

NOVEMBER 1979 – NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

First of all, welcome to the new members who joined the Hallmark Society at the Heritage Canada Conference.

CONFERENCE WRAP – UP

The Heritage Canada Conference was a great success with 275 delegates attending from all across Canada. Jacques Dalibard, executive director of Heritage Canada, has written us his thanks. He says, in part, "The hospitality desk and volunteer help was invaluable. The courteous efficiency of the volunteers was a great help ... and the (Hallmark's) tour of Victoria ... was an excellent finishing touch. Thank you again."

“INVALUABLE HOSPITALITY”

The Hospitality and Registration Desks were ably organized by Leona Brice and Candy Wyatt respectively. They both extend sincere thanks to the following members for their time and enthusiastic support, which was much appreciated: Rosemary Cross, Margaret Hutchison, Peggy Burnand, Mary Emerson, Jim Lee, Betty Mayne, Michael Halleran, Gladys Griffin, Thelma Gillies, Mark Aitken, Kathy Aitken, Catherine Hodgens, Peg Lowe, Doris Newberry, George Radford, Terry Reksten, and Bill Murphy.

“EXCELLENT FINISHING TOUCH”

Our bus tour, which was widely praised, was planned and introduced with a slide show by George Radford and Bruce Gibson-Bean. Additional help came from Doug Franklin, John Keay, Stuart Stark and Isla Tuck. Heritage Canada sent a \$100 cheque for our organization of the bus tour. We also wish to thank David Lai and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association for their cooperation in arranging the delicious luncheon and the opening of the three buildings in Chinatown, one of which, the Hook Sin Tong Building on Herald Street, has a

magnificent stained glass dome skylight which has been restored with assistance from the B.C. Heritage Trust. It was a treat to see.

All in all, a good conference with much worthwhile information learned and many useful contacts made with heritage enthusiasts across Canada.

OUR SOCIETY'S CHANGING EMPHASIS

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Hallmark Members,

As the Hallmark Society proceeds through its seventh year, we can proudly look back at our short history and our many achievements. Our initial ambition, that of awakening public interest--and more specifically the interest of municipal councils--has been very successful, thanks to our many dedicated members.

Victoria presently has the best reputation for preservation of our built environment in all of Canada with about 141 buildings designated. Saanich Council, to their credit, recently designated institutional buildings in their municipality as well. Our Society also achieved its second ambition--an inventory of over 600 heritage structures in Greater Victoria. This inventory is currently available in the library and all municipal halls, with hopes of a wider availability in the future.

During the past year, our executive has been working to achieve the one goal set out in our constitution still unreached--that of acquiring a heritage building of our own. We already have the necessary legal machinery to enable us to accept gifts or bequests, or to allow us to purchase or lease property.

The Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society is a separate - but-connected society with full charitable status and is, in effect, the property-wing of the Hallmark Society. The Heritage Building Foundation has the goals of saving properties and reselling them under restrictive covenants or designation bylaws so properties are protected and funds can be reused for further purchases.

To date, the Board of Trustees of the Heritage Building Foundation has been doing the groundwork to enable these goals to be reached. A Brochure is available (write to P.O. Box 1204, Victoria) and is being distributed to lawyers' offices in the city. Also, we are very proud to announce that:

The Honourable Henry P. Bell-Irving, D.S.O., O.B.E., E.D., Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia and Mrs. Bell-Irving have agreed to be honorary patrons of the Heritage Building Foundation. The Honourable Allan McKinnon, P.C., M.P. for Victoria, Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veteran's Affairs has also agreed to be an honorary patron.

These new patrons join our other six patrons who have been, and indeed are, prominent in the heritage preservation field, in Victoria, in British Columbia and even in Canada. They are: Mr. James K. Nesbitt; Miss Sara Spencer; Mrs. Madge Hamilton; Mr. and Mrs. John O'Reilly; and Mr. James Coulter. To all of our patrons we once again express our thanks. Now the groundwork is laid and to achieve our goals we need suitable finances. Within our membership must be many people who have assisted in fund-raising ventures in the past. We now need your support. To purchase and properly restore a house or commercial building is a large undertaking. The technical expertise on preservation is available from within our knowledgeable membership as well as from the British Columbia Heritage Conservation Branch and from Heritage Canada. It is a task I am sure we are equal to and is the most effective way to stem further demolitions or the disastrous renovations we are all too familiar with. We only need to raise the necessary funds. So I am asking for the help of the membership of the Hallmark Society. We need your support as we have never needed it before. We need assistance in fund raising--in ideas, cooperation and organization. Car raffles, house tours, sponsored events--any or all would bring the Society that much closer to our goals.

If you have organized a fund-raising event before or know of someone who has) please phone either myself, at 386-0215 eves. or Don Reksten (Chairman, Heritage Building Foundation) at 592-3512 eves.

Also, many of you may not know that the Society has lost its office in the Maritime Museum in Bastion Square. (The space was required by the museum and we thank them for our long rent-free tenancy). Obviously, it is imperative that a new home for the society be found as soon as possible to provide a focus for the Society, the Heritage Building Foundation and our fund-raising activities in particular.

Help us with fund-raising. It is the only way to preserve Greater Victoria's remaining heritage buildings. For more information phone me at 386-0215 eves.

Sincerely,

Stuart Stark, President

EARLY PRE – FAB BANK SAVED BY HALLMARK MEMBER

One of our members, Bill Hartley, has recently acquired the old Bank of Commerce Building at Bay and Douglas to save and use as offices for his insurance company, Bill Hartley Agencies Ltd. Congratulations to Bill and to the City of Victoria which trimmed road widening plans to allow the bank building to remain on its original site.

BAZAAR KEEPS US IN BLACK

Once again, Isla Tuck, Jill Sewell and their able crew held another successful bazaar in the Hillside Mall. With postage and newsletter costs etc. away up this year, the \$313 raised enable the Society to meet our day-to-day running costs. Thanks very much to all concerned--those who donated items and who gave up their time on Oct. 26th.

HARRIS GREEN – BEIGE HOUSE

The beige and brown house facing Harris Green at 1121 Pandora Ave. has had a demolition permit applied for. Built in 1885, the Italianate house is on the city's "A" list and the Heritage Advisory Committee has recommended designation on site. Its future now lies in Council's hands.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE PLAQUE UNVEILED

On October 18th Victoria City Hall was dedicated as a National Historic Site. Dr. Margaret Prang officiated at the ceremony which was moved inside because of rain. A plaque was unveiled which will be installed on the original structure(s) dating from 1878, 1881, and 1891.

NOMINATION FOR AWARDS

Heritage Day is fast approaching and the executive needs nominations for our annual heritage awards. If you've noticed a fine restoration, a tasteful paint job, a sympathetic conversion or some other outstanding project please phone president Stuart Stark at 386-0215 eves.

CITYSCAPE COMMITTEE TO FORM

Many of our members have realized that the surroundings of a heritage building are as important as the building itself, and have expressed concern over such things as the disappearance of the original metal carriage curbs downtown or the suitability of "Georgian" buildings for Oak Bay Village. Therefore a new committee is being formed called "Cityscape" which will concern itself with heritage-related matters on a wider scale, including open spaces. A few enthusiastic members would like to meet with a few more to start this committee. Please phone Candy Wyatt at 388-6562 eves.

A FAITHFUL SCRIBE VOLUNTEERS

Our new recording secretary is Peter Walton who volunteered to fill our empty position on the executive. Thanks very much to Peter.