

# Cemetery Committee's Report

## Presented to HIRRA March 10, 2010

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.

The cemetery saw many burials this year. We had 5 full body burials, and 1 burial of cremated remains.

Projects completed:

- Shed improvements
- Workdays to gather tree litter, pull broom and add dirt to sunken graves.
- Cooperation with Regional Parks regarding using cemetery parking lot for trailhead parking. We are pleased with the increased use of the parking and the likelihood of more visitors to the cemetery.

Projects in progress:

- Create 2 display boards and attach to the wall of the shed. One will be permanent information regarding the cemetery and the people buried there. The second will contain information that may change and the current brochure will be displayed there.
- Acquired and now store equipment necessary for burials (ropes, boards, signage)
- Cooperation with Regional Parks regarding using cemetery parking lot for trailhead parking.
- Ongoing exploration of acquiring more land for the cemetery.
- Broom control.
- To add a composting bin

The following policies are in effect:

- Cost of a full body interment remains \$300 and burial of cremated remains 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. 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 and dates. If this does not happen, the Cemetery committee will have one made and the family of the deceased will be billed for the cost.
- Any memorial other than a grave marker/head stone must have prior approval by the Committee.
- The cemetery committee 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 is up to the back hoe operator (usually about \$70 per hour and can take up to three hours. It includes digging before burial and back filling and tidy-up after.)

A special thank you to Michael McNamara, Dave Colley and Craig McGillveray who worked extensively on a difficult grave and funeral for murder victim Tempest Gale. Thank you also to Sharon Rogalsky who has done much research to update the cemetery committee brochure. Thank you to Janet LeBlancq who is helping us with the difficult process of figuring out how to proceed with acquiring more land.

Committee Members in the start of 2009

Pat Colin

Annie Fearman

Jim McLeod

Margaret Pethick

Eva Wetzel (chair)

Annie Fearman and Jim McLeod retired in the fall. We thank them for their long service. Annie dealt with bereaved families and identified new grave locations. She will continue to be a resource person for us as she has a wealth of knowledge and curiosity about the old families interred in the cemetery. Jim tirelessly helped with everything practical. We will miss them both. Larry Smith and Margaret Sinclair were appointed to fill the vacancies.