

**HERITAGE**  
Vancouver  
N e w s l e t t e r



*From*  
**Ottawa**

by **Michael Kluckner**

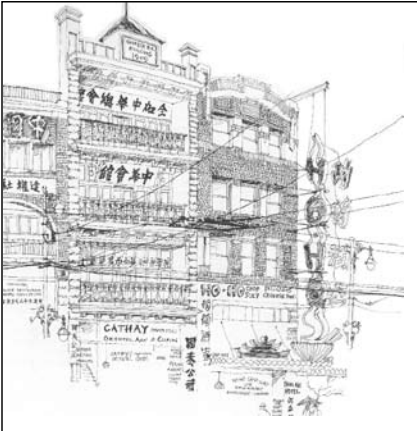
**W**hat is the Heritage Canada Foundation up to? Remember, this is not the Sheila Copps ministry, the Department of Canadian Heritage. It's the charitable organization founded in 1973 to be the national heritage advocacy group.

Heritage Canada's primary activities are lobbying the federal government for policy changes, publishing its national magazine called *Heritage*, and producing an annual educational program for schoolchildren, this year on the theme of agricultural buildings. The lobbying is, to my mind, the most important, and shows the most promise for having a positive effect on the types of issues that concern groups like Heritage Vancouver.

Under the Canadian constitution, all matters concerning land are provincial responsibilities which are delegated to cities like Vancouver. The feds own and manage a number of significant heritage sites across the country, but they don't have a role in the law concerning zoning and development on private property. Where they could have an impact is by implementing a government-wide policy to sustain their own stock of heritage buildings and, most importantly, by changing federal tax law.

Following years of intensive lobbying, the federal government appears to be willing to change the tax laws to benefit owners of revenue-producing heritage buildings, a situation which, in the United States, has resulted in a tremendous

## UPCOMING EVENTS



R. Ward

Pender Street, Chinatown

### Wednesday, February 16, 8 PM

The Past, Present and Future  
of Vancouver's Historic  
Neighbourhoods

Co-sponsored by the  
Vancouver Museum

### Chinatown—Myth and Reality

Is the area in trouble and what does the future hold? Join members of the Chinatown community, Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee and the Planning Department for a moderated panel discussion on the future for Chinatown. As well architect Joe Wai will present designs for the new commemorative pagoda to be placed in the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden. Maurice Guibord will be the moderator.

### Walking Tour: Sunday, Feb. 27th.

Join Joe Wai and the Chinese Cultural Centre for an informative walking tour of Chinatown. Call 254.9411 for info and reservations.

#### General Meeting third Wednesday of each month

Vancouver Museum  
Ray Whittick Lounge  
(business meeting 7:30,  
speaker's program 8:00)  
There's plenty of free  
parking—please join us!

Non members are  
welcome by a suggested  
--donation of \$2.00

## Roedde House Salon Concert

Saturday, February 26th, 2 PM

*Für Mathilda... The DiNova Duo*  
Gracious and elegant 19th century  
music, works by De Falla, Saraste,  
Kreisler and Sibelius.

Nancy DiNova - violin  
Stephen Smith - piano  
Tickets \$25.00

For tickets 684-7040  
Roedde House Museum  
1415 Barclay Street

## Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 21, 6-9 PM

**Heritage Vancouver Awards**  
Annual Awards for Conservation in  
the City of Vancouver  
Hotel Vancouver Pacific Ballroom  
Reception 6 PM / Awards 7 PM

Thursday, February 24, 5:30 PM

**DOCOMOMO.BC Meeting**  
AIBC Offices, The Architecture Centre,  
440 Cambie Street  
Lecture by Don Luxton on *The Rise and  
Fall—and Rise—of West Coast  
Wooden Modernism*



Photo Robert Moffat

Kenneth Gardner house, 2000

## Gardner house rises above the typical

by Robert Moffat

Seeming to hover in space above the flat Southlands terrain, architect Kenneth Gardner's house appears as a strikingly rectilinear geometric form. Built in 1958, the house was a radical departure from the romantic West Coast post-and-beam idiom of the time.

The house was as avant-garde in construction as in appearance. Gardner shunned wood and chose concrete, masonry, and steel as his materials, complemented by small orange bricks for visual warmth and texture. Structurally, his design used the lift-slab construction method; the concrete floor and ceiling slabs were poured on the ground and then hydraulically lifted into place. Eight steel columns provided the final support.

The house was also unusual in its internal layout. Main living areas were located on the second floor, rather than at ground level, as a

response to the low-lying and sometimes boggy ground of what was then a semi-rural district of Vancouver. Largely blank walls face the street for privacy, while the south-facing rear elevation opens to the sun and view through extensive glazing and an inset sundeck. A large skydome opening in the concrete roof illuminates the internal stairway; pumice blocks topped with frameless strips of glass provide the infill material for the low-ceilinged ground floor.

Despite winning a Honor Award from the Architectural Institute of B.C. in 1960 for his creation, the South African-born Gardner didn't enjoy it for long he left for Barbados in 1962. Located at 3152 West 49th Avenue, his house remains in near-original condition as the only post-war Modernist residence in Vancouver with official heritage designation.

# A Must Take Course at SFU

## The Architecture of Vancouver

7 Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 PM  
February 29-April 4 Fee \$185  
Canfor Policy Room (Room 1600)  
S F University at Harbour Centre

This course will explore Vancouver's architecture through its social, political and cultural history from the mid-1800s until today. A series of lectures will be illustrated by slides, and supplemented by a walking tour of *Old Vancouver* during the final class. Course coverage includes:

### The Early Years (1850-1887)

Vancouver's geography, Salish architecture, the first European settlements, Vancouver at incorporation and the Great Fire

### The First Boom (1887-1900)

The first masonry buildings, the West End, CPR, early institutions, Blueblood Alley, Strathcona and Chinatown

### The Edwardian Era 1900-1914)

Neighbourhood growth, Mt. Pleasant, Kitsilano, Shaughnessy, the Business District and the Hudson's Bay Co.

### The Interwar Period (1914-1939)

WW I industrial expansion, apartment buildings of the 20s, UBC, the depression era, City Hall and Lions Gate

### Modernism (40s-60s)

Wartime projects, expressions of a modern aesthetic, and celebrated modernist buildings

### Recent Years (70s-)

Arthur Erickson, Robson Square, Expo 86, challenges to modernism and post-modernism

The instructor, **David Monteyne**, is an architectural historian working in Vancouver as a heritage writer, researcher and lecturer. He has also taught for UBC and the Vancouver School Board.

### Information and Registration

Call 604 291-5254 or 604 291-5079  
Fax 604 291-5098 e-mail [city@sfu.ca](mailto:city@sfu.ca)



Sandra Cohen-Rose

## NORTHERN DECO

On Thursday, January 6th, the Canadian Art Deco Society was pleased to sponsor an illustrated talk by Montreal author Sandra Cohen-Rose. Her lavishly-illustrated publication, *Northern Deco* is the first Canadian book specifically about Art Deco. The Vancouver Museum's Vanier Room was packed for the event, with over fifty people attending. The crowd was treated to a fascinating tour of the Deco delights of Montreal—surprising in their number and quality! The highlights included the Cormier House, restored and still occupied by the former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Pierre Elliot Trudeau, and the amazing 9th Floor Restaurant at the Downtown Eaton's—intact but currently vacant. The sad news is how many of these design masterpieces are threatened, abandoned or have been recently demolished. Our thanks to Sandra for raising our awareness of these buildings, and for participating in this highly successful event. The Society would also like to thank Heritage Vancouver and the Vancouver Museum for their support and promotion of this evening. We look forward to hearing from Sandra about preservation issues in Montreal.

from **Ottawa** cover

amount of preservation activity. Secondly, they appear to be willing now to change the laws concerning the tax treatment of property donated to crown trustees such as Heritage Canada; this is the missing link in the chain leading to the creation of a true National Trust for Canada.

Believe me, it is dry work, without the excitement of heritage advocacy in a dynamic city like Vancouver, but I think it will have a profound impact on preservation right across the country.

*Michael Kluckner was the founding president of Heritage Vancouver. He is currently the chair of the Heritage Canada Foundation, and lives on a farm in Langley. Find them on the web at [www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org)*

## Chinese Consulate in Shaughnessy

Most consulates are located downtown, but the Chinese consulate is located on Granville Street in First Shaughnessy, on two properties containing an A-listed and C-listed house. They are in need of more space, and have entered into a consultative process regarding the design of their new space. Because they are part of the diplomatic community, this is not strictly required, and their good faith in this regard is to be thanked. The tentative plan is to demolish the C-listed structure, which is not in the best condition, consolidate the two properties, and make a rather large addition to the A-listed Tudor-style mansion. Efforts are underway to design this addition so that it will be compatible.

Heritage Vancouver  
PO Box 3336, Main Post Office  
Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3

604.254.9411

<http://home.istar.ca/~glenchan/hvsintro.shtml>

## Heritage Hot-line

# February is Heritage Month

Dear Members,

This is the favourite month of the year for heritage advocates. What started out as Heritage Day has developed into Heritage Week, and February is considered Heritage Month by some. There are so many activities planned that a single week is not enough to contain them. Practically every heritage and historical society will be planning activities during this time. Take this opportunity to get a richer experience at a historic site or town by taking advantage of these special activities.

The highlight of Heritage Week in Vancouver is the City of Vancouver Heritage Awards. The event is held every year in the Hotel Vancouver ballroom on the Monday of Heritage Week. The room is elegant, and it is an excellent opportunity to see the best of heritage conservation in the past year. Panels illustrate each project, and this year there will be panels explaining the roles of the heritage organizations in the City of Vancouver. There is often confusion about Heritage Vancouver vs. the Vancouver Heritage Foundation, vs. the Heritage Group in the City of Vancouver, and the Vancouver Heritage Commission. Thanks to our *H is for Heritage* Sub-committee, this will all be made clear.

*Susanna*

Susanna Houwen  
President, Heritage Vancouver

Members of the heritage community have expressed concern about inappropriate work being done on heritage buildings, both with and without a permit. Work performed on a listed or designated building without a Heritage Alteration Permit is a building permit infraction. Work performed contrary to specifications set out in a Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) is also a building permit infraction. Catching and stopping these infractions quickly is key, since historic fabric may be lost if action is not taken immediately. The Heritage Group now has an agreement with the building inspectors that these situations will be viewed as emergencies, and should be brought to the attention of the head building official, Peter Sweeney (873-7560).

## Roedde Restoration

For many years, volunteers, board members and friends of Roedde House hoped to complete the house with the restoration of three rooms upstairs and returning the Archives Room on the main floor to its original role as a gentleman's den. With financial support from the Vancouver Foundation, the Chris Spencer Foundation and the Roedde House Preservation Society to inaugurate the project, the Completion Committee, Collections Committee and Curator worked together in various capacities to raise funds, obtain permits and approvals, and redecorate and refurnish these rooms. Additional support from the federal Millennium Partnership Program, B.C. Heritage Trust and individual donors has facilitated the completion of this restoration. Architect Allan Diamond MAIBC provided assistance throughout with his expert counsel and advice. Completion will be by March, 2000.

## Join Heritage Vancouver

Annual membership runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Members receive a monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' programs and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Charitable donation #1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (no newsletter) \$5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$30       | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate: \$50                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation: \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Patrons: \$100                 |

Please send cheque or money order to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3