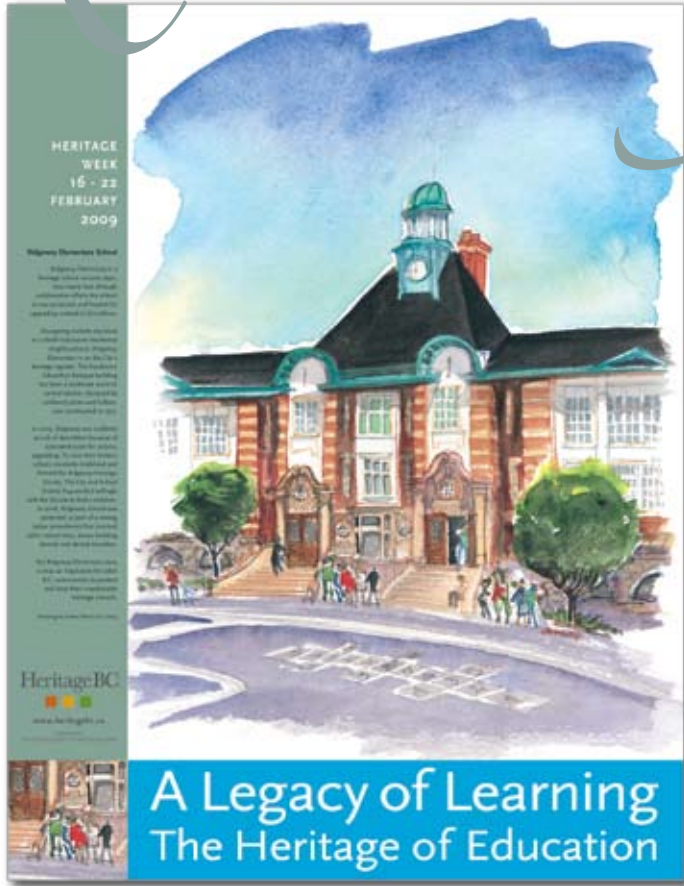


Heritage BC Quarterly



HERITAGE WEEK 16 - 22 FEBRUARY 2009 A Legacy of Learning

Yes, it's time to start planning for Heritage Week, which begins on national Heritage Day, the third Monday in February. The theme for 2009 is "A Legacy of Learning: the Heritage of Education".

From the one-room school house of a century ago, B.C. has grown to where we now have 59 school districts, thousands of schools, and dozens of universities and colleges. Distance learning and the Internet have ushered in a whole new era of learning, and learning is now recognized as a life-long experience, not just for the young.

Schools have always been a part of every community in B.C. The school house was one of the first buildings to go up in a new community, and the teacher often a community leader. Everyone goes to school, and our school years shape our personalities and our lives. Education is a shared experience, something that touches every member of the community. And our schools, colleges and universities are significant places, their buildings are symbols of our highest aspirations.

Today, schools are more than just classrooms. They are community centres, resources, venues for sporting and cultural events, and repositories of community memory. Our heritage of education is indeed a legacy, of learning and much more.

Read more Legacy of Learning articles pages 7 - 10

fall 2008

- MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:
REGIONAL HERITAGE MEETING
PROVINCIAL HERITAGE STRATEGY
FRASER FORT GEORGE CULTURAL PLAN
2
TERRACE HERITAGE TOURISM WORKSHOP
CHC NETWORKING CONFERENCE
3
- ADVOCACY:
A NATIONAL TRUST
4
THE DEVOLUTION EXPERIENCE
5
VICTORIA'S CHAMBER REACTS
PEACHLAND SCHOOL ACTION NEEDED
6
- HERITAGE LEGACY FUND:
NEW ROOF IN NEW DENVER
CONSERVING HERITAGE SCHOOLS
7
- A LEGACY OF LEARNING:
THE HERITAGE OF EDUCATION
- RIDGEWAY SCHOOL
ARMSTRONG CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
MOUNTAIN VIEW FACING CLOSURE
8-9
- VERNON SCHOOL CENTENNIAL
10
- THE NEW HERITAGE CONSERVATION
11
- IN THE NEWS
BUTTERWORTH COTTAGE
KATHY SUMMERS LEAVES CRAGIDARROCH
12
- PROJECT: RESTORATION
BOOKS: HOLLYBURN BY F. MANSBRIDGE
13
- MESSAGES
14-15
- XA:YTEM WEBSITE WINS AWARD
16

CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE!
www.heritagebc.ca



PHOTO: JO GRABER

DELEGATES TOUR THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC COACH "NECHAKO" AT THE PRINCE GEORGE RAILWAY AND FORESTRY MUSEUM



PHOTO: JO GRABER

STEPHANIE KILLAM (RIGHT), CHAIR OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT'S CULTURAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND TRACY CALOGEROS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EXPLORATION PLACE,

Fraser Fort George Regional Cultural Plan Recognized

A Heritage BC Award of Recognition was presented to the Regional District of Fraser Fort George for their Cultural Plan, on October 17 at the Exploration Place in Prince George. In 2005 the Regional District adopted their cultural plan which included secure, five-year funding for eight heritage and arts organizations, and marketing dollars to establish a region-wide cultural brand.

Regional Heritage Meeting Prince George

About three dozen people gathered at the Coast Inn of the North in Prince George on Saturday, October 18, for Heritage BC's 2008 Regional Meeting. The City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser Fort-George were the local hosts.

The evening before, delegates were welcomed at Prince George's great museum, the Exploration Place, for a buffet dinner. Heritage BC took the opportunity to present an Award of Recognition to the Regional District, accepted by Stephanie Killam, Chair of the Cultural Services Advisory Committee, for their recently completed Cultural Plan.

The Saturday program included presentations on the Golden Raven cultural tourism marketing project, the Cariboo Regional District's heritage program, and talks by Anthony Everett, CEO of the Northern BC Tourism Association, on partnership opportunities, and Prince George City Councillor Murry Krause on heritage conservation in a social and political context. Heritage BC Director and Prince George City Councillor Shirley Gratton spoke about Communities in Bloom. Special guest Bill Hicks, Manager of Historic Places at the New Brunswick Heritage Branch, gave a presentation on recent developments in his province.

The day wrapped up with a tour of the Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum and a talk by Dr. Valerie Giles on the Railway Bridge at Prince George.

Provincial Heritage Strategy

Heritage Branch staff recently held nine workshops to inform the development of the emerging provincial heritage strategy. The Branch heard from 184 stakeholders representing a diverse field that included Crown corporations, municipal and regional government land-use and economic development planners and building inspectors, owners and operators of gated heritage attractions, educators, councillors and advisory committee members, tourism developers, heritage consultants, museums and archives operators, and volunteers in almost every one of these fields.

We asked three questions: why is heritage important to you, your organization, or your community; what are the challenges facing your heritage; and, how might we meet those challenges? The graphic recordings from these sessions have been transcribed by Branch staff and an on-line consultation is under way for those unable to attend the workshops in-person. It is hoped that the on-line consultation, in addition to augmenting the workshop findings, will provide quotable material that can be used to enhance the draft strategy. In addition, respondents will be asked to indicate whether they are willing to provide images to illustrate the strategy in due course.

Heritage Branch's next step will be to prepare a report recording the findings of these research and consultation initiatives. The results will be available for review early in the new year so that stakeholders have an opportunity to ensure that their observations have been accurately reflected. Further analysis of issues and opportunities will then allow the draft strategy to be prepared for the Minister's consideration by March 31, 2009.

On behalf of the Heritage Branch, I would like to thank all of you who attended the workshops or who have already provided written submissions, and to reiterate that the strength of the draft strategy lies in how responsive it is to challenges to the sustainability of our historic places as expressed by British Columbians.

RICHARD LINZEY, SENIOR HERITAGE PLANNER, HERITAGE BRANCH

Terrace Heritage Tourism Workshop

Paving the way for heritage tourism development

Promoting Kitimat's city centre as a 1950s historic district is one innovative idea to emerge from the Community Heritage Tourism Strategies workshop held in Terrace on October 3, 2008. Louise Avery, curator of Kitimat's Centennial Museum, has been trying to sell the downtown project for some time. She envisions national historic site designation, Fifties-era shops, classic car rallies and visits by Airstream trailer clubs.

Workshop participants, who came from communities across the region, helped Avery fine-tune the steps to turn her plan into reality. "I now have some targets which are doable," she said.

The one-day workshop, funded by Heritage BC and facilitated by Ursula Pfahler of PODA Communications, also looked at creating Aboriginal cultural and ecotourism experiences in Kitimat Village and heritage tourism partnership opportunities along the Yellowhead Highway.

Luke Houlden, executive director of Kermodai Tourism, said, "The workshop brought together members of the heritage sector and the tourism industry to start working on projects and build relationships that will continue long after the workshop is over."

A key outcome was the realization that cross-promotion and pooling resources will benefit individual communities and the region as a whole. For example, overseas visitors are already aware of Northwest BC as an ecotourism and Aboriginal tourism destination, but don't know about attractions in the region's towns and cities.

Workshop participants identified the lack of infrastructure and tourist services, as well as burnt-out museum and heritage volunteers, as impediments to heritage tourism development in Northwest BC.

Collaboration among the various stakeholders may help overcome these obstacles. Meghan Leschert, Terrace's Heritage Park Museum curator, said the workshop encouraged participants to "think seriously about regional cooperation and how we can work together for the same cause."

CONTACT URSULA PFAHLER (URSULA@PODACOMM.CA) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKSHOP, AND CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR WORKSHOP FUNDING GUIDELINES. » www.heritagebc.ca



PHOTO: LOUISE AVERY

(ABOVE) URSULA PFAHLER (LEFT), FERGUS TOMLIN, ANDREW MINIGAN, AND MEGHAN LESCHERT, HARD AT WORK

(BELOW) HERITAGE PARK MUSEUM IN TERRACE

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSIONS

Networking Conference

The District of Mission is sponsoring a one-day conference for Community Heritage Commissions (CHC) at the Heritage Park Centre. Mission's CHC is the organizer and host. Heritage BC is providing some financial assistance.

There are over 40 CHCs in the province. While their roles and makeup can vary considerably from one community to another, their basic function is to advise municipal councils or regional boards on matters concerning heritage conservation. Sessions will include presentations on setting up a CHC, some community and regional case studies, and an open forum. If you are a member of a CHC, or work with one, this conference is for you!

Registration fee is only \$20. For more info call 604.837.7569 or email: missionchc@gmail.com.

Mission
Heritage Park Centre
November 29, 2008



PHOTO: LOUISE AVERY

PHOTO: HERITAGE BC



HAT CREEK RANCH

Heritage Properties The Devolution Solution

For the past six years, the provincial government has struggled to implement the 2002 decision to devolve the Heritage Properties. The operation and conservation of the dozen or so historic sites, from single houses to entire townsites, has been contracted to independent managers. Devolution has been a rough road, and absorbed a lot of time and money from the Heritage Branch's limited resources.

Looking for a way to achieve a lasting solution to the devolution conundrum, the Branch last year commissioned Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Limited to make a comprehensive survey of the situation and come up with answers to a couple of questions: What will it take to put the Properties on a permanently sustainable footing? What would it cost to shut them down?

Commonwealth looked at the remaining 10 operating sites (ownership of a couple has been transferred out of government). While the study concluded that some sites have fared better than others under devolution, the bottom line is that all sites are failing to generate sufficient revenues to meet their contractual obligations:

"As a consequence, the integrity of the historic resources is being placed at risk by insufficient investment and maintenance. Site operations are considered to unsustainable. Without meaningful change, many of the properties – which are so important to the heritage of British Columbia and the economies of their communities – are destined for closure and failure." (PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES SUSTAINABILITY STUDY)

What is the solution? The report says that the province must increase its investment. This includes a one-time "catch-up" investment of \$3.8 million for deferred maintenance and conservation, plus a further \$6.5 million for new water and sewer systems at Barkerville and Fort Steele, for a total \$10.3 million immediate infusion. Secondly, the province needs to increase its annual operating subsidy from the present \$1.8 million to \$4.9 million (or \$4.5 million without Cole Island near Victoria, which is not open to the public or under a management agreement).

There are other considerations, such as improving operating revenues, but this is the bottom line: there has to be significantly more investment from the provincial government if the Heritage Properties are to be put on a sustainable footing.

By way of comparison, the study considered the alternative of "mothballing" the sites: shutting them up and keeping them for a later day. The one-time costs for this option are estimated at \$3.6 million, and the annual maintenance costs at \$3.9 million. This of course does not consider the regional economic impact of closing these popular tourism attractions, or the inevitable political fallout.

It is now up to the provincial government to decide what to do. Heritage BC wrote to the Treasury Board and Premier Campbell in September urging them to support new funding as the only means to ensure that our heritage tourism attractions stay open and our irreplaceable heritage is preserved. It would also be gratifying to finally move on to other pressing heritage issues.



The Provincial Heritage Properties Sustainability Study says that the province must increase its investment if Heritage Properties are to be put on a sustainable footing.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

Kelowna

Heritage BC conference delegates will be gathering in the sunny Okanagan June 4-6 2009.

The City of Kelowna will welcome us and the Central Okanagan Heritage Society is our local host and partner.

More information soon!

www.heritagebc.ca





PHOTO: HERITAGE BC

BENTALL BUILDING, NOW ON THE HERITAGE REGISTER, VICTORIA

Conserving the Modern Era Chamber reacts with anger

Victoria’s Chamber of Commerce reacted angrily to the unanimous decision by Victoria Council to add 11 buildings from the modern era to the City’s heritage register. Several of the property owners also objected at a July 10 public hearing prior to the vote.

The Chamber claimed that the Council decision overlooked the owners’ objections. Being on the register, the Chamber said, “potentially limits the use of private property (which) creates market uncertainty and will negatively impact on investment potential for property owners”.

In fact, a heritage register is just a list. As Heritage BC pointed out at the public hearing, there is often a list at city hall of buildings of heritage interest; the register just makes it official. The purpose of the register is not to limit use; the Local Government Act does not give council such powers. It simply flags properties as being of heritage interest, and makes it official. This is better for everyone, including the owners, and tends to head off last-minute dust-ups when development proposals are brought forward.

Victoria’s heritage register has several hundred properties listed. Adding a few more seldom provokes this kind of reaction from the business community, and the City had taken care to consult with the owners in advance. Possibly it was the fact that these properties were from the modern design era, which may look like the heritage program is expanding into new territory, that prompted the response. In any event, Council saw the sense of the proposal and had no problem adding the eleven modern-era properties to the register. Hopefully over time the lack of any real threat will become evident to owners, and the Chamber.

Peachland School Action Needed

When Peachland School finally closed for good in 2002, the School District turned the building over to the District of Peachland. Since then, not a lot has happened. A study of possible reuse has been done, which concluded that the building is basically sound and that a new use should be found. But so far, council has not acted on this recommendation.

Built in 1908, the school initially served grades 1–12. That first year it was lit with candles and kerosene lamps, and the toilets were out back. In the mid 1930’s an athletic hall was built for basketball and all community activities. Its regulation hardwood floor was the envy of neighboring communities.

In 1948 it became an Elementary school, and later a Primary school, then closed for good in 2002.

On Saturday, September 27, 2008 the Peachland Historical Society sponsored an open house at the old school and the response was overwhelming, with an estimated 500 people attending. There was unanimous and enthusiastic support for preserving and using the school, according to the society. Both candidates for mayor vowed to preserve and restore the school.

Heritage BC wrote to Peachland Mayor Graham Reid and Council on October 7, urging that they not delay further in their decision about the fate of historic Peachland School, and recommending the Heritage Legacy Fund as a possible source of financial assistance.



There was unanimous and enthusiastic support for preserving and using the school.

Heritage Legacy Grant

New roof on historic landmark

A grant of up to \$25,000 from the Heritage Legacy Fund is helping this fall to put a new roof on the former Bank of Montreal building in New Denver, now the Silvery Slocan Museum.

Situated on the shore of Slocan Lake, surrounded by the Selkirk Mountains, the small rural community of New Denver was founded in 1892 by silver miners.

Built in 1897, the imposing Bank of Montreal building has stood at the heart of New Denver for 111 years as a community landmark. The two storey building is a wood frame structure on timber sills, set on a loose rock base. On the west side of the building, overlooking Slocan Lake, the covered second floor balcony with distinctive fretwork extends across the sidewalk below, supported on slender wooden posts.

The banking hall and vault occupied the main floor, and a two-bedroom apartment upstairs was originally used as living quarters for bank staff. The only bank in New Denver for over 50 years, the Bank of Montreal operated continuously in this location until 1969. In 1942, the British Columbia Security Commission built a single storey wing on the East side of the structure to act as a local office during the internment of Japanese Canadians from the Lower Mainland.

After the bank closed, the building was leased for a couple of years to the Chamber of Commerce for use as a museum.

Then in 1971 it was purchased by the Village of New Denver, and museum management was transferred to the Silvery Slocan Historical Society. The museum operates seasonally, receiving upwards of 4,000 visitors during the summer months. Since 2004, the space has been shared with the Tourism BC Visitor Information Centre, operated by the Slocan Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Largely unchanged since its construction, the building was designated as a Municipal Heritage Site in 1991 and a Provincial Heritage Site in 1994.

Following a feasibility study in 1993, major conservation work was undertaken from 1994 to 2001, including foundation work, exterior painting, septic system upgrading, installing a fire suppression system, restoring interior finishes and enclosing the south wall of the annex. Replacement of the 35 year old cedar shake roof is the final step, and, with assistance from the Heritage Legacy Fund, will be completed this fall.

PHOTO: VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER



HERITAGE
Legacy Fund
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Conserving B.C.'s Heritage of Education

In the past three years, the Heritage Legacy Fund has provided grants to a number of projects involving historic schools, most of which have found new purposes and new lives:

BRENTWOOD BAY OLD SCHOOL HOUSE,
NOW A COMMUNITY HALL OWNED BY
THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH,
HAS RECEIVED TWO GRANTS:
\$7,950 FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT &
\$25,000 FOR WINDOW AND SIDING REPAIRS

LYNN VALLEY ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER:
\$25,000 FOR REHABILITATION AND
CONVERSION TO 'THE HERITAGE CENTRE'

CLAYBURN SCHOOL, ABBOTSFORD,
NOW A COMMUNITY CENTRE
FOR CLAYBURN VILLAGE:
\$25,000 FOR REPAIRS AND UPGRADES

WESTHOLME SCHOOL, NORTH COWICHAN
NOW AN HISTORIC SITE OWNED BY
THE WESTHOLME SCHOOL SOCIETY:
\$25,000 FOR RESTORATION

EVERGREEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL,
COBBLE HILL:
\$6,105 FOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

FAIRBRIDGE CHAPEL AND SCHOOL,
COWICHAN STATION:
\$12,000 FOR NEW ROOFS

PERRY SIDING SCHOOL, WINLAW
NOW OWNED BY THE THREADS GUILD:
\$3,200 FOR EXTERIOR SIDING
CONSERVATION AND PAINT

THE OLD JAPANESE SCHOOLHOUSE,
MAPLE RIDGE, NOW THE CEED CENTRE:
\$9,600 FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT



Armstrong: The First Consolidated School

The idea of a consolidated school in Armstrong was first promoted by school inspector Arthur Ansley in 1915. As in many other places in B.C., Armstrong children were being taught in one-room school houses scattered around the district. Mr. Ansley thought that the difficulty in providing consistent, quality instruction inherent in this system was the underlying reason for poor performance on high school exams. A large, centralized school with students bussed in was the answer.

Mr. Ansley moved on before his idea came to fruition, but then Armstrong's first mayor, James Wright, got behind the drive for consolidation. While no one was pleased with the idea of higher taxes, the merits of the plan were generally recognized. The Armstrong Consolidated School, B.C.'s first, opened in September 1921.

The new school was designed by H. Whittaker of the provincial Department of Public Works, and cost \$93,000. It was built of brick, with many details in granite from a local quarry. There was a wooden cupola, and the bell came from the old one-room Pleasant Valley School. Two blue spruces were planted at the opening, representing Armstrong and Spallumcheen. The Armstrong-Spallumcheen Consolidated School Board was formed that same year.

Even with 40 students in each of its 10 classrooms it was soon overcrowded.

The first consolidated school was also the first with school busses – actually seven trucks converted for new duty. They were covered in canvas with long benches down the sides. Entrance was through the rear. Other than the exhaust pipe, the busses had no heater.

A library and gymnasium were added to Armstrong Consolidated in the 1970's. Extensive renovations, including the lowering of ceilings and improvement of lighting, were done in the 1980's and 1990's to bring the school up to new fire and safety standards.

REVISED WITH THANKS FROM AN ARTICLE BY KATE WELLBURN & SABRINA CORNISH

1. CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL OPENING, SEPTEMBER 1921 (ASMAS #206)
2. ARMSTRONG SPALLUMCHEEN SCHOOL BUSES AND THEIR DRIVERS, 1921-1922 (ASMAS #1293)
3. MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL, 1914

Ridgeway School

Ridgeway Elementary is a heritage school success story. Very nearly lost, through collaborative efforts the school is now protected and headed for upgrading instead of demolition.

Occupying a whole city block in a North Vancouver residential neighbourhood, Ridgeway Elementary is on the City's heritage register. The handsome Edwardian Baroque building has been a landmark since its central section, designed by architects Jones and Gillam, was constructed in 1912.

In 2005, Ridgeway was suddenly threatened with demolition because of estimated costs for seismic upgrading. To save their historic school, residents mobilized and formed the Ridgeway Heritage Society. The City and School District #44 worked willingly with the Society to find a solution. In 2008, Ridgeway School was protected as part of a zoning bylaw amendment that involved other school sites, bonus building density and density transfers.

Now an inspiration for other B.C. communities to protect and keep their irreplaceable heritage schools, Ridgeway is the ideal "poster child" for the 2009 Heritage Week theme, "The Heritage of Education".



Historic Revelstoke School May Face Closure

Mountain View School, historically referred to as Revelstoke High School, has been a prominent institutional building in Revelstoke since 1914, the same year that Mount Revelstoke National Park was established and Revelstoke hosted its first ski jumping competition. The brick and mortar building features neoclassical revival elements with a large portico and columns that create a strong front entrance. The school building can be viewed from the Columbia River and rivals the historic Court House and surrounding mountains for dominance in the viewscape.

In anticipation of a rapid increase in enrollment, the school district hired Otto William Abrahamson to construct the high school. Mr. Abrahamson was a well known contractor in town. When first built, the building contained four classrooms, an office, a typing room and two rooms in the basement for domestic science and physics.

“When it opened in 1914, Mayor Kilpatrick, School Inspector A.E. Miller, and Chairman of the School Board Horace Manning, praised the community for providing a high school with facilities second to none in the province.”

REVELSTOKE HISTORY AND HERITAGE, RUBY M. NOBBS

In fact, the school exceeded the needs of Revelstoke at the time and did not reach capacity until the 1930's. Unfortunately, later on more space was needed and an unsympathetic addition was placed on the side of the building.

Due to anticipated school consolidation, the Mountain View School is expected to be closed in the next few years. The high school will be moved to a new building and the original use of Mountain View School, which has endured for 94 years, will cease. It is the hope of the Revelstoke Community Heritage Commission that this building find a new purpose and continue to be a landmark in the community.

JOANN PEACHEY, ASSISTANT PLANNER, CITY OF REVELSTOKE



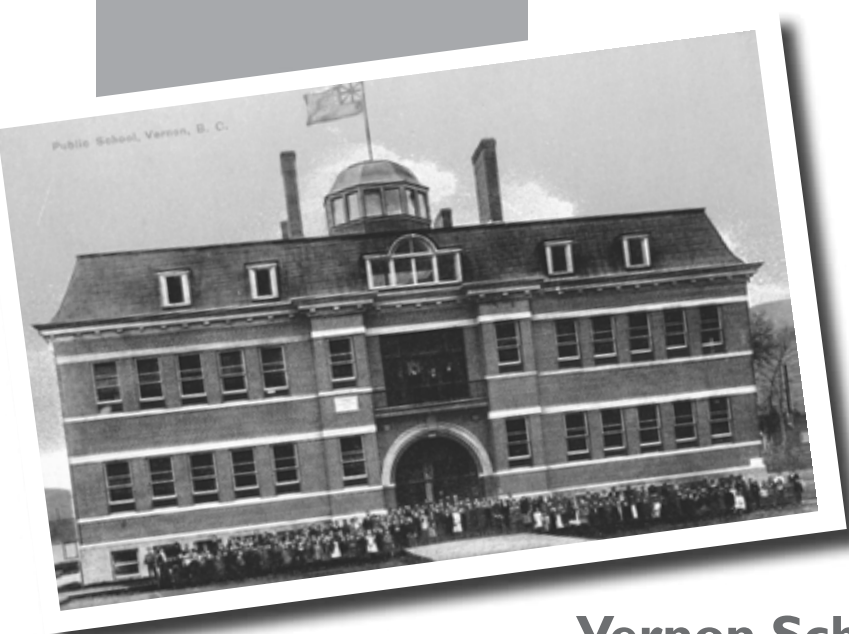
A Legacy of Learning: Heritage of Education

HERITAGE WEEK

FEBRUARY 16-22, 2009

With many of B.C.'s schools threatened with closing for lack of enrollment or with the cost of seismic upgrading, The Heritage of Education is a timely theme for Heritage Week 2009.





CENTRAL SCHOOL IN VERNON, NOW KNOWN AS BEAIRSTO SCHOOL, WILL CELEBRATE ITS CENTENNIAL IN 2009
PHOTO: GREATER VERNON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Vernon School Centennial

In the summer of 1909, along 27th Street in Vernon, a large three storey brick elementary school building was being erected “equal to any of its kind in the province”. This school became known as Central School.

In September 1909, the cornerstone was laid by local resident and MLA, Price Ellison. School children lined up in front of the foundation/ basement and sang “The Maple Leaf Forever”, the National Anthem at the time.

One year later the school was officially opened. Price Ellison was again in attendance along with the Honorable Dr. Young, Minister of Education, who gave the 350 students a holiday in honour of the big event. The construction costs for the school were \$54,000, with \$30,000 raised by city bylaw and \$24,000 from a provincial government grant which Price Ellison had helped secure.

The school had ten large, “well lighted, cheerful and attractive classrooms” on each of the first and second floors, with a large auditorium or assembly hall on the third. Also on the second floor was a teachers’ common room and reference library. A “fine cupola” was built on the roof. Originally, grades one to eight attended Central School. But through the years, pupil enrollment continued to grow and a variety of other, sometimes temporary, buildings were used to house the students. In 1937, the white stucco north wing of the school was added and grades seven and eight moved to the senior high. Growth in the area continued and, in 1945, the south wing was added.

During these early years, grade eight students had to complete “a stiff provincial exam” in order to go on to grade nine. This “entrance exam” was discontinued in circa 1937, much to the relief of all involved.

Although the original school was built with a reference library, it wasn’t until 1945 that an actual library for the children to “read for pleasure” was started. The teachers ran this library until 1946 when a librarian was hired.

The first principal of Central School was Mr. C. Fulton, BA. In 1924, Mr. H.K. Beairsto took over the duties as principal, a position he held until 1961. When Mr. Beairsto retired, he was honoured with Central School being renamed Beairsto School in recognition of his years of service and dedication.

In September 1989, Beairsto became a French Immersion School with an enrollment of 640 students. Today, students still walk through the long corridors, up and down stairways, going from their classrooms to the gym in the basement or to the library on the third floor. Just as many residents of Vernon have their stories to share about the days of Central School in the past, so shall today’s generation have stories of Beairsto School.

PAT SIMMONS, EDUCATION COORDINATOR, GREATER VERNON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



Just as many residents of Vernon have their stories to share about the days of Central School in the past, so shall today’s generation have stories of Beairsto.



The New Heritage Conservation

John Ruskin and the Golden Stain of Time

BY ALASTAIR KERR, BC HERITAGE BRANCH

Poet, artist, art and architectural critic, social reformer, socialist and Oxford don, John Ruskin (1819 to 1900) was one of those boundless Victorian Renaissance men with a stunning output of work. He is considered by many to have been the most influential writer on the development of Victorian architecture, certainly within the English-speaking world. Part of his writings include his theories of architectural conservation, which have helped shape the course of modern heritage conservation and are still reflected in Canada's *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places*.

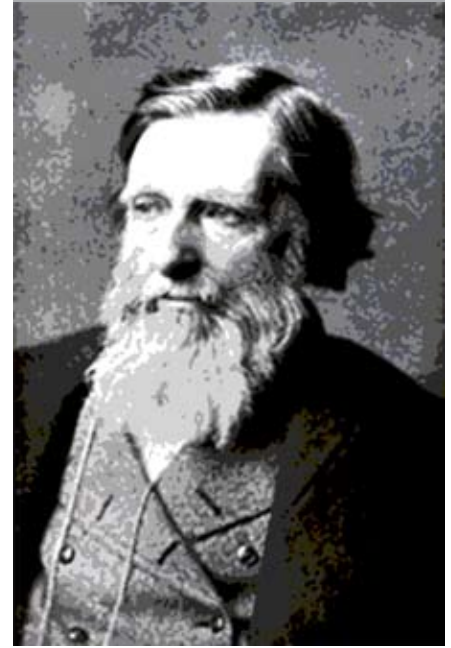
For Ruskin, the greatest value in ancient buildings lies in their age, with the primary character-defining element, in today's parlance, as its patina – those natural signs of aging and incremental accretions which root historic places in time and give them a sense of time and place. Ruskin described this character by the wonderful phrase, "the golden stain of time."

One of the reasons Ruskin loathed restoration is because it destroyed the very value he saw as important – age. Restoration does a great job in making brand-new old buildings. Instead of historic places functioning as time-anchors in communities, layered with the different ages bequeathed by continuous evolutionary uses and patterns, the majority of restorations render the past as spanking new examples of architectural styles as if they were built yesterday. It's one of the problems when values are narrowly defined and a radical form of conservation is chosen to preference architectural-style-guide-purity as the primary aesthetic value.

Some time ago my good friend, Richard Collier, and I were musing about the heritage values and character-defining elements of Hatley Park, the former home of James Dunsmuir, and now the centre piece of Royal Roads University. It occurred to us that the fact that it was a Tudor Revival style building, that it had been designed by one of British Columbia's premier architects of the day, Samuel Maclure, and that it was built for one of the richest and most powerful men in the province at that time, were secondary considerations. What struck us most was that the day it was finished, it was supposed to look 400 years old, within the Ruskinian aesthetic tradition.

When Hatley Park was being built, Otto Wagner and Adolph Loos were designing modern buildings in Vienna, the Chicago School had created the skyscraper and Frank Lloyd Wright was designing his prairie houses for Oak Park, Illinois. More than simply a style of architecture, Hatley Park is a reactionary essay in pre-World War I Edwardian conservatism where the past and its traditions mattered more than the evolving modern world, all of which were to be shattered on the Western Front. So how should we conserve such a heritage? Quite simply, architectural restoration would do it great harm, while careful conservation of a hundred years of patina, the golden stain of Hatley Park's times, would speak to what this place was intended to be from the start – old. Perhaps it is a lesson we should all heed when we try to decide what values are important and how best to steward them.

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



“ Do not let us talk then of restoration. The thing is a Lie from beginning to end... We have no right whatever to touch them (historic buildings). They are not ours. They belong partly to those who built them, and partly to all the generations of mankind who are to follow us. The dead have still their right in them... ”

JOHN RUSKIN
"THE LAMP OF MEMORY"
THE SEVEN LAMPS OF ARCHITECTURE

PHOTO: HERITAGE BC



MINISTER BENNETT (LEFT) RECEIVES AN UPDATE FROM JONATHAN YARDLEY (CENTRE), PROJECT ARCHITECT AND HERITAGE BC PAST PRESIDENT, AND RICHARD LINZEY, SENIOR HERITAGE PLANNER WITH THE HERITAGE BRANCH OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND THE ARTS.

Government House, Victoria Butterworth Cottage Revitalized

On September 18 the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of B.C., welcomed guests to the grounds of Government House in Victoria to celebrate the rehabilitation of Butterworth Cottage, one of the oldest buildings in Victoria. Butterworth Cottage was rehabilitated as part of a master plan for the original service buildings on the Estate. The Cottage will serve as an interpretive centre and a potential tea room.

Butterworth Cottage is part of the Cary Castle Mews, the collection of wooden service buildings located on the southeast side of the Government House grounds. This unique set of buildings dates back to the early 1870s and includes stables, carriage house, wash house, root cellar, coal shed and Butterworth Cottage. The Cottage was originally built as a poultry barn and in the 1920s was partially adapted as a residence for the head gardener.

Government House worked closely with the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts to develop this Government House Foundation project. In addition to the heritage stewardship advisory role, the Heritage Branch awarded \$25,000 towards the project.



KATHY SUMMERS
CRAIGDARROCH CASTLE

Kathy Summers: Craigdarroch Castle Leaving Eden

“Why would you leave a ‘plum’ job, a stunning city, good friends, the mirage of ‘no snow’ – and go back there?” Well, our new home in my old neighbourhood is nestled on the southern side of Lake Ontario, on the border of historical Niagara on the Lake and St. Catharines in the middle of 150 estate wineries. It is beautiful there, with long hot summers and cooling lake breezes. Winters are usually mild. I left there at 21 and return over 40 years later with a truckload of unforgettable life experiences.

Managing Craigdarroch over the past 12 years is a standout. Our progress is immense: re-slating the roof; re-pointing the exterior; restoring the Drawing Room ceiling; adding original and period artifacts; restoring our historic 18’ wall and stairs; launching a bathroom and backhall restoration; purchasing three adjacent properties with an eye to developing a larger estate presence in the future; plus a myriad of projects and activities enhancing the site and our visitors’ historical experience.

Next spring, we launch our grounds restoration project, returning the south lawn to the graceful pathways and green space of the Dunsmuir era and bringing back the 14’ sandstone and iron gates at the corner of Fort and Joan Crescent. I am so proud to have been part of this important work. I thank you all for the support and encouragement you continue to give to all things heritage.

Look us up the next time you are in our corner of the world.

KATHY SUMMERS, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CRAIGDARROCH CASTLE, VICTORIA
COLLEEN WILLIAMS IS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

A New TV Series

Project: Restoration

An historic B.C. church will be the subject of the first program in a new television series. *Project: Restoration* is about saving Canada's heritage, one building at a time. Each episode documents the hands-on restoration of an endangered but historically significant building.

But this new series, say the promoters, isn't just about the sentimental feelings for old-fashioned architecture:

It's about the conflict, egos, headaches and high stakes of saving a piece of irreplaceable history from the wrecking ball, while trying to mix the right kind of plaster, match the right tone of milk paint or carve the right curve in a staircase banister. The dramatic backdrop is a primal battleground between old and new, novelty and conservation, demolition and salvation, refuse and re-use, private interest and common memory.

Hour One of the new series is about the Church of the Holy Cross at Skatin, B.C., which was the subject of the 2005 Heritage Week poster. Completed in 1905, local First Nations craftsmen laboured for years on the finely worked wood details of this remarkable carpenter gothic style church. A National Historic Site, the church is still a place of worship today. After a flood in 2003 the building is in need of immediate conservation work. The Heritage Legacy Fund contributed \$25,000 in 2006.



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS IN SKATIN WAS THE POSTER IMAGE FOR HERITAGE WEEK 2005 – PAINTING BY ROBERT AMOS

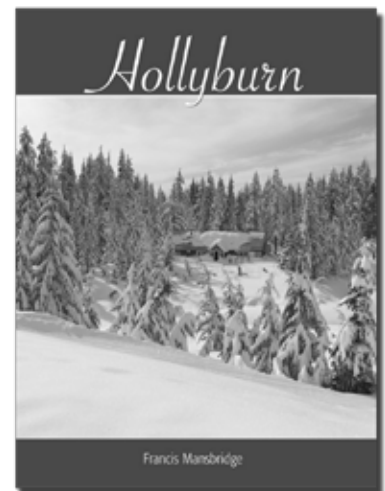
A New Book by Francis Mansbridge

Hollyburn

Hollyburn is the first book on the rich and diverse history of the forested, mountainous area above West Vancouver. Numerous photographs, most of which are published here for the first time, provide a visual appeal which evokes the spirit of earlier times. The history takes us from the First Nations people who used Hollyburn's natural resources for hundreds of years, through the 1870s when loggers began attacking the slopes, to be followed in the early twentieth century by skiers and other outdoor enthusiasts. World class skiers, especially ski jumpers, honed their skills here in the 1930s and 1940s. Many built cabins, creating a community of weekend refugees from the growing urban clutter.

For much of the postwar period, activity has focused on Hollyburn's Cypress area, the downhill venue of choice for the North Shore which has won the right to stage freestyle skiing and snow boarding in the 2010 Winter Olympics. The resurgence of interest in cross-country skiing and snowshoeing has made the original Hollyburn area one of the most popular locales for these activities in North America.

Francis Mansbridge's interest in the history of the North Shore was stimulated by his dozen years as an archivist in North Vancouver. A love of outdoor recreation has led him to spend extensive time exploring the Hollyburn area. Prior to his archival work, Francis taught English at a number of colleges and universities, mostly at the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook. He holds a PhD in English from the University of Ottawa and has published extensively on both academic and popular subjects. His previous books include *God's Recording Angel*, a biography of the Canadian poet Irving Layton, and *Launching History: the Saga of Burrard Dry Dock*. The latter book won the B.C. Lieutenant-Governor's award for historical writing in 2002. Francis makes his home in Vancouver.





**PAT McALLISTER
BOARD PRESIDENT
HERITAGE BC**

President’s Message

In mid October Heritage BC directors and staff traveled to Prince George for the annual Regional Meeting. The theme was building relationships, and with over three dozen people in attendance, we did a lot of relationship building during our two days in the Capital of the North.

In addition to our hosts, the City of Prince George, from where we draw two of our board members, and the Regional District of Fraser Fort-George, far flung communities such as Ladysmith, Terrace, Barkerville, the Nass and Bulkley Valley were represented. Even New Brunswick had a delegate, come out to B.C. to find out what a provincial heritage organization does and how it works.

We had excellent speakers, toured the urban heritage center of ‘Fort George’, and the vintage railway collections of 1899-1960’s in the Railway and Forestry Museum. The Exploration Place, an impressive interpretive center, was also appreciated as the Friday night venue. Thank you to everyone who put this all together.

The next focus of the upcoming year, after our Christmas parties of course, is Heritage Week, February 16-22, 2009. The theme is The Legacy of Learning: The Heritage of Education. With many of B.C.’s schools threatened with closing for lack of enrollment or with the cost of seismic upgrading, the Heritage of Education is a timely subject. Please put up your Heritage Week poster and get into the spirit.

Conference 2009 is scheduled for the first weekend of June in Kelowna. This will be the first conference in the Okanagan since Vernon in 1992, and the first in Kelowna in 20 years. As a Vernon resident myself, I am delighted to have this important heritage event in our backyard. Please note the dates on your calendar and plan to attend: Heritage BC Annual Conference June 4-6, 2009.

.....

Executive Director’s Message



**RICK GOODACRE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HERITAGE BC**

No sooner will we be through “election season” this fall than parties will begin gearing up for the next provincial election on May 12, 2009.

Whether they bring about change or not, elections are always times when we re-examine the big issues. Candidates ask for your vote and do their best to tell you why they should get it. Everything is up for grabs. Things won’t be this solvent again until the next election. So it is the right time to find out where candidates, incumbents or otherwise, stand on issues that matter to you.

What are the heritage issues? Right now, the provincial government is writing a new Heritage Strategy. The first draft will be out before the election, and it is bound to contain a number of important recommendations. Will they be implemented, or shelved?

It is no secret that heritage conservation has been seriously underfunded in this province for a long time. Whether in hard times or good, heritage has not received its due. In the past year the discrepancy between funding for the arts and heritage, within the same ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, has become particularly pronounced. Is your local candidate aware of this situation? Is she or he prepared to do something about it?

All candidates meetings, letters to the editor, radio call-in shows and one-on-one chats are good ways of getting heritage into the discussion during election time. This exposure not only gets the issues out there, it creates awareness for the months and years ahead until the next election, the time when the actual work gets done.

The voice of heritage needs to be heard by those who will have the power and responsibility to do something about the issues. Candidates need to know that people care. If they don’t, you can be sure heritage will be left to one side as squeaker wheels get all the grease.

Heritage Canada Governor's Message

Work That Endures

Power to the People Keeping Places Alive

The Heritage Canada Conference, which took place in Quebec City in September, was organized in partnership with the Canadian Land Trust Alliance. By all accounts the conference was considered a great success with approximately 300 delegates participating in a wide array of workshops, field trips, walking tours, seminars and a gala dinner and awards ceremony.

New uses for old spaces were dramatically experienced by delighted delegates. For example, the opening reception was held in a historic church that now houses the Circus School of Quebec. Students swung high overhead on trapezes and became airborne working trampolines while the project architect conducted tours that highlighted how the building was retrofitted without compromising its architectural integrity. Other events took place in refurbished theatres, a jail/courthouse (which currently houses the oldest public library in Quebec) and a manor house.

The HCF conference was scheduled to coincide with the Rues Principales Foundation conference. Rues Principales operates a very successful program, similar to the HCF's past Mainstreet program. This conference was dedicated to recognizing the importance of building on the aspects that shape an area's identity and culture in order to ensure harmonious development and a better quality of life in the heart of a municipality. Heritage BC members may be familiar with the impact that the Mainstreet Program had on communities such as Nelson and Ladysmith. There is great interest in reviving this type of program and being able to witness the success of Rues Principales supported projects during the Awards Ceremony was exciting and inspiring.

The Heritage Canada Foundation's current practice of co-hosting the annual conference has done much to forge alliances, share expertise and identify commonalities of interest. The next HCF Conference, The Heritage Imperative: Old Buildings in an Age of Environmental Crisis, hosted in collaboration with the Ontario Heritage Trust, will be held on September 24-26, 2009 in Toronto. Please mark your calendars for what promises to be yet another first-class conference.

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 AWARDS PROGRAM

The deadline for nominations to the Heritage BC Awards Program is March 1, 2009.

Do you know of a project, person, organization or business that deserves to be recognized? If so, please consider making a nomination.

If your community has its own awards program, the best could be sent on to the provincial level.



Go to www.heritagebc.ca for more information.

Good people deserve to be recognized.

You can make sure they are.

Heritage BC



HEAD OFFICE

914 GARTHLAND PLACE WEST

VICTORIA BC V9A 4J5

PHONE: 250-384-4840



MEMBERSHIP / REGISTRATION

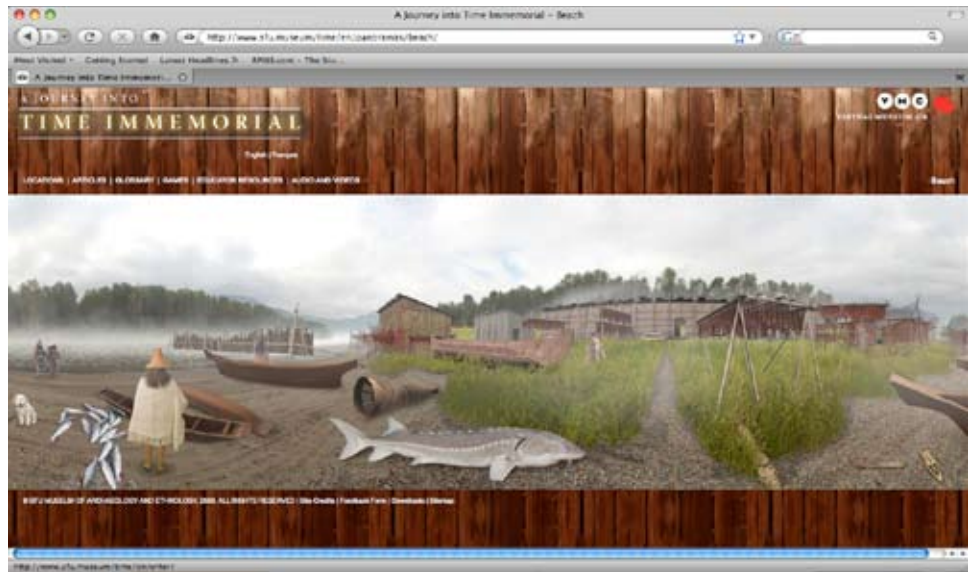
108 - 9865 140TH STREET

SURREY BC V3T 4M4

PHONE/FAX: 604-582-1332

www.heritagebc.ca

CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO rgoodacre@heritagebc.ca
HIGH RESOLUTION PRINT QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE SENT IN JPG FORMAT.
HERITAGE BC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT OR REJECT ANY SUBMISSION.



Xa:ytem Website Wins UNESCO Award A Journey into Time Immemorial

A Journey into Time Immemorial, a website about the Xa:ytem historic site near Mission, has won the Grand Prize at the UNESCO International Council of Museums awards.

Based on First Nations traditional knowledge, the website was developed by Simon Fraser University in collaboration with the Sto:lo website development committee and staff of the Xa:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Center. It is an artistic and cultural interpretation and not meant to convey precisely accurate archaeological information. Contemporary archaeologists view First Nations as partners and value oral traditions as a source of information about the past that augments the scientific approach. The website has been receiving one million hits a month since June.

The award was presented to Linnea Battel, Director of Xa:ytem and a past president of Heritage BC, and Dr Barbara Winter of SFU at the recent International Museums (ICOM) Festival in Ottawa.

» www.sfu.museum/time

Heritage BC

