



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 8,000 buildings in the Capital Regional District. All memberships are tax-deductible. The Society also offers special events and tours for members. Memberships are due September 30th. New memberships are pro-rated quarterly.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Group/corporate \$40.00
- Individual Life \$200.00
- Corporate Life (20 yrs) \$400.00

- New Renewal

I would like to be contacted by a Hallmark Society volunteer coordinator to discuss how I can assist Hallmark Society Programs:

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Hallmark Society of \$ _____

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Victoria, BC V8V 4Y7

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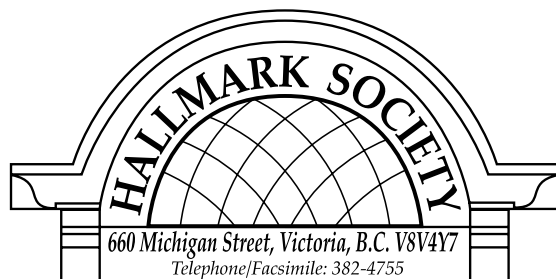
*Don't forget Awards Night 2001
Tuesday, May 1, 2001, 8:00 pm.
St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 835 Humboldt Street
Refreshments will be served
Reservations required (by April 22, 2001) - 382-4755*



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Office Hours: Wed. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm & Thurs. Noon - 3:00 pm
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e-mail: helen@islandnet.com
URL: <http://www.islandnet.com/~helen/Hallmark.html>

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.

AWARDS NIGHT 2001

Awards Night 2001 will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 835 Humboldt Street, commencing at 8:00 pm. See page 5 for details.

COVER PHOTO

The Highland School in June, 1942 - the last year of classes. This building has been dismantled and is being rebuilt on a new site. See page 8 for details. Photograph courtesy Highland Heritage Parks Society.

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All photos by Helen Edwards unless otherwise credited.

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**DEADLINE FOR SUMMER
2001 NEWSLETTER:
MAY 11, 2001.**

Jonathan Yardley - architect

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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



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Walton
Steve Barber
Joan Wagner
Emily and James Yungkans
Hugh Aitken
Beverly Segarty

THANK-YOUS

The Society offers sincere thanks to the volunteer phoners. Our new system seems to be working well and we have received many positive comments about the "pleasant young man/woman who phoned." If you would like to do some phoning, please let us know.

Special thanks to the staff at the Church of Our Lord for their assistance with the recent meeting. Changing locations is never easy, but they made our task run smoothly. Additional thanks to the tour leaders, Catherine Umland and Bishop Follows and to Grant Smalley for information on the organ.

CALENDAR

- March 24-25, 2001** Vancouver's Second Heritage & Antiques Fair, Seaforth Amoury, 1650 Burrard Street. 10 am - 5pm each day. Admission \$10 per day or \$15 for a weekend pass. For further information, visit <http://www.VancouverHeritageFoundation.org>.
- April 11-22, 2001** Reservations accepted for Awards Night.
- April 27-28, 2001** Archives Association of BC conference "The Place of Archives in Heritage" at St. Ann's Academy. Call the office for details.
- May 1, 2001** Awards Night - 8:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium. RSVP before April 22, 2001.
- May 31-June 2** Heritage Society of BC conference "Built, Natural and Cultural Heritage: a Community Continuum," Surrey, BC. For further information, call 384-4840 or visit <http://www.islandnet.com/~hsbc>.

HERITAGE BITS AND PIECES

VIRTUAL FIELDTRIP

As a special project for Heritage Week 2001, a series of six three-minute videos dealing with BC's transportation heritage are being produced, each with a complementary course curriculum for use by educators. The first segments were "shot" at the British Columbia Aviation Museum adjacent to the Victoria International Airport. The videos will be shown on the Knowledge Network on a regular basis and will also be available on the provincial government's website at <http://www.heritage.gov.bc.ca>.

OAK BAY BOOK

We are pleased to report that Oak Bay's Heritage: More than Just Bricks and Boards is now sold out. We will be publishing an updated version sometime within the year.

OFFICE HOURS CHANGED

Effective January 1, 2001, the office will be open two days a week. New hours are Wednesday mornings from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and Thursday afternoons from Noon to 3:00 pm. During the summer, we will likely be open five days a week (if our funding comes through), however, it is best to call ahead if you want to come in.

VICTORIA ARCHIVES NEWS

The City of Victoria Archives now has the Ross Bay Cemetery database and the marriage and death indexes available on line at <http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/depts/archives/index.htm>. This will result in a great saving of time for researchers.

This resource is added to the multitude of valuable sites on line.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Edwards

I am completely overwhelmed that twenty-two nomination have come for Hallmark Society awards. This strengthens my belief that there is a genuine interest in restoration rather than increasing the size of our landfills.

When a built structure is damaged by fire or, more recently, earthquake as in Seattle, or declared surplus by the military, the costs generally favour demolition and a new building on site. So it is remarkable that they are rebuilt or saved.

After much discussion between Hallmark and the Municipality of Saanich, it was decided to cancel Heritage Fair this year at Hillside Mall. Over the past several years, it was noted that there were fewer and fewer participants, there was no advance publicity, and a general lack of interest. The merchants in the mall were never notified, and most couldn't have given a darn that we were there. It was obvious that it was time to rethink the whole process of getting out the message in heritage week.

The present feeling is that we should do a weekend heritage event in the central downtown core, James Bay or Fairfield with exhibits, demonstrations such as blacksmiths and vintage cars. An event like this is going to take a tremendous amount of organization and commitment from all involved.

As we are all aware, the present government of BC must call an election before June 28th. Now is the time to ask the candidates running for office questions about heritage.

Some of the points to raise:

1. Are they in favour of sales tax rebates on building materials used in heritage restoration?
2. Are they in favour of implementing heritage conservation standards across the country that would apply to all provinces?
3. What are their views on the reuse of materials through deconstruction, wherever possible?
4. If the government now has a surplus as they say they have, what are their funding commitments for heritage beyond 2001 and the already committed Millennium funds?

I'm sure you can think up some questions of your own to ask candidates to keep heritage issues in the forefront of this election campaign.

See you May 1st at the 27th annual awards ceremony.



NEW CIVI CHANNEL TO BROADCAST CITY'S HERITAGE

by Nicholas Bawlf



Photograph courtesy of BC Archives I-61390

Last year Toronto's CHUM/City TV/ Much Music Executive Producer Moses Znaimer obtained a license from the CRTC to open a new TV station on Vancouver Island, to be located in Victoria. In January they completed the purchase of the old MacDonald's Furniture Building at 1420 Broad Street. The building was designed by Francis M. Rattenbury for the Brackman Ker Milling Company and erected in 1907.

City Council gave its approval for the restoration of the building and awarded it a tax incentive for seismic upgrading, the first application of that program to a commercial heritage building. In addition, the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust has approved grants for design assistance and heritage restoration of the exterior. The missing metal cornice and string courses will be replicated, and once the stucco, applied in 1964, is removed, the original silica lime brick exterior (supplied by a local brickworks) will be cleaned and restored. The discovery by the architects of

a wonderful early photograph of the building in the Provincial Archives has assisted in the restoration design.

The architects are Quadrangle Architects Ltd. of Toronto, assisted locally by Chris Rowe of idealink architecture ltd. and Nicholas Bawlf as heritage consultant. The process has been ably managed by former City Councillor Laura Acton who is CIVI's Director of Community Affairs.

In keeping with CHUM's traditional street front presence, the ground floor news room will be visually shared by pedestrians on Broad Street and there will be an outside "Speakers Corner" where citizens, for the cost of a looney (to be given to charities), may voice their opinions. The most compelling ones will be broadcast daily. The building work will finish in early summer and broadcasting will commence in September.

MADE-IN-CANADA STANDARDS - A WORK-IN-PROGRESS

A one-day workshop on February 23 through Simon Fraser University City Program introduced participants to the concept of "standards" which will guide heritage restoration work. Through a series of lectures, presenters shared their expertise on the difficult task ahead as Canada works toward the development of its own set of standards.

For years, heritage bodies throughout Canada have been relying heavily on the US Secretary of the Interior's Standards and guidelines. Michael Auer of the US National Park Service outlined the standards and the rationale behind them, illustrating his lecture with slides. Gordon Fulton of Parks Canada then outlined the in-progress task of the development of Canadian standards. In typical Canadian fashion, we have waited to produce our own document. Of course, this has the advantage of being able to draw the best features from what other countries have done.

Afternoon sessions dealt with the practicalities of heritage preservation. Steve Barber presented casestudies from Victoria which illustrated how the municipal sector deals with standards and guidelines on a daily basis while Robert Lemon discussed the matter from the perspective of the private sector.

These annual workshops are well worth attending. It is a real pleasure to see so many like-minded individuals from all sectors of the heritage movement - government, private industry, developers, volunteer activists, and heritage professionals - all able to discuss matters of importance to us all. Alone we might not have much power, but together we can make a difference.

If you would like information on future workshops, contact The City Program, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K3 or send an e-mail to city@sfu.ca.

BOOKS FOR SALE - BARGAIN PRICES

Following our successful book sale at the December General Meeting, we still have a few bargains left. If you would like a book from our reduced list, please call the office to reserve your copy.

A Most Unusual Colony	\$13.00
Cadboro	\$8.50
Echoes of Empire: Victoria and Its Remarkable Buildings	\$23.00
Exploring Victoria's Architecture	\$22.50
Gulf Island Patchwork (6 copies)	\$12.00
Hatley Park, An Illustrated Anthology	\$11.50
More English Than the English	\$9.00
Parliament Buildings (16 copies)	\$2.50
Preserving Strathcona's Architectural Heritage	\$3.00
Public & Private Gardens of the Pacific Northwest	10.50
Royal Roads: A Celebration	\$22.50

DRAGON ALLEY OPENED



The newest alley in Victoria's Chinatown was officially opened by Mayor Alan Lowe in a recent ceremony. Following opening remarks by Tom Moore and a representative of the residents, the mayor unveiled the bright red sign which marks the entrance to the alley, created as a result of the award-winning redevelopment of old Chinese tenements on Fisgard Street.

A dragon led the guests through the alley, past the new townhomes, to a reception at the Herald Street entrance of the development. This is a truly remarkable reuse of derelict space and has delightful surprises like the fountain which creates an oasis of calm in a busy urban neighbourhood.



DECEMBER GM REPORT

The December meeting of the Hallmark Society was held on December 11, 2000 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre.

Jim Stiven presented an illustrated account of the restoration of the Rose Window at the Church of our Lord. Shaped like a ship's wheel, it took 300 hours to restore. Despite questionable design, much of the original fabric remains. Unsound members have been replaced with new ones constructed in the same manner.

Jim Connelly outlined the miserable track record in Saanich where there had been nineteen demolitions in the previous two months. Of a group of six, only one has been saved - and that was really by chance. This information was presented to a Waste Management Conference where it was stressed that we are running out of landfill space, our resources are not sustainable, and moving houses or reusing their components is bringing the waste level down.

In other news, the house formerly at 369 King George Terrace is now sited on Saturna Island. There are other houses which should be saved including one on the Gorge and a smaller one on Tolmie. The Officers Mess at Work Point Barracks will hopefully be saved and moved to a new location. DND apparently do not want any old buildings on their sites.

Guest speaker Steve Barber, City of Victoria Heritage Planner, outlined the highly successful Tax Incentive Program for residential conversions in the downtown core. He outlined the history of the program and presented examples of successful work, two of whom have won numerous awards for their efforts.

Thanks to members who brought seasonal treats - they were much appreciated.

AWARDS NIGHT 2001 - MAY 1, 2001

The twenty-seventh annual Awards Night will be held this year at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 835 Humboldt Street, starting at 8:00 pm. As in previous years, the evening will commence with local municipalities presenting plaques to property owners who have received heritage designation status during the preceding year. This part of the ceremony introduces the Society to potential members, and is therefore a valuable process.

The Awards Jury will be selecting winners from the 22 nominations received. Who will win this year? Will there be a Louis Award again? 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. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please note: To assist with catering and seat assignment, admittance to this event will be by reservation only. One of the benefits of membership is a seat for the ceremony. Seats will be available according to your membership category: individuals members - 1 ticket; family membership - 2 tickets; group or corporate membership - 3 tickets. Additional tickets will be available from the office at a cost of \$10.00 each. Reservations will be accepted, and tickets sold, at the office between April 11th and 25th. Complete the form below and return it to the office, phone 382-4755, fax your request to 382-4755, or send e-mail to helen@islandnet.com. Late reservations may be accepted, depending on availability of seating. Tickets can be picked up at the office or held for you at the door.

PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME WE KNOW YOU ARE COMING. EVERYONE WHO WISHES TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY MUST MAKE A RESERVATION.

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

I wish to reserve _____ tickets for the Hallmark Society Awards Night

Payment enclosed (if applicable) _____

HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN SIDNEY -- MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

When the town of Sidney established its first Heritage Advisory Committee staff asked for, and received, assistance from the Hallmark Society. The committee did its part to raise heritage awareness in the Sidney area, but it later became obvious that they had little political support for their activities and lacked the "teeth" necessary to fight unsympathetic development in their area.

In an unprecedented move, Sidney council has disbanded the committee. Given the demonstrated lack of support for heritage retention in the town, the demise of the committee was predictable. It is unfortunate that heritage-minded citizens have been denied a voice, but...there is always another election at which they can make changes.

You may recall the lengthy, heated debate over the future of the historic Sidney Post Office - a municipally designated heritage structure.

Your mission (should you accept it) is to find the original heritage structure in this massive edifice which breaks almost every heritage conservation rule, yet was supported by the council. Beacon Avenue has lost a visual reminder of its history and Sidney citizens are the losers. Heritage lost is gone forever.

Note the One Way sign. Is this an indication of the direction of heritage preservation in Sidney?

STOP PRESS

More bad news - Sidney no longer has a heritage inventory as of Monday, March 5, 2001.



THE BUTCHART GARDENS - HISTORY ON DISPLAY

by Helen Edwards

For the first time, The Butchart Gardens will be offering guests the opportunity to tour five rooms of the original Butchart residence. Displays in each of the rooms will highlight the history of the house, the development of the gardens, and the significance of the collection. Historical photographs show how the rooms looked when the family lived there; original furniture and family treasures are displayed as they were years ago. Imagine stepping back in time to a bygone era when one woman's vision became a world-class tourist attraction. According to employees, the material on display is only a fraction of what they had to choose from. Many of these items have never been seen outside of the family.

At a special open house, I was privileged to be taken on a tour of an off-limits room by Jennie Butchart's grandson. While we were in the old room, he told tales of the famous visitors, including royalty, who had been entertained there and described how the family celebrated Christmas. "The tree was always in that corner," he said, then described how his grandmother dressed up as Santa Claus to distribute presents to the children.

The gardens will be open from 10 am to 4 pm daily with reduced entrance rates until March 14. As if history were not enough, the garden is waking up for spring. This exhibition is highly recommended. For further information, telephone 652-4422 or visit the website at <http://www.butchartgardens.com>.



Robert Butchart's desk and typewriter
The Green Room



The Breakfast room, The Butchart Gardens



Samuel Maclure's original plans for the 1904 residence



Highland School & Teacherage.
Some years before dismantling

In its new location the Highland Schoolhouse will overlook the Caleb Pike Heritage Homestead and orchard from a promontory similar in topography to its original location. The reconstructed building includes a basement for community use; perhaps as a library or archive, which is invisible from all exterior viewing angles save the rear of the building ensuring that the original single storey character of the building is maintained.

Although a substantial proportion of the original framing lumber is deteriorated beyond reuse, all new framing material is also rough sawn Douglas Fir and is cut to the same dimensions as the original whenever current engineering requirements permit. New lumber is cut from the forest adjacent to the site. A substantial proportion of the original exterior and interior finish lumber is salvageable. 80% of the 1" x 8" Douglas Fir drop siding is in remarkably good condition. Much of the siding retains its traditional schoolhouse red paint, faded but not flaking, some 65 years after the last coat was applied – the staying power of lead perhaps.

Other materials still in good condition and ready for reinstallation include 1" x 6" Douglas Fir tongue and groove flooring, a substantial amount of the Redwood wainscoting, chair rails, plaster lath, door jambs, one complete window, exterior cornice detail, and trim boards. It is expected that the major framing work and the roof will be completed by late spring, with interior and exterior finishing to continue throughout the summer. An accessible washroom will be housed in the adjacent reconstructed teacherage (circa 1916). Once complete, the rejuvenated Highland Schoolhouse will provide a facility for a wide range of community functions for the Highland District municipality for many years to come.

As with any project of this kind, the restoration work is being carried out with a small budget. The Highland Heritage Parks Society welcomes interest in the project and will gratefully accept any donations of volunteer time, materials and tax-deductible monetary donations. Enquires can be made to the Highland Heritage Parks Society, c/o 499 Millstream Lake Road, Victoria V9E 1K2 or by telephone/fax to Bob McMinn at 478-4403. You can view the restoration at the Caleb Pike Heritage Homestead at 1589 Millstream Road.



New foundation February 4, 2001
Note Caleb Pike Homestead in background

MICHAEL KLUCKNER ADDRESSES THE HALLMARK SOCIETY

A special meeting of the Hallmark Society was held on Monday, February 26, 2001 at the Church of Our Lord. Billed as a combination of Members' Night and a general meeting, the event was an unqualified success.



Before the meeting, Catherine Umland and Bishop Ted Follows outlined the recent exterior restoration of the church, the oldest such structure still being used for worship. As is usual during this type of project, the amount of work necessary grew as the layers of Kenitex were stripped away. This product, billed as "never paint again" actually worked against the wood it was intended to protect - it sealed the moisture in, causing rot. To the credit of the parishioners, they approved the increased budget and have been able to complete the work with no debts outstanding. Their next project is the upgrading of the adjacent Cridge Hall. Fundraising is underway.

Grant Smalley then outlined the history of the magnificent organ and detailed the work he has undertaken over the past years. Much to the delight of the attendees, he then proceeded to demonstrate the different keyboards and stops with musical selections.



The featured speaker was award-winning artist and author Michael Kluckner, no stranger to Hallmark Society meetings. He appeared this time in his capacity as past chair of the Heritage Canada Foundation. The Foundation has undergone an exciting change in direction (closer to its original mandate) in the past four years and is once again attracting members from all over Canada. For the first time, heritage was mentioned in a federal budget (last spring) and the government is moving toward a national register and Canadian restoration standards. A survey of Canadians has indicated support for the heritage movement -- can favourable tax treatment be far behind? It is up to us all to lobby our politicians to ensure that heritage remains of concern to the new federal government.

THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE RISES AGAIN

by Davyd McMinn

Photographs courtesy Highland Heritage Parks Society



Highland School class picture on front steps
c. 1910

One of the most enduring images of rural western Canada during the early years of the 20th Century is the little red schoolhouse. Thousands of these compact, standardized frame structures dotted the landscapes from Manitoba to the far reaches of Vancouver Island. The first rural school to be constructed in the Western Communities was opened in September 1872 in Metchosin. Over the next 40 years, pioneer residents of Colwood, the Highlands, Strawberry Vale, Sooke, Shirley, Otter Point, East Sooke, Rocky Point, Albert Head, Goldstream and Langford were successful in petitioning the Superintendent of Education for schools. Today Metchosin and Strawberry Vale schools (circa 1894) are the only representative structures still standing from this period. Fortunately, this pair of buildings is to be rejoined by a third little red schoolhouse from the pioneering period of school construction.

The Highland Schoolhouse is virtually identical to Strawberry Vale School and was constructed in the summer of 1893 on a hillock above Millstream Road in the Highlands. The provincial Secretary of Education warranted \$800.00 for "construction of a school and incidental

expenses". Labour and materials for the school, an outhouse and horse stable cost \$600. Surveying cost \$25 and clearing the plot another \$100. \$75 was directed towards a picket fence; \$15 purchased a stove including cartage. The School Board Chairman, J. Mullen, received \$14 for supplying 10 chords of firewood while a local mother was paid \$2 to clean the school before the official opening. A water pail, broom and 2 boxes of chalk were purchased for a total of \$1.50.



Highland School June 1942 - last year of operation

In construction detail, the Highland Schoolhouse was typical of the standard design that provincial Department of Education provided to newly established school districts from the 1890s onward. Measuring approximately 20' in width x 34' in length, the building was a hip roofed, drop-sided frame building with a small entry foyer and cloakroom separated by a partition wall from the main classroom. Two single panel doors with transom windows above provided entry to the school. Numerous hooks for students to hang hats and coats were attached to 6' high California Redwood wainscoting. From the cloakroom, one could enter the classroom through single panel doors on the left and right sides of the partition wall. The front of the classroom was dominated by a large blackboard and raised platform on which the teacher's desk was placed. The room appeared larger than its 28' x 19' dimensions, due in part to the 12' ceilings and 6' high, double hung, mullioned windows along the side and rear walls. Each wall was horizontally divided by a 4' high band of California Redwood wainscoting and a chair rail with plaster and lath above. The floor was laid with 6" wide Douglas Fir tongue and groove flooring. A wall bracketed brick chimney hung from the centre of the rear wall above a large pot bellied stove.

The Highland Common School opened in September 1893 with 24 students in attendance under the guidance of Miss. Jennie Fraser, who received a salary of \$50.00 per month. Over the next 50 years, the building served the community as a school, a social centre for Sunday worship, a public meeting place and a venue for concerts and dances. Often plagued by temporary closures due to insufficient enrolment, the Highland School closed its doors for good in 1942 and in 1950 the Highland School board was dissolved and the land and buildings sold. Occupied for a short time as a residence, the building was thereafter abandoned and slowly left to deteriorate over the next 45 years.



Highland School & Teacherage, c. 1954.

In the mid 1990s the Highland Heritage Parks Society reached an agreement with the property owners to relocate the structure 2 kilometres north to the site of the Caleb Pike Heritage Homestead. The Caleb Pike Heritage Homestead is a squared log structure built in 1889 by Cornishman Caleb Pike, a formerly indentured Hudson Bay farm employee who arrived in Fort Victoria in the 1850s. The Pike homestead was restored in the 1980s.

Unfortunately for the Highland Schoolhouse, sufficient deterioration had occurred to prevent moving the building in one piece. As a result in 1997, the structure was measured, each piece was labelled, dismantled piece by piece and placed into storage. In 2000, the Highland Heritage Parks Society received a provincial Millennium Grant as well as financial assistance from the District of Highlands and private benefactors. Work on the reconstruction project began in December 2000 and the foundation and retaining walls are now complete and reframing work is underway.

continued on page 10