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## **September-October 2016**

### **Judy Wasylenko Legacy**

The Old Cemeteries Society was the recipient of a legacy from the estate of Judy Wasylenko, an OCS member who passed away in 2014. Judy was responsible for updating the death records on our data base along with numerous other things. She lived in Alberta for many years and was active in cemetery recording in Alberta as well as B.C. She will be sadly missed around the OCS. Judy leaves an extraordinary legacy in genealogy work, including family research, providing database information for genealogy web sites, and 35 years of volunteer research to record cemetery information in Alberta and BC. For her many years of volunteer service, she was awarded honorary membership in the Victoria Genealogical Society. As a member of the Saanich Volunteers she was a long time participant in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, and also served with the Esquimalt Parks and Recreation volunteer program. Judy attended Victoria's St. Ann's Academy for twelve years. After serving briefly in both the Canadian Army Reserve and Air Force, Judy joined the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires in Drumheller in 1986, and continued her time with the Corps at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria, where she retired in October 2013, after 25 years of service. She received both the Long Service medal and the Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of her exemplary career. As a thank you to her family, we invited her sister, Monica Pinch to our garden party. We thanked Monica for Judy's generosity to OCS. We intend to use the funds to continue work on our data base. In the photo, Monica is talking to Peter Grant.



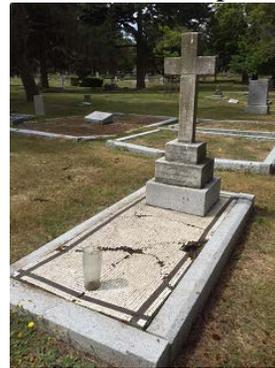
### **The Garden Party**

Some thirty-five members enjoyed a lovely evening on August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Old Cemeteries Society garden party on the grounds of Ross Bay Villa.



### Cleaning Report      Sharon Welsh

The last two cleaning bees of the season will be held from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and we will continue to concentrate on Section T, in the area around the Pooley angel. This section has not been worked on in many years and is now looking great! Here are before and after photos of one stone.



In addition to the usual scraping of moss and lichen, we have uncovered several stones that have been partially buried for several years. Also, we have a list of several small stones that need to be re-glued as the glue has deteriorated over the years.

Local residents and tourists walking around the cemetery often stop to ask who we are and what we are doing. The locals are always very pleased to see us and many of them comment that the cemetery is looking better and better every year.

Thanks to Pat Lydon for his networking skills used to obtain some additional aprons to be used by the cleaning volunteers.

### Nellie Cashman Fund

### Pat Lydon

I am happy to report that the first donation to the Nellie Cashman Fund came from none other than Dr. Joyce Clearihue, our revered Old Cemeteries Society member and contributor. Joyce's grandfather, the Father of Judge Clearihue, the first chancellor of the University of Victoria, was a close friend of Nellie Cashman when both of them were merchants and gold prospectors in the Cassiar district of Northwestern B.C. in the year of 1874. How serendipitous that Joyce Clearihue would be the first contributor to Nellie's centennial stone at Ross Bay Cemetery. The Friends of Nellie Cashman will be informed of her generosity.

Father William Gyure (Father Bill) from Tombstone, Arizona, recently came to Ross Bay Cemetery to visit the grave of Nellie Cashman. Father Bill had made a tour of Alaska, Yukon, and then Victoria in an effort to follow the trail of Nellie and her adventures in the north. Father Bill hopes to have his story printed in the old Epitaph Newspaper which was based in Tombstone back in the days of the notorious "Shootout at the OK Coral" in 1881.



### **Historic Grave Refurbished**

Wilf Bruch

Ross Bay Cemetery received a surprise visit from Parks Canada this month. They were here to clean and restore the memorial plaque on the grave of The Hon. John Hamilton Gray, the only father of confederation buried west of the Rockies.

The brass plaque was placed on his grave (B101E31) by the Federal Government in 1967 to commemorate our centennial year and was in need of cleaning.



John Hamilton Gray was a political leader in New Brunswick from 1850 to 1872. He had United Empire Loyalist ties and was chosen as the delegate for New Brunswick to the Charlottown conference of 1864, and to the Quebec Conference in 1866. In 1872 he was appointed a puisne (i.e., junior) judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and lived in Victoria until his death on June 5, 1889. His pallbearers included Sir Leonard Tilley, Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, the Hon. H.P.P. Crease and the Hon. Peter O'Reilly.

### **Volunteers Needed**

#### Halloween Patrols at RBC

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 not been finalized but an email will be sent out to all members as soon they are confirmed by the City Parks Department. We do our patrols in two shifts, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 12 midnight.

#### Annual Ghost Walk at RBC

Our annual Ghost Walk Sunday Tour on October 25<sup>th</sup> is in need of volunteers. We need ticket sellers, story tellers, refreshment volunteers and pilots.

If you are able to help out with either of these events please leave your name by e-mail at [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net), or phone 250-598-8870, or email Gerry Buydens at [gbuydens@shaw.ca](mailto:gbuydens@shaw.ca)

### Volunteer Editor Sought for *Stories in Stone*

We are still looking for a volunteer editor for "Stories in Stone", the Old Cemeteries Society journal which we publish twice a year. If you are interested in writing, collecting interesting stories about cemeteries and the people buried there, or have always wanted to be published, you need to talk to Gerry Buydens about this once in a lifetime opportunity. Call him at 250 383-4873 or e-mail [gbuydens@shaw.ca](mailto:gbuydens@shaw.ca)

### Summer So[ul]stice at Royal Oak

Diana Pedersen

The Seventh Annual Summer So[ul]stice at Royal Oak Burial Park was held on Saturday is also a memorial celebration for people who have friends and relatives buried in the cemetery. Many visitors enjoyed the events and also made a trip to place flowers on a special grave. Music was prominently featured—a harpist, a woodwind duo, a concert by the Ensemble Laude Women's Choir in the Mausoleum, and members of the delightful Homegoing Brass Band, Vancouver's only funeral band. While they play standard funeral hymns like Amazing Grace and Nearer My God to Thee, it was the upbeat strains of their New Orleans-style jazz that really added to the enjoyment of the afternoon. Local historian Dave Obee gave some short talks about the cemetery. The new second edition of his history of Royal Oak Burial Park was launched at this event. Proceeds from the purchase of copies were earmarked for the Little Spirits Garden. Beverages, fruit, and baked goods were generously provided. This was a very pleasant afternoon and perhaps next year some members of the Old Cemeteries Society might consider organizing an expedition. Carpooling would be a great idea. I do not recommend taking the bus! It was a long and steep uphill climb from the Royal Oak Exchange to the cemetery entrance and then up to the Mausoleum and the Terraces. Cars can drive right up to the Mausoleum where there is ample parking.



### Tombstone Oddities



Tucolay Cemetery, Napa, California

### Last Words

Botanist Luther Burbank 1849-1936

"I don't feel good."