

28TH ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR -

INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

Sunday, September 11 2022

Beechwood

History Told, Lives Celebrated



Violet Archer



Madge Hamilton Macbeth



Chow Quen Lee

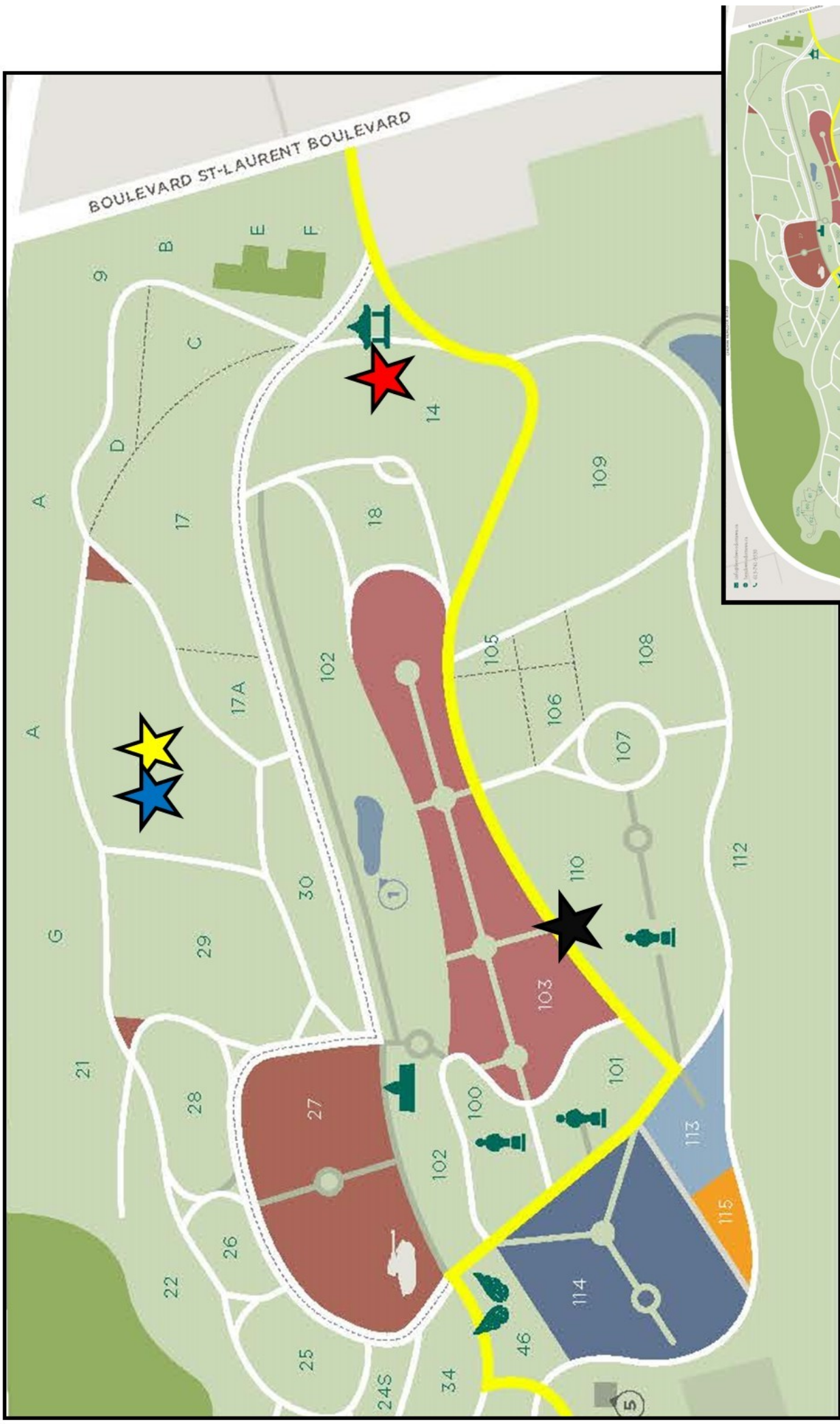


Diane Stuemer



BEECHWOOD

Cemetery Foundation
Fondation du cimetière





The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation presents:

Influential Women

This tour is held annually to acknowledge and applaud the contributions and accomplishments of the various people buried at Beechwood Cemetery.

Thank you for joining us as we honour four women who impacted the world around them. Each in their own unique way, these women influenced change. Revolutionary in their fields of writing, composing, journalism and activism, their impact has lasted the test of time.

While we aren't performing by graveside this year, people are welcome to visit the graves of those highlighted in the Annual Historical Tour. The map shows where these people are buried should you wish to visit them after the play. The grave will be marked with a Canadian flag.

Should you at any point get lost, the yellow and white lines on the road lead you to the St. Laurent gate (white) and the main building (yellow). If you are lost, you can call the office for directions 613-741-9530.

More notable people buried at Beechwood can be found in our Historical Portraits booklet, available both on our website and in hard copy at our main office. We welcome any suggestions you may have for additional people we can include there, and we're also always looking for suggestions for themes for future tours.

Thank you for joining us in 2022, and we hope you'll be back again next year.

Make a donation to the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation today at:
www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/donation

As a registered Canadian charity, Beechwood issues an income tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more. Our charitable registration number is 88811 2018 RR0001


VIOLET ARCHER

Section 19, SG 280

Violet Archer was born Violetta Balestreri on April 24, 1913 in Montreal to a family of Italian immigrants. In response to her early interest in music, the family bought Violet a piano at age nine, and she soon received formal training. At age sixteen she began to compose music and her first composition, like many others in the course of her career, was an attempt to put poetical work into musical form.

Archer obtained a teacher's certificate for the piano from McGill University in 1934, a degree of Bachelor of Music in 1936, followed in 1938 by a diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Her extensive academic achievements included a Master of Music degree from Yale University in 1949. In 1942 she studied in New York under Hungarian composer Bela Bartók, who suggested the use of folk melodies and harmonies in her compositions, and at Yale she was a student of Paul Hindemith. Her studies were supported by scholarships and fellowships from universities and the Canada Council, and her detailed knowledge of many instruments, including the piano, organ, clarinet, strings and bass, provided a firm foundation for her compositions.





Archer's early teaching positions included McGill and American universities. In 1962 she became a professor at the University of Alberta, where until 1990 she taught music and musical composition. She also served as the resident composer at the Banff Centre for the Arts. A list of her compositions, exceeding 120 works, includes a symphony and other orchestral works and various solo, trio and quartet pieces for the piano, organ, strings and other instruments. Many of her compositions were based on Biblical texts, poetry and folk songs, and many have been recorded.

Archer's accomplishments were recognized by numerous awards, including honorary degrees from a number of universities, and her appointment, in 1983, to the Order of Canada. In 1993 she was named by an American organization as "International Woman of the Year", and in that year another American institution described her as "The most admired woman of the decade." Archer died in Ottawa on February 21, 2000.

CHOW QUEN LEE

Section 18, Lot TG20, Grave 2

Born in China on 18 October, 1911, Chow Quen Lee was nicknamed “Nooey Quen” — meaning women’s rights in English. She married Guang Foo Lee in 1930, who had returned to China from Canada to find a wife. He paid a \$500 head tax in 1913 to enter Canada and would have had to pay another \$500 had he stayed in China longer than two years. Guang had to leave his pregnant wife and two children behind.

Due to the Second World War and the civil war in China, Lee was unable to reach her husband for almost 14 years. Lee raised the children on her own until the repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act in 1947, which for more than two decades had effectively banned Chinese immigration to Canada. After saving up to afford the journey to Canada, the Lee family arrived after Christmas in 1950 and settled in Sudbury, Ont. There, they opened a number of restaurants: the Capitol Café, the Star Restaurant, the China House Restaurant, the Empress Tavern and Lee’s Palace.

While in her 80’s, Lee volunteered to be one of the lead claimants of the class-action lawsuit representing the head-tax-payers’ widows with the Chinese-Canadian National Council. Between 1885 and 1923, the Canadian government collected a total of \$23 million from some 81,000 people under the various forms of the Chinese Immigration Act. Lee travelled between Ottawa and Toronto to attend fundraising and public awareness events, all in a wheelchair. Despite the lawsuit being dismissed, it created a groundswell of new support.

On June 22, 2006, the Canadian government issued an official apology at the House of Commons and those who paid the head tax were issued redress.



Photo provided by Lee family

MADGE HAMILTON MACBETH

Section 19, PC 360

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 6, 1880, MacBeth came to Canada at age twelve, attended college at London Ontario's Hellmuth Ladies' College, and at age 20 married Charles Macbeth of London. After living in the USA for two years, the family moved to Ottawa, but within a few years, Charles died. To provide for her two young sons Macbeth turned to writing. Her literary talents perhaps inherited from her grandmother, one of the first American women to become a professional author.

Macbeth's first two articles were published in the Canadian Magazine 1908, followed by many more. Her works also appeared in American publications, including Survey (1912), the Ladies' Home Journal (1914) and The New York Times Current History Magazine (1922). However, most of her work was published in Canada by Maclean's, Chatelaine, Canadian Home and Garden, The Dalhousie Review, Canadian Home Journal and the Canadian Geographical Journal. Saturday Night alone printed 42 of her articles between 1912 and 1937.

Macbeth also wrote books and newspaper articles, and in the 1950s she was a regular columnist for the Ottawa Citizen. As a journalist, she was for her free-lance interviews of Members of Parliament. Her first book was published in 1909 and her last in 1965, the year of her death, for a total of more than twenty, which included fiction, drama, and non-fiction on everything from the Elysian Islands to Ottawa Valley Baptist history.. An early book, "Kleath," was printed in 1917 and was later, without her permission, made into a movie. In the early days of civilian aviation she made her first flight, resulting in a 1924 Saturday Night article, as well as a book "Wings in the West," written with Colonel (later, General) E. L. M. Burns. Extensive travel provided subject matter for much of her writing – she sent dispatches from as far afield locations as Tobago, Palestine and Yugoslavia – and her interest in the literary and art worlds produced articles which introduced readers to persons destined for fame, such as Yousuf Karsh and Emily Warren. Several of her novels dealt with politics in a satirical manner, a possible reason for pseudonyms on some of her writings.

Macbeth's association with the Ottawa Drama League probably started an

important part of her writing, that of playwright. She wrote for both the stage and for radio drama broadcasts, the latter in the 1920s when the newly-formed Canadian National Railway opened ten radio broadcasting studios in its hotels across Canada. The broadcasts, heard locally by those with a radio receiver, were also heard by CNR train travelers who were provided with ear phones. Macbeth not only wrote dramas broadcast from CNR's Ottawa studio, she was also a part of the cast. When the CNR ceased its broadcasting activities in 1932 Macbeth became a strong advocate for the establishment of a national Canadian broadcaster.

Madge Macbeth's long and successful career as a writer began under adverse circumstances which she overcame to become a highly-regarded journalist, novelist and playwright, who, for more than a half-century, contributed greatly to Canada's literary activities.



Yousef Karsh/Library and Archives Canada/Arch ref. no. R613-457/e010675683

DIANE STUEMER

Section 110, Range 13, Grave 15

Born in Sarnia in 1960, Diane Stuemers' family moved to Calgary when she was still an infant. She grew up in the city, meeting her future husband Herbert at age 17 while working as an usherette for the Calgary Stampede. When she decided to move to Ottawa to attend Carleton University's journalism program, Herbert followed her.

By 1994, Diane was the co-owner of a successful advertising business, living a normal suburban life with her husband and three children. But everything changed after her husband, Herbert, had a serious accident, and Diane herself was diagnosed with malignant melanoma, a potentially fatal skin cancer. Soon the couple embarked on a re-evaluation of their priorities and a search for a way to live life more fully. In 1997 they sold their business, rented out their home, took their three sons, then aged 5, 9 and 11 out of school, and set out on an ambitious four-year plan to navigate around the world by sailboat. Their entire sailing experience at the time consisted of six afternoons of sailing on the Ottawa River on a 23-foot boat. When they departed Ottawa in September of 1997, the Stuemers had never even once sailed Northern Magic, the 42-foot, 39-year-old steel ketch they had purchased and refitted for the world-circling voyage.

As they learned how to sail and cope with life at sea on a cramped and tiny boat, they overcame many obstacles – including two deadly storms in which other boats and lives were lost, a close encounter with waterspout, a lightning strike, an arrest at gunpoint, surgery in Sri Lanka, pirates, the terrorist bombing of an American naval destroyer in Yemen, dysentery in Sudan, and a difficult crossing of the stormy North Atlantic. Yet at the same time they found new closeness as a family and a profound realization about their role in the world.

During the voyage, Diane wrote weekly dispatches for the Ottawa Citizen newspaper, generating more response from the public than any series in the paper's history. When the Stuemers began getting involved with local people – finding a teacher for a small island in the South Pacific, helping volunteer veterinarians care for endangered orangutans in Borneo, and providing school fees for poor African village children – readers from all over North America began

to participate as well.

By the time the family returned to Ottawa, in August of 2001, more than 3,000 people lined the shores of the Ottawa River to welcome them home. After their return, Diane and her husband, Herbert, remained passionate about carrying home the message of how ordinary people can achieve great dreams and make a difference in the world. They continued to stay involved with and raise funds for two projects in Indonesia and Kenya, the Friends of The National Parks Foundation and the Bonface and Hamisi Project respectively. The former is dedicated to preserving Indonesia's wilderness and national parks, and the latter provides funding for Kenyan children to attend school.

Diane wrote a book about the family's adventures, titled *The Voyage of the Northern Magic*, soon to be published by McClelland and Stewart and excerpted in *Reader's Digest*. The family was featured on national TV and radio many times, and was the subject of a TV documentary.

In late 2002, Diane's cancer made her increasingly ill, and she succumbed to the disease on March 15, 2003.



Courtesy of Stuemmer Family



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*Thank you for
coming!*

CIMETIÈRE
BEECHWOOD

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