

KOPERNIK LODGE

NEWSLETTER



Na lipę

(J. Kochanowski. Poem written in 1575, translation inside newsletter)

Gościu, siądź pod mym
liściem, a odpoczni sobie!
Nie dójdzie cię tu słońce,
przrzekam ja tobie,
Choć się nawysszej wzbije, a
proste promienie
Ściągną pod swoje drzewa
rozstrzelane cienie.
Tu zawsze chłodne wiatry z
poła zawiewają,
Tu słowicy, tu szpacy
wdzięcznie narzekają.
Z mego wonnego kwiatu
pracowite pszczoły
Biorą miód, który potym
szlachci pańskie stoły.
A ja swym cichym szeptem
sprawić umiem snadnie,
Że człowiekowi łąco słodki
sen przypadnie.
Jabłek wprawdzie nie rodzę,
lecz mię pan tak kładzie
Jako szczep napłodniejszy w
hesperyskim sadzie.

Squeeze the Day

August was peak citrus season in more ways than one. While most citrus fruits are harvested in cooler months, their appeal hits full stride in late summer, when heat calls for bright flavors and cold drinks. Lemons, limes, oranges, and grapefruit show up everywhere this time of year—not just in produce bins, but in menus, recipes, and even a few quirky holidays.

The science behind that appeal is simple: Citrus delivers acidity, aroma, and a quick hit of refreshment. A squeeze of lemon can sharpen iced tea, balance grilled foods, or lift a simple glass of water. Limes do the same for marinades and summer desserts, while oranges and grapefruit bring a mix of sweetness and bite that works well chilled. There's also a practical side to citrus in summer. Lemon and lime juices are widely used in food safety and preservation, from keeping sliced fruit from browning to adding acidity that helps control bacterial growth in certain dishes.

August's food calendar leans into that versatility. National Creamsicle Day on August 14 highlights the long-running pairing of orange and vanilla, a combination that dates back to early 20th-century soda fountain culture. The next day, National Lemon Meringue Pie Day celebrates a dessert that balances tart citrus curd with sweet topping—a contrast that has kept it popular for generations. Later in the month, National Lemon Juice Day (August 29) and National Grapefruit Juice Day (August 31) shift the focus to drinks, where citrus continues to dominate.

Citrus has become a quiet trend driver in beverages. Sparkling lemonades, lime-forward mocktails, and grapefruit-infused sodas have all gained ground as alternatives to heavier drinks. Even classic lemonade—arguably the season's signature citrus drink—has seen variations with herbs, berries, and reduced sugar.

In a season defined by heat, citrus stands out for doing exactly what people want: cutting through it. Whether it's a cold glass of lemonade, a slice of pie, or a simple wedge on the rim of a glass, citrus continues to earn its place as one of summer's most reliable flavors.

From Summer Sunshine to Autumn Leaves: Celebrating Our Vibrant Community at Kopernik Lodge!

The sun-drenched months of summer have wrapped our community in warmth and joy, leaving behind a beautiful tapestry of shared memories at Kopernik Lodge! This past season was nothing short of spectacular, filled with bright afternoons, lively outdoor gatherings, and the comforting presence of family and friends in our beautiful Vancouver home. We were blessed with endless weeks of blue skies and beautiful weather that allowed us to truly embrace the very best of the season.

Our lush, green gardens became the heart of daily life over the last few months, where everyone enjoyed the gentle breeze and the vibrant blooms. The true heartbeat of our summer success was the incredible teamwork across our entire home. Our fantastic Recreation Therapy department kept our residents actively engaged, energized, and smiling with thoughtful daily activities. At the same time, our dedicated nursing, care, dietary, and housekeeping staff worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everyone remained safe, healthy, well-nourished, and comfortable throughout the warm season.

Above all, we want to extend a massive, heartfelt thank you to our extraordinary volunteers, whose selfless time and devotion made our bright days possible. We are equally overflowing with gratitude for our wonderful residents and their loving families—your smiles, enthusiasm, and constant support inspire everything we do and fill our home with life!

The energy around the lodge this season was truly infectious, as the shared smiles between staff, families, and residents turned ordinary days into extraordinary celebrations of life. Whether we were enjoying the simple pleasure of fresh air on the patio or sharing stories during our bright afternoon socials, the sense of belonging was palpable. It is this unique spark of connection that transforms Kopernik Lodge from a care facility into a true, loving home where every individual is valued.

As the leaves across Vancouver begin their dramatic shift into brilliant shades of amber, gold, and crimson, we are looking forward to an equally exciting autumn! Fall at Kopernik Lodge brings its own unique charm and a cozy sense of togetherness. We are eager to transition into a season rich with indoor festivities, creative seasonal activities, and comforting moments tailored to the cooler weather.

The autumn calendar is already shaping up to be exceptional! Backed by our enthusiastic recreation team and supported by our full care and operations staff, our community is ready to embrace a wonderful lineup of seasonal events designed to keep spirits high and hearts warm as the days grow shorter.

Our indoor spaces are already being transformed to welcome the new season, creating a warm and inviting backdrop for the busy months ahead. From the soothing aromas drifting from the kitchen to the bright decorations adorning our hallways, every corner of the lodge is gearing up for comfort and joy. Our team has been working hard to ensure that our indoor environment remains just as dynamic, stimulating, and joyful as our sunny summer days.

While we will certainly miss the long, lazy days of summer sunshine, we step into this crisp, beautiful new season with open hearts. Together as one big family, we are ready to create even more wonderful memories at Kopernik Lodge! We invite our families and community members to stay closely connected with us through the coming months by joining in our upcoming celebrations wherever possible. We cannot wait to share all the laughter, joy, and wonderful moments that this beautiful autumn is sure to bring!



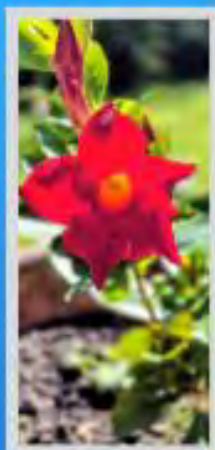
SUMMER
VIBES





We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible, ongoing generosity of Muriel and her family. Every year, Muriel's children kindly donate a beautiful variety of flowers to our community garden. Thanks to their thoughtful gift, all of us can enjoy a vibrant, colorful view that lasts deep into the late fall. Please join us in thanking Muriel and her family for bringing so much continuous beauty and joy to our home!







SUMMER





World-Class Soccer Takes Over Vancouver

Throughout June and July 2026, Vancouver became a global soccer hub, hosting an unforgettable slate of FIFA World Cup matches at **BC Place Stadium**. Vancouver stood out as the **number one host city** among an elite lineup of 16 North American hosts—including Toronto, Seattle, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Mexico City—celebrated for its incredible fan energy and scenic backdrop.

Historic Action on the Pitch

The tournament delivered elite global talent and dramatic matches to over 52,000 roaring fans each night. The absolute peak of the excitement came on **Thursday, June 18, 2026**, when Team Canada secured its first-ever men's World Cup victory with a dominant **6-0 win over Qatar**. Star forward Jonathan David netted a spectacular hat-trick, cementing a historic moment in Canadian sports history and pushing the team into the knockout rounds.

A City Buzzing with Football Fever

The drama on the pitch spilled directly into the streets. Downtown Vancouver transformed into a massive festival of football culture, alive with chanting fans, waving flags, and a sea of international jerseys. The celebration even took over the skyline, as the iconic **Science World dome was transformed to look like a giant, glowing soccer ball**, lighting up False Creek.

The Global Final Standings

The tournament reached its dramatic climax on July 19, 2026, finishing with the world's top three teams:

🏆 **1st Place (Champion) — Spain:** Defeated Argentina 1-0 in a grueling extra-time final.

🥈 **2nd Place — Argentina:** Led by Lionel Messi, fighting hard until the final whistle.

🥉 **3rd Place — England:** Secured bronze in a high-scoring 6-4 thriller against France.

A Legacy of Unity and Excitement

The true magic of the tournament was how it completely united our city across every culture and neighborhood. From Commercial Drive to Richmond, people from all walks of life stood side-by-side, sharing hugs with strangers and celebrating the universal language of soccer. It was a beautiful reminder of how sport can bridge divides, bringing a joyous, electric energy to Vancouver that will be remembered for decades to come.





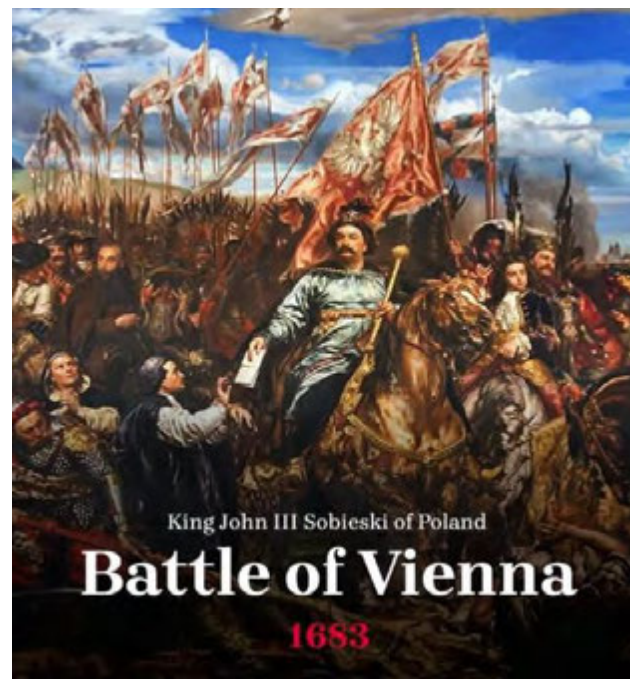
A Heartfelt Thank You to
Our Wonderful Families and Friends! ❤️

We had the absolute pleasure of welcoming a resident's family recently, who traveled to Vancouver to visit their beloved grandmother. During their visit, they generously treated us to a beautiful piano and cello performance. The room was filled with gorgeous classical music, leaving our residents feeling happy, relaxed, and deeply comforted. Moments like these remind us how truly blessed we are. We want to extend our deepest gratitude not only to this wonderful family but to all of our residents' families and friends. Whether you are sharing your musical talents, volunteering your time, or simply filling our lodge with your love and smiles, your contributions make Kopernik Lodge a brighter place. Thank you for being such a vital part of our community!

The Spirit of the Winged Hussars: A Legacy of Courage

Right here in beautiful Vancouver, our nursing home is a proud mosaic of cultures, bringing together seniors from diverse nationalities and backgrounds. While our roots span the globe, we are united by a shared appreciation for history's greatest stories of heroism. Today, we shine a spotlight on a magnificent chapter from Poland's past - the era of the **Polish Winged Hussars**—and the universal values of bravery and unity that inspire our international community.

On September 12, 1683, the **Battle of Vienna** took place, an event widely considered by historians to be one of the most significant turning points in European history. Vienna had been under siege by the Ottoman Empire and was saved at the very last moment. Responding to an international alliance, Polish **King John III Sobieski** led a coalition of Christian forces to halt the enemy at the gates of Vienna.



The turning point came when Sobieski led 18,000 riders down the hillsides in what is universally recognized as the **largest cavalry charge in human history**. Adorned with magnificent eagle wings that roared in the wind, the legendary Winged Hussars shattered the enemy lines, forced a full retreat, and permanently halted Ottoman expansion into Europe. Following the historic victory, Sobieski famously wrote to Pope Innocent XI: *"We came, we saw, God conquered."*

King John III Sobieski was one of the most outstanding monarchs of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. A brilliant military commander whose tactical skills commanded admiration throughout Europe, the defeated Ottomans dubbed him the **"Lion of Lechistan,"** while the Pope hailed him as the savior of the Christian West. For over 125 years, his elite hussars never lost a single major battle, routinely defeating forces that heavily outnumbered them.

Ultimately, this greatest triumph belongs to the world. It was a victory not just for Poland, but for the freedom of people across multiple nations. The hussars symbolized extraordinary resilience, fierce loyalty, and a refusal to back down in the face of impossible odds.

Today, that very same noble spirit lives right here in our Vancouver residence. Every single day, our residents prove that strength, dignity, and solidarity transcend borders and languages. Whether Poland is your ancestral homeland or a culture you admire, the legacy of the Winged Hussars belongs to all who value courage. Together, we celebrate this grand history, proud of the enduring spirit of heroism that unites our wonderful home.

As a community, we are proud to celebrate Polish heritage and deeply value the rich ancestry that so many of our residents carry. The legacy of the Winged Hussars serves as a beautiful reminder of the power of storytelling to connect us across generations, allowing our international residence to find common ground in shared ideals. In our shared spaces, every conversation is an opportunity to learn from one another, celebrate the diverse histories that shape our backgrounds, and honor universal values of strength and resilience. By continuing to share these inspiring narratives, we enrich the cultural tapestry of our community and deepen the bonds of friendship that make our home such a warm and welcoming place for all.

HUSARIA — POLAND'S LEGENDARY WINGED HUSSARS

Few military formations are as instantly recognisable as the Polish Winged Hussars — Husaria. For nearly two centuries, they served as elite cavalry of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and earned a formidable reputation on the battlefields of Europe.

But what actually made a Hussar so effective?

✂️ **Kopia** — an extraordinarily long, lightweight lance, often around 4.5–6 metres, designed for the charge.

✂️ **Szabla** — the famous Polish sabre, used when the fighting moved to close quarters.

✂️ **Koncerz** — a long, rigid thrusting sword designed for use from horseback, particularly against armoured opponents.

🛡️ **Zbroja** — armour offering protection while still allowing the mobility needed by cavalry.

🔫 **Pistolety** — firearms increasingly became part of the Hussar's equipment as warfare evolved.

🐾 **Animal pelts** — leopard and other exotic skins could be worn by wealthy Hussars, adding to their imposing appearance and displaying status.

🐎 **The horse** — carefully selected horses were absolutely fundamental. Speed, strength and training were just as important as the man riding them.

And then, of course, there were the famous wings. 🦋

Their exact battlefield purpose remains debated by historians. What we can say is that their spectacular appearance may have helped intimidate opponents, and over time they became the defining symbol of the Husaria.

The wings made them unforgettable.

Their training, weapons, horses and tactics made them formidable. 🇵🇱



From the Shade of the Linden Tree to the Shores of BC: Why the Father of Polish Poetry Still Speaks to Us Today

Jan Kochanowski (1530–1584), the greatest poet of the Polish Renaissance, is a figure whose work has united Poles around the world for centuries. For many of us who share a Polish heritage, his verses are a familiar melody from our youth—a timeless reminder of the values, landscapes, and language we carry in our hearts.

From Royal Courts to Country Peace

Kochanowski's life was beautifully split into two chapters: a fast-paced youth spent in Europe's royal courts, followed by a peaceful retirement to his family estate, Czarnolas. There, he traded busy city life for the quiet, reflective rhythms of nature, family, and community—a transition that mirrors the beautiful, slower-paced seasons of our own lives.

An Oasis of Peace and Wisdom

It was under his legendary linden tree that Kochanowski wrote the pieces closest to Polish hearts, teaching us to appreciate life's small moments, good health, and a clean conscience. He famously wrote:

"Gościu, siądź pod mym liściem, a odpocznij sobie! / Nie dojdzie cię tu słońce, przyrzekam ja tobie..."

("Guest, sit beneath my leaves and take your rest...")

A Poet of the Human Heart

Kochanowski didn't shy away from life's hardships. In his famous *Treny* (Laments), written after the loss of his young daughter, he gave world literature its most profound expression of grief and fatherly love. Yet, through his sorrow, he ultimately found comfort in faith and hope. It is this raw honesty that makes his work deeply relatable to anyone who has navigated life's long journey.

A Legacy That Endures Across the Oceans

Even without a physical book of his poems in front of us today, Kochanowski's spirit lives on through the cultural traditions, proverbs, and values passed down through generations. Phrases he coined and the calm, philosophical outlook he championed have woven themselves deeply into the fabric of Polish identity, proving that a great storyteller's impact is never confined to the page.

Connecting with Czarnolas in Vancouver

Living in beautiful British Columbia, surrounded by majestic nature, it is easy to feel a connection to a poet who loved the natural world so deeply. Remembering his timeless wisdom is a wonderful way to keep in touch with the beauty of our heritage, stay connected to our roots, and find a little bit of the peaceful spirit of Czarnolas right here in Vancouver.

Image: The Museum of Jan Kochanowski in Czarnolas



The Linden Tree

Traveller, come! Enter under my
leaves for a rest

where the Sun will not reach you.
Come and I promise the best:

Even with sun at the highest,
shooting down on the meadows

brilliant rays, diffuse them I shall to
the softest of shadows.

Here, right under my crown, wafts
gently and cooling a breeze;

here the starlings and larks all
abound and argue with ease;

here the hard-working bees extract
from my sweet-smelling flower

honey that graces the finest of
tables at family hour.

And, without effort, with whispers
that come from my deep

I shall be singing all visitors sweetly
to sleep.

Though in Hesperides Garden none
of the apples I bear,

as the most giving of trees my Lord
has planted me there.

(J.Kochanowski; Poem written in
1575)



Sally Abraham

Sally was born in London, England and worked as a registered nurse before pursuing physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Inspired by her father an orthopaedic and plastic surgeon, Sally has a strong passion for advocating for maintaining and improving physical health. She has sisters, Elizabeth and Nikki, a daughter Catherine, a son Michael and one grandson, Kasuto.

Sally enjoys non-fiction books, puzzle, scrabble and travel documentaries. She lived in Roberts Creek before coming to Kopernik Lodge.

Black Cats in a New Light

Does a shiver run down your spine when a black cat crosses your path? Do you instantly think of witches on broomsticks when you see one? Here your chance to revise your superstitious notions. For example, in Scotland, Great Britain, and Japan, black cats are considered good luck and signs of prosperity. Some even believe that a woman who owns a black cat will have many suitors. Long ago, sailors would choose a black cat as their ship's cat to protect their ship and bring good fortune. Shelters offer another reason to appreciate (and adopt) black cats: they go well with any outfit.





"Life in Kopernik" snapshots

The Duchess Who Wasn't

Many of us are familiar with the work of the 19th-century Irish writer Margaret Wolfe Hungerford, although we may not even know it. After all, she was the one who first coined the phrase “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” in her book *Molly Bawn*. Perhaps the reason she is not well known is because she first began writing anonymously and later wrote under the pen name “The Duchess.” In honor of this writer and the many others who write under pseudonyms, August 27 is The Duchess Who Wasn't Day.



Hungerford may not have been a real-life duchess, but she was quite a success story. Historical accounts show that she was a master at balancing work and family. In addition to raising six children, she also wrote nearly 60 novels and collections of short stories, as well as newspaper articles. Her fiction was typical of the Victorian time period: light and romantic, entertaining and intensely popular in Ireland, England, and abroad in America. Indeed, Ireland's foremost man of letters, James Joyce, even referenced Hungerford by name in his masterwork *Ulysses*.

What compels a writer to use a pseudonym? Early female authors sometimes wrote as men in order to have their work equally judged. Some use pseudonyms to write fiction (such as crime or horror) that may be less sophisticated or serious than the award-winning literary type. Most of all, writers use pseudonyms to place some distance from earlier work. For example, J. K. Rowling, the world famous writer of the *Harry Potter* children's novels about wizards and magic, wrote a series of new books using the name Robert Galbraith. Why? To find a new adult audience. Agatha Christie, that master of mystery and suspense, wrote under the name Mary Westmacott when she turned to writing romance novels. Perhaps the most famous pseudonym of all is Mark Twain. Before Samuel Langhorne Clemens took the name Mark Twain, he also wrote under the names Josh and Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass. But truly, the more famous one becomes, the harder it is to remain anonymous.

Bubble Breakthrough

What do penicillin, the microwave, potato chips, and bubble gum all have in common? They were invented by accident. Walter Diemer was an accountant for the Fleeer Chewing Gum Company in Philadelphia. When he wasn't working on the books, he spent his free time mixing new recipes for bubble gum. The problem was that current gums were too sticky and would break apart too easily. He wanted to invent a gum that was less sticky and could be blown into a perfect bubble. In 1928, Diemer mixed a successful batch but failed to write down the recipe. He spent four months trying to duplicate it. Then, in August of that year, he succeeded. The only food coloring available at the factory was pink, so that became the color of Diemer's 300-pound batch of bubble gum. Pink has been the standard color ever since. When he brought the first 100 pieces to a candy store, he priced his gum at one penny apiece and sold out in one day. To help sell his gum, Diemer taught store owners how to blow bubbles so they could teach their customers. The Fleeer Chewing Gum Company called Diemer's gum “Dubble Bubble,” and in the first year of production, it earned \$1.5 million.

Hidden in Plain Sight



If you believe that one person's trash is another person's treasure, then you'll be happy to hear that the second Saturday in August is Garage Sale Day. Some lucky folks do find rare treasures at garage sales. In 1989, a man bought an ugly painting for four dollars at a flea market because he liked the frame. Imagine his surprise when under the painting he found an original printed copy of the Declaration of Independence that sold for \$2.4 million in 1991. Then there's the story of the scrap metal dealer who found a Russian Fabergé egg, which was one of only 50 created as an Easter gift for Alexander III's wife, Empress Maria Feodorovna. Valued at more than \$30 million, that is one valuable “nest egg.”

When Earth Roared

August brings two very ominous anniversaries: the cataclysmic volcanic eruptions of Mount Vesuvius in Italy and Krakatoa in Indonesia.



The eruption of Mount Vesuvius might be the most famous in history. On August 24 in the year AD 79, the volcano began to erupt. Two authors, an uncle and nephew, described the events firsthand. Pliny the Elder, living across the bay from Vesuvius, noticed a cloud of ash spewing from the mountaintop. He sent ships to investigate, but they turned back due to a rain of flaming rocks. Pliny the Elder himself ventured closer to investigate. Sadly, he died the next day, likely from inhaling toxic gases.

Pliny the Elder's 18-year-old nephew, Pliny the Younger, also witnessed the eruption. He described people climbing over waves of ash to escape. He also wrote of how a larger eruption the next day devastated the region. Ash mixed with rain created a sort of concrete that blanketed the town of Pompeii, perfectly preserving its contents for hundreds of years.

Rumblings began on the uninhabited island of Krakatoa as early as May 20, 1883. Over the next weeks, the rumblings grew until the eruption began on August 26. The volcano exploded at 1 p.m., sending ash 20 miles into the air. The next morning, four massive eruptions occurred, the last of which produced the loudest sound ever recorded on Earth. The sound waves ruptured the eardrums of sailors 40 miles away. The blast itself was heard 3,000 miles away.

Enormous flocs of volcanic rock plunged into the ocean, triggering massive tsunamis that wiped out hundreds of nearby coastal villages. Waves reached as far away as South America. So much gas was pumped into the atmosphere that global temperatures dropped over 2°F. Weather patterns did not normalize until 1888. Krakatoa left no doubt that volcanic eruptions are some of nature's most awesome events.

The Great Chicken Dash

Every August, plucky competitors converge at the Barley Mow Inn in Bonsall in Derbyshire, England, for the World Hen Racing championship. While the race in Bonsall has been a community mainstay for 35 years, hen racing as a festive and lighthearted competition between local villages has endured for over a century.

Bonsall hosts a 22-yard track. Hens are given three minutes to cross the finish line. Dozens of hens compete in various heats. Don't have a hen? Rentals are available for those who want to join in the fun. The more serious types are known to train their chickens. These days, organizers typically discourage anything that could stress the hens. The event leans more toward gentle encouragement, like calling the birds or using food, rather than loud, chaotic tactics, like banging pots and pans. These strategies have proven effective, and close finishes are not uncommon in modern races. Organizers proudly note the event's enduring popularity.

Rolling Through History



One of the more striking holidays in August is Bowling Day, which falls on the second Saturday of the month. It's easy to see why more than 60 million people go bowling each year—it appeals to all ages and genders, and evidence suggests that it has been played for thousands of years. British anthropologist Sir Flinders Petrie, upon excavating a tomb in Egypt, discovered a set of children's toys that dates to 3200 BC and looks like a bowling set. A form of bowling was so popular in 14th-century England that King Edward III outlawed the game so that troops would better focus on training. Bowling even debuted as a demonstration sport during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, though it has not yet been included in the Olympic program.

Turn Up the Strange



New York City composer Patrick Grant founded International Strange Music Day, celebrated on August 24. As a composer of music that combines very different styles and rhythms, he founded the holiday as a way to urge people

to listen to music they have never heard before. Grant believes that diverse musical interests can lessen prejudice and instill harmony and understanding. Not merely an individual artistic expression, music can bring communities together. Dr. Thomas Currie of the University of Exeter says that music is a kind of “social glue.”

Dr. Currie’s explanation clearly resonates with the throat singers of Central Asia. The Tuva people are trained from childhood to use the folds of the throat as a sort of echo chamber. This cultural singing is an important part of Tuvan identity. As hunters and herders who live on the vast plains, the Tuva people incorporate sounds from the natural world, such as animals, howling wind, and gurgling streams, into their songs.

Another collaborative type of music is Gamelan from Indonesia. Gamelan is actually a percussion ensemble, where various members strike different instruments of a large musical apparatus, including gongs, drums, xylophone, and metallophone. Other members play the bamboo flute, bow or pluck strings, or even sing. The bright and metallic sound is uniquely rich and complex. Gamelan is traditionally considered sacred, with each instrument guided by spirits.

But what of strange music that comes from no instrument at all? In 2008, people in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Canada, the U.S., and the UK claimed to hear strange trumpeting sounds coming from the air above. Some found the noise annoying. Others found it scary. Scientists speculate that these sounds came from distant industrial or construction noise carried by the atmosphere or from natural sources, such as small earthquakes or waves striking cliffs. It seems Earth itself celebrates International Strange Music Day.

The History of Gastown: Built in a Single Day!

Did you know that Vancouver’s oldest neighbourhood, Gastown owes its entire existence to a barrel of whiskey and a very talkative man? In 1867, a Yorkshire seaman nicknamed “**Gassy Jack**” arrived with a simple proposition for local millworkers: help him build a saloon, and they could drink for free. Sure enough, the legendary Globe Saloon was built and fully operational in just 24 hours, sparking the birth of the community we know today! Though the original town was later destroyed by fire, it was quickly rebuilt with the beautiful Victorian brick buildings and cobblestone streets we can still see today. The neighborhood is also famous for the Gastown Steam Clock. While it looks like a 19th-century antique, it was actually built in 1977 to cleverly disguise a modern sidewalk steam vent, treating visitors to a cheerful whistle chime every quarter-hour.

Where Buses Beat the Jam

On August 20, 1989, stage two of the O-Bahn Busway opened in Adelaide, South Australia. This rapid-transit bus system was Australia’s ingenious response to fighting traffic congestion in the fast-growing region.

First opened in March 1986, the O-Bahn is a cross between a railway and a busway. Instead of a train track, buses run



on a dedicated concrete guideway. Specially outfitted O-Bahn buses move from city streets into tunnels that lead to the busway, where they carry more than 35,000 passengers per day unimpeded at up to 55 mph over the nearly eight-mile length. Each year, drivers keen to avoid traffic attempt to drive their cars onto the O-Bahn, but the track’s design prevents ordinary cars from navigating it. They have to be removed from the track by crane.