



LIVING TREASURE

DR. SUN YAT-SEN CLASSICAL CHINESE GARDEN

SPRING 2003 • VOLUME 11 NO. 1

Blossoming into the New Year!

Blossoms are the most auspicious flowers in Chinese culture. They hearken the arrival of spring, symbolizing new life, growth, and prosperity. Decorate your home with blossoms this Chinese New Year to bring good fortune for the Year of the Goat!

The peach is a symbol of long life. The elixir of life is said to be made from the peach fruit of immortality. At one time, people placed boughs of peach blossoms over the door to prevent evil spirits from entering the home. In Hong Kong, the peach blossom is most common at New Years.

The plum, which blooms in our Garden, is one of the Scholar's Three Friends of Winter. Like the peach, it represents rebirth and the natural cycle of life. The five petals of each flower represent the five blessings: longevity, wealth, health, love of virtue, and a natural death. The plum blossom is more common in northern China at New Years.

You will still see Chinese homes and businesses decorated with branches of peach and plum blossoms around the world today. Many branches represent many generations like a family tree. If you have a peach or plum tree which blossoms during the New Year celebrations, it is a sure sign that the year ahead will bring good fortune!

Chinese New Year Fun Puns

Much of Chinese symbolism is derived from puns and playing with words. These popular Chinese New Year decorations and treats play on words that wish happiness, fortune, and luck for all!

Kumquat Tree

In Chinese, the kumquat tree is called *gam gat sue*. The word *gam* sounds the same as the word for gold, and the word *gat* sounds the same as the Chinese word for luck. *Luk* (green) sounds the same as the word for wealth and so having green leaves in the house brings wealth! And, most importantly, the small, orange globes of the kumquat fruit represent unity and perfection, as well as money because they are round and gold like coins!

nien gao - sweet, sticky glutinous rice cake. The name also means "to get better and better each year".

yu - fish. The word *yu* also means profit; "*nien nien you yu*" means you will have profit every year.

fat - small steamed cakes which burst open when they are steamed, resembling blossoms. *Fat* is an onomatopoeia for the bursting open and the word also means wealth. (as in *kung hay fat choy/ gung xi fa tsai*)

CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL CELEBRATION Sunday, February 2, 10am - 4:30pm

Lucky red *lycee* packets ♦ Calligraphy and Chinese Painting Demos ♦ Palm Reading with Lotus Blossom ♦ Fortune Telling ♦ traditional Chinese music with Huang Ji Rong and BC Chinese Music Association ♦ intro to Chinese musical instruments with Randy Raine Reusch ♦ Tale of the Great Race puppet show and hands-on zodiac stamping workshop

Everyone welcome. Donations appreciated. Chinese New Year Parade begins at 12 Noon at the new Millennium Gate.

A special THANKS to our event sponsors: CBC Radio One 690AM & CBC Radio Two 105.7FM, Mandeville Greenhouse & Garden Centre, and White Spot

For more information www.vancouverchinesegarden.com

INSIDE: President's Message • Garden Programs • Events



Celebrating the Year of the Goat



Making the Dream a Reality: Garden Enhancement Project

Kathy Gibler, President

Founders of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden shared the dream that the Garden would create greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Chinese culture, while acting as a cross-cultural bridge between the Chinese and Canadian peoples, enabling greater harmony and cooperation. Over the past 16 years, we have fulfilled this mandate by reaching out locally and internationally to help build friendships and greater multicultural understanding. We have made an impact.

To continue in this tradition, the Garden needs to grow and meet the ever-changing needs of our culturally diverse community. It has become clear that there is a thirst for knowledge and understanding, and a need for increased programming and cultural outreach. For the past two years the Garden's Board, campaign cabinet, staff and volunteers have been actively working to raise funds to build restrooms (first priority!), an Education Centre, a Volunteer & Meeting Room, a Penjing greenhouse for the Garden's rare and antique Penjing collection, an expanded gift shop, and administrative offices.

Q. Why are the additions needed?

A. Building the new facilities is user driven—all visitors and members require the use of convenient restrooms on site; students, educators and group tours need a heated space year round for various educational programs; local community members need a heated space to enjoy workshops, lectures, exhibitions and performances year round; volunteers need a room to rest between tours and other activities and for training requirements and meetings; and staff need to be working together at the same premises for better communications and efficiency.

Q. What's the cost of the project and how much has been raised so far?

A. Through a concerted effort by the Campaign Cabinet, Board, volunteers, and staff we have raised half the funds for the project through donations, sponsorships, and earned revenue. To date the three levels of government have not yet contributed any funds. The preliminary construction costs estimate

including soft costs submitted by the consultants is \$1.9 million.

At its November 17 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved in principle the completion of the Enhancement (Expansion) Project as described in the October 18, 2002 drawings by Joe Wai Architects. The Finance, Building and Executive Committees reviewed a number of analysis for different cost strategies for completing the enhancement project and found that financing was a viable option even based on very conservative calculations. In addition, we have received a favorable loan offer from VanCity.

Q. How will the proposed new facilities be maintained?

A. Supporting this expansion is a clear business case. The Garden has a history of financial responsibility and continues to make great strides to self-sufficiency. As with all the Garden's operational ventures, these areas for expansion have been conceived in an "entrepreneurial spirit", with great concern given to the fine balance between culture and business. Once completed, the Garden's expanded facilities will be operationally self-sustaining without compromising our commitment to a quality cultural and educational experience. Greater revenues are anticipated through a larger Gift Shop, increased attendance for programs and rentals, introduction of some food services, rent currently paid to another organization for washrooms and administrative offices will be applied to our own premises. Only 10% of our annual budget comes from government, mainly for site maintenance as it is City owned property (land and buildings).

Q. How will the new facilities blend in with the rest of the traditional looking Garden?

A. The architect's drawings show a user-friendly space with modern amenities. The roof tiles will be ordered from Suzhou, China and be almost exactly the same as the current clay tiles. All attempts will be made to keep the same look and feel of the traditional Garden using local materials and labour but allowing us greater flexibility.

Q. What is the timeline for the enhancement project?

A. Construction is anticipated to begin in Sept. 2003 and all parts to be completed within 8 months, however the Gift Shop and washrooms will be opened earlier by May 1,

2004.

Q. How will the regular Garden operations be affected?

A. The Garden will remain open throughout the construction period with the exception of two weeks during the initial phase of construction. The Gift Shop will be torn down as the additional facilities will be added from that location and new pilings installed. In October the merchandise from the Shop will be removed to the Main Hall for a pre-construction sale and after November souvenirs and signature items such as postcards, t-shirts, and books will be displayed and sold from the entrance lobby until the expanded Gift Shop reopens in May 2004.

Q. What can members do to help?

A. Donations (services/products/time/monetary) are greatly appreciated to make the dream a reality. We have a shopping list of materials needed to furnish and build the expanded facilities from carpets and sinks to wood and paint and everything in between. Contact Yvonne Chui, Executive Director for a copy of this list or discuss how you can be involved.

The Garden Society will be giving a final update to Parks Board commissioners in January on the project and the Building Permit should be issued by early Spring. More information will be forthcoming in the next issues of the newsletter.

By Kathy Gibler, President

The Annual Garden Gala

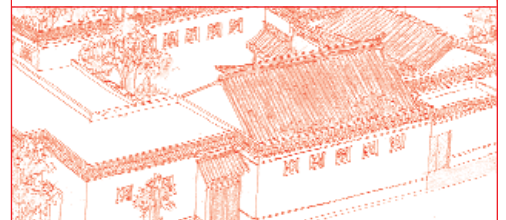
Friday, March 14, 2003

Crowne Plaza - Hotel Georgia
801 W. Georgia Street, Vancouver

A special Tasting of BC Fruit Wines &
Appetizers
Dinner, Dancing & Silent Auction
Entertainment by FIRE band

Tickets at \$150.00 per person
Black Tie Optional

For more information and to RSVP contact the
Gala Office at (604) 662-3207,
fax (604) 682-4008, or email sunyatsen@telus.net



Blossom Tours

March 23, 30 & April 6, 13, 20

Tours leave from the Vancouver Museum at 10:00am and return at 12:30pm.

The Vancouver Museum and the Garden are welcoming spring with a new Vancouver tradition, *cherry blossom viewing*.

Over 18 varieties of the cherry bloom each year on Vancouver's streets creating a beautiful, but short-lived display of the fluffy pink blossom. Over four weeks, the Vancouver Museum will lead Sunday morning excursions into Vancouver neighbourhoods displaying the best blossoms, and delve into the heritage of each area while enjoying the blossoms. The tours will then visit the Garden for tea, pastries and a tour introducing the current flowers in bloom and their symbolism and cultural significance in the Garden.

Tour Rate: **\$20.00** for members of the Vancouver Museum and the Garden; **\$35.00** for non-members. The rate also includes admission into the Vancouver Museum.

To register, call the Vancouver Museum at 604-734-7368.



China Work-Study Project 2003 in Beautiful Hangzhou

An exciting and affordable way to explore Chinese culture, language and life in China. Teach English conversation classes 4 hours a day FREE stay in scenic Hangzhou. Meet Chinese teachers and students and have an unforgettable experience in the summer of 2003.

Dates: July 11 - August 11, 2003

Cost: \$1,500.00 including return airfare Vancouver/Shanghai
Subsidy: Travel subsidy of \$500.00 awarded upon completion of program.

Information and application form available at:

www.geocities.com/workstudyinchina2003

Or write to: #168-2498 W 41st Ave., Vancouver, BC V6M 2A7

Or send email to: culturalhorizons@telus.net or Michael Ng at michaelng52@hotmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Volunteer AGM

The next General Meeting for Garden Volunteers will take place on Saturday, February 15 in the Main Hall at the Garden. RSVP to Wilf or Diana at 604-662-3207 or via email at sunyatsen@telus.net.



View Sun Yat-Sen Garden under a different LIGHT!

Enjoy complimentary tea, join a guided tour to discover the symbolic significance of the Garden's elements, shop for antique treasures from

China, and visit our gift shop for customized gift ideas.

During the month of December we are inviting everyone to see the Garden from a different light. Thanks to BC Hydro Power Smart and the Vancouver Chinatown Business Improvement Association, the Garden is awashed in many energy efficient, long lasting lights transforming it into a magical sight.

Many THANKS to our volunteers for helping to set up the light display: Larry Wong, Jean Stacknick, Dennis Yandle, and Oliver Zhou.



Annual General Meeting

Saturday, March 29

10:30am

China Maple Hall

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society invites all members to the Annual General Meeting and share our vision for the future enhancement. Joe Wai, architect will be on hand with final drawings. Join us for dim sum lunch afterwards.

RSVP by March 24. Please contact the office at 604-662-3207, fax 604-682-4008 or via email sunyatsen@telus.net.

SPONSORS & DONORS

The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their support. This list was prepared on Dec. 21, 2002. If your name is not included please accept our apology and call Yvonne Chui, Executive Director at 604 662-3207. Please note that the correct website address to the vandusen Botanical Garden is www.vandusengarden.org.

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Garden admission is

FREE

every third Wednesday of the
month for
BC SENIORS
(excluding group bookings)

Upcoming free days include
**Jan. 15, Feb. 19, Mar. 19,
Apr. 16**

LIVING TREASURE

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden

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The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society is an independent, charitable non-profit association. Its mandate is to enhance the bridging of the cultures of China and Canada. The Garden serves as a vehicle for greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture.

GARDEN STAFF

Yvonne Chui, Executive Director

Diana Lee, Operations Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

Margaret Yeung, Administrative Assistant

Helen Zhong, Gift Shop Manager

Erika Korstrom, Marketing Coordinator

Sonia Tilley, Education/Programme Coordinator

Wilf Lim, Assistant Manager

James Yu, Restoration/Maintenance Coordinator

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In-Kind

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Volunteers

We kindly acknowledge the support of:

Board of Parks and Recreation
Department of Canadian Heritage

HSBC 滙豐

BECOME A MEMBER OF DR. SUN YAT-SEN GARDEN SOCIETY

Membership Rates:
\$15.00 individual seniors/students,
\$25.00 individual / senior couple
\$35.00 family.

Benefits include:

- Unlimited Garden visits
- Full voting privileges at AGM
- Two free passes (\$15.00 value)
- Members' newsletter
- Invitations to special events, including Members' Mid-Autumn Moon Party
- Discounts for programs
- 10% discount at the Garden Gift Shop
- Free Club Membership at Mandeville Greenhouse, Nursery & Garden Centre
- Discount off regular admission to VanDusen Botanical Garden

Membership forms available at the Garden