



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

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](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net)

Web Site: <http://www.oldcem@pacificcoast.net>

**Sep-Oct 2010**

### **September-October Tours**

All walking tours meet in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza. Arrive at 1:45 pm for start at 2:00 pm. Admission is \$5, no reservations needed.

**September 5** Craigflower Country

**September 12**

**Descendants Tour**

**September 19** Musical Interlude

**September 26**

**Epitaphs**

**October 3** Emily Carr Tour

**October 10**

**Odd Fellows**

**October 17** “Awake and Dreaming”

**October 24**

**Women's History**

**October 31** **Annual Ghost Tour** at Ross Bay Cemetery. Tours depart in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza, every 15 min. from 1 to 3 pm to accommodate large numbers. This is always the OCS's most popular tour of the year.

**Time to start thinking about the Sunday, October 31st Ghost Walk in Ross Bay Cemetery** We need volunteers to act as story tellers, pilots to direct patrons on the tour, and to help with refreshments and the sales table. Please contact [gbyudens@pacificcoast.net](mailto:gbyudens@pacificcoast.net) or 383-4873.

**Ghost Bus-tours** John Adams has prepared the stories and will conduct each tour this year. Volunteers are required to sell books and to help passengers on and off the buses. Call the OCS office, 250-598-8870 or Wilf at 250-383-7514. Tour tickets are \$31 plus HST, and will be available exclusively through Tourism Victoria starting September 13. You may order your tickets from Tourism Victoria at the counter at the Visitor Information Centre, by telephone by calling 250.953.2033 or on the web at [www.tourismvictoria.com/ghosts](http://www.tourismvictoria.com/ghosts)

### **Tours are scheduled at the following dates and times:**

Friday Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm

Saturday Oct. 23 at 6:30 and 9:00 pm

Friday October 29 at 6:30 and 9:00 pm

Saturday October 30 at 6:30 and 9:00 pm

Sunday October 31 at 6:30 pm

**Friday October 29 and Saturday October 30** are the “at risk” Halloween days this year and we will be patrolling the cemetery in an effort to prevent vandalism. There are two shifts to choose from, 8 pm to 10 pm and 10 pm to midnight. Call Wilf at 250 383 7514, or [wbruch@shaw.ca](mailto:wbruch@shaw.ca).

### **Summer Activities**

Throughout the summer, a small but energetic group of volunteers has worked hard to clean and scrub the gravestones in section M and G. We have had six cleaning bees at Ross Bay Cemetery and one at The Old Burying Ground. One of our volunteers, Rex Frost, has power washed most of the curbing and cement grave tops in section M.



Our final “Bee” of the year will be on Saturday September 11 at Ross Bay. Please join us if you can.

In a continuing effort to repair damaged headstones your society completed twenty-two repairs and raised a few dozen stones that were slowly sinking in the ground.

**Do you have your Thrifty Foods Smile Card yet?** If not, call Roberta at the office 250 598 8870. Every little bit helps our Row Marker Project.

**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. And thanks to John Azar for subbing on the Gold Rush tours.

**Special thanks from Graham McEwen Segger** to several members of the Society, but especially to Wilf and Jane Bruch, who helped me locate the monument commemorating my McEwan ancestors on Sunday, July 11. I was vacationing on Vancouver Island from out of province and timed my visit to Ross Bay to coincide with the Sunday afternoon tour, hoping someone knowledgeable about the cemetery layout would be present. I was richly rewarded when several members helped me find Block O, Plot 81b, 82 E Q. I had expected to find my great-grandmother whose death registration had led me to this plot, but was surprised and very happy to discover that the handsome five foot tall monument also commemorated my 2 great grandparents, Thomas and Isabella McEwan. Thomas and Isabella emigrated from Ayrshire, Scotland to Nanaimo in August 1900, following in the steps of several of their grown children. Eight of their ten children emigrated to Vancouver Island. Two of their daughters, Elizabeth (McEwan) Irvine / Rogers and Lillias (McEwan) Taylor are buried in this plot with their husbands. Also commemorated is a daughter of Lillias, Isabella (Taylor) Dowell and her husband Arthur.

**Upcoming Lectures**

**October 13 (Wednesday)**

OCS will be presenting a talk sponsored by Oak Bay Heritage about Oak Bay residents buried at Ross Bay Cemetery. The illustrated talk will be presented by Oak Bay Councillor Nils Jensen who gave the 2009 City Fathers walking tour at RBC. Location: Windsor Park Pavilion, 2451 Windsor Road  
Time: 7:00 pm Admission: by donation; refreshments will be served.

**November 10 (Wednesday) 7:30 p.m. OCS Fall Meeting**

James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street, 7:30 pm  
Journalist, author and lecturer Dave Obee ([www.daveobee.com](http://www.daveobee.com)) will present “Destination Canada”, a talk about immigration in Canada. He will have a number of his books available for purchase.

**Volunteer needed**

Due to the retirement of Jeanne Kent , we are seeking a volunteer webmaster to manage our web site. If you have experience in website administration or know someone who would be interested in this volunteer position please reply by email to [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net) or call (250) 598-8870 and leave a message.

**Request from Mike Bieling**

In the last issue of the Association for Gravestone Studies' e-newsletter, Laurel K. Gabel, an independent scholar, placed the following request. I therefore wondered whether OCS' members might know of monuments bearing this symbol in Ross Bay Cemetery or any other location? If you do, please send to Laurel, or to me, [oldcemeteryian@shaw.ca](mailto:oldcemeteryian@shaw.ca)

**Query: "Last Voyage" Theme**

~~~~~  
*I'm looking for examples of the "Last Voyage" or "Voyage of Life" theme from gravestones, mausoleums, cemetery gate houses, or churches located anywhere in the world. If you are aware of, or have a good photo of, anything with this theme--a boat (usually with a sail and often guided by an angel) transporting someone over water, please contact me, Laurel at [LKGabel@aol.com](mailto:LKGabel@aol.com).*

*One version of this theme was produced in "white bronze" by Monumental Bronze Co. in 1881; other versions may have been done in stained glass or in bronze for mausoleum doors or use in chapels. Thanks for any "crossing over water" or "Last Voyage" examples you can help me locate!*

**Thanks from Leona Taylor**

Thanks to all of you for making my retirement so interesting and fulfilling. I enjoyed seeing the hardy souls [it was cold!] at the August social and thoroughly enjoyed sampling all the food. I received gift certificates for books and have been absorbed in browsing and selecting my special books: Beyond Belfast; and, A Passion For Sea Glass. I appreciate the kind words Wilf and John Adams said on my behalf, and e-mails that have come from various members, your good opinion is very important to me.

Here's Wilf emceeding at Leona and Jeanne's appreciation pot luck supper at Ross Bay Villa on Aug 17<sup>th</sup>.



**We've Come a Long Way!**

Have you ever seen an obituary that claims the person committed suicide while of unsound mind? In England, until 1823, coroners were empowered to the burial of suicides in a public highway with a stake driven through the body. After 1823, they had to be buried between 9pm and midnight, and deprived of a Christian burial. Even in Canada, until recently the interment of suicides in consecrated ground was at the discretion of the clergy. Coroners' juries got around all of this by declaring suicides to be of unsound mind.