


## Cherry Blossom Festival Springs into Bloom

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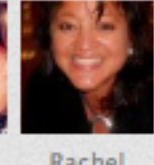
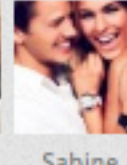
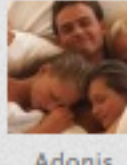
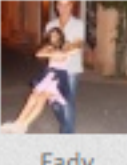
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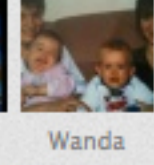

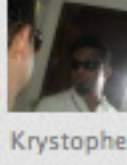
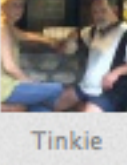
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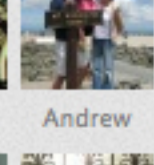
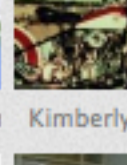
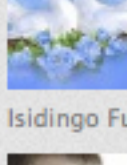

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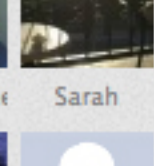
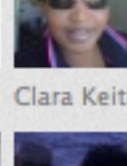
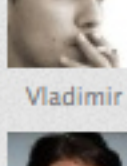
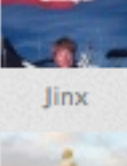
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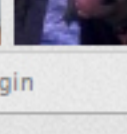
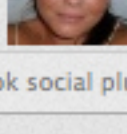
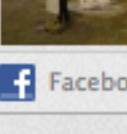
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## Cherry Blossom Festival Springs into Bloom

Posted on March 18th, 2012 by Deborah In [Unique experiences](#)

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Springtime in Vancouver is one of the most incredibly beautiful times of year. After the dreariness of countless days and nights of non-stop rain, an amazing thing happens. The rays of a sun that we believed may be gone forever suddenly breaks through the gray skies. The gloriously warm bands of sunshine float softly on the April afternoons, and their warmth touches softly on the seemingly lifeless branches of our long-suffering trees. The magic begins. Dry, cracked limbs and spindly black twigs suddenly begin to erupt with tiny golden-green affirmations of life. And then, suddenly, come the blossoms. Impossibly delicate, fragrant and quivering, masses of intoxicating beauty.



Vancouver has a large population of Asians, and over the years, we have been gifted by our friends in Japan with a symbol of their respect and friendship, with Cherry Trees. At last count, it is estimated that the City of Vancouver has at least 37,000 Cherry trees, and the Cherry Blossom Festival, which was started in 2005 by Festival Founder and Director, Linda Poole, is a way for Vancouverites to express their gratitude for these beautiful gifts and the happiness the beauty of their blooms bring to the hearts of many Vancouverites.

Now seven years later, the Cherry Festival incorporates a number of fun & wonderful events aimed at involving everyone in the city in celebrating the blossoms. There are musical performances, city-wide viewing programs such as "Bike the Blossoms", or guided walking tours of Festival Favorites, and homages to these beautiful trees in the form of music, poetry, photography, arts & crafts and cuisine. Vancouverites have flocked to these events with more and more interest and the festival has grown, fostering community spirit, bringing many of our diverse cultures together in celebration.

Due to the passion Vancouverites have expressed for this event, there is now an online, up-to-date Cherry Blossom Viewing Map which covers 23 different neighbourhoods of Vancouver which offer the most spectacular specimens.

I love how Linda Poole, Festival Founder & Director sums up the power of the Cherry Blossom:



*"I believe in the power of the blossoms. It's appreciating the beauty in life that makes life worth living. In our universal response to their beauty, we are united. Especially during these times we must connect back to nature. Reminiscent of the famous Issa haiku, truly 'there is no stranger under the cherry tree.' The ephemeral nature of the blossoms reminds us to seize the moment and celebrate life now."*



The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival kicks of on April 5 and goes through until April 28, 2012. There will be a Flash Mob under the most spectacular downtown Cherry Tree location, at the Burrard Sky Train entrance. For details, [see this link](#). As for New Jetsetters, we'll be wandering the streets of Vancouver and taking as many pictures of these beautiful trees as possible. Hope you will check back with us to see what we find!

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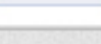



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