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### **May – June 2011**

#### **OCS Speaker Evening May 18**

When: Wednesday May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street

What: Well-known author and historian Tom Paterson will talk about Cowichan Valley cemeteries and present some of the fascinating stories that the tombstones tell.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

**Our new office** at Ross Bay Villa, 1490 Fairfield Road, is open Mondays from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We hope to expand these hours over the few months. Come by for a visit and check out the library and extensive reference material. Please use the rear entrance. We would like to have a regular presence in the Ross Bay Villa office and at Ross Bay cemetery. If you think this is the volunteer opportunity for you, please contact Roberta at 250-598-8870 or email [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net) for details.

Thanks to the generosity of David and Joan Schultz, our new office operates under the watchful eyes of Sir James Douglas and his wife Amelia. Amelia's image was taken from a calendar illustration. As the inscription on the reverse reads "Compliments of B.C. Drug Store, J. Teague, Jr., Manager, 27 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC," the calendar was printed some time between 1902 and 1905 (when the street numbering system changed). Amelia's image has been tastefully framed and hangs to the left of the office window.

Sir James Douglas is represented by an original pen and ink sketch by local artist Ron Wilson and hangs to the right of the window. Both are proud additions to our new office.

#### **Upcoming Sunday Walking Tours at Ross Bay Cemetery**

(see [www.oldcem.bc.ca](http://www.oldcem.bc.ca) or phone 250.598.8870 for details)

May 8	For Mother
May 15	Fabulous Flora
May 22	Ross Bay Cemetery Discovery Day
May 29	Tribute to John Tod
June 5	Hatley Memorial Gardens (note location)
June 12	Shipwrights' Tales
June 19	Built by Luney Bros. Ltd.
June 26	Sailors and Ships

### **Discovery Day at Ross Bay Cemetery**

Once a year we set aside one Sunday in the spring to showcase our activities and give Victorians an opportunity to find that lost ancestors grave. **This year the date is May 22.**

So mark it on your calendar and plan to attend. Ask your friends if there is someone in their family who would benefit for this special day.

We will have computers set up to search our database for plot numbers, maps to give out and volunteers to escort people to the grave site. Our new office will be open so that we can easily check our resources for stories and family history.

This will truly be a day of discovery for many people so join us as a volunteer or as discoverer. Either way, it will be fun and the coffee is free!

To volunteer, call Roberta or Wilf at 250 598 8870, email [oldcem@pacificcoast.net](mailto:oldcem@pacificcoast.net) .



**There is always something new at our Sunday tours!** This year our Easter Sunday Tour was given by "The Easter Bunny" We have been trying to enlist her services for 25 years and finally she conceded to make a special trip to Ross Bay Cemetery and talk about her favourite subject, CHOCOLATE. She even brought chocolate Easter eggs!

Thank you Sherri Robinson for adding the surprise and personality to the tour. And thank you Rogers Chocolates for your donation of Easter eggs. It was fun as well as informative!

Join our tours and invite your friends. You never know what surprises await!

### **Cleaning and Restoration**

Our priority at Ross Bay Cemetery this summer is the iron fences which are in desperate need of new paint! We will be doing cleaning as well so mark these dates on your calendar.

May 22                    cleaning and painting demonstrations from 2 pm to 3:30 pm.

May 28                    cleaning and fence painting

June 4, 18 & 25    cleaning and fence painting

These dates are opportunities for you to join a group activity. We start at 10 am and finish at noon. The fence painting can be done at any time during the week or weekends. If you have already given me your name, I will be contacting you as soon as we get a few days of good weather so that the iron has a chance to dry out. For all you other closet painters, send me an email at [wbruch@shaw.ca](mailto:wbruch@shaw.ca) and I will get you set up or just show up on one of the dates listed above.

### **Recording Project**

We have applied for a grant again this year and if awarded, we hope to finish sections B & T. These are the last in the cemetery to be recorded. Jane Bruch is still looking for a few more volunteers to help with this project. She hopes to get started in mid-May, so if you have an interest, please leave your name at the office.

### **Row Markers**

Thanks to Thrifty Foods and to your donations we have now completed every second marker in belt two. Belt one is across the cemetery, west to east, at plot number 75 and belt two is at plot number 100.

The next belt will be from west to east at plot number one in the older sections and number 57 in section Q & O. This belt is at the Dallas road side of the cemetery and will help to establish the start of each row and eliminate confusion over the double numbering system in that part of the cemetery.

So, if you have a few extra bucks, please remember this project. Each marker costs \$25.

### **Victoria Historical Society Meeting May 26**

When: Thursday, May 26th, 2011 at 7:00PM

Where: James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies Street

What: *Historical Stories around the Saanich Inlet*: Maureen Alexander, archivist and historian of the Bamberton area, has collected many stories of the people who lived in the area we know as "Saanich Inlet". There will be an illustrated presentation.

(N.B. The meeting this evening will start at 7 pm, to accommodate the reporting and business of the Annual General Meeting.)

### **South Vancouver Island Regional Heritage Fair**

Friday, May 6, 2011

Speaker Clifford Carl Hall, Royal BC Museum

Open to the public 10 am - 2 pm.

At this annual event, students in grades 4-10 will present the results of their research into historical subjects. It is always enlightening to learn just what a youngster considers "heritage." Although the idea of the fair is to learn something and to have fun, there are several awards available. Some students will be selected to represent our area at the Provincial Fair in Victoria in July. They will serve as the hosts to their colleagues from all over the province.

If you can help with judging, chaperoning, or sponsorship, please let us know.

Come support the preservationists of tomorrow. ([www.hallmarksociety.ca](http://www.hallmarksociety.ca))

### **St. Margaret School Remembers**

On a cool day in mid-March a group of students from St Margaret's School gathered around the grave of Edith and Isabel Fenwick to remember. In 1908, the Fenwick sisters, both accomplished teachers, founded St Margaret's school for young ladies. In the early years the school was located in a small house at the corner of Cook and Burdett street.

After three successful years, tragedy struck. On Easter morning Edith and Isabel Fenwick and their good friend and fellow teacher Margaret Barton boarded the steamer SS Iroquis at the Sidney docks. It was Easter break and they were to spend a few restful days on Salt Spring Island. It was a blustery day with the wind from the SE at about 60MPH. Captain Albert A. Sears and co-owner A.D. Munro were both on board and reports have it that there was much "discussion" about whether or not it was self to sail. At 9AM the Iroquis slipped its lines with 19 passengers, 13 crew and 35 tons of cargo.

About a mile off shore the ship was hit broadside by a large wave. The cargo shifted, listing the ship to starboard and the sea claimed her in short order. Only 11 people survived this disaster. One of them was Margaret Barton who went on to see St. Margaret's School thrive and prosper. It's good to remember and it's good to see this generation celebrating their heritage.



### Condolences

#### Laurette Agnew

Laurette Agnew, a respected member of the Victoria historical community, died April 14, 2011 at Saanich Peninsula Hospital in Sidney where she had been since April 4. Mme Agnew was a leading light in the Association Historique Franco-Colombienne and author of *Presence Francophone a Victoria 1843-1987*. She was justly proud of 'her' archives at St Jean Baptiste Paroisse Francaise church, Richmond Road, and only had to give up her active role there when transportation became a problem.

She gave generously of her time, talent and donations to the Old Cemeteries Society. At one time she developed and delivered a French language tour for schools at Ross Bay Cemetery. She was buried at Ross Bay Cemetery on April 20.

#### Paul Haltner

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Doris Haltner and family on the passing of Paul Haltner on April 28 at Glengarry Hospital. He was 88 years old. Doris and Paul joined OCS in 2003 when they signed up for our excursion to Cougar Annie's Garden north of Tofino. They were regular Sunday afternoon walking tour participants until recently. A funeral service will be held on May 5 at 2 pm at First Memorial Funeral Services, followed by interment at Royal Oak Burial Park and a reception at First Memorial.

### Obituaries of the "58ers

Compiled by Leona Taylor

Drowned at Skeena River, BC, Jun, 1871, Wake-Up Jake, who was an early prospector. He came here in 1858 from the northern mines of California, where he had shot a man. His career here was remarkably quiet, when we consider his antecedents. In 1863 he owned Wake-up Jake claim on William Creek, realizing from it some \$10,000. He wintered at Skeenamouth, and was proceeding upriver with 3 companions when the casualty which hurried him into eternity occurred.

Obituary writers were less gentle way back when.....