

Preserve

Your voice for heritage in the Capital Region and the Islands since 1973

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 33, Number 4, Winter 2006

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STOP PRESS !

Developers have got their hands on Mt. St. Angela's. And if that doesn't make you wince, nothing will!

The elderly Sisters, for whom this has long been a cozy retirement home, have decided to pull the plug. So Cielo Properties have applied to the City to turn the place into 94 units of housing, with the addition of a five-storey tower. Early plans also include moving one other heritage house and demolishing a second, on the property.

Is Mt St Angela's worth saving? Are the view and the streetscape important? The building was designed by Victoria's first

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Administrative Director: Helen Edwards
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Location: #18 Centennial Square
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office@hallmarksociety.ca
http://www.hallmarksociety.ca

Mandate

The Hallmark Society was registered on April 18, 1973. We 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. 🏠

Photo credits

All photos are by Helen Edwards except for pages 1 and 6 from Hallmark Society Archives. 🏠

Deadline for articles and advertising for the Spring 2007 newsletter is March 15, 2006.

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Editor's Message

Your Board is still entertaining possible new names for our newsletter. We do not want to change a name just for the sake of doing it, but feel we need a short, pithy name that reflects the new role of our society.

We have received a few suggestions, but have not yet found the ideal title. It is possible that you can think of a better title. Let us know! Perhaps we can find an appropriate reward. Remember, this is **YOUR** newsletter!

Due to circumstances beyond our control (including inclement weather and a resulting lack of internet access), our cover story was unavailable by the newsletter deadline. We will have a two-page cover story in the next issue. 🏠

Preserve welcomes submissions, both written and photographic, on topics related to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of heritage from a local, provincial, national, or international perspective. The Editor reserve the right to edit material for consistency and length, and to reject articles.

Please submit manuscripts to the Editor, *Preserve*, 810 Linden Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8V 4G9, deliver to #18 Centennial Square, or send via electronic mail to newsletter@hallmarksociety.ca. 🏠

Our home is our castle...but what about our cave?

What's the Bear Mountain fiasco (bulldozing a sacred cave) got in common with protecting Victoria's heritage homes? Or, to put it another way, is there a connection between archaeology and what we understand by "heritage"?

It happens that I've been a member of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia for most of the 25-odd years I've lived on the West Coast—just about as long as I've been involved in restoring old houses. In heritage, we aim to preserve and protect structures from the past, and spread the word. In archaeology, we aim to reveal and protect artifacts and structures from the past, spreading the word through museums, signage and occasional protected sites.

But there's much more to it than this, and there are some significant differences that may have importance for us all.

Ordinary people of every colour and creed can own heritage buildings. (With very special buildings, such as Pt. Ellice or the Parthenon, the community itself owns the structure.) Granted, private ownership is also stewardship for the community and the next generation, but we generally accept that a person's home is his or her castle. She can buy and sell it, she can paint it, she can rummage in the rose-bed, and tweak the structure itself. There's a high sense of pride in owning a heritage home: We applaud owners who maintain them well and leave them even better than they found them.

So, who owns an archaeological site? And the artifacts found there? Certainly realtors don't promote such things as middens on land they're trying to sell. They would probably prefer not to know.

But, obviously, First Nations were here first! They were the original immigrants, probably working their way south from the Bering land bridge, over a couple of hundred generations. They built homes, buried their dead, developed a culture, conducted wars, and made garbage dumps, just as we all do today. (The Hartland Landfill is our midden, and Afghanistan is our war!) Because those first peoples had developed a different culture, so their burial traditions and their architecture are different from the later peoples. But does "different" translate as "inferior" or "wrong"? The first settlers' mistake was not getting a Land Title Certificate to the land they occupied! So when the next wave of immigrants came through—in

huge numbers, with superior weapons-- they pushed out the incumbents from the choicest sites—just as the Romans did with the Britons, and the Angles and the Saxons did before that with the Celts. (The Celts were the "First Nation" of the British Isles.)

In Canada, the ejection of earlier inhabitants was thorough but not complete. Reserves were created and treaties—some—were signed. But we cannot assume that these deals extinguished old claims and cleansed the consciences of the newer inhabitants—or we would not have recently signed a cheque for \$30,000,000 to Salish First Nation for occupying that piece of James Bay now known as the B.C. Legislature! But none of us simple home-owners want to be told that earlier inhabitants may have some claim on "our" land—even if it's got an obvious burial or midden on it!

In the meantime, the modern immigrants spread and multiply, clearing land and building cabins and condos. In the process, they buy—from each other—title to properties, and sometimes find ancient middens or gravesites or occasional sacred places. Now --we suddenly realize-- First Nations had cemeteries, too, and sites as sacred as the Ross Bay Cemetery. Some cultures have a tradition of building structures over their sacred sites: Witness Bethlehem or Jerusalem. Others kept their sites secret from invading, alien hordes: the catacombs of Malta or Rome, and the underground cities of ancient Turkey.

So when we talk about "our" heritage in Canada, which "our" do we mean? And if we want to include First Nations in that, are we guilty of co-opting "their" heritage? As homes are built all over Bear Mountain and similar places, should "sacred sites" be fenced off for the exclusive use of First Nations? And in the gardens of fine homes in Kitsilano or Oak Bay? Or should we, as Canadians all, share such places as public resources? No "first" nation claims L'Anse aux Meadows: It's a wonderful "national" historic site that we can all share. Should the same be done for sites such as a Bear Mountain cave?

Those of us enjoying our Victoria "heritage" are fortunate to have a wonderful support network, including the Victoria Heritage Trust and the Victoria Heritage Foundation, to help individuals fund expensive building restoration. And there's tough legislation to protect heritage buildings and even encourage communities to

designate and protect streets, blocks or entire towns. But legislation protecting First Nations sites is weak and the BC government is nervous of enforcing it. Yet logically these places, too, should be protected for all, and funds should be available to ensure their survival.

We know all too well that soaring land values (i.e., less and less buildable land and more and more people moving out West!) threaten heritage: Developers lust after that small house on the large lot, or that waterfront view, and call an 1890s Queen Anne cottage a “teardown.” There’s a clear and desperate need to protect more heritage buildings, better. But the developers also lust after that meadow with a dozen First Nations burials, or that beachfront with the midden, or that hill with the sacred cave. These “teardowns” need protection, too, and everyone would benefit if regulations protecting both historic heritage and “pre-historic heritage were beefed up.

We would not tolerate “pot-hunters” digging in the old Quadra Street cemetery any more than we would permit a sub-division being built there, so should a First Nation burial site be treated with less respect?

On the other hand, if you keep it secret, can you be surprised when somebody destroys it? 🏠

Notice of General Meeting

The Christmas General Meeting will be held on Monday, December 11, 2006 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. On the agenda are reports and heritage updates. Come to hear the progress on the “Gone” project and current issues. 🏠

Our guest speaker will be Simone Vogel-Horridge, a noted local conservator who is an expert on historic wallpapers. She will present an illustrated lecture on “The Wallpapers of a Victorian Home.”

Simone has been working for some time on the historic wallpapers at Ross Bay Villa and has found several interesting examples. Under her supervision, volunteers are painstakingly removing one layer at a time to determine the time frame of each paper and the appearance of the rooms at definitive eras.

We will be raffling a framed wallpaper sample - sure to be a much admired addition to your interior decor.

As in previous years, please bring seasonal goodies to share with your fellow members - and bring your appetite. 🏠

The “Gone” Project update

We are making progress on the “You Don’t Know What You’ve Got ‘Till It’s Gone” project. We have begun preliminary research. Our summer student Julie Staven searched in our files and other volunteers have undertaken other tasks.

The list has now grown to about 30 addresses and your Board has begun to prioritize the buildings by degree of threat. We are currently preparing preliminary statements of significance for some properties.

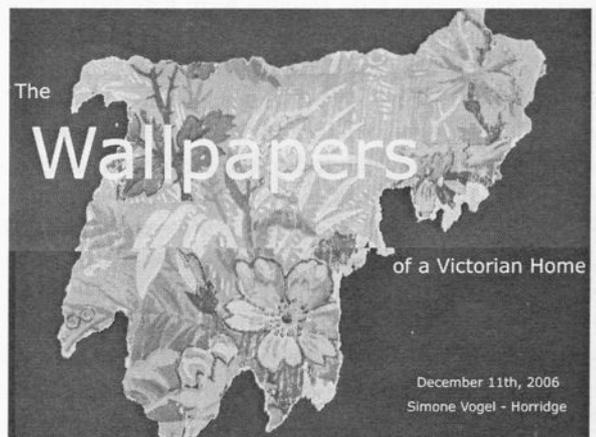
If you would like to help with further research or photo documentation, please let us know. 🏠

Hallmark Receives Gaming Funds

For the first time, the Hallmark Society has been successful in obtaining funds from the gaming commission. We received a total of \$9,000.00 to cover a portion of the costs of our research facility and the awards program.

Our major expenditure will be for a professional storage unit for our archives. The system has three bays of shelving to the rear with two sliding cabinets on the front. We will be able to hold all our current files with room for the inevitable expansion of our holdings. Delivery is expected in early December with the transformation completed by the end of the year. This unit will bring a level of professionalism to our office, replacing the jumble of recycled cabinets we have been using for the past decades.

Your Board is currently exploring options for the expenditure of the balance of the funds and you will be advised of the decisions in the next newsletter. 🏠



Lifelong Learning Festival

The week of September 30 to October 6, 2006 was designated Lifelong Learning Week in Victoria and the City of Victoria held the Lifelong Learning Festival. The event grew out of the Downtown Victoria 2020 conferences held a few years ago and was presented by the City of Victoria in partnership with the Province of British Columbia Ministry of Education and the Downtown Victoria Community Alliance. The Festival was designed to celebrate learning in all its forms, not just in the academic sense, including non-profit groups, local businesses, bands, choirs, dance groups, theatre troupes, poets, flower arrangers, and many others. The Festival was launched on September 30 with a day long list of activities at Centennial Square including a display of martial arts at 10:15 - just what you need to kick-start your Saturday morning.

The Hallmark Society was an active participant in the Festival. Not only did we open all day Saturday, but we were open to the public during the following week from 10 am - 2 pm. We ran a slide show entitled "A Year in the Life of the Hallmark Society," developed a building identification contest (with two versions - one quite easy and the other not so easy). All sites were within three blocks of the office. The idea behind the contest was to encourage people to "look up" at heritage buildings as the most interesting details are often not at street level. (The photographs are still on display on our office windows and continue to spark discussion). Storefronts are often changed to suit the retailer, but the upper storeys usually remain untouched. We also talked with several visitors and promoted the cause of heritage preservation.

We hope this Festival continues - hopefully with a longer lead time so we can advertise in our newsletter and on our website. It is always a treat to discuss our passion for heritage with members of the general public.

FE



Can you identify this building ornamentation?

Want To Learn Some New Tricks?



VICTORIA LIFELONG LEARNING FESTIVAL



SEPTEMBER 30 TO
OCTOBER 7, 2006

Discover • Inspire • Participate



Historic view of Burdett Avenue with Mount St. Angela clearly visible centre right, c. 1875.

continued from page 1

architects, Wright & Sanders, and built in 1865. That's 1865. So this development would be akin to surrounding Pt. Ellice House with high-rises and dividing it into condos. Or The Carr House. Or The Synagogue. (Same time, same designers.)

Some recent and current Cielo projects:

- ⊙ Vogue Lofts: The old Mc&Mc Bldg -now billed as "Romantic Spaces in Historic Places."
- ⊙ Redstone: Townhouses in the old Spenser Stables on Michigan St.
- ⊙ Vicino: New. Controversial, high-density on Menzies at Toronto St.
- ⊙ Fiori: Oak Bay Ave.. New, glass & concrete high-rise.
- ⊙ 860 View: New, glass & concrete high-rise.

Ideally, an adaptive re-use would be found for this –anything from a college campus to prestige offices. But 94 condos and a 5-storey tower?

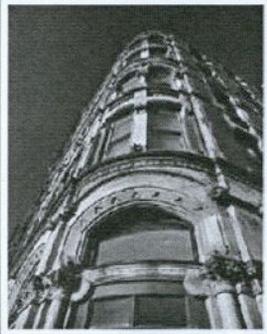
Write to the Mayor. Call heritage Ald. Charlayne Thornton-Joe. Or e-mail:

mayor@city.victoria.bc.ca

charlynet@city.victoria.bc.ca

Breaking News ...

LANDMARKS, NOT LANDFILL
INCENTIVES FOR HERITAGE REHAB IN 2007 FEDERAL BUDGET




PRÉSERVER, PAS REMBLAYER
DES INCITATIFS POUR LA RÉHABILITATION
DU PATRIMOINE DANS LE BUDGET FÉDÉRAL 2007

COALITION AGAINST DEMOLITION!
FONDATION HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION
COALITION CONTRE LA DÉMOLITION!

HERITAGE CANADA
FOUNDATION

LA FONDATION
HERITAGE CANADA

The Heritage Canada Foundation and the Coalition Against Demolition are calling upon the federal government to implement financial incentives for historic places in its 2007 Budget.

Over the past 30 years, Canada has lost 20% of its historic buildings to demolition – and the destruction continues. You can take action...Tell the federal government what it must do to keep landmarks from becoming landfill!

Follow these simple steps to send this postcard to Jim Flaherty, the Minister of Finance; Environment Minister Rona Ambrose; Treasury Board President John Baird; and Brian Pallister, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance.

1. Click on Hallmark's website for access to the easy online petition.
1. Fill in your name, address and postal code to ensure that your message is counted.
1. Simply press "Send" and the postcard and the following message will be sent to the four elected officials.

The time has come for the federal government to implement financial incentives in its 2007 budget to encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic places.

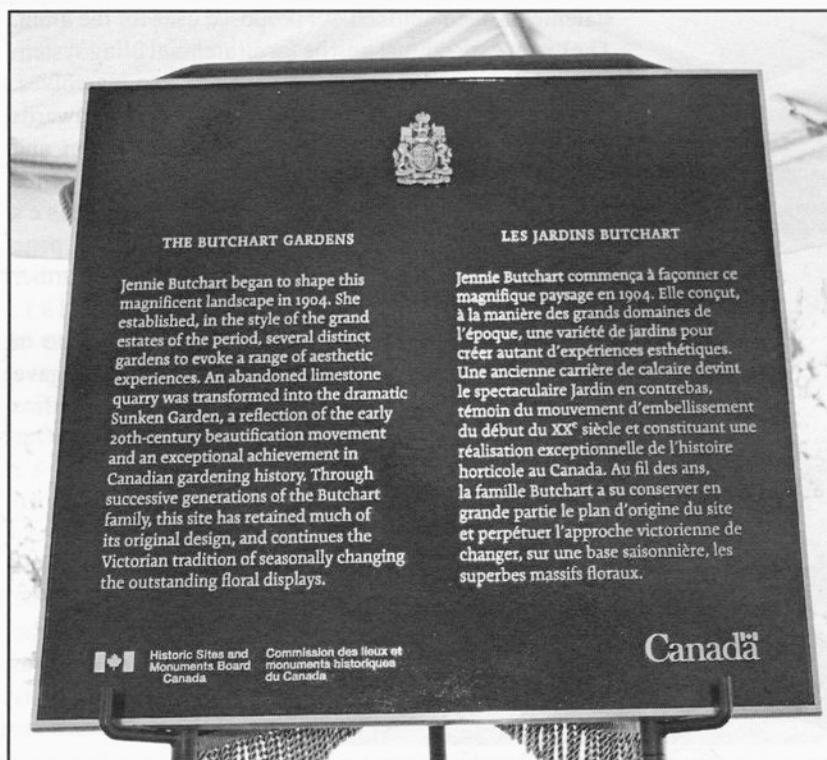
For more information visit: <http://www.heritagecanada.org>

The Butchart Gardens Now National Historic Site

Under sunny skies on August 31, 2006, The Butchart Gardens was officially declared a national historic site. In a tent set amid the beauty of the gardens, guests from the heritage sector gathered to witness the designation ceremony. Invited dignitaries included former MP David Anderson and current Saanich MP Gary Lunn, both of whom spoke of the importance of the gardens to the community, the province, Canada and the world. Robin Clarke, great granddaughter of Jessie and Robert Butchart, the founders of the gardens helped to unveil the official designation plaque that reads: “Jennie Butchart began to shape this magnificent landscape in 1904. She established, in the style of the garden estates of the period, several distinct gardens to evoke a range of aesthetic experiences. An abandoned limestone quarry was transformed into the dramatic Sunken Garden, a reflection of the early 20th-century beautification movement and an exceptional achievement in Canadian gardening history. Through successive generations of the Butchart family, this site has retained much of its original design, and continues the Victorian tradition of seasonally changing the outstanding floral displays.”

Invited guests joined Robin Clarke in toasting her family, the garden staff, and her great grandmother Jennie who started it all. The ceremony was witnessed by hundreds of visitors to the gardens who ringed the lawn on which the invitees mingled, possibly unaware of the significance of the gathering.

According to the official history of the gardens, most visitors will not be aware of their important place in Canada’s horticultural history. The complex beautifully illustrates the design of gardens of an early 20th century estate in its progression of distinctively laid out and planted “rooms,” each one offering visitors a unique aesthetic experience. Its largest and most dramatic feature, the Sunken Garden, is a remarkable example of the beautification movement, an early 20th century effort to transform damaged landscapes in creative and pleasurable ways. The Gardens are also important because they have always relied on the traditional, labour-intensive Victorian system of “bedding-out” – the raising of annuals from seed in greenhouses and planting them by hand in often elaborately designed beds – which in



Annual General Meeting report

The Annual General Meeting of the Hallmark Society was held on Monday, October 2, 2006 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre. There were 28 members and guests in attendance. President Nick Russell called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Following approval of the agenda and the minutes of the prior AGM, Nick Russell gave the President's Report in which he touched on the heritage issues of the past year and our responses to them. Among the sites mentioned were Castana, The Officer's Mess at Work Point Barracks, Oak Bay Beach Hotel, King George Terrace, Oak Bay United Church, the E & N Roundhouse, the Bay Building, and 438 Heather Street. The loss of the last property served as the impetus for the "You Don't Know What You've Got 'till It's Gone" project. We have approximately 24 properties on a list and are looking to add a few more.

In the absence of Treasurer Ken Johnson, Administrative Director Helen Edwards presented the financial report. She noted that our grant of \$9,000 from the gaming commission is not reflected in the year-end statements, then outlined our proposed uses for the grant. The major expenditure will be for an archival filing system that will bring order and professionalism to our archives. We will spend the balance of our grant on the awards

now ready to be uploaded to our website) and continued the cataloguing of the *Islanders* that were donated to us. She managed to complete details of heritage articles in four years of the supplement. We will continue to add to this valuable database as time and funds permit.

The following were elected as directors of the Society for the coming year, both for a two-year term: Russell Fuller and Janet Stevens. They will join Nick Russell, Ken Johnson, Tim Lomas, and John Edwards on the Board of Directors. The President noted the contributions made by former Vice-president Cornelia Lange during her time on the Board, Helen Edwards was returned as a Trustee of the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society.

Our guest speakers were Merna Forster and John Lutz from the University of Victoria. Merna outlined the development and implementation of the "Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History" website and presented examples from the mysteries on the site today. She also gave a preview of new additions and explained how students are able to use copies of original documents and artifacts in their search for the answer to the mystery. Teacher lesson kits have been distributed all over the world including China and France. The use of modern technology to teach Canadian history blends the best of old and new and puts to an end the idea that our history is boring.

John Lutz spoke about the "Victoria's Victoria" website that is quickly becoming the site to explore Victoria's interesting history. What began as a vehicle for posting student research papers has quickly evolved into a site that also features input from historians and other researchers. There are also links to other sites on Victorian history, including a remarkable list of census data that is invaluable to anyone undertaking genealogical research. This site is constantly being expanded and will continue to explore topics in Victoria's history. The use of a website means that the material is always fresh and, unlike printed material, can be easily changed. This is definitely the research tool of the twenty-first century.

program and our office expenses (see page for further details). Helen then gave the Office Report. Our summer employee this year was Julie Staven. She finished the Millennium Project (it is

Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History

The Mysteries

- Torture and the Truth: Angélique and the Burning of Montreal
- Heaven and Hell on Earth: The Massacre of the "Black" Donnellys
- We Do Not Know His Name: Klatsassin and the Chilcotin War
- Who Killed William Robinson? Race, Justice and Settling the Land
- Aurore! The Mystery of the Martyred Child
- Explosion on the Kettle Valley Line: The Death of Peter Verigin

MYSTERY QUESTS

MYSTERIES | TEACHERS | ABOUT US | REVIEWS | NEWS | FRANÇAIS

VICTORIA'S

VICTORIA British Columbia

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Award Nomination Form

Category of nomination (tick one)

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

Nominee _____

Mailing
Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Project
address _____

Project details (attach up to one page)

Nominator _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Attach supporting documents including press clippings, letter of support, photographs, slides, or electronic media to substantiate the nomination. Deadline is January 31, 2007. Late nominations may not be accepted.

*Mail to:
Hallmark Society Awards Jury
#18 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P7*

The South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair will be held on Friday, May 4, 2007 in the Clifford Carl Hall at the Royal British Columbia Museum. The event is open to the public between 9:30 am and 2:30 pm and admittance is free. Funded by Historic, the fair brings together students in grades 4-8 for a day of sharing and learning. Students can work alone or in groups. They select a topic with a Canadian history theme – personal, local, provincial, or national – then conduct research and present a final report in a variety of media with a written research report mandatory. Schools are encouraged to hold their own in-school fairs and send several representatives to the regional fair.

Volunteers evaluate the projects and students spend the day in group activities including tours. The students this year will tour Emily Carr House with “Emily” and learn about Canadian heroes and heroines with Merna Forster of UVic. All students receive participant certificates and small gifts on the day of the event.

Although the idea behind the fair is to learn and to share, there are a number of awards available with one student chosen to represent our region at the national historic fair in Lethbridge in July. Following the fair, we arrange for public displays of selected projects. We are also seeking corporate sponsorship to help defray expenses.

Students receive their awards at special assemblies at their schools so they can be recognized by their peers. For more information on the fair and its awards, visit our website at <http://www.hallmarksociety.ca/svirhf/index.html>.

If you would like to help with organizing the event or project evaluation, please let us know at 382-4755 or svirhf@hallmarksociety.ca. 

What is going on in your neighbourhood? Is someone restoring their heritage home? Awards Night will be here sooner than we think. We have once again booked St. Ann’s Academy Auditorium for the ceremony on Tuesday, May 1, 2006. The starting time has been changed to 7:30 pm to allow more time for socialization after the formal presentations.

If you have a suggestion for an award winner, please contact the office and we will help you with the nomination. If you wish our guidelines that will enable you to write your own nomination, please let us know and we will send the information to you. The guidelines are also available on our website at <http://www.hallmarksociety.ca> under the “Awards” heading. We have added sample “winning” nominations to our website to further assist preparation. See page 9 for an official awards nomination form.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve on our awards committees. These are short-term commitments that will ensure that the work for the event is shared by more members. Can you help with finding worthy project? You could join our nomination committee? We also need help on the night of the event - setup, ushers, serving food and beverages at the reception, and cleanup. If you can help, please let us know.

Remember, we cannot see everything. It is up to our members to act as our “eyes” in the neighbourhoods. Keep us informed! Thank-you. 

Heritage Week Themes revised

In response to our submission, Heritage Canada has changed the Heritage Week theme for 2010 to “Heritage of Sport and Recreation.” The revised list is as follows:

2007: Vernacular Heritage: settlements, houses, neighbourhoods

2008: Heritage of Trade: trading posts, warehouses, retail shops, department stores

2009: Heritage of Education: schools, colleges and universities

2010: Heritage of Sport and Recreation: parks, stadiums, arenas, leisure and vacation places

2011: Communications Heritage: buildings and sites relating to post, telegraph, telephone, radio, and television

2012: Heritage of Power: water mills, hydroelectric plants, transformer buildings. 

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Jonathan Yardley
Architect

Electronic Newsletter

Now that we are able to prepare a completely electronic newsletter in full colour, we have decided to offer an alternative to our members. If you no longer wish to receive the paper copy of the newsletter, please let us know and we will send you the colour copy in PDF format once each issue is ready.

You will receive the newsletter sooner than other members and will be saving trees and postage. Please send your email address to the office and we will add you to our electronic list. 

Thank-you

To all the members who have renewed their memberships we offer our thanks. Your support is much appreciated. You will find your membership card(s) and receipt(s) with this mailing if applicable.

Do you have friend that is interested in heritage preservation? How about encouraging them to join us. Your Board is in the midst of a membership blitz; we are actively seeking new members to make our group grow. 

RIP Rosalie Frampton

Rosalie Frampton, a long time Hallmark Society member and volunteer passed away recently. She was also an active volunteer in the archival community. Her quiet, efficient demeanor will be missed. 

Your ad here

The Hallmark Society offers a ready market for all things heritage related. What do you have in your attic that you no longer want? Turn your items into ready cash. Contact our office for our very reasonable ad rates. 

Calendar

- December 11, 2006** December General Meeting. Guest speaker, Simone Vogel-Horridge speaking on historic wallpapers from Victoria homes - some now gone.
- February 2007** Heritage Week Meeting. Tour of Dodd House in Saanich followed by short business meeting and refreshments.
- May 1, 2007** Hallmark Awards ceremony. St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 7:30 pm.
- May 4, 2007** South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, Clifford Carl Hall, Royal BC Museum, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm