



# ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 5276, Station B, Victoria BC, V8R 6N4

## Autumn 2012 Newsletter

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**Please share a copy of the RNA Newsletter with a neighbour.**

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT by Janet Simpson

When we elect our Board members at our AGM's, we always hope that we will benefit from their service for an entire year. This year, however, circumstances have been such that we have been unfortunate enough to lose two of our elected volunteers on the Board.

John Caldwell, our Treasurer, moved to the Cowichan Valley. I would like to thank him for his generosity in stepping up to the task of Treasurer and learning the intricacies and peculiarities of our system. While he served us in this capacity, he was as thorough and competent as we could ever hope from the person we entrust with our financial obligations.

Sorry as we were to say goodbye to John, we can only be relieved and grateful to Catherine Spencer for coming to our rescue and taking over the position of Treasurer. We are truly fortunate to be able to rely upon her accounting expertise and her knowledge of Rockland Neighbourhood Association procedures. Thank you, Catherine!

As if this were not enough, Bill Brooks, Director on the

Board and Chair of the Land Use Committee, surprised us by announcing his plans to sell his house and move to Sidney. Bill has been such a reliable and knowledgeable chair that this was a terrible loss. The land use chair is such a critical position in any neighbourhood association that I was quite worried about what we would do until Bob June made the very generous gesture of adding the role of land use chair to his existing responsibilities as Vice President. Bob has been involved with land use committees in the past, and I am sure he will bring to this new position all the dedication and enthusiasm he has shown as Vice President. Thank you, Bob!

Whatever would we do without volunteers who step up when the situation requires? A huge thank-you to everyone who considers giving his or her time and energy to working for our neighbourhood associations!

### MORE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"If you would enjoy being thoroughly transported back to Victorian England for an evening, make sure you don't miss Langham Court's production of Lady Windermere's Fan (November 21 -December 8). The costumes and performances are simply amazing, and Oscar Wilde's satiric script will have you in stitches. What a perfectly wonderful show -thank you, Langham Court!"

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### ROCKLAND GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS



*Garage sale on Despard Avenue. Helen Edwards photo*

The first Rockland-wide Garage Sale was held on August 18, 2012. Numerous residents offered their wares for sale - and the customers arrived all day. From what I saw, the event was profitable for the sellers and I know I am going to enjoy the items I purchased. The weather was great and made for an enjoyable day. It was also a chance to meet Rockland neighbours and learn about other areas of the neighbourhood. Thanks to all who participated in this event.

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## ROCKLAND STROLL REPORT

by Helen Edwards

September 8th was a special day for the Rockland neighbourhood. In conjunction with the Victoria 150 celebration, the Rockland Neighbourhood Association held The Rockland Stroll. This event, designed to showcase the highlights of the area, was the result of almost nine months of planning by a volunteer committee. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and skies were blue with unlimited sunlight.

Activities were centered on four cultural nodes – Government House, Langham Court Theatre, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, and Craigdarroch Castle.

The day began with the raising of the totem pole Hosaqami at Government House. The pole was carved by Chief Tony Hunt and was a replica of the original Hosaqami carved by Chief Mungo Martin.

The remainder of the activities began at Noon. The Langham Court Theatre offered backstage tours, silent movies and a fashion hour: Fashions from 1852 to 2012. The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria featured a book signing of *The Spencer Mansion: A House, A Home*, and an Art Gallery and a public tour of the exhibition: *Silk Splendour*.



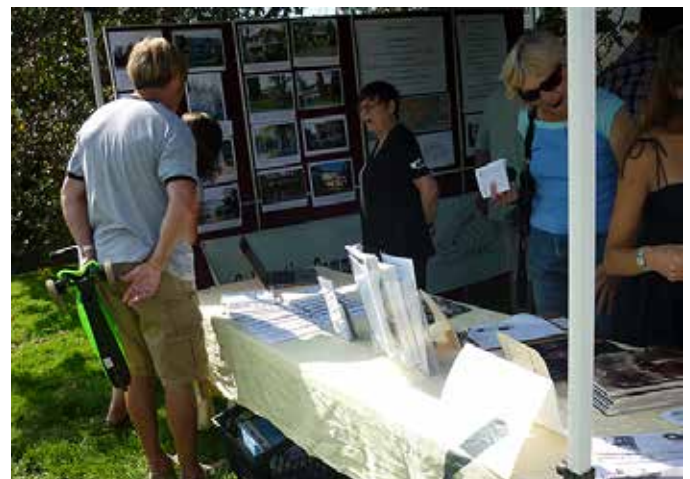
*Vintage car display on Manor Rd. John Edwards photo*

The highlight of the activities for some folks was the display of vintage automobiles along Manor Road that was closed off specifically for the day. Young and old alike wondered at the magnificent cars on display. The Rockland Neighbourhood Association offers its sincere thanks to all members of the Vintage Car Club of Canada, Victoria Branch who helped to make The Rockland Stroll a great success.



*Bouncy Castle. Helen Edwards photo*

The final site was Craigdarroch Castle. Here, children could play croquet on the lawn, toss beanbags, and frolic in a bouncy castle.



*Hallmark Heritage Society display. John Edwards photo*

Also on the grounds was a historical display by the Hallmark Heritage Society where guests could also pick up copies of the self-guided walking tours of the Rockland neighbourhood.



Visitors were entertained by a professional jazz ensemble that had them up dancing and singing along. The day concluded with a draw for prizes donated by sponsors and the singing of “Happy Birthday” followed by the distribution of cupcakes – no birthday is complete without cake, after all. There were smiles on all the faces – a fitting end to a wonderful day.



*Grounds of Craigarroch Castle. Helen Edwards photo*

This was the first time that the Rockland Neighbourhood Association had organized such a large community event. Based on the positive feedback from visitors, I am sure it will not be the last.

### **THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

- The City of Victoria**
- Victoria Pub Company (Matt MacNeil)**
- Langham Court Theatre**
- Hotel Grand Pacific (Victoria Athletic Club)**
- The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria**
- Fairmont Empress**
- Capital Iron**
- Craigarroch Castle**
- Victoria Sketch Club**
- Hallmark Heritage Society**
- Ross Bay Pub**
- Vintage Car Club of Canada, Victoria Branch**
- Government House**
- Ben Issit**
- The Rockland Neighbourhood Association**

### **MIDNIGHT HOUSE MOVE**

**by Helen Edwards**

The evening of September 22, 2012 was one that Rockland residents will never forget. Young and old marvelled at the sight of a huge house, cut into two pieces, rolling down the streets to its eventual new home on Pemberton Road.



It was a slow process, with the power lines and other utilities needing to be disconnected and the wires lowered to allow the truck to pass by. One by one, lights went out as power was cut. There was an almost festive air as citizens gathered to watch. I know I told the story of the house to several people who were most appreciative of the information. The story-telling also helped pass the time on a cool night.

I have watched many buildings being moved, but I think this was the largest and most complicated. I hope the house develops a new history in its new site, where it looks very much at home with houses of a similar vintage to either side of it.



The history of the building is interesting and has several ties to the development of Victoria. The Bennett family was resident in the location as early as 1892. John T. Bennett is listed as a sail maker, later to be recognized as a master mariner. He died in 1896, but Mrs. Bennett remained in the house. We learn more from old newspaper advertisements from the newspaper, beginning with May 12, 1895, which stated in part: "To let furnished rooms, use of sitting room and bathroom. ... Mrs. Bennett corner Richmond and Oak Bay Roads. Terms moderate." By June 2, 1901, she is advertising for one double and two single rooms with board. Bath room with hot and cold water." In June 1902, we learn that "Mrs. Bennett formerly of Oak Bay and Richmond Avenue has re-opened her boarding house at 69 Superior Street where she can take a limited number of boarders." By 1903, the whole house was being offered as a "12-roomed house with modern conveniences, with one-acre of land and orchard, to be leased for one year" at the princely sum of \$25 per month. Both John Thomas Bennett and his wife Hattie V. Bennett were born in New Brunswick. They had 4 children -Francis, Allen M., Margaret, and Frank A. Their infant son Frank Allison Bennett died at 8 months, 23 days on September 8, 1891 and is buried in Ross Bay Cemetery. The news of his death was carried in the Saint John New Brunswick Evening Gazette. Captain Bennett died December 19, 1896, of cancer and is buried at Hatley Park. His funeral was reported in the Victoria Daily Colonist as having taken place at the residence on Richmond Avenue.

After John's death, Hattie obviously rented out rooms to boarders as the 1901 census shows, in addition to Hattie, her son Allan M and daughter Margaret, 6 boarders. They were Mary J Nisbet, Louise Carpenter, Marthe Linkham, Mrs. Moffat, Rosalind Watson, and Henry Dunnell. The same 6 boarders appear at this address on the 1902 City Directory while Hattie is listed on Superior Street. The Bennetts moved to California. They took a ship from Victoria to San Francisco in Sept 1903. They subsequently left few traces, but Allen appears in the US census of 1910, married with an infant son Allen Jr. He is an oil worker in Fresno. In 1932 he was admitted to an old soldiers home in Los Angeles, his health seemingly broken at the age of 44. He earned his admission by service in the US Army in 1917-1919.

BC Ladies College is on this site in 1905-06 and, by 1908, University School (Reverend William Bolton, principal). We know in 1909 that University School had moved to the present Mount Tolmie campus.

In 1909, the building is listed in directories as "vacant" while in 1911 the resident is Daniel Green, musician. The next owner was William Thomas Preston who operated

a transfer business. He was born on May 3, 1871, in Wellington County, Ontario, the son of Alex Preston, a wagon maker, and his wife Elizabeth Freeborn. By 1891, the family had moved to Mineota, Manitoba. By 1901, William had married Elizabeth and is sharing the household with his cousin Luella A Freeborn. He is listed as a farmer. By 1906, a son Verde Lawrence had joined the family. The 1911 census shows the family moved to Victoria with a daughter, Willetta added to the family. He retained ownership of 1082 Richmond Road until 1921, when the property is shown as "vacant" for several years.

In 1927, H. Mitchell purchased the property and renamed it Richmond Court. There were 4 suites. By 1929, Mrs. Harriet Peel is shown as owner and, in 1931, G Stanley Freestone, an engineer. Also, in this year, there is a new listing for a janitor, A Henry Mitchell. Of interest was one tenant, Keith Dorman, long known in Victoria for his association with Dorman Clothiers in downtown Victoria. Research proves that the house is a rare survivor of its type in an area where most of the building sites now are occupied by modern condos and apartment blocks. It represents a link to early Victoria" through its links to schools and early transportation routes, and also illustrates the movement of Canadians westward to seek new opportunities.



*All photos in this article by Helen Edwards*

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## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

To spur interest in the activities of the Rockland Neighbourhood Association and to attract new members, we have established a page on Facebook.

Check out <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rockland-Neighbourhood-Association/444293285610322> and "Like" us to receive future updates.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS -CRAIGDARROCH CASTLE**

Christmas at Craigdarroch is a not-to-be-missed event. Throughout the month of December, there are special events scheduled -something to suit taste of even the Grinch! A Christmas Carol, adapted as a one-man play by Jason Stevens, is presented several times during the season and family nights are sure to please the younger set. For more details on any activities, please visit the website at [www.thecastle.ca](http://www.thecastle.ca).

### **Educational Programming**

Have you ever wondered how to knit or crochet? How about other fine arts that were undertaken by genteel ladies during the Victorian era? Join Craigdarroch Castle workshops to learn how to acquire new skills.

#### **Intro to Crochet (Headband)**

**Sat., January 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 am -1 pm \$45**

This beginners workshop will allow you to learn a few basic stitches and create your own headband. Guided by Grace Cave, crafter extraordinaire, for an introductory lesson on crocheting. BYO materials. (A list is provided).

#### **Intro to Knitting:**

**Sat., Feb. 2nd, 10 am -1 pm \$45**

This beginners workshop will allow you to learn the basics of knitting, casting on and off, to create a cowl scarf. Join Grace Cave to learn the trade. BYO materials. (A materials list will be provided.)

#### **Paper Journal Making:**

**Sat., Feb. 9th, 10 am -1 pm \$50 + \$10**

Taking inspiration from the Victorian passion for memoirs, biographies, journals and travel narratives, Karen will guide participants through the creation of a personalized journal. \$10 materials fee to be paid to instructor.

#### **Intermediate Crochet (mittens or mitts):**

**Sat., Feb. 18th, 10 am -1 pm \$45**

An intermediate workshop will teach you to shape a thumb hole, and offer the ability to include fancier textures to your creations. Rebecca will teach you to further read a pattern to allow shaping techniques and optional texture stitches to be formed. BYO materials. (A list is provided.)

#### **Intro to Embroidery:**

**Sat., Feb. 23rd, 1-4 pm, \$35 + \$7 supplies**

Victorian ladies sewed embroidered sachets infused with subtle perfume or delicate powder to tuck into their linen drawers. In this afternoon session, textile artist Rebecca Hazell will teach basic embroidery stitches for you to use in creating your own one-of-a-kind sachet from authentic designs that she will provide.

#### **Leather Bookbinding Workshop:**

**Sat., March 2nd, 10 -3 pm, \$40 + \$30 supplies**

Learn how to make hand bound journals using old world binding techniques. We will be using leather, acid free archival paper and heavy-duty wax thread. The pages actually get woven into the book! It's easy to do, looks great and you will walk away with a new skillset!

#### **Victorian Watercolour:**

**Sat, March 9th, 1 -4 pm \$35 + \$7 supplies**

One of the skills of a Victorian lady of refinement was the ability to paint in watercolour and flowers were a favoured subject. In this workshop, artist and author Rebecca Hazell will introduce you to the basics of watercolour painting and provide authentic floral patterns for you to transfer onto the watercolour paper provided.

#### **Victorian Fabric Lamp Shades:**

**Sat., March 16th, 10 am -3 pm \$75 + materials**

In this one day course taught by renowned artist and designer Marion Corber, we will learn how to hand stitch a Victorian style fabric lampshade and finish the piece by trimming with passementerie and fringe. Learn about fabric and shade selection, care and cleaning, as well as some of her well-guarded trade secrets. Walk away with a handmade lampshade!

#### **Intro to Needle Tatting:**

**Sat., March 23rd, 10 am -1 pm \$50 + \$10 supplies**

Faster than traditional shuttle tatting, needle tatting is the art of making lace by hand. Embellishments, trims, doilies and even jewelry can be made by stitching together delicate, yet sturdy components into intricate shapes. In this class, learn how to create the double stitch, picots, rings and chains.

#### **Intro to Heirloom Buttons:**

**Saturday, March 30th, 10 am -1 pm \$45**

Before the advent of plastic buttons, most clothing was fastened by this form of hand-stitched button. Learn the basics of making a simple spoked-wheel pattern and fasten these beauties on for function or embellishment. Walk away with the knowledge of how to make your own buttons. Taught by Jean Betts.

Other classes will be taught in subsequent sessions. Contact the castle at 250-592-5323 or [info@thecastle.ca](mailto:info@thecastle.ca) for more information.



## UPCOMING EVENTS -ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA

### Emily Carr: On the Edge of Nowhere June 30, 2010 -June 30, 2013

Although Emily Carr described herself as an “isolated little old woman on the edge of nowhere” her work has an appeal that is universal in its expressive messages.

Events:

- Dec. 4, 2012 - 2:00 pm -3:00 pm  
Drop-in Tour
- Dec. 16, 2012 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Family Sunday
- Dec. 29, 2012 - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Drop-in Tour

### Back to the Land

#### Ceramics from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands 1970-1985

October 5,2012 - February 3,2013

Curated by Diane Carr / Pollard Gallery

Back to the Land: Ceramics from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands 1970-1985 presents the work of 31 ceramic artists working on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands in the 1970s and 1980s. Guest curated by Diane Carr, the exhibition emphasizes the “back to the land” movement of the early 1970s as the impetus for the explosion of ceramic activity in this region.

Events:

- Dec. 1, 2012 - 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Drop-in Tour
- Dec. 9, 2012 -2:00 pm -3:00 pm  
Drop-in Tour

### Jazz - Sunday December 9th and 23rd, 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

Two informal performances will offer a treat to Gallery visitors this holiday season. Drop in to hear seasonal tunes and jazz standards as styled by the UJAM All Stars. Music included with gallery admission or free with membership. The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is pleased to partner with the UJAM jazz society to offer these performances. UJAM offers mentorship and performing opportunities to local youths interested in careers in music and with particular interest in jazz.

## RNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2012-2013

President: Janet Simpson

Vice President: Bob June

Secretary: David Clark

Treasurer: Catherine Spencer

Directors: Norman Clark

John Edwards

David Hambleton

Jane Wheatley

### RNA Email Server List

Would you like to hear more about events in Rockland? Please join the neighbours list through the RNA website at [www.rockland.bc.ca](http://www.rockland.bc.ca).

### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association Newsletter is published three to four times a year. It is distributed electronically to all members. Submissions from members on issues of interest are always accepted and photographs are particularly welcome.

### Deadlines for the upcoming issues are:

Winter 2013 - January 15, 2013

Spring 2013 - April 15, 2013

Summer 2013 - July 15, 2013

All submissions should be sent to Communication Chair John Edwards - [jcsedwards@gmail.com](mailto:jcsedwards@gmail.com).