

Chatterbox #17 – Vancouver

Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone, this is Maura...

Harp: And Harp...

Maura: And we are here with the Chatterbox podcast at Culips.

Harp: That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Maura: So you can go to our website and check out the Lipservice if you want to see the transcripts and more explanations for this episode.

Harp: Exactly, so today we are doing the Chatterbox, which is where we basically chat.

Maura: Right, we talk about different subjects, things that are happening and sometimes we talk about places in Canada.

Harp: Exactly, today we're going to talk about one of our favourite places.

Maura: Yeah, we are going to talk about Vancouver.

Harp: Yeah, Vancouver, **B.C.**

Maura: Vancouver, **B.C.** **B.C.** stands for **British Columbia** the province. But we usually say **B.C.**, we usually don't call it **British Columbia**.

Harp: Nope, I always say **B.C.**

Maura: Yeah, and I think that people in other countries know about Vancouver too. Yeah a lot of people might know Vancouver because Vancouver is where we're going to have the Winter Olympics in 2010.

Harp: Yup, the next Olympics are in Vancouver. And we just want to say hi to everyone who is listening to us in Vancouver.

Maura: Yeah, cause we know we have some listeners in Vancouver so we are saying hi from Montreal.

- Harp: So if you don't know, Vancouver is on **the west coast** of Canada and it's basically right **on the ocean**.
- Maura: And because it's on the west coast it has a very different **climate** from the rest of Canada.
- Harp: Yes, it's one of the few places that isn't cold.
- Maura: And Harp and I like that a lot.
- Harp: As you've noticed we love the summer. We love warm weather.
- Maura: Right so in most parts of Canada, in the winter it's very cold, like at least 10 below, 20 below or 30 below zero.
- Harp: Exactly, but in Vancouver it is usually about 10, plus 10 and it rains but it rarely snows.
- Maura: Exactly, so no snow and above zero in winter. It sounds like heaven.
- Harp: A little bit like heaven.
- Maura: Yeah, but the people in Vancouver do have a lot of rain.
- Harp: Yes, yes, it's- I think it's the rainiest place in Canada.
- Maura: Yeah, probably one of the rainiest places and definitely very **grey**.
- Harp: Yeah, in the winter it rains almost every day and so for a long time you can go with no sun.
- Maura: So you have to decide, do you like cold temperatures or the rain? It's hard to choose sometimes. Another really great thing about Vancouver is that it is really close to the mountains.
- Harp: Exactly, so on one side you have the ocean and you can go swimming and to the beach, and then on the other side it's the mountains and you can go skiing.
- Maura: It's so beautiful, with beaches in the city and then you can also see different buildings and **skyscrapers** and then behind that you have mountains.
- Harp: Exactly, it's a very beautiful city.

- Maura: Yeah, you hear that a lot about Vancouver that you can go swimming and skiing in the same day.
- Harp: It would be crazy to do both but I'm sure people do it.
- Maura: Right, so you can do a summer time activity and a winter activity in the same day.
- Harp: Exactly.
- Maura: Yeah, it's pretty cool.
- Harp: Vancouver is the 3rd largest city in Canada.
- Maura: Yeah, it's a big city in Canada for sure. Yeah, and Vancouver is also really popular for film companies from the US to **come up** and make movies there.
- Harp: Yeah, Vancouver has a nickname, which is "Hollywood North."
- Maura: Right, it's really popular. You see a lot of American movies, and just recently they were making the movie Twilight in Vancouver.
- Harp: Oh, did they really? I didn't know that.
- Maura: Yup, so there's a lot of big celebrities that go to Vancouver too. So Harp, you were there this summer.
- Harp: Yeah, I went to Vancouver for a weekend in July. And I used to live in Alberta so I went to Vancouver a lot when I was young but this is the first time I went in, I think, 3 years. And I love Vancouver; it's just so much fun.
- Maura: And what did you do?
- Harp: I just relaxed, I went to the beach. The weather was beautiful. We sat on the beach for one day and I got such a big tan.
- Maura: Oh really.
- Harp: Yeah, we went shopping, we just walked around. It's just such a great city.
- Maura: Yeah it's really nice. It's a lot different, I find, from other Canadian cities like Toronto or Montreal.

- Harp: Yeah, it has a very **laid-back feel**, very relaxed, you can go to the beach right after work, you know. It's fun.
- Maura: Yeah, there are so many beaches right in the city.
- Harp: Yeah, my friend lived 4 or 5 blocks away from the beach. So she would take the water taxi, which is basically a boat that's in the water that took her to work and she would stop at the beach, sit at the beach after work. So much fun.
- Maura: Yeah, so nice and it's one of the rare places in Canada where you can see **palm trees**.
- Harp: Yeah, it's weird.
- Maura: Yeah, you feel a little bit tropical. So what was your favourite part of the trip?
- Harp: I loved going to the beach. I love the beaches in Vancouver, it's the ocean and it's just beautiful and relaxing and people are there to just to relax, I loved it.
- Maura: Yeah, there aren't very many beaches around Montreal.
- Harp: No, there are but it's not the ocean and it's not the same thing.
- Maura: No, it's not the same thing for sure.
- Harp: What about you? What's your favourite thing in Vancouver? Because you went recently as well.
- Maura: Yeah, I went in April.
- Harp: OK.
- Maura: So not so long ago. My favourite thing about Vancouver...there are so many things but I really love how the city is so green, maybe because the climate is more wet and it rains a lot. There's a lot of things growing, the grass looks greener, there's flowers everywhere. The trees are really beautiful there.
- Harp: I agree with you but this time when I went, it's I think the first time that I have seen it where it wasn't green because they had a heat wave. So it was really dry and there wasn't a lot of rain and it was the first time I saw grass that

wasn't green in Vancouver. The first time in my life. I agree with you, normally it's very green.

Maura: Yeah, the weather is kind of changing, sometimes it's strange but when I was there in the spring it was just starting so it was really green. Another thing I love about Vancouver is the good restaurants.

Harp: Delicious, I think especially Asian, for me. The Asian restaurants are amazing.

Maura: That's what I was going to say. Because there are so many Asians in Vancouver, I think the restaurants maybe are more authentic.

Harp: Yeah I agree with you. I went for Korean food and it was delicious. I went for, what else did I eat, I had Japanese food and just so, so good, so fresh. I loved it.

Maura: When I was there my friend took me to a Chinese noodle house and the noodles were freshly made at the restaurant.

Harp: Wow.

Maura: I had never seen that before. It was so good.

Harp: I imagine.

Maura: I'll include the name in Lipservice. The name of the restaurant, because I don't remember right now. It was really good.

Harp: For me one of my other favourite things in Vancouver is that all my family lives there so I had authentic Indian food at home at my family's house.

Maura: That's cool too, for sure. Did you do any of the touristy things in Vancouver? Did you go to any of the tourist attractions?

Harp: I didn't this time but that's because I have been to Vancouver so many times, but my favourite tourist attraction would be **Granville Island**.

Maura: Why do you like that place?

Harp: It's got a cool vibe, it's **artsy** but not pretentious. It's got cool little shops.

- Maura: Yeah, I have been there a few of times because one of my friends was going to school. There is **Emily Carr University** on the island. The last time I went, in April, I saw these amazing houseboats on **Granville Island**. They actually looked like houses but they were boats.
- Harp: Really, I didn't see that.
- Maura: Yeah it was really cool.
- Harp: Wow, that is very cool. What about you? When you went did you go see a lot of tourist attractions?
- Maura: Well I have been to **Stanley Park**, which I think everyone recommends if you are going to Vancouver for the first time.
- Harp: Yeah, it's a beautiful park.
- Maura: Yeah, with really old trees, and you walk along the ocean. Have you been to **Grouse Mountain**?
- Harp: No but I have heard about it a lot.
- Maura: Yeah I have never been up it either actually, but **Grouse Mountain** is the mountain that is pretty much in Vancouver and you can walk up it or I think you can take a cable car too.
- Harp: I think so. It seems cool. I don't know why I haven't gone yet.
- Maura: Yeah, me neither.
- Harp: Maybe next time.
- Maura: Yeah.
- Harp: But I have been to **Whistler** when I went to Vancouver the last time. So now **Whistler** is...I think it takes you an hour and a half to get there.
- Maura: Something like that.
- Harp: And that's where the Olympics are going to be. It's in Vancouver but the skiing's in Whistler.

- Maura: Right, Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. But some of the actual competitions will be in **Whistler** and **Whistler** is a little town, like Harp said, about an hour and a half from Vancouver and it's basically known for skiing and snowboarding, lot's of really big mountains.
- Harp: Exactly, but the drive from Vancouver to **Whistler** is amazing. I recommend that everyone do this drive. You have the ocean on one side; you have the mountains it's so picturesque and beautiful. And **Whistler** is such a cute little town.
- Maura: The name of that highway actually is **the Sea to Sky Highway**.
- Harp: Yeah, I couldn't remember what it was called.
- Maura: So the Olympics are coming and a lot of people in Vancouver are talking about the Olympics.
- Harp: Yeah, there is **Olympic fever** in Vancouver right now. Yeah the Olympics are in February and there is so much work going on in Vancouver, people are so excited about the Olympics there.
- Maura: Once I worked in **the Rockies** and I was travelling around that area, near Vancouver and my friends and I drove to Vancouver and when we got there we wanted to go to **Whistler** but we had to leave our car, the rental car, in Vancouver. So my friend convinced a taxi driver to drive us to **Whistler**.
- Harp: From Vancouver?
- Maura: Yeah, so me and two of my friends took a taxi from Vancouver to Whistler.
- Harp: That's so much fun! Was it expensive?
- Maura: You know, I don't remember it being so bad, maybe \$200.
- Harp: OK.
- Maura: Between 3 people, it's like the price of the bus.
- Harp: That's true.
- Maura: So all this talking about Vancouver really makes me want to go back.
- Harp: Me too.

- Maura: We'll have to plan a trip there some time.
- Harp: Hopefully when the Olympics are happening.
- Maura: Yeah that would be cool. And for you listeners out there, we hope we **piqued your interest**.
- Harp: Yes, it's definitely a place everyone should visit.
- Maura: Yeah, if you come to Canada you should try to visit Vancouver. Thanks for listening to this Chatterbox episode at Culips.
- Harp: And remember to check out the website.
- Maura: Thanks a lot. This has been Maura...
- Harp: And Harp.
- Maura: Bye.
- Harp: Bye.

Detailed Explanation

Vancouver, B.C.

This Detailed Explanation is going to have tons more information and detail about Vancouver. First the name. Vancouver is named after British explorer, George Vancouver. There is more than one theory about the origins of his name, which seem to come from the Netherlands.

Local people who live in Vancouver, also call the city *Van* as a short form. There are many neighbourhoods in Vancouver, for example, West Vancouver, also called *West Van*. Here is a short list of some of the other popular areas.

Kitsilano
Gastown
Chinatown
Hastings

And as we say in this episode, the province of British Columbia is almost always called B.C. If you are in any place east of the province in Ontario, it can be called ***the west coast*** or *out west*. *Out west* generally refers to Alberta and B.C.

On the ocean

Harp says that Vancouver is **on the ocean**. This is not literally true. Vancouver is beside the ocean. The expression ***on the ocean***, or *on* any kind of water, means that it is right beside it. Here's another good example.



Jack: I have a cottage on a lake.

Jack's cottage is not really on a lake, but it is very close to the water. You can see the lake from his cottage, but his cottage is actually on land.

Climate

We also tell you a lot about Vancouver's climate in this episode. It is not as cold as the rest of Canada in winter, and usually not as warm as the rest of Canada in the summer. It doesn't snow very much there, but it snows at least a little bit every year. It rains a lot and

can be very **grey** and wet. The winter temperatures are usually above zero. The summer temperatures do not usually get above 30. It can also be beautiful, warm and sunny!

Grey

Grey is a funny little word that has two spellings. It can also be spelled as *gray*. The pronunciation and meaning are the same. The general difference is that *gray* is American and **grey** is Canadian and British. But really, both are used everywhere and most people use either one.

Skyscraper

Skyscrapers are very tall buildings, usually office buildings. Most big cities have them.



Come up

Maura says that it is popular for film companies to **come up** from the US to make films in Vancouver. We say **come up** because Canada is north and so the US is under us. In the same way a Canadian might say, "I'm going down to the US," because it is below us.

We can also use *go down* or **come up** between cities.

Laid-back feel

Laid-back, which can also be written as **laidback**, means relaxed. **Laid-back** comes from the verb *to lie back*. When someone lies back, they are relaxed and in a comfortable position. When someone or something is **laid-back** it means relaxed.

Harp says, "It's got a **laid-back feel**." She uses **laid-back** to describe **a feel**. When we say **a feel** we are describing the impression you had from something, or the general atmosphere. Here are a couple examples with **a feel**.

Hannah: Did you like the restaurant you went to last night?

Dominic: Yeah, it had **a cozy feel**. The lighting was warm and the seats were really comfortable.

Julie: Did you hear the new Andrew Bird album?

Ken: No, what's it like?

Julie: It's good. It's got **a nice feel** to it. Nice and slow.

Palm trees

Palm trees are very rare in Canada. They don't grow many other places than the west coast.



Restaurants

Maura promises in this episode to include the name of a Chinese noodle restaurant she went to when she was in Vancouver.

The name of the restaurant is Sha Lin Noodles and the address is 548 West Broadway in Vancouver.

Her friend also mentioned another noodle place that is just as good and just down the street from this place. That place is called Peaceful Noodles and is located at 532 West Broadway. Delicious!

Granville Island

This is a very small island that is so close to the mainland of Vancouver that it doesn't really feel like an island. It used to be all industries, of which there are still a few. Now there is a public market, little restaurants and cute shops. Emily Carr University of Art + Design is also located on the island, which gives it a very **artsy** (related to art) atmosphere. It is a cute little place, with a different **feel** from the rest of Vancouver.



Public Market in Granville Island

Stanley Park

This is the huge park located in Vancouver. It is next to downtown Vancouver and the shoreline. There are many paths for pedestrians and cyclists, who can spend the whole day here.

One of the things **Stanley Park** is most famous for is its trees. There are many large trees that are hundreds of years old. Throughout the park there are different trees and other various attractions to see, including the large totem poles.



Stanley Park

Grouse Mountain

This is the mountain located in North Vancouver, only a 15-minute drive from downtown, but also makes a person feel like they have completely left the city.

In the summer you can go hiking here, or take a chair lift up the mountain (Harp calls them cable cars). There are also lots of outdoor activities available. In the winter, you can go snowshoeing or ice skating here. And don't forget to enjoy the beautiful view of the city in any season.

Whistler

Whistler is a small town north of Vancouver that is especially popular for skiing and snowboarding, as well as mountain biking. It is a resort town and so has many young people coming to live and work there. The village is mostly car-free with streets only for walking.

Some of the Winter Olympic events will be held in Whistler instead of Vancouver.

Sea to Sky Highway

This is the name of the highway that connects Whistler to Vancouver. It is a beautiful drive along the coast, with a spectacular view of the ocean and mountainous regions. It has won different contests and has been placed in the category of being one of the best road trips.

The **Sea to Sky Highway** is also called Highway 99 or Squamish Highway or Whistler Highway.

Olympic Fever

Harp says that many people in Vancouver have **Olympic fever**. A **fever** means that you have a high temperature, and are probably sick. But in this case, it is just an expression. If people in Vancouver have **Olympic fever**, this means that they are very excited about the Olympics or that the Olympics are very popular.

Here are some other examples with **fever** that mean people are excited.

Tania: A lot of teenagers love the books series called Twilight.

Don: Yeah, it is like they have **Twilight Fever**.

Olivia: The weather is getting warmer and there are lots of people in the streets.

John: I love it. Everyone's got **Spring Fever**.

Dance Fever was the name of a popular American dance show in the 1980s.

The Rockies

Vancouver is not in **the Rockies**. **The Rockies** refers to the Rocky Mountains which begin west of Calgary in the province of Alberta and continue into B.C., but not as far as Vancouver. We have talked about **the Rockies** in past Culips episodes.

Piqued your interest

This is a little expression that means you are interested in something. **To pique someone's interest** means that you get that person's interest - you make them interested.

We say that we hope we piqued your interest in Vancouver. This means that we hope you are now interested in Vancouver after listening to this episode. We also often say **to pique someone's curiosity**.

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)

1. What does B.C. in *Vancouver, B.C.* stand for?

- a) Beautiful Country
- b) Before Christ
- c) British China
- d) British Columbia

2. Vancouver is _____ the ocean.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) in
- b) on
- c) under
- d) above

3. Which word is typical of the weather in Vancouver?

These materials are created by the Culips team. Copyright © Culips (2008) Culips.com

- a) rain
- b) sunshine
- c) snow
- d) tornados

4. What special kind of trees do they have in Vancouver that Maura and Harp talk about?

- a) palm trees
- b) pine trees
- c) apple trees
- d) they don't have trees

5. What kind of feel does Vancouver have?

- a) an uptight feel
- b) a laidback feel
- c) a laid feel
- d) a back feel

6. Which one is NOT a tourist attraction in Vancouver?

- a) Grouse Mountain
- b) The Rockies
- c) Granville Island
- d) Stanley Park

7. Harp says that many people have Olympic _____ because they are excited about the Olympics.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) Fun
- b) Kick

- c) Cough
- d) Fever

Answers: 1.d 2.b 3.a 4.a 5.b 6.b 7. d