ST. JOHN'S HISTORIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2012 NEWSLETTER

Watching, Wondering,

Weeping
[and needing a cleaning]

photo courtesy of Susan Shaffer



A handsome grant from a local foundation has enabled the Association to reimburse the Church for the expensive but necessary work of completing tree trimming, removal of some diseased oaks, and mulching. As of this writing, only the fertilization remains, and it will be undertaken by the end of March. The Cemetery trees are now safer and soon will be growing well.

The Varied Tombscape



photo courtesy of Susan Shaffer

The Association's finances are healthy. On Dec. 31, 2011, our checking and savings accounts had \$56,858, and other current assets (shares of common stock) added another \$1,435. The income for 2011 including the large tree work grant was \$44,624, and total expenses were \$17,839, including the normal maintenance expenses and the \$10,000 infusion of funding from the Association for the start of the Cemetery tree work. Our maintenance budget remains \$7,500, and we still are looking for a grant to assist in a start on tomb repair on some of the tombs in the worst shape. The 2011 responses on the two appeals for donations were great. •

The Association Board of Directors is pleased to report progress since you last heard from us, and we hope that you will continue your wonderful support in the effort to preserve and maintain our historic cemetery. Our membership runs by calendar year. Many of our newer members joined only last Fall, following the most recent newsletter, but we ask that you consider re-joining now. The Association responds to the financial needs of the Cemetery sooner in the year than later, in accord with the budget set for its maintenance and care. A newly designed envelope for returning donations is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you again for your outstanding help. — DAVID PLATER, PRESIDENT

Workday in the Cemetery is scheduled for Saturday, March 17. All Association members are invited to join in for cleaning and sprucing up the Cemetery. It is a semi-annual event for St. John's, of which before now the Association has not officially been a part. The work is useful, and the social gathering is fun. The work usually begins at 9 AM at the latest, and goes until about 1 PM. Please bring shovels, rakes, chain saws, pruning tools, etc., and wear gloves – and just show up. If any of us or our designees clean tombs, please remember that soap and water and a scrub brush are the best, not bleach. Bleach will damage the older soft brick and lime mortar and most rock surfaces, especially, although it may be helpful on some of the more recent Portland cement structure tombs. Rubber gloves then will be needed. Similarly, using Roundup or its equivalent for weeds is discouraged as it also damages the old structures. •

ur membership now stands at ninety-one, counting both members of couples and listed below. We are shooting for at least one hundred twenty-five. Tell friends and relatives about the Association and its good work and invite them to climb aboard.

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St. John's Historic Cemetery Association, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

Donations are tax deductible to the limits provided by the law.