

Preserve

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 36 Number 1, Spring 2009

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Keeping you aware of current events in the heritage world.

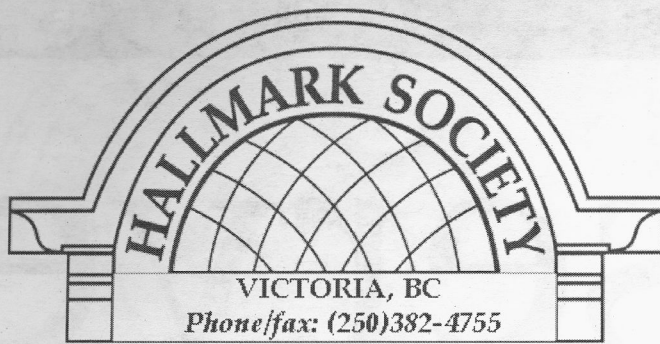
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Hallmark Society Tours Royal Roads University

The highlight of Heritage Week for Hallmark Society members was the long-anticipated tour of Royal Roads University. Over 30 members and guests gathered at the Royal Roads Recreation Centre and met our knowledgeable guide David Rutherford, Manager of Grounds and Gardens at Royal Roads University. Dave has worked at Royal Roads for more than 30 years and his father worked here for decades before him. Dave was a founding member of the Friends of Hatley Park Society, a staff representative for many years on the RRU Board of Governors, and he was closely involved in the project to restore the greenhouse which was recognized in 2007 with the Award of Merit and The Louis Award from the Hallmark Society and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Heritage Society of B.C.




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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. 

Cover Photo

Hallmark Society members by the Royal Roads University Mews with tour leader David Rutherford. Nick Russell photo. 

Deadline for articles and advertising for the Summer 2009 newsletter is May 15, 2009.

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Notice of Awards Night

Our annual awards night will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 835 Humboldt Street beginning at 7:30 pm. See page 9 for details. 

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.

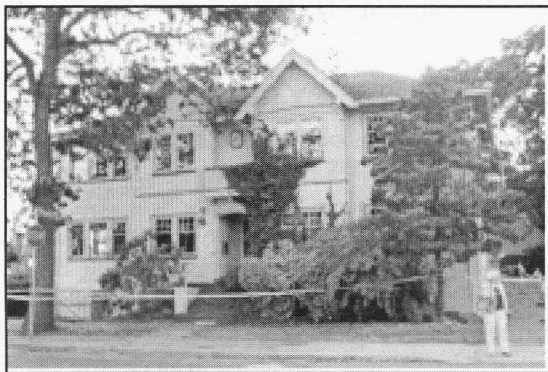
Please submit manuscripts to the Editor, *Preserve*, 810 Linden Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8V 4G9, deliver to #18 Centennial Square, or send via electronic mail to newsletter@hallmarksociety.ca. 

Logically, the Olympics shouldn't have much impact on Victoria heritage. Yet the big event has unquestionably put increased focus on homeless people and the need for affordable housing, and the new Victoria Council has now put this on the top of their "to do" list.

However, Council's plan calls primarily for new affordable housing. But what about adapting and renovating the existing housing stock?

We can all point at run-down apartment buildings and housekeeping buildings that are either abandoned or abused. Why not encourage—firmly encourage—owners to upgrade those neglected properties to make them attractive to those on low incomes? And why not provide incentives to owners to adaptively re-use them?

Consider The Blenheim, for instance, at Lee & Fort, demolished for yet more parking at the Royal Jubilee.



Or consider the Gosnell House, by Maclure, recently demolished on McClure for....no discernible purpose:



Not to mention the doomed Maclure on Richardson. Or the Janion Hotel. Older buildings should be seen as part of the housing stock in the CRD, and planners should consider a "heritage-first" policy in terms of inspiring owners to upgrade and adaptively re-use existing

structures. That's win-win, instead of just favouring the developers of new buildings. Or parking-lot operators.

For a change from the usual rant, I thought you might be interested in a tentative list I've tried to compile of Victoria's oldest buildings and other structures. Is it significant that there is no building in Victoria that is visibly log-built, and no authentic First Nations structure?

A Victoria Chronology:

A tentative list of structures surviving from before 1870

c.1840s: Hudson Bay Fort Well and Mooring Rings, Wharf St.

c.1844: St. Ann's Schoolhouse, 637 Elliot +1859 addition.

c.1852: Helmcken House, 638 Elliot, + additions.

1858: St. Ann's Chapel.

1858: Victoria/Windsor Hotel, 901-5 Government St.

1858: Beacon Hill Park.

by 1860: Webster Bldg, 536 Yates.

1861: "Duvals," 1462 Rockland Av.

1861: "Woodlands," 140 Government St.

1861: "Trutch House," 601 Trutch St.

1861-2: "Pt Ellice House," 2616 Pleasant St.

1861-3: 1105-1213 Wharf St: Entire Block.

1862: "Wentworth Villa," 1156 Fort St.

1862: Victoria Gasworks, 512 Pembroke

1862: Flour Mill, "Capital Iron," 1900 Store St.

1863: "Carr House," 207 Government St.

1863: Emmanu'el Synagogue, 1421 Blanshard.

1863-4: "Mason House," 916 Pandora.

1864: Donald Fraser Warehouses, 1314 & 1318 Wharf St.

1864: "Angela College," 923 Burdett Av.

1864: Centennial Methodist/United Church, 645 Gorge (+1891)

1865: "Ross Bay Villa," 1490 Fairfield Rd.

1869: "Highwood," 1061 Gillespie.

1860s?: Widow Wark's house: 2581 Vancouver St.

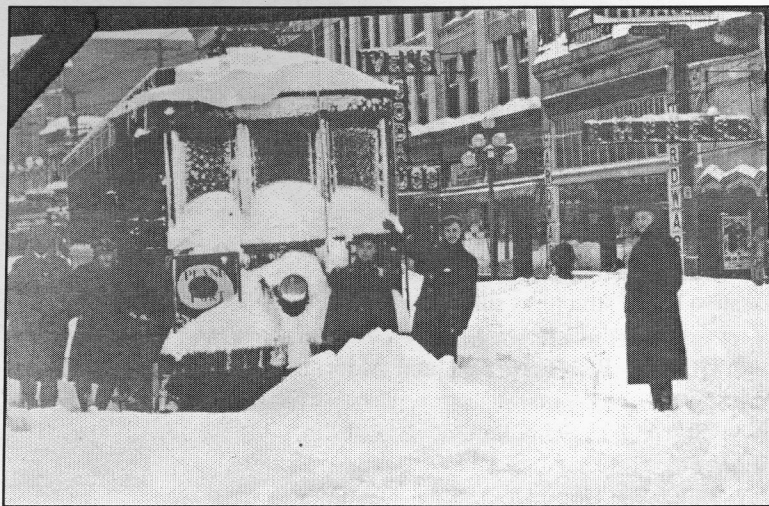
(That's 24 structures, including 11 houses)

Log structures now covered in siding: St Ann's & Helmcken House, in Victoria. Tod House & Dodd House in Saanich & Oak Bay. The oldest local house visibly built of log: Caleb Pike's homestead in the Highlands: 1883.

A number of other commercial buildings that survived the fires in Downtown may date from this period, such as: the Yates Bldg, 1218 Wharf; Moore's Drygoods, 564 Yates; the Bridgman Bldg, 1007 Government; Southgate & Lascelles, 1102 Government/530 Fort; and the BC Market, 1239-41 Government.

Thanks to several people for input on this. Further suggestions always welcome. -Nick 🐶

Harbeck website project nearing completion



Photo, the Edwards collection

Saturday, May 4, 1907 was a special day in the history of Victoria. That was the day that William Harbeck produced a cinematograph of downtown Victoria. Using a streetcar loaned by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, he travelled down the streets, turning the hand crank of a camera fixed to the front of the car.

The Hallmark Society became aware of this film when Treasurer Ken Johnson brought a copy to a board meeting. For years, we thought we should do something, but we lacked the funds to do so. Last spring we received \$1,000 from the HBC Foundation and, in December, an additional \$15,200 from the BC 150 - Heritage Legacy Fund. Under the terms of our additional funding the project had to be completed by March 31, 2009. This has meant that an extensive research and web design project has been compacted into a very short time. Nevertheless the project will be completed on time. We


have been working with Ron Bukta of West Ventures Photography who is taking current photographs, shooting video, and designing the website. The end result will be an interactive site outlining the route of the streetcar in 1907 with photos and information on where buildings would have been on the route in 1858, those in 1907, and what is there in 2009. What is interesting about the film is the number of buildings shown in 1907 that are still there today, a century later. We are also producing a video of the route as it is today and a DVD that will be distributed free to schools and other educational institutions.

Through the Downtown Victoria Business Association, we appealed to local businesses for support. The response has been good, and we now have access to original material, some not seen before by the public. Staff at both the City of Victoria Archives and BC Archives have been very cooperative.

Harbeck began at City Hall, travelled down Douglas Street, turned onto Yates and on down to Government Street where he turned and left and continued down the street to the Post Office. He was so taken with the view of the Empress Hotel being built on the former mudflats that he took a panoramic view of the harbour, including the Empress Hotel site, the Legislative Buildings, and the CPR terminal. In the afternoon, he travelled by sea to the Point Ellice Bridge where he photographed the harbour and the sealing fleet. He then transferred to an electric launch and traveled up the Gorge Waterway as far as the Gorge Bridge. On the return trip he captured the Isle of the Dead and the sawmills, conveniently in full operation. He also passed Laurel Point.

The Victoria Daily Colonist of May 5, 1907 documents the experience and notes that Mr. Harbeck would be travelling "along the line of the E. and N. to Nanaimo," stopping at Shawnigan Lake for photos of the "glittering sheet of water and the pretty little hotel." He then made his way to Vancouver where he shot 400 feet of film and planned to travel up the CPR as far as Lytton. From this trip, only the footage of Victoria and Vancouver remains, found in the Australian archives a few years ago. Harbeck gained his reputation in 1906 when he filmed the aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake. He was subsequently hired by the Canadian Pacific Railway to "put Western Canada on the motion picture screen." He produced 13 one-reelers designed to show Canada at its best and to attract Europeans to Canada. The Victoria and Vancouver reel was obviously one of these.

In 1912, the CPR sent him to Paris to study with Leon Gaumont, who had mastered the outdoor location shoot. According to the Weekly Advocate for Newark, Ohio (January 23, 1913), William Harbeck had been in Europe "arranging for the disposition of 110,000 feet of motion picture film which he had made on a trip to Alaska, together with his motion picture machine valued at \$600." Mr. Harbeck had notified relatives that he would sail for New York on the ill-fated vessel. It is likely that he was hired by the White Star Line to film the maiden voyage and it is thought that he was going to be taken off the vessel to film the arrival in New York. Strangely, Mr. Harbeck was travelling on the Titanic with Henriette Yrois, a 24-year old model he had met on his European trip. Both died in the sinking; he was identified by his membership card in the Moving Picture and Projecting Machine Operators Union.

We are launching the website on April 18, 2009 - see page 5 for details. 

Heritage Updates

Roger's Chocolates

On February 12, 2009 Victoria City Council designated the historic interior against the owner's wishes with one vote against. The company announced they intend to seek compensation for the decrease in value as a result of the designation. We will watch this case with interest.

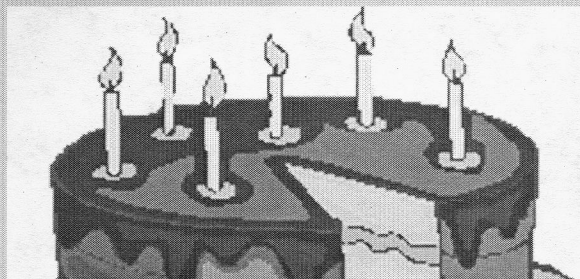
Cridge Park and Lawn Bowling Green

In a 7-2 vote on January 8, 2009, Victoria City Council ensured that these properties will be preserved as green space. Neighbours and members of the lawn bowling club had been lobbying for over a year and were very pleased with the result. The Club will now seek a long-term lease with the City that might permit other sympathetic activities on the site. This removes the threat of redevelopment and preserves this tiny oasis of green.

Janion Hotel

Since our last newsletter, there has been no change in the status of this building. We can only watch and hope that somebody steps forward to "do the right thing." 🏠

We're having a party!



Believe it or not, it has been 36 years since a small group of heritage activists put their money where their collective mouths were and founded the Hallmark Society. To mark the occasion we are holding an Open House at the office, 18 Centennial Square, on Saturday, April 18, 2009 beginning at 2:00 pm.

In addition to our celebration, we will be officially launching our Harbeck video website (see page 4 for details of this project). This will represent the culmination of three months of intensive work in research, photography, and web design.

We hope that members will make an effort to attend our birthday party. Please RSVP by April 9, 2009 (office@hallmarksociety.ca or 250-382-4755) so we can make catering arrangements.

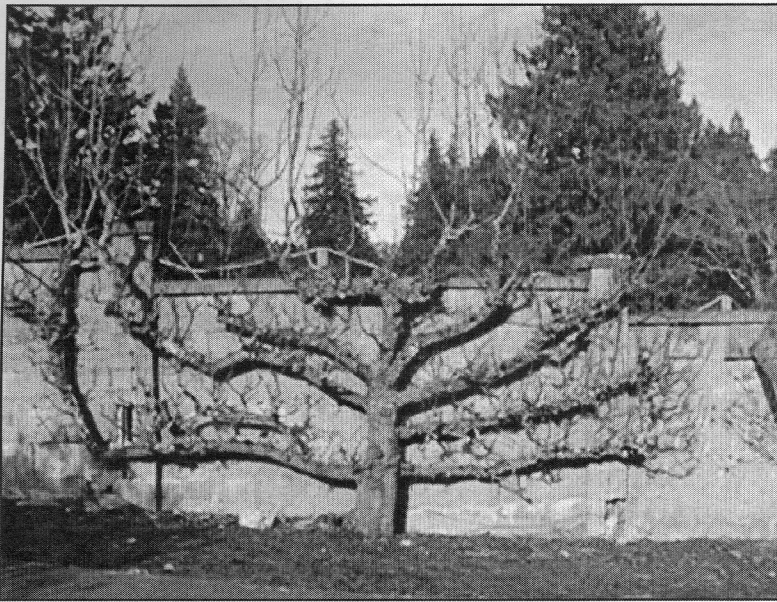
We want to communicate efficiently with you

Electronic communication is the best way to get news and information out to our members. As noted in our last issue, we often find news stories that might be of interest to heritage advocates and would like to send them out. We also send out reminders about Society events.

Our last email to members had several returned to us with incorrect addresses. If you have changed your email address or now have one, please send us a message to office@hallmarksociety.ca so that we can keep you up to date.

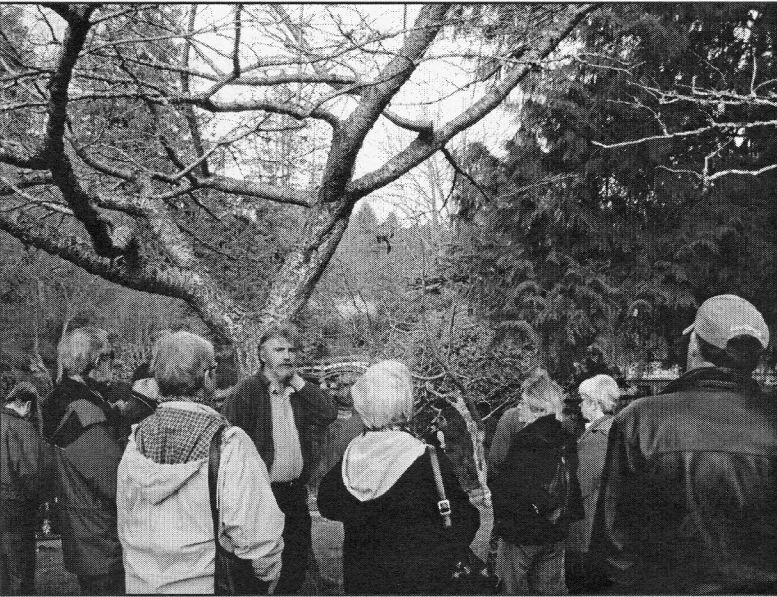
You can also receive an electronic copy of the newsletter. The benefits are you get it earlier than the print copy and it is in living colour! If you would like to switch to an electronic copy, let us know.

If you wish to opt out of regular updates and/or meeting reminders, please let us know and we will remove you from this list immediately. 🏠



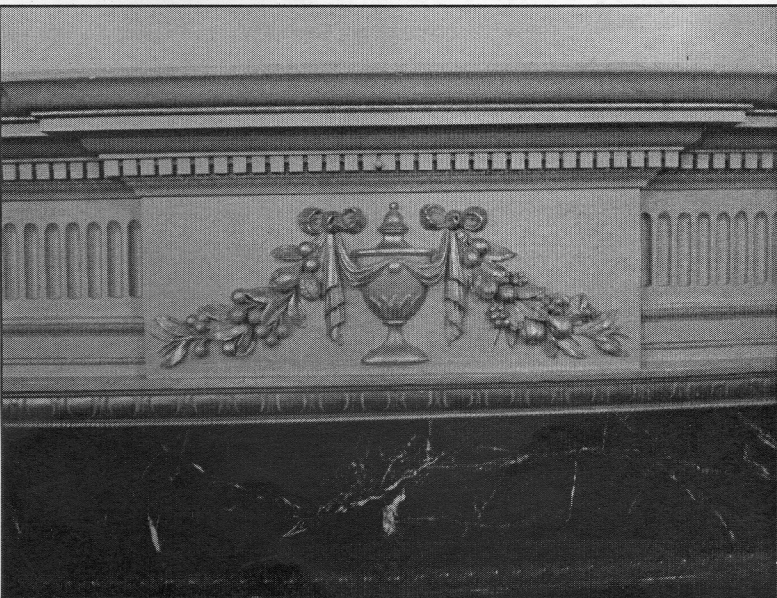
We moved to the Mews, a collection of early buildings that were used for horses and cars. These buildings have been stabilized and present a glimpse of utilitarian structures that are nonetheless architecturally interesting. The University plans to build the new Robert Bateman Art and Environmental Education Centre on land adjacent to the site. The new construction will be set into the landscape and will be environmentally sensitive.

The gardener's cottage is a simple building with pollarded tree in the landscape. This is a method of radically pruning trees to prevent extensive growth. We then passed through the landscape to the greenhouse. This magnificent building must be seen to be fully appreciated. The story of the restoration was covered in the Summer 2007 edition of *Preserve*.



We then moved through the garden spaces. Even in February, there is colour in the landscape. Our guide told us the history of the different gardens and outlined some of the problems they face in retaining garden walls. It seems that the Dunsmuirs chose the cheap method for constructing gardens, using open blocks rather than solid material. Over the years, water has seeped into the openings and the constant freeze-thaw cycle has opened up cracks.

After making our way through the gardens, asking questions about varieties and carefully investigating the abundant foliage, we came to Hatley Castle itself. Although many of us had toured the castle, it was an eye-opening experience to have a guide. We learned about the details of construction, the stories behind fireplaces and windows, and the social mores of the time of construction where hunting trophies were considered necessary interior features. Although the overall decoration in the castle is Scots in origin, there is a reference to British Columbia. Over the fireplace in the billiard room, is a piece that shows First Nations travelling in canoes.



Our hardy group moved up stairs to the top of the castle, viewing almost all the rooms along the way. There is so much to see that we were all somewhat overwhelmed by the richness of the interior. Plaster medallions, exquisite woodwork, luxurious fireplace surrounds and original light fixtures can be seen throughout the building.

We are most grateful to David Rutherford for the tour and for sharing his extensive knowledge with us, and to Stephanie Slater, Director of Public Relations, for her work to bring the tour together. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. 📷

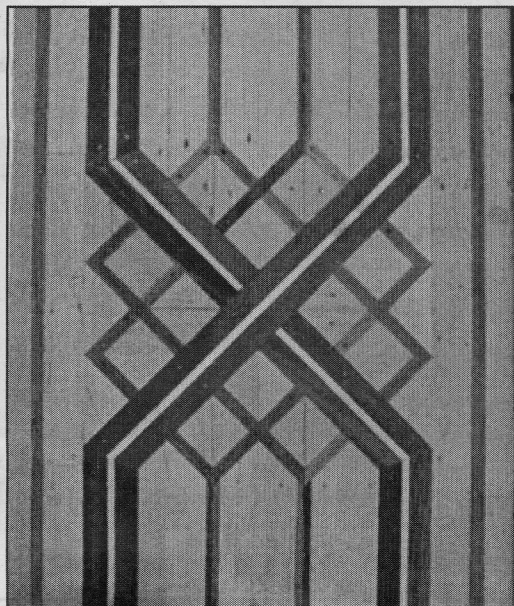
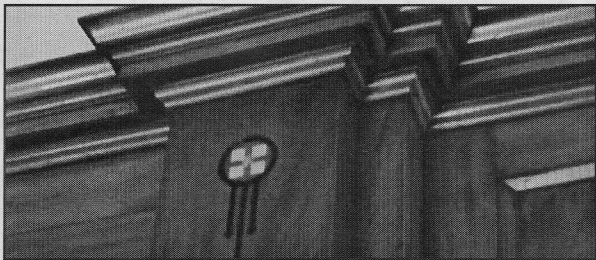
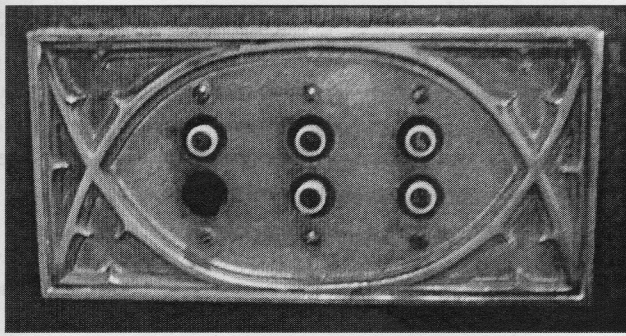
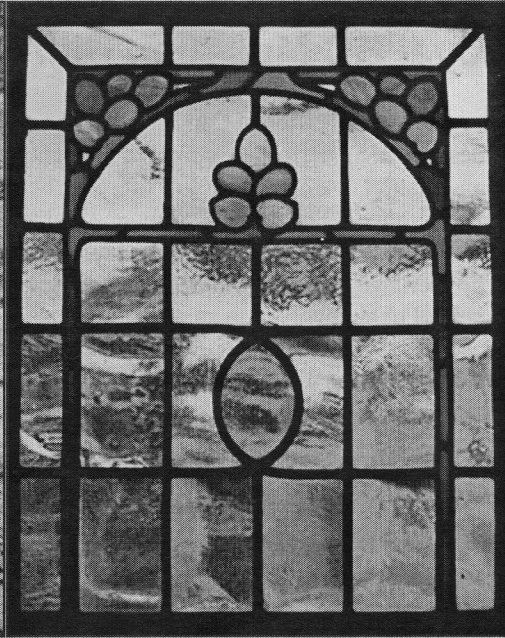


Photo credits:
 p.6, top (pear espalier) - Nick Russell,
 middle (Japanese garden) and bottom
 (fireplace detail) - Helen Edwards.

p. 7 top left (Hatley date), top middle
 (window) and right (downspouts) - Nick
 Russell; middle upper left (switches) -
 Nick Russell; middle lower left (detail of
 woodwork with inlay) and middle right
 (British Columbia theme in Billiard Room)
 - Helen Edwards; lower left (parquetry)
 - Nick Russell; lower middle (lighting) -
 Helen Edwards

South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair May 8, 2009 Royal BC Museum, Clifford Carl Hall

Heritage Fairs are an exciting celebration of Canada's heritage seen through the eyes of student history projects. Students from grades four to nine use the medium of their choice to create a project on a heritage topic, using information and imagination to bring history to life. Public exhibitions of these projects happen annually at Community and Regional Heritage Fairs, in every province and territory. Some schools hold school-based fairs then choose projects to represent them at the regional fair. One student from the region goes on to participate in the National Heritage Fair! The Heritage Fair program brings history and heritage to the classroom and provides an opportunity for the whole school to be involved in an educational and exciting event. By participating, teachers can bring out the best in their students. When students create a Heritage Fair project, they are not just telling us what happened in the past, they are explaining why and when it happened and why it is important to us today. The focus is not just learning history, but on understanding it.

Regional Heritage Fairs take place in every province and territory in Canada in May. Students displaying exemplary effort and genuine enthusiasm may be selected to represent their region in a provincial fair or to represent their province in a national fair. The BC provincial fair will be held in Victoria, BC this year from June 29 – July 3 to take advantage of the Canada celebrations. The exhibit will be open to the public on July 1, 2009 with more details to follow. The national fair will be held in Ottawa, dates not yet determined.

The five main objectives of the Heritage Fairs are to heighten awareness of our heritage, to celebrate our cultural diversity, to promote and publicize the variety and uniqueness of our heritage, to create an exciting learning environment for students of history, and to encourage individuals and communities to celebrate Canada's history. Each project can involve a variety of ideas based on history and heritage. The students' imagination can lead them to explore the use of: Drama, Music, Dance, Storytelling, Role Playing, Game, Monologue, Poster, Diorama, Collage, Videos, Costumes.

We can always use volunteers on the day of the fair. We need people to interview the students and to help make decisions on awards. Some of their work is truly amazing and ... you just might learn something. Come support the preservationists of tomorrow. The event is open to the public from 10 am – 2 pm. 🏠



Four "explorers" at South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, 2008. Photo by Ron Bukta, West Ventures Photography.

Awards Night – May 5, 2009

The annual Awards Night will be held again this year at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 835 Humboldt Street, commencing at 7:30 pm. As in previous years, the evening will begin with local municipalities presenting plaques to property owners who have received heritage designation or heritage registry status during the preceding year.

The Awards Jury has selected winners from the numerous nominations received. Who will win this year? Will there be a Louis Award? Will there be a winner of the Michael Williams Award? If you do not attend, you will get the news second hand. We are now soliciting sponsors for this important event. If you know of a potential donor, please let us know. Sponsors are mentioned in the awards program distributed at the ceremony and in a special edition of the newsletter, on our website, and they receive complimentary tickets to the ceremony and a tax receipt.

To assist with catering and seat assignment, admittance to this event will be by reservation only. Seats will be available according to your membership category: student and individual members - 1 ticket; family membership - 2 tickets; group or corporate membership - 3 tickets. Additional tickets are available from the office at a cost of \$10.00 each. Reservations will be accepted, and tickets sold, at the office between April 21st and April 30th. Complete the form below and return it to the office, phone 382-4755, fax your request to 382-4755, or send e-mail to office@hallmarksociety.ca. Late reservations may be accepted, depending on availability of seating. Tickets can be picked up at the office or held for you at the door.

PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME WE KNOW YOU ARE COMING. EVERYONE WHO WISHES TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY MUST MAKE A RESERVATION.

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

I wish to reserve _____ tickets for the Hallmark Society Awards Night.

Payment enclosed (if applicable) _____



The latest addition to the Hallmark Society Archives. Thanks to Ann Boldt. It looks lovely on our office wall.

Calendar

- April 18, 2009** Celebration of 36th anniversary of founding of the Hallmark Society and launch of Harbeck video website, 2:00 pm, 18 Centennial Square. RSVP before April 9, 2009.
- April 24-25, 2009** Archives Association of BC Conference, "Making Archives Digital," Vancouver, BC.
May 5, 2009 Hallmark Society Awards Night, St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 7:30 pm. RSVP before April 30, 2009.
- May 8, 2009** South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, sponsored by Historica. Royal BC Museum, Clifford Carl Hall, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- May 14-17, 2009** B.C. Historical Federation Conference, "History in Your Neighbourhood," Nelson, BC.
- June 4-6, 2009** Heritage BC Conference, "Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century," Kelowna, BC.
- June 29-July 3, 2009** Provincial Heritage Fair, Victoria, BC. Public viewing of displays is July 1, 2009.
- September 14, 2009** Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 pm. Details to follow.
- September 24-26, 2009** Heritage Canada Conference, "The Heritage Imperative: Old Buildings in an Age of Environmental Crisis," Toronto, ON.
- October 15-17, 2009** British Columbia Museums Association Provincial Workshop - Osoyoos Museum (& South Okanagan region) in Osoyoos, BC.
- December 7, 2009** Hallmark Society General Meeting, James Bay New Horizon Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 pm. Details to follow.

Note: Regular meetings of the Victoria Historical Society are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (except June, July, August & December) at 7:30PM, at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street. Come out to hear interesting speakers on a variety of topics. Check the website <http://victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca/> for details of each meeting.

The Old Cemeteries Society offers cemetery tours each weekend. We have copies of the tour schedule in the office or you can check their website <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca/> for more details.

Your event here

Does your organization have a heritage-related event that would be of interest to our members? We will print them in our newsletter in this column and also display them in our online calendar. Please have material to us as far in advance of the event as you can to ensure you make the print deadlines.

Deadline for submissions for *Preserve* are February 28, May 15, July 31, and November 1. Electronic submissions are preferred and can be sent to office@hallmarksociety.ca.

For Sale

Cottage in Fairfield for sale, looking for someone who loves old houses. Has charm, good light and wonderful location.

For details, call:

(604) 254 1441

or e-mail magma@telus.net

Heritage House For Sale. Oak Bay Border. Designated Victorian Italianate in wonderful condition. 2,700 sq. ft 3-bedroom home & 320 sq. ft heated studio on quiet leafy street. Built in 1892, it was completely rebuilt in an award-winning restoration in the 1980's. Private south-facing organic vegetable and flower gardens, mature fruit trees – all pesticide-free. Details at: www.bytheowner.com/117266 - Call the owners at 250 595.2176. Courtesy to realtors.

December GM report

The 2008 December meeting was held on December 8, 2008 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre with over 50 members in attendance. President Nick Russell presented an overview of heritage issues – successes as well as losses.

Our guest speaker, Dave Obee from the Times Colonist, gave us a lively lecture on Victoria's history has been seen through the pages of the Times Colonist and its predecessors. Drawing from his research for the highly readable coffee table book *Making the News*, he led us through different decades. The richness of the photos and the stories behind them kept the audience engaged throughout the presentation. A lively question and answer session followed. The story of the Times Colonist's 150th anniversary was covered in the Summer 2008 edition of *Preserve*.

The raffle prize was a copy of the book.

Thanks to all who brought seasonal goodies to share. They were much appreciated. 🍪

Now You See it, Now You Don't



If you want to document a demolition these days you have to be quick about it. In the case of the Gosnell House on McClure Street (see page 3 for information and before picture). The entire process took only one day. Imagine, destroying what took months to create in such a short time – and what a needless waste.

In the morning, there was about half the original building left. By the evening, it was gone. The next day, the land was leveled, a fence erected and now the site sits empty.

Long time members will remember the fire that damaged the house that formerly stood on Burdett Street (later moved to Catherine Street and restored), immediately to the north to this site. The properties seem to have been consolidated and now sit empty, waiting for something new. 🏠



Both photos: Helen Edwards.