



Victoria Historical Society Publication

NUMBER 24 SUMMER, 2010

~ PROGRAMME FOR 2010 ~

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street except the December one.

22 April, 2010

San Juan Island, its History and BC Connections. Mike Vouri is the Chief of Interpretation for the San Juan Islands National Historic Park. He was the host of the trip of VHS members made to the island last spring.

27 May, 2010

Victoria's Royal Theatre. Ken Johnson has been connected with the Royal Theatre in many ways. He received a citation from the Hallmark Society for his work in restoration of the facade.

For more information, visit:
www.victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca



~ REMEMBER ~

The next meeting, on 27 May, 2010, will begin at 7:00 pm to allow time for the AGM and discussions related thereto.



~ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ~

Why not save yourself and our Membership Secretary a good deal of trouble by renewing your 2010-2011 membership at the meeting of 27 May, 2010. This will relieve pressure at the first meeting in September, allow you to savour your

tea and cookies without fear of indigestion, and ensure the presentation portion of the meeting starts on time.



~ HERITAGE FAIR ~

The South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair will be held on Friday, May 7, 2010 at the Clifford Carl Hall, Royal British Columbia Museum. Students in grades 4-10 will present the result of their research into historical subjects. It is quite interesting to see what a youngster considers "heritage." Although the idea of the fair is for the students to learn something and be able to answer questions about their projects, there are some prizes available. Some students will be chosen to represent our fair at the provincial fair in Barkerville/Quesnel in July. More information on the fair can be found on our web site at www.hallmarksociety.ca

Come support the historians and preservationists of tomorrow - the event is open to the public from 10am - 2 pm.

We are also looking for people to help at the event. We need volunteers to aid with judging, to act as chaperones, or on the organizing committee. We are also looking for local businesses and groups to sponsor awards for the students.

If you can help in any capacity, please contact the Hallmark Society at 250-382-4755 or via email at mail@hallmarksociety.ca

Helen Edwards, Administrative Director



THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF THE MOUNT ST. ANGELA SITE (923 BURDETT AVE.)

The essence of heritage is supposed to show what was real and authentic. It is important that citizens watch for what happens at this most significant site as it could affect, as a precedent, any other heritage site. The present situation is complicated by two different plans being considered at the same time.

Old Plan

Two years ago Victoria Council approved a complex plan, involving:

- ◆ demolition of one house and a designated back section of Mt. St. Angela;
- ◆ moving of another house; and
- ◆ building two sets of four-storey twin towers in the back.

Many neighbours and heritage people were unhappy for a variety of reasons. The development permit and plan had a two- year lifespan. The developer, in the interval, rented Mt. St. Angela to Vancouver Island Health Authority as housing for mentally challenged, at least until this fall. He stated that he did this to help housing and because of the economic downturn.

New Plan

Recently, with time running out on the old plan, a new plan appeared. On Nov. 16, 2009 at an “unofficial” meeting of Fairfield Community Planning and Zoning Committee for “input”, a concept plan was introduced. It showed a block of condos from Burdett Ave. to McClure St. beside the large Chelsea building and parallel to the whole of brick Mount St. Angela. (Ironically, this plan was similar to the version turned down by Committee of the Whole on Nov. 16, 2006.) Neighbourhood issues were raised, including in increased concern over blasting.

An “official” meeting in Fairfield on Feb. 15, 2010 showed a more detailed five storey wood framed version of the new plan. It was bigger in every way (e.g., height, density and number of condos) than the plan accepted before, with no added social benefits. Concerns about the reduction of Mount St. Angela’s importance beside two large towers were raised and the new neighbours from the recently completed Chelsea building had other issues. Blasting was a constant concern.

Both Plans at same time

At that last Fairfield meeting, the proponents stated that many changes could be made and an application for extension of accepted permit and plan (i. e., the old plan) would be sought. On March 25th the extension request went forward and Council allowed it until Dec. 21, 2010.

What is the future for this site? No clear answer exists, since two plans seem to be happening together and the new plan has not yet been sent to the Planning Department. So watch for developments.

For further info or to help, phone Mary@250-388-4046.

Mary E. Doody Jones



FURTHER THOUGHTS FROM A FETID SWAMP

After my recent talk on toponymy, someone asked what sort of geographic feature did I think might be named after me? My response, “perhaps a fetid swamp,” probably sounded enigmatic; so let me explain.

That answer had sprung to my mind linked to one of the earliest, HBC-era, local toponyms — that of James Bay. The name of the tidal flat at the north end of what became the Inner Harbour intended to honour James Douglas — the man who had founded Fort Victoria. The causeway cut off his fetid swamp, in-filled to provide a site for the Empress hotel, the Crystal Garden and the more recent developments. The infill must have come as a blessing since the place had become the growing community’s garbage dump.

Some other marshy toponyms in our local area include: Rithet’s Bog, Witty’s Lagoon, Martindale Flats and the Shakespearean Quick’s Bottom — swamps all but happily, not fetid, and named after solid citizens. Pristine wetlands, generally, provide excellent habitat to view birdlife — another of my passions — so, not only would I feel proud to be remembered by a nature sanctuary, I would be among distinguished company.

Away from the island a few other locations — often low-lying — are already linked to the name Layland, or variants of it. I learned of one when, aged 14, I took a train from Paris to Madrid. Just before the Spanish border, we passed through a vast expanse of flat moorland and marsh, marked on the map as Les Landes. In this remote southwestern corner of France, shepherds used to tend their flocks, striding on long stilts through the wetlands. Those swamps, later drained and planted with pine trees, remain otherwise undeveloped in a region now designated an official Parc Naturel.

Just to the north of this region, and east of Bordeaux, close to the famous Grand Vin Chateau Petrus, nestles the small wine-producing chateau

Lalande-de-Pomerol. The specialty liquor store at Fort and Foul Bay offers bottles of the latter for \$65, while last year, people queued to snap up a limited supply of the '05 vintage of the former at \$3,900 per, before tax! I noted in the same display case, a bottle of Comtesse de Lalande, a Pauillac '05 priced at \$245 — clearly, I thought, here's another toponym needing my further investigation.

70 kms eastward, up the valley of the Dordogne, another chateau bears the name Lalinde. For a few years, I owned a rustic cottage near there. While I failed to find any link between that name and my own, I did visit several of the nearby Neolithic sites including the well-known cave of Cro-Magnon — I am told that there are similarities between one of the re-constructed skulls on display and yours truly.

But enough of France! In the flat lands of east Lancashire, the small town of Leyland was once a thriving hive of industry, best known to fame as the home of a renowned marque of diesel buses. However, the difference in spelling is significant, as my mother once explained to me “sorry, lad. You're going to have to work for your living!” So I did — perhaps fulfilling my “nominative determinism” through a career in map making, investigating the lay of the land. What's in a name? You might well ask!

Michael Layland



~ REGISTERED JERSEY FARMS ~

This dairy may be said to be connected to Victoria for over 160 years, time which has seen much happen in Victoria. Looking back to the arrival of the barque *Norman Morison* on January 11, 1860, we see the arrival of Henry Simpson — or Sampson as it was spelled on the passenger list — who was brought out as a baker by the Hudson's Bay Company. One of his fellow passengers was Dr. J.S. Helmcken.

About 1860 Simpson farmsteaded at the foot of Mt. Newton in North Saanich. In the early 1930's the 250 acre homestead was still occupied by various members of the family. Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Malcolm had nearly 30 acres — Mrs. Malcolm was a daughter of Henry Simpson. Her son, George, and his brother-in-law, Albert Doney, had 160 acres and P.J. Jeune, George's father-in-law, had 60 acres. A small site had been donated for a school.

In 1929 George Malcolm decide to breed pure-bred jerseys. He obtained foundation stock from the

Carey herd in Oregon and the Matson herd locally. In 1932, there being no market for breeders and poor prices prevailing for wholesaled milk, Malcolm together with George Doney started to retail milk. Starting with one customer they quickly built up the dairy and within months had more customers than they could supply so they started to purchase additional milk from a neighbour, and then others.

At first the partners called their dairy the *El Sereno Dairy*, but as it enlarged, distributing milk for other Jersey owners they renamed the dairy *Registered Jersey Farms*. In 1935 the men opened a pasteurizing plant at 608 Broughton Street in downtown Victoria. By 1936 they were supplying 800 families with 200 gallons of premium quality milk for which they charged an extra cent per quart. Albert Doney would leave the farm at 10:00 p.m. every night to drive his 67 mile route.

In 1937 they incorporated as Registered Jersey Dairies Ltd., to distribute the milk of a number of dairymen, including A.W. Aylard, Major A.D. MacDonald, Miss E. Moses, Ian Douglas and P.J. Jeune in addition to their own 25 milking cows.

The number of shareholders increased in 1938 with the addition of Harry Vickery, R.C. Fisher, John Edge and John Oliver and others later. There was a problem of a lack of working capital and in early 1942 to overcome this problem Island Farms Ltd., was formed. The shares in Registered Jersey Dairies Ltd., were transferred to the new firm and three Vancouver men, Philip Fleming, Wm. E. Hammond and N.H. Ingledeu, became shareholders, bringing in the much needed additional funds. Control of the new firm was held by these men.

The success of Registered Jersey Farms in the depths of the Depression is quite remarkable. Arthur Lambrick, a Gordon Head dairyman, had made up a list of milk vendors in 1935. There were 144 names on the list, 128 of whom were producer-vendors, i.e. they had their own cows and retailed their own milk. One milkman told me he would often see 3 or 4 other milkmen in the same block when he was delivering.

Island Farms Ltd., purchased the business of Registered Jersey Dairies Ltd., the plant and the equipment. Towards the end of 1942 Malcolm and Doney sold their cattle to the dairy. The injection of money by the Vancouver men proved to be insufficient and no more was forthcoming from them, so a number of farmers pulled out of the company. By January 1, 1944 they formed the Island Farms Dairies Co-operative Association. The

Association obtained an option to buy the assets and business of Island Farms Ltd. After the sale Island Farms Ltd., was wound up. Of course, as Island Farms is still in operation, albeit as a subsidiary of Quebec based Agropur, a continuous connection with Victoria for 160 years carries on. Island Farms is the only surviving dairy in Victoria with a connection to Lambrick's list of 1935.



The tokens were introduced between 1934 and 1937 and were discarded in the 1940's. Albert Doney was able to show me where he had thrown them out under a tree, and I came back later with a shovel and managed, with the help of four pre-schoolers, to find a couple of dozen tokens. Because they were in dry sandy soil the tokens were in amazing good condition.

Ronald Greene

~ JOHN MUIR'S VISIT TO VICTORIA ~

In 1879, while on his way to Alaska, the celebrated naturalist John Muir stopped off at Victoria. Here is what he had to say:

We arrived in Esquimault Harbor, three miles from Victoria, on the evening of the fourth day, and drove to the town through a magnificent forest of Douglas spruce, — with an undergrowth in open spots of oak, madrone, hazel, dogwood, alder, spiraea, willow, and wild rose, — and around many an upswelling moutonné rock, freshly glaciated and furred with yellow mosses and lichens.

Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, was in 1879 a small old-fashioned English town on the south end of Vancouver Island. It was said to contain about six thousand inhabitants. The government buildings and some of the business blocks were noticeable, but the attention of the traveler was more worthily attracted to the neat cottage homes found here, embowered in the freshest and floweriest climbing roses and honeysuckles conceivable. Californians may well be proud of their home roses loading sunny verandas, climbing to the tops of the roofs and falling over the gables in white and red cascades. But here, with so much bland fog and dew and gentle laving rain, a still finer development of some of the commonest garden plants is reached. English honeysuckle seems to have found here a most congenial home. Still more beautiful were the wild roses, blooming in wonderful luxuriance along the woodland paths, with corollas two and three inches wide. This rose and three species of spiraea fairly filled the air with fragrance after showers; and how brightly then did the red dogwood berries shine amid the green leaves beneath trees two hundred and fifty feet high.

Strange to say, all of this exuberant forest and flower vegetation was growing upon fresh moraine material scarcely at all moved or in any way modified by post-glacial agents. In the town gardens and orchards, peaches and apples fell upon glacier-polished rocks, and the streets were graded in moraine gravel; and I observed scratched and grooved rock bosses as unweathered and telling as those of the High Sierra of California eight thousand feet or more above sea-level. The Victoria Harbor is plainly glacial in origin, eroded from the solid; and the rock islets that rise here and there in it are unchanged to any appreciable extent by all the waves that have broken over them since first they came to light toward the close of the glacial period. The shores also of the harbor are strikingly grooved and scratched and in every way as glacial in

all their characteristics as those of new-born glacial lakes. That the domain of the sea is being slowly extended over the land by incessant wave-action is well known; but in this freshly glaciated region the shores have been so short a time exposed to wave-action that they are scarcely at all wasted. The extension of the sea affected by its own action in post-glacial times is probably less than the millionth part of that affected by glacial action during the last glacier period. The direction of the flow of the ice-sheet to which all the main features of this wonderful region are due was in general southward.

From this quiet little English town I made many short excursions—up the coast to Nanaimo, to Burrard Inlet, now the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, to Puget Sound, up the Fraser River to New Westminster and Yale at the head of navigation, charmed everywhere with the wild, new-born scenery.

The most interesting of these and the most difficult to leave was the Puget Sound region, famous the world over for the wonderful forests of gigantic trees about its shores. It is an arm and many-fingered hand of the sea, reaching southward from the Straits of Juan de Fuca about a hundred miles into the heart of one of the noblest coniferous forests on the face of the globe. All its scenery is wonderful—broad river-like reaches sweeping in beautiful curves around bays and capes and jutting promontories, opening here and there into smooth, blue, lake-like expanses dotted with islands and feathered with tall, spiry evergreens, their beauty doubled on the bright mirror-water.

Sailing from Victoria, the Olympic Mountains are seen right ahead, rising in bold relief against the sky, with jagged crests and peaks from six to eight thousand feet high,—small residual glaciers and ragged snow-fields beneath them in wide amphitheatres opening down through the forest-filled valleys. These valleys mark the courses of the Olympic glaciers at the period of their greatest extension, when they poured their tribute into that portion of the great northern ice-sheet that overswept Vancouver Island and filled the strait between it and the mainland.



OLD CEMETERIES SOCIETY - 2010 SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, all tours begin at 2pm in front of Starbucks, Fairfield Plaza. \$5 reservations not needed. Info. 250-598-8870 or www.oldcem.bc.ca

April 25. Royal Canadian Navy Centennial. In honour of the 100th anniversary of the RCN's founding, Tom Pound has gathered many incredible accounts to illustrate Victoria's close links to the Maritime Command.

May 2. Permanent Architects. Victoria has been home to many talented architects and Ross Bay Cemetery has become the final resting place for a good number of them. Strangely enough, few have elaborate memorials and some have none at all. Joyce Mackie will tell their stories

May 9. Fabulous Flora. One of our most popular tours. Fred Hook and Jennifer Lort use their vast knowledge of plants to explain the amazing lore about Ross Bay Cemetery's trees and shrubs. Always different from their previous tours.

May 16. Ross Bay Cemetery Open House. A special event about Ross Bay Cemetery and the work of the Old Cemeteries Society. Find out about our restoration work, cataloguing, research and educational programs. **Meet between 2-4 pm in front of Ross Bay Villa, 1490 Fairfield Rd. Near Arnold Ave.** (across the street from Ross Bay Cemetery). Groups will proceed to the cemetery from there. By donation.

May 23. The Gorge of Summers Gone. It was on this Victoria Day weekend in 1896 that an overloaded streetcar plunged into the Gorge killing 55 people. This is just one of the many stories to be told by Dennis Minnaker, researcher and author about the Gorge Waterway.

May 30. St. Paul's Naval and Garrison Church. To mark the church's 150th anniversary, this special tour organized by Sherri Robinson will feature the beautiful stained glass windows and a chance to hear the historic organ in action. **Meet at the church, 1379 Esquimalt Rd.** Tour begins 2pm. \$5 - no reservations needed.

June 6. Jewish Cemetery. This is BC's oldest continuously operating cemetery and is now 150 years old. Learn about its history, Jewish burial customs, interesting new monuments and stories about the Jewish pioneers buried here. Men please wear hats. **Meet outside the cemetery gates, Cedar Hill at Fernwood Rd.** Tour begins 2pm. \$5 - no reservations needed.

