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Photo by Doug Shanks

Vancouver Hospital's 1904 Heather Pavilion appears to have found its saviors in (left to right) Betty Tarrant, Janet Anderson and Peggy Etchell. With other community members, they're launching the Heather Heritage Society aimed at refurbishing the building to its former glory. See story on page 5.

# Group aims to save old hospital

By JANET SMITH

Janet Anderson points to a window in an upper corner of the exposed stone walls of the Heather Pavilion at Vancouver Hospital. She says she can still remember, as a little girl, calling up to her sister, who was quarantined in that ward.

"We all have memories of this place," says Anderson, who later became a nurse at the hospital. "This to me was the fabric of what society was like at the time. People were born, people died, people were healed here. It represents what happens in the life of a city to individuals on a personal level."

Now Anderson and a group of heritage enthusiasts have formed a group devoted to restoring the 1904 building, now almost hidden behind modern stairwells and additions.

The Heather Heritage Society invites the interested public to its official launch next Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Hall. The event is to feature the unveiling of a drawing of the original Heather Pavilion by artist Robin Ward, and a presentation by architect Richard Henriquez.

In a study commissioned by the city in 1992, Henriquez determined the original pavilion could be restored and renovated at a cost no greater than new construction. Its slate roof and 90 per cent of its granite walls are still intact. A careful look reveals the former grandeur of the building's four square towers and arched balconies, but gone is the circular driveway and heritage rose gardens — elements the society wants to restore.

All around the Heather Pavilion, aging structures and the Physical Plant Building are to be demolished and turned into greenspace. It's part of a centralizing of the hospital's facilities: the open space is a city requirement to make up for increased floor space at its huge, new tower. The Plant's heating and power facility is going under the ground near that new structure. Similar demolition was planned for the pavilion, but the city has endorsed attempts to save the building near Willow and 10th.

The hospital plans to use the building until 1999. The society's role is to raise funds to restore the pavilion and find a group, or groups, that could use it after the renovations.

"It will very likely be more than one group," says society director Marguerite Ford. "There could even be a commercial user in one part."

"The lay-out of open spaces on the inside leaves it very flexible," adds Anderson.

Anderson says residents in the immediate community, many of whom argued for wide-open green spaces on the site, must be involved in the restoration. Now that the power



A group wants to restore the Heather Pavilion to its former glory.

plant is being removed, there will be open space all around the building, she says. Anderson adds a compromise might be to use part of the restored Heather Pavilion as a community centre. Other possible uses for the building range from a medical

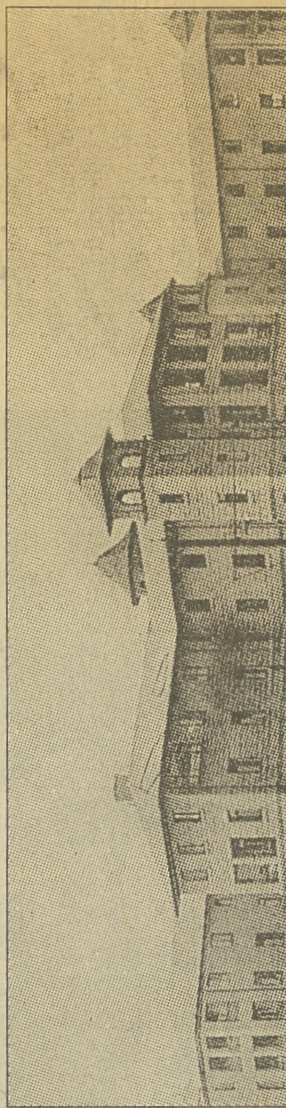
museum to a bed-and-breakfast for out-of-town patients' families.

The society is also seeking stories from people who have memories about the Heather Pavilion. To pass along your memories, you can call Anderson at 224-2285.

Saturday Review

POSTCARD FROM THE PAST

provided a breath of fresh air



street, the hospital consisted of three floors plus basement, and was built of stone and pressed brick. Its many open balconies reflected the importance attached at the time to fresh air as an aid to healing and health.