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THE VCC COMMUNITY INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

VANCOUVER  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



# Connections

Vancouver Community College  
King Edward Campus Library  
Box 24620, Station F  
Vancouver, BC V5N 5T9

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## Homefront Learning: 20 years in the community

**D**ecember 14, 1999 marked the 20th anniversary of the Homefront Learning program, part of the ESL Outreach Department at KEC. Tutors, students, faculty and staff involved in the program over the last 20 years joined in an evening of celebration.



*Rosemary Watson cuts the cake as May Yip looks on.*

The event was held in the faculty lounge at KEC. Greetings and short speeches of welcome were made by President Dale Dorn, Moira Macleod, Dean of Academic and Development Programs and Marta Gardiner, Associate Dean of ESL. Following that, everyone dug into the enormous multicultural potluck dinner. After dinner, Rosemarie Watson, past Department Head of Outreach, spoke of the history of the Homefront Program.

Homefront Learning was the brainchild of Rosemary Meyer, Division Chair of ESL in 1979. Her vision was that VCC should reach out and into the homes of ESL learners who could not attend classes on campus. Some learners have physical

disabilities which prevent them from going to school, others are women isolated at home with babies and small children, and some learners cannot attend ESL classes because of shift work or changing work schedules. Volunteer tutors are recruited and trained, then matched with a learner. ESL learners are tutored free of charge in their own home.

Helen McDonald, a tutor in the program since 1991, and Donna Neufeld, a recently trained tutor, both spoke with enthusiasm on how tutoring makes a difference in their students' lives as well as enriching the lives of the tutors.

Today Homefront is a thriving and growing community-based program with

**continued on the next page**



## Nominations for new Board members

The terms of two Board members, Karenn Krangle and Lee Anne Ragan, will expire as of July 31, 2000 and the terms of four other Board members will be up for renewal. The Board is inviting nominations from the College community. Names may be submitted to the Minister, although there is no guarantee of acceptance. The appointments are made at the end of July and nominations should be submitted in April. The Board identified

specific skill areas as follows: Finance, Downtown Eastside, Education Sector and Industry areas relevant to College programs. These are not exclusive, however.

You are invited to submit a nomination, together with a background summary on each individual, to the Executive Office by January 31, 2000. The Board Coordinating Committee will then review the nominations and interviews will take place with the President and Board Chair.

## Information, please!

In order to assist the Information Clerk in the KEC Welcome Centre in providing accurate and up-to-date information to students and visitors, please ensure that any information pertinent to your department's activities is shared with the Information Clerk well in advance of the event taking place. This could include any departmental or student events, workshops, seminars, room or schedule changes—anything that

may be of interest to students or visitors.

The Information Clerk is Charis Chung, and she may be contacted at local 7053 or by email at [cchung@vcc.bc.ca](mailto:cchung@vcc.bc.ca) or by interoffice mail directed to "The Welcome Centre."

Thanks for helping us to make the Welcome Centre a useful source of information to our students and guests.

Carol Galloway

### Homefront (continued)

over 160 trained tutors and learners in Vancouver and Burnaby.

Many students, as their life situations change, do eventually make it onto campus, so the community program is a bridge to ESL programs on campus.

Over the years, several Homefront tutors have also come to work on campus as ESL instructors and Instructional Assistants.

Vancouver Homefront Learning is currently coordinated by Myrna Rabinowitz and June Dragman. May Yip and Marian Yip are in charge of Homefront in



Burnaby. For more information, please call 871-7277.

Thanks to everyone who joined in the celebration. Special thanks to May Yip for acting as M.C. throughout the event.

June Dragman

## Jean MacLeod makes her Carnegie Hall debut

The package notice came in early January. We weren't expecting anything, so it was with great curiosity that we went to the Postal Outlet. The return address indicated *MidAmerica Productions*, a company neither of us had heard of before. Then the unbelievable... we were invited to sing at Carnegie Hall!

A very good friend of ours is a choral composer working out of Phoenix. She had been invited to conduct some of her works as part of a concert series at Carnegie Hall and had been asked if there were individuals or choirs that she wanted to be part of the massed choir. She gave *MidAmerica* our names, and the making of a dream was taking shape.

The next few months were a flurry of phone calls, letters, faxes, and e-mails. All the details were sorted out, deposits were made, airlines were booked, and music was bought and rehearsed. We invited two close friends to be part of the adventure, and the four of us turned out to be the "token" Canadians among a choir of 140.

We arrived in New York on Thursday, November 25, had rehearsals on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, with the concert on Sunday evening. Words cannot describe the incredible thrill it was to step out on the stage for the dress rehearsal. We were actually on the stage of CARNEGIE HALL! It seemed almost surreal.

We're back now and life is returning to normal, but the memories of New York and the concert will be with us for the rest of our lives. After singing in Carnegie Hall, is everything else downhill?

Jean MacLeod

## Images from the Fall 1999 Awards Ceremony

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Irene Bell, Administrative Office Assistant program, winner of the Lieut. Governor's Silver Medal, with her son



Nellie Quiring, Dental Hygiene, winner of the Governor General's Collegiate Bronze Medal



Irene Bell with VCC President Dale Dorn

Rene Sanchez, College Preparatory English, winner of the Seaforth Cup





## Book now for Learning Centre Orientation tours

The Learning Centre staff invite you to bring your students in for a tour. Meet the friendly tutors and give your students a chance to see what work they can do in the Learning Centre. Students can get **free help** with their math, science, English, and other course work from a wealth of materials, computers and a friendly, helpful and knowledgeable staff.

### When you book your tour, please let us know:

- your name and phone number
- number of students (if known)
- level or program
- any special requests you have. (If requested, we can also visit your classroom.)

### To arrange a tour at City Centre Learning Centre, call local 8607.

CC hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:30 - 7:00, Friday, 9:30 - 5:00

### To arrange a tour at KEC Learning Centre, call local 7219.

KEC hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 - 7:00, Friday, 9:00 - 5:00

Tours take approximately 25 minutes and must be **booked in advance** for KEC Learning Centre.

## KEC Learning Centre Workshops

Workshops will begin again this term. Stay tuned and check our bulletin boards for details.

### Workshops on Skills for Success

The Learning Centre, Library and Counselling department are offering instruction on a variety of different topics that can contribute to the success of your students this term. If instructors haven't received the information booklet, please contact the Learning Centre at 443-8607.

### Bigger and better

Renovations are underway in both the City Centre and KEC Learning Centres. We are replacing old computers and expanding the number of computers to better serve students. Both computing centres are expected to be installed and running before the end of January.

### Student Photo I.D. Cards

Students must bring photo I.D. cards with a new expiry sticker to use the Learning Centres and computing centres. Schedules for getting photo I.D. cards are posted around campus. Returning students can pick up new expiry stickers from the cashier. Please remind your students.

## The Automotive Collision department recommends . . .

From time to time the Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing programs are asked what auto body repair shops they would recommend to their friends and colleagues. Here's a list of companies and contacts that the department has worked with, often through Program Advisory Committees, and would recommend:

### GordRon's Auto Metal

7480 Edmonds, Burnaby  
526-4658  
Contact: Shawn Barnes

### Craftsman Collision

425 W. 6th Ave., Vancouver  
873-4841  
Contact: John Longhurst

### Totem Mercury Auto Body

1338 S.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver  
264-0211  
Contact: Errol Thompson

### Donn Dean Collision

6919 Merritt Ave., Burnaby  
434-7221  
Contact: Andy Stewart

### Paramount Auto Body

Unit #1, 2822 Spring St., Port Moody  
461-8200  
Contact: Del Anderson

### R&N Auto Body (Boyd)

5726 Landmark Way, Surrey  
530-9818  
Contact: Paul McFarlane

### M.G. Collision

12051 Bridgeport Rd., Richmond  
273-1985  
Contact: Mike Giannelli

## New books at CC Library



- You Eat What You Are: People, Culture and Food Traditions
- Information Ecologies: Using Technology with Heart
- Spider Web, by Penelope Lively
- Aftermath, by Anne Cameron
- Who's Afraid of Human Cloning?
- Macintosh: Basic Operations
- The Science Times Book of the Brain
- Grounding and Shielding Techniques
- Illustrator 8 for Macintosh & Windows
- Garden City: Vancouver: The Ultimate Guide to Everything Green in Vancouver & the Lower Mainland

## December's 50/50 winner



The winner of the 50/50 draw for November's pool of \$719 was Joy Hargreaves. The draw was conducted on December 8 on the 5th floor of KEC at 2:00 p.m.

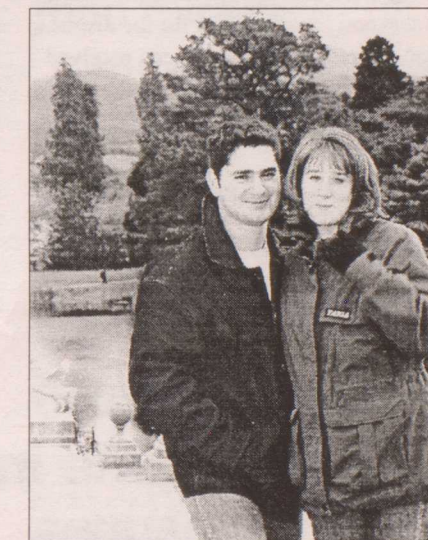
- How the New Technology Works: A Guide to High-Tech Concepts
- What Every Smart Driver Should Know
- Graphic Communications: The Printed Page
- Information Rules: A Strategic Guide to the Network Economy
- Canada's Best Careers Guide 2000
- Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society
- Canadian Legal Guide for Small Business
- Color and Its Reproduction
- Periodontal Therapy
- Genetic Engineering
- The Automobile: A Century of Progress
- End of the Millennium
- The Power of Identity

## New books at KEC Library

- Trivia Pursuit: How Showbiz Values Are Corrupting the News
- Greener Pastures: How to Find A job in Another Place
- College Smarts: The Survival and Success Guide for Canadian Students
- Why Unions Matter
- Bluegrass: An Informal Guide
- The Debt-Free Graduate: How to Survive College or University Without Going Broke
- Exploring the BC Coast by Car
- Early Christian & Byzantine Art
- Pronunciation Matters: Communicative, Story-Based Activities for Mastering the Sounds of North American English, Teacher's Manual
- Move Up: Intermediate Business Resource Pack, Communicative Activities for Students of Business English

- On Track Private Training Outcomes Survey
- Regional Profiles:
  - Central Canada
  - Pacific/Arctic
  - Atlantic Canada
  - The Prairies
- Trance Zero: Breaking the Spell of Conformity
- Lost Chords: White Musicians and Their Contribution to Jazz 1915-1945
- Free the Children
- Canadian Legal Guide for Small Business
- Bill Reid

## Look where they are now



Judith O'Keeffe, from Continuing Education, made everyone envious with the news that she and her partner Hugh paid a visit to Bruce and Helen Gabor at their new home in Dublin last fall.

Formerly VCC's Web Manager, Bruce is now employed with Ireland's largest provider of internet training.

This picture, taken at Powerscourt Gardens, shows the happy couple out enjoying some very Vancouver-like weather.



## 200 VCC friends enjoy Holiday Buffet

Approximately 200 VCC instructors, staff and friends participated in the first Holiday Buffet at the City Centre campus' festively decorated cafeteria on Friday, December 10. Chef instructors James Hutton and Settimio Sicoli and their students (with able assistance from colleagues Ernst Walgram, Ian Smith, Ulrich Falter, Keijo Yanagawa and Horst Baltzer) prepared an impressive array of appetizers, main courses and desserts for the participants to sample. Instructors Charles Kilchenmann and Tony Humphries and their students assisted in the decorating before and service throughout the event.

The Baking and Pastry Arts prepared many of the seasonal desserts and the Meat Cutting department assisted in procuring the meat and fowl required for the dishes. Jackie Ehler of Food Services received strong support from a number of suppliers who provided food and other materials for the buffet.

David Duke of the Music Department arranged for a brass ensemble and a trio of carollers to entertain the guests through-

out the evening and Tony Wood (VCC retiree and now Executive Director of the Hospitality Industry Education Advisory Committee) and Brigitte Kirmis (who also coordinated most of the evening's details) arranged a selection of restaurant meals, hotel stays, ski passes, baskets and other gifts for a Silent Auction.

This inaugural Holiday Buffet raised over \$8,000 towards the J.J.'s Renovation Fund and, most importantly, allowed an opportunity to have a fun-filled, enjoyable evening to usher in the holiday season.

Thanks to Media Services for their assistance in preparing the posters and signs for the evening and to the staff of the Bookstores at both campuses and Malcolm Cant for selling tickets. Also thanks to those mentioned earlier for their contribution (with apologies to any who were inadvertently missed) and a very special thank you to all who attended.

The second Hospitality Buffet and Silent Auction is scheduled for December 8th, 2000. See you there!

*Dave Donaldson*

## YI.5KP (The Year of 1500 Potatoes)

On December 31, a dedicated core of VCC chefs in training met at City Centre for extracurricular training in potato baking.

Actually, Linda Martin, Sheilah Henderson, Della Glendenning, Joan McArthur Blair, Jean Cockell, Wayne McNiven and Dave Donaldson (with Forrest Donaldson, Alexandra Donaldson and Louise Clark) met to assist residents of the Downtown Eastside celebrate a unique event.

As part of a millennium project for DERA, a moose and elk barbeque was held on Abbott Street under the awnings of the former Woodward's department store. To provide potatoes for this event, DERA needed access to a facility large enough to cook over 700 pounds of the vegetable. The Vancouver Economic Development Commission contacted VCC to see if we could assist. A quick confirmation with Facilities that the ovens would be available, an even quicker call for volunteers and VCC became part of the event.

At 9:30, 12 crates of potatoes were delivered to the City Centre campus and at noon, 1500 baked potatoes were on their way to Abbott Street. The VCC potato bakers enjoyed the opportunity to end the millennium assisting others.

*Dave Donaldson*

### NEXT ISSUE: January 21

Deadline: January 14

(See the back page for a publication schedule for the next few months.)

## It's that time again: Where to tune in for info on college closures

As winter approaches, it seems appropriate to remind everyone of procedures to be followed, in the event the College is closed due to heavy snowfall. Please advise your students accordingly.

For notice of **DAYTIME CLOSURE**, please listen to the 6:00 a.m. news on CKNW (980 AM).

For **EVENING CLOSURE**, we will make an announcement internally prior to 3:30 p.m. Please also listen to CKNW.

## Announcements

### President's Update

Wednesday, January 12,  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Room 240,  
City Centre Campus

Thursday, January 13, 3:30 -  
4:30 p.m., Employee Lounge,  
King Edward Campus

Dale Dorn will address the VCC Community, providing an update on current college activities and an outline of his operational approach as President of VCC.

You are invited to attend, hear what Dale has to say, and seek clarification or further information from him.

### Manager of Institutional Research appointed

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Deanna Rexe as the College's new Manager of Institutional Research, replacing Dan Cram, effective January 17, 2000.

Deanna currently works at BCIT as Project Coordinator for the Vice President of Education. In this capacity she focused primarily on research projects related to education and project management. Previous to that she was Manager of the NOW Project, an IBT initiative at BCIT which involved managing all aspects of the implementation of the pilot project including strategic planning and partnership development.

Deanna holds a Ph.D in Adult/Higher Education. Deanna brings a wealth of experience in research to VCC and has worked with a variety of clients including the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, the Ministry of Education, BC

Ferries Corporation and BC Council of Maritime Industries.

Please join me in welcoming Deanna to the College. She will be located at City Centre, in the Administration area and can be reached at 443-8646.

*Mary Hoekstra, Vice President  
Finance and Administration*

### Honoured student of Visually Impaired program passes away

Staff, faculty and students in the Program for Visually Impaired Adults at KEC are mourning the loss of a very fine student. Desmond Bracken, aged 86, had studied in the program since 1995. Desmond, a retired doctor who practiced medicine in both Australia and England, continued to value learning even though his vision was steadily decreasing. He was a true lifelong learner. He amazed us all with his aptitude for computer training and his grasp of Windows '95. He became a very proficient DOS user, but did not hesitate to make the changeover even at his age. He had just begun to use the internet and to email family and friends from abroad, and he was particularly pleased about this.

We share many fond memories of Desmond: his stories about the antics of his dog, bush fires in Australia, etc. And, on a recent trip to Hawaii he got the idea that our students might enjoy a tactile mat of the big island of Hawaii, so he had one made and gave it to us to display. We will all miss Desmond very much. He died quietly in his sleep on December 18, 1999.

*Betty Nobel*

### Finance Committee Meeting

The next public meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee of the Board will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 1999 from 10:30 - 12:30 p.m. in

Room 5025 at King Edward Campus. Please contact me at 871-7163 for further information.

*Doreen Sharan, Confidential Secretary,  
Finance and Administration Division*

### Recent appointments

*Jackie Kinnersley* has been reappointed Coordinator I of the Travel Agent Program.

*Brock Elliot* has been appointed Department Head of the Computer Technology Department.

*Parry Robinson* has been appointed Acting Department Head of the Baking Department.

All appointments are effective January 1, 2000.

### Thank you to John Mishra

Kudos to our dedicated security guard *John Mishra*, who took pity on our office plants over the Christmas holidays and watered every one he could find at KEC, from the second floor to the fifth—a few hours work.

A BIG thank you, John.

### Chinese New Year

Plan to join your VCC friends to celebrate the Chinese New Year. On the evening of Thursday, February 10, 2000, Conrad Leung, is hosting a celebration at City Centre's Banquet Dining Room complete with a buffet, dragon dancers and other exciting entertainment.

Tickets are \$30.00 each and are available from either of the campus Book Stores. Tickets are limited, so reserve early to sample the culinary treats of VCC's unique Asian Culinary program and help celebrate the new year.



#### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

- Published Thursdays
- Bi-weekly January-May and September-November
- Monthly June, July, August and December

Produced by the College Advancement Department,  
Vancouver Community College

VANCOUVER  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



KING EDWARD CAMPUS  
1155 East Broadway  
Box 24620, Station "F"  
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5T9

CITY CENTRE CAMPUS  
250 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1S9

# No *classifieds* received for this issue.

## 2000 Board Meetings

The College Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July), and the December date is subject to Board approval. The meetings alternate between King Edward and City Centre Campus. Please note the new starting time for the Public Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### Room 5025, KEC

- January 27
- February 24
- May 25
- June 22
- October 26
- November 23

### Room 240, CC

- March 23
- April 27
- August 24
- September 28
- \*December 14, subject to Board approval, and location to be announced.

If you would like a copy of the Board Agenda, or need any information about the College Board, please call Vivienne Garrott at 871-7159.

## Upcoming Program Info Sessions

### MEAT CUTTING

Thursday, Jan. 13  
2:00 p.m.  
Room 112, CC

### GRAPHIC ARTS PRINTING PRODUCTION

Thursday, Jan. 20  
6:30 p.m.  
Room 114, CC

#### EDITOR, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Dale Rasmussen, Marketing and Communications  
Tel 871-7152, Fax 871-7451  
email drasmussen@vcc.bc.ca

#### UPCOMING PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Jan 7, 14 / Feb 4, 18 / Mar 3, 17, 31

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2. save your file to the I:\common\connect\ directory (call the editor—local 7152—and let him know the file is there, and provide the filename); **OR**
3. through the VCC Connections Online website. Go to "Submit Your Article" and follow the directions.
4. text only on an IBM-formatted disk, with hardcopy attached

Your submissions are welcome. However, material may be edited for clarity and length. Deadline for submissions is the end of the week prior to publication.