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Greater Victoria projects abound as heritage prizes are handed out

By Patrick Murphy

Times Colonist staff

Heritage pays, Victoria architects have discovered as Greater Victoria restoration projects took prizes in every category of the Heritage Society of B.C. awards.

Among the winners:

□ The man who urged the creation of a Saanich heritage inventory.

□ The company which restored Victoria's venerable Board of Trade building, the original anchor building for Bastion Square just over a century ago:

□ Two businessmen who have made a career of turning derelict buildings into successful businesses.

□ Two local churches;

□ The prime mover of Victoria heritage

They joined an up-island historical society and four mainland projects in the lineup for awards at the annual conference of the society earlier this month.

Bjorn Simonsen, former chairman of the Saanich Heritage committee was given an award of honor for personal achievement.

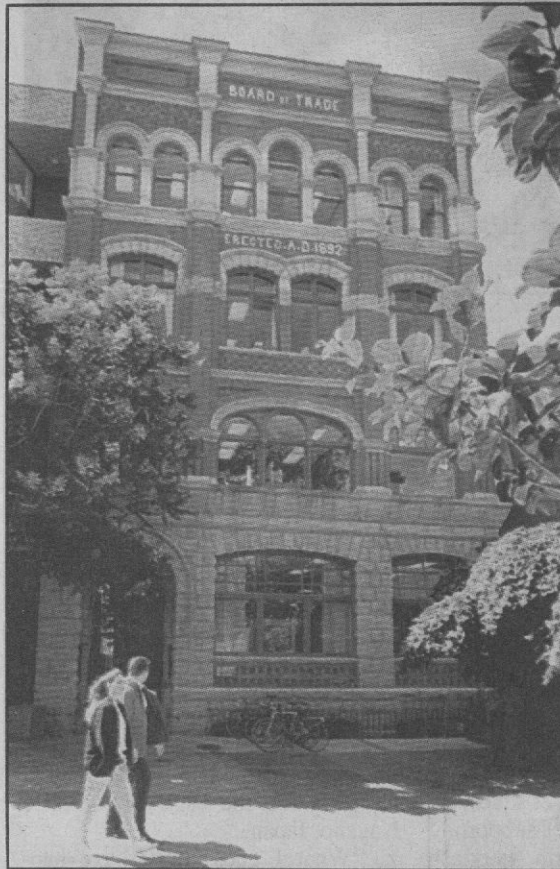
Simonsen, B.C.'s first provincial archeologist, was president of the Heritage Society and is now principal of the Bastion Group Heritage Consultants.

On the Saanich heritage committee he was the mover behind creating a heritage inventory and helped produce a video of Saanich.

Andromeda Investments was given an award of honor for its restoration of the 1892 Board of Trade building. The

Businessmen Michael Williams and William Patterson took the outstanding achievement award in the corporate category.

Williams and Patterson have restored several Old Town buildings, including the old grain warehouse at Store and Pandora streets which is



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Andromeda Investments was honored for its restoration of the 1892 Board of Trade building in Bastion Square

now Swans Pub.

The pair has also restored several century-old buildings on lower Johnson Street.

St. Andrew's Cathedral parish had an award of honor for the restoration of the Blanshard Street church.

St. Andrew's started off as a small wooden church in 1858 and was later rebuilt as the looming brick structure with the copper spire.

The church spent \$2½ million on the interior and exterior renovations in the 10-year project.

The Congregation of St. Luke's Church in Saanich won an award for volunteer achievement.

St. Luke's spent more than \$300,000 to restore the original

church built in 1887.

This included everything from replacing the bell tower on the Cedar Hill Road church to oiling the pews.

The Hallmark Society of Victoria was recognized for outstanding achievement in raising heritage awareness.

The Hallmark Society was created in 1973 by seven citizens who fought in vain to save the Wilson house from demolition.

It now has more than 1,000 members who keep a close eye on any Greater Victoria development to ensure the heritage of the area is preserved.

The Union Bay Historical Society also won an award for volunteer achievement.