



ONSLow CEMETERY COMPANY

Caring for the Onslow Island Cemetery. Established in 1763.

9 Main Street, Bible Hill, Colchester, Nova Scotia B2N 4G4. Phone: 902-897-2625

E-Mail: info@onslowislandcemetery.ca

Newsletter – July 2019 edition 2018 and 2019 Highlights

Our last newsletter (November 2017) focused on the need to regularly recruit and replenish volunteers who contribute their valuable time, energy and skills to care for the cemetery and the planned retirement of Ron Hoyt, Trustee and Property Manager, effective the Spring of 2018.

This newsletter will focus on work being done to ensure the Onslow Island Cemetery will continue to receive a high standard of care as new volunteers are recruited to take over the work of retiring Trustees and caregivers. This includes action to address a known risk that as new graves are sold and dug, possibly finding that someone is already buried there – a concern of many old cemeteries in Nova Scotia. Our Cemetery is 256 years old and until the early 1900’s, gravestones are the only markers for a grave. There are graves without stone markers and grave sites with no recorded burials. As well, a recent project to photograph all the stones in the Cemetery identified several gravestones that are not on the lot numbers recorded and not in sync with a 1895 survey map of the cemetery lots.

2018 Highlights

Trustees Ron Hoyt and Kirby Smith worked together to handle burials and lot sales for 2018.

Ron and Kirby began work to better identify, map and document the high-risk burial sites in the Cemetery; and to locate and map safe new lot sale sites for future cremation and full casket burials.

Burial records, lot sale records, photographs of gravestones and digital records maintained by the Secretary Treasurer will be updated and synchronized with the Property Manager’s records and card files as this work proceeds.

Other business during 2018 included:

- The price for a lot for a single full burial or up to four cremations was increased from \$400.00 to \$500.00.
- The price for opening and preparing a lot for cremation or full burial was increased from \$125.00 to \$200.00.
- Policies and Procedures were updated to require burials not handled by a local

(Colchester County) funeral home business to submit a burial permit or certificate of cremation before the interment can take place.

- The volunteer project to photograph all (some 400 stones) the gravestones in the cemetery, started in the summer of 2017, was completed in June 2018 by Brianna Crosby and her helper friend Natalie Baillie. Their work contributes immeasurably to the overall management plan to better document lot sales and burials.
- One lot was sold.
- There were eight burials (six cremations and two full burials).
- The cost of mowing and maintenance in 2018 was \$3861.37 – well under the \$7,750.00 budgeted. Cory Spenser of “Gas and Grass Maintenance” was contracted to complete all the mowing in June, July and August for \$3000.00 (at \$250.00 per mow). Volunteers (mainly Ron Hoyt) mowed in May and September. The roads were sprayed for weed control and are in good shape.



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2018 Year End Finance Report

Auditors Clark Woods and Kim McCallum reviewed the accounts maintained by Treasurer Marie McCully Collier and found them detailed, accurate and clear. In summary:

Income - \$7,793.19

(\$6,090.00 in Donations plus Investment income \$1,177.87 (including \$470.17 from the Scotiitrust Perpetual Care Fund) plus lot sales \$500.00 and an HST rebate of \$25.32).

Expenditures - \$4,369.43

(Property maintenance \$3,861.37 plus office operations \$508.06). The \$500.00 received for a lot sale was invested in the Scotiitrust Perpetual Care Fund. Assets -

\$92,010.65 (cash & deposits \$11,387.19 plus Investments \$80,623.46)

Liabilities - \$00.00

2019 Highlights

The planned review of the cemetery property and record management was completed. Safe areas have been identified for future lot sales. A separate site for cremations only is envisioned. All the sites will be marked off and documented on maps.

The budget for 2019 includes an estimate of \$5000.00 to contract all grass mowing during May to October with Cory Spenser, Gas and Grass Maintenance, for up to 24 mows at \$250.00 per mow. In total, \$7,100.00 is projected for lawn care and general maintenance, road repairs and gravestone repair. \$2,735.00 is projected for general operations including postage, bank charges, investing lot sale earnings and the website. We expect to end the year under budget and without a deficit.

A number of the very old gravestones are in need of repair and no family contacts are available or known to help. A local contractor has been hired to a repair a selected number of them this summer for \$3000.00.



Donations

In 2018, \$6,090.00 in donations were gratefully received including donations in memory of Irene Pratt.

Donations not required to cover annual expenses are carefully invested to provide some annual income and to build a principal account that will support the Cemetery in the years to come. Although the Company may appear somewhat wealthy at this time, the income from investments does not cover annual expenses. Your ongoing donations are very much needed and appreciated.

The Onslow Cemetery Company is a Registered Charity. All donations are acknowledged with an official receipt that can be used for Income Tax purposes.

The address to send donations is:
Onslow Cemetery Company
c/o Marie McCully Collier
9 Main Street
Bible Hill, Colchester, NS B2N 4G4

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees held three meetings in 2018. One meeting being a Special Meeting to receive the report of a Committee struck to discuss and provide recommendations for long term property management of the cemetery.

At the April 2019 Annual General Meeting, ten Trustees were elected:

Carol Blois, Bonnie Waddell, Marie McCully Collier, Kirby Smith, Rod Nelson, Clark Woods, Ron Hoyt, Wade Dickie, Thane Blois (new in 2019), and Nancy (Crowe) Pitts (new in 2019)

The executive continues as in 2018 with President Carol Blois, Vice President Bonnie Waddell, and Secretary Treasurer Marie McCully Collier.

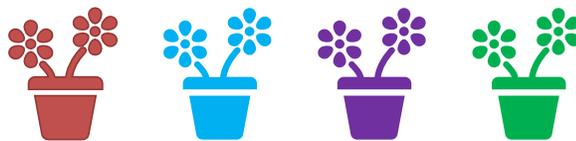
Ron Hoyt, Property Manager retired in 2018, but has remained as a Trustee. We extend special thanks to Ron as he has continued to oversee the opening and closing of graves for burial, lot sales and overall cemetery maintenance until his replacement is found.

The resignation of Trustee Bruce Curry was accepted with regret. We thank Bruce for his six years of service

About the Newsletter

Our last newsletter was mailed in November 2017. However, we were unable to prepare one before the end of 2018. Henceforth, we plan to distribute an annual newsletter shortly after the Annual General Meeting in April and preferably want to accomplish this no later than June each year.

Recently a visitor to the Cemetery wrote -
"The Onslow Cemetery is so well kept up and I always enjoy visiting it in the summer – so beautiful and peaceful"



Members and Friends

☺ **You are invited to attend** ☺
2020 Annual General Meeting
of the Onslow Cemetery
Company.
Wednesday April 1, 2020
7:00 pm
Trinity United Church, Onslow,
NS.