

PRESS RELEASE

E. Pauline Johnson-Tekahionwake:

Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Ontario 1861-Vancouver, BC 1913

A Retrospective

By Jenna Mossop & James Gibson

February 1, 2024-June 1, 2024

**The Roedde House Museum
Vancouver B.C.**

The Roedde House Museum is pleased to introduce the exhibit
"E. Pauline Johnson-Tekahionwake:A Retrospective"

This four month exhibit will include: Pauline Johnson's family and career, affiliation with **Chief Joe and Mary Agnes Capilano**, a few Indigenous reactions to Pauline from **Six Nations of the Grand River and the Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw** (Squamish Nation) from BC, and Pauline's legacy in Vancouver from 1913-to the present.

Pauline defied the role of women at the time, by not marrying and having children and sustained herself and her mother financially after the death of her father through writing and performances. She travelled through Canada, northeastern United States, and London, England reciting her work on stages. Touring widely for 17 years, she started performances in her Indigenous dress, and ended them wearing her European gown; demonstrating the two worlds she moved between and subtly playing with the expectations and stereotypes held by her primarily Euro-Canadian and British audience members.

Pauline's work continued to influence the Canadian literary field long after her death, she was commemorated on a Canadian stamp in 1961, and has been the subject of **66 academic studies from 1978-2018**.

In the last few display cases, this exhibit embodies an **exceptional Vancouver connection**.

Her memorial stands in **Stanley Park** and a WW1 machine gun bearing Pauline's nameplate can be found in the **Beatty Street Armoury**.

Pauline Johnson School in West Vancouver (now known as **Ecole Pauline Johnson**) was built in 1922. A photographic image of a drum can be seen in the second display case. The original drum was made at the **MOV** during a drum-making workshop prior to Covid, and taken back to Ontario and given to **Raymond Skye**, artist, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Ray rendered an exceptional image of **Pauline Johnson** with the family home, **Chiefswood** in the background. **Ben Lim** a recent graduate of the **Vancouver School of Art**, was chosen to illustrate the reprinted 1961 version of *Legends of Vancouver*.** In 2014, the CanLit icon of Canadian literature Margaret Atwood, co-produced the Opera, **Pauline** commissioned by City Opera Vancouver. And the **Firehall Arts Centre** on east Cordova in Vancouver 2021, presented the musical **Paddle Song** with Cheri Maracle portraying **Pauline Johnson**. This will be repeated in late May 2024. Furthermore, the **West Vancouver Memorial Library** as part of their programming, will introduce "Music Talks: Indigenous Music with Brian Wright-McLeod" (February 27- April 9th). On April 2nd, is the spoken word of **E. Pauline Johnson**, Chief Dan George, Willy Dunn, and John Trudell...her **Vancouver legacy never ends**.

** The content pertaining to *Legends of Vancouver* was derived from tales of Chief Joe and Mary Agnes Capilano of the Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw. **Pauline Johnson's intended title was *Legends of the Capilano***. It was not until April 2023, that the title was published with the intended title, and edited by Alix Shield of SFU (University of Manitoba Press).

Thanks so much,

James Gibson

jim.gibson@mail.utoronto.ca

647-629-9559

**E. Pauline Johnson-Tekahionwake
Specialist/Collector**