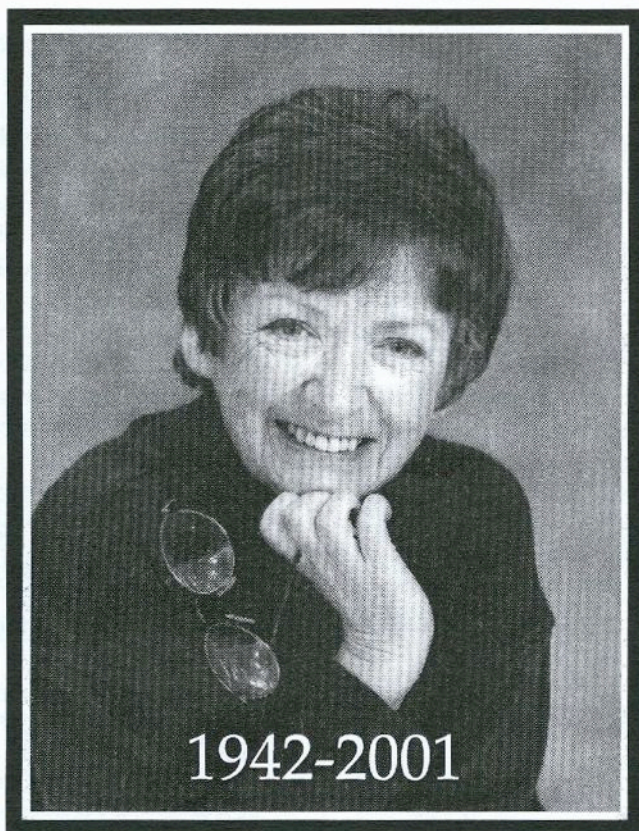




**Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Architectural Landmarks**

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



Office Manager: Helen Edwards

Hours: Wed. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm & Thurs. Noon - 3:00 pm  
or by appointment

e-mail: [helen@islandnet.com](mailto: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.

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## Cover Photo

This edition of the Hallmark Society Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Terry Reksten, one of our founding members, who died on July 25, 2001. Photograph courtesy Don Reksten.

### *Contributors this issue:*

Helen Edwards

John Edwards

Christina Smylitopoulos

Julia Trachsel

### *Photo credits*

Janice Tindall, page 4; Christina Smylitopoulos and Esther Parker; all others by Helen Edwards

### **Deadline for Winter 2001 newsletter: November 9, 2001.**

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# President's Message

by John Edwards

Sometimes when the phone rings or another e-mail arrives I wonder if the Hallmark Society is regarded by the some as the great savior of their individual problem. Some of these callers seem to be right off the wall. One letter I got was about some teenagers drinking beer by the water tower. I still not sure what this has to do with heritage, and why didn't I think of that location in my college days. When View Royal municipality was deciding on the new Canadian Tire Store rezoning, several callers said it was a heritage issue because it was close to the Craighflower Farm House.

Some weeks ago a person came to the front door and wanted to know the Society's position on a hedge growing over the sidewalk. I took a look at it and it was well and truly over the sidewalk, but it was not a rare heritage hedge. Several days ago a caller wanted to know the Society's position on bus routes going past heritage homes and rattling the windows. This person claimed to have spent many thousands of dollars on the restoration of his windows. I explained that it had to be a neighbourhood concern of all the homes, and not just the older ones and suggested they go to the Transit Authority.

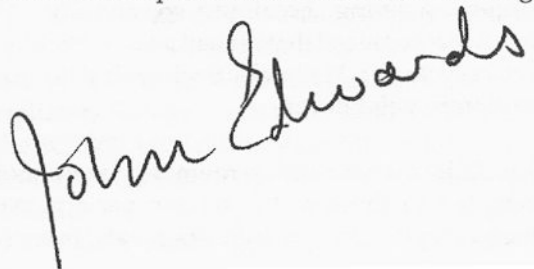
Not one of these people has ever been a Hallmark Society member, or to my knowledge has never been to any meeting dealing with any heritage issues. So I left my white charger in his stall and am not about to go galloping down to City Hall on these issues.

Our concern should be the four buildings at Work Point Barracks, especially the old Officer's Mess building "1027", that the Military have declared surplus. Built in 1892, it is 20,000 sq. ft., 150 feet long and 50 feet wide. I understand that

an Esquimalt Arts group has been given less than a year now to find funds to save it. Another on the endangered list is 512 Pembroke Street, now owned by BC Hydro. It was the 1862-built home of the Victoria Gas Company Works. The facade of this building is very significant. This has to be the worst case of demolition by neglect that I have ever come across. In an effort to save and restore these magnificent structures, we have written letters and will go to the media at any length to prevent these buildings becoming more landfill.

At long last I made it to the Pittock Mansion in Portland - not quite as grand as Victoria's Craigdarroch Castle. It was built by Henry Pittock, who came to Oregon in 1853 by wagon train and created an empire of real estate, banking, railroads, steamboats, sheep ranching, silver mining and pulp and paper. By 1962 the mansion was under threat of demolition by a developer, and seeing popular support, the entire estate was acquired by the City of Portland in 1964 for \$225,000.

Many times I have heard people say there is no money in heritage and that restoration is not economic or that it is merely a dream. Yet last week it was announced that the Estate of Michael Williams was worth \$17m., the bulk of which is an art collection and Old Town Legacy of six buildings. I think he proved, beyond any doubt, that there is a profitable bottom line in heritage.

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



# In the Community for the Hallmark Society: Fieldwork an Adventure

by Christina Smylitopoulos

**O**n May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001 Esther Parker and I embarked upon Phase One of the Millennium Photo-Documentation Project.

Our **task** was clear—without discrimination, document the architecture and streetscapes of the neighbourhoods of Gonzales and Fairfield. The **method** was clear—equipped with a clipboard, documentation form and a 35mm camera, photograph the structure, document the address, record the location the street, and make note of the position and angle of the shot. The **purpose** was clear—create a knowledge base for future researchers of the architectural styles and neighbourhood development in Victoria. Our **process** was also clear—using a map of the area, systematically document street by street the structures and their physical context.

What was not immediately evident, however, is that the *idea* of fieldwork belied the *reality* of fieldwork. The notion that we would silently enter a streetscape and, without interruption, quietly pursue our goals for the Hallmark Society was quickly challenged. On our first day in the field a man, jogging down Hollywood Crescent, stumbled on the pavement. His injuries were serious enough to warrant medical attention and we cared for the man until a neighbour could take him to the hospital for treatment. This rather frightening experience taught us that we had become temporary members of our **subject**—a living, breathing community. As such, we recognized that we had a responsibility. Not only to the Hallmark Society, but to our temporary neighbours.

Our fellow community members were not restricted to those of the human variety. We shared the streetscape with dogs, cats, insects,



and (to our dismay) newly hatched crows. Respect for the territories of these residents had to be observed, lest we get barked at, bitten, stung and/or dive-bombed.

Weather issues for both our equipment and our persons taught us that being prepared for the challenges of the environment is an essential part of fieldwork. Dehydration, dust on lenses, sunstroke, reflection glare, sunburns, wind affecting our camera's automatic focus, to name but a few, were all reminders that our research setting was precarious at best.

Armed with nametags and information leaflets, we became the representatives of the Hallmark Society and the Millennium Photo-Documentation Project. Our public relations skills were exercised with varying degrees of success. For every one person who thought little of the project, however, we found that there were two who wanted to know more and wished us luck.

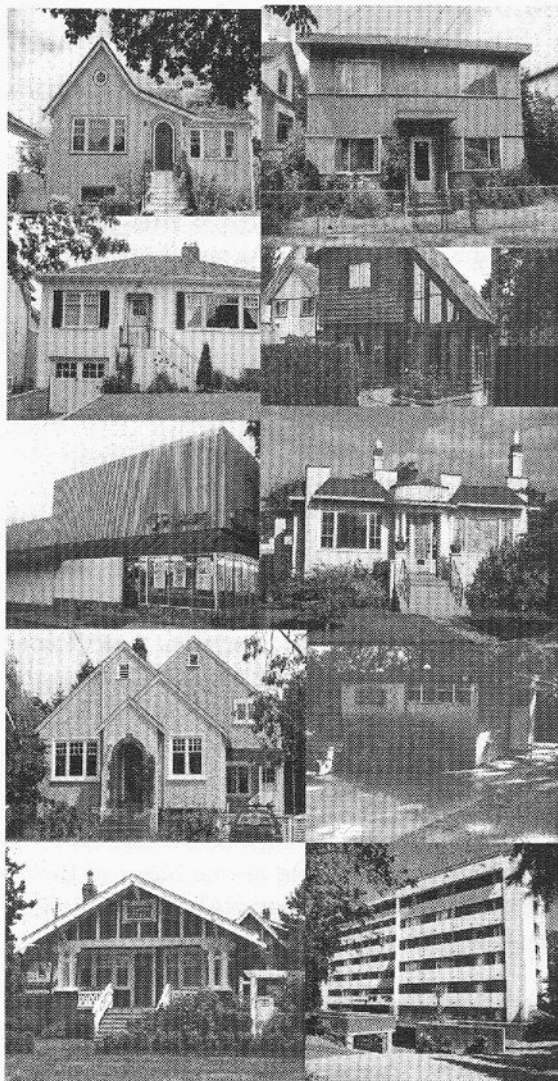
This front-line approach to community research allowed us the opportunity to speak with residents and gain first-hand community feedback. One gentleman we spoke to had a photograph (strapped to the back of his bicycle) of Gonzales Hill in the 1940s. He had taken the

shot when he was a child and the image depicts what the landscape looked like without the presence of houses. Simply being in the community exposed us to information, which otherwise would have remained illusive.

This project did not ask us to discriminate between Designated Heritage buildings and other houses (or empty lots, or parking lots, or public washrooms, or apartment buildings, or commercial structures). Consequently, the phrase "My house isn't architecturally important" was heard often. We were able to explain to the residents that all examples architectural styles and forms are important simply because they illustrate the value systems of a community. Moreover, how are we to know what stylistic movement or architectural approach will interest the future historian? This project will be the only comprehensive 'snap-shot' of the neighbourhoods of Fairfield and Gonzales.

Although the photo-documentation is but one aspect of a large project, which includes researching each structure and holding community meetings, Helen Edwards, the project manager, allowed us a sense of ownership. We were given a task, and it was up to us to organize, plan and, subsequently, implement the project. This trust in Esther's training as a geographer and my training as an art historian gave us the opportunity to feel as though we made a significant contribution to the research base.

Our participation in the Hallmark Millennium Photo-Documentation Project is drawing to a close. Fairfield and Gonzales are completed and, due to the availability of resources, the neighbourhood of Rockland is also nearing completion. Our time as temporary members of the communities we have studied is also nearing its conclusion. Our responsibilities to those



neighbourhoods, however, will not end. Fieldwork is more than research; it is the process of stitching oneself into the fabric of a community; it is an adventure. We thank the members of the Hallmark Society, Heritage Canada Foundation, the BC 2000 Arts and Heritage Millennium Fund, and the Community University Research Alliance for this opportunity. We have taken nearly 6,000 photographs this summer and our feet are killing us.

# Terry Reksten - January 22, 1942 - July 25, 2001

by Helen Edwards

**H**allmark Society members were shocked to hear of the untimely death of Terry Reksten on July 26, 2001. Terry showed us all that an ordinary person with a passion could make a difference. As one of the founders of the Hallmark Society as well as the Old Cemeteries Society, she devoted countless hours to the heritage preservation cause. I remember her comment that she and Don had young children in the 1970s and had to take turns attending meetings and child-minding.

Terry was a dynamic speaker who could transfix an audience with her fiery oratory. When Cadillac-Fairview came to town with plans to demolish ten listed heritage buildings to make way for the Eaton Centre, she was at the forefront of the fight to try to save them. Although the fight to save these buildings was lost, the unprecedented public support which cut across economic lines made a strong case for preservation in Victoria. The Victoria Civic Heritage Trust was established from a portion of the funds from the sale of one block of Broad Street and the preservation of Old Town Victoria was ensured shortly thereafter.

Terry was also a noted researcher and author. Her first book - about Francis Mawson Rattenbury, Victoria's infamous architect - is still in print 23 years later. More English than the English remains one of the most delightful accounts of Victorian society, warts and all. She penned two books on the Dunsmuir family - Craigdarroch Castle and The Dunsmuir Saga and completed a history of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. The Empress Hotel told the story of Victoria's most noted hotel as words combined with delightful photographs to create the rich tapestry that is the history of the hotel. She was

also one of the contributors to the recently published Castles of the North (see page 12 for further details). Her death came just two weeks after the publication of The Illustrated History of British Columbia - a tour de force of text and images in a thorough examination of what makes our province and its people so special.

I had the privilege of working with Terry on walking tours of downtown Victoria. She had a talent for making the streets and their buildings come alive - you could almost see the old-timers lounging outside one of Victoria's several bars. Of course, the tours always started in the inner harbour, within view of Rattenbury's masterpieces. The tale of his successes and downfall entertained everyone - truth can be stranger than fiction. To be honest, I learned more from Terry than the tourists did, and I still use some of her stories when doing tours today. One memorable morning, we were to meet Aerospace Engineers flying in from Vancouver for a tour. The weather was misty and cold and as we huddled at the dock, we wondered if our customers would appear. Eventually two float planes emerged through the mists and our tour began.

Terry Reksten made an impact of the lives of countless British Columbians through her books and lectures and she will be sorely missed. We extend sincere sympathy to Don and his family. Farewell, Terry, we will never forget you!

The family has asked that donations be made to the Friends of the BC Archives, c/o BC Archives, PO Box 9410, Stn. Prov. Govt., Victoria, BC, V8W 9V1, to fund an award in her name for outstanding voluntary contribution to archives and museums throughout BC.

# Researching Your Home's History

By Julia Trachsel

The "character home" became ours only four days after seeing it's forlorn image in a real estate paper at work; within nine weeks we had taken possession, and at the twelve-week mark, we had made the move from renters to home owners.

The first year slipped by quickly. Nesting takes time and energy, and there were many house tours and afternoon teas for local friends, and pictures sent to distant friends and relatives every time furniture was moved or added. Visitors echoed our feelings regarding the "happy" feel of the house, and we had many questions about the origins and design of the house, and its original and subsequent owners.

So, in the spring of 1997, I set out to find the answers. It's four years later, and most questions are answered. I'm continuing to uncover clues for the unanswered ones, however, and each new tidbit of information is appreciated. In the process, I've become passionate about research, and consequently, about writing.

I've learned a great deal from professionals and experienced volunteers, and may I suggest that you approach your task with patience. There will always be information that seems just beyond your grasp. Let it sharpen your appreciation for the answers that appears out of nowhere, or from a back room or file draw or box, often gift wrapped just for you. Those are the exciting and satisfying days, and make up for those day when you've found you were on the trail of a "red herring," and you have to backtrack and trace another clue.

Thank you's are welcomed by professionals and volunteers - for the lugging of heavy books and

boxes, the climbing of ladders, the hours of data entry, copying of microfilm and fiche containing newspapers, birth, marriage and death certificates, fire insurance maps, tax assessment rolls, cemetery plans and listings, not to mention the cutting, pasting, picture taking, and the cataloguing of pictures, articles, birth announcements, obituaries, marriage notices, and most recently, house plans (Victoria Heritage Foundation) and census data (Hugh Armstrong).

So, where do you start and what do you need? Supplies are the easy part. A spiral notebook, where you can list your questions and answers is essential. If you like keeping your various lines of inquiry separated, buy one with dividers. A few simple categories will do. Those who had some part in designing and building the house (the architect, designer, builder, contractor); the home's architectural style (or mix of styles) and period; the original and subsequent owners; street information, and general community history. That's roughly five categories and there are notebooks that have five sections. Each of those sections can be broken down, but since information often overlaps, broader categories keep you for getting lost in the details. (I speak from experience!)

Some like to have a notebook divided into sections based on where they located the information - Municipal Planning offices, Victoria City Archives, BC Provincial Archives, Internet resources, anecdotal information from neighbours, old-timers, and descendants of original and subsequent owners, Architect(s), builder/contractors.

It's always good to have a list of the questions you are seeking answers to at the front of the notebook; the questions will you keep on track.



If you find information you want to come back to later, set aside a few pages in the back of each section labeled "find out about this later" and make a note of the date, what the information is, and its source and location, so you can locate it again when you're ready.

I like to take along my own sharpened pencils, or refillable lead pencils, (pens are often not allowed in archival research areas), erasers, pens, and a stapler. Always make sure that people, who photocopy information for you from original sources, stamp those copies with that organizations/department's name and the date, if applicable, of the original document. It's easy to forget just where you acquired a particular piece of paper once our files start to bulge, especially when you research in several different places in one day.

It's often necessary to make sure the source is listed on the copy, and the date of the source. There are various editions of Fire Insurance maps, for instance, and it can be misleading and confusing if you don't know which version your street area was copied from.

Since questions are what you start out with, and answers are what you are seeking, the information from this point forward is structured in a Q & A format, interspersed with "clues," "hints," "findings," "facts," and "next stops." Is anyone interested in co-authoring a BC Heritage board or card game?

**Hint:** Always start with at least some information. When investigating your house, have the lot and block number. This information will be on the legal description of the property in the real estate paraphernalia you acquired in buying your house. It is also on your tax bill. If you don't have the papers handy, the city planning department can give you the information once they know your address.

**Question:** When was the house built?

**Clue:** What municipal institution has the most need for information about the house and it's changes over the years?

**Answer:** City Hall. Planning Department. Directions: Enter off Centennial Square, climb the spiral staircase, turn left (east) and take the walkway over the lobby, climb a few more steps, and you are in the Planning Department. There is also wheelchair accessibility from the lobby, should you need it.)

**Question:** Could I have a copy of the contents of the file on my house? The address is -----, and I'd like the information because --- I'm interested in it's history (or another reason). The lot number is ---- and the block number is ----. Be ready to provide identification.

**Question:** Ask at the same time as the one above: Do plans exist for this particular house? If so, may I have a copy of that plan, and any related papers?

**Hint:** This can take some time, so be prepared to go away and come back later. They need to go "upstairs" for the plans, but can't do that on the spot.

**Example:** When I went, the pleasant person came back with a photocopied plumbing permit and an 8.5 x 11-inch sheet of paper with a very rough sketch of some renovations done in the 1980s. Plans were not in the house file. (A setback).

**Fact:** Houses before 1907 in Victoria did not need to have the building plans submitted with the Building Permit Application. Therefore, if your house was built in 1906 or before, as mine was, the chance of finding your house plan is slim, but not impossible. Check your attic, your basement, and any place you think the original family or builder may have secreted a copy. A descendant of the Architect, Builder or original family may have a copy. Hints are given further along for researching information about house



occupants. Finding information about the Architect, if you know who it is, will be much easier after the book on early BC Architects, edited by Don Luxton, comes out next year. Newsletter subscribers will be notified of this event.

**Hint:** Don't use meters when doing research. Use the money you will inevitably spend on a ticket toward parking your car in a parkade or other with long time limits. Even at the new rates, the price of a stall in a parkade for a whole day is more cost effective than one parking ticket. The rest of the savings can go towards photocopying and notebook expenses.

**Finding:** The application to Construct House Sewers and Connections with the Public Sewers is one of the most useful sheets you may get from your file at the City of Victoria Planning Department.

**Example:** Mine included a carefully drawn sketch of the "footprint" of the house, and the following information. "At the Building and premises located on the East side of Springfield Avenue, between Esquimalt Street and Esquimalt Road, on Lot No. 50, Block No. Springfield Estate, Registered Plan No. (not given). Owner, A.H. Bostock, Address, 13 Robert Street, Pipe Layer, Jos Zanelle, Address, S. Pandora, Plumber, A. (Andrew) Sheret, Address, 74 Cook Street. Purpose of building, Residence, How many buildings, One. It is signed by A. H. Bostock, on the 25th of April, 1906. Also signed by Inspector of plumbing and sewage, H. F. Shade, 25th April, 1906.

**Hint:** A house may have been in existence long before the city was able to supply it with sewer connections, so the date on the above document is not necessarily the date the house was built.

**Next stop:** City of Victoria Archives - just across Centennial Square from City Hall. The planning

person suggested they would have access to additional information that would help me. And they did. Procedure: Sign in, indicating your name, address and what you are researching. If the Archivist (Trevor) and his assistant, (Carey) are busy, or are at the back getting information, take the time to acquaint yourself with what's on the shelves after you sign in.

**What to ask for:** The Tax Assessments Rolls. These are the most accurate source of information, and consist of large books (some are now on microfilm) that contain the lot size, owner's name, land value, and improvement value - indicating some addition to the property in the form of a house or outbuilding or renovation of an existing building. Also, included is the name of the owner and their address if they do not live on the property. Taxes may not be welcome, but the recording of information for property assessments certainly is, especially a century after the fact.

**Clue:** The assessments were usually done in the spring.

**Example:** The "improvement" to lot 50, (block 31), appears for the first time in the spring of 1907. I now had two dates, April 25, 1906 and spring 1907.

**Question:** What other sources might give me additional information on the house construction date?

**Answer:** The archivists said that early January newspapers of the time listed the new homes built during the previous year. However, I didn't find mine in the photocopied pages they had available.

**Question:** Where can I check the newspapers myself to see if the information was given earlier or later than usual that year?

**Answer:** There were several places, including the Provincial Archives and the University of Victoria Archives. I chose the (GVPL) Greater

Victoria Public Library's main branch on Broughton Street, as it was close to my work place at the time.

**Hint:** Don't be afraid to ask for help, either about where information is located or how to operate the machines connected with research. All have their particular quirks, and the person who shows you where the machine and film is located will also give you guidance in how it all works, or direct you to someone who will. If the machines are coin operated, make sure you find out ahead of time, and go with the necessary coinage. Corner stores don't give out change for busses and libraries and archives don't usually keep change on hand for regular copiers, or film/fiche copiers.

**Example:** GVPL. After a quick "help session," I loaded the reel, and looked in the first days of January 1907. No listing. So my instincts told me check out the film for the end of December of 1906. If I hadn't checked backward to the end of December, I may never have found this entry in the Saturday, December 29, 1906 edition of the Victoria Daily Colonist, A. H. Bostock, Springfield Avenue, \$2000 (It was unclear whether the amount was \$2000 or \$3000, as a scratch on the film partly obliterated the number following the dollar sign.)

**Hint:** Keep track of and verify your clues. I already had the information from the Tax Assessment Roll so I knew the amount was \$2000, not \$3000.

**Red Herrings:** Use your instincts. All other new house listings appear in the paper on New Year's Day or a day during the first week of January. The City Archives did not have the house listing for 1906 because it had not appeared in its usual place. There can be exceptions. Don't assume that the "official repositories of information" have everything. If what is supposed to be somewhere is not, ask for it or look elsewhere.

**A good thing:** If you find something that pertains to your research that you did not find in an official place, ask the Archivist or Archivist's Assistant if they would like a copy. Chances are if you found it useful, someone else will too.

**Questions:** When was the land made into lots? How long had elapsed between the buying of the land the building of the house? Who originally owned the lot, if it wasn't the person who "improved" the lot by building a house?

**Hint:** This helps you find out if the first owner of the house just "moved in" or had more say in the project because they owned the land first and contracted to have the house built later.

**Example:** Return trip: Victoria City Archives. Tax Assessment Rolls. I decided to start at 1890 this time and work upwards towards 1907, where the "improvement" appeared. In 1892, in large fancy script across the page were the words "Springfield Estates." And there I found the first entry for the new "Springfield Avenue." And in it's proper spot, Lot 50, "Section" 31 (not Block 31 at that time), with the size (55 x 112 feet) and location (south of Esquimalt Rd). After 1907 the location changed to "south of Wilson Street."

**Observation:** Sometimes you have one question answered only to have additional questions pop up as replacements. Who had named it Springfield Estates? What had the land been used for previous to it becoming a new subdivision? Who decided to sell their land to the city? Since these questions fit more into the neighbourhood category, I write them in that section of my notebook, for research at a later date.

*Editor's Note: Part 2 of this article will appear in the Winter newsletter. This is the first in a series of "how to" pieces.*

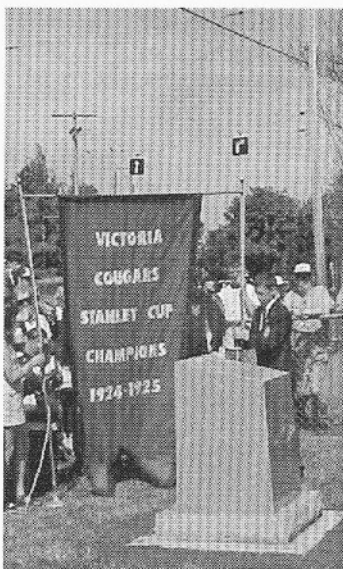
# NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

All memberships, except life members and those who have already paid are due for renewal at the Annual General Meeting on September 24, 2001. Your expiry date is shown on the mailing label.

You may send your payment to the office, pay in person on Wednesday mornings or Thursday afternoons, or bring your cheque to the AGM.

We will not be raising our membership dues but, as our costs increase, we can no longer send free newsletters or numerous reminders to those who have not renewed. Please help us keep our postage costs to a minimum by renewing promptly. Don't forget that all membership dues are tax-deductible. Your receipt will be included with your membership card in the next newsletter.

We appreciate your continued support.



## Stanley Cup Comes to Victoria

On Friday, May 25, 2001, a cairn which commemorated the Victoria Cougar's triumph in the 1925 Stanley Cup was unveiled on Cadboro Bay Road across the street from the site of the original hockey rink. Although local hockey fans were aware that Victoria had won the trophy before it became the exclusive property of the National Hockey League, there was no physical reminder of the historic feat. This has now been remedied.

Following a brief ceremony at which the Stanley Cup figured prominently and Victorians Russ and Geoff Courtnall, former NHL players, told stories about the quest for the Cup, school children unveiled the granite cairn. Although the original hockey rink no longer exists, it is fitting that its importance is noted and that, at long last, Victoria has received official recognition for its hockey feat.



## Millennium Project Underway

The Streetscapes of Greater Victoria project is well underway (see page 4 for a report on the work as seen by the summer students). When we began work on May 21st, we had no idea how much ground Esther Parker and Christina Smylitopoulos would cover. Armed with a map from the City of Victoria, we laid out a plan to photograph each structure and streetscape in Gonzales. We thought we might have time to complete Fairfield as well. Little did we realize that not only would we complete photographs in these two areas, but we would cover Rockland as well.

In addition, we have secured the research capabilities of MaryAnn McGrath and Karen Messer through the Youth Employment Program. They will work for us for 150 hours each and will receive tuition credits. This program benefits both the non-profit sector and the students who often find it difficult to find a summer job. These students are beginning the search for detailed information on the streets which form the basis for the project.

Beginning on September 10th, we will have two co-op students from the University of Victoria working full time continuing the research phase. Kevin Smith and Gillian Saunders will be with us for 13 weeks. They will also be responsible for mounting a travelling display of the information we have unearthed. On October 5th (see calendar for details) we will be part of a panel discussion on the heritage of Fairfield. We are encouraging local residents to come forward with their personal stories of the buildings in their area and are hoping that we will find historic photos which will add greatly to our knowledge base. We have found in the past that private family collections often hold the most interesting images.

We are grateful to our partners who have made this dream a reality and wish to acknowledge Prism Photo who provided film and processing at a very favourable rate to the society.

## Empress Hotel Tour

On May 18, 2001, an enthusiastic group of Hallmark members were taken on a guided tour of the Empress Hotel by Barbara Chisholm, one of the authors of Castles of the North which celebrates the history of Canada's grand hotels. Victoria was the first in a series of public tours and lectures to launch both the book and its companion video.

In the evening, visitors viewed excerpts from the video, heard from the producers, and sampled Empress cuisine. Here were the stories behind the buildings told, in some cases, by long-time employees. In the final draw of the evening, John Edwards won a copy of the book.



Barbara Chisholm begins the tour in the former Library bar.

# Victoria Wins Prince of Wales Prize

by Helen Edwards

**O**n July 12, 2001, The Heritage Canada Foundation announced the names of the recipients of the 2001 Heritage Canada Awards. An independent jury of heritage experts selected the City of Victoria in British Columbia for the prestigious Prince of Wales Prize, citing the city's long record of achievement in preserving its heritage buildings and historic districts.

The press release notes: "For over thirty years, the city has preserved its vast number of heritage buildings by implementing a series of policy measures and through sustained, continuous development of its heritage programs. The city has also endeavoured to make heritage conservation part of its overall planning strategy."

Established in 1999, the Prince of Wales Prize is awarded annually to a municipal government which has shown exemplary commitment to heritage preservation within its jurisdiction. The award consists of a metal plaque, a scroll and a pennant. It was awarded last year to Markham, Ontario which had maintained its historic downtown despite being besieged by development plans. Victoria has developed several initiatives including the Tax Incentive Program which have helped to make heritage conservation in Old Town economically viable.

Our sincere congratulations to all who have worked over the last 30 years to preserve Victoria's stock of heritage buildings. The prize will be presented at the Heritage Canada Foundation annual conference in Toronto (see calendar for details).

## Heritage Featured on CBC

by Helen Edwards

**J**une 28th was a red-letter day for the heritage movement in Canada. Our cause was the subject of a "big picture" day on the CBC. There was extensive coverage on both CBC Television and Newsworld with the best saved for last. The National focused on the efforts of communities across the country to save their heritage sites.

Coverage also included an interview with Heritage Minister Sheila Copps who outlined the government's plans for heritage conservation. Of course, the projects featured were only the tip of the iceberg but did help to illustrate the depth of the movement. From the Eatons store in Winnipeg to a schoolhouse on Salt Spring Island, reporters covered selected issues in depth. An excellent summary of the day's coverage was broadcast on Canada Day, July 1. This has to be the first time that such major media coverage has been afforded to heritage questions.

I wrote to the CBC and told them how much I appreciated their excellent coverage and I urge you all to do the same. It is only through broadcasts such as these that the message of heritage preservation can be spread across the country, reaching thousands who may have never heard the word "heritage" before. Even a series of programs once a year would go far to bringing heritage to mainstream consciousness.

# Calendar

- September 16, 2001** Saanich Heritage Home Bus Tour and Tea with Geoffrey Castle, 12:45 pm. Tickets \$20.00. Call 475-1775, local 3504 for further information
- September 24, 2001** Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting. James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 pm. Guest speaker, Dennis Minaker who will speak on the history of the Gorge waterway. Copies of the reprinted Gorge of Summers Gone will be offered for sale.
- October 5, 2001** Fairfield Community Association presents The Heritage of Fairfield (Old and New) panel discussion on heritage. Grary Oak Room, Sir James Douglas School, 7:00 pm.
- October 6, 2001** Walking tour of Fairfield heritage sites, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
- October 11-14, 2001** Heritage Canada Foundation conference "The Economics of Preserving Heritage Property", Toronto, Ontario.  
Visit <http://www.heritagecanada.org> for details.
- October 12-14, 2001** Marion Dean Ross/Pacific Northwest Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians annual meeting, Bend, Oregon. Call the office for information.
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## Call for Nominations

**E**lections of Directors for the Hallmark Society and Trustees for the Heritage Building Foundation will take place at the Annual General Meeting. Elections are arranged so that one-half of the positions are available each year, ensuring continuity between Boards.

Directors are expected to attend monthly meetings and regular Society functions. Duties vary from year to year depending on need.

If you would like to serve on the Board or wish to nominate a candidate, please contact Helen Edwards ([helen@islandnet.com](mailto:helen@islandnet.com) or 386-6598) or leave a message at the office @382-4755.

The following positions will be filled this year:

### **Hallmark Society**

Two-year terms:

President

Vice-President

Corresponding Secretary

4 Directors

One-year terms:

Treasurer

1 Director

### **Heritage Building Foundation**

2 Trustees (2-year terms)



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## A Replica is not the Same

From the Calgary Herald via Victoria Times Colonist (July 2, 2001)

**W**hen it comes to preserving history, cloning heritage buildings instead of saving them just doesn't cut it. The Calgary Catholic School District's decision to tear down the 92-year-old St. Mary's Girls' School and build a replica on the same spot is a peculiar foray into virtual history. However, this sop to preserving local heritage does not suffice. The replica will look the same, but will be built out of modern construction materials. It will be no more historic than a house in a new subdivision, whose faux-heritage facade of porches, overhangs and pitched roofs is carefully crafted to evoke a Rockwellian nostalgia for small town main streets. The new school will have the same relation to the old as a Civil War reenactment has to the original battle at Gettysburg. War isn't hell if the soldiers are shooting blanks.

The decision to tear down and duplicate was made because the Society for the Preservation and Restoration of St. Mary's School couldn't come up with its half of the \$5 million needed for renovations and therefore, razing the building would be cheaper. However, we don't believe such a shortfall should preclude saving the original school. It is truly disheartening to watch the almost ritual destruction of Calgary's heritage proceed apace. Once these historic treasures are gone, they can never be replaced. We do not accept imitations.