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“A Place in History”

Come explore one of Victoria’s premier heritage sites!

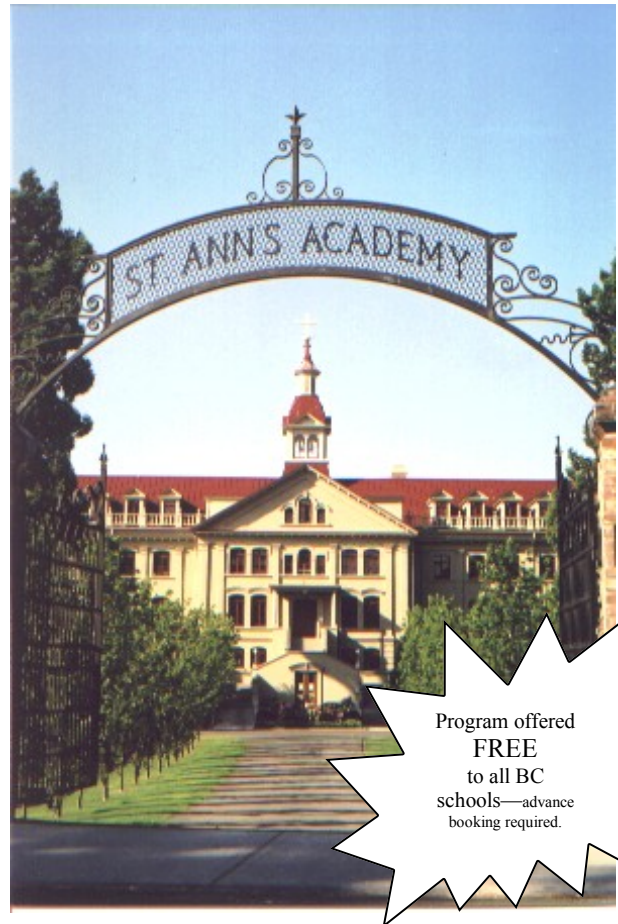
Heritage buildings and historic sites offer a direct physical link with the past of a community. In this program, students re-visit Victoria’s past by exploring St. Ann’s Academy’s restored 1858 chapel and Interpretive Centre and the historic grounds.

During the program students will:

- Take part in guided discussions comparing school life then and now.
- Analyze archival photos to find out more about place changes over time.
- Explore the renovation of the century old building and try their hands at Faux-finish wood grain painting.
- Use mapping skills to create a simple map of the 6.5 acre grounds.
- Discuss 1850s Fur Trade Society and try out some words of Chinook Jargon, the language of the fur trade.



Aussi disponible en français!



What is St. Ann’s Academy?
A former girl’s school and convent for over 100 years, St. Ann’s Academy is now a nationally designated historic site owned and operated by the Provincial Capital Commission. Restored and renovated in 1997, the building houses private office space as well as the Historic Chapel and Interpretive Centre, which is open for public visits.

Learning Outcomes

This program has been designed in accordance with the Ministry of Education Social Studies Learning Outcomes (Sept. 1999), and includes activities which build and develop skills such as:

- Collecting, recording and organizing information gathered from archival photographs, and site visit.
- Hands-on exploration and discussions describing the changing face of Victoria from a First Nations community to Fur Trade fort to Gold Rush City.
- Creating and interpreting simple maps using cardinal direction symbols and simple keys.



Your visit to St. Ann's Academy

After a brief orientation in our historic chapel, students are divided into two groups and proceed to various activity Stations. A St. Ann's staff facilitator will be present at each station to present and guide the activity, and to answer any questions. Each station takes approximately 20 minutes to complete, so please allow one and a half hours for your visit.

Activity #1—begins with a discussion of the history of Victoria and the building of St. Ann's Academy. The original journey of the first four Sisters of St. Ann in 1858 will be explored and re-traced with maps. We'll also talk about how the site changed through the years, why it was important to save this historic site, and how this occurred. Students will then participate in a wood graining art activity designed to teach about both the original building techniques and recent restoration.

Activity #2—focuses on how Victoria in 1858 differed from the present day. Students will view, sort and discuss historic photos and other archival materials. The Fur Trade and First Nations involvement in the growth of the town of Victoria will be discussed, and to learn about the multicultural nature of Fur Trade society, the students use singing to try out some phrases in Chinook jargon, a fur trade language that combined English, French and First Nations dialects.

Activity #3—concentrates on the historic grounds and setting of St. Ann's Academy. Working in small groups, students enjoy an outdoor mapping exercise and time for a hands-on exploration of the site, including its wonderful heritage trees and gardens.

Plan your visit to St. Ann's Academy

The "A Place in History" program is available Monday –Friday, September to June. The program is recommended for grades 2-3, and adaptable to k-5. The program is offered free to all schools in BC as part of the Provincial Capital Commission's mandate to connect the Capital with all British Columbians. We are also able to modify program to fit your needs.



The program is 90 minutes. One of our activities takes place outdoors and another involves the use of poster paints, so please have your students and adult helpers dress accordingly. Please provide one adult helper for every five students. While there will be staff present to guide, adult helpers will actively participate in the program. Two hour free street parking is available on the perimeter of the grounds and there is a pay parking lot on site as well (\$2 per hour or \$7.50 per day).

A pre-visit package with suggested activities, photos and information will be sent at the time of booking. All supplies will be provided on-site. A French version of "A Place in History" is also available but must be requested at the time of booking. We look forward to seeing you soon.