

Cemetery Committee's Report Presented March 14, 2007 – Eleanor Kneffel

About the Cemetery

The original Hornby Island Cemetery is located on Sollans road in the wooded area by what is the current Pre-School and has many members of the island's pioneering families buried there. Unfortunately, the graves were never marked, but some of the names are recorded. The current cemetery on Central Road, east of the Highways yard, was established in May 1935 (*LeBlancq, J. All About Cemeteries. June 2002*) and continues as the island's official area for burials. Here too are buried members of long-standing Hornby Island families. Our cemeteries are a vital link to our history.

The Cemetery Committee's responsibilities include looking after the affairs and care of the Hornby Island cemeteries and administering burial sites at the current cemetery. The committee sets policies and works together with volunteers to maintain and improve the cemetery grounds. We encourage family and friends to look after loved one's graves and welcome the public to gently tour through or come to pause and contemplate in its peaceful beauty.

Projects Completed:

- Brush clearing has been completed to the fence.
- The following policies have been established:
 - Cost of a full body interment remains at \$300 and burial of cremated is \$90.
 - No preservatives of any kind are to be used on the bodies for burial (e.g. formaldehyde).
 - For full body burial, the deceased must have been a permanent resident of Hornby Island or a property owner; this includes those who have had to leave the island for extended care.
 - There is no pre-booking of burial sites.
 - There must be a marker of some type on the grave within one year of burial showing the name, dates, etc.) If this does not happen, then the Cemetery committee will have one made and the family of the deceased will be billed for the cost. (The Committee still needs to decide what type of marker we will use.)
 - Any additions to the cemetery such as benches, trees, large shrubs, must have prior approval of the Committee. Contact Pat Colin.
 - Annie Fearman currently allots the graves sites and arranges for the digger. The family pays for the digging* and is responsible for the funeral arrangements and process.

*(The rate for digging, when it is charged, as of March 2007 ranges from \$65-\$75 per hour and can take up to three hours; digging before burial and back filling and tidy-up after.)

A heartfelt Thank You to:

- our volunteers who have generously helped with cleanup!
Harry Fearman, Bronny McLeod, John Phipps, Michael and Leia Parker and any other angels we forgot.
- and to Doug Nixon for his oft free-of-charge backhoeing!
- Also, many thanks to the RDCS for granting the Cemetery Committee \$2000. We are in the process of using use these funds to purchase a shed for equipment storage and tools.

Ongoing and New Projects:

- Continue cleanup and beautification;
- Pruning to stabilize the big oak tree
- Permanently install Sheila Timmin's bike on her grave
- Create a plaque for the graveyard by the preschool
- Shed will be purchased in spring
- Set up a small water collection system so people have water for their plants at the sites.
- Establish the existing boundaries of the cemetery by finding survey markers
- Long term plans are to consider expanding the Cemetery. One of the options would be to expand into the adjacent Crown Land Area.

Committee Members in 2006

Pat Colin

Annie Fearman

Eleanor Kneffel (Chair)

Jim McLeod

Margaret Pethick

Many, many thanks to Annie, Pat, Margaret and Jim for all their hard work! I am stepping down from the Committee and have really enjoyed working with this highly committed and caring group of people. While the cemetery work has a sad component to it, it has been an honour for me to have helped in a small way.

The Cemetery Committee put the name of Eva Wetzel forward as a nominee to become a Cemetery Committee Member.