

Next SJNA Meeting **NOVEMBER 2013**
When: Monday, November 11 @ 7pm
Where: Victoria College of Art – Bank and Leighton

Meeting Agenda:

- Debrief neighbourhood bbq – how did it go?
- Community plans for December holiday?
- Discussion/brainstorm re: proposed neighbourhood 'living history' project (see below)
- Any item/idea/concern brought forward by a resident

ALL WELCOME!!

**Come on out
and meet your
neighbours!**

A "Living History" of South Jubilee

On my wall I have picture of Redfern Street as it looked it the late 1940s. I got the photo from Eileen, the lovely woman who sold us our home. Eileen her six sibling had all grown up here. When they passed over the house to us, it was a special and personal event that involved an exchange of bulbs from the garden and a large tea party that included three generations of their family. On this lovely occasion, Eileen gave us photocopies of some very old photos of our home and our street taken in the earlier half of the 20th century. In addition to showing us how beautiful our house had been before the 'stucco brothers' got ahold of it, we also got to see just what our neighbourhood looked like before all the homes built in the 1950s and 60s were added to the landscape. And, more importantly, we got stories.

These photos, these stories, have got me to thinking about the history of our neighbourhood and the lives that have been lived here over the past 100 years - and more. I want to know more about this neighbourhood, this little corner - or rather, triangle – of Victoria. Who lives here? Who lived here? What stories does this place hold?

To find these stories, I am interested in starting a neighbourhood "living history project". This would involve collecting photos, information, and, most importantly, stories from the people in our neighbourhood about their lives here, past and present. I have been doing some research into similar projects, and I am very excited by a few

examples I've found. The most interesting, to me, include recording interviews with residents (audio or videotaping) in which people share their own personal stories and perspectives on their experience of the neighbourhood throughout their own lives. The interviews are shared via website.



1606 Redfern St. Originally a Presbyterian Church, converted to a house, 1960. Extant. CVA M01180

(Note: above photo is Redfern St, but is not my house.)

If you are interested in hearing more about 'living history' projects or in being involved in some way, come to the next SJNA meeting (serendipitously scheduled for November 11th, Remembrance Day) and let's have a conversation. Let's share ideas and inspiration for what a history of our neighbourhood could look like. I am hoping to create to a fun, collaborative, ongoing, local history project. Hope to see you there, South Jubilee-ers!

- Carrie Ann Taylor, Redfern St.



Historic Jubilee... Bidding a Sad Farewell to the Turner Building

It is with sadness that the latest saga in the story of the Turner building has played out. The iconic 1940's structure on Richmond Avenue is in such an advanced state of decay that a large chunk of the exterior wall has caved in at the back and sidewalks around it have been closed off. Engineers have recommended that the building be torn down, and the City has given a deadline to the Turner family to comply with a demolition order.

For all its current dereliction, the Turner building has an illustrious history and had been a valuable part of the Jubilee neighbourhood for many decades. For decades, Ian's Coffee Stop was a community gathering place also frequented by nurses and doctors working in the hospital. Ian's gregarious nature was as famous as his pie and cup of joe, and people came from far and wide just for the 'Ian's Coffee Shop' experience.

The building's sleek Art Deco design had heritage potential reminiscent of 'Nighthawks at the Diner' and, in fact, Hollywood came calling, shooting scenes for a film there in 2002.

I remember going to the Turner corner store as a kid to get penny candy and entering the warmth of the coffee shop on a cold day. The walls were covered with Golden Cup coffee awards. The coffee shop retained its authentic soda shop feel right up to its closing in 2001.

Despite its advanced state of decay, there is a Facebook fanpage dedicated to memorializing the Turner building and supporting its preservation. Though saving it seems unlikely now, I dearly wish it could be renovated back to its historical state of glory, as a classy jewel in the fabric of the Jubilee district.

Heloise Nicholl

**Next Recycling
Sat. Nov. 9, 10am-noon
at Bank Street School**