

Columbia Cemetery



Columbia Cemetery 2014

Heritage Register - Site

- 1) **Historical Name:** Columbia Cemetery
- 2) **Common Name(s):** Happy Valley Cemetery, Sunnyside
- 3) **Location:** Happy Valley
- 4) **Date of Construction:** 1899

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

The Columbia Cemetery occupies 5 acres of land in Happy Valley at the eastern edge of Rossland. Most of the gravesites are in the northern half of the Cemetery and its hilly landscape is marked with many cement cribbings and tombstones. The current access is from Highway 3B, through Mountain View Cemetery, to the southern portion of the Cemetery.

Heritage Value:

The Columbia Cemetery is the only public cemetery in Rossland and although closed to further burials since 1985, it has and will continue to be a place where family and interested people come to visit and stay in touch with the past.

The Columbia Cemetery is the final resting place of over 950 Rossland citizens who died between the years of 1896 and 1945. Some of the family names on tombstones are common to people living in Rossland today.

The tombstone engravings are tangible reminders of the love, devotion, respect and loss felt by Rosslanders over the years, for their family members and loved ones.

Aspects of Rossland's historical social fabric are reflected in Blocks or parts of Blocks that are identified with various fraternal organizations by special monuments - Knights of Pythias, Eagles and Oddfellows.

The original design of the Cemetery and the layout of the plots within the Blocks have been adhered to since the creation of the Cemetery in 1899, although the hilly terrain has determined which plots have actually been used for burial sites. The setting of the Columbia Cemetery, surrounded by pasture land and wooded areas, and the maintenance of the Cemetery provided by the City, create a peaceful ambience which is enjoyed by walkers, bikers and hikers as well as visitors today.

Character Defining Elements:

- Rural, pastoral setting
- Orderly layout of grave sites
- Tombstones
- Monuments of fraternal organizations
- cribbing around many grave sites
- remaining wire fencing marking north and east boundaries

OTHER INFORMATION

See, "Cemeteries of Rossland", (republished in 2016) for detailed information on the Columbia Cemetery as well as Rossland's first 2 public cemeteries and the Calvary (Catholic) Cemetery. The book is available for purchase at the Rossland Museum, Rossland Library and Rossland City Hall.

Original documentation associated with the Cemetery (design layout, Map of Plots, Burial Permits, Index of Burials and Plot Registry) is kept at the Rossland Museum. The information from Burial Permits is digitally recorded for public access and this data base provides a wealth of information about the ethnicity, demographics, religious and social affiliations and health issues of the early citizens of Rossland.