



ONSLow CEMETERY COMPANY

Caring for the Onslow Island Cemetery. Established in 1763.

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Newsletter – November 2017 edition 2016 and 2017 Highlights

Property Maintenance

During 2016 and 2017 Property Manager and Trustee Ron Hoyt organized several significant improvements in cemetery property:

- In 2016 work was completed to prevent cars driving over graves and to better control traffic in the cemetery. Roads were repaired and graveled, a culvert was repaired, space was cleared for a parking lot and signage erected.
- In 2017 The road way from the pond to the Cemetery was regraveled (\$1488.42); gas, seed, flowers and other supplies cost \$224.41. Ron and Kirby Smith also marked out more future lots and placed reference points to make it easier to establish clear boundaries for the lots.
- During 2017 services for lawn care were once again contracted only during July and August and cost \$1550.00. Ron Hoyt looked after the mowing during May, June, September and October. The work was achieved with considerable savings to the Cemetery. It would have cost at least \$5000.00. to pay a contractor to mow for the full season (to do 20 mows, potentially 4 per month for 5 months).
- Costs to mow in 2018 are expected to increase. More contract mowing will be required as it is becoming more difficult to recruit volunteers to help with mowing.
- As well, Ron Hoyt has advised that he will not be letting his name stand for Property Manager for the coming term beginning in the Spring of 2018.

Ron's notice to retire as Property Manager was acknowledged by the Trustees at their October 2017 meeting with regret and with much appreciation for the first-rate attention he has given to the position for the past seven years. Work to find his replacement must start immediately.

Help! Do you have some time to volunteer?

- Interested? Want to consider the Property Manager Position? Ideally it would be a good fit for two volunteers to take on this role and share the work.
- Help with mowing in the spring and fall months?
- Help with spring clean-up on a weekend before Mother's Day? Extra hands that day are always appreciated.
- Join the Board as a Trustee? There is an ongoing need to replace retiring Trustees on the Board. Like most organizations we are challenged to find new members and we are an aging group!
- Can you help us recruit volunteers? Know someone who would be available to help?
- Are you interested in history? Genealogy? Could you help us learn how we might do more to support individuals and families with their research?

If you have any suggestions or would like to help, contact any one of the Company Trustees or email info@onslowislandcemetery.ca

Members and Friends
 😊 You are invited to attend 😊
2018 Annual General Meeting
of the Onslow Cemetery Company.
Wednesday April 4, 2018, 7:00 pm
 Trinity United Church Parlour, Onslow, NS.

Record Maintenance

Property Manager Ron Hoyt and Secretary Treasurer Marie McCully Collier are working together to update the systems that are in place to document and maintain important historical records of the Cemetery. While the Cemetery was established in 1763, paper records of lot sales and burials are non-existent prior to 1876. Gravestones are the only records we have for burials prior to 1876. Five of the oldest gravestones in the Cemetery date back to 1791. Burial sites were not measured and documented to follow a survey map until 1898. Company minutes only date back to 1903.

During 2017 significant work to strengthen record management has been accomplished:

- All past paper records on hand of burials and lot sales have been entered onto a computerized data system by Judy Langille. Judy has worked with Marie on a volunteer basis to develop the system and enter the data. Thank you, Judy!
- Lot sale (the Interment Rights Certificate) and burial records have been revised to include more basic information including email addresses, postal addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth and death as applicable and type of burial. Parent's names are also being recorded to establish an accurate history.
- Photographs of the gravestones are being taken by two dedicated volunteers, Brianna Crosby and Natalie Baillie. They are doing this project as a requirement for their IB school program. IB is a high-level education program that has a Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) component that is required to graduate. Within CAS, their project must help their school or community in some way. The Onslow Cemetery Project is their CAS project. To date they have approximately half of the Cemetery gravestones photographed and want to finish before winter, but if not, they must complete the project before they graduate next Spring 2018. Once this work is complete we will be able to match the

gravestone pictures with the data base on computer, and identify the unregistered burials. In fact, one stone has already done this. Family were looking for a relative buried in 1893. None of our cemetery records had recorded this burial. But a photograph taken of a gravestone by Brianna and Natalie established the correct burial site for their relative. Thank you, Briana and Natalie!

The Cemetery website has been helpful to many individuals and families researching their history. The Secretary Treasurer regularly receives email requests for information. The record systems being developed will enable better responses to their requests. As well, as new Trustees take over the management of records, they will inherit a more modern system to carry on this work.

Pictures of two of our very old gravestones taken by Briana and Natalie



Leah Hill -- Wife of George Hill .1801



Leonor R. Hamilton Jan. 10, 1801

2016 Year End Finance Report

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

Income - \$11,912.03 (\$7,780.00 in Donations plus Investment income \$1,284.51 (including \$422.00 from Perpetual Care) plus lot sales \$1200.00. and a GST rebate of \$674.07).

Expenditures - \$6,845.11 (Property maintenance \$5980.19 plus office operations \$834.92). The \$1,200.00 received for lot sales was invested in the Company's Scotiatrust account for perpetual care.

Assets - \$83,442.71 (cash & deposits \$11,473.99 plus Investments \$71,968.72)

Liabilities - \$00.00

Lots sold

One lot for a single full burial or up to four cremations is currently priced at \$400.00. Three lots were sold 2016. To date, two lots have been sold in 2017.

Burials

Four burials were carried out (three cremations and one full burial) in 2016. To date, eight burials (All cremations) have been carried out in 2017.

2017 Projected Budget

The budget includes \$6,900.00 for lawn care and general maintenance, road repairs and equipment repairs and \$725.00 for general operations including postage, bank charges and website. We expect to end the year under budget and without a deficit.

Donations

In 2016, \$7780.00 in donations were gratefully received including donations in memory of Charles and Leta Hill, Hartley and Jessie Talbot and Gloria Smith. To date, in 2017, \$1530.00 in donations have been received, including donations in memory of Reta Nelson, Brenda Dickie and Gloria Smith.

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 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
Truro, NS B2N 4G4

Business Management

The following **Board of Trustees** was elected at the April 2017 Annual General Meeting:

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

The Board met three times during 2016 and three times during 2017 as required by the Company By Laws.

Members of the Company

Current By Laws require the Secretary Treasurer to maintain a Registry of Members. Eligibility for membership has been expanded to include individuals who are not lot holders, but wish to support the Cemetery.

To date, fifty individuals have submitted their registration forms. Thank you! This helps us create and maintain an accurate Member Registry and mailing list.

So far, thirty of the fifty members are lot owners; ten are individuals planning to be interred in a family lot; and ten are individuals wishing to support the Cemetery.

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.**

About the Newsletter

Last year, a newsletter was mailed to 88 lot owners and friends of the Company (58 were posted and 30 were emailed.) with an invitation to join the Company as a Registered Member.

This year the mailing list has been refined and the newsletter is being sent to 50 members and 15-20 unregistered friends. About half will be emailed.



Benjamin Lynds – 1814
(bottom inscription)

The voice at midnight came
He started up to hear
A mortal arrow pierced his flame(?)
He fell but felt no fear
The pains of death are past
Labour and sorrow cease
Life's long warfare closed at last

If your name is not on the following list of members, and you wish to register, contact Secretary Treasurer Marie and she will send you a form. There is no fee for membership. If you have recruited a potential new member, please invite them to attend the next annual general meeting with you in April 2018.

2017 Registered Members	
Lawrence W. Baird	Bruce Langille (Judy)
Carol Blois	Shirley Lorraine
Rodney Blois	Ethel Lewis
Thane Blois	Joyce Lynds
Donald Brenton	Donna I. MacNeill
Elfriede Budgey	Cyathia Matthews
Richard Carpenter	Margaret McCain
Patricia Crowe	Kim D. McCallum
Bruce M. Curry	Marie McCully Collier
McCusker "Ted" Curry	Bill McCully
Steve W. Dean	Ron McCully
Judith DeVouge	Sandra McNutt
Wade Dickie	Brent Nelson
Roy Fancy	Rod Nelson
Allison (Allie) Groves	George Norrie
Donald Groves (Sally)	Rod Norrie (Eleanor)
Lloyd Groves(Marilyn)	Audrey Organ
Sharron Groves	Sabine C. Pace
Darcie Hatt	Howard Parsons
James Henderson	Prescott(Sonny) Patton
Arthur Hill	George Arthur Pratt
George Hill	Evelyn Rasberry
Susan Hill-Ellis	Kirby Smith
Ronald Hoyt(Katherine)	S. Clark Woods
Christine King	Bonnie R. Waddell
J. Shelly King	



In memory of Joseph McCully
Lot owner Caleb McCully
Died Mar. 1810 Aged 48 and his wife