



## Summer Festival Celebrates Ethiopian Heritage



**Burnaby, BC** – Ethiopia has a vibrant, 3-000-year history and attendees at the *9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethiopian Summer Festival* had a chance to experience this culture’s unique food, music, dance and art. Highlights of the festival included a soccer tournament and an Ethiopian coffee ceremony, which dates back more than 1,000 years. The ceremony begins with a ritual cleansing of the air with flowers and incense, then green coffee beans are roasted in a clay pot (known as a *jebena*) over hot coals, before being turned into a delicious, aromatic beverage for guests. Joseph T-Giorgis is pleased to have once again contributed to the *Ethiopian Summer Festival*.

“As always, this event created an opportunity to spend time with friends from different corners of our city and province,” says Joseph. “People tell me that they especially enjoy the traditional music and the sports activities, especially the soccer tournament.”

Over the past several years, this REALTOR® with Sutton Group - West Coast Realty (Surrey) has helped to promote and financially support the event and volunteered on a scholarship committee. This time, Joseph donated an Apple 10.5" iPad Pro 64GB Wi-Fi as a raffle prize. He is currently volunteering on a sub-committee of the Ethiopian Community Association named “Ethiopian House”, which aims to establish a comfortable, safe and accessible gathering place designed for people of all ages.

“Building a sense of community is easy, but maintaining that sense of community is difficult in a fast-paced society like ours. I enjoy being part of creating an atmosphere where people come together and become one, based on something we share.”

The Ethiopian Community Association of BC is a non-profit organization that strives to relieve poverty among refugees, asylum seekers and migrants (particularly, but not exclusively of Ethiopian origin) by providing information and guidance on housing, health and other issues. For details please visit: [www.vancouverethiopia.com](http://www.vancouverethiopia.com).

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