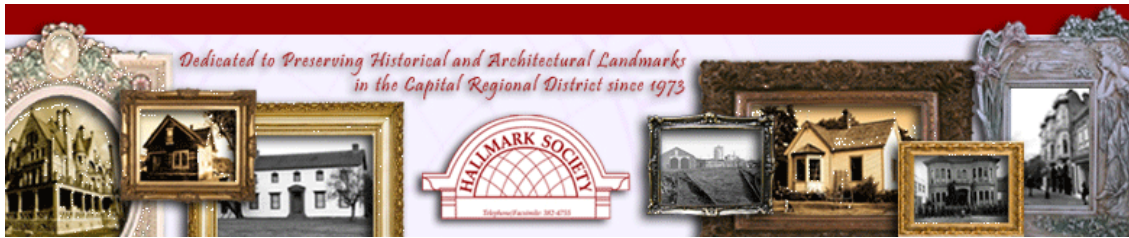


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50th Anniversary Hallmark Heritage Society Awards Night !



For 50 years, the Hallmark Heritage Society has supported and celebrated the careful conservation of the Capital Region's historic buildings and the people who care about them.

156 Fort Street, to welcome the Hallmark Heritage Society Award winners for 2021 and 2022. Start time is 7:30 pm.

To reserve a free seat at this exciting event, register at Eventbrite, below.

Eventbrite Tickets

Restoration or Deconstruction

A Letter from Nick Russell

Deconstruction is Just a Gesture

The Globe and Mail recently ran a two-page feature extolling the “de-construction” of a substantial 1913 brick warehouse in downtown Toronto. The paper’s “architecture critic” was impressed that old-growth beams will be turned into benches and stools, and that old brick will be bundled into a retaining wall visible in a steel mesh.

Hallmark member Nick Russell was less impressed. He wrote the following brief note to the Globe & Mail. (The letter of course never saw the light of day, being one of probably 100 received by the paper every day.)

(It’s worth noting that the building had been used as an abattoir. Evidently the developers had spun this negative vibe just like others have done in Victoria to diminish the Goldrush Warehouses as “Northern Junk.” --NR

Re. After demolition, building materials get a second life.” (11 April 2023, A10-11)
Thanks to your “Architecture Critic,” for his photo-essay. But he’s missed some vital issues:

1. Salvaging a few bricks may salve a few consciences, but it does little for the environment. And bundling them in a steel mesh retaining wall does nothing for aesthetics.
2. The structure being demolished had large round-topped windows: Wouldn’t they have made handsome details of a refurbished building, currently surrounded by important heritage neighbours? Wasn’t there originally talk of retaining the existing façades? Toronto requires buildings that are adjacent to heritage properties to be sympathetic...so how do monster towers satisfy that?

purposed –from grain silos, foundries and a harbour crane to water-towers and public washrooms. Here in Victoria BC, imaginative owners and developers have converted a bank (now a bookstore), powerhouse (performance space), funeral parlour (apartments), warehouse (TV station), soda factory (stores & condos), and many others.

4. Victoria architect Peter Cotton once said, “A building in a run-down condition always looks worse than it is.” Demolition by neglect is a negotiating weapon.

5. U.S. architect Carl Elefante said, “The greenest building is the one that is already built.”

Surely a tower could have been built behind the handsome existing façade, retaining the ambience of the streetscape, while still providing profits and useful space?

Deconstruction is just a gesture.

Sincerely, Nick Russell, PhD
1609 Pembroke St.,
Victoria, BC.

Old Cemetery Tours

Tours start each Sunday at 2:00 pm at the cemetery entrance on Fairfield Road, opposite the south end of Stannard Street. Others start where noted. No reservations needed. Charge: \$5 for non-members; \$2 for members.

This coming Sunday, April 23rd, the Old Cemetery Tour will be at the historic St. Luke's Churchyard. Filled with spring flowers, this is always a delightful tour.

St. Luke's picturesque churchyard is the final resting place for many pioneer families in the Cedar Hill and Gordon Head areas. Through their stories, we'll learn the history of these areas and their importance in the agriculture of Greater Victoria. Meet in the parking lot off Cedar Hill Cross Rd. at the corner of Cedar Hill Rd.



Click here for a full listings of the Old Cemeteries Society Tours for 2023.

Victoria Historical Society

The Victoria Historical Society is presenting its April Talk is with Donna Sakuta and John Henry: “Union Zindabad! South Asian Canadian Labour History in British Columbia” on Thursday, April 27, 2023, 7:30 pm at James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street, Victoria V8V 2G7. JBNH opens at 7:15 pm for refreshments and socializing. Event is free for members, \$5 for guests.

The South Asian Canadian population in B.C. has a long and complex relationship with the labour movement. From early exclusionary practices to a recognition that racism is a tool of the boss to divide workers, the tenacity and strength of community has always been forward looking. As a result, the labour movement has benefited from strong South Asian leaders, activists and members. From the Portland Cement Company strike in 1906 to the lumber camps and beyond, South Asian labour has played a significant role in the history of Vancouver Island. Donna Sacuta, Executive Director of the BC Labour Heritage Centre, will be joined by Henry John, Archivist at the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) Archive in Lake Cowichan to discuss this groundbreaking work.

[LINK TO Victoria Historical Society Website](#)

Home Insurance Delemma

All too frequently we hear of the problems around insuring our older homes.

Each year, when our insurance falls due, it is with great trepidation we reach out to our past insurance broker, hoping that rates have not increased exponentially or even

Hallmark Board Member Helen Edwards passes along the following link to an interesting article from the National Trust of Canada regarding heritage house insurance.

What does your insurance policy state about restoring your house in the event of a disaster? Does the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Act have any comment?

[LINK to National Trust Article on Home Insurance](#)

St Ann's Academy

Capital Connections





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