Credits can be redeemed by certain family members of CEP recipients that are deceased, visit [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca) or call 1-866-343-1858.

The IRS Crisis Line (1-866-925-4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

CEP recipients have the option of sharing their Personal Credits with certain family members, such as:

- Children
- Spouses
- Grandchildren
- Siblings

**1-866-343-1858 • [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca)**

# FOLLOW and BE FOLLOWED



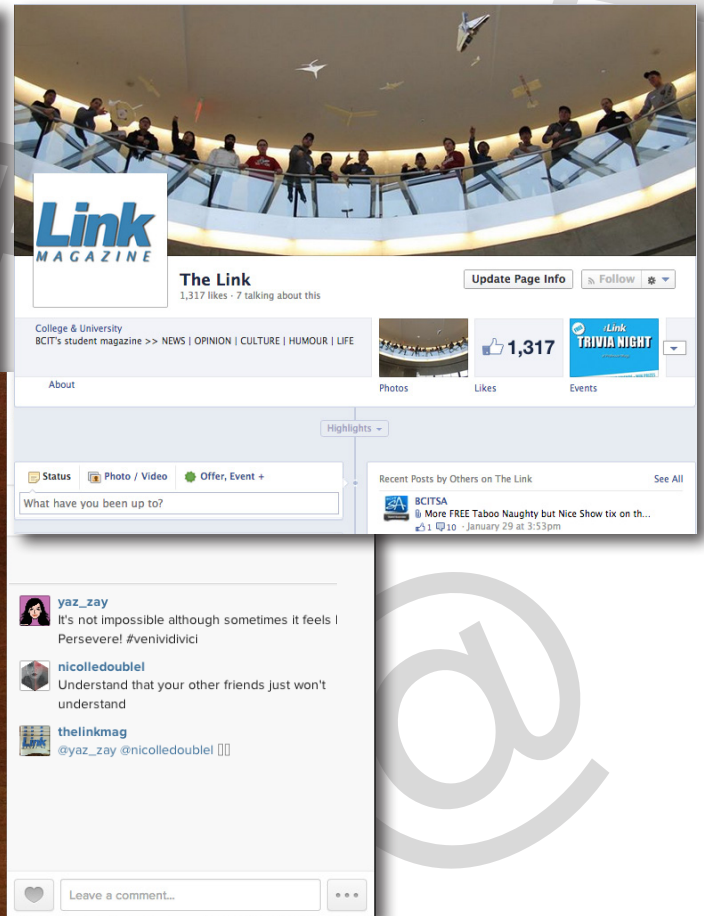
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## BCITSA STUDENT ELECTIONS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

For more information visit [www.bcitsa.ca/elections](http://www.bcitsa.ca/elections)