
MEDIA ADVISORY/ PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2013

Vaughan Public Libraries presents free annual Asian Heritage Festival, May 25
Community invited to an afternoon of Bollywood dance, karate, and fun for the family

- WHAT:** Join Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) for an exciting afternoon of interactive dance, music, martial arts and activities at Pierre Berton Resource Library! On May 25 at 1 p.m., VPL's ninth annual **Asian Heritage Festival** will feature a performance by the Vaughan-based **Philippine Heritage Band**, as well as interactive demonstrations by **Northern Karate Schools** and **Ekakshara Dance Creations**. Throughout the afternoon, enjoy ongoing activities including henna, origami, shadow puppets, mosaics and paper fan making.
- WHEN:** **Saturday, May 25, 1 - 4 p.m.**
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| 1 p.m. | Performance by award-winning Philippine Heritage Band |
| 1:30 p.m. | Family fun with stories and rhymes from Asia |
| 2 p.m. | Demonstration by Northern Karate Schools, followed by the chance to take a brief, introductory lesson |
| 3 p.m. | Traditional and Bollywood dance by Ekakshara Dance Creations, followed by a short introductory class |
- WHERE:** **Pierre Berton Resource Library** – 4921 Rutherford Road, 905.653.READ (7323)
[Click here for map](#)
- WHY:** To celebrate Asian heritage and culture through fun, educational experiences.
- ATTACHMENTS:**
- Asian Heritage Month at VPL
 - Philippine Heritage Band
 - Northern Karate Schools
 - Ekakshara Dance Creations

Asian Heritage Month at VPL

VPL is proud to recognize the many aspects of Asian heritage through unique and free programming. During the month of May, the library celebrates its ninth annual Asian Heritage Month through various interactive and educational programs.

Vaughan Public Libraries serves the needs of Vaughan's growing multicultural community by building multilingual collections. VPL currently holds Asian materials in Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Tamil, Farsi and Urdu. Types of materials include books, periodicals, newspapers, videos, DVDs, CDs and book kits. Limited materials in Malayalam, Tagalog (Filipino) and Vietnamese are also available.

Asian Heritage Month is an important initiative that acknowledges the diversity of Canadian communities. Asians in Canada began celebrating their heritage during the month of May unofficially in 1993. In May 2001, Senator Vivienne Poy introduced a motion to designate May as Asian Heritage Month. In December of that year, Canada officially declared May as Asian Heritage Month.

PHILIPPINE HERITAGE BAND

Philippine Heritage Band (PHB) is an award-winning marching and concert band based in the City of Vaughan, Ontario. Founded in 1980, it is today one of Canada's premier marching bands. It has garnered numerous "Best Band" awards for its performances, both in Canada and in the United States. PHB has been featured on TV networks across North America and in many parts of the World. PHB's thrust is youth training and development. At the same time, it contributes to the enhancement of Canada's multicultural mosaic and the enrichment of the artistic and cultural life of communities.

NORTHERN KARATE SCHOOLS

Founded in 1972 by International Champion, author, lecturer and 9th Degree Black Belt Cezar Borkowski, Northern Karate Schools provide men, women and children with the opportunity to maximize their potential through martial arts study. Northern Karate Schools believe a martial arts education is a vehicle for self-discovery and positive change. They also believe it can improve the world, one person at a time.

EKAKSHARA DANCE CREATIONS

Ekakshara Dance Creations was created by a quartet of like-minded Toronto-based dance artists. Each of the dancers are well-seasoned in classical Indian dance forms, but have also ventured out to explore other dance genres. The group presents artistic works in Indian classical dances, Bollywood, as well as more experimental works. Members of the dance company are also engaged actively in dance research, dance scholarship and dance-based academia. Company members have previously performed at national-level events such as the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE).

VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Vaughan Public Libraries offers welcoming destinations that educate, excite and empower the community. Annually, VPL welcomes over two million visitors making it one of the top leisure and information destinations within the City of Vaughan. Connect with

VPL: Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter or subscribe to our eNewsletter, *The Buzz!* VPL has many programs and special events each month. To find out what's new, call 905-653-READ (7323), visit www.vaughanpl.info/programs, or pick up a copy of our printed program guide, *What's On*, your guide to programs, special events and using your library.

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NOTES TO EDITORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Members from VPL's marketing and communications team will be on-site to assist media at *Pierre Berton Resource Library* on May 25 at 1 p.m. Asian Heritage Month participants in the events will be photo permissioned.

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