

# Preserve

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

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**Volume 43, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2015**

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## Awards Night recognizes excellence

For the forty-first time, the Hallmark Heritage Society presented awards to those who demonstrated excellence in heritage restoration, conservation, and advocacy. The event, held at St. Ann's Academy on May 5, 2015, was attended by an enthusiastic audience, including three mayors and several CRD councillors.

The evening began with the presentation of heritage designation plaques by the City of Victoria, District of Saanich and the District of Oak Bay.



The Society then presented its own awards: three Awards of Merit and four Communication Awards. All details from the ceremony are available on the awards page of our website, complete with images of the winners. 



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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 General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on September 21, 2015 at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street at 7:00 pm. Details of speaker to follow. 🏠

## Photo credits

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**Deadline for articles and advertising for the Autumn 2015 newsletter is August 15, 2015.**

**P**reserve welcomes submissions, both written and photographic, on topics related to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of heritage from a local, provincial, national, or international perspective. The Editor reserves the right to edit material for consistency and length, and to reject articles.

Please submit manuscripts to the Editor, *Preserve*, 15-1594 Fairfield Road, PO Box 50013 Fairfield Plaza PO, Victoria, BC, V8S 1G0 or send to [office@hallmarksociety.ca](mailto:office@hallmarksociety.ca). 🏠

# President's Report

by Ken Johnson

When I look around our neighbourhoods I am frequently disturbed by the site of older homes being demolished. The owner of the property has plans to rebuild and, if the new plans do not require a rezoning, the neighbours may not even be aware that a demolition permit was issued. The first sign that a demolition is taking place is the arrival of the asbestos abatement team which has to remove all traces of asbestos before demolition can begin.

When I see the asbestos abatement team arrive at a house as I go through the neighbourhood I talk to the neighbours and asked them how they feel about the loss of this heritage house. All too often they talk about how it had been run down; how the owner had been renting to what the neighbourhood considered "undesirable" tenants; or, how it had been empty for many years – no maintenance, no tenants, no one seeming to care.

Two houses on Elford Street near Pandora will soon be demolished as part of a redevelopment. One of the houses may be moved if the developer can find a willing participant with a suitable site. It is a large house and, on the right site may prove a viable moving candidate although, with today's regulation and costs, it is difficult to make such a plan feasible.

The other house has been boarded up for a number of years. The City of Victoria Police Department and the Building Inspection and Fire Department had been called many times to this house as a result of "squatters" moving in and, as the heat and power was off, starting fires to keep warm and, as a result of no water, leaving the site in an unsanitary condition.

Leaving the house in this manner is up to the owner. There are no laws that would compel the owner to maintain a house that was not on the Heritage Registry. There is no law compel the owner to rent out a house – even in a city with a shortage of rental housing. And so we see it, demolition by neglect, whether that neglect is intentional or as a result of awaiting a good development proposal.

Most homeowners try to maintain their property. They try to show their pride in their home and their neighbourhood. They try to maintain their investment. Ask any realtor; a well-

maintained home, clean, painted, not run down, can be easily sold and frequently for a price above the asking. Recently well-maintained homes in the James Bay and Fairfield neighbourhoods sold for above their asking price. These were older homes, one was heritage designated and the other not, and they both sold readily as they were well maintained and desirable properties for families to move into. They sold readily as they were in desirable neighbourhoods, close to town, and, their condition did not reflect their age. They had not been neglected.

With the coming move of the Hallmark Heritage Society into the historic Craigflower Schoolhouse there will be an opportunity for the owners of older homes to learn how to maintain the properties. The Society will be using the historic classroom to provide free lectures to all homeowners and especially those of older properties how to ensure their properties will be well-maintained. These lectures will touch on subjects such as "What Is a Heritage House?" "What Does Heritage Designation Mean?" "How Do I Know A Painting Contractor Is Doing a Good Job?" "What Should I Do about House Insurance?" "What Should I Do about New Insurance Requirements Regarding Handrails?" "Should My House Be Seismically Upgraded?"

These questions could be asked by any homeowner but especially those with older houses and these older houses do not have to be "heritage" to have these questions. A small percentage of houses are currently on the heritage registries of our cities and municipalities. But the careful maintenance and preservation of all houses in our neighbourhoods is vital to the preservation of that sense of community that we derive from these older neighbourhoods.

Please watch for the announcements of these Heritage Lectures in the coming Fall. The Society will try to hold them on a Saturday for your convenience but, if the demand is there, we may also hold them during weeknights. The Schoolhouse now has interior and exterior lighting, the classroom has had a protective carpet applied to the floor, and facilities for teaching are currently being installed.

If you can think of is subject for a future lecture please call. We can arrange a lecture on fairly short notice as there are many experts who would welcome the opportunity to find an audience with which they could share their knowledge on how to maintain an older home. 🏡

## Awards of Merit

The winners of the first Award of Merit were Heather and Sean Sweeney for the restoration of their home at 2028 Runnymede Avenue in Oak Bay.



This home, known as the Arthur H. Piggott House, is an important component of the Runnymede cluster of contemporaneous heritage homes, and it provides a significant demonstration of the social, cultural, and economic history of the area. The houses in this cluster are on land formerly owned by the Pemberton family, descendants of Joseph Despard Pemberton, first Surveyor General of the colony of Vancouver Island, and adjacent to Frederic Pemberton's family home, "Mountjoy".

This house was commissioned by Arthur H. Piggott, managing director of the Victoria and Vancouver Stevedoring Company. It was designed by William D'Oyly Rochfort who was Arthur Piggott's brother-in-law; Percy Leonard James made later alterations. Unlike many of the large houses in the area which have been converted to suites as a result of the changing needs of families, and the rising price of real estate in the area, this has remained a single family dwelling.

Before beginning the renovations, the current owners met with Oak Bay Heritage to discuss the

heritage importance of the home and property. They were open to questions and gave Oak Bay Heritage tours before and after the work was completed. The current owners fell in love with a less than ideal property and were faced with major home repairs, cars on the overgrown front lawn and a dilapidated workshop. Even though the renovation process involved an upgrade of the exterior and interior of the house, the owners were determined to preserve the essence of the original property.

Undaunted by the magnitude of their renovation, the owners upgraded the plumbing, heating, fireplaces and electrical. They were even able to retain some original electrical fixtures, including those in the dining room. During this process the owners discovered near perfect oak and fir floors under wall-to-wall carpet and asbestos linoleum, covered stained glass windows in the dining room, and covered coffered ceilings in the dining room and living room and retained these features.

The living room was transformed from as found condition to the masterful transformation of the space to an attractive and functional living space. The bathroom likewise received tender loving care. The kitchen was dated and in need of serious care when the work began. Walls were stripped to the studs and the reformation began. The result is a modern bright kitchen that retains its heritage feel. The original kitchen pantry and all the sash windows were meticulously restored. The workshop and carport could not be salvaged, and were replaced by a complimentary, attached garage. Work on the exterior included replacement of cladding where necessary.

The half-acre property was in complete disrepair and the homeowners have lovingly restored the gardens – an ongoing project.

The renovation, led by the Citta Group, was noteworthy as a finalist in the 2014 Construction Achievements and Renovations of Excellence (CARE) Awards of Vancouver Island and was featured in a Boulevard Magazine article. The renovation started in October 2012 and was completed in July 2013. 🏡

The second winner of an Award of Merit was Ian Laing Properties Ltd for the rehabilitation of the rental property at 723 Field Street.

A permit was issued in July 1911 to building contractors Dinsdale & Malcolm, authorizing the construction of a three-storey brick apartment block at a cost of \$20,000. One of the first apartment blocks in the north end of the city, it contained twenty-five apartments. It was a convenient location for many residents and by the summer of 1912 all of the apartments had been rented. The building owner, Mrs. Anna Hamilton, had two adjoining units on the ground floor, suites 1 and 3. Other apartments were rented to individuals and married couples.

In July 2009, the hotel chain "The Travellers Inn" filed for bankruptcy; at the time it was one of Victoria's largest hotel chains with over 14 locations. When 723 Field Street fell into receivership, it was taken over by lawyers in Vancouver who instructed the staff to "keep it full" and the under-managed staff ended up renting to all the wrong people. It was in and out of bankruptcy until Ian Laing acquired it.

Over the last 17 years he has turned around several "problem properties" and had experience in this type of property. This building was a great building, with great "bones" and it just needed to be completely restored from top to bottom.

At the time of the purchase this building had serious problems. Aside from being 70% vacant, it had serious problems with the roof, windows, and a bunch of illegal construction. It was a problem building for the police, the city and regularly was full of squatters. This was also one of the worst buildings that the owner had ever seen as far as fire breaks and it was on the Fire Department's watch list as major building of concern. When the owner took possession he found rooms in the 3rd floor without a floor. It was in very bad shape.

Over many years Mr. Laing had developed a nice working relationship with City Hall, the police and the fire department. The city was thrilled to see his group purchase the property and everyone was very helpful to move this project forward. After a few months of ownership, the building was vacant and fenced for security.

There was no part of this property that was not addressed. The roof was replaced, as was every



window, every interior door and every exterior door. A new intercom system was installed and every piece of plumbing & fixtures was replaced as well, including the main under the building. Floors were redone and the electrical service, including all lights, switches, and plugs were updated. All new appliances were installed along with a sprinkler system. The building received a coat of paint to make it sparkle.

A discovery during the work was a glass tile light well that illuminates the floor below.

The best part of this renovation is we now have a beautiful classic looking building that is brand new with zero deferred maintenance.

An important part of the restoration was the retention of the original tile entrance, complete with its obvious wear from years of foot traffic. Also of interest are the niches found throughout the building.

The rehabilitation of 723 Field Street was a long and challenging construction project. The property is now being managed by two building managers with great experience and is now fully rented. This building has been given a new life and will stand for many years to come and be a great rental apartment building.

The care and attention to detail taken during this project make it a deserving winner of a Hallmark Heritage Society Award of Merit. 🏠

The final Award of Merit was presented to Steve Barber, Senior Heritage Planner City of Victoria 1986 to 2014, for his 28 years of service to the heritage of Victoria. After graduating from the University of Calgary, Steve worked as a heritage planner with the city of Winnipeg before coming to Victoria. To paraphrase a definition from the 2014 text "Heritage Planning" by Harold Kalman:



"A heritage planner applies the principles of heritage conservation within the context of planning. The heritage planner seeks solutions to the proposed loss of a historic place but does so in a non-confrontational manner. Heritage planning is a collaborative process that strives to channel advocates' enthusiasm into rational dialogue among various community interests."

From 1986 until his retirement in January of 2014, Steve Barber, through non-confrontational and collaborative methods designed, transformed, modelled, and shaped heritage planning solutions that have resulted in the City of Victoria laying claim to some of the finest examples for the preservation of historic places in Canada. It is impossible to enumerate all of the buildings that were conserved and all of the preservation policies that came into being during Steve's tenure.

Some policy examples are: in 1988, the establishment of The Victoria Civic Heritage Trust, in 1988 the creation of The City of Victoria Downtown Heritage Management Plan and Inventory, in 1989 the Building Incentive Plan funds the restoration of downtown historic buildings, in 1990 restoration studies for Victoria City Hall in Craigdarroch Castle, in 1992 the revitalization of Broad Street in Waddington Alley, in 1998 the creation of the tax incentive program for the seismic upgrades to the upper floors of downtown buildings, in 2001 City of Victoria Wins the Prince Of Wales Prize - for having preserved its vast number of heritage buildings by implementing a series of policy measures and through sustained, continuous development of its heritage programs.

A few examples of the buildings Steve's efforts have helped to preserve: St Ann's Academy, The Hudson, The Vogue, Hotel Rialto, some are hidden away where we can't see them such as Dragon Alley, some we've almost forgotten - Bickerstaff Wilson building on Herald Street, Morley's Soda Factory in Waddington Alley, Redstone on Michigan Street, Oriental Hotel on Lower Yates, the Powerhouse at 2110 Store Street But there were more than just commercial buildings. And Steve's legacy continues onwards with the adaptive reuse of the Janion Hotel.

The Hallmark Heritage Society is proud to present an Award of Merit to Steve Barber for his 28 years of dedication to the preservation of Victoria's heritage buildings. 🏡

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## Communications Awards

The Victoria Heritage Foundation has long been recognized for the fine work it has done carrying out the mandate of the City of Victoria through its Heritage Grants Program. It has also been the recipient of awards, both local and provincial, for the series of books "This Old House, Victoria's Heritage Neighbourhoods" detailing the architectural and social history of the many fine residential buildings in the city of Victoria.

Like many organizations the Victoria Heritage Foundation maintains a website providing details of the mandate of the organization, The Board of Directors, publications and resources, and other information of interest to historic home owners and the general public.

During 2014 the Foundation has added a digital map showing the location and the history of all of the 600 plus homes and buildings on the City of Victoria Heritage Registry. This interactive map permits the user to visualize each neighbourhood in the city and the heritage assets within it.

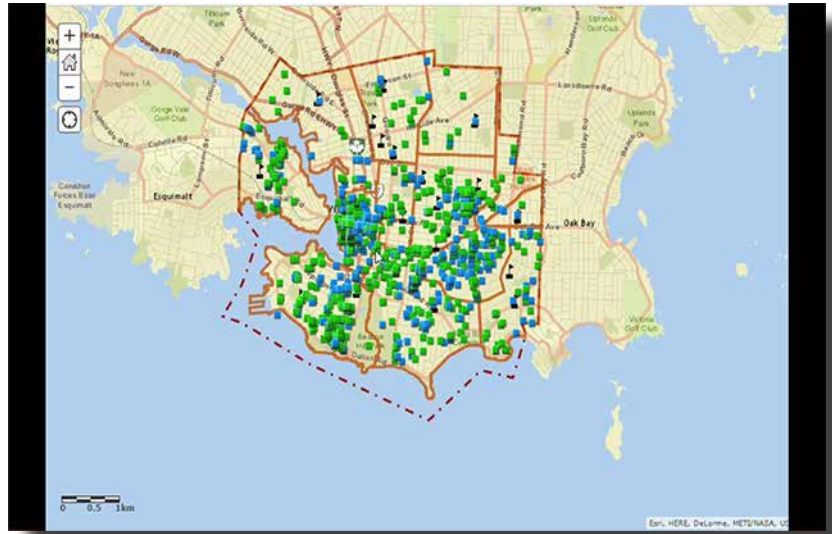
The map and its related database were created over a period of eight months utilizing free software and web space within the Cloud donated by an American GIS firm, ArcGIS.

By clicking on a coloured dot, (green is for a designated property; blue is for a registered property), a pop-up window providing a brief description of the heritage asset, with date of construction, architect, and heritage status

immediately comes into view. A single click on the photograph takes the viewer to a separate webpage which provides a larger picture and the architectural and social details that are so important to the preservation of the historic fabric.

For the downtown buildings, the viewer is taken to the website of "Canada's Historic Places". Here you will find the details of the heritage significance and the character defining elements of the buildings in the Old Town Core.

The Hallmark Heritage Society is pleased to present to the Victoria Heritage Foundation a Communications Award of Merit for this dedicated achievement. 



**T**he second winner of a Communication Award was the Esquimalt Municipal Archives for two different projects that brought Esquimalt's history to a wider audience.

The first project is the "Capturing our History." About 2,000 images of the township of Esquimalt, its people and its history have been digitized and are available for viewing online. The images include people, buildings (residential and commercial), events, ships (naval and civilian), the military, modes of transportation, sports and landscapes – all which have in their own way, shaped the municipality into what it is today.

The goal of the project—partially funded by a \$9000 grant from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at the University of British Columbia—is to bring to life on the Internet historical images of Esquimalt from the past 150 years. The funding has gone towards the reinforcing of the archive's web architecture, and the services of archive consultant and historian Patrick Craib. Digging through stacks and stacks of photos, Craib scanned and annotated each one, adding relevant information such as the date of its production, the subjects, and any other details that are to be posted alongside it on the archives website. "Individually the photos are interesting, but once you start going through them all in succession it gives you a new appreciation for the culture that existed back then," says Craib. "You see how people dressed, how they spent their free time, how they felt about certain events, and what was important to them. There are reasons people took photos of these events and finding those reasons is very intriguing."

No longer limited to file folders, bankers' boxes and albums, the images will be available for free online viewing by anyone from anywhere in the world. The image bank will be of interest not only to residents and the general public, but also to authors, educators and historians, among others.

The Archives will be adding more images to the online archive on an ongoing basis in the coming years, as more photographs from the existing collection are uploaded. Digitization of archival material is crucial in this age of the internet where researchers can access material no matter the time of day or their location.

The Archives are also asking the public to donate historical images of Esquimalt to add to the collection, thus involving citizens in their community history.

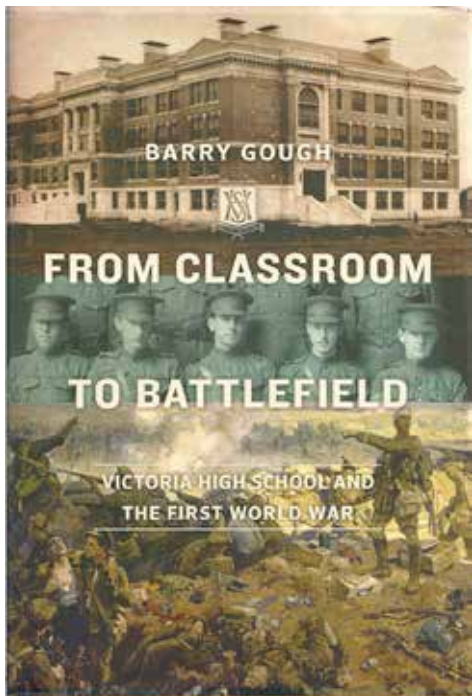


The second project is the writing of historical articles illustrated with images from the Archives' collection to bring historical knowledge to the general public. Printed in the Victoria News, the articles are rich with information and the photos show historic buildings, some extant, some gone forever. Greg Evans, Municipal Archivist, is the author of the articles. His easy-to-read style makes history interesting and educates us all about the rich history of Esquimalt.

The Esquimalt Municipal Archives has done much to communicate the history of the Township's buildings and people and is a worthy winner of a Communication Award. 🏆

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**T**he next winner of a Communication Award was Barry Gough for the publication of *From Classroom to Battlefield: Victoria High School and the First World War*.



The book not only details the great building that now houses Victoria High School but also brings to life the stories of the nearly 500 teachers and former students who joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force to fight for the British Empire.

It is so much more than a book on World War I; it is a local history of both buildings and people.

The book was written to mark the 100th anniversary of

the building of the present school at 1260 Grant Street in Victoria. In April 1914, the school moved into its new building and a few months later, war broke out and teachers and former students started signing up to fight in Europe.

The book begins with a chapter that outlines the different buildings that have housed Victoria High School and how the school became prominent in the province. At one time, it was the only high school in Victoria, so many prominent citizens

were students there at one time or another. The description of the building of the new school is detailed and puts the reader "at that place and time."

The book tells the stories of twenty-two of those from Victoria High School who served in the War and relates their individual histories. It is more than a listing of battle dates and events, as each individual's story relates to their family, their home and, for those who came home from the war, their subsequent achievements.

For those who think history is a boring subject, they need only to read this magnificent book to see history come alive. Dr. Gough's writing style is easy to read and he paints wonderful word pictures so we can share in the joys and horrors that the 22 individuals faced.

Another facet of the book is the story of the extant artifacts in the school. Many students walked daily past the list of the fallen but rarely took the time to read the names. With the publication of *From Classroom to Battlefield*, the names on the list are transformed to real people with interesting lives.

The Roll of Honour also hangs in the school and lists all those known to have enlisted or otherwise gone to war. The Banner of Sacrifice and Remembrance that displays a maple leaf for all known to have gone to war and indicates by colour those who did not come home was hung outside the school last Remembrance Day, bringing the story home to a new generation of students. Ten stained-glass Wreaths of Victory and Sacrifice (a laurel wreath embracing two poppies and surrounding the VHS insignia) were placed around the school in the 1920s and remind visitors of the war. These windows are prominent in the school's auditorium on the west and east walls.

All proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to the Vic High Alumni Association to be used for scholarships and other activities.

Victoria High School was the oldest high school west of Winnipeg when it was established in 1876 and this book brings awareness of both its history and its current worth.

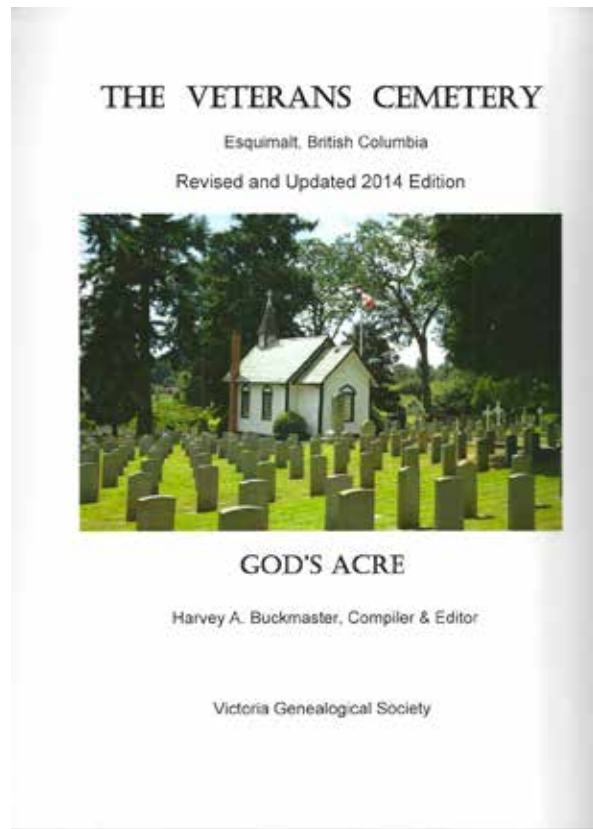
The book is extremely well-written and is the first to detail the history in such detail. For these reasons, it is worthy of a Hallmark Heritage Society Communication Award. 🏆



The final Communication Award was presented to Harvey Buckmaster, the Compiler and Editor of the Victoria Genealogical Society's publication "The Veterans Cemetery, Esquimalt, British Columbia" - Revised and Updated 2014 Edition.

The Veterans Cemetery has been an honoured resting place for those that served in Canada's military since 1868 when Rear Admiral George Fowler Hastings of the Royal Navy purchased one acre of land for use as a cemetery from the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company. The sailors knew this piece of land, which was once a turnip field, as "God's Acre" but officially it was the Royal Navy Cemetery. When the Department of Veterans Affairs took over the cemetery in 1947, it became known as the "Veterans Cemetery". The cemetery was designated as a National Historical Site by the Government of Canada in 2006 but, although national recognition recognizes the cemetery's historic value, it takes continual effort to educate the public about the richness of our cultural heritage and thereby help to preserve it for present and future generations.

Many years ago the Victoria Genealogical Society took on a project to document the graves, over 2,000, located at this cemetery. A resulting book documented deceased service men and women and in some cases the spouse. But over the years, some errors were discovered, and in some cases new information gained that ought also be preserved. There was also the need for the inclusion of hundreds of later graves since the days of that first book. Many stepped to the front to take on a new mission... get a second updated book published but over the years it fell more and more to Harvey to orchestrate ... and ultimately do much of the photography needed, to get all the inscriptions accurately recorded, and then devise a documenting system that would be user friendly and still be updateable without much fuss. A decade of sorting and sifting, of research and documented recently resulted in the 2nd version of God's Acre being published with several hundred new entries. Buckmaster, a retired university professor from Calgary, has been compiling and indexing the cemetery's grave marker inscriptions for the Victoria Genealogical Society since 2004. "Ron Demaray was the driving force for the 2000 edition" he said in a recent interview, "and I have worked diligently to ensure this important



work lived on, by adding the information for the new burials from 2000 to 2013, and improving the contents of the 2000 edition by reformatting existing files and providing additional genealogical information whenever possible". The book has been well received in the local genealogical community as well as the larger populace and it reached a world-wide audience when it was mentioned – and reviewed – in Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. This newsletter is sent to thousand of subscribers all over the world and is likely the best-read newsletter of its kind in the world.

The 2014 book has 230 pages and contains the complete inscription for each of the 2888 burial marker records. The book also includes the names on the 7 plaques located in the chapel at the cemetery and the 91 names for those with scattered ashes. All names in the book are indexed for easy searching using the included plot map.

Community support for the project came from: Naval Association of Canada - Vancouver Island; Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria; Royal BC Museum; Royal Canadian Legion Esquimalt Dockyard 172; Township of Esquimalt; and the Victoria Historical Society. 📖

## Craigflower Schoolhouse

*This interesting story from the Islander magazine, a Daily Colonist insert from September 1, 1991 provides an interesting backgrounder about Craigflower schoolhouse.*

**Craigflower Is Way Back to School by John Adams.**

The year 1931 is very special in the annals of British Columbia's Heritage Conservation as it marked the Diamond Jubilee of British Columbia's union with Canada. And to help mark the occasion The Native Sons and Native Daughters of British Columbia in posts throughout the southwestern corner of the province set about to reserve landmark structures that served as links with the pre-Confederation era. During 1931, amid local fanfare, these structures were opened as historical museums, the very first in BC: the Bastion in the Nanaimo, the last surviving building of Fort Langley, the old Hastings Mill Store in Vancouver, and Craigflower Schoolhouse in Victoria.

Now, 60 years later, is a good time to reflect on how far the study of history and the preservation of the artifacts that illustrate our recent past have progressed in the interval.

Although the provincial museum was founded in 1886 and a handful of other museums in centres such as Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Kamloops and Kelowna opened their doors in the decades that followed, all of them paid scant attention to what we now call "history". Instead they dealt exclusively with natural history and with the ethnography of the native peoples of the province. The story of European contact and the subsequent social, economic and political changes that took place in British Columbia were simply not covered. Placed in this light, therefore, those first four history museums in 1931 were quite revolutionary.

Craigflower Schoolhouse was one of the first to be officially opened that year, on June 27, 1931. The event marked the culmination of four years of hard work. As early as 1925 the importance of the old structure had been recognized by the BC Historical Association. But it wasn't until two years later that the Native Sons and Native Daughters manage to obtain a 20 year lease on the building from Saanich. Initial stabilization followed, new cement foundations, repairs to the siding, a new coat of whitewash, and a new roof. In 1930 a funding drive to raise \$6000 for the restoration work was initiated,

to which the provincial government contributed \$500.

While the building was being prepared for its new role, some of the Native Daughters were busy behind the scenes tracking down all they could find that pertained to the old schoolhouse and to the settlers from the Craigflower district. Margaret Beckwith was to serve as volunteer curator and many years later recalled her visits to some of the descendants of the old families. What she and her colleagues were able to collect quite likely was considered rubbish by some of those who donated it. Nevertheless, they collected wisely and today the Native Daughters Collection is one of the finest examples of early colonial materials from British Columbia.

Imagine the excitement of paying a visit to 80-year-old Miss Goody McKenzie, the last surviving child of Kenneth and Agnes McKenzie, founders of Craigflower Farm! Luckily, her family's home and barn at Lake Hill Farm proved to be a treasure trove for Mrs. Beckwith. Modern day museum curators would turn green with envy at the chance for a similar opportunity to collect such objects as an oxen yoke used in clearing the land at Craigflower in the 1850s, a branding iron marked "KM" to mark Kenneth McKenzie's livestock and books with original graffiti and doodles still in the margins, one even with an inscription from Gov. James Douglas on the flyleaf which the McKenzie children had used in the old schoolhouse. Among the more functional relics of farm life even came a few real oddities, like a backgammon board that folds up to become the leather board cover of The History of China! Thus from the attics and trunks of Goodie McKenzie and others came the materials for the displays at the old schoolhouse.

Back in 1931, nobody in British Columbia was very aware of museological principles, least of all as they might be applied to historical exhibits. Conservation and collections management, today's sophisticated aspects of running even the smallest community museums, were then unknown here. Nevertheless, the "cabinet of curiosities" produced by the Native Daughters had considerable charm and certainly appealed to those who enjoyed browsing through documents, photographs and artifacts from a bygone age. Visitors weren't bombarded by electronic media then, but had the opportunity to read old fashioned, hand-written labels and to chat with friendly, knowledgeable volunteers who staffed the museum.

Why had the Native Sons and Native Daughters chosen Craigflower Schoolhouse as a project in the first place? Because even then, it was the oldest standing school building in British Columbia. Although it wasn't the first to have been built, the few earlier ones (such as the original log Central School in Victoria and the Nanaimo's Colonial School) had long since been demolished. The old school at Craigflower had also served as a church and a community hall to the nearby settlers and so it had a special significance to many people, not just former pupils.

The very fact that Craigflower Schoolhouse exists at all may surprise some, but it is interesting to note that education was given a high priority by our forbearers. The Colony of Vancouver Island was only five years old when construction of the Schoolhouse began, but Gov. Douglas had determined as early as 1851 that the children of the "labouring and poorer classes" in the colony should receive "a good sound English education and nothing more." To help achieve his goals, school reserves were set aside in several parts of the colony and the cost of building the schools and paying the teachers the princely sum of £50 per year was borne by the colonial government. On Vancouver Island, schools were built before churches or any other kind of civic or community buildings.

We're fortunate that the construction of the schoolhouse was well recorded for prosperity. One account was by Robert Melrose, self-styled chronicler of the Craigflower settlement. Here are a few excerpts to from his diary now preserved by the BC Archives and Records Service.

*August 24, 1854 – Gordon (Halcrow) and his Gang commenced to build a School and Schoolhouse*

*September 23, 1854 – Schoolhouse frame erected, all company in general notoriously Drunk,*

*February 23, 1855 – Schoolmaster removed to his new house.*

*March 8, 1855 – "Major Thompkins" bell hung at end of school.*

Other written records about the Craigflower settlement are also in the Archives, among them lists and cost of materials used in the construction and furnishing of the schoolhouse. From them we learn that the land was cleared by native Indians, that French-Canadians did much of the construction,

that the lumber was sawn in the steam-powered sawmill at Craigflower, and that the grand total of the work came to £416/13/4.

From 1931 to 1974, the Native Sons Post No. 1 and the Native Daughters Post No. 3 operated Craigflower Schoolhouse as a museum. During most of this time volunteers provided the sole means of doing all the work, from keeping the frame structure in repair to dusting the exhibits, to giving tours. Live-in caretakers occupied a lean-to addition at the rear of the building and latterly they were responsible for providing security and for keeping the museum open to the public.

Anyone who visited the schoolhouse during the tenancy of the last caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Clark, will vividly remember Mr. Clarke's lessons in the history of the British Empire and his demonstration of adding pounds, shillings and pence. It's a strange quirk of fate that the Clarks happened to be both the first and last tenants of Craigflower Schoolhouse, since the first teacher back in 1855 was Charles Clarke, sent out from England specifically for the position. He and his wife and their children occupied the teacherage, a spacious suite of rooms above the school room, which they were expected to share with student borders from outlying districts such as Burnside.


By 1974, the old schoolhouse needed considerable restoration which the Native Sons and Daughters would have had difficulty paying for giving the oldest school building a new lease on life. Planned and paid for by the provincial government, foundations were renewed, the structure was strengthened where needed, wiring, plumbing, heating, and other services were upgraded and some additions were removed.

Finally in 1983, the work was complete and during the Royal Visit in March that year, H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and H.R.H. Prince Philip visited the schoolhouse where representatives of the Native Sons and Daughters, the provincial government and students from the new Craigflower School were presented to them. While the Queen unveiled a plaque to commemorate the event the school bell rang out once again, exactly 123 years to the day when it first called children from the farm to class.

Craigflower Schoolhouse currently is administered by the Heritage Properties Branch of the Ministry of municipal affairs, recreation and culture. Community involvement is part of

its mandate. Thus in recent years school classes during the winter have taken part in special school programs in the restored classroom. Using a technique called "Theatre-in Education" professional actors and actresses employed by the Victoria Rediscovery Society have brought the past to life for thousands of schoolchildren who have assumed the identities of actual boys and girls known to have attended Craigflower School in the 1850s.

This summer to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, the Canadiana Costume Society mounted a fascinating exhibit a. Clothing in the old school house, depicting the era around 1911 when the last classes were held there.

If you visit the schoolhouse don't miss seeing the upstairs where the "Native Daughters' Gallery" presents some of the more intriguing relics gathered from the original Craigflower settlers' families 60 years ago. And just across the bridge is Craigflower Farmhouse where more colonial history is presented daily. 

## Thanks to our awards sponsors

**Alan Hodgson Architect**

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## Painting Your Older Home Your guide to Proper Paint Preparation

Your home is important to you and when starting an exterior painting project you want to take the proper steps to ensure the paint application will last a long time and the right person is selected for the job. Here are some simple steps that should be done when preparing the wood surface for paint...

### 1. Remove any loose paint

When removing any loose or failing paint, it is important to always use the gentlest means possible in order to prepare the surface. Sandblasting and high pressure water blasting are strongly discouraged as they can severely damage the wood or stone surface. Grinders, wire strippers, and aggressive planers should also be avoided.

#### Scraping

Scrape away any loose or failing paint. The essential painting surface is one that is solid and shows no signs of cracking, flaking, peeling, or blistering paint. Bare wood is ideal, although not required. If new paint is applied to old paint that is cracking or flaking away from the surface, the old paint will eventually fail and pop off, taking the new paint that was applied to the surface with it. This will significantly reduce the life of any paint application.

#### Sanding

Sanding helps to even out the old paint surface and blend any areas that may seem jagged or chipped after scraping. Additionally, a proper sanding will eliminate dirt build up, and will provide a surface that will offer good adhesion with the new paint.

### 2. Prepare the painting surface

When priming the paint surface, on oil based primer is typically recommended for its superior bond and durability; however a latex primer is sometimes preferred by some because of its convenience and ease in clean up.

continued on page 14

**THE HALLMARK  
HERITAGE  
SOCIETY IS  
PROUD TO  
PRESENT**



**THE GRAND OPENING OF THEIR NEW  
OFFICE AND CLASSROOM FACILITY AT  
THE HISTORIC CRAIGFLOWER SCHOOL-  
HOUSE, 2755 ADMIRALS ROAD,  
VICTORIA, B.C.,**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015.**

**NOON TO 5 PM**

**REFRESHMENTS.**

**All are welcome!**

### Check the moisture content

It is essential that the wood surface be dry and free of moisture before you paint on the surface. Painting wood that retains moisture or is damp in any way will lead to rapid paint failure. Make sure the wood surface has had time to dry out, or check the surface with a moisture meter to be confident that it is dry enough to paint.

### Prime the surface

All bare wood must be primed. Primer is an important part of ensuring good paint adhesion. Primers also help to provide even coverage, and help the paint surface to cure properly. It also helps to prevent the wood from absorbing moisture from the paint itself. Primer helps to block stains from penetrating the finish coat and they create a uniform surface for the paint application. Primers are also important to apply if you are switching from latex to oil, or from oil to latex paint. Primer should not be left exposed on an exterior surface for long periods of time. It is not a finish coat and should be covered with paint soon after application. As long as they are manufactured by the industry, oil-based primers offer the best surface to paint as they seep into the wood fibers and lock in for best adhesion.

### Make sure the surface is clean

Before any paint is applied, make sure that your surface is clean and free of dirt and debris. Any type of residue, dirt, staining or dust will lead to paint failure. A clean, dry, primed surface is the key to a successful paint application!

## 3. Apply your top coat

### Identify the timetable

Be sure your contractor knows when you are looking to start AND complete the project. Be sure to make seasonal considerations. This will help lay out expectations between you and your contractor which will allow the contractor to determine availability for the job. It is important to remember that construction causes inconveniences and you should expect to change your daily routines to some degree during the project. 🏠

## From the British Colonist, May 6, 1860

### The Industrial Classes - What They are Making

**W**e have been to considerable trouble in obtaining an accurate list of wages paid to mechanics and others in Victoria and items connected therewith, which may prove of interest to our numerous readers. It will be observed that many of the trades (such as jewelers, watchmakers, saddlers, moulders, etc.,) are not enumerated below, which is owing to the fact that, although work of the description is performed here, it is done entirely by mechanics who have started in business for themselves, and ??? are enabled to do all their own work;

**Bakers** - Bakers who understand their business thoroughly are paid \$60 a month and board. There are several engaged however, at a much lower figure - say \$40 per month.

**Barkeepers** - Receive from \$40 to \$75 per month, with board.

**Butchers** - The average paid to butchers is about \$60 per month and board, Some one or two, being good hands, are paid much more; but we think \$60 about the average.

**Blacksmiths** - This class of mechanics are paid \$4 per diem for the work they perform, and have been pretty fully employed for the past few months.

**Blacksmith's Helpers** - Blacksmith's Helpers receive \$2.50 per day.

**Boiler Makers** - Have been steadily employed and are paid at the rate of \$4 per day.

**Bricklayers** - Good hands are receiving \$5 per day, and are just now, owing to the number of brick buildings under way, fully employed. There are times, however, when this species of work is dull.

**Brickmakers** - there are several kilns in the vicinity of Victoria, now busily engaged in burning brick; and hands having a thorough knowledge of the business receive \$60 to \$70 per month with board. Laborers in the yards are paid 30 per month and board. Most of the rough work however, is performed by Indians, who receive \$20 per month

and find for themselves.

Cooks - Cooks in restaurants are paid by the month from \$60 to \$80 with board; the latter being the maximum figure.

Carpenters - A few can be found to work for \$3.50 per day; but the wages generally demanded are \$4. There seems to be no lack of carpenters just now, notwithstanding the great amount of building going on.

Coopers - If regularly employed \$50 per month and found; if working by the piece, from \$4 to \$5 per day. There is not a great deal of work doing at the various cooperages just now; and many of the hands have left for New Westminster to make barrels in which to pack salmon.

Carriage Makers - If steadily employed, would make about \$4 per day but work is uncertain, and the average amount earned is from \$2 to \$3 per day.

Caulkers - Have been busily employed this season, at \$5 per day. There are times, however, as in most other trades, when work is scarce.

Farriers - Very irregularly employed; when needed, receive \$3 per day.

Glaziers - Are paid at the rate of \$4 per day, with irregular employment.

Laborers - There is no lack of laborers in Victoria. The highest wages paid white laborers is \$2.50 per day, and \$2 is most commonly the wage. The most of the laboring work about town is performed by Indians, who are generally well satisfied with from 50 cents per day to \$20 per month and board themselves.

Machinists - The wages for machinists are about \$3 per day, with very little doing. Most of the machinists in town are working as blacksmith's helpers at \$2.40 per diem.

Painters - Considerable work has been furnished painters during the Spring, and the prospects seem good for a continuance of business through the summer; their wages are \$4 per day.

Printers - Printers on newspapers work by the piece and are paid at the rate of 1 per 1000 ems; hands employed by the week in job offices, for ten hours work, receive an average of \$35.

Plasterers - This class of mechanics are generally employed by the piece and average, when at work, from \$6 to \$8 per diem. When engaged by the day, they receive \$6.

Ship-Carpenters - Receive \$5 per day. Like the Caulkers, they have been well employed throughout the season.

Stone-Masons - Are not steadily employed, and are paid at the rate of \$4 per day.

Shoemakers - Receive about \$50 per month with board and lodging; and about \$80 per month where they find themselves.

Tailors - Work by the piece and make from \$15 to \$20 per week, with generally steady employment.

Waiters - Waiters in restaurants are paid \$30 per month and board; in hotels, they receive about \$35 per month.

Wheelwrights - Work at this business is very uncertain, and the hands in this place do not find employment more than half the time. The average of a full day's work is about \$4. 🏠

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## Summer Student hired

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Lindsey Willis to work in our office for 13 weeks this summer. She will be working on the continuing 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.

She will also be working on increasing our website traffic and also on potential workshops for students. It is our belief that children learn more effectively when what they are learning is presented in an interesting format and does not even seem like learning. Lindsey will also be assisting with our summer activities. Come to one of our schoolhouse celebrations and meet a most interesting young woman. 🏠

## The Big Move

In preparation for our move to Craigflower Schoolhouse, we closed the office in mid- February. Next came the task of packing up our thousands of files, our slide collection, and other material that is an integral part of our office.

It was a treat to have the heavy material moved by professional movers. This lightened the load on those of us who can no longer life heavy boxes, and ensured that everything arrived safely. Paper is very heavy as you discover when you are moving boxes full of it. As in any move, we had to make decisions about furniture and fixtures – what would fit in the new space and what would not. Our thanks to those who donated to our moving fund. You can rest assured that we used your funds wisely.

Then came the fun of putting everything away in its new place. Our sincere thanks to Colin Barr who spent considerable time leveling our sliding file unit. This is heart of our operations; the files are used by many researchers. We decided to move our administrative files out of this unit and it was just as well as we are now in the process of integrating files on architects and builders into our collection.

Our office is located on the upper floor with a huge room and plenty of natural light. It is a very pleasant workspace and should serve us for years to come. We are not 100% organized at this time, but things are coming along just fine.

The main schoolroom downstairs will be used as a classroom once again. We will be holding educational sessions there for heritage homeowners and history enthusiasts. Some will be offered in cooperation with our groups including the Victoria Heritage Foundation and the Saanich Heritage Foundation. We look forward to being a vital part of the Saanich community. As noted in the president's message, we have installed a carpet in this room, to save the wood floor below and for public safety. We are now the owner of sufficient chairs to hold a fair-sized crowd. Thanks to those who endowed a chair. Your support is much appreciated. 🏠



Before the move



Filing unit with files and shelves removed



Files loaded into unit in the new location



Library books ready for sorting and shelving



## RCAF Administration Building Demolished

The Hallmark Heritage Society is sad to announce that the former RCAF Administration Building at the Victoria Airport has been demolished. Built in the winter of 1939-40 by Knott and Jones Construction Co., it was the centre of all local RCAF administration and operation during the Second World War and has been occupied by various Naval Air detachments ever since release by the RCAF in 1948. It was placed on our Endangered Sites list at the request of Elizabeth May, MP but no amount of effort could save this building.

It did not take long for the once loved and very functional building to be removed from memory. When you look at the site now, you would never know there had been a structure on it. Another piece of our history is gone forever and will be sadly missed by those who valued it or called it home. 🏠



Before demolition



During demolition



All that's left is debris

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## Awards Night – May 3, 2016

Yes, we just had Awards Night. However, it's not too early to think about next year. 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, 2016 deadline and we can help you. This year, you can also nominate online via our website by visiting <http://hallmarksociety.ca/annual-events/awards/digital-nomination-form/> 🏠

## South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair Results

<b>Canada's History Award</b>		
David Hiebert and Colin Johnson	Mt. Douglas	Siouxper Duper Project
Lara Johnston	Central	Emily Carr video
<b>United Empire Loyalists Award</b>		
Lindsey Fredericksen	Mt. Douglas	Mina Swenson: From One Cold Country to Another
<b>BC Hydro Power Pioneers Award</b>		
Maddi Tolmie	SMU	The Men Behind the Mountain
<b>Historic Places Award</b>		
Charlie Jackson	Bayside	Pat Bay Airfield
<b>Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Literacy</b>		
Eli Cleves	Central	Historical Fiction about Peter O'Reilly
<b>British Columbia Magazine Award</b>		
Lily Wray	Central	Information brochure about the Point Ellice Bridge disaster
<b>Royal BC Museum Award for Aboriginal Project</b>		
Perry Hunter	Bayside	Sencoten Language
<b>Veterans Memorial Military Award</b>		
Trinity Desouza	SMU	PTSD: The War Within
<b>Stellar Achievement Awards</b>		
* Victor Stepanov	Central	I-Spy activity designed for Point Ellice House
* Lindsey Fredericksen	Mt. Douglas	Mina Swenson: From One Cold Country to Another
* Lauren Awalt	Dunsmuir	Bagpipes to Battle
* Jared Reis	SMU	Tragedy Behind War
* Maddi Tolmie	SMU	The Men Behind the Mountain
* Charlie Jackson	Bayside	Pat Bay Airfield
Carl Swanson	Dunsmuir	War on the Home Front
Jonathan Nakata	Bayside	The Impact of Canadian Agriculture on the World
Olivia Meadows	SMU	Women in Politics
Theodore Wu	SMU	Gold! Gold! Gold! The Rush to the Klondike
Trinity Desouza	SMU	PTSD: The War Within
<b>Honourable Mention</b>		
Saje Griffith	SMU	Sidney by Sea, Land and Air
Eva Person	Bayside	Shannen Koostachin
Dayne Pettyjohn	Mt. Douglas	Triumph of the Metis

## Calendar

- June 14, 2015** Grand opening of the new office and classroom at the historic Craigflower Schoolhouse, 2755 Admirals Road. Noon - 4 pm. Refreshments. All are welcome.
- July 1, 2015** Canada Day at the Schoolhouse. Come visit our displays as part of our nation's birthday.
- August 3, 2015** BC Days at the Schoolhouse. Celebrate BC Day with the Hallmark Heritage Society.
- September 21, 2015** Annual General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, 7:00 pm. Speaker to be determined.
- December 8, 2015** December General Meeting, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street 7:00 pm. Speaker to be determined.
- February 15-21, 2016** Heritage Week. Watch for news of a meeting or special event.
- April 18, 2016** 43rd birthday of the founding of the Hallmark Heritage Society.
- May 3, 2016** Hallmark Heritage Society annual awards ceremony. St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 7:30 pm.
- May 6, 2016** South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair. Clifford Carl Hall, Royal BC Museum. 9:00 am - 2:30 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](http://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](http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC_About_Archives/upcoming.aspx) for details.

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## Donate online

The Hallmark Heritage Society has signed up with Canada Helps, a registered charity with a goal to 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 web page 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. 



## 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 21, 2015 - 7:00 pm  
 James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street  
 Speaker to be determined*