

HALLMARK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Architectural Landmarks



Your voice in heritage preservation in the Capital Region since 1973.



Office Coordinator: Helen Edwards

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 - Noon and by appointment

Mandate

The Hallmark Society was formed in 1973. Our mandate is to 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 our annual Awards Night. We are a registered non-profit society, financed principally by membership dues and members' contributions.

Notice of Meeting

The next General Meeting of the society will be Monday, December 11, 1995, at 660 Michigan Street. Starting time is 7:30. Refreshments will be served.

Cover Photo

Guests at the 1995 Hallmark Tea enjoy their goodies in the dappled shade at the Thompson Farm, 5271 Old West Saanich Road. Get the full story on page 8.

Feature Story

Rose Manor, 857 Rupert Terrace. A stained-glass ceiling was recently rediscovered in this 1907 building by Thomas Hooper, but it now faces an uncertain future. See page 6 for details.

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President's Message

As your new president, I take this opportunity to pass along some thoughts concerning our society. We have, by the hard and dedicated work of the former directors and members, accomplished a great deal for preservation of the buildings erected through our short history as a city and province. We have also included in this the protection of both their surroundings and other landscapes. There will always be more to do in this area, although at the present time there do not appear seem to be any great battles looming.

However, one can arise at any time.

I have asked your executive to embark upon a full review of the registry of heritage buildings throughout the Capital Region. It will make us more aware of what we have to protect, and keep us alert for any unfortunate proposals or changes. We will need help in this review, and the membership is urged to participate. If the region is allocated into urban neighbourhoods, suburbs, and rural municipalities, all areas can be gradually and fully canvassed. We will then have a thorough, useful, and current review document to work with. There are a number of jewels out there, hiding under mossy banks, so do not let them slip away.

“Our work does not require constant confrontation.”

Our work does not require constant confrontation. Our use in, and history with, the community show this. The steady and unsensational work of our limited office and volunteer staff prove the point. Our newsletter has also recently received recognition, which I feel was long overdue.

It is among my fondest wishes that we find a permanent home. Our present quarters are excellent and most pleasing to all, but one year of our lease is almost gone and six short years remain. Our final home need not be pretentious, but should most definitely be a heritage building of some worth, where all our material (with more to come) can be properly stored and

displayed. Let us look for a property well located that we as a group can get into, fix up and restore in all the ways available, using volunteers, contributions in materials and services, and, where necessary, cash.

Therefore, I ask you all to be on the lookout. I know I have pretty good eyes, but I can still miss a few things, but I will be keeping them open in the service of the society.

I look forward to renewing our mandate and carrying on the work with a fine executive. I would also like to thank those who have assisted in the past.

Stop Press - John O'Reilly

John O'Reilly, longtime member and patron of the Hallmark Society, died on Sunday, November 12th, at the age of 75. The last member of the pioneer O'Reilly family to live in historic Point Ellice House, John and his wife Inez were staunch supporters of Hallmark and its aims. His presence at meetings and other Society events will be missed. Our sympathy and heartfelt wishes go out to Inez.

Royal Roads University Looks to the Future

by Helen Edwards

Royal Roads University was established under the *Royal Roads University Act* which received third reading in the Legislature on June 21, 1995. On July 5th, the new university signed partnerships with Camosun College and the University of Victoria. The campus occupies 140 acres of the site previously held by Royal Roads Military College which was closed earlier in the year. Fortunately for those who are interested in the retention of our heritage buildings, the military were generally careful caretakers of the historic Hatley Park property. Built in 1906-08 by Samuel Maclure for James Dunsmuir, the castle and its surrounding working farm have undergone many changes over the years. New buildings have been erected to serve the needs of the military college and these are again being renovated as part of the new University.

On September 1, 1995, Royal Roads University assumed official responsibility for the campus. The transformation from a military institution to a civilian one has meant many changes, many of which are still ongoing.

Almost all traces of the military presence have been removed, boxed up and trucked away to many destinations, including the Royal Military College in Kingston, CFB Comox and some local archives. It is unclear exactly which artifacts have been directed to the various locations, and this must be investigated.

Immediate construction projects include the provision of ramps for wheelchairs, the addition of more washroom facilities for women, increased security lighting, and the painting of parking lines on the once-hallowed parade square now the student parking lot. A new sign greets visitors to the site and the property now has a street address, 2005 Sooke Road, for the first time in its history. Few staff have been retained although the head gardener remains the same. This bodes well for the continuation of the outstanding gardens and grounds.

Classes began on September 6, 1995. This is a spectacular campus on which to study - the scenery alone is breathtaking. The fabled peacocks and deer still roam the grounds freely as does the occasional cougar. There are currently no boarding students, so an air of quiet prevails. Classes are small with individualized instruction in a very friendly atmosphere.

It now remains for the planning committee composed mostly of staff who taught at RRMC to develop plans for Royal Roads University as a freestanding institution. An academic plan is expected by December 1, 1995. The new programmes are expected to include those which focus on skills in demand by employees. Provision will be made for mature students who lack formal entrance requirements but have years of work and life experience. Billed as "a 21st-century university in a 19th century setting", we can only hope that this exercise is successful. The retention of this building and its surrounding grounds must remain a priority.

Meeting & Event Schedule

Here is the Society's schedule for the coming year's meetings and special events, so far.

General Meeting	December 11, '95
Member Appreciation	February 16, '96
Heritage Week	February 19-24
General Meeting	March 12
Awards Night	May 7
General Meeting	June 10
Annual Heritage Tea	September 8
Annual General Meeting	September 23

Other special events, including a bus tour will be announced once dates are finalized.

Heritage Home Lost

by Ken Sudhues

On the night of October 1st, Greater Victoria lost one of its fine homes to fire. 3230 Upper Terrace, in the Uplands, was completely gutted in a blaze which took firefighters from two municipalities to subdue. "Woodhome", as the house was known, was designed by Hubert Savage for the Cameron Brothers Lumber Company (later BC Forest Products) in 1929. The centre of the house, the living room, featured a sandstone fireplace, beamed 21-foot ceilings, higher than the adjoining portion of the house, with a minstrel gallery opening from the second floor, and the wainscoting was embellished with bas-relief sailing ships of Norse design.

At the time of construction, "Woodhome" was a show home, kept vacant and open to the public for six months to display its many innovations, which included a built-in electric communication system, 100 amp electrical service, bronze hot water pipes, a "heatilator" fireplace, and fully insulated walls throughout. (The insulation was a new product from the U.S., "Balsam Wool", a tightly packed sawdust compound, which, unfortunately, may have helped the fire spread, despite having originally been treated with a retardant.)

Only slightly altered over the years, the house had five owners. The last occupants were Keith and Joy Littler, who, with their four children, lived in it for 33 years. The Littlers were on a working holiday in Hungary at the time of the fire, and the house was unoccupied. They are now trying to find a copy of the original plans to assist them in rebuilding, as Oak Bay's copy is apparently missing. We extend to the Littlers our sympathy on the loss of their home. If any members have information about "Woodhome", please call the office (382-4755) and leave a message.

Members News

Your Society welcomes new members Lynn Hall, Barbara Robertson, Dennis Moore, Alan Jones and John Giolma. We also welcome back Carolyn Goresky.

Alan Jones will be our volunteer coordinator. He is designing a system for obtaining volunteers and contacting them. This should make our volunteer system run much more efficiently. A big thank-you on behalf of the Society.

Of interest is the application from John Giolma. He accessed our information from the Internet. It really does work. He now lives in Langley but lived for many years in James Bay. John was wondering if the Camas Chronicles is still in existence and how they can be contacted. Let us know and we will get the information to him.

Marguerite Fraser is the new refreshments coordinator. Please give her a call at 385-2760 if you could help with refreshments for meetings or Awards Night.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SHEET if you were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting. Return it to the office so that your name can be added to our growing list of volunteers. We certainly appreciate the efforts that members make on our behalf.

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architecture planning heritage conservation and inspection
member of the architectural institute of british columbia

Rose Manor Stained Glass Rediscovered

by Lisa Butchart

We were alerted recently to the discovery of a long-forgotten stained glass ceiling in the rotunda of Rose Manor, a home for the elderly, at 857 Rupert Terrace. Anne Vaasjo, a student in the Social Work program at the University of Victoria and a multimedia artist, has been working at Rose Manor designing and implementing a sculptural project for the "roundabout". The roundabout is the term used by the residents to describe this hexagonal area, open to the second floor, at the junction of four wings of the building. She became curious about the ceiling over this area, especially as it was set off from the rest of the ceiling by wooden moulding. Anne gained access to the attic of the building through a linen cupboard and discovered, under a layer of fibreglass, a stained glass ceiling. The ceiling/window is hexagon shaped, eight feet in diameter. It consists of nine small panels of stained and painted glass. The central panel which is decorated with a floral image is ringed by the remaining eight sections. These have a fairly simple, geometric design. The colours of the glass are red, green and gold. The gold colour predominates.

Originally, the window sat beneath a cupola which shed light into the interior, onto the glass ceiling and throughout the two storey rotunda. The cupola was removed at some unknown time in the past. An employee of 22 years reported that the cupola had not been in place since her term of employment began.

Rose Manor has a remarkable history going back at least one hundred years. The present structure sits on the site of the French Benevolent Hospital building which was the first used by the Victoria Friendly Help Society to shelter elderly women

without means or families to provide for them. At that time it was dubbed the "Victoria Aged and Infirm Women's Home". It was organized by and for women. Women were admitted without ethnic, religious or financial restrictions. The committee of women who initially founded the institution was made up of representatives from the different religious denominations in Victoria.

Men were not admitted as residents until

"...a floral image is ringed by sections of red, green and gold."

1979. In 1958 Mayor Percy Scurrell expressed his admiration of the magnificent rose garden on the grounds and the institution became known as Rose Manor.

In 1907 Thomas Hooper designed a large section of the present Rose Manor. (Additions were made in 1912 and 1971.)

This association ties the building architecturally to two other institutions in close proximity - St. Ann's Academy and the Fairfield Health Centre (St. Joseph's Hospital), both of which were designed in part by Hooper. Anne Vaasjo is coordinating a proposal for funding for the cleaning and restoration of the glass ceiling and hopes that the project will be completed by spring 1996. It could provide a focal point for the centennial of Rose Manor.

If Rose Manor does survive to its centennial will certainly be something to celebrate. The Manor has been experiencing financial difficulties for some time and is reaching a point where the future of the building is uncertain.

The site is zoned to allow new construction up to eight storeys. However, the set-backs required for such height would be deeper than the lot, so highrises are not in the immediate future.

What will happen to Rose Manor as it enters its second century? We will keep you informed as developments occur.

Heritage House Lectures

by Lisa Butchart

Charles Rupert, The Shop, recently sponsored a series of lectures concerned with heritage domestic architecture and interior design. The lectures were given on three consecutive Tuesday evenings in October in the meeting room of the South Park Annex. The series ended with a Sunday afternoon tour of the Richard Carr House on Government Street.

The first lecture in the series was entitled "A Wealth of Styles: Victorian Domestic Architecture", and was given by Stuart Stark, a well-known heritage consultant, long time Hallmark Society member and Past President of the Society. Stuart illustrated his talk with slides of exteriors and interiors of homes from Victoria and also from Washington state and California. Of particular interest were slides of interiors which had been preserved in their original state for over 70 years.

The subsequent presentation, "The Bungalow: America's Arts and Crafts Home", was given by Paul Duchscherer, former Design Service Director of Bradbury & Bradbury Wallpapers of San Francisco, who has recently co-authored a book on the subject. Paul is an extremely knowledgeable and interesting speaker. The evening provided many excellent examples of Craftsman style architecture and interior treatments. The slides were taken from the book which will be released in the next few months.

The third and final lecture was presented by Stuart Stark and Margaret Graham-Bell, a renowned restoration expert and, like Stuart, a long time member of the Hallmark Society. This evening's presentation was titled, "The Old House: Heritage Restoration Techniques Revealed!" This duo gave a fascinating look at some of the projects in which they have been involved over the years.

The final event was a tour of Richard Carr House. A portion of the final lecture had explained in detail the restoration of some aspects of this site, and it was very interesting to see, in the flesh, the gratifying results of this painstaking work.

We are fortunate to have such informed, experienced and well-spoken members of our heritage community willing to stage such events. The series was extremely well done and hopefully, the excellent turnout will prompt more in the future.

It is gratifying to see the Annex put to such good use. The Old Cemeteries Society presented a talk by Grant Keddie on the Songhees Settlement/Cemeteries on November 14, 1995, so it appears that the Annex may become, more and more, "The South Park Heritage Centre".



The 1995 Tea Party

by Lisa Butchart

The Thompson Farm at 5271 Old West Saanich Road was chosen to be a Hallmark Society Award winner this year, and we were fortunate to be given the opportunity to occupy the grounds for our Annual Tea on September 10, 1995. The owners, John and Jackie Wrinch, despite their involvement in a very successful pick-your-own-apples enterprise, graciously gave us permission.

To visit the Thompson Farm is to enter another world. On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in September, guests and volunteers for the Hallmark Society were fortunate enough to spend time in this magical place.

As our tea guests wandered past the restored heritage buildings, glorious flower gardens, apple orchards and pens full geese, turkeys and chickens, many others came to pick apples.

Tea was served under a heritage American Walnut which provided shelter from the bright, late summer sun. Jackie Wrinch, with customary generosity, turned over her kitchen to Hallmark volunteers for food and drink preparation. Sandwiches filled with cucumber, watercress and asparagus were offered along with a variety of

desserts. Delicious home-made scones, donated by Marilyn Pollard, were a highlight of the edibles. A birthday was celebrated at one of our tables, candles and all.

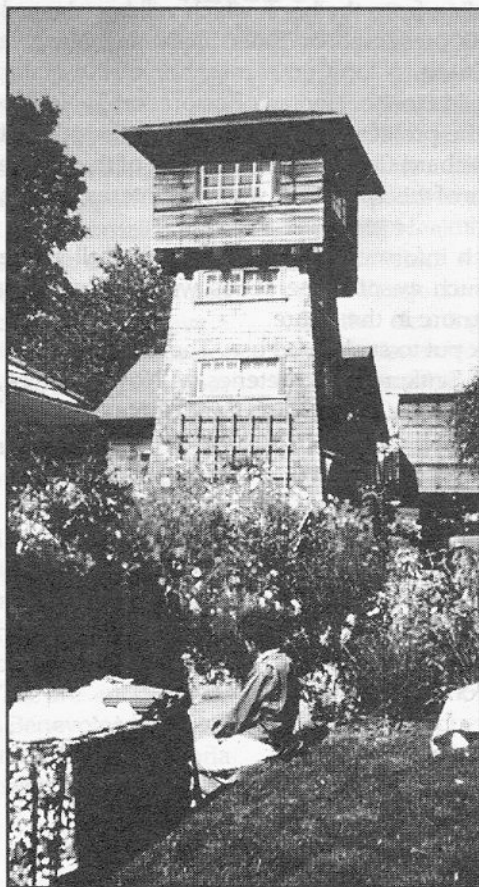
Heartfelt thanks go to John and Jackie Wrinch for their hospitality; nowhere could one find more accommodating or generous hosts. As a token of our gratitude, the Wrinches were presented with a Hallmark Society family membership and a Murchies' gift certificate.

We extend our thanks to all the others who were able to help: Miranda Butchart, Pam Copley, Helen and John Edwards, Jason MacNaughton,

Sherri and Dar Robinson, Barb Sankey and Trevor Smith. Many thanks also to Jane Renaud and the Phoning Committee for getting the word out to members; Melinda Seyler for her advice and suggestions; Marilyn Pollard for the donation of the delectable scones; and Ken Sudhues for his help and words of encouragement.

A Tea will be held again next fall, when we look forward to more members and guests being able to sip and stroll through another marvellous and interesting site.

Thanks again to all concerned from Lisa Butchart, Ellie Tims, and Camilla Turner - The Tea Committee.



Focal point of Thompson Farm, the water tower. (Ellie Tims photo)

Trades, Services &

Products List

One of the benefits of membership in the Hallmark Society is the *Trades, Services, and Products List*. This list has evolved over the years and has recently undergone a major revision. All information has been verified and is up-to-date. Those on the list have been involved in heritage projects and are reported to be sensitive to heritage issues. However, listing **does not signify endorsement of these tradespeople or their businesses**. If you use the list regularly, please call for a current update. Members of the Society are entitled to one free copy of the list per year. Non-members may purchase a copy for \$25.00. For further information or to request an update, please call the office at 382-4755. Please let the persons listed that you obtained their name from our listing. This is very important.

WANTED: Names of qualified persons to be added to the *Trades, Services, and Products List*. If you have any additional names for our list, please let us know. The information we require are the business name, contact person, address, telephone number, and speciality areas. Submissions for any category are welcome, so please let us know the tradespeople and businesses with whose work you have been pleased. In addition, would you please let us know of any tradespeople and businesses whose products or services have been unsatisfactory so that we may remove them from our list of recommendations.

Since 1994, we have required a listing fee of \$50.00 to be included on the list, in addition to the other criteria. However, this fee is waived for members of the Hallmark Society. As the cost of membership is less than the listing fee, we strongly encourage tradespeople to become members. We all benefit from this as our membership base expands and we gain the expertise of the new members.

Hallmark Archives

Three members of the Board of Directors of the Hallmark Society attended the Archives Association of British Columbia pre-conference workshop this spring entitled *How to Package Volunteers and How to Work With Them*. Helen Edwards, Foster Isherwood and Pamela Copley spent a day with facilitator Paul Jonesen and delegates from around the province. We discussed how to attract volunteers, how to get the volunteers you really want and how to reward those who do the volunteer work. Participants were from a variety of different organizations, with both paid staff and entirely volunteer-run groups represented. We did discover that we do have the same problems and were able to discuss these and come up with potential solutions.

We will now be offering our volunteers the chance to sign short-time contracts with the Society which will detail the work to be undertaken, the hours to be given and, most importantly of all, will give a date by which the job should be done. This will enable people to volunteer for one specific

Vintage Material for Sale

The Downtown Womens' Project is completing its conversion and renovation of 801 Burdett Avenue. The construction manager, Meg Herweier, informs us that she has numerous salvaged items for sale from this 1904 house: about 50 doors, both 2- and 4-panel, all in jambs; Eastlake-style door and window hardware; a variety of double-hung sash windows; bulls-eyes; fluted mouldings and casings; two gas furnaces and a nearly new gas stove. For more information, prices, etc., please call Meg at either 480-1408 or 480-1548.

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1996 HALLMARK AWARDS NOMINATION

Award Category of Nomination *(tick one)*

- Award of Merit
- Communication Award
- Mark Madoff Medal
- President's Award
- Louis Award
- Partnered Preservation Excellence

Nominee

Address _____

Phone _____

Project _____

Address _____

Project Details *(attach up to one full page)*

Nominator

Address _____

Phone _____

ELIGIBILITY

1. Individuals, members of heritage, historic or cultural organization, corporations and educational institutions are eligible for Hallmark awards according to category for projects or achievements completed within two years prior to awards day.
2. All nominations must be sponsored by an individual, organization, corporation or government agency who may or may not be a member of the Hallmark Society.
3. Nominations for posthumous awards will not be considered without unanimous agreement of the Directors.
4. Individual nominations will be considered.
5. Members of the Hallmark Society are not to place themselves in a position of conflict with regard to nominations.
6. The Hallmark Society reserves the right to decline submission material of unacceptable quality be it written, photographic or otherwise.

Submissions must include:

1. Nominee's name, address and phone number.
2. Description of the nominee's pertinent work (approximately one typed page).
3. Attachments and notes, including clippings, letters of support, or other relevant material.
4. Minimum of one photograph and/or slide illustrating the project.
5. Name, address and phone number(s) of person(s) sponsoring or submitting the nomination.

Awards Night 1996 - May 7th.

Attach supporting documents, including at least one photograph or slide, press clippings, or letters of support for the nominee. Mail to: Awards Jury, 660 Michigan Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 4Y7.

Submissions must be received by the Hallmark Society 90 days prior to the Awards Night.