

ONSLow CEMETERY COMPANY



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NEWSLETTER – November 2012 VOLUME 1, Issue 2

As we complete our work for the year and begin preparing for the coming year, we invite you to share the activities of the organization in the form of our latest newsletter. Our vision is to inform our lot owners and friends of the work, successes and activities of the Onslow Cemetery. For those of you who would prefer to get a digital copy of our newsletter, please contact Sherry Groves at sherrygroves@eastlink.ca with your email address. If we don't hear from you, we will assume that you would like to continue receiving a paper copy mailed to your home. If you prefer that we remove your name from our mailing list, please let us know this as well. As this is only our second newsletter, we encourage you to share your ideas and suggestions for future publications.

Business Management

2012 has brought some changes to our executive; the position of President and Chair is currently open after Sherry Groves stepped down after completing her term. Marie McCully Collier has graciously agreed to fill in on a temporary basis, until a replacement is found. Long-time supporter, Carol Blois recently resigned from her position as secretary, and we thank Carol for her many years of dedicated service to the organization. She will continue to serve the Cemetery as a Trustee. Sherry Groves will take on the role of Secretary and remains a Trustee. We welcome Bruce Curry as our newest Trustee to the Board. Ron Hoyt is also looking for a community member to assist him in his duties as Property Manager.

Our Executive and Board of Trustees is as follows:

- Marie McCully Collier, Treasurer and Interim Chair
- Eleanor Norrie, Vice Chair
- Ron Hoyt, Property Manager and Trustee
- Sherry Groves, Secretary and Trustee
- Clark Woods, Trustee
- Don Groves, Trustee
- Wade Dickie, Trustee
- Kirby Smith, Trustee
- Rod Nelson, Trustee
- Carol Blois, Trustee
- Wayne Blois, Trustee
- Bruce Curry, Trustee

Last January, we launched our first fundraising effort in fourteen years. We were very pleased with the response from our lot owners and friends, with many of them donating generously to the campaign. Thank you to everyone who contributed! All donations go toward the operation of the cemetery. Funds are invested to generate the best interest rates available and ensure that adequate funds are on hand when donations fall short of actual maintenance costs. Our 2012-2013 fundraising campaign is under way and we thank all our supporters. Charitable donation receipts will be provided for tax purposes.

This past year has seen the completion of a Policy and Procedure Manual that is available to new and current lot owners. Our intent is to provide clear and consistent guidelines for lot owners and their families, to help maintain the neat appearance and historical beauty of the grounds.

Property Management

Lawn maintenance services are typically the largest expense for the cemetery. With this in mind, Ron Hoyt coordinated a mowing schedule this season that combined the use of contracted services and volunteer labour. This plan saved the cemetery several thousand dollars in mowing costs and allowed us to purchase a new trimmer. Due to the success of this arrangement, we are looking at purchasing a ride-on lawn mower for the volunteers to use next season. Thanks to all who donated their time and equipment to keep our grounds looking their best.

Ron Hoyt also supervised the annual spring cleanup on Sunday, April 29 and reported a very productive morning of work from the many volunteers who helped out. This event has been an important part of the cemetery upkeep over the years and we encourage anyone with an interest in the cemetery to bring their garden tools and join us next spring as we prepare the grounds for our 250th anniversary.

The heavy rains and flooding in September washed out the culvert at the entrance to the Cemetery. Don Groves & Son Construction was able to repair the damage and we are hoping to recover some of the costs with provincial grant funds for flood relief.

Two years ago, the board of trustees was approached with concerns regarding the potential damage to gravesites by vehicular traffic. After much discussion, it was felt that by developing a parking area on the edge of the cemetery, we could significantly reduce the amount of vehicles driving on the narrow roadways and gravesites. Due to some community opposition to the proposed parking area, the construction work has not begun. An alternate plan is being investigated in which several of the roadways could be re-defined by removing sod and adding gravel. This would allow visitors to continue to park on the roadways, and should reduce the possibility of vehicle traffic on gravesites. The board will continue to look at all options, with work commencing in the spring of 2013.

Help Us Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Onslow Island Cemetery

In our last newsletter we reported that we discovered some interesting information on the formation of the Onslow Cemetery. Reading from the minutes of a meeting of the Onslow Township held September 13, 1763, we were able to establish that “the east side of the island was sequestered for a burying ground” that year. This means that 2013 will be the 250th anniversary of the Cemetery. We’re looking for ideas from the community on how to celebrate this significant event. One suggestion is to erect a stone or marker at the entrance to the cemetery. Please contact one of the trustees if you have any suggestions or would like to help commemorate this important anniversary.

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

Marie McCully Collier (Treasurer) 897-2625
Ron Hoyt (Property Manager) 893-7508
Sherry Groves (Secretary) 893-6008

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Established 1763