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January – February 2011

Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: James Bay New Horizons at 234 Menzies Street

Speaker: Jacques Marc will give an illustrated talk about his underwater archaeology experiences.

The Underwater Archaeological Society of BC: Who we are and what we do.

Jacques Marc is the Explorations Director with the Underwater Archaeological Society of British Columbia. He is an avocational U/W archaeologist who has spent 28 years diving on and documenting historic shipwrecks around the province. In his capacity as Explorations Director Jacques co-ordinates many of the societies expeditions to search for and survey shipwreck sites. He has participated on survey expeditions to the Arctic to survey Roald Amundsen's exploration vessel Maude and to the Columbia River to survey the HBC Isabella lost in 1830. Jacques has written and presented numerous papers at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conferences and has published 6 booklets on shipwrecks under the UASBC banner. In addition to his Explorations role Jacques served as the UASBC President from 2002 to 2009.

Election of Officers

Elections to the Old Cemeteries Society Board for 2011 will be held at the AGM. The Board consists of Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five Members at Large. New Board members are always welcome, but in particular, we would like to fill the position of secretary. 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 gerrybuydens@pacificcoast.net or 250 383-4873

The 2010 Christmas Tour



The 2010 Christmas Tour....



...at the Carr Grave

President's Message

2010 is gone and it was a good year!

It saw 50 new row markers placed at Ross Bay Cemetery, a new sidewalk on Fairfield Road, lots of cleaning done and markers repaired, a very successful tour program and at the very end, a new office at Ross Bay Villa.

During the last week of December some of the executive gathered at the old office in the basement of Bill and Peggy Magee to box up our extensive collection of information and move it to our new office at Ross Bay Villa across from Ross Bay Cemetery. It will take a few more weeks to organize everything but we expect to be "open for business" shortly. An email will be sent out and a notice put on the website as soon as we are operational.

Bill and Peggy have shared their home with us for over 10 years and we owe them a debt of gratitude that will be hard to repay. Thank you so much for all your patience and contributions to our society!

Here are our goals for 2011:

Repaint the iron fences in Ross Bay Cemetery

Complete the recording project (finish section B & T)

Start to photograph headstones and enter them on our database

Place 50 more row markers

Develop a volunteer program to present a regular presence at the new office and at Ross Bay cemetery.

If you have an interest and some time to spare in any of these areas please let us know. You can email Roberta in the office oldcem@pacificcoast.net and she will direct the information to the right coordinator.

Ross Bay Villa

At a reception at the villa on the evening of December 16th The Land Conservancy Executive Director, Bill Turner, announced that TLC had received an occupancy permit for Ross Bay Villa from the City of Victoria. Some months ago our executive ratified a rental agreement with TLC to occupy office space in the villa when this permit was received. So finally, after years of waiting and watching we make plans to move our office to Ross Bay Villa. To many of us this is an exciting moment and we're looking forward to the new space and the opportunities it will bring. Thanks to all the TLC volunteers that worked tirelessly over the last 10 years to restore Ross Bay Villa, especially the members of the restoration committee – past and present.

TLC Executive Director Bill Turner presents the Occupancy Permit for Ross Bay Villa to Old Cemeteries Society President Wilf Bruch.



2011 Tours Start in February

February 20. RBC. Heritage Week. This is Heritage Week and the theme across BC this year is the heritage of parks and landscapes. Historian John Adams will lead the first tour of the season and will discuss RBC (BC's oldest formal landscape), its history and why it is a designated heritage site.

February 27 RBC Black History. In the 1850s and 1860s Victoria was a haven for blacks escaping racism in California and many are buried at RBC. A joint tour by the OCS and the BC Black History Awareness Society for Black History Month.

March 6 RBC At Death's Door. Popular storyteller Glenn Perlstrom has dug into his macabre files for more of the most amazing stories of sudden and unexpected deaths and deadly epidemics. Not for the squeamish!

New Marker to Commemorate Black Pioneers

A special part of the Feb. 27 Black History tour will be to visit the new marker for two members of the Alexander family – Corinthia and daughter Eva. The marker was funded by donations from the BCBHAS, OCS, and the City of Victoria. John Adams and Valin Marshall will conduct the tour. The official unveiling will take place on Sat., Feb. 26, at 1:00 pm at the gravesite at RB Cemetery. The marker will be unveiled by Ferguson Jenkins, an inductee to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

New Editor Required for *Stories in Stone*

Our long standing editor Bill Magee and our producer Fred Hook have decided that after some twenty years of producing *Stories in Stone* they need a rest. Both of these gentlemen have done an outstanding job of providing all of us with great stories and information over these many years. Thanks Bill and Fred!

So, now it is time to pass the torch. Do you have the skills and time to be our next editor? Or, do you know of someone who might be interested? For a more complete description of this volunteer position or to discuss it further, please contact Don Reksten.

2011 BC Historical Federation Conference in Powell River

The 2011 Conference is being hosted by the Powell River Museum Society (PRMS) from May 4 to 8 and offers some interesting tours and events. The registration form is available on the PRMS's website www.powellrivermuseum.ca and can be completed on line and paid via Paypal. The Early Bird deadline is Mar. 15, 2011. Note that all members of OCS are Members of the BCHF. (If you wish to obtain a hard copy of the Conference Package contact the OCS office 250 598-8870 or oldcem@pacificcoast.net).

New Publications (Available at local bookstores)

Victoria: Bench by Bench

Rebecca Kennel has released a delightful new guidebook about 60 quiet and interesting places in Victoria. They are places one might stop, read a book or just enjoy the sights and sounds of the moment. Both Ross Bay Cemetery and The Old Burying Ground are featured. The author has used our walking tour maps and made special reference to our society. Also included are the Jewish Cemetery and the Veterans Cemetery. Rebecca Kennel has kindly donated a copy to our library. Thanks Rebecca.

Vancouver Island Book of Musts

This entertaining guidebook by Vancouver Island native Peter Grant contains "the 101 places every Islander must see". One of the "Musts" is Ross Bay Cemetery. Thanks to Peter Grant for noting the OCS as a resource, and for the copy of his latest book.

Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program

All proceeds from this program are applied to the Row Marker Project. If you don't have a card yet, please phone the office (250 598 8870) or pick one up at the AGM in February.

Victoria Historical Society Meetings

At 7:30PM, at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies St, Victoria. Meetings consist of a short business agenda followed by a guest speaker. Visitors are always welcome...your first visit is free!

January 27th, 2011: Richard Mackie: *Settling the Salish Sea* Richard Mackie will recall the life and times of George Drabble, Vancouver Island pioneer settler and many other things. He will base his talk on his book "The Wilderness Profound: a Victorian Life on the Gulf of Georgia". An illustrated talk on a man whose life and actions did much to settle Vancouver Island in the latter half of the 19th Century.

February 24th, 2011: Susan Mayse: *Victoria: Crown Jewel of British Columbia* In this Heritage Month, Susan Mayse, herself a native daughter, will speak on her recent book, with the above title, including readings.

Victoria Genealogical Society Meeting www.victoriags.org

January 13, 2011 at the Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall Ave, Victoria, BC

Out of the Mouths of Babes: Researching the lives of historical children in BC and Alberta

Presented by: Kathryn Bridge, Manager of the BC Story Project at the Royal BC Museum and Archives.

This will be an overview of Ms. Bridge's research project which uses the archival records created by children - their diaries and letters - to provide the primary documentation about their lives. The talk will include examples of individual children and their diaries and letters and explain how we can see layers of information within their

writings that provide important insights into sibling and family relationships, child friendships, and the child's own views of growing up.

Membership Fees

Effective January 2011 membership in the Old Cemeteries Society will be for a calendar year. That is, membership fees will be due in January and will cover the period January to December.

As most memberships are already purchased in January or February, this will not be a change for most people. However, some memberships have been purchased at different times of the year and consequently have different expiry dates. In the interests of having a fair and equitable process that is also relatively easy to understand, the following will apply:

Memberships purchased between September 2010 and June 30, 2011 will cost the full annual fee and cover the period to December 31, 2011. Memberships purchased after June 30, 2011 will cost half (1/2) the annual fee and will cover the period to December 31, 2011.

For 2012 and subsequent years, memberships purchased prior to July 1 will cost the full annual fee and will cover the period to December 31 of that year; and memberships purchased after June 30 will cost half the annual fee and will cover the period to December 31 of that year.

These changes should reduce the administrative burden to the Society and should allow for more accurate prediction of the annual membership fees that in turn should help in the budget management process.

If you have any questions, please contact the OCS at (250) 598-8870 or oldcem@pacificcoast.net.

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 2011, please complete the form below and return it with your payment. You can also renew at the Annual General Meeting on Feb. 16, 2011.

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

Natalia Petrovna Buchan Thanks to John Adams

BUCHAN, Nathalia Petrovna Died December 27, 2010 in her 101st year. Born August 29, 1910 in Tomskoe Bolotnoe, Russia to Col. Pyotr Christianovich Reksting and Ekaterina Afansievna Reksting (nee Yaskin). Fled the Bolshevik Terror in 1913 to settle in Harbin, Manchuria. Attended The Saint Francis School for Girls (Changchun), later the Osakovskaya Academy (Harbin) and the University of Peking. Escaping Japanese occupation of Manchuria, she



moved to Shanghai in 1929 to become manageress of DD's, Shanghai's most famous restaurant and nightclub. Raised her nephew George Popov and the actor Yul Brynner. Married her beloved husband William Muir Augustus Erskine Buchan on November 11, 1941 and volunteered to accompany him into

internment by the Japanese at Lunghua Concentration Camp (1941-1946). Their lives were saved on many occasions by the enlightened intervention of the camp commandant, Captain Tomohiko Hayashi, an officer and gentleman. Following liberation by American forces, they moved to Bangkok in 1946 where half blind and barely able to walk she fought off Siamese bandits with a Thompson sub-machine gun. Together with her husband established Hai Tai Fung & Co (later the Thailand Tobacco Monopoly), and moved to Hong Kong in 1952 to found Muirleaf Tobacco and Trading Corporation, representing Dupont Polychemical, Dibrell and Imperial Tobacco Companies, American Machine and Foundry, and Krupp Munitions. Following the death of her husband in 1958 she fearlessly ran the family firm until 1962 at which time she sold Muirleaf to the old taipan firm of Hutchison and Company and immigrated to Canada with her son and mother to settle for a quieter life in Victoria. She was courageous, compassionate, intelligent, pious and loving. She is survived by her beloved son David Muir Buchan and nieces Kerry Fife and Sheena Bienvenue (New South Wales), Gina Castle (Pennsylvania) and their families. The funeral service has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 1 PM at Saint Sophia Russian Orthodox Church, 195 Joseph Street, corner of Joseph and May (Fairfield). Interment at Ross Bay Cemetery. Reception in the church hall at 3 PM. Many thanks to the staff of Glengarry Hospital for their kind and patient care.