

Award of Merit Bill and Joan Ryan

In Victoria, it is not often that one family occupies a home for three generations without making substantial changes. This award recognizes and pays tribute to the Ryan family for their continued stewardship of 651 Battery Street through three generations. It tells the story of the house and the family who has lived there since 1913. Fortunately, members of the family were avid photographers who carefully pasted family photographs into albums, identifying most of the people and scenes. It is from these albums that the images in the awards presentation were largely drawn.

Bill and Joan consider it a privilege and a pleasure to live in a house that has been in the family for three generations. It is also a duty and a responsibility. Joan feels that the experience of living in a piece of "living heritage" influenced her from an early age, as she assisted her father with home maintenance. The Ryans were front and centre at the Battery Street rally. Joan represented the Ryans, as the longest-standing residents of Battery Street. When asked "Why is the preservation of this house important to you?" Joan replied that it is important from a social history point of view in terms of the continuity of family ownership, architecturally and for its significance as part of the Battery Street Heritage Conservation area.



651 Battery