

# Move the school? Horrors, he said

Relocating historical Craigflower school is a bad idea, Saanich council was told Monday by a member of the Hallmark Society.

Moving it would be like trying to relocate the Plains of Abraham to make way for a parking lot, society secretary Michael Halleran said.

He was commenting on council's decision to ask the provincial heritage restoration branch to move the 125 year-old school house to another site because it protrudes three metres on to the Admirals Road right-of-way.

The society said in a letter Halleran read that "a historic site is a historic site, not an object to be carted around for the convenience of road planners and motor cars."

Halleran's request to council to consider other options was supported by the Craigflower Women's Institute.

Institute secretary Joan Axford said the group strongly opposes any decision to move the school from its original site.

About \$100,000 will be spent this year renovating the school structure and polishing the exterior.

The provincial highways ministry wants Saanich to reduce the right-of-way next to the school, but municipal engineer Cliff Warren recently told council the suggestion won't work because Admirals is designated as a major road and needs enough room to expand to four lanes.

The school sits on the bank of the Gorge waterway and houses a small public museum depicting early life in the area.