

Preserve

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 46, Number 1, Spring 2018

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The Students of the historic Craigflower School

Editor's note: This is the report of the project for which we received a grant from the Heritage Legacy Fund. The purpose of the project was to find all available photos of the students at the schoolhouse and undertake research on them.

Situated just three miles from Victoria's City Hall, on the banks of the Gorge waters, stands a white building, a reminder of the first pioneers of the district. This building is the original Craigflower schoolhouse, the oldest school house still standing in Western Canada and the oldest publicly-owned building in British Columbia. Once the centre of educational, social, and religious life of the early Craigflower settlers, this building, a National Historic Site, now houses the offices and archives for the Hallmark Heritage Society and provides a meeting space for the community.

Historical Context

Fort Victoria was erected by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1843 and Chief Factor James Douglas recommended that farms be established nearby to keep the Fort supplied with provisions. A separate company called the Puget Sound Agricultural Company was formed for this purpose. Four farms were located: the first in 1852 at Constance Cove, Esquimalt, where Thomas Skinner settled; the second at Colwood where Captain Edward E Langford was in charge; Viewfield Farm in the South portion of what is now Esquimalt under Donald Macaulay, and the fourth and most successful at Craigflower in 1853, where Kenneth McKenzie was the bailiff. These farms formed part of the efforts of the Hudson's Bay Company to colonize Vancouver Island.

In 1850, as part of the colonization process, Governor Douglas had written to Archibald Barclay, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, in London, requesting "that a good supply of school books from the alphabet upwards, also slates and pencils, be sent out with teachers" to the colony. In 1853 the first Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island voted money to build two schools – one for the children at Fort Victoria and the other at Craigflower. The minutes of the Council of the Colony, for March 29, 1853, describe the discussion as follows:



Awards and Newsletter: Helen Edwards
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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. 🏠

Notice of Event

Awards Night 2018 will be held on May 1, 2018 at St Ann's Academy beginning at 7:30 pm. A reception will follow in the Interpretive Centre. See page 9 for details. 🏠

Hallmark Heritage Society Newsletter (ISSN 1195-6712), 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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Deadline for articles and advertising for the Summer 2018 newsletter is May 15, 2018.

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 Hallmark Heritage Society is doing great!

The Society has, for the first time, after 45 years in existence, a safe, secure place from which the society can continue its strong mandate to advance the cause of heritage preservation and history education in the Greater Victoria Area.

The Society has a lease on the Craigflower Schoolhouse with a term that will continue until 2036 with options for renewal. The Society has engaged with the Municipality of Saanich for a Permissive Tax Exemption, exempting the payment of taxes on the Craigflower schoolhouse for the next two years, with the opportunity to continue this exemption in the future.

This secure site provides a great deal of stability for the Society has, over the past 10 years, moved four times.

The Craigflower Schoolhouse provides us with office space and meeting space for what is essentially a cost equivalent to providing site security, paying the Hydro bill, and carrying out that maintenance that we agreed upon at the time of the lease. The Schoolhouse and the surrounding park have a great relevance to the history of British Columbia and provide the Hallmark Heritage Society an opportunity to preserve and interpret that history.

Financially, the Society has been stable over the past three years. By carefully controlling costs and by aggressively pursuing the limited grants available to heritage and cultural organizations, we have made the best possible use of our income and assets. Our main and most stable source of income is memberships. Our membership fees are a modest \$25.00 per year. The survival of the Society is dependent upon retaining and gaining membership.

Did you renew your membership this past year? If you haven't, please take this opportunity to do so now. Without your membership, the Society will slowly fade away and the work of heritage preservation will lose the strong presence of the Hallmark Heritage Society. Not sure of your status? Send us an email at office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca or call us at 250-382-4755 and we will get right back to you with an answer.

Many of our members provide additional support to the Hallmark Heritage Society in the form of cash donations. Making a donation to the society is easily done through our website with a prominent "Donate" button and that provides an instant tax deduction receipt.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Society hopes to pursue the continued digitization of the extensive paper files on the historic buildings of Victoria we have collected over the past 45 years. We are currently up to the files beginning with "H". By scanning these materials, we are achieving two objectives; providing a secure 'digital' back-up and having additional materials we can display online through our website.

Also, this year, after reviewing our website, we feel it needs more work. The design is not making full use of the technology that is currently available. The response time online is slow and needs a boost in speed. We have to clarify what it is we want our website to do? Should it have more information concerning the events of Hallmark and other organizations? Should it have more information on historic buildings? How about items about the history of our area, items that may be not readily available elsewhere? Please call or email me if you have any suggestions.



Lastly, with the assistance of grants from the Provincial Government, we shall re-roof and re-paint the Schoolhouse this year. We have received quotations from selected contractors and the roof shall be re-done with cedar shingles sourced from the Cowichan Valley and the re-painting done by a highly-reputed local painting firm. All quotations were received after careful specification of the works and contractor selection was made on a basis of price and quality.

Again, we have the funds and the contractors have been engaged. This work will proceed this year.

Some minor areas were excluded from the painting contract, notably the front entrance stairs, the walkway and the wooden structure supporting the historic school bell. Perhaps we will even paint the fence for Saanich Parks! When summer comes

we shall be looking for volunteers to help in doing these areas. I hope you can help!

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for your support for the Hallmark Heritage Society over the years. I am proud to be the Society's President and I am proud to have you as members supporting the Society's work. 🏡

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“The subject of public instruction was next brought under consideration of council. Applications have been made from various districts of the country for schools, it was resolved the two schools should be opened without delay, one to be placed on the peninsula, near the Puget Sound Company's establishment at Maple Point (later renamed Craigflower) and another at Victoria, there being about thirty children and youths of both sexes, respectively, at each of those places.

“It was therefore resolved, that the sum of £500 be appropriated for the erection of a schoolhouse at Victoria, to contain a dwelling for the teacher, and schoolrooms and several bedrooms, and that provision should be made hereafter for the erection of a house at Maple Point” (Craigflower).

The schoolhouse at Maple Point, thereafter known as the Craigflower Schoolhouse, opened in March 1855 with a class of 21 students, 10 girls and 11 boys. For the next 56 years, with many variances in student attendance and with many changes in teachers, the schoolhouse provided much-needed education to the sons and daughters of the Hudson's Bay colonists and, later, the local rural community.

As is common with many rural communities, record keeping was not the first consideration. Attendance records were spotty and, adding to the difficulty, name spelling seemed to change from generation to generation. The only records readily available were from brief comments in official government records created annually as part of school reports. In later years, during the late 1880s, class photographs began to be taken but, these were not saved as part of the official record and subsequently many became lost or discarded.

In 2017, the Hallmark Heritage Society began to gather available photographs from the BC Archives and from other local archival sources in an effort to create in one space some photographic record of the children who attended the historic Craigflower Schoolhouse.



Below you'll find copies of those photographs along with what textural material is available. Names of children are infrequent and incomplete. Names of teachers are well recorded.

Student Photographs displayed in the Craigflower Schoolhouse

In the photograph, we see the Craigflower Farm, Craigflower Manor and the Craigflower schoolhouse. Note the presence of a large maple tree in front of the school house. The remnants of this tree persist to this day.

Craigflower Farm was established in 1853 by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a Subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company. The Scottish Settlers, with the Assistance of Canadiens and First Nations, clear the land, started a steam-powered sawmill, brick manufacturing, lime kilns and a large bakery. Crops were mainly turnips, carrots and cabbages; livestock mainly sheep and cattle. The bridge across the Gorge was completed February 28, 1855.

The first teacher, Charles Clark, moved into the School house on March 2, 1855 with school commencing on March 5, 1855. The school bell was installed on March 8, 1855. Kenneth McKenzie, bailiff of Craigflower Farm, moved into the Craigflower Manor on May 1, 1856.

Initial school enrolment was reported to be eight boys and six girls. In the school report of August 1856, enrolment was 21 students; 11 girls and 10 boys. Three students were boarders

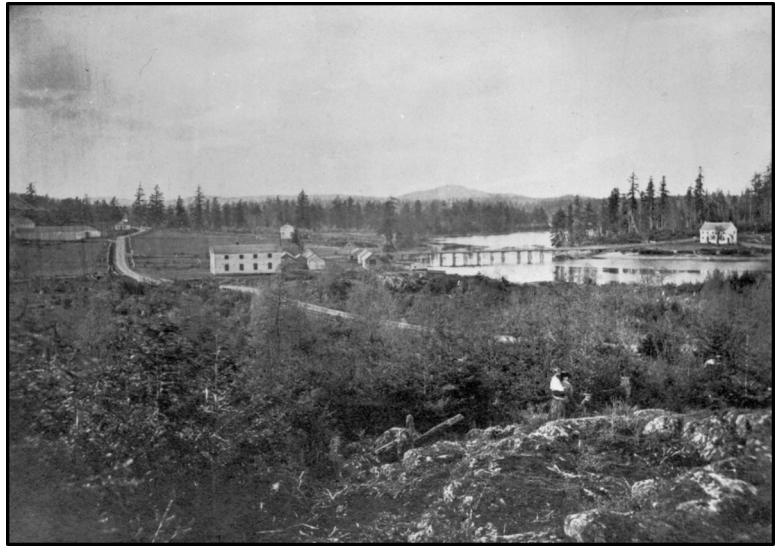


Photo 1: CRAIGFLOWER FARM AND CRAIGFLOWER SCHOOL, CIRCA 1855.(?) BC Archives G - 05652.



Photo 2 - CRAIGFLOWER SCHOOL - UNDATED. BC Archives D - 00585

This BC Archives photograph is undated but, from the appearance of the children's dress and the landscape, would appear to be in the late 1880s or early 1890s.

The photograph shows 21 children and three adults. There are 11 boys and 10 girls.

The school's report of 1901/1902 describes the school house as being made of wood in 1854, 22 feet wide by 50 feet long, sitting on 5 acres of land and having a value of \$2000.

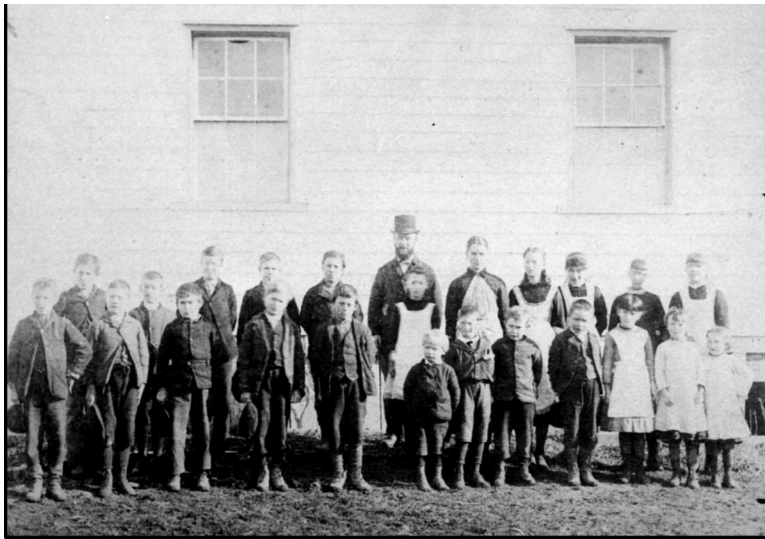


Photo 3 - CRAIGFLOWER SCHOOL HOUSE AND CLASS. BC Archives A-05584.
TEACHER IS JOHN MUNDELL WHO TAUGHT THERE FROM 1883 TO 1887.

A class at Craigflower in the 1880s, photographed with their teacher, Mr. John Mundell. Back row, left to right: Chas. A. Porter, J. Henry Austin, Walter Ker, John C Dodd, E Adams, Mary Calvert (Mrs. Gouge), any Stewart, Eliza Calvert (Mrs. Dickie), Minnie Parker (Mrs. Croghan), Annie Adams (Mrs. Davidson), Alice Parker (Mrs. Stewart).
Front row, left to right: Joseph Calvert, Richard Dodd, Frederick A Porter, HH Parker, John B Adams, Ernest Parker, Philip Austin, George A Porter, William Dodd, Emily Austin, Fanny Calvert (Mrs. McKeil), Grace Calvert (Mrs. Robert Owens).
From the 1884 Superintendent of Schools Report for Craigflower School.
Teacher, John Mundell

Salary, \$60 per month.

Inspected, September 8, 1884; present, 14 boys, six girls, total, 20.

September 24, 1884; present, 12 boys, six girls; total, 18.

Examined, April 15, 1885; present, 13 boys, seven girls; total, 20.

In role during the year, 16 boys, 14 girls; total, 30.

Average monthly attendance, 23.

Average daily attendance, 18.66.

Expenditure, \$740.75.

Cost of each pupil on enrolment, \$24.69.

Cost of each pupil on average attendance, \$39.70.

At examination, Miss Mary Caroline Austin passed the standard require for admission to a High School. The progress of the school has been very satisfactory. The teacher is faithful in the discharge of his duties.

Pupils Accredited by Their Teacher with First Rank		
Department	Punctuality and Regularity	Proficiency
Amy Isabel Stewart	Walter Kerr	Mary Caroline Austin

Photo 4. - Victoria; Craigflower School and Class; Teacher A.M. Bannerman, Taught There from 1887 to 1890. BC Archives A - 05585. Circa 1890.



From the report of the Superintendent of Schools for the year 1889.

Teacher, Alexander M Bannerman.

Salary, \$60 per month.

Inspected, October 16, 1888; present 14 boys, 10 girls; total, 24.

January 25, 1889; present 16 boys, 17 girls; total 33.

In role during the year, 19 boys, 26 girls; total, 45.

Average monthly attendance, 35.

Average daily attendance, 28.53.

Expenditure, \$760.

Cost of each pupil on enrolment, \$16.88.

Cost of each pupil on average attendance, \$26.63.

At the semi-annual examination held in Victoria, May 31 and June 1, 1889, Master William Scafe, a pupil of the school, passed the standard requirement for admission to a High School.

PROVINCIAL ROLL OF HONOUR
PUPILS ACCREDITED BY THEIR TEACHERS WITH FIRST RANK.

Department	Punctuality and Regularity	Proficiency
Alice Porter	Emma Wilson	William Scafe



Photo 5: Mr. G. Sluggett and Class -1906/1907. Saanich Archives.

Sluggett was paid \$55 per month.

Henry G Francis passed the examination for entry to High School.

From reverse of original photograph, we read:

Top: Roland, Gascouyne Francis, Joe Lusier, Gordon Bunt, 3 brothers McCallum, Osborne, Mr. Sluggett (teacher)

Middle Row: Fred Gibson, Wilfrid Gauge, Billy Warren,

Front Row: Mr. Sluggett's daughter,

Gertrude Warren, relative of Mr. Sluggett, Dot Lusier, Mary Barker, and Edith Warren.

Photo 6 - THE LAST CLASS AT THE OLD CRAIGFLOWER SCHOOL 1910/1911. BC Archives C-00395

Teachers were Mrs. J.M.H. Harding, who was paid \$75 per month and Miss N.M. McKillican, who was paid \$65 per month. The school was overcrowded with two classes totaling 48 students, 26 boys and 22 girls.

The area around the historic Craigflower farm was being rapidly developed. Large farms were being subdivided, roads were being constructed and the Songhees First Nation was moving on to their new lands. The school had become a multi-racial institution. The tree in the background of the class photo is the original tree which can be seen in the photo taken in 1855. The burnt and twisted remains of the tree exist to this day on the school grounds. The new school, across the street, opened on February 29, 1912. In the Legislature Dr. Henry Esson Young, the Minister of Education, stated that the original Craigflower schoolhouse would not be demolished:



“The Craigflower school has been in continuous use since earliest Crown colony days on Vancouver Island and is in fact the original public school of this westernmost Canadian province.

It is therefore held to be only fit and proper that it should be preserved for posterity and one suggestion offered for the consideration of Hon. Dr. Young is that it be maintained as it stands, in its attractive location on upper Victoria Arm, provided with a suitable historical memorial plate, and utilize as a gymnasium and for manual training classes in connection with the work of the modern school now building.” Daily Colonist, December 29, 1911.

Photo 7. CRAIGFLOWER SCHOOL, DIVISION 2, 1911. BC Archives C-05303



Division 2 teacher was Miss N.M. McKillican. This is the only known photograph taken inside the Craigflower schoolhouse prior to its closure in 1911/12. Noted that there is a post supporting the ceiling in the left rear of the photo. The fireplace is closed off with heat being provided by a small stove. There does not appear to be any electric lighting in the classroom. The desks are clear, and the children are sitting very still with their hands clasped behind their backs.

Photo 8 - THE LAST CLASS AT CRAIGFLOWER – 1911. BC Archives G-02294



This BC Archives photograph is titled “Last Class” but it would appear the subjects are older than one would expect. They may well be former students who posed for the picture in 1911 upon the closing of the old school.

We have not been able to identify the original source of the picture nor any of the students.

Other Photos:





Awards Night – May 1, 2018

Awards Night will be held again this year at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 835 Humboldt Street, commencing at 7:30 pm. As in previous years, the evening will begin with local municipalities presenting plaques to property owners who have received heritage designation or heritage registry status during the preceding year. The Awards Jury has selected winners from the nominations received. Who will win this year? Will there be a Louis Award? Will there be a winner of the Michael Williams Award? If you do not attend, you will get the news second hand. We are now soliciting sponsors for this important event. If you know of a potential donor, please let us know. Sponsors are mentioned in the awards programme distributed at the ceremony and in a special edition of the newsletter, on our website, and they receive complimentary tickets to the ceremony and a tax receipt.

To assist with catering and seat assignment, admittance to this event will be by reservation. Reservations will be accepted until April 30th. Please let us know that you wish to attend by sending a message to office@hallmarkheritagesociety or by leaving a message at 250-382-4755. 📞

Photographer needed

We require a photographer to cover our two main events of the year. First up is the Awards Night. We need is someone to take photos of the presentation of designation plaques and the awards. At the South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, we need somebody to take photos of the students with their projects. We are required to have a photo of each project.

If you can help, let us know at office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca or call Helen Edwards at 250-686-0788. 📍

At the Archives and Museums

The City of Victoria recently launched a new “Archives Online Search Database.” A searchable database which contains more than 10,000 digitized archival records and photographs from the history of the city of Victoria. This project was supported through \$50,000 in funding from the City and is ongoing.

Councillor Pam Madoff was quoted as stating “10,000 images is wonderful. I’m expecting we probably have hundreds of thousands of images in our collection and were going to have to determine how to deal with that in a timely way as we look at what other collections have been doing and what the grant opportunities are.”

Friends of the BC Archives will be presenting, on Sunday, March 18, at 2 PM in the Newcombe Conference Hall, Royal BC Museum, a talk entitled “The Sights and Sounds of Carnival Week, 1913”. Given by Allen Specht, this will describe a carnival hosted by the City of Victoria during the first week of

August 1913. Arguably Victoria’s grandest celebration, it combined water and land sports, parades, street parties, circus rights, airplane demonstrations and balloon ascensions, visiting warships, plus musical concerts and balls. During Carnival Week 1913, we see Victoria in a festive mood, yet serious about asserting its place in the British Empire.

At the Royal BC Museum from 10 AM to 4 PM on Thursday, March 15, will be held a research day. This presents an opportunity for all to drop in for a single session or for the full day and learn about the fascinating studies which the Royal BC Museum is undertaking in 2018. For more details check out the web link <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/visit/events/calendar/event/105883/research-day> . There is something for everyone here.

Maritime Museum of British Columbia. On Friday March 3, March 10, March 24, and March 31, the Maritime Museum offers a Inner Harbor Walking Tour from 1 PM to 2 PM. The Tour Starts at the Maritime Museum on Humboldt Street across from the Empress Hotel and goes around the Inner Harbor, up Wharf Street, through Bastion Square, down Government Street, and back to the Museum. It runs for about an hour and includes the cost of admission to the Maritime Museum. <http://mmbc.bc.ca/events/7787/2018-03-10/> 📍



Calendar

- May 1, 2018** Hallmark Heritage Society Awards Night, St. Ann's Academy, 7:30 pm.
- May 11, 2018** South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, Royal BC Museum, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Ongoing events

Old Cemeteries Society: Sunday Cemetery History Tours: Start at 2:00 pm. Meet at 1:45 pm in front of Oregano's, Fairfield Plaza, 1544 Fairfield Rd. Others start where noted. Charge: \$5 for non-members; \$2 for Old Cemetery members. No reservations needed. Tours are held regardless of weather. Contact www.oldcem.bc.ca or 250-598-8870.

Victoria Historical Society: Regular monthly meetings, except for June, July and August. For a description of speakers, visit <http://www.victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca/>

Friends of the BC Archives: Lectures series on items of historical interest. All events, unless otherwise specified, are held in the Newcombe Conference Hall in the Museum and are free for members of the Friends of the BC Archives. Non-member admission rates, payable at the door, are currently \$5.00 for a lecture, and \$10.00 for a workshop. Check http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC_About_Archives/upcoming.aspx for details.

For up-to-date information on heritage-related events in our area, check out the [calendar](#) on our website.

We Need Your 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 and have already received donations. 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. 🙏

Sincere thanks to all members who have made donations over the past year. We do not publish names as we respect your privacy.



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 Awards Night

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 - 7:30 pm

St. Ann's Academy Auditorium

Please RSVP to: office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca

or 250-382-4755