

Preserve

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 40, Number 1, Spring 2012

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Another mystery solved

During the move of the office from Centennial Square to the new location at Ross Bay Villa, 1490 Fairfield Road, we found 3 photographs. The only clues were the words "1100-block Rockland" and "demolished" on the reverse of the photographs.

The houses were familiar to me as I had walked past them for decades, but what was the history behind them? As a child, I remembered the "old ladies" who lived in this type of older house in the 1950s and 1960s. They were the widows who lived alone and loved children; they were always giving us treats.



I knew that all the buildings on the west end of the south side of this block had been demolished in the 1970s so this gave me an idea where to start. I also knew that the house at the corner of Rockland and Linden, built for dentist Thomas Jones in 1909, was still there,



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Mandate

The Hallmark Heritage 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 Awards Night:

The Awards Night of the Hallmark Heritage Society will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 7:30 pm at St. Ann's Academy Auditorium. Reception to follow in the Interpretive Centre

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Deadline for articles and advertising for the Summer 2012 newsletter is May 11, 2012.

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 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.

President's Notes

by Ken Johnson

The Gold Rush Warehouses

From the tone of comments in the Times Colonist and various online blogs, one would think the Gold Rush Warehouses at 1314 and 1316/1318 Wharf Street were eyesores presenting an environmental challenge and requiring immediate demolition and cleanup. Remarks in the Times Colonist have included "...they are ugly, insignificant buildings"; "...they should be torn down"; "...cannot conceive of any future generation thanking us for preserving them. They are not pleasing to the eye, are not unique, are not laudable architectural structures. They served no great purpose in their prime. They do not even induce nostalgia."

WOW! It is a good thing these two buildings have the protection of being designated historic structures on the City of Victoria Heritage Register. They cannot be significantly altered on their exteriors nor can they be demolished without a review by the City Heritage Advisory Committee and the consent of City Council.

What these two buildings do represent is a type of building constructed to serve the needs of a time when Victoria had just become a city. The buildings were constructed to provide warehouse space for the many small businesses that supplied the thousands of prospectors and miners sweeping through the frontier city – it would be another generation before we would see the architecture that now defines the Old Town district of our city. The access to a dock or wharf capable of transferring goods was as important as having a front door. The proximity to the waterfront was an essential feature allowing goods to enter through the back, water side, of the buildings and thence, via alleys between or beside the buildings, up to the street levels where the goods could be presented for sale or stored.

The architecture of these buildings



was rough and purpose built. This type of architecture is often called vernacular in that it used local materials and a design which addressed local needs and circumstances. The buildings were not designed to be of impressive architecture like a bank or government building; they were designed to be functional and economical to construct. The architects, Thomas Trounce and John Wright, often performed, in early days, as contractors and possibly Trounce was engaged as architect/contractor when the building at 1316/1318 Wharf Street was constructed.

That these two buildings have survived to today is a matter of good fortune. In other cities and with other owners, these would have been demolished and replaced before their importance as links to the past became evident.

Over their lifetimes, these buildings have served many purposes, from their beginnings as a warehouse for Claire & Grancini and as a liquor warehouse for Grelley & Fiterre. They have served as offices, a tinsmith's shop, a bonded warehouse for R.P. Rithet, and the site of a local taxidermist's services. For the most part they have been associated with the salvage business; from the site of the Victoria Junk Company in 1915 through to the last use as Northern Junk Co.

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From the Statements of Significance, which can be seen on our website, it is evident that these two buildings are an important link to our past; telling a compelling story of how this city was settled and developed. They have a story that must be told and experienced. And, unfortunately, it is the experience part of the story that is under threat.

The developer has proposed to construct a five-storey building, extending over 330 feet along Wharf and Johnson streets. The view of the historic buildings will be largely obscured with the exception of an entrance from the south along Wharf Street. The City of Victoria has proposed the sale of some of the green space as well as part of Wharf Street to the developer to accommodate the large, new building. In the opinion of the Heritage Advisory Committee, the proposed building does not conform to

the Old Town Design Guidelines and that the building heights should be varied. As well, the Old Town Design Guidelines suggest there be openings, lanes & alleys, between the buildings; the developer has only proposed single floor openings, like tunnels.

The context of the historic buildings will be severely compromised and Old Town Victoria will be subjected to another large modern structure of a size and design and in a location which is totally inappropriate. The western entrance, which is to receive a new iconic bridge, will be obscured by a five-storey monolith.

The matter now must go to the Advisory Design Panel for further review. After that time the City may send this to a Public Hearing. The questions of the sale of the City lands must also be resolved. Each step will provide the members of the Hallmark Heritage Society an opportunity to express their views. I know the Hallmark Board is opposed to the size and shape of the new building and will oppose its construction. I hope the membership will assist us wherever possible. Please go to our website and view the details of the proposed building. Be prepared to write a letter to City Council. 🏠

RIP Foster Isherwood

The Hallmark Heritage Society was saddened by the death of former president Foster Isherwood on November 13, 2011. He served for 2 years from 1995-1997 and is best remembered for the beginnings of Members Night.

He was a very active community supporter, serving as Vice-President of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, President of the Art Gallery Foundation, President and Director of the Hallmark Society, President of the Victoria Senior Citizens Housing Society, President of the English Speaking Union, Victoria Branch,

Founding President of the Asian Art Society of Victoria and Founding President of the Goward House Society. He was a Councillor on Saanich Municipal Council for two terms, in the 1970's.

Foster was committed to the cause of preservation and was a generous supporter of the awards program, never missing a year of sponsorship even as his health failed. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow Connie and his family. 🏠

December GM Report

The December General Meeting of the Hallmark Heritage Society was held at the James Bay New Horizons Centre on December 5, 2011. There were 35 members present.

Our guest speaker was Robert Budd who entertained us with the story of Imbert Orchard and his collection of oral histories.

The story commemorates more than just facts.. Listening to the voices gives so much more. In western Canada, we have only a few short decades for our post-contact history and stories are a valuable research tool. Imbert Orchard (1909-1991) was a CBC radio producer. In 1959 he reported on the Klondike and a woman came in to tell him he got it wrong. He recorded 8 hours with her. In the years between 1959 and 1966, he interviewed 998 people and recorded 2700 hours of interviews. Only 1% of this material ever made it to a radio broadcast.

Robert Budd was hired by the CBC in 2000 to back up the collection. It was the story of people's ancestors and was very important. It took him 4 years to listen to them all and digitize them for future use. He was accepted into an MA program using oral history as a source.

Imbert Orchard felt that the voice was inseparable from the story. He tried to get to people before they died and collected not just for the CBC, but for the history of the province. There is a need to preserve the tapes so they will last 50-60 years and beyond. The meaning is often revealed through the sounds.

Robert Budd then played excerpts from interviews, illustrating the richness of the language and the true stories of our province's pioneers. Not all stories are successful. A variety of landscapes give rise to totally different kinds of stories.

Listening to these recordings was like having a conversation with your great-grandmother - it brought the history alive. 🏠

Thank-you Eva

The Board of Directors of the Hallmark Heritage Society wishes to thank Eva Smaadahl for her service to the board. She has now returned to her native Norway and has started her new job as a Heritage Conservation Advisor at the Directorate for Public Roads.

She is currently working on a project to "maintain and preserve the old King's Road across the mountains from Oslo to Bergen (Den bergenske Kongevei). It was build in the early 1700s. I'm probably going to walk part of it (approx 4-5 hours) this summer, so I'm actually getting paid to go hiking in the mountains. Another project is an old suspension bridge at Rånåsfoss, about 40 km east of Oslo, which was built in 1927. The bridge is one of the first soft suspension bridges in a span of 183 meters in Norway. The total length between the western and eastern anchor point is 260 meters. The bridge's two white-painted concrete towers are 19 meters high. The bridge served as the main bridge until the new Rånåsfoss bridge was opened in 1989. The bridge is now connected to the local pedestrian and cycle networks. It is by the Public Roads Administration proposed as a protected cultural monument. However, the county administration wants to demolish it due to high maintenance costs. The fight to preserve this unique bridge has just started."

Eva has assured us that she will remain a member of the Society and will visit us from time to time. 🏠

Community Outreach - Victoria 150

With the City of Victoria celebrating its 150th Anniversary and with Esquimalt celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012, the Board of the Hallmark Heritage Society has decided to initiate a program of community outreach by carrying our message to as many community events as we possibly can during the upcoming year.

We started the program with the setting up of display booth at the kick-off celebration for the Centennial of the City of Esquimalt. Hundreds of visitors came through our display and learned about the history of Esquimalt and the heritage houses designated within their community. We then attended the Rockland Neighbourhood Association Annual General Meeting and a meeting of the James Bay Neighbourhood Association. Both presentations were well received and will set the stage for our future events.

The City of Victoria has advised us that we have been given a grant of \$500 to assist with our outreach program.

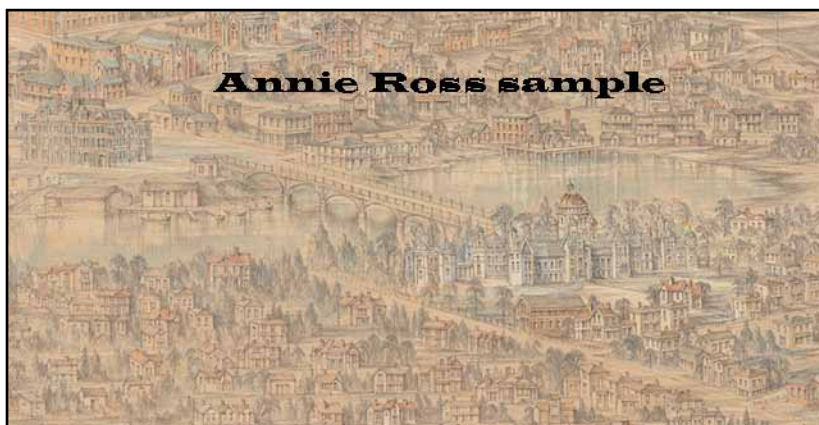
So far, we are booked for the following events:

- North Park Community Association June 16
- Fairfield Gonzales Community Association September 29
- Victoria West Community Association May 13
- James Bay Community Centre September 15
- Oaklands Community Association June 16
- Rockland Neighbourhood Association September 8

We will also have a presence at Ross Bay Villa on July 1 and Centennial Square on August 2.

If you are a member of another community association we would appreciate your help in finding out what events may be planned. This will allow the time required to collect information about that neighbourhood and prepare a suitable display to interest that particular public. 🏠

Heritage Week Meeting Report

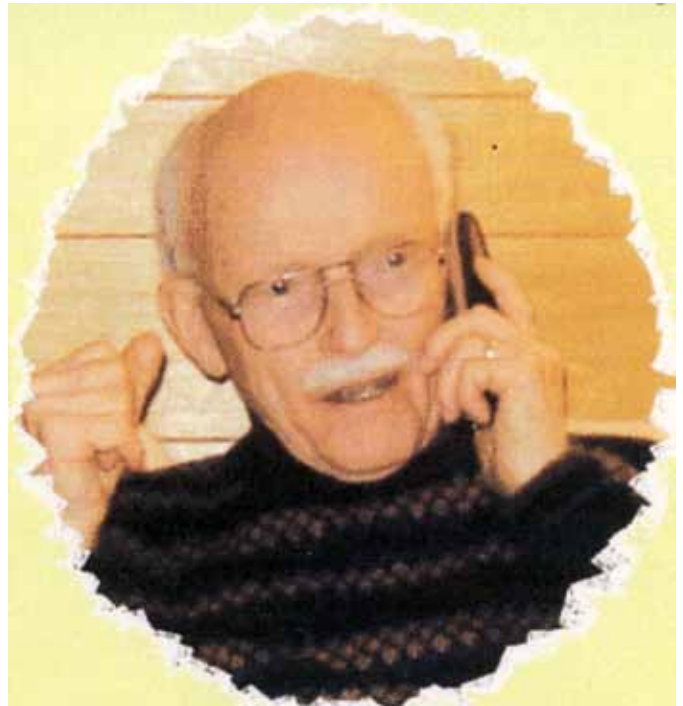


Wow! What a presentation. Our Heritage Week meeting, co-sponsored by the Victoria Historical Society, featured Nick Russell and Russ Fuller who entertained a standing-room only crowd at the City Hall Antechamber. We were first told the history of bird's-eyes views and how they have been used over the years. Then came the story of Annie Ross and how she came to paint this bird's eye view of Victoria. What is sad is that it is now never seen in public although it was originally purchased by the provincial government to be hung in

the Legislative Buildings The second part of the presentation was the identification of several buildings on the view that are still in evidence today - along with their histories. Also noted were several structures that should have been there but were somehow omitted. All in all a very entertaining evening and a presentation that should be repeated to a wider audience. 🏠

Remembering Al Fry

Albert George (Al) Fry passed away peacefully after a short illness on March 3, 2012. He was born in Maidstone, Sask. on July 20, 1928. He leaves behind his loving wife Louise of nearly 60 years; son, Kevin (Karen); daughters, Lisa and Jennifer; son, Christopher; grandson, Justin as well as close family friend Delores. In 1944 Al moved with his parents to Victoria where he graduated from Vic High then earned his teaching certificate at Victoria Normal School in 1949. He went on to complete his degree at UVIC through their summer school program in 1973. He spent his teaching career in the Saanich School district, with posts at Cordova Bay, Sansbury and Deep Cove before retiring as principal of Durrance Road Elementary to pursue his hobbies target shooting, photography and preserving Victoria's heritage structures.



The Hallmark Heritage Society remembers Al Fry as a very special person. He was a valued member of our Board of Directors for many years and was an active volunteer, with Louise, including meeting the public at Heritage Fairs for many years. He and Louise were also enthusiastic attendees of meetings, parties and special events. However, Al is possibly best remembered as an outstanding photographer. Many of the slides and photographs in our archival collection were his work, so he will live forever through his photo documentation of the heritage buildings which he loved. He also was the photographer in attendance at many of our Awards Nights, creating a record of our award winners through the years.

Al was a member of Victoria Heritage Foundation and its House Grants Committee from 1996-2003. He was invaluable as a house grants inspector: always willing to take on another house, take photos of work when needed for in-depth discussion, and knowledgeable and supportive with the homeowners. He also went to the trouble of making written reports of all his inspections, and indeed he designed the report form. Al was a long-time member of the Victoria Heritage Advisory Committee, even though he lived in Saanich. He was a stalwart attendee, always did his homework on buildings to be discussed at the meetings, frequently arrived with photos that he had taken of those buildings, and his input was always knowledgeable and thoughtful.

Sheila Colwill noted that she was very saddened to hear that Al had died. She remembers him as a gentle and kind man. In the late 1990's Saanich Heritage advisory wanted to produce a "discover heritage Saanich poster" and needed a photographer. I was given Al's name and luckily for Saanich he agreed to help us. Over the subsequent years he was generous in donating his time and expertise to the heritage committee. His heritage photo legacy will be lasting and much appreciated.

A service of remembrance was held at McCall's Sequoia Gardens Memorial, 4665 Falaise Drive, On Wednesday March 14, 2012. The size of the gathering paid tribute to the effect that Al had on many diverse fields and showed the respect in which he was held throughout the community. The Society expresses its sincere sympathy to Louise, also a valued volunteer, and to the rest of Al's family. He will live on in our archives forever. 🏠



as was 1161 Rockland, built in the 1930s to replace the Victoria Collegiate Building that had been in the site from 1915 to 1931. The Patricia Court Apartments, built in 1948, are the next on the street and are quite interesting just from the number of name changes. As was the case with apartment buildings of that era, the name was written on the entrance doors with gilded letters. When the glass in the western-most door was broken, the building was known as the Patricia Apartments. Once the eastern door was broke, the building lost its name – or at least the evidence of a building name.

But, it is the buildings on the other half of the block that are the most interesting. The original house at 1117 Rockland Avenue - at the corner of Cook Street - was built in 1904 and was the home of noted Victoria architect Charles Elwood Watkins. It is logical to assume that he designed the home that



cost \$3,000.00 to build. This building and others on adjoining lots were demolished and replaced by a four-storey apartment block, the Savannah House Apartments, between 1963 and 1965.

The home at 1123 Rockland Avenue was also built in 1904 – this time a one-storey bungalow cottage for Walter E. Adams who worked as a traveler for E G. Prior and Company. By 1914, the home was occupied by Edward C. McQuade of McQuade’s Ship Chandlers on Wharf Street and his wife Mary Elizabeth. When Edward died, his widow lived on in the house until the 1940s.

A two-storey duplex was built at 1133 and 1135 Rockland Avenue in 1929. The Reverend Daniel Walker, pastor of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Tabernacle (571 Yates Street), lived in 1133 for several years, while an assortment of different people lived in the other side of the building. Among those who dwelled there were carpenter Ralph Snider, Theo Miles who was retired, Arthur Phipps, a policeman, and Archie and Dorothy Spurr.

Next door was 1137 Rockland Avenue; this two-storey frame Italianate home was built in 1893 for a cost of \$3,500. Its original owner was Thomas Morrison Henderson of Henderson Bros Druggists. This firm was established in 1858 as Charles and Alfred John Langley (Victoria and San Francisco) and, as noted in the Victoria Daily Colonist of June 2, 1896, business would be carried on under the firm name of Langley & Henderson Bros. following the death of Alfred Langley in April. Joseph Newlands Henderson moved to Vancouver to take charge of the firm’s business there, while Thomas Henderson and his brother William remained in Victoria. Shortly thereafter, on June 13, 1896, the firm decided to “withdraw from the retail business” and directed their former customers to Charles E. Jones for their future prescription needs. They continued the wholesale business in the two cities for many years. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the firm became known as only Henderson Bros. Around 1908, contractor Michael Carlin

moved into 1137 Rockland, living there for 10 years. After that, many different people lived there, never lasting more than 2 years.

In 1908, a small cottage was built at 1141 Rockland Avenue and a larger residence to the east at 1145 Rockland. Both houses had a variety of owners and tenants including editor William Blackmore, chiropodist Robert Baker and Richard Simons, a draftsman with

the BC government at 1141, and Alexander Ross who operated 1145 as rooms for several years. The Victorian Order of Nurses had their headquarters there for two years just before the 1920s. The buildings from 1133 Rockland to 1141 Rockland were all demolished in the 1970s to be replaced by 2 condominium buildings. Who knows what ghosts wander the grounds of their former homes? 🏠

From John Dam, A Hallmark Member Studying in Bath

It is a nice time to be in Bath, England now with the advent of spring and exceptional weather. Spring break is upon us next week and with it the opportunity to escape the books for a brief moment and go explore the United Kingdom stopping through a few medieval villages, Gothic cathedrals and slip in a mountain (hill?) climb or two.

My first term at the university, encapsulating the study of structures and history, is behind me now and the second term, comprising of legislation and materials, is wrapping up leading into the final leg of the program; the dissertation. Throughout our discussions, it has been well demonstrated that historic construction often performs better than we are able to understand or accept (see the Claire Bridge and 'Sabouret' cracking). Legislation here has admittedly been muddled far too often (see the evolution of the Listed building law) while the approach to material conservation promotes a more thorough respect for the historical tradition (who knew what you could do with linseed oil and lime). The repairs on Wells Cathedral has been a springboard of what really can and should be done with lime mortars addressing the irreparable damage inflicted by Portland cement. However, an overarching philosophy that applies to all conservation work is to strive for a deeper understanding of how a building was made and its material functions before one can really know how to repair and maintain it. We should pause to consider what are we

really conserving, the building or history? We cannot remove the book from its binding and replace it with blank pages and call it historical conservation. Then, when decisions are made, we are obliged to be guided by the principal of honest work. All too often this gets blurred by the need or desire to maximize financial return – a laudable goal but generally not harmonious with heritage conservation work.

If you like Georgian architecture and limestone, than Bath is certainly the city to spend some time in. After a few stumbles in the 1960's, the city has picked itself up and is very deserved of its title as a Unesco World Heritage Site. It's sweeping crescents and thoughtfully laid out squares interspersed with medieval remnants is a testament that historical construction and planning work can work in today's world with the story, the history, remaining intact while new chapters are written.

For those interested in historical trivia, General Wolfe lived for a time in Bath before taking up his final task of sailing to Canada to secure this new land as Britain's own, while Thomas Fuller, born and raised in Bath, would come to Canada to lay the design of many significant landmarks including our most prized neo-gothic Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

John Dam

Master's Candidate

University of Bath – Conservation of Historic Buildings Masters Program

South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair May 4, 2012 - 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. Students from the region are selected to participate in the Provincial 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. The labour disruption in the education system is causing us some concern, but we are determined to have a fair in any event.

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. 🏠



Awards Night – May 1, 2012

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 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 programme 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 250-382-4755 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.

Name _____
Telephone Number _____
Email Address _____
I wish to reserve _____ tickets for the Hallmark Society Awards Night.
Payment enclosed (if applicable) _____

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

Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| May 1, 2012 | Hallmark Society Annual Awards Night, St. Ann's Academy, 7:30 pm.. |
| May 4, 2012 | South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, Royal BC Museum, 9 -2. |



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 Heritage 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 Heritage 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 Heritage Society Awards Night

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 - 7:30 pm

St. Ann's Academy Auditorium

Reception to follow in Interpretive Centre