

Onslow Island Cemetery Company



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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012

The following Trustees were elected at the April 20, 2011 AGM:

Sherry Groves, Chair
Carol Blois, Secretary
Don Groves, Trustee
Wayne Blois, Trustee
Rod Nelson, Trustee
Angus Hill, Trustee

Eleanor Norrie, Vice Chair
Marie McCully Collier, Treasurer
Ron Hoyt, Property Manager and Trustee
Wade Dickie, Trustee
Kirby Smith, Trustee
Clark Woods, Trustee

In 2011, Brent Nelson stepped down as property manager after many years of service. In addition to maintaining the property records, Brent was also instrumental in establishing our solid perpetual care investments. Wayne Blois, who kept the cemetery grounds in tiptop shape, also retired this past year. We thank them both, as well as our past trustees, for their dedication to the cemetery.

In an effort to raise some much-needed funds for the upkeep of the cemetery, Eleanor Norrie offered to host an elegant dinner for six at the Norrie house in North River. The raffle tickets were sold out in short time, and the lucky winners, Bill and Ros Thompson and their guests enjoyed a wonderful evening in one of the area's most beautiful homes.

We held our annual spring cleanup on Saturday, May 7 and had a good show of community support.

A landscaping contractor was hired and despite the wet season, he was able to mow the grounds into the month of September. The weather had a negative impact on our plans to upgrade the cemetery with a small parking area, but we hope to resume that project when the roadway into the cemetery can bear the weight of the equipment. Ron Hoyt has also been busy cleaning up some of the plot lines and walkways with posts, markers and grass seed.

We've begun the process of drafting a policies and procedures manual that we can distribute to new and current lot owners. Our intent is to provide guidelines for lot owners and their families, to help maintain the neat appearance and historical beauty of the grounds.

While researching the history of the cemetery, Marie McCully Collier discovered some interesting information on its beginnings. From the minutes of a meeting of the Onslow Township held September 13, 1763, she was able to establish that "the east side of the island was sequestered for a burying ground" that year. This exciting fact means that our cemetery will be celebrating it's 250th anniversary next year!

This past spring the ancestral significance of the cemetery was further confirmed when we participated in the 250th anniversary celebrations of the Cobequid Planters Society, marking the arrival of the first English-speaking settlers to the area in 1761.

Our 2012 fundraising campaign is under way and we thank all our supporters. Charitable donation receipts will be provided for tax purposes.

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

Sherry Groves (Chair)	893-6008	sherrygroves@eastlink.ca
Ron Hoyt (Property Manager)	893-7508	rkoyt@eastlink.ca
Marie McCully Collier (Treasurer)	897-2625	mmcullycollier@ns.sympatico.ca
Carol Blois (Secretary)	893-2132	carol@safetycollege.ca



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Established 1763
