



## *Onslow Cemetery Company* Established 1763

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### **Newsletter - October 2014 edition**

#### **The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cemetery**

Marking the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cemetery was a focal point for many activities during 2013. Work began with the addition of the words "Est. 1763" to the stone marking the entrance to the Cemetery. Heather Lawson, a stonemason from Bass River, was contracted to prepare a memorial stone, using local sandstone, to hold the brass plaque commemorating the founding of the Cemetery. A reception was held at the Cemetery on September 7, 2013 where long-time Cemetery supporter, Allie Groves, unveiled the commemorative stone. The event was attended by almost 90 lot owners, friends and special guests including Member of Parliament (MP) Scott Armstrong, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Karen Casey and County Councillor Ron Cavanagh. The event received local newspaper attention and a national article was also published in the March edition of Canadian Funeral News, page 54, the Network section, entitled "250 Years of Tradition at Onslow Island Cemetery". The article can be viewed on-line at <http://www.otcommunications.com/images/issue/mar14cfn.pdf>

Many in the community supported or helped to organize this event, including the Colchester Historical Society, the Colchester Historeum and the Municipality of Colchester County. Several Historical Society members attended the September 7th reception wearing period dress of the Planters who settled here in the 1760's. One of their members, Bonnie Waddell, has been instrumental in researching the history of the Onslow Island Cemetery. As well, the Colchester Municipality graciously provided a \$1,000.00 grant towards the cost of the occasion.

To promote the Anniversary activities and keep lot owners up-to-date on the affairs of the cemetery, a website was created at [www.onslowislandcemetery.ca](http://www.onslowislandcemetery.ca). We encourage you to browse the site and view the collection of photos taken at the September 7 event.

#### **Business Management**

A Bill to amend the Cemetery's 1901 Act to Incorporate, Bill No. 43, Chapter 197, was approved and passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature on May 10, 2013. Trustee Eleanor Norrie and MLA Karen Casey were instrumental in helping to successfully move this through the Legislature. As a result Section 4 was amended by striking out "Governor-in-Council" and substituting "Members of the Corporation". This amendment enables Members of the Corporation to make and approve the By-Laws, rules and regulations required for the management and care of the Cemetery without seeking the approval of the "Governor-in-Council". However, we have learned that further Amendments are required in the Act before Members can establish a set of By-Laws that meet the business standards of the day. On May 12, 2014, a Special meeting of members was held whereby a draft of the required amendments was approved. Final approval to amend the required sections of the Act will be considered by the Provincial Legislature during the fall sitting of 2014. These changes, once approved, will enable the Members of the Onslow Cemetery Company (the Corporation) to increase the number Trustees to more than the three defined in Section 5 of the Act; expand the definition of "members of the corporation" currently defined as only lot holders according to Section 2 of the Act; and change the date of the Annual General Meeting that according to Section 6 must be the first Tuesday of April each year.

Reports at the Annual General Meeting held on April 9, 2014 showed that the Cemetery's assets at the end of the year (2013) totaled \$69,093.77 of which \$19,039.76 was in cash and deposits and \$50,054.01 was invested. The Cemetery has no liabilities. Expenditures totaled \$11,011.97 and included the Anniversary celebrations (\$2423.72); investments made (\$3666.22); administration (bank, postage etc. \$787.00); lawn care and maintenance (\$ 4135.03) which included:

- Contracted mowing and trimming - \$1250.00
- Equipment (a small power mower was purchased for the volunteer mowers) - \$246.67
- Miscellaneous supplies (gas, twine, etc.) - \$338.36
- Repairs and gravel for the main road in the Cemetery - \$2300.00

Combining the use of contracted and volunteer labour (several of whom were Trustees) to maintain and mow the grounds saved almost \$3000.00 and enabled coming in under budget. This included volunteer help at the annual clean-up and work day in May. This volunteer support is very much appreciated - especially the work of Property Manager Ron Hoyt who organizes and oversees it. There were 9 burials during 2013 (8 cremations and 1 full burial). Three lots were sold.

Income totaled at \$15,121.32 and included \$3754.11 from investments; \$900.00 from lot sales; and \$1932.98 from a Municipal Grant and GST rebate. Donations to the Cemetery were generous and very much appreciated. Just over \$8,500.00 in donations was received, including memorial donations in memory of Charles and Leta Hill, Fred McMaster, Hartley and Jessie Talbot, and Harold and Addie Vincent. All donation income is used to maintain and operate the cemetery and as much as possible is carefully invested in order to provide some annual income, but with low (2% or less) interest rates the Cemetery also requires ongoing support from lot owners and friends.

A Budget of \$9190.00 was approved for 2014. This includes \$6500.00 for lawn care and maintenance and some road repair; \$2690.00 for general operations such as postage, bank charges, amending the 1901 Act of Incorporation; and \$500.00 to cover the cost of work to research and record the history of the Cemetery, including \$425.00 to repair and preserve a surveyed 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 the placement of a digitalized copy on the Cemetery website.

Cemetery Policies and Procedures were reviewed, updated and posted on the website. The price of a single lot was raised to \$400.00.

The Board of Trustees and Executive for 2014 includes:

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

In October 2013, the Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Trustee Sherry Groves. To date, during 2014, the Board has held three Board meetings. During 2013 the Board held ten meetings (more meetings were required to plan the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations).

In closing we invite you to attend the **2015 Annual General Meeting. It will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 7:00 pm** at the Trinity United Church Parlour, Onslow, Nova Scotia, and if the Amendments to the Act are complete, a set of By Laws will be ready for your consideration at that time.