Preserve

Your voice for heritage in the Capital Region and the Islands since 1973

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 48, Number 3, Autumn 2020

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Tith the provincial health officer restricting gatherings to less than 50 people, we have no choice but to hold our AGM via an online program, ZOOM. Using it is not difficult but for those who are not familiar with it, read the instructions on page 4. The date of the meeting is October 19, 2020 at 7:30 pm. If you wish to attend, please email Helen at heritagelady@gmail.com so that you can be sent the link for the meeting.

In this issue of the newsletter, we have included copies of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2020 and the proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Please read these documents and be prepared to discuss them at the meeting.

While we would love to hold a gathering at the schoolhouse, there is no way we can accommodate social distancing. Once we are again able to hold large gatherings, we will have a celebration at the schoolhouse for sure.

We have tried to make it easy for you to renew your memberships. First, you can send a cheque to the office but there is also the option to pay via PayPal. This information is found on our website by clicking here. There are now two more ways to pay your membership. We are now able to accept Interac transfers; send them to office@hallmarkheritagesociety. ca or, if you wish to pay with a credit card without going online, you can call Helen at 250-686-0788 and she can process payment via Square. Alternative methods of payment had been on our radar screen but the pandemic has made it necessary to radically change our systems.

In our next newsletter, we will provide heritage updates and our plans for 2021. At this point, there is no guarantee that our annual events, awards and the heritage fair, will be allowed to proceed. It is a waiting game.

As soon as we know one way or the other, we will let you know via our weekly mailing.



Awards and Newsletter: Helen Edwards Office hours at Craigflower Schoolhouse by appointment

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Phone: (250) 382-4755 office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca http://www.hallmarkheritagesociety.ca

Mandate

he Hallmark Heritage Society was registered on April 18, 1973. We encourage the preservation of structural, natural, cultural, and horticultural heritage within the Capital Regional District. We accomplish these goals through education, public speaking, advocacy, tours, exhibitions, and the annual Awards Night. We are a non-profit society, financed principally by membership dues and members' contributions.

Notice of Meeting

ur Annual General Meeting will be held online via ZOOM on October 19, 2020 at 7:30 pm. See page for instructions on how to attend a ZOOM meeting. If you are interested in attending, please let us know at heritagelady@gmail.com so you can be given the codes to enter the meeting.

Preserve, the Hallmark Heritage Society Newsletter (ISSN 1195-6712), is published quarterly by the Hallmark Heritage Society, 15-1594 Fairfield Road, PO Box 50013 Fairfield Plaza PO, Victoria, BC V8S 5L8.

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Ken Johnson 250-294-0803

president@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca

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Vacant

Corresponding Secretary

Helen Edwards

Treasurer

Helen Edwards (until the AGM)

Directors

Jennifer Nell Barr

John Dam

Don Hutton

Hal Kalman

Joyce Mackie

Garth Mayhew

Eric Tomlinson

Deadline for articles and advertising for the Winter 2020 newsletter is November 10, 2020.

Preserve welcomes submissions, both written and photographic, on topics related to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of heritage from a local, provincial, national, or international perspective. The Editor reserves the right to edit material for consistency and length, and to reject articles.

Please submit manuscripts to the Editor, *Preserve*, 15-1594 Fairfield Road, PO Box 50013 Fairfield Plaza PO, Victoria, BC, V8S 5L8 or send to office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca.

President's Report

by Ken Johnson

In reviewing the City of Victoria website, I counted 91 bylaws. Some are fairly simple, others, are fairly complicated and have many little sub-paragraphs.

To enforce these bylaws the City has "Bylaw Officers." Recently, the City hired additional Bylaw Officers to assist those dealing with the homeless problem and with the expansion of businesses onto sidewalks and adjacent roadways due to the COVID – 19 crisis.

Unfortunately, it seems that the Bylaw Officers cannot find the time to enforce the Heritage Property Maintenance Standards Bylaw enacted in 2001. For the past year, we have been urging the City to enforce this bylaw and to have the graffiti cleaned up and the windows blocked up on the heritage designated buildings at 1314-1318 Wharf St. (The Gold Rush Warehouses). Email complaints to the Bylaw Office and a video presentation to City Council have yielded no action.

In the City of Victoria, we have over 900 heritage designated buildings. Within the city we have two city-funded organizations dedicated to providing monies to these heritage designated buildings in the form of grants to ensure the continued maintenance of these buildings.

Numerous buildings, houses and commercial, have availed themselves of these funds and, as a result, we see well-maintained buildings throughout the city. But there is no obligation for a property owner to avail themselves of these funds. They can easily neglect the properties to such an extent that we have "Demolition by Neglect".

The only way the City can ensure that the interest of an owner and of the general public in heritage preservation can result in the long-term maintenance of the historic structure is to enforce the Heritage Property Maintenance Standards Bylaw.

The Gold Rush Warehouses have been in the development process for the past 10 years. During that time the buildings have accumulated graffiti, had windows broken, have reported water entry into the building and generally fallen into a further state of disrepair. These conditions constitute a

threat to the continued life of these buildings and also result in further cost to the owners. What we don't want is for these owners to come back after this neglect and state that the buildings are not worth restoring. They are beyond preservation.

We can only hope that the owners take the responsibility for the maintenance of these buildings seriously and carry out some work.

It is interesting that, during the Oak Bay Council Meeting of September 28th, the discussion of continued maintenance of heritage designated buildings came up. One got the feeling that a Councillor felt that designation is not worthwhile if building could be allowed to deteriorate even after being designated. Oak Bay does not have a Heritage Property Maintenance Standards Bylaw or its equivalent. Thus, should an owner of a heritage designated house wish, the building could be neglected to the point where demolition seems the only practical solution.

The same lack of a bylaw protecting Heritage Designated buildings also exists in Saanich and Esquimalt, both areas that proclaim their interest in heritage preservation.

It is time for Oak Bay, Saanich, and Esquimalt to take under consideration the creation of a Heritage Property Maintenance Standards Bylaw for its equivalent as soon as possible. When we designate a heritage building, we should have some expectation of that building contributing to the history of the community for the next 100 or 200 years and not just be left to long-term neglect.

It is time for the City of Victoria to ensure that bylaw officers endeavour to apply all bylaws even on buildings that are in the development process.

The owners of these buildings have a stewardship responsibility that continues far beyond the getting of a grant. The community in which these buildings sit expects their government bodies take steps to preserve this heritage for future generations.

The City of Victoria Heritage Property Maintenance Standards Bylaw can be seen at LINK

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Figure 1 The Gold Rush Warehouses, 1314-1318 Wharf St.

How to participate in a ZOOM meeting

Then you join a meeting, you are considered an attendee. Before the meeting, download the ZOOM software (https://zoom.us/) by following the prompts on that page.

Join the meeting by clicking on a ZOOM link provided by the meeting host or copying and pasting the link into your browser. By using the control panel at the bottom of the window, you can mute and unmute yourself and start or stop video of yourself. During most meetings, it is preferable to mute yourself unless you wish to talk. Use of video is a personal choice.



To reduce bandwidth and to provide a better meeting experience, it is best to turn off programs you are not using on your computer.

You can chat with individuals or everyone in the meeting. Click on "Chat" to open up the chat window where you can type a message. Select the drop down menu to direct your chat to a specific person or to everyone. You can leave the meeting anytime by clicking on the "Leave Meeting" option at the lower right of the control panel. If you have any questions, let Helen know at heritagelady@gmail.com.

Why do old places matter? ARCHITECTURE

by Tom Mayes

People love and revere old buildings for their art and craftsmanship—and for the way they make us feel. As a boy, I was fascinated by an old house that my father's friend, Jim Withers, used as a barn. From the outside, it looked like a relatively modest, two-story house. It was dilapidated, to say the least—the glass was missing from almost all of the windows, and the shutters sagged from their hinges. But inside, there were all the marks of an architect or master builder. The highceilinged rooms had hand-carved woodwork, and the wide mantelpieces were supported by intricate molding. Decorative brackets unwound in a spiral on the edges of the steps of the curving stair. The woodwork, the relationship of the woodwork to the tall plaster walls, the size and height of the rooms, all felt like part of something whole. I didn't know then why the house made me feel the way it did, but I later learned that I was probably experiencing—despite the bales of hay stacked in the rooms—the concepts of proportion, balance and harmony, as well as the marks of time.

I was experiencing Architecture – Architecture with a big "A."

The feeling I felt in Jim Withers' old house is a feeling many of us experience when we're in the presence of certain buildings—that complex web of emotions from wonder to comfort to nobility to delight. It's the reason that people fall silent under the oculus of the Pantheon in Rome, or stare awestruck at the Farnsworth House. It's the reason people travel to see the Taj Mahal, the Empire State Building, or the relatively unknown residential masterpieces of Louis Kahn. It's the magic of architecture. ¹

This experience of architecture has been recognized and valued by people for thousands of years. From the Roman emperor Theodoric,² who commissioned architects to take care of ancient buildings, to Brunelleschi, who studied the Pantheon to determine its secrets of proportion and construction,³ to Philip Johnson, who, despite being known for the brash modernism of his Glass House, channeled the entire history of world architecture in his experiments in design, people have looked to the buildings of the past for inspiration.

These special places, these works of architecture, are works of art. Like painting, music or literature, these buildings help us understand our capacities as humans. No less than any other great art, architecture defines our civilization. The Pyramids, the Parthenon, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Fallingwater, for example, are all icons of western civilization. Some of these icons represent watershed moments in the timeline of human culture. I recently heard Ashley Wilson, Graham Gund Architect at the National Trust, explaining the importance of the Farnsworth House. She said, "After the Farnsworth House, modern domestic architecture was forever altered. There are very few buildings that can be identified as the 'first' of a movement. One that comes to mind is the early 15th-century building that kick-started the Renaissance, the Ospedale degli Innocenti in Florence. Nothing was the same after that building was built." As Philip Kennicott wrote in The Washington Post in a discussion of the central library in downtown Washington designed by Mies van der Rohe, historic preservation experts, architecture critics and other cranks (I love that) "...ground their beliefs on the complicated and difficult to express fundamental value of retaining important cultural objects simply because they are beautiful or play an important role in the history of culture."4 Old buildings are a critical part of our artistic and cultural heritage.



This phrase "cultural heritage" is one we use frequently in the preservation world. It's an

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abstract phrase, but it's useful shorthand to capture a cluster of concepts. When we refer to architecture—old buildings—as cultural heritage, it means we're not merely valuing these places as culture for culture's sake (though that's fine too, and shouldn't be sneered at), but because these living symbols give meaning—identity, continuity, memory and inspiration—to our lives today.



Old architecture contributes to our memory, our civilization, our history, and our understanding of ourselves. It's worth noting, however, that for architecture to be part of the continuity of civilization, the building doesn't necessarily have to be old. People throughout the world vociferously protested the impending loss of the former American Folk Art Museum building on East 53rd Street in New York by the Museum of Modern Art. ⁵ The potential loss is being treated, without irony, as a preservation issue, even though the building was designed and constructed in 2001. Why? Because the building was widely recognized as an important work of architecture—of art—from the time it was built, and its potential loss is viewed by many as cultural iconoclasm, a loss to our civilization no different from destroying an important painting or sculpture. This controversy highlights the fact that preservation is about the present—about valuing things that matter now—not only about things of the past.

Although contemporary buildings may be valued as important pieces of architecture and art, age gives buildings something else—greater dimensions of meaning.

People have long recognized that there's something special that age imparts to buildings. John Ruskin wrote in the 19th century that old buildings were important because they were imbued with the spirit of the people who made them—"that spirit which is given only by the hand and eye of the workman"—and that they reflected the spirit of the age in which they were built. 6 This spirit is revealed in the specific workmanship and materials that the buildings are made from—the craftsmanship. Just as I appreciated the stair brackets at Jim Withers' old house, people appreciate the marks of the makers in buildings throughout the world. We have the exquisite craftsmanship of buildings from the arts and crafts movement—the Greene and Greene houses of Pasadena, for example. But we also find the mark of the builder's hand in the simple visible plane marks of plain doors of log cabins. That sense of the maker's hand and the spirit imbued in the building is one of the irreplaceable things we lose every time a building comes down. We destroy a part of the spirit of our own civilization, irreplaceable clues to our understanding of ourselves.

We may not—we almost undoubtedly do not know all the "spirit" embedded in old buildings. As the Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa wrote: "There is a tacit wisdom of architecture accumulated in history and tradition. But in today's panicked rush for the new, we rarely stop to listen to this wisdom."7 Or, to use the example that the Washington, D.C., architect Andrew Singletary shared with me recently, an architect or planner raised in the 1960s suburbs is unlikely to be as aware of the ideal environmental siting of a farmhouse as a builder from the 19th century, who was raised in that rural landscape. And when we lose that building, we lose the artifact of that knowledge. 8 Another example of this can be seen at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, where a light well that had been closed was reopened and now reestablishes light in the center of the building without the use of any ongoing energy consumption. In many early 20th-century apartment buildings in Washington, D.C., louvered doors with overhead transoms combated

Washington's notoriously hot and sticky summers—though those are often not used anymore. This wisdom is increasingly appreciated in the recognition of the inherent sustainability of many older buildings—as documented by the research being done at the National Trust's Preservation Green Lab.

Besides the embedded environmental wisdom, old buildings embed symbolic meaning and secret histories that may be revealed over time. What does a building say about the intentions of its builders at that time and how do we recognize it? We've become very familiar with the use of neoclassical orders, but few people recognize the meaning of the bulls' skulls and garlands that decorate buildings in every American city. Americans built neoclassical buildings to express democratic ideals, but we may be shocked to discover that our public buildings incorporate the symbols of pagan animal sacrifice (the bull's or ox's skulls represent the sacrificed animal, which was decorated with garlands as part of the ritual).9 And we may not be aware of historic knowledge embedded in our architecture—the clues of past histories—from the tools hidden by slaves in the walls of plantation buildings, to the Hebrew lettering on a medieval building in Rome once used as a synagogue before the Jews were forced into the ghetto. All of these are lost when we lose an old building.

Pallasmaa wrote, "The significance of architecture is not in its form, but in its capacity to reveal deeper layers of existence." Old buildings help us understand deeper layers of our existence, from the sometimes thrilling experience of an architectural icon, to the mark of the people who made the places, to the symbolic and historic meanings that the places reveal. Architecture—with the mark of time—helps us become more aware of ourselves—our past ideals, our place in the long line of civilization, and the possibilities for a better future. It's the sense of harmony that I felt in Jim Withers' old house all those years ago, and it's the reason people all over the world love and revere old architecture.

I still love to visit great buildings. Where have you felt the power of architecture?



Notes

- 1. See, e.g., Alain de Botton. *The Architecture of Happiness*, London: Hamish Hamilton 2006.
- 2. Jokilehto, Jukka. *A History of Architectural Conservation*, Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann 1999.
- 3. Jokilehto, supra. p. 21. "Filippo Brunelleschi is said to have made four visits to Rome to study the architecture and technical solutions of the ancient Romans."
- 4. Kennicott, Philip. "Mecanoo, Martinez + Johnson to renovate MLK Library," Washington Post, February 18, 2014.
- 5. Quirk, Vanessa. "Glenn Lowry on American Folk Art Museum: The Decision Has Been Made" Arc Daily, January 29, 2014; Kimmelman, Michael. "The Museum With a Bulldozer's Heart: MoMA's Plan to Demolish Folk Art Museum Lacks Vision" New York Times, January 13, 2014
- 6. Ruskin, John. *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*. New York: The Noonday Press 1961, 184.
- 7. Pallasmaa, 319.
- 8. Interview with the author, April 26, 2014.
- 9. Hersey, George L. *The Lost Meaning of Classical Architecture*. Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1988.

Tom Mayes is the deputy general counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In 2013 Mayes was awarded the Rome Prize in Historic Preservation from the American Academy in Rome.

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HALLMARK HERITAGE SOCIETY

(Incorporated as a Society under the laws of British Columbia)

BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended June 30, 2020

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CURRENT	Cash in Bank and Credit Union	\$12,829.66
	Accounts receivable	707.91
	Share - Coast Capital	<u>5.00</u>
		12,834.66
FIXED		
	Furniture and Fixtures	571.64
	Office Equipment	200.79
	Portable display boards	2,609.01
	Library	426.33
	Archival Filing Unit	5,173.36
		\$21,815.79
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		321.89
	Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$5,571.64
	Members equity	<u>16,244.15</u>
		\$21,815.79

HALLMARK HERITAGE SOCIETY

(Incorporated as a Society under the laws of British Columbia)

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

for the year ended June 30, 2020

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Revenue		
	Provincial government grant	\$9,477.20
	Gaming Grant	5,000.00
	Donations	4,803.05
	Rentals	3,716.00
	Summer project	3,062.45
	Memberships	2,109.72
	Heritage Fair grant	1,000.00
	GST rebate	730.17
	Investment income	<u>0.35</u>
		\$29,898.94
Expenses		
	Communications	1,769.28
	Contract	1,750.00
	Display materials	873.65
	Electricity	2,744.95
	Fire protection	928.20
	Insurance	702.00
	Major maintenance	3,864.00
	Meetings	108.05
	Memberships paid	320.00
	Minor maintenance	341.34
	Newsletter expense	1,727.77
	Office	650.78
	Security	615.67
	Wages and tax deductions	6,329.40
	Water	149.02
	Website project	1,453.19
		\$24,327.30
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures		\$5,571.64

Hallmark Heritage Society - 2020 - 2021 Budget

Revenue		%
Provincial Grant (Painting)	\$ 6,174.00	25%
Gaming Grant	\$ 5,000.00	20%
Donations	\$ 2,000.00	8%
Rental	\$ 3,000.00	12%
Summer Student Project	\$ 4,100.00	
Memberships	\$ 2,000.00	8%
Heritage Fair Grant	\$ 900.00	4%
GST rebate	\$ 250.00	1%
Hallmark Awards Sponsors	\$ 1,000.00	4%
Total	\$ 24,424.00	
Expenses		
Communications (Shaw)	\$ 1,800.00	7%
Annual reports	\$ 50.00	0%
Hallmark Awards Expense	\$ 1,000.00	4%
Contract	\$ 1,750.00	7%
Display materials	\$ 100.00	0%
Fire Protection Verification (Troy)	\$ 450.00	2%
Heritage Fair Expense	\$ 900.00	4%
Insurance	\$ 700.00	3%
Light and heat	\$ 2,800.00	11%
Meetings	\$ 200.00	1%
Membership Paid	\$ 300.00	1%
Schoolhouse maintenance (Painting)	\$ 6,200.00	24%
Newsletter Expense	\$ 1,800.00	7%
Office	\$ 200.00	1%
Water	\$ 150.00	1%
Security	\$ 650.00	3%
Website Creation	\$ 2,500.00	10%
Website Maintenance	\$ 1,200.00	5%
Sundry	\$ 25.00	0%
Wages (Summer Student)	\$ 4,500.00	18%
Total	\$ 25,475.00	

Donations

The Hallmark Heritage Society has signed up with Canada Helps, a registered charity with a goal to making life simple. Donations are processed by Canada Helps and then the funds, minus a small administration charge, are electronically transferred directly to our bank account.

Donors receive a tax receipt instantly – no waiting for a volunteer to process a payment and hand write a receipt. You can make a single donation online or sign up for a monthly donation. We have put a link on our web page but the direct link to our page on the Canada Helps site is https://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?charityID=s5418

As you know, we rely on the generosity of our members to keep our society alive. Now it is just a few clicks to donate – less work at both ends. Please consider making a donation today. While you can make a single donation at any time, please consider a regular monthly gift.

Bits and Pieces

t our AGM, we will be conducting an election for members of the board of directors. Under normal circumstances, the board meets monthly at the Craigflower Schoolhouse with the summer months of July and August left free unless there is a pressing issue. The work is not onerous, and you get to have a say in the direction the society is heading. We are particularly seeking a secretary to take minutes at the meetings. Let us know at office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca if you are willing to help.

The society has recently received funding for a student to work on our website. The work will continue until March 31, 2020. In an age of instant communication, it is vital that we have all our digital files available to researchers. All the paper files have now been digitized but now must be uploaded, one address at a time, to our cloud-based server. This is a massive job, but we hope to have it completed in a year, providing we do not have further issues with the site.

Although we do not know if we can hold an awards ceremony next May, we will still accept nominations and make decisions on them. It is possible that the ceremony will be held online. Please look around your area for projects that should be recognized. A nomination form will be placed in the next newsletter or you can check out details on our website.

Do you have news to share with our members? Let us know and we will include it in our weekly mailing.

It's election time again. In the City of Victoria, a by-election will be held to fill a vacancy. Be sure to ask the candidates their position on heritage issues. As you read in the President's message, many of our concerns have been ignored by the current administration. There is also a provincial election. Again, connect with your candidates and learn how they feel about matters under provincial jurisdiction. Then, remember to vote. Those who do not cast a ballot have no right to complain about the results.

Living in a pandemic is new to all of us. It is important to follow the advice of our provincial health officer and other medical authorities in order to keep everyone safe. However, we are adaptable and can adjust our lives to work together to flatten the curve. Think of the stories we will pass down to future generations, much like our ancestors did to us about the 1918 influenza.

Keep safe and keep in touch with us; we value your input and hope to see you in person when gatherings are permitted.



ll members are entitled to voting privileges at Annual and General Meetings, receive four Newsletters a Lyear and access to the Society library and archives which contain information on over 10,000 buildings in the Capital Regional District. Memberships are due September 30th and are tax-deductible. The Society also offers special events and tours for members. New memberships are prorated quarterly. The Hallmark Heritage Society collects personal information about you only when you voluntarily provide it, and only for the purpose for which it was intended, and in handling such information we comply with the provisions of the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. We do not sell, rent, or trade our membership/donor information to or with others. The Society makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that personal information collected from you is protected against loss and unauthorized access. If you wish to change information on file, please contact us.

In the interest of timely communication, we may occasionally send you electronic messages regarding current issues or reminders of meetings. If you do not wish to receive such messages, please let us know and we will remove your name from our email list. We would appreciate being advised of changes to your address, telephone number, email address, etc. so that we can continue to serve you efficiently.

Membership Application

□ Student
□ Individual\$25.00
□ Family\$35.00
□ Group/corporate\$50.00
□ Individual Life\$200.00
□ Corporate Life (20 yrs)\$400.00
□ New □ Renewal
Name
Address
City
Province Postal Code
Tel:
E-mail:
I am interested in volunteering
Enclosed is a donation of \$
I prefer the electronic newsletter.
Please send your cheque to:
TT 11 1 TT 14 0 1 4

Hallmark Heritage Society 15-1594 Fairfield Road, PO Box 50013 Fairfield Plaza PO, Victoria, BC V8S 5L8.

Hallmark Heritage Society Annual General Meeting October 19, 2020, 7:30 pm held on ZOOM (see page 4 for instructions)