

## Canada at 150: A Rich Legacy

The second of a two-part series celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, this six-session program will explore significant historical, technological, and cultural achievements and events that have helped shape the diverse and vibrant Canada of today. From great Canadian inventions to the creation of Vancouver's Sun Yat Sen Classical Gardens, from the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the startling story of the Avro Arrow, and the history of North Vancouver, to the cultural impact of Vancouver's famous Commodore Ballroom, we will continue our Canada at 150 birthday celebration.

### November 3: Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Gardens

Master Gardeners Hayne Wai and Bob Wilmott will provide a powerpoint presentation on the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in Vancouver's Chinatown. This Ming dynasty style garden which opened in 1986 was the first full Chinese garden ever built outside of China. Their 45 minute presentation will introduce the essential elements of a Chinese garden and walk through the halls, courtyards, and corridors with particular reference to plants, shrubs and trees and their appropriate maintenance to reflect a classical Ming dynasty elegance.

Presented by Bob Wilmott, veteran Master Gardener (1999), garden designer and board member of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden Society, and Hayne Wai, a more recent Master Gardener (2013), who served on the Garden board and continues as a docent. He is a past president of the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of B.C.

### November 10: Canada's Greatest Inventions

While Canadians are generally considered to be polite, under-the-radar type folks, Canada has given the world some of its greatest inventions. We all might know of the telephone and insulin, but there are many more items, famous and infamous; like the Crispy Crunch candy bar and the walkie-talkie! Learn about many of these great inventions and the Canadian men and women behind them.

Presented by Ed Kry

### November 17: Live at the Commodore!

Downtown Vancouver was home to legendary nightclubs throughout much of the last century where, thanks to Vancouver's geographic location, many performers would kick off continental tours. Today, most of the theatres of Granville Street are gone, and only a few legendary nightspots remain. How did some of Vancouver's clubs remain, and others simply disappear? Author Aaron Chapman (*Live at the Commodore: The story of Vancouver's Historic Commodore Ballroom*; and *Liquor, Lust and the Law: The Story of Vancouver's Legendary Penthouse Nightclub*) explores the history of Vancouver's entertainment scene. Signed copies of Chapman's books will be available for purchase at the end of the lecture.

Aaron Chapman is a writer, historian, and musician with a special interest in the history of Vancouver after-dark. He is the author of *The Last Gang in Town*, the story of Vancouver's Clark Park Gang; (2017 Canadian Historical Association prize winner) and *Live at the Commodore*, a history of the Commodore Ballroom that won the Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award (BC Book Prizes) in 2015. His first book from 2012 *Liquor, Lust, and the Law: The Story of Vancouver's Legendary Penthouse Nightclub*, will be released for a third printing in a new and revised edition to be released this Fall. He lives in Vancouver.

### November 24: St. Lawrence Seaway

The St. Lawrence Seaway is a system of locks, canals and channels shared between Canada and the US that permit ocean-going vessels to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, as far inland as the western end of Lake Superior. Proposals for the seaway were met with resistance from interests representing existing harbours on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and internal waterways, and from railroad associations. At various times, both Canada and the US were against it, and constructing it created tensions between our two nations. Construction of the 306 kilometer stretch of the Seaway between Montreal and Lake Ontario is recognized today as one of the most challenging engineering feats in history.

Presented by Ed Kry

## **December 1: Avro Arrow Story**

The Avro Canada CF-105 Arrow, often known simply as the Avro Arrow, was a delta-winged interceptor aircraft designed and built by Avro Canada. The Arrow is considered to have been an advanced technical and aerodynamic achievement for the Canadian aviation industry, and indeed the world. On 20 February 1959, the development of the Arrow (and its Iroquois engines) was abruptly halted before a planned project review had taken place. Two months later, the assembly line, tooling, plans and existing airframes and engines were ordered to be destroyed. Learn the story behind this superlative aircraft, the reasons for its demise, and what happened afterwards to the Canadian developers.

Presented by Ed Kry

## **December 8: History of North Vancouver - Where Mountains Meet the Sea**

In 2016, the District of North Vancouver celebrated the 125th anniversary of its incorporation. Join local historian Daniel Francis for an illustrated talk reviewing the history of the community. First Nations people have occupied Burrard Inlet for thousands of years, but the production of lumber at what would become Moodyville marked the beginning of settlement by outsiders and a rapid expansion into what we know today. Daniel will discuss significant events in North Shore history -- mountain resorts, parks, WWII, development of industry, real estate -- using historic photographs from local archives.

Presented by Daniel Francis, the author of two dozen books, the most recent being *Where Mountains Meet the Sea*, his history of North Vancouver.

## **Sessions**

Fridays, 10 am to 11:30

New Delbrook Recreation Centre, Fir Room