

**Tradition in Felicities***Celebrating 155 years of Victoria's Chinatown*

February 7 to March 17, 2013

*By the Royal BC Museum*

The oldest-known Chinese Freemasons' lantern in Victoria's Chinatown and a compilation of video interviews with local Chinese-Canadian elders will tell the story of what life was like in Victoria's Chinatown and how Chinese New Year was celebrated from the 1930s through the 1950s.

The lantern, dated between 1910 and the 1930s, is a tangible reminder of the important connection between the Asia Pacific region and British Columbia, as well as the important role of Victoria's Chinatown in that history.

Embodying the exquisite maturity of craftsmanship in the southern Chinese tradition, the lantern reveals early-20<sup>th</sup> century Chinese Canadian transnational links, sophisticated Chinese cultural upbringing, and vibrant community activities.

A video installation will give visitors the opportunity to watch interviews with prominent community elders, including Dr. David Lai, Canada's Mr. Chinatown, and four families who had businesses, the famous Loy Sing Guen and Yee Lun Ark Kee, and lived in Victoria's Chinatown between the 1930s and 1960s.

The exhibition reveals an important part of local history and exemplifies the Royal BC Museum's commitment to collaborate with and represent diverse communities, and to the preservation and representation of Victoria's Chinatown history.

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