

Richard Elliott

From: Don Hutton [REDACTED]
Sent: October 19, 2020 8:35 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Bank Street School

Hello Mayor and Council,

I am opposed to the demolition of the Bank Street School. The SD 61 has no plans further than replacement with a parking lot. Please save this community landmark for public use.

It should also be noted that there is some question as to ownership of this property and therefore designation may be feasible as no compensation would be owed to the school district.

Respectfully,
Don Hutton.

Richard Elliott

From: Joan Peggs [REDACTED]
Sent: October 19, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Cc: Ken Johnson; Joan Peggs; [REDACTED]
Subject: Bank Street School

Your Worship and Council,

Articles in the Times Colonist and the Hallmark Heritage Society Newsletter (I am a member), indicate that Bank Street School is a discussion item; should it be designated a heritage building? The possibility of School District 61 levelling the school is, I understand, one option.

The following information was included in an October 16th email from The Hallmark Heritage Society:

In 1909, the City of Victoria provided funds to the then School Board to purchase 3 lots at the corner of Bank Street and Leighton for the possible erection of a 4 room, wood frame schoolhouse. But it quickly became evident that the population growth warranted a larger school. Again, the City of Victoria provided funds to the School Board to retain the architect, D. C. Frame, and erect the existing Bank Street School and also to purchase additional, adjacent properties, to expand the school grounds. As can be seen, the School Board of the period, was a child of the City Victoria and had no funds of its own. The School Board did not pay for the property or the school.

When the Province of British Columbia became involved in funding schools and established the present method of School Districts, the property with the school was transferred to what is now School District 61 at no cost, with the provision that, should, in the future, School District 61 no longer need the property or the building for school purposes, it would be returned to the City of Victoria. Further, School District 61 has never been obligated to pay property taxes.

For all intents and purposes, this is and always has been a City of Victoria property, both the land and the building.

The Times Colonist article states:

that the Jubilee Neighbourhood would like to have a community centre, child care and after school spaces.
Can this school building and the surrounding space not be re-purposed for these amenities?

As some history background for you and School District 61:

Years ago The Beacon Hill School space was no longer needed. Rather than tear it down it was re-purposed into condos. They are interesting condos in high demand. I note with interest in this article it states that:

The increasing value of the property and high maintenance costs led the school board to allow the property to revert to the city for disposal in 1977.

This indicates that there was a similar agreement in place for this school; in 1977 the administration of the day of School Board 61, lived up to and appreciated the help of The City of Victoria in 1909. As they knew they owned neither the property nor the building they gave both back to Victoria.

<http://jamesbaybeacon.ca/?q=node/1211>

Then and Now: Beacon Hill School

May 2014

As a former teacher of School District 61, I trust they will act honourably in their dealings with Bank Street School.

Jp,
Joan Peggs,

Cc Ken Hill: President, Hallmark Heritage Society

D Whitten: School District 61 (please forward this email to the appropriate personnel)



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Richard Elliott

From: sheena bellingham [REDACTED]
Sent: October 19, 2020 8:24 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: 1623-1625 Bank Street School

Hello Mayor and Council,

I am opposed to the demolition of the Bank Street School. It should be preserved for community use.

This is a neighbourhood landmark for South and North Jubilee. Please designate this building as a heritage site.

Sincerely,
Sheena Bellingham

To Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my support to save the Bank St School. This architectural treasure is the heart and soul of the South Jubilee neighbourhood. I marvel at its fine architecture details, stateliness, and it's historical value. Please do everything you can to save it.

Monique Genton

1947 Brighton Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8S 2E1

As an alumni gr 1-7 of Bank Street School I am appalled that is is going to be demolished!!!!
Cheers from Ruth

October 14, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria,

I urge you to block a demolition permit for destroying the 1910 Bank Street School designed by the architect David Couper. If such a document comes before you, this heritage building should be saved, restored, and repurposed as a community centre, daycare centre, or a neighbourhood building. It is heritage structures such as the Bank Street School which enrich our neighbourhoods and the City of Victoria.

Thank you, Yolande du Gardein-Matson

Mayor and Council

How about we convert the disused 108 year old school in the Jubilee area into a viable homeless housing facility which can be done far faster and less costly than demolition costs.

At least this would retain the historic structure and provide an urgent public needs resolution in part.

The city tends to waste millions on many useless projects yet when a viable one comes along you appear to go for the most expensive and useless way out.

See attached image.

James Cooper

THE ISLAND

ic elementary school at r



The Greater Victoria School District wants to tear down Bank Street School, a 108-year-old school in South Jubilee, in order to expand Sundance Elementary. DARREN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

the proposed demolition and has launched a survey to see what residents think.

Victoria city council, meanwhile, is scrambling to gather its own information before deciding whether to intervene and save the school, which was built in 1912 and designed by architect C. Frame, who also designed the Chinese Public School on Cord Street.

masonry school in a nearly original state." It ceased to be a school in 1975, and became home to the Victoria College of Art, whose lease has expired.

"This is a very iconic building in the South Jubilee neighbourhood and I think it behooves us to take care of it."

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October 20, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council

We write to you as a family. David Cowper Frame, the architect of the Bank Street School, was our grandfather and great grandfather. We are in strong support of the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendation regarding the Bank Street School. We understand that the Committee has identified the historical and architectural significance of the School and voted unanimously to communicate to Council that the building is worthy of preservation and designation as a municipal heritage site. Our family encourages Mayor and Council to carefully explore every possible option to preserve the Bank Street School. We make this appeal in appreciation, love and respect for our grandfather, D.C. Frame, but also as citizens of Western Canada.

The Frame family has a long history in Victoria. Our father, Alexander Cowper Frame, spent his youth at the oceanside "Solway" (Munro Street) and, when he retired, Mom and Dad returned with us as teenagers to that home in 1974.

Although we were all born in Edmonton and currently live in Vancouver, we will always consider Victoria our hometown. The old adage that you have to leave your hometown before you truly appreciate it certainly applies here. As former long-time residents, we know that Victoria has a genuine heart and soul that sets it apart from all other communities in this part of the world. Victoria owes its current culture largely to its strong and very accessible heritage. Buildings such as our granddad's connect residents directly to Victoria's distinct, rich and colorful past. These buildings reflect the remarkable energy and pride of the new country. They also reflect an old-world charm and a very enviable quality of life that still exists today. Granddad would often tell us stories of the garden parties, dances, lawn tennis and golf tournaments he was instrumental in organizing during those years. His love of his community has survived in the wide range of buildings and homes that he designed and that still stand, in part to the foresight and wise decisions of former City governments.

As you are probably aware, D.C. Frame was a preeminent architect, one who designed a score of buildings in Victoria during the period 1908 – 1950. He left a significant legacy in the development of the city. Frame played an integral part of the development of Victoria. Not only did he work with both Francis Mawson Rattenbury and Samuel Maclure, he also imprinted his own unique stamp on many of the landmark buildings in the city. You may refer to this link for a short biography along with photos and descriptions of some of D.C. Frame's structures:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bigadore/sets/72157644896232895/with/14312828423/>

It is clear that D.C. Frame's Victoria legacy continues today. Many of his halls, hotels, business structures, churches and residences are still in use, providing both

historic character and utility to the city. It is for this reason we believe the School should be maintained in a similar fashion.

Vancouver, where we now live, is among the most beautiful cities in the world but it is widely acknowledged that it lacks the heart and soul that Victoria has so carefully preserved. Looking back across the water, we are aware of how fragile and rare heritage is. It is very easy to rationalize the demolition of heritage buildings based on annual budgets or survey results. But neither of these criteria out-weigh the less tangible, longer term measures of cultural heritage.

Victoria and Oak Bay have very strict bylaws on protection of Garry Oak ecosystems and other natural heritage sites and for very good reason. We advocate that this same uncompromising intention be applied to a building as worthy of heritage distinction as the Bank Street School. Council has an obligation to protect cultural heritage on behalf of current and future generations.

As members of the Frame family, we believe the charming Bank Street School should be retained and modernized to serve as a useful yet characteristic space, both to maintain this legacy and provide an educational venue for the local community. The perceived immediate needs of the Victoria School Board should not overshadow a vision that extends this legacy into the future.

We appreciate that these are tumultuous times and that there are many issues Victoria City Counsel and citizens face. However, we also strongly believe that long-term priorities must be maintained. We ask you to follow the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendations. We, the Frames, are extremely proud of our family's history in Victoria and are grateful that past governing bodies have preserved not only our grandfather's, but the heritage of so many others, with determination and commitment. The issue of the demolition of the Bank Street School calls for a commitment from Council in the same manner as previous governing bodies have upheld. We ask you to take action, and not to allow short term objectives with short term results override long term vision. We ask you to preserve the School and allow future generations to experience the proud heritage in the same manner that we, the Frame family, have cherished.

Sincerely,

Sandy Dowling (nee Frame)

Anne Frame

Rob Frame

Emily and Tessa Frame

TO Mayor and Council
City of Victoria

I am writing to express my concern with the possible demolition of the Bank Street School which I found is owned by the City of Victoria, not the School District which is wanting to demolish it.

I believe the building is usable as a community centre or other use and should be Designated heritage. Often there are different reports about the stability of a heritage building and the cost of new construction and the cost of putting materials into a landfill should be weighed against repurposing a heritage property.

Thank you for your consideration. As a Victoria based travel agent recently wrote, his clients go to Europe to see heritage while we are tearing ours down!

Yours truly

Margaret Palmer
2519 Orchard Avenue, Victoria , BC V8S 3A9