



Correspondence: P.O. Box 50004, #15 – 1594 Fairfield Road, Victoria BC V8S 1G1
 Telephone: (250) 598-8870 Fax: (250) 598-8811

E-mail oldcem@pacificcoast.net

Web Site: <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca>

September – October 2012

Volunteers Needed

Hallowe'en is rapidly approaching and it's time to think about volunteering for October events. We need volunteers for the following:

Story tellers and pilots for the annual ghost tour, October 28th

Ross Bay Cemetery security patrols, Tues. Oct 30th & Wed. Oct 31st

Book sellers for the Ghost Bus Tours

If you can help with any of these activities, please contact Gerry Buydens gbuydens@shaw.ca 250-383-4873 or Wilf Bruch wbruch@shaw.ca 250-383-7514

Members Fall Pot Luck

On Wednesday September 12th, join your executive for an evening of food, friends, fun and prizes. Meet at 6 p.m. on the lawn at Ross Bay Villa. Bring a dish to share, a chair if possible, and a warm jacket. Remember, it can get chilly in the evenings! RSVP to oldcem@pacificcoast.net

Nineteenth Annual Ghost Bus-tours

Ghost Bus-tours each year are the biggest fund raiser for the OCS, so buy tickets for yourself and/or a friend, and pass along the word to anyone who is interested in Victoria's fascinating history and tales of hauntings. John Adams will be conducting the tours again this year and has lots of new stories, along with favourites from the past. The route is different each year, but always includes a stop at the Victoria Golf Course, plus one new secret location for on-the-spot investigations and stories. Tours last 2 hours. Reserve your seat early. Check the website www.discoverthepast.com for details Call John Adams at 250.384.6698 for further information.

Dates and times:

Fri. Oct. 20 9:00 pm

Sat. Oct. 28 6:30 and 9:00 pm

Fri. Oct. 27 6:30 pm

Tues. Oct. 30 6:30 pm

Tickets are \$35 per person, includes HST, and will be available over the internet, by telephone and in-person starting September 7. Details about ordering tickets will be different from past years and will be emailed to all OCS members.

Thanks to Yvonne and Glenn

Yvonne and Glenn have got us through another summer of entertaining and colourful Sunday afternoon tours at Ross Bay Cemetery. Glenn gives the lively "Gossip in the Graveyard" tour alternating with Yvonne's captivating "Gold Rush!" tour.

September – October Walking Tours

Tours start at 2:00 pm. Meet at 1:45 pm in front of Oregano's, Fairfield Plaza, 1544 Fairfield Rd. \$5 for non-members; \$2 for members. No reservations needed. Tours are held regardless of weather. Contact www.oldcem.bc.ca or 250-598-8870.

Sept. 9. *Workers of the World Unite!*

Sept. 16. *Esquimalt Centennial Tour*

Sept. 23. *Capital Crimes*

Sept. 30. *Victoria 150 Anniversary Tour*

Oct. 28. *Annual Ghost Tour.*

Oct. 7. *Northwest Mounted Police Tour*

Oct. 14. *Women's History at RBC*

Oct. 21. *Emily Carr Tour*

Oct. 20-30. *Ghost Bus-tours®*.

Obon Ceremonies

Mike Bieling, Ann Lee & Gordon Switzer

For more than thirty years the B.C. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation has organized a "Vancouver Island Obon Cemetery Tour" to pay respects to individuals of Japanese descent buried in a number of Island cemeteries. This year's tour saw Bishop Ikuta, resident minister for the Steveston Buddhist Temple and Bishop of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada and a small group from the mainland visit five cemeteries over the weekend of August 11th and 12th, including **Chemainus/St. Michael and All Angels** and **Mountain View Cemetery** in Duncan, as well as **Ross Bay Cemetery** in Victoria.

The Obon tour commenced with the **Chemainus** service on Saturday morning, with some 30 members of the community in attendance, including uniformed members of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and the RCMP. This year the **Chemainus** observance involved a special dedication to acknowledge 32 new gravestones that **St. Michael and All Angels'** Board of Managers recently had placed on each plot in the old "Japanese Section", an area of burials which had borne no markers since the graves were vandalized and stones scattered following the removal and internment of Japanese-Canadians from the West Coast in April, 1942. The markers made for this purpose are sealed concrete slabs to which have been screwed beige plastic strips all bearing the same inscription, "Gravesite of a person of Japanese ancestry". People's Warden Graham Jones explained to me that plastic was chosen to avoid problems with metal thieves.



Rev Ikuta



A new marker

The Obon celebrations in **Mountain View Cemetery** in Duncan and in **Ross Bay Cemetery** in Victoria took place on Sunday August 12. The **RBC** observance is sponsored jointly by the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society and the Japanese Friendship Society and is supported by the OCS, it began at 12:30 with a small group cleaning graves with buckets, rags and brushes. The graves mark the approximately 152 Japanese and Japanese Canadians buried in RBC, starting in 1887. Normally the families would tend the graves at this time of year in Japan, in the Buddhist Obon tradition. Here in Victoria, the above-mentioned organizations have taken on the task. About 40 people gathered at the large black granite Kakehashi monument. Reverend Ikuta, was on hand to welcome everyone and perform the ceremony. Everyone was then invited across the street to the grounds of Ross Bay Villa. There a fine spread of Japanese pastry, sushi and other

treats awaited. There was singing and dancing, including Bon-Odori dances by the Furusato Dancers clad in colourful yukata robes. Afterwards interactive games kept children busy.



The Furusato Dancers



The tasty treats

This is the second year the Obon festival has been celebrated in a new format. A tour of the Japanese graves, with stories of some of the interesting Japanese people buried in RBC, took place in May. Thanks go to all the people behind the scenes with the hard work of preparation, organization and performance.

Report on Summer Work **Sharon Welsh and Wilf Bruch**

Work parties were held on 2, 9, 16 & 23 June, 7, 14, & 28 July, and 11, 18 & 25 August. Most of our work concentrated on cleaning and restoration in sections U, V, and W. Although our numbers were not large, great progress was made.

It is so gratifying to see a once buried marker stand proud as it was intended. Below is an example. The first picture shows it as we found it in Block V Plot 20E51. It now stands as it should and you can once again read its story. Luigi Montemurri died on James Island October 11, 1917 and was a native of Mancone, Italy.



Before....



....and after

Society volunteers are currently working on the restoration of the Houston Mausoleum in Block P. This work entails cutting out sections of concrete and patching it with new material, preparing and painting the gate and re-stuccoing the front.



It looked like this in June....



....by August it was looking better!

We hope to be finished by October. Stop by and check out our progress. Thank to Greg Ovstaas of GOAL Engineering for volunteering his time and his recommendations on needed repairs. Also thanks to Gerry Buydens for helping with the report. Thanks to Thrifty Foods we have started on phase three of the row marker project. Mortimer's Monumental Works has completed the first 28 markers and society volunteers installed them during the last week of August. You will find the new set at roadway intersections and highly visible places along pathways. We even have one for Emily Carr.

"1862 and Beyond" publication

This OCS booklet has been selling well, especially since the article by Pedro Arrais in the Times-Colonist on July 29. As well as being available through OCS, it is now stocked by Munro's Books, 1108 Government Street, and Sorensen Books, 1027 Cook Street. Both stores are also carrying our "Favourite Ghost Stories" and "Favourite Stories from Lantern Tours in the Old Burying Ground". The support provided by these bookstores is much appreciated.

Smile Card Program Wilf Bruch

Thrifty Foods has approved our 2012 request for support through their Smile Card fundraising program. The money generated through the Smile Card program goes directly to our Row Marker Project. This year our goal is to place at least 50 new markers along the formal paths and at intersections within Ross Bay Cemetery.

If you have a Smile Card please load it up and buy from Thrifty Foods whenever possible. If you don't have a Smile Card and would like one, let Norah at the office know by return email. Thank you for your support, and thanks to Thrifty Foods.

Meetings and Lectures

The Annual General Meeting of **The Hallmark Heritage Society** will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at the Oak Bay United Church community space at 7:30 pm. Entrance is via the Mitchell Street entrance. If you wish a tour of the restored church, arrive at 7:00 pm for a short tour. Guest speaker will be Richard Linzey, Manager of Heritage Programs and Services for BC, who will present an illustrated lecture on Military History of Esquimalt.

Meetings of **The Victoria Historical Society** are at 7:30 pm at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies St, Victoria.

September 27 - Ronald Greene - *Delectus Victorianus* A view of Victoria of the 1860's and 1870's collected and compiled by the Rev. A.E. Alston, who was born in Victoria in 1862.

October 25 - Sherri Robinson – Esquimalt Centennial

The Victoria Genealogy Society meets on September 13, 2012 at Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall Ave, Victoria, at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00 pm).

Admission free for VGS members, and by donation for visitors and the general public.

Archivist Ann ten Cate, BC Archives, will give an illustrated presentation entitled "Archives and Ancestors" and focusing on archival sources for genealogical research, particularly in B.C. Dig up a few of those family skeletons in coroner's inquests, and police and court records. This talk will also be useful for those interested in writing local or family histories.

"Victoria in 1862" Symposium

September 29 and 30: Odd Fellows Hall, 1315 Douglas Street. Historians present a range of fascinating talks on the subject of Victoria in 1862. Subjects include "First Nations," "Arrivals in 1862," "The Chinese Presence," "Policing in 1862," "Bridges & Transportation," "Breweries &

Saloons," "The Effects of the Civil War on Victoria," "Buildings from 1862" (a talk and tour), as well as a tour of Ross Bay Cemetery.

Lunch is included and a historically-themed breakfast is planned.

Registration is required. Information is available at www.victoriahistoricalsociety.bc.ca.

Esquimalt Centennial Sherri Robinson

You are invited to the Esquimalt Community Celebration Day on Saturday, September 8th 2012 at Esquimalt Gorge Park. Come and be part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration that will honour Esquimalt's storied past and celebrate the community in the here and now. There'll be musical entertainment on three stages including a main stage, garden stage, and kid's stage. Children's events and attractions, community displays, sponsor tents, water events and competitions, local food and beverages are all part of this wonderful celebration.

A shuttle service will operate from the Archie Browning Sports Centre for all those who wish to park and ride. For more information visit www.esquimaltcentennial2012.ca

Canada's First All-Green Cemetery Planned for Denman Island Mike Bieling

On August 16th, the website of the Comox Valley Record of Comox, featured this story about the Denman Island Memorial Society's plan to develop its new 2 ½ acre cemetery as the first entirely green burial ground in Canada:

<http://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/166484846.html>

Cumberland Goes Green? Mike Bieling

The very next day, the competing Comox Valley Echo published a story about a proposal by some residents of the nearby town of Cumberland to set aside part of their historic town cemetery for green burials, and promote the site as the green cemetery for the North Island. Something I found particularly interesting were the statistics mentioned by one of the ad hoc committee members on some of the less environmentally-friendly aspects of traditional burials, citing rather startling figures for the quantities of hardwoods, concrete, and metals used for them each year in the U.S.A.:

<http://www.canada.com/Green+burials+proposed+Cumberland+cemetery/7108981/story.html>

"Dead Stop" - links to National Public Radio cemetery broadcasts and stories Mike Bieling

The always-delightful Gravestone Girls recently drew attention on their Facebook page to "Dead Stop", a special series on National Public Radio described as "a summer road trip visiting strange, funny, historic and notable gravesites and cemeteries across America". The NPR web page for the "Dead Stop" series includes links to at least 17 three to five minute broadcasts originally aired between May 28th and August 14th, about cemeteries ranging from Washington, DC's Congressional Cemetery to Ben & Jerry's "Graveyard of Shelved Ice Cream Flavours" (click on the headstone icons on the map - don't forget Alaska! - or pick from the summaries further down the page). Listeners have been encouraged to submit on-line articles about interesting cemeteries and gravestones in their areas, and the map includes about 30 pointers that link to these stories as well. A very entertaining site for all cemetery enthusiasts:

<http://www.npr.org/series/153636511/dead-stop>

Condolences

We are saddened by the recent passing of Nick Bawlf. He graduated from the University of British Columbia School of Architecture in 1963 with a thesis on the rejuvenation of Bastion Square, Victoria. Bawlf Cooper Associates projects included numerous restorations, such as Market Square, St. Andrews Cathedral, Jewish Synagogue, Belmont Building; contemporary work (Victoria Conference Centre, Huntington Manor Hotel), and historical restoration work at

Barkerville, Cottonwood, Hat Creek and Yale. His Conference Centre design won a Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia Medal for Excellence. Nick estimated that he had worked on more than 80 heritage projects throughout the province.

In 2004 Nick suggested and organized an Old Cemeteries Society bus excursion to Texada Island where he had a small house and of course many good friends and acquaintances. He arranged dinner speakers, Legion dinners, and guides for visits to heritage properties, museums and cemeteries. It said much about Nick in the way islanders welcomed us and showed us all the Texada Island treasures. What a wonderful weekend it was!

We extend our sincere sympathy to Pamela Madoff and Nick's family.

Do you talk to strangers? I do!

Wilf Bruch

Most often it's very interesting. One Saturday this summer I noticed a couple placing flowers at the "chair and booty" monument for David Burnside Campbell. I was pleased to get a whole new story from the family who now live in Sidney. On another occasion this summer I noticed a lady looking over the map at the caretakers shed at Ross Bay cemetery. It was quite clear that she was looking for someone so I offered to help. She had a portion of the plot number and after checking the office database, we found the grave she was looking for. The lady in question was in her seventies, visiting for only a day and lived in London, England. She thanked me and said it was unlikely that she would ever get back to Victoria. If I had not talked to her she would never have found the grave she had come so far to visit.

So, when you are in the cemetery, talk to strangers! You may be able to help and if not, get the persons name and question and pass it on the office. We can usually help.

1862 Pioneer Victoria Daily Colonist

Died Feb 17, 1924 at Victoria, BC, Joseph York, 89, who came here as a young man and had been identified with the history of Victoria for 62 years. N/o Daventry, Northamptonshire, ENG, born May 15, 1835. He was attracted to Victoria early in life, coming here in 1862 on Tynemouth by way of the Horn. Among others, who arrived here by the same vessel was C E Redfern, and between these 2 pioneers there has continued the warmest friendship ever since that time.

Like so many others who arrived here at that time when the gold excitement of the Cariboo was at its height, he left soon after his arrival for the Cariboo in search of wealth. His stay there was not a long one, and he returned in the same year to Victoria.

A few years later with the gold excitement at Big Bend, he joined in the rush there. Again his stay was not a long one, and again he returned to Victoria, where he established himself in the building and contracting business.

He returned to England in 1876 by way of the US, and there married Martha Dickens. With his bride he returned to Victoria and entered into the drygoods business.

In 1885 York again returned to England accompanied by his family, where they stayed 9 years, two sons being placed in school there. On the return to Victoria York went into the wholesale drygoods business, which he followed up to the time of his retirement in 1909.

He was probably the oldest member of the local IOOF lodge at the time of his death. He was an ardent supporter of cricket and football. Predeceased by his wife 7 years ago, he leaves 2 sons, both well-know residents of Victoria, and a sister in England. Feb 20, 4 - editorial - A Pioneer Citizen... Pallbearers: C E Redfern, W R Shotbolt, P R Brown, Col W N Winsby, F Davey, R Lawson. T 084 W 4