

August 1, 2002

## BACKGROUNDER

### **Chinatown Millennium Gate bridges east and west, past and future**

Spanning Pender Street adjacent to Shanghai Alley, the Chinatown Millennium Gate is situated at the historical origins of Chinatown where it provides a link with Downtown Vancouver. The gate is expected to promote revitalization of the community by attracting local residents and other visitors, celebrating the history of the Chinese community in Vancouver and complementing other initiatives in the area.

On its eastern face, the gate will bear Chinese characters reminding onlookers to “remember the past and look forward to the future.” On the western face characters will simply say “Chinatown Millennium Gate.”

#### **New Initiatives in Chinatown Area:**

Vancouver Agreement partners and community organizations have initiated a variety of programs aimed at stimulating economic development and business revitalization by creating a healthy, safe and sustainable community in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

The Chinatown Millennium Gate, which links Chinatown to Downtown Vancouver and is a portal to the Silk Road, complements the following initiatives:

- 90 new historic lamp posts in Chinatown and improved street lighting at Victory Square;
- physical improvements to streets to enhance heritage sites and encourage tourism;
- upgrading the security of parking lots;
- a community-based program to improve the safety and security of residents, visitors, area businesses and their employees;
- the installation of public art on the new “triangle” at Keefer and Columbia;
- the completion of new housing by the Chinese Benevolent Association.

The Silk Road features the following services and attractions: Shanghai Alley, the International Village, the Chinese Cultural Centre, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden, the Pagoda at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden, the Andy Livingstone Park and, at its western end, the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Library Square, the Robson Street corridor, GM Place and BC Place.

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Vancouver Agreement funding for the Gate was first announced in February 2001, followed by a ground breaking ceremony in November.

In Vancouver's history, temporary arches were frequently built to celebrate events. For example, arches were constructed 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 on the City of Vancouver website. Go to [www.city.vancouver.bc.ca](http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca) and follow the links to Archives, scanned photographs, use search word 'arches'.