

## HALLMARK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### VERY IMPORTANT GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: The historic Maritime Museum (3rd Floor), Bastion Square. (Ride on unique elevator!)

DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 1976.

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Bill Sweedish, Architectural Recorder, National Historic Sites and Parks, who will give a short illustrated talk, with some interesting slides on an outstanding, fascinating "Tong" building in Victoria's Chinatown.

Your Executive wants to discuss with the Members the MOST IMPORTANT step we have ever considered—the matter of fund-raising on a large scale. The direction the Society takes in the future depends on your attendance. Do come so that you can vote on this vital issue. We need you! The Muirhead House is a typical example of the many historic buildings that could have been saved if we had been able to buy them ourselves. Our Constitution allows us to take this approach to heritage preservation, and your Executive feels strongly that it is time for us to debate this question.

Are we going to take this crucial step? It's a big decision, and we need everyone's ideas!

Ben Manning, one of our Members, has done a great amount of research on methods, problems, etc., and will give us an outline of what could be involved. We urge you to give this matter serious thought. We especially urge you to attend the meeting. Our future depends on you!

If you need a ride to the meeting, phone Terry Reksten at 592-3512.

Apologies for the time lapse since the last newsletter. With the postal strike, we tried to phone all members about the Christmas party as well as the last general meeting at the Newcombe Auditorium, to hear the Hon. W. L. Hartley's interesting talk about the restoration of the Parliament Buildings. Our thanks to Mrs. Gisborne, Miss Miller and Marg Hutchison for a yaliant effort in phoning.

### NEW EXECUTIVE

Elected at Annual General Meeting on September 17, 1975. All have been very busy since their election with activities in addition to their duties of office.

President - Don Reksten.

Vice-President - Eric Tomlinson: has almost completed the Area Conservation report on the Rockland Area for submission to Heritage Canada; is serving as

Secretary-Treasurer of the B. C. Regional Council of Heritage Canada.

Recording Secretary - Barbara Watkins: on Area Conservation and Inventory Committees.

Corresponding Secretary - Joan Weston: as the Executive has a propensity for sending letters, she is busy enough with correspondence, but finds time to handle the Newsletter. Joan never realized what a bargain an eight cent stamp was until the postal strike, when she had to deliver all our letters by hand.

Membership Secretary - Marg Hutchison: is also Chairman of the Inventory Committee.

Treasurer - Candy Wyatt: hosted our Christmas party, and is restoring her own heritage building.

Executive Members at Large - Pim Manning: Librarian; on Inventory Committee; took care of Award Certificates and photos for award winners.

Isla Tuck: arranged for the printing of our Hasti-notes.

Stuart Stark: is presently designing a Hallmark Society brochure. As well as restoring his own heritage building, Stuart is arranging a Hallmark Society display in the Provincial Museum.

Past Presidents - Carolyn Smyly

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

Muirhead House - after a long period of various groups showing interest, the owner agreed to give us thirty days to find a way of saving the Muirhead House. The then Minister of Public Works, Bill Hartley, agreed to seriously consider moving the house to the Legislative Precinct, with the owner's deadline for the decision December 12, one day after the provincial election. The rest is history and the house has now been demolished. In the two weeks before December 12, Garth Mayhew acted as caretaker to make sure the house was safeguarded while a decision was being awaited. With no heat and no light, he stayed overnight and we are all grateful to Garth for his undertaking, which is certainly above and beyond the call of duty. Andy Barker also helped to caretake and we send our hearty thanks to you two devoted members. The Muirhead House is a good example of a building which could have been saved, had we had the necessary funds available. Apparently there is no problem in the actual moving of a building of even this size.

Crotty Residence - this is the important Maclure-designed building at 821 Burdett. At this time, Oscar Gislason of Sealand House Moving is working out details for moving the house to property in Sooke. The former owner, Dabney Turner, was horrified when she heard the house was to be destroyed and did everything she could. Although relocation to Sooke is not the ideal solution, it is better than being crushed to rubble. The floor plans and details of this building have been recorded by Martin Segger and the Provincial Museum staff.

Community Services Fair - we participated with setting up a display, manned by Isla Tuck, Barbara Watkins and Catherine Hodgins. Apart from the good publicity, we gained a few new members.

Publicity - our "public image" determines how successful we are in creating public awareness for heritage preservation. Terry Reksten has been on "Barton & Co.," on Channel 6 five times; on Joe Easingwood's phone-in radio show over CJVI twice; has had extensive coverage in "Monday" (unfortunately now defunct); has prepared press releases for the Annual Awards; handled the large amount of media coverage of the Crotty Residence dilemma~ was appointed to the Victoria Heritage Advisory Committee.

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Hillside Bazaar - we have applied for space in April for one day during the period April 21 to 23. This has not yet been confirmed, but we will have space in the October bazaar for sure. You can help by :

- 1.) Saving your "junk" items for our booth.
- 2.) Starting plant cuttings to sell.
- 3.) With all the interest in cooking "from scratch," there is a demand for "heritage" recipes. If you have a precious recipe handed down from Grandmother, send it in for our Heritage Recipe Book.
- 4.) Patterns for making Victorian doll costumes and furniture (Barbie doll size) can be obtained if you are interested in making these items. Contact Isla Tuck, 382-7932 for further information and details on what you can contribute. Isla will also need help in manning the booth.

Heritage Day - is February 16, 1976. Bring your ideas for us to use in publicizing Heritage Day. We have written to the Premier and to the mayors of the four municipalities asking them to proclaim February 16 Heritage Day. Let's see who does!

Hasti-Notes - don't forget our fine hasti-notes, illustrated with pen and ink drawings of five Victoria heritage buildings. At \$2 for a package of ten notes, they are a bargain, and make great little gifts. Our thanks to Fran McVittie for handling their packaging.

Victoria Needlecraft Centre - we always like to support businesses who support us by locating in heritage buildings, thus ensuring their preservation. Did you know that this building at 1863 Oak Bay Avenue was the home of our Premier of B. C. in 1903? The house was scheduled to be demolished within a week, when it was rescued by Mrs. Brandt, and after saving the building from the fate of the surrounding homes (now gone) Mrs. Brandt opened her charming shop last August. She carries a wonderful selection of all needlecraft needs for everything from pictures to rugs, as well as a full line of table linens for embroidering. There are some beautiful European tapestries that are real works of art, as is, and even if you have never done any work like that before, Mrs. Brandt will be happy to help you select what you need, will get you started and even nurse you along. Do drop in and see her at the Victoria Needlecraft Centre, located at 1863 Oak

Bay Avenue.

## ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

The annual awards were presented at our Christmas party on December 17, 1975. Special thanks to Candy Wyatt for hosting the party at her gracious home. The decorations, warm atmosphere and delectable food all set the tone for a wonderful party. Thanks too to Pim Manning for preparation of the award certificates and to John Smyly for the frames.

Award winners were Labatt Breweries of British Columbia, for their renovation of Labatt Breweries at 1921 Government Street; Mr. Cecil Clark, for his "Yesterday Today" series in The Victorian; Mr. W. C. McKechnie for his fine restoration and adaptation of Chandler House at 512 Simcoe Street; The Honourable W. L. Hartley, former Minister of Public Works, for the restoration of the Parliament Buildings; Norwich Union Life Insurance Society for the selection and outstanding restoration of their premises at 1162 Fort Street, and architect Peter Cotton. in recognition of twenty years of service to heritage preservation. Due to many requests. we are reprinting here the "Ballad of Peter Cotton."

## THE BALLAD OF PETER COTTON

(on the occasion of the Hallmark Society Christmas Award Presentation,  
December 17, 1975)

Whenever we're out in bus or car  
In a part of town with an ancient air  
And we see a house with a tower stair  
And a shingled gable or bracket quaint

That is badly in need of a coat of paint  
We think of Peter Cotton.

Whenever we meet at City Hall  
To protest a zoning where buildings will fall  
And developers have us against a wall

And our tempers are short and our yawns are great  
And we still have seventeen things to debate

We think of Peter Cotton.

Whenever we sit with a letter to pen  
And we've written before and we'll write again  
To Editors, Ministers, 'Dear Gentlemen;'

When our fingers are weary, the hour is late  
And the supper tonight was burned on the plate

We think of Peter Cotton.

Whenever the bulldozer grinds into view  
And we sit there feeling sad, sick and blue  
And there just isn't anything else we can do

And we'd like to scream and we'd like to yell  
And we wish all developers burning in hell

And we'd like to yell and we'd like to scream  
And we want to wake up from this terrible dream

We think of Peter Cotton.