

**St.Margaret's Cemetery  
Annual Report 2013  
TIRRA AGM March 2014**

There were four interments of cremated remains in 2013 and no interment of human remains in full burial plots.

Sales of cremation and burial plots were equal to \$2,200; additional site preparation income amounted to \$100; interest in bank account and savings bond equaled \$62; other income included donations of \$950 and \$830 from sales of the book Lives Behind the Headstones.

Grounds maintenance and sundry costs for office and printing equaled \$557; book launch and tea \$319; book printing \$1890; plot preparation costs \$200; and \$415 was paid towards our half of TIRRA'S liability insurance.

St.Margaret's overall financial situation for 2013 was as follows: the year began with \$30,720; excess revenue over expenses for the year was \$781; money in the bank plus interest and additional assets totaled \$32,971. The year ended with a capital of \$32,971.

This has been a very busy year for St.Margaret's Cemetery. Last summer we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of Lives Behind the Headstones edited by Sheila Kelsey. The cemetery board hosted a wonderful tea and book launch in July with Sheila in attendance. We wish to thank the Thetis Island Historical Committee for their generous donation, which helped facilitate the printing of the current version of the book. The board also wishes to thank Janice Young for her faithful labours in getting this project off the ground and successfully accomplished. We thank also the community for their support of Sheila and her book over the years. And of course we thank Sheila.

Last summer the cemetery board also hosted a weekend planning session with landscape designers and architects from the Community Studio affiliated with the UBC school of Landscape Design and architecture. This planning session was the first step towards developing a plan for the additional piece of land donated some years ago by Capernwray Torchbearers to be used as a cemetery.

We also wish to thank Islands Trust for facilitating the Greenshores work shop last summer which provided the cemetery with several hours of consultation free from an engineer familiar with bank erosion and shoreline development issues.

At this point we have not finalized the plan but are well into doing that. You may have noticed some work being done down at the cemetery in this new area. St.Margaret's had two solid work days. The first with volunteers showing up to start to clean out the blackberries; on the second day we hired some of the islands youth to go after the roots of the blackberries. I wish to thank Dave O'Hara for his generosity and kindness in getting the roots and blackberry debris off the island. It was quite a load. Dave gave us a cut rate for hauling and worked hard helping us get it into the truck. We also want to give thanks to Norm Kasting for his assistance with his machine.

We have put a hold on any further development work in the new cemetery for the moment. Please watch for announcements soon as we make our next steps in this exciting and forward thinking project. We will be planning a regular cleanup of the cemetery sometime this spring.

As many of us know, our long time community member Kevin Hughes has left the island. Kevin faithfully was on call as our cremation plot preparation guy. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well.

The cemetery board thanks its many volunteers and board members for their continued support and hard work.

St.Margaret's is managed by the Cemetery Board in compliance with the Provincial Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act and remains under the auspices of TIRRA.

Suzanne Sarioglu  
Chair, St.Margaret's Cemetery