

# Preserve

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

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**Volume 39, Number 2, Autumn 2011**

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## A Chance Meeting a Hundred Years in the Making

By Ellen Law

In December of 2008, having just moved to Victoria from the United States, I had the chance to sing at the Empress Hotel during the Festival of Trees along with a few other members of my grade seven class at St. Michael's University School. This, in itself, was an honour, to be singing at a beautiful historical landmark, but even more so to be singing at the exact place at which my great-grandmother had sung during a choir world tour nearly one hundred years earlier.

So this year, when my grade nine Modern Studies teacher gave us the 'Small Histories' assignment, to create a project based on an artefact or story in our families, I knew instantly what the subject of mine would be.



Teacher Tony Goodman, Ellen Law, Coward family members. Ron Bukta photo



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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. 🏠

## Notice of Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting of the Hallmark Society will be held on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 7:30 pm at James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street. On the agenda are reports, election of officers, and an illustrated lecture by Nancy Hughes. 🏠

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**Deadline for articles and advertising for the Winter 2011 newsletter is November 5, 2011.**

**P***reserve* 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 reserves 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 1490 Fairfield Road, or send to [office@hallmarksociety.ca](mailto:office@hallmarksociety.ca). 🏠

## President's Notes

by Ken Johnson

**M**any of you live in a heritage home.

A heritage home goes far beyond the enclosure provided by a simple house or building; it is a place full of the stories that create the true and enduring values of each place and neighbourhood.

The individual stories of each place and the cumulative stories of each neighbourhood have resulted in what has been best described as a "sense of place".

You know the story of your house ( and if you are not sure, we would be happy to help you search it out), but what of the story of your neighbour's house? Does the house next door have heritage significance? If so, its stories also contribute to the heritage significance of your neighbourhood.

Is your house on the city or municipal heritage register? How about the other houses on your street? A house that is designated has some protection from demolition but others, that do not have that level of protection, are at risk of demolition.

How would your street be if all of the 'unprotected' houses were demolished,

leaving your home and one or two others to be surrounded by modern buildings built to the maximum size - the "mc'mansions" so often seen in other areas. Maximum width and height - big square boxes that fill the lot with little or no architectural beauty.

You can help to protect your street. Call us and we will tell you which houses on your street currently have some heritage protection and which do not. Speak to your neighbours about the importance of preserving each house and each neighbourhood. Let them know that heritage designation is not about restrictions; it is about preservation and a continuance of the values that drew them to live on your street.

The Hallmark Society is an advocacy group with local members and local concerns. Each of you is an ambassador for heritage conservation. Each has a message that can be given to encourage others to help preserve your street and your neighbourhood. As a 'grassroots' movement we need to spread our seed and nourish heritage preservation on our street and our neighbourhood. Talk to your neighbour. Have a "Heritage Tea."



**Do you want this mc'mansion on your street? It can be found on St. Charles - amidst several heritage properties.**



One hundred years ago last month, on the 14th of May, my great-great-grandmother, Lily Maud Mary Beal, came to Victoria, British Columbia from Huddersfield, England. She didn't come to live here, but instead to sing, along with two hundred other choir members of the Sheffield Choir from Sheffield, England. Little did she know that a hundred years later, her great-great-granddaughter would live here. My great-great grandmother was born on December 10th, 1862 in Gloucester, England and married my great-great-grandfather in 1885. His name was William James Beal, and was born in 1852. While Mrs. Beal was on the world tour, she sent her husband letters every day telling about her adventures around the world. He decided to transcribe every single one he received into a diary to create a 53-paged memoir of the world tour as she told it. This diary has now been passed down through my family to me.

The Sheffield Choir was founded by Sir Henry Coward in 1876. It was called 'The Sheffield Philharmonic Union'. He toured with the Sheffield Choir, conducted societies all over England, taught music at the Sheffield Training College and lectured at the University of Sheffield. After being knighted in 1927, he retired 6 years later and wrote the book "Round the World on Wings of Song". The book was all about the Sheffield Choir's world tour in 1911, and was based on nine diaries written during the 1911 tour, one of them my great-great-grandmother's.

The Sheffield choir 1911 tour visited the countries of Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, South Africa, and Fiji, from March 17th to September 30th, 1911. The sole purpose of this tour was to spread goodwill across the British Commonwealth. As said by Sir Henry Coward in his book, "...It precipitated the idea of

fostering the development of reciprocity between the component parts of the British Empire—making brothers of all, and this, to be done on the 'plane of music'".

During the first week of May, I was chosen along with a few other members of my Modern Studies class to present our projects in the Vancouver Island Heritage Fair. May sixth, the day of the fair, was coincidentally the 100 year anniversary of the week that my great-great grandmother came to Victoria. But the most astounding part of my story was when a visitor to my project display turned out to be the great-grandson of Sir Henry Coward, the conductor of the Sheffield Choir. His great-grandson, Julian Coward, and Julian's wife, Mary Coward, shared with me interesting facts about the tour and also about the commemorative artefacts that he had inherited, including a silver platter honouring the Sheffield Choir Tour of 1911. He also possesses multiple 78 record recordings of the choir tour as well as the very same book that I have, "Round the World on Wings of Song", written by his great-grandfather. The copy that has been handed down through my family was given to my great-great grandmother and signed by Sir Henry Coward.

What was astonishing to me and left me elated and awestruck was that the Coward family and my family had both moved recently to Victoria from other places in the world and had ancestors from England that were part of the same historical event. What was also strangely coincidental was that we both visited the BC museum on the same day, on the same month, exactly one hundred years after the choir's visit to Victoria in 1911. My presentation also happened to be the first display they saw.

Making it to the provincial level of the Heritage Fair competition was the icing on the cake after having such a once in a lifetime experience. In conclusion, this chance encounter made the Heritage Fair one of the most memorable days of my life. 🏠



## We have moved

**O**n August 1, 2011, we officially took possession of our new office at Ross Bay Villa, 1490 Fairfield Road. Almost the entire board showed up to move the furniture and the final few boxes. Thanks to Ken Johnson who moved our archival filing unit ahead of time and allowed us to get those files into their new location before the main move. We moved over 100 boxes of material and somehow managed to get it all put away and organized. Computers were set up and ready to go by the end of the day.



Nick Russell photo

Although we have less space, this has forced us to focus on our mandate and to eliminate unnecessary material. When we went through some of our files, we discovered that we had multiple copies of some articles. Our original clipping files are now housed in archival boxes, making them more easily found and protecting them from insects, dust and other environmental factors.

We have begun the enormous task of digitizing all the material in the files. This will make it easier for everyone to find things and will reduce the handling of crumbling newspaper clippings. This is a multi-year process but we have made great strides this summer. 🏠

## 2012 Awards Night - May 1, 2012

**N**o, it's not too early to think about Awards Night. Look around your neighbourhood. Who has done a masterful job of restoration? Is there a person or group who has done a great job of heritage advocacy? What commercial work has attracted your attention? Nomination forms are available on our website. If you wish assistance please contact us before the deadline and we can help you. 🏠

## Calendar

- September 19, 2011** Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 PM. Guest speaker: Nancy Hughes, author of *Built by Luney Brothers*.
- September 30, 2011 -October 1, 2011** Heritage BC Conference, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, Burnaby, BC. Visit <http://heritagebc.ca/> for more information.
- October 11-16, 2011** Association for Preservation Technology International conference, Victoria, BC. Visit <http://www.apti.org/> for details.
- October 12 - 16, 2011** International Conference of National Trusts conference, hosted jointly by Heritage Canada Foundation and The Land Conservancy of BC. See <http://heritagecanada.org> for more information.
- December 5, 2011** Hallmark Society General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 pm. Guest speaker to be announced.
- February 20-26, 2012** Heritage Week. Tour to be announced.
- May 1, 2012** Hallmark Society Annual Awards Night, St. Ann's Academy, 7:30 pm..

# Historic Home Saved for Future Generations

by Ken Johnson

Hallmark Society photo, 1969



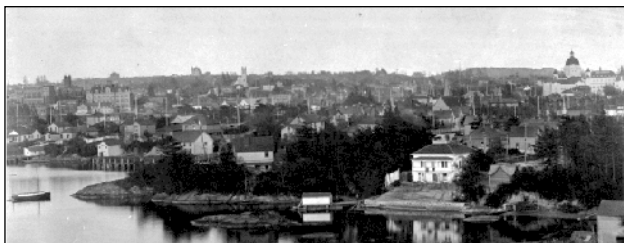
Through the efforts of many Hallmark members, including Garth Mayhew, Nick Russell and Steve Barber, the historic house at 426 St. Lawrence along with its neighbour at 330 St. Lawrence Street has attained the heritage protection so justly deserved through designation by the City of Victoria. The attached Statement of Significance, crafted by the City, helps to describe the importance of the house.

## 426 St. Lawrence Street

### Statement of Significance

#### Description

The two-story, Victorian Italianate residence at 426 St. Lawrence Street is located on the harbour in the James Bay neighbourhood in Victoria.



BC Archives A-03457

## Heritage Value

This historic place is important as one of the few remaining nineteenth century residences on the water front in Victoria. Built in 1892 by Robert Horton, a fur buyer for the Hudson's Bay Company, this Italianate style residence was a prominent building on the harbour as it presented two storeys on the water side, while featuring only one storey to the street. While its presence has been disguised for decades by trees and shrubs, the house nonetheless is significant as one of the very few remaining examples of early Victoria's houses built on the water front (such as Point Ellice House, the Dingle House, etc.).

The association of the house with the pioneer Victoria family of Robert Horton, and his work as a fur trader with the Hudson's Bay Company, contributes to its value as evidence of the social history of Victoria's middle-class. The house is also important through its association with George Martin who occupied the house with his wife Catherine from 1914 to 1933. A naval officer and a rancher, Mr. Martin represented Yale in the BC legislature for 12 years and served as the Minister of Lands and Works under Premier Theodore Davie and J.H. Turner.

The house also has significance through its association with a later resident, Elza Mayhew, one of Canada's most famous artists and sculptors (1916 -- 2004). Born in Victoria in 1916, she received a Masters of Fine Arts in sculpture from the University of Oregon and exhibited her work in Canada and internationally. With fellow artist Herald Town, she represented Canada at the Venice Biennial in 1964. She was a member of the Royal Canadian Academy and her work is found in permanent collections of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, the National Gallery of Canada, Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and internationally.



## Provincial Heritage Fair

by Caleb Horn

From July 4th to July 8th this year, the British Columbia Provincial Heritage Fair was held in Victoria. Over 60 children, ages ranging from 9 to 15, traveled to the capital for the week-long camp. These children were provided the opportunity to attend the fair after participating in regional fairs across the province. Students from each region who created exceptional history-related projects were selected to participate as delegates in the provincial fair. For this fair, the children were housed at the Arthur Currie Residences at UVic, where we were met with amazing hospitality from the university. For the first three days of the camp the group travelled across Greater Victoria, visiting many of the region's important historic sites. Highlights of these tours for the children included the BC Legislative Assembly, Craigdarroch Castle, Fort Rodd Hill, the BC Maritime Museum, Hatley Castle, and a tour of Chinatown from John Adams. The natural history of the region was also explored at Esquimalt Lagoon, Cadboro Bay, and at Goldstream Regional Park. On the final day of the camp, the official fair took place at the Royal BC Museum with a display of all participants' projects. The opening ceremonies of the fair took place at the Mungo Martin House in Thunderbird Park. This ceremony was attended by numerous local dignitaries including MP Denise Savoie; MLAs Rob Fleming, John Horgan, Carole James, Maurine Karagianis; and Saanich mayor Frank Leonard.

The Victoria delegation to the fair consisted of Andrew Kang, Ellen Law, and Daniel Wan. My role during the heritage fair was to take care of the South Island region's three delegates, and to act as chaperone in the dorms at night. The experience was an immensely positive one and all children were well-behaved and respectful throughout the week. I was very impressed by the participants' passion for history. It



Caleb Horn photo

was inspiring to see so many youths who value heritage today. The biggest challenge for many children was being disconnected from their cellphones and computers for the week. Somewhat reluctantly, the children were able to overcome their dependencies on these devices, thanks in no small part to the fantastic and engaging itinerary that left no idle time for the kids to be bored. Evenings consisted of an hour set aside where the children would write about their daily experiences in their camp journal. I was proud to welcome so many students to our host city, many who had never visited Victoria before. These children were able to experience our region and our fair weather, and I imagine many will visit again.

I would like to thank the British Columbia Provincial Heritage Fairs Society for making these events possible, and especially Mary Campone for coordinating this year's fair. I would also like to acknowledge the Hallmark Society's importance in sponsoring the South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair which gives children the opportunity to travel and partake in the provincial event. It is a truly wonderful experience for everyone involved and I am glad to have played a small part in this year's fair. 🏠





## Membership Application

- Student ..... \$15.00
- Individual..... \$25.00
- Family ..... \$35.00
- Group/corporate ..... \$50.00
- Individual Life..... \$200.00
- Corporate Life (20 yrs) ..... \$400.00

New                       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer the electronic newsletter. \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your cheque to:

Hallmark Society  
Box 116, 777 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1G9

All members are entitled to voting privileges at Annual and General Meetings, receive four Newsletters a year and access to the Society library and archives which contain information on over 10,000 buildings in the Capital Regional District. Memberships are due September 30th and are tax-deductible. The Society also offers special events and tours for members. New memberships are pro-rated quarterly. The Hallmark Society collects personal information about you only when you voluntarily provide it, and only for the purpose for which it was intended, and in handling such information we comply with the provisions of the British Columbia *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. We do not sell, rent or trade our membership / donor information to or with others. The Society makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that personal information collected from you is protected against loss and unauthorized access. If you wish to change information on file, please contact us.

In the interest of timely communication, we may occasionally send you electronic messages regarding current issues or reminders of meetings. If you do not wish to receive such messages, please let us know and we will remove your name from our email list. We would appreciate being advised of changes to your address, telephone number, email address, etc. so that we can continue to serve you efficiently. 📧

*Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting*

***Monday, September 19, 2011 - 7:30 pm***

*James Bay New Horizons Centre*

*234 Menzies Street*

*Guest speaker: Nancy Hughes, author of "Built by Luney Brothers Ltd."*