

Preserve

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 40, Number 3, Autumn 2012

President's Notes

With summer almost over the Hallmark Heritage Society has had a busy time of it.

Page 3

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Hallmark Heritage Society will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012

Page 4

A Very Busy Summer

The Hallmark Heritage Society has been visiting neighbourhoods all over the region this summer

Page 5

Helen Edwards Announces Retirement?

The Hallmark Heritage Society is going to be looking a lot different in the future.

Page 7

Century Home Threatened

The house at 316 Anson Street is currently under threat.

Page 8

Calendar

Keeping you informed about heritage activities.

Page 11

Office report - and request for help

During the summer, we have been fortunate to have both a Camosun College intern and a summer student from UVic.

Lauren Kubek is studying accounting at Camosun and has an interest in heritage. She is descended from R. P. Rithet, although she has no idea where the family fortune has gone since he passed on. Her main task this summer was to inventory and catalogue our library. Now we have a complete listing of every book in our collection, organized in categories so we can find them on the shelves easily. We have a database complete with cover photos that will find its way to our website soon. She also distributed books to local secondary school libraries - bringing the message of heritage to a new generation.



The address on this residence is "641" but what street and in which municipality?



Administrative Director: Helen Edwards
Office hours: Wednesday, Thursday, 10 - 1
or by appointment
Location: 1490 Fairfield Road
Mailing Address: Box 116, 777 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1G9
Phone: (250) 382-4755
office@hallmarksociety.ca
<http://www.hallmarksociety.ca>

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. 🏠

Hallmark Heritage Society Newsletter (ISSN 1195-6712), published quarterly by the Hallmark Society, Box 116, 777 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1G9. Copyright © 2012 Hallmark Heritage Society.

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means - graphic, electronic, electrostatic, or mechanical - without the prior written permission of the Hallmark Heritage Society and the author of the article. Printed in Canada by Island Blue Print Ltd. 🏠

Board of Directors

President

Ken Johnson 250-294-0803
president@hallmarksociety.ca

Vice-President

Bjorn Simonsen

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Stevens

Treasurer

John Edwards

Past President

Nick Russell

Directors

Patrick Dunae

Nick Etheridge

Russell Fuller

Caleb Horn

Glenn Parfitt

Patrick Skillings

Deadline for articles and advertising for the Winter 2012 newsletter is November 15, 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*, Box 116, 777 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1G9, deliver to 1490 Fairfield Road, or send to office@hallmarksociety.ca. 🏠

President's Report

by Ken Johnson

With summer almost over the Hallmark Heritage Society has had a busy time of it. We have been active with our display marquee with presentations at the James Bay Neighbourhood Association, Oaklands Neighbourhood Association, North Park Neighbourhood Association and at the FernFest. All events were well attended with few weather problems. The marquee and the heritage displays were well received at all locations and we have gained members as a result of our efforts. Word of our display has been getting around and we have more requests for exhibition than we can meet.

We shall continue the displays as we move into the fall with displays at the Rockland Community, the James Bay Community, and the Fairfield Community. Each of these displays will accentuate the heritage buildings in the specific community and will help the viewer understand what heritage is and means to a neighbourhood.

We have also been attending a number of meetings, both with the City of Victoria and with Saanich, concerning the preservation of heritage buildings. In some instances our endeavours have met with some success; in others, a heritage building has been lost or altered or a poorly designed, inappropriate building has been added to a historic neighbourhood. It is difficult to get Planners and Politicians to understand that if you take a single wooden building out of a neighbourhood, you are not just transforming the space it once occupied, you are transforming the look, the flavour, the rhythm of the entire neighbourhood.

At a recent meeting, where we were objecting to the insertion of five stark, modern building units jammed onto a lot of less than 9000 square feet area, we suggested that a building more in keeping with the neighbourhood would be more appropriate. We felt that the traditional design elements of gables, porches, and bays would fit in with the existing building fabric. This design suggestion was then referred to as 'faux heritage.'

As a result, we got to thinking about 'faux heritage.' Are we creating heritage by using the design elements that help define our neighbourhoods? Is "heritage" just a matter of design?

In the past we defined a heritage building just by its age and design. Over the past two decades what we define as heritage has grown, become broader and more complex. Now we include the history of the building, the people who have lived and died in it, with all of their stories, and within this, the history of the time the house was built and why it came to be and thus creating layer upon layer with each layer contributing to the final, strong composite definition of what is a heritage building.

We cannot do this by adding a gable, bay window or a porch. If this was so, most of what we see as new homes within the outlying suburbs could be called heritage buildings. What these buildings represent is a traditional style of architecture for the Northwest Coast and for Victoria. The insertion of a home designed for Eastern Canada or for New Mexico into any of these neighbourhoods would be out of place and inappropriate.

Architect Robert A.M. Stern, in his recent book "Tradition and Invention in Architecture" states that "Architecture is a dialogue with the past carried on in the present with an eye cast towards the future. The public is entitled to buildings that do not threaten, by their very being, the aesthetic and cultural values of the buildings around them."

And, further he states: "Architecture can help tell a story; it can take on a symbolic role; it can become an emblem; it can become part of a brand- and yes, to a remarkable extent, even represent the brand itself. A building can express the identity of a city through its stylistic language. It can express both a city's inspirations and its aspirations. It can reflect its system of values and place these values in a continuum. The traditions of a city become associated with the traditions of its architecture. Form and context become one.

Heritage advocates, civic bureaucrats, politicians, all come and go, but the city, identified by its name, its reputation, its setting and its buildings, needs to prevail. The quality of a city's buildings is a direct reflection of the quality of a city and its future aspirations."

Newer building will continue within our traditional neighbourhoods. But within these neighbourhoods we are entitled to architecture that respects the values of the existing fabric. Each historic area,

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Rockland, Fairfield, James Bay, or Tattersall, each has a style of architecture that reflects the time of construction and the people who built and occupied the homes. Surely an architect can design a modern building that shows it is new while respecting what has gone before.

We need more architectural criticism. 🏠

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Hallmark Heritage Society will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at the award-winning Oak Bay United Church community space at 7:30 pm. Entrance is via the Mitchell Street entrance. If you wish a tour of the restored church, arrive at 7:00 pm for a short tour. We will have a short business meeting with annual reports and heritage updates. Also on the agenda is the election of directors for the upcoming year. Please consider joining the board - it is not a huge time commitment but is very rewarding.

Our guest speaker will be Richard Linzey who will present an illustrated lecture on Military History of Esquimalt.

Richard is a UK registered architect and a senior heritage planner. As head of English Heritage's Architecture Branch, he developed policy for Framing Opinions, a campaign to preserve England's heritage of windows and doors, and building code compliances for historic buildings. Key projects include the development of master plans and direction of conservation works. He has worked for Commonwealth Historic Resources Management in Vancouver and as a heritage planner for the City of Victoria.

Currently, Richard is the Manager of Heritage Programs and Services for the province of BC, where his work has involved the development of a Provincial heritage strategy, contributions to the Building Code Modernization Initiative and continuing to provide conservation planning advice to support the stewardship and maintenance of Provincial heritage properties. 🏠

RIP Louise Lemire-Elmore

Hallmark Heritage Society Life Member Louise Lemire-Elmore died in a tragic car accident on May 29th, 2012. She is best remembered by the Society as the winner of an award for the amazing restoration of the property at 350 Wilson Street. According to a recent newspaper article, she had a "passion for making things beautiful." This was clearly demonstrated in the amazing transformation of this run-down building to a showpiece of restoration.

Together with her husband Bruce, she was able to discover the architectural features that had been removed during the slow deterioration of the building. The landmark home stands as a testament to her skill and determination and shows what one couple can do with a challenging project. Louise is survived by her husband Bruce, four children and one granddaughter.

The Hallmark Heritage Society conveys its sincere sympathy to Louise's family. Her work will live forever. 🏠

Provincial Heritage Fair Report

by Zahra Stark

This past weekend I spent in a state of awe of a group of 65 wonderful youths from around our great province. We should all be very proud of the sharp minds that have been nurtured here in British Columbia. I was struck by the high level of critical thinking present in the heritage projects by students from the ages of 11-16. I also have great appreciation for the work put in by the organizers, as their passion and hard work were present throughout the entire weekend. In the end I am left feeling extremely grateful and hugely inspired. 🏠

Editor's note: I asked Zahra to write a short note about her experience at the fair (Abbotsford: June 29th - July 3rd) as it is important to have this event continue. The benefits to the students - and the chaperones - is incalculable.

A Very Busy Summer

The Hallmark Heritage Society has been visiting neighbourhoods all over the region this summer, bringing our message of the importance of heritage to the larger community. Since the last newsletter, we have visited North Park and Oaklands (both on June 16th) and Fernwood on June 23rd.

We will be visiting Rockland on September 8th as part of The Rockland Stroll, James Bay on September 15th, and Fairfield/Gonzales on September 29th. We are seeking some volunteers to assist in manning the booth and meeting with their neighbours to help explain the history of the community and of the Hallmark Heritage Society. The hours are short and the benefits are fantastic. You will find yourselves learning more about your neighbourhood than you ever imagined. Please call (250-294-0803) or email (president@hallmarksociety.ca) Ken Johnson if you can help with any event.

Should you be unable to participate, we understand and hope that you can just stop by on the date of your community event and visit our booth. 🏠



Caleb Horn and Russ Fuller at Oaklands. Glenn Parfitt photo.

Ross Bay Villa Celebrates Canada Day

Once again, the Hallmark Heritage Society attended the Ross Bay Villa Canada Day Party. This year, we were able to showcase our new marquee and display that has been developed this year to bring heritage awareness to local communities. We talked with many citizens and were able to convince two to join the society.

The day was a celebration of the restoration of the front hall, complete with hand-painted floorcloth, and reconstruction of the heritage garden after the construction chaos from next door. We are very proud to have played a part in the rescuing of this building from demolition – it looks marvelous. 🏠



Hallmark Heritage Society booth at Ross Bay Villa. Helen Edwards photo



We have no clues to tell us where this magnificent residence was located. Any ideas??



This charming home is set amid wonderful landscaping but we have no idea where it was.

continued from page 1

Zahra Stark has been a volunteer with the South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair for two years. When we were given an opportunity to hire a student for 9 weeks this summer (with a 1-hour deadline to reply), she was the obvious choice. On her return from chaperoning the students at the Provincial Heritage Fair in Abbotsford, she began working on our photo collection. It is our hope that, by the end of the summer, the majority of our images will be uploaded to our victoriahistory.ca website. I am pleased to report that the entire slide collection is online and we are half-way through uploading the millennium collection. In addition, we have processed slides donated by the Victoria Heritage Foundation.

In the process of straightening up the office, we have found other slides and photographs that were put in drawers – “to be sorted later.” Well, these have been scanned and we are in the process of identifying the addresses.

There are three photos that are still unidentified. Can you help us? These photographs were part of a batch that were all taken in the late 1930s or early 1940s.

Please put on your thinking caps, and help us solve these puzzles.

I find myself energized by working with young people; they show me how to do things more effectively, make me think “outside the box,” and enhance my knowledge of 21st century technology. 📷

Helen Edwards Announces Retirement?

The Hallmark Heritage Society is going to be looking a lot different in the future. Beginning in October our long-serving Administrative Director Helen Edwards will be retiring from that position.

Helen joined the Hallmark Society in 1976, immediately stepping up to volunteer in all of our activities. In 1986 she volunteered to help staff our office, then located in Carr House. She and Julie King started the long task of organizing files to create the system that we still use today.

Helen was President of the Hallmark Society from 1994 – 1996 and then went on, in 1997 to become the first staff person at Hallmark for 7 hours per week. Helen has continued in that position, now working for 7 hours per week.

In Helen's own words she has "Over the course of my employment, I have overseen about 30 summer students, coordinated the Streetscape of Victoria Millennium project, supervised the transition of the society to the digital age with a small website. In 2003, we were asked by the Heritage Branch to assume coordination of the South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair. We continue this work today – and it is the most rewarding task that I work on. Today we have 3 websites, a presence on Facebook, two blogs and send out digital newsletters and members' updates.

In other activities, I was on the board of Heritage BC for 8 years (2 as president), served on the Heritage Legacy Fund for 5 years (4 as president), and have volunteered with several other organizations. I am currently the BC Governor for the Heritage Canada Foundation and the Chair of the HCF 40th Anniversary Committee."

We are sure that Helen will continue to be seen involved in the ongoing activities of the Hallmark Heritage Society as a volunteer. She certainly has earned the regards of all of our members, past and present and we all THANK YOU VERY MUCH HELEN! 🏠

Tour Guides Needed

The Hallmark Heritage Society is one of the sponsors of the Victoria 150 Symposium on September 29th and 30th. We are responsible for a walking tour of downtown on Saturday, September 29th after lunch and need some volunteer guides. We will provide a route map and comments on the buildings you will pass. There are 6 stops on the tour at which a docent will give detailed information on that location. The tour leaves from the Golden City restaurant - with groups leaving at 10-minute intervals. If you can help, please let us know at office@hallmarksociety.ca and we will give you more detailed instructions. 🏠

Memberships are due now

For most of our members, annual membership dues are payable by the end of September. The easiest way to pay is to bring your payment to the AGM. You can also mail a cheque to the office or deliver it during regular office hours.

As we have lost our gaming funding, we must more closely watch our finances. Your early attention to the renewal means that we do not have to send out extra reminders and can spend our money on saving heritage buildings and continuing advocacy. 🏠

Awards Night – May 7, 2013

No, 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? We rely on our members to be our "eyes and ears" in the community. Remember, a person or project cannot win an award if there is no nomination.

Nomination forms are available on our website along with sample nominations that have been successful. If you need assistance, please contact us well before the January 31, 2013 deadline and we can help you. 🏠

Century Home Threatened

by Helen Edwards



Photos: Page 8, top: View from the east; middle: entrance gates; Page 9, top: Gable end detail; middle: verandah; bottom: window detail. All Helen Edwards photos.

The house at 316 Anson Street is currently under threat. It has been under-used for several years, most recently as an Esquimalt Family Resource Centre. A cursory examination of the residence reveals that there has been little maintenance of the exterior siding. There has been little attempt to maintain the landscaping around the site and it looks quite desolate. We understand that the house was to be demolished, but consideration is now being given to having the house moved to a new location. Destroying this intact structure would seem to be the wrong thing to do.

The design features a full front verandah that has been enclosed on each end – no doubt due to the wind that seems to blow constantly, even on a warm day. The gable ends feature cedar shingles while the main storey is clad in horizontal siding. Although this is a commonly seen design, there are decorative elements that give it personality. There are decorative brackets on the gable ends and trim under the windows. Both have remained untouched. The windows would have originally been double hung, although some have been replaced by vinyl. This house could be quite easily restored: we have seen buildings in much worse condition rehabilitated magnificently.

It was not always deserted like this. The house, named “Ellerslie” after the ancestral home of Scottish hero William Wallace, rose at Macaulay Point around 1897, on land purchased from the Hudson’s Bay Company. For many years, it was the only residence in that area. The entrance gates still exist, but look forlorn in their current situation.

The house was built for John Jardine, a very interesting character. He was born in Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, September 24, 1854, to John and Janet (Montgomery) Jardine. His father was prominent in the industrial life of his district, where he was engaged in the manufacture of nails. John was educated in his local school then began a 5-year apprenticeship as a house painter, under the tutelage of his brother Thomas. He worked at that trade for 3 years, but decided

continued on page 9

continued from page 8

to travel to North America in 1880, having heard stories of opportunities in North America. After working in St. Paul, Minnesota, he came to Victoria in 1884 where he continued as a house painter.

According to a special edition of the *Colonist*, published April 5, 1896, John Jardine “established business here, and from the outset has enjoyed exceptional success, owing to the high quality of the work he does, and the moderate charges made. Every thing in the line of house and sign painting, decorating, etc., is executed in the most artistic manner, and so uniform has been the excellence of all work done by Mr. Jardine that today the fact that he has charge of a contract is the strongest guarantee to our citizens that it will be discharged in a superior manner.” One can only assume that the interior of Ellerslie was a showpiece of his craft.

Jardine had a ranch located on the British Columbia electric line, near Langley, at Jardine, which station was named in his honor. However, he never resided upon that property, preferring to live in Victoria. A 1914 publication describes the Ellerslie site as: “a magnificent view, embracing the parliament buildings, the lieutenant governor’s residence, and places of interest in all parts of Victoria. However, the most lasting impression one receives from this site is the view of Victoria’s harbor and the ocean, with the ships sailing and steaming to and from practically every port of the world, the busy harbor life emphasized by heavily loaded lighters, capacious tenders, swiftly moving launches and hundreds of pleasure craft.” The view is much the same today – breathtakingly beautiful on a warm, sunny day.

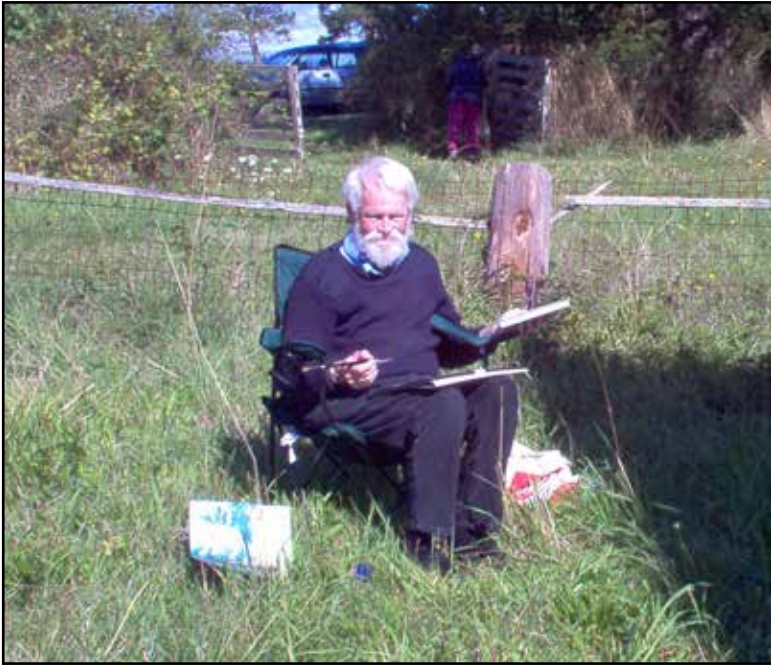
On October 3, 1903, Jardine contested the Esquimalt electoral district but was defeated by fifteen votes. On February 23, 1907, he again entered the field, this time with success, serving until his defeat in the 1912 election. He was interested in labour issues and was a valued member of the Royal Commission of Trade.

John Jardine was keenly interested in local issues and felt that there should be a breakwater from Holland Point to Brochie Edge. To bring public attention to this matter, he became a member of the Board of Trade, in which connection he was more likely to impress his views upon prominent men.

He died in Esquimalt on October 15, 1937, still living at the same address. 🏠



RIP Nick Bawlf



Nick Bawlf sketching at the Newman Farm. Central Saanich. Helen Edwards photo.

The Hallmark Heritage Society is saddened by the recent passing of Nick Bawlf. He graduated from the University of British Columbia School of Architecture in 1963 with a thesis on the rejuvenation of Bastion Square, Victoria, for which he was awarded a Pilkington Scholarship for architectural studies abroad. He worked in London, England (the Civic Trust), Denmark, and Ireland before returning to Canada to work with a number of Vancouver firms such as Thompson, Berwick and Pratt, and Erickson Massey. While with Erickson he was senior designer on the Bank

of Canada building, Ottawa. In 1972 he established a practice in Victoria in association with Cooper, Tanner and Associates, Vancouver. In 1978, this became Bawlf Cooper Associates. This firm's major projects have included numerous restorations, such as Market Square and St. Andrews Cathedral, Jewish Synagogue, heritage rehabilitation (Belmont Building), contemporary contextual work (Victoria Conference Centre, Huntington Manor Hotel), and historical restoration work at Barkerville, Cottonwood, Hat Creek and Yale. His Conference Centre design won a Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Medal for Excellence.

Nick served on the Hallmark Board of Directors for many years – his insight into the details of heritage preservation was of great value. Many of us learned more from him in a short conversation than we could have gleaned from written sources. In 2007, Nick and his brother Sam were recognized with the British Columbia Heritage Award. Together they transformed a skid-row-like area into the Market Square shopping and office complex. It was one of the first of its kind in North America when it opened in the 1970s. Nick estimated that he had worked on more than 80 heritage projects throughout the province.

Nick was proud of his connection with The Victoria Sketch Club, founded in 1909. Among its early members were Samuel Maclure and Emily Carr.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Pam Madoff as well as Nick's children and grandchildren. He will surely be missed. 🏠

Young Researcher

by Helen Edwards

Who says historic research is for the old? I recently spent 1 1/2 hours with young Nelson who is researching the history of his school, Margaret Jenkins Elementary. With the assistance of his mother, he has amassed an impressive file of newspaper clippings, government documents and photographs. Without prompting, he was able to tell me of errors in official documents including signage at the school, information in our files and publications including *This Old House*. At a time when young people are thought to spend all their time playing games and texting their friends, here is one student who takes pride in being an independent researcher. His future looks bright. As a reward for our help with his research, Noah will be donating his collection of material to our Society once he has finished his project. Thanks, Noah. It was a pleasure to work with you. 📷

Calendar

- September 24, 2012** Hallmark Society Annual General Meeting, Oak Bay United Church Community Hall, 1355 Mitchell Street, 7:30 pm. Guest speaker Richard Linzey. See page 4 for further information
- September 29-30, 2012** Heritage Symposium. "Victoria in 1862," Oddfellows Hall, 2315 Douglas Street. For complete details, ask us and we will send out a registration form. Space is limited, so register early.
- October 11-13, 2012** Heritage Canada - National Heritage Summit. Visit heritagecanada.org for details.
- October 19-20, 2012** Heritage BC Annual Conference, Burnaby, BC. Check with heritagebc.ca/events for details.
- October 31 - November 3, 2012** Beyond Boundaries: US National Preservation Conference, National Trust for Historic Preservation - Spokane, Washington. See www.preservationnation.org for details.
- February 18-23, 2013** Heritage Week. Special event to be held - details to come later.
- May 3, 2013** South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, Royal BC Museum, 9 -2
- May 7, 2013** Hallmark Society Annual Awards Night, St. Ann's Academy, 7:30 pm.

Ongoing events

- Old Cemeteries Society:** Sunday Cemetery History Tours: Start at 2:00 pm. Meet at 1:45 pm in front of Oregano's, Fairfield Plaza, 1544 Fairfield Rd. Others start where noted. Charge: \$5 for non-members; \$2 for members. No reservations needed. Tours are held regardless of weather. Contact www.oldcem.bc.ca or 250-598-8870.
- Victoria Historical Society:** Regular monthly meetings, except for June, July and August. For a description of speakers, visit <http://www.victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca/>
- Friends of the BC Archives:** Lectures series on items of historical interest. All events, unless otherwise specified, are held in the Newcombe Conference Hall in the Museum and are free for members of the Friends of the BC Archives. Non-member admission rates, payable at the door, are currently \$5.00 for a lecture, and \$10.00 for a workshop. Check http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC_About_Archives/upcoming.aspx for details.



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: _____

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 prorated 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 Annual General Meeting
Monday, September 24, 2012 - 7:30 pm
Oak Bay United Church community centre, 1355 Mitchell Street.
Guest speaker: Richard Linzey: Military History of Esquimalt.*