

# Heritage BC Quarterly



PHOTO: MARTIN KNOWLES, PROSCENIUM ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS



VANCOUVER'S ORPHEUM THEATRE

## PRESERVING OUR HISTORIC THEATRES

# The Show Must Go On

Some of our most spectacular historic buildings are theatres. Designed to impress, theatres are often as much a part of the entertainment and inspiration as the performance on stage.

How do we keep our theatres vital, a living heritage? To survive, theatres must move with the times, remain relevant, useful, and safe.

In this issue, we look at a number of historic theatres in B.C. that have managed to do just that. From great palaces of culture to the local movie house, these heritage treasures keep on delivering the goods, year after year. This is how they have survived in a world of change.

Not all theatres have managed to survive changing fortunes, of course. We have lost many, and there are some still hanging by a thread.

However, the show must go on. Like the eternal movie star, with a little paint, a tuck here and there, and maybe some deeper surgery, these hard-working landmarks keep right on going, giving good value to their communities, and keeping a place in our hearts. So on with the show!

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spring 2010

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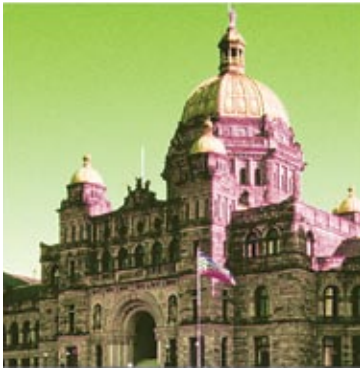


ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
& AWARDS CEREMONY

## Values in Action

JUNE 3-5 2010 VICTORIA BC

[www.heritagebc.ca](http://www.heritagebc.ca)



“Meanwhile, the Guardian newspaper reported that the British ‘Heritage Lottery Fund’ received an extra £25 million, bringing their annual total to £205 million, which is more than 300 million dollars, for “ruined castles, weedy public parks and neglected archives.””

## THE CRISIS CONTINUES

### Budget & Gaming Offer Little Good News

Following hard on the heels of the big Olympics party, the Liberal government made it clear in their March budget that the rest of 2010 will be a lot less fun. We are going to feel the pinch, maybe even harder than last year, if that is possible. While a few bones were tossed out, none of them came the way of heritage. The provincial Heritage Branch, for example, must get through the fiscal year on the barest of budgets, and the pain will be passed on to any community or local government turning that way for financial assistance.

The gaming news isn't much better. Unless you are specializing in services to youth, gaming dollars are not coming your way either. While museums did get access to a couple of gaming-backed programs, it is not clear what this adds up to. For anyone else in heritage, you can forget any gaming funding.

Meanwhile, the Guardian newspaper reported that the British “Heritage Lottery Fund” received an extra £25 million, bringing their annual total to £205 million, which is more than 300 million dollars, for “ruined castles, weedy public parks and neglected archives”.

### A New B.C. Heritage Trust?

The buzz around the Capital this spring, heritage-wise, is a proposal to create a new provincial heritage trust. The former B.C. Heritage Trust, established in 1978, was a powerhouse for a decade, but was put to sleep in 2003 after a long illness. But this new idea has little to do with the old trust which was much beloved as a reliable and generous source of funding (originally gaming-backed).

The new version is being considered as a solution to the chronic Heritage Properties issue, the dozen or so historic sites owned by the province but devolved to independent managers over the past eight years. Under the latest Big Idea the properties would be corralled together with the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC). Adding the Royal B.C. Museum (RBCM) into mix is also being looked at. How this would work, or even why it is a good idea, is not clear at this point, at least not to those on the outside looking in. However, all of the elements fall under the same minister, Kevin Krueger, and all have something to do with heritage (the PCC owns a number historic properties).

Regardless of whether this idea has legs, or the various parties could come to agreement about a mutually satisfactory organization chart, there isn't much evidence so far that it will address heritage issues in the rest of the province, which, frankly, is most of it.

### The Heritage Legacy Fund Soldiers On

Meanwhile back at the ranch, the Heritage Legacy Fund board approved a budget in January that will both keep Heritage BC afloat for another year and provide grants to as many community-based projects as possible, albeit at a level lower than last year.

RICK GOODACRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Values in Action: Restoration Reconsidered

Is restoration the default setting for the heritage enthusiast?  
Do we always measure up heritage buildings and historic sites  
in terms of their restoration potential?

For many years, it did seem as though the typical heritage program had three components: identify it, protect it, restore it.

But this thinking belongs to the past, at least according to the author of the thirteen-part series on “The New Heritage Conservation” that appeared in *Heritage BC Quarterly* between 2006 and 2009. The new heritage conservation, as embodied in the national Historic Places Initiative that dominated the nation’s heritage agenda for the past decade, has changed everything, according to series’ author, Alastair Kerr. The HPI signaled both a sea change, and a changing of the guard.

It’s certainly true that we were very busy learning the new HPI vocabulary: Statements of Significance, character-defining elements, Standards and Guidelines, and values-based conservation. But have we really learned to walk the walk, or are we still marching to the same old restoration beat?

Want to know the answer? Do you have answers – or questions – of your own? Come to conference and take part in the “Values in Action: Restoration Reconsidered” forum. There will be several great speakers, including Alastair himself, Victoria’s Stuart Stark, a well-known heritage consultant and recipient of the 2002 British Columbia Heritage Award who is a passionate restorer of things heritage, Herb Stovel, Carlton University Professor of Canadian Studies and heritage consultant with an international practice and reputation, and planning and development consultant, Roger Tinney. And this will be a forum, so bring your own ideas and join the discussion.

## Heritage Out of Doors

Victoria is a wonderful historic city and there is always something going on. So at the 2010 conference we will be spending a lot of time outside in this eminently walkable city. As we did in the last Victoria conference a decade ago, we will be using Victoria’s heritage buildings, streets and landscapes as our classroom and inspiration. Tours include:

- The Humboldt Valley: St. Ann’s Academy and the Crystal Garden
- Lower Yates Street: an inside look at how Victoria’s award-winning heritage program really works.
- The Hudson: a \$90 million dollar rehabilitation of the landmark former Hudson’s Bay Department Store
- Beacon Hill Park: current heritage issues in this historic jewel
- Ross Bay Villa and Ross Bay Cemetery: volunteers maintain and restore these two designated historic sites
- Emily Carr House: a National Historic Site and provincial Heritage Property run successfully as a business and personal passion by one family.



THE HUDSON, VICTORIA

“Have we really learned to walk the walk... or are we still marching to the same old restoration beat?”



ROSS BAY CEMETERY, VICTORIA



ST. SAVIORS IN VICTORIA WILL BE SOLD OR LEASED

## Churches in a Post-Christian World

In January the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, covering 52 parishes on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, released a report by the Diocesan Transformation Team. The report, based on five years of study, recommended closing 19 churches, and the ultimate sale or lease of 13 of them.

A media release provided a blunt assessment:

*The problem, common to all mainline churches across Canada and around the developed world over the past two generations (40 years), has been the decline in church membership and consequent reduction in financial support for the mission of the Church...we see no alternative to making recommendations to reduce the number of our parishes.*

In March, the 93rd Synod (legislative body) considered the DTT report and passed detailed resolutions for each parish. A number of churches are to be disestablished and sold or leased. Several others are to be combined, leading eventually to other redundant and vacant church buildings. Still others have been given a reprieve to come up with strategies for continuation, generally involving similar measures of combination and closure.

Many of these church buildings are historic structures. Churches were generally among the first buildings to be erected in new villages, towns and cities across the province, and a good many have embodied the aesthetic, social and religious values of their communities for a century or more. Few enjoy the benefit of heritage protection. In fact, it is Diocesan policy to discourage heritage designation.

To survive, new uses will have to be found for these heritage structures, uses that can generate sufficient income to keep them in repair. With so many at risk, it will be a challenge. The concern of the Diocese, of course, is not with the buildings, but their ministry in what they are calling “the Post-Christian world”.

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### BC PARKS 100

## Conserving Historic Places in BC Provincial Parks

2011 marks the 100th anniversary of British Columbia’s provincial park system – a great opportunity to focus on the history of our provincial parks, record the significance of key historic places located within them, and plan for the ongoing care of these historic resources.

BC Parks recently partnered with BC Heritage Branch and community stakeholders to create Statements of Significance (SOS) for historic places within 11 provincial parks. Denise Cook Design, Birmingham & Wood Architects and Planners, and Unfolding Landscapes undertook the research, site assessment, stakeholder consultation and document preparation. The final report was presented to BC Parks senior staff in March.

The BC Parks Register Record Project documents the physical and historic context, heritage values and character-defining elements of 24 historic places in provincial parks. These include farmsteads, engineering works, historic trails, fire lookout towers, Canada’s first backcountry Rocky Mountain ski lodge and BC’s last remaining inland lighthouse.

These sites will soon be added to the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), a publicly-accessible database listing formally-recognized historic places across Canada. BC Parks will use the new SOS as management tools to guide maintenance and rehabilitation work, and as background material for park interpretation and promotions relating to the upcoming centennial celebrations.

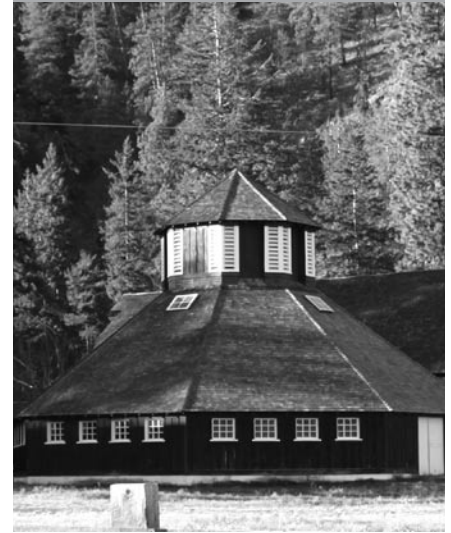
The project also provided an opportunity for BC Parks staff to learn about values-based heritage conservation. Using the new SOS and the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, BC Parks staff are now equipped to apply best practices in heritage conservation to manage historic places in provincial parks. Brian Bawtinheimer, Director of the Parks Planning and Management Branch of BC Parks, says: "The report is full of excellent information and will be a major asset for our field staff to better understand the historic and cultural heritage values within the study's parks."

We are truly fortunate to have these treasures within our provincial park system. Watch for information from the BC Parks Register Record Project to appear in the near future.

CANADIAN REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: » [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca)

BC PARKS: » [www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks)

SUSAN GREEN IS THE HERITAGE REGISTER OFFICER WITH THE HERITAGE BRANCH OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND THE ARTS



THE EIGHT-SIDED BARN AT FINTRY PROVINCIAL PARK. PHOTO: DENISE COOK DESIGN

HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSES

## Fisgard Lighthouse: Major Makeover for 150th Anniversary

Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Site was the first permanent lighthouse to enter service on what would later become the west coast of Canada. In 1860 it was completed, along with Race Rocks Lighthouse, by the colonial government of Vancouver Island with funds provided by the British government. After almost seven decades as a staffed lighthouse Fisgard was automated in 1928. Located at the entrance to Esquimalt Harbour, it remains an active aid to navigation to this day, although it has been administered by Parks Canada as a national historic site since 1962.

In June 2009 the Honourable Gary Lunn, MP, announced on behalf of the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Jim Prentice, that \$1.56 million had been designated from Canada's Economic Action Plan for major improvements to visitor services, infrastructure and all-new exhibits for Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Site.

Work on the lighthouse is nearing completion and has included the installation of water lines to, and sewer lines from, Fisgard Island to adjoining Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site. The interior of the lighthouse has been completely renovated and rewired and a fire suppression system has been installed, while new stairs and more accessible walkways have been constructed outside the building. A new accessible washroom has been installed in the reconstructed storehouse on the island and all-new exhibits are being installed in the former lightkeepers' house.

A major celebration of Fisgard Lighthouse's sesquicentennial is planned to coincide with the International Fleet Review assembling just off the lighthouse June 11-12 to honour the centennial of the Canadian Navy, which is also taking place in 2010.

DALE MUMFORD IS THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER FOR FORT RODD HILL AND FISGARD LIGHTHOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES. FOR MORE INFORMATION

» [www.pc.gc.ca/fisgardlighthouse](http://www.pc.gc.ca/fisgardlighthouse)



PHOTO: PARKS CANADA

150th Anniversary Celebration  
at Fisgard Lighthouse  
June 11-12, 2010

## B.C.'s HISTORIC THEATRES

# New Westminster Keeps Its Theatres

The City of New Westminster has sold the 1927 Columbia Theatre to Lafflines Comedy Club with an agreement for community arts use, and continued heritage protection. The theatre was acquired by the city in 2000 as part of the not-for-profit Raymond Burr Performing Arts Society initiative to restore the building into a large arts facility. As is often the case with grassroots start ups, key aspects of the project did not fall into place, the project stalled and the city closed the building.

Lafflines Comedy Club has been a fixture in New Westminster for over twenty years and is very excited to present stand-up comedy in what will be a beautiful historic room – think *'Just for Laughs, New Westminster'* says Barry Buckland the new owner. The main auditorium will seat 300 and the original stage and fly tower will be restored. Though only one of the original “atmospheric” landscape murals has been uncovered, the new owner hopes to gradually tackle the rest. The upper floor venue or “cinema two” from when the theatre was “twinned” in 1976 will seat 200 under the arching dome of the original upper auditorium.

Plans are in the works in architect Eric Pattison's office for the restoration of the Columbia Street façade including recreating missing terracotta details, entry doors and period signage. The final bit of what looks to be good news for this heritage building is that, as the comedy club only uses one venue three or four nights a week, the other venue and nights are being made available to community arts groups to stage their events. As a community heritage landmark, The Burr will once again be a hive of people, performances and laughter.

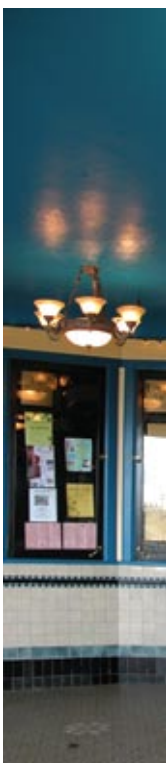
Also in New Westminster is the venerable 1260 seat Massey Theatre, built in 1949 as part of what was, at the time, the largest high school project in the province. It was named for Vincent Massey, Governor General and author of a massive cultural study across Canada (which resulted in the founding of the Canada Council for the Arts).

For the last number of years the School District has been struggling with a plan to replace the high school. As a significant but obscure cemetery was recently confirmed on the property and there are other recreational facilities on the block, there appeared to be few options on where to locate the new school. The idea of demolishing the theatre was actually floated by the SD.

Massey Theatre is the largest such facility outside downtown Vancouver. It is a very successful and busy facility serving the local community and the entire region. The Massey Theatre Society has poured thousands of dollars into the theatre both in technical equipment and in keeping the historic jewel-red auditorium presentable. As an educational facility, this theatre has tremendous social heritage values for all the students that graced its stage over the decades; many went on to careers in the arts across Canada.

At least in part due to huge public pressure, the City of New Westminster and the School District have been in talks to find a solution: a civic land swap to provide a site for the new school; the cemetery will be restored into a memorial park; and Massey will NOT be demolished. The city will most likely take on ownership of the theatre and the society will be able to continue to operate it. The School District will get their new school and be unburdened from operating a large arts complex. To date the province has publically played only a background role in finding a solution but the community expects them to “step up” and provide leadership in this complex situation.

ERIC PATTISON IS A NEW WESTMINSTER ARCHITECT AND A MEMBER OF THE HERITAGE BC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FROM LEFT: INTERIOR OF THE COLUMBIA IN NEW WESTMINSTER (LIBRARY #11027), PATRICIA THEATRE

# Pantages Theatre Still Endangered

Vancouver's oldest surviving theatre also has the distinction of making Heritage Vancouver's 2010 Top Ten Endangered list. It was on Heritage Canada's list last year. The theatre at 152 East Hastings was the second in a chain of North American vaudeville theatres built by impresario, Alexander Pantages. Opened in 1908, it retains much of its over-the-top ornate interior. In the days when Pantages was built, the theatre was as much a part of the show as the performers.

It is remarkable that this theatre, which is also the oldest survivor of the Pantages chain, has lasted this long. Unused for years, it is slowly crumbling, another victim of demolition by neglect. It seems to have gone the way of the rest of the neighbourhood which has been in decline for years.



But just over three years ago, new owner Marc Williams and the Pantages Theatre Arts Society announced an ambitious plan to get the theatre back in business, with a promise of a vital new arts centre in the heart of the stricken Downtown East Side. However, the ambitious project was not realized, and last December the society called it quits. Charles Barber, executive director of the PTAS, placed the blame on the City for failing to approve a \$26 million plan which included substantial new development (and public cost-sharing) that would have provided the funds to fuel the rebirth of the theatre, including a one dollar lease agreement with the society. When the scheme fell through the owner put the theatre up for sale.

Back in 2006 Mr. Barber said, "We are up against the perception that no one but lunatics and actors would come to this theatre". Since then, the Pantages has continued to molder. There was a fire on the roof in May of 2009 and more recently the stage collapsed into the basement.



## POWELL RIVER

# Patricia Theatre

Yes, the Patricia is really 97 years old this year and is enjoying its 82nd year in the "new" building. The original theatre, built by Bobby Scanlon, son of Powell River Company founder, M.J. Scanlon, opened in September, 1913. That building most resembled a shoebox on end, but soon became the entertainment capitol of Powell River, with movies, touring vaudeville acts, boxing matches, fashion shows, and talent contests. The Pat got her name through a community-wide naming contest which produced a lot of silly suggestions but also finally gave us the distinction of being named in honour of the dashing Princess Patricia, granddaughter of Queen Victoria. The building materials came from the Company sawmill, the equipment came from the original "cinema" (a tent that had blown down in a storm), and the entertainment arrived three times a week by way of steam ship, whether it was cans of films, fan dancers, boxers, magicians or singers. Many of the seats in the first Patricia were kitchen chairs fastened in rows on boards and hinged to be swung out of the way for the sweepers.

The "new" building was designed by Henry Holdsby Simmonds (Stanley Theatre, 1929), built and opened in 1928, and was a remarkable example of Arts and Crafts Spanish Revival theatre architecture in an era notable for extravagant movie palaces. What was even more remarkable was the no-expense spared approach to decorating and furnishing the old girl: custom-built Robert Morton pipe organ; glorious murals by the Girvan studios of Vancouver; posh Heywood-Wakefield seats (all the way from New York by rail and steamship) and the elegant hand-stenciled, French velvet main drape, created in Seattle. The first movie was shown in November, 1928, and there has never been a time since when there haven't been movies, vaudeville, concerts and fashion shows offered to the community, week in and week out.

Since 2002, the Friends of the Historic Patricia Society has re-created the lavish murals, remedied many maintenance concerns, installed a replica old-growth fir flagpole and successfully upgraded the seating by adopting the Vancouver Orpheum Theatre's cast-off 1940's vintage seats. Next is the re-creation of the stained glass and metal canopy to complete the restoration of the façade, and re-wiring the entire structure to meet current code and to accommodate the industry-wide conversion to digital. Through sheer tenacity and will to survive, the Patricia is now the oldest continuously operating business in Powell River, the oldest continuously operating movie theatre company in Canada, and the oldest cinema and vaudeville building in western Canada.

ANN NELSON

FRONT PORCH OF MASSEY THEATRE,  
BUILT IN 1927 (PHOTO: VANCOUVER PUBLIC  
LIBRARY)  
PANTAGES THEATRE,  
BUILT IN POWELL RIVER



THE QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE (ABOVE) AND THE 'CULTCH'  
PHOTOS: ED WHITE, COURTESY OF PROSCENIUM ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS

VANCOUVER THEATRES

# On with the show...

As significant social and cultural resources, theatres have staying power in the hearts and souls of their communities – they lend themselves to becoming valued historic resources. In Vancouver, the number and variety of theatre conservation projects demonstrate the city’s commitment to maintaining its purpose-built performance venues. The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, the Orpheum and the Vancouver East Cultural Centre are three such examples. Over the past 14 years, Proscenium Architecture + Interiors has committed to maintaining their viability as functional and attractive venues by responding to the needs of both audience and performers to sustain an active and vital arts community.

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre was built by the City of Vancouver in 1959 as part of an international design competition intended to put the city on the world’s cultural map. The design reflects the modernist desire to place cultural life at the centre of civic urban fabric in a complex typical of the international modernist style emerging in Canada at the time. As part of the long-range plan to upgrade the building, Proscenium’s work has evolved in phases according to the venue’s performance schedule to provide a better level of service for patrons, and a better environment for performers to thrive in. To date this includes increased accessibility through the addition of public elevators and lobby reconfiguration, and the addition of salons for resident companies and rental space. Acoustic separation of the playhouse and QET theatre, as well as acoustic treatment within the auditorium, contributes to the quality of performance the theatre can offer. All design interventions have been governed by the simplicity of the original design approach, and a respect for the basic fabric of the building that is key to the minimalist modern style is carried from schematic design through to detailing.

Originally built as a vaudeville house in 1927, the Orpheum was purchased by the City in 1974 as one of the first large-scale heritage conservation projects undertaken in Vancouver, which effectively saved the theatre from demolition. The current renovations to Vancouver’s leading concert hall are designed to accommodate a broader range of uses by allowing for its changing entertainment environment. Today’s concert going crowd brings different expectations to their facility than the informality of the historic vaudeville house. Large lobby space for pre-show and intermission gathering, barrier-free accessibility throughout, increased washroom capacity and higher standards for health and safety are accommodated as are acoustic requirements within the auditorium.

The Vancouver East Cultural Centre, or the Cultch, is an example of how a theatre restoration project can contribute to the social and cultural sustainability of a community. While the growing needs of the local arts community and the condition of their existing facility necessitated considerable renovations and the addition of a new studio theatre space, the existing auditorium – a 1909 Methodist church converted to a theatre in the early 70s – is maintained in its original configuration. A neighborhood landmark, the original building was well-liked and appreciated by the local community. When finished the Cultch aims to become the first LEED certified performing arts facility in Canada, recognizing the latent energy of existing buildings as another opportunity for heritage conservation.

According to Proscenium Architecture + Interiors, “It is the marriage between good heritage conservation practice through the retention of existing building fabric and the provision of viable, up-to-date, functional performance spaces that supports the creating of valuable cultural works.” The process is one of continuous compromise – those elements that contribute to the historic value of the theatre will only be retained as long as the building continues to function as a theatre. In fact, many historic theatres find value in their continued use. They have evolved over time in order to remain what they always were – theatres.

TANYA SOUTHCOTT IS AN ARCHITECT WITH PROSCENIUM ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS INC.



“It is the marriage between good heritage conservation practice through the retention of existing building fabric and the provision of viable, up-to-date, functional performance spaces that supports the creating of valuable cultural works.”





HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

# A City Planning Perspective

In British Columbia, municipalities are striving to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. An optimistic measure is to reduce GHG's by 33% below 2007 rates by 2020. For Kelowna, this would mean that every resident of the city would produce 50% less GHG emissions than they did in 2007. Needless to say, in order to achieve this, a lot has to change.

The majority of GHG's are produced either through vehicle use or by operating buildings, the latter being the focus of this article. Municipalities are now setting high standards for new construction for more energy efficient buildings. However, the majority of existing buildings do not meet these requirements. In Kelowna, for example, it is estimated that by 2030, only 30% of residential buildings will be new. The majority of residences will need to be retrofitted for energy efficiency if GHG's are to be reduced.

Heritage buildings, then, offer an opportunity to learn how existing buildings can be made to be more energy efficient. Barbara Campagna, Architect for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, recently spoke in Kelowna on the efforts made to green national sites in the United States. She spoke of this work as varying from the installation of energy efficient heating and cooling systems to replanting sites with indigenous plants, more suited for the climate and thus less demanding on resources. She also stressed that most heritage buildings are inherently more energy efficient than buildings constructed between 1945 and 1990.

The examples presented highlighted opportunities available in BC. Heritage buildings, although small in number, are often buildings that are prominent in the landscape. Thus, heritage offers an engaging learning opportunity to demonstrate how to green existing building stock.

One of the most prominent examples in Kelowna is the former CN Train Station, which has recently been purchased by a private developer to be rehabilitated into a pub restaurant. As part of the process, it is becoming a model of adaptation of a heritage site. Some of the sustainability measures the new owners have taken are to: design around a heritage tree; use shingles made out of recycled materials; provide a heritage garden with plants that require minimal irrigation; and ensure the site is pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

In 2009, 72 buildings were demolished in Kelowna, which meant the loss of approximately 3839 tonnes of embodied energy (energy used in the construction and materials of the buildings). This embodied energy is approximately equivalent to the carbon footprint of 200 residents for one year.

Green retrofitting of heritage sites can offer a greener and more sustainable community.

MARIA STANBOROUGH IS THE CULTURAL POLICY PLANNER FOR THE CITY OF KELOWNA.



BARBARA CAMPAGNA, ARCHITECT FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, RECENTLY SPOKE IN KELOWNA ON THE EFFORTS MADE TO GREEN NATIONAL SITES IN THE UNITED STATES.



Green retrofitting of heritage sites can offer a greener and more sustainable community.



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**NEXT ISSUE:**

## Heritage BC Annual Awards Renewing B.C.'s Heritage Program



HISTORIC IMAGE OF THE BASTION, COURTESY OF THE NANAIMO MUSEUM

## The Bay Provides a Grant for Nanaimo's Bastion

Canada's oldest company has provided \$80,000 to help repair Nanaimo's oldest building. The grant from the Hudson's Bay Company was announced on March 31 and marks a significant step toward the total of \$200,000 needed for repairs.

The Bastion, built by the Hudson's Bay Company 157 years ago, has developed a distinct list. In the heart of Nanaimo's historic downtown, the Bastion is an important tourist attraction, but it has been closed for security reasons until repairs to its rotting timber foundation are complete. The structure has not received any maintenance for 15 years.

The Bastion is looked after by the Nanaimo Museum. They have sought funding from the Bay for years, but this time the company came to them.

"I guess they are trying to get back to their historical roots. Hopefully, this is just the beginning", museum director Debbie Trueman said on the day of the announcement.

The City is looking for community help to find the balance of funds to save the last of the free-standing bastions built by the HBC.



### BOOKS

## Women on Ice:

### The Early Years of Women's Hockey in Western Canada

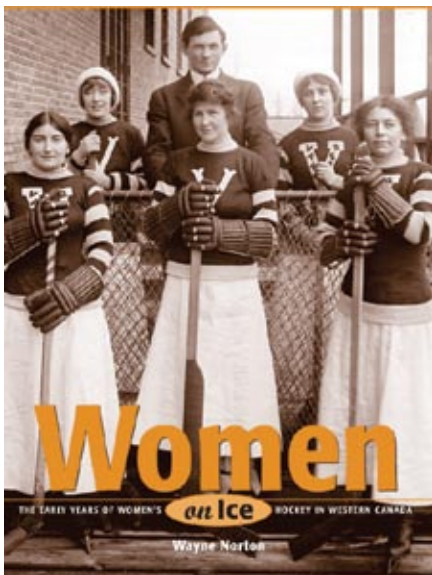
Wayne Norton

Women on Ice is the first book to focus upon the vibrant world of women's ice hockey in western Canada during the First World War and the 1920s.

The Vancouver Amazons, with their championship laurels and their association with hockey's famous Patrick brothers, were the most famous, but were only one of a number of women's hockey teams that met during the annual Banff winter carnivals to compete for the women's ice hockey championship of western Canada. With the support of more than three dozen photographs, many of which are published here for the first time, Women on Ice follows the fortunes of the Vancouver women as they encountered teams from Victoria and New Westminster and the powerful squads from Calgary and Edmonton – teams that deserve to be legendary, but are now largely forgotten.

Also profiled are teams from what was the geographic heart of women's hockey in British Columbia until the First World War, the Kootenays, as well as some of the dominant teams of the postwar years from Alberta. The curious decline of women's hockey in the 1930s consigned to obscurity the history of these and of all women's teams in western Canada. Women on Ice attempts to rescue some of that fascinating history.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The last issue of Heritage BC Quarterly ran an item on "Women on Ice", particularly about the Fernie Swastikas. Author Wayne Norton was kind enough to point out that the accompanying photo was not in fact of the Fernie team, but another from a different part of the country. We apologize for this error, and recommend Mr. Norton's book for anyone who wants to get the real skinny on the little-known history of women's hockey.*



## President's Message

Springtime greetings...It's that re-energized time of year when heritage ideas and possibilities are pursued across meeting room tables and kitchen tables around the province. It is also that time in 2010 when our commitment and search for solutions is again heightened.

Our task, as always, appears to be how we all best prioritize our heritage initiatives, secure funding resources, and implement the works. Your Heritage BC will assist in those efforts by whatever means possible.

An informative lecture series on greening historic buildings was presented by the Cascadia Region Green Building Council in both Victoria and Kelowna in March. The lectures were sponsored by the British Columbia Heritage Branch, Canada's Historic Places, and the City of Victoria. The over-riding message of the presentations was to recognize the need to consider improving energy efficiencies as an integral part of heritage building improvements.

Dialogue is being further advanced with Minister Krueger, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. Following a meeting with the Minister in January, Heritage BC committed to preparing a follow-up proposal for achieving a renewed heritage funding relationship between the Province and Heritage BC. That proposal is currently being prepared. Related efforts seeking re-instatement of Gaming fund grants toward community heritage improvements in 2010 have regrettably not been successful.

The upcoming Heritage BC Conference in Victoria, June 3- 5, is one of the Society's annual highlights, which looks forward to a good turnout and robust debate on a value-based approach to heritage conservation. This topic about the real fundamental value embodied in any of our heritage resources is particularly relevant in this time of limited economic opportunity but unlimited worthwhile heritage initiatives. Your contributions to this topic will be important.

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## Executive Director's Message

March 31 marked the end of the government's fiscal year and for all intents and purposes the Historic Places Initiative. While the HPI in theory carries on, the transfer of funds from Ottawa to B.C. is over, and with it, any serious interest in this project.

Over the past half dozen years or so millions of federal dollars flowed through the provincial government and out to community heritage programs where they were put to a variety of good uses. The HPI dollars also underwrote new staff positions at the provincial Heritage Branch, something we hadn't seen in a long time. Heritage BC benefitted, too, through annual contracts with the Branch to deliver HPI services.

The shutting off of the HPI tap could not have come at a worse time. The draconian cuts in last years' provincial government budget have been carried over to 2010-11, with no relief in sight.

Apart from the abrupt termination of HPI funding, there is the program itself. The HPI came on the scene at the beginning of the new century, and indeed felt like the declaration of a new era for heritage conservation in Canada. Now, it looks like much of the promise of the HPI will not be realized. While a second edition of the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada is in the offing, the Canadian Register of Historic Places remains far from complete, the Commercial Heritage Property Incentive Fund has not morphed into the long-anticipated federal heritage tax incentive program, and the Historic Places Act never saw the light of day.

The true legacy of the HPI may be its philosophical core, the values-based approach to heritage conservation. Whether this has staying power, only time will tell.



**LARRY FOSTER**  
BOARD PRESIDENT



**RICK GOODACRE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HERITAGE BC



## Values in Action: Reconsidering the Values-based Approach

2010 CONFERENCE &  
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JUNE 3-5 2010

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# Heritage BC



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### AT THE CONFERENCE

## Condition Surveys for Historic Structures

A condition survey plays an essential role in conservation planning and decision-making for historic places. But have you ever read a condition survey of an historic place and got to the end still wondering about cost, urgency, and the scope of work involved? This hands-on workshop introduces how a condition survey fits into the overall heritage conservation process and builds your understanding of:

- the elements of a survey and why they are needed
- building component parts and their characteristics
- the basics of defects and remedies

Build your capacity to undertake or manage surveys that are accessible and convincing, and that will serve as excellent planning, management and fund-raising tools for historic places.

**INSTRUCTOR:** James Burton, MAIBC, is a partner in Birmingham & Wood Architects and Planners, a presenter with Heritage Vancouver's Old School Program, and the recipient of a City of Vancouver Heritage Award of Recognition for his work with the adaptive rehabilitation of historic buildings.

**NOTE:** This is a preconference workshop by UVic's Cultural Resource Management Program. To register: [www.uvcs.uvic.ca/cultural](http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/cultural)

Thursday June 3, 2010

9:00am to 4:30pm

(Survey Site location TBA)

Victoria, BC

Cost: \$125.00

# Heritage BC

