

THE

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BEECHWOOD WAY

MAGAZINE



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

IT'S BEEN QUITE a year of history making at Beechwood. We have had the opportunity to:

- host the Canadian Tulip Festival's Veterans Day in the Veterans Section of the NMC;
- unveil a new Great Canadian Plaque for General Henry Crerar and the Chartologist of the Dominion, Hensley R. Holmden;
- build a new Tribute Garden honouring our men and women of the Canadian Forces;
- welcome the Vice President of the United States of America;
- host our annual historical tour, during which we celebrated the lives of 4 unsung heroes — H. Clifford Chadderton, Howard Lambert, Isis Minerva Officer and Jean Morrison Pigott;
- host an 18th century funeral and burial of the residents of Bytown's Barrack Hill Cemetery.

Beyond these large activities, we provided new events and educational opportunities including Beechwood Reconciling History Program that takes visitors through the Indian Residential School Program and the people who implemented it and to the voices that fought against it for protection of Indigenous children and families. This program provides people with a better understanding of their own personal role in reconciliation.

We have also hosted events as varied from Spies in the Cemetery (a CSIS National Memorial Cemetery Fundraiser), to a Partage, a dinner at Beechwood to raise funds for the local foodbank. We welcomed for the second year in a row the Company of Fools, a Shakespearean outdoor troupe and Capital Pop-Up Cinema, who played outdoor movies. The Fâcheux Théâtre held the first ever performance outside of Quebec of their Moliere series.

Make sure you stay connected between issues by following up for Beechwood Cemetery social media pages:

- Facebook (@BeechwoodCemetery, @NMCBeechwood, @cimetiereBeechwood),
- Twitter (@BeechwoodOttawa)
- Instagram (@beechwoodcemetery)
- Youtube (Beechwood Cemetery)

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our next event and hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we did writing it.

Nicolas McCarthy

Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach



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Visit us online to learn more about Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada and read back issues of at: www.beechwoodottawa.ca

We want your feedback on how we are doing! Contact: Erika Wagner at foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca

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BARRACK HILL CEMETERY AT BEECHWOOD

by Nicolas McCarthy

*Director of Marketing, Communications and
Community Outreach at Beechwood Cemetery*

VISITORS TO Beechwood Cemetery are often astonished to learn that our cemetery history extends all the way back to a long-forgotten cemetery in Bytown. Barrack Hill Cemetery was located at the heart of the old city, being the final resting place of those early Bytown pioneers and their families.

Starting in 1826, the construction of the Rideau Canal brought the Corps of Royal Engineers and all kinds of workers to the area. The digging of over 200 kilometers of waterway brought jobs and soon settlers to the south side of the Ottawa River to live and work. This boosted the economy and effectively made Bytown a 'boom town.' This new town was primarily populated by English, French, Irish, and Scottish immigrants.

With the sudden influx of people to the area, the crowding of the poorer areas, and the lack of hygiene, outbreaks of malaria, diphtheria, and other diseases ravaged the population. These diseases caused an incredible spike in deaths that prompted Lieutenant-Colonel John By, Royal Engineer overseeing the construction of the Rideau Canal to commission Barrack Hill Cemetery. The cemetery rested on a two-acre plot of land bounded by today's Sparks, Elgin, Albert, and Metcalfe streets.

The population grew from about 1,000 residents in the 1820s, to about 2,000 in the 1840s. This was brought on by canal construction, lumber industry, military, settlers, and emerging merchant shops to support the community. With more people, this brought the demand for more land and Barrack Hill Cemetery was closed around 1845 to accommodate the growing population. The evidence suggests that relatives of the buried individuals were asked to move their family members. Many chose to reintern the bodies in Sandy





Hill Cemetery, which now lies beneath MacDonal Gardens Park in Lowertown (closed in 1872 and moved to Beechwood Cemetery and Notre Dame Cemetery).

During construction of the Ottawa Light Rail Transit system, it was discovered that some of the bodies had not been removed from Barrack Hill Cemetery. It was most likely the case that family members could not afford the cost, had moved away, or entire families were victims of diseases. The presence of wooden coffin remains, coffin hardware, rectangular grave shafts, and other indicators of 19th century burial practices confirmed that the individuals were indeed from the Barrack Hill Cemetery.

In 2016, a new portion of the Barrack Hill Cemetery was discovered near the new Parliament Station on the Confederation line. In accordance with agreements, the remains were disinterred with the utmost care and respect by archeologists, and moved to the Canadian Museum of History for analysis. The agreements stipulated that experts from the Canadian Museum of History could conduct invasive and non-invasive analysis to determine the circumstances of death, patterns of disease, sex, stature and age at death. The individuals have since been resting at the Canadian Museum of History in a secure and respectful manner.

Scientific archeological analysis revealed interesting results when a minimum number of 30 individuals were recovered in 2016, consisting of mainly working-class citizens, and including seven children and 23 adults. The analysis identified evidence of difficult lives, including indications of malnutrition and bodily stress, and skeletal degeneration sometimes associated with hard labour.

Based on research conducted by the City of Ottawa Archives on funerary practices from the 19th century, steps were taken to follow these guidelines. Caskets were crafted out of pine, painted black, with the human remains wrapped in a shroud. A private ecumenical burial at Beechwood Cemetery was held on October 4th 2019 to reinter 29 of the 30 individuals from this disinternment. A private, respectful, ecumenical funeral service including music, poetry, hymns, prayers and a final committal blessing contemporary to the early 1800s to reinter the final individual took place on October 6, 2019, also at Beechwood Cemetery.

A permanent, commemorative plaque was installed at the gravesite at Beechwood Cemetery for the first reinternment in 2017 and a secondary plaque this year. While we do not know the identity of these individuals, Beechwood Cemetery records will reflect these historical and archeological findings.

Life for these brave people who came to this city in its earliest days was often short, difficult and certainly precious. Their faith and hope would have been a powerful motivation and comfort for them in daily life in early Bytown. They most certainly lived by Ottawa's current motto "Advance-Ottawa."

Barrack Hill Cemetery has become central to the history of Beechwood. With every tour and group that visits, we share the stories of this forgotten cemetery, for these early Bytown residents should be celebrated and always remembered.

CASUALTY IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM AND BEECHWOOD

by Justine M. Newby
Funeral Director

1 APRIL 2019 was another very proud day for Beechwood — it was the first day Beechwood stepped into its role as the Mortuary Service Provider and Contract Representative of The Department of National Defence's Casualty Identification Program.

The Program was established in 2007 in response to an increase in the discovery of human remains believed to be Canadian war dead from the First World War, Second World War and United Nations Operations in Korea.

Remains are being discovered following construction projects or from farmers plowing their fields in former battle areas of course the local authorities are contacted and it is realized that the remains are quite old, and in some instances are being located with military artefacts. Once it is believed the remains are that of war dead, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) take possession of the remains until the appropriate nation can be determined and contacted.

With the CWGC in possession of the newly discovered remains which are determined or believed to be Canadian, the Canadian Casualty Identification Coordinator of the Casualty Identification Program — Dr. Sarah Lockyer, a Forensic Anthropologist, commences her analysis to help identify and bury the remains with a name.

As part of the identification process, Dr. Lockyer reaches out to the various other members of the program to help confirm the identification of the discovered remains. The Program enlists the assistance of Historians,



Photos:
MCpl PJ Letourneau,
Canadian Forces
Combat Camera



Photos:
MCpl PJ Letourneau, Canadian Forces Combat Camera



Forensic Archaeologists, Forensic Odontologists, a Genealogical Researcher, a DNA lab, a Stable Isotope Lab; in addition to Beechwood's assistance.

As the Contract Representative, Beechwood assists Dr. Lockyer in tasking work requests, maintaining timelines, and communication with the various labs, the genealogical researcher and other Program members. Beechwood also secures the remains that are in the care of Dr. Lockyer for analysis within Canada.

One very interesting note is that should the remains be identified as Canadian soldiers who died in battle prior to 1970, their remains are not repatriated to Canada for burial as per the December 1918 Report of the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the CWGC). Rather, the burial is arranged in a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery with their fellow soldiers near to where they fought and fell for their country. With this in mind, under direction of Dr. Lockyer and her National Defence colleagues, Beechwood is responsible for arranging for specially designed Canadian maple caskets or reliquaries, the attendance of funeral staff, funeral vehicles, and flowers overseas that meet the Canadian Armed Forces requirements for the burial ceremonies of our confirmed Canadian war dead.

Following the First and Second World Wars and the Korean Conflict, there are nearly 28,000 Canadian war dead with no known grave. To date, Beechwood has had the honour to be involved in burial ceremonies of identified soldiers Sergeant John Albert Collis on 7 June 2019, and Private G. A. Newburn 12 June 2019.

Beechwood is also extremely honoured and proud to continue on in the coming years to work with the Program's team to hopefully further lay to rest some of those nearly 28,000 Canadian war dead next to their fallen comrades, with a proper name, in the presence of their family and buried by their regiment.

For more information about the Program, including biographies of Collis, Newburn and previously identified soldiers, please visit www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/casualty-identification-military.html

As well, should you be interested in learning more about the CWGC and what their involvement is visit www.cwgc.org.



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC AT BEECHWOOD

by Jennifer Reid

Manager of Funeral Administration

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS — what a hot topic! We are all aware of the need to reduce the plastic waste we create. Our planet, our oceans and many species of animals (including humans) are suffering as a result of our desire for an “easy to throw away” lifestyle. Currently less than 10% of Canada’s plastics are being recycled.

With many of our Canadian provinces and many countries around the world going full steam ahead with a ban on single use plastics, I thought it was a good time to make that change here at Beechwood. Even though we are small, our contributions can still create change. Each and every one of us can make a difference.

As an important early step in creating this change, we have discovered a few items that we use regularly around Beechwood that have to go. Plastic stir sticks, straws, small water cups and especially those troublesome Styrofoam coffee cups and their plastic lids. These items are being replaced with eco-friendly alternatives.

We have already exchanged single use plastic bags for Kraft paper bags. We found that we were using a lot of plastic bags to return items, including left over food, to our families. The Kraft paper bags with handles have seamlessly fit the bill. In addition, plain paper or bees wax covered paper straws will be introduced in the coming days.

We are also beginning the work of completely eliminating plastic water bottles from Beechwood. I think that might prove to be our largest and perhaps most difficult task. They are so convenient, but they are also one of the biggest culprits. We are asking staff to bring in their own water cups/glasses and coffee cups to keep at their desks for personal use. Just last week our reusable glass water bottles arrived and have been very well received by the staff. These glass water bottles are being used internally for our families.

These are all important steps that will begin to shape a strong eco-friendly culture at Beechwood, but what I have talked about above is just the beginning. We need to help even further through education. Let’s get educated on how we can make a difference for our planet for the generations to come. While I was doing a bit of research for this article, I found I was reading about things I didn’t want to know about or watching Youtube videos of “Plastics in the Oceans”. What I was seeing made me want to turn my head away. I didn’t because I realized that, if it is making me uncomfortable to watch, then it is time to take action. Every little bit matters and every one of us can make a difference.

This is a lot of change, but remember that it’s shaping the future. Will it be easy? No. But worth it? Absolutely! Come join us... let’s eliminate single use plastics from our lives.



THE LIVING TRIBUTE GARDEN

A lasting commemoration
to those in service for us

by Kita Szpak

Canadian Tulip Festival Veterans Day and Seniors Programming

THE LIVING TRIBUTE GARDEN is an outward commitment of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Canadian Tulip Festival, Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign, Veterans Affairs and Beechwood Cemetery to educate, teach and share the stories of the past and to ensure that the sacrifice of all members of the Canadian armed forces and allied nations are never forgotten.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the Garden, initially conceived by Beechwood, Highway of Heroes and the Festival, took place last June to coincide with the 75th anniversary of D-Day ON June 6, 2019. The ceremony was hosted by Mark Cullen, Canada's gardening guru, Campaign Chair and co-founder of the Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign.

This fall on October 1, the day commemorating the 75th anniversary of the start of the Scheldt campaign, which led to the liberation of Holland and ultimate victory of the Allies, the Festival's special Liberation75 signature tulip was planted in the Living Tribute Garden. The ceremony was again hosted by Mark Cullen with Frederieke Quispel from the Dutch Embassy, Robert Loken from Veterans Affairs as well as Grant Hooker, President of the Canadian Tulip Festival, and Nicolas McCarthy, Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach at Beechwood Cemetery in attendance.

As Mr. McCarthy noted in his remarks, the Living Tribute Garden is located beside "over 2,000 headstones, representing people from over 25 countries, who have chosen to take up the call, and make the ultimate sacrifice to protect what we have all been given."

The national military cemetery is a place of honour, where people from around the world gather together to commemorate, to show respect and to remember all those who have come before them. The Living Tribute Garden is a lasting legacy in the cemetery where the blooming of the Liberation75 tulip next May, 2020 will commemorate the Liberation of the Netherlands. Thereafter and every fall going forward, a special Festival tulip will be planted in the Garden to commemorate the women and men who have served and continue to serve us. May tulips always bloom there to remind us to always remember.



ANNUAL HISTORICAL TOUR

Unsung Heroes

by Erika Wagner

Program and Fundraising Coordinator

SINCE 1994, Beechwood has celebrated the history it hold with the Annual Historical Tour, bringing to life the stories of the people buried here. With a different theme each year, 4-6 people get selected to be brought to life by actors. Visitors walk from station to station hearing about their accomplishments and seeing the actors portraying their lives.

The Annual Historical Tour's 25th tour was no exception. With the theme of Unsung Heroes, Beechwood selected people who had no bio in our Historical Portraits Book and who had never been selected to be celebrated by Beechwood. These famous, brave, passionate individuals were each heroes in their own sense, and deserved to be recognized. Before the tour began, there was live music performed by Pierre Seguin, a wonderful crooner singer. Tour goers could enjoy hot beverages and peruse booths set up by Ancestry, Beechwood Foundation and the War Amps. The tour was divided into two groups and walked to all 4 of stations. Each station was the gravesite of the person being honoured. All the performances started with a





French introduction and concluded in French with the actual play itself being done in English. As the National Cemetery of Canada we are proud to be bilingual. The actors and skits were written and performed by the Ottawa School of Theater.

In alphabetical order, we highlighted:

H. Clifford Chadderton

After surviving D-Day, Chadderton lost part of his right leg while in command of a company of The Royal Winnipeg Rifles battling for the Scheldt Estuary in Belgium and Holland in October 1944. Upon his return to Canada, Chadderton joined The War Amps. Heavily involved within the organization, he was appointed Executive Secretary in 1965, and later made Chief Executive Officer of The War Amps. Under his leadership, the Association transitioned from helping only veterans to a charitable institution that aimed to represent all Canadian amputees. His focus and main achievements however, involved children. Founding the Child Amputee Program (CHAMP) to help cover costs of artificial limbs and support programs, Chadderton also established Matching Mothers, to bring together new and experienced CHAMP families for advice and support. Other programs include PLAYSAFE, a program to promote child safety with a “kids-to-kids” approach, and JUMPSTART, which ensures amputee children have the computer skills they need for an independent future.



On top of his work with The War Amps, Chadderton held positions as Adviser to the Minister of Labour in veterans' rehabilitation, Director of the Canadian Army Financial Welfare Program, National Secretary of the Army Benevolent Fund and was Chairman of the National Council of Veteran Association (NCVA).

While serving as Secretary and Executive Director of the Woods Committee, from 1965 to 1968, Chadderton was a part of an extensive study on veterans pension legislation in Canada. The three-volume study gave veterans a complete and detailed explanation of virtually every section of the Pension Act, as well as 148 recommendations to improve the legislation.

During his life and career, he received numerous awards, including being inducted into the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario, the Canada Veterans Hall of Valour and the Terry Fox Hall of Fame, Knight in the Order of the Legion of Honour of France, the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation, the Royal Bank Award for Canadian Achievement and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal.

Howard Robert Lambert

Known to his colleagues as one of the best firefighters this city had ever seen, Lambert rose through the ranks to retire as executive fire chief for the Ottawa Fire Services. Joining up on February 3rd, 1958, he barely made the height and weight requirements, but pushed through with vigor that earned the respect of his colleagues. He would go to great limits to save lives. During an all-night blaze firefighter Dawson McVeeters became separated from his unit after climbing onto the roof. Suddenly it collapsed under him but just as he felt himself falling into the pits, Lambert grabbed him. "If you're going to go down, I'm going to go down with you. Because you're not going to die alone," he told McVeeters. Becoming a captain in the 1970s, followed by acting district chief in the late 1980s, Lambert was then district chief and finally executive chief in the 1990s. His rank allowed him to help establish the Ottawa forces' first formal command and control systems, which separates sections of large fires for better control. When he retired in 1998, on doctor's orders, Lambert had worked at almost every fire station in Ottawa and had at least 300 firefighters (half of the city's numbers) under his command.



Isis Minerva Officer

Born in Jamaica, Officer came to Canada in 1965 to work as a nurse at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. Her life was not only dedicated to physically saving lives, but also working diligently to improve race relations in Ottawa and helping those in need. Officer began her long career with the Ottawa Police in the early 1990's when she volunteered with the Ottawa-Carleton Area Police and Community Council. Through the Council, she became a key stakeholder in the Partnership in Action initiative. She also served as a member on the Ottawa Police Service's Race Relations Advisory Committee. Officer worked as a police race relations mediator with the Jamaican community and multicultural liaison officer. She went to schools in the community to promote diversity and help immigrants adjust to Canadian life. She repeatedly assisted and attended community dialogues, problem-solving sessions, and training development for the police service. Officer was a co-founder of the Jamaican Ottawa Community Association, an organization that works to develop a social and political voice for Jamaicans in Canada. For her efforts, she received a number of awards including the Award for Excellence from the Canadian Centre for Police Race Relations and the Order of Distinction which is one of Jamaica's highest honours. In her honour, the Ottawa Police Service created The Isis Officer Ethnocultural Equity Award. It is presented annually to two schools, one elementary and one secondary, which demonstrate outstanding effort in the area of ethnocultural equity within the school, the Board and/or the community.

Jean Morrison Pigott

A pillar of the Ottawa business community, she was the eldest daughter of Cecil Morrison, owner of the Morrison-Lamothe bakery. From a young age, Jean was taught about profits and losses, customer relations and practiced basic bill payments for the family at the age of eleven. In 1948, at the age of 24, Jean was put in charge of rebuilding a failing restaurant on Rideau St. In the early 1960's, Morrison Lamothe bakery had over extended itself and was in danger of going bankrupt. At the age of 42, Jean was asked by her father to take over, making her one of three female CEO's in Ottawa at the time. Choosing to break into the frozen food business, the bakery turned a profit her first year. After conquering the business world, Jean moved on to serve the public by successfully running for Conservative MP for the riding of Ottawa-Carleton. In 1984, she was appointed by then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as chairwoman of the National Capital Commission.