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January – February 2014



Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: James Bay New Horizons at 234 Menzies Street

Speakers: Fern Perkins and Sylvia van Kirk will make a presentation called *Bringing the Cemeteries of Central and North Saanich Alive*.

Election of Officers for 2014

Elections to the Old Cemeteries Society Board for 2014 will be held and are usually very brief. The Board consists of Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Members at Large. Except for treasurer and vice chair, all positions on the board are filled at the moment, but we are still required to open nominations for the year 2014. Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings (third Wednesday of the month) to guide the Society's activities and discuss issues. Potential Board members please contact Gerry Buydens, Nomination Committee Chair, at gbuydens@shaw.ca or 250-383-4873 as soon as possible.

Refreshments & Speakers: Fern Perkins and Sylvia van Kirk

Urgent, Treasurer Needed

Gerry Buydens

We use Quicken, 2003 version. The program and data is set up on one of our laptop computers that is kept by the treasurer. We do have some expertise in operating this system. If you are able to assist it will be truly appreciated. Contact Gerry Buydens at 383-4873 or gbuydens@shaw.ca

Halloween Patrols

We had twenty (20) volunteers who patrolled Ross Bay Cemetery on Halloween, October 31, from 10 p.m. to midnight, and the next evening, November 01, from 10pm to 10:30. We called it a night at 10:30 p.m. due to rain. This resulted in a total of 57.5 volunteer hours.

Remembrance Day Display at the Royal BC Museum

We had nine volunteers who manned the display table from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on November 10, and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on November 11, for a total of 71 volunteer hours.

50+ Active Living Celebration Gerry Buydens

OCS is hoping to have a booth at the Senior Expo Fair on Tuesday, March 11. The fair is held at Pearkes Recreational Centre, 3100 Tillicum Road and members of OCS are welcome to come & enjoy the fun filled event. The doors open at 7:30 AM for exhibitors and for a pancake breakfast.

I am asking for volunteers to sit at our booth. Please contact Gerry Buydens at 383-4873 or gbuydens@shaw.ca, if you are interested in volunteering for this Expo.

For more information on the expo you can check out the Senior Living magazine website: <http://www.seniorlivingmag.com/>

Thrifty Foods Smile Card Fundraising Program Gerry Buydens

Thrifty Foods has set our maximum at \$2000 which is based on the merits of our proposal. The current program ends on May 4, 2014. I would like to encourage members to participate in this program. Smile Cards are available from the office. If you have any questions as to how this program functions or how to receive a card, please call the Office at (250) 598-8870 or E-mail at oldcem@pacificcoast.net and some one will get back to you.

To date OCS has earned \$1,100 toward the Ross Grave Markers and Grimm Fence Repair projects which has been receiving some very positive reviews from the public and city staff. This is an easy way to raise funds, so please give it your earnest consideration.

Black History Awareness Society Linda Richards

On February 16th, 2014, The Black History Awareness Society will be having their Heritage Event at the James Bay New Horizons. The event runs from 1:30 to 4:30 and there will be complimentary refreshments.

The speaker is Craig Smith, an R.C.M.P. author, who will speak about his book, *You Had Better Be White By Six a.m., The African Canadian Experience in the R.C.M.P.* The title refers to what the Commanding officer said to Constable Hartley Gosline who was the first black Mounted Police officer in the R.C.M.P. It seems that he stood out on the parade square.

The O.C.S. will have our first of the year information booth there and the new tour brochures will be available for you to pick up! Please join us!

February & March Tours John Adams

February 16. RBC. Metis Stories. In Manitoba Feb 17 will be Louis Riel Day, so the OCS has decided to highlight some of our Metis pioneers at RBC on this first-ever tour coordinated by Fern Perkins, descendant of Isabella Ross, a famous Metis woman in Victoria.

February 23. RBC. **Black History.** After 1858 Victoria was a haven for blacks escaping racism in California and many are buried at RBC. Included on the tour will be Gov. James Douglas, who was part black, plus many notable black pioneers, and maybe a scoundrel or two. A joint tour by the OCS and the BC Black History Awareness Society for Black History Month.

March 2. RBC. **Unbuilt Victoria.** This is the title of Dorothy Mindenhalls' book that examines architectural schemes that were proposed, but rejected. The author will visit the graves of some of the people involved in both amazingly bad and stunningly good buildings that never were built.

March 9. RBC. **Odd Fellows 150th Anniversary Tour.** The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) had its first meeting in Victoria on March 10, 1864. John Adams will visit the graves of many who were there and recount the fascinating history, symbolism and work of this secret society dedicated to Friendship, Love and Truth.

March 16. **Pioneer Square. Fort Victoria.** In mid-March 1843 James Douglas and a group mostly of French Canadian workers of the Hudson's Bay Company began construction of Fort Victoria. Pioneer Square (the Old Burying Ground) is the final resting place of many who involved. Meet at the corner of Quadra Street and Rockland Ave. beside Christ Church Cathedral.

March 23. RBC. **Prominent Presbyterians.** Join Jim Kempling, archivist of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Barbara Forsyth, heritage interpreter, as they visit the graves of many notable Presbyterian families who shaped Victoria and early BC, such as Dunsmuir, Robson, McMicking, and McBride.

March 30. RBC. **Emily Carr Tour.** Visit Emily's grave and those of many people she knew and wrote about and hear excerpts from Emily's books. Emily's grave is one of the most visited at RBC. This annual tour, led by a team of OCS members, is always a favourite.

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Last Words

St. Sylvester

Sylvester was Bishop of Rome during the transformative period when Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. Sylvester died on New Year's Eve, 335 A.D. December 31 became his feast day, and Europeans still refer to New Year's Eve as Sylvester.

On his deathbed Sylvester called the clergy to him and admonished them to "Have charity, and diligently govern your churches, and keep your flock from the wolves."



Membership Renewal

When renewing your membership for 2014, please complete the form below and return it with your payment. You can also renew at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 5, 2014. Dues are: Individual - \$30.00; Household - \$45.00 and Student - \$20.00

Check applicable category

OCS membership

Donation (any amount is appreciated; income tax receipts are given for donations of \$10 or more.)

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____ Amount enclosed _____

Make cheques payable to OCS and mail to OCS, Box 50004, RPO Fairfield Plaza, Victoria, B.C., V8S 5L8