



THE HALLMARK SOCIETY

Dedicated to Preserving Historic and Architectural Landmarks

P.O. Box 1204, Victoria, B.C.

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APRIL-MAY NEWSLETTER

JACKSON HOUSE

(Parry St.) UP, revealing 31/2 of the original turned posts, with the missing one to be reproduced. Windows are being made for downstairs, and the back emergency stairs to the top floor have been fitted inside the house. Plumbing and electrical work are virtually complete. A telephone and sink are in place in our Society meeting room, and it will be good to have even a small home of our own.

We were most fortunate to receive a donation of a beautiful, turn-of-the-century front door. The pediment with acorn detailing is a perfect match for other acorn details on the house, and the obscure glass and unusual brass doorknob and backplate make this a particularly fitting contribution. Many thanks, to David Soltonovich.

There is an immediate need for \$5,000 to \$7,000 in additional funds to complete the Jackson Rouse renovations. Please contact Stuart Stark, 386-0215, Carol Davidson, 386-5737 or Peter Walton at 386-6102 if you can make a contribution to this very important project. It would be a shame to interrupt such excellent progress, so let's see what we can do! Drive by and have a look at the house.

Jill Sewell has volunteered for landscaping duty, but needs some assistance and hopes to begin work around July 1st. Turf and fencing materials are also needed.

As things now stand, we hope to be ready for an open house around July 12th, and the Vintage Car Club and the Costume Society want to participate in that event. Incidentally, we now have the title to the Jackson House, and are placing the house in nomination for a Heritage Canada award.

Research on paint samples from the Jackson House tells us the colour scheme shown in the old picture was not the original paint job. The first colours were a grey-green background with black-olive and burgundy trim. Sounds smashing, I think!

EXEC ATTENDS

Stuart Stark and Jennifer Barr attended the April conference of the Society of Architectural Historians held here, and found it to be a most worthwhile experience.

STANDING COMMITTEES

In order to ease the workload on Executive members and more actively involve the general membership of Hallmark, it has been decided to set up standing committees. These committees will be geared along the lines of the membership questionnaire, so if you have said you would like to be involved in certain areas of Hallmark, you will likely receive a phone call requesting your presence on the appropriate committee. In this way, with the machinery already in place, we should be able to accomplish more work with less trouble, and have more fun doing it.

TRUTCH HOUSE (601 Trutch) Rumour has it that the Trutch House is for sale in the \$200,000 neighbourhood. The other houses which were to be included in the redevelopment are also thought to be on the block.

IS NOTHING SACRED? Beware of thieves who would steal the very hardware off your front door! That is what happened to a resident of Rockland Avenue, the former happy owner of an ornate backplate assembly, who found it neatly removed one fine Saturday morning within the space of half an hour! This is a large (29" X 5") brass backplate with cast fleur-de-lis at top and bottom and standard thumb latch. If you should see such an item anywhere, please get in touch with the police or the Hallmark Society, and possibly we can assist the owner in the return of his property.

Take note that this is an item which may not be covered by your homeowner's insurance, unless you happen to have an all-risk type policy. If you have such valuables attached to the outside of your home, you might check with your insurance agent as to whether theft of same would be covered by your policy.

WALKING TOURS Walking tours are being organized, and so far we have had five requests for this service. This could be a nice moneymaker for our Society, as well as a good way to publicize the work we do. Incidentally, my apologies to Penelope Czarno, who with Paul Bennett is in charge of the tours, for leaving the "C" off her name in the last newsletter.

GODFELT PROPERTY The owner of Roslyn, Mr. Paul Condon, has asked our assistance in maintaining the status quo in his neighbourhood. The City of Victoria, owner of the Godfelt property on which stands Maplewood, is hoping to sell this large chunk of the Catherine Street spine to developers. The idea appears to be to fit in five or so new duplexes around Maplewood. Homeowners in the area have banded together to try to prevent such inappropriate "improvement" in this historically significant section of Vic West. They have submitted some alternate proposals, such as moving in old homes scheduled for demolition in other areas of the city.

Please support the efforts of the Vic West residents in maintaining the integrity of this charming neighbourhood, where so much good work has already been done.

RESIGNED We are sorry to lose Marla Handley as Member-at-Large on the Exec. Thanks for your efforts, Marla!

24 DOUGLAS STREET We are trying to save this house at Mile "0" on the Trans Canada. It was designed by Jud Yoho, a well-known Seattle architect of the period. He edited a magazine called THE BUNGALOW, which was quite popular from 1913-15 and we are attempting to obtain a copy of a thesis recently written by a Seattle student on Mr. Yoho's career. The house, untouched since it was built in 1915, may have to be moved because of land assembly scheme. Even the unique granite and chain fence remains intact. Incidentally, there is a mirror image of the house right behind 24 Douglas.

FERNWOOD PRESSURE The housing crisis continues to exert pressure on older homes throughout the city. Apparently several beautiful old houses in Fernwood are now threatened with demolition. Stuart will attend a Fernwood community meeting on this matter on May 25th.

GENERAL
MEETING

Please come to our last general meeting before the summer hiatus. It will be June 2nd, Tuesday, at 8 p.m. in the Windsor Park Pavillion. This time we will have the room to ourselves! Don't miss it--many things to be discussed, and your active participation is more important than ever.

Our new members are especially urged to attend, and, speaking of new members, Jessie Woollett will speak on Victoria--Remember When? It promises to be an entertaining program, with slides & commentary.

URBAN
DECAY

It has an ugly sound, doesn't it, and it is ugly! Just how ugly was forcefully brought to my attention on a recent trip to the commercial/industrial area of Hastings Street in Vancouver. Somehow, I had missed this side of Vancouver, and was appalled at the existence of such massive urban blight in the heart of Lotusland! The effect was accentuated by the accumulated filth resulting from the municipal workers' strike, but unfortunately the detritus was human as well. It is difficult to see how such a large area of blight can be reclaimed but something certainly must happen there soon. Maybe B. C. Place is going to cover the whole thing?

On the plus side, it was heartening to note the determination of the individuals who formed a cooperative to save the lovely old apartment building at Robson & Thurlow. They were successful in staving off demolition of a perfectly good building, thus adding to the housing supply. The answer is definitely with individuals. One determined individual can make a difference, and a good example of that is the local man who insisted on a greenbelt between his neighbourhood and the Camosun parking lot extension--and won!

YES
VIRGINIA
THIS IS
A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
(BUT NOT
THIS MONTH)

I must apologize again for not giving you a monthly newsletter. Small tasks sometimes assume monumental proportions in the face of many others waiting to be done. I do have volunteers to help me, but just have been unable to get organized. Perhaps a small vacation will help.

REMEMBER THE GENERAL MEETING--WINDSOR PARK PAVILLION--8 p.m.
TUESDAY, JUNE 2ND--JESSIE WOOLLETT--SPEAKER.

BE THERE!



Marilyn Pollard, Editor

