

**Newsletter
of the
Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia**

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From the history of the Multicultural Festival Kaleidoscope – A World in Our City

The multicultural festival Kaleidoscope dates back to 1999. It takes place once a year in the summer in Richmond, British Columbia. Jeliuzko Andreev, and Magdalina and Nikola Bakalov are among the festival founders. “The idea about such an event from the Bulgarian side came up spontaneously,” recalls Jeliuzko Andreev, Director of Finance, Strategic Planning and Business Development in the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia from 2001



Kaleidoscope 2003
Photo courtesy of Vania Ganacheva

to 2006. “My wife and I came to Canada in 1994. One day a

Canadian woman asked us where we are from and we said we are from Bulgaria. And then she asked “Is this in British Columbia?” At that time, people in Canada did not



Kaleidoscope 2003
Photo courtesy of Vania Ganacheva

know much about Bulgaria and, as far as I can tell, there were only about a hundred Bulgarians in the entire British Columbia (according to our estimate made at the traditional New Year gathering in the Russian Cultural Centre in Vancouver). At that time my wife and I were members of the Burnaby Board of Trade, and at one of its meetings

together with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, we met Mrs. Zarina Moadet from the Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society. She told us that together with the Richmond Sunrise Rotary Club and the BC Children’s Hospital Foundation they are organizing a Multicultural Festival.”

So, in 1999, two years before the foundation of the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia (BCSBC), several Bulgarians see an opportunity to do something to help people in Canada learn about Bulgaria. Together with some fifteen other societies and organizations, they become founders of the Kaleidoscope Festival. The Bulgarians from



Kaleidoscope 2003
Photo courtesy of Vania Ganacheva

the Vancouver and Victoria areas put together what they have

brought back from Bulgaria – traditional tablecloths, national costumes, dolls, decorative plates, postcards, etc., and set up a display with souvenirs and posters about Bulgaria. In



Kaleidoscope 2004
Photo courtesy of Mihail Mitov

the course of the next years, new Bulgarians join in the organization of the festival: the artist Yordanka

Simerlein-Yarec with her paintings, Nikolai Stoinov with slides from Bulgaria, Vania Alexieva – teacher in the Bulgarian School with a

PowerPoint presentation about Bulgaria, Krassimir Stamenov with a collection of badges, etc.

“The Festival includes events which celebrate cultural diversity and promote understanding and harmony among people,” explains Vania Ganacheva, BCSBC President since 2005 and member of the Board of Directors of Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society since 2003. The 2002 Festival, for example, features ethnic foods from 13 countries, a total of 15 churches, temples and mosques, and organizations from 25 countries such as Japan, the Philippines, China, Ukraine, Russia, etc. “Unlike other immigrant countries, Canada is trying to preserve the national culture of the people from the country they come from,” underscores Jeliazko Andreev.

At first, the Kaleidoscope Festival takes place in two stages. The first stage is the Richmond Centre Mall, where representatives of the various cultures set up displays of traditional souvenirs, arts, and crafts in the halls among the stores. “There, in 2002, I had my first meeting with BCSBC”, tells me Vania Ganacheva about the Festival. “The Bulgarian Society had a display in the Richmond Centre Mall and they had arranged four tables with posters, souvenirs, tablecloths with traditional patterns, national costumes, wall decorations from woven wool, and what not.” The second stage takes place in the Minoru Park in Richmond, where there are parades



Kaleidoscope 2004
Photo courtesy of Mihail Mitov

and cultural demonstrations with songs and dance, sports competitions, a Cultural Club, and Kids' Corner. From 2004 on, Kaleidoscope takes place entirely in the Minoru Park in Richmond.

“At the 2000 Festival several children from the Bulgarian School dressed in national costumes sang Bulgarian songs such as “Do the two of them keep walking?””, says Vania Alexieva. “For the first time in 2003 there was a jumping competition with bags and the Bulgarian team won first place” proudly tell me Jeliazko Andreev, Vania Ganacheva, and Vania Alexieva. “One of the most memorable moments for us, Bulgarians, was in 2003”, continues Jeliazko Andreev. “The World Weightlifting Championship was taking place in Vancouver at that time, and in our desire to promote the success of the Bulgarian athletes, we had invited and made a member of the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia the entire World Weightlifting Championship! We invited them along with other members to participate in the

Kaleidoscope Festival and they sent some weightlifters to demonstrate their skills with the weights. They also brought light plastic weights for the children, with which they could try their strength and take a picture.” „The Bulgarian flag was the biggest. We hung it up on the tent above the Bulgarian display, and everyone could see it from all sides”, excitedly shares with me Vania Ganacheva.



Kaleidoscope 2004
Photo courtesy of Mihail Mitov

2003 Festival and saw my daughter and some other children dressed in national costumes, they immediately invited the children to dance along with them. The kids were not sure if they would do a good job in front of the audience, but the dancers took them aside, patiently showed them some basic steps, and soon after that the children were dancing along with the Folk dance group in front of the Festival’s audience. It was a very touching and spontaneous celebration of Bulgarian culture.”

The Balkan Folk Dance Group in Vancouver, which is also a BCSBC member at that time, comes to the 2003 Festival with its manager Suzan Pinkham at the Bulgarian Society’s invitation as well. “The dancers are Canadians”, clarifies Vania Ganacheva, “but they perform folk dances from the Balkans, including Bulgaria, beautifully. When they came to the



Kaleidoscope



2006



“Every year at the festival many people pass by the Bulgarian display and tell us that they want to visit Bulgaria, or that they have already been in Bulgarian, or that they know Bulgarian and have heard something about our Motherland”, underscores Vania Ganacheva. “This is the greatest reward for our efforts!”

Ivelina Tchizmarova, Ph.D.
editor in chief of the BCSBC Newsletter

From the history of the traditional summer BBQ of the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia

In May 2001 there is a meeting of the Bulgarian businesses that takes place in the Serbian Restaurant in Burnaby, British Columbia, and drawings with rewards donated by the



BBQ 2001, inauguration of the Bulgarian Society
Photo courtesy of Violeta Decheva

businesses. The profit from the tickets sale amounts to \$150. This money is used in August 2001 to buy food and organize a picnic-BBQ for the Bulgarian community that takes place in Aldergrove Lake Park. Around a hundred and twenty people show up. Under the shades by Aldergrove Lake volunteers make and sell meatballs, salads and bread. Conversations are in full swing. People

remember previous gatherings, holidays, and concerts, for example the events organized by the children from the Bulgarian School and their teachers – Zdravka Slavenova,

Eleonora Drenska,
Ketty Chakurova,
Stanka Kostadinova,
Vania Alexieva,
Cvetana Andreeva,
Rumiana Ilieva, Ani
Bokova, and Mimi
Milusheva, who give
their free time to teach
Bulgarian language to
the children, or about
Yordanka Hristova's
wonderful concert and
a number of other
events in the previous
years organized by
enthusiastic volunteers
like Zdravka
Slavenova. Then the



BBQ 2001
Photo courtesy of Violeta Decheva

question comes up that “everything needs to be more organized”, tells me Violeta Decheva, the first president of the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia (BCSBC) (at this position from 2001 to 2003), “ that a society needs to be set up with a school, library, church, cultural centre, and money must be raised for the society from gatherings like this BBQ, from donations from the businesses, or, as other communities do, from selling and serving ethnic foods, prepared by volunteers.”



The first Board of Directors of the Bulgarian Society, 2001
Photo courtesy of Violeta Decheva

So, on August 21, 2001, a decision is made to inaugurate the Bulgarian Society. The one hundred and twenty Bulgarians attending the BBQ elect nine people to serve on the society’s Board of Directors: Violeta Decheva, chair, and Margarita Trifonova, Vania Alexieva, Tony Apostolova, Jeliasko Andreev, Boriana Arguirova, Alex Spasov, Ina Koceva, and Hristo Dragolov, members, who

will be in charge of the registration and setting up of the society. They decide to collect annual membership dues of \$25, and eventually they add the \$500 profit from the first BBQ, \$1 for each ticket sold and the profits from the Halloween drawings, and so the fundraising for the society begins. “In order to accomplish the goals of the society – to build a cultural centre, library, school, church, and everything else – we need a lot of money,” explains Violeta Decheva. “We need to talk to many businesses, and organize a number of events and initiatives for raising funds. We need many volunteers to plan and run these events. One of the most important steps is finding a physical premise for the activities of the society. We can start by renting a building where Bulgarians can meet



BBQ 2004
Photo courtesy of Mihail Mitov

and the society can organize events without having to pay fees for renting other halls. The rest of the time, when the building is not used by us, it can be sublet to interested



BBQ 2004
Photo courtesy of Mihail Mitov

parties, and the funds can be collected so that one day we can buy our own building. At least, this is the way I see things”, concludes the perceptive business lady.

Since then, every year on or around August 21, BCSBC a summer BBQ for all Bulgarians and friends of Bulgaria from the region to celebrate the society’s birthday. The gathering usually takes place in Hume Park in New Westminster. “Three days before that we start the big shopping: ground

meat for meatballs, cabbage and carrots for salads, bread, cakes, juices, etc. for 200 people,” says about the planning and organization Veneta Valcheva, one of the most

active and dedicated volunteers in the society. “Then about ten of us get together and we start mixing the ground meat with the spices, and make salads. On the day of the event we buy the cakes. Volunteers bring in their BBQ-grills, grill the meatballs and sell them. Before lunch, someone makes a speech and greets everyone. After that, we get in groups and meet new people, which is especially helpful to newcomers, but it is also good for the rest who have the chance to see and catch up with old friends.”



BBQ 2005
Photo courtesy of Svetlin Rangelov

“One of the most memorable moments for me”, recalls Violeta Decheva, “was at the 2002 BBQ when the eldest Bulgarian present, Kirkor Azarian, made a speech about



BBQ 2005
Photo courtesy of Peter Kiriakov

Bulgaria, brought tears in everyone’s eyes, and blew out the candle in the cake. It was very touching... I also remember the BBQ in 2003 when Vania Alexieva, teacher in the Bulgarian School, took charge of organizing the program: there was music, drawings, awards. It was a very nice party.” Vania Alexieva explains modestly: “We

organized a competition for the children like the popular Bulgarian show

“Quick, brave, skillful”. There was music and a stereo with amplifiers, and different events with the participation of the children: some kids recited the poem “I am a Bulgarian Child”, others performed a rhythmic gymnastics composition.” The current

BCSBC president, Vania Ganacheva, adds:

“That year the summer BBQ was bigger and grander. There was decoration on the trees in the park, Bulgarian flags, signs with directions, and signs with the name of the Bulgarian Society donated by Violeta Decheva. There were



BBQ 2005
Photo courtesy of Peter Kiriakov

weightlifters who made demonstrations. The Bulgarian soccer team played a game. Some of the Canadian dancers from the Vancouver folk group for Balkan dances showed up and we danced Bulgarian folk dances. It was a very exciting and pleasant gathering.”

Ivelina Tchizmarova, Ph.D.
Editor in chief of the BCSBC Newsletter

Get ready for a summer BBQ!



The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia invites you to the traditional summer BBQ in honour of the society's birthday!

Join us to meet old and new friends, have fun together, and enjoy delicious Bulgarian food!

For information, call Stefan & Veneta (604)-939-0347 or contact Vania (604)-318-5435, vania@bcsbc.ca



**August 20, 2006, Sunday
from 11:00 a.m.
Hume Park, New Westminister**

WWW.BCSBC.CA

Would you like to do something which will bring you fulfillment, pride and incomparable joy when you see the sparkle in our children's eyes?

The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia seeks volunteer teachers for the Bulgarian Heritage School for the new academic year September 2006 - May 2007. The day and place for the classes will be announced shortly.



Photo courtesy of Vania Alexieva

Everyone willing to help, please call Eli Mladenova at ph. (604)-517-8727 (evenings), or Zdravka Slavenova at ph. (604)-465-6727 (evenings), e-mail: info@uoa.ca, or leave a voicemail with your name and contact information.

The most lasting thing in our legacy is what we have taught our children!



Varna Chamber Choir

invites

new members

The Varna Chamber Choir, founded in 2004, is a diverse mixed choir comprised of committed singers who are dedicated to excellence and expressiveness in the study and performance of a variety of choral works from all periods. Its repertoire includes world choir classics, Bulgarian folk songs, and songs in Church-Slavonic.

Under the guidance of its conductor and founder, Natalia Alexandrova-Monolov, the choir is gaining popularity quickly and every season it participates in several festivals and concerts. This season the choir made its first tour and the singers performed one of the most beautiful choir works – Mozart’s Requiem. The choir is developing constantly and is looking for new singers.

Rehearsals are held every Friday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Douglas College, New Westminster Campus.

If you would like to develop your talent and get more information, contact Natalia Alexandrova-Manolov at (604) 294-1212, e-mail: nmanolov@gmail.com.



The Bulgarian Soccer society of Lower Mainland & the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia invite all who are addicted to the Big Game to join us at the “green carpet” and chase the “leather ball”...

Day: every Sunday from 10:30 a.m.

Place: Hume Park (or Sapperton)

As usual, there won't be disappointed or turned down enthusiasts.

For more information, call or e-mail:

Plamen Velikov cell: (604)-992-3503,
e-mail: plamvel@yahoo.com

Pepi Kiriakov cell: (604)-825-7565,
e-mail: info@peter-homes.com

Deyan Dyakov cell: (778)-238-2929,
e-mail: deyan.dyakov@gmail.com



The soccer team “Bulgarian Lions” 2003

Photo courtesy of Pepi Kiriakov

p.s. This is another opportunity to get away from ... Sunday household chores;)

Let's have a BCSBC Dragon boat team at the 2007 Alcan Dragon Boat Festival

Each year at the end of June youngsters and adults – all boat and paddling lovers - get together to compete and celebrate the beginning of the summer. For three days – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – the place around Science world is all about Dragon boats, excitement, fun, music, and celebration of the friendship and teamwork during the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival.



In the last several years there were some Bulgarian teenagers participating in different teams. Now there is a suggestion to make our own team and we would like to invite all of you who love the sea, paddling, boats, and the challenge to compete with teams from all over the Globe to join us.



Everyone interested in participating or getting more information can contact Petko Ganachev at petko@bcsbc.ca.



By *Lony*

The Newsletter
of the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia

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- is distributed over the e-mail free of charge to society members and all who have subscribed for the newsletter on our website;
- is issued in Bulgarian and in English twice a month or before certain holidays and events;
- contains materials which correspond to the goals of the society, namely to promote, support, and preserve Bulgarian culture;
- if you wish to have your materials about Bulgarian culture, education, and sports considered for publication in the Newsletter, please send them by the 5th of each month, when there is a forthcoming issue, to Ivelina Tchizmarova, Ph.D., a BCSBC director and editor in chief of the BCSBC Newsletter, at this e-mail address: ivelina@bcsbc.ca;
- written materials should be sent in English as well as in Bulgarian (in the Cyrillic alphabet);
- if you send photos, select only quality digital images and send a note with the date, author and description of the photo;
- please send comments and suggestions about the Newsletter to the editor in chief at ivelina@bcsbc.ca;
- use this link to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from the BCSBC Newsletter;
- forward a copy of the Newsletter to your Bulgarian and Canadian friends and anyone interested in learning something about Bulgaria.

Thank you very much for your help!

www.bcsbc.ca



The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia

www.bcsbc.ca

Seeks two volunteers to work as assistant editors of the BCSBC Newsletter. Candidates should have an excellent command of Bulgarian and English, and the necessary skills to edit and translate written texts in both languages for the BCSBC Newsletter.



The job will allow you to set your own working hours and will give you an opportunity to gather useful Canadian experience, enhance your resume, and receive valuable references for work. For information, write to ivelina@bcsbc.ca.

A stylized, 3D-effect letter 'N' in a vibrant green color with a dark blue shadow.A stylized, 3D-effect letter 'E' in a cyan color with a dark blue shadow.A stylized, 3D-effect letter 'W' in a light blue color with a dark blue shadow.

The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia now accepts paid announcements and classified ads for posting in the BCSBC Newsletter! For more information, go to <http://www.bcsbc.ca/en/>

All BCSBC members are eligible for one free ad in one issue of the Newsletter per year, and get huge discounts for all other paid ads!

Don't miss this opportunity to make the information about your business and your skills reach more people!

Look here

Paid announcements and classified ads

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**Peter
Kiriakov**

604-825-7565



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info@peter-homes.com

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