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## **November-December 2017**

### **Sunday, October 29th Ghost Walk in Ross Bay Cemetery**

John Adams is organizing the story tellers and the tour route. This is his proposal: The plan is to have 10 speakers in costume, each at a grave. There will be one route only. Starting time will be 2:00 p.m. As groups of 15 gather they will be taken by a pilot to one of the locations, but won't actually begin until 2:00 p.m. It will be a shotgun start, with everyone starting at the same time at all 10 locations. The pilots will walk the group to the next speaker, as they have done in the past. Gerry Buydens will walk the pilots around the route at 1:30 p.m.

We'll start at Stannard Avenue and finish at the caretaker's shed. Gerry Buydens will organize the pilots and refreshment people. We need volunteers to act as pilots to direct patrons on the tour. If you can help, please contact [gbuydens@shaw.ca](mailto:gbuydens@shaw.ca) or 383-4873. Meet before 1:30 p.m. in Fairfield Plaza.

### **Hallowe'en Patrols**

#### **Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28 & Tuesday October 31**

The patrols are a unique opportunity to experience Ross Bay Cemetery at night and at the same time help to deter vandalism. The patrol dates have been finalized and permission to be in the cemetery at night has been granted by the Parks Department. We do our patrols in two shifts, 8pm to 10pm and 10pm to 12 midnight.

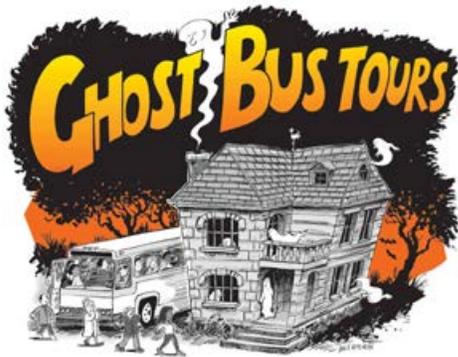
If you are able to help out with this events please phone Gudrun Leys at 250-590-5850 or e-mail [gmleys@gmail.com](mailto:gmleys@gmail.com)



## Sale of Shirts, Caps and Pins

The Society has a limited number of t-shirts and sweatshirts, limited sizes and colors which we want to clear out. Cost is \$15 for a sweatshirt and \$8 for a t-shirt. There also are baseball-type caps at \$5 each. Pins - \$5 each. If interested, let Gudrun Leys know at [gmleys@gmail.com](mailto:gmleys@gmail.com) or 250 590-5850 and she will send you a copy of our inventory. These will be on display at the ghost walk tour on October 29.

## Ghost Bus Tours



Our 24th annual bus excursion will pass some of Victoria's most haunted sites. New route and many new stories. Reserve your seat early.

Check the web

site [www.discoverthepast.com](http://www.discoverthepast.com)

Dates will be: Oct. 21, 26, 27, 28 and 29

Starting time: 7:00 pm from Oak Bay Marina

Cost \$38 per person. Reservations a must. We have changed our ticket provider this year to Victoria Ticket. Go to [victoriaticket.ca](http://victoriaticket.ca)

All tickets for Ghost Bus Tours may be purchased online at [www.victoriaticket.ca](http://www.victoriaticket.ca)

For further information call John Adams, 250.384.6698.

## Olive Virginia (Johnson) Quayle

**Olive was a long-time member of and volunteer with the OCS. The following obituary appeared in the Times-Colonist.**

QUAYLE, Olive Virginia (nee Johnson) Passed away September 21, 2017, at the Gorge Road Hospital, Victoria, BC. She was born to the late Peter and Ruby Johnson, July 5, 1927, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Olive graduated from high school in Ontario in 1945 and received a BSc in biology from McGill University, Montreal in 1949. She married the late James T. B. Quayle on September 25, 1948. In 1958 they moved to Surrey, BC. Divorced in 1968 she moved to the 70 Mile House area. In 1976 Olive's love of the outdoors and geology took her to the Yukon and NWT as a camp cook for mineral exploration companies. Olive moved to Victoria in 1979 and took up volunteering at the BC Provincial Museum in the Ethnology department in 1982 until December 2014. Her interests included Scottish country dancing, bird watching, travelling, hiking and walking and First Nations art. Olive is survived by her daughter Edith (Kent). In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the BCSPCA. Celebration of Life will be held on October 21, 2017, between 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. at First Memorial Funeral Services, 1155 Fort Street.

## Cleaning

Sharon Welsh

Our last cleaning bee for the season was held on October 15th. It was a lovely sunny day (remember them?) and in addition to the usual scrapers and brooms we hauled out the garden hoses, soap, water, and scrub brushes to clean some monuments, as well as scraping moss. Wilf gave a small session to some of the newer volunteers on how to clean the stones, with special emphasis on how careful we must be around the lead lettering. Wilf installed scaffolding around the Bossi Angel and while the volunteers were scraping and washing monuments in the area – Wilf scrubbed the Bossi Angel for approximately five hours. We have retired all our equipment for the year, and hope to start cleaning again in June of 2018.

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....before.... The Bossi Monument.... ....after....



....before.... ....The Jorand Grave.... ....after....

## Row Marker Project

Wilf Bruch

Eight more Row Markers were placed in Ross Bay Cemetery this summer. Placing row markers is an ongoing project to help visitors find graves. Next time you're in the cemetery, look for these helpful little signs.



## Nellie Cashman Memorial

The Nellie Cashman Committee is very pleased to announce that the Lt. Governor, the Honourable Judith Guichon, has kindly agreed to preside over the unveiling of the memorial stone to Nellie Cashman at 2.00PM on Wednesday 18th of October, at Ross Bay Cemetery. The Committee will meet shortly to plan the specific arrangements and an outline of the schedule will be released as soon as this is available. The Committee is delighted to make this announcement and looks forward to a most enjoyable ceremony at the gravesite of Nellie Cashman.

Dr. Patrick Perry Lydon, Chair, Nellie Cashman Committee. OCS.

Eureka! As a result of your generosity, with donations from both Canada and the USA, we now have some \$2300 in our fund and this is an ample amount to plan a beautiful memorial stone for the grave of Nellie Cashman. Some of our more grandiose plans, such as a concrete apron around the perimeter of the grave was unworkable, as it would encroach on the property of others.

The new stone plans have been approved by the Family of Nellie Cashman in California, USA, (Jim O Fallon) and the Sisters of St. Ann in Victoria, have been very supportive of the new development.

Approval by the City of Victoria, Parks Department, came in August 2017.

Mortimers Monuments in Victoria has been actively involved from the beginning and are now making plans to remove the grass sod from the foot of the gravesite, and when the new polished black granite stone is finished, it will be placed in concrete at that site. The new stone will be placed in such a position to compliment the older grey granite stone with the iconic lettering.

The wording on the new stone is simple and direct-

NELLIE CASHMAN.  
" The Miners Angel"  
1925 X 2025.

The "X" marks the place for a ceramic disk photo of Nellie from 1874.

The reason that we want this stone in place before 2025, is that photos of the new memorial stone will be used to "kick-start", other celebrations for the life of Nellie Cashman, as we approach her centennial year. The new stone is designed to be photogenic.

Finally, the unveiling! I have taken the opportunity to write to the Lt. Governor, the Hon. Judith Guichon, with a request to preside at such an unveiling. We will have to wait for a reply. If the Lt. Governor is unable to assist us at this time, we should wait until an opportune time occurs.

In closing, our sincere thanks to all who have supported our efforts to have a new centennial stone placed on the grave of Nellie Cashman. Your generosity has been magnificent!

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Nellie Cashman Committee, Gerry Buydens and Gudrun Leys of the Old Cemetery Society, for their time and commitment to the project and for their goodwill and patience during the past two years.

Shakespeare once said "The readiness is all!" We are now ready for the next stage and I hope to report that the new stone will be in the ground in my next newsletter.

## God's Acre

In 1868 Rear-Admiral George Fowler Hastings purchased an acre of a turnip field from the Puget Sound Agricultural Company for use as a cemetery for sailors of the Royal Navy. It's still referred to as "God's Acre". This peaceful acre of land between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> hole of the Gorge Vale Golf Club is the final resting place for our Military Veterans on the west coast. "God's Acre" has grown over the years to 2.7 acres and has approximately 2,500 military graves, which unfortunately is very close to capacity.

However, the cemetery is not all that quiet and peaceful these days, not that we're complaining. Last year, Veterans Affairs Canada purchased .62 acres on the west side of the cemetery from the Gorge Vale Golf Club and has had contractors working all summer to prepare the new area. Emile Gallant, Manager of Funeral, Burial and Cemetery Maintenance for VAC reported that the expansion will lead to 21 columbarium for the storage of urns. Seven are being built now with the others to be added as needed. The installation of these seven columbarium started on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> and are due to be completed before Remembrance Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. VAC is confident that this new addition will serve as the final resting place of our military veterans for many years to come.

Each columbarium will be made of light berry granite, will stand 1.8 meters high and be 90 centimetres wide. This type of granite is consistent with the current military markers in the cemetery. Work on the remainder of the property is progressing with the hope of completion by Remembrance Day.



## A Resistance Movement Hero

in support of the Allied cause during the World War II German occupation of Denmark. The following citation appeared in the Victoria Times-Colonist on November 11, 2005, the Year of the Veteran.

David J.V.Schultz.

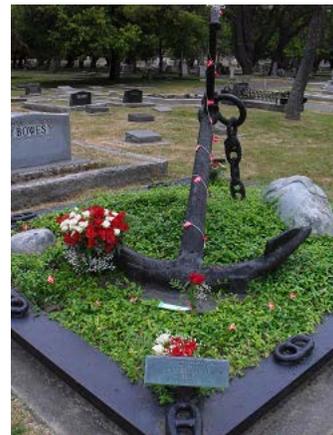
Awarded the Danish Nation's gift of honour for valour on active service in the Resistance Movement in support of the Allied cause during the World War II German occupation of Denmark 1940-1945. Recognized with veteran status by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #88 in 1965 as the first member of a Resistance group in the European theatre of war to be admitted to the Legion's Western Command.

Chosen by his wartime leader to be one of a group of Resistance fighters presented to Sir Winston Churchill at the City Hall in Copenhagen, on the occasion of Sir Winston's post-war visit to Denmark in 1950. Above all, honoured in this, The Year of the Veteran, by his loving family. November 11, 2005."



## History of the Anchor on the Schultz Family Gravesite Block F/K plots 7 & 8 W. of 9

A Danish naval ship's anchor, cast in the navy dockyards at Refshalvoen, Copenhagen in 1898, it represents a longstanding family naval tradition now linking seven generations. Brought to Montreal aboard a Canadian National Steamships freighter in the closing years of their Caribbean run by Theodor Schultz, from his birthplace the (then Danish) island of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Placed in Ross Bay Cemetery in 1991 by his son David and David's wife Joan in memory of their daughter Amy Elizabeth, and gravesite of their granddaughter Stephanie. In June 2014 this also became David's gravesite. A family plot for present and future generations.



A LETTER TO MY UNCLE

George Patrick Belcher

Dear Uncle George,

As I stood at our local war memorial this past Remembrance Day and thought of you, the old nursery rhyme "Georgy Porgy pudding and pie, kissed the girls and made them cry" floated into my head. Not irreverently, but fondly, for as a child you were known to me as „Uncle Porgy“.

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We never met of course, for you were killed in Flanders Fields six years before I was born, but you have always been part of my life. This, thanks to someone dear to you who had the foresight to commission that fine pencil drawing of you before you left for the front, captured for posterity sitting astride your sturdy horse in the uniform of a private. A picture from my childhood home that eventually came to live with me in Canada.

The twinkle in your eye tells me you would have been a fun uncle for the little girl named Patricia, after you, to know. You could have taught me to ride for you were a fine horseman. We might also have shared your love of music.

When, under weeping skies, my husband and I laid a rose at your gravesite in Tynecot Cemetery in Belgium, we wept too, for all the might-have-beens, not only in your life, but in the lives of the thousands of young men who lay buried around you.

In the same year that you were killed, 1917, the English scholar J.M.Edmonds wrote a deeply moving epitaph that has come to rest on war memorials around the world: These four lines speak so succinctly from the dead and dying to the living:

WHEN YOU GO HOME  
TELL THEM OF US AND SAY:  
"FOR YOUR TO-MORROW  
WE GAVE OUR TODAY."

Tonight I honour the gift of your life for my to-morrow. Affectionately, your niece,  
JANNA



## A Vimy100 Diary

Three Old Cemeteries Society members, Sharon Welsh, Kathryn Bergstrom and myself, Drew Waveryn, journeyed to France and Belgium to attend the centennial memorial ceremony at Vimy Ridge on April 9th, 2017, an event we all felt highly privileged to witness. Being in the region for a few days we made the best of our time.

### April 8, 2017

We started the with a short drive the village of Mont St-Eloi, a few kilometres southwest of Vimy Ridge. This picturesque village stands atop a high hill which is dominated by the ruins of an ancient monastery. The monastery as well as the rest of the village was destroyed by German bombardment. Only the shattered front façade of the abbey remains as a monument to remembrance. The rest of the stone from the demolished building was used by the villagers to rebuild their homes.



Down the hill from the village is the Ecoivres Military Cemetery which was the main purpose for our visit there. It's a bit of an unusual First World War cemetery in that it contains graves of British, French and German soldiers. It was originally a French cemetery which was taken over by the British in 1915. There are only four German graves, two of which are of young flyers aged only 18 and 21 when they died on the same day in 1916.



Among the British graves is that of Lt. Robert Branks Powell. Bobby Powell was a son of Dr. Israel Powell and his wife. The Powell family plot is sometimes featured on OCS tours at Ross Bay Cemetery. Bobby was born in Victoria on April 11, 1881. The Powell family home stood at Vancouver and Burdett streets and included two tennis courts. It was there that Bobby learned the sport of tennis and came to love the game. Professionally, the young Mr. Powell entered the legal field, working mainly in political and diplomatic areas. His first job out of school was as private secretary to British Columbia Lieutenant-Governor Lotbiniere. The young man's talent and ability took him as far as Fiji where he worked for the governor there. Although he had achieved a successful career, tennis was always Bobby Powell's first love. His achievements in the sport are numerous; Davis Cup, Wimbledon, 1908 Olympic Games, Singles Champion of Fiji as well as titles in France, Germany, Austria and Monte Carlo. When war was declared in 1914

Bobby was in Chicago taking part in a tournament. He immediately took a train to Vancouver where he enlisted in the 48th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was commissioned as a Lieutenant.

In February 1917 Lt. Powell wrote his mother:

"Darling Mother, please don't worry and be anxious about me. If I fall, I should like you only to feel pride in the fact that I am trying to do my highest duty and never to mourn me. But I have confidence that God will help me to come through it. But the whole thing is hell."

On April 28, 1917, Lt. Powell was leading 50 men on a charge across No Man's Land on Vimy Ridge when he was killed. He was 36 years old.

Kathryn and Sharon did a rubbing of Lt. Powell's grave stoned and I placed a tennis ball on his grave.



From Mont St-Eloi we went to the city of Arras where the town square was a sea of red and white. Thousands of Canadian students were staying there and the city was obviously happy to be hosting them. Everything from shop window displays to nightly outdoor entertainment showed how the people of Arras welcomed this invasion of Canadians and still remember and appreciate the contributions made by our forefathers. We saw more Canadian flags in France than in Canada. Countless times strangers approached us and said "Thank you Canada".



We drove north to Ypres, Belgium, to witness the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate. The gate is a memorial to the Commonwealth soldiers who died in Belgium and have no known grave. There are 54,896 names carved in stone and honour men from Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa, India and British West Indies. At 8:00 pm every evening since July 2, 1928, the Last Post is performed, the only interruption being during the Nazi occupation of Belgium during the Second World War. With the centennial of Vimy and the visitors drawn to region for it, there was much higher than usual attendance for the ceremony when we were there. During the ceremony wreaths were laid while a Belgian choir sang "In Flanders Fields", the moving poem by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrea.



The entire trip has very special meaning for Kathryn since her grandfather, Frederick Chubb, was a medic and ambulance driver throughout the war. He served in the worst of battles and locales including Ypres, Vimy, Passchendaele and the Somme. Kathryn brought with her a photograph of her grandfather with his ambulance in front of the ruins of the Cloth Hall in Ypres. The hall has been rebuilt as it appeared before the war and now houses the *In Flanders Fields* Museum.



#### April 9, 2017

Knowing that more than 25,000 were expected to attend the Vimy centennial, Kathryn, Sharon and I agreed it would be best for us to get an early start. The first shuttles from where we were staying in Lens were scheduled to depart at 10:00 am. We arrived at the pickup point at about 9:00 and there was already a small lineup.

We were among the first to arrive at Vimy and were pleased to discover that there was limited seating behind the VIP section. We staked out our seats and took turns exploring. The monument itself was off limits to the public, but there were other displays to visit. There was even a special post office with a commemorative stamp cancellation. All around the ridge there were thousands of boots. Each pair represented a soldier killed at Vimy from April 9th to 12th, 1917. At noon the pre-ceremony presentations began with the reciting of names of all 3598 men who died at Vimy during those four days in 1917. The recitation was interrupted from time to time with documentary videos and live performances by Canadian artists.



The dignitaries arrived at 4:00 pm which started the official ceremony beginning with Prince William and Prince Harry placing the final two pair of boots on the stage. Artillery cannons fired a 21-gun salute during which the solemnity of the occasion was broken when one of the guns blew a perfect smoke ring causing a ripple of laughter throughout the crowd. Five reproduction biplanes which were constructed in Saanich performed a fly-past to the delight of the crowd. Speeches were made by Prime Minister Trudeau, Governor-General Johnston, HRH Prince Charles and President Hollande of France. Between speeches there were performances and some very poignant and touching recitations of letters and diaries. The performers included such notables as Loreena McKennitt and Paul Gross.

Because there were more people attending than could be accommodated in the area in front of the stage, an overflow area was provided at the back of the monument. Unfortunately those in the overflow had to watch the ceremony on large screens. They did however have a special treat of getting up close with the dignitaries. Of course there were lots of selfies with the Prime Minister.

Once the ceremony concluded at 6:00 pm the monumental task of returning 25,000 people to their respective hotels. Being some of the first to arrive, we were also among the last to leave, not returning to Lens until 9:00 pm. Otherwise it was a perfect day with crystal clear blue sky and 24 degree heat. It was truly a once-in-lifetime event. I'm sure most in attendance that day were honoured to have been there to remember and pay respect to the men who fought, suffered and died a century ago as well as those who returned to their homes different men from when they left.

#### April 10, 2017

After checking out of our hotel, Sharon, Kathryn and I went to La Chaudiere cemetery. The great-uncle of our friend and fellow OCS member Linda Boon is buried there. Private John Taggart was killed May 11, 1917. From the Cross of Sacrifice in the cemetery the gleaming white monument on Vimy Ridge can be seen.



While Kathryn and Sharon were doing a rubbing of Pte. Taggart's headstone three people arrived. One of them was gentleman who had lived in the village his entire life and was there to give a tour to a Canadian school group. Before the group arrived we were treated to a private tour of the cemetery. We were shown



the grave of a Canadian soldier who had been awarded the Victoria Cross before being killed. The graves of two Canadian soldiers are only a few years old. The remains of two men were located during construction of nearby buildings. We ended our time at La Chaudiere with a gift from the French gentleman. He gave us bullets and other bits of metal that he dug up in his garden. When I hold the spent bullet in my hand and look at it, I find it difficult to imagine how this now harmless piece of metal could have been such a deadly weapon if it found its target a century ago. Page | 12

From La Chaudiere we went north to my ancestral village of Wavrin. During the war the village was occupied by German forces. The church was made into a hospital where a German corporal named Adolph Hitler received treatment there. The village was all but destroyed by Allied bombardment and rebuilt following the war. There is a German military cemetery on the outskirts of the village. It has a totally different feel and atmosphere than the commonwealth cemeteries. We paid our respects at this cemetery as well. These were men and boys who were also far from home, enduring the same horrors and hardships as our side. They had mothers and fathers, wives and children, sweethearts and loved ones who wept for them and mourned their loss. They too deserve to be remembered.

From France we crossed the border into Belgium and on to Passchendaele where Kathryn's grandfather also served as a medic during the fierce fighting in the autumn of 1917. Today the hills and valleys around the Passchendaele monument are beautiful and peaceful; a far cry from the horrors of one hundred years ago. After visiting the Canadian monument and cemetery we went to a café for something to drink. Since I was driving I only had water, but Kathryn and Sharon shared a Passchendaele beer. The label of the bottle is very moving. It has the silhouette of Canadian soldiers and the message "When opening a bottle Passchendaele, please hold a minute of silence to commemorate those who fell on the battlefield." The beer is served with accompanying glasses and Kathryn very much wanted one in memory of her grandfather. At first the bartender was not willing to sell a glass, but once the server discovered why Kathryn wanted one they were more than happy to oblige. And so we left Belgium and France having packed so much into a short period of time. It was both rewarding and emotional for all. Truly three days never to be forgotten.

## **Last Words**

H.H. Munro     1870-1916     (British writer who used the pen name Saki)



“Put out the bloody cigarette!”

Spoken to a fellow soldier in a trench during World War I.  
He was shot by a sniper has no known grave.