

649 Wednesday's jackpot \$25 Million... Know your limit, play within it. bcgc 19+

The Province It starts here. Listen now. Listen later. Province podcasts on sports, politics, local music, current events and more...

Early-arriving cherry blossoms send annual signal: It's time to smile

BY KENT SPENCER, THE PROVINCE FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Recommend Tweet 19 Plus Comment 0 ShareThis

STORY PHOTOS (2)



A black-capped chickadee lands among some cherry blossoms in White Rock, B.C. Tuesday February 17, 2015. Photograph by: Ric Ernst, PNG

Metro Vancouver's cherry blossoms are hot this year — and they're springing up all over the area, three weeks earlier than in 2014.

Tuesday was a cherry tree kind of day on the West Coast, filled with sun, blue skies and thousands of blushing blooms from the early-flowering Whitcomb variety.

"I don't know if it's the Pineapple Express or climate change, but we're lucky. Enjoy them," said Linda Poole, founder of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

"The magic number is 10 degrees. Once it hits, the plants go into action," she said.

Poole said the hot pink blossoms give people warm feelings about the end of winter and the renewal of life that springs forth at this time of year.

"When cherries blossom we're able to open our hearts and feelings," she said. "They put a smile on everyone's face."

The festival's website lists almost three dozen sites that are blooming now, from the North Shore to Richmond.

They are identified by "cherry scouts," volunteers who fan out across the Lower Mainland to observe, report and file pictures at the site's neighbourhood map.

"The beauty takes your breath away," Poole said.

She said the Japanese, who donated the city's original trees in the 1930s, see the blossoms as symbolizing life and death.

"The whole nation comes to a stop. It's about life being so precious and counting your blessings," she said. "The cherry blossoms last 10 days. They are like our own fleeting lives."

She is not very worried about the blooms being gone for the official start of the month-long festival, which begins at Burrard SkyTrain Station at noon on April 2.

There are 55 varieties of ornamental cherries whose blooms span a period of several months.

"It's all Mother Nature. Who knows? I'm betting there will be blossoms for the festival," she said. "I'm not trying to get caught up in the race. You don't know what's going to happen."

kspencer@theprovince.com

twitter.com/kentapencar2

© Copyright (c) The Province

E-mail this Article Print this Article Share this Article

WE RECOMMEND

- Richard III funeral: Is England honouring a serial killer with a holy burial?
Gallagher: Rogers earning scant reward for its ownership stake in hapless Maple Leafs
Surrey RCMP make 12 arrests after drug bust at Newton trailer park
Record-breaking spring break at Big White
Winning \$50-million Lotto Max ticket presented to BCLC

FROM AROUND THE WEB

- Cancer Patients: New Treatment Strategy Is Stunning Doctors (Ervita)
iPhone 6 Plus's Being Sold for Next to Nothing (LifeFactopia)
Please Don't Pay Full Price for a New iPhone 6. Here's Why. (LifeFactopia)
Most Don't Know They Have Liver Damage. Know The Signs (RM Healthy)
This Guy Found a Trap Door in His New Apartment, What He Found is Awesome (Viral Nova)

Recommended by @outbrain

Like it Buy it... Find nearly \$2 million in deep discount deals at Likeitbuyitvancouver.com with more being added each day.

This Week's Flyers

HOVER FOR FLYER... HOVER FOR FLYER... HOVER FOR FLYER

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion.

Add a comment... Also post on Facebook Posting as 65 Comment

Facebook social plugin

ADS BY GOOGLE: 加拿大淘寶... Calgary Sign Repairs... Print & Cut

INSIDE THE PROVINCE

Road bikes, scooters and more discounted at Like It Buy It Vancouver
Podcast: In Depth with Ian Austin speaks with Richard Rosenthal, the first civilian director of the Independent Investigations Office
Camera sale at Like It Buy It Vancouver features Canon, Nikon, Olympus and more
Video: B.C. government extends incentives for Clean Energy Vehicles
Rare right-hand drive Ford Model T delivers smiles

In the know, anytime, anywhere, with Digital Access. Get The Province delivered to your door, desktop, laptop, tablet and smartphone.

PLACE AN AD

EXPERIENCE AVIATION PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF FLIGHT TAKE THE WORLD-RENOWNED BOEING TOUR

TODAY'S HEADLINE VIDEOS

Smyth: Mess in municipal auditor general's office will cost taxpayers a fortune

Like it Buy it VANCOUVER'S BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR! BROWSE NOW MARCH 25-30

Like it Buy it VANCOUVER'S BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR! BROWSE NOW MARCH 25-30

This Week's Flyers

HOVER FOR FLYER... HOVER FOR FLYER

HOVER FOR FLYER... HOVER FOR FLYER

VANCOUVERDESI Canada's Premier South Asian News Site

The Province 44,407 people like The Province.

Facebook social plugin

MOST POPULAR NEWS

MOST READ E-MAILED SHARED

- Smyth: Weep for your wallet — the circus surrounding B.C.'s municipal auditor is costing taxpayers a fortune
Petition calling for B.C. gov't to review new corporate water rates gets 100,000 online signatures
Judge orders Chilliwack to pay \$220,000 more for expropriated property at Five Corners
First Nations commit to finding treaty car despite being 'shocked and dismayed' with B.C. gov't

BREAKING NEWS ALERT

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on breaking news from The Province.

you@canada.com

Our Privacy Statement

ALSO FROM THE PROVINCE

Roaming cat held for 'unpleasant night' before being sent home with threatening note on her collar

This Calgary home has taken 11 years to build, with no end in sight

Transgender woman's bathroom selfie campaign goes global

Biggest online sale in the Lower Mainland begins Wednesday at noon

Swarms of fire ants spreading their nasty sting along Arbutus corridor

PROUD... APRIL 7-25

DON'T MISS MOST POPULAR FORMATS THE PROVINCE TOOLS