

JULY – AUGUST 1976 – NEWSLETTER

GOOD NEWS!

So often this newsletter is called upon to report bad news - demolitions, frustrating attempts to save heritage buildings, etc. It is a nice change to be able to report good news - in fact, we're almost delirious with joy!

ROBET ST. TOWER SAVED!

The first bit of good news came when we learned that one of our keenest new members, Jim Lee, had purchased the white tower house at 223 Robert St., one of the few designated residential buildings in Greater Victoria. You may recall in our last Newsletter that the owner was promoting demolition through neglect, so you can imagine the massive restoration project Jim has undertaken. We will keep you posted and hope you will all respond to periodic pleas for help. Congratulations and thanks to Jim Lee!

WE'VE FOUND A HOME!

For some time now we have been discussing with the Maritime Museum administration and City Hall the possibility of using the old Bastion Theatre office space for our headquarters. We are happy to report that City Hall has agreed to this, albeit on a month-to-month basis. This street-level location in Bastion Square will provide the public (and members) with the opportunity to drop in and discuss heritage matters, peruse our library, and in general be in closer contact with our Society. Stuart Stark and Rennie Knowlton are working on a decorating scheme and layout in keeping with the character of this fine old building. We will be in need of office equipment such as filing cabinets, desk, tables, chairs, bookcase, and most importantly a typewriter. If anyone can assist in obtaining these items (at the lowest possible cost, or donated, or on permanent loan) please contact Stuart at 386-0215 or drop us a note in the mail.

DEMOLITION DELAYED!

We used to think we could cope with frustration and failures if only we won one battle once in a while. Now suddenly we find ourselves witnessing the beginnings of one of the most ambitious and farsighted preservation programs ever undertaken in B.C., if not Canada. On Thursday, July 15 (circle your calendar, we may name it Victoria's Heritage Day) Victoria City Council unanimously passes an emergency by-law preventing demolition on almost 80 residential buildings judged by the Heritage Advisory Committee to be the most threatened.

All rumors to the contrary, the Hallmark Society did not spike the drinking water at City Hall! While we'll probably never know what changed the mood of the aldermen, we feel credit should go to:

- the members of the Hallmark Society who have consistently and actively promoted the cause.
- -Martin Segger and Terry Reksten, Society member on the Heritage Advisory Committee who have earned the respect of Council through their dedication and expertise.
- Aldermen Ron McKenzie and Bob Wright who have "sat in on Heritage Advisory Committee meetings, done a great amount of research and reached the conclusion that "something had to be done".
- Alderman John Hayes, recent appointee to the Heritage Advisory Committee, who guided the by-law through Council.
- and to the developers of Victoria who by making areas of the city look like a war zone, convinced Council that heritage buildings were better than rubble.

But we must not count our heritage buildings before they're designated. Council may be in for a difficult five months, because while these buildings cannot be demolished for the time being, they are not yet deSigned, and some owners may object. If you have not already done so, write to Council supporting their

efforts. And write to the Heritage Advisory Committee if a threatened building has been missed from the list published in the July 16 Colonist.

WE BLOW A KISS

At the last: general meeting, when we manned the different groups where members could sign up for the committee of their choice, what a nice surprise when one of our lady members came up and pressed a \$5 bill into our hands as a donation towards the costs of producing this Newsletter. It's always nice to be appreciated, especially in such a practical way. Dear lady, we shall respect your anonymity, but you know who you are and in appreciation, we blow you a big kiss.

AND HERE'S ANOTHER

Another bouquet goes to Gloria John. Gloria often takes her car full of interested people on an individual tour of heritage homes in Greater Victoria. This enterprising member charges them a nominal fee, and, after deducting enough to pay for her gas, turns the proceeds over to our Treasurer. A great idea, Gloria! How about the rest of you?

SPEAKING OF TOURS

Our summer outing this year, by popular demand, will be a tour of heritage buildings in the Duncan/ Chemainus/ Ladysmith area, and probably as far as Nanaimo. Your executive is working out details now. It will be an all-day outing - so bring a picnic basket - on August 15 and the fare will be \$5 a head. We hope to have a guide meet us at each town so we don't miss any important buildings. Please book your seat by August 5 by sending your cheque to our P.O. Box 1204. WE MUST know in advance exactly how many are coming as there are only so many seats to a bus. We hope you will appreciate the problem if we end up with 4 or 5 bookings over a full bus load.

We may have to disappoint a few people by returning their cheques if this happens, but we will try to avoid this situation if at all possible. So first come -

first served .. Our summer outings have always been great fun and you are welcome to bring family and friends. We will send out a special notice with details as soon as possible.

NOMINATION TIME

It's getting close to nomination time again - not only for the new executive , which will take over in September, but for Hallmark Society awards for restoration of heritage buildings. For the latter, those nominated so far include:

- OLCO Management Ltd. (Ben Levinson and Peter Orme) for the recycling of apartments and restoration of 146 Clarence St.
- Saanich Mortgage Corp. for the adaptation and restoration of 1005 Cook St. for offices.
- Val Parsons for her fine restoration of 731 Vancouver St. If you know of others, worthy of nomination, please advise your executive. And don't forget to give Pim Manning your recommendations for the 1976-77 executive.

DESIGNATED HERITAGE LIST

We often find there is some confusion over which buildings are actually "designated" as opposed to those buildings we simply consider to be heritage buildings. We have attached to this Newsletter a list of the designated buildings in Victoria. (The Tod House in Oak Bay is designated but not on this list). We hope to see this list growing in the near future.

OAK BAY NEWS (BAD)

Oak Bay residents should be alerted to the fact that two fine old buildings on Beresford (one facing Beach Drive) are in danger of demolition for a townhouse development by Park Pacific (remember Roccabella and 821 Burdett?) who seem to be systematically ridding this area of heritage buildings.

The building at the southwest corner of Beach Drive and Beresford, a former residence of Samuel Maclure, will be demolished to provide a view for the residents of the condominium proposed for the site now occupied by the Marine Chalet Apartments, a charming pre-W.W.I Tudor apartment building which as well as providing 20 rental units added much to the "English" character of Oak Bay. If you want to maintain this character, write to Oak Bay Council now!

RESTORATION INFORMATION

With a large number of buildings soon to be designated there will be a need for some source of information on the practical aspects of restoration - color schemes, replacing missing gingerbread and woodwork, building materials, decorative shingles, etc. To encourage quality restoration we want to set up a Restoration Information Committee which can provide owners with assistance in their restoration problems. If you have experience with these problems through restoring your own building or are just interested and would like to serve on this committee, please contact Stuart Stark or write to us.

HILLSIDE BAZAAR OCTOBER 13

We will be having a booth at the Hillside Mall Bazaar in October, and will need a number of people to man it. If you can help out, please contact Isla Tuck 382-7932.