



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 10,000 buildings in the Capital Regional District. Memberships are due September 30th and are tax-deductible. The Society also offers special events and tours for members.. 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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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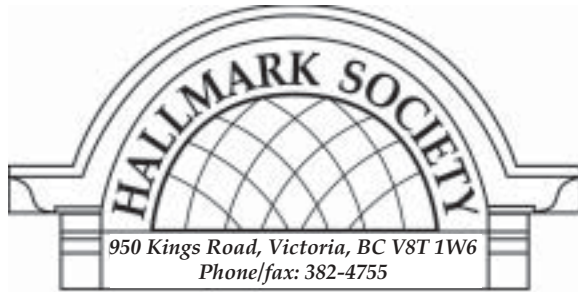
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***Don't forget  
 Annual General Meeting  
 September 30, 2002 - 7:30 pm - 234 Menzies Street  
 Guest Speaker - Robert Amos  
 "Art and Heritage"***

## Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Architectural Landmarks



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: office@hallmarksociety.ca  
 URL: http://www.hallmarksociety.ca

## 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.

## Board of Directors

*President*  
 John Edwards 386-6598  
*First Vice-President*  
 Nicholas Russell  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
 Nicholas Russell  
*Treasurer*  
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*Directors*  
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 Frank Ryan

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## Cover Photo

Hallmark Society members on the porch of the Alfred Ruckle House, Salt Spring Island. See page 8 for story. Jennifer Nell Barr photo.

All photos by Helen Edwards unless otherwise credited.

**Deadline for Winter 2002 newsletter:  
 November 15, 2002.**

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## Calendar

- September 30, 2002** Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting. James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 pm. Guest speaker, Robert Amos.
- October 4-6, 2002** Marion Dean Ross / Pacific Northwest Chapter SAH annual meeting and conference, Ilwaco, WA. See http://www.mdrsah.org for details.

## Ross Bay Cemetery Damaged by Vandals

In the early hours of June 15, 2002, the quiet of Ross Bay Cemetery was shattered by the sound of senseless destruction. In the most serious vandalism in years, a total of 85 tombstones were knocked over and broken. However, in this instance, citizen anger and outrage resulted in immediate action.

The damage was noted in a front page story in the *Times Colonist*, spreading the word to the larger community. Within hours, the damage was inventoried and photographed. The subsequent Sunday tour (coincidentally led by Acting Mayor Denise Savoie) passed several of the damaged graves. Repairs began on Monday and by Thursday 55 monuments had been repaired.

However, the questions remain: who would desecrate these monuments and why? and how could this happen? It has been six years since meetings were first held regarding a more secure perimeter to the cemetery. Although a comprehensive survey was completed and a plan drawn up, little of consequence has happened. The Cemetery was patrolled by a security firm, but only until 3 am. Were the vandals watching the route or was this a random act of violence? To date, two young males have been arrested and more are being sought.

What can we, as individuals, do? The Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria makes the following suggestions in a special edition of *Stone Cuttings*:

Our elected officials need to know what their job is, so let's tell them. The Mayor and City Councillors hold the purse-strings and the orders: e-mail, fax and/or write them. ... Keep it short and sweet-sour to taste (tastefully!). Letters to the *Colonist* and Newsgroup or Monday could help as well. Points to stress: get going on the already-planned, already-funded perimeter work. Express your feelings about the damage to this historical valuable site and remind them of the trust the generations have placed in their hands; insist they enhance security patrols. In addition, if you know any of the descendants, please urge them to contact these officials, their voices being all the stronger.

The most important thing we can do is to continue our support the efforts of the Old Cemeteries Society. It is only through public education and pressure that this senseless destruction will cease. The OCS has spent thousands of hours leading walking tours of cemeteries to an interested public. Unfortunately, the type of people who would inflict such damage on tombstones would possibly never attend a tour. We hope that the effort to educate children will pay benefits in the future, but there must be increased security to ensure that such a tragic event is not repeated.

## President's Message

by John Edwards

The cash register government that we elected a year ago has come up with the latest buzz word "devolution" While we have, as a volunteer society, preached restoration and the saving of built heritage, this government is cutting \$1.5 million over the next two years from the BC. Heritage Branch. They want to have fourteen historic sites run by non-profit societies, municipalities, business or individuals. The insane part is the Government is giving up absolutely nothing as they will still retain ownership to the most important assets, land, buildings and collections of museum pieces. Unless the operators can secure long term leases or contracts, which would give some form of security, and enable them to get some financing, I think the present proposal is nothing short of a squeeze in the name of making heritage sites "as self-sustaining as possible."

It has been rumoured for sometime that at Work Point Barracks, there are four buildings that are deemed surplus, the most important of which is 1027 the former Officers' Mess, built in 1892, and formerly used by the PPCLI. An arts group under Esquimalt Heritage Advisory is trying to obtain the building for performing arts, music and crafts. It is very commendable they are trying to save this building in its present location, as I am told only three of the this type of structure were built, and one has already been demolished. Other Municipalities would like this building, one for a library and another for a museum. With regard to the other three buildings, their fate is also unknown, even though they appear to be in use.

Those old grey barns, also have an unknown fate. An article in *Heritage Canada*, Summer, 2002, says "Americans Snap Up Canada's Historic

Barns." Dave Pigot, manager of The Wood Source says that he began dismantling historic barns about fifteen years ago and so far has taken down fifty and only two have been sold to Canadians. He says that we are not interested in them yet; Americans have been doing this for forty years. They see the beauty in these Canadian structures. He says he would love to sell them to Canadians, but going to the States they are not being bulldozed. Most farmers consider an old wooden barn a liability. Once an old barn has been torn down there is no legal means to stop its shipment out of the country. One person is quoted as saying within twenty years in the Hopetown area of Ontario, by reason of selling and neglect there will not be any barns left. I am sure that these pressures will be felt in this area soon enough, and all the more reason to complete more inventories.

Certainly it is time to start working on post World War II built heritage. This was never more evident than in reading Susan Downs' article in the *Times Colonist* of August 17, 2002, (Section F) about a fifty-two thousand-square foot 1999 "perfect gem of a home on the site of a 1960 rancher." The 1960 house was not demolished, deconstructed, or moved, but was set afire so all the neighbours could come and watch and drink beer. This is such a waste, as any record of the previous house is probably lost forever.



## Hallmark/VHF Garage Sale a Success

Following the success of the sale at Artifacts last fall, the Hallmark Society and the Victoria Heritage Foundation decided to hold another garage sale. On Friday, July 13th, a troupe of intrepid volunteers carried, sorted, washed, priced, and arranged hundreds of items. It seemed every time we turned around, somebody else was bringing more sale items.

Of course, being at the pricing session does have its benefits, the best of which is the pick of the goodies offered for sale. Several volunteers left with more than they came with, I am sure.

On Saturday, customers were lined up, eager to browse, long before the official opening hour. There was something for everybody; from fishing reels to vintage hardware, from jewellery to household linens, from books to toys, from valuable china to Tupperware, the list was endless. Despite competing with the Art Gallery Moss Street Paint-in, we were financially rewarded. All the proceeds aren't in yet, but we have earned over \$1,200 to date, which has been divided between the two organizations. Items that were deemed valuable were boxed up and will be sent to the auction.

Ironically, most of the people who volunteered their time most generously, also gave the most generous donations, and THEN contributed yet again by buying some (if not most) of the treasures to be had.

Sincere thanks to all who donated items for sale and particularly to Margaret Narain and Susan Nickum who offered their street for the sale.



### Garage Sale Volunteers

Sharon Walls  
Anne Marie Colwill  
Sheila Colwill  
Edith Stark  
Chuck Stark  
Julia Trachsel  
Mark Aitken  
Kathie Aitken  
Jennifer Barr  
Judith Andersen  
Rosemary James Cross  
Nick Russell  
Sharon Russell  
Helen Edwards  
John Edwards  
Bob Baxter  
Yvonne Baxter  
Reg Miller  
Mary Brownscomb  
Margaret Palmer  
Cornelia Lange  
Margaret Narain  
Susan Nickum

## Heritage in Richmond, Virginia

by Helen Edwards

The Society of Architectural Historians held its Annual Meeting in historic Richmond, Virginia from April 17-21. There were over 500 registrants representing several countries, including the 154 speakers who presented papers.

A day-long Preservation Colloquium was held on the first day of the meeting. The focus was on adaptive reuse of historic buildings and the challenges faced with any change in use. Discussion began at the Monumental Church (John Mills, 1812-14). The body of the Classical Revival building, an octagonal domed auditorium, is extended on four faces with an entrance portico of brown sandstone. Here is preserved a baptismal basin, dated 1733, from the last church at Jamestown. On this site stood the Richmond Theater, where Edgar Allan Poe's mother acted. Governor George William Smith and many other prominent citizens were burned to death December 26, 1811, during a performance of *The Bleeding Nun*. Laws in Virginia and elsewhere to prohibit the opening inward of theater doors resulted from this tragedy. The building is slowly being restored, but changes must be made to accommodate modern code requirements and usage. Other projects were viewed during bus tours, a session in an historic theater, and a walking tour.

Given the recent controversy about Victoria's Royal Theatre, it was doubly interesting to view a theatre that was being sensitively restored. The architect discovered the original moulding hidden under the false ceiling. In the performance space, a volunteer has undertaken the massive task of restoring the gilding on all the terra cotta elements. When the project is finished, it will be magnificent. Hopefully, the powers that be will



Monumental Church, Richmond, VA

decide to refurbish the Royal to the same degree. What I discovered during the course of the colloquium was that it doesn't matter where you live, your heritage is always under threat. It is even more evident in the eastern United States (and, I suspect eastern Canada) as several of the oldest buildings date to the 17th century and are considered significant in the development of their country.

Richmond hospitality was demonstrated in several social functions including a once-in-a-lifetime chance to view priceless antiques at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. English 18th- and 19th-century silver, the priceless Pratt Collection of jeweled Fabergé objects from the court of the Russian czars, Roman antiquities, and twentieth century decorative arts were among the highlights.

Although this is a scholarly organization, conferences are by no means dull. Sessions are dynamic and with the results of ground-breaking research. The conference is held in a different site each year in North America exposing delegates to the diversity of the continent's heritage assets. The 2005 conference will be held in Vancouver, BC.

## HELP NEEDED

**As you may be aware, the Hallmark Society tenancy of Blanshard Elementary School expires on November 30, 2002. We are unable to pay the market rate that the Greater Victoria School Board has requested for the space (and that would only carry us through to the end of March, 2003). Ross Bay Villa will not be ready for us and we have nowhere else to go.**

**We feel our office provides a service not only to our members but to the greater heritage community, particularly since we are often the only source of 1960s and 1970s photos of heritage sites. Our current partnership with the Victoria Heritage Foundation is only one example of the benefits of sharing information. We would like to form new partnerships, but find it difficult if our files will shortly become inaccessible.**

**We are, therefore, appealing to our members. Do any of you know where we can obtain office accommodation at a very reasonable cost. Please let us know @ 382-4755 if you have any ideas.**

## Good News

**H**allmark Society President John Edwards has received a major award for his hundreds of volunteer hours, including his work with the heritage movement. John has been an active worker with the Hallmark Society since 1976. He began as the Corresponding Secretary and soon became the Treasurer, a post he would hold until his election as President (a position he has held for the past five years).

He has worked on the prestigious Hallmark Awards Night for over twenty years, organizing, making presentations, doing research, and keeping the financial records straight. He volunteered for other events like the Heritage Fair held for several years at Hillside Mall, and was a coordinator as well as a participant. This event was cancelled due to lack of commitment from the mall and has been replaced by the Victoria Heritage Festival. John was a key member of the organizing committee. John has organized several fund-raising activities for the Hallmark Society and has spent hundreds of hours working at these functions. When the Heritage Society of BC conference was held in Victoria, John volunteered as a tour guide for a trip up Fort Street.

John is now a tireless worker for the Ross Bay Villa restoration project. This 1865 home, owned by The Land Conservancy of BC is being slowly restored to active use by a crew of volunteers aided by skilled craftsmen. John can be found each Saturday doing whatever is necessary to keep the project ongoing. To date, he has accumulated over 300 hours of work. He also helped to coordinate public meetings and fund-raising functions. He has recently assumed the duty of Treasurer for the project - as if he didn't have enough to do.

In June 2000, John was appointed to the City of Victoria's Heritage Advisory Committee which advises council on matters relevant to the City's award-winning heritage program. He is serving his second eighteen-month term.

But, it is not just in the heritage field that John has volunteered. He was very supportive of the school activities of his four children, acting as a driver when needed and doing whatever was necessary. He has also worked at numerous school fairs and events, including two massive school reunions. John also found time to work at a Crimestoppers conference and the latest CGA conference in Victoria. They say that if you want a job done, you should ask a busy person. Well, if you are looking for a capable volunteer, just ask John.

He will be presented with the Certified General Accountants Community Service Award at the President's Banquet and Awards Gala being held during the Association's conference at Whistler on Saturday, September 21, 2002.

Congratulations, John. Keep up the good work.

## Mountain “Heritage”

by Helen Edwards

The word “heritage” has suddenly become a hot commodity, used for selling just about anything. In a recent *Vancouver Sun* article, we learn that “Parklane Homes has launched a series of developments on Port Moody’s Heritage Mountain, each with unique characteristics.” The 300-acre site will contain some 1,300 homes when the project is complete. According the developers, there are all types of homes designed to meet anybody’s needs. Prices range from \$174,900 for a 1,110-square-foot townhouse to \$700,000-plus for a 6,000-square-foot single-family home. To date, about 400 units have been completed and sold, with another 83 under construction.

What does this have to do with heritage? Apart from the name of the mountain, there seems to be little connection with heritage as it is generally defined. The interiors have very modern and open floor plans with private courtyard and roof decks. The exteriors have a Whistler-inspired character with “stunning” colours schemes and natural wood details. Is this possibly the connection to “heritage?” Having had a good look at the photographs, I would disagree. Although there are certain features which we in Victoria would recognize - bargeboards and steep gables - there are few traditional features in this new development.

This is yet another example of the overuse of the word “heritage.” It is perhaps ironic that this development has resulted in the loss of a portion of the community’s natural heritage yet this is never mentioned in the article. Potential buyers are told of the outstanding views of the Fraser Valley and the Gulf Island, yet if developments such as this continue, there will no longer be “outstanding views” unless you are an aficionado of vinyl or aluminum windows, neo-heritage, or endless decks. It seems the more we think we have educated the public and the marketplace, we realize that we have a long way to go. The next time you see advertising for “heritage chocolate,” “the heritage of tomorrow” (usually not even noteworthy as good modern design), or “heritage coffee,” just think how the word has been changed to suit modern commerce.

## HSBC Awards 2002

At the recent HSBC conference in Chilliwack, a groundbreaking outstanding achievement award was won by Doug and Susan Field for the restoration of the Robert Filberg House in Comox. This represents the first award for a “modernist” work - by Arthur Erickson on a site which Erickson has called “the most beautiful in Canada.” The house itself was dubbed “the most fabulous house in Canada” in the February 1961 issue of *Canadian Homes*. Awards were also presented to the following capital regional area projects:

- Island Pathways for Salt Spring Island heritage map
- Karl and Grace Sands for 1501 Fort Street, Victoria
- BCBC, for the Hunter House. 514 Government Street, Victoria
- BC Parks for Ruckle Park, Salt Spring Island
- Robert J. Cross for 1308-12 Douglas Street, Victoria
- The New VI for 1420 Broad Street, Victoria

## Heritage at Risk “Travellers’ Rest”, Salt Spring Island

from the Heritage Society of BC Newsletter

The oldest standing residence in the Gulf Islands looks like it may not be standing much longer. Age and an apparent lack of maintenance are slowly combining to undermine the 137 year old pioneer home.

Located on the main road that connects the two principal towns on Salt Spring, Ganges and Fulford Harbour, the house was built in 1865 by Joseph and Martha Akerman. Mr. Akerman had emigrated from England to the California gold fields, then found his way to Victoria in 1862. His bride-to-be arrived the same year from Leicestershire. In 1863 they moved to Salt Spring and built a log cabin. Two years later they built the two-and-a-half storey house that still stands.

The house is constructed of hand-hewn squared timbers, which in the 1920s were covered with wood shingles. A small barn, built in the same manner, and the original 1863 cabin have not survived.

The Ackermans ran a store from their house for a time, and also took in paying guests. “Travellers’ Rest” was the first inn on Salt Spring Island.

The house ceased to be an inn around 1910. In 1927 it was sold, but in the 1970s a great grandson of Joseph and Martha bought it back; it remains in the Akerman family.

A 1970 photo, taken by the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, shows the house still in use and good condition. Currently, another building is being constructed alongside the heritage building. There is no indication of what the plans are for the older building, but it appears to be in serious need of attention. The only tenants seem to be some turkeys upstairs.



## Notice to All Members

All memberships, except life members and those who have already renewed, are due at the Annual General Meeting on September 30, 2002. Your expiry date is shown on the mailing label.

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

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

We appreciate your continued support.

## Hallmark Society Board Members Wanted

Election of officers for the Hallmark Society Board of Directors will take place at the Annual General Meeting on September 30, 2002. Elections are arranged so that one-half of the positions are available each year, thus ensuring continuity between Boards. There are several opportunities for new blood on the Board.

Duties of Directors include membership coordination, Awards Night arrangements, Regional Heritage coordination, Special Projects, and Tour coordination. Responsibilities vary from year to year depending on need.

Board meetings are held monthly, with general meetings quarterly. Board members are expected to take an active part in the Society's activities including members' night, Awards Night, Victoria Heritage Festival, and special tours.

If you would like to serve on the Board, or wish to nominate someone for a position, please contact the office ([office@hallmarksociety.ca](mailto:office@hallmarksociety.ca) or 382-4755). Please note there are one-year terms if you are not willing to make a long-term commitment. If you have any questions, call Helen Edwards @ 386-6598.

Two year terms:  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
4 Directors

One year terms:  
2 Directors

## Hallmark Society Travels to Salt Spring Island

On Sunday, July 14, 2002 a hardy group of Hallmark members travelled to Salt Spring Island for a day-long tour. We met at Swartz Bay for the 9:00 am ferry and enjoyed the short crossing.

We were met on Salt Spring Island by heritage architect Jonathan Yardley. Our first stop was at Ruckle Provincial Park which won restoration awards from both the Hallmark Society and Heritage Society of BC this spring. We were joined for this portion of the tour by Gwen Ruckle, a descendant of the pioneer family. The park, comprising 1,196 acres was acquired by the province from the Ruckle family in 1974 with the condition that the remaining members of the family enjoy life-tenancy.

The tour began with an examination of the outbuildings including the cow barn where the timbers had been rubbed smooth by the cattle brushing against them over the years. Jonathan outlined the work undertaken to stabilize and/or rehabilitate several structures. The first residence we visited was the Henry Ruckle House (1878). The family moved from this house several years ago and it sits vacant. The structure has been stabilized and awaits funding for a restoration. Gwen Ruckle entertained us with stories of the move from this house. Evidently her father did not value historic artifacts and threw anything that was not being currently used down the well. Who knows what was lost?

The tour continued past several outbuildings including the Forge, and the Pig House. The Daniel Ruckle house (1907) has been changed little over the years with the exception of the addition of an outside, the enclosure of the back porch, and the siding changed from dark brown clapboard to rose-coloured asbestos shingles. It



sits amid a remarkable, well-maintained garden. We then crossed a field to view a lamb barn and a chicken house. Both are still being used - the occupants were not too pleased to have their lives disrupted by our presence!

At the Alfred Ruckle house (1906), we were again met by Gwen Ruckle who graciously invited us into her home. The Queen Anne style residence contains examples of beautiful handcrafted woodwork left in its natural state. The cherry staircase has been polished by generations of hands rubbing on it. Several outstanding examples of stained glass can be found throughout the house. As we left the park



we visited the Peavine House, which received major stabilization work. Although it does not have running water or electricity, its long-time tenant is content to live there.

We ate lunch on the grounds of the Beaver Point Community Hall. Built in 1930, this is the centre of social activity in this area. A recent addition includes a modern kitchen and the fireside lounge. The nearby Beaver Point School (1885) has been converted to a pre-school, thus

continuing its original use to further generations.

Our convoy took to the road again, passing the Hepburn House (1905) unfortunately being "restored" in an unsympathetic manner. St. Paul's Roman Catholic church was built in 1880 by members of the community. In the 1950s the original siding was obscured by a layer of artificial stone. Despite efforts to have this removed, it remains to this day. In the 1980s the original windows were rebuilt using 2 x 4s and sheet glass rather than saving the originals. In contrast is St. Mary's Anglican Church (1894) which has been well preserved.

Our next stop was at the oldest house surviving on Salt Spring Island - Akerman's Travellers' Rest (1865). This log house made with hand-hewn timbers was clad with shingles in the 1920s. The Akerman family opened their home to visitors making it the first inn on the island. What we saw there was shocking to us all. A new foundation has been poured adjacent to the old house. The corner of the original building has been severely damaged by heavy equipment, causing the wall to split and bow out and the floor to sag. Although the building could still have been returned to active use, it has obviously been declared of little value and awaits demolition (see page 11 for more details).

Our final stop was at the new Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park. Here we explored a barn - complete with resident bats - and a chicken house. Our sincere thanks to Jonathan Yardley for organizing our tour and to the Ruckle family for sharing their houses and history with us.

*Photos: Top left: Henry Ruckle House; middle left: Beaver Point School; top right: Peavine House; middle right: Burgoyne Provincial Park.*