



[Subscribe](#) [Login](#) [Today's Home](#) [Autos](#) [Contests](#) [Cannabis](#) [Jobs](#) [Trending Now](#)

[Read more below](#)

Victoria touts seismic upgrades for heritage homes

San Francisco-based earthquake damage expert presents report at city hall

DANIEL PALMER / Sep. 18, 2012 7:00 p.m. / [NEWS](#)



This heritage home in California dropped by half a storey in an earthquake

Many heritage homes across Victoria may be ill-equipped to withstand even a moderate earthquake, according to a U.S. expert.

Howard Cook, a San Francisco-Based contractor and former damage inspector for the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, presented his seismic upgrading recommendations to about 100 contractors and other participants last week at city hall.

Most Read

- 1** [Shortage of common anti-depressant leaves Greater Victoria pharmacies scrambling](#)
- 2** [33,000 B.C. government employees issue 72-hour strike notice](#)
- 3** [MISSING: Jayson Anderson last seen almost a month ago in Victoria](#)
- 4** [Victoria triathlete Colette Reimer makes it triple gold at Canada Summer Games](#)
- 5** [Dragons, dogs and intriguing rocks on tap for Greater Victoria audiences](#)

"The housing stock and type that we have here in Victoria ... is very similar to a lot of the housing stock in San Francisco," said Steve Barber, Victoria's senior heritage planner.

"Because they've had a lot more direct experience with earthquakes in California, there's quite a bit more experience in terms of what kinds of damage can occur."

Victoria's heritage register currently includes 620 homes, the majority of which require seismic upgrading.

The most vulnerable homes are those built with "cripple walls," the short walls between the foundation and main floor of many older houses, Barber said.

This particularly weak point can be upgraded at a relatively less expensive cost than what would be required after an earthquake.

The Victoria Heritage Foundation offers grants to cover up to 30 per cent of the cost (to a maximum of \$20,000) for seismic upgrades and other structural improvement work on designated heritage homes.

But the foundation is considering an increase to that amount for seismic-specific upgrades in 2013, said Brigitte Clark, executive director.

Cook's presentation cited a study of two similar Victorian-style homes in San Francisco that were damaged during a 6.9-magnitude earthquake.

"One was retrofitted before the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake – it needed \$5,000 in repairs. The other house cost \$250,000 to repair," the report stated.

Barber recommends all homeowners in Victoria assess their seismic

preparedness.

"There is such a greater awareness of what earthquake hazards are (in California) than there is here," he said.

For more information on heritage grants and eligibility, visit victoriaheritagefoundation.ca.

dpalmer@vicnews.com

Be Among The First To Know

Sign up for a free account today, and receive top headlines in your inbox Monday to Saturday.

 [Sign Up with Google](#)

 [Sign Up with Facebook](#)

or

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Create a password

 

Sign Up

Already registered? Click here to login

0 Comments

Sort by **Newest** 



 Facebook Comments Plugin



Just Posted



Canada goose poop problem in Greater Victoria needs new solutions, experts say



Community outcry for Peanuts characters 'heartwarming,' creator says



**Westshore Community Concert Band
celebrates 20 years of music**



**Central Saanich remembers former assistant
fire chief Forrest Owens at Saanich
Fairgrounds**

Read more below



Explore Victoria News

NEWS

SPORTS

TRENDING NOW

BUSINESS

ENTERTAINMENT

LIFE

COMMUNITY
OPINION

BLACK PRESS MEDIA

Goldstream News Gazette / Oak Bay News / Peninsula News / Saanich News / Sooke News Mirror / Monday Magazine



[Contact Us](#) / [Our Team](#) / [Privacy Policy](#) / [Terms of use](#) / [Site Map](#) / [Victoria News](#) / [Victoria Weather](#) / [Victoria Classifieds](#)

© 2022, Victoria News and Black Press Group Ltd.