



A Conference Centre
at Exhibition Place

ALLSTREAM CENTRE HISTORY COMES ALIVE FACT SHEET

- Designed by architect Douglas E. Kertland, and constructed in a record time of six months at a cost of \$1 million, the Automotive Building opened in August of 1929 to wide acclaim. The building construction used 900 tons of steel, 150 tons of rail steel reinforcing bars, 60,000 bags of cement, 1,250,000 bricks and 40,000 cubic feet of stone for the exterior. For the roof 115,000 sq. ft of gypsum for the flat and sloping portions of the roof, 100,000 lb of roofing pitch, 40,000 lb of tarred felt and 40,000 lb. of asphalt were used.
- Many historical elements have been retained in the 2009 Allstream Centre, including the heritage light fixtures, iron hand railings and terrazzo floors. Winged car tire plaster decorations have been restored.
- The Automotive Building hosted annual auto shows from 1929 – 1967: from 1968 – 2008, a wide variety of trade/consumer shows, travel expositions and exhibits were housed in the building.
- Although the CNE was on hiatus during the Second World War, the Canadian Military occupied the CNE grounds, and the Royal Canadian Navy converted the Automotive Building into the HMCS York.
- The auto shows of the 1950s were not merely displays of the latest vehicles, but elaborate productions designed to show-off the latest models, present experimental car designs, and educate the public about the manufacturing of automobiles. North American, British and European auto-makers participated.
- Volkswagen's first Canadian showing was at the 1952 Auto Show. All 14 vehicles on display were sold and orders taken for an additional 60.
- T.V. star Ed Sullivan, accompanied by the President of Ford, premiered the 1956 Lincoln, which was hidden under a blue and white crate with a bow.
- The 1960s saw a continuation of the trend of featuring experimental and space-age car designs. The show welcomed Asian manufacturers including Isuzu, Nissan and Toyota, joining North American and European manufacturers.
- The Automotive Mezzanine featured the unusual Amphi Car in 1962 and 1963. This amphibious vehicle was capable of being driven on land or water and was displayed in a giant water tank.

www.allstreamcentre.com
October, 2009