

# INTERESTING CITIZENS | *Princess Sophia Sinking*



## MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY Where Vancouver Remembers

Visit the cemetery  
at Mountain View Cemetery,  
5455 Fraser Street,  
Vancouver, BC V5W 2Z3  
604.325.2646  
the beginning of a renewed  
cremated remains and mark  
interest and investment in this  
important civic space.  
Office Hours  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday  
(excluding holidays)  
mountainviewcemetery.ca



Outlined in the Master Plan approved by City Council in 2004, the new Operations Yard, Customer Service Building, and Celebration Hall and Courtyard, a special place for families to hold memorial services on site, have been built.

### THE CEMETERY

Owned and operated by the City of Vancouver since 1887, Mountain View is made up of 106 acres of land with approximately 92,000 grave sites and 145,000 interred remains.

There is a growing realization in North America that cemeteries, particularly older ones like Mountain View, offer an ideal setting in which to engage with both history and nature.

In 1998 an extensive public process was initiated by the City of Vancouver to develop a Master Plan for the renewal of Vancouver's only cemetery. The first major projects of the plan have finally been completed, and for the first time in over 22 years, there are now new spaces available for interment at Mountain View.

### JOHN MASKELL

At least two letters written by John and Rosabel were marooned on the reef survivors during the ship's destruction.

"I am writing this my dear girl while the boat is in grave danger," wrote John Maskell in a letter to his fiancée Dorothy Burgess. "We struck a rock last night which threw many from their berths, some were crying, some too weak to move. The life boats were swung out in all readiness, but it would have been madness to launch."

"The boat might go to pieces, for the force of the waves are terrible, making awful noises on the side of the boat...."

### JOHN & ROSABEL CHISHOLM

John and Rosabel were married on January 31, 1912. After their marriage the Chisholms went to Dawson City in the Yukon. One child was born to them there, who lived but a very short time. John Stanley Chisholm was a noted pioneer Dawson wood contractor in partnership with his brother, Jim Chisholm.

### JOHN ZACCARELLI

John Zaccarelli, was born about 1880 in BC. His parents both came from Pieve di Cadore, Veneto, Italy. He opened a store in Dawson City around 1901 according to the Yukon Territory and Alaska Directory and Gazetteer. He sold everything from books to bananas.

### DAVID ROBINSON

David Robinson the wireless operator stuck to his post to the last. At 4:50 pm, he sent out an SOS message "Ship Foundering on reef. Come at once," which was received by the light house tender S.S. Cedar.

At 5:20 pm. Robinson sent out "For God's sake hurry, the wireless is coming into my room." (The wireless room was on the top deck of the ship, next to Gideon's, to take care of his parrot Polly (a male).

The wireless operator on one of the rescue ships made contact suggesting he save his batteries by only transmitting if absolutely necessary. "Alright, I will," Robinson answered. "You talk to me so I know you are coming."

That was the last message from the Princess Sophia.

### CAPTAIN JAMES ALEXANDER

Captain James Alexander, was one of the owners of the English Mine located on the east shore of the Taku Arm of Tagish Lake 32 km west of Atlin BC.

Before leaving for the 'outside' Alexander asked the proprietors of the Anderson Hotel in Carcross, Yukon Territory, the Gideons, to take care of his parrot Polly (a male).

### JOHN R. YOUNG

John R. Young was the chief engineer of the British Yukon Navigation Company WP&YR steamer Dawson. He was with his wife who were both from Milwaukee Wis.



- 1. Cemetery Office
- 2. Celebration Hall
- 3. Works Yard

## THE CANADIAN PACIFIC'S PRINCESS SOPHIA SANK AT VANDERBILT REEF ALASKA ON OCTOBER 25, 1918. THERE ARE 66 PEOPLE BURIED AT MOUNTAIN VIEW AS A RESULT OF THIS TRAGEDY.

### C.P.R. Steamer is Lost - All aboard Perish

Princess Sophia Dashed across Reef by Terrific Storm - Crew of 75 and 268 Passengers Perish.

Tempest So Tremendous that Steamers which had gone to rescue of Stranded Ship were Powerless to Rescue Single Person

Victoria, B.C., Oct. 27 - Pounded by mountainous waves and driven before a wind of terrible severity, the Canadian Pacific steamship Princess Sophia slid

from the comparative safety of Vanderbilt reef, in Lynn Canal, midway between Skagway and Juneau, early Friday evening and carried 343 persons, passengers and crew, men, women and children, to their death in the raging northern waters. There were no survivors from the ship.

### Stranded During Blizzard

The Sophia left Skagway Wednesday evening last for Vancouver with a passenger list made up largely of Dawson people and Alaskans from

interior points, eager to get "outside" for the winter. Four hours out she ran into a blinding snowstorm, in which, it is supposed, she got out of her course slightly and piled up on the reef, where she rested for more than forty hours in what was thought to be a position of no danger. Lighthouse tenders and gas boats responded to the wireless call for assistance and the Princess Alice was dispatched from Vancouver to take over the passengers. Even though the seas were running too high to permit of the transference of the passengers on board Friday, no alarm was felt. Captain F.L. Lockem, of Victoria, a veteran seaman of the northern coast, on the night of the disaster had wirelessed his office here that the ship was hard and fast on the reef with her bottom badly damaged, but she was not taking water and the passengers were normal. It

is evident that he believed the Sophia was planted so firmly on the rocks as to be secured from the severity of the storm which continued to rage.

### Efforts at Rescue Fail

Friday morning the United States lighthouse tender Cedar had got within 400 yards of the Sophia, but her anchors would not hold on the rocky sea bottom and the seas forced her back. The waves were such that life boats could not have lived. When night shut down the Sophia was still on the reef. The wind increased and the air was filled with snow. At 8 o'clock the Cedar picked up the last wireless from the Sophia. The Sophia was sinking. She had been driven across the reef into deep water, in which her shattered bottom offered no support, and she filled quickly and went down. The

Cedar rushed to the vicinity, but could see nothing of the Sophia. When morning broke her foremast was visible above the water. There was no sign of life, no wreckage and the bodies had scattered if they had not gone down with the ship.

Edmonton Morning Bulletin  
October 1918

*The Princess Sophia was ordered in May of 1911 and built by Bow, McLachlan & Company of Paisley Scotland. Her length was 245 ft. width 44 ft. and was 2300 gt. with single screw triple expansion steam engine, and was launched Nov. 8, 1911. She did 14 knots on her sea trials in early 1912, and sailed from Scotland on February 19, 1912, arriving in Victoria three months later.*

*The bell of the Princess Sophia has been presented to the Vancouver Maritime Museum.*

### 66 victims from the disaster are buried at Mountain View

- AFTAIKEN Fred
- ALEXANDER Capt. James
- ALEXANDER Louisa A.
- ANTHONY William A.
- BARNES Allen G.
- BARTON William
- BENNETT Howard
- BEYER Fred Carl
- BOTH George W.
- BROWN Frank
- BROWNING Charlotte T.
- BURKE Frank
- CARR Lena Patricia
- CARTWRIGHT Alfred
- CHINNERY C. S.
- CHISHOLM J. S.
- CHISHOLM Mrs J. S.
- CLARK John M.
- FINDLAY Robert
- FLEMING Ivan Elbridge
- GIN Kit
- GRENNEY Allen J.
- HAGGERTY William
- HALL Mamie
- HATCHER Walter C.

- HAYNES
- HOWEY
- JOHNSON
- JURKOVITCH
- KENYON
- KIRK
- LAWLESS
- MABINS
- MACEY
- liam
- MACLELLAN
- MACLENNAN
- MASKELL
- MATHESON
- MCARTHUR
- MCLEOD
- MCLEOD
- MCLEOD
- MCTAVISH
- MURPHY
- NEWBERG
- NICHOLS
- NILES
- OLSEN
- PELLISON
- PLUMB
- QUEEN
- ROBINSON

- Jack
- George
- E. J.
- Peter B.
- Herbert J.
- James William
- Henry Francis
- Anthony
- Stewart Wil-
- John Walter
- William
- John
- Roy Arlo
- William T.
- John
- Mrs. Norman
- Norman
- Roy
- Arthur
- Charles
- James Jean
- George
- Lionel Ardina
- Arnox
- Herbert
- Charles Lockar
- David Mearns

- ROSS
- SANGSTER
- SIMUNOVICH
- SUN
- UNKNOWN
- UNKNOWN
- UNKNOWN
- VERY
- VERY
- WHELDON
- WHITCROSS
- WING
- YOUNG
- YOUNG
- ZACCARELLI

- Duncan
- George
- Tomo
- Sit
- Female
- Male
- No. 8
- Eleanor
- Maria
- Edward G.
- Victor
- Sit
- John R.
- Robert
- John