



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
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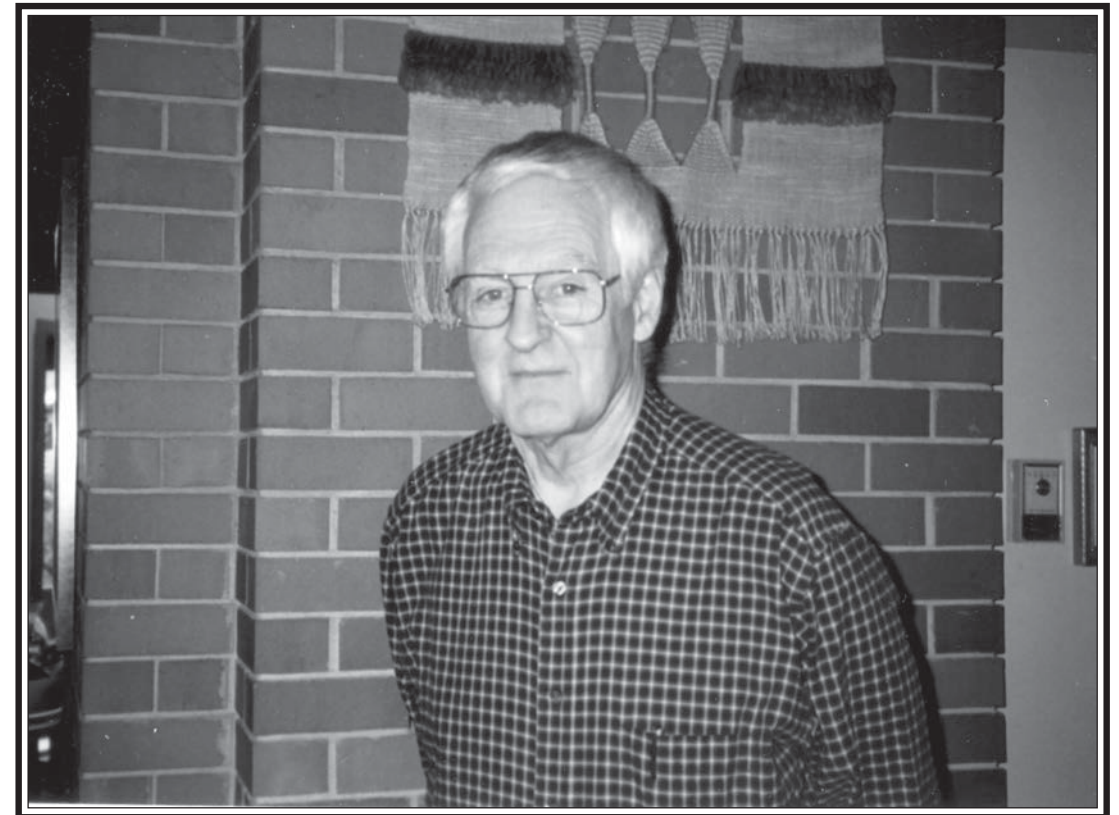
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Mandate

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

Robert Baxter, winner of the Mark Madoff Award. See page 10 for details. Photograph courtesy Robert Baxter. 🏠

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**Deadline for Autumn 2003 newsletter:
 July 31, 2003.**

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Upcoming Tour

Place: Caleb Pike Homestead, 1589 Millstream Road
Date: Sunday, June 29, 2003
Time: Noon

To find the homestead, follow Highway #1 north to Millstream Road, turn right and continue 2 km past the new municipal hall.

Please RSVP to the office before June 26, 2003 so we know you are coming.

Heritage Updates

Royal Oak School

The second Royal Oak School - 4527 West Saanich Road - is under threat. The current building which served the educational need of Saanich students from 1885 until 1950 is an integral site in the historic Saanich corridor. It sits in the midst of what has been called "a reminder of the village character and its rural roots" and is one of 12 recognized heritage sites in the Royal Oak neighbourhood.

Current plans are to move the school house from West Saanich Road to a new site at the rear of the Saanich Commonwealth Place complex. There it will be used for Pilates yoga and other exercise programs. In the new location, it will not be visible from the street and will lose its important historic context. Moving this structure is in direct contravention of the Royal Oak LAP which states under Policies: "4.1 Preserve the public visibility of heritage structures identified on Map 4.1" The old school is clearly shown on the map, thus it should remain visible to the public. This is not the first time that one municipal department has acted without knowing what another has set as policy. If this item concerns you, please write Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard and Council.

South Park School

The long awaited seismic upgrade to this historic school will commence in September but there is no guarantee of funding for the second stage of the work. Unfortunately, one of the early casualties of the upgrade will be the original slate roof. It will be replaced with a manufactured substitute. It is possible to make slate roofs safe - why was this option not explored?

The issue of upgrading older schools while closing newer, ostensibly safer, schools is a hot topic in the media these days. If we do not take a stand on preservation, the children of the future will be educated in cookie cutter learning factories with no aesthetics. In this age of environmental awareness, do we want to demonstrate, by example, that old things should be trashed in favour of new? The Board of SD #61 has restored some schools and demolished others - is there really a policy?

Oak Bay United Church

This landmark building is in real danger of being demolished. It was declared unsafe for assembly after an engineering report questioned its seismic safety some time ago and the congregation has been sharing space with St. Mary's Anglican Church. The structure was built in 1914 from plans donated by architect William Henderson. While the exterior is restrained with some raised brickwork, the interior has been described as "lovely." Huge openwork wood beam/trusses span the entire space and intersect supporting the crossing. A stained-glass window sits above the choir and organ loft. It is rumoured to be for sale as a development site. How much longer can we let our landmarks fall - how many condominium developments do we really need?

Deep Cove Chalet

Although this historically important building was in real danger of being lost forever, it has been saved by a last-minute purchase by a sympathetic owner. The restaurant has reopened and is operating under a long-term lease. 🏠

President's Message

by John Edwards

Over the last two years we have seen numerous changes in the administration of the heritage assets of this province. Since late 1977 the BC Heritage Trust existed. This has come to an end - not unanticipated with this Liberal government. At the 2002 Heritage Society of BC conference in Chilliwack it was suggested that a fund be created to look after these assets or properties but we were somewhat skeptical that this would ever happen. However, now a Heritage Legacy Fund of \$5 million has been created; the funds have been entrusted to the very rich Vancouver Foundation with partners the Heritage Society of BC and The Land Conservancy of BC to manage the funds. In the coming months you will hear a lot more about the legacy fund. The details on this are still being hammered out.

So while a quarter of a century of support of very worthy projects from the Heritage Trust comes to an end we now embark on a whole new era of heritage funding. Does this mean that is all this government is going to give to heritage and is the rest to be raised from the public for tax receipts? If this is all the province is going to commit to heritage is this another trick of off-loading financial responsibility.

At the same time the devolution of provincial properties is taking place; to date the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services has signed agreements with four businesses to take over management of provincial properties. By the time you read this, more agreements will have probably been signed. In this area, The Land Conservancy of BC has taken on Craigflower Manor, Jan and Michael Ross have the Carr House and David Coulson of Duncan's Green Door Society is negotiating on Point Ellice House.

While all this is happening, the federal government is creating the Historic Places Initiative; modeled on the American system of forty years ago (we are at least 40 years behind the Americans in some form of federal protection of heritage properties). This is leading to the Canadian Register of Historic Places. All properties of heritage significance will be listed by merging existing municipal, provincial and territorial registers. This will lead to certification process which will (hopefully) lead to tax incentives on revenue-producing assets. To date, there has been no mention of any form of benefit to non revenue-producing buildings.

We have been promised some form of federal tax incentives for the past two years of budgets and yet Ottawa keeps stalling. The scientific community has had very favourable tax incentives for decades, so why not the heritage community? We need these incentives now as so much of our built and natural heritage is disappearing quickly.

If anybody says nothing is happening in the heritage field, just mention some of these changes. If you think nothing is happening in our area, just remember we lost the Point Colville house, we almost lost the Deep Cove Chalet, on March 23rd three houses from Oak Bay sailed away, and we do not know the fate of the three houses on Sutlej Street and what is proposed for the Cook Street Village. 🏠



Awards Night 2003 Report

The twenty-ninth annual Hallmark Society heritage awards were presented on May 6, 2003 at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium. The evening commenced as usual with the presentation of municipal heritage designation plaques by the City of Victoria and Saanich.

Although there was no Louis Award this year, there was always that possibility as the announcement is not made until the end of the

ceremony. Three Awards of Merit, the Communications Award, the Mark Madoff Award and the Michael Williams Award were presented to their deserving winners (see details of the awards elsewhere in this newsletter).

The ceremony would not be the success it is without the support of our sponsors and the work of our volunteers. Working at awards night is not a huge time commitment - it's only once a year! Why don't you volunteer next year and make the load lighter on others. 🏠

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 Jim Stiven

Awards 2004

But, you say, we just had the 2003 awards. Why are you writing about the 2004 ceremony? The answer is simple - we want you to look around your community for possible award winners. If you have any suggestions, please contact the office and we will assist you with a nomination. We do accept nominations year round; they are merely held for the annual jury meeting in February.

If you wish our list of guidelines which will enable you to write your own nomination, please let us know and we will send it to you. If you follow our suggestions carefully and include all the material requested, your nomination stands a better chance. Further information on the awards program is available from the office or on our website at <http://www.hallmarksociety.ca>. 🏠

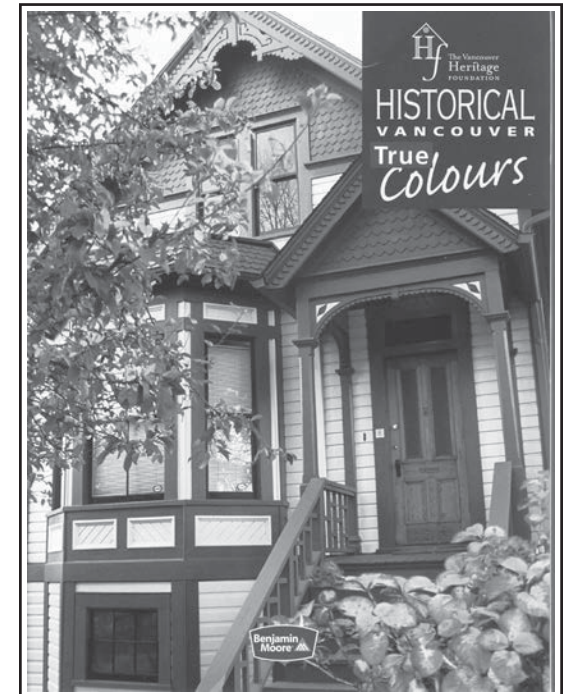
Historical Colour Chart Available

This spring Benjamin Moore & Co. Ltd. released its new colour card which incorporates the colours found through Vancouver's *True Colours* program. As we learned from Don Luxton's lecture last December, Benjamin Moore painstakingly recreated the historical colours found in older Vancouver buildings. The new card is a visual treat for the eyes. The colours - which bear Vancouver names based on where they were discovered on houses - are further grouped into time and stylistic groups. For example, Victorian Peridot, Hastings Red, Pendrell Green, and Haddington Grey are shown as appropriate for a late 19th century Victorian structure. Full colour images of actual buildings decorated in appropriate colours give meaning to the names.

The attractive chart is informative as well. There is a page of regional historic information (much of the information given there applies to our area as well) as well as a "before" and "after" example using the paint; this page also supplies the history of the *True Colours* program.

We have one copy of the card in the office. If you wish your own, they are available at a cost of \$1.00 each. Contact the Vancouver Heritage Foundation at mail@vancouverheritagefoundation.org or visit your Benjamin Moore dealer. 🏠

Hallmark Society Newsletter Summer 2003



Calendar

- June 29, 2003** Tour of Caleb Pike Schoolhouse, 1589 Millstream Road, Highlands. Meet on site at Noon. RSVP to office before June 26th.
- September 26, 2003** Regional Meeting, Heritage Society of BC, Kamloops, BC. Visit <http://www.islandnet.com/~hsbc> for details or call 384-4840.
- September 29, 2003** Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker: Ed Schaefer on the restoration of the stained glass and Ken Johnson on the restoration of the stonework at Christ Church Cathedral. James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 pm.
- October 3-5, 2003** Society of Architectural Historians - Marion Dean Ross/Pacific Northwest Chapter annual meeting and conference, Victoria, BC. Visit <http://www.sahmdr.org> for details or call the office @382-4755
-

BC Heritage Legacy Fund Created

On March 24, 2003, George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services announced the creation of a fund which will allow communities to take a leadership role in heritage conservation. The Legacy Fund will be managed by a non-profit entity that the Heritage Society of BC and The Land Conservancy of BC will establish by October. In a ceremony at Emily Carr, itself a significant heritage resource, representative of the two organizations and Abbott signed a memorandum of understanding. The new fund will take the place of the BC Heritage Trust which was wound up at the end of March.

The province has provided an endowment of \$5,000,000 which has been deposited with the Vancouver Foundation. The new managing entity must raise an additional \$5,000,000 to ensure the continuing of the fund. This fund is only a beginning - this amount is but a fraction of the funds that are needed - but they cannot be redirected or cancelled. Thus, management is not subject to the whims of politicians and rests with those sympathetic to the preservation of heritage.

HSBC and TLC are currently developing a strategy to administer the fund and will be devising both a fundraising plan and funding programs. 🏠

Landmark Book Available

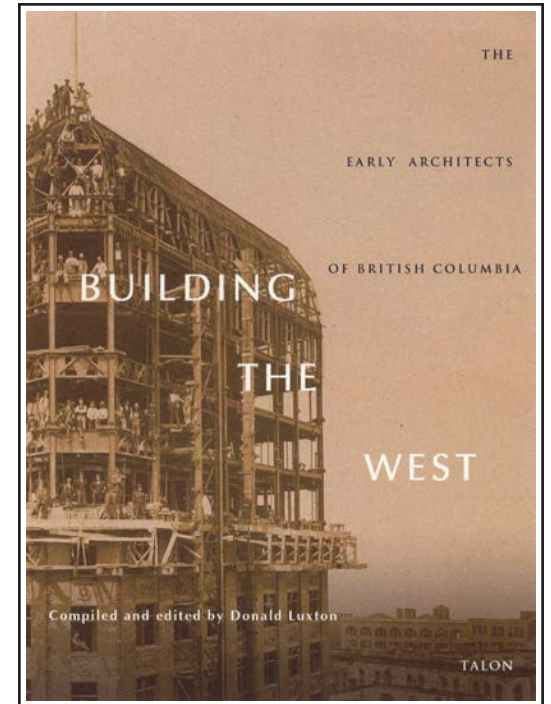
Edited and compiled by Don Luxton, and published in the spring of 2003 by Talon Books, "Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia" is a comprehensive, fully illustrated, biographical and historical account of 400 architects, who from the province's earliest colonial days to 1938, helped shape and influence British Columbia's built landscape. The book's six chapters outline both the social and architectural history of the province as an architect's legacy is the buildings he leaves behind.

The project began eleven years ago when Don Luxton, who was conducting research on Thomas Hooper, and Stuart Stark, researching John Gerhard Tiarks, discussed a small reference booklet on early architects intended to showcase others than the "big two" Maclure and Rattenbury. From its humble beginnings, the work grew to include researchers and writers from throughout the province and, indeed, throughout the world. Work was assisted by the wonder of the internet which made instant communication possible. There are stories of the quirky - like Elmer Fisher who fabricated all his information (including his place of birth and credentials) but, nevertheless created Vancouver's Alhambra Hotel and Seattle's Pioneer Square. Early architects worked at several professions; serving as builders, civil engineers, undertakers, or whatever it took to keep alive.

Many of the photographs which bring alive the descriptive text are from private collections and have never been seen in public. In addition, descendants of several architects assisted with research and writing. The book represents thousands of hours of research by collaborators who were not only willing to work *gratis* but also to share the results of their work with others. For the first time, the story of these pathfinders in the architectural field has been documented, and errors in attribution of buildings has been corrected.

The book won the Heritage Canada Achievement Award at the recent Heritage Society of British Columbia awards ceremony.

The Victoria Heritage Foundation is selling copies of the book for \$60.00. Proceeds from the sales will benefit the projects of the Education Committee which is working on the updated version of "This Old House." For further information, please call 389-1864. 🏠



Award of Merit Janet and Philip Illingworth 1897 Monteith Street

The home was built in 1914 for H. T. Barnes, the insurance department manager for R. P. Rithet Co. Ltd. He had also worked for the Star Shipyards at Point Ellice and the Albion Iron Works. Architect A. B. Schallerer designed a nicely-detailed bungalow with two widths of shingles and paired gable brackets. The matching original garage faces Anscomb Place at the rear.

The Illingworths purchased the property in January 1985. They first removed the shag rugs and refinished the hardwood floors. A new electrical service and rewiring brought the home up to code. They rebuilt the rear deck and part of the north side fence. The roof was restored with extensive replacement of tongue and groove soffit and structural reinforcement of roof supports.

In 1993, the Illingworths remodeled the kitchen, installing a new oak floor. They also installed a new gas furnace. In 1994, they undertook extensive shingle repair and replacement as well as uncovering original rails and other buried features. The exterior was returned to its original colours as determined by Stuart Stark's analysis.

Between 1996 and 2002, they painted the interior rooms in period colours. They are also replacing lights with period and replica fixtures. All picture and plate railings, baseboards and the dining room china cabinet have been restored or replaced where necessary. The changes have been striking, returning the rooms to their former ambiance. The garage was also returned to its original appearance. The pink 1960s bathroom



was restored with the removal of the false ceiling, restoration of mouldings, a period tile floor and wainscoting, new claw tub with matching sink, water closet and taps. In 2002, the deck rail was replaced to better reflect the age of the home. The project has returned this bungalow to its original appearance and has revitalized the streetscape.



Open Air “In the Square!”

This summer, Centennial Square will come alive with theatre, music, dance, a Friday farm market, cooking demonstrations, and movies. The Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and TNT Productions present an extension of the highly-successful Folkfest at Ship's Point (June 28-July 6).

Open Air “in the Square” runs from June 28 - September 1 from Noon to 9:30 pm daily. This event will dramatically increase the number of visitors to Centennial Square; this should be good for increasing heritage awareness. Entry to all events is through the purchase of a \$5.00 button.

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Summer Student Update – The Streetscapes Project

by Erin Coulson

Have you been wondering what had happened with the Fairfield Inventory project since our display board was completed in December 2001? Anyone who has popped by the Centennial Square office recently will know that work on this project is continuing at a healthy pace, with the final phase of the inventory well within reach by the end of the summer.

A variety of students have worked with Helen Edwards over the past three years, documenting the architectural fabric of Gonzales, Fairfield, and Rockland both photographically and textually – in order to provide a rich and accessible network of information on the streetscapes and individual buildings within these three areas.

Information is being gathered on the design, ownership, and significant architectural features of each house within this massive residential district – everything from details regarding construction materials and provenance to owners' biographies and social histories.

The project will likely have a higher profile as we move into this next stage of research – an effort which includes archival investigation, database construction, and oral history interview work. The two new faces around the office lately are Eliana Macdonald and Erin Coulson – UVic students nearing completion of degrees in geography and art history respectively.

The first task laid out at the beginning of May was to assess how far the previous students had taken research on these houses and to determine which types of information would be a priority for the upcoming months.

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This project assessment requires each record to be evaluated and organized – some requiring only a slight editor's touch, others with the bulk of their material yet to be gathered and recorded. The research progress is charted on a colour-coded map of Gonzales, Fairfield, and Rockland – a process which helps the team to organize their approach to the remaining research and make their progress easily visible to the public (and project supervisor!)

Anyone is welcome to stop by #10 Centennial Square and check up on the status of our inventory project or offer information on any of the properties within that area. The hope is that this database (and accompanying photographic catalogue) will become a valuable research tool for anyone interested in learning more about Victoria's architectural fabric – and the more visitors we have who are willing to contribute their knowledge, memories, and insight into this project, the more rich and nuanced that resource will be!



1494 Dallas Road: One of the many buildings which has been changed - in this case, demolished - since we completed the photographic inventory in August 2001.

Award of Merit

Andria Tetlow and the Friends of Knockan Hill Society

This band of community volunteers were the driving force to create awareness of the condition of Stranton Lodge at 1248 Burnside Road West and to lobby for its protection from demolition. They have, from the beginning, encouraged and participated in the restoration of the house as well as the restoration of what used to be a showpiece woodland garden surrounding the house.



The small Arts and Crafts cottage designed in 1930 by architect Hubert Savage for Maude and Thomas Hall is owned by the District of Saanich and is included as part of Knockan Hill Park. In the early 1990s there was concern that the house was to be demolished to provide a parking lot for the park. At the request of the Friends of Knockan Hill, the Saanich Heritage Advisory and Archival Committee reviewed the site and requested municipal designation; the site was designated in May 1992. The house is restored and currently rented, but the gardens and surrounding park are open for the public to enjoy.

The Halls were exceptional gardeners and the garden was a Saanich showpiece. Starting in 1939, local nurseryman Arthur Lahmer constructed at least 13 garden pools and a bog garden. There were a series of steps and terraces planted with herbs, shrubs and perennials. Shown here is a perennial which was discovered during the restoration.

Starting in 1995, a plan to restore the unique gardens was developed by the Stranton Lodge Management Committee of which the volunteers from the Friends of Knockan Hill were key members. The progress of invasive species was halted, revealing the outline of former flower beds and walkways. The bulk of the work has been carried out by volunteers who have sought professional expertise when necessary. Andria Tetlow was instrumental in getting the H.E.A.R.T.S. Program included in the volunteer garden restoration program. This has further enhanced the community involvement. The H.E.A.R.T.S. Program is a horticultural training program for people with developmental disabilities.

The garden has been restored and maintenance is ongoing. After many volunteer hours of clearing and inventorying the plantings, the garden today consist of shrubs, perennials, roses, water and rock plantings and is starting to resemble the "showpiece" garden that it once was. The Friends continue to volunteer in the management and care of the house and garden. Their ongoing efforts and commitment have ensured the success of this project. 🏡

Award of Merit

British Columbia Buildings Corporation

514 Government Street

Hunter House at 514 Government Street is an important building on a historic street. Through the efforts of BCBC, it has been rescued from an uncertain fate, has been upgraded to current standards and returned to active life. Throughout the project, care was taken to replicate original elements wherever possible while at the same time removing later, unsympathetic additions.



This part of Government Street, known as the Bird Cage Walk until after the turn of the twentieth century, was a fashionable area where prominent families lived. Former BC premier Robson who lived at 506 Government Street retained Thomas Sorby to design 514 Government Street as a wedding gift to his daughter and John Hunter upon their marriage. The house is a fine example of Victorian Italianate architecture, constructed of California redwood with fine detailing. It was designed as the mirror image of Robson House with which it shares a side yard.

In 1999 BCBC retained Allan R. Cassidy Architect Inc. to develop a plan to replace the failed rubblestone foundation. The building was raised 1/8" off the failed foundation by Island House Moving Ltd. A new reinforced concrete foundation with a "brick ledge" detail, was then installed and the house lowered back onto the new foundation. The carefully removed original rubble stones were trucked to Duncan, BC where 4" of of the stones' faces were wet sawn off, returned to the site and reinstalled onto the face of the new concrete foundation using the "brick ledge" for support.

In 2000 Cassidy and Lowe Architects were retained to develop an exterior rehabilitation plan. They removed an attached concrete block vault, installed a suitable new front step assembly that was designed to replace the long-ago removed unit and installed a decorative upper railing that exactly replicated the missing original. A second floor washroom bump-out, added years before, was also removed and the south stairwell was replaced to its original design. The balance of the exterior was repaired and replaced with new material as required. During this year, the second floor was reoccupied after having been vacant for several years.

In 2001 Edyth Bradley was retained to investigate and determine the original paint scheme for the exterior of the building. Paint scrapings and analysis were developed into a colour board showing the true original scheme. All existing paint was completely removed to bare wood and the building received a complete new paint system using modern products in the exact original colours. 🏡

Michael Williams Award LeFevre and Company 536-538 Herald Street

Designed by the noted Victoria architectural firm of Hooper and Watkins, the building was constructed in 1909 as a warehouse for the cold storage and ice-making business of the Wilson brothers. Biggerstaff Wilson was a prominent businessman whose father, William Wilson, an English pioneer merchant, ran a store that still stands at Trounce Alley and Government Street. Biggerstaff Wilson worked for the Bank of British Columbia, inherited money from England, and married the daughter of the owner of the Victoria Phoenix Brewery.

On February 14, 2002, a spectacular fire badly damaged the structure. For several hours, fire crews battled the stubborn fire which forced evacuation of adjacent buildings. If there was any owner who could undertake the massive task of rehabilitating a heritage structure after a fire, it was Chris LeFevre. After all, he had done it before with the Biggerstaff building next door which was gutted by fire in 1997. That project, completed in 1999, won awards from the Hallmark Society and the Heritage Society of BC.

Although the project was delayed by the fire, it was well underway by August, 2002. In a newspaper interview, LeFevre said: "The fire set us back in time, but it didn't set us back in terms of the ethos of the original idea." The Herald street facade has been brought back to life with retail space on the ground floor, offices for a landscape architect in the basement, and four new loft-style apartments on the upper floor. The storefronts have been carefully restored and the second storey windows have been restored with new wood pivot windows manufactured by Vintage



Woodworks. The rear portion of the building was destroyed by the fire and has been replaced with a new residential building containing twenty new apartments designed to reflect the industrial character of the area.

The original roof on the front portion of the building was also destroyed by the fire, but Mr. LeFevre managed to secure some heavy wood timbers from a bowling alley in Esquimalt under demolition; the roof decking came from old houses. New walls were clad in the 50,000 bricks salvaged and soda-washed after the fire.

The project was assisted by a partial tax exemption under the City's Tax Incentive Program for Residential conversion and by a grant from the Building Incentive Program of the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust. The rehabilitation of the Wilson Building demonstrates the creative use of the City's heritage incentive programs and the careful attention to detail has resulted in a beautifully restored heritage facade on Herald Street while the new residential units will add vitality and vibrancy to the north end of downtown. It will complement the previous award-winning projects in the area - Dragon Alley and Biggerstaff Studios. This project is an outstanding example of rehabilitation work in downtown Victoria which makes a positive contribution to its revitalization.



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Mark Madoff Award Robert Baxter

Robert Baxter is a retired architect who has been active in the field of heritage conservation for twenty-nine years. He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Architecture in 1960. He worked under Alan Hodgson on the restoration of the BC legislative Buildings from 1973 to 1978. He was an associate of Wagg & Hambleton architects from 1978 to 1983, worked with Wade Williams until 1986, and was a member of the firm Holovsky, Baxter and Mansfield until 1990. He then became an associate partner of the Campbell Moore Group and, in 1995, joined Paul Merrick Architects as partner and director of the Victoria office.

Over the span of his professional career, he has been supervising architect on a number of major heritage rehabilitation projects in Victoria including Craigdarroch Castle life safety upgrading, Lampson Street School, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria High School, and Point Ellice House. He has also served his community in a volunteer capacity. He is currently the President of the Board of Directors of the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust, Chairman of the Victoria Heritage Foundation, a member of the City of Victoria Heritage Advisory committee, and the Saanich Heritage Advisory and Archival Committee.

Bob's professional work has demonstrated a sound knowledge of heritage conservation principles and practise and an extraordinary sensitivity to the preservation of the historic fabric of our community. His numerous volunteer commitments to the various heritage organizations in Greater Victoria demonstrate an exemplary record of community service to the field of heritage preservation in Victoria.

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Communication Award Township of Esquimalt

The Township of Esquimalt won for the addition of walking tours to their municipal website.

The tours were created by Sherri Robinson, a long-time volunteer with the Esquimalt Archives and Past Chair of the Esquimalt Heritage Advisory Committee.

They were originally presented in printed brochures with the text linked to a defined route indicating the time required to complete the walk and whether any hills were involved. Also provided were connections to transit bus and harbour ferry. The seven tours are now accessible on Esquimalt's Web Page.

Each of the tours features six to nine sites or buildings of historic significance. A combination of archival materials and recent photographs accompany the informative and entertaining text.

Information contained in each of the tours includes: historic events, ties to historic persons, names of original owners, builders and architects, architectural styles, and natural features and viewpoints.

Also included are notes on buildings and businesses which, although no longer present, were significant in the development of Esquimalt. The Township of Esquimalt is commended for presenting historical information to a potential worldwide audience.

Even if you never actually walk the routes, you will be better educated about Esquimalt's rich history after browsing the website at <http://www.esquimalt.ca/Recreation>.

