



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

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July-August 2010

Summer Tours alternate between the following two popular presentations. Meet at 1:45pm, in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza.

On Sunday 08 Aug the Obon Ceremony (traditional Japanese Buddhist ceremony for the dead) will be conducted at the Kakehashi monument in the southwest corner of the cemetery.

Gossip in the Graveyard is a lively tour about many scoundrels, characters and eccentrics at Ross Bay Cemetery you won't find in your history books! Gold Rush! features stories about some of the colourful men and women buried at Ross Bay Cemetery who made history in the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858 and other gold rushes. New stories every year.

Sunday 04 July Gossip in the Graveyard

Sunday 01 Aug Gossip in the Graveyard

Sunday 11 July Gold Rush!

Sunday 08 Aug Obon Ceremony

Sunday 18 July Gossip in the Graveyard

Sunday 15 Aug Gold Rush!

Sunday 25 July Gold Rush!

Sunday 22 Aug Gossip in the Graveyard

Sunday 29 Aug Gold Rush!

Do you have any ideas for Sunday tours or excursions? We're always on the lookout for new subjects. Phone 250-598-8870 or e-mail oldcem@pacificcoast.net

Descendants Tour Sept. 12

A group of people descended from some of Ross Bay Cemetery's permanent residents will conduct this tour and talk about their family's history. If you are a descendant of anyone buried at Ross Bay Cemetery and have family history information you are willing to share, please get in touch. You may like to be one of the tourgivers, or we can have someone present the stories you provide. Leave a message on the OCS phone for Leona Taylor.

Walking Tour Cashier

We are in need of a cashier to collect money at the Sunday walking tours. If you are able to spend half an hour on Sunday afternoon about once a month please contact Sven Jensen at svenjensen@shaw.ca or leave a message at the OCS office.

Ora Jones

Long-time Society member Ora Jones passed away peacefully at home on May 19th, 2010 with loving family by her side. Our sympathies go to her husband Allan and their family members.

Marion Preston

It was with great sadness that we noted the passing of John Adams's mother, Marion Preston. She died peacefully at home in Victoria May 19, 2010. Her interests were many, ranging from bird watching, cooking, knitting, reading, crossword puzzles, travelling and painting. She will be

fondly remembered for her sense of humour, generosity and her kindness to others. She was an OCS member and a delightful part of many OCS bus excursions and walking tours over the years.

Report on Spring Activities

Our annual **open house** was held on May 16 at Ross Bay Cemetery. It was a great day with no rain for a change. Twenty volunteers attended and did a great job of showing the public what the Old Cemeteries Society is all about. A large number of people came to find out where relatives were buried and the volunteers did a great job of looking up the locations and escorting them to the requested grave site. An information booth and a recording table were busy for the whole 2 ½ hours. Not far from the information table, four hardy volunteers cleaned monuments and explained the process to all who were interested. All in all it was a good day!

May 12 was our **Spring Meeting** at James Bay New Horizons. Those who did not attend missed a great talk about research done to try and clarify the true history of the Four Mile House and the Six Mile House in Esquimalt. The common written history of these two historic landmarks is full of discrepancies and mistakes. Sherri Robinson has been researching these houses for some time and told us the true story. Thanks Sherri.

Cleaning

The open house was supposed to be the start of our summer cleaning program but Mother Nature had other ideas! May was just too cold and wet to start cleaning. The beginning of June was better but our first cleaning bees were held on June 19 and June 26. The July schedule is for bees on to be held on the 10th and 24th. For more information or to put your name on the contact list, email the office or email Wilf Bruch at wbruch@shaw.ca. There is no prior knowledge or experience necessary and everyone is welcome.

Row Markers

Earlier in the spring your executive ordered 21 row markers paid for by generous donations from our membership. They were delivered in mid June and have now been installed. We now have the first belt completed (every second row) at plot # 75 in the upper portion of Ross Bay Cemetery. Thanks to donations from R. Weeks, Susan Warrender and Carol Murray, we have ordered six more markers. We are working on a map to explain their locations. This map will be posted on our web site and at the cemetery as soon as it is completed. This is a great step forward and will make grave locating so much easier.

Tourgivers Notes

Bayne Dean has contributed to the Research Committee all her notes and information compiled for tours she has given, or for which she has done research. This is of great assistance to the Research Committee and avoids going through the same research time after time. So if you are in the same position and have tour notes and material, please contact the office and the Research Committee will arrange to pick them up.

St. Paul's Naval and Garrison Church Tour

Sherri Robinson organized a delightful and informative Sunday afternoon tour of St. Paul's in Esquimalt on May 30. The organist demonstrated the beautiful historic organ, which is the subject of a fundraising campaign for essential refurbishment. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Canadian Navy, a Memorial Window has been designed, crafted and installed in St. Paul's Church in Esquimalt as one of the Canadian Naval Centennial Projects. St. Paul's Church has a long association with The Royal Navy and then The Royal Canadian Navy dating back over 150 years. Sherri, who campaigned to have St. Paul's designated heritage, and who continues to work to preserve this important symbol of our history, informs us there are

rumours that the powers that be are going to change the name of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Esquimalt as they prepare it to become a HUB church; a ridiculous idea for a church built in 1866 and always known as St. Paul's. Sherri will keep us informed should our support be needed.

BCHF Certificate of Merit to Leona Taylor

Each year, the BC Historical Federation recognizes outstanding contributions by individuals and groups to the study and promotion of BC history.

Leona received a 2010 Certificate of Merit for her Victoria newspaper index (www.victoriasvictoria), a compilation of 40,000 records focusing on the social history of Victoria and surrounding areas. She was also recognized for her contributions as a researcher, director and volunteer in the Old Cemeteries Society; executive member of the Victoria Historical Society; and volunteer researcher and cataloguer at the BC Archives.

The award was announced at the BCHF AGM in May in Vancouver and presented to Leona at the Victoria Historical Society AGM on May 27, 2010.

Congratulations to Leona for some well-deserved recognition!

Thrifty Foods Smile Card Fundraising Program

The Old Cemeteries Society has been approved for participation on the Thrifty Foods Smile Card Fundraising Program. Funds raised will be used for the Ross Bay Cemetery Row Marker Project.

The program is essentially a smartcard program in which cash amounts are “loaded” onto a card and the card is then used to purchase goods. The cards can be loaded at any cash register or service desk at any Thrifty Foods store in Greater Victoria. Each time the Smile Card is loaded with a cash amount, Thrifty Foods automatically donates 5% to the OCS’s Smile Card Account. Those interested in participating should contact the OCS office at oldcem@pacificcoast.net or by phoning (250) 598-8870 to receive a participant’s card and further information on how to use it. The cards are not available at Thrifty Foods stores so please do not ask for them there.

RBC “Roses” tour

All our Sunday walking tours require a certain amount of “behind the scenes” research and organization by our dedicated volunteers, but the “Roses” tour held on June 27 deserves special mention. OCS member Carole Todd, also a member of the Canadian Rose Society, agreed to organize this tour. In the last year she spent countless hours locating rose bushes, then tending them to improve their growing situation, and protecting them from insects, weedeaters and cute little deer to ensure there were roses suitable for showing on the tour.