

Heritage BC Quarterly



PHOTO: J&S GORDON PHOTOGRAPHY



HERITAGE BC PRESIDENT PAT McALLISTER PRESENTS AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO PLANNER LAURA RYAN AND HERITAGE COMMISSION MEMBER STEVE SWEENEY OF DELTA.

2008 Heritage Awards

On June 6, the 2008 Heritage BC Awards were presented at a gala banquet and ceremony in Langley. The awards program recognizes a wide range of heritage achievements by individuals, organizations, and businesses from all parts of the province.

The Salvation Army received an Outstanding Achievement Award, the highest honour, for the rehabilitation of the former BC Electric Railway Depot in New Westminster. The award was shared with Eric Pattison Architect.

A second Outstanding Achievement Award went to the Delta Heritage Advisory Commission for the Delta Heritage Passport, a series of guides to Delta's historic sites. The Commission published Volume I during Heritage Week 2007.

Five Awards of Honour were also presented for projects in Terrace, Britannia Beach, Victoria, Ladysmith and Burnaby.

Pixie McGeachie accepted the Ruby Nobbs Award for exceptional volunteer achievement. Pixie was honoured for over 30 years of volunteer efforts to conserve and promote Burnaby's heritage.

Capping the award ceremony, the Honourable Mary Polak presented the British Columbia Heritage Award to Murphy Shewchuk of Merritt. Murphy then presented the \$10,000 prize that comes with this prestigious award to Doug Strand of the Nicola Valley Museum.

Please see pages 9-10 for articles and a complete list of all award recipients.

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JOIN US FOR THE
REGIONAL HERITAGE MEETING
'BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS'
HOSTED BY PRINCE GEORGE
OCTOBER 17 - 18 2008



PAM COPLEY

Pam Copley Joins the Heritage Branch

Pam Copley has joined the provincial Heritage Branch as a Regional Heritage Planner. After four years working in employment programs and policy with the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, now Housing and Social Development, Pam is delighted to be returning to a field she is passionate about and looks forward to re-connecting with former colleagues and building new networks. In addition to her training in heritage conservation and museum studies through UVic's Cultural Resource Management Program, she brings to the position a broad range of experience as a heritage consultant, knowledge of local government practices and processes as a first-term municipal councillor, and an understanding of diverse perspectives from years of volunteering in community heritage in various capacities.

In her spare time, Pam enjoys world travel, community work and spending time with her husband and three children. She is a fan of all things Russian, and as President of the Victoria-Khabarovsk Association promotes relations and activities with Khabarovsk, Victoria's sister city in the Russian Far East. If anyone is interested in what the VKA does or is looking for new experiences, she is always looking for willing recruits!



SUE MORHUN
AS 'POPCORN ANNIE'

Sue Morhun Retires

After more than 25 years of labouring in the heritage vineyard, Sue Morhun has retired. Sue's career was exceptional in that it successfully straddled the heritage and museum worlds. In her most recent position, as Manager of Community and Heritage Services for the Township of Langley, she served as both museum director and heritage planner. Sue held a number of other professional posts and served on numerous boards including the BC Museums Association, the BC Heritage Trust, Tourism BC, The Land Conservancy, and the Barkerville Heritage Trust. Sue has also been a regular trainer in Heritage BC's workshop program, trekking to all corners of the province to spread the wisdom of her years of experience and impart her special brand of energy and enthusiasm. In 2004 Sue was the recipient of the B.C. Heritage Award.

Sue has packed up and moved to sunny Oliver, but she promises to remain active in heritage, as a consultant and no doubt a volunteer.



TIFFANY GILES

Tiffany Giles joins Heritage Tourism Alliance

In June 2008, the Heritage Tourism Alliance of British Columbia appointed Tiffany Gyles as their Heritage Tourism Liaison. The Alliance consists of major players in B.C.'s heritage sector including Heritage BC and the BC Museums Association, working with Tourism BC and the Heritage Branch to implement a provincial heritage tourism marketing strategy. In her new role, Tiffany will act as the lead conduit between industry and government for the purpose of increasing tourism visitation to locations and facilities that feature B.C.'s history and heritage.

A long-time resident of Victoria, Tiffany's career in the tourism industry started over 12 years ago, when she worked as a seasonal performer at the famous Butchart Gardens. Since then, she has held positions in event planning and hospitality sales at some of Victoria's most renowned tourism attractions including The Fairmont Empress. Most recently, Tiffany was the Manager of Meeting & Incentive Travel at Tourism Victoria where she was responsible for promoting and selling Victoria and Vancouver Island as a meeting and incentive travel destination to the US market. Tiffany holds a B.A. in History from the University of Victoria and is delighted to continue working in close collaboration with key tourism partners on ensuring an integrated approach to promoting British Columbia's incredibly diverse heritage experiences.

A Milestone for Heritage Conservation

Federal Lighthouse Bill Passes

Bill S-215, An Act to Protect Heritage Lighthouses, was passed by Parliament in May 2008. Passage of the bill was a milestone for heritage conservation in Canada and a triumph for the heritage movement. S-215 was the seventh attempt, the first being introduced in the Senate in 2000.

The new act will do several things:

- provide a means for the selection and designation of federal heritage lighthouses
- prevent the unauthorized alteration of federal heritage lighthouses
- require that designated federal heritage lighthouses be maintained in a manner consistent with accepted conservation standards
- facilitate the sale or transfer of federal heritage lighthouses in order to ensure the lighthouses' public purpose

The act determines that there will be a clear process for the identification, maintenance and divestiture of federal lighthouses. It ensures increased protection for lighthouses under federal ownership and care. It also sets up new processes for public involvement:

- public nominations of lighthouses to be considered for heritage designation
- public consultation before alterations are made to heritage lighthouses
- public notice of lighthouses considered surplus to the federal government
- public notice of the transfer of a federal heritage lighthouse to a community group or municipality
- public meeting if a lighthouse is considered for sale to a private owner
- public notice and public meeting if a lighthouse is to be demolished

The legislation will not come into force for another two years. This time will be used by the Minister of the Environment to develop the criteria for heritage lighthouse designation, as set out by the bill. The Minister will be assisted by a new advisory council, also mandated by the legislation

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which is responsible for federal lighthouses, is required in this same two-year period to identify facilities it deems to be surplus. Communities will then have a further two years to petition the Minister for heritage designation of individual lighthouses, and propose community uses for any lighthouses considered surplus by DFO.

The Act, then, establishes a process to designate federal heritage lighthouses, and legislates that they will receive proper care and protection. The need for the Act grew out of the process of automation that began in the 1970s which led to neglect and even destruction of some historic lighthouses. Custodial departments had no mandate or means to deal with historic lighthouses. This Act creates a new layer of protection and gives the powers and responsibilities to the Minister of Environment.

There are about 250 lighthouses across Canada, in all provinces except Alberta and Saskatchewan. With fewer lighthouses going surplus out here, the west coast has been a little slower to get on the conservation bandwagon, but that may change now. Senator Pat Carney has been a west coast champion for the bill from the beginning, and played a major role in the final achievement of success. Recently retired, she continues to work for the cause as we move into the implementation phase.



TOURISM BC



There are about 250 lighthouses across Canada. With fewer lighthouses going surplus here, the west coast has been a little slower to get on the conservation bandwagon, but that may change now.





THE S.S. MASTER IN GANGES IN 2006
PHOTO COURTESY THE S.S. MASTER SOCIETY

Seven New Projects Supported

Several new projects were given financial assistance by the Heritage Legacy Fund when the board of directors met by conference call on July 23. The total value of the grants to seven communities was \$126,000.

In the West Kootenays, just over \$19,000 was awarded to assist with the cost of installing a fire suppression system in the Silverton Memorial Hall, and exterior painting. A grant of \$14,000 went to the Village of New Denver to replace the roof on the Silvery Slocan Museum building, a former Bank of Montreal.

In the East Kootenays, the Creston & District Museum will receive over \$12,000 toward repairs to the museum's south wing. In the northwest, the North Pacific Historic Fishing Village, a National Historic Site near Port Edward, was awarded \$22,000 to assist with maintenance and conservation work on three of their many historic buildings.

A maximum grant of \$25,000 was awarded to the City of Kelowna and the Central Okanagan Heritage Society which will be used at the historic Brent's Grist Mill site.

On Vancouver Island, the Oak Bay United Church in Oak Bay will get \$25,000 for urgently-needed masonry repairs, while the District of Central Saanich requested and received \$8,000 for repairs and painting of the residence and garage in Butterfield Park.

The board also approved a changed use for an earlier award of \$25,000 to the S.S. Master Society. These funds will now go to emergency fuel tank repairs that will get the vintage tugboat back into active duty as a movable historic site.

For more information about the Heritage Legacy Fund call 250.361.3863 or visit www.heritagelegacyfund.ca



PHOTO: JOHN YANYSHYN

Historica Fair is a Big Success!

On Monday, July 7, 165 young people from across Canada descended on Victoria to take part in the 14th annual Historica National Fair. These grades four through nine students, 15 from each province and the territories, had all been selected through earlier local fairs to take part in the big national event.

Everyone was put up at the fair "village", aka Victoria High School, where classroom floors were now covered with air mattresses, and the gymnasium had been converted into a cafeteria. For the next seven days the young Canadians and their handlers and hosts were caught up in a whirlwind of activities, visiting historic sites and museums around Victoria and up Island, participating in workshops, and just having fun. The highpoint of the week was the National Fair itself on Saturday, July 12, at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre in Saanich, where the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor, presided at the opening ceremonies. Here the students displayed their prize-winning exhibits that had earned them the trip to Victoria.

The following Monday, busloads of students were back at the airport, heading home with a unique collection of experiences and memories, and a new sense of their country and its history that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

For more about the Historica Fairs program visit www.histori.ca

BC Hydro Recants

Readers may have seen a recent BC Hydro newspaper advertisement promoting Energy Star windows. “Having old windows”, the half-page ad said, “is like having no windows at all”.

Heritage BC immediately wrote to BC Hydro, saying that “to imply, as the advertisement does, that one cannot live in comfort in an older house without replacing the windows, is simply not creditable”. Our purpose, of course, was to try to fend off the rush to tear out the windows in all of B.C.’s heritage homes in the name of energy conservation. As we have pointed out in recent issues of *Heritage BC Quarterly*, there are many ways to improve the efficiency of the older home without discarding its heritage values and tossing out perfectly serviceable units. It’s not a question of heritage or conservation, but heritage and conservation.

Susan Yurkovich, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, for BC Hydro has written back to assure us; “We recognize the value that heritage buildings have in British Columbia, and in no way are we advocating the replacement of windows in these structures. We will change the headline in our window campaign ads to ‘having inefficient windows is like having no windows at all’”.

This is a good result. But we will have to remain vigilant if heritage is not to become a victim of the growing wave of interest in creating a more sustainable, greener built environment.

Stanley Park’s Hollow Tree Gets Reprieve

The Big Hollow Tree in Vancouver’s Stanley Park is something of an icon and a favorite spot for photos.

The tree suffered from the hurricane of December 2006, beginning to list at an 11 degree angle. Staff determined that the tree had to come down. They presented the elected Park Board with a report that recommended cutting it and laying it to rest in a nearby ‘grave’, arguing that it is a dead tree in the last stages of its life cycle. The Park Board agreed to this in March.

The Park Board, however, had ignored the heritage value of the tree. It is listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register and identified as a Level I Cultural Resource by Parks Canada in the Commemorative Integrity Statement for Stanley Park National Historic Site.

The Vancouver Heritage Commission then struck a sub-committee headed by Commissioner Karen Jarvis. The sub-committee and other experts produced a report which maintained that the tree could be kept in an upright position, which would be consistent with good practices of heritage conservation, as well as good engineering. The Park Board received the report but refused to change its decision about the treatment of the tree, voting again in favour of taking it down.

This was not the end of it, however. A group of friends of the Hollow Tree continued to lobby to the commissioners to reconsider. Heritage BC wrote to the Park Board Chair, Korina Houghton, urging that the tree be regarded as a cultural artifact as well as a tree. The story was picked up by the media, including *The Globe and Mail*.

On July 7, the Park Board finally rescinded its earlier decisions, and agreed to give proponents 150 days to come up with a workable solution to keep the Hollow Tree standing, as well as the funds to pay for whatever work needs to be done. Stay tuned.

THANKS TO HAL KALMAN FOR THIS STORY



Old windows, with outside storm windows, are much better than no windows at all.



PHOTO: LORNE WHITEHEAD



MORLEY'S SODA WORKS IN HISTORIC WADDINGTON ALLEY, VICTORIA

Threatened Building Sold

In the last issue of *Heritage BC Quarterly* we reported that two prominent heritage buildings in Victoria's Old Town district were the subject of demolition permit applications.

One of these, the Morley's Soda Works building in historic Waddington Alley, has since been purchased by a well known developer with a record for excellent heritage projects, who has agreed to designation. Chris LeFevre has previously rehabilitated several Victoria heritage buildings, and received a Heritage BC award for one of his best projects. He currently has a major project on the go in the same block, so this is a very satisfactory turn of events since the Soda Works building is in need of immediate help.

The other building, the former Janion Hotel, remains under demolition threat. However, in June the City and the owner came to an agreement to extent an order of temporary protection another eight months. The intent is to give the owner time to find a solution, and hopefully a buyer. There have been a number of expressions of interest in this prominent site. A new owner could be the solution to the current impasse where the owner says rehabilitation is too costly and the City will not consider demolition.



The Day Woodlands Burned

The fourth fire of the week occurred on July 9th, succeeding where the others had failed. By the end of the day, all but the small two-storey tower of the long-empty Woodlands School in New Westminster was blackened rubble. While the fire destroyed the physical heritage, the social and cultural significance remains.

The history of Woodlands goes back to 1873 when the provincial government awarded New Westminster the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, as compensation for losing out to Victoria as capital of B.C. The first building was constructed in 1878 and eventually built upon and around until a rather large and rambling brick structure resulted.

The site has been under development by Onni Development Corp. as part of a larger residential project. The original intention was to retain and restore the entire façade of the building for which Onni would receive greater density on site, but earlier this year a new option was put forward by the City to deconstruct the majority of the building, restore the 1878 building and retain the 1898 tower.

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How do we deal with the early restoration estimate and its compensatory bonusing when the building no longer exists?
.....

The challenge now is, how do we harmonize the Heritage Revitalization Agreement with the Development Agreement and just how strong will the HRA be in reality? How do we deal with the early restoration estimate and its compensatory bonusing when the building no longer exists?

As New Westminster's Heritage Planner, I've learned a great deal from this experience. I won't include restoration costs in an HRA document if I don't have to, and I'll ensure that the wording about the owner's obligation after a building is destroyed includes a reconstruction option as well as an option to 'rebuild in a heritage style'.

Never a dull day in Western Canada's oldest city!

JULIE SCHUECK MACDONALD, HERITAGE PLANNER, NEW WESTMINSTER

Restoring the first house built in Powell River

Big Dreams Come True!

BY ROSEMARY BJORKNAS

The message from the Powell River heritage community is “don’t give up”. After six years of advocating for the protection of the Dr. Andrew Henderson house, the dream of restoring it for future generations is about to be realized with the Powell River Townsite Heritage Society’s purchase of the property.

The house has been under threat of demolition for years. The Society had been working behind the scenes with the owners, the Powell River Division of Catalyst pulp and paper, and finally, after countless discussions, they decided to sell.

Rebecca Vincent, President of the Townsite Heritage Society says, “Dr. Henderson’s house is one of Powell River’s most historically important buildings, not only because it was the first house built in the company-owned town in 1911, but because a remarkable pioneer lived in the house.” It will be an enormous labour of love to restore and protect this treasure, and the end result will be a perfect complement to Historic Powell River, designated a National Historic District in 1995.

After sitting empty and boarded up for over seven years, the first order of business has been organizing volunteer work parties to help clear away garbage and overgrown vegetation so that the job of assessing the exterior and interior structures for restoration can begin.

While preliminary stages of restoration have begun, for now it is just to stabilize the house, reconnect services and stem the progression of further decay until a conservation architect can assess the house and guide us in the delicate and detailed process of bringing Dr. Henderson’s house back to its former magnificence.

A copy of the blueprint for the 1920 addition to the house, which became the adjoining office for Dr. Henderson, has been provided by the Powell River Museum and will help tremendously in recreating the original state of structural and interior design standards. The blueprint drawing annotations shine a light on the past, revealing the use of decorative molding, wooden panels, location of doorways incorporated into walls, fenestrations, and classic Arts & Crafts design in the small roofs over the exterior doors. The piece of the puzzle that is missing, however, is an accurate layout of the main part of the house.

A key step for securing heritage restoration grants, and keeping the attention of the provincial and/or national heritage community, is having Henderson House added to the City of Powell River’s Heritage Register. Ann Nelson, Society Vice-President, has written the requisite Statement of Significance, and a request for inclusion on the Powell River Community Heritage Register has been made.

Contacts are also being renewed with local businesses ready to volunteer their services to this great project. With the green light now on, they have been re-secured as we move into implementation of Phase One.

Besides providing a permanent home for the Townsite Heritage Society, the restored Henderson House will help us to accomplish some other long-term goals: a collaborative demonstration project with the Powell River campus of Vancouver Island University for heritage restoration carpentry training; a Townsite Interpretive Centre; and a medical museum that showcases the historic importance of Dr. Henderson and his work in the community. Other opportunities are sure to emerge as the project evolves.



HENDERSON HOUSE IN POWELL RIVER,
CIRCA 1929



2008 Heritage Awards

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

THE SALVATION ARMY AND
ERIC PATTISON ARCHITECT:
B.C. ELECTRIC RAILWAY DEPOT
PROJECT, NEW WESTMINSTER

THE DELTA HERITAGE
ADVISORY COMMISSION:
THE DELTA HERITAGE PASSPORT

AWARDS OF HONOR

THE CITY OF TERRACE:
THE KWINITSA FOREMAN'S RESIDENCE

THE BC MUSEUM OF MINING
AT BRITANNIA BEACH:
CONCENTRATOR NO. 3

STANTEC ARCHITECTURE
& PASTORAL DEVELOPMENTS LTD:
THE MONACO PROJECT, VICTORIA

THE LADYSMITH MARITIME SOCIETY:
LADYSMITH MARITIME MUSEUM

SECOND STREET
COMMUNITY SCHOOL, BURNABY:
'ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY'
HERITAGE BANNERS PROJECT

THE RUBY NOBBS AWARD
PIXIE MCGEACHIE

THE B.C. HERITAGE AWARD
MURPHY SHEWCHUK



Outstanding Achievement Award 2008

The BC Electric Railway Depot, New Westminster

BY TANYA SOUTHCOTT

When The Salvation Army purchased the British Columbia Electric Railway (BCER) Depot in New Westminster in 2006 it was a far cry from what would become their flagship retail store in the province. Strategically located at the westerly gateway to the Columbia Street Historic District, the Depot offered high reuse potential as well as the possibility to reestablish a major community historic landmark. Almost a century following its completion in 1911, BCER Depot sat all but derelict, unrecognizable after years of renovation and neglect. Deteriorated timber piles had caused differential settlement and many materials from past renovations were now at the end of their service life. Limited remaining heritage fabric and character on the interior allowed for the necessary new use, whereas upgrades for the exterior offered the greatest potential for restoration.

Significant historical evidence existed to promote restoration of the façade to its inaugural year of 1911. Photographs documenting the official opening by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, the Governor General of Canada, reveal a building of impressive character and scale. Designed by one of the province's most influential early architects, Samuel Maclure, the depot was commissioned by an increasingly successful BCER to establish the new interurban headquarters in New Westminster, the economic and cultural centre of the Fraser Valley. The two-storey masonry and heavy timber building is a rare surviving example of a purpose-built train station, complete with a diagonal train concourse running from northwest to southeast through the building. Key to the character of the façade was an arcade of tall arched windows enhanced by stucco banding, faceted keystones and curved window muntins.

The building remained largely unaltered until the end of Interurban service in the mid-1950s when it was bought by the Wosk Brothers for an appliance store. New modern-style architecture along Columbia Street reflected the height of business and urbanism of New Westminster's "Golden Mile". Historic elements were removed from the Depot by modernist architect Ross Lort, and the facades clad in two-tone stucco finish. Original arched windows were replaced with aluminum storefront glazing, the train concourse closed and integrated into the building and the diagonal arcade wall mostly removed.

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Award of Honour

Heritage Banners Project Unites Art and Heritage

The Heritage Banners Project evolved out of a program by Burnaby's Second Street Community School which used local history and heritage to develop neighbourhood pride and awareness.

In 2007, grades four to seven students researched local history and heritage, selecting fourteen heritage buildings and trees, and then created fabric banners based on these sites and neighbourhood themes, which were then mounted on street lamps throughout the neighbourhood.

The students and teachers raised awareness and pride in their neighbourhood and the City of Burnaby. Several heritage sites not generally well known received a higher profile, and students have a better appreciation and knowledge of local history. Burnaby's Community Heritage Commission awarded the banner project the best Burnaby topic prize at the 2007 Historica Fair.



The Ruby Nobbs Award Pixie McGeachie

Pixie McGeachie has given over 30 years of her skills to preserve, promote and celebrate the heritage and history of Burnaby and British Columbia.

Pixie was first drawn to the history of Burnaby while she was the editor of the Burnaby Examiner. She developed a keen interest in writing about history, turning out columns and books through a successful career as an author. Pixie wrote her first Burnaby book, *Bygones of Burnaby*, in 1974. Other books have included *Burnaby – A Proud Century*, which celebrated the City's 1992 centennial, and in 2002 a biography of the city's namesake: *Land of Promise: Robert Burnaby's Letters From Colonial B.C.*

Pixie contributed many hours volunteering to establish Burnaby's Heritage Village in 1971. She has always been a force within the Burnaby Historical Society, serving as President from 1991 to 1993, and she was a member of Burnaby's Community Heritage Commission for six years. For 20 years Pixie was the Community Archives volunteer archivist, gathering thousands of rare and valuable photographs and documents of the city's history, which now form the core of the new Heritage Burnaby Website's photograph collection.

Pixie also took charge of Friends of Interurban 1223 just when this project to restore one of the last interurban trams needed a leader. The Friends' volunteers contributed over 20,000 hours and generated over \$550,000 in cash and in-kind support. She saw this project through to completion with accolades, and a Heritage BC award in 2006. The City of Burnaby has honoured her with a special heritage award and the Kushiuro Cup as 'Citizen of the Year' in 2002.



PIXIE McGEACHIE WITH INTERURBAN 1223.



HERITAGE BC PRESIDENT PAT McALLISTER PRESENTS AN AWARD OF HONOUR TO DAVE BLOCK, CITY OF TERRACE PLANNER, FOR THE FOREMAN'S RESIDENCE PROJECT.

●
HERITAGE BC AWARDS PROGRAM
RECOGNIZES THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS,
AND BUSINESSES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.heritagebc.ca



THE HONOURABLE MARY POLAK PRESENTS THE 2008 B.C. HERITAGE AWARD TO MURPHY SHEWCHUK AT HERITAGE BC CEREMONY

Call for Nominations: 2009 B.C. Heritage Award

The British Columbia Heritage Award is conferred annually by the Minister responsible for heritage. The award recognizes an individual whose long term leadership and contributions to the conservation and presentation of British Columbia's heritage have been exemplary. The award includes a ministry gift of \$10,000 to a non-profit heritage-related organization or project, designated by the award recipient.

Any person who fulfills the award criteria may be nominated. Nominees should have a minimum of 10 years involvement with heritage concerns in the province, and have made personal contributions to the field well beyond the terms of any heritage-related employment. Their efforts to preserve, promote, interpret, or otherwise encourage heritage conservation and awareness should demonstrate either exceptional diversity or a strong focus on a specific discipline. Improved public understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's heritage should be a consequence of their endeavors.

Nominations can be made by any individual or organization. The nomination should include: a signed cover letter; a detailed (one page) statement about the nominee's eligibility and contribution to heritage; attachments, if any, such as letters of support, press clippings and other relevant material; and contact information (phone, email, and postal address) for both the nominee and the nominator. Nominations must be received by September 30, 2008.

B.C. HERITAGE AWARD NOMINATIONS:

RICK GOODACRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PHONE: 250.384.4840

POST OR COURIER: 2009 HERITAGE BC, 914 GARTH LAND PLACE WEST, VICTORIA, BC V9A 4J5

EMAIL: RGOODACRE@HERITAGEBC.CA

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The BC Electric Railway Depot

Initially, the overall conservation objective was to recall the original 1911 Depot through façade restoration, re-establishing its prominence on Columbia Street. To do so required the removal of all contemporary 1970's metal cladding, 1950's stucco, metal windows, storefront and doors, as well as large sidewalk canopies installed in 1928.

Raised roof parapets at the building corners and prominent feature bays on Columbia Street were reconstructed to restore original massing. Original bricks were repaired and repointed, and historic details reconstructed based on remaining fragments and photographic evidence. The windows were reframed to their original layout on both floors; however, large steel beams now prevented the reconstruction of the original arched glazing.

Further difficulties emerged when trying to remove the existing stucco from the 1911 brick. Along the north and west sides of the site, it easily detached due to the damp environment; however, removal along the dryer southern exposure proved too costly and damaging to the brick. Rather than force a compromised unity of style for the entire building, the project recognized the evolution of the Depot's architecture. A second restoration period, 1954, was chosen for the southwest corner celebrating the original modernist intent.

Through The Salvation Army another chapter begins in the life of the BCER Depot. With restoration, the building contributes once more to the historic character of the area and the economic activity of the downtown. A major piece of local history is given new life in the City of New Westminster, and guaranteed for several years to come.



Kootenay Winter Tour : Part 2

JUDITH COOK CONTINUES HER FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF A VISIT LAST WINTER TO HISTORIC SITES IN THE KOOTENAY REGION. PART I APPEARED IN THE LAST ISSUE.

St. Eugene Mission is steeped in the heritage of the Ktunaxa people who have populated the region for more than 10,000 years. When the Oblate Order first founded the mission in 1873, the facility included a school, residence, and later a hospital. Rich ore deposits in the area funded further development and soon the mission established the first flour mill in the region. Following the residential school's closure in 1970, the buildings fell into disrepair and many of the artefacts inside were stripped out. Although the derelict school was associated with difficult memories for many former students, by the early 1990s the Ktunaxa recognized the economic potential of the site. The iconic buildings were updated and refurbished to retain their heritage value. Today, St. Eugene Mission is an international resort which features a golf course and casino. The stately residence and the 1897 stone church exterior retain many original architectural features, while inside changes have been made to accommodate conventions, private and community events, tourists and business travellers. Hallways and lobbies double as galleries to feature archival photos of the same buildings and their inhabitants from days gone by.

Berdine Jonker of the Heritage Branch and I finished our meetings with planning staff from the City of Cranbrook and the Regional District of East Kootenays. With the outside temperature fallen to a nose-searing minus 27 degrees, we headed to Fort Steele Heritage Town for the remainder of the day.

Laura Williams, Chief Executive Officer for the Friends of Fort Steele Society, greeted us with hot chocolate and a briefing of things to come in 2008. She was excited about Fort Steele's upcoming tourist season, which included bookings for events such as the Wheelwright Association conference, the Kootenay County Fall Fair and Canada Day celebrations. Also in the works were plans to coordinate funding and events with the Spirit of BC Committee in Cranbrook to celebrate BC 150 Years. Williams is a firm believer in the cultural tourism opportunities at Fort Steele. "Our history is so unique with regards to how our families first established themselves in our province," she says. "Imagine Fort Steele in the 1890s as this bustling Victorian town with its Opera House and Brass Band. The fashion, the furniture, the opulence of Victorian England in a location that was so isolated that regular postal service was difficult to establish."

Our time at Fort Steele included a tour through many of the buildings, followed by a day-long Statements of Significance workshop with staff. The statements are developed through a process of research and identifying the values which earn the historic building or place its merit. These Statements can be used to develop interpretive information for exhibits, as well as maintenance schedules for conservation. Williams considers the landscape of Fort Steele a relief map of history. "All of B.C. was rural at one point in time, and places like Fort Steele really proved to be a time capsule into the past that preserves those beginnings that all our communities once prospered through. It's these places that also lay the foundation to telling our modern stories as they define the reasons why so much of the province was opened up for economic prosperity in the first place."

For me, these past few days had been an information-rich and densely packed visit which instilled a sense of appreciation for this rugged and rural landscape. At the end of this fourth day, I boarded a plane back to Victoria. Berdine stayed behind with a full schedule for the rest of the week, but my tour of duty was at an end for now. As the plane climbed into the night and snow capped Kootenay mountains disappeared below me, I was already looking forward to a follow up visit. Without a doubt, returning to these sites in spring or summer would offer a whole new perspective.

JUDITH COOK IS INFORMATION AND PROMOTIONS OFFICER, HERITAGE BRANCH



ENTRANCE OF ST. EUGENE MISSION

REGIONAL HERITAGE PLANNERS PROVIDE HERITAGE CONSERVATION PLANNING INFORMATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE PROVINCE TO BUILD LOCAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION CAPACITY.

PLANNERS CAN ALSO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT PROVINCIAL FUNDING THAT IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPING SELF-SUSTAINING HERITAGE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HPI AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN EASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CONTACT:

BERDINE JONKER
REGIONAL HERITAGE PLANNER
HERITAGE BRANCH
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE
AND THE ARTS
PHONE: 250.356.1044
EMAIL: Berdine.Jonker@gov.bc.ca



LEOPOLD VON RANKE

The New Heritage Conservation History and Heritage Conservation

BY ALASTAIR KERR, BC HERITAGE BRANCH

For many people, including a number of people involved with conserving the past, high school was the last time they took a history course. And we all remember high school history, right? There were endless lists of dates and people and far away places which we had difficulty spelling anyway. Exams reinforced our negative feelings. Multiple choice questions of tedious facts we were supposed to care about or true or false minefields with dates reversed to trick us. It's a small wonder that a refrain from a Pink Floyd hit song from the 1970s decries, "Teachers! Leave those kids alone!" I'm sure the band had history teachers in mind!

But what is history anyway? When I was younger I thought history was supposed to be an accurate portrayal of the past, that what I was learning was truth writ large, or in the immortal words of the eminent nineteenth century German historian, Leopold von Ranke, *wie es eigentlich gewesen* – "simply to show how it really was."

The only fly in this ointment is that we can't go back to the past to check if our version is how it really was. Instead we have to construct a past based on the records which have been bequeathed to us. This legacy can be skimpy, which doesn't tell us very much, or overwhelming, which tells us far too much. How do we sort out the relevant from the irrelevant? What's important and what's not? The problem with history books is that historians have done this job for us and we simply assume that what they tell us is how things were. Instead what they have done is carefully selected which facts they want to give a voice to and then interpreted them for us.

Historians are not automatons like the Manchurian Candidate, but real flesh and blood people with their own biases, passions and points of view, filtered through the systems of belief and social values of the times in which they live. There is no such thing as objective history or history as it really was, but only a contingent understanding of the past based on the facts available, refracted through the lens of the present. As societies pass through time, new points of view surface, such as feminism or post-colonialism, and each generation re-writes history from its own perspective. Past interpretations, for example, often seem quaint to contemporary sensibilities. All history is written from a point of view. The eminent twentieth century British historian E.H. Carr wrote that when you read history you have to listen for historian's point of view or what he called the "buzz." He went on to add that if you can't hear it, then you are either tone deaf or you are reading a very dull historian indeed. I was never taught this in high school history. I don't imagine you were either. Facts are just facts, right?

It makes you wonder when someone says that a place has historical value, what is meant by historical. Whose history is it and what point of view does this history represent? This is also part of the danger of taking historical facts out of their history specific contexts. They are not just any "facts," but highly processed understandings of the past from certain points of view. An architectural historian, for example, may not care a fig about the history of a building after it was built, modified and altered, but the social historian surely would. So when you hear that a place is important because of a person, event, date, design, architectural style or architect, ask yourself whose interpretation am I getting? It's high time we graduated from high school and understood history as something which is a moving target, not a fixed or decided subject with endless dates and people of immutable importance to remember. All in all, historical facts are not just another brick in the wall.

THE ELEVENTH INSTALLMENT IN A SERIES ON "THE NEW HERITAGE CONSERVATION" AND VALUES-BASED HERITAGE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT.

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Whose history is it and what point of view does this history represent?

This is part of the danger of taking historical facts out of their history specific contexts.

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The L.S. Group
British Columbia's
First Land Surveyors



The L.S. Group: British Columbia's First Land Surveyors

BY THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND SURVEYORS, 2007

Before the passage of the Land Surveyors Act of 1891, about 150 land surveyors practised in British Columbia. *The L.S. Group: British Columbia's First Land Surveyors* presents us with biographies of 142 of those pioneer surveyors.

Surveyors such as Trutch, Dewdney, Pemberton, or Moberly found their way into the history books, but there are scores of surveyors about whom little was known before this publication. These land surveyors lived and worked in the formative years of British Columbia. Some of their work was exploratory, but mostly their assignments were related to the demands of the growing number of settlers, industry, government, and the railroads.

The book is richly illustrated with photographs and drawings, mainly from the British Columbia Archives, including images of historic survey instruments. This rich collection of biographies and minutiae not only makes for an interesting read, it also provides a fascinating glimpse at the formative period of the province of British Columbia and at the lives of individuals caught up in and actively contributing to the making of a new society.

THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LAND SURVEYORS,
301-2400 Bevan Avenue, Sidney BC V8L 1W1 / 250.655.7222 / EMAIL: abcls@telus.net
Paperback, 386 pages, illustrated, \$30.00 (plus shipping)

FRED BRACHES, A LOCAL HISTORIAN, LIVES IN WHONNOCK B.C.

Heritage Strategy Stakeholder Workshops

You are invited to participate in a facilitated workshop in connection with the development of the provincial heritage strategy. Your observations and comments will help to identify strategic objectives and ways of achieving them.

Cranbrook: 9am - noon, 18th August 2008

Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort and Convention Centre, 209 Van Horne Street South, Cranbrook

Nelson: 9am to noon, 19th August 2008

Prestige Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre, 701 Lakeside Drive, Nelson

Kelowna: 9am to noon, 20th August 2008

The Rotary Centre for the Arts, 421 Cawston Avenue, Kelowna

Dawson Creek: 9am to noon, 27th August 2008

The George Dawson Inn - Tremblay Room, 11705 8th Street, Dawson Creek

Quesnel: 9am to noon, 28th August 2008

Best Western Tower Inn - Banquet Room, 500 Reid Street, Quesnel

Smithers: 9am to noon, 29th August 2008

The Hudson Bay Lodge - Executive Room, 3251 East Highway 16, Smithers

Agassiz: 9am to noon, 4th September 2008

District of Kent, Council Chambers, 7170 Chean Avenue, Agassiz

Nanaimo: 9am to noon, 5th September 2008

Vancouver Island Conference Centre - Duke Point Room, 101 Gordon St, Nanaimo

Richmond: 9am to noon, 12th September 2008

Richmond Cultural Centre - The Atrium, 180-7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

Heritage Strategy Stakeholders Workshops

Why is heritage important to you, your organization, or your community?

What are the challenges facing your heritage?

What are the opportunities presented by your heritage?

Workshop numbers are limited.

To secure a place, please contact Heritage Branch:

heritage@gov.bc.ca

Dorothea Haeussler / 250 356 1433



**PAT McALLISTER
BOARD PRESIDENT
HERITAGE BC**

President’s Message

Hello from B.C.’s interior. As the new president of the board of Heritage BC I hope to be able to perform my duties with a little bit of expertise and a lot of enthusiasm during the ensuing year.

We are off to a great start for the year, having the 150th anniversary of this province, and the annual Heritage BC conference in June at Fort Langley where the Crown Colony of B.C. was founded. The conference was well attended, and due to many requests, the speeches of the two keynote speakers are posted on our website.

Heritage BC is pleased to welcome the Honourable Bill Bennett as the new provincial Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. The MLA for his East Kootenay riding since 2001, Mr. Bennett is an outdoorsman with a reputation for straight talk. As a constituency politician Mr. Bennett is quite familiar with Cranbrook area heritage sites, such as Fort Steele and the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel, which dovetail nicely with the tourism side of his portfolio. We hope to convince him to use some of the political capital that comes with a new cabinet post to give heritage a better profile and better funding than it has received in recent years. A delegation from the Heritage Legacy Fund has already met with the minister and carried that message to him.

Maybe you also heard the recent news about Dawson City. It sounds as though heritage is alive up there. Words such as ‘living history’, ‘future generations’, ‘pre-serve’ and ‘financial incentives’ were used. Well, we are not going up that far, but we are travelling up north to Prince George for our annual fall Regional Meeting, October 17-18, 2008. We have a great program lined up. I hope to see a lot of our heritage friends there.



Executive Director’s Message

The Heritage Branch of the provincial Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts has been directed to draft a provincial heritage strategy.

A strategy is a broad-based plan that identifies goals and objectives, and the means to achieve them. To my knowledge, this is the first time the provincial government has made a commitment to a formal heritage strategy. Past milestones in policy and legislation, since the 1970’s, have included the 1977 Heritage Conservation Act, the Project Pride report of 1987, and the 1994 heritage amendments to provincial statutes which created a new legal ‘toolbox’ for local government and ushered in the current era of heritage resource management.

A strategy in itself will create no new legal tools or new funding. But, if completed and adopted by government, a strategy will be a formal commitment to goals which are absent now, goals for which the government can be held to account.

To date, the provincial government has done a very good job in providing the means for local governments to develop their own heritage strategies and management plans. Much of the efforts of the Heritage Branch over the past couple of decades have been dedicated to this purpose. But the province has not led by example. There has never been a provincial heritage policy or strategy, or even a commitment to conserve crown heritage resources.

As part of the process of creating a new strategy, the Heritage Branch is seeking your input. A series of workshops is being held throughout B.C. in August and September – see the schedule on the previous page.

This is an important opportunity for communities, and the provincial government. Please attend one of the workshops if you can and make your views known. Exercises like this can have great impact on the future direction of heritage conservation in our province.



**RICK GOODACRE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HERITAGE BC**

Heritage Canada Governor's Message

Heritage Canada's annual conference will be held in Quebec City beginning on September 25, 2008. The conference, *Work That Endures: Power to the People Keeping Places Alive*, is produced in partnership with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance. A wide range of tours, workshops and plenary sessions have been designed to broaden your knowledge and renew your enthusiasm for conservation. Land trust and heritage trust organizations, historic site managers and interpreters, community advocates, volunteers, planners and policy makers will all find content that will inspire and inform their efforts.

Quebec City, celebrating its 400th birthday, provides an ideal venue to explore history, heritage, special places, aboriginal sites, industrial districts, historic places of worship and national historic sites.

The program promises to deliver a conference unlike anything you might have previously experienced. The keynote address by National Chief Phil Fontaine will speak to the importance of empowering the people who work to keep the spirit of places alive. The Opening Reception will be held in a rehabilitated church that now houses the Quebec Circus School! The newly restored Imperial Theatre, in the Saint-Roch neighbourhood, will host the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony. A walking tour of the revitalized Saint-Roch, one of the oldest districts of Quebec, will showcase the 100+ artists' workshops, avant-garde shops, restaurants and galleries. At the heart of the revitalization of this neighbourhood was the rehabilitation of a former corset factory which now houses a city planning department and an art school. Only in Quebec City? Perhaps not if conference goers are inspired to bring similar thinking to their home communities.

A chance to tour the Trait-Carre, one of the oldest planned communities in North America and its remarkable multiple-award winning new library would, in itself, make registering to attend the conference worthwhile.

Exit surveys from recent HCF conferences have shown extremely high satisfaction ratings from those in attendance. Please join us in Quebec City and you will find many reasons to celebrate. For more information and to register, see

www.heritagecanada.org



PAM MADOFF
HERITAGE CANADA GOVERNOR

Heritage BC

Board Members

Larry Foster, Director
Kelowna
250.764.8418
lvfoster@shaw.ca

Leslie Gilbert, Vice President
Port Moody
604.469.4582
leslie.gilbert@cityofportmoody.com

Jo Graber, Secretary/Treasurer
Prince George
250.564.2554
jo@jokat.ca

Shirley Gratton, Director
Prince George
250.962.7055
grattons@netbistro.com

Pat McAllister, President
Vernon
250.558.1440
p.mcal@telus.net

Pamela Madoff,
Heritage Canada Governor
Victoria
250.384.6971
pmadoff@shaw.ca

Karen Russell, Director
Vancouver
604.983.3909
KRussell@cnv.org

Jonathan Yardley, Past President
Salt Spring Island
250.653.4931
yardleyj@telus.net

Heritage BC Corporate Members

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PHOTO: JO GRABBER

**REGIONAL HERITAGE
MEETING
OCTOBER 17-18 2008**

Building Relationships

**HOSTED BY
CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE**

Heritage BC



**HEAD OFFICE
914 GARTHLAND PLACE WEST
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**MEMBERSHIP / REGISTRATION
108 - 9865 140TH STREET
SURREY BC V3T 4M4
PHONE/FAX: 604-582-1332**

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Building Relationships: Gaining Community Support and Establishing Regional Cooperation

Prince George, known as BC's northern capital, is a bustling city of 77,000. It's origins can be traced to the fur trading post of Fort George, established in 1807 by Simon Fraser in the centuries-old homeland of the Lheidli T'Enneh First Nation. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (later CN Rail) arrived in 1914 and the City of Prince George was incorporated in 1915.

The 2008 regional meeting focuses on building relationships in support of heritage conservation. Speakers from Prince George and neighbouring Interior and northern BC communities will talk about their challenges and strategies for gaining support from their local communities. They will discuss how to establish organizational frameworks at the local and regional level and create working relationships with other communities' heritage and non-heritage sectors.

Friday October 17

Enjoy a downtown walking tour with members of the Prince George Heritage Commission and a reception and buffet dinner at The Exploration Place, Science Centre and Museum.

Saturday October 18

A full day including regional updates, presentations and a buffet luncheon at The Coast Inn of the North, with an afternoon tour of the Railway and Forestry Museum.

FOR BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT
JAN THOMAS / PHONE: 604.582.1332 / EMAIL: jthomas@heritagebc.ca

Heritage BC

