



**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OLD CEMETERIES SOCIETY
OF VICTORIA, PUBLISHED SIX TIMES PER YEAR**

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July – August 2009

Summer Tours alternate between the following two popular presentations. Meet at 1:45pm, in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza. On Sunday 09 Aug the **Obon Ceremony** (traditional Japanese Buddhist ceremony for the dead) will be conducted at the Kakehashi monument in the southwest corner of the cemetery.

Gossip in the Graveyard is a lively tour about many scoundrels, characters and eccentrics at Ross Bay Cemetery you won't find in your history books!

Gold Rush! Features stories about some of the colourful men and women buried at Ross Bay Cemetery who made history in the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858 and other gold rushes. New stories every year. Meet at 1:45pm, in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza.

Sunday 05 July Gossip in the Graveyard
Sunday 12 July Gold Rush!
Sunday 19 July Gossip in the Graveyard
Sunday 26 July Gold Rush!

Sunday 02 Aug Gossip in the Graveyard
Sunday 09 Aug Obon Ceremony
Sunday 16 Aug Gold Rush!
Sunday 23 Aug Gossip in the Graveyard
Sunday 30 Aug Gold Rush!

Do you have any ideas for Sunday tours or excursions? We're always on the lookout for new subjects. Phone 250-598-8870 or e-mail.

Welcome to Cailin Bain-Glenn, this year's enthusiastic **summer student**. Cailin is a third-year student at U Vic studying History and German. He has a keen interest in history and particularly in Ross Bay Cemetery. He worked last summer at the Sooke Regional Museum and has been on a number of OCS Sunday walking tours at RBC. He is recording grave sites in Section U of Ross Bay Cemetery, so if you're in the cemetery be sure to look him up. Cailin is always happy to provide information about his work and about Ross Bay Cemetery.

Cleaning, Restoration, and Recording Wilf Bruch

Spring has been kind to the OCS cleaning and restoration volunteers so far. We have had five **cleaning bees** and logged 56 hours of cleaning at Ross Bay Cemetery as of the end of June. We have been working in section A, around the Woods Lady and Amor De Cosmos. Our volunteer efforts are truly noticeable so check them out on your next visit to the cemetery or better still join us at one of our cleaning bees.

Restoration is also making an improvement. We have been able to fix or erect about sixteen monuments and have spent some six hours lifting sunken monuments. Our hope is to do another twenty repairs and lift all the sunken stones in section N. If you notice a monument "in need" let us know so that we can put it on the "to do" list.

The recording crew is also hard at work this year finishing off section N and P and working on section U with Cailin, our summer student. They hope to finish these three sections this year. If you see any of them working in the cemetery, please stop and let them know that they are doing a great job. Here are some photos.



A happy cleaning crew.



Hard at work!



Here's Cailin doing his thing.

2009 Spring Sunday Tours

The spring portion of the OCS Sunday tours ended on a high note June 28 as members of the Victoria Operatic Society and speakers Sylvia Van Kirk and Sherri Robinson charmed a large crowd of music and history buffs.

The Sunday tour committee meets in November of each year to plan the entire schedule for the following year. Some tours are old favourites and some are new, inspired by a passing remark or a little article or photo. However they come about, the people who then go into action to put those tours into being are to be praised.

Some of the tours so far this year have been given in biblical rainstorms, some attended by up to 60, some as few as 10. No matter what the circumstances, the tour crews give 100% to each tour. So to the tour creators, contact people, speakers, guides, researchers and cashiers a salute from a grateful society.

Obon Ceremonies on Vancouver Island Mike Bieling

Friday, August 7

1:00 pm Cumberland Japanese Cemetery, Cumberland Road

3:30 pm Greenwood Cemetery, Josephine Street, Port Alberni

6:00 pm Obon Service with Nanaimo Fellowship, residence of Mr. M. Fukui, 1918 Meredith Street. Please note that this gathering is open to the public, but as it is held at a private residence, space is limited. Please call 250-758-7763 to confirm attendance.

Saturday, August 8

9:30 am Nanaimo Municipal Cemetery, Bowen Road

11:00 pm Chemainus / St. Michael's and All Angels Cemetery, Chemainus Road

2:00 pm Mountain View Cemetery, Somenos Road, Duncan

For further information about the 2009 Obon observances on Vancouver Island, please contact Bishop Orai Fujikawa of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada at mofuji@shaw.ca or 604-272- 3330, or Mike Bieling of the Old Cemeteries Society at oldcemeteryian@shaw.ca or 250-748-5031."

Mountain View Cemetery announces the Official Opening of their new facilities. In 1998 an extensive public process was initiated by the City of Vancouver to develop a Master Plan for the renewal of Vancouver's only cemetery. The first major projects of the plan have finally been completed, and for the first time in over 22 years, there are now new spaces available for interment at Mountain View.

After 120 years, it's the beginning of a new relationship between the public and Mountain View, Vancouver's only cemetery. **Celebrate with us on July 10th and 11th.**

July 11, 11am - 3pm- Join us for our Open House, featuring live music in the courtyard, joss paper demonstrations from Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens, and guided tours of the cemetery.

Full details at www.vancouver.ca/cemetery Thanks to [Mike Bieling](#) for this item.

Andrea Sowden of Salt Spring Island informed us last week that they have undertaken a restoration project in the **Ganges Cemetery**. They have received a \$3000 grant from the CRD and hope to complete the project by the fall.

Congratulations and we wish you much success in your endeavours.

Book Notes

An OCS member, **Jacqueline Gresko**, has recently prepared an illustrated history titled **Traditions of Faith and Service** to celebrate the centennial of the Catholic archives of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The book is available from the Archdiocese of Vancouver. From the same BC Bookworld's 2009 summer issue we note that **Jim Munro** was given an award to recognize his contributions to BC books and publishing. Jim has certainly been very supportive of our OCS publications through the years.