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## **January – February 2017**

### **Annual General Meeting**                      Gerry Buydens

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Old Craigflower School House, across the road from current Craigflower School playground on Admirals Road.

There is some free parking in the surrounding area.

Speakers: Ken Johnson, President of the Hallmark society will give an illustrated talk on the History of Craigflower School.

### **Election of Officers for 2017**

Elections to the Old Cemeteries Society Board for 2017 will be held at the AGM. The Board consists of Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Members at Large. All positions on the board are filled at the moment, but we are still required to open nominations for the year 2017. 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](mailto:gbuydens@shaw.ca) or 250-383-4873 as soon as possible.

### **Halloween Patrols**

We had twenty three (23) volunteers who patrolled Ross Bay Cemetery on Friday, October 28, Saturday, October 29 and Halloween, October 31, from 8 p.m. to midnight. This resulted in a total of 144 volunteer hours. No major incidents to report, but our presence certainly prevented some potential vandalism.

### **Ghost Bus Tour Report**                                      Bente Svendsen

As usual, the ghost bus tours were our biggest fundraiser and were very well attended. I helped out with one, and it was a lot of fun. We started at the Oak Bay Marina. Among other areas, we toured a bit around Oak Bay and Fernwood, then went over to Vic West, where our guide, John Adams, told a fascinating story about mysterious happenings at the site of an old Songhees burial ground located across the water where the Laurel Point Inn is now. Then we went via Fairfield to the Victoria Golf Course, where we heard the

well-known tale of the ghost of Doris Gravlin. As always, John was most informative and it was an enjoyable evening.



**Lest We Forget Where They Lie**

John Azar

Approximately 30 people attended the annual OCS Remembrance Week tour at the Esquimalt Veterans Cemetery—"God's Acre"—on Sunday 6 November 2016.



The tour took place during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battles of the Somme where Canadians served and died at places such as Beaumont Hamel, Courcelette and Regina Trench. A sub-theme of the tour was "a soldier's reality" which was reflected in quotes expressing how difficult it was for soldiers returning home to share their experiences with family and friends who had not been there.

Led by John Azar, the tour included four other story-tellers. Yvonne Van Ruskenveld spoke at the grave of Martha Browning Hearn who served as a Nursing Sister in both the First and Second World Wars. Myra Johnson told the stories of two uncles—James and Angus McIntyre—who are both buried in God's Acre. Shirley Waldon shared stories of four great-uncles Stanley Perrie and Frank, Fred and Albert Deacon who are buried elsewhere. Claudia Berry gave a moving story of her grandmother who supported her physically and mentally injured veteran husband through a long and challenging life. Her grandmother and grandfather are buried at St. Luke's cemetery.

The developing tradition of having descendants speak about their ancestors gives a deeply personal connection to the stories. If any OCS members would like to participate in future tours by sharing stories of family members who served in any of Canada's conflicts, no matter where they are buried, please contact John Azar at: [jazar@islandnet.com](mailto:jazar@islandnet.com).

## **Remembered in Bronze and Stone**

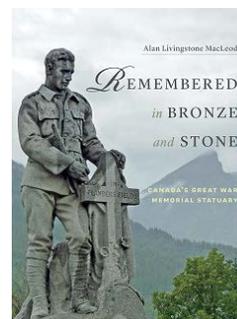
### Canada's Great War Memorial Statuary

Alan Livingstone MacLeod set out in 2011 on a cross-Canada journey to study and photograph our nation's First World War memorials. Among the thousands of different sites and memorial styles available, MacLeod opted to focus only on those featuring a figure of a Canadian soldier sculpted in bronze or stone. The result of his odyssey is the first-ever work of its kind to showcase Canada's military statuary erected between 1918 and 1929. Highlights of the study include

- profiles of 130 distinctive Great War memorials from every province
- biographies of the artists who crafted them
- family histories of the fallen soldiers they immortalize
- insights into the communities that built and continue to maintain these century-old heritage sites

*Remembered in Bronze and Stone* is the ideal book for introducing readers of all ages to the dramatic story of Canada in the First World War. Mark Zuelke, author of the Canadian Battle series, says of the book:

"*Remembered in Bronze and Stone* is a fine tribute and a call to current and future generations to ensure the preservation of these memorials." It's available in local bookstores.



## **The Jewish Cemetery**

A public presentation entitled *The Jewish Cemetery in Victoria 1859 to 2016* is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Congregation Emanu-El, 1460 Blanshard Street in Victoria. Join members and friends of the Congregation Emanu-El, the Old Cemeteries Society and students and faculty from the University of Victoria for an evening discussion on current research being done in and about Canada's oldest Jewish cemetery. Each of the students will present their findings after a summer working at the cemetery. You are encouraged to come and learn about the great work being done.

## **Stories in Stone**

We have a lead on a new editor for *Stories In Stone* and are hoping it will be successful. As a replacement for the current issue we have decided to mail members a booklet called *Angel in Victoria, The Amazing Story of Nellie Cashman, The Miner's Angel*. The booklet is written by Dr. Patrick Lydon, OCS member, and Donna Chaytor VIPMA. This is a fine tribute to Nellie. She is buried in Ross Bay Cemetery.

## **Nellie Cashman Fund**

Pat Lydon

Two notable donations arrived recently. A Mr. G. Jones from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department sent \$100 American (130 Dollars Canadian) and a lovely letter of support for the proposed Nellie Cashman Centennial headstone. He read about the fund in an article by Tom Paterson that was published in the October edition of *The Epitaph*, the newspaper from Tombstone, Arizona. The Vancouver Island Placer Miner's Association

donated a very generous \$500 to the Fund. They expressed a great interest in women involved in gold mining, from a historical point of view. The Friends of Nellie Cashman are delighted with the response so far and the recent publication of *Gold Rush Queen, The extraordinary Life of Nellie Cashman* by local author Thora Kerr Illing, will give a great boost to the interest in our heroine who is buried in Ross Bay Cemetery. The book is published by Touchwood Editions (Heritage Press) and the author lives in Sidney. We hope that an outline of the intended headstone will be available early in 2017. These are great days for Nellie Cashman, and I am exploring the possibility that Wayne Cashman, legendary Captain of the Boston Bruins Hockey Team, when Bobby Orr was their star player, may also hail from Midleton, County Cork, Ireland. More news next issue.

**Last Words**

Napoleon Bonaparte 1769-1821



I marvel that where the the ambitious dreams of myself and of Alexander and of Caesar should have vanished into thin air, a Judean peasant—Jesus—should be able to stretch his hands across the centuries, and control the destinies of men and nations.”



**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Membership Renewal**

Check applicable category

OCS membership

**Donation** (any amount appreciated, income tax receipt are given for donation of \$10 or more)

When renewing your membership for 2017 please complete the form below & return it with your payment.

Dues are: Individual - \$30.00; Household - \$45.00 and Student - \$20.00

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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. You can also pay at the AGM.

Please send a Membership card. Membership cards are **only given**, if requested.