

The Heritage Conservation Branch's Resource Information Centre

by Anne Morgan

The Resource Information Centre, a program of the Heritage Conservation Branch, collects information on the many subjects related to heritage conservation. By making a wide variety of resource material available, the Resource Information Centre assists the Branch and its goal to promote the protection and conservation of heritage property. The types of material collected are books, government documents, magazines and technical periodicals, films, slide-tape kits and inventory files. Materials are gathered from British Columbia, Canada, other Commonwealth jurisdictions and the United States. The subject areas emphasized are archaeology, architecture, conservation techniques, environmental impact assessments and historic area revitalization.

The Resource Information Centre has over 5000 volumes, subscribes to 125 periodicals and has 30 audio-visual items. It is open to anyone who needs to find specific information about heritage conservation. It services the Heritage Conservation Branch staff, B.C. Heritage Trust directors, other government agencies, students and the interested public.

There are three special resources in the Resource Information Centre; Archaeological Permit Reports, Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings files and the Registry of Heritage Designated Sites and Objects. The Archaeological Permit Reports are unpublished reports of archaeological surveys and excavations carried out in British Columbia under the supervision of the Heritage Conservation Branch starting in the early 1960's and continuing to present day. Microfiche copies of these reports are available at all British Columbia universities and other selected research centres in Canada and the United States. The federal agency, the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings, carried out a nation-wide survey of Canada's old buildings starting in 1970. Film copies of the 10,000 buildings recorded in British Columbia are held here together with a computer produced index.

Each building's architectural properties has been coded in this computerized survey. The Registry of Heritage Designated Sites and Objects is a file of all sites, architectural, archaeological and scenic protected by legislation as stipulated in the *Heritage Conservation Act* (1979). This includes sites designated by the province and by municipal councils. All designations must be filed with the Heritage Conservation Branch.

A variety of services are provided to clients. These include; circulating books and audiovisual materials; answering reference inquiries, distributing Branch publications and subject bibliographies; investigating the status of heritage site designations and posting new heritage developments, conferences and workshops.

With the exception of a few reference books the entire collection is available for circulation. The loan period is normally two weeks and renewals are usually approved. No rental fee is charged for the use of films and other audio-visual materials, although the borrower is required to pay the return postage. No loans of equipment are made. A copy of the film list may be obtained from the address below.

Reference assistance ranges from providing addresses to finding information on how to conduct a building inventory survey. It is advisable to telephone prior to visiting the Resource Information Centre in person since the librarian can let you know if she can help you or whether another resource centre might be more suitable. All publications, produced or issued by the Heritage Conservation Branch are distributed by the Resource Information Centre. Most are free of charge. Depending on the nature of the request, it may be handled by telephone, in person or by mail. The address is: Resource Information Centre, Heritage Conservation Branch, Room 150, 333 Quebec Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 and our telephone number is 387-1011, Local 241. Please ask Anne Morgan, the Librarian, for assistance.

