

THE
BEECHWOOD WAY

MAGAZINE

**DYING TREE
RESURRECTED AT
BEECHWOOD CEMETERY**

by Christian Marcoux

**TRANSFORMING
GRAVESITES INTO
TOOLS FOR TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION**

by Ed Bianchi

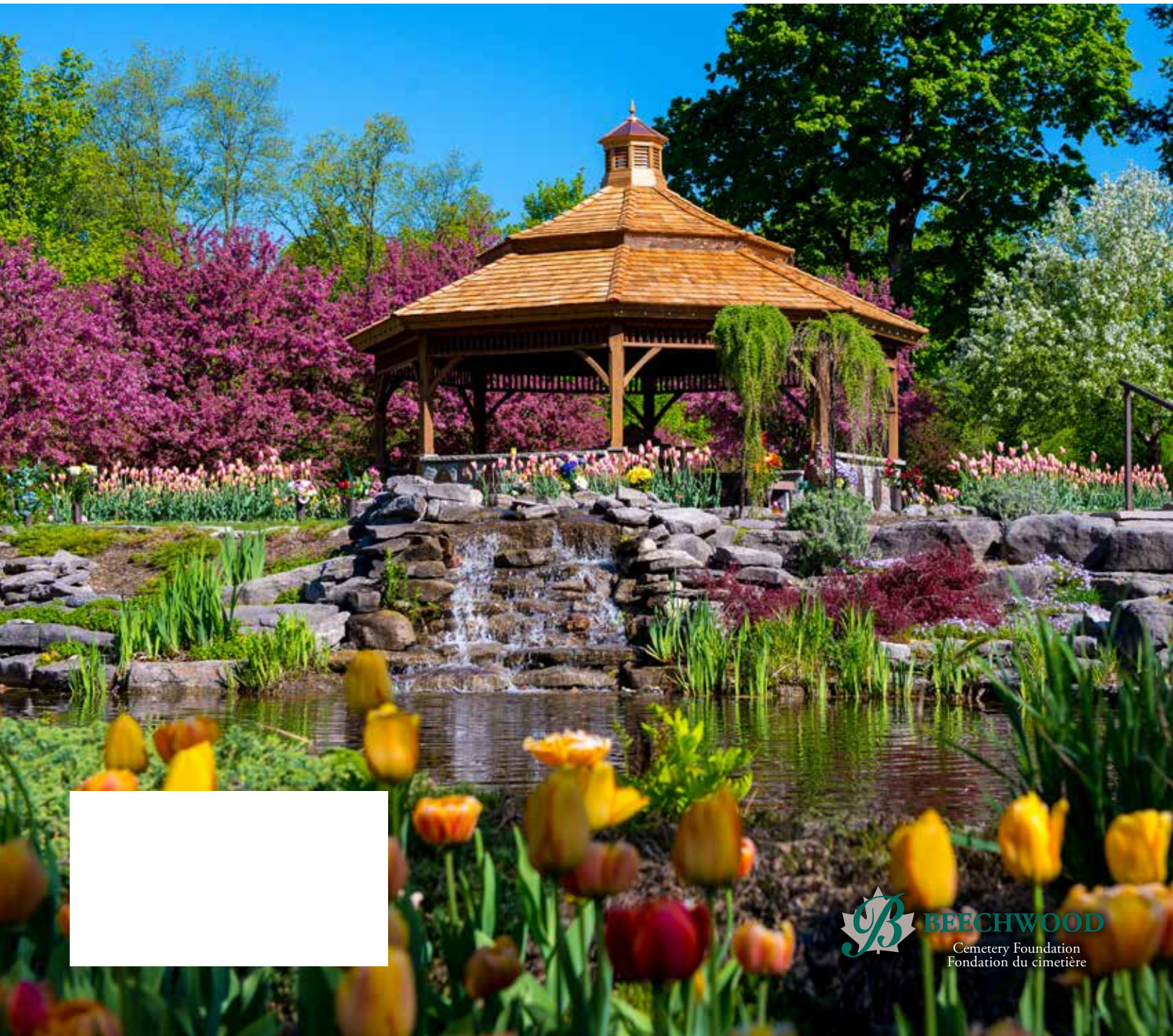
SPRING FREEBIES

by Benoit Bazinet

82,000 stories to share

Live, laugh, love

by Erika Wagner



Letter from the editor

After the long endless winter, Beechwood seems to be waking up. The gardens are beginning to blossom with the 35,000 tulips that were planted in the fall; the trees are budding and starting to turn green and everyone seems a buzz with anticipation of what the spring and summer will bring.

We have so many new and exciting events this year that we have dedicated an entire page of this issue just to the Spring ones. We are always so proud of all the events, from our Speakers Series, to Ottawa New Music Creator Concerts, which supports young chamber musicians, to the beautiful BFO-Ottawa Region Annual Butterfly Walk.

I'm proud to say we are also sponsoring the Canadian Tulip Festivals' Veterans Day, with a special event at the Aberdeen Pavilion on May 15 2018 at 11:30 AM, and we are an official visitor site during the 11 day festival. I encourage everyone to come and join in.

Beechwood has also joined Doors Open Ottawa (June 2-3 2018), which encourages all Ottawans to come out and visit the spectacular spaces and hidden gems which make our city so special. The Doors Open Ottawa weekend ends with the National Memorial Ride and Ceremony at the NMC on the Sunday. What a treat it will be for our visitors.

Again this issue highlights everything that is unique and amazing about Beechwood, from our grounds, to our initiatives, to our events, but most importantly to the care, the dedication and service we give to each and everyone. This issue ends with a celebration of life that brings together everything that Beechwood truly is.

As always readers, I hope you enjoy this issue and come to participate in one of the many events going on at Beechwood this spring and summer.

Nicolas McCarthy, Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach



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All pictures taken by Richard Lawrence, unless otherwise stated.

ISSN 2368-545X, 2368-5468

The Beechwood Way Magazine is a free, independent publication and, unless otherwise clearly stated, its articles imply no endorsement of any product or service. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation is a registered Canadian charity, and will issue an income tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more. Registration number 88811 2018 RR0001.

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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

Publications Agreement number 42640528. Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation, 280 Beechwood Ave, Ottawa ON K1L 8A6.

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Unlike Dr. Bryce, Scott had a plaque at Beechwood. It celebrated his bureaucratic career and his contribution to Canadian literature, but said nothing about his role in the residential schools. In 2015, as part of the Reconciling History initiative, Scott's plaque was revised in ways that preserved his contributions to literature and included his connection to the schools and the words "cultural genocide".

Buried midway between Bryce and Scott is Nicolas Flood Davin. In 1879, he authored the Davin Report for then Prime Minister John A. MacDonalD documenting his study of the Carlyle Industrial School in Pennsylvania and advocating that a similar program to separate Indigenous children from their families as a way of assimilating them into Christian culture be established in Canada. MacDonalD enthusiastically welcomed Davin's report and residential schools were established.

Students in Canada are learning about Flood-Davin, Dr. Bryce, and Scott in ways that inform their analysis of other injustices faced by Indigenous peoples. It shows them that people of that period like Dr. Bryce did know that the deaths of the children was wrong and tried to change it reminding us all how important it is to stand up and do the right thing when history calls on us. They are inspired to research, think critically, and take peaceful action towards genuine, positive change. In fact, come to Beechwood Cemetery in June and you may see groups of school children placing paper hearts of gratitude and remembrance at Dr. Bryce's gravesite to thank him for what he tried to do and to commit to doing their part for reconciliation too.

Reconciling History shows how a balanced telling of history can be used to prepare learners to actively engage in reconciliation and address contemporary injustices. By recognizing both their achievements and their darker roles in Canadian history, these people become teachers.

As is the case with so many successful initiatives, this one began with a great team that included Beechwood Cemetery, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, Indigenous Human Rights Activist Ellen Gabriel, historian Dr. John Milloy, Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, Marie Wilson, Project of Heart, and KAIROS Canada, a national coalition of churches and religious organizations that works on human rights.



SPRING FREEBIES

by Benoit Bazinet, Beechwood Apiarist

Spring is in the air and Beechwood's lawns and flowerbeds will soon awaken to give their annual spectacle of colours. From the early Crocus and Tulip spring blooms, Beechwood's bees will be on foraging patrol to gather well needed pollen to feed their colony's brood and replenish the depleted winter stores.

The colonies and other native pollinators will soon regain full strength from their cold and groggy winter mode. Nature's spring awakening will trigger the reproductive instincts. Established hives will be closely inspected and monitored, while disease, pest and swarm prevention measures will be undertaken. Our colonies will still desperately try to produce reproductive swarms as survival and propagation of the species is an innately deep-rooted genetic trait for the *Apis* genus.

Swarming is an impressive natural phenomenon; bees will prepare for the grand exodus by feasting on honey reserves to gather strength and energy reserves than can sustain them for approximately 3 days. The elder queen escapes with more or less half the population of the hive, usually with the oldest and most experienced workers and foragers. They will leave the hive in a loud buzzing cloud of great jubilation, typically landing on a tree limb within 100 meters, where they will temporarily cluster together. From there, scout bees will be dispatched to find potential appropriate permanent nesting places. The scouts will return back and forth with various options, re-visiting and debating potential locations, until a consensus is reached on the best viable permanent nesting option.

As you stroll through Beechwood Cemetery this spring and find yourself looking up, you might be able to spot strange rectangular yellow and white boxes conspicuously and strategically hung ajar between tree limbs. These boxes are experimental swarm traps, ideally sized bait hives from Beechwood's Pollination Programme. They will be baited with emptied honey frames from our current hives, and other scented materials such as beeswax, lemongrass oil or commercially available pheromones. These scents will attract the swarm's scout bees. In theory, the swarm will take off from the tree limb and move in the nearby trap, convinced it has found the perfect permanent nesting place. However, these traps are equipped with special disks that allow safe containment of the bees for a stingless transportation back to the apiary.

Swarming has beneficial effects on the disowned and motherless hive left behind. The young inexperienced workers are in a temporary standstill for 6 to 7 days, eagerly awaiting a soon to be hatched new queen. The young new queen will need to go on mating flights to be fertilized by an average of 15 drones from feral, domestic and foreign surrounding colonies. After mating flights, she will then return to the hive and start laying her own brood. The temporary interruption of the brood cycle in the hive, from the old queen to the new queen, also means a cleansing by breaking brood related cyclical diseases. The young queen will hopefully return to the hive fertilized with an entire new array of genetic material, thus in a way, creating a genetically bio-diverse colony different from the previous queen.

Swarms are so valuable to beekeepers that legislation under the Ontario Bees Act allows trespassing by the beekeeper to pursue and recover his swarms: "where a swarm of bees leaves a hive, the owner of the swarm may enter upon the premises of any person and recover the swarm." R.S.O. 1990, c. B.6, s. 3 (1).

Swarms are indeed invaluable "free-bees" to the apiarist that wishes to recover and put them to good uses. Expanding the apiary with a new hive, or introducing the swarm into an existing weak and/or queenless hive are most common. The swarm could be returned to the original hive, providing that the queen with less desirable traits is euthanized by the beekeeper. In any case scenario, there can only be a single ruling Monarch per colony.



Photos by Benoit Bazinet



Apiary = a location where beehives of honey bees are kept.

Apiarist = a beekeeper

Apis genus = Honey Bee

Brood = the eggs, larvae and pupae of honeybees.

82,000 STORIES TO SHARE – LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE

By Erika Wagner, Program and Fundraising Coordinator

Those in the midst of their grief, those who have lost someone close, are the people Beechwood serve every day. Those visiting often notice a person standing at the back of the room or near the door during a funeral service. The family knows them as the Funeral Director. They are respectful, mindful, professional, and anticipate the needs of clients before they even realize it themselves. They help during the most painful times of people's lives. Each Funeral Director has had special moments during their careers at Beechwood, moments their work touched them in a special ways. For Isabelle Gallen, that happened during the celebration of life for Jacquie Lecuyer.

Most people imagine funerals the way they are often portrayed in the movies, somber affairs with everyone dressed in all black. However, the funeral for Jacquie Lecuyer, much like her life, was a celebration. Having designed the ceremony herself, she wanted it to represent her life filled with light and music rather than with sadness.

Who was Jacquie Lecuyer? Inspirational, artistic and peanut butter; are just a few words people chose.

Born October 14, 1941, Jacquie was a woman of many talents, proven by her having had 13 very successful careers; she was a machinist, a stock car driver, she helped make the 1st diamond head drills for a mining company in Elliot Lake, an Irish tap dancer, a quilter, a cosmetician for Avon and Mary Kay, a real estate agent for Canada Permanent Trust, a cake designer whose business was named "Let Them Eat Cake", a doll creator, an art teacher, a seamstress, an event coordinator and even worked at the bank of Nova Scotia. Her loving husband Wayne quotes Jacquie having said "can't and don't are not in my vocabulary."

An artist first and foremost, she sought to bring colour and sparkle to everything she touched, and her final sendoff was no different. When Jacquie received her diagnosis she began to plan and organize her final celebration. She wrote her own obituary, organized the music and selected her speakers.

Here is a snippet of what she wrote:

Well, I am leaving this world for a new adventure... It was a great run but I had to go... Thanks to all my friends and family who supported me through this wild period in my life... Please remember to wear your bling.

It is Jacquie's love of glitz and glam that makes this story sparkle. "Jacquie loved glitz, glam, even though she loved to wear black. But she would always add something glamorous, usually necklaces", said her daughter Andrea.

During one of the meetings leading up to the celebration of life, Andrea had brought one of her mother's favorite necklaces and asked Isabelle to wear it, saying: "Mum would have been honoured if you wore this during the ceremony". To Isabelle, having a family make such a request was something very unique. To wear a personal item meant a lot of trust and was very special. She felt a part of not only the service, but of the family.

For both Isabelle and the Lecuyers, another interesting part of the story was the final song, the YMCA. It happened to be one of Jacquie's favourite songs and it got everyone up and dancing, which according to those who attended, they did. "That was mum, she wasn't the type to wallow around and be miserable and so she didn't want anybody else to wallow around. She wanted to end the celebration on a happy note."

The life story of Jacquie Lecuyer is that of an artist bringing people happiness through her many passions. She was a woman of great strength and will power whose smile never wavered. She lived a happy life filled with love from friends and family, all of whom wanted to honour her with fun rather than sorrow. It was a true celebration of her life and exactly how Jacquie wanted to be remembered.



DID YOU KNOW:

Preplanning has allowed individuals to add personal touches to their own funerals.