



# ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

## Summer 2012 Newsletter

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

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### ROCKLAND WOODLAND GARDEN by Janet Simpson

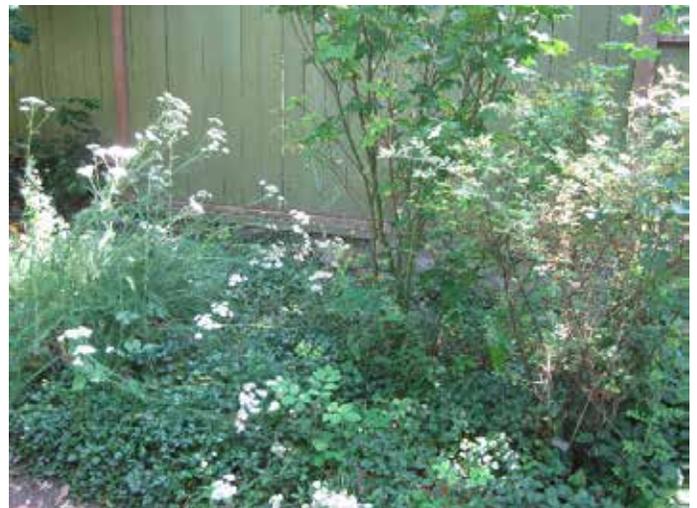


Ahhh, summer in the native plant garden. Actually, the show is mostly over for the season. This year, however, we are delighted to see the arrival of a wonderful carpet of little clover-leaf-shaped lime green Wood sorrel plants. Their pretty pink flowers add some colour to

the garden at this time of year. In fact, the top part of the garden is looking quite lush with all the Woodland strawberry plants spreading everywhere and the towering flowering Yarrow above them.

The deer have finally found the garden and have been munching on the poor little Arbutus tree and the Mock orange bush at the top of the stairs. I went to a plant salvage on Queenswood last month and brought back hundreds of Camas and Fawn lily bulbs for the garden. Anthony and I planted them alongside the pathways at the top and bottom of the garden. Sue continues to lead the charge against the invasion of the Snowberry bushes. It is a real struggle to keep them under control, but the Pacific rhodos seem to appreciate the effort! We are happy to have a new member on our gardening committee - Tracy Duff has joined us! She has already helped out by planting our new Thimbleberry bushes.

As always, we are looking for more help in the garden. If you are interested in Garry Oak ecosystems, native plant gardens, or just helping with a noble cause, please consider joining us! Contact Janet Simpson at [jesimpson@shaw.ca](mailto:jesimpson@shaw.ca)



## SAVE THE DATE!

### ROCKLAND-WIDE GARAGE SALE DAY

### SWAP YOUR TREASURES FOR THOSE OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH, 2012**

If you would like to participate, send your contact information to  
[Secretary@rockland.bc.ca](mailto:Secretary@rockland.bc.ca)

We shall compile a list of participants but will not release the list of  
addresses until the Friday afternoon before the sale. Check out the  
[rockland.bc.ca](http://rockland.bc.ca) website on August 17th.

Please let all of your neighbors know about this event.

The more the merrier.

#### RNA IN THE COMMUNITY

by John Edwards

On July 21, 2012, many of us on the Rockland 150 Committee manned a booth at the TD Art Gallery Paint-In to promote The Rockland Stroll on September 8<sup>th</sup>.



Deb Hartwick set up a great display opposite the Moss Street Market, featuring the Stroll poster. This attracted a lot of attention and people were completely taken aback that Rockland was having such an event. Many did not know that there was a neighbourhood association in Rockland. Unfortunately, we did not have any membership forms to hand out. We talked with hundreds of visitors, and gave them a postcard-sized reminder of the upcoming event. Hopefully, this will attract new members to the organization.

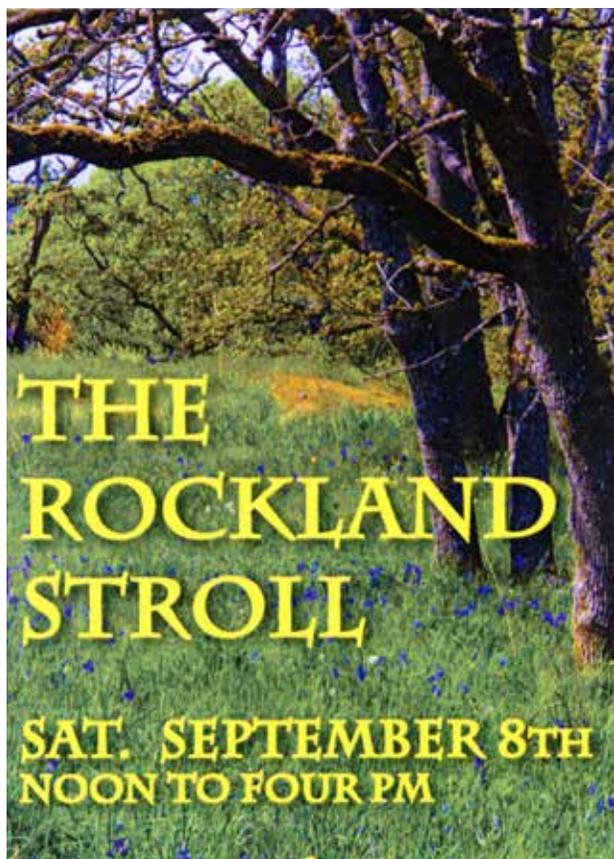
By having the Art Gallery, Government House, Craigdarroch Castle and the Langham Court Theatre participate, we were showing the built heritage and conservation in this area of Victoria and are preserving the work of the past for future generations.

## ROCKLAND CELEBRATES VICTORIA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY WITH THE ROCKLAND STROLL

Join your neighbours on September 8, 2012 from Noon to 4 pm for a community-wide celebration.

Since January, a volunteer committee has been working on this event, bringing together our neighbourhood partners and working with them to produce an outstanding day with something for everybody.

As you can see from the schedule, there are events in a number of venues, with the day culminating with a formal birthday celebration, hosted by Councillor Ben Isitt, at Craigdarroch Castle. Visitors are encouraged to collect stamps from all the venues on a passport which will serve as an entry form for prizes donated by local merchants. No party would be complete without cake -- and we will have cupcakes for holders of completed passports.



As you can understand, it takes hours of volunteer labour to mount an event such as this. We are looking for neighbours to help us. If you can work for an hour or two on the day of the event, please let us know at [semwick@shaw.ca](mailto:semwick@shaw.ca). We need passport stampers at the venues, photographers to take pictures of tea pourers and to help with costumes, cupcake distribution at the final ceremony, and site cleanups at all venues. Remember, many hands make the job easier for us all. Help us make this an unforgettable experience for not only our Rockland neighbourhood, but the entire city.

SAVE THE DATE:  
THE CITY OF VICTORIA  
CELEBRATES 150 YEARS WITH  
**THE ROCKLAND STROLL**  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012  
NOON - 4 PM

**Government House:** Raising of Hosaqami, the new totem pole, and music in the bandstand

**Art Gallery of Greater Victoria:** Open House, book launch, photo exhibit and works by Rockland artists

**Langham Court Theatre:** \* Silent movies & fashion show.

**Craigdarroch Castle:** Bouncy castle, children's games, live music, door prizes, birthday cake

**Hallmark Heritage Society:** Historical display and walking tours of the Rockland neighborhood.

**Vintage Car Club:** View vintage cars on Manor Road

Win prizes by collecting stamps on a "Passport to Rockland!"



Craigdarroch Castle  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY



## SON OF PIONEER MERCHANT BUILT MANSION IN ROCKLAND

by Helen Edwards



1770 Rockland Avenue - 1978. Photo courtesy Hallmark Heritage Society Archives.

1770 Rockland Avenue is a three-storey stone and stucco Tudor Revival mansion located in Victoria's prestigious Rockland neighbourhood. It is a representative example from architect Samuel Maclure's pre-war phase, generally considered to be his most innovative and vigorous period.

Born in New Westminster, BC, Maclure became the foremost domestic architect in British Columbia from 1890 to 1920 and established a building style that gave Victoria and parts of Vancouver a distinctive Canadian West Coast flavour. His works, a very personal interpretation of the shingle style and half-timber facade treatment, influenced a generation of British Columbia architects throughout the province. Maclure's influence on BC building design was so pervasive that into the 1940s, government buildings and schools throughout the province continued to emulate his early half-timbered commissions. This home is a particularly well-executed example from his prewar phase, generally considered to be his most innovative and vigorous period. With the Biggerstaff Wilson House, Maclure set the standard for gracious living for the next decade.

1770 Rockland Avenue is an outstanding example of an Edwardian Tudor Revival mansion. Revivals of previous architectural styles were prominent in the early twentieth-century, as property owners sought to allude to the stability and glory of a former age. In Victoria, this style can be seen on residential buildings ranging from small cottages to large opulent houses. Characterized by prominent half-timbering, strong masonry foundations and tall ornate

chimneys, the Tudor Revival style is closely associated with the Victorian, Edwardian, and Arts & Crafts styles. The half-timbering found on this type of house is derived from Elizabethan England, where heavy timber structural frames were infilled with masonry panels. This building type became popular in Vancouver and Victoria between 1900 and the 1930s, particularly because of political and cultural ties to Britain. Mansions were set in gardens that formed part of the living space.



1770 Rockland Avenue, view from the southwest. Helen Edwards photo.

The mansion was built in 1905 for William Biggerstaff Wilson, one of the five sons of pioneer Victoria clothier William Wilson. In 1901 he founded an ice and cold-storage business on Store Street in facilities rented from the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, and in 1909 built his own cold-storage plant on Herald Street. He was the father of Victoria Mayor Richard Biggerstaff (Dick) Wilson. After Mr. Wilson died in 1925 in Beverley Hills, California, his widow Bertha lived in the house until 1967. The next owner was Henry William (Harry) Gladwell. A natural athlete, he excelled at many sports, in particular, rowing. He rowed the 8's to completions in both Canada and the United States, winning gold medals gold at the national level. Harry attended the University of Minneapolis, where he studied Architecture. During the depression, he worked for his father performing rural audits and when the Ford Motor Company expanded into Canada, he was awarded the dealership in Victoria, Gladwell Motors. He died in Victoria on September 28, 2010.

## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

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

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

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## RNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2012-2013

President: Janet Simpson

Vice President: Bob June

Secretary: David Clark

Treasurer: John Caldwell

Directors: Bill Brooks

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).

## HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH FOUND by Helen Edwards



You never know what you will find when you go looking. While recently researching a totally different subject at the Greater Victoria Public Library collection of microfilmed newspapers, I caught a glimpse of this photo. Something seemed very familiar to me and, when I investigated further, I discovered that this was an image of the mansion that Harry Haigh lived in (see Winter 2012 issue of the newsletter for full story). To the best of my knowledge, it is the only one available.

Note that, even then, the name of the architect, Samuel Maclure, is spelled incorrectly. Nothing has changed, as often real estate agents and journalists still make the same mistake today.

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## 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:

Autumn 2012 - October 15, 2012

Winter 2013 - January 15, 2013

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