

Preserve

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 42, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2014

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The Arrival of the Steamship Vasco da Gama

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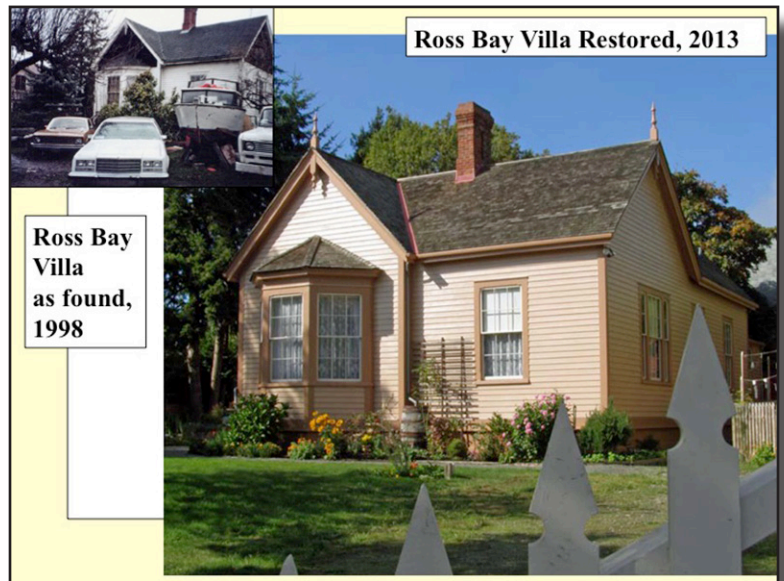
Keeping you informed about heritage activities.

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Volunteer effort means Award of Merit for Ross Bay Villa Society

The City of Victoria saved Ross Bay Villa from demolition in the late 1990s and it was purchased by The Land Conservancy of BC in 1999. Built in 1865, it was the home of Frank and Letitia Roscoe until after his tragic death in late 1878. It changed hands many times and gradually deteriorated until developers proposed to demolish the house in the late 1990s.

The house has been painstakingly stabilized, repaired and meticulously restored to the 1860s period by the volunteer Ross Bay Villa Building Committee (now called the RBV Society), working every Saturday and other days when necessary. In the process, many volunteers have been trained in a wide variety of specialized tasks including faux finishing and period garden maintenance. Before other work could begin, the site was cleared of old vehicles and truckloads of abandoned furniture, filthy and rancid garbage, rats and over a dozen feral cats.





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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 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on September 15, 2014 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street at 7:00 pm. Learn about the move of 1082 Richmond Road to 1016 Pemberton and the subsequent restoration. 🏠

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Deadline for articles and advertising for the Autumn 2014 newsletter is August 15, 2014.

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*, 15-1594 Fairfield Road, PO Box 50013 Fairfield Plaza PO, Victoria, BC, V8S 1G0 or send to office@hallmarksociety.ca. 🏠

President's Report

by Ken Johnson

In the month of May, I was engaged a number of times in discussing the future of some individual properties along the Inner Harbour. These properties are owned by a number of bodies: the City of Victoria, the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, and the Provincial Government. These parties have opened a "Dialogue" with the citizens of Victoria to try to determine how the citizens see the Inner Harbour developing in the future. The difficulty arises when one considers the harbour only from the viewpoint of the properties. The harbour is and always was water – it was the water that brought the Hudson's Bay's ships on to these shores and established Fort Victoria.

To view the future of the harbour only from the viewpoint of the properties is an error. They should be viewing it as a whole and, when they do attempt to rezone, revitalize, reimagine or whatever "re-" they can come up with, they should understand that the harbour is more than a narrow strip of land touching the water – the Inner Harbour and the buildings that stretch back from the water, not for just a narrow strip but for blocks going back from the water reflect the history of the development of the City, they define our city, and shape the way we feel about it emotionally and intellectually. Even though a waterfront serves as a natural boundary between land and water, it must not be conceptualized or planned as a thin line.

The harbour has been redeveloped many times in the past 150 years. There are many pictures within the Provincial Archives that indicate the changes to the Inner Harbour – from mud flats and ships ways, to shanties hung out over the water with privies attached for rapid sewage disposal, to the tourist oriented façade that we have created and are still in the act of creating.

The harbour will change again and again over the life of the City of Victoria. Changes in economic and cultural viewpoints will result in changes to how we view and use this narrow strip where land meets the water.

The aura of the city largely resides and endures along its waterfront. In many cases a waterfront preserves for the city some inherent and unalterable stability. In most North American cities the waterfront properties, once polluting industrial eyesores, have been "beautified" and redeveloped

– sometimes with good results but sometimes resulting in the cutting off of the waterfront from the city as expensive gentrification projects, designed only to provide waterfront views for the wealthy have alienated the water from the citizens. Many cities have opted for tall or dense development right along the waterfront; these experience a precipitous drop in land values a block or two away from the edge – and with it a drop in the quality of the urban environment.

The Inner Harbour is a valuable and often contested realm; bringing forth opposing human desires to preserve and to reinvent. In the current "Dialogue" we hear an opinion regarding the development of the property at the foot of Bastion Square, commonly referred to as the Reid site but best described as it was described by the Hudson's Bay Company, the "Enterprise Wharf." This site has been for many years owned by the provincial government and utilized as a parking lot – not the best use of waterfront property I admit. Some views are that we could make better use of this property by adding more parking: building multiple levels up to the street level and then extending a plaza out to the water with one or 2 storey buildings at the street level and with views and passages for pedestrians to walk out to the edge and look at the water. These proponents state that there were buildings there before, historically. That is true, the Hudson's Bay had buildings there for 80 years but it has been nearly 80 years since they were taken down so which is correct, buildings obstructing the view or the view itself?

We must remember waterfront redevelopments are long-term endeavors with the potential to produce long-term values. Endangering this for short-term riches rarely produces the most desirable results.

We have had over the years, as part of our discussions on the Inner Harbour, proposals for opera houses, art galleries, and maritime museums. All of these proposals are good and valid and should be part of the downtown core of the city. But could they not function just as well one block away or two blocks away from the water's edge? Could we not retain that place where the citizens could go down to the water's edge as people have done so for eons?

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The City of Victoria is planning to add 10,000 residents to the downtown core over the next generation. This means densification, more traffic (they hope it's all on bicycles) and some, but hopefully not all, of the problems that densification can bring. These new residents are going to want open space where they can hopefully find some respite from being confined in mini lofts. The best recreational space available in downtown Victoria is along the Inner Harbour. As can be seen from the City of Victoria Official Community Plan the public desires and expects access to the water's edge. Thus far, the city has done an excellent job of persuading property owners that there is merit in maintaining that valuable edge within the public domain. But we must maintain an edge that is more than a few metres wide – we need more than a thin edge- we need depth.

The Inner Harbour of Victoria is today pristine when compared to that of 110 years ago when

the James Bay mud flats were just being filled in. The working harbour has changed; the polluting industries have gone. The industry of today's working harbour is that of tourism and relatively nonpolluting. We still have smelly mud on the bottom of the harbour but we only see it during the low tides of June and December when the head of the harbour at the base of the Causeway is exposed and the mud flowing out of the Humboldt Street culvert and into the harbour is exposed.

This harbour is a distinctive environment and provides a significant advantage to the city of Victoria as a tourist city and, most importantly, as a place to live. We must take every step possible to ensure that it is preserved for today and for future generations. If you have the opportunity, participate in the "Inner Harbour Dialogue." You may think it's safe, free from potential harm, that they can't change the water, but they can change how you relate to it, how you engage with it, and how it forms and defines your city. 🏡

T	Awards Sponsors	T
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O	Refreshments --- Glenn Parfitt, John Edwards, Janet Stevens	O
	Research and scripts --- Helen Edwards	
U	Ushers --- Bjorn Simonsen, Nick Russell, John Perry	U

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Among the discoveries that aided in the restoration process were the locating of a descendant in Chicago who generously shared Frank & Letitia Roscoe's original diary, an 1879 auction list from the newspaper that lists Letitia Roscoe's belongings before she and the children returned to England, and the artifacts found after an archaeological dig in 2000.

As the foundations were weak, over 40 new, engineered footings, posts and steel connectors were installed in the cramped crawlspace. New site services including complete rewiring and plumbing of the building, fire suppression sprinklers, intrusion alarm, internet and telephone were installed. A new cedar shingle roof, cedar gutters and drainage system enhanced the exterior.

As the original rear kitchen wing was rotting, all was removed except the roof; the walls and floor were rebuilt using as much of the old lumber as possible. A unique surviving 1860s, studless rear wall section and original window were carefully re-installed in the restored wing. Windows were rebuilt and repaired, and 40 panes of period glass were found for re-glazing.

Woodwork on the entry door assembly was stripped of paint and refinished in a faux grained oak pattern to match the original. Missing architectural elements were replicated using the 1889 photo and ghostlines of half columns on the wall. The house was painted in the 1865 colour scheme utilizing microscopic paint analysis of the original woodwork.

Discovery of the 1889 photo of the Combe Family (the family was identified but not the house in the BC Archives) was hugely useful in restoring the front porch and the round garden bed.

As the front fence had long since decayed, volunteers designed an appropriate replacement and held a "fence-raising bee." An early 20th century outbuilding was reconstructed to house a disabled washroom and other rooms. Landscaping includes a kitchen garden with coldframe on the east side and an ornamental garden on the south and west sides.

Layers of wallpaper were painstakingly removed so that the oldest paper could be copied and rehung. Lath and plaster was repaired or redone. Modern alterations were reversed and an entire wall was reconstructed down the hall. Paint analysis was done on all interior woodwork, and colours and finishes were replicated. Period floor cloths appropriate to the hallways were created.

Regular tours and a popular annual Tea Party have made the house, its historic occupants, and the work involved in the restoration known to the community. Press coverage has aided in raising both awareness and much-needed funds. Volunteers have contributed over 72,000 hours and have supported the project with their financial contributions.

The Ross Bay Villa Society has transformed the proverbial "ugly duckling" into a showpiece and, in the process, has demonstrated the power of volunteerism in heritage restoration. 🏠

Awards of Merit 1202 Fort Street

Dinning Hunter Lambert and Jackson won for the repurposing of 1202 Fort Street. This building was constructed in 1906 for Dr. Joseph and Eleanor Gibbs to a design by architects Hooper and Watkins. The family only lived here for two years before moving to Vancouver. The next occupants were Edward Noyse Horsey and his wife, Flora McDonald. By far the longest residence was by Flora's father and brother. Between them, they lived in the house from 1929 to 1947. By the 1950s the building was operated as a multiple dwelling.

By the time that the Dinning Hunter law firm

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Helen Edwards photo

purchased the building, it had been vacant for some time. Its prior use, for an extended period, had been as a rooming house of unremitting low quality with unvented gas cookers installed in closets, collapsing plaster, numerous code deficiencies, and the occasional bathroom located down the hall.

The building had been designated in 1977, as having the requisite values to be considered a significant heritage building, including siting, context, original owners, and design quality. Designation, however, works both ways, in that it is the responsibility of the owner to maintain the building in good repair, and the responsibility of the City to assist in this process. It was clear that, although designated, retaining its residential use, while perhaps desirable, was not financially viable. The only realistic option for preservation was to rezone the building for office use. A survey of this section of Fort Street showed that this was

compatible with the remainder of the street.

As part of the rezoning, the owners suggested that the designation be expanded to include the front hall and stair, consisting of fir paneling and woodwork in excellent condition. The remainder of the building was stripped out so that the required seismic work, sprinkler system, and other building services could be installed and concealed. The existing woodwork was refinished and re-installed, existing windows rebuilt and had thermal glazing installed, and minor alterations were made to the rear porch to accommodate a couple of parking spaces

The result is a building that retains its significant heritage qualities while providing contemporary standards of energy efficiency, seismic performance, and safety. It is a strong contributor to the Fort Street heritage precinct. 🏡

864 Queens Avenue



Helen Edwards photo

An Award of Merit was presented to Garde Collins and Malcolm Harman of Linhar Projects Ltd and Christine Lintott Architect for the repurposing of 864 Queens Avenue.

This house stands at Quadra Street, just below the Bay Street intersection. It was built in 1909 by contractors Bell and Rolland who were responsible for several similar designs in the neighbourhood. In the early days, 864 Queens was home to families. Included were a warehouseman at E G Prior and Co., a carpenter and a retired oil chemist. It was a family home in a neighbourhood of family homes.

The house had suffered considerable neglect in recent years, and the heavy traffic on Quadra made it increasingly undesirable as a private residence. Garde Collins and Malcolm Harman, in collaboration with architect Christine Lintott transformed a very run-down single family dwelling into a modern office building contained within the original heritage footprint.

When they agreed to purchase the house it was in reasonably good condition inside and operating as a rooming house. When the lone tenant left in the building heard it was sold and was possibly going to be redeveloped, she decided to host a house wrecking party for around 300 people. She was assuming the house was being torn down. People knew about the party because of flyers placed all over town. Paint was sprayed all over the house and made quite a mess. The team renegotiated the selling price, bought it, cleaned it up and re-rented it while going through the rezoning process.

The house was discretely raised to allow for a full height lower floor with an attached patio. The front door is original and its retention is typical of the work on the rest of the building. The main floor was converted to office use with the addition of a bathroom and small cooking area. As much of the original material was retained as was possible. Among the notable items are two leaded glass windows that were re-caned and made useable for another century. Existing wood windows were in dilapidated shape, so were removed and replaced

by double-paned wood sashes. This ensures that they look the same but are more energy efficient.

The reception area is bright and inviting with its high ceilings and natural light. This main floor space is being used by the Dogwood Initiative who own one-third of the building. Upstairs, the space was converted to an open area that suits the needs of the architectural firm of Christine Lintott. It is full of natural light and certainly has the “wow” factor when you first come up the stairs. All of the workstations are situated against the outside walls to make use of the available light with the central staircase bisecting part of the work area. In this area a dormer was added on the west side to match the original on the east. The roof was completely rebuilt as the original 2 x 4 construction would not meet

current building code. The solution was to install a central beam and new larger dimension rafters.

At present, the owners are searching for an appropriate tenant for the lower floor with their desired choice a coffee shop that would take advantage of the brick patio and would also bring dynamism to the street. Other developers would likely have demolished this building, eyeing an important corner lot like this for high-density commercial use. Instead, Linhar Projects Ltd. and Christine Lintott Architect went the extra mile to repurpose this vintage building. They have demonstrated that it is indeed possible to retain the exterior features of an older home – and its position in the streetscape - yet convert the interior to a modern use. 🏠

452 Boleskine Road

An Award of Merit was presented to Jim and Susan Merrick for the restoration of their home at 452 Boleskine Road.

The expansion of the street railway system prior to WWI out Douglas Street to Cloverdale Street resulted in an expansion to the suburbs along the northern fringe of the City. Many of the best properties were to be found in the area of Douglas Street and Boleskine Road where one could find the family necessities: Tolmie Elementary School, St Mark’s Church, and Raymond Chase & Son General Store.

It was near here, at the corner of Boleskine road and Whittier Avenue that William Herbert “Bert” Graham (1886 – 1960), a locally well-known painter and decorator and second-generation Saanich resident, built his new family home at 452 Boleskine Road. Situated on a corner lot at the intersection of Boleskine Road and Whittier streets, in a mixed commercial and residential area, the Graham Residence is notable as an elaborate combination of stylistic features. The form and scale of the home’s plan is typical of a one-story classic bungalow, but applied to this basic plan are Craftsman-style details such as square, chamfered veranda supports and decorative and exposed eave brackets, and Neoclassical style details such as dentil moldings, paired eave brackets, a paneled front door with elliptical-shaped beveled glazing and a cornice above the front entrance. It is a typical pattern book plan, with the front façade balanced by a half-width veranda on one side and



Ken Johnson photo

a semi-octagonal bay window on the other. There is another bay window on the side of the house.

The original wooden-sash windows include single and triple-assembly double-hung sash, beautiful stained glass windows with a floral motif in the transoms and entrance skylights, and a stained glass panel in the entrance foyer. Original interior features include wooden trim and floors, and plaster walls.

This modest Edwardian –vernacular bungalow served many families until, in 1996, Jim and Susan Merrick fell in love with it and, even though it was not for sale, convinced the owners to part with it. Thus began the all too familiar saga of a heritage house restoration. Over the years the house had suffered a lack of maintenance. Jim and Susan were faced with a task which would occupy them for the next 17 years: replace deteriorated original exterior

shingles with new, replace rotted fir trim with new clear fir trim to match original, completely re-build the chimney, replace windows with new to match originals retaining the original stained glass elements, and move and re-build the garage which had been found to have been originally

constructed within the street right-of-way when Whittier street was little more than a lane. Almost all of these works were carried out by Jim and Susan personally showing a deep and continuing commitment to their fine heritage home. 🏡

Mercer and Schaefer Glasstudios



Ron Bukta photo

Ed Schaefer and Tom Mercer have been active with heritage preservation in Victoria for over thirty years. Both independently and collaboratively as Mercer & Schaefer Glasstudios, they have removed, restored and reinstalled thousands of leaded glass and stained glass windows from hundreds of Victoria heritage buildings. These range from the simple diamond glazed windows of modest bungalows to the gems of Craigdarroch Castle and the collections of English stained glass windows present in many Victoria churches.

All projects undertaken are guided by the preservation philosophy to 'do as little as possible but as much as necessary' and every project evidences their pursuit of excellence in craftsmanship and respect of our heritage. Original fabric to a window is preserved as much as possible and many well-intended but unsympathetic 'repairs' performed over the decades are corrected.

They have designed and implemented Stained Glass Conservation Plans for some of Victoria's architectural landmarks including the BC Legislature Buildings, Craigdarroch Castle and Christ Church Cathedral. Entire collections of stained glass windows have been documented with photographs and countless hours of condition notes that collectively provide current and future custodians and committees with a sympathetic plan to assure the ongoing preservation of their windows for the enjoyment of future generations.

Their services have also included the design, fabrication and installation of the new protective glazing systems which are sympathetic to the exterior presentation of the windows and buildings and safeguard some of Victoria's most notable stained glass windows against accidents and vandalism.

As glass artists, they have designed, fabricated and installed as many new leaded/stained glass windows for residential, commercial, secular and ecclesiastic buildings in Victoria and beyond. These add to the city's growing collection of stained glass windows and may one day be recognized themselves as heritage stained glass. Among these new works, 3 windows have been dedicated by visiting royalty including:

- BC Legislature Buildings - Dedicated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 2002
- Christ Church Cathedral – Dedicated by His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, 2013
- Government House - Dedicated by His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, 2013

All of their work is done to conservation standards in constant recognition of the heritage value of each piece for its' aesthetic, heritage, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance to past, present and future generations.

The firm was nominated by Vintage Woodworks Inc., themselves Hallmark award winners, who noted that they have enjoyed working "with Tom

and Ed for over 20 of their 30 years. We have come to know them as true professionals and wonderful and warm friends. They are a valuable resource to both our community and the heritage of our great city." A list of their commercial and institutional projects reads like a who's who of heritage buildings. Of course, this list does not include the

hundreds of windows designed, built or restored for private dwellings.

The Hallmark Heritage Society is proud to recognize Mercer and Schaefer Glasstudios for their 30 years of work to the heritage community and hope that they continue working many years into the future. 🏠

Mark Madoff Award - Rick Goodacre

The Mark Madoff Award was presented to Rick Goodacre as someone who has been a leader in the heritage community in BC for decades, and has made a tremendous, positive, impact on the BC scene. We would be much worse off now, if we hadn't had him!

Rick was trained as an anthropologist. He spent some time up-Island, working for the BC Forest Museum of North Cowichan, the Cowichan and Chemainus Valleys Ecomuseum project ("the museum without walls"), and writing a history of Ladysmith with a heritage inventory. In 1990, Rick became the first full-time executive director of Heritage BC, and he built that organization into a powerful player on the heritage stage. Yet Rick has always kept a very low profile – self-deprecating, perhaps even shy. When we asked Jan Thomas of Heritage BC for pictures, she told us that they had the same problem when they were putting together a tribute for him: "We had no pictures of him," she said. "He was always behind the camera instead of in front of it."

Rick has a knack for nurturing: for encouraging and inspiring professionals and volunteers. He also has an ability to cut through the baloney, and to see the big picture. As such, he was much in demand as a Facilitator. Google him, and he turns up on countless committees, usually as chair. Rick was the face of heritage all over the province and often nationally and internationally, constantly giving speeches, slideshows, exhorting, presenting certificates, handing out cheques...from Prince Rupert to Nelson to Ladysmith. Similarly, his name appears on a number of seminal publications.

Sometimes crusty, he has a wicked sense of humour, a man for whom a spade was very much a spade – never a "manual excavating implement"! Rick didn't always suffer fools gladly, and he had to suffer a few in the sphere in which he had to



Ron Bukta photo

operate. We like to think of him as a burr under the saddle of the bureaucrats. He got things put on the agenda. Rick played a key role in many important milestones in British Columbia heritage developments. We asked Richard Linzey, of the BC Heritage Branch, about him. He was front-and-centre in putting the Cole Island naval buildings on the heritage map, he spurred on the rescue of the Kinsol Trestle and many other projects, across the province.

Rick Goodacre had a passion for his job that went long beyond the statutory hours of work. He seemed to be on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The line between work and volunteer became blurred over the years as he struggled to keep Heritage BC afloat. Due to his immense loyalty to the organization, Heritage BC has emerged from its recent crisis stronger than ever and is now on the road to a complete revitalization. We hope that although Rick has retired as Executive Director of Heritage BC, his passion for heritage will long continue. 🏠

President's Award

Helen Edwards photo



The President's Award for adaptive reuse was presented to Mike Sweet of Black Horse Contracting and Harry Newton for the move and restoration of 1082 Richmond Road in its new location at 1016 Pemberton Road.

The partnership of these two men goes back several years, as they had assembled a charming row of large heritage apartment buildings on Pemberton Avenue. In the process, they acquired an empty lot, so when the old house at Oak Bay Avenue & Richmond was abandoned, they decided to buy it and move it – something neither of them had ever done before.

The history of 1082 Richmond Road has been well documented in *Preserve*, but we will present a summary. The Bennett family was resident in the location as early as 1892. John T. Bennett is listed as a sail maker, later to be recognized as a master mariner. He died in 1896 with his funeral at the residence, but Mrs. Bennett remained in the house.

She rented out rooms until the family moved to San Francisco in 1903. BC Ladies College was on this site in 1905-06 and, by 1908, University School (Reverend William Bolton, principal). We know in 1909 that University School moved to the present Mount Tolmie campus. For the rest of its life on Richmond, the building was subdivided into smaller and smaller units.

The house is huge, and had to be cut in half to move it. The first estimate for moving and restoration was \$500,000; it ended up costing more than \$1,000,000. The move itself was flawless... after city inspectors had delayed things, putting everybody on hold! But it was a local sensation – many neighbours came out to watch, even bringing their lawn chairs! – and was a triumph of meticulous driving – backwards. The evening was chilly, but that did not keep the crowds away.

But that was the easy part. The two halves then had to be sealed back together, and the entire inside and outside had to be restored. The partners did not stint, combing recycling yards to find matching hardware, and getting much wood trim re-made. The result is five highly desirable rental suites, and a very handsome addition to the streetscape: that block of Pemberton Road looks as if it were all original!

The city deserves some credit for not permitting new construction on this site, and agreeing to the move, which doubtless meant some rules had to be slightly bent!

We are happy to honour Mike Sweet of Black Horse Contracting and Mike Newton for this daring salvage operation that has not only saved a significant building but has also enhanced the heritage streetscape of Pemberton Road. 🏠

Annual General Meeting Speakers

Are you curious about the move of the house at 1082 Richmond Road to 1016 Pemberton Road that won the President's Award at our recent ceremony? Do you want to know the story behind the amazing rehabilitation? We have arranged for Mike Sweet and Harry Newton to speak at our Annual General Meeting on September 15, 2014 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre.

This will be an interesting presentation as we will be able to see the work done on the interior and hear the story from the men who did the work. Our report from Awards Night (see above for story) could not give all the details, so come to the meeting to hear it all. 🏠

Donations are now easier to make

The Hallmark Heritage Society has recently signed up with Canada Helps, a registered charity with a goal of making life simple. It is an online fund-raising solution that will allow us to accept donations over the internet without the added cost of maintaining credit card accounts. Donations are processed by Canada Helps and then the funds, minus a small administration charge, are electronically transferred directly to our bank account. Donors receive a tax receipt instantly – no waiting for a volunteer to process a payment and hand write a receipt.

You can make a single donation online or sign up for a monthly donation. We have put a link on our webpage and have already received donations.

The direct link to our page on the Canada Helps site is <https://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?charityID=s5418>

As you know, we rely on the generosity of our members to keep our society alive. Now it is just a few clicks to donate – less work at both ends. Please consider making a donation today. 📄

Save the Date

Board member Glenn Parfitt will be presenting the history of his family and their connection with hundreds of buildings around Victoria. Through family videos, documents and photographs never before seen in public, he will inform and educate. The event is scheduled for October 22, 2014 at a location in Fernwood (more details later).

As this evening is intended to attract new members for the Hallmark Heritage Society, paid-up members will be admitted at no cost while non-members will be charged \$25 – equivalent to a one-year membership. It is vital that we attract new members as we no longer receive a gaming grant and want to continue our current programs and expand our community outreach. Please pass the word to anyone who might be interested. 📄

Summer Student hired

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Kirsten Hundza to work in our office for 13 weeks this summer. She has just finished digitizing the slides from the City of Victoria – a project we began last summer.

She is now working on the digitization of the clipping files. It is our hope that we will complete this project in about 5 years. We hope eventually to put all the digital files on a separate hard drive so that they can be easily accessed. Those documents to which we hold copyright will be uploaded to our history website for 24-hour access. 📄

The Telegraph

Daily Colonist, October 25, 1864.

By the last of next week it is expected the telegraph will reach Seattle. From thence the mainline will follow down the beach on the east side of the Sound to New Westminster. This course is taken as it avoids the necessity of cutting a trail through the timber, and is not so liable to be injured by fire, besides it can be put up and kept in repair with boats. Mr. Haines is now engaged surveying this part of the line, and they intend having it completed to New Westminster by 1 January. Here it will connect with the great Asiatic American Telegraph. From Seattle a branch line will be run to the principal points on the west side of the sound to Victoria. 📄



Group photo of all students, teachers and judges at the South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair. Ron Bukta photo. See page 12 for list of winners.

South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair Results 2014

The Historic Places Award

Joshua Shaffer – Fort Rodd Hill – Bayside Middle School

Lieutenant Governor’s Historical Literacy Award

Olenka Bojanich – Mount Douglas Secondary – The Lonely Road to the West

The British Columbia Magazine Award

Lily Yang – Mount Douglas Secondary – The Unfortunate Game of Immigrants

The BC Hydro Power Pioneers History Award

Cindy Koira – Bayside Middle School – The Canadian Pacific Railway

Loyalist Award (Vancouver Branch)

Nick Considine – St Michaels University School – Sir Joseph Pope

Canada’s History Award

Sharon Edward and Gahwi Woo –Mount Douglas Secondary – The Migratory

Royal BC Museum Award

Emma Ronaye – Mount Douglas Secondary – Memories of the Métis

Technology Innovation for Historical Storytelling

Quinton Yong and Daniel Burleson – A Mine Craft Journey West

Capital Award

Alysha Becker and Angel Thompson – Dunsmuir Middle School – Bastion Square

BC Heritage Fairs Society Stellar Achievement Award

* Joshua Shaffer – Fort Rodd Hill – Bayside Middle School

* Sarah Sherwood – Mount Douglas Secondary – Mineopoly

* Lily Yang – Mount Douglas Secondary – The Unfortunate Game of Immigrants

* Emily Tsao – Mount Douglas Secondary - J’suis Canadien

* Livia Newman – St Michaels University School – The Nest

Zach Zwicky– St Michaels University School– Colwood Pioneers

Jenna Jiang – Mount Douglas Secondary – The Building Blocks of a British Immigrant

Honourable Mention

Bodey Carson and Roan Demmings – Dunsmuir Middle School – Fairbridge Farm

Note: Students with a * before their names will be attending the provincial fair in Kamloops.

Pioneer Citizen Dies Yesterday

The Victoria Daily Colonist, June 3, 1914, p2

Mr. Robert Porter, Sr., Passes Away After Brief Illness -Was Founder of Most Successful Firm

Mr. Robert Porter, Senior, who was a prominent citizen of Victoria for upwards of sixty years, the greater part of which period was occupied in the prosecution of a business which grew to substantial proportions, both here and in Vancouver, passed away yesterday morning at the family residence, 151 Government Street. Although Mr. Porter had been remarkably active latterly for one of his years, having been within three months of his eightieth birthday, the end was not unexpected. Quite recently he was stricken with a serious illness which was too great a tax on his failing strength.

It was as the head of the firm of Messrs R. Porter & Sons, butchers in a large way, both in Victoria and Vancouver, that Mr. Porter was best known to residents of British Columbia. He made his start in this commercial enterprise thirty-eight years ago by the establishment of what was then a comparatively modest store at the corner of Douglas and Johnson Streets. As the population increased the facilities necessary were provided to meet the expanding trade. A farm close to Victoria was acquired, and the Victoria merchant got in touch with adequate sources of supply on the adjacent islands, the Provincial Mainland and elsewhere. The first store was added to and modernized, and new quarters of an up-to-date character were opened at the corner of Government and Broughton Streets.

Through the judicious combination of progressiveness and conservation in its management, Mr. Porter's business continued to flourish until it was known throughout the Canadian West. In 1907 it was formed into a stock company as Messrs R. Porter & Sons, Limited. Two stores were also opened in Vancouver, and by bringing to bear the same principles in their conduct, they, too, were a pronounced success. In these later years, Mr. Porter had associated with him his sons Robert J (now Alderman Porter), Henry and George, Charles and Frederick. The first three confined their attention to the Victoria


business while the two latter took up their residence in the Terminal City.

Firm Changes Hands


Some time before the firm which had taken root in Victoria and spread to the Mainland became merged with P. Burns & Co., Mr. Porter Sr., had retired from active participation in its affairs. The change took place on April 1, 1909. He then had his home at the old Porter homestead on the Burnside road, from which he moved to a residence in the city three years ago.

Born at Sturminster, Newton, Dorsetshire, England, almost eighty years ago, Mr. Porter sailed for Vancouver Island when he was sixteen years of age, being under articles for five years with the Hudson's Bay Company. He took passage on "The Tory," the journey around the Horn occupying about six months. On the same ship were many whose names are on the list of British Columbia's earliest pioneers, and of whom those of the survivors are Senator Macdonald and Messrs George Cook of Metchosin, and Robert Fish. One of the first forms of employment which Mr. Porter had here as a lad was on a farm in James Bay. He was engaged, also, with the late Mr. J.D. Pemberton in the laying out of Victoria. Brickmaking for the Hudson's Bay Company, the works being near the northern end of Beacon Hill Park was another task at which he was set. Later he assisted Mr. George Mason, who was the company's head brickmaker at the time.

Besides five sons, Mr. Porter leaves a widow, who was Miss Alice Kerr, and two daughters, Mrs JW Sangster and Mrs. W Veitch.

Arrangements have been made for the funeral to take place at 2:30 pm on Friday, from 151 Government Street. 

Check Out Our New Website

We recently redesigned our website to give it a fresh new look. There are more photographs and articles on heritage. The listing of prior award winners is now searchable by year, type of award, name of winner or address of property. We continue to add photographs to the awards list as time permits. Have a look at <http://www.hallmarksociety.ca> and tell us what you think. 

The Arrival of the Steamship *Vasco de Gama*

A Floating Palace

British Colonist, July 28, 1875, page 3

About 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning anxious watchers from Beacon Hill described the magnificent proportions of the British steamship *Vasco de Gama* rounding Race Rocks, and the intelligence being conveyed to town, hacks and buggies filled with people were presently on their way to Esquimalt. At 10:30 o'clock the steamship entered Esquimalt harbour and rounded to about half way between the Hudson's Bay Co., and Selleck's wharves, where she dropped anchor until the arrival of the Health Officer from Victoria. Meanwhile the boatmen were busily engaged in transporting visitors from the shore to the ship, who, as they came alongside, were speedily impressed with the beauty of her lines and massiveness that iron plating and British live oak can impart to such a noble craft. Ascending the side by means of steps which were courteously lowered, the visitors found themselves on the upper deck, on which were arranged the paraphernalia connected with working and steering the ship. Save the officers' quarters and a handsome sitting-room, hung with pictures, elegantly furnished and containing a cottage piano, there are no rooms on this deck; but descending by a broad staircase, the steps of which are covered with India rubber to prevent the possibility of slipping, the visitor finds himself in a beautiful saloon, extending from amidships aft, and containing dining tables, rich couches and every requisite for comfort. The columns and panels of the saloon are polished and grained and beadings and caps profusely gilded. The staterooms, 23 in number, lie on either side of the main saloon. These are large and commodious, are supplied with the softest of beds and the richest of carpets and fittings. Indeed, the mere sight of the interior of one of these rooms is a provocative to somnolency -- so comfortable and clean looking are all the appointments. Having admired the saloon and state rooms, the visitor observes on his way forward the enormous cylinders. They are respectively 54 and 102 inches in diameter, and are high and low pressure combined, the engines being compound of 550 nominal horsepower, capable of working up to 2700 horsepower. The engines and boilers were made at Renfrew on the Clyde, by Henderson, Colburne & Co.

The steerage is large and well ventilated, fitted with standee berths, and has accommodation for 1000 passengers. Forward of the wheelhouse is an engine by which freight is taken on board and discharged, and the anchors are lowered and raised. They were heaving one of the great anchors when we were there and the ease with which work was done by half a dozen hands that 30 men could not have performed with the most arduous exertion was truly astonishing. There are six lifeboats, supplied with food, water, etc, swinging from the davits, one of them being a steam launch already for action at a few moments notice. Communication is had with the engine room by a telegraphic wire as well as bells. The length of the *Vasco De Gama* is 367 feet and her tonnage 1980, N.M. She was built at Renfrew on the Clyde two years ago, for the China and San Francisco trade and with the exception of her sister ship -- the *Vancouver*, which will be the next vessel to arrive here -- is the finest specimen of merchant marine architecture afloat on the Pacific ocean. The officers of this magnificent ship are:

Captain -- JT Rice

First Officer -- CH Hewitt

Chief Engineer -- Jason Taylor

Purser -- BC Howard

Steward -- GB Kennedy

Second Officer -- WH Randall.

The steamship sailed from San Francisco at one o'clock on the afternoon of Thursday last with the mails and 38 passengers. She had only about 40 tonnes of freight and a light ballast, and encountered a very heavy norther, which owing to the vessel being high out of the water prevented the full use of her screw. On Saturday afternoon, finding the gale increasing, Capt Rice headed the steamship for Port Orford, where she lay at anchor until Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

The passengers say that the motion of the ship in the heaviest seaway is scarcely perceptible. All speak in the highest terms of the fare, the accommodation, and the courtesy and kindness of the officers.

Amongst the passengers was Mr Rhodes, whose firm will act as agents for the new line. From him we learned that the route to Victoria will now be known as a "tourist route" and that tickets will

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Calendar

- September 15, 2014** Hallmark Heritage Society Annual General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:00 pm. Mike Sweet and Harry Newton: "The moving of 1082 Richmond Road to 1016 Pemberton Road and the story of its restoration."
- September 26-27, 2014** Heritage BC Annual Conference: "Building Bridges." Cloverdale, BC. See <http://www.heritagebc.ca> for details.
- October 2-4, 2014** Heritage Canada The National Trust Conference; "Heritage Builds Resilience." Charlottetown, PEI. See <http://www.heritagecanada.org> for details.
- October 22, 2014** The Parfitt Family History - membership drive for Hallmark Heritage Society. Location in Fernwood to be determined.
- December 8, 2014** December General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:00 pm. Speaker: Helen Edwards: "Learning Victoria's History Through Postcards."
- February 16-22, 2015** Heritage Week. Watch for news of a meeting or special event.
- May 1, 2015** South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair. Clifford Carl Hall, Royal BC Museum. 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
- May 5, 2015** Hallmark Heritage Society 41st annual awards ceremony.

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.

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be sold by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company in any part of the world where they have agencies, to tourists who may wish to visit this Province. This arrangement ought to greatly increase the summer travel to this delightful spot. Following is the passenger list:

BD Brooks
A McLean
WH Oliver
GW Haynes
Loo Choo Fan

A Meson
ET Bacon
O Freeman
Col. Houghton
Mr. Carter
Harry Rhodes
TB Humphreys
WH Edwards
GR Rossiter
Mr Starr
HB Berryman
And 22 in steerage.



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
15-1594 Fairfield Road,
PO Box 50013 Fairfield Plaza PO,
Victoria, BC V8S 1G0

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 15, 2014 - 7:00 pm
James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street
Guest speaker: Mike Sweet and Harry Newton
"The moving of 1082 Richmond Road to Pemberton Road
and the subsequent restoration process"*