

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 1977 NEWSLETTER

GENERAL MEETING

HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARDS NIGHT WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd 8 p.m. AT THE HOME OF JIM LEE 223 ROBERT ST.

This will be another terrific party designed to match past awards nights for fun. You can be sure of a good time, a chance to socialize with the awards winners, members, and others interested in the preservation of our heritage buildings. Jim Lee's home, which he is restoring, will provide the setting and can accommodate a large group. So that sufficient refreshments can be obtained, please let us know as soon as possible that you will be coming by sending your money to P.O. Box 1204. A charge of \$2.50 per person is necessary to meet the unusual cost of this event. If mailing your money imposes an immediate problem, you can phone Candy Wyatt at 388-6562 and make a reservation. We would like to avoid taking money at the party if possible. So act now - don't be left out!

Note: Unfortunately, the proposed January tour of the Empress has had to be cancelled as arrangements could not be made for a group as large as ours.

HERITAGE DAY FEBRUARY 21

As this newsletter goes to press, it is expected that the Premier and Mayors of Greater Victoria will respond to the Society's request to proclaim February 21st Heritage Day. This is in keeping with similar proclamations across Canada. While the federal government has not declared it an official holiday, Heritage Canada and others are continuing to observe the day. Preservation of our heritage, whether it be of buildings as is the case with the Hallmark Society, is part of the foundation upon which future generations will build. Continuing observation of Heritage Day will help insure that conservation, preservation, and memory of past cultures find their rightful place in that foundation.

AWARDS SELECTION

The Executive has been going through the process of selecting this year's "Heritage preservation Award" winners from the nominations received. The Winners are to be announced on Heritage Day and awards presented on Feb. 23rd. There are three basic categories under which the awards are made -- the "Louis Award", residential building restoration, and commercial building restoration. In the residential and commercial categories, awards are given for the high quality restoration of the exterior of a heritage building which may have been changed or "modernized" over the years, or a building which has been sadly neglected and in danger of being lost. New uses for old buildings is encouraged, so awards have been given if the exterior has been restored and interior renovated for a new use (e.g. residential to office space or store). Past winners in the residential and commercial category have included 507 Head St. (Laurensen), 2526 Government St. (Old Country Flooring) and 1162 Fort St. (Norwich Union).

The "Louis Award" is the highest award the Society can bestow and is given for outstanding contributions to preserving our heritage. Sam Bawlf received the "Louis" in 1974 and in 1975 it was given to the Dept. of Public Works (Minister, W.L. Hartley) for the restoration of the Parliament Buildings and a number of other government-owned buildings. Awards are not necessarily given in each category every year and special categories may be added (e.g. a "Communications" award to Cecil Clark in 1975).

While it becomes more difficult each year to select winners due to the increasing number of fine restorations, it is an encouraging position that the Society finds itself in reflecting growing support of its objectives. All of this year's nominations have been very worthy projects and the Executive will be hard put to make the final selection.

OFFICE NOW OPEN

Established to help provide members and the public with an opportunity to obtain information and guidance in building restoration as well as to centralize the

operations of the Society, our office will be open -- Mondays and Saturdays 1p.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. More volunteers are required to assist in the office so that the load will not fall too heavily on the shoulders of a few. Ben Manning, who acts as office manager, would welcome your help. To offer your services or make inquiries call Ben at 382-1896(evenings). Pictures of heritage buildings adorn the walls and a special display is scheduled to open in the office the week before Heritage Day. Do drop in!

HELP THE LIBRARY GROW

The Library Committee has the organization of all our library material well under way at the office. A large number of reports, periodicals, copies of heritage legislation, newspaper clippings, building inventory data etc. which will soon be available for public perusal, have been assembled. If members or their friends have any published material related to heritage preservation and wish to donate it to the library, please phone Don Reksten at 592-3512. At the moment back issues of our newsletters and Heritage Canada quarterlies and "Conversation" are needed.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BUILDINGS

On February 10th, 11th, and 12th members of the Society will be attending the B. C. /Yukon Heritage Conference in Vancouver. If you are not among those who are to serve as moderators, resource persons, or workshop registrars then let Stuart Stark (386-0215) know. The members who have volunteered to give of their time to meet the Society's obligations as sponsor of the conference are: Richard Collier, Peter Cotton, John Keay, Ken Lane, Pim and Ben Manning, Terry and Don Reksten, Martin Segger, Carolyn Smyly, Stuart Stark and Eric Tomlinson. Their participation on the Society's behalf is appreciated.

On return, the Hallmark Dozen and others attending will be well-primed to answer questions on the following workshop topics which in themselves reflect the values of the conference.

What types of buildings are important to save? How should we document and research these heritage buildings? Can the building be saved? (Structurally) Does the community want it? What can the media do? How to utilize existing legislative programs to protect a heritage property. What should heritage legislation contain? What should we do with it? (Restoration, Preservation or Rehabilitation) Case histories of buildings saved. How do we make commercial buildings work? How do we make residential buildings work? How do we pay for it? What can you do? Community activation Area conservation.

APRIL IS BAZAAR TIME

If you have any idea of throwing away things such as "paper backs" etc. which are saleable items for the April bazaar - DON'T - Tell Isla Tuck (382-7932) instead. More next newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

We were most distressed and saddened to learn that one of our members, Gloria John, died. on Jan. 23, 1977. Gloria had supported the Society right from the beginning and was one of our most active and hardest working members; she was always there when there was a job to be done. She had many friends in the Society and she will be sorely missed by all of us.