

CITY

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LOTTERIES

WEDNESDAY 6/49: 06, 07, 08, 21, 27, 38. Bonus: 23
WEDNESDAY BC 49: 16, 18, 19, 27, 31, 49. Bonus: 14
Extra: 15, 49, 79, 81
 These results are not official. Contestants should check their numbers with official lottery representatives.



Choo Chiat Goh, second from left, has been directing students such as, from left, Shinji Kajita, Michelle Sterchei, and Guan Jian for almost 40 years since immigrating to Vancouver in the mid-1970s. *STUART DAVIS*

CANADA 150

GOH LEFT TO BUILD BALLET IN CANADA

Dancer was star in China before coming to Vancouver

KEVIN GRIFFIN

To mark Canada's 150th birthday, we are counting down to Canada Day with profiles of 150 noteworthy British Columbians.

In 1976, the Cultural Revolution may have been drawing to a close, but China was still rocked by social, political and economic turmoil. Choo Chiat Goh, a dance artist trained in the western tradition of ballet, realized there was no future for him in the country. So he took a chance. He left a dancing career and emigrated to Canada. Two years later, he founded the Goh Ballet Academy in Vancouver, which is now recognized as one of the country's top private dance centres.

Goh was born in Singapore. In a big family of 10 children, four went into dance.

His brother, Choo San Goh, became a choreographer in the U.S. In Singapore, two sisters founded

dance companies and academies. Choo Chiat Goh followed a different path. He wanted to explore his Chinese heritage and ballet by studying under the Russian master Pyotr Gusev in Beijing.

It was at the Beijing Dance Academy that he met and married Lin Yee, a young dancer. After he graduated in 1959, he joined Central Ballet of China (now The National Ballet of China) where he became Principal Dancer.

In the early years, he danced leading roles in ballets such as Le Corsaire, Giselle and Swan Lake. Later, after the Cultural Revolution, he performed in the two politically approved ballets: The Red Detachment of Women and The White Haired Girl.

By the mid-1970s, Goh's mother was already in Vancouver. Because she wasn't well, he was allowed to leave Beijing to visit her. At the time, he didn't know if his wife or his daughter Chan Hon Goh, who years later became a star with the National Ballet of Canada, would

be able to join him. Fortunately, the family was reunited a year later.

Goh Ballet Academy's first home was in a basement studio with less than ideal conditions. The ceiling was so low students couldn't jump.

By 1985, the academy had grown to the point where it had to find new space. That year, it moved into its distinctive home in Mount Pleasant in a branch of the Royal Bank built in 1912 at Main and 8th Ave.

The senior Gohs built together a ballet academy recognized internationally for its dancers.

"Audiences come to the ballet not to see exceptional technique, but to feel something — the human drama and beauty that ballet can capture and express," Choo Chiat Goh says on the Goh Ballet Academy website.

"Or course, dancers must have technique, but technique means little if nothing is expressed with it."

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Cetacean ban vote to take place on Monday

STEPHANIE IP

The Vancouver park board will vote Monday on a bylaw amendment to ban the display of cetaceans at the Vancouver Aquarium.

The proposed amendments would ban any new cetacean being brought to the aquarium, put on display there, or included in a show or performance. The only exceptions would be the three cetaceans already in the aquarium's care: Helen, a Pacific white-sided dolphin; Daisy, a harbour porpoise; and Chester, a false killer whale. All three were rehabilitated from injuries but are not able to survive in the wild, federal experts say.

They could continue to be on display for life. However, the amendment would ban them from being used in shows or performances.

The aquarium is in Stanley Park and thus under the park board's jurisdiction.

The wording of the proposed bylaw, released Tuesday, comes after two nights of public hearings and discussion in early March. A total of 44 speakers expressed varying degrees of support before the board voted unanimously to have staff begin work on the bylaw.

No cetaceans — which includes baleen whales, narwhals, dolphins, porpoises, killer whales and beluga whales — are allowed to be brought into the park aside from those caught in the wild before September 1996 or those born in captivity.

But the current bylaw make exceptions for endangered species with permission from the park board, or an animal that has been injured and requires rehabilitation and care, regardless of whether it can be released back into the wild.

Vancouver Aquarium president and CEO John Nightingale argued the proposed changes would hinder the aquarium's rescue efforts, calling the park board's actions "incomprehensible."

"We are devastated that the park board would turn its back on vulnerable cetaceans at a time when they need our help the most," he wrote in an emailed statement.

"Whether it's helping a stranded false killer whale or a baby porpoise that was separated from its mother, the humane thing to do is to rescue and care for these helpless animals."

Nightingale expressed concern that without a home for rehabilitated animals that cannot be released into the wild, the DFO might opt to euthanize injured animals instead of allowing the Aquarium's rescue team to intervene.

Requests for an interview with park board chair Michael Wiebe were not returned by deadline. The board will meet Monday to discuss and vote on the amended bylaw.

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