

March – April 2026

## 2026 Annual General Meeting

The 2026 annual general meeting of the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria was held at the Windsor Pavillion in Oak Bay on Tuesday, February 17, at 7:30 pm. Twenty-seven people were in attendance. The meeting was conducted by OCS President Yvonne Van Ruskenveld.

The first main item of business was a report from our Treasurer, Gudrun Leys, who outlined the healthy state of the OCS's finances at the conclusion of the 2025 fiscal year. Next, Yvonne reviewed the highlights of 2025. These included the successful completion of the Edna Farnsworth grave restoration project and the installation of two new commemorative cedar markers, made by our Project Manager Wilf Bruch, at the graves of Sydna Francis and Eliza Lyall. Yvonne thanked Wilf and volunteer Gregory Ciupka for their valiant efforts to repair a number of monuments that were vandalized at Ross Bay Cemetery in June.

The tour program had another excellent year, thanks to all the presenters and ticket sellers (and to Yvonne and John Adams who put the program together every year). A unique special event, a Ching Ming Festival at William Head Cemetery, was organized by volunteer Mary Lindsay; it will be [repeated this year on May 2](#). Yvonne gave a special thanks to our former summer contractor, Quinn MacTavish, and former student intern, Dakota Farenholtz, both of



whom worked on important projects in our office and plan to continue as OCS volunteers. Finally, Yvonne thanked current and former Board members, Larissa Ciupka, Janet McMeekin, Diana Pedersen, and Linda Richards for their individual contributions to promotion and outreach.

On a sadder note, Yvonne paid tribute to two longtime OCS members who died in 2025: Mark Perkins and Carole Todd. She called upon John Adams for a presentation about the life of our longtime Secretary Michael Halleran, one of the Society's founders, who died earlier this month.

The main event of the meeting was the election of officers. Yvonne announced that she is stepping down as President and will be devoting her time to the tour program as co-coordinator with John Adams; she will also continue to serve on the Board as Past President. Nominations were uncontested and the results of the elections were: President, vacant; Vice President, Janet McMeekin; Treasurer, Gudrun Leys; Secretary, vacant; Recording Secretary, Amber Woods; Members at Large: Wilf Bruch, Larissa Ciupka, Diana Pedersen, Ken Sudhues, and Paul Taylor.

Once again, OCS Board members outdid themselves in supplying home-baked treats for the refreshment break: the bakers were Larissa Ciupka, Diana Pedersen, Ken Sudhues, and Amber Woods. Gudrun Leys supervised the food setup and beverages.

The featured speaker for the evening was the well-known local historian, our Past President and tour co-coordinator, John Adams, who presented a fascinating "Visual History of Victoria's



Heritage Cemeteries, 1843-2026." He began with Songhees burial sites and followed with early Victoria cemeteries, country churchyards in Metchosin and on the Saanich Peninsula, Ross Bay Cemetery, and the Naval Cemetery; he ended with Royal Oak Burial Park and Hatley Memorial Gardens.

The evening concluded with a successful book draw, organized by Gudrun, with Ken selling tickets. Thanks to all helpers and everyone who attended.

## Addendum to the Elections

Several changes to the composition of the Old Cemeteries Society Board were made following the AGM to fill slots that were left vacant at the time of the elections. These changes were approved at a Board meeting on February 26. Our new President is **Ken Sudhues**, who joined the Board as a Member at Large in 2024; Ken is also active with the Hallmark Heritage Society and the Victoria Heritage Foundation. Joining the Board as a new Member at Large is local historian **Tim Fitzthum**; Tim was a docent at Point Ellice House for seven years and has done research for Wentworth Villa and the Victoria Heritage Foundation. Current Board member **Amber Woods**, who has been acting as Recording Secretary, will now serve as Secretary.

## The Passing of Two Longtime OCS Members

**Mark Perkins (1949-2025)** was an active member of the Old Cemeteries Society for many years and regularly attended the Sunday tours in the company of his wife, Fern Perkins—a direct descendant of Isabella Ross. Fern appeared many times in costume at Isabella’s grave at RBC, and in 2014 she began leading OCS tours on Métis history. Mark, too, was proud of his Cree-Métis roots and was a citizen of Métis Nation British Columbia. He was a talented baseball player in his youth, and then had a thirty-three-year career with the Victoria Fire Department. After retiring as Battalion Chief in 2007, he volunteered as an Indigenous education resource for Greater Victoria school districts and the John Howard Society. Mark joined Fern, in traditional Métis costume, at many community events and the “Métis Connections” tour at Ross Bay Cemetery. In 2017, he developed his own tour on “Firefighter History.” Mark was very knowledgeable about early firefighting in Victoria, especially the colourful history of the early volunteer companies; many of their members are buried at RBC. Sadly, Mark died of firefighter occupational cancer and [his family is speaking publicly](#) to raise awareness of this serious health risk to firefighters.



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**Carole Todd (1938-2025)** was a familiar face at OCS Sunday tours for over twenty years. As a lifelong resident of Victoria, she often contributed memories of people, buildings, and businesses that were mentioned on the tours. As a child, she lived around the corner from Emily Carr House, which was owned for a time by her grandmother. After 1969, her family home was on Beechwood Avenue, a short distance from Ross Bay Cemetery. An independent businesswoman, Carole was the owner of Carole’s Craft House in Cook Street Village. She was deeply interested in Victoria history and belonged to several local historical societies. An avid and skilled gardener with a special expertise in heritage gardening, she served as a judge at several Island agricultural fairs. In June 2010, Carole brought her expertise on heritage roses to an OCS tour called “Roses,” conducted by members of the Canadian Rose Society. This was the end of an era when volunteers cared for roses growing in Ross Bay Cemetery, before the arrival of the deer. In 2013, Carole led another tour, “What’s Growing on That Grave?”, in which she identified trees, bushes, and flowers growing on a selection of graves, explaining their history and cultivation.

## Remembering Michael Halleran (1944-2026)

John Adams

Michael F.H. Halleran was one of the founding members of the Old Cemeteries Society; he was involved from its inception as a committee of the Victoria Historical Society in 1985. Michael was one of the original signatories when the OCS became a registered non-profit society in 1990. He was also a longtime active participant in the Victoria Historical Society and the Hallmark Heritage Society. He died at home on February 5, 2026, at the age of eighty-two.

Among his many contributions to the OCS, Michael was a member of the Board of Directors, serving as Secretary for many years; he also participated on the Research Committee, joined Halloween security patrols, sold tickets at the start of tours, and guided tours. Michael gave the following popular tours: “Murder Most Foul,” “Irish Columbia,” “Hawaiians in Victoria,” “Gossip in the Graveyard,” and the Lantern Tours in the Old Burying Ground. He conducted or assisted with many others, including the Ghost Bus Tours. For several years in a row, Michael did not miss a single OCS event. Even as his mobility decreased in recent years, he still managed to attend as many tours as possible.

Michael was born in San Francisco in 1944, moving with his family to New Jersey and back to California. After obtaining a BA from the University of Southern California and an MA from UBC, he embarked on PhD studies in Australia, but had to withdraw for health reasons. He held various jobs, starting as a teacher at Notre Dame University in Nelson, followed by a position at Malvern House School in Victoria’s Rockland neighbourhood. He next applied his love of history by working at the BC Archives, Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site, the Maritime Museum of BC, and the Forest Museum (now the Forest Discovery Centre) in Duncan.

Michael started his career with the BC Government in the 1980s, first with the Lands Branch and later with the Registrar of Companies until his retirement.

Michael became famous in Victoria in 1988 when he asked The Flag Shop to produce a flag that he had researched. It was the colonial flag of Vancouver Island. This flag had never actually been flown, but Michael’s interest in vexillology (the study of flags) provided him with the solid information he needed to figure out what the official flag would have looked like. He attracted considerable attention when he started flying it on a staff on the front of his house. A *Times Colonist* reporter picked up the story, and suddenly The Flag Shop was inundated with requests to produce more. It was a top seller for many years. On the subject of flags, Michael’s flag locker held a number of other flags from around the world. Every day he would choose one that was suitable to the day, such as the French Tricolour on Bastille Day, but the Vancouver Island flag held the place of honour.



In 1985 Michael purchased a heritage house on McKenzie Street in Fairfield and became one of the neighbourhood's landmarks himself. He was familiar to all as he walked his dachshunds (always rescue dogs), sometimes wearing a pith helmet or other attire that harkened back to the Raj.



Photos by Diana Pedersen

Michael purchased a plot at Ross Bay Cemetery many years ago (behind the Caretaker's Shed) and oversaw the placement of his inscribed grave marker. It is adorned with two dachshunds and an image of the Green Man. Soon the monument maker will add the final line to complete the inscription. And, perhaps as a special tribute to one of its most stalwart members, the Old Cemeteries Society should place a small Vancouver Island flag on the plot.

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From the front page of the *Times Colonist*, Friday, March 4, 1988.

**“Island finally gets its own flag: Queen Victoria approved design, but no one got round to making it”**

“A 123-year-old flag approved by Queen Victoria for use by the Colony of Vancouver Island will soon be unfurled over Victoria, possibly for the first time.

Provincial civil servant Michael Halleran reached back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century to create the Island's former colonial flag. Thursday, after 15 years of part-time research, the 44-year-old amateur vexillologist took the result of his efforts home from a Market Square flag-maker's shop.

Royal assent was given in 1865 for British colonies to fly the Blue Ensign emblazoned with their colonial badge. But Halleran said Gov. Arthur Kennedy and his administrators ‘dragged their feet’ in having any colonial banners sewn to flap in Island breezes.



‘They didn't like the idea of flying any sort of flag that might give a signal to the Americans that the British Empire was not a united organization,’ said Halleran.

Besides, he said, the flags were designed chiefly to identify armed naval vessels, none of which existed on the Island—although a mail and supply ship did ply local waters.

In 1866, one year after permission for the colonial emblem was granted, the Island colony merged with the mainland to become part of British Columbia.

‘It's a one-of-a-kind item,’ Halleran said of the \$200 bunting stitched together under his direction by The Flag Shop. ‘There is not another one in existence.’ ....

Halleran, an administrative clerk in the Ministry of Lands and Forests, studied letters between the colony of Vancouver Island and the colonial office in London to determine when permission to fly the flag was given and to obtain drawings of the motif approved for placement on the Blue Ensign.

The badge is derived from the Great Seal of the Island colony, designed by Benjamin Wyon, an engraver with the Royal Mint.

Halleran said the trident of King Neptune, god of the sea, represents the waters surrounding Vancouver Island; the wand of Mercury with its two snakes represents commerce; the pine cone stands for the Island's carpeting of forests; and the beaver symbolizes the fur trade of the Hudson's Bay Co. ....”

## “The Public Cemetery a Public Nuisance”

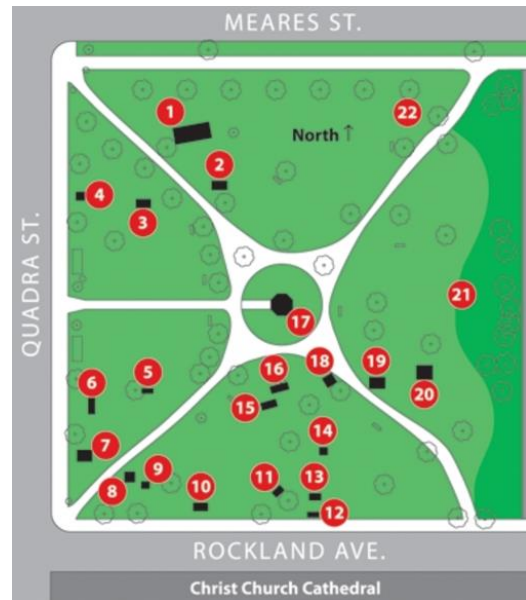
Diana Pedersen

Since its founding as Victoria’s civic cemetery in 1855, the Old Burying Ground on Quadra Street (also known as Pioneer Square) has inspired a long tradition of letters to the editor. Most recently, on [September 4, 2025](#), the Old Cemeteries Society responded to an opinion piece published in the *Times Colonist*—“[Downtown cemetery deserves more respect.](#)” This small public park originally served as Victoria’s principal burying ground from 1855 to 1873, until the opening of Ross Bay Cemetery. Complaints about overcrowding and neglect ultimately led to the cemetery’s conversion to a city park in 1908. Public discussion of the condition of Victoria’s oldest cemetery, and arguments over who is responsible for doing something about it, have continued ever since. (The OCS website provides valuable educational resources on the [history of Pioneer Square](#), including a [self-guided walking tour](#) (right); be sure to catch our upcoming Sunday tour on [April 19](#).)

One of the earliest outraged letters, about what was then called simply the Victoria cemetery, was published 165 years ago by the editors of the *Daily British Colonist*. “[The Public Cemetery a Public Nuisance.](#)” appeared on May 22, 1861; it was written by a highly educated newcomer to the city who was so shocked by his personal investigation of the site that he called for its immediate closure on public health grounds. The [Reverend John Booth Good](#)

(1833-1916)—born in England and trained at St. Augustine’s College, Canterbury—was an Anglican missionary and emissary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Arriving in Victoria in April 1861 after completing a three-year posting in Nova Scotia, he was proceeding to a new position in Nanaimo. Good’s reference to the Victoria cemetery as “this now almost famous, because contested, enclosure” indicates that he was following the highly publicized court case known as the Church Reserve Suit. A lawsuit launched by the Roman Catholic Bishop Modeste Demers against the Anglican Bishop George Hills for unobstructed access to the Roman Catholic section of the cemetery reached a climax in May 1861, when the Supreme Court of Vancouver Island rendered a verdict in favour of Bishop Demers. This decision confirmed the status of the burial ground as a public, rather than an Anglican, cemetery.

As an outsider, the Reverend J.B. Good was less invested in what some observers called an unseemly territorial squabble. His letter focused on the location and the neglected, even offensive, condition of the main public cemetery of a growing city—issues that were not addressed in the court ruling. Good was well informed about the spreading international movement for cemetery reform and the problem of “intermural sepulchres”—cemeteries within the boundaries of cities and towns. Appealing to current scientific thinking about sanitation and public health, reformers advocated the relocation of cemeteries from densely populated urban areas—typically in over-crowded churchyards—to rural park-like settings outside the city. At a time when epidemic diseases like cholera were not yet fully understood, “noxious particles” and foul air were believed to contribute to the spread of disease. During his journey from Nova Scotia to Vancouver Island, Good had visited cemeteries in Acapulco and San Francisco with its



nearby Mission Dolores. These burial grounds were models of beauty, order, and sanitation; Victoria's public cemetery presented "a sad contrast."

On May 17, 1861, the Reverend J.B. Good found himself in the Victoria cemetery, awaiting the arrival of the body of Jeremiah Edwards Ruffley, a young man who had died in an unfortunate accident on a small island south of Salt Spring Island. As a visiting clergyman, Good was asked by the Rector of Christ Church to officiate at the sparsely attended burial service. Taking the opportunity to conduct "a careful survey" of the cemetery, Good turned his disapproving gaze on "the rude neglect which pervades the greater part of the ground already occupied by the graves of the departed" and "the sad, promiscuous way in which Heathens and Christians jostle each other, so to speak, in their silent resting places."



*The Old Burying Ground viewed from Meares Street*

*Photos by Diana Pedersen*

As an advocate for cemetery reform, the Reverend Good was most concerned about the public health threat posed to the growing population living in the vicinity of the Victoria cemetery. The site's lack of adequate drainage and its assault on the olfactory sense, he pronounced, had earned it "a distinguished place in the catalogue of public nuisances."

[O]n examination, it will be found gradually to slope from the South to the North in the direction of Meares street, consequently, all the water in the upper part where the greatest number of interments have been made filters through those graves and settles in the lower grounds of the cemetery.

You have only, then, to open a grave in winter in the lower part to find out the mischief. The stench and effluvia is so great that the sexton declares he had to consume an unwonted amount of tobacco to enable him at all to complete the necessary excavation. Of course the most deleterious gases, before engendered, now escape and so disseminate their noxious particles through the air, and in time may breed a pestilence that may decimate the city.

Good urged the editor of the *Daily British Colonist* to "take this subject up warmly" with a view to closing the Victoria cemetery and seeking another at a safe distance, well outside the city. Indeed, vigorous public discussion of the issue continued for the remainder of the decade. After [Ross Bay Cemetery](#) opened in 1873, the old cemetery was closed to burials and became known as the Quadra Street Burying Ground. The new cemetery, with its idyllic and orderly rural setting, embodied the most up-to-date concepts of mid-Victorian cemetery landscaping and design.

## Tour Notes

The Old Cemeteries Society's 2026 tour season was launched on February 15, a perfect sunny afternoon with warmth in the sun and the first cherry trees already blooming. Sixty-five people, including many first-timers, came to learn about the **Ross Bay Cemetery Top 10** according to **John Adams**—the ten most significant features of Ross Bay Cemetery that make it one of the province's most important heritage cemeteries. Topics included RBC's comprehensive burial records, its abundance of symbolism and outdoor sculpture, the graves of many famous people, hauntings, tree plantings dating to the 1870s and the 1930s, and RBC's orderly layout and park-like landscaping reflecting international trends in cemetery design. John emphasized the OCS's contribution to the protection and restoration of many graves with unique features, including monumental sculptures, wrought-iron grave fencing, and marble-tiled surfaces.



*John Adams explains RBC's history and most significant features*



*Photos by Diana Pedersen*

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On February 22, a cool afternoon with a mix of sun and cloud, sixty-nine people came to Ross Bay Cemetery for our annual **Celebration of Black History in Victoria**—a joint offering by the OCS and the [BC Black History Awareness Society](#). The tour was led by **Fran Morrison**, **Captain (Ret'd) D.L. (Door) Gibson**, and **John Adams**. We visited the graves of some important pioneer families, the new cedar marker for Sydna Francis, some beautifully restored early monuments, and several military markers recently erected by the [Last Post Fund](#).



*Door Gibson at a new military marker for Edward Booth*



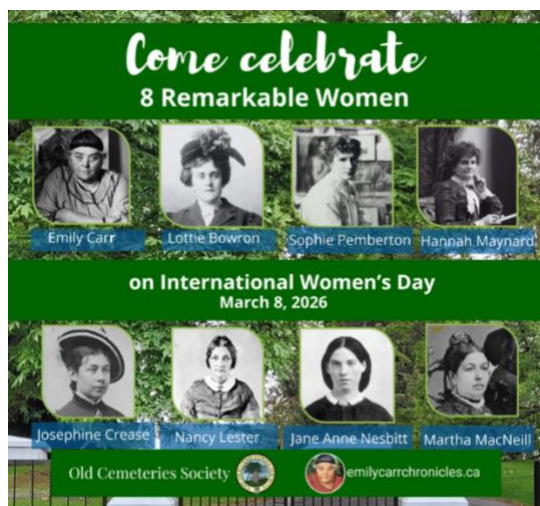
*Photos by Diana Pedersen*

## Tour Schedule for March–April 2026

*Tours are every Sunday at 2:00 PM. Charge: \$5 for non-members; \$2 for members. Cash or e-transfer only. No reservations needed. Rain or shine. Tours at Ross Bay Cemetery (RBC) start at the Memorial Gate on Fairfield Road, opposite the south end of Stannard Avenue. Other tours start where noted.*

**March 1. RBC. Welsh Victoria.** March 1 is St. David's Day, the national festival of Wales. Pluck a daffodil and wear it to today's tour or just enjoy the ones that bloom in profusion on many graves. To mark the occasion, **John Adams** will visit the graves of many of the Welsh people who strayed from their native land and ended up at RBC. Among those who will be included are a pirate, a prospector, a school trustee, a Royal Engineer, a ne'er-do-well, a respected court recorder, a pioneer telegrapher, and a publican. *Bydd y daith hon yn cael ei chynnal yn gyfan gwbl yn Saesneg.*

**March 8. RBC. SPECIAL EVENT: International Women's Day.** Celebrate International Women's Day



with a guided walk honouring eight remarkable women: Emily Carr, ground-breaking painter and writer; Hannah Maynard, surrealist photographer and entrepreneur; Sophie Pemberton and Josephine Crease, pioneering artists; Lottie Bowron, tireless advocate for rural teachers and women's clubs; Nancy Lester, African-American settler and abolitionist; Jane Anne Nesbitt, who arrived on a Bride Ship and became a businesswoman; and Martha McNeill, Nisga'a chief and fur trader. Their stories—of courage, creativity, and resilience—come to life in the very place they now rest. Join us as we remember and celebrate their legacy. Tour guides: **Yvonne Van Ruskenveld** and **Marilyn Jones**. Presented by the Old Cemeteries Society and [Emily Carr Chronicles](http://emilycarrchronicles.ca). **Note: There will be 2 tour times at 10 am and 2 pm. It will be the same tour each time. No reservations necessary.**

**March 15. RBC. Measure, Map and Mark: Early Surveyors of Vancouver Island.** International Surveyors' Day is celebrated annually on March 21st to recognize the crucial role of surveyors in shaping history, communities, and infrastructure. The first surveyor contracted by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) was Captain Walter Grant whose only legacy was the 1850 introduction of Scotch broom plants. The real surveying of Vancouver Island began with HBC engineer and surveyor Joseph Pemberton, whose first task was to lay out a townsite and survey the agricultural lands on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. **Mike Woodcock** will take us to the graves and highlight the fascinating stories of Pemberton and other early surveyors buried at Ross Bay Cemetery.

**March 22. RBC. Peninsula Settlers and History.** Many folks who have longstanding connections to Sidney are buried in Ross Bay Cemetery. For this week's tour, the OCS has partnered with the [Sidney Museum and Archives](#) to learn more about the history of Sidney, the Saanich Peninsula, and the residents who have lived there. **Charlotte Clar** introduced us to peninsula pioneers in Royal Oak Burial Park last year and has discovered a new cast of interesting characters for today's tour.

**March 29. RBC. Emily Carr Tour – Part 1.** Emily Carr's grave is one of the most visited at RBC. Every year, a team of OCS guides visits the graves of many people Emily knew. Emily herself (a.k.a. **Molly Rahe Newman**) will delight us with readings about these people from Emily's prolific writings. A second, different Emily Carr tour is scheduled later this year.

**April 5. RBC. Sugar and Spice.** Did you know we have not one but two “Candy Kings”—Charles Rogers and Richard Purdy—buried at Ross Bay Cemetery? Join a team of OCS story tellers for a flavourful tour exploring the sweet and spicy side of our city as we meet the confectioners, chocolatiers, bakers, spice merchants, and creators of all things nice in old Victoria. Be warned, though: some of our tales are decidedly bittersweet.

**April 12. RBC. Vic High’s 150th Anniversary.** This year Victoria High School celebrates its 150th anniversary. When it began in 1876, it was the first public high school in all of western Canada. On today’s tour, a team of past and present Vic High students will discuss some of their noteworthy forebears. You don’t need to have connections to Vic High to enjoy this tour, which will include a diverse range of interesting people from Victoria’s past.

**April 19. Pioneer Square. Tales from the Old Burying Ground. John Azar** will recount stories from this fascinating old cemetery in the heart of downtown Victoria, which contains the remains of our earliest settlers, gold seekers, and naval personnel. Meet at the corner of Quadra Street and Rockland Avenue. This tour is wheelchair accessible.

**April 26. RBC. Service, Compassion, and Courage—Nursing Pioneers of Victoria.** Through the lives of some amazing and inspiring 19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century women, **Nancy Kostyrka** will tell stories of nursing in Victoria: wartime nurses who worked in field hospitals near active battlefields; women who found ways to serve all those in need of care despite poverty and prejudice; women who accepted the risks and often succumbed to the very diseases they fought; women who were instrumental in the development of schools of nursing and the modernization of nursing education. They all played an important part in the evolution of health care in our country.

## Black History Month and the Old Cemeteries Society



Every February, the OCS participates in two public events celebrating Black History Month in Canada. One is the annual tour of Ross Bay Cemetery featuring many of Victoria’s Black pioneers (see p. 8). The other is the free drop-in event held at the Royal BC Museum bringing together descendants, historians and archivists, and organizations promoting awareness of Black history in BC. OCS President **Yvonne Van Ruskenveld** fielded enquiries at the OCS exhibit.

## Volunteer Profile: Shirley Waldon

Diana Pedersen

Many OCS members will recognize Shirley Waldon as one of our most reliable and always cheerful ticket sellers—one of the earliest to arrive to greet the arrivals at the Sunday afternoon tours. She has sold tickets at Ross Bay Cemetery for many years and is a stalwart helper at the Ghost Tour and the Remembrance Day Tour at the Veterans' Cemetery in Esquimalt. When needed, Shirley has stepped up for behind-the-scenes support such as assisting with set-up and food preparation for our annual Garden Party at Ross Bay Villa. She served on the OCS Board of Directors from 2020 to 2024.



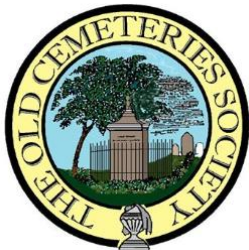
Shirley was born and raised in Victoria, growing up in the Gorge Tillicum area. She spent thirty-five years working for the Purchasing Commission of the provincial government before retiring in 2010. She studied business administration at Camosun College and the University of Victoria and then obtained advanced certification in Incident Command Systems and Public Procurement Management. As a Senior Procurement Specialist, Shirley was responsible for contract management and disaster planning. She travelled all over the province, at short notice, to deal with natural disasters—especially supplying the Forest Service with equipment during fire season.

Discovering an old family photo album after her retirement inspired Shirley to undertake research into her 19<sup>th</sup>-century ancestors in Scotland and Wales, who came from the artisan class. A lifelong baker, she has acquired a collection of old cookbooks. Becoming an OCS member in 2016 appealed to Shirley's interest in history and her enjoyment of being outdoors. She was able to use her work skills on the Board, serving ably during a transition period. She helped with researching grant applications to fund our new Memorial Gate and developed templates for a number of documents, including the Sunday tour tally sheet used by the ticket sellers. Shirley is also a volunteer with the annual [Times Colonist Book Sale](#) and the [Compassionate Resource Warehouse](#), which ships donated goods to responsible charities around the world.

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**Annual memberships** in the Old Cemeteries Society run from January 1 to December 31. Individual \$30, Student \$20, Household \$45. Payments can be made by cheque or e-transfer. To join or renew, see the [Membership page](#) on the OCS website for more information.

	<p><b>The Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria</b>  P.O. Box 50004, RPO Cook Street  Victoria, BC V8V 4Z8</p> <p>tel: 250-598-8870  email: <a href="mailto:oldcemvictoria@gmail.com">oldcemvictoria@gmail.com</a>  website: <a href="http://www.oldcem.bc.ca">http://www.oldcem.bc.ca</a>  Facebook: <a href="https://facebook.com/OldCemeteriesSociety">https://facebook.com/OldCemeteriesSociety</a></p>
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## The Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria

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[www.oldcem.bc.ca](http://www.oldcem.bc.ca)

### It's Membership Renewal Time!

Since the mid-1980s, members of the Old Cemeteries Society have protected, preserved, and promoted Greater Victoria's more than twenty heritage cemeteries; most activities centre on Ross Bay Cemetery. Volunteers engage in historical research, lead Sunday walking history tours, conduct school tours, provide assistance to genealogists, catalogue and computerize burial records, combat vandalism, clean graves, and restore damaged monuments. Membership dues, tour admissions, and donations all support the ongoing work of the OCS.

Benefits of OCS membership include email notices of Sunday tours and other events; reduced admission to the Sunday tours; and our newsletter, *Stone Cuttings*, published online six times a year. **Annual memberships run from January 1 to December 31.**

### Membership Application

To become a member or to renew your membership, choose one of two payment options. Fill out the form below and mail it with your cheque to the address provided at the top of the page OR send an electronic transfer, labelling it "Membership," to [oldcemvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:oldcemvictoria@gmail.com).

New membership

Renewal

Individual \$30

Student \$20

Household \$45

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donations

The Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria is a registered charitable organization and will issue tax receipts for donations over \$10. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to support the ongoing work of the OCS. Please specify amount. \$ \_\_\_\_\_