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**Nov-Dec 2010**

### **Old Cemeteries Society Fall Meeting**

**When:** Wednesday November 10th at 7:30 p.m. **Where:** James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street **What:** Journalist, author and lecturer Dave Obee ([www.daveobee.com](http://www.daveobee.com)) will present "**Destination Canada**", a talk based on his book about immigration in Canada. He will have a number of his books available for purchase and signing. Admission is free and all are welcome.



### **November 7. Remembrance Tour: RCN 100**

In honour of the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy, John Azar's annual Remembrance Week tour will focus on stories of the people and events that reflect the naval history of this region. Meet at the Veterans' Cemetery, one of Victoria's most picturesque. Access off Colville Rd. near the Base Hospital. Tour begins 2pm.

### **November – December Tours**

Tours meet at 1:45pm in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza, except as noted. \$5 – no reservations needed. Phone 250-598-8870 or [www.oldcem.bc.ca](http://www.oldcem.bc.ca) for details. **Nov. 14. Murder Most Foul.** Michael Halleran takes us to graves of murderers and their victims and tells the grisly tales he has found in coroners' files and old newspapers. **Nov. 21. Church of St. John the Divine.** This historic church started life in 1860 as the "Iron Church" and moved into its present building in 1912. Learn about its history and tour the sanctuary and columbarium. Meet at the entrance to the offices, at the rear of the church, 1611 Quadra St. Tour begins 2pm. **Nov. 28. CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum.** The last of our tours in honour of the Royal Canadian Navy Centennial. Tour this special museum in the historic naval hospital building beside the former parade square. Meet at the museum inside the CFB Esquimalt Base. Enter the main base gate off Admirals Road. After passing the check point follow the signs to the museum. Tour begins 2pm. **Dec. 5. Old Burying Ground Christmas Tour.** Christmas and holiday stories from Victoria of old will delight and amaze you. New tales and old favourites. Meet at the corner of Quadra Street and Rockland Avenue. Tour begins 2pm. **Dec. 12. Ross Bay Christmas Tour.** John Adams continues the yuletide theme with more warm-hearted and humorous stories, including many about Emily Carr. A holly wreath will be placed on Emily Carr's family plot, an annual tradition of the Old Cemeteries Society (Emily's birthday is December 13.)

### **2011 Walking Tours**

A group of OCS members will be getting together soon to brainstorm and plan out next year's walking tour schedule. We would welcome any ideas and suggestions you might have for tour topics. Please phone the OCS office or send an email to [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net).

#### **Lest We Forget**

Fields of poppies still grow in France

**Remembrance Cross Placements in the Cowichan Valley** Mike Bieling Since 1926, local volunteers have followed a Cowichan Valley tradition of placing small white crosses decorated with poppies on the graves of Armed Forces veterans during the month of November. Originally introduced as a part of an annual Armistice Day commemoration organized nationwide by the newly-founded Royal Canadian Legion, this practice gradually gave way in most communities to Remembrance Day observations at cenotaphs and war memorials in city parks and downtown locations. In some communities, however, like Duncan and Lake Cowichan, the original tradition continued with the support of local branches of the Legion and other volunteers, no doubt because together, the two forms of memorial encompass and honour all of our veterans: the Remembrance Day cenotaph ceremonies honouring those who fell in service overseas, while the cross placements commemorate those who served and returned home to the Cowichan Valley.

**And he didn't even wave goodbye.....**

Our Sunday October 17th tour with Kit Pearson at Ross Bay Cemetery had a guest stroll up and participate in the tour without paying. Our dedicated volunteer ticket taker for the day, Stewart Dashwood, tried to collect the appropriate \$5 fee (the guest was not a member) but alas he was fleet of foot and got away without paying the \$5.00.



**Report on 2010 activities**

Where has the year gone? In December of 2009 we introduced our Row Marker Project and installed the first ten markers. Since then we have been able to order and install fifty more markers. The response has been great and we have received many compliments on our initiative. **Doug Miller** has created an excellent instruction guide for their use. This guide is posted at the caretakers shed in Ross Bay Cemetery and on our website. Check it out next time you are at the cemetery. Do you have your Old Cemeteries Society **Thrifty Smile Card**? It is real easy to get one and all the funds raised from their use go directly to the Row Marker Project. We were very disappointed with the federal bureaucrats this year. They lost our grant application for a summer student to do recording. As a result we didn't accomplish as much as we would have liked. However **Jane Bruch, Janice Wesolowski and a few volunteers** made a dent in the "to do list" and brought us one small but important step closer to completion. Many thanks. When you next stroll through Ross Bay Cemetery, take particular note of the markers, curbing and grave tops in Block M, around the caretakers shed. You will see that everything has been cleaned! It looks great and is a testament to the hard work of our cleaning volunteers and to the steady hand of **Rex Frost** and his power washer wand. We didn't get any painting done this year, but painting the iron fences will be a priority for 2011.

**2011 OCS Board Candidates**

It's not too early to start thinking about nominations for the 2011 Board. We're always looking for that new blood which must be out there somewhere. If you are willing to serve or want to nominate someone for any of the Board positions please contact Gerry Buydens phone 250 383-4808, or leave a message at the OCS office.

**New Editor for Stories in Stone** Our long standing editor **Bill Magee** and our producer **Fred Hook** have decided that after some twenty years of producing *Stories in Stone* they need a rest. Both of these gentlemen have done an outstanding job of providing all of us with great stories and information over these many years. **Thanks Bill and Fred!** So, now it is time to pass the torch. Do you have the skills and time to be our next editor? Or, do you know of someone who might be interested? For a description of this volunteer position or to discuss it further, please contact **Wilf Bruch** or **Don Reksten**.

**Ross Bay Cemetery Patrols**

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday night around Halloween day, volunteers put in 53 two-hour shifts patrolling the cemetery and keeping it safe from vandals. Protection and preservation are the foundation blocks of our society and it was heartening to see so many of you brave the cold night air to ensure that Ross Bay Cemetery stayed safe. Particular thanks to **Sharon Welsh** who did all five shifts, 10 hours!

**Ghost Bus-tours ©**

Thanks to the hard work of John Adams, this year’s Ghost Bus-Tours were very well patronized. One bus was added to bring the total to 8 buses for 2010. All the numbers are not yet in, but John says that most were close to full. Thanks to John for providing an all new route with many new stories.

**Ghost Walk Tour**

Halloween Day at Ross Bay Cemetery was memorable. We had some sun and some clouds but no rain and no wind! Thirty-five volunteers turned out to make this year’s fundraiser a huge success. **Gerry Buydens** and **Doug Miller** did an excellent job of organizing the volunteers. Sixteen story-tellers, some in period costume, wove intriguing tales for 274 participants. The refreshments at the end of the tour organized by **Kathy Miller** were really appreciated and brought in \$81 in donations. **Linda Richards** and **Doris May** at the sales table brought in an impressive \$176. It was a huge fundraising success! Thanks to our volunteers we raised \$1484.00. Here are some photos:

**You too can wear an OCS cap!**

The Old Cemeteries Society has a new product to sell. These attractive ball caps will make an



excellent gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list. They will identify the wearer as a patron of our society and indeed a special person. They are reasonably priced at \$10 and can be purchased at our meetings or from the office.



**National Funeral Directors Association Convention** Forwarded by

**Mike Bieling** Speaking at the convention in New Orleans, funeral director James Carnes describes his profession as a ministry. “You always feel good about it, even though you're always dealing with death and grief.” Asked what their essential job is, funeral directors give the same answer over and over: caring for the living, not the dead. “Some people mistakenly think they couldn't do this job because they couldn't look at dead people or people who have been killed in a car crash or burned in a fire, but that's not really what this job is about,” says Dominic Maguire, managing director of a funeral home in Glasgow, Scotland. “This job is about looking after those who are left behind.



It's about being supportive, being compassionate, being an adviser to families, helping them to make informed choices and put together something which will offer them great consolation.”

**Membership Fees**

Effective January 2011 membership in the Old Cemeteries Society will be for a calendar year. That is, membership fees will be due in January and will cover the period January to December. As most memberships are already purchased in January or February, this will not be a change for most people. However, some memberships have been purchased at different times of the year and consequently have different expiry dates. In the interests of having a fair and equitable process that is also relatively easy to understand, the following will apply:

Memberships purchased between September 2010 and June 30, 2011 will cost the full annual fee and cover the period to December 31, 2011.

Memberships purchased after June 30, 2011 will cost half (1/2) the annual fee and will cover the period to December 31, 2011.

For 2012 and subsequent years, memberships purchased prior to July 1 will cost the full annual fee and will cover the period to December 31 of that year and memberships purchased after June 30 will cost half the annual fee and will cover the period to December 31 of that year. These changes should reduce the administrative burden to the Society and should allow for more accurate prediction of the annual membership fees that in turn should help in the budget management process.

If you have any questions, please contact the OCS at (250) 598-8870 or [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net).

**A Message from our President**

As we rush towards another years end, your executive reflects on a passing year and remembers all the little things each of you have done for our society. We thank you for being there and wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Enjoy the season and two of my favourite phrases...Wilf Bruch

*It was always said of him, that he well, if any man alive possessed truly said of us, and all of us! observed, "God Bless Us, Every*



*knew how to keep Christmas the knowledge. May that be And so, as Tiny Tim One! .....Charles Dickens*

The merry family gatherings-  
The strangely lovely way they  
sung. For Christmas is

that recall The precious memories down the years, The sameness of them all.

The old, the very young;  
Harmonize in carols  
tradition timeTraditions

.....Helen Lowrie Marshall

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