

The Prospect

Your Historic Neighbourhood Newsletter

York Place, Prospect Place, San Carlos Avenue, Broom Road, and part of Beach Drive and Oak Bay Avenue



DID YOU KNOW

**that someone lived in our neighbourhood
who survived the Titanic?**

Author and heritage consultant Stuart Stark, who grew up on Prospect Place, regaled listeners with this story and more, on a recent walking tour.



"This is the "raison d'être" for the neighbourhood, says Stark, gesturing to architect Francis Rattenbury's former residence, today part of Glenlyon Norfolk School.

WALKING TOURS A FABULOUS SUCCESS—

54 people attend the first two, more tours to come.
All are welcome.

Who would have thought history could be so entertaining? There is a growing awareness in Oak Bay of our neighbourhood's rich cultural history—people were lined up around the block, so to speak, to get a spot on the first walking tour.

Brimming with enthusiasm, Stuart Stark spoke to an attentive group including Oak Bay Councillor Kevin Murdoch; Roy Thomassen, Director of Building and Planning; Deborah Jensen, Manager of Planning;

folks from Oak Bay and other regions of Victoria; and even a visitor from PEI keen on learning more about Oak Bay's history.

Stuart explained that the number of carriage houses in an area denotes wealth, and this area had five. Today only three remain to give people clues of life 119 years ago: one is Annandale's carriage house, surviving intact and in its original location, making it an historic architectural gem; the second companions with Gibson House on York Place; and the third is part of Rattenbury's former estate on Beach Drive.

Many thanks to Patricia Walter and Jim Piercy for allowing tour-goers to visit their rustic Maclure summer house, and survey the proposed Prospect Heritage Conservation Area from the vantage point of the terrace at Gibson House, built in 1919.

Tour tidbit

Rattenbury designed Prospect Place to be an elegant carriageway graced with fine homes, from Oak Bay Avenue directly to the gates of his residence.



SIGN UP!
at ProtectOakBayHeritage.ca
for a
walking tour

NEIGHBOURS WEAR HEARTS ❤️ ON SLEEVES in letters to Council ❤️

We know how much you love our community, and you weren't shy in expressing it on Valentine's Day at the Strategic Priorities 2017/18 meeting. Here are just some of the comments sent to Council:

"This is a vibrant community that respects the history and the future of our neighbourhoods. We encourage council to be expeditious in its full support.... We look forward to this being the first HCA in the coming year." —E.A. and C.W.

"With more than a third (11 of 28) of Oak Bay's designated houses within its area, the proposed HCA, a first for Oak Bay, deserves Council's support. In addition to its heritage houses, the area has retained enough of its original features (pedestrian friendly streetscapes, stone walls and pillared gates) to provide visitors with a glimpse of its history."

—R.L. and B.L.

"I believe a Heritage Conservation Area approach can help the community pause and think as developments are proposed and enable us as a community to remember our history, appreciate what we have and make thoughtful decisions and plans for change." —B.F.

In 1898, architects Francis M. Rattenbury and John G. Tiarks purchased land in our area and began designing and building. Today we have three homes by Tiarks: Annandale (1897/98; 1595 York Place), Sandhurst (1898/99; 1512 Beach Drive), and Schwengers House (1899/00; 1660 Prospect Place).



Where is this stained glass?
Answer: It's in the J.W. Morris House, aka "Garden Mansions," 1558 Beach Drive, built 1912.

Do you recognize this country lane?
Answer to be in next newsletter,
coming soon.

Who wrote this newsletter?

This newsletter was a team effort, written and produced by neighbours who live on Prospect Place, Oak Bay Avenue, York Place, San Carlos and Beach Drive. The best part about this HCA grassroots initiative is getting to know your neighbours. Ours is an amazing community full of kind, thoughtful, friendly people.

**Questions? Want to get more involved?
Visit ProtectOakBayHeritage.ca or visit us on Facebook.**

All aboard!

Photos by Ian Robertson

Newsletter Issue 2 / March 12, 2017

