



Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Architectural Landmarks

Government House, the Official Residence of the
Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia,
Victoria, British Columbia.

Victoria. 8/27/07.

"Clyde"



Your voice in heritage preservation in the Capital Region since 1973



Administrative Director: Helen Edwards
 Hours: Mon & Tues. 11:30 am - 3:00 pm
 Wed. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Thurs. Noon - 3:00 pm
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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 non-profit society, financed principally by membership dues and members' contributions. 🏠

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Cover Photo

On October 2, 2003, Government House was designated a National Historic Site. See page 8 for story. Postcard image from Hallmark Society files. 🏠

Deadline for Spring 2004 newsletter: January 31, 2004.

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President's Message

by John Edwards

In the Fall there are generally only a few things to report on to keep the membership informed. Last year at this time was the impending demolition of the Point Colville house in Central Saanich. This year there is much more happening. We became aware of two developments in the short two blocks of Avalon Street, one on a vacant lot. The City issued a demolition permit to the owner of 631 Avalon St. So on November 5, 2003 I and neighbour residents attended a meeting at the City with planners about concerns of Avalon and Toronto Streets. The purpose is to designate this a Heritage Conservation Area, and to enlarge the area to include more very old and significant heritage houses than is currently purposed. This still has to go to a Public Hearing in January or February, 2004. The more letters of support from property owners the better.

On November 13, 2003, after 40 meetings, the Gonzales Community Plan was passed by City Council. This plan restricts the size of new homes to one-and-a-half storeys and reduces the size to 3,229 square feet regardless of lot size, and allows secondary suites.

The City of Victoria has hired Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited to develop a long-term strategy plan of the historic features of Beacon Hill Park. Thanks to Nick R. and Cornelia L. we forwarded a list of 31 heritage features to the Manager, Park Design & Development. However, the Checkers Pavilion at the top of Beacon Hill may face demolition.

As you may have read in the November 21 Times Colonist the clean up of Rock Bay is estimated to be \$30.m. So the fate of 512 Pembroke, the former Victoria Gas Company Works built in 1862, is up in the air. They expect

to remove the contaminated soil to eight meters.

The City has issued a draft plan on the Cathedral Hill Precinct. Our concern here is the seven houses on Meares Street, two of which are Hallmark award winners; the two nearest to Quadra Street have a development permit pending. Also, we would like to see more properties designated, especially those on Burdett next to Blanshard.

Lastly, but not least I attended a two day session, November 17-18 at The Conference Centre, "The Successful Downtown" 2020. There were 420 delegates and 840 ideas. There were some excellent speakers and topics. One of the quotes from the first speaker (Joel Kotkin) was that if Victoria does not do something about its downtown it may become the San Francisco of the North - a cross between Carmel and Calcutta. A whole session was devoted to street people and the problems, solutions for a vibrant downtown. George Heller, the former CEO of Victoria Commonwealth Games in 1994, gave a 14 page address on "ideas for a Better Downtown" To do this we must make Victoria a "Wow City" to enjoy international exposure. He noted in Vienna or Paris do you rarely see downtown buildings coming down. To do this, excitement must be added to City core, with local events. Municipal governments can be proactive marketers. Canadians have allowed their downtown cores to be transferred to the suburbs, with the development of power centres (big box stores).

It's been busy. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Hallmark Society was held on Monday, September 29, 2003 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre. There was a very disappointing attendance of 30 members.

President John Edwards gave members an overview of the events of the past year including the significant heritage battles, our successes and losses. He encouraged members to get involved with issues in their neighbourhoods. While the Hallmark Society's mandate covers the entire Capital Regional District, we are not as effective a voice as those who live in the immediate area.

Administrative Director Helen Edwards presented the financial statements for the past year which were received as presented. For those members who missed the meeting, there are copies of the statements at the office if you wish to examine them.

Hallmark Society Officers and Directors were elected for the upcoming year as follows:

President	John Edwards
Secretary	Cornelia Lange
Director (1-yr term)	Davyd McMinn
Director (2-yr term)	Mark Anderson
	Tim Lomas
	Patricia Murray

Two positions for Trustees on the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society were filled by acclamation by Melinda Seyler and Valerie Spohn.

Russell Fuller presented the following motion from the Board:

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

The motion was carried unanimously.

A second motion to create a new membership category for students (in attendance at a recognized educational facility) with a rate of \$15.00 per year was also carried unanimously.

Current heritage issues:

Members were advised of the changes at the Heritage Branch. Both Director Rhonda Hunter and John Adams have lost their jobs. This is a significant loss of expertise in a branch already decimated by government cuts and severe lack of funding. Please contact your MLA and the Premier to let the government know that cutting heritage funding to a basic level is unacceptable.

The question of insurance for heritage homes is now a national issue. In many areas, companies refuse to insure buildings that are designated. We are working with our counterparts in Ontario to develop a list of heritage-friendly insurance carriers.

The demolition of Mount St. Mary's hospital has had one positive result. The City is developing a new plan for the Cathedral Hill Precinct. Hopefully, this will curtail any further changes to the heritage ambiance of the area. See page 5 for more details.

Helen Edwards discussed the ongoing devolution of provincial heritage properties and

encouraged members to write the Premier, the Honourable George Abbott, and their local MLA.

John Edwards presented a slideshow (originally prepared for the Heritage Society of BC conference) which outlined the many activities of the previous year. Discussion followed.

Following a short refreshment break, we were treated to a wonderful overview of the work of two talented members and their work on Christ Church Cathedral.

Ken Johnson gave an overview of the history of the building and showed examples of damage to the brick and stone of the structure and how they were handled. In some cases, he noted, it is best to do nothing rather than further harm the original material. The before and after shots were dramatic with the repairs only noticeable to a trained eye (or an audience that is told where they are).

Edward Schaefer then talked about his work with the stained glass at the Cathedral. Through his amazing slides, we were able to see details of the glass work that cannot be seen from the floor of the church. The removal of dirt from the surfaces - a gentle, noninvasive procedure - brought the colours to life. Again, repairs will not be obvious to a casual observer yet they will last for many decades. We thank both these members for their presentations and regret that so few members were in attendance to enjoy their combined talents.

A copy of Rosemary Neering's "A Travellers Guide to British Columbia" donated by Ken Johnson was won by Doris May. 🏠

Cathedral Hill Precinct

by Helen Edwards with notes from Lindsay Chase, Planner, City of Victoria

The Cathedral Hill Precinct is bounded by Blanshard, Broughton and Meares, Vancouver, and Burdett. As a result of neighbourhood boundary shifts over the year, it is now part of the Fairfield planning area. However, there are no current planning policy documents that provide detailed direction for this five-block area.

The City has embarked on a process that will set in place a comprehensive plan for this important area. In January 2003 council approved the creation of a focus group with representation from key stakeholders. This group was charged with the task of developing a vision and the planning principles for the area.

The planning principles that emerged from the focus group are:

1. There is support for mixed-use development
2. Change will occur
3. Heritage buildings are important
4. Good urban design should be incorporated into new development.
5. The public institutions in this area serve a regional population and are valued in their present locations.
6. Cathedral Hill is recognised as a transitional area between downtown and the more residential areas of Fairfield.
7. Pedestrian and human scale development is valued.

Included with the draft plan is a suggestion for further heritage designations within this area.

We will watch the progress of this area plan with interest. 🏠

Hallmark Society to Sponsor Heritage Fair for Children

by Helen Edwards

For several years, the Historica-funded Heritage Fairs for school-aged children were sponsored by the BC Heritage Branch. Last year, the Royal British Columbia Museum organized the event. This year, the Hallmark Society has been asked to become the permanent sponsor. As part of our mandate to encourage preservation, and education is a major focus of our work, we were pleased to assume this responsibility. We will partner with the Branch who will provide expertise and the Museum who will provide the venue and lead workshops. In future years, we will seek sponsorships to encourage the fair to grow.


Historica is a foundation whose mandate to provide Canadians with a deeper understanding of their history and its importance in shaping their future. Besides funding heritage fairs, they also produce *Historica Minutes*, the well known "one minute movies" about Canadian history and personalities, are shown on TV across the country. Other examples are "Footprints," a new series of 100 documentary style Minutes highlighting great moments in Canadian sports history, shown on the CTV family of broadcasters; "Dateline", a column that puts today's issues in historical perspective, printed in the CanWest chain of newspapers weekly.

Heritage fairs are designed to engage children from grade 4 and up in their heritage. Students research an area of Canadian history, often of local or family interest, and present their discoveries using the medium of their choice. They can work alone or in teams. Among the examples of projects over the past few years are videos, dioramas, booklets, plays, songs, poetry, tape recordings, and posters. As our current venue limits participation to 40 students, we

are encouraging schools to have their own fairs, then send the winners to ours. This will ensure the widest possible variety of schools and projects.

Students bring their work to the venue on the day of the fair where they are put on public display. Teams of volunteer judges talk to each individual or team to discover what has been learned during the process. It is amazing the quality of work completed by quite young children. Judging is not an easy task. While one group of students is being judged, the other attend workshops which this year will focus on "behind the scenes." The idea is to show students how museum exhibits are prepared, and permit them access to area of the museum complex not usually open to the public. In future, years, we want to include heritage walks and visits to the workshop menu, thus fulfilling our mandate.

After judging is complete, students assemble for a closing ceremony. Participation certificates are presented but the winners are not announced at that time. The judges meet again to decide which projects are the winners and best represent our area. Regional winners are eligible to travel to the national fair in July. Other projects can be added to *Historica's* online Heritage Fair Showcase. Last year, almost 200,000 students participated in Regional Fairs across the country. Visit www.historica.ca for further information.

The fair this year will be held at the Royal British Columbia Museum on Friday, May 7, 2004 from 10 am - 3 pm. There will be volunteer opportunities so, if you are interested in helping children learn about heritage, give us a call. For updated information, visit http://bcheritage.ca/heritage_fair/. 

AWARD NOMINATION

Category of nomination (tick one)

- Award of Merit
- Communication Award
- Mark Madoff Medal
- Michael Williams Award
- President's Award

Nominee _____

Mailing
Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Project
Address _____

Project details (attach up to one full page)

Nominator _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Attach supporting documents including photographs or slides, press clippings, letters of support, to substantiate the nomination. Deadline is January 31, 2004. Late nominations may not be accepted.

Mail to: Hallmark Society Awards Jury c/o 810 Linden Avenue, Victoria, BC V8V 4G9.

Lieutenant-Governor's Estate now National Historic Site

by Helen Edwards with notes from Park Canada

In a colourful ceremony in the Government House Ballroom on October 2, 2003, Parks Canada and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada unveiled a plaque to commemorate the national historic and architectural significance of the Estate of the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Heritage Minister Sheila Copps noted in her official announcement of the designation: "The Estate of the Lieutenant-Governor and its extraordinary gardens and grounds are an enchanting and enduring reminder of our historic past, and a continuing symbol of Canada's development as a nation. The rich mosaic of landscapes, including a rare Garry Oak ecosystem, gives charm to an estate that is a notable part of the history of British Columbia."

"Since British Columbia entered into Confederation in 1871, this magnificent estate has been home to every one of the province's lieutenant-governors," added Minister Copps. "Still in use today, it continues to be part of our living history which imparts its story to the many Canadians and visitors who are welcomed here each year."

For almost 140 years -since 1865 - the governors and lieutenant-governors of British Columbia have taken up residence on this estate located in one of Victoria's oldest residential neighbourhoods. Over that time, the Viceregal mansion, formerly known as Cary Castle, has burned and been replaced on two occasions. The current home dates from 1957-59, but incorporates surviving elements of its 1903 predecessor, including the porte-cochere. The property's continuous association with this



The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, unveils designation plaque with Bryan Jackson.

official function, and with the numerous formal and social events that have been staged there, is noteworthy, especially since three of its occupants have been recognized as being of national historic significance in their own right: Sir Anthony Musgrave (Governor, 1869-71), Sir Joseph William Trutch (Lieutenant-Governor 1871-76), and Edgar Dewdney (Lieutenant-Governor 1892-97).

The 14.6-acre estate surrounding the residence is an equally remarkable cultural landscape. From modest beginnings as a croquet lawn and enclosed garden begun in the 1860s, it was

gradually transformed into a series of well-defined areas based on English landscape traditions. A design prepared in 1911 created a series of distinct zones that have been nurtured and modified over time.

Major initiatives begun in 1957 and again in the early 1990s revitalized the gardens while sustaining key elements of the 1911 plan. Today, the estate comprises a unique cultural landscape. It is remarkable for its aesthetic qualities, including a variety of different landscapes, picturesque gardens that have been and may be augmented from time to time, agricultural lands with an old mews, and a valuable ecosystem of Garry oaks. Each year, an estimated 30,000 people visit the grounds, which are maintained by a dedicated group of public-spirited volunteers.

Created in 1919, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage regarding the national historic significance of places, persons and events that have marked Canada's history. The placement of a commemorative plaque represents an official recognition of historic value. It is one means of educating the public about the richness of our cultural heritage, which must be preserved for present and future generations.

Dr. David Lai, British Columbia's representative on the Historic sites and Monuments Board, served as Master of Ceremonies. The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, welcomed the guests to her official residence. She noted that although "our province is often portrayed as very young, perhaps a mere 200 years or so old, dating from the arrival of the first European Explorers, ...I recently stood at a National Historic Site dedicated to the Sto:lo people at Xa:ytem...carbon dated to 6 thousand years of habitation with



Cary Castle, the "original" Government House Postcard, Hallmark Society files.

artifacts extended to an astounding 9,000 years." She remarked that there have been "three main buildings on here, Colonial, Pre-Provincial as well as Pre- and Post-Confederation. Here officialdom has functioned at the centre of constitutional responsibility and state hospitality. Here is evidence to be found of who we are as a people, of some of the legacies of our many cultures and many of the treasures of our great artists, artisans and creative citizens." In her closing comments, Her Honour reminded us that [the designation] "is a status that will aid future generations to protect and respect this precious legacy that has been left to us in trust for use by those who succeed us."

Provincial Archivist Gary Mitchell outlined the rich history of the site, skillfully weaving facts with anecdotes for an engaging presentation and Bryan Jackson spoke on behalf of Parks Canada.

Following the unveiling of the plaque by Her Honour, light refreshments were served. The event gave us all a chance to mingle with other members of the heritage community amid pleasant surroundings and to feel part of an historic moment. 🏠

We Have a Treasurer!

Following the Annual General Meeting, Ken Johnson offered to be our Treasurer. His appointment will be confirmed at the December meeting. Ken brings years of experience in running his own business to our finances. 🏠

Notice of Meeting

The December meeting of the Hallmark Society will be held on Monday, December 8, 2003 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street beginning at 7:30 pm. On the agenda will be heritage updates and current concerns.

Our guest speaker will be local historian John Adams who will present an illustrated lecture entitled "Christmas in Old Victoria." He will be autographing copies of his new book of the same name after his presentation. This book will be a great addition to your library and a wonderful present for those on your Christmas list.

As a special treat for you, we have asked J. Robert Whittle to sell copies of his historical novels set in Victoria. These books are so well researched that you feel like you are walking the streets of old Victoria with the characters. "Bound by Loyalty" and "Loyalty's Reward" make an ideal gift for anyone who loves Victoria's rich history.

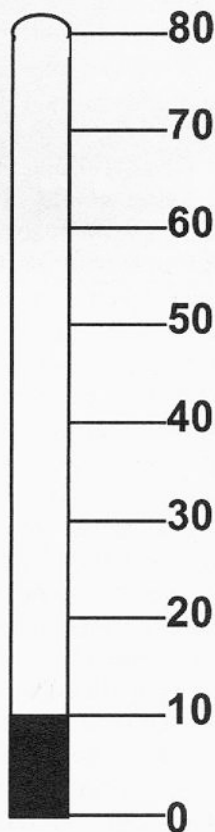
Between John and Bob, there won't be a question on old Victoria that cannot be answered.

Please bring seasonal treats to share at this festive time. 🏠

President's Challenge

One of the goals for this year's Board of Directors is to increase our membership roster by 80 by the end of September, 2004. As you can imagine, we cannot do this alone. If each member would find us just one new one, we would more than meet our goal.

We will post a thermometer in the next three newsletters to record our progress. Help us to reach the top! 🏠



Beacon Hill Park Heritage

Here is the list of heritage features in Beacon Hill Park that Hallmark submitted to the City. Feel free to add your selections to our list. The City is currently working a heritage management plan for the Park so our input is timely. Of particular interest is the 1890 Aviary which must be retained at all costs.

Clover Point Boat House (1933)
Bandstand (concrete - dedicated to Mr. Cameron by his wife 1931)
Stone bridge (pre 1909)
Emily Carr Bridge (1952)
Yacht pond
Gun emplacement - Finlayson Point (1878)
Service Building (Spurgin and Johnson - 1931)
Holland Point shelter
Numerous Indian sites (esp. Finlayson Point)
Race track site
Goodacre and Fountain Lakes
Crushed Ship's Keel opposite South Park School
Checkers Pavilion - on top of Beacon Hill
Aviary (1890) Zoo collection (bear pit, wolves & buffalo)
Robert Burns memorial - 1900
Queen Elizabeth silver jubilee planter in parking lot
Flowering cherry trees donated by sister city in Japan
Peacocks from original birds - 1890
Arbutus trees (planted by C.C. Pemberton - Natural History Society - 1930)
Mayor's Grove (Sir Winston Churchill Hawthorn tree)
Cricket pitch - 165 years in BHP
Lawn Bowling Club - 1909
Camas Field, indigenous harvest
Burial Cairns on Beacon Hill
Cottonwood bluffs in natural swamp in southeast woods

Shingled tree stump seating in ornamental garden
Original tree donated by M. Heywood
Exotic tree collection (catalogued by Heritage Tree Society)
Wading pool - Kiwanis Club - 1920
Flagpole on Beacon Hill
Totem pole - Mungo Martin

Office Update

Good news! We have been able to renew our lease with the City of Victoria for another year. Our rent has gone up a bit and we are responsible for BC Hydro costs but these are outweighed by the advantages of a storefront office.

We continue to attract new members and to sell copies of our remaining book inventory. Now that we are set until December 2004, we can increase our publicity and draw even more visitors.

Our "Heritage in the News" bulletin board hangs in our front window and showcases heritage articles from a variety of newspapers. Thanks to Nick Russell for being so diligent in bringing in interesting articles.


We can use volunteers in the office to do routine filing, computer input and public enquiries. If you can spare some time, please let us know. Training is provided. We would eventually like to be open five days a week. 🏠

Calendar

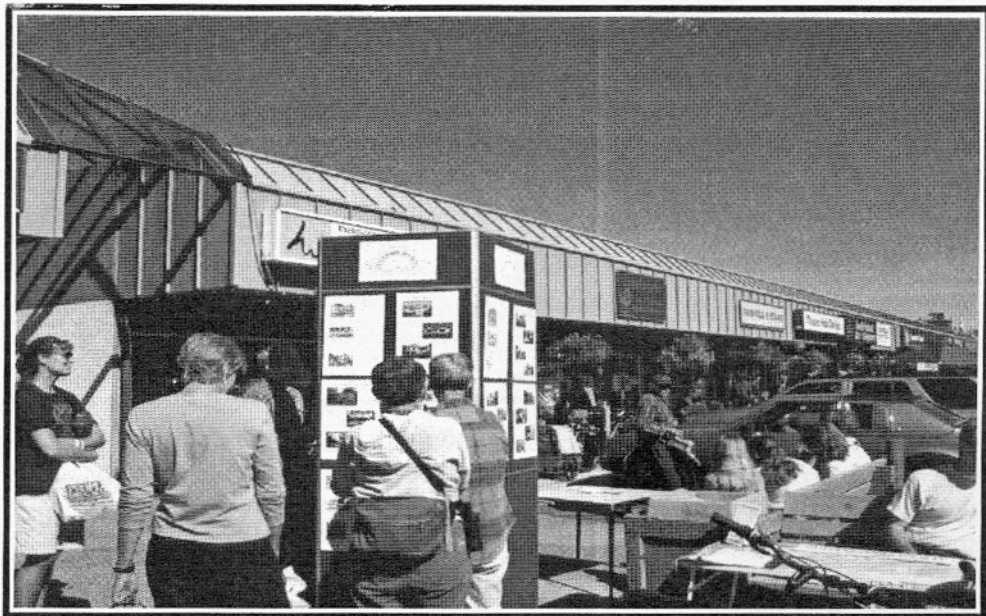
- December 8, 2003** Hallmark Society General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street - 7:30 pm. Guest speaker is John Adams who will present an illustrated lecture entitled "Christmas in Old Victoria." Copies of his recent book by the same name will be available for purchase. Also selling his new book "Loyalty's Reward" (the conclusion of the Victoria series) will be author J. Robert Whittle.
- January 31, 2004** Awards Night 2004 nominations deadline.
- January 31, 2004** Deadline for Spring 2004 newsletter.
- 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.
- May 4, 2004** Hallmark Society Annual Awards Night. Ceremony begins at 8:00 pm at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium with reception to follow at the Parlours and Chapel. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!
- May 7, 2004** Heritage Fair, Royal British Columbia Museum, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
-

Thank-you

We would like to thank all the wonderful members who have responded to our appeal for donations to enable us to pay for our storefront office. Your generosity will tide us over until we can secure additional funding. We are well over half way to our goal and expect to reach it by the end of the year.

It is still not too late to make a donation. Tax deductible receipts are issued for any donations; December 31, 2003 is the deadline for this year's tax return. 

Fairfield Community Days



On a sunny Saturday afternoon, September 15th, our display boards travelled to Fairfield Community Days. The event was billed as a celebration of the neighbourhood with several non-profit groups represented. We were set up outside the BC Liquor Store, a good place to attract visitors to the display. John and Helen Edwards along with summer student Eliana Macdonald answered questions about the Hallmark Society and distributed membership forms. We gained two new members from the event and received a donation of \$10.00. 🏠

Awards 2004 - May 6, 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. **Please note that the deadline for nominations is January 31, 2004.** See page 7 for a nomination form.

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

At the conclusion of a lengthy (two-session) public hearing, Victoria City Council voted to turn down the development in the Cook Street Village. Did anyone really win? Not really. This issue has divided the community and even pitted members of the Fairfield Community Association against each other.

The public hearing began on the evening of October 9th and continued on October 16. There were dozens of speakers on both side of the question; some were articulate, other were not. However the Mayor and Councillors listened to all with interest. What was of most interest to Hallmark members was the fact that several speakers discussed the heritage buildings while others described the ambiance of the area although they could not define individual components.

Apart from some unfortunate name-calling by speakers for both points of view, the audience was generally attentive. Shortly before midnight on October 16th, councillors began to speak to the motion. everyone began to keep score. Several points were raised with the greatest area of concern, the overpowering size and density of the Castanza building proposed to replace the three character homes on Sutlej Street. When the hearing was concluded, the development had been defeated. The proponent was encouraged to work with the Fairfield Community Association to try to find a solution which would be acceptable to both sides. Given that the development of either site destroys heritage buildings, we are not sure how consensus will be achieved. 🏠

Heritage Building To be Lost

The 1922 Craftsman cottage at 2735 Seaview Road is to be removed from the heritage register and destroyed. The house was built by "Irish Joe" Pilson, the owner of the Belfast Linen Shop and is one of a series of homes that he built in the Ten Mile Point area. Although there have been several additions over the years, the house's heritage integrity is still intact.

This is yet another victim of the rising cost of waterfront and waterview real estate. The current owners are being encouraged to deconstruct the building as an alternative to demolition and must allow the Saanich Heritage Advisory and Archival Committee access to photograph it for the archives. Isn't this precisely the point John Stuart made in his article in the last newsletter - that documenting heritage is not the same as preserving it? 🏠

Newman Farm Update

The District of Central Saanich is forming a Steering Committee to guide initial conservation efforts of the Newman Farm. Mayor Alison Habkirk has asked for a Hallmark Society representative on this committee. If you are an individual with an architectural background with a specialty in heritage structures, here is a perfect volunteer activity for you. Please call the office if you can help. The Newman Farm presents a unique opportunity to showcase early farm life on the peninsula, and become one of the region's most significant heritage properties. 🏠

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