



# Read On!

A news page for  
Renfrew-Collingwood learners

## Winter Solstice

### Shortest Day of the Year ☆

The winter solstice is on December 21st. Winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year. In Vancouver, the sun will rise at 8:05 am and the sun will set at 4:16 pm.



### A Reason to Celebrate ☆ ☆

For some people, the middle of winter is a hard time because it is dark and cold. However, winter solstice is a time to celebrate because the days start to get longer and we turn towards spring. It's also a time when people need a reason to come out of their houses and gather together.

People around the world celebrate important holidays around the winter solstice. Some of the holidays are religious and others are secular (not religious). For many people, the winter solstice represents rebirth and the coming of light.

### Lantern Festival ☆ ☆

In Vancouver, the Secret Lantern Society is organizing its 18th annual Winter Solstice Lantern Festival on December 21st from 6:00 to 10:00 pm.

Five neighbourhoods are hosting celebrations:

- Eastside
- Strathcona
- Chinatown
- S.E. False Creek
- Granville Island
- Yaletown



The exact locations are kept secret and they give more information as the date gets closer. There are workshops to make lanterns in mid-December. You can make a star, globe or house-shaped lantern. The cost is \$10 to \$30 per lantern. Kids are welcome but need to be with an adult. Check the website for more information at <http://secretlantern.org>.

### Famous Words on Winter ☆ ☆ ☆

Victor Hugo, a French writer, said about winter: "Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face." He also said, "Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart."

Read On! is funded by 2010 Legacies Now.



Beth Grayer writes this page. She teaches in the ELSA program at Collingwood.

### Read On! has a web page where you can:

Read the articles

Listen to the articles

Print worksheets

[www.cnh.bc.ca/rccnews/readOn.html](http://www.cnh.bc.ca/rccnews/readOn.html)

### Reading levels on this page

Level 1 ☆

Level 2 ☆ ☆

Level 3 ☆ ☆ ☆

### Free English Classes!

Permanent residents and refugees can learn English for free in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood. Classes are Monday to Friday from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm.

There is free childminding for children 18 months to 5 years old. To register or for more information, call 604-451-8321 and leave a message.

*The following is a paid advertisement by Adrian Dix, MLA for Vancouver/Kingsway*

Dear Neighbours:

**Happy Holidays!**

I am pleased to invite you to my Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 17th from 12 -3pm. No RSVP is necessary – feel free to stop by 5022 Joyce St at any point through the day to say hello and meet your neighbors.



We will have many festive snacks and refreshments to share. I look forward to seeing you here!

### Mandarin and Cantonese Caseworker

新增中文服務時段  
作為閣下的省代表，本人樂意宣佈於本人辦公室，新增定期中文服務時段，提供廣東話及國語服務。由2012年1月開始，逢星期四，下午12時30分至3時30分。本人辦公室能為閣下提供以下服務：醫療事項、房屋事項、入息支助事項、確認文件正本、免費影印及傳真服務、轉介其他社區資源等等。狄德安 京士威區省議員 溫哥華Joyce街5022號 V5R 4G6 電話：604-660-0314 [www.adriandix.ca](http://www.adriandix.ca) 由2012年1月開始，逢星期四，下午12時30分至3時30分。本人助理Idy梁小姐樂於協助閣下所有關於卑詩政府的事項。

Starting in January, 2012, my new Constituency Assistant Miss Idy Leung will be providing service in Cantonese or Mandarin, every Thursday from 12:30pm – 3:30pm

### Did you know?

My office, located on 5022 Joyce St., is currently staffed with two Constituency Assistants trained to assist you with information on and in communicating with provincial government ministries, WorksafeBC, ICBC, BC Housing, the Residential Tenancy Branch, the Employment Standards Branch, the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program, and the Provincial Ombudsman. They can also connect you with mental health advocates, legal aid resources, employment and housing resources, and community opportunities.

If you have any questions or comments on these, or any other provincial or community issues, services or agencies, please feel free to visit, call me at 604-660-0314 or send an email to [adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca).

### Holiday Office Closure

During the holidays, our Community Office will close at noon on December 21st and will reopen on Monday, January 9th.