

by Ashley Ford



Dr. Sun Yat-sen Classical Chinese Garden

On the edge of Vancouver's Chinatown, surrounded by high whitewashed walls sits a "living treasure".

The Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden is the first full scale Chinese garden built outside of China and the first ever involving the Chinese and Vancouver communities.

A non-profit organization, the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden Society of Vancouver runs the garden on behalf of the City of

Vancouver and its prime purpose is to serve as a bridge between China and Canada and to promote a greater understanding of Chinese culture.

This unique garden is a Suzhou Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) scholar's garden and was completed in 1986 in time for Expo 86 by a team of artisans brought in from Suzhou, a city which sits near the mouth of the Yangtze River.

The garden had its introduction many years before when a Chinese Cultural Centre was built on a portion of the site.

At that time it was agreed that a garden should be built to complement the cultural centre. Eventually an enthusiastic band of scholars, politicians, city workers, members of the Chinese community and just plain fans of Chinese gardens quietly worked away to make the project work.

It was a daunting undertaking from the very outset, but when B.C.'s present Lieutenant Gov. Dr. David Lam, a former Hong Kong resident, and his wife Dorothy donated C\$1 million the impossible became probable. The Canadian govern-