VICTORIA, BC — Last week, the outstanding heritage restoration of Beacon Hill Park’s original bandstand into an interpretive kiosk, won an Award of Merit from the Hallmark Society. The Hallmark Society’s awards program recognizes and promotes excellence in heritage preservation within the Capital Region.

“Beacon Hill Park is such an important part of Victoria’s past and also of our future. We are honoured to receive an award that recognizes the hard work and dedication of our staff in preserving this wonderful piece of our heritage,” said Mayor Dean Fortin.

During rehabilitation, City staff were careful to ensure the bandstand’s heritage integrity was maintained. The restoration has returned the structure to what is believed to be the heritage colours of Pendrell Verdigris (green), Pendrell Red, and Mount Pleasant Bluff (brown).

Park visitors are encouraged to stop by the kiosk, where colourful display panels share stories of Beacon Hill Park’s past, featuring archival images and information about its natural areas and development since the First Nations first used the site for harvesting camas.

The oldest structure in the park, the bandstand was designed by architect Leonard Buttress Trimen and built for $300 in 1888 by local contractor G. Mallette. Historically, the building served as a popular venue for live music and a social hub for residents and visitors. In 1900, the bandstand moved from Circle Drive to its current location near Good Acre Lake. Despite being relocated, the structure remained a fine example of late Victoria-era design and carpentry.

In 1927, it was converted into a bird aviary after the construction of a second bandstand in the park, which subsequently was replaced by the Cameron Bandshell in 1948. For decades, the aviary showcased birds from all over the world, operating until 1989. The structure remained empty until work began last year to convert it into an interpretive kiosk.

The City of Victoria designated Beacon Hill Park a heritage landscape in November 2009. Like the park itself, the kiosk will be preserved and protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

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