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### **March – April 2013**

#### **Annual General Meeting Report** Gerry Buydens

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria was held on Wednesday, February 13. There were 42 people in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Gerry Buydens, Past Chair of OCS. Jac Slik presented the treasurer's report. Gerry Buydens read the presidents report prepared by President Wilf Bruch.

Gerry gave a report on the Thrifty Foods Smile Cards and their importance as a fund raiser for OCS. Smile Cards may be obtained from the OCS office. We have raised approximately \$1000 from the Smile Cards in the past 6 months. Thriftys has raised our maximum to \$2000. The program ends on May 4, 2013.

The Executive for 2013 are Gerry Buydens - President; Wilf Bruch – Past President; Vice President – vacant; Jac Slik - Treasurer; Michael Halleran - Secretary; and Members at large are: Bente Svendsen, Drew Waveryn, Linda Richards, Stewart Dashwood, Fern Perkins, and Sharon Welsh.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 8:00 PM. After a refreshment break the group was treated to a talk by Drew Waveryn on the Graves of the Dunsmuir's: From Scotland to Singapore. A copy of the Treasurer's Report and other Committee Reports are available upon request from the office.

Sunday Tour Brochures will be delivered by volunteers to the various public libraries and the local archives, namely Esquimalt, Victoria and Oak Bay. They are also available at the Sunday tours or from the office.

#### **Upcoming Tours**

All tours begin at 2 PM. Meet in front of Oregano's in Fairfield Plaza.

**March 3. *St. Luke's Church and Churchyard.*** Meet in the parking lot off Cedar Hill Cross Rd., at the corner of Cedar Hill Rd.

**March 10. *Ross Bay Cemetery History.*** Historian John Adams, author of *Historic Guide to Ross Bay Cemetery*, will discuss the history and development of the cemetery.

**March 17. *Irish Columbia.*** In honour of St. Patrick's Day Michael Halleran will guide us to the graves of Irish pioneers at RBC.

**March 24. *An Angler's Paradise*** Dr. Diana Pedersen will share her research on the social history of sport fishing and sporting tourism.

**March 31. *Pet Stories.*** Hear about Miss Wilson's parrot, Emily Carr's Woo, Gov. Seymour's vanishing cat and many more.

**April 7. Golden Weddings.** Sylvia Van Kirk tells of the many golden wedding anniversaries described years ago in glowing detail by the local newspapers.

**April 14. Life at Sea.** Tom Pound visits the graves of many of the seafarers buried at RBC and recounts what life was like for those who served at sea in peace and war.

**April 21. What's Growing on That Grave?** Carole Todd will identify the trees, bushes and flowers on a selection of graves and discuss their cultivation and history.

**April 28. National Day of Mourning for Workers.** Yvonne Van Ruskenveld will lead this first-time tour in honour of men and women who died in the workplace.

*May is Asian Heritage Month and three tours are planned on this theme.*

### **Cowichan Valley Bus Tour**

A one-day charter coach excursion to Cowichan Valley cemeteries and historic sites is scheduled for Saturday, September 14. Tom Paterson, historian, long-time OCS member and author of *Tales the Tombstones Tell: a Walking Guide to the Cemeteries of the Cowichan Valley* will be the guide and a sandwich lunch is included. Cost per person is \$60.00. Space is limited so contact the office to register now!

### **50+ Active Living Celebration on March 12, 2013**

Gerry Buydens

OCS will have a booth at the Senior Expo Fair on Tuesday, March 12, at the Pearkes Recreation Centre, 3100 Tillicum Road. OCS members are encouraged to come and enjoy the fun filled event. The doors open at 7:30 AM for exhibitors and for a pancake breakfast. For more information see <http://www.seniorlivingmag.com/festival>

### **British Columbia Historical Federation Conference 2013**

The BC Historical Federation Conference will be held in Kamloops from May 8 to 12, 2013. OCS members are welcome to attend. Attendees need a delegate form, duly signed by an Officer of OCS, if they wish to vote at the annual general meeting of the federation. Delegate forms are available from the OCS office. Information at [www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca)

### **BCHF Online Encyclopedia** Barb Hynek, President, BC Historical Federation

The British Columbia Historical Federation has created an online encyclopedia and we need your help in getting entries. Included here is the information about this project and how people can contribute. The editor is Derek Hayes, author of the award winning historical atlas series.

The link to the project is: [http://bchistoryonline.com/wiki/Read\\_about\\_this\\_project](http://bchistoryonline.com/wiki/Read_about_this_project)

### **Cemetery Photos by Susan Henderson**



**Cleaning & Restoration**Sharon Walsh

We have an active cleaning and restoration program in Ross Bay Cemetery and we need help to achieve long-term results! Here's an example of last year's work!



The Williams mausoleum before.....



The Williams mausoleum after.....

We will begin the cleaning and restoration program in Section Q early in June. This portion of the cemetery has little or no water, so we will concentrate on scraping moss and raising & straightening headstones. We will be there from 10am until noon on Saturdays, except for long weekends, and will send out email notifications as well as posting messages on Facebook & sending Tweets. So, come out and help the Old Cemeteries Society make a difference!

**Submissions for *Stories in Stone*:** Fern Perkins

There is still time to submit a story for the next edition of *Stories In Stone*. Please send your submissions by the end of March to: [fern.perkins@shaw.ca](mailto:fern.perkins@shaw.ca) Remember that our journal is a collection of interesting stories about people buried in old cemeteries; it is not a general historical journal. With that in mind, the following suggestions may help when you write for the Old Cemeteries Society:

1. The first time the person is mentioned, use their complete name and outside dates in parentheses.

- There is a huge amount of information contained in those two dates--it provides a whole context for the person's life and helps to orient the reader immediately.
- Also include the coordinates of their grave location and a picture of their gravesite if possible.

2. Authors are strongly encouraged to begin these items with an interesting "hook."

- Never start with "X was born" followed by a place, names of parents, names and ages of siblings and the fact that they loved kite-flying when they were a child and they had a dog. (An exaggeration but you get the idea.)
- At this point the reader has no idea who X was or why the author thought that X was significant or interesting enough to be described in a brief bio.
- That information should come first so that your reader can make a decision about whether they want to continue reading, otherwise, the reader has to skip down to the end to find out more before reading further (as I do) or that feckless reader will just jump to the next item that looks more interesting.
- If the author doesn't provide a hook (one to three sentences for these short items), then you really need a title that conveys the person's significance. e.g. "Daffodil grower buried at.."
- Don't use the person's name as a title if no one has heard of them because it won't arouse the reader's curiosity.
- An example of a short hook might be: "Among the many interesting British pioneers who are buried in ..., is the man who launched one of the most important businesses on the Saanich Peninsula today--the growing, selling, and exporting of daffodil bulbs. Name of person (dates) was born in ..." Happy writing!

A lawyer's epitaph in England :

Sir John Strange.  
Here lies an honest lawyer,  
and that is Strange.

Anna Hopewell's grave in Vermont :

Here lies the body of our Anna,  
Done to death by a banana.  
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low,  
But the skin of the thing that made her go.

In an English cemetery:

Remember man, as you walk by,  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, so shall you be,  
Remember this and follow me.

Someone wrote on the tombstone:

To follow you I'll not consent,  
Until I know which way you went.

### **Memberships**

A reminder that your Old Cemeteries Society membership fees are due. If you haven't renewed, please contact the office. If you have renewed, thank you.