



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

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January – February 2010

Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: James Bay New Horizons at 234 Menzies Street

Speaker: Dennis Minaker

President's Report - will summarize the written reports submitted by Board members to be included in the Minutes.

Election of Officers

Elections to the Old Cemeteries Society Board for 2010 will be held (usually very brief). The Board consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Members at Large. 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, or 250-383-4873 as soon as possible.

Refreshments

Speaker

We're delighted to have OCS member Dennis Minaker, author of "The Gorge of Summers Gone", presenting an illustrated talk entitled **Under a Clamshell and Dogwood** about his bohemian great-grandfather Louis Charles Springett, painter and sailor of Maple Bay.

2010 Tours Start in February!

Feb 21 Sports and Recreation

Commemorating Heritage Week. Dave Unwin conducts.

Feb 28 Black History

Commemorating Black History Month. John Adams conducts.

Gather for Ross Bay Cemetery tours in Fairfield Plaza at 1:45 on Sunday afternoons.

President's message Wilf Bruch

Goodbye 2009!! Last year will be remembered as the "Damaged Year". We saw two major bouts of vandalism, one in August and the other in December. All the damaged markers were repaired by Mortimer's Monument Works at City expense. However, as is all too obvious at Ross Bay, once a stone is broken it will always look broken. Here's an example of the damage:



Hello 2010!! What challenges will it bring the Old Cemeteries Society? Will we see more security at Ross Bay Cemetery? Will we get into a new office? How many row markers will we place? Will we complete our Recording project? How many markers will we be able to repair? How many volunteers will step forward and get involved? The answers are all veiled in this New Year. My New Years Wish for the Old Cemeteries Society and all its members is much success in all it's programs and projects. Together we can make a difference.

From **Mike Bieling** comes another story of cemetery vandalism. Although the price of scrap metal has plummeted, one or several people have been removing brass plaques from cemeteries and selling them for their scrap metal value. At least 47 brass plates have been stolen from a Chilliwack cemetery, and police arrested one suspect in Vedder with 18 brass plaques in his van. Two other occupants of the van escaped. Meanwhile, police in Surrey recovered a half dozen grave plates after they had been brought to a scrap dealer.

Mailout Volunteer needed

We need a volunteer to take care of mailing out the bimonthly Stone Cuttings newsletter and the Stories in Stone journal in May and November. The job requires picking up the publications at Fotoprint, printing and applying address labels on envelopes at the OCS office and delivering them to a post office. The volunteer will need transportation and computer skills. If you are interested in the job, please leave a message at the office at 250.598.8870, or oldcem@pacificcoast.net and details will be provided.

Ross Bay Row Marker Project

As of December 2009, Ross Bay Cemetery has no physical markers to show the location of sections, rows and plot numbers. We have a very good, detailed map but no good way of locating a particular row or plot. Right now we have to find plots by comparing the map with features on the ground and then counting to the desired location. Once there we must cross reference to adjacent markers to ensure accuracy. This takes a lot of time and is not always totally correct. Our new project will place markers in three bands



running East and West across the cemetery. Each marker will show the section, row and plot number for that particular location. This will allow everyone to easily and accurately find specific grave locations. **You can help!** Each marker will cost \$25 to engrave - the material has been generously donated by Colonial Countertops. Your donations labelled "Row Marker Project" will go directly to this project and you will receive a charitable donation receipt and a letter identifying the location of your donated marker(s). The photo above shows OCS members placing the row markers.

Please help us mark Ross Bay Cemetery today by mailing your cheque (made out to OCS) to: OCS, Box 50004, #15-1594 Fairfield Rd, Victoria, BC V8S 1G1

Birth Announcement

John and Donna Adams are the delighted grandparents of a grandson, Oak Avon John Adams, born on December 21. Baby and mother are doing very well.

Victoria Historical Society Meetings

January 28th, 2010: Dr. Patricia Roy: *British Columbia a century ago* Dr. Roy, noted British Columbia historian, and former president of the BC Historical Federation, will give an illustrated talk on the first decade of the 1900's which saw the formation of our modern province.

February 25th, 2010: Michael Layland: *The toponomy of Vancouver Island* Michael Layland is a map historian and former president of the VHS. He will describe how and when the place names were given and appeared on maps and charts.

**The Vancouver 2010 BC Historical Federation Conference
has an exciting Transportation Theme May 6-9, 2010**

All OCS members are members of the BC Historical Federation.

Be sure to mark your calendars for May 6 - 9, 2010 and check out all the great pre-conference workshops, events, tours and options. For all early bird registrations received by March 15, 2010, a draw will be held with eight winners enjoying an exclusive harbour tour (valued at \$160 each) by the Vancouver Harbour Commission.

Check out some of the exciting optional tours as many have a limit of tickets available - the Harbeck City Reflections tour, the Streetcars and Railway Stations escorted tour, and the City Square Neighborhood escorted tour. The Book Fair will be open Thursday evening outside the Opening Reception and all day Friday. Most of the tours and special events are available by transit with the new Canada Line Skytrain just two blocks away.

On Sunday at 10 am there is a Mountain View Cemetery Tour by the BC Genealogical Society for a \$10 donation .

For registration and programme details see <http://bchistory.ca/> (linked to the OCS website).

Membership Renewal

Due to the ever increasing cost of sending newsletters and notices by Canada Post, the executive of OCS urges you to have them sent by e-mail. If you agree with this, please provide your e-mail address on the membership renewal form. The newsletter sent via e-mail or on the website will be formatted so it can be downloaded or printed on 8½" by 11" paper.

Members can check the status of their membership by looking at the upper right hand corner of the mailing label on the envelope, or you can look at the back of your membership card, or you can e-mail the office at oldcem@pacificcoast.net.

When renewing your membership for 2010, please complete the form below and return it with your payment. You can also renew at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 3, 2010.

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, #15 – 1594 Fairfield Rd, Victoria, B.C. V8S 1G1.