

The Prospect

Your Historic Neighbourhood Newsletter

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

Can you guess where in the proposed HCA this sporty Nash Coupe is parked?



**Margaret
Marshal
Scott (left)
and friend at
Annandale**

Circa 1915–1925

ANNANDALE STORY

By Brian A. Crane

Adapted from Brian Crane's letter to Oak Bay Mayor and Council:

I recently made several donations to the Oak Bay Archives – which is a great initiative – of photos, post cards, writings and other memorabilia of the Scott family [the second family to own *Annandale* at 1595/1587 York Place].

I am the grandson of Robert Scott and lived next door to 1561 York Place with my mother Margaret (nee Scott) and father Harry Crane from 1930 (when I was born) until 1949. I now live in Ottawa where I practice law. My mother was the Scott's only child, after their son Walter died tragically when thrown from a pony at *Annandale*.

Growing up in Oak Bay in the 1930s and 1940s

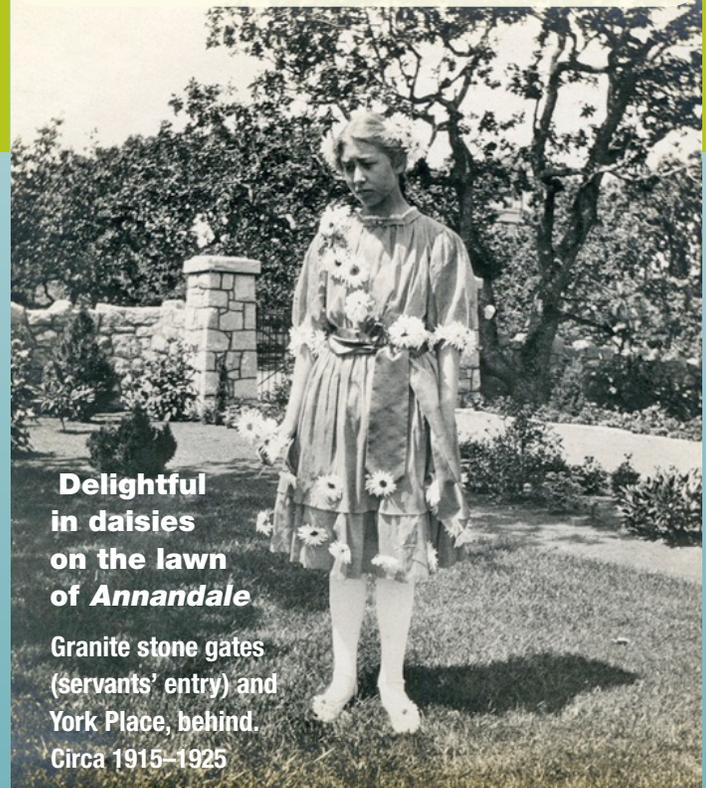
(continued)

Our Heritage Conservation Area **SOCIAL HISTORY:**

**We may have heritage buildings a plenty,
but stories and photos bring them to life!**

Tremendous support for this community initiative – Oak Bay's first Heritage Conservation Area – has meant that many more historical facts and a plethora of photos and delightful stories have come to light.

Hearing of a development application for 1561 York Place, former resident of Oak Bay, Brian Crane of Ottawa, wrote Oak Bay's mayor and council in 2018, saying: "I wanted to share with you my thoughts on the preservation of the property as a site of great historic interest."



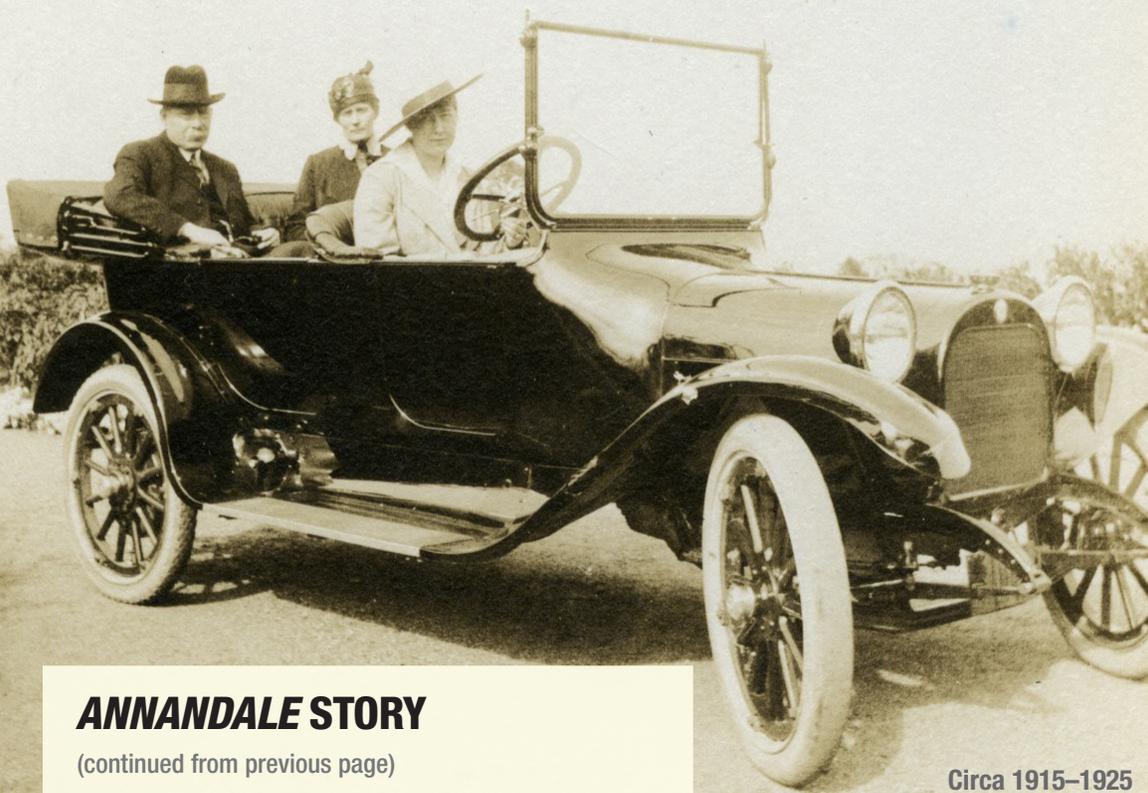
**Delightful
in daisies
on the lawn
of Annandale**

Granite stone gates
(servants' entry) and
York Place, behind.
Circa 1915–1925

VROOOM!

CARS in THE PROSPECT

The Scott family of the *Annandale* Estate enjoy an outing in their automobile.



ANNANDALE STORY

(continued from previous page)

was a great experience, and I still come back to visit. Prospect Place and York Place and the beach and the Oak Bay Boathouse are still home to me. First Nations used the lands as well (I found a slate spear point once), and Jimmy Chicken Island was just across the way.

The Scott property was, and is, quite unique; and I hope that the natural beauty of the land can be preserved. As you know, the Crane house was destroyed by fire many years ago through the negligence of a tenant. (The only thing I have that remains is the steel weathervane, in the shape of a sailing ship, that was fixed to our roof top.) Our municipal address was 1554 Prospect Place, but the property was always enjoyed as a unit with 1561 without fences or internal gates, but bounded by the old stone wall. The property was named *Annandale* after my grandfather's birthplace near Dumfries in Scotland. He left Annan when he was 16 and penniless to make his way in the New World.

(To be continued, next newsletter)



THE AUTOMOBILE AT 1558 BEACH DRIVE

Home owner John W. Morris was president of local Wood Motor Co., Ltd. Look through the porte-cochere depicted in this 1913 photo; and you'll see an automobile instead of a horse and buggy, hence the need for a garage (not pictured) instead of a stable.

Circa 1915-1925



WHAT THE BEST DRESSED WERE WEARING IN 1917

Mary Rattenbury (daughter of architect Francis Rattenbury) is all dressed up and raring to go! She's standing on Prospect Place with 1558 Beach Drive (later aka "Garden Masions") behind.

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ON THE COVER:

The Nash Coupe is parked at 1513 Prospect Place, home of Florence Rattenbury (first wife of Francis Rattenbury)

PHOTO CREDITS: Mary Rattenbury: PR-0035 The Rattenbury Family fonds @ City of Victoria Archives; Scott photos: Oak Bay Archives (thank you, Brian Crane)

For more information, visit ProtectOakBayHeritage.ca

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NOTE: Funding for neighbourhood newsletters, posters and flyers comes from enthusiastic neighbours.