



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

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**November – December 2009**



**Lest We Forget**

**Old Cemeteries Society Fall Meeting**

Leona Taylor

A short business meeting will be followed by refreshments and an illustrated talk.

When: Wednesday November 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Where: James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street

What: "Armistice Day +90 in London"

John Azar and Yvonne Van Ruskenveld will present a slide show on their participation in the events in London, England commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1918 armistice. This will include a description of Yvonne's visit to the Brookwood Military Cemetery.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

**November 8 Remembrance Day Tour.** John Azar conducts his annual tour to veterans' graves in **Ross Bay Cemetery**, with his fascinating stories of the people and their times, from the Crimean War to World War II.

**Veterans' Graves**

Mike Bieling

The tradition of placing small, white crosses decorated with poppies on the graves of veterans of Canada's Armed Forces during the month of November began in the Cowichan Valley in 1926, as a part of an annual Armistice Day commemoration organized nationwide by the newly-founded Royal Canadian Legion. Here are the dates of placement ceremonies in the Cowichan Valley:

Sunday, November 1 Mountain View Cemetery and St. Mary's Anglican Church, Somenos, Duncan, 1:15 p.m.

Monday, November 2 All Saint's Anglican Church Cemetery, Westholme, 9:45 a.m.

Saturday, November 7, 2009 Shawnigan Cemetery, Shawnigan Lake 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 St. Peter's Anglican Church, Quamichan, Duncan, 2:00 p.m.

**November – December Tours**

Tours meet at 1:45pm in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza, except as noted. \$5 – no reservations needed. Phone 250-598-8870 or [www.oldcem.bc.ca](http://www.oldcem.bc.ca) for details.

**November 15 Murder Most Foul** Michael Halleran takes us to graves of murderers and their victims in **Ross Bay Cemetery** and tells the grisly tales he has found in coroners' files and old newspapers.

**November 22 Sands Funeral Chapel.** Sands has been in Victoria for a long time and the building they occupy is a heritage landmark itself. Meet the staff and tour the facility (including behind the scenes) to see how it operates. **Meet inside the front doors at 1803 Quadra Street.**

**November 29 St. Luke's Church and Churchyard.** A heritage church with its surrounding churchyard provides an historic link with Gordon Head in a very picturesque setting. The tour will be conducted by

members of the congregation who have been writing the church's history. **Meet at the church, corner of Cedar Hill Rd at Cedar Hill Cross Rd.**

**December 6 Old Burying Ground Christmas Tour.** Christmas and holiday stories from Victoria of old will delight and amaze you. New tales and old favourites. **Meet at the corner of Quadra Street and Rockland Avenue.**

**December 13 Ross Bay Christmas Tour.** John Adams continues the yuletide theme with more warm-hearted and humorous stories, including many about Emily Carr. A holly wreath will be placed on Emily Carr's family plot, an annual tradition of the OCS. (Emily's birthday is that day.)

**OCS Board Candidates**     Gerry Buydens

It's not too early to start thinking about nominations for the 2010 Board. We're always looking for that "new blood" which must be out there somewhere. If you are willing to serve or want to nominate someone for any of the Board positions please contact Gerry Buydens, phone 383-4808, or leave a message at the OCS office.

**Report on 2009 Activities**                     Wilf Bruch

Cleaning and Restoration

Thanks to all who participated in this year's cleaning project. More than two hundred monuments were cleaned by hand. Special thanks to Rex Frost who spent most Saturdays this summer power washing curbing.

Recording

Jane Bruch, our volunteer Recording Coordinator, reports another successful year. Jane, four volunteers and our summer student Cailin Bain-Glenn have all but completed section U. Janice Wesolowski spent many hours this summer proofing, adding and correcting our records of section A and G. A display featuring this year's work will be presented at our November 4th meeting.

Ghost Walk Tour

On Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> thirty hardy volunteers entertained some 150 intrigued Victorians. Molly Newman came to portray Emily Carr, Fern Perkins played Isabella Ross, Pat Lydon told the Tod stories and Barb Walker told Doris Gravelin's story. These four storytellers came in full costume with their own set of props. We received many compliments for a memorable tour. The tour netted \$892.35.

Ghost Bus-tours

We had eight bus tours this year and most of the buses were full. Thanks to John Adams for all the work he put into their organization and execution.

**New Project for Ross Bay Cemetery**

How many of you have tried to find a particular grave at Ross Bay Cemetery and failed? There are no signs or markers to establish row numbers, plot numbers or even section letters.

That is about to change! We are embarking on a new project! Colonial Countertops Ltd. has donated a large quantity of 8"x8" marble tablets on which we will engrave location information and install them in the cemetery. Each marker will cost about \$25, so it will probably take many years to complete this project. We need about 200 markers. To start we have ordered 10 markers and hope to have them installed in the spring. If you want to help in this project, you can donate money and specify that it go directly to the engraving costs. As funds come in we will order more markers.

**Corporate Helpers**

Let's take a moment to thank the companies who have helped us this year.

Fuzzy Wuzzy Carpets, Fine Line Painting, Mortimers Monumental Works, Colonial Countertops, Al Bruch's Carpentry, Discover The Past Tours, City of Victoria Parks Department and The BC Heritage Legacy Fund. Thank you one and all.

**Victoria Historical Society Meeting**                     Leona Taylor

For those who missed Jeanette Taylor's cemetery tour about north Island folks, there is another opportunity to hear about the rich history and unique characters of that area.. Jeanette will be presenting her new book 'The Quadra Story' with a slide show and talk at a Victoria Historical Society meeting **November 26, 7:30 pm at the James Bay New Horizons**, Menzies Street. Non-members are welcome.

**Rosemary Crawford Retires. Again!**     Peggy Magee

Rosemary, a former public health nurse had served in several parts of the Province. She started the museum in Princeton, served on the OCS board, gave tours for the Society, did research, and edited a Women's issue of *Stories in Stone*. Among her special interests was Saint Mary's Church in Metchosin. At an annual Emily Carr tour in Ross Bay cemetery, Rosemary stood on the Carr plot, assuming the character of Emily, when two people walked by. One was heard to remark, "Oh, there's Emily Carr! I thought she was dead.!" Rosemary is retiring again, to Burnaby this time, where she has family. Her new address is 1207-1850 Rosser Ave., Burnaby, BC V5C 5E1.

**Garage Sale Planned for April**     Bill Magee

Save your treasures and unwanted Christmas presents for a garage sale to raise funds for the Emily Carr statue. The sale will be about mid-April, here at our house, 941 Richmond Ave. Phone 250-595-6029.



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

