

Preserve

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 49, Number 3, Autumn 2021

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Heritage in a Post-pandemic World

How will heritage preservation change once the COVID-19 pandemic is over? It is painfully obvious that what we are doing right now does not work. Too many buildings are being lost or changed so drastically that they can no longer be recognized. We will have to change our basic message and present it so anyone can understand. Municipal officials can no longer be expected to adhere to published guidelines and the procedures we have been comfortable with for decades must change with the times.

It is not the idea of the value of heritage and its preservation and conservation that is at fault. We are living in a different, fast-paced world that digests information in 160 characters or less and doesn't want to read pages of material on an issue.


You will see inside this newsletter that the society has begun posting regularly to Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/hallmarksociety>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/HallmarkSociety>). Perhaps these more modern forms of communication will bring our message to a younger audience.

If you have any ideas on how we can spread the word about heritage to a wider audience, we would love to hear from you.




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Mandate

The 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. 

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Deadline for articles and advertising for the Winter 2021 newsletter is November 5, 2021.

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

The past few months we have been extremely busy with the attempts to prevent the four-storey addition to the Goldrush Warehouses at 1314 – 1318 Wharf Street. Unfortunately, our efforts were in vain.

It was interesting to note that the entire Council stated they were in favour of heritage. We are just not sure if some meant heritage preservation or heritage as an ideal spot to add more density.

During the long public hearing, most of the comments received which were opposed to the rezoning to allow the addition of the four storeys, talked about how the proposed additions failed to meet those documents which the City of Victoria has either adopted or has created. The City of Victoria has adopted the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada and has created the document "Old Town Design Guidelines, New Building and Additions to Existing Buildings (2019)."

These documents should help City Planning Staff and City Councillors determine how to preserve and conserve buildings in Old Town. The documents have some legal status in that they were adopted by city bylaw. Unfortunately, in recent times, it appears there have been increasing attempts to interpret these legal documents in such a way as to circumvent the overall intent of their creation.

The Official Community Plan is described as the overarching guidance to planning in the City of Victoria. It has a section on Heritage. It has other sections on Density. It is becoming increasingly evident that one section is being prioritized above another. There is nothing wrong with

increasing density, we see it happening across the city east of Douglas Street. But when we see requests for increased density within the Downtown Core and especially within Old Town, rather than reading reports listing how these requests meet the OCP requirements for density, we need to hear more about how they may not meet the OCP requirements for heritage. All projects have pros and cons – let's hear both sides.

As regards the Goldrush Warehouses, a great deal of the conversations at the Council level concerned how long the buildings had been derelict, the anticipated high cost of conserving them, and the additions to the David Foster Harbor Walkway. There was another way of conserving them, perhaps not with this particular Applicant but there were others interested in the property but not when it was rezoned as, the simple act of rezoning, has provided the Applicant with a windfall in values. Had these two properties being located in cities such as New York or Boston, they would have been restored as residential units. They are located on the waterfront, have excellent historical provenance, and, when restored as residential units, restoration costs would have been far less than that required when constructing four storeys above.

One of the main factors that City Council kept referring to was the addition to the David Foster Harbor Walkway. There is no doubt that the walkway will now be extended across the rear of the Goldrush Warehouses. We will see its completion at that location in about four years. Then what? The remainder of the walkway just to get to where the Johnson Street Bridge is now sited is owned by the City of Victoria. They have no plans to extend the walkway past the Goldrush Warehouses and no funding in the budget. In fact, in order to



The Gold Rush Warehouses, covered in graffiti and neglected. They deserved a better fate.

extend it to the bridge, it would have to resolve the issue of the existing easement on the adjacent City-owned property to the north which allows access to the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Docks just below. We think for many years to come the David Foster Walkway will just end at the Goldrush Warehouses.

At any rate, now we are going forward. There are other buildings, other projects, that threaten Old Town Victoria. Members of the City Council have stated that the Goldrush Warehouses will not be a precedent. Unfortunately, Mayor Helps, during the discussion portion of the meeting on August 2, made a comment that seems to imply she would like additions to heritage buildings “spill out onto the streets.” This would fly in the face of the recently adopted Old Town Design Guidelines, New Building and Additions to Existing Buildings (2019) which urges that additions to existing buildings be set back so as to reduce visibility of these additions to the historic structures. It is difficult to conserve heritage buildings in Old Town when the Mayor proposes to ignore the very guidelines she voted in favour of just two years ago.

We are going forward in a number of ways. We will try to engage the citizens of Victoria and to familiarize them with the histories and stories of the many heritage buildings in their city. These storeys are important not only to our life-long citizens but are especially important to the many newcomers the Mayor sees coming to Victoria over the next decade. They need these storeys to help make this city their own.

We will try to help City Councillors understand not only the words but the meaning and intent of the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada and the Old Town Design Guidelines, New Building and Additions to Existing Buildings (2019). We feel it’s important for them to be conversant with the meanings and the language so that future discussions about conserving the heritage of the City will be more informed.

We will also expand our activities through social media. The Hallmark Heritage Society has a Facebook page upon which we will post more frequently. We have also started to use Twitter, an interesting experience for some is long-winded as the editor. These are new technologies and if you can offer any help or any postings they would certainly be appreciated. Even if you can repost or retweet it would be appreciated.

We will need your help. So much goes on that we are not aware of until its too late; to far advanced to try and change. If you hear of anything, let us know. With our commitment to social media, we can quickly share messages but we must get the messages – good and bad – its all news.

Come and join into the movement to save our city from the fate of so many others – cold and soul-less, having thrown away their past. What you throw away today you may regret tomorrow. 🏠

Annual General Meeting Notice

Based on current COVID-19 protocols, we are planning our AGM in person this year. We will show *The Pacific Connection: Ties That Bound.* “This lively and entertaining educational film introduces students of Canadian history to the story of British Columbia’s entry into Confederation. A fast-paced mix of paintings, drawings, photographs, political cartoons and animation, it illustrates B.C.’s transformation from an isolated British colony to a full-fledged member of the new Canadian nation. Drawings and cartoons from the Confederation era come to life, and out of historical scenes step caricatured versions of the leading political figures of the time, who re-enact the events that culminated in B.C. becoming Canada’s sixth province.”

We will also conduct the business of the society, including the receipt of reports and election of officers. We do have some positions available on the board, so if you can spare one evening a month for a board meeting, consider joining the new board. We have to plan how our society will operate post-pandemic—it’s going to be a whole new experience— and also how to attract younger members. Succession planning is becoming critical in the non-profit world as long-time board members age and are no longer able to carry the load. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. 🏠

It’s time ... to pay your membership

For most of our members, annual membership dues are payable by the end of September. The easiest way to pay is to bring your payment to the AGM. You can also pay online via PayPal or mail a cheque to the office.

Your early attention to the renewal means that we do not have to send out extra reminders and can spend our money on saving heritage buildings and continuing advocacy. Membership fees are shown on the back cover of this newsletter. 🏠



Stonecutters Strike

Unionists Working on the Parliament Buildings Quit Work – Cause of Their Action.

From the Pages of the Victoria Daily Colonist - June 21, 1894 - page 5



Yesterday the union stonecutters employed by Mr. Adams, the contractor for the parliament buildings, went out on strike. The reason given by them was that a union stonecutter named Durat had been discharged and had not been paid. This is the section of the constitution under which the committee of the Victoria branch of the Stonecutters' Association say they acted:


"Sec. 15 – Seeing that the bosses claim and exercise the right of discharging and paying off whenever they see fit, we likewise demand the same privilege. Any member being discharged or quitting of his own accord shall demand his pay and if he does not receive the same after giving 24 hours notice, the shop steward shall be compelled to strike the job."

Mr. Adams when asked for the circumstances leading up to the strike stated that last Friday Durat, who was cutting on a piece of granite stone 17 feet long, intended for a step, spoiled it, a long crack in the stone along the line of the chisel marks showing that at least three feet of the stone would have to be cut off,

and consequently it was too short for the use intended. Mr. Adams being away at the time the foreman laid Mr. Durat off temporarily awaiting Mr. Adams' return, so that the matter might be referred to him for settlement. Mr. Adams, on his return to town on Monday, looked at the stone – which when perfect was valued at some \$50 – and decided that Durat should stand some of the loss for spoiling it. Durat, however, refused to accept less than the full pay without any deduction, maintaining that the contractor must stand the loss. He also refused to go back to work unless paid in full.

The union then gave Mr. Adams notice that unless Durat was paid in full they would go out on strike yesterday at 1 o'clock, their contention, as explained by the men yesterday, being that the contractor must stand the loss caused by breakage in the course of cutting stone, and that such is the rule of their organization.

Mr. Adams, however, denies that he should stand all the loss caused by carelessness on the part of stonecutters working for him, and from a long experience at the business says it is not the custom everywhere, as maintained by the men, that the contractor should stand the loss. He was quite willing to be lenient and only deduct a small amount from Durat, but denies, as a matter of principle, the right of the union to say that in cases of workmen, whether from incompetency or carelessness, breaking a stone the contractor and not the man should stand the loss.

In consequence of the answer given to the union the stonecutters to the number of nearly 50 went out on strike and were paid off. The strike also affects some 25 helpers, who, though perfectly willing to work, must perforce stay idle because while the stonecutters are out, there is no work for them to do. 

HALLMARK HERITAGE SOCIETY
(Incorporated as a Society under the laws of British Columbia)
BALANCE SHEET
for the year ended June 30, 2021

ASSETS		
CURRENT	Cash in Bank and Credit Union	\$17,246.01
	Share - Coast Capital	<u>5.00</u>
		17,251.01
FIXED		
	Furniture and Fixtures	571.64
	Office Equipment	200.79
	Portable display boards	2,609.01
	Library	426.33
	Archival Filing Unit	<u>5,173.36</u>
		\$26,232.14
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		Nil
	Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$3,839.60
	Members equity	<u>22,392.54</u>
		\$26,232.14

HALLMARK HERITAGE SOCIETY
(Incorporated as a Society under the laws of British Columbia)
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
for the year ended June 30, 2021

Revenue

Provincial government grant	\$11,174.00
Gaming Grant	5,000.00
Donations	2,908.09
Rentals	2,400.00
Summer project	1,020.61
Memberships	2,819.23
GST rebate	<u>291.41</u>
	\$25,613.34

Expenses

Annual report	\$40.00
Communications	1,499.89
Contract	1,750.00
Electricity	3,073.52
Insurance	702.00
Major maintenance	6,174.00
Memberships paid	185.00
Newsletter expense	1,514.13
Office	608.01
Security	252.20
Wages and tax deductions	1,080.63
Water	94.35
Website project	<u>4,840.01</u>
	<u>\$21,773.74</u>

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures **\$3,839.60**

British Colonist December 29, 1906 Page 3

State's Case for the Labouring Man. Secretary of Protective Association Says Higher Wages Are Absolute Necessity.

The members of the Victoria Labourers Protective Association are determined to push their claim for an increase in the wages of those in the employ of the city and intend making the question one of the issues of the coming civic elections. The men claim that they are asking for what is but fair and just, and that the members of the association will vote for those candidates who pledged themselves to support their claims.

"That the corporation should go on paying the wages at the present rate to its employees, is ridiculous" said William McKay, the secretary of the association in conversation yesterday. "The scale was fixed some eight or ten years ago when the cost of living was far less than it is now. Everything has gone up in price within the last few years. I have no figures on the question, but I have lived in this city for a good many years now, and I know quite well that the cost of keeping myself and my family is a lot more now than it used to be. When the present scale of wages was fixed the pay was only just about enough to keep a man alive, and now, what with the increased price of living, it's almost impossible for a man to support himself, much less a family on his wages as a day labourer in the employ of the city.

Married Man's Plight.

"Many of the men are married and have small families" continued Mr McKay, "and with these it certainly is a hard pull. Take the sewer men, the best paid of the city's day employees. They get \$2.25 a day.

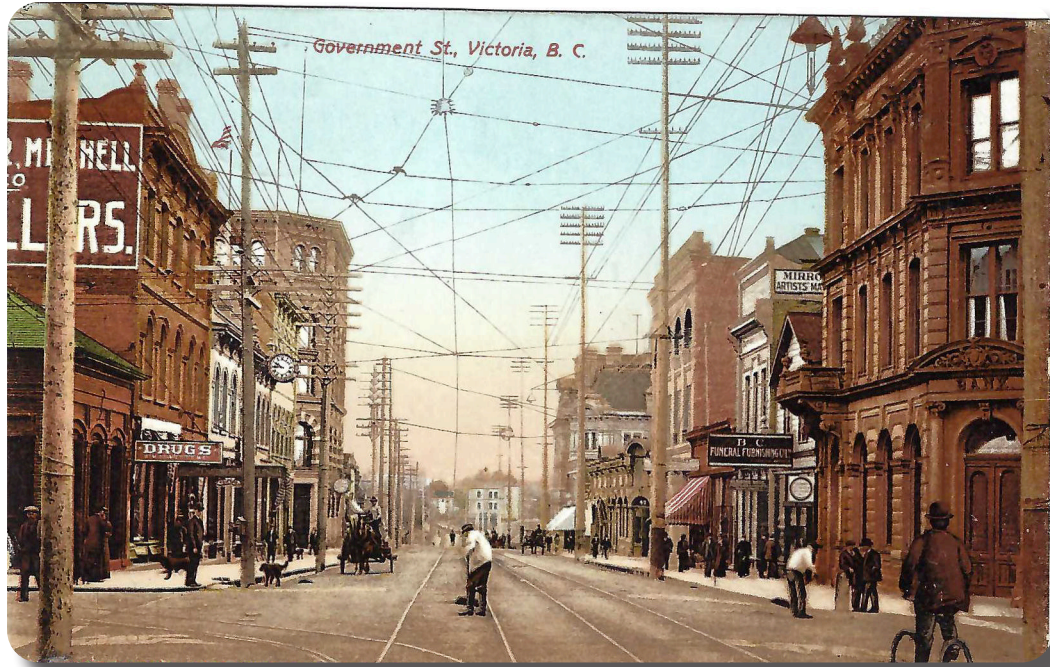
Well, there is never a month in which the weather permits the men to work every day. Most months they lose several days, and for every day that they are laid off they lose their wages. Say that a man is laid off two days. At the end of the month he gets, say \$50. Out of that he has to pay all his expenses. The rent comes to say \$12, -- and you can't get much of a house at that. For fuel he pays perhaps, \$5, certainly not less, with wood and coal as high as it now is. Light will come to about \$2.50 -- all these estimates are at the very lowest possible, mind you. A single man may be able to keep himself at that, but take the case where the man has a wife and say three children, and there are lots of such. It's pretty hard then for a man to clothe his wife and children, feed them, and buy schoolbooks for his children. By dint of economy he may do it, but he certainly won't be able to put by anything against a rainy day. No savings bank account or life insurance for him. It's all that he can do to make both ends meet."

The Street Sweepers.

As regards the lowest paid of all the city's employees, the street sweepers who get \$1.50 a day, Mr. McKay stated that as things are at present, this job is more of a charity on the part of the city than anything else, being given to old men who would otherwise go to the Home for the Aged and Infirm. "The association would like to see this altered," added Mr McKay. "We don't think it right that these old men should be employed because they are willing to work for less than an able bodied man. If they are too old to do a good day's work, why, send them to the home. In other cities street cleaners are the highest-paid of the day labourers, and there is no reason why they shouldn't be the same here."

All of One Mind.

Various members of the Labourers Protective Association, both



Victoria streetsweeper on Government Street. Helen Edwards collection.

employees of the city, and others, when consulted, all supported the statements of Mr McKay.

“A man can’t live and keep himself decent upon the wages given by the city” was the answer of one labourer, when questioned by the Colonist. “The labourers can perhaps get enough to keep a roof above their heads, and to pay clothes, but as for any comforts well, of course we’re labouring men and not

supposed to think about those. Lot of good it would do us any way if we did. Two dollars a day buys mighty little in the way of comfort with prices what they are now.’Bout all the enjoyment a man can get out of life is found in the saloons, and when we look for it there the people who have the money and the pleasures, preach to us. Pshaw! We don’t want sermons, what we want is higher wages. Then we’ll live decently.” 🏠

Awards Night 2022 - May 3, 2022

We are assuming that we will be able to hold Awards Night in person next May. However, without nominations, there will be no ceremony. This is the time of year to be looking around your neighbourhood for potential award winners. We need you, our members, to be our eyes and ears in the community.

Is there a project near you that deserves recognition? How about in the broader community? Who has taken the time and care to restore and/or rehabilitate a heritage asset rather than the easy solution of demolition?

Which volunteer should be recognized, and which authors have written books on heritage? We have categories for all these, and welcome nominations at any time during the year.

An Award of Merit recognizes individuals, groups, governments or other agencies for **OUTSTANDING EXTERIOR AND/OR INTERIOR RESTORATION** of residential, commercial or institutional buildings; landscape and garden restoration/preservation; sensitive infill in heritage settings; or other innovative programs.

A Communication Award recognizes individuals or groups for exemplary work in **COMMUNICATING** heritage information and values through communications and education programs, print and electronic media, or publications.

The Mark Madoff Award recognizes **EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS** to the field of heritage preservation. These contributions would be seen as going beyond that achieved by general volunteership or advocacy.

The President's Award recognizes innovation in the **ADAPTIVE REUSE** of a building. The project will demonstrate creative solutions to problems of design, construction techniques, financing, sales and promotion.

The Michael Williams Award recognizes **OUTSTANDING** rehabilitation in downtown Victoria. The project should demonstrate innovative use of financing, rehabilitation techniques, and careful attention to the heritage fabric.

The Louis Award is given to an **EXCEPTIONAL** project that was a winner in another category. It is determined by the Awards Jury.

The process is quite easy. All you need is a summary of the work and some photos that illustrate the story of the restoration. We hope to be able to offer online submissions very soon.

If you need some help, let us know at office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca long before the deadline of January 31, and we will assist you in preparing a successful nomination. We can also send you examples of submissions that resulted in awards. By working together, we can ensure that all worthy projects and people are recognized. There is nothing worse than realizing five years down the road that we missed something.

A nomination form will appear in the next newsletter, but please do some scouting before then. 



Membership Application

- Student.....\$15.00
 - 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:

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

All members are entitled to voting privileges at Annual and General Meetings, receive four Newsletters a year 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. 🏠

Hallmark Heritage Society Annual General Meeting
September 21, 2021 - 7:30 pm - Craigflower Schoolhouse
Viewing of "The Pacific Connection: Ties That Bound"
Election of officers