

Democracy in Action: A Student's Take on Canada's 2025 Election

Written by Arden Giles

Hello, bonjour! As you may have heard (or experienced), a federal election was held last month. As an election officer, I was very lucky to have worked alongside an amazing team during advance polling over the Easter long weekend as well as on the general election on April 28th.

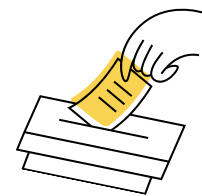
Although the shifts are very long, they're quite busy. The more electors that come in, the more fun the job is! Working for Elections Canada has enabled me to truly learn how federal elections work, and not just from a textbook. Getting to experience it hands-on for hours each day taught me all about the processes, systems, and how people really hate waiting in line.

I'm currently not old enough to vote, but it was still an important experience to work for them. Next federal election, after all, I'll be the one voting! Seriously, though, if you're given the opportunity to work for any election, take it! You make friends along the way and (despite popular belief) you get paid.

Anyway, enough about that. Let's talk about the actual results! This time around, the Liberal Party won by a minority government, earning 169 seats. In order for it to have been a majority government, they would need to have 172 seats.

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What does that mean, though? Well, in basic words, it means they won. Mark Carney will remain prime minister. However, there are still millions of Canadians who didn't vote Liberal. The party will work together with the other parties in Parliament to determine policies and how to move Canada forward as a nation.

As for the student vote here at Esquimalt, the Liberal Party collected 93 votes, compared to the NDP's 89 and the Conservatives' 82. You can get more details at studentvote.ca/results/canada2025.

One *Elle* of a Show: A Backstage Interview



*Written by Eleanor Hogg,
featuring Maya Seebaran*

Esquimalt's production of *Legally Blonde* has been worked on and practiced by the theatre department since the beginning of the school year. Opening night was last Friday, April 25th. The cast was incredible, with amazing vocals, costumes, and sets.

Speaking of sets, I interviewed 9th-grade theatre technician Maya Seebaran to get to know about the behind the scenes details of the production, and some insight into Esquimalt High's theatre program.

Q: WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN THIS PRODUCTION?

A: Well, I made some props for it, painted props, and during the show, I help run the concession stand and I'm a stagehand. Which is, like, moving things and changing the sets during the transitions between scenes. And the concession is all the food and drinks at the front.

Q: HOW LONG HAS THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT BEEN WORKING ON THIS?

A: It's been in the process of being organized since the start of the year, and we've been doing tech all year. But it really started moving quicker at the start of 2025.



Q: WHY DO YOU DO TECH?

A: I just signed up out of curiosity during course selection. I'm not sure why I signed up, and I didn't actually know what it entailed, but I was interested in the theatre department and musicals in general. Once it started I was excited to do backstage stuff, because I'm nervous around being a cast member. I wanted to try out theatre, and the school program was a great way to do that.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ACTUALLY DO ALSO HAVE A ROLE ONSTAGE IN THE MUSICAL. WHAT IS THIS ROLE?

A: I'm a bulletin board. So, um, I hold a bulletin board for everyone to see. And I dance a little bit, like I sway from side to side during the musical number that takes place while I'm onstage. It's fun.

Q: DO YOU THINK YOU'LL DO IT AGAIN?

A: I'm not sure. It's a big commitment, and takes a lot of time in the schedule. I guess it'll be determined by if I want to commit to it again or if I want to try another big extracurricular, because a lot of extracurriculars happen at the same time of day as theatre tech.

The production has three more showings, May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. I was blown away by how great it was, and cannot recommend it enough.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Written by Selene Malcolm-Sam

MMIW

The red hand is a symbolization of the connection between the physical world and the spiritual world, and it's also believed that red is the only colour that spirits can see. A red hand has become the symbol of the growing MMIW movement, as it stands for the voices of women who were not heard or who were silenced. It also represents silence from law enforcement and media when addressing the issue.



© Erik Wannee / Wikipedia

WHAT IS MMIW?

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's movement was started in hopes of raising awareness and to address the alarming numbers of disappearances, murders and violence against women and girls. Many women and girls are taken from their families and their communities with no clear answers and with no help from the authorities, this affects Indigenous communities badly as families grow up without their mother, daughters and sisters.

MEMORIAL MARCHES

On February 14th women's memorial marches are organized around the country by activist groups to honour our missing sisters. On May 5th people wear red and attend memorial marches, fundraisers and rallies to help raise awareness to the MMIW movement. These memorial marches are organized to offer a safe place to grieve, to address the discrimination and violence against Indigenous women, and most importantly, they allow us to honour and speak up for the women and girls whose voices are silenced.



© Lorie Shaull / Wikipedia

#NoMoreStolenSisters!

The original version of this piece is featured on the display board in front of the library on the second floor. Go check it out!

Victoria Day History and Local Events

Written by Sylvie Scott

Victoria Day is celebrated every year on the Monday before the 25th of May and it is often considered the unofficial start of summer in Canada.

Many people think Victoria Day is named after our city, but the holiday actually began during the reign of Queen Victoria. It was during her time that the British Empire grew substantially, and Canada became part of the British Empire. Because of this, the British Empire deemed her birthday, May 24th, a holiday.



After her death in 1901, the Canadian government decided to continue celebrating her birthday. Over time the celebrations, parades, and fireworks evolved as the nation became independent. The date was fixed as the Monday before the 25th and it grew to signal the beginning of summer activities across the country.

The holiday that started through its connection to the monarchy is now a uniquely Canadian holiday that blends the country's past and present and is celebrated over the long weekend.



Local May Long Weekend Events:

1) THE THRIFTY FOODS 125TH VICTORIA DAY PARADE

This event is on Sunday, May 18th at 9:00am on Douglas street. It is a parade featuring vibrant floats, marching bands, cultural performances, and community groups. This parade will celebrate its 125th anniversary!

3) VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL

This event is on Saturday, May 17th and Sunday, May 18th. At Topaz Park, you can experience Scottish culture with traditional games, dancing, and more! This event is the longest-running Highland Games in North America.

2) VICTORIA DAY DOUGLAS MILE

This event starts on Monday, May 19th at 8:30am on Douglas street and ends at City Hall. Those who participate in this event will run or walk 1 mile down Douglas street. It is open to those of all ages and abilities, and the event supports the Parkinson Wellness Projects.

4) THE LUXTON SPRING FAIR

This event will run from May 15th to 18th in Langford on 1040 Marwood Avenue. There will be classics like carnival rides, games, and fair foods like poutine and corn dogs, as well as free attractions, like blacksmith demonstrations and displays of antique farm equipment.

What is May Day?

Written by Bren Grundy

May Day, also known as Beltane in Gaelic, is an ancient spring festival. Originally celebrated as a Pagan holiday, it spread throughout Europe and was also celebrated in Rome (referred to as Floralia). May Day has a rich history in tradition, agriculture, and spring.



The festival marks the transition from spring into summer, celebrated on May 1st and April 30th known as May Eve. May Day falls between the spring equinox and summer equinox in June.

May Day's spring activities can include picking flowers and creating flower garlands, and flower crowns that often resemble stars. Usually, these crowns are used to choose a May Day queen and king.



Likely the most popular May Day tradition is dancing around the Maypole. This usually consists of multicolored ribbons being wrapped around a pole or living tree and people will dance around the pole. The Maypole signifies crop fertility, unity between the sky and earth, and is sometimes seen as the centre of the universe.



© Matt Witt / To The Trees

May Day is still observed and celebrated in some parts of Europe as a fun, spring-themed holiday.



Mother's Day Gift Ideas That YOU Can Take On This Year

Written by Bren Grundy

As Mother's Day approaches we begin to wonder what we can do to say 'thank you' to those who have raised us. While it's difficult to find the perfect gift, finding or creating the right gift to make someone feel appreciated can go a long way.

HANDMADE GIFTS OR CARDS

A handmade item is always appreciated, and it shows that you have put time and effort into crafting something unique for your mom. It's these DIY gifts that are often the most memorable and admired. Making a card, painting, drawing an image, assembling a scrapbook, or making thoughtful items that are specific to your mom is a perfect way to show your appreciation.



AN EXPERIENCE, RATHER THAN AN ITEM

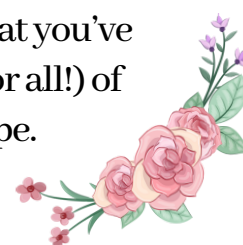
Consider planning a day out! Experiences are often preferred over material things. Perhaps a family brunch or a hike on a sunny day. Spending quality time together can show you value a parent's effort and presence.

TAKE A LOAD OFF HER TO-DO LIST

This idea helps to make a relaxing day for your mom, and it's a nice way to show you appreciate all the work she puts in. Mother's Day is a great time to take over your mom's daily tasks to give her a relaxing break. Ask what needs to be done, and offer to take over any chores for the day.



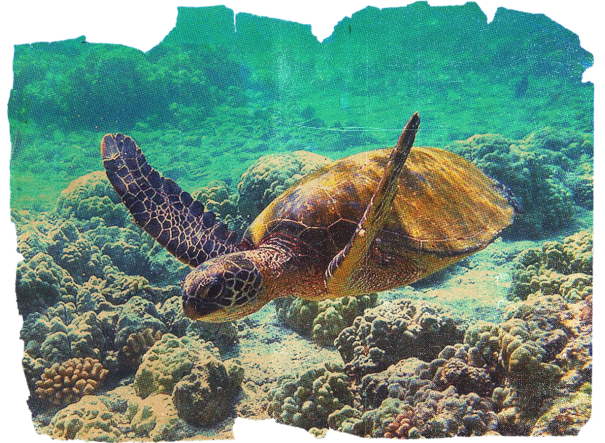
The best Mother's Day gifts are the ones that show you care, and that you've put time, thought, and personalization into them. Choosing one (or all!) of these ideas is a great way to get your Mother's Day gift in shape.



It's Time to Come Out of Your Shell for National Turtle Day!

Written by Eleanor Hogg

National Turtle Day takes place on May 23rd. Here are some fun facts about turtles in honour of this day!



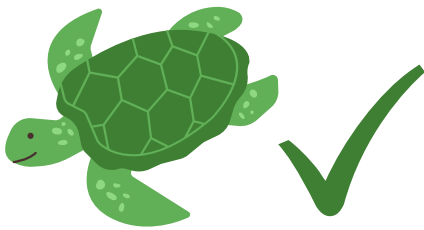
1) THEIR SHELL IS ATTACHED TO THEM

Though their shell is commonly believed to be detachable from their body, it is actually part of their skeleton. Their shell includes their ribs and spine.



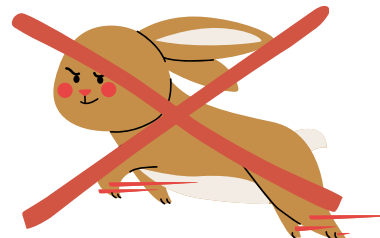
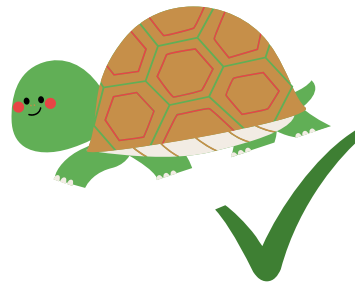
2) THEY OUTLIVED THE DINOSAURS

With their species existing for over 100 million years, they lived at the same time as dinosaurs. They were able to survive the asteroid because of their slow bodily processes not needing many resources or energy after the impact.



3) THEY'RE THE FASTEST MOVING REPTILE

Though being slow on land, in the water they're quite quick. The Leatherback sea turtle can swim at speeds up to 35 km/h.



4) THEIR SEX IS DETERMINED BY THE SAND TEMPERATURE

Unlike most species, turtles' sex is determined after the eggs are fertilized and laid. Turtle hatchlings turn out to be female if incubated in warmer sands, and male if incubated in colder sand.



April Showers Bring May Flowers

Organized by Glory Wolstenholme

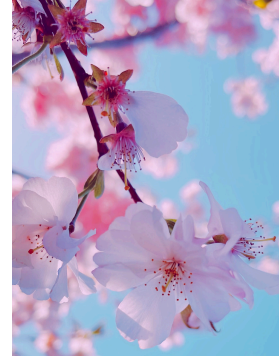
The month of May is filled with beautiful blooming flowers, including the lily of the valley and the hawthorn, which are May's signature flowers. Unfortunately, they don't grow on the Island, but here's a bunch of other blooming flowers that you can be on the lookout for!

Camas lily



© Andrea Rangel

Cherry blossom



By Yan Liu on Unsplash

Rhododendron



By Yoksel Zok on Unsplash

Camellia



By Mak on Unsplash

Star magnolia



By Annie Lang on Unsplash

Clematis alpina



© Patch Plants

SEASONAL POETRY

Organized by Bren Grundy

May-Flower

Pink, small, and punctual,
Aromatic, low,
Covert in April,
Candid in May,

Dear to the moss,
Known by the knoll,
Next to the robin
In every human soul.

Bold little beauty,
Bedecked with thee,
Nature forswears
Antiquity.



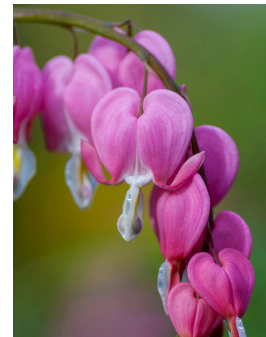
Written by Emily Dickinson

Peony



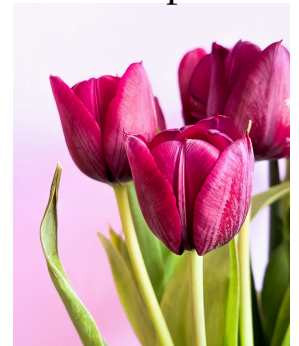
By Rebecca on Unsplash

Bleeding heart



By Yoksel Zok on Unsplash

Tulip



By Christina Pop on Unsplash

Lavender



By Annie Spratt on Unsplash

Have a great time
enjoying the sunny
weather and looking at
the beautiful scenery!
Happy spring!

Thumbprint Cookies

*Organized by Glory
Wolstenholme*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter, softened to room temp.
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1 large egg yolk
- 3/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 + 1/4 cup flour
- 2 tsp cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup sugar for rolling
- 1/3 cup any flavour of jam

DIRECTIONS

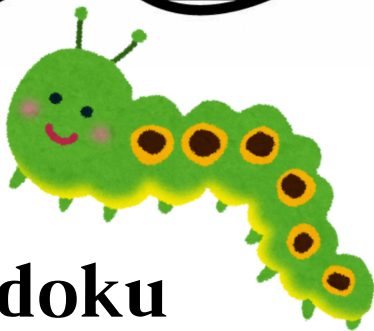
- 1) Add butter to mixing bowl. Beat until light and creamy.
- 2) Scrape down sides of bowl. Add white and brown sugar. Beat until ingredients are well-combined.
- 3) Add egg yolk and vanilla extract and beat well.
- 4) In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, cornstarch, and salt. With the mixer on low speed, gradually add flour mixture to wet ingredients until completely combined.
- 5) Scoop cookie dough into balls and roll very well (so that the dough is round and there are no cracks/seams in the cookie dough -- this will help keep your thumbprints from cracking).



- 6) Roll in granulated sugar (if using) and place on a wax-paper covered plate or small cookie sheet. Use your thumb or the rounded back of a teaspoon to gently press an indent in the center of the cookie dough. Repeat until all of the dough has been used.
- 7) Transfer cookie dough to the freezer and chill for 30 minutes.
- 8) Once the dough is done chilling, preheat oven to 375°F and place your jam in a small microwave-safe bowl. Heat briefly (about 5-10 seconds) or until the jam is hot and easy to stir. Spoon jam into each thumbprint, filling each indent to the brim.
- 9) Once oven is preheated, place cookies at least 2" apart on a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet and bake on 375°F (190°C) for 11 minutes or until edges are just beginning to turn golden brown. Allow cookies to cool completely on the baking sheet before enjoying.

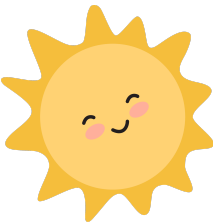
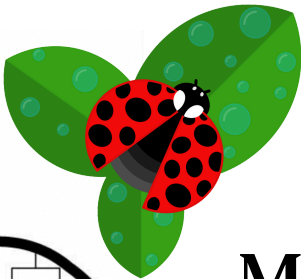
Organized by Eleanor Hogg

Flower
May-ze



Sudoku

2				3	6		
		6		4		7	1
	5		7	6	9		2
			3		6	1	
	3	1				7	9
		5	9		8		
7	6		5	3	1		8
8	4		6			3	
		3	8				7



May Word Search

W	Y	G	L	Y	B	C	O	V	L	L	L	U	Z	X
E	B	F	C	V	M	L	M	S	G	K	L	K	A	C
A	L	M	B	M	M	C	S	P	R	I	N	G	N	T
L	O	I	H	U	A	L	U	B	L	G	A	O	B	K
U	S	C	E	T	M	Y	M	L	F	M	C	O	P	K
G	S	S	P	Y	T	B	P	K	Y	C	X	L	R	I
C	O	K	U	E	L	M	L	O	D	C	Z	A	W	M
X	M	Y	P	N	T	O	O	E	L	M	W	D	W	G
Z	N	F	L	I	S	A	H	K	B	E	Q	Y	Q	A
U	A	F	L	V	O	H	L	I	Q	E	U	B	U	R
W	T	L	D	O	N	K	I	S	H	S	E	U	W	D
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Z	R	B	W	B	W	E	E	J	E	X	P	X	O	N
T	E	W	K	T	J	J	R	N	L	A	R	G	A	A
P	M	I	G	B	R	V	X	S	B	M	A	G	F	A

FLOWERS	LADYBUG	NATURE
SPRING	SUNSHINE	BUMBLEBEE
MAYPOLE	GARDEN	BLOSSOM

OUR
TEAM

Have any questions or concerns? Contact us at esquimalt.ink@gmail.com!

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