

Onslow Cemetery Company



9 Main Street, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 4G4
Phone: 902-897-2625
Fax: 902-893-7120
E-Mail: mmcullycollier@ns.sympatico.ca

NEWSLETTER – May 2013 VOLUME 2, Issue 1

Welcome to the Spring 2013 Newsletter! This newsletter is a special early edition to tell you about some of the exciting things planned to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Cemetery founding; to ask you to support a special fund for a commemorative anniversary monument and site; and to update you on Cemetery business. Future newsletters will likely follow the Annual General Meeting of the Cemetery held each year in April.

Help Us Celebrate!

250 years ago at the Township of Onslow Meeting held on the 13th of September 1763 it was voted, "That the East side of the Island in the Uper Mash be aloued and sequestred for a buring place." (Israel Longworth, Q.C., Truro c. 1880). Plans to celebrate this remarkable milestone include:

- Publishing a brief history of the cemetery, compiled by volunteer historian Bonnie Waddell, member of The Cobequid Planters 250 Society and the Colchester Historeum.
- Erecting a commemorative plaque and viewing/seating site in the cemetery.
- Holding a public reception and unveiling of the plaque, September 7, 2013.
- Creating a website www.OnslowIslandCemetery.ca
- - *watch this website for posts and updates about the Anniversary celebrations!*
- Cataloguing and preserving, through photographs and software, the oldest headstones and inscriptions.

Do you have a story to share?

With a nod to the historical significance of this celebration, we are asking lot owners and friends of the cemetery to share their stories and traditions surrounding the burying grounds. Recognizing the wealth of knowledge that our elders possess, we are especially interested in hearing about any local customs that have been passed down through family members. One such tradition highlights the resourcefulness of our ancestors; sandstone and limestone 'doorsteps' were often re-purposed as headstones when the time came to mark the gravesite of the homeowner. This tidbit came to light when one of our trustees, Rod Nelson, generously donated such a 'doorstep', which we hope to incorporate in our seating/viewing area on the grounds. If you have a story to share please contact Bonnie Waddell by email at bonnie.waddell@gmail.com, write us at info@OnslowIslandCemetery.ca or call one the phone numbers below.

Consider donating towards the cost of a commemorative site

The vision for the commemorative site includes a memorial plaque, a resting area, and greenery. Our goal is to preserve the authentic beauty of the island, by incorporating materials that are consistent with the historical look and feel of the cemetery. We are estimating this will cost approximately \$3000. Interest in donating funds toward the cost of the commemorative site has been expressed. Thus a special fundraising effort for this once-in-a-lifetime event has been launched. Any funds received exceeding the cost of the monument and site will be directed to the funds used for the maintenance of the Cemetery.

Your support will be appreciated and tax receipts for charitable donations will be provided.

Business Management

The Annual General Meeting of the Onslow Cemetery Company was held on April 3, 2013, when the current Executive and Board of Trustees was elected:

• Marie McCully Collier, President and Treasurer	• Wade Dickie, Trustee
• Eleanor Norrie, Vice President	• Kirby Smith, Trustee
• Ron Hoyt, Property Manager and Trustee	• Rod Nelson, Trustee
• Sherry Groves, Secretary and Trustee	• Carol Blois, Trustee
• Clark Woods, Trustee	• Bruce Curry, Trustee
• Gloria Smith, Trustee	

Gloria Smith was welcomed as a new trustee. Appreciation was expressed to Wayne Blois and Don Groves for their past service as they stepped down. It was reported that during the past year – to the end of December 2012, the eleven member Board of Trustees held four Board meetings. Meetings were well attended and much was accomplished.

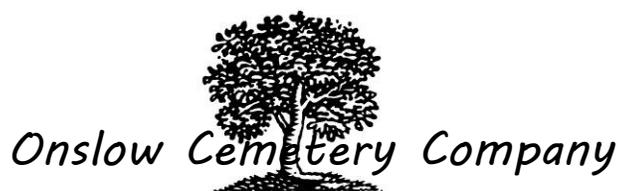
- Policies and Procedures were adopted for the mutual protection and benefit of the lot owners and the Cemetery, with the goal of maintaining the neat appearance and historical beauty of the grounds. A copy of the Policies is given to all new lot owners at the time of sale and is part of a package that includes an Interment Rights Certificate (contract), a service detail form (to record burials on the lot) and a list of key contacts for the Cemetery. The current cost for a single lot is \$300.
- A process was initiated to update the Cemetery's 1901 Act of Incorporation – currently requiring that any by-law changes be approved by the Governor-in-Council (the NS Provincial Legislature).*****note addendum below.*
- Two newsletters were mailed to lot owners and friends of the cemetery – the first one in January and the second in November. This was accomplished after almost a year of work during 2011 to develop a current mailing list. The first letter focused on the need for donations to support the maintenance of the cemetery and was the first such letter since 1997. Both letters reported on events during the past year, cemetery upkeep and future plans.
- Donations to the Cemetery increased. Over \$13,000 was received during 2012. We are most grateful and thank all those who donated for their generous support. These funds are diligently managed. Any funds received and not required for immediate maintenance are invested so as to build a capital fund that will support the maintenance of the cemetery in the years to come. The Cemetery's Perpetual Care Fund provides some funding but it cannot adequately support all the cemeteries maintenance requirements.
- The Cemetery was well maintained this past year by a fine group of volunteers. This included an annual clean-up day in May and regular mowing during May, June, September and October. Only July and August mowings were contracted out. We are most grateful to all the volunteers and especially for the work of Property Manager Ron Hoyt to organize and oversee this work.
- The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at the Trinity United Church in Upper Onslow. All lot owners and friends of the Cemetery are invited and encouraged to attend.

*****addendum*

Bill no. 43, to amend the Act to Incorporate was approved and passed by the NS Provincial Legislature on Friday, May 10, 2013. This change allows the members of the corporation (i.e., lot owners in good standing) to make changes to the by-laws at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Onslow Cemetery Company. The current (1901) By Laws will be reviewed by a Committee of Trustees and any required changes will be presented for approval at the next AGM in 2014.

If you have any questions or require further information please contact any of the Trustees or:

- Marie McCully Collier (Treasurer) 897-2625 mmccullycollier@ns.sympatico.ca
- Ron Hoyt (Property Manager) 893-7508 rkhojt@eastlink.ca
- Sherry Groves (Secretary) 893-6008 sherrygroves@eastlink.ca



Established 1763