

Preserve

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

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 45, Number 4, Winter 2017

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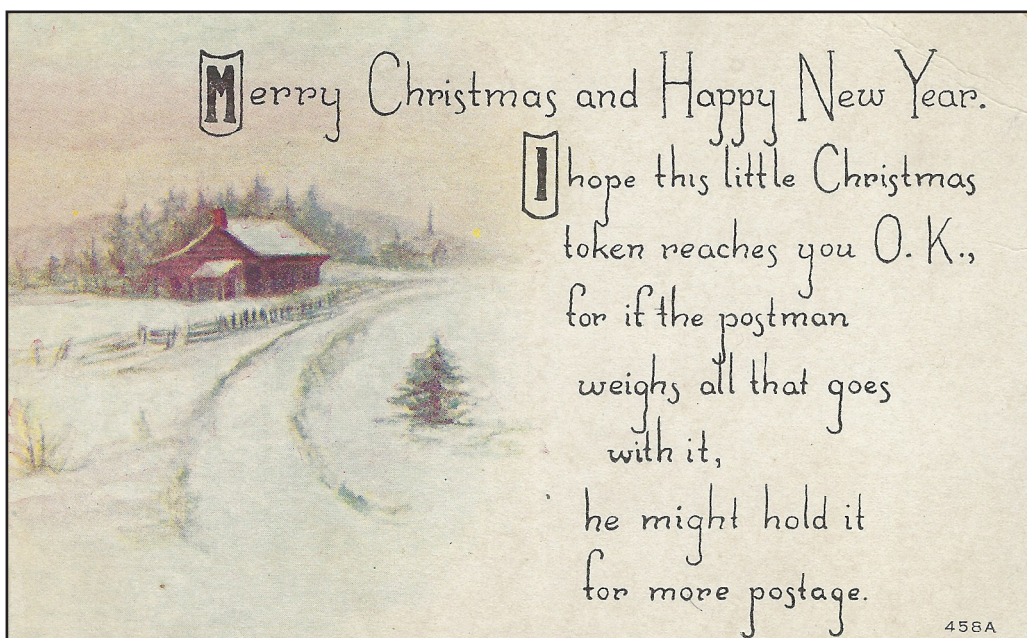
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Holiday postcards from the past

In the early twentieth century, people sent postcards at Christmas, rather than the cards we are more used to. As a seasonal gift to you, we present a collection of early twentieth-century postcards. Check them out on [pages 8 and 9](#).





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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. 🏠

Photo credits:

Page 10, Helen Edwards 🏠

Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the Hallmark Heritage Society will be held on Monday, December 4, 2017 at the Craigflower Schoolhouse at 7:00 pm. Join us to decorate a live Christmas tree, enjoy seasonal music, and eat holiday treats. 🏠

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Deadline for articles and advertising for the Spring 2018 newsletter is February 10, 2018.

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 5L8 or send to office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca. 🏠

President's Report

by Ken Johnson

I have recently been involved in an ongoing discussion regarding the proposed demolition of the Heritage Register house at 1525 Shasta Place in Victoria. While the house is on the Heritage Register, it is not fully protected from the threat of demolition; demolition can only be delayed for 60 days unless the property achieves a full Heritage Designation either with or without the approval of the owners.

In August of this year, the current owners applied for a demolition permit. They wish to demolish the existing building and build a new house on the property within the current zoning but with some variances. Within the current Heritage legislation, this is their right.

Because the house is on the Heritage Registry, on September 7, the Victoria City Council passed a motion approving a "60-day temporary protection order for the property at 1525 Shasta Place, without the consent of the owner, to allow Council to give detailed consideration for further long-term protection options for the property and to negotiate possible resolutions with the property owner to protect the Heritage registered property."

Subsequently, City Planning Staff met with the owners on four occasions and discussed, with the owners, options that would be available to them as they considered potential renovation and redevelopment plans for the property.

Options included:

1. Lift the structure and add a foundation.
2. Replace windows with thermal units.
3. Enlarge selected fenestration openings to increase light penetration.
4. Replace exterior materials in-kind (siding, shingles, wood details).
5. Add an addition(s) to the main structure that is located to the rear or side of the building.
6. Lift and shift the structure on the site with the option of including all of the above.
7. Relocation of the structure to another site within the immediate context of the neighbourhood.

While city staff characterized the discussions as having a "spirit of openness and mutual problem-solving", the owners were adamant that they wish to proceed with the proposed demolition of the existing building and construction of a new home.

The only remaining course of action for the City of Victoria would be to prepare and pass a bylaw designating the building as a Municipal Heritage Site in accordance with the Local Government Act and, this being done against the wishes of the property owners, would leave the City of Victoria liable for a claim to compensation as a result of a reduction in the market value of the property.

The house at 1525 Shasta Place was originally built in 1904 as a stable or coach house as part of the Rockland estate of Bert Todd. In 1911 the estate was purchased by the Dunsmuir family and was used as a "pied-a-terre in the City". During most of these years the upstairs of the stable was occupied by the chauffeur and his wife or by the gardeners. In 1938, Dunsmuir's gave the stable to the family's nanny and sold off the rest of the property to the city of Victoria for unpaid taxes.

Over the years the stable had many renovations trying to change it into a home. The greatest renovations came about in the 1969/70's period when architect Peter Cotton was retained to convert the entire stable building into a more suitable dwelling place. Doors and windows and other architectural features were gathered up from other buildings being demolished around Victoria and incorporated into the remodeled stable. The building no longer represented a 1904 stable but was rather a conglomeration of a lot of details from various eras without a common theme, it became a residence constructed in the 1970s.

In the 1980s, Sam Bawlf occupied the house and carried out further restorations. Bawlf had a well-deserved reputation as an advocate for heritage policies and was instrumental in creating British Columbia's first Heritage Conservation Act. But, he never applied for Heritage Designation for the property at 1525 Shasta Place, he only placed it on the Heritage Register – limited protection

A more detailed history of the home at 1525 Shasta Place can be found on the website of the Victoria Heritage Foundation. It is easy to see that

the building has a very interesting story.

The City of Victoria would not have designated the property. The owners were adamant in their intent to demolish the historic building. The building was going to come down even if Hallmark Heritage Society had opposed demolition. City Council would've listened patiently to our pleadings but, in the end, would have voted to allow demolition.

In my October 23rd letter to the City of Victoria regarding the proposed demolition of 1525 Shasta Place it was made clear that we were not in favour of the demolition of the historic homes of Victoria. Each and every one of these contributes to our understanding of the history of the city. Each and every one of these is an architectural treasure worthy of preservation. But, when demolition is inevitable: when City Council is reluctant, because of potential compensation claims, to exercise their prerogative to designate a building against the wishes of the owner, some minimal steps must be taken to preserve the "story" of the building. Some

documentation must be gathered and conserved in one location for future use by researchers seeking out the architectural history of Victoria.

This is what Hallmark has volunteered to do. We did not oppose the demolition of the building. To do so would be futile. We do encourage the preservation of the history of the building and its details, muddled as they may be. We intend to contact the current owners and request permission to document the history of the building and its demolition. We would then gather this material, along with materials currently held within the Peter Cotton collection in the BC Archives, and ensure that it is preserved within our "Demolished Building File".

Hallmark will continue to oppose the unwarranted demolition of historic structures throughout Greater Victoria. We feel that these are treasures worthy of preservation.

What are your thoughts? 🏠

December Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2017, 7:00 pm.

In the early days at Craigflower, Christmas was a holiday from all but the most necessary work. From the Diary of Robert Melrose, who worked at Craigflower Farm from the earliest days, we read that, on Christmas Day, 1854 that "Christmas celebrated by Fiddling, dancing, singing, eating, and drinking. Rain. Brig "Recovery "arrived." For Christmas Day, 1855, Melrose noted "Christmas Ball celebrated with great glee. Most severe frost." The music would be amateur, the decorations simple and home-made and the food and drink would have been whatever was available.

Join us at the site of many early Christmas celebrations as we decorate a traditional Christmas tree, eat, drink and be merry to the accompaniment of the Karpes Family Band, one little family that, for about seven years, has been playing a mixture of old-timey, folk and country original songs. A family of four, including two preteen boys, instrumentation is Guitar, Ukulele, Washtub Bass and Harmonicas.



We will be decorating a live tree so please bring an ornament that you can donate to the evening.

We will provide hot apple cider and coffee, but please seasonal treats to share.

Come out to enjoy a social evening with your fellow Hallmark members. 🏠

Annual General Meeting Report

The meeting was held on September 25, 2017 at the Craigflower Schoolhouse. President Ken Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. There were 42 members in attendance.

The agenda was approved. Barbara Watkins/Russ Fuller. Carried.

The minutes of the prior AGM were approved as circulated. Michael Halleran/Ron Fuller. Carried.

President's Report:

Ken gave his report. He noted that we spent a lot of time at community events, adding the Saanich Fair to our roster this year. We had a whole room there and saw thousands of visitors, gaining four new members in the process. On Canada Day, over 1,000 members of the public came through the schoolhouse as part of the Gorge celebration.

We again organized the student heritage fair at the Royal BC Museum. The museum gave us more space this year so we could add more exhibits.

Awards Night continues to be the highlight of the heritage year with many projects recognized for excellence.

We are working to improve our website so that it is of use to researchers from all over the world.

Regarding the Craigflower Schoolhouse, we resolved the property tax issue. The province paid the taxes for this year and Saanich passed a permissive tax exemption for us for two years. We will reapply in 2019. We have broad support on the Saanich council.

Maintenance is critical to the schoolhouse. It is a 160-year-old building so proper care is essential. We have been replacing deteriorated wood and painting the window sash. There is an issue with powder post beetle that can take up to ten years to resolve. The red with which the door jambs and window surrounds is painted is an old colour and enhances the beauty of the building. All the trim will be repainted in red over the next year. The schoolhouse was insulated this year using a grant

from the Heritage Branch. The work was done from the inside wherever possible but from the outside where inside work would disrupt original woodwork. Painting the outside of the schoolhouse and installation of a new roof are on the agenda for this year.

The schoolhouse is being used for children. Students from Craigflower Elementary had classes here last school year and we hope this will continue. There is talk of a First Nations Guardian program and we will be participating in the talks.

We rent the main room out to community groups and organizations and have one small office upstairs rented as well. This brings in funds that help with maintenance.

The society is doing well. We have a high level of public engagement, our membership is stable, our budget is being met, and the schoolhouse has proven to be an asset.

Financial Report:

Treasurer John Edwards reported that the finances were in good shape. He noted that we received two gaming grants in the fiscal year as the grant for 2016 was received late and the grant for 2017 was received early. The Summer of Love event was well attended and raised our profile and added funds to our coffers.

Report accepted. Barbara Watkins/Pat Dunae. Carried.

Office Report:

Helen Edwards reported on the work of the office this year. We received two different federal grants to enable us to hire a computer science student to help with the updating of our website. He will continue to work on weekends until the end of December. We have digitized our clipping files up to the letter "H" and hope to get more done this year. The goal is to have all the material online in five years. We are always looking for volunteers to help with scanning and uploading to our website.

Preserve continues to inform our members. It is published quarterly and is available digitally, in full colour.

The Heritage Fair is the highlight of the year for many members. We had a good fair last May and look forward to many more years to come. Helen noted the death of May Compton who was one of our supportive teachers. She died of injuries suffered in a tragic bicycle accident and will be missed.

Changes to the constitution and by-laws

In order to comply with the new Society Act, we were required to update our constitution and by-laws to a new format. Michael Halleran and Patrick Dunae noted that we had left the phrase “this shall be unalterable.” As this is no longer allowed, they moved that we make the change. The amendment passed unanimously.

On the main motion to accept the changes as modified, Eric Tominson made the motion and Joyce Mackie seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Election of Officers:

The following were elected by acclamation:

Ken Johnson – President

Helen Edwards - Secretary

Harold Kalman, Joyce Mackie, Don Hutton,
Jennifer Nell Barr - Directors.

They will join the members of the Board whose terms do not expire this year.

Bjorn Simonsen and John Perry have concluded their terms and will not return. They were thanked for their years of service.

The business meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bjorn Simonsen.

Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker was Larry McCann who gave an illustrated lecture on the history of Oak Bay’s planning heritage. He showed how some planning decisions were good for the municipality and some were not as good. He illustrated how much influence the Uplands had in the planning of other subdivisions in Oak Bay and how the influence of the Hudson Bay Company is generally overlooked.

Oak Bay excluded certain types of developments in the past and continues to do so today. He showed how the size of lots determines what will be redeveloped today and noted that citizens should be mindful of what is happening in their neighbourhood.

Larry then answered a number of questions from the audience.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm. 🏠

Awards Night 2018: May 1, 2018

Once again we will honour excellence in heritage restoration, conservation, and advocacy. However, we cannot have a ceremony without award winners. And, this is where you come in. Please look around your neighbourhood to see who has done a great job restoring a building. Who has written a book about a heritage topic? Is there a citizen who has gone “above and beyond” to promote heritage?

Complete the award form on page 7 of this newsletter and send it in to us by the deadline of January 31. If you would like some help, let us know at office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca before the deadline and we will gladly assist you. There are also examples of good nominations on our website. 🏠

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: _____

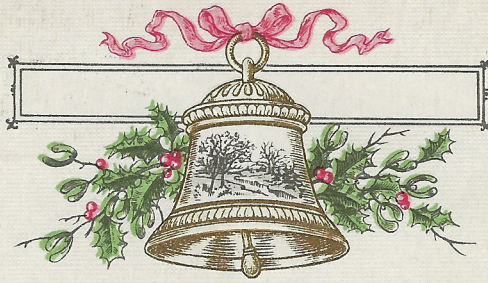
Email: _____

Attach supporting documents including press clippings, letters of support, photographs, or electronic media to substantiate the nomination. Deadline is January 31, 2018. 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



The old, old wish that still rings true
A Merry Christmas, friend, to you.



Many Blessings

Christmas brings

On its wide and

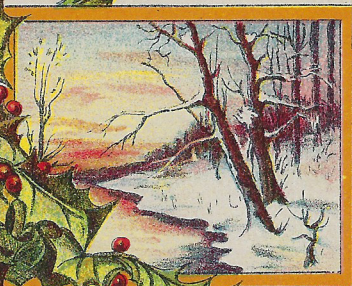
glowing wings

May the brightest

of them all

On your path

this season fall



6613



Come sing with me a song of praise for the
happiest of holidays *Merry Christmas*

Digital newsletter

Are you aware that Preserve is available digitally in a quality that can be printed on a personal printer? There are definite benefits to receiving the digital edition. First, you receive it about a week before the printed copy is mailed out. Second, it is in full colour, something that is not possible in the printed edition. Finally, you are helping to reduce the costs of the society as postage is rising almost every year.

If you are receiving the printed newsletter now and would like to change to the digital edition, please let us know at office@hallmarkheritagesociety.ca. As costs rise, we plan to discontinue sending a printed copy of the newsletter to those for whom we have email addresses. The alternative is to raise membership fees, something we do not want to do. 📧



South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair

The 2018 Fair will be held on May 11, 2018 in the Clifford Carl Hall of the Royal BC Museum.

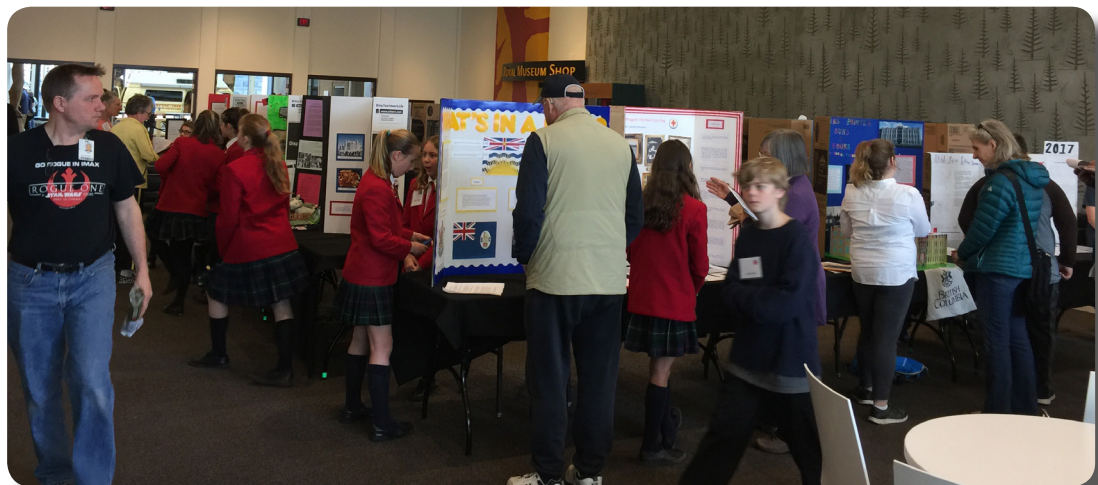
The Heritage Fairs are an exciting celebration of Canada's heritage seen through the eyes of student history projects. Students from grades four to nine use the medium of their choice to create a project on a heritage topic, using information and imagination to bring history to life. Public exhibitions of these projects happen annually at Community and Regional Heritage Fairs, in every province and territory. Some schools hold school-based fairs then choose projects to represent them at the regional fair. The Heritage Fair program brings history and heritage to the classroom and provides an opportunity for the whole school to be involved in an educational and exciting event. By participating, teachers can bring out the best in their students. When students create a Heritage Fair project, they are not just telling us what happened in the past, they are explaining why and when it happened and why it is important to us today. The focus is not just learning history but on understanding it. The positive benefit of cross-curricular activities and the sense of accomplishment students experience will make each Fair positive and unique.

Regional Heritage Fairs take place in every province and territory in Canada in May. These Fairs feature public exhibitions of Canadian history projects, displays, and workshops. Students displaying exemplary effort and genuine enthusiasm are selected to represent their region at a provincial heritage fair.

The goal of the fairs is:

- to heighten awareness of our heritage
- to celebrate our cultural diversity
- to promote and publicize the variety and uniqueness of our heritage
- to create an exciting learning environment for students of history to encourage individuals and communities to celebrate Canada's history

We are working with the Royal BC Museum and teacher-librarians from throughout three school districts, representing both public and independent schools to make the fairs more exciting. Students and teachers will be attending workshops at the Museum in January to learn how they can participate in the fairs program. What was intended to be one workshop has been expanded to two different workshops as there was so much interest from teachers. We are confident that this will increase the number of schools at our fair. It will certainly raise our profile; no longer will the fair be a well-guarded secret.



Calendar

- December 4, 2017** Celebrate Christmas at Craigflower Schoolhouse as we decorate a traditional Christmas tree, eat, drink and be merry to the accompaniment of the Karpes Family Band. Bring seasonal treat to share. 7:00 pm.
- May 1, 2018** Hallmark Heritage Society Awards Night, St. Ann;s Academy, 7:30 p.m.
- May 11, 2018** South Vancouver Island Rrgional Heritage Fair, Royal BC Museum, 8:30 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 Old Cemetery 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.

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

We Need Your Donations

The Hallmark Heritage Society has signed up with Canada Helps, a registered charity with a goal to making life simple. 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. While you can make a single donation at any time, please consider a regular monthly gift. 🙏

Sincere thanks to all members who have made donations over the past year. We do not publish names as we respect your privacy.



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 General Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2017 - 7:00 pm

Craigflower Schoolhouse

Festive celebration with tree trimming

Please bring treats to share