



Chronicle for an interview.

And in conversation, the fast-talking, 72-year-old Aussie-born dynamo races from subject to subject, barely leaving enough time to breathe.

So it's not hard to imagine her taking over the conversation on her flight a few days back to Calgary, where she is doing a week's worth of publicity behind her self-published update of the 1985 book *Tell Me, Grandmother*.

"I said to the people in the plane around me, 'can I do a test?'" says Hancock, who now lives on Vancouver Island.

"What do you know about Sam Livingston?" Nobody did. I said "But there's so many buildings with his name on them."

If few knew the history of Livingston, even fewer know of the courageous life of his wife Jane, the Metis grandmother in the title.

In the early 1980s, Hancock certainly did her best to help plant the larger-than-life romance between the Irishman and the Metis woman into Canada's permanent consciousness. That was when she was approached by Marlon Dowler, whose husband Dennis Dowler was one of Sam and Jane's many grandsons. He wore a ring that Sam had given Jane. In 1969, one of Dowler's daughters brought the ring into her Victoria school after her Grade 6 teacher had told students to look into their own histories.

That teacher was Hancock, a job she took after an early life filled with adventure and globe-trotting.