

# TIME TRAVELER



IHP7791c

The new Multiuse Civic Facility (MUCF) has broken ground and is scheduled for completion in December 2013. This exciting \$35M projected is funded through a Development Assistant Compensation agreement between the City, Starlight Casino, the Province and BC Lottery Corporation. This new iconic facility will serve the community, stimulate tourism and spur economic development through its many amenities: a 350 seat theatre, conference and meeting facilities, multipurpose rooms, art studios and gallery, tourist information centre, the city's museum and archives, a restaurant and the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

The MUCF is located on Columbia Street between Eighth Street and Begbie Street – a historic section of Downtown. Part of the construction site occupies the eastern portion of what was known as Merchant's Square. Merchant's Square was one of a number of public areas sold by the City to raise money to pay the Canadian Pacific Railway a "construction bonus" to entice a branch line into New Westminister (completed in 1886).

The railroad, and later streetcars, spurred the development of a number of businesses and hotels that benefited from this transportation hub. Some early Merchant Square hotels were: The Merchant's, The Metropolitan, The Depot and The Central. Unfortunately these hotels were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1899 and later re-built along with a new hotel, The Windsor, which opened across the street.

In 1944 the Windsor Hotel became the first home of the CKNW radio station, which in 1945, established its Orphans' Fund, to raise money for one of New Westminister orphanages. Also located in the Windsor Hotel was the Fraser Café, a popular destination and regular sponsor of local sports teams.

On the same block was the Kidd Market, where the first Over-weigh tea store opened. Robert Kidd, the owner, hit on the marketing idea of selling 18 ounces of tea for the price of a pound. In effect, it was the selling of "over-weight tea" and hence the name of the store.

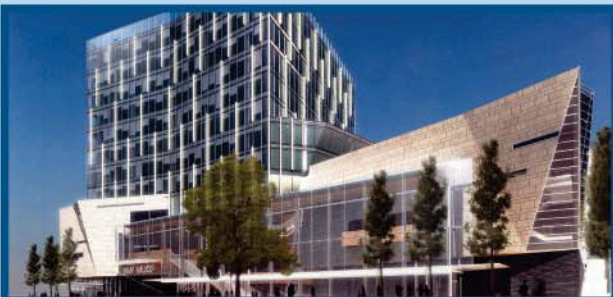
The MUCF continues to build on the rich history of Columbia and Eight Streets and will soon become a cultural destination in Metro Vancouver.



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MUCF