

Standing the test of time

—
A Memorial Guide



Beechwood Cemetery proudly serving our
community since 1873



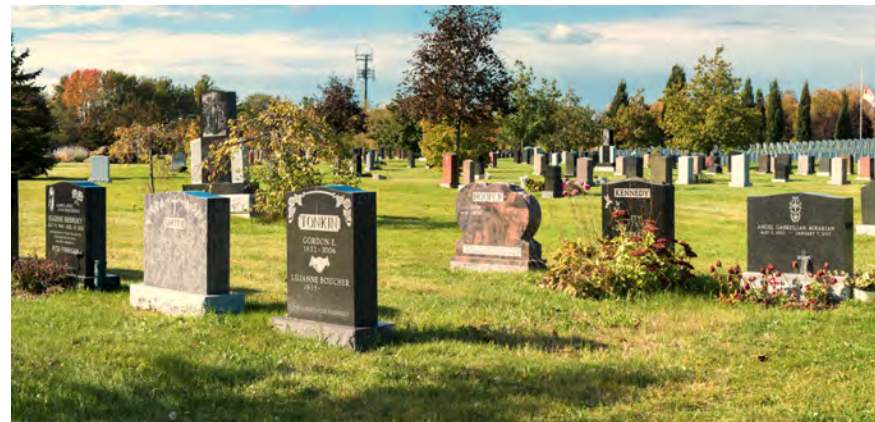
When thinking about cemeteries, the monument is always the first visual that comes to mind. A monument is that final tribute to the life and times of your deceased loved one.

Monuments can be known by many names such as a headstone, tombstone, or gravestone. A monument stands upright at the head of the grave. In most cases, it has the deceased's name, date of birth, and date of death inscribed on it, along with a personal message, or prayer, and can have different imagery or symbols.

Each monument can tell a story of the life of the deceased by sharing their passions, such as gardening, skiing, hockey playing, or the professional affiliations including post nominals or organizations symbols.

Beechwood offers a wide variety of memorialization choices, including the upright monuments, flat markers, tree dedications, bench dedications, Book of Remembrance, Tree of Life, niches, granite boulders and individual family mausolea.

For those selecting cremation and urn burial, memorialization is often integrated into our urn interment locations.





At Beechwood, all memorials must be constructed of granite and/or bronze material.

- ❖ **Granite** is made up of quartz and biotite or mica, and this combination helps to make the stone impervious to all weather conditions. Granite can endure wide ranges of extremes in dryness and moisture as well as hot or cold climates. This makes granite the most suitable choice of stone for gravestones and memorials.
- ❖ **Bronze** is an alloy consisting primarily of copper, commonly with about 12-12.5% tin and often with the addition of other metals (such as aluminum, manganese, nickel, or zinc) and sometimes non-metals, such as phosphorus, or metalloids such as silicon. These additions produce a range of alloys that may be harder than copper alone, or have other useful properties, such as strength, ductility, or machinability.

When choosing a monument, there are several things that need to be taken into consideration.

- Is this monument part of a dedicated section such as the Botanical Gardens or the National Military Cemetery?
- Is this a monument for multiple generations?
- What is the maximum size of the monument allowed on your lot?



Beechwood has prepared this simple eBook to help you with all the decisions and guide you through this important step in your family and loved one's life.

1. OVERALL DESIGN OF THE MONUMENT

The choices in designs can be overwhelming at times. It can vary from completely custom to a more traditional monument. When choosing the design of the monument you need to consider the following:

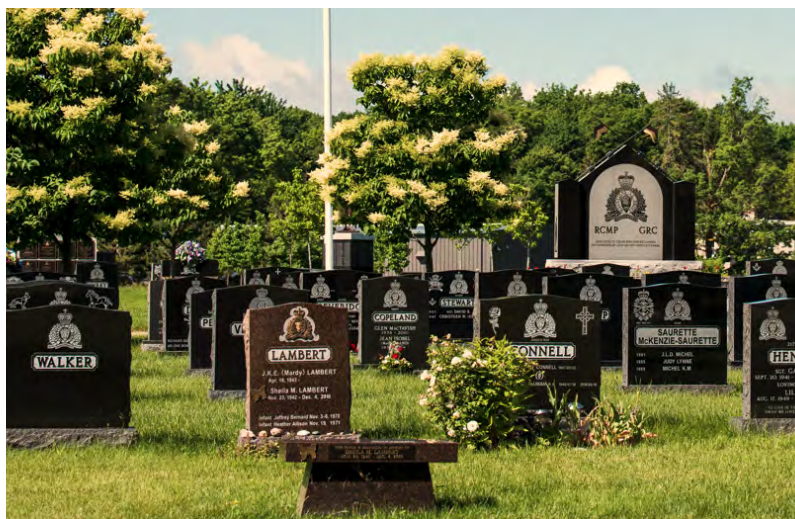
- What is the maximum size allowed within Beechwood, as this can vary based on the size of your lot?
- What is your budget?
- What is the intent of this monument - multi-generational or for one or two people?

When visiting the cemetery, look at the existing monuments and see what speaks to you. Are you interested in a heart shape, cross or a shape such as a rectangle, rounded top or an open book?

Each shape has its own merits, and it is important that you and your loved ones decided what is appropriate for you.

Your **Family Services' Representative** can show you all the shapes and options that we may have or help you build a custom monument.





2. TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COLOUR

Beechwood's monuments and markers are made of the highest quality of bronze or granite to ensure they will last for hundreds and probably thousands of years.

- For bronze markers, the colours are relatively consistent with bronze or green being the most predominant at Beechwood. These colours look the nicest and are appealing to the eye.
- When choosing your granite monument there is a large variety of colours and finishes to choose from. Granite can vary from pinks, reds, grays and blacks.
- When considering your colour, look at the section you are in and see what would compliment or make you stand out. Finishes can vary from a natural look to a high polished mirror finish. Again, each has its merits, and it really is based on your own preferences.

Note, in some of the sections there are specific colours and finishes that can only be used to keep the consistency and integrity of the design, specifically in the military and RCMP Sections.



3. INSCRIPTIONS AND TEXT

In most cases, the size and shape of the monument will determine how much information can be added. Most people choose to include the deceased's name, dates and a short epitaph or motto or saying either religious, poetic, or personal.



When designing the inscription for your loved one's monument, you need to determine how many burials the lot is intended for. This determines how the inscription is laid out on the monument.

There are a few best practices that Beechwood can suggest for inscriptions:

To maximize space, the inscription could be engraved like this:

Example of a couple:

Last Name	
First and Birth Name	First and Birth Name
Life Span	Life Span
Relationship	Relationship
Motto or saying	

Example of a multigeneration monument:

Last Name	
First and Birth Name	First and Birth Name
Life Span	Life Span
Relationship	Relationship
First and Birth Name	First and Birth Name
Life Span	Life Span
Relationship	Relationship
Motto or saying	



Here are a few common examples to serve as inspiration:

Always in our thoughts.

A beloved mother/father/husband/wife

Forever in our hearts.

It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

An inspiration to us all.

Always together.

Always loving, always loved.

At peace.

At rest.

Devoted in love.

Great love lives on.

Generous of heart, constant of faith.

In loving memory.

Loved and remembered.

May his/her memory be eternal.

Remembered with love.

Rest in peace.

Together again.

Until we are together again.

As for lettering on granite, there are a few options available:

- ❖ Standard engraving - involves the lettering being cut into the stone, by sandblasting. The letters can be left natural or painted**.
- ❖ V-cut lettering - involves lettering being cut and then chiseled to create a deep "V" cut. The letters can be left natural or painted**.
- ❖ Chiseled Clean Background - involves an embossed lettering where the background is chiseled away making the letters appear raised.

** please note that painted letters may require future maintenance



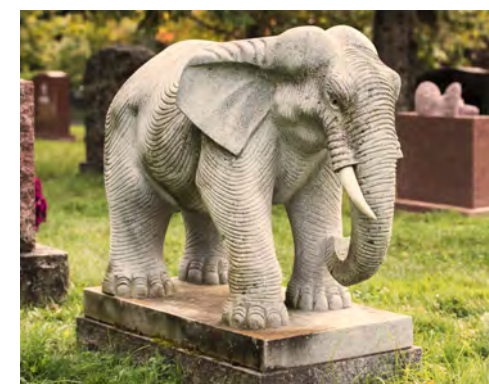
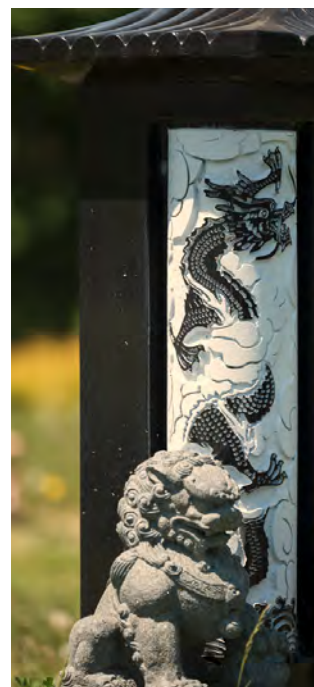
4. ARTWORK, SYMBOLS, AND SCULPTURES

A family can personalise a monument or marker by including artwork, symbols, or sculptures. Engravings can include flowers, religious symbols, military or police affiliations or family crests. You can also ask to customize your own.

As for symbols there are an infinite number of symbols available as a standard, or you can choose your own. Ask your Family Services' Representative for more ideas or to show you some of the many options.

Photographs can be added to a memorial, the most common approach is the production of a ceramic print (either colour or black and white) that is mounted with or without a frame directly onto the monument. Photographs can also be etched (depending on the colour choice) directly into the monument creating image that looks like black and white photograph.

Sculptures can personalize and bring a lot of beauty to any moments. It can include some very traditional features like columns, scrolls, flowers, religious symbols, or it can be a family animal, boat, car, or anything that truly represents the individual.



We always hope to help you with all the different choices to be made. We know how hard it can be to make these decisions in a time of grief and look only to provide you with the right information to make the decisions that are right for you and your loved ones.

Advance planning is a caring gift that will give comfort to your loved ones. And for you, locking in today's prices provides peace of mind. Our customized, flexible plans can be tailored to your wishes and budget.

We invite you to make your arrangement ahead of time. Beechwood can help make planning easy.

Please contact us to find out more with no obligation. A Beechwood Cemetery Family Services Representative is always available to help you and address your questions.



Questions?

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*Owned by The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation
and operated by The Beechwood Cemetery Company.*



About us

Beechwood is the National Cemetery of Canada and is the home of the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces, National RCMP Memorial Cemetery, the Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery, the CSIS Cemetery and many more organizations and religious groups. Beechwood has been proudly serving our community since 1873.

Take advantage of all the services offered by Beechwood Cemetery, including pre-arrangements, full service funerals, cremation, cemetery services and executor assistance. Beechwood Cemetery can meet whatever wishes you may have from visitations, informal gatherings, life celebrations, memorial services, catered receptions, to a custom monument or memorialization.

Beechwood Cemetery is here to provide you with everything you need to make the right decision for you and your loved ones.

Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services is owned by The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and operates on a not-for-profit basis. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, it is the only organization of its kind in Ottawa. In choosing Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services, you can take comfort in knowing that all funds are used for the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of this National Historic Site. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation was created for the purpose of safeguarding Beechwood's future and increasing public awareness of Beechwood, as well as the important historical persons buried within it.