

BACKGROUND

Chinatown Millennium Gate

Early in Vancouver's history, temporary arches were frequently built to celebrate events. For example, for:

1. the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, circa 1901
2. the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, at Hastings and Carrall, 1901
3. the visit of the Duke of Connaught, on Hastings, 1912
4. the Jubilee celebrations, 1936

Photos for the first three gates mentioned above are available via: www.city.vancouver.bc.ca Follow links to Archives, scanned photos, use search word 'arches'.

A gate at the western entrance to Chinatown is intended to: revitalize the community by attracting Vancouverites and other visitors; celebrate the long presence of the Chinese community in Vancouver; mark the Millennium; and complement other revitalization efforts in the area.



The Jubilee Arch

New Initiatives in the Chinatown Area

Many efforts are being made to enhance Chinatown's economic and social health. The Gate complements these other projects:

- the Chinese Cultural Centre Museum and Archives
- fund-raising efforts to construct a theatre adjacent to the Museum and Archives
- expansion of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden
- the Silk Road project
- the installation of public art on the new "triangle" at Keefer and Columbia
- the completion of new housing by the Chinese Benevolent Association
- a new social service facility and the construction of a long-term care facility for S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- the Commemoration project for Block 17

The Silk Road Walking Route

Vancouver's Silk Road is an exciting and timely initiative that will establish the first formal route between Chinatown and Downtown, connecting the activities, services and cultures. Commencing the journey at the Vancouver Public Library, the route will draw the pedestrian to the Keefer Steps, through the International Village Retail and Entertainment Centre, and eventually into the western portion of Chinatown. The route will be illustrated with banners and signs. Key to this end is the construction of the Chinatown Millennium Gate. It will physically and symbolically denote the entrance to historic Chinatown.

