

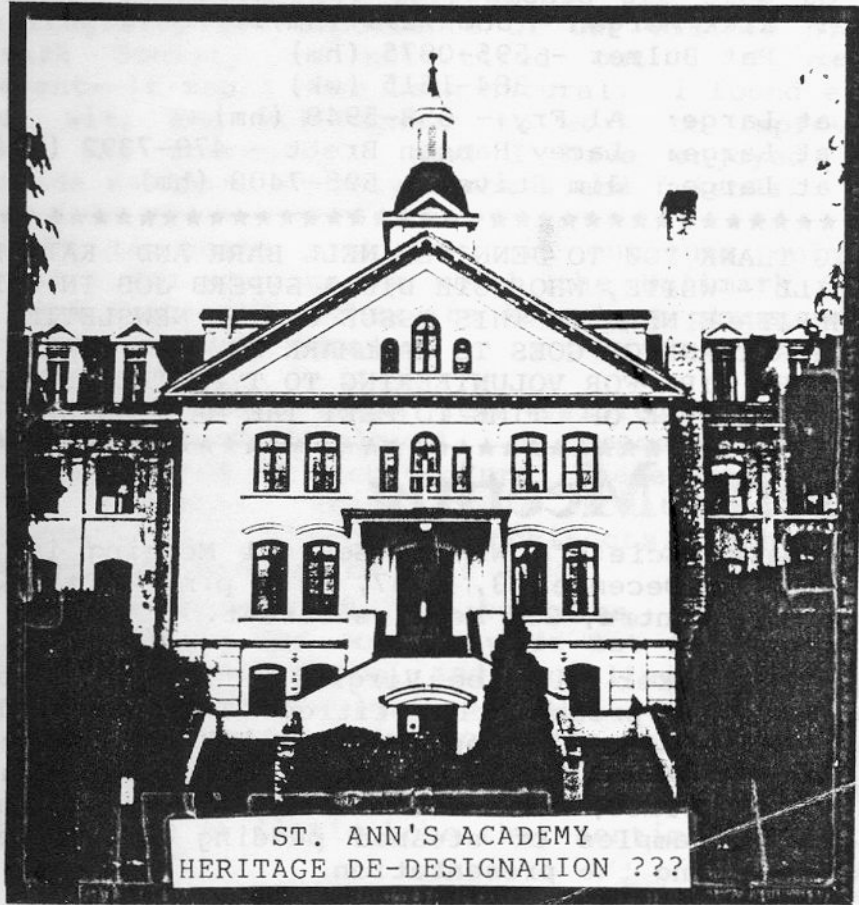


THE HALLMARK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Architectural Landmarks

OCTOBER NOVEMBER
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ST. ANN'S ACADEMY
HERITAGE DE-DESIGNATION ???

Since 1973, Your Voice in Heritage Preservation in the Capital Region
Richard Carr House, 207 Government St., Victoria, B.C., Canada V8V 2K8

TELEPHONE: 382-4755

President's Message

When a silver-tongued member of last year's Hallmark Society executive spoke with me about letting my name stand for President, I was assured that, after the Cadillac-Fairview wars, I would find this job nearly a vacation. Fortunately, I did not believe that. I knew that the war is never really over, as long as there are powerful members of our community, whether politicians or developers or merchants, who are insensitive to the cultural and economic assets which we call "heritage."

Nevertheless, I have quickly discovered reason to take heart. Despite the disappointments, despite the signs that the municipal and provincial governments are slow to learn about the fragility yet importance of our visible history, the Hallmark Society is not tired out. I expected discouragement--it would have been natural. I found energy, resilience, wit, and willingness to work to improve the Society and the community. And I have enjoyed myself working beside Hallmark Society members and friends.

I would like to share with you, in outlines only, two visions I have for actions in which the Hallmark Society might lead and cooperate. They are long-term plans, ways by which we may realize our ideals.

Victoria lacks any place where its visible, built history can be interpreted and displayed. I propose that we work toward the creation of an Architectural Preservation Gallery for Greater Victoria, which could mount special and continuing exhibitions about the architects, architecture, neighbourhoods, and history of this area.

With some notable exceptions, the business, development and real estate groups in our community do not fully recognize that preservation, restoration, and recycling of worthy old buildings can be profitable, as well as aesthetically pleasing. I propose that we work to spread the word, drawing on readily available expertise within the community. If the profit motive cannot save our Old Town, for instance, there is little hope that sentiment alone will prevail.

I ask for your help, your ideas, your advice, and your share of the hard work in achieving what we all wish to achieve. I am a relative newcomer, eager to learn from you and to work with you.

Frank Strath

Cover Story

ST. ANN'S ACADEMY - A SACRED TRUST?

The destiny of St. Ann's Academy--the building and the grounds--has become a badly written mystery, with too few clues to enable anyone to make much sense of it. The provincial designation (for the building only) is little more than a year old. It is hard to think that the designation might be revoked so soon--and so close to the release of the Project Pride report. The "privatization," without control of one of the most significant historical properties in British Columbia, would not be a project in which to take pride. The chairman of the Provincial Capital Commission, the actual owner of the property, denies that re-designation is an issue for the PCC. There are two problems with that theoretically reassuring statement. The PCC has very limited autonomy. It is largely answerable to the Provincial Cabinet. And the PCC normally meets in private, out of public scrutiny. It has no history of holding public hearings on the best use of public cultural assets. The high cost of restoring St. Ann's Academy has been cited as a reason for seeking private developers, but this cost has not been openly analysed. How much of it must be incurred right away? How much of it is necessary? How much merely desirable?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Write to Mr. Ken Hill, Chairman, Provincial Capital Commission, 835 Humboldt Street, Victoria, V8V 2M4. Support him in his intention not to recommend any solution that sees designation removed from the Academy. Urge him to call true public hearings to receive advice about the future of the building and grounds.
- Write to Mayor and Council, City of Victoria, 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, V8W 1P6. Urge Mayor and Council to designate St. Ann's Academy and its grounds. A City designation does not clash with the existing Provincial designation.
- Write to Premier Vander Zalm, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, V8V 1X4 (with copies to Rita Johnston, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and to Bill Reid, Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture). Emphasize the historic importance of the building and site for early education and the Catholic mission in Western Canada.
- Watch the local media for announcements of public meetings on the subject--and attend!

Of Interest... Photo Competition

The Jessie Woollett Memorial Photo Award was founded to honour Jessie and to promote an increased awareness of and an interest in the heritage buildings of our area. The competition details have now been worked out and the rules are published below. It has been decided to have two sections, the first for 35 mm slides, the second for 8 X 10 black and white prints, with each section having a cash prize of \$25. Each year a different theme will be selected: this year the competition theme is "Captured Heritage" - An Exterior View of an Old Building in the Capital Regional District. The competition is open to anyone. The competition will be funded by a trust account through the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society to which donations will be accepted in Jessie's memory.

RULES

1. The submissions must not have been previously published.
2. Images must not have been taken for a professional fee.
3. Entries must be received no later than January 31, 1988.
4. Entries may be mailed to 953 Empress Avenue, Victoria V8T 1N8 or dropped off at 207 Government Street on Wednesdays or Thursdays between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. during January.
5. Winners will be announced at the Hallmark Annual Heritage Awards Ceremony on February 15, 1988.
6. Only two entries will be accepted from any one person, one per section.
7. Slide entries must be 35 mm format. Prints must be black and white, 8 X 10 format, unmounted and unframed.
8. All entries must have the entrant's name, address, telephone number and subject address on the slide mount or back of the print.
9. All entries become the property of the Hallmark Society and may be used by them to promote heritage awareness.
10. Entries will be judged on photographic skill and exemplification of the competition theme.
11. Judges decisions are final.
12. Prize money will be \$25 for each section of the competition.

Heritage Update

MONTAGUE BRIDGMAN HOUSE

The Hallmark Executive had sent a letter to the Corporation of the District of Saanich requesting they designate the Montague home on 870 Nicholson Street. We had even suggested some ideas for "creative re-use" i.e. duplexes.

The City Council replied back to us on November 5, 1987 stating that the November 2nd meeting (the Council's Committee of the Whole) had considered our letter.

Dr. Penn attended this meeting and explained to the Council that the family came to the conclusion that it was economically suicidal to remove the house to the part of their property as originally planned. They had done everything they could to try and save the house, but it is not possible at this time. The Committee resolved that this designation be resolved. The developer of the subject property pointed out, that because of the stage of the planned development, it would not be practical to have the house remain where it is for financial reasons and the fact that the access road to the site would go through the corner of the present location of the house.

According to Jennifer Barr, the structure rates an 88 out of 100 mark based on factors of heritage and architectural value.

The home was built in 1930 and it is a magnificent example of the English Arts & Crafts architecture.

★★★★★★

CPR ROUNDHOUSE

Heritage buildings are not always romantically decorative. Significant examples of buildings where industries flourished and workers built the Province, also deserve protection and consideration for renewed lives. The CPR roundhouse complex of buildings, near the Songhees site in Victoria West, is one of the best

remaining examples of working railroad structures in Western Canada. It is tied with the time, not so long ago, when Victoria Harbour saw much more industrial activity than it does now, when the railroads permitted the industrial growth and the settlement of southern and eastern Vancouver Island. It is tied with the promised condition of British Columbian union with Canada.

So far, Mayor and Council have hesitated to protect the buildings beyond their placement on the heritage registry. They have again claimed that they dare not risk a claim for compensation.

Phone/write the Mayor and Aldermen, urging them to designate the CPR site and to seek expert competent legal counsel about the real prospect of a compensation claim in this case.

★★★★★★

The second oldest home in Oak Bay has been completely enlarged and altered to its original design. The home is located at 2072 Hampshire Road and was built prior to 1886, probably 1880. (See photos in Stuart Stark's book, "Oak Bay's Heritage Buildings...More Than Just Bricks and Boards").

★★★★★★

Two other homes in the Oak Bay area have been drastically altered in an unpleasant way:

1237/39 Beach Drive (past the marina and viewpoint).

A very modern house has been recently built on Prospect Place, taking away from the streetscape of Rattenbury's town planning.

*** It was hoped, with Stuart Stark's book, that there would be some kind of planning on behalf of the Oak Bay Council, so that this type of construction would not occur.

★★★★★★

2009 Ferndale home, built in 1889, has been torn down (also known as the William Dean cottage).

★★★★★★

The Bissette House on Government Street has recently been sold (also known as the Woodland's cottage). Keep an eye on this one--it was built in 1861 and was designed by Wright & Saunders (who did the Richard Carr House). The address is 138 and 140 (presently a duplex).

Awards Night

The Fourteenth Annual Hallmark Awards Night - Heritage Day Presentations will be held on Monday, February 15, 1988, so mark this event on your calendars! The location of the event is yet to be determined, but will be printed in the January edition of the Hallmark Newsletter.

The Hallmark Executive is currently reviewing award nominations.

The Awards Night Planning Committee could use a few more volunteers, if you are interested, please phone Kathleen O'Neill-White at 387-1643(w) 592-8344(h) or Joan McCorry at 387-1932(w) 386-0106(h).

"THESE HOUSES ARE DESIGNED TO GO TO PIECES"

As part of the 1987 Craigdarroch Christmas festivities, Portland, Oregon artist, Pat Arthur, has been commissioned to create a wooden puzzle sculpture of the Castle. It will be raffled as part of the Christmas celebrations which will be held at the Castle during the week of December 5 - 12, 1987. Raffle tickets are \$.50 or 3/\$1.00 and are available at the Castle or by contacting Mark or Pamela Madoff at 384-6971.

Pat Arthur specializes in heritage houses, having depicted many of Port Townsend's Victorian buildings in her freestanding puzzles.

The artist will be in attendance during a Craigdarroch Christmas and will be accepting commissions.

The ultimate luxury for the heritage home buff is gazing upon the external beauty of one's home from the comfort of one's armchair.

CHRISTMAS IN MOSS COTTAGE

The Sooke Regional Museum is having Christmas Day in Moss Cottage on December 13th (Sunday) from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- tours will be available.
- the whole family will be in attendance (The Gordan's and the Muir's)
- there will be carol singing
- hot chocolate and sweets
- children's snowman building contest.

Regional Heritage News

Saanich Heritage Advisory & Archival Committee

Saanich Council was not prepared to act on the recommendation of the S.H.A.A.C. or pleas from members of the Bridgman family to designate the Christmas Hill or Montague Bridgman house at 870 Nicholson Street. Instead, this beautiful house in the English Arts and Crafts style is being sacrificed for a townhouse development, for which it could have been a magnificent centrepiece.

Victoria Heritage Foundation

The A.P.T. Annual Conference held in September at the Empress Hotel was a great success, with 275 delegates from all over North America and as far away as Australia. The V.H.F., as co-sponsors of the conference and organizers of the 10 technical field sessions, would like to thank all those volunteers who gave so much time and energy to help make the conference such a success.

Saanich Heritage Foundation

The first Heritage Restoration Workshop sponsored by the Saanich Heritage Foundation, was held on October 17, 1987 and was a great success. About 20 owners of Saanich heritage homes attended the day long workshop which featured talks by Heritage Conservation Branch staff and other heritage experts from the Victoria area. A special thanks to all who participated, many of whom are Hallmark members.

The S.H.F. has hired Geoff Castle to prepare a Heritage Workshop Kit for the B.C. Heritage Trust, based on the recent workshop and the materials and information gathered for it.

The Foundation is beginning to plan for its annual Heritage Fair, to be held during Heritage Week in February. This year the event will take place at the newly expanded University Heights Shopping Centre at Shelbourne and MacKenzie.

The Foundation has been approached by the Municipality of Saanich to assist in developing restoration plans for municipally owned heritage buildings. These include Dodd House, the Lambrick Farmhouse and the original Royal Oak School.

Victoria Heritage Advisory Committee

At the November 16 meeting, the Victoria Heritage Advisory Committee recommended to Council that the 1874 working man's cottage at 428 Superior Street, be retained on the heritage registry. The Committee also made two important recommendations to Council for the designation of major heritage buildings. The first was St. Ann's Academy, and the recommendation for municipal designation was for both buildings and grounds. The second was for the CPR Roundhouse, and it was also recommended that, if Council agrees, notification of the City's intent to proceed with designation, be sent immediately to the appropriate Ministries of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Victoria Branch, B.C. Historical Federation

The regular monthly meeting will be held on November 26 at 8:15 p.m. at Cridge Memorial Hall, Church of Our Lord, Blanshard at Humboldt. Grant Keddie of the Archaeological Division of the Provincial Museum will speak on the Indians of the Victoria area. All are welcome. If you would be interested in membership information, call Charlene Rees at 384-9988.

The Old Cemetery Committee of the Victoria Branch of the B.C. Historical Federation, meets on the third Monday of the month at Carr House at 7:30 p.m. For more information phone John Adams at 384-2895 evenings or weekends. The Committee is planning a tour of the Jewish Cemetery sometime in January.

Coming Event

Craigflower Farmhouse Colonial Christmas

Daily November 30 through December 13

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Admission: family \$5.00 single \$2.00
 children 6-12 \$1.00 under 6 free

Period music, baking displays, craft displays and floral arrangements. One and all welcome. At the same time, Craigflower Schoolhouse will be open weekdays for booked school groups only, November 30 to December 11. On weekends, the general public is welcome to visit 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Your ticket at the farmhouse entitles you to visit the schoolhouse as well.

Members' Bookstore

The following books are available by contacting Jennifer Barr at 385-4408, or by dropping by Richard Carr House on Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - phone first - 382-4755. The Hallmark Society's General Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3, 1987 at 7:30 p.m. in the New Horizon's Centre in James Bay, and all books will be on sale at that time.

Terrific Buys for Christmas!!

"Hasti-Notes" - 5 building designs - 10 notes

Regular Price \$ 2.50

Members Price \$ 2.00

Greeting Cards - Rosemary James Cross

Regular Price \$ 1.50 each

Members Price \$ 1.00 each

Arches in British Columbia - Dr. David Lai

Regular Price \$ 8.95

Members Price \$ 7.50

Art Deco and Moderne - Don Luxton

Regular Price \$10.00

Members Price \$ 8.00

British Columbia Parliament Buildings - Martin Segger

Regular Price \$ 2.00

Members Price \$ 1.50

**Buildings of Samuel Maclure - In Search of
Appropriate Form** - Martin Segger

Regular Price \$39.95

Members Price \$32.00

Built Heritage in Esquimalt - Dorothy Field

Regular Price \$10.00

Members Price \$ 8.00

The Complete Victoria Handbook

Regular Price \$ 9.95

Members Price \$ 8.00

**The Cordwood Limited - A History of the Victoria
and Sidney Railway - George Hearn, David Wilkie**

Regular Price \$ 5.95

Members Price \$ 4.75

Craigdarroch - The Story of Dunsmuir Castle -

Terry Reksten

Regular Price \$12.95

Members Price \$11.66

E & N Railway - Ian Baird

Regular Price \$ 4.95

Members Price \$ 4.00

E & N Railway - The Dunsmuir Years - Donald MacLachlan

Regular Price \$19.95

Members Price \$16.00

Heritage Cemeteries of B. C. - John Adams

Regular Price \$ 6.00

Members Price \$ 5.00

Island Heritage Buildings - Thomas K. Ovanin

Regular Price \$18.00

Members Price \$14.50

**More English than the English - A Very Social History
of Victoria - Terry Reksten**

Regular Price \$ 9.95

Members Price \$ 8.00

**Oak Bay's Heritage Buildings...More Than Just Bricks
and Boards - Stuart Stark**

Regular Price \$10.00

Members Price \$10.00

101 Historical Buildings of Sooke Region

Regular Price \$10.95

Members Price \$ 9.00

Rattenbury - Terry Reksten - Paperback Edition

Regular Price \$10.95

Members Price \$ 9.00

Ross Bay Cemetery - John Adams

Regular Price \$ 4.95

Members Price \$ 4.00

Samuel Maclure - Janet Bingham
Regular Price \$ 9.95
Members Price \$ 8.00

This Old House
Regular Price \$10.00
Members Price \$ 8.50

This Old Town
Regular Price \$10.50
Members Price \$ 8.50

Vice Regal Mansions of British Columbia - Peter Cotton
Regular Price \$ 6.00
Members Price \$ 3.00

Victoria Landmarks - Castle & King
Regular Price \$21.95
Members Price \$18.00

Walking Tours*****

Wednesday Lunch Times - Weekly Until February 1988

Take a break from your regular lunch routine, and take part in a walking tour of Pioneer Square. Tours start at 12:05 p.m. from the Cenotaph in Pioneer Square. Tours last approximately 50 minutes. Discover the fascinating history behind this important historic cemetery and some of the interesting people buried there. Tours are free and are sponsored by the Victoria Branch, B.C. Historical Federation. For more information telephone 384-0045.

Free Guided Tours of Ross Bay Cemetery At 2:00 P.M.

The grave sites and monuments of such notables as Robert Dunsmuir, James Douglas, Sir Matthew Bailie Begbie and Emily Carr are included in this tour. Meet in front of the Fairfield Plaza Pizza Peman at 2:00 p.m. daily. Extra tour at 10:30 a.m. Sundays. For further information or group tour bookings call 384-0045.

Membership*****

STUDENT \$ 6.00
SENIOR \$ 6.00
INDIVIDUAL \$ 9.00
FAMILY \$12.00

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHEQUE TO:
THE HALLMARK SOCIETY
c/o JENNIFER BARR
RICHARD CARR HOUSE
207 GOVERNMENT STREET
VICTORIA, B. C. V8V 2K8



A
**Craigdarroch
Christmas**

December 5 - 12, 1987

Special Exhibits:

- Antique Christmas Cards from the Provincial Archives
- The Bishop Collection of early Christmas ornaments
- "Toys from Christmas Past" arranged by Walter Antiques and Private Collectors
- "A Victorian Christmas Dinner" by Birks and The Castle Society.
- Victorian Decorations throughout.



Craigdarroch Castle

HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY
1050 Juan Crescen Victoria, B.C. Canada V8S 3L5 (604) 592-5323

Admission — \$3.50 Each

Tours: Special Christmas oriented tours will be given every 20 minutes for this event by timed tickets

Tickets: Available in advance from the Castle Gift Shop, in person or by phone — 592-1225. They will be sold for specific times for groups of 20-30 people.

Hours: 10-5

Evening openings Thursday, 10th and Friday 11th until 7:40 p.m.

Christmas Gift Shop. Special Christmas gifts and decorations in our Gift Shop.

Special Sale of Decorations on Sunday, Dec. 13, 1-5 p.m. on main floor of Castle.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
REPRINTED FROM "SAANICH NEWS"
NOVEMBER 11-17, 1987

TRAGIC COMÉDY OF ERRORS

Editor:

May I respond to Ellen Oerzen's front-page obituary (*News*, Nov. 4) respecting the Montague Bridgman house at 870 Nicholson St.?

Even though the house's fate appears to have been sealed, I am obliged to record that in my opinion the whole situation has been a tragic comedy of errors, inattention, inadequate planning, and insensitivity to the property's undeniable heritage value.

I believe that the demolition will serve as a classic case for participating parties on all sides to reflect upon. In my opinion the Bridgman house represents the single-most important heritage property that this council or any future council will be called upon to "save."

Moreover, I am opposed for the most part to "moving" valid heritage structures to any kind of a municipal heritage dumping ground to get them out of the way for so-called progress. Far and away the most important aspect of a legitimate heritage structure is its original location.

The Bridgman house is not just an old building in the way, it is a far more significant structure than will be anything built to replace it. It may well become an inspirational legend. Vade in pace.

Bob Broadland

CHAIRMAN - SAANICH HERITAGE
ADVISORY AND ARCHIVAL COMMITTEE

THE MISSING BRIEFCASE

During the A.P.T. Conference in September at the Empress Hotel, one of our members misplaced his briefcase and is hoping it will show up soon, as he requires the contents for business.

This light brown "Samsonite" briefcase was placed in the display room during the conference. If you know of this incident, please call Steve Barber at 385-5711(w), Local 365 or 386-9302(h).