

Wong's Benevolent Association
123 East Pender Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6A 1T6

Event: Historic Photo Archives Open for Canada 150
When: Saturdays from June 24 to July 8 between 11AM to 2PM
Cost: Free
Registration: <https://goo.gl/forms/x7XYwJbFcMjyXgJ73>

Details:

In the spirit of Canada 150, the Wong's Benevolent Association will open their photo archives to the public. Located on the third floor of the historic Wong's Association building at 123 East Pender, the photo archives date back to the 1920s and capture Chinatown's vibrant history through the lens of the early Chinese-Canadian community.

The general public is invited to take a guided tour to better understand the experiences of Vancouver's early Chinese immigrants through the role of family associations. The Wong's Benevolent Association was established in 1912 to provide social and economic support for early Chinese immigrants with the surname "Wong". During the "Chinese Exclusion Act", Chinese associations became an important source of fraternity and refuge from discrimination for thousands of Chinese men.

The photo archives date back to the early 1920s and document the Wong's Benevolent Association's significant presence in Vancouver's Chinatown, where they currently own two buildings. Originally built in 1910, the main building continues to serve as the association's headquarters and provide a social centre for its active members.

The building was renovated during Chinatown's prime in the early 1920s and reflects an eclectic blend of Western and Chinese architecture. Decorative details - including a "cheater floor", recessed balconies, and long steep staircases - are iconic to Chinatowns of Vancouver and Victoria. The Wong's Benevolent Association building was granted heritage designation in 2003.

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www.wongsassociation.org