



# Onslow Cemetery Company

Caring for the Onslow Island Cemetery. Established in 1763.

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## Newsletter – November 2015 edition

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### Highlights 2014 and 2015

A special meeting of Members of the Onslow Cemetery Company was called on May 12, 2014 to discuss and approve further amendments to *Chapter 197 of the Acts of 1901, an Act to Incorporate the Trustees of the Onslow Cemetery Company*. Amendments prepared by the Trustees were approved and it was agreed to seek the required approval of the Governor-in-Council. Hence, *Bill 61, to amend Chapter 197 of the Acts of 1901, an Act to Incorporate the Trustees of the Onslow Cemetery Company*, was approved, passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature and given Royal Assent by the Lieutenant Governor on November 20, 2014.

The amendments enable the Members of the Corporation (Onslow Cemetery Company) to establish By Laws that are consistent with and complimentary to the Act of Incorporation and that meet the business standards of the day; to increase the number Trustees to more than the three (as had been defined in Section 5 of the former 1901 Act); to expand the definition of “members of the corporation” (defined only as lot holders in Section 2 of the former 1901 Act); and to change the date of the Annual General Meeting (that had been the first Tuesday of April each year) to “by the end of April” each year.

**By Laws**, drafted by the Trustees, were approved by Members at the Annual General Meeting held on April 8, 2015. Updated **Policies and Procedures** were also presented and approved. The current Act of Incorporation, the By Laws and the Policies and Procedures are posted on the Company website at [www.onslowislandcemetery.ca](http://www.onslowislandcemetery.ca). We encourage you to browse the site and view the updates.

They are listed there under Governance & Policies. Members who are unable to access the internet may request copies from the Secretary Treasurer.

**Members of the Company?** Yes. Current By Laws require the Secretary Treasurer to maintain a Registry of Members. Note that eligibility for membership has been expanded. This is explained in detail on page three of this newsletter and a Membership Registration form is attached. *Why register?* You will be able to vote at any Annual or Special Meeting of the Company and receive regular communications about the activities of the Company – such as this newsletter.

### Business Management

The following **Board of Trustees** was elected at the April 2015 Annual General Meeting:

- Carol Blois, President
- Gloria Smith, Vice President
- Marie McCully Collier, Secretary Treasurer
- Ron Hoyt, Property Manager
- Bruce Curry
- Wade Dickie
- Kirby Smith
- Rod Nelson
- Bonnie Waddell
- Clark Woods

Seven Board meetings were held in 2014. To date, during 2015, the Board has held three meetings. In April, regretfully, the Board accepted the resignation of Trustee Eleanor Norrie and acknowledged her seven years of diligent service.

**Financial reports** at the end of 2014 showed that the Company's **assets** totaled \$75,976.15 of which \$59,367.61 was invested and \$16,608.54 was held in cash and deposits. As we approach the end of 2015, assets at the end of the year are down some \$4379.53 to \$71,596.62 of which \$59,367.61 is invested and \$11,222.01 is held in cash. The Cemetery has no liabilities.

**Expenditures** in 2014 totaled \$2778.47 and included \$1762.56 for lawn care and maintenance and \$1015.91 for administrative costs (bank, postage, office supplies and internet). Expenditures in 2015 increased to \$5641.70 and include \$3104.75 for lawn care and general maintenance plus \$1556.42 to renew a shed on site for equipment storage.

**Note** the before and after pictures and thank the Trustees who volunteered the labour. Guided by trustee Bruce Curry we have a "new" shed and achieved this at minimum cost. Combining the use of contracted and volunteer labour (several are Trustees) to maintain and mow the grounds continues to save at least \$3000.00 a year. Property Manager Ron Hoyt organizes and oversees this much appreciated work. To date in 2015 office administrative costs (bank, postage, office supplies and internet) are down to \$441.63. Other expenses include \$269.10 charged by the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to amend the 1901 Act of Incorporation and \$457.19 to cover the work to repair and preserve a survey map of the Cemetery that was drawn up in 1898 by Edmund Archibald. This work will enable copies to be made of the map and a digitalized copy has been placed on the Cemetery website.

**Income** in 2014 totaled \$9488.60. This included \$1102.63 from investments; \$800.00 from two lot sales; and \$1220.92 from other sources (a GST rebate and recovery for repair of damages to four gravestones made by a local farmer's cows when they escaped into the Cemetery through a broken fence). The price of a single lot was raised to \$400.00. To date in 2015, income includes \$759.00 from investments; \$400.00 from a lot sale; and \$193.95 for a GST rebate.

In 2014 **donations** of \$6365.00 were gratefully received including donations in memory of Charles and Leta Hill, Harold and Addie Vincent and Harry and Mimi Vincent. To date in 2015, donations total \$500.00.

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, total assets are down and the current income from investments does not cover annual expenses. Your ongoing donations are needed and appreciated.

### Our "new" shed ☺



*Before*



*After*

**NOTICE** -you are invited to attend the **2016 Annual General Meeting. It will be held on Wednesday April 6, 2016, 7:00 pm** at the Trinity United Church Parlour, Onslow, Nova Scotia.

**Now, have a look at the steps required to add your name to the Registry of Members!**