

PRESERVE

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The Hallmark Heritage Society

A Quarterly News Letter - Volume 50 No. 4 Summer 2023

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HALLMARK HERITAGE SOCIETY LECTURE AND AGM

At 7:30 pm, Tuesday September 26, 2023 the Hallmark Heritage Society invites you to a lecture presented by Bruce Davies, Curator, Craigdarroch Castle describing Canada's system of medical care for soldiers during and just after the Great War. His illustrated lecture will explain how Craigdarroch's building fabric and its landscape was transformed in order to help disabled men return to civilian life. The talk will be preceded by the Hallmark Heritage Society AGM

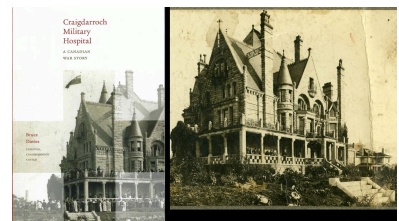
The event will be held at Wentworth Villa, 1156 Fort Street.

Light refreshments will be available.

Click [LINK](#) for tickets.



HALLMARK LECTURE



Craigdarroch Military
Hospital- A Canadian War
Story

HERITAGE HOUSE INSURANCE

For the past few years some owners have experienced difficulty in obtaining insurance for houses on the heritage registry or even for homes that are simply older.

Insurance providers and, in turn, the brokers with whom we have dealt for many years, are leaving the market for areas they perceive to have less risk. Home owners are faced with the stress of seeking out new insurers.

As we are aware of this, the Hallmark Heritage Society has prepared a list of insurers and brokers who are, at this date, offering house insurance. The list may vary over time and, if you know of any other broker offering insurance, please let us know so we may keep the list up to date. This [LINK](#) will take you to our webpage listing the brokers. The list below is current.

LIST OF BROKERS OR INSURERS WHO OFFER HERITAGE HOUSE INSURANCE.

HUB International Insurance Brokers

Aviva Insurance – Local Broker Megson Fitzpatrick

Ecclesiastical Insurance -May only be for commercial properties.

Henry Swinton MacKenzie

Thunderbird Insurance

SeaFirst Insurance

Reliance Insurance (Vancouver based)

OAK BAY HERITAGE FOUNDATION LECTURE

THE CAMPAIGN TO EXPEL JAPANESE CANADIANS.

All are welcome to the Windsor Park Pavilion, 2451 Windsor Road in Oak Bay at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, September 20th to hear of :

The Campaign to Expel Japanese Canadians

Stemming from almost a decade of study into the impacts of property being stolen from Japanese Canadians around the Second World War, the University of Victoria is now taking a global look at the issue.

The Past Wrongs, Future Choices project will run until 2029 as it looks to advance the state of historical and interdisciplinary knowledge about how people of Japanese descent globally were uprooted, interned and dispossessed.

the 1940s and '50s. While many in Canada are likely aware of Japanese internment, the project explored how stripping people of their property removed them from their neighbourhoods, communities and businesses. (Jake Romphf-News staff- Oak Bay News July 6, 2023).

VICTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At 7:30 pm, Thursday, September 18, 2023, the Victoria Historical Society, in the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, will present an interesting talk on Matthew Begbie

September 28, 2023

Judge Begbie: Does He Epitomize the Cruelty of Colonization?

Hamar Foster

Location: James Bay New Horizons Centre, 7:30pm

Hamar Foster, KC, is an emeritus professor at the University of Victoria. He has been researching and writing about BC's legal history for over forty years. His most recent projects include an article in the Manitoba Law Journal contrasting Emily Carr's impressions of the Gitanyow people of Kitwano in the late 1920s with those of the RCMP; co-editing, with Peter Cook, John Lutz, Neil Vallance and Graham Brazier, *To Share Not Surrender: Indigenous and Settler Visions of Treaty-Making in the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia* (UBC Press 2021); and an article entitled "As Sharp as a Knife: Judge Begbie and Reconciliation," in John Borrows and Kent McNeil, ed. *Voicing Identity: Cultural Appropriation and Indigenous Issues* (U. of T. Press, 2022). Matthew Baillie Begbie was controversial almost from the moment he stepped off the boat in 1858. And lately he has become controversial once again, primarily for his role in the trials following the Chilcotin War in 1864. As a result, the Benchers of the Law Society of BC removed his statue from their building in 2017; New Westminster followed suit by removing their statue of him from the city's public square; and, just last year, the Vancouver School Board changed the name of Matthew Baillie Begbie Elementary to Wəkʷaṇəs tə syaqʷəm.

A colonial judge is, admittedly, no longer an appropriate symbol for the 21st century legal profession. But as one of Begbie's successors as chief justice said: statues are seen as a sign of respect, and their removal is seen as a sign that respect is no longer due. He added

In fact, a strong case can be made that Begbie was more unpopular with a significant and vocal element of the settler community and the press of his day than he was with Indigenous people. The presentation will address this and some other issues raised by his critics, including his role in the 1864 trials; the question of colonial vs. Tsilhqot'in law; the matter of whether Begbie really was a “Hanging Judge;” his opinion and treatment of Indigenous peoples; and, generally, his record as a judge.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Annual General Meeting of the Hallmark Society shall be held at 7:30, Tuesday, September 29, 2023 at the Wentworth Villa, 1156 Fort Street for the purpose of receiving the Reports of the Board of Directors and the nomination and election of the Board of Directors for 2023-2024.

Below are the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, September 22, 2022.

Hallmark Heritage Society

2022 Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, September 27, 2022

The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 19h36 on September 27, 2022 at Old Craigflower School. In attendance were 13 members. The meeting was chaired by President Ken Johnson who welcomed the attendees and laid out the order of business

Call to Order: 19h36

Approval of the Agenda:

Sherry Robinson/Jim Lee – Carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:

Darwin Robinson/Michael Halleran – Carried.

Reports:

1. President's Report: For me, as your President, last year was a difficult one. Having to deal with the remnants of the COVID epidemic as well as serious family health problems took up a great deal of time.

One of the results of COVID was the increase in the number of online events which I could attend, including most of the City of Victoria Heritage Advisory Panel meetings, many Council meetings and frequent educational events presented by Heritage B.C. and the National Trust for Canada.

A recurrent focus of these events is the changing nature of heritage preservation. There appears to be a movement to concentrate on the intangible heritage of historic sites and places. This may be a result of the slow erosion of the number of actual, original sites as a result of an increasing population in those areas attended with the loss of these sites or the irreversible loss of fabric and context that results from facadism. How these changes will affect the future of heritage preservation remains to be seen.

buildings that exist or have been demolished. This is an ongoing task that shall never be completed but each year the wealth of data increases.

Almost all of these materials have been scanned and posted in a digital format onto the Microsoft Cloud, a very safe storage location. With the continuing help of summer students, we are the creating webpages on the Hallmark website for each address along with the searchable database. It is anticipated that the bulk of this work will be completed sometime next year, and we shall go on to refining the data and improving the website's appearance and ease of use.

Hallmark did not hold an Awards Night this past year, partially due to COVID and partially due to the fact that we only had two nominations. The new Board will have to decide what, if anything, can be done to reverse this trend or, going forward, are Awards Nights the way to go in the future?

Another Hallmark-sponsored event, the Student Heritage Fair, held at the Royal B.C. Museum, was held as an online, virtual affair. While it was a partial success, it did not have the excitement of past Fairs with all participants gathering in one place sharing their efforts in the enjoyment of British Columbia's history. With all the changes at the museum, we are unsure of the status of the Student Heritage Fair in the spring of 2023.

Going forward, I have now served as Hallmark's President since 2011. Should the membership so approve tonight, I shall serve for one more year.

At this point, I would ask the membership to recognize the decades long devotion to the Hallmark Society by Helen Edwards. Helen has served in all the Board positions, acted as Executive Director during the times we had an active open office, published the Preserve Newsletter, kept our membership files and is a driving force behind the Annual Awards and the Student Heritage Fair. She continues to be our Treasurer. Helen has decided to take her efforts in other directions – she is pursuing the career of an author, having published a couple of books in recent years and looking forward to greater achievements in that field.

If approved this evening, she will continue to serve as Treasurer and doing the ongoing research tasks but wishes to relinquish those duties related to the newsletter, membership, and the awards night. I hope that somewhere in the membership we can find volunteers to take these tasks into the future. Helen will assist in any training and familiarization necessary. Please join me in thanking Helen for all of her fine works.

(b) Financial Report: Balance Sheet for the year ended June 30th, 2022

ASSETS

CURRENT Cash in Bank and Credit Union

Bank

\$11 824.51

Credit Union

8 524.20

\$20 348.71

Share – Coast Capital

5.00

\$20 353.71

FIXED

Portable display boards

\$ 2 609.01

Archival Filing Unit

5 173.36

\$28 562.41

LIABILITIES

CURRENT

Nil

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures

\$ 2 966.36

Members equity

25 596.05

\$28 562.41

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the year ended June 30th, 2022

Revenue

Gaming Grant

\$ 5 000.00

Donations

3 584.72

Rentals

1 250.00

Summer project

3 753.60

Memberships

2 672.07

GST rebate

307.43

\$16 547.82

Expenses

Communications

\$ 1 691.72

Contract

1 750.00

Electricity

3 812.50

Insurance

785.00

Routine maintenance

1 129.68

Memberships paid

260.00

Newsletter expenses

472.27

Office

918.76

Wages and tax deductions

883.31

Water

422.32

Website project

1 203.70

\$13 581.46

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures

\$ 2 966.36

Election of Directors for 2022-2023: Ken Johnson thanked all those who agreed to stand for election and then presented the proposed slate of officers for 2022-2023 and conducted the election.

The nominations were:

President: Ken Johnson

Vice President: John Dam

Treasurer: Helen Edwards

Secretary: Michael Halleran

Members at Large: Jennifer Barr, Don Hutton,

Joyce Mackie, Valerie Lindholm,

Gavin Chamberlain

As there were no further nominations from the floor and the slate was acclaimed.

The elected officers were:

President: Ken Johnson

Vice President: John Dam

Treasurer: Helen Edwards

Secretary: Michael Halleran

Members at Large: Jennifer Barr, Don Hutton,

Joyce Mackie, Valerie Lindholm,

Gavin Chamberlain

The Annual General Meeting broke for refreshments and then resumed with the President engaging the membership in a discussion concerning the current position of the Hallmark heritage Society now and in the future by making the following remarks: This is the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Hallmark Society and our seventh year in the Craigflower Schoolhouse. Our lease with the Province runs until 2036. Most major maintenance is done, and we are keeping up with the minor details.

As regards the Schoolhouse, Hallmark and the Province have noted a problem with a concrete retaining wall on the west or roadside of the building and we are in discussions with Saanich as any work would impinge upon the property owned or leased by Saanich.

The Schoolhouse continues to be the site of the Japanese Language School and as the depository for the building and architect files.

archives and, over the past few years, of the creation of an on-line presence, allowing greater public access to our archive. We anticipate that all of our house files will be online and searchable by the end of this year or early next year. At that point we shall go back to each listing and improve the quality and quantity of information as well as improving page appearance.

Our website gets an average 10 visitors per day viewing from 15 to 200 of the 3800 pages we have created.

The Missing Middle Housing resolution presented in Victoria, and which is now being considered in other local municipalities as well as at the Provincial government level, is an item of concern for the Hallmark Society.

There is no question that this resolution would be a threat to a large segment of the existing housing stock – those older homes in our traditional neighbourhoods – those relatively modest homes on larger lots. Many of the larger, older, homes have already been converted to multi-unit housing under existing city legislation. Owners, developers have found that, despite what City Council states, it is worthwhile to go through the rezoning process and convert large existing housing into smaller strata or rental units.

The proposed legislation would make it easier for the consolidation of smaller units into larger lots with the subsequent demolition of the older homes and the construction of larger townhouse complexes up to 30 feet high.

One aspect of the Missing Middle initiative of interest were the Design Guidelines. Changes to existing housing stock is inevitable. Fire damage, severe neglect – all can lead to the loss of historic housing. The question then becomes one of what shall replace these homes? Something that fits well with the existing neighbourhoods or something that, while providing housing, appears as an oddity?

The Design Guidelines provide both possibilities and could, with the input from the neighbourhoods, leave us with new housing that fits well with existing. We just have to ensure that the ridiculous height allowances be made respective of what is there now.

Moving into the future of the Hallmark Heritage Society, members of the Hallmark Board have been actively involved in a local group concerned with the Future of Old Town.

Old Town Victoria, that small cluster of historic buildings along the waterfront and around the site of Fort Victoria, has been under pressure from developers, planners, and certain local politicians. Despite height restrictions placed on the area, despite statements within the Official Community Plan encouraging the preservation of the historic buildings and the ambiance of Old Town, we see increasing requests for variances allowing the construction of new modern buildings being placed behind a façade, a mask if you will, which, one by one, will forever change our city. Each of these new buildings selectively refers to tall existing structures in the area as a justification for increased height allowances, almost always higher than the buildings referred to.

Old Town Victoria is a treasure, valued by citizens and tourists alike. If we do not check this slow erosion of historic buildings, within a generation it will be lost with only a few remnants to remind us of what we once had.

the area through the use of the internet.

We all become familiar with the use of our cell phones to prove our vaccination status during the worst of the COVID epidemic. On our cell phone we carried a picture of a QR code which, when scanned by a restaurant or other service, would take the viewer to a website that told them if we had been vaccinated.

Hallmark would create a series of short histories, each about two minutes long, of buildings and areas. These would be presented in the form of YouTube videos similar to the ones we have been presenting in our news postings. A QR code will be created and posted upon City parking meters or other places within Old Town to link directly to that video. A passerby could simply point their cell phone at the QR code and be taken to the video.

These videos are fairly easy to create once a script has been created and the scripts would be based upon materials that have previously been produced, telling the stories of buildings and Old Town historic areas.

As for scripts, we are currently in discussions with the History Department at the University of Victoria looking to create an annual award to student(s) for the creation of websites, videos, or short essays about the history of Victoria and Old Town.

Hallmark would be able to use these as part of the QR program and to promote these through the local press.

On a separate but important subject, Hallmark has now become involved in the process to transform the Heritage Conservation Act. At this point we are participating in on-line meetings discussing the inclusion and greater protection for indigenous heritage, notably archaeology, but with indications that this could be expanded to the protection of indigenous cultural landscapes.

So, we have a couple of ideas. We could use more and therefore I ask that the membership consider how we can best promote heritage preservation going forward.

Any Suggestions? Discussion followed.

6. Next General Meeting: It is hoped to have a meeting in December. Members will be notified of the date via email or in the Preserve.

7. Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 20h00.

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Now is the time! Hallmark can win \$20,000 as part of a donation campaign. We get one entry for every \$1.00 pledged for pledges over \$10.00 during the month of June. Please click

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