



HALLMARK SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS



Your voice in heritage preservation in the Capital Region since 1973



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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 the 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 Hallmark Society will be held on Monday, December 11, 2000 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street at 7:30 p.m. Heritage updates will include a slide show on the work completed at Church of Our Lord. Our guest speaker will be Steve Barber, City of Victoria Heritage Planner who will speak on the city's Tax Incentive Program.

COVER PHOTO

Chimneys at Ross Bay Villa have been returned to their original condition by Willy Tobler. See page 8 for details. John Edwards photo.

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Newsletter production & layout

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All photos by Helen Edwards unless otherwise credited.

Contributors this issue:

C.A.N.

Kris Andersen

Helen Edwards

John Edwards

Tim Lomas

Nick Russell

**DEADLINE FOR SPRING
2001 NEWSLETTER:
FEBRUARY 8, 2001.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Edwards

As an organization dedicated to preserving historic and architectural landmarks since 1973, we must now try to get all governments to respond to the unprecedented boom in cultural tourism. This is the tourism based on heritage, concerts, festivals, museums, and galleries.

Reports show that when the Royal BC Museum hosted the Leonardo exhibit it brought \$92 million into the Victoria economy. Tourists do love to come and visit heritage attractions, but we need a major event to get them here.

The civic theatres such as the McPherson Playhouse and the Royal Theatre, which alone requires \$20 million, need to be upgraded. The Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon attracts in excess of 360,000 per year and brings million of dollars into the local economy. At present, the stingy government founding for these type of projects is lacking. Or is it a result of the old myth that heritage and the arts are a poor investment?

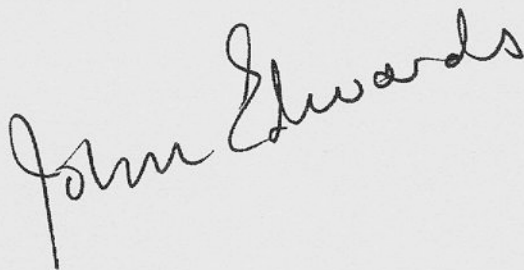
Should we remind them that St. Ann's Academy sat empty for years while politicians procrastinated over its use and the restoration costs skyrocketed. When the provincial government under Andrew Petter and the Provincial Capital Commission under Pam Charlesworth did the restoration, 4,000 people turned out for the official reopening.

We were all saddened on the morning of November 16, 2000 to hear that Michael Williams had passed away. I personally knew him from his arrival on the Victoria tennis scene in the 1960s and through his dog kennel days.

He saw the potential in the devaluing old buildings on lower Johnson Street. He spoke with his money and turned these into attractive commercial businesses. His accomplishments are too numerous to list here, but I find it ironic that he was recognized by several heritage organizations from New York, before we woke up to the great work he was doing in our city.

I always remember one conversation in Swan's where we were both looking across the street at the derelict Janion Hotel, and he said we must get politicians to change the municipal tax system. Buildings left to deteriorate cost more in police and fire protection and building owners should pay accordingly. We continued talking about some minimum maintenance standards, of taxes – to prevent the “demolition by neglect” of heritage structures.

We will miss you, Michael – your ready smile, your financial support of the Hallmark Society Awards night, your comments about City Hall, and we thank-you for all you did for heritage in Victoria's Old Town. Your legacy in restoration makes the rest of us look like amateurs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

CONFERENCES

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

The Marion Dean Ross Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians met in Vancouver October 13-15. Following an opening reception at the Vancouver Rowing Club, John Atkin led a tour of Vancouver's neon in a vintage bus. In the morning, delegates from British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho gathered for sessions at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Early sessions included Don Luxton's presentation on The Early Architects of British Columbia while the later session featured architect Alan Liddle who supervised the construction of a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house in the Tacoma area. After the Annual General Meeting, there were three tours of Vancouver: Marco d'Agostini of Docomomo.BC led a walking tour of significant landmarks on Burrard and Granville Streets, Don Luxton led a tour of Gastown and Chinatown, and Hal Kalman was the guide on a bus tour of Vancouver's urban development and major landmarks. The highlight of the conference was the Saturday evening banquet held at the Museum of Anthropology at UBC. Guest speaker architect Arthur Erickson spoke eloquently on the design and construction of this magnificent structure and shared his experiences over a lifetime of architectural creation.

The conference returns to British Columbia in 2003, when it will be held in Victoria. For further information, visit: <http://newberry.deschutes.org/CDDweb/Historic/SAH/Main.htm>.

HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION

The annual conference of the Heritage Canada Foundation, Towards a National Trust, was held in Calgary September 14-17, 2000 at the Palliser Hotel, itself a heritage site. A pre-conference walking tour of historic Stephen Avenue showcased the depth of the restoration and reconstruction work along this significant streetscape. An evening reception at the Palace Theatre provided a glimpse of an historic theatre built originally for the Allen chain but now used as a nightclub for the young. Over the next two days, delegates from all across Canada (the province of BC was well represented) listened as speakers addressed the question of a national trust from a variety of perspectives. Keynote speaker, Alan Graham, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Council of National Trusts outlined what his country has done to ensure that their heritage is well protected.

Subsequent sessions dealt with Stewardship, Legal Advocacy, The Constituency, Education, Information, Philanthropy, and Granting. For many of the delegates, the highlight of these sessions was noted broadcaster Laurier LaPierre's emotional presentation on the state of the heritage constituency. His skills as an actor came to the forefront as the audience alternately laughed and cried at his statements. Following each session, delegates had an opportunity to express their views on the topic at hand. All sessions were videotaped and will be released in both video and written form in the future.

The final session was the Awards Ceremony at which the Town of Markham received the first Prince of Wales Prize for municipal commitment to heritage preservation and Ms. Anne West of Halifax received the Gabrielle Léger Award for her drive to restore historic St. George's Church after a fire. For most delegates it was an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new connections in the network of heritage which links us all.

AGM REPORT

The Annual General Meeting of the Hallmark Society was held on September 25, 2000 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre. President John Edwards presented an overview of the past year, stressing the importance of volunteer actions.

Heritage Updates included the Royal Theatre, Ross Bay Villa, the Abkhazi Garden, and downtown residential conversions.

Directors for the upcoming year will join the returning members to form a strong board which will advocate for the heritage of the CRD.

President	John Edwards	(2001)
Vice-President	Nick Bawlf	(2001)
Corresponding Secretary	Nick Russell	(2001)
Treasurer	vacant	
Directors	Rob Adams	(2001)
	Judith Andersen	(2002)
	Edy Bradley	(2001)
	Russell Fuller	(2002)
	Tim Lomas	(2001)
	Davyd McMinn	(2002)

Elected as Heritage Building Foundation Trustees were Helen Edwards and Al Fry. They will join returning Trustees John Edwards, Nick Bawlf, and Nick Russell on this board.

The Society thanks the retiring Directors – Roger Burgess, Evelyn Jancowski, Barbara Robertson, and Mary Doody Jones – for their contributions.

The motion to remove the members' discount from books and other Society paraphernalia was passed unanimously by the members present. This means that **all memberships are now tax-deductible**. Members will receive official tax receipts along with their membership cards with the newsletter following their payment. If you have any questions, please call the office for clarification.

Following the business meeting, we learned much about the work being done by the Veins of Life Society which is restoring the Gorge waterway to its pre-polluted state. We wish them well in all their efforts.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

Members are reminded that any donations to the Hallmark Society are fully tax-deductible. Funds received before December 31, 2000 will receive a receipt which can be used to offset tax payable for 2000.

BRIGHT BEACONS

by Tim Lomas

Once they were ubiquitous. Heralds of an age of exuberance, they were gaudy spectacles of promotion that loudly proclaimed the Age of Advertising. They reached their heyday in the 1950s and 1960s. Yet they in their turn succumbed to the need for different and cheaper. 'They' are neon signs, and their lesser advertising cousins, billboards. Today they are rare absurdities, the few survivors in our city having done so because they were unique enough, or demure enough, to avoid the cleansing knives of post-modern visual correctness.

Ironically, these electronic spectacles of glass and inert rare gases, are victims of heritage conservation as much as any other cause. Once decried as tacky, oversized and overdone, original neon signs they have become a popular historical item and are now heritage elements in themselves. Meanwhile new neon and a new product, a kind of plastic 'ersatz' neon, are the focus of much recreated 'heritage'. Originally removed because of their non-conforming nature with some heritage buildings, neon signage is now the ONLY choice available for illuminated signs in most parts of old town Victoria.

Neon signs once brightly decorated Victoria's downtown as they did cities all across Canada and the world. In Victoria many famous landmark signs became redundant as maintenance costs rose and heritage correctness demanded their removal. Over sized and over bright, many signs were removed as they became non-compliant with new and increasingly restrictive sign by-laws. Others were removed because their 'modern' look was inconsistent with the heritage character of the old buildings they were once intended to 'modernize'. Neon signs were not the only victims, just the most obvious.

Who can remember some of Victoria's famous signs? What has happened to these landmarks – some enormous – others small and delicate? Where once the landmark half-cylinder of Victoria's Memorial Arena announced to all in bright red neon A-R-E-N-A, there now remains only the faint stain of their formerly prominent perch. Meanwhile, the building itself remains under threat of demolition, its architectural and historical significance trampled in the rush of bigger business interests. The always threatened, never resolved future of the Royal Theatre, mirrors the missing monumental work of art that was its free-standing marquis sign. Although not of the neon variety, it stands out as a hallmark of its time. Does anyone know what happened to this behemoth?

Perhaps it is a corollary that, as their signs become less useful and less worthy, so too do the buildings that they once adorned. The neon letters that once graced the chimney of the Canadian Commercial Linen building at Rock Bay and John Street, now stand broken and missing. These beacons of light have been long-silent to the darkness of the night.

Ironically, this site is immediately adjacent to the Bayliss Neon company and its old sign storage yard. Alas, not even Bayliss Neon makes neon signs anymore. The cost is too high, the market too small, the skill in glass blowing and bending all too rare and the competition from cheap, back-lit plastic signs too extensive. There aren't even any old neon signs in storage. Why keep them if no one is using them?

The corner of Douglas and Yates once sported a giant CUNNINGHAM'S drugstore sign, while across the street, the METROPOLITAN department store blazed in its red glory. Victoria

continued on page 7



Turner Confectionery, Richmond Road.
Given its prominent location, how much longer can this building survive?
What is the fate of the attached neon sign?

has very few relics of any kind left in its heritage sign inventory. Few are protected in any way. The most famous, and best known remains the Turner Confectionery on Richmond near Fort. Yet it too sits unprotected while the building to which it is mounted decays ungracefully.

Who could forget the flickering neon flame of the 'candle' visible for miles atop the water tower off Rockland Avenue. Proposals to restore that Victoria landmark in recent years met with safety concerns, maintenance costs, financial constraints and a small but vocal howl of protest from nearby residents. The proposal was soon dropped.

Are there any others out there worth saving? Anyone who might know what happened to our old signs – are they hiding in basements? Buried in backyards? – we would be pleased to hear from you. What could we do with them? Can we protect them? Where would we store them? How could we display them?

We invite your suggestions and old photographs of your favourites. We will copy and return them as required. Letters to the editor, please.

NEWS FROM C.A.N. (CULTURE ACTS NOW)

Your voice MUST be heard! And it CAN!
You can make a difference; you can speak up.

The arts and heritage community has a wonderful opportunity to stand up and speak its mind, tell it the way it is, make a powerful statement about the importance of the cultural sector in the economic, educational and social well-being of all British Columbians.

Many presentations have been and are being made to the all-party Select Committee on Finance and Government Services of the Legislative Assembly, through its Pre-Budget Consultation Committee. This Committee is eager to hear your views on the challenges facing British Columbia and alternative measures the government may consider to address those challenges as it prepares its 2000 -- 2001 budget. To find out all about it, check in to <http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/bcp/>. There is a line entitled "Submit your comments on-line" which downloads automatically to the desktop. (The questionnaire begins on page 28). GET THE MESSAGE BACK. Speak your mind and your heart.

Please, seize this splendid chance to say how vitally important the arts and heritage are to every community, to the young, to job-seekers, to people who care about their neighbours, to our future as a nation. How profitable an investment, how integral to the tourism industry. Whatever your speciality, wherever your passion...let it be heard! Do not delay, do not pause to embellish reality; just let it be known.

And this must all be done before December 1st, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. If you miss the deadline, contact your local MLA and express your views.

ROSS BAY VILLA REPORT -- WORK PROGRESSES RAPIDLY

By Nick Russell

There are things you see, and things you don't. But it's all progress.

Things you see: The new roof, put on this summer, gives the Ross Bay Villa a wonderfully fresh look: Passers-by can clearly see that the TLC is giving the place TLC. And it's all dressed up magnificently with the new finials, turned by Dwight Sept at Architectural Column Works/Vintage Woodworks.

This has been followed by replacement of all the fascia-boards, and the meticulous replacement of eavestroughs.

More than you want to know about Eavestroughs: Doing the 'troughs may not sound like much—but they are solid cedar, specially produced by Vintage Woodworks, and have been primed on the outside and treated with linseed-oil on the inside. The ends are copper, and they are attached with hidden six-inch spikes, attached at 45-degrees to every rafter-tail. Then the downspouts are connected, again at 45-degrees, through the back of the soffits, so that the connection is invisible—exactly as it was, 140 years ago. This work, all done by volunteers, has been very ably led and inspired by Davyd McMinn, with help primarily from John Edwards and Nick Russell.

Vintage Woodworks has neatly rebuilt one unit of the bay window, smashed by vandals, and volunteers, after scouring the community for authentic old glass, have now re-glazed all the windows on the Dining Room, Living Room and both Bedrooms, allowing the removal of the protective plywood. The interior now positively glows in the sunlight!

Things you don't see: Willy Tobler did a fine job completely rebuilding all the chimneys from the



Davyd McMinn continues exterior work on Ross Bay Villa. I John Edwards photo.

attic up, in November. You don't see it because he has done such an expert job, using the original bricks, that it is invisible: Same old chimneys, but quake-proofed and beautifully finished.

Inside, a team of volunteers has been peeling back the years, every Wednesday evening. Led by Stuart Stark, volunteers—including Mark Aitken, Erin Macklem, Mike Hewison, and Erik Vilnis—have been doing what Stuart calls “interior archaeology”—investigating under and behind things!

Under the linoleum and ply floor in the Dining Room, the original fir floor has been found, with a neat stain line all round, showing where the



the eavestroughs.

carpet originally lay. Around a doorway connecting the Dining Room and Kitchen, clear evidence has been revealed that the doorway is a “modern” addition: It will be closed off. In the Parlour, an ugly, suspended concrete chimney vent has been removed (It used to connect a hall heater to the main chimney, probably added in the 1940s), revealing some excellent samples of early and earliest wallpaper. In the hall closet, clear proof has been found that this was the site of the original kitchen door: It will be re-opened. Marks in the floors and walls of both bedrooms clearly attest to the presence of a narrow hallway, which will be rebuilt. And at the end of the main Hall, clear proof has emerged of a doorway to the rear “lean-to” —this, too, will be re-opened. (Much of this work reinforces intuitions gathered from earlier study in the attic.)

This research continues, and Stuart has also generously agreed to research paint layers and wallpaper styles.

No longer visible is the work of the Archaeological Society of B.C., which sliced half-a-dozen trenches across the property over the spring and summer. Unfortunately, they found that the front yard had been deeply churned, over the years, by enthusiastic roto-tillers, leaving little evidence of the original paths, drive or garden layout. However, the dig produced copious amounts of interesting glass and china (some dating back to the house’s construction) and many other fragments demonstrating the

continuous occupation of the site –from square nails and early marbles to a McDonalds stir-stick! Much of this material will be saved for exhibit in the Villa when it is re-opened.

Work has begun on rebuilding the foundation under the Bay Window, and on completely securing the crawl-space against visiting raccoons and cats, dozens of whom had camped there. (Many of the cats have been adopted by a local cat-rescue group. One long-dead raccoon was removed!)

Meanwhile, work has also started on the white picket fence, to go across the front of the property. Bill Murphy of Vintage Woodworks has been assembling and drying massive posts for the gate-pillars, and hundreds of pickets have already been planed. Volunteers will paint these, then begin construction as soon as weather permits.

And watch for, early in the New Year, the second phase of fruit-tree pruning, as Cyril Hume repairs decades of neglect.

Wanted: The Villa will need all sorts of materials before the work is complete. Immediately, we’re looking for three oak barrels, to catch the rainwater in tradition style. We need more very old window glass. And lumber, such as long, old studs, would be welcome.

Contacts: Executive Committee chair: Rick Goodacre, at Heritage Society of B.C.

Acting Restoration Committee chair: Nick Russell, 995-0022, russcomm@coastnet.com.

Next report: Who will use the Villa? And, who’s in charge? – a look at who’s doing what.

HALLMARK AWARDS NOMINATION

Award Category of Nomination (tick one)

- Award of Merit
- Communication Award
- Mark Madoff Award
- President's Award
- Louis Award

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 organizations, and education institutions are eligible for Hallmark awards according to category for projects or achievements completed within two years prior to awards night.
2. All nominations must be sponsored by an individual, 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 the 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 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, letter of support, or other relevant material.
4. Minimum of two photographs and/or slides illustrating the project.
5. Name(s), address and phone number(s) of the person(s) sponsoring or submitting the nomination.

AWARDS NIGHT IS MAY 1, 2001

Attach supporting documents, including photographs or slides, press clippings, or letters of support for the nominee. Mail to: Hallmark Society Awards Jury, 660 Michigan Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 4Y7. Submissions must be received by the Hallmark society no later than January 31, 2001. Late or incomplete nominations may not be accepted.

MILLENNIUM GRANT NEWS

The Hallmark Society has received a grant of up to \$11,980.00 to assist in the compilation of a photographic record of streetscapes in the Capital Regional District. Although we had previously been turned down by the Federal Millennium Fund, we were successful at the provincial level. The funds, from the British Columbia 2000 Millennium Arts and Heritage Fund, will assist in the establishment of a set of "benchmarks" which should greatly assist the researchers of the future.

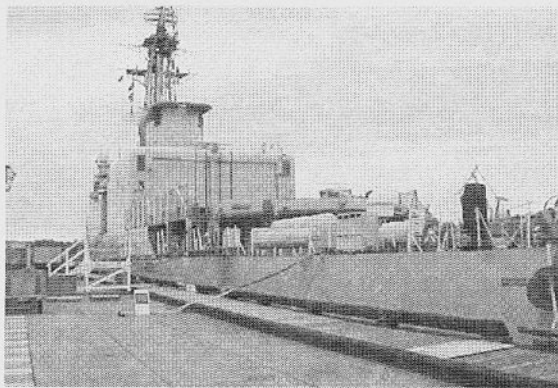
This project was originally conceived as a method of filling in significant gaps in our archival documentation of heritage buildings. The focus was changed to streetscapes as the context in which heritage buildings sit is crucial to their appearance. We will be using our Young Canada Works grant next summer to complete this long overdue project.

Completed photographs will be circulated throughout the region on our portable display boards and will be available to researchers in the office. The ultimate goal is to have the entire collection available on the world wide web for universal distribution.

The Hallmark Society notes with regret the recent passing of long-time member Josephine Morcom. Although she was unable to participate in current Society activities due to frailty, she had been very active throughout the years. We will miss her quiet manner and her unflinching support. The Society extends its sincere condolences to her family.

DOCKYARD TOUR

On September 29, 2000, the Hallmark Society made a visit to HMC Dockyard. First on the agenda was a tour of HMCS Huron whose future is uncertain. This was not a tour for the faint-of-heart. Members scrambled up narrow ladders and around slippery corridors. This was a once-in-a-lifetime tour behind the scenes of a naval vessel. Despite the weather, we decided to continue with the land tour. Our able tour guide took us around the site to view the most significant buildings. One tidbit of information which may be significant – the construction of a new submarine base will not result in the demolition of any heritage buildings. To date, we have been unable to confirm this rumour.



HMCS Huron



Hallmark Society members view historic brick building at HMC Dockyard – in the pouring rain.

EARLY INDUSTRIAL BUILDING UNDER SIEGE

by Helen Edwards



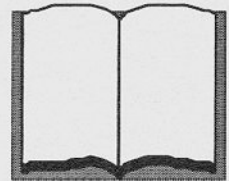
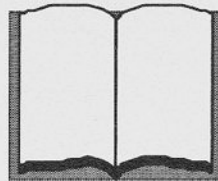
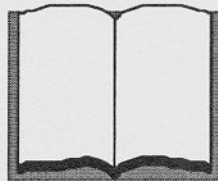
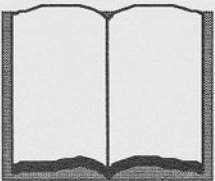
In a classic case of “demolition by neglect” BC Hydro is threatening the retention of one of Victoria’s most significant industrial heritage buildings. The structure at 512 Pembroke Street was built in 1862 by the Victoria Gas Company.

The condition of the building came to light when BC Hydro requested a demolition permit. When they were told that the city considers the structure of significant heritage value, they withdrew the application. This is not the first time this has occurred. In 1992, a demolition permit application was also withdrawn once the word “heritage” was uttered.

Considering the age and significance of this building, it is unconscionable that BC Hydro has done nothing to even protect the building from the ravages of weather. Hydro officials maintain that the site is contaminated and would cost more to renovate than to rebuild. This could be true, although adjacent sites have been cleaned up and are in current use. Why is this building any different?

Hydro does not seem to have explored alternatives to demolition. Given the remarkable success of the Tax Incentive Program which has revitalized previously run-down sections of the downtown area, this is a serious oversight. Those who do not wish to be creative always use the “it’s too expensive” argument but there are several buildings which have been completely rehabilitated and returned to active use. There **has** to be an appropriate use for this site.

Hallmark has sent a letter to BC Hydro expressing our concern over the fate of this building. To date, we have received no reply.



GIANT BOOK SALE

At a recent meeting, the Board decided to reduce our inventory of heritage books. We have not been able to sell many titles in the past few years and our inventory has tied up our cash reserves at a time when funds are desperately needed for the ongoing work of the Society. We will, therefore, offer for sale our

book inventory at reduced levels in a “fire sale.” The only titles which will be exempt are those which we have published ourselves. We can make more money by publishing our own books than reselling others.

Come to the December 11th meeting, chequebook in hand, prepared to snatch up some bargains.

~A PEACEFUL SEASON~

Season of Peace: Celebrating Silence

Starts Friday, November 24th/Sunday November 27th

Fridays, Noon - 1 pm and Sundays, 1 - 3:00 pm By donation.

This is for so many of us a stressful season. Would you like to rediscover the meaning of this time? Each week, a speaker from a different faith will guide us and talk about their own experiences. Come on Fridays and Sundays, or both, or as often as you can: each session is unique and complete in itself.

The Giving Tree

December 3, 2000, 1 - 4 pm

Come and help us decorate our grand "Giving Tree" and leave a gift for those in need: a new tradition for St. Ann's to reflect the generous spirit of the holidays. Suitable for all ages: have a cup of hot apple cider, make a decoration, enjoy some family times and a carol or two. Our historic 1858 chapel will be fully decorated for the season. Admission by donation of a non-perishable food item or good used clothing for charity.

Also coming up in December:

The Arbutus Singers in Concert

Wednesday December 6th, 7:30 pm

By donation.

Come and hear your favorites, both traditional and innovative arrangements that reflect the season. Bring your best voice to sing along as well.

The Newcombe Singers Sing-a-long

Wednesday December 13th, at Noon

By donation.

Carol along with this cheery group at lunch time-and have a cup of hot cider to cheer your day!

Theatre Inconnu presents "A Christmas Carol"

Thursday, December 14th & Friday, December 15th, 2000 at 8 pm

A dynamic one-man show of a favourite story, set in our beautiful historic chapel.

~ St. Ann's Historic Interpretive Centre ~

Open Noon- 4 pm, 7 days a week, Closed Statutory Holidays

For more information phone 250-953-8828

CALENDAR

- December 11** Hallmark Society General Meeting - 7:30 p.m. at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street. Our guest speaker will be Steve Barber, City of Victoria Heritage Planner who will speak about the Tax Incentive Program which has done so much to revitalize downtown Victoria's heritage buildings. Seasonal refreshments will be served.
- January 31, 2001** Deadline for Awards nominations
- February 8, 2001** Deadline for Spring newsletter
- February 19, 2001** Heritage Day
- February, 2001** Member's Night - location and date to be determined
- May 1, 2001** Awards Night - 8:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium

HERITAGE UPDATES

ABKHAZI GARDEN

by Helen Edwards

The story of the fight to save the world-famous Abkhazi Garden from destruction was aired on The Canadian Gardner show produced by CBC Vancouver on the Thanksgiving weekend.

For those of us who were part of the process, it was gratifying to see the name of the Hallmark Society during the credits. Although there were a couple of inaccuracies in the text, it was nevertheless important as it presented the story to the entire nation.

Copies of the video are available from the TLC, just in time for Christmas gift-giving. Call 479-8053 for further information.

FALLEN IDOLS

by Tim Lomas

An update to our previous article on smokestacks: As expected, our tallest remaining monument to the industrial age of Victoria, that of the old St. Joseph's Hospital laundry building in Fairfield, was demolished this summer. Fortunately, the count of remaining chimneys remains at three, since the Douglas Building boiler house and smokestack was not included in the original listing. It is well preserved, and we hope, well protected, by its Provincial Government ownership.

Those who have driven Douglas Street lately may also have noticed a new monument rising next to the Red Lion Motor Inn. Its minaret-like shape towers in the tradition of the old smokestacks, only today it is not in honour of heavy industry, but the new god of Cold Beer and Wine sales. Such is the march of history and architecture. Perhaps in fifty years we will be writing columns arguing for its preservation!

Jonathan Yardley - architect

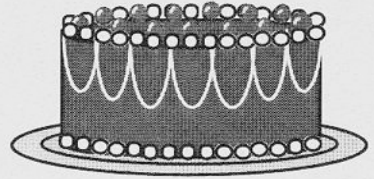
1121 beaver pt rd, salt spring island, b.c. V8K 1X2
tel(250)653-4931 fax653-9931 cel 537-7631
e-mail jyardley@saltspring.com
residence telephone (250)653-4322

Jonathan P.M. Yardley

Dip. Arch. (Birm.) MAIBC, MRAIC, RIBA

Architect for the restoration of the Young Building (former Victoria Normal School) at Camosun College, Chinese Public School, Board of Trade Building, Butterfield Park, Royal Oak Women's Institute Hall and many other heritage buildings in the C.R.D.

member of the architectural institute of british columbia



CAN YOU HELP?

The lifeblood of the heritage movement is its volunteer labour. Please take the time to read the requests below and offer your services. Remember, the more willing hands, the lighter the load for each individual.

The December meeting is an opportunity to share seasonal good cheer with each other. Rather than rely on purchased "goodies," we would like to offer home-baked goodness for the membership. If you can donate a few cookies, squares or other sweet treats, let us know.

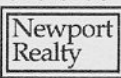
As we have discovered that phoning members before important events leads to increased participation in society activities, we are looking for volunteers to join the phoning committee. This is not an onerous task, especially in the age of voice mail and answering machines, and serves a vital purpose. If you could assist in "spreading the word," please call the office and leave your name.



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