

Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Architectural Landmarks



Your voice in heritage preservation in the Capital Region since 1973



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Mandate

he 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

n June 29, 2003, the Hallmark Society travelled to Caleb Pike Heritage Park. See story on page 8 for more information.

Notice of Meeting

he Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 29, 2003 at 234 Menzies Street. Elections and Reports. Guest speakers on restoration of Christ Church Cathedral. Raffle - A Travellers Guide to British Columbia by Rosemary Neering. See Calendar on page 12 for more information.

Deadline for Winter2003 newsletter: October 20, 2003.

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President's Message

by John Edwards

There has been a lot of press given to the demolition of Mount St. Mary's Hospital. It seems that most of the concern has come at the eleventh hour, when it became generally known that demolition was to happen immediately. Reference was made to St. Ann's Academy, demanding similar action. Yes, St. Ann's was saved by tremendous effort and persistence of concerned citizens, but we had the right minister (Andrew Petter), the right architects, and the right government at the right time. Also, St. Ann's is a National Historic Site.

Unfortunately, in today's economics, we are so often guided by the bottom line on an income statement. We can only assume that this is what guided the Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the five partners in 1999 (Capital Regional Health Hospital Board, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Provincial Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, Ministry of Health and the Marie Esther Society) when the fate of this hospital was determined. Mount St. Mary's was built in 1940 with H. Whittaker as the chief architect in the Art Deco/Moderne style. In 1984, Don Luxton gave this building the highest rating of five stars in his book on Art Deco sponsored by the Hallmark Society. Although few have seen the MOU, \$700,000 is allocated for the demolition. This seems the sore point with most, that public money is being used. The hospital contains 60,000 sq. ft.-the maximum under current zoning. Obviously, once the building is down, an application will come forward to increase the zoning by 30,000 sq. ft., making the land very desirable. It is very regrettable that the MOU was not brought to our attention in 1999. We could have acquired a copy and had a deeper understanding of the whole agreement. The City of Victoria has given a demolition permit and

they are adamant that they will not reverse it and face possible legal implications. Of greater concern is that the City of Victoria's heritage registry does not include many of these buildings, especially in the Cathedral precinct. I have attended several Council meetings where I became aware that other areas of the city have incomplete inventories. Current inventories are now obsolete; other municipalities are fast leaving Victoria behind.

On other occasions issues come to us at the last minute, when all else fails and it suddenly became a heritage issue. A case in point was the Railyards Project in Vic West. After a public hearing at City Hall went against the wishes of a few, they approached both Hallmark and the Heritage Society of BC on the traffic concerns. Both organizations did write letters of support, but neither received a thank-you.

It is not all bad news, because the 16-acre Newman farm, valued at over \$1.3M, has been willed to the District of Central Saanich. The property, acquired in the 1880s has remained as a working farm since Henry (the last of four bachelor brothers) passed away in 2000. All the implements of years as a farm are still in the various outbuildings. It is a rural heritage treasure. Many remember Times Colonist photographer Debra Brash's picture of John Newman having in a bath in a house without electricity; that image won a national newspaper award.

One of the things that we have been after is a maintenance bylaw for heritage property. It seems that Port Moody has taken the lead and passed a bylaw under Section 970 of the Local Government Act. Iknow this has been discussed by Vancouver and Victoria, but to my knowledge, neither has taken any steps in that area yet.

John Edwards

Why Should I Volunteer?

by Helen Edwards

conomic restraint often means that non-profit organizations are unable to fund paid staff. The gap is generally filled by volunteer labour. Many factors motivate people to volunteer their time but there are some key reasons.

Volunteering strengthens the organization. Citizens can be a part of solving community problems, bringing people together, and inspiring the general public to act on a specific issues.

It is easier than you think to volunteer. You can create your own time schedule and determine the type of work you do. There are fulfilling volunteer jobs for people of all skills and backgrounds. Through your work, you learn valuable skills for life and work, and become familiar with community concerns.

Before volunteering, it helps to think about what you might want to do, and when you want to do it. Answer the following four questions and use the results to help you find an appropriate position:

- 1. What issue would you like to work on? List issues that concern you or causes that you support. What subjects draw your attention while reading the newspaper? Do some research on the internet or at a public library to find local organizations that share your concerns. Be an informed volunteer; know about the organization before you make a time commitment.
- 2. To help you get the most out of your experience, it helps to understand **what is motivating you**, and what you expect to get out of the experience. Think seriously about why you wish to volunteer. Suggestions include:
 - a. a reason to "make a difference"
 - b. a chance to use a skill or talent
 - c. an opportunity for professional experience or contacts
 - d. a chance to meet people who share your viewpoint
 - e. personal growth
 - f. to bring more balance to your life
 - g. the opportunity to give "something back"
- 3. It helps to be clear about your time commitment. Think about your schedule and what time you have available. Do you want to volunteer regularly (i.e. each week) or flexibly (at special events from time to time)?
- 4. Where do you want to volunteer? Factor in travel time and costs.

Remember, it's fun to work as part of a team, to have a break from other responsibilities, and to use your skills in a new way. Volunteering is good for you. It can reduce stress and gives you hope that thing can be changed for the better. No matter what motivates you to volunteer, remember that many organizations can use your talents (including the Hallmark Society). All it takes is a bit of self-reflection and research to find a highly rewarding position.

Hallmark Society Board Members Wanted

Election of officers and directors for the Hallmark Society Board of Directors will take place at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 29, 2003. 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 Board members.

Duties of Directors include membership coordination, special projects, awards night planning, and special tours. 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 Member's Night, Awards Night, 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 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:

President

Secretary

4 Directors

One-year terms:

Treasurer

2 Directors

There are also 2 Trustee positions available with the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society. If you are interested, please let us know.

Devolution Update: You Win Some, You Lose Some

by Helen Edwards

he devolution of provincial heritage properties is ongoing. However, it is not a smooth process. Three properties in the Victoria area have been turned over to managers, but the future of another is cloudy.

On May 1, 2003 (coincidentally the anniversary of Kenneth McKenzie's original occupancy in 1856) Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse became the responsibility of The Land Conservancy of BC. Under the term of the agreement, TLC has the right to run the site for 15 years. Hudson's Bay Company President George Heller was on hand to lend his organization's support for the new enterprise. Look for positive changes to the site.

Helmcken House is now part of the Royal BC Museum. Given its location within the museum precinct, this is a logical move and one that ensures a future for this significant building.

Management of Carr House at 207 Government Street for the next 15 years was turned over to Jan and Michael Ross - permittees for the last 8 years-on July 3, 2003. MLA Jeff Bray, representing heritage minister George Abbott, gave the Rosses the "key to the property" before an appreciative audience of heritage advocates, artists, and government representatives. The occasion also marked the launch of a new coalition of the Victoria business community and tourism sectors - using Carr House as its base of operations - to

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Victoria MLA Jeff Bray applauds while Jan and Michael Ross "cut the ribbon" at Carr House.

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bring business conferences to the region's historic sites. Jan Ross who spearheaded the plan said: "We see a great opportunity to attract conference organizers who may wish to hold their meetings and receptions in the unique ambiance of a Craigdarroch Castle or a St. Ann's Academy."

At Point Ellice House, however, all is not rosy. The province has broken off negotiations with Dave Coulson of Duncan, the only applicant asked to submit a proposal for this unique site. This is one site which cannot be lost; it is the most intact collection of Victoriana in the province.

Elsewhere in the province, the successful bidder to manage Barkerville, the largest and most complex site in BC was the District of Wells. The District has withdrawn from the tendering process citing a "major shortfall funding and an unworkable deadline." Even if the applicants had raised admission fees, cut staff and increased contributions from merchants, they would still have a substantial shortfall in the operating budget; as well there was no allowance for ongoing maintenance for the 150 buildings or the water and sewer system. For the last ten years, Barkerville has been slowly dying as funding has been reduced, bringing staff levels to all-time lows; insufficient to care properly for the over 300,00 artifacts on site. The District of Wells which depends financially on the tourists visiting Barkerville is still interested in managing the site but insists that funding be restored to previous levels and that the devolution be delayed until business plans can be developed. They would also like to see a foundation endowed to ensure future needs are met.

The loss of Barkerville would be devastating to Wells and the surrounding area and an unforgivable loss to the rich history of our province. When will the government realize that each site is unique and the solution to one is not applicable to them all? There is more to our heritage than dollars and cents; once sites are lost through delayed maintenance and the resulting self-destruction, or the public ceases to care, they cannot be recaptured. My family visited Barkerville in 1958 when it first opened as part of our province's centennial celebrations. In later visits, we noted several changes which enhanced our experience. Over the last 8 years, private operators have invested heavily in individual enterprises within the overall site. What happens to their dreams - not to mention their capital?

"Barkerville belongs to the people of British Columbia and they are entitled to know what is going on" says Wells Councillor Judy Campbell. "In 1958, the people of this province banded together to ask the government to preserve Barkerville. It appears they may need to do that again."

Although the province has concluded that "heritage" is part of the government's mandate, it has failed to provide sufficient startup capital to enable its site managers to operate. Heritage funding has now dwindled to a fraction of what it was when the sites were viewed with pride. Now they are struggling for their very existence.

The Premier has assured us that the 2010 Winter Olympics will bring prosperity to the province. Will some of the heritage properties still be around to benefit? Devolution is government gobbledygook for "passing the buck." But whatever it means, devolution must not lead to demolition.

Write your MLA and the Premier and let them know how you feel. Together we can make a difference; indifference is our biggest enemy.

Hallmark Society on Tour

by Helen Edwards

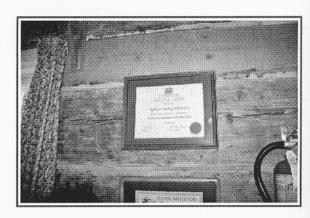


n June 29, 2003, a group of Hallmark Society members travelled to the Highlands to visit the Caleb Pike Heritage Park. Our tour coincided with the monthly market so the vendors welcomed this influx of "strangers with cash to spend." (Almost everyone came home with something from the market.)

We were led on our tour by Eric Hebert, Judith Stricker and Bob McMinn, The Caleb Pike Homestead was built in 1883 of Douglas Fir; the rafters and ceiling joists were hand-hewn from local timber and the cedar roof shakes were hand-split. Caleb Pike, born in Dorsetshire, travelled to Fort Victoria aboard the Norman Morison, arriving in Victoria in March 24, 1850. As he was an illiterate, unskilled labourer, he was indentured to the Hudson's Bay Company for five years. On the completion of his contract, he was given the choice of land or cash. Accepting the latter, he purchased 40 acres in the Esquimalt district. In 1856 he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Duncan Lidgate, a Saanich pioneer who had arrived on the Norman Morison's

second voyage. They lived on Yew Tree Farm until they moved to the Fraser Valley with his brothers William and Jonas. By 1870, the Pikes were back farming in the Highlands. The Homestead was Pike's last home in which he managed to fit five bedrooms, a kitchen and sitting room into the 20 x 30 foot, one-and-a-half-storey structure.

When Caleb Pike died in 1888, his son obtained the rights to the 160-acre farm for \$160.00. By 1912, the property was owned by W.C. Holmes, whose son Cuthbert married into the Pemberton family. He enlarged the farmhouse, began an English garden and planted fruit trees. As the property passed through a succession of owners, it deteriorated. At one point, it seemed the old homestead would be lost forever, but it was eventually offered as a gift to the public. In 1983, the Highlands Heritage Park Society was formed to restore and manage the site. Restoration involved the removal of additions along the east and south sides of the building and removal of the corrugated iron which covered the original shake roof. Rotten logs were removed and replaced with sound material. Much of the restoration was accomplished using hand tools; holes were drilled using an antique hand drill and cedar shakes were hand split. The work won a Hallmark Society Award of Merit in 1986; the certificate hangs proudly on the wall of the Homestead.



New buildings have been added to the site - for functionality and storage - but they are constructed in the same manner as the original and are beginning to weather to match.



The caretakers' cottage (seen above) is a replica of the Gregory House, extant on Munn's Road. It has weathered well and now shows the lovely silver colour of wood exposed to the elements.

The Society's current project is the old Highlands schoolhouse and teacherage which have been moved on to the site. For more details on this work, please see Davyd McMinn's article in the Spring 2001 Hallmark Society newsletter. Bob McMinn spoke with great pride of the work of his son, Davyd, in this important restoration. "It



will last for another century," he said, "because my son did the work." This is an ambitious undertaking, with much interior work yet to be completed. The adjacent teacherage (seen below to the left of the schoolhouse) is being restored as well.



It was not until we were leaving the site that we noticed the hand-split cedar fence and the unusual Victorian gate. Both were restored to match those in an original photograph.



What a treat it was to tour a site, full of historical and architectural importance, with three such knowledgeable guides who obviously have pride in their site. We encourage everyone to take a drive out the Highlands to view living history, saved through the dedication of volunteers.

History and Heritage All too often the distinction is missed, says John Stuart

by John Stuart

ome months ago I had the pleasure of discussing industrial heritage with the Vancouver Historical Society. For many it was an introduction to the world of the heritage advocate. And there is that critical difference. By definition historians talk about events and heritage advocates talk about things. It can be very useful to understand the relationship between history and heritage.

The Random House Dictionary defines history thus: "1. The branch of knowledge dealing with past events. 2. A continuous, systematic narrative of past events as relating to a particular people, country, period, person, etc., usually written in chronological order. 3. The aggregate of past events. 4. The record of past events, esp. in connection with the human race" The Concise Oxford Dictionary definition is similar, as is Webster's or any other authoritative source. What is absent is a reference to substantial objects.

Heritage is fundamentally different. The Random House Dictionary defines it this way: "1. That which comes or belongs to one by reason of birth; an inherited lot or portion. 2. Something reserved for one. 3. Law. A. that which has been or may be inherited by legal descent or succession. B. any property, esp. land, that devolves by right of inheritance." Rather than focusing on events, heritage is more concerned with "any property, esp[ecially]land, that devolves by right of inheritance."

In the context of heritage conservation the reference to real property, especially (but not exclusively) land, is the critical issue. Heritage comprises the kinds of things that may be passed



A circa 1940 view of Christ Church Cathedral, the Hotel Vancouver and the Georiga Medical-Dental Building: The first two are part of Vancouver's herirage; the latter is history (it was demolished and is only known through written and photographic documentation).

down in a will-land, buildings, grandmother's tea service. It is not the list of crops that were grown on the land. It is the 40 acres. It is not the original plans for the building. It is the building. It is not the reminiscence of the parties where the tea service was used. It is the teapot, the coffee pot, the cream pitcher, the sugar bowl and the tray.

The distinction is critical. One can study or write history for a lifetime and never preserve a single object. That means that a city council or an organization can commission a history of the community or the venerable firm and then authorize the demolition of every old building in sight.

When protests arise, they have the perfect answer: "We have invested a lot of money preserving our heritage by having the book

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written. There is certainly no money to preserve that old building."

The suggestion that writing down the story is somehow equivalent to preserving the object is an intriguing one. It assumes that the only valuable knowledge is what has been written down.

As it happens the objects of our concern, buildings, usually result from a variety of skills. There is the skill of the designer who works for a patron. There will be documents that describe the issues here. Yet there are also the varied skills of the people who actually made the thing.

Usually a separate trade practises each body of skills. Significantly, those skills are often passed from journeyman to apprentice and mastered only after long practice. "The mysteries of the craft," to use an ancient expression, aren't always written down. If no one is around to learn from the craftsman, or there is no demand for his abilities, the skills may well die with their practitioner. The only way to study them is to study the object.

The object is as much a repository of knowledge as the diary or archive. We watch the Keno brothers "read" American furniture on the Antiques Roadshow each week. If the piece is truly old and no living person can verify its history, all there is to go on is the object itself.

They look at design, primary woods, secondary woods, handles, decoration, finishes, construction technique, tool marks, colour as an indicator of age, wear as evidence of use, and so on. They then compare the object with the story provided by the owner.

After all that is done they say the piece was made by so-and-so in such-and-such. They have "read" the artifact and compared it to everything similar they have everseen. All this makes up the essence of a connoisseur's skills. In case we think that being a connoisseur is somehow esoteric, the same skills may be used to assess almost anything - wine, food, cars, buildings, clothes, apples at the grocery store.

One additional thought: Should we be thinking aboutheritage for the future? The Oxford definition of heritage certainly suggests the possibility. It says that heritage is "what is or may be inherited." If you had the opportunity, what would you choose from the recent building projects for preservation? I'll leave that question with you. In the meantime, have a look at a Website sponsored by The Canadian Conservation Institute: www.preservation.gc.ca. You will find lots of valuable information about techniques to preserve your heritage.

John Stuart has a BA and MA in Art History from UBC and a Diploma of Mechanical Technology from BCIT. Watch for upcoming events related to his continuing focus of attention, industrial heritage. John will be a guest speaker at a future Hallmark Society meeting. He welcomes your thoughts at stuartj@direct.ca or (604) 988-5572 evenings and weekends.

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the **Heritage Vancouver** newsletter. It is reproduced here with the permission of both the author and the Society.

See http://www.heritagevancouver.org for news on their activities.

Calendar

September 18-20, 2003	Heritage Canada Foundation Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Theme is
	Heritage Preservation Works.
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For more information: http:/www.heritagecanada.org.

September 26, 2003 Heritage Society of BC Regional Meeting, Kamloops, BC.

Visit http://www.islandnet.com/~hsbc for details or call 384-4840.

September 29, 2003 Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting. Guest speakers: 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.

February 16-21, 2004 Heritage Week. Theme: Military Heritage.

March 31-April 4, 2004 National Council on Public History conference, Victoria, BC. The proposed title and theme for the conference is *Cultural Places and Natural Spaces*:

Memory, History, and Landscape. This will be a joint meeting with the

American Society for Environmental History. Conference headquarters will be the Fairmont Empress Hotel. Visit http://ncph.org for more

information.

Can You Help?

s you are aware, we now have a storefront office location in Centennial Square. This is a wonderful space where we are able to showcase our photograph collection and advertise our services. We have gained several new members from our walk-in traffic - far more than in previous years - and feel it will improve as our location becomes better known. Information from our files is also being used by corporations in their websites, consultants in their research, and developers seeking historical images.

The downside to this scenario, however, is that we are required to pay rent to the City of Victoria for the space. Although the rental amount is modest, given the size of our facility, it is straining our financial resources. There is, of course, a solution to the problem. If every member made a donation of \$20.00 to the society, this would cover our rental expense and allow us to use our membership revenue for other office expenses and special projects.

Important Notice to All Members

he Board of Directors wishes to advise that the following motions will be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on September 29, 2003.

Be it resolved that Hallmark Society membership dues be raised to compensate for the escalating cost of printing and postage. Proposed new rates are as follows:

Single adult \$25.00 Family \$35.00 Affiliated groups \$50.00 Corporations \$50.00

It is further moved that a new membership category be created for students in attendance as a recognized educational facility with a rate of \$15.00 per year.

A review of Society records reveals that the last fee increase was in 1995! Since then we have had almost yearly postal increases and the cost of paper and printing has risen significantly. We are also required to pay rent for our office space, although the increase in our membership base in helping to offset some of the costs.

Please note that all memberships, except life members, complimentary members, and those who have already renewed, are due at the Annual General Meeting. Your expiry date is shown on your newsletter label. Memberships renewed at the AGM or before will be at current rates; those after will be charged the new rates. You may send your payment to the office, pay in person at the office during office hours, or bring your cheque to the AGM. Please help us keep our costs down by renewing promptly. It is very costly for us to send membership reminders. Note that all membership fees are tax deductible as are any donations. Your receipt and membership card(s) will be sent with the next newsletter.

We thank you for your continued support.

Awards 2004

B ut, 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.

Heritage Updates

Cook Street Village

he controversy over the proposed redevelopment of the 200-block of Cook Street and the adjacent property on Sutlej Street will soon reach a conclusion. A public hearing scheduled for August 28, 2003 has been postponed; a new date had not been set at press time.

Further research has revealed that the threatened buildings do have some heritage merit. 248-252 Cook was built by a prominent Victoria firm (Dillabough and Luney) in 1946, and 230 Cook was built in 1953; both have served the Village for more than half a century. The anchor building in the block (240-246 Cook) was built in 1913 by well-known architect Jesse Warren. Around the corner on Sutlej, the three homes seem to have been built as a matched set by George Bishop in 1910.

The Society's issue with this development is not how many storeys; it is the demolition of heritage structures and replacing them with a continuous, high facade all in the name of increasing density. We do not oppose the evolution of the street, it is the replacement of a familiar, rumpled silhouette with a modern, high, flat and characterless facade that causes us concern. "Saving" selected buildings by moving them is not the answer; this destroys the integrity of the streetscape.

We advise our members to check out two websites which present both sides of the issue so they can make their own decisions. http://www.moorepaterson.com (click on Bohemia) gives details of the proponent's designs while http://cookstreetvillage.ca/presents the views of the citizens' coalition.



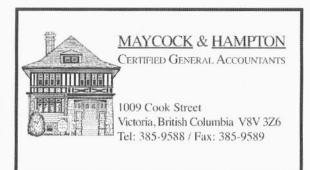
1322 Rockland Avenue

his property, operated by the Anglican Church Women for several years as the Caroline Macklem Home, is now for sale as a development site. The 1894 home designed for Hewitt Bostock by William Ridgway Wilson is set amid 1.8 acres of park-like property. A 2400-square foot two-storey carriage house also built in 1894 (and updated in 1986) adds to the heritage ambiance of the area.

There is currently a proposal submitted by a mainland developer which would retain both the original home and the carriage house while removing the unsympathetic additions. Much of the gardens to the east would be lost to a seniors' housing complex.

Is this the right development for the area? Is it unrealistic to try to save the gardens intact when so many other large estates have been subdivided? We will be watching this situation with interest.

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Summer Student Update

e have come to the end of a very productive summer for our student employees. Erin Coulson and Eliane Macdonald have put the finishing touches on our neighbourhood survey of Gonzales, Fairfield, and Rockland. They have completed research on the properties and have input the data to the office computer system. Taryn Jones, a recent high school graduate, has been working with Erin and Eliane, gaining valuable research skills which will help her in her future endeavours.

This work brings to a conclusion the CURA / Millennium Fund-financed project which began in 2001 with a team of photographers taking 6,000 photographs. Future plans include an application for funding to allow us to upload both images and data to the Virtual Museum of Canada so our information will be available to the general public 24-hours a day.