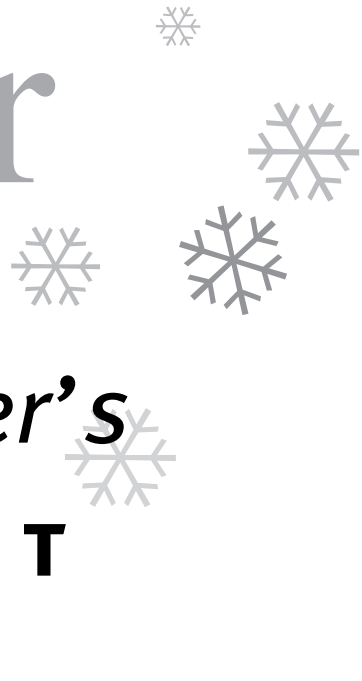
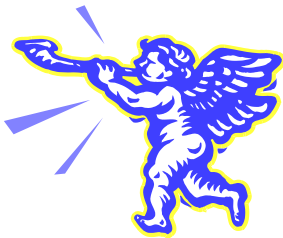




# Vancouver

N e w s l e t t e r



## *Heritage Vancouver Member's* **XMAS WISH LIST**

### We wish that:

- ✓ The liberal government blesses heritage causes across the country in the blush of their recent electoral success by bestowing generous sums of cash from the surplus towards worthy heritage projects (hey we'll even take our chances with HRDC).
  - ✓ We all wake up New Years Day and everybody in the world cares about heritage as much as we do and people flock to their elected representatives to do more to protect it, as they have done on environmental issues!
  - ✓ The powers that be in government of all levels understand the value of heritage resources and fund their departments properly.
  - ✓ Heritage is at the top of everyone's agenda when plans for new developments, parks and neighbourhoods are being developed
  - ✓ The importance of preserving and restoring heritage buildings in the Downtown Eastside be part of all federal, provincial and municipal government's future plans for Vancouver's historic area.
  - ✓ Real incentives (tax breaks, holidays, rebates) to encourage heritage retention be put in place to help the non-developer types.
  - ✓ Incentives such as tax breaks for developers to eliminate heritage projects that try to pile seven stories on top of 2 story heritage buildings because increased height/density is the only significant incentive on the table.
  - ✓ The city of Vancouver comes up with a package of comprehensive incentives and building code relaxations so that Vancouverites will be rewarded rather than penalized for preserving heritage buildings.
  - ✓ All heritage buildings in the City of Vancouver be added to the Heritage registry.
  - ✓ In this era of bank mergers bank managers will consider architectural merit ahead of factors such as parking availability when deciding which duplicate branches to close.
  - ✓ That the weathered James Shaw House (c. 1900) at the south east corner of West 7th & Ash, which was supposed to have been incorporated into a new development on site but has been sitting exposed to the elements for quite a few years be preserved .
  - ✓ Everyone buys a Heritage Vancouver T-shirt
  - ✓ Members get in touch with Heritage Vancouver with program wishes for the up-coming year.
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HERITAGE  
Vancouver

PRESENTS



Photo: Brock Piper

HV member's photo of the Architectural Park in Montreal across the street from Canadian Centre of Architecture.

**Wednesday December 20th, 8.00 PM**  
**Vancouver Museum**  
***The Open Projector***

Join Heritage Vancouver for its traditional end of the year meeting. Everyone is invited to bring along some personal slides and put them up on the screen. Find out what others have done and are interested in. There are always surprises.

*A free evening.*

**Wednesday, January 17th, 2001**  
**8.00 PM, Vancouver Museum**

Our Talking Dirty Series continues. We shift gears in January with *Our Parks are Dumps*. A look at the heritage of Vancouver's park system and the fact that many of them are built on former garbage dumps.



VANCOUVER MODERN



Photo: Selwyn Pullan, 1959

## Ron Thom's evolving talents displayed in Carmichael house

by *Robert Moffatt*

**Carmichael house**  
**1160 Nepal Place, West Vancouver**  
**Ron Thom of Thompson, Berwick & Pratt 1958**

Built some eight years after the Narod house profiled last month, the Carmichael house exemplifies Ron Thom's rapid development as an architect and his embracement of Frank Lloyd Wright's complex spatial geometry.

Departing from the simple rectilinear grids of his early work, Thom designed the Carmichael house around Wright's system of interlocking hexagonal modules. Devised by Wright for his famous Hanna house, built in Stanford, California in 1936, the hexagonal module allowed an intricate interlocking of interior spaces connected at obtuse angles. Wright felt the absence of right angles produced a freer, more natural and spatially richer environment, furthering his lifelong quest toward an organic architecture completely in harmony with nature.

For Thom, adopting the hexagonal module flowed from his fascination with Wright's architectural forms. Thom used the hexagon for several larger-budget houses, the drawback being a not-inconsiderable extra cost per square foot.

"Fun and games with three-dimensional space," was one of his published comments on the Carmichael house. "Not recommended for budget propositions."

From the street the Carmichael house appears as a low, broad-eaved, ground-hugging mass, its roof planes penetrated by celestary windows and an enormous central chimney. Thom's choice of cedar roof shingles, open beamed ceilings and dark-stained cedar walls inside and out reinforce the connection with nature and create a sense of warm, enveloping shelter. The feeling of enclosure is effectively contrasted by butt-jointed corner window glass, which visually blurs the distinction between inside and outside. Interior spaces focus around views of Burrard Inlet to the south and a monolithic asymmetrical fireplace in the living room. A raised concrete block terrace extends from the rear of the house, while salal and other native plantings cover the sloping site.

The Carmichael house earned Thom a Massey Medal in 1961 and remains in good original condition today.

*When not writing his Vancouver Modern column, Robert Moffatt makes a living in corporate communications and public relations. [rmoffatt@telus.net](mailto:rmoffatt@telus.net)*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Treasure Saturdays is a new series of talks sponsored by the Vancouver Museum which takes a look at what people collect. Every third Saturday of the month offers a chance to learn something new and meet interesting people.

**Saturday, January, 20th 2001 at 1.30pm.**

### **See You at The Fair: Worlds Fairs in Postcards**

Maurice Guibord will present a fascinating overview of the past hundred years of world expositions through his extensive collection of postcards and other memorabilia.

**Saturday, February 17th**

The Vancouver Museum presents an afternoon of memories with Michael Kluckner in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the publication of *Vancouver The Way It Was*.

*\$6.00 for HV, Art Deco Society and Museum members and \$10 for non-members.*

# Heritage Alert

**T**he George Ryga Centre in Summerland is the former home of the late George Ryga, perhaps best known for his play, *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. Without any government support, a group of artists and supporters purchased the building in 1995 to set it aside as a retreat centre for writers, musicians and others who might find inspiration there. It has also exhibited contemporary work by BC artists. It is an oasis that deserves support.

Unfortunately, in violation of the town's own bylaws and the Agricultural Land Reserve, its neighbours have built a large structure for an automotive business which is disrupting the activities and indeed the very livelihood of the Ryga Centre. In one incident, the neighbour began spraying their orchard just before a concert was about to begin at the Centre. The town Council has taken no action, in spite of protests by supporters of the Ryga Centre and public appeals by Ryga's son,

Campbell, an internationally-renowned jazz musician. No BC Ministry has acted, either.

An article about the situation called *This wouldn't have happened to Dylan Thomas's house* is posted on the National Post's site at:

<http://www.nationalpost.com/search/story.html?f=/stories/20001127/384302.html>

The Ryga Centre is asking that letters protesting the situation be sent to the following:

Summerland Mayor and Council  
Box 159  
Summerland, BC  
V0H 1Z0  
fax 250-494-1415

The Editor, Summerland Review  
Box 309  
Summerland, BC  
V0H 1Z0  
[slandreview@img.net](mailto:slandreview@img.net)  
fax 250-494-5453

The National Post  
[letters@nationalpost.com](mailto:letters@nationalpost.com)



## Great Xmas Gift Idea



Order one of our **new** Heritage Vancouver t-shirts for family members and friends. This black t-shirt with a white Heritage Vancouver logo makes a great gift and the price is only \$20.00. Order today by calling **604.254.9411**.

## WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Heritage Everyone's Agenda

Dear Members,

As the year ends, it is the perfect time to look ahead to what we want to achieve for heritage in the year 2001. Although I can only speculate as to how many member's Christmas wishes will be fulfilled. I do know, that as your president, I am committed to fulfilling my wish *putting heritage at the top of everyone's agenda*. I encourage all of you through your place of business or your volunteer work to make sure that heritage is always top of mind in your organization. I invite you to make your own heritage Xmas wish and tell us about it when it comes true.

Your board members are working hard to make sure that we get the *heritage message* out to the community in the year 2001. We are publishing a list of *Vancouver's 10 most endangered heritage buildings* in January. Each year we will assess the status of last year's buildings and come up with a new list. Our *Heritage Fair* committee is busily planning a spectacular interactive booth for the March event which organizers say will likely attract 10,000 visitors. The Fair is an opportune moment to publicize our 10th anniversary celebration planned for the month of April. As we look ahead to 2001 we must not forget to look back over the past year and think about stellar examples of heritage preservation that deserve to receive a heritage award in February. Send us your nominations for the *endangered building list* and *heritage awards*.

Wishing you a Merry Xmas and a happy heritage New Year.



Janet Leduc  
President, Heritage Vancouver



## Volunteers Wanted

When you are making your New Year's Resolutions this year be sure to include volunteering at Heritage Vancouver as one of them.

The following volunteer positions are available:

- a volunteer coordinator
- volunteers for the Heritage Fair; both planning and doing a shift or two at the booth
- volunteers to plan and implement our 10th anniversary celebrations during the month of April
- volunteers to write articles for our newsletter
- volunteers to do research on heritage buildings

To volunteer or to find out more about these opportunities and others, please call the Heritage Vancouver phone number and one of our board members will get in touch with you.

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

604.254.9411

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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: \$25

Supporting (no newsletter) \$5

YES

Family: \$30

Corporate: \$50

I would like to volunteer for Heritage Vancouver

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Patrons: \$100

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