Karen' Corner

Stories of the people, places, and history of Eagle Bay written by Karen Loerke and published in the Eagle Eye and saved on the Eagle Bay Website at https://www.eaglebaybc.ca/history.

Eagle Bay Cemetery: 80th Year in Operation

What is the purpose of a cemetery, and how does it serve the community? The word cemetery comes from the Greek word meaning "to rest or to lie down." People of all faiths lay their loved ones to rest in a place of remembrance, whether that is a cemetery or another place of significance. This is especially true of the Eagle Bay Community Cemetery, which has always been a community space. In celebration of its 80th year, it's worth reflecting on how unique Eagle Bay Cemetery is—both in its origins and in how it is cared for.

In the 1940s, Eagle Bay residents recognized the need for a local cemetery and petitioned the Farmers' Institute, the local governing body in British Columbia, to establish it. Before then, pioneers in the Eagle Bay area were buried on their homesteads or in plots in Sorrento or Salmon Arm.



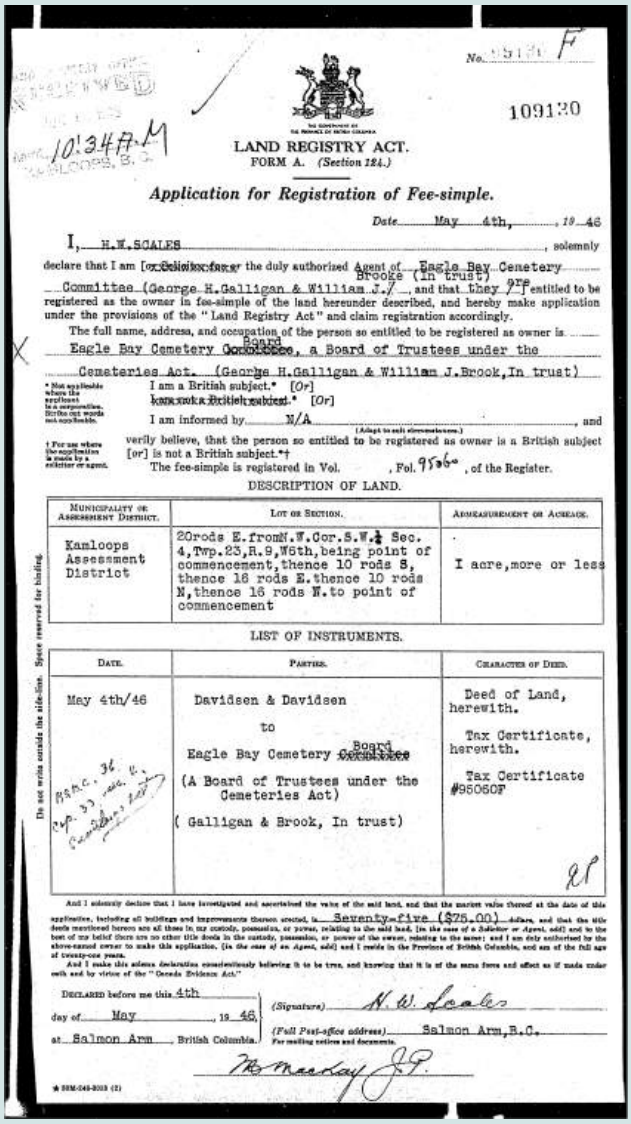
History of Eagle Bay Community Cemetery:

On April 23, 1946, Robert and Signe Davidson transferred land to the Eagle Bay Cemetery Board for $1.00. George Galligan and William Brook then formed a board under the Cemetery Act and served as its trustees. Over the years, the trusteeship changed hands several times: in March 1989, to Murdo Mackenzie and Peter Macintosh, and finally to Frank Adley.

Unlike most cemeteries, which are privately owned or funded by local districts and municipalities, Eagle Bay Community Cemetery has always been community supported, with the church playing a significant role over the years. As a public space, it is open to all for burial. Although the church does not own the cemetery, it has served as trustee since its founding, a role it has held for 80 years.

A review of the records showed that the cemetery board has not appointed a new trustee since Frank Adley's passing. However, the church has continued to care for the cemetery grounds and to work with families to bury their loved ones. Church funds have supported landscaping and upkeep, while cemetery funds have always remained separate.

During challenging periods, Dan Hansen and, later, Lynne Hansen took responsibility for caring for the cemetery. When Lynne left Eagle Bay last year, Jane Dale, Jesse DuFrene, and Karen Loerke stepped in to share responsibilities. As newcomers to cemetery duties, we worked through the new Cemetery Act, reviewed records, and are seeking legal advice to determine the best path forward.



No. 95136 F

109130

10:34 A.M.

LAND REGISTRY ACT.
FORM A. (Section 184.)

Application for Registration of Fee-simple.

Date May 4th, 19 46

I, H.W.SCALES, solemnly declare that I am [or Solicitor for or the duly authorized Agent of Eagle Bay Cemetery Brooke (In trust) Committee (George H.Galligan & William J.] , and that they are entitled to be registered as the owner in fee-simple of the land hereunder described, and hereby make application under the provisions of the "Land Registry Act" and claim registration accordingly.

The full name, address, and occupation of the person so entitled to be registered as owner is

Eagle Bay Cemetery Board, a Board of Trustees under the Cemeteries Act. (George H.Galligan & William J.Brook,In trust)

* Not applicable where the applicant is a corporation. Strike out words not applicable.

I am a British subject.* [Or]
~~am not a British subject.~~* [Or]
I am informed by N/A (Adapt to each circumstance.), and verily believe, that the person so entitled to be registered as owner is a British subject [or] is not a British subject.*†

† For use where the application is made by a solicitor or agent.

The fee-simple is registered in Vol. , Fol. 9586 , of the Register.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND.

Municipality or Assessment District.	Lot or Section.	Admeasurement or Acreage.
Kamloops Assessment District	20rods E.fromN.W.Cor.S.W.¼ Sec. 4,Twp.23,R.9,W6th,being point of commencement,thence 10 rods S, thence 16 rods E.thence 10 rods N,thence 16 rods W.to point of commencement	I acre,more or less

LIST OF INSTRUMENTS.

Date.	Parties.	Character of Deed.
May 4th/46	Davidson & Davidson to Eagle Bay Cemetery Board (A Board of Trustees under the Cemeteries Act) (Galligan & Brook, In trust)	Deed of Land, herewith. Tax Certificate, herewith. Tax Certificate #95060F

Do not write outside the side-lines. Space reserved for binding.

And I solemnly declare that I have investigated and ascertained the value of the said land, and that the market value thereof at the date of this application, including all buildings and improvements thereon erected, is Seventy-five ($75.00) dollars, and that the title deeds mentioned hereon are all those in my custody, possession, or power, relating to the said land, [in the case of a Solicitor or Agent, add:] and to the best of my belief there are no other title deeds in the custody, possession, or power of the owner, relating to the same; and I am duly authorized by the above-named owner to make this application. [In the case of an Agent, add:] and I reside in the Province of British Columbia, and am of the full age of twenty-one years.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the "Canada Evidence Act."

DECLARED before me this 4th day of May, 19 46, at Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

(Signature) H.W. Scales

(Full Post-office address) Salmon Arm,B.C.
For mailing notices and documents.

W MacKay J.P.

★ BRM-240-2013 (2)

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Future Plans:

Looking ahead, the church plans to re-establish a dedicated cemetery board and appoint a new trustee. The cemetery also requires upgrades, and to complete this work, the board will need community support and new funding opportunities. Much work remains: trees must be trimmed, decaying boards replaced, and headstones cleaned.

As a first step, we will host a community cemetery clean-up day on Saturday, May 1, 2027, and invite families of loved ones buried here to volunteer for a few hours. I will contact families in early spring and coordinate with community members to organize this much-needed clean-up.

As we look to the future, maintaining the Eagle Bay Community Cemetery will depend on all of us. By coming together as a community—not only to remember those who have gone before us but also to care for this shared space—we ensure the cemetery remains a place of dignity, memory, and connection for generations to come.