

APRIL 1978 – NEWSLETTER

COLOUR YOUR WORLD

...Or at least your house. If you have an old house that that needs painting or if you are just interested in seeing what colours are appropriate for different styles of buildings, come to our next meeting. Noted art historian MARTIN SEGGER will give an illustrated talk on Colours for Old Buildings on Wednesday, April 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the Maritime Museum, Bastion Square.

A DATE TO REMEMBER

As you know, the Hallmark Society has been working on a comprehensive inventory of heritage buildings for the past three years. For the last year the Inventory Committee under the leadership of Margaret Hutchison and Ben Manning has been supervising the work of researchers and photographers whose salaries have been paid by a Canada Works grant. All this hard work has finally paid off. The results are being prepared for publication and we are planning to resent a copy of the inventory to core-area municipal governments. We hope that members will come to the slide show and presentation which will be held at the Empress Hotel on Wednesday May 24. There will be more details in the next newsletter but we wanted to give you advance warning so you could keep the evening free.

MORE MEETINGS

On Saturday, April 22, the meeting of Heritage Canada's B. C. and Yukon region will be held in Victoria. A film on Heritage preservation in B. C. which was made by Heritage Canada and the Province B.C. be shown at 2: 30 p.m. Hallmark Society members are welcome to attend. If you are interested, please phone Eric Tomlinson at 383~6432 to find out where the film will be shown. Arrangements were not completed at press time.

We're sorry that more members were not able to attend our last meeting. Those who didn't come missed a fascinating talk on the history and architecture of

Indian churches. Gary White and John Viелette who spoke and showed some of their superb slides, have written a book on Indian Churches in B. C. If you were unable to attend and are at all interested in the subject, you should have a look at this book that is available in Victoria bookstores.

BAD NEWS

...At least potentially. Demo permits have been issued for two important Inner Harbour residential buildings--321 and 327 Belleville St. (Land of the Little People and Judge Hunter's Haunted House). These buildings share an important block with the Captain's Palace --perhaps the finest Queen Anne residence left in this city. How long can it survive if the neighbouring buildings have been levelled to provide parking spaces for the modern hotel to be built on the remainder of the block?

We believe it is an extremely short-sighted policy to promote Victoria as a tourist city; to spend millions on "beautifying" the Inner Harbour and then to allow buildings of this stature to be torn down. They are, after all, one of the first things one sees when approaching the city by water. If we continue to lose buildings like these, what will be left to draw tourists to Victoria? Why would anyone bother to come to a city which looks like any other city?

City Council has not acted to designate these buildings. Although we have received no reply to our request for their reasons for failing to act, the reason is not difficult to discern. They are afraid that they may be liable for compensation to the buildings' owner.

If Council can't or won't act, what about Sam Bawlf? After all it is his recent legislation which requires the city to compensate owners of designated buildings. And it is his Inner Harbour project which will be diminished by the presence of yet another sterile modern hotel on its perimeter. According to the answer we received, Mr. Bawlf is not even willing to order a site survey unless requested to do so by the city.

However , Mr. Bawlf and City Council have one thing in common - they are politicians. And politicians can sometimes be encouraged to act if pressure from enough citizens can be brought to bear.

If you care about your city write, expressing your concern to:

The Hon. Sam Bawlf,
Minister of Recreation and Conservation,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

The Mayor and Council,
Victoria City Hall,
1, Centennial Square,
Victoria, B. C.

If you have any ideas as to what further steps we, as a Society can take, please come prepared to discuss them at the April 26 meeting.

A NEW PROJECT

We are considering the production of a kit to encourage awareness of heritage buildings among school children. Jill Sewell is coordinating the project but she will be needing help. If anyone out there is interested, particularly teachers or ex-teachers, please phone Jill at 658-5713.