

# Preserve

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

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**Volume 44, Number 4, Winter 2016**

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## The Winter of 1916 - could it happen again?



**The Uplands streetcar on Government Street, 1916.  
Helen Edwards collection.**



Awards and Newsletter: Helen Edwards  
Office hours at Craigflower Schoolhouse  
by appointment

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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. 🏠

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**Deadline for articles and advertising for the Spring 2017 newsletter is February 15, 2017.**

**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 5L8 or send to [office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca](mailto:office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca). 🏠

## President's Report

by Ken Johnson

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

For many years, the historic Craigflower Schoolhouse was sorely neglected. This was not unique to a government-owned heritage site, many have failed to receive the attention they deserve. The Schoolhouse was the subject of a major restoration in the late 1970s but then the government-sponsored activities were curtailed and the site was essentially empty until the Land Conservancy took over the management in 2003.

TLC tried to operate the site as a historic museum but attendance was low and sporadic. As manager, TLC did little to determine the condition of the building or carry out the needed maintenance. The Owners, the Province of British Columbia, only expended funds when the public, often the Hallmark Heritage Society, reminded them of their responsibilities.

In 2013, the province paid a property and engineering management firm to conduct an evaluation of the anticipated maintenance that the building would need up until 2020. Hallmark has now been in the Schoolhouse for nearly two years. Each month we find something that was missed; many of these items are simple maintenance but others are more complex, requiring the resolution of problems inherent in a building that was constructed as being level but now has a permanent sag in the middle – water that was supposed to run away from the structure now runs sideways into cracks in window sills and siding joints.

Two weeks ago, some deteriorated wood was found in a window sill behind a storm window that was removed to facilitate window cleaning. Initially, it looked to be minor but, looking further along the sill, where the slope directed water over to the jamb, the deterioration was found to be greater. It can be repaired, but costs and the time expended go up.

This week the front door lock, the original from 1854 broke; metal fatigue had set in, a metal part failed. This lock had been the main security device on the front door. A temporary method of security had to be installed and the lock removed to Price's Lock for servicing. Price's quickly machined a new part and the lock was reassembled and installed.



Top: rotten wood; bottom: broken door lock. Both photos by Ken Johnson

As well, this week, the 40-year-old electric furnace was not functioning properly and we had to have an electrician come in to make the necessary repairs. As you can understand, some items are the result of deferred maintenance and some are normal breakdowns of old mechanical equipment but, no matter the cause, the repairs entail some costs.

Hallmark members have long supported the Society and we need your continued support. Your support can take many forms: the best is a renewal of your membership. As well, a modest donation can be significant in our continued development of the extensive files and records the Society maintains and the stewardship of the historic Craigflower Schoolhouse.

You can easily renew your membership by visiting our website [here](#). A donation is even easier, with an instant tax receipt being issued [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support of the Hallmark Heritage Society in its mission to promote and preserve the architecture and history of Greater Victoria. 🏠

# Hallmark Heritage Society Annual General Meeting Report September 19, 2016

President Ken Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:020 pm. There were 60 members and guests in attendance.

The agenda was approved. BW/RF. Carried.

The minutes of the prior AGM were approved as circulated. GS/MH. Carried.

## President's Report:

Ken gave his report. He noted that we spend a great deal of time on community outreach. We do 9 or 10 events with our marquee. WE have a seat at the Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood planning committee and are also active at Vic West. We have held several lectures at Craigflower Schoolhouse this year on various subjects and plan to continue the lectures this year. We are the sponsor of the South Vancouver Island Heritage Fair at the Royal BC Museum and enjoy viewing the student projects. Our heritage awards recognize those who restore their properties or work for heritage advocacy. This summer, a group rented the Schoolhouse on the first Saturday of every month for a craft fair. It seemed to be well received. In December, we finally got internet and phone service. We were able to hire a student this summer for 9 weeks thanks to a government grant. She did extensive work on our website. We have made repairs to the front door stoop as maintenance of the building is part of our lease agreement.

Community heritage issues include: St. Louis College – demolished; Mount St. Angela – have had a series of development plans that are not sympathetic to the old building; CPR Roundhouse – redevelopment will save it; Legislative Block – houses have been moved, restored and offered for rent; 502 Government Street – will be painted.

Going forward – We have a long term lease for the building and the land directly under it. The surrounding land is managed by Saanich.

Children are back in the classroom mornings Monday to Friday. There is a class of First Nations children in grades 2-5 that attend class in our main

room. The wellness group helps the kids gain confidence in themselves. We are offering the space at no cost to the community.

What can you do? We would like to open ½ days on Saturdays and need volunteers to help with this. We need new members for the board. We need someone to help us set up Microsoft Office 365.

If you need a venue for a small event, we rent our space out for \$28 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours.

## Financial Report:

Treasurer John Edwards reported that the finances were much better this year than in prior years. Report accepted. BS/BW. Carried.

## Office Report:

Helen Edwards reported on the work of the office this year. We were successful in our appeal of the denial of a gaming grant and received \$5,000 in March. We also received a 2016 grant in August. Our student set up a template for adding photos and text to our website. We are now looking for volunteers to help us get this material online. We have received a grant from the Heritage Legacy Fund to help us explore the history of the Craigflower Schoolhouse and the land on which it sits. We will be acquiring photos from the BC Archives and researching the complete history of the site. We have applied for a Community 150 grant to allow us to outline the history of the Summer of Love, 1967. We have also applied for a grant to help us paint the building.

## Heritage Updates:

Demolitions are happening at a great rate as the value of the building is very low compared to the value of bare land. Concerned citizens should talk to their neighbourhood associations as by the time projects are being discussed at City Hall, it is too late.

## Election of Officers:

The following were elected by acclamation:

John Edwards - Treasurer

John Dam, Pat Skillings, Glenn Parfitt  
- Directors.

They will join the members of the Board whose

terms do not expire this year: Ken Johnson, Bjorn Simonsen, Helen Edwards, John Perry, and Jennifer Nell Barr.

### Requests for help:

Ken asked for volunteers to come forward to help us prepare our constitution to comply with the news provincial regulations.

### Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker was Nick Russell who educated us on the early architects of Victoria. Their names may be largely unknown to the general populace but many examples of their work remain to this day. There are many examples of buildings from the 1850s to 1890s that stand to remind us of those who came here in search of gold and stayed to develop our city.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm. 🏠

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## December Meeting Report

On December 5, 2016, 40 Hallmark members joined in a celebration of the holiday season with a gathering at the Craigflower Schoolhouse. Over shared food, coffee, tea, and hot apple cider, we shared stories.

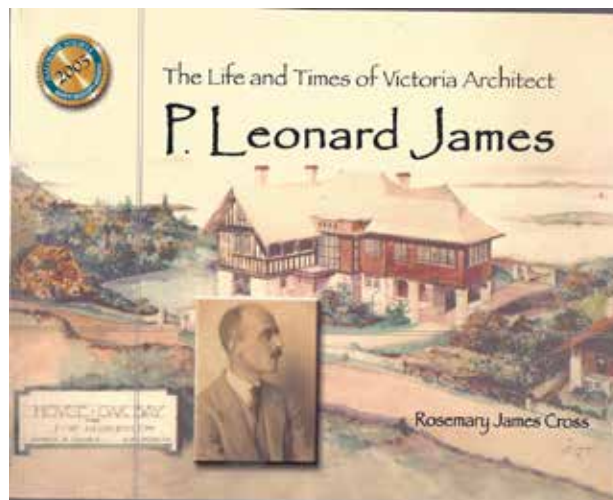
Our guest speaker was Dr. Quentin Mackie, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Victoria. Dr. Mackie participated in the 1994 'dig' on the Kosapsom Village, now the site of the Craigflower Schoolhouse and will speak on the First Nations use of the site and the natural resources available to them. Through images and actual artifacts, he educated us on what had happened in the Salish Sea in general, and on our site in particular. I am still recalling details of the presentation, including the proliferation of oyster shells and the use of mussel shells in the fashioning of weapons and tools. It is definite that there was human habitation on this site for 3,000 years and that much of the historic context has been destroyed by moving of soil from one location to another.

As we were leaving the meeting, snowfall began in earnest. Needless to say, our timing was perfect, as the roads were in no condition for driving the next night. 🏠

## R I P - Rosemary James Cross

The Hallmark Heritage Society was saddened by the death of long-time member, Rosemary James Cross on November 18, 2016. Daughter of noted architect, Percy Leonard James, she often told of visiting building sites with her father. She worked with him after completing high school until her marriage. She lived in different sites around Canada until she returned to Victoria in 1978.

Rosemary was a very talented watercolour artist and, at one time, designed notecards for Hallmark, each with one of her renditions of a heritage building. In her later years, she researched and wrote a biography of her father entitled *The Life and Times of Victoria Architect P. Leonard James*. It was a remarkable book that could have only been written by her, as she alone had the knowledge to complete the work. The book was published in 2005 and won the Mark Madoff award for her outstanding volunteer effort. Rosemary spoke with pride of her father and his work and presented lectures to diverse groups.



In June 2014, friends prepared a retrospective exhibition at Goward House. It was well received and purchasers were able to pick from the best of her work.

Rosemary generously donated all the research material from her book to the Hallmark Heritage Society. We were most grateful to receive such valuable material and hope to have it catalogued, digitized, and presented as an online exhibit when funds allow. 🏠



The Songhees Nation and the University of Victoria Faculty of Law and History Department invite you to a symposium considering

## ***First Nations, Land, and James Douglas: Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1849-1864***

**February 24-26th 2017  
Songhees Wellness Centre  
Victoria, B.C.**

The symposium will begin with tours of Songhees traditional territory by land and sea on Friday followed by academic and community presentations on Saturday and Sunday addressing the following themes:

1. Relations between First Nations and James Douglas
2. Indigenous and Colonial Concepts of Land, Law and Territory
3. Hunting and Fishing Rights
4. The End of Treaty-Making
5. The Roles of the HBC and the Colonial Office
6. The History of Douglas Era Reserves
7. Current relevance of these historical events.

Registration deadline is **February 10, 2017**.

For more information and to register, please visit [http:// uvic.ca/songheesconference/](http://uvic.ca/songheesconference/)



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## RIP - James Munro

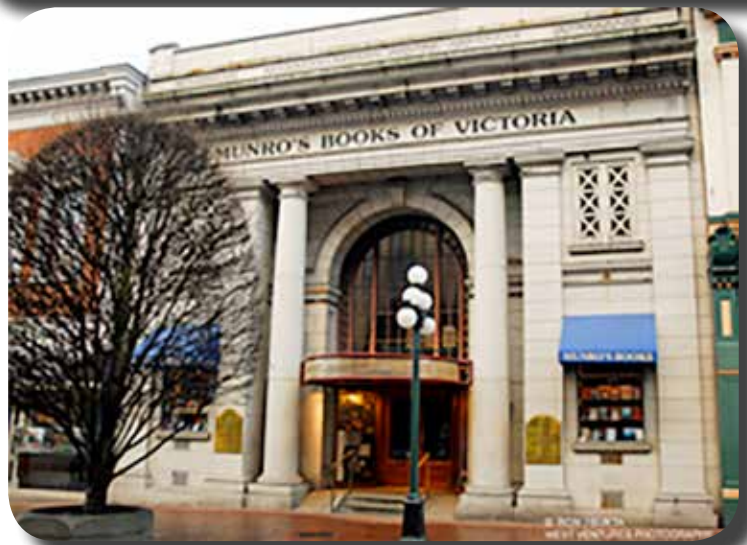
Noted book seller and heritage supporter, Jim Munro, died in Victoria on November 21, 2016. Together his first wife, noted author Alice Munro, he founded Munro's Books in a tiny building on Yates Street in 1963. The store moved to Fort Street, then found a permanent home on Government Street. He purchased a former Royal Bank of Canada building that had been "modernized" and was sitting empty. He joked at the time that nobody wants to buy an old bank building. Together with his second wife Carol Sabiston, he restored the building to a state of magnificence, receiving several heritage awards including one from Hallmark.

He was known for his eclectic selection of books and carried local authors, supporting their efforts with book signings and prominent placement of their works.

Jim was a long-time supporter of heritage in general and Hallmark in particular. We much appreciated his generous support of the awards program with an annual donation.

In 2014, he decided to retire after 51 years in the book business, and gave the business to four of his long-time employees: Carole Mentha, Jessica Walker, Sarah Frye, and Ian Cochran. He was named to the Order of Canada "for his vital championship of countless Canadian writers and for his sustained community engagement as an independent bookseller."

Munro's Books was able to survive the opening of the huge Chapters store because he owned his own building and knew what his customers wanted. In early 2016, National Geographic named Munro's as one of the world's 10 best bookstores.



Top: Hallmark Heritage Society Archives; bottom: Ron Bukta.

Victoria has lost more than a book seller; it mourns the loss of a cultural supporter who could carry on a conversation with anyone and welcomed customers to the store on a regular basis.

Jim may be gone but the building and the business remain as his legacy. 🏠

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## RIP – Carole Bawlf

The heritage community lost a valued member when Carole Bawlf died on October 4, 2016. Perhaps better known to the public as a realtor, she was, nevertheless, a well-respected heritage advocate. In 2000, she was presented with an Award of Merit, jointly with Noel Richardson, for their contributions to the heritage world in Central Saanich. Carole was involved with the Newman

farmhouse project and many other activities in her area.

She had recently rejoined the Hallmark Heritage Society and was planning to do some volunteer work when cancer reared its ugly head again, and she was unable to do so. She will be missed by her husband of barely a year, Pat Ferns, her children, and grandchildren. 🏠

## In My Neighbourhood

by Helen Edwards

I am a curious person and often think about things as I walk around my neighbourhood. As a former Sir James Douglas School student, I have always wondered about the history of the site. I wanted to know what was on the location of the old shingle annex, now used by the Fairfield/Gonzales Community Association. I spent my grade one year in that building and was very familiar with it. Just walking into the building now brings back memories of the giant-sized Dick and Jane book that my classmates used to learn to read. As my grandfather had taught me to read at age 3, I was allowed to read regular sized books and clearly remember sitting cross-legged on the floor with a storybook in my hands. I also recall the snowball fights we had that winter and the games we played on the glacial rocks just behind our classroom.

I knew there had been at least one residence in that location as we found pottery fragments when a massive Gary Oak tree came down in a storm in the 1970s when my children were students at the school.

The annex was built in 1919, so I decided to see what had been there before then. The City of Victoria issued a building permit on January 6, 1908 for a one-storey brick dwelling at 1324 Fairfield Road to W. H. Smith. An examination of the 1908 City Directory shows that there were indeed 2 residences on this site: one at 1324 Fairfield owned by William H. Smith and one at 1330 Fairfield Road owned by Albert P. Smith, his son. Both are listed as gardeners.

The first mention of the Smith family is in the 1903 City Directory where we find a listing for William Henry Smith of W. H. Smith and Sons with a gardening business somewhere between Cook and Moss Streets. At that time, he was living at 189 Yates Street. By 1904, William shows his occupation as gardener at the Ross Bay Cemetery and his residence as 167 Cook Street. By 1905, he is living at "Fairfield Road near Moss." After 1908, when presumably the second house was built, the listings continue the same until 1913, when the 1324 address disappears from the directory.

By 1915, Harold Pellett is living at 1330 Fairfield. He worked as a janitor at Sir James Douglas School, virtually at his back door. This would

have been very convenient in case of emergency. Unfortunately, Harold did not live very long at this location, as he died of tuberculosis on January 31, 1918. His widow Nellie continued at the residence until the house was presumably demolished and the shingle annex was constructed.

Both families are representative of the western migration of the populace. William was born in Prince Edward Island in 1876 and married Grace McCoubrey there in 1866. The couple had 8 children. After she died, he moved to Victoria in 1887 where, he married Catherine Hunter who produced 2 more children. Catherine died on January 16, 1909 and William married Barbara Mary Reid Smart on September 20, 1910; they had one child.

On the other hand, Harold Pellett was born in London, England on March 22, 1879. By 1901, he was serving aboard SS Ophir in the Suez Canal. Later in the year, this vessel conveyed the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (the future King George V and Queen Mary) on their tour of the British Empire. The visit was scheduled to open the new Federal Parliament in Melbourne, Australia, but the royal party also visited Gibraltar, Malta, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada. Harold immigrated to Canada around 1907. He married Nellie Lawton on June 16, 1908 in Victoria; they had 3 sons and 2 daughters.

The shingle annex housed students, usually in grades 1 and 2 and was used by the school until the construction of a new building. It is now the home of the Fairfield/Gonzales Community Association.

Next, my attention turned to the north side of the school property. When I was a student, I remembered houses being on what is now a playground. Who had lived there? What were their stories? I also recalled seeing blue and white tiles spelling out the name of the street – Woodlands – when part of the playground collapsed into a depression in the ground. Now I know that must have been part of a house foundation. The name of the street was changed to Thurlow Road in 1939.

Sir James Douglas school was opened in 1909. Woodlands Street was created around the same time. The City of Victoria garbage substation operated at 1371 Woodlands (later 1355), later to be known as the City Stables. The first residences

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on this side of the street appear in 1914. John William Noble built residences at 1345 and 1349, living in the latter address until 1918, when he moved next door to 1345. He was a warehouseman for BC Hardware and Paint. Noble was born in Peel county, Ontario on April 1, 1883. He married Louisa Pearl Huddlestone in Calgary on September 14, 1910. The family moved to Vernon, where their first two children, Leo and Audrey were born. The family moved to Victoria around 1913. Their son, John, was born there in 1923. Around 1933, Noble moved his household to 1333 Fairfield Road from where he died on July 6, 1947.

One well-known owner of 1345 Woodlands was Cecil Lewis. He was the owner of Lewis Shoes with a store at 618 Fort Street. The business had a reputation for quality shoes with attentive service. In 1945, Lewis moved to 1446 Oliver Street in Oak Bay, and a retired gentleman Thomas Owen lived in the house for about 5 years and, when he moved, Joseph Bennett, a caretaker at Eaton's lived there with his wife Kathleen. The house was demolished sometime after 1963.

When John Noble moved from 1349 Woodlands, the new owner was Constantine Gledhill Johnson. Born April 3, 1867 In Halifax, Yorkshire, England, he married Evangeline Hughes in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England in 1890. Their daughter Gladys was born in 1891 in Bristol and son Charles in 1893 in Cardiff, Wales. The family came to Canada in 1908, settling in Nelson. Their son Charles was

killed in action in World War 1 and the remaining family moved to Victoria in shortly thereafter. He is listed in City Directories as a dairyman. From about 1928, he operated the Woodlands Dairy on the land next door to his home – the property formerly used by the City as stables. The Dairy ceased operations on the site around 1939, likely as more houses were built in the area, making a noisy dairy operation unacceptable to the residents. Johnson lived at 1349 Woodlands (Thurlow) where he died on January 2, 1947. His widow Gladys lived on at the house, then it was occupied by naval officer Frederick Ewald and his wife Margaret. The last resident of 1349 Thurlow Road was Miss Annie L. Cameron about which little is known. That house, too, was demolished after 1963.

Most of the land was turned into a school playground and the large area bordered by Fairfield Road, Kipling Avenue, and Thurlow Road became the Robert John Porter Park, named after Victoria's mayor from 1919-1921. His reputation was ruined during the 1921 election campaign when his opponent accused him of rum-running. Defeated at the polls, he died just 4 months later from pneumonia. The park was named in his honour. His home at 649 Superior Street remained the family home, but that is another story for another day.

The next time you walk around your neighbourhood, reflect on what used to be there. It might lead you down a path of wonderful stories.



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## Awards Night – May 2, 2017

It's not too early to think about Awards Night! Look around your neighbourhood. Who has done a masterful job of restoration? Is there a person or group who has done a great job of heritage advocacy? What commercial work has attracted your attention? We rely on our members to be our "eyes and ears" in the community.

How many times do you hear, "that project should have won an award." **Remember, a person or project cannot win an award if there is no nomination and we cannot be everywhere.**

If you are looking for inspiration, check out the list of prior winners on our website, searchable by type of award, address, and year.

Nomination forms are available on page 10 of this newsletter, or on our website where there are sample nominations that have been successful. If you need assistance, please contact us well before the January 31, 2017 deadline and we can help you.

## Award Nomination Form

**Category of nomination** (tick one)

- Award of Merit
- Communication Award
- Mark Madoff Award
- Michael Williams Award
- President's Award

**Nominee:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project details** (attach up to one page)

**Nominator:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Attach supporting documents including press clippings, letters of support, photographs, or electronic media to substantiate the nomination. Deadline is January 31, 2017. Late nominations may not be accepted.*

Mail to:

Hallmark Heritage Society Awards Jury  
15-1594 Fairfield Road, PO Box 50013 Fairfield Plaza PO  
Victoria, BC V8S 5L8

Or send via email to: [office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca](mailto:office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca)

## Calendar

- January 16, 2017** Lecture, Craigflower Schoolhouse, 7:30 pm. Denton Pendergast: "Heroes of the Harbour" a narrative of those whose vision and endeavours moved to create the historic centre that became Victoria's harbour. The movers and shakers of history.
- January 28, 2017** At the Craigflower Schoolhouse at on Saturday, January 28th, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, The Hallmark Heritage Society will present a workshop designed to help homeowners to seismically upgrade their houses. Admission by donation. Space is limited. Please register at EventBrite or email office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca or a telephone message at the office: 250-382-4755.
- February 18, 2017** At the Craigflower Schoolhouse on Saturday, February 18th from 9:30 am to 1 pm, the Hallmark Heritage Society and Vintage Woodworks will present a seminar on the care and preservation of historic wood windows. Admission by Donation. Space is limited. Please register at EventBrite or email office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca or a telephone message at the office: 250-382-4755.
- May 2, 2017** Hallmark Heritage Society Annual Awards Night. St. Ann's Academy Auditorium, 7:30 pm.
- May 5, 2017** South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair, Royal BC Museum, 9:15 am-2:30 pm. Free admission.

## Ongoing events

**Education at Craigflower Schoolhouse:** Regular lectures held at the Schoolhouse on the 4th Wednesday of the month or as noted above. Topics are of interest to all members. Check our online calendar for details.

**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 Old Cemetery 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.

**For up-to-date information on heritage-related events in our area, check out the [calendar](#) on our website.**



## 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 5L8.

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 Lecture*

*Monday, January 16, 2017 - 7:30 pm*

*Denton Pendergast: "Heroes of the Harbour," a narrative of those whose vision and endeavours moved to create the historic centre that became Victoria's harbour; the movers and shakers of history.*