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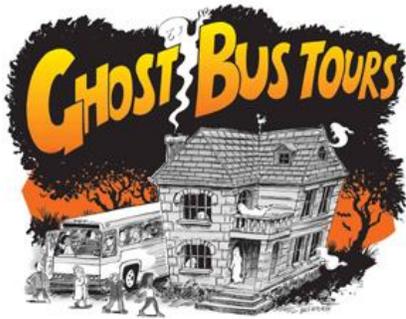
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## **November – December 2014**

### **You're being surveyed!**

Your executive would like to know what activities, functions and volunteer events each of you are interested in. This will help the executive to plan activities for next year based on your likes. Look for a survey from Survey Monkey to come your way either by email or post. Please help us by filling it out promptly.



### **Ghost Bus Tours**

John Adams

Support the OCS's biggest annual fundraiser. Buy tickets for yourself or a friend.

Don't miss the 21st year of Ghost Bus-tours, the OCS's biggest fundraiser event each year. The two-hour excursion through Victoria's haunted neighbourhoods is led by John Adams in the comfort of a charter coach. Routes are different each year. This year the route will feature Oak Bay, Fernwood, Fairfield, James Bay and Victoria West. Two brief stops for on-the-spot ghost hunting will be included.

Tickets are \$35 each (including taxes) and are available now exclusively through Ticket Rocket. Order online with a credit card any time at [www.ticketrocket.org](http://www.ticketrocket.org) or by phone at 250.590.6291. For over the counter sales visit the Ticket Rocket office (at Intrepid Theatre) at #2-1609 Blanshard St. at the corner of Fisgard. Call first to verify their hours. This year Ghost Bus-Tours will start at 7:30 pm on October 18, 24, 25, 29 and 30. The starting location is provided once you have purchased your tickets.

### **Halloween Patrols at Ross Bay Cemetery**

The patrols are a unique opportunity to experience Ross Bay Cemetery at night and at the same time they help to deter vandalism. The patrol dates have been finalized as Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1.

We do our patrols in two shifts, 8pm to 10pm and 10pm to 12 midnight. We are particularly short for the 8 to 12 am shift. If you are able to help out with this event please contact the coordinator, Sharon Welsh at 250 995-1322 or [afterprior@telus.net](mailto:afterprior@telus.net)

### **Sunday, October 26st Ghost Walk in Ross Bay Cemetery**

We need volunteers to act as pilots to direct patrons on the tour, and to help with refreshments and the sales table. Please contact [gbydens@shaw.ca](mailto:gbydens@shaw.ca) or 383-4873. John Adams is organizing the story tellers and the tour route. His proposal follows:

Re: The ghost tour at RBC. The plan is to have 10 speakers in costume, each at a grave. There will be one route only. Starting time is 2:00 pm. As groups of 15 gather they will be taken by a "pilot" to one of the locations, but won't actually begin until 2:00 pm. It will be a shotgun start, with everyone starting at the same time at all 10 locations. The pilots will walk the group to the next speaker, as they have done in the past.

I can walk the pilots around the route at 1:30. Starting entrance will be Stannard Avenue, finish at the caretaker's shed.

As you can see we are trying a different approach this year for this tour. I am looking after the pilots and refreshment people. Please contact me if you would like to be a pilot. Gerry Buydens 250 383-4873 [gbydens@shaw.ca](mailto:gbydens@shaw.ca)



**Lest we forget.....**

### **Remembrance Week Tour**

John Azar

While the Old Cemeteries Society Remembrance Week tour takes place at the Esquimalt Veteran's Cemetery (God's Acre), the tour includes stories about people buried or commemorated in any of the regional heritage cemeteries. This allows us to promote this beautiful and relatively unknown historic military cemetery. It does not

exclude stories from other cemeteries- many of which do not have sufficient stories to warrant a tour.

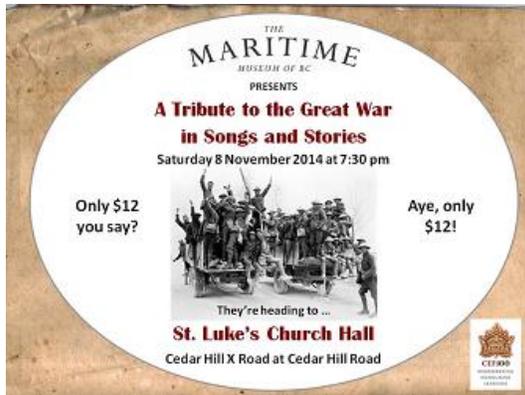
**Tour date is Sunday, November 9, at 2 pm at the Veteran's Cemetery off Colville Road in Esquimalt.**

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Great War/First World War, OCS members and friends have been invited to share stories about family members' Great war experience- no matter what country their relative served with or where they are buried. To date, two members have come forward with family stories that will be included in the tour. There is room for a few more. OCS members wishing to share a First World War-related family story during the 2014 Remembrance Week tour are invited to contact John Azar to discuss possibilities. While participating members will be encouraged to tell their own story, those uncomfortable with public speaking can have their story told for them. Phone John Azar, 250-595-3407, or e-mail [jazar@islandnet.com](mailto:jazar@islandnet.com)

### **Great War Music Revue**

**Saturday November 8, 2014, 7:30 pm at St. Luke's Church Hall**

In conjunction with the Maritime Museum of BC, OCS member John Azar of the CEF100 Commemoration Society is co-producing *A Tribute to the Great War in Songs*



*and Stories*. This tour through the war years will feature popular music of the day along with stories, letters and poems. Singing along is encouraged. Tickets are only \$12 + GST and are available at the Maritime Museum, online at <http://mmbc.bc.ca/programs/for-adults/> or by contacting Kate Humble: e-mail: [khumble@mmbc.bc.ca](mailto:khumble@mmbc.bc.ca) telephone 250-385-4222 ext 112.

### 2014 Cleaning & Restoration Report      Sharon Welsh

We have been a small but diligent bunch of cleaners in the cemetery with from one to three volunteers in the last few weeks. We have continued along the pathway between Sections T, S, and B, edging around monuments and scraping a great deal of moss. We are hoping the weather will allow us to clean for another few weeks ...

This year we started our work parties on May 10th and hope to continue until the end of October. We had between one and seven volunteers at each session and enjoyed beautiful warm and sunny days.

Our focus was revisiting Sections U & V, last cleaned in 2012, by cleaning areas that were missed or had once again become overgrown and mossy. We then started along the pathway between Sections T, S and B.

Thanks to Rex Frost, Pat Lydon, Linda Boon, Yo Knapp, Yvonne Pratt, Kathryn Bergstrom, Angela Dyck, Norah Reksten, Barbara & Paul Dixon, Pat Fowler, Sherrie Stillman, Kris Harris, and Wilf Bruch. Each of you has contributed so much to the Old Cemeteries Society and to Ross Bay Cemetery and we thank you.

### Last Words

Oscar Wilde      1854-1900



Wilde died in a hotel room in France. Even in his death throes his wit did not desert him. At one point he uttered "This wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. Either it goes or I do." As the end neared one of the men accompanying him exclaimed theatrically "What is the answer?" From his deathbed Wilde asked "What is the question?" When Wilde heard his companions wondering how his final expenses were to

be paid he said "I am dying beyond my means." None of these sayings seem to have been his last words, which according to the best available evidence were muttered fragments of a Catholic prayer.