



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

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## November-December 2011

### Lest We Forget     Mike Bieling

For 85 years, local cemetery volunteers have followed a Cowichan Valley tradition of placing small, white wooden crosses, decorated with poppies and a sprig of cedar, on the graves of veterans of the Armed Forces during the month of November. This form of commemoration was introduced by the Royal Canadian Legion when it was organized in 1926. This year cross placements are scheduled for Shawnigan Cemetery, Shawnigan Lake, Mill Bay United Church and St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church in Mill Bay, Mountain View Cemetery and St. Mary's Anglican Church, Somenos, Duncan, All Saint's Anglican Church Cemetery, Westholme, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Cobble Hill, St. Peters Anglican Church, and Quamichan, Duncan. Veterans'

Remembrance Cross Placements are also organized by Cedar Memorial Gardens in Cedar and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 210 in Lake Cowichan.



Air cadets from 744 Squadron, Cowichan, placing crosses at Shawnigan Cemetery in 2008

### Upcoming Events

What: Old Cemetery Society Fall Meeting

When: Wednesday November 9th at 7:30 p.m.

Where: James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street

Who: Our guest speaker will be Alice Bacon, Creative Director of Shine\*ola Communications & Events. Her topic will be "Victoria's 150<sup>th</sup>, Plans and Opportunities". Please bring a friend.

### **2011 OCS Board Candidates**

It's not too early to start thinking about nominations for the 2012 Board. We're always ready for new members with fresh ideas to contribute. If you are willing to serve or want to nominate someone for any of the Board positions please contact Gerry Buydens, gbuydens@shaw.ca, phone 250 383-4808, or leave a message at the OCS office. Elections will take place at the AGM in February 2012.

### **Fall Social**

You are invited to the Old Cemeteries Society first annual Fall Social. Please mark your calendar right now and be sure to let us know if you are able to attend. Join your executive in celebrating our accomplishments in 2011 as we look forward to the challenges that 2012 will bring. Food and beverages will be served. Saturday November 26, 2011, Fairfield Community Centre, Garry Oak Room, 1335 Thurlow Road, 5:30pm to 8 pm  
RSVP Linda Richards, [elrthree@hotmail.com](mailto:elrthree@hotmail.com) or 250 3864063

### **November – December Tours**

Tours meet at 1:45 pm in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza, except as noted. \$5 – no reservations needed. Phone 250-598-8870 or view [www.oldcem.bc.ca](http://www.oldcem.bc.ca) for details. Please note that the Nov. 27 tour has changed from what is listed in the Tour Schedule brochure.

#### **November 6. Veterans' Cemetery Remembrance Tour**

John Azar conducts his annual tour to veterans' graves, with his fascinating stories of the people and their times, from the Crimean War to the present day. Meet at the Veterans' Cemetery, access off Colville Road, near the Base Hospital.

**Nov. 13. *Murder Most Foul.*** Back again by popular demand, 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. 20. *Island to Island.*** Until 1949 Newfoundland was not part of Canada, but many people from there found their way to Victoria and RBC. Leona Taylor has created a new tour about some of the outstanding people and interesting people from the tenth province.

**Nov. 27. *Royal Oak Burial Park*** (Indoor Lecture). Melanie Arscott, President of the Victoria Genealogical Society, will share some of her research about this 1923 lawn cemetery inside the heritage crematorium building. Meet inside the crematorium chapel, just inside the burial park gates, 4673 Falaise Drive.

**Dec. 4. *Old Burying Ground Christmas Tour.*** Christmas and holiday stories from Victoria of old will delight and amaze you. New Christmas tales and old favourites, combined with the history of one of Victoria's oldest cemeteries. Meet at the corner of Quadra Street and Rockland Avenue.

**Dec. 11. *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 Dec. 13.)

### **2012 Walking Tours**

A group of OCS members will be getting together very soon to brainstorm and plan out next year's Sunday walking tour schedule. We would welcome any ideas and suggestions you might have for tour topics. If you do have an idea, please give us the name of a person who could give the tour or organize the storytellers. Please phone the OCS office or send an email to [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net).

### **Victoria Historical Society Meeting**

**November 24th, 2011: 7:30PM**, at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies St, Victoria. Nancy M. Anderson will speak about her ancestor *Alexander Caulfield Anderson: The Pathfinder* and his important role in developing new brigade trails for the Hudson's Bay Company in New Caledonia in the late 1840s. Her biography of A.C. Anderson will be published this fall.

### **Picnic Day at Ross Bay Cemetery**

Linda Richards

Although the day was sunny and fair, we didn't have a lot of people attend the Picnic Day on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Maybe next year.....

During the 19th Century a popular pastime for Victorians was to make a day long excursion to visit cemeteries for a family picnic. It gave them an opportunity for recreation, reflection and relaxation. Cemeteries were usually rural and had park-like settings that were perfect for Bird Watching and to enjoy nature. It was a time to remember departed loved ones and friends and to socialize with living family and friends. Among the picnickers this year were John and Donna Adams, who enjoyed a tasty and delightful picnic while chatting with friends who wandered by. And even offered to share! Getting in to the spirit of the occasion were the members who came in period costume. They added so much to the over-all experience and ambience of the day.



John and Donna Adams enjoyed the picnic.....and some members came in period dress.

### **Ghost Bus-Tour**

Once again John Adams put together an excellent **Ghost Bus-Tour**, filling 5 buses. He also managed to get some excellent press in our local papers and in the Globe and Mail. Very impressive John! Thank You.

Sunday, October 30, 2011 was our big day. This year, everything went well and even the weather cooperated. 43 volunteers gathered at Ross Bay Cemetery to provide an entertaining afternoon for 219 people. We were able to raise over \$1000 which will go a long way toward covering our operating costs for the New Year.

Thanks to everyone who participated.



Sherril Robinson talks to the Ghost- Tourists.....while Chris and John Adams pose....

### **Hallowe'en 2011**

### **Wilf Bruch**

Well, another hectic Hallowe'en and ghost season is over! And again this year it has been very successful.

Our anti-vandalism patrols provided 90 man-hours of protection over the nights around Hallowe'en and served as a reminder to the community of the vulnerability of Ross Bay Cemetery.

### **Row Marker Project**

We started this project in Ross Bay Cemetery two years ago with a two part goal. The first goal was to place markers in three "belts" and in every second row throughout the cemetery. We have funded these markers from donations from you and from the Thrifty Foods "Smile Card" program. Each marker cost \$25 to produce and we have been adding a more substantial base to them at a cost of \$3 each. The reaction to these markers has been outstanding. They are beneficial to anyone trying to find graves and have saved many of us hours of search time.

I am pleased to report that we have placed an order for the last 18 markers. This will complete our first goal!

The second goal is to place markers strategically along the roadways of Ross Bay Cemetery and I am looking forward to its completion.

### **Fall Activities**

We haven't had any organized work parties over the past two months but that doesn't mean that nothing is happening. A few of us have continued to plug away at raising monuments, power washing curbing and removing moss from grave tops. You might not see the improvements, but they are there. A big Thank You to the restoration and cleaning volunteers (you know who you are!).

### **Pioneer Square (Old Burying Ground) Planning Project**

At the August 2011 Advisory Group meeting it was hoped to have a draft report prepared for early October with the intent of having an open house in November. With recent staff changes and the municipal election the earliest open house could be early February. Doug Demarzo has recently accepted the position of Manager of Planning and Design and will begin the process of hiring someone to fill his old position. Doug will still be actively involved until the plan is completed.

Based on feedback from the advisory group and the first open house, two side projects will be underway in Pioneer Square this fall: the addition of railings to the Scottish Regiment Cenotaph; and minor improvements to the east grouping of markers.

The results of the survey and more information are online at

[http://www.victoria.ca/cityhall/compar\\_prkimp-consult-pioneer-square.shtml](http://www.victoria.ca/cityhall/compar_prkimp-consult-pioneer-square.shtml)

### **Something To Watch For**

The City Parks Dept. will be doing a bit of work in Pioneer Square. They plan to re-erect the toppled obelisks and some cleanup at the rear of the cemetery.

In Ross Bay Cemetery they have identified 15 monuments that pose a danger. These are all large monuments that are leaning badly and too big for our volunteers to tackle. They hope to have this project completed this fall. Watch for the changes!

### **Membership Renewals in January 2012**

Membership dues are now on a calendar year basis so everyone should renew in January 2012. If you joined any time in 2011, you must still renew in January. You may renew at the AGM in February 2012 (date to be confirmed) but after that we will remove you from our membership list. Membership forms are posted on the website [www.old.bc.ca](http://www.old.bc.ca), will be included with the January 2012 Stone Cuttings newsletter and the 2012 Walking Tour schedule distributed in February, and will be available at the AGM.

### **New Publication**

Don Reksten

***More English than the English: a very social history of Victoria (2011)*** by Terry Reksten (1942-2001); updated by Rosemary Neering; Sono Nis Press

In 1986 Terry Reksten wrote *More English than the English* "for those who might not usually find pleasure in reading about the past". It became a best-seller (highly recommended by John Adams, author, lecturer, historian and tour organizer) and was reprinted in 1989. Deliberately selective and anecdotal, this delightful collection of stories is back in print and available at booksellers. It is completely redesigned, updated and expanded, with new photos and updated information by writer and historian Rosemary Neering. Credit must be given to Jim Munro for his tireless urging to get it back on the shelves; and to Diane Morriss for adding it to the Sono Nis catalogue.

[Royalties from the sale of this book go to the Friends of the BC Archives who administer the Terry Reksten Memorial Fund. The Fund annually offers an award of \$1,000 to a community archives in British Columbia to assist in the work of acquiring, preserving, indexing or disseminating information on the archival documentary heritage of British Columbia.]

### A Sad Story

Wilf Bruch

As you pass the grave of Eliza Goudie (plot M77 West of G) shed a tear for her. She was the infant daughter of George and Rachel Goudie of 321 Wilson Street in Vic West. She died at the age of 4 months on 13 July 1900 and is buried along with her mother Rachel Goudie. Rachel died at the age of 32.

The story is truly a very, very sad one. Her proper name was Jane Eliza. She was doing poorly or as the piece in the Colonist said "ailing for some time, its mother having died a few weeks ago."

The nurse who was caring for Jane Eliza had been giving her doses of sweet oil and castor oil. Apparently the nurse, "intending to give 'it' its usual medicine, took up by mistake a bottle containing carbolic acid. The infant did not long survive, and passed away after suffering greatly." The coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental death. The name of the nurse was not mentioned and I would imagine she lived with this mistake her entire life. One wonders how often this happens.

## Christmas Greetings from the President and Executive

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is good you do yourself...  
~Norman Wesley Brooks

As another year slips away, we should reflect on what we have accomplished and what has made us happy and proud. We are a collection of people from many different backgrounds and with different passions. Yet together we make a difference and leave our heritage cemeteries a little better for the next generation.

**Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**