

Richard A. Rennie C.D., B. Comm., LL.B.

Barrister & Solicitor
of the Bar of British Columbia

16 Nov 84

The Hallmark Society.

Dear Sirs:

Attached is a copy of a letter I dispatched yesterday to the Municipality of Esquimalt concerning their "policy" on Heritage Designation.

Coincidentally, in the evening edition of the Ottawa Citizen newspaper (15 Nov 84), I came across this particular news item regarding a Heritage house in Ottawa. The financial "partnership" of which I spoke in my letter to the Municipality is much more evident in Ontario - at least in Ottawa - than it is in Esquimalt.

For your information

Yours truly,
Dick Rennie



—Chris Mikulā, Citizen

Heritage building at 336 Daly Ave.

Sandy Hill/ Grant given for heritage house

Ottawa Council has approved a \$12,000 heritage grant for repairs to a brick house at 336 Daly Ave.

Owners Timothy and Julyan Reid plan to repair the roof, windows and porch. Total cost of the project is more than \$30,000. The Reids will pay the balance of the cost.

The home was built in 1869 for a Sandy Hill grocer.

City heritage planner Douglas Stubbs said the Victorian gothic architecture of the 1½-storey building is unique in the neighborhood.

Stubbs said city and provincial grants are available to owners who are enhancing the heritage characteristics of their homes.

The grant comes under the Ontario Heritage Act which protects houses and districts of architectural and historical value.

Under the act, homeowners cannot make outside renovations without council's approval.

Richard A. Rennie C.D., B. Comm., LL.B.

*Barrister & Solicitor
of the Bar of British Columbia*

65 Ossington Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 3B5

15 November, 1984

Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt
Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, B.C.
V9A 3P1

Attention: G. Merz, Municipal Clerk

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of 9 November, 1984 providing information concerning the Policy of the Municipality regarding Heritage structures and canvassing my interest in applying for Heritage designation for 649 Admirals.

Having been born, raised and educated in Esquimalt, I realized the value of 649 Admirals when it recently came up for sale. It is a marvelous house steeped in history which benefits both the owner and the community. My family and I are pleased and proud to own this small piece of antiquity and we very much look forward to making the house our home and furthering the tradition. But, as all recognize, there is considerable cost in preserving things as they were. In my opinion that cost should be shared equitably between those who benefit.

The community, the Municipality, must consider that there is a benefit to preserving 649 Admirals and other similar residences otherwise there would be no rationale for the existence of a Policy, let alone a provincial statute. But the Policy has no substance, no "teeth", as it calls for a one-way, albeit voluntary, financial commitment by the owner. I, as an owner of a potential, vital Heritage structure, have absolutely nothing to gain by subscribing to this scheme in its present form. In fact, I have much to lose in terms of flexibility in the future use of my property.

The preservation of antiquity requires a partnership of a caring owner and "the people". When the Municipality of

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Esquimalt realizes that the commitment of the people must be demonstrated through a tangible financial contribution (e.g., grant in lieu of taxes) then I will be more than willing to join the coalition and work to preserve 649 Admirals for the benefit of all present and future residents of Esquimalt. Until terms of a reasonable partnership can be struck, however, I must decline your invitation to apply for Heritage status for 649 Admirals.

Yours truly,

[Signature]



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MUNICIPAL HALL, 1229 ESQUIMALT ROAD, ESQUIMALT, B.C. V9A 3P1 385-2461

14th February, 1978

Ms. Candy Wyatt
President
The Hallmark Society
30 Bastion Square
P. O. Box 1204
Victoria, B. C.
V8W 2T6

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

RE: Heritage Preservation - 649 Admirals Road.

Further to your letter of 13th January, 1978, in the above matter, I wish to advise that at its regular meeting held on 13th February, 1978, the Esquimalt Municipal Council, on recommendation received from its Planning, Zoning and Housing Committee, directed that your Society be advised that the Municipal Council has previously placed itself on record that it is prepared to designate a building as a Heritage Building upon receipt of an application from the owner of the building for such designation.

The Council, regardless of changes to the Heritage legislation, is not prepared to change its policy in this regard. Further, the members of Council wish to point out that the owner of the building in question was in fact a founder of your Society and, is aware of Council's policy in this regard.

Yours very truly,

G. MERZ
MUNICIPAL CLERK

GM/mm

January 13, 1978

Town Council
Esquimalt Municipality
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, B.C.
V9A 3P1

Re: 649 Admirals Road

Dear Sirs:

We are increasingly concerned about the future of 649 Admirals Road, presently owned by architect Peter Cotton. We understand there is some likelihood that the building may be sold in the near future and if so, without the protection of heritage designation, it's demolition is almost certain.

Now that municipalities are able to designate easily and negotiate with owners when any hardship is involved, we cannot understand why steps have not been taken to protect this and other buildings in Esquimalt.

We would very much appreciate hearing your reasons why Esquimalt continues to ignore the heritage preservation process. We have felt that the major issues have been resolved, that public opinion is largely in favour and we would therefore welcome hearing from you as to what further barriers remain in your opinion.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Candy Wyatt
President