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Charlayne -front center,
c 1964, City Hall in
background

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BOOK NOW FOR THE HALLMARK CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY EVENT

Please join us at Hallmark's annual Holiday/Christmas party 7:30 pm, Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at the historic Wentworth Villa, 1156 Fort Street, as we welcome Charlayne Thornton Joe, former longtime City of Victoria Councilor and member of the Victoria Chinatown Museum Society as she gives an illustrated presentation on Victoria's Chinatown—the oldest in Canada—through the faces of the people and the buildings of this historic neighbourhood.

As has been our tradition for many years, we ask members and attendees to bring some holiday goodies to share with everyone. But if you can't do that, please come anyway and enjoy our meeting, Charlayne's presentation, the company and the goodies in the warm and inviting ambience of Wentworth Villa, Victoria's Architectural Heritage Museum.

While you are downtown, take the time to wander through the long entrance corridor at City Hall. The City Archives have lined the space with interesting photographs from the day when rapid public transport was the electric streetcar. We have presented here a few examples found on the City of Victoria Archives website. **CLICK PHOTO FOR LARGER VERSION**



City of Victoria Archives

National Tel Co. Ltd. streetcar crossing Rock Bay Bridge CVA M08326. The bridge is gone although some concrete remnants exist. Rock Bay has changed significantly. The view is to the southeast with distant downtown church spires, The bridge turns south onto Cormorant Street or Store Street as it nears the far shore.



City of Victoria Archives

Victoria & Esquimalt National Tel Co. streetcar on Esquimalt Road c 189- CVA M09858 We can see the street car operator standing in the front of the car - enjoying the sense of speeding down the hill behind him.



City of Victoria Archives

Douglas Street, Streetcar and City Hall in background during the 'Great Snow 1916 M07583.

An interesting photo in that this is not a passenger car but is a work car rigged with a snowplow on the front just under the “cow-catcher”.



City of Victoria Archives



City of Victoria Archives

CVA M07188.. While City Archives dates this photo to 1911, The sign on the front of the streetcar is advertising the stage play “Convict No. 313” which was playing at the Victoria Theatre on March 28, 1914.

Outer Wharf tram taking ladies on an outing c 189- CVA M07193, Unlike the operator on the Esquimalt car, these ladies would want a sedate pace to ensure their hats stayed on.

Art in Public Places



Public Art in Public Places? - A Victoria discussion of public art opportunities and issues.?

December 14, 7:00 -10:00pm Wentworth Villa, 1156 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

To travel to most places on the planet, is to encounter distinctive and vibrant urban environments, where the public art is memorable and contributes richly to the fabric of the city. We in Canada, and perhaps particularly in the west, have inherited precious few examples of great, let alone appreciably notable public art.

How is public art to be regarded in a time where our cities are in constant flux and change? Should it have an enduring place, or is it fated to come and go, as can many of our community structures?

Questions that we may pose to participants, and the audience, include:

- Should art be for a time and a place, or should it be dynamic as the society around it - or both?

- What ranges of individual characteristics and creative initiatives may be expressed in public art?

- Art may have immediate impact - or quietly wait to reveal its subtleties - how may these factors be evaluated?

- How are communities, and eventually civilizations, distinguished by their production of prominent artwork?

- What might be sought, and what do we lose, with revisions or removals of established public art?

Panelists:

- Illarion Gallant

- Pamela Madoff

- Robert Randall

- JC Scott

Moderator:

- Professor Martin Segger

Illarion Gallant's professional life is that as both a Registered Landscape Architect and a Sculptural Public Artist. Illarion is a Graduate of Emily Carr Institute of Art with studies abroad in Karlsruhe West Germany and Vienna Austria. He has been producing public art for 40 years.

Pamela Madoff served on Victoria City Council for 25 years. During that time she held responsibility for portfolios such as Art in Public Places, Heritage and Planning. As a councillor, she led the projects to restore the Beacon Hill Park Totem Pole and the Gate of Harmonious Interest.

Robert Randall is a Victoria-born artist and graphic designer.

He served as co-chair of the Open Space Arts Society and chair of the Downtown Residents Association and served as a juror for the B.C. Arts Council grant program. He is currently on Saanich's Arts, Culture & Community Wellbeing committee.

JC Scott is an internationally experienced hospitality and residential designer specializing in creating successful projects through eco design solutions.

This will be an evening public gathering, organized and sponsored by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Vancouver Island South Chapter, and hosted by the Wentworth Villa, Architectural Heritage Museum, with support by the Hallmark Heritage Society, the Victoria UNESCO World Heritage City Program, and by the Friends of Centennial Square.

Also sponsoring is HCMA Architects. This evening session will provide an RAIC learning session for architects.

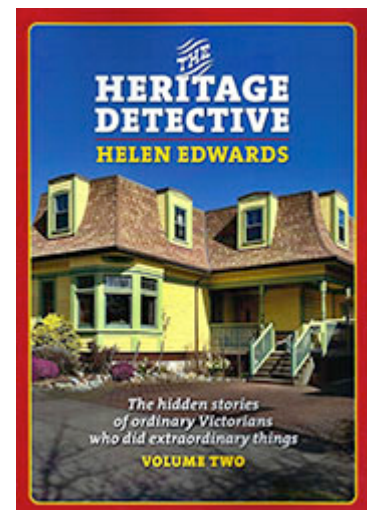
There will be a public door admission of \$15 to \$20 to help cover event costs, as well as an RAIC architect's fee for learning credit attendance.

Please note that we intend for the event to be video recorded, for later broadcasting on the Shaw/Rogers Spotlight community TV Channel, and for later on-line public access.

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The Heritage Detective, Volume Two is the second book in the series. The book brings alive the stories of ordinary people living extraordinary lives in the city's neighbourhoods, including Fairfield, Rockland, Oak Bay, and Esquimalt. Richly illustrated with more than 200 photographs, this book draws upon decades of articles about the city's history, their details expanded and updated with additional research by Victoria's heritage detective, Helen Edwards. The result is a tapestry of local tales packed with vivid descriptions that will transport you to a past era when the young city was just beginning to invent its vibrant future. The Heritage Detective is an invaluable resource for Victorians seeking a deeper understanding of their community's history. Visitors will discover captivating accounts of day-to-day life and memorable moments that provide an in-depth look at the history and culture of the city. Books are available for \$25 from Munro's





Centennial Square during
FolkFest, July 1985

More information on
the Friends of
Centennial Square



Centennial Square fountain
at night December 1964

The Centennial Fountain

The Centennial Fountain was created in 1964 as the focal point of the City of Victoria's downtown revitalization. It was funded by the neighboring municipalities of Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt as a gift, representing a permanent example of the first 100 years of the City of Victoria.

Currently, the City is receiving design details to install an "interactive water feature" where the fountain sits today. This will require the removal of the fountain and transporting it to an undefined place of storage. The fountain will be gone.

A local group of concerned citizens who feel the fountain, as a piece of public art, should be retained. The Friends of Centennial Square are urging the public to become involved in the process. Centennial Square can be "revitalized" while the Fountain can be retained.

As is often the case, unless one is a devotee of Council meetings, this goes on out of the view of the general public. There are many things that would improve Centennial Square but the removal of the fountain is not one of them. return the north side arcade to public use, add lighting, create more public art.

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