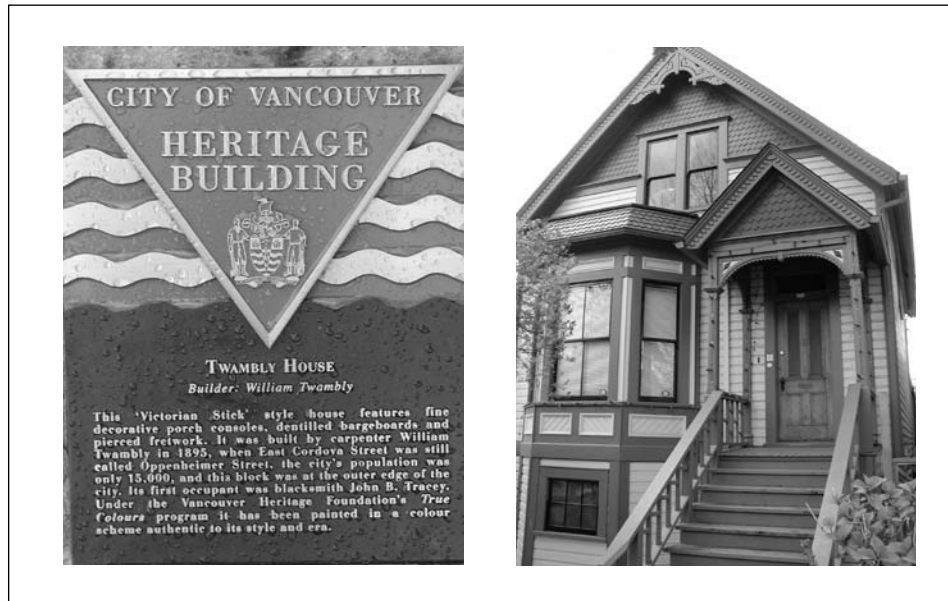


HERITAGE Vancouver Newsletter



VHF Uncover City's Original Residential Colours

The Vancouver Heritage Foundation and the renowned Benjamin Moore Paint Company today jointly released Canada's first True Colours palette—offering a range of paint colours authentic to the City of Vancouver in its early years.

“Now, for the first time, and in the first city in Canada, a Vancouver homeowner can go into any Benjamin Moore paint store and select a paint scheme for his or her home that genuinely recreates the way that home looked 50 to 100 years ago,” said Heritage Foundation Chair Michael Kluckner.

The palette of colours, with names such as Hastings Red, Mount Pleasant Tan, and Point Grey was discovered over a period of several years through research carried out by the

Heritage Foundation under its innovative True Colours granting program that has already won kudos across the country.

Successful applicants to the True Colours granting program receive a colour consultation with an experienced heritage consultant, an historic paint analysis into original and characteristic colours of their home and a choice of two paint colour schemes—one the original colour scheme for their house and one characteristic of the era and style of their house. A cash grant of \$1,500 towards labour costs is available from the Vancouver Heritage Foundation upon completion of the work.

“Benjamin Moore Paints has been a wonderful partner from the very beginning,” Kluckner said. “They have been generous in time and resources, and really embraced the program”.

see page three **True Colours**



Warehouse Studios, 100 Powell St. Gastown

Tour Provides a Rare Opportunity

Rarely does one get the chance to see the world behind the music. Unless you are an avid VH1 viewer, your most recent opportunity was presented by Heritage Vancouver to help celebrate Heritage Week. This year we were proud to present a tour of Warehouse Studios in Gastown. Owned by Bryan Adams, the 1880's Gastown building was meticulously restored for re-use as a recording studio.

The tours revealed two sides of the building. Not only is its heritage value great, being one of the oldest buildings in the city and providing a home to Vancouver City hall in the late 1800's, but it is also a unique high-end recording studio—a facility rarely seen by the public. The major transformation of building saw many of the character defining elements retained or replicated while clearly modern interventions combined to reflect the high caliber of the studios.

Heritage Vancouver members and their guests were escorted in small groups through the building by technician Ron Vermeulen, who had a hand in designing the studios within the building. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of Bryan Adams to the building's heritage, this facility has proven to be a true gem among our City's many insensitive restorations and rehabilitations. City Staff should see projects like this as a model and work with architects, developers and owners to strive for the best retention of heritage fabric in a city where all too often we haven't had the foresight to do it right.

Many thanks go to Ron Vermeulen, Bryan Adams and Warehouse Studios for helping us to celebrate heritage week and for their ongoing commitment to our heritage.

SFU Student Digs Deep to Make Recommendations for Heritage Vancouver

The Following is an excerpt from:
Preserving Heritage Buildings Serve Multiple Benefits to Community
By Eunice Malar Joseph, SFU BA
(Sociology), CED Certificate

“[A]ll community partners [need] to work together to establish a vision of future development in which natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic assets play a vital role. [I]nterdependence...exists between heritage and development, and... [the] municipalities and regions [need] to appreciate their physical, human and economic wealth and the importance of incorporating that wealth into their development plans.”

—Varin, F. (2002). *“Heritage as an Engine for Economic Development”*, p. 29.

Based on research, Heritage Vancouver Society (HVS) is an excellent example of a community economic development initiative. The organization was initially developed out of concern regarding the need of preserving heritage buildings. It has expanded its efforts by establishing partnerships with a post-secondary institution as well as with the municipal government.

The research established the importance of unpaid work within community organizations such as HVS. With no financial assistance from the government, HVS is dependent on volunteers, membership fees, donations, and fundraising activities in order for their mandate to continue. HVS also has the desire to build strong social ties with the general public. Membership is open to the general public who share the same passion for heritage buildings. In addition, President Scott Barrett welcomed questions on numerous occasions, demonstrating an ‘open door policy’ for the public.

Overall, HVS has been successful because the advocacy campaigns have raised awareness that heritage buildings should not deteriorate.

Documenting heritage sites also increases the social capital with community members. Community members would have the opportunity to learn the history of Vancouver and relate its past to current issues.

There are recommendations for policies and practices of future heritage issues that arose from this research project. One recommendation addresses the issue of ethnic inclusiveness. Since First Nations groups have a spiritual and cultural connection with natural landscapes, their sense of a heritage site is often excluded unless there is physical (structural) evidence on the areas with historical significance. Therefore, ideologies and ethnic relations play an important role as far as heritage issues are concerned. As a result, a diverse range of heritage groups should emerge to illustrate and advocate various perspectives. A heritage group should be formed to represent various ethnic perspectives as far as regional heritage issues are concerned. This could be done by including community members from different ethnic groups. By including these members in the heritage process, it will provide diverse perspectives that would increase inclusiveness, while acknowledging various ethnic contributions to the current social, economic, and environmental status of Vancouver.

Community economic development incorporates various organizations and perspectives to meet the diverse needs of a community. Though community economic development may revolve around providing various social and economic services, it also includes the physical well being of an area. Heritage Vancouver Society is one such example of maintaining the structural component of a community while providing social and economic benefits to the area.

A complete version of this report will be available on the heritage Vancouver website in May. Please visit www.heritagevancouver.org to read the research paper in its entirety.

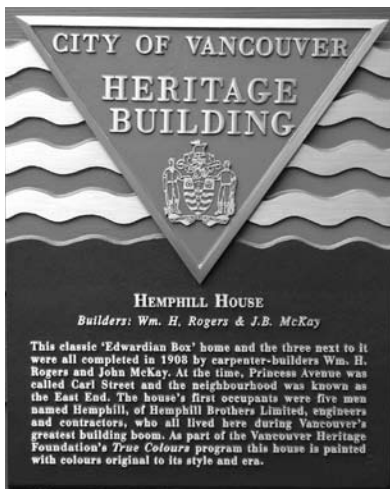
from cover **True Colours**

Although small in scope at this point—only a few homes are accepted into the program each year—the impact has been widespread because the True Colours homes set an example for their neighborhoods. They are seen throughout the City from Strathcona to Shaughnessy.

“Until now,” Kluckner said, “the neighbors across the street who want the same True Colours look have had to come to us to research the typical Vancouver colours and then try and match them by trial and error.



615 & 621 Princess Avenue, Hemphill House



Benjamin Moore’s commitment to this new palette makes the whole process far simpler.”

The new Vancouver palette is also available in selected Benjamin Moore stores in Greater Vancouver. Some of the True Colours houses may be viewed on the Vancouver Heritage Foundation website at www.vancouver-heritagefoundation.org.

A Setback Of National Consequence - Fed Budget Released Without Tax Credits For Heritage Properties

On February 18, 2003, the Honourable John Manley delivered the nation’s budget but he did not deliver the much anticipated federal tax credits for historic properties. As many of you may know, the Departments of Canadian Heritage and Parks Canada have been working hard to develop a far-reaching heritage conservation strategy called the Historic Places Initiative (HPI). Over the last three years, federal government staff has been working with regional representatives throughout the country to craft a national strategy to create Canada’s first comprehensive Register of Historic Places. Potentially, over 20,000 properties may be listed on this Register representing not only places of national significance—but also provincially and locally important heritage sites and buildings. Aboriginal heritage is also recognized as being a vital part of this initiative—as are archaeological sites.

In order to create the Register, evaluation criteria must be selected and applied. National conservation standards and guidelines to assist owners and professionals with direction in the application of appropriate conservation techniques are also being developed. While much headway has been accomplished, one of the critical components on which this strategy will succeed or fail are the incentives to entice Canadians to list their properties and thereby be eligible for incentives. These incentives may take many forms—but one of the most exciting tools ardently lobbied for over the past decade has been the introduction of a tax credit system. The United States has already proven that this method of incentive works.

The U.S. National Park Service has utilized tax credits as a conservation incentive since 1976 in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service and State Preservation Officers. Unlike a tax deduction, a tax credit lowers the amount of tax owed—rather than lowering the level of income that is taxed. The U.S. uses a 20% tax credit for heritage properties undergoing an approved rehabilitation. This equates to a reduction in taxes owed based on 20% of the costs of a certified rehabilitation. The

types of costs considered eligible for certification are carefully identified. In order to be eligible, the property must be income producing—that is, it cannot be the owner’s private residence—nor can it be an institutional building such as a school or a church. As a result, this tax credit system is not a silver bullet for all heritage conservation—but it goes a very long way towards providing tangible returns for owners wishing to invest in, conserve and protect their heritage properties.

However on February 18th, the federal budget failed to deliver the credits. Instead, the government announced that a cash infusion of \$10 million per year for the next three years would be applied towards conservation projects across the country—to be administered by and split up between the Provinces. The structure and allocation method for distribution of these funds are not yet clear. As word regarding the omission of tax credits in the federal budget rolled across the country after February 18, 2003, there were many cries of outrage and disappointment expressed from heritage program staff and heritage advocates who were counting on this tool to fuel the Historic Places Initiative in their own jurisdictions. In Vancouver, Mr. Peter Froot, Director, Historic Places Program Branch, Parks Canada, heard the anger reverberating from the audience after his presentation at SFU HarbourCentre on February 27 explaining progress on the HPI. The disappointment was palpable – and there is no doubt that our message was taken back to Ottawa at the staff level. However, it is not so clear that the politicians understand the level of discouragement and frustration felt by their constituents.

Many heritage advocates and municipal Councils and Heritage Commissions have chosen to write to the Honourable John Manley as well as their MPs expressing concern and fear that the tax credit program may never have a chance to demonstrate just how successful it can be. Cash is great—but it is not far-reaching nor is it lasting. If you wish to write to the Minister of Finance, you may direct your mail (without a stamp) to:

Honourable John Manley
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

HERITAGE
Vancouver
PRESENTS

What of heritage?

Dear Members,

In February the leaders of our country showed us, once again, that heritage is not a priority in Ottawa. When the federal budget was announced the heritage community heaved a sigh of disappointment. The tax credits, which we so desperately needed to give our heritage programs a push, weren't there. The article in this month's newsletter explains why the tax credits are needed and how they can help.

It has become our responsibility to demonstrate to Ottawa that progressive federal incentives are needed to help save our disappearing heritage. Canada's reputation among the G7 countries is poor when it comes to heritage conservation. We must demand a higher level of commitment to conservation from all levels of government, in particular the Federal Government. Please write to your MP to help us demonstrate the need for support in the heritage sector.

Heritage Vancouver plays an important role in promoting heritage to all levels of government, but our mandate is entirely dependant on volunteers. Volunteers can donate time to write articles, suggest and schedule programming events and aid in promoting the importance of conserving our built environment for generations to come. We are currently searching for a new Programming Chair. Without volunteers Heritage Vancouver would cease to exist. Thank you to all the volunteers of that past who have worked so hard towards a common goal. Please feel free to e-mail me at scott@scottbarrett.ca or call 604.551.0613 if you are interested in volunteering.



Scott Barrett:
President, Heritage Vancouver



Crofton House School Tour
3200 West 41st.
May 28th, 7:00pm

Heritage Vancouver is pleased to present a tour of Vancouver's Crofton House School. Crofton House School houses one of the city's most spectacular ceilings and is home to some beautiful heritage buildings. This tour provides a unique opportunity for Heritage Vancouver members to visit this seldom seen girls school. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members

Heritage Vancouver
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Vancouver BC V6B 3Y3
604.254.9411

www.heritagevancouver.org

Join Heritage Vancouver

Membership valid one year from date of issue. Members receive a monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' programs and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Charitable donation #1073758-52.

Membership fees are not tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____ City: _____

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Individual: \$25

Family: \$30

Donation: \$

Supporting (no newsletter) \$5

Corporate: \$50

Patrons: \$100

YES

I would like to volunteer
for Heritage Vancouver

Please send cheque or money order to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3