

SEPTEMBER 1979 – NEWSLETTER

A NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL

No, you haven't mislaid four months. It's just that we think that September is the real beginning of the year--at least the Hallmark year. So, to celebrate, we have planned not one, but two special events.

A TERRIFIC TOUR

TOUR OF DUNSMUIR HOMES

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9 10: am - 3:00 pm

Come along on our tour of the Dunsmuir family homes in the Greater Victoria area. James Nesbitt has graciously agreed to give us a short talk and conduct a tour of Craigdarroch Castle.

The bus will go past several homes including those of Seldon Humphreys, James Audain and the site of Burleith on the Gorge. We will also look at the Cavendish house "Journey's End, and tour the grounds and see Hatley Park.

Bring a sandwich, something to drink and perhaps a picnic blanket as we will stop for lunch enroute. However, Edwardian extravaganzas such as cold chicken and champagne are probably not too practical since if it rains we will have to eat on the bus.

You may remember that we planned this tour in June and were slightly underwhelmed by the response from Hallmark members. However our notice was also sent later to the Historical Society and their members seemed very keen although, by the time we heard from them, we had been forced to cancel the tour.

We will be notifying them again so, if you want to come, please book right away. We have only 47 seats on the bus so send in your \$3.50 along with the form at the end of the newsletter as soon as possible. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

You will be notified if your cheque does not reach us in time for you to be included in the tour.

Join the tour at the former (see below) Hallmark office in Bastion Square at 9:45 am on Sept. 9. All day parking is available in the Yates St. Parkade for 50¢.

CALLING ALL CANDIDATES

Our second attraction is, of course, our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 at 8:00 pm MARITIME MUSEUM, BASTION SQUARE featuring an illustrated talk by perhaps our most globe-trotting member ISLA TUCK on HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN RUSSIA.

At the Annual General Meeting we will be electing a new executive. The positions to be filled are:

- President
- Recording Secretary
- Vice-President
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer
- 3 Members at Large

Two members of the Board of Trustees of the Building Foundation are also to be elected. We are anxious to find people with new ideas so even if you haven't been involved up to now, please consider running yourself or nominating persons you think would be suitable.

When all the executive share the tasks no one person is over-burdened. Please call Don Reksten (592-3512 eves.) and submit your name or that of a fellow member.

A BIZARRE BAZAAR

Not if you get busy and start making small items suitable for sale at the Hillside Bazaar to be held in late October. If possible, three items of the same type would

be appreciated. This event is an important moneymaker for the Society and we count on members' support.

We will be giving details re pick-up etc. in the next newsletter but in the meantime get busy! For further information please call Isla Tuck at 382-7932.

BELOW

We have been asked by the Maritime Museum to vacate our office as they need more space for displays. They have kindly stored our office furniture, files etc. but we no longer have a base of operations. Thus, we need A NEW OFFICE. If any member knows of one that is cheap (or free) or if any organization has space it would be willing to share would you please call Tom Mayne at 477-8284.

GOOD TO WORK

We have written to Victoria City Council commending them for the WORK action they have taken in designating the City's older churches as heritage buildings. They were under a great deal of pressure not to act so their courage is particularly commendable. Special kudos go to Ald. Bob Wright for his "dedication and persistence in seeing that the by-law was passed", according to Terry Reksten, a Hal1mark member on the Heritage Advisory Committee.

A JAB IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

After a period of inaction, there is a distinct possibility that Oak Bay Council may be getting interested again in heritage matters. Dare we hope that this is a result of our letter about the fate of the Maclure-designed Wilmot House on Cubbon Dr.

A NEW TRADITION

The Hallmark Society, in cooperation with the School Board, has arranged an annual competition on heritage themes in memory of Peter Cotton. This year the theme is "Looking for History in Houses" and the competition will be for children in Grades 5, 6 and 7. The students may write an essay, do a pictorial essay or arrange a slide presentation with written or taped comments. Book prizes will be

awarded for the best entries and the winners' work will be displayed at the Heritage Fair next February. Thanks are due to Jill Sewell and Tom Mayne for their hard work on this project. We're sure that Peter would have liked the idea of getting children to be more aware of our heritage.

A COMING CONFERENCE

As you probably know, the Hallmark Society is cooperating with Heritage Canada on the forthcoming Heritage Canada Conference which will be held in Victoria on October 17-21. We will be in charge of registering the delegates and of staffing a hospitality desk which will give information and advice to visitors. If you would be interested in helping with any of this work for an hour or two, please call Candy Wyatt at 388-6562. If you are interested in attending the Conference as a delegate, please write to Heritage Canada, P. O. Box 1358, Station 'B', Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5R4 for pre-registration information, schedule of fees, etc. The number of delegates is limited to 500 so you would be advised to act promptly.

The Conference will include:

- Lectures on Urban Heritage as an Economic Resource
- Local Government Conservation Planning
- Revitalization of Main Streets
- Training Workshop on retrofitting insulation.
- Answers to your preservation problems from experts at open clinic workshop sessions.
- Heritage Canada's Annual Dinner and Dance with Canadian author W. O. Mitchell speaking
- Many other features

AGENDA

We also note with pride that Mrs. Madge Hamilton has agreed to be a patron of the Heritage Building Foundation. She is a member of one of Victoria's oldest families and one of the first people to recognize the importance of Victoria's old

homes. There has been no decision yet as to the fate of the Bank of Commerce building at Douglas and Bay. There is a possibility that the Foundation might get involved in its preservation. DON'T FORGET THE TOUR ON SEPT. 9 See you there!