



MEDIA RELEASE • APRIL 20, 2015 • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## “A Visit with Sir John A. Macdonald”

Sunday afternoon, May 3, 2015 from 2pm to 3pm



2015 is the 150th Anniversary of the construction of Ross Bay Villa, and  
2015 is the 200th Anniversary of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth!

**It is a great year to celebrate!**

### **HISTORY:**

Francis Roscoe of *Ross Bay Villa*, was a Member of Parliament for Victoria from 1874 - 1878. An ardent supporter of B.C. joining Confederation, he resigned his seat in August of 1878. This vacancy made way for Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's First Prime Minister, to be elected as a Member of Parliament for Victoria in October of 1878.

### **A TWO-PART EVENT:**

**PART ONE:** An hour-long, musical-theatrical ticketed presentation in *Ross Bay Villa's* garden, under the apple trees, by the *Salon Acting Company* of Kingston, Ontario, as part of their cross-country road trip celebrating our first Prime Minister, in 2015 – on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

**Ross Bay Villa: Sunday afternoon, May 3, 2015 from 2pm – 3pm. Tickets \$10 each**

**PART TWO:** After the presentation at *Ross Bay Villa*, the theatre troupe, carrying historic campaign signs, will gather at City Hall's Pandora Street entrance, beside the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald, with special guests, for a public event. The Salon Theatre Group will present two musical numbers about Sir John A. Macdonald. Chris Considine, Victoria lawyer, will speak. He is the Great-grandson of Sir Joseph Pope, private secretary to Sir John A. Macdonald, who accompanied Sir John on his first trip to Victoria in 1886.

**City Hall, Pandora Street entrance: Sunday afternoon, May 3, 4pm to 4:45pm. Free Public Event.**

Part One of the afternoon's festivities will take place in the garden of *Ross Bay Villa*, under the apple trees.

The event is part of a year-long celebration of *Ross Bay Villa's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* organized by the *Ross Bay Villa Society*. The celebrations are part of larger fundraising campaign organized by the society to raise funds to purchase and finish restoring the historical home that once belonged to Member of Parliament Francis Roscoe.

During Roscoe's time as an M.P. in Ottawa, he met with Macdonald and dined with him, though Roscoe was Liberal and Macdonald a Conservative. Roscoe resigned his seat in August of 1878. When Macdonald lost his seat in Kingston in the September 1878 election, he looked to Victoria, where the Dominion election was held a month later. Sir John A. Macdonald was elected for Victoria in October of 1878. SALON Theatre would like to bring the now 200-year-old Sir John A. Macdonald back to the island to celebrate *Ross Bay Villa's* former resident.

Salon Theatre's five actor-musicians are stopping in Victoria amid their six-week national tour of *Sir John Eh? The Road Show*, a fluid, flexible, and portable theatrical show, with a unique blend of heritage and the arts, designed to get people thinking in an entertaining fashion, about Canada's history and systems of government, and the contributions of Sir John A. Macdonald, our first prime minister.

Full details are available at [www.sirjohna2015.ca](http://www.sirjohna2015.ca)

**Tickets for the first part of the event at *Ross Bay Villa* are \$10 each. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.RossBayVilla.org](http://www.RossBayVilla.org).**

Proceeds will be split 50/50 between the *Ross Bay Villa Society* and the *Salon Theatre Company*, both Charitable Organizations. The proceeds from this event will assist the *Ross Bay Villa Ownership Campaign*.

**The event at City Hall, from 4pm to 4:45pm is free, and open to the public.**

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**Media Inquires:**

**To learn more about SALON Theatre and their upcoming show, please contact**

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**To learn more about *Ross Bay Villa* and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, please contact**

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For a list of all events planned at Ross Bay Villa for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please visit

<http://www.rossbayvilla.org>