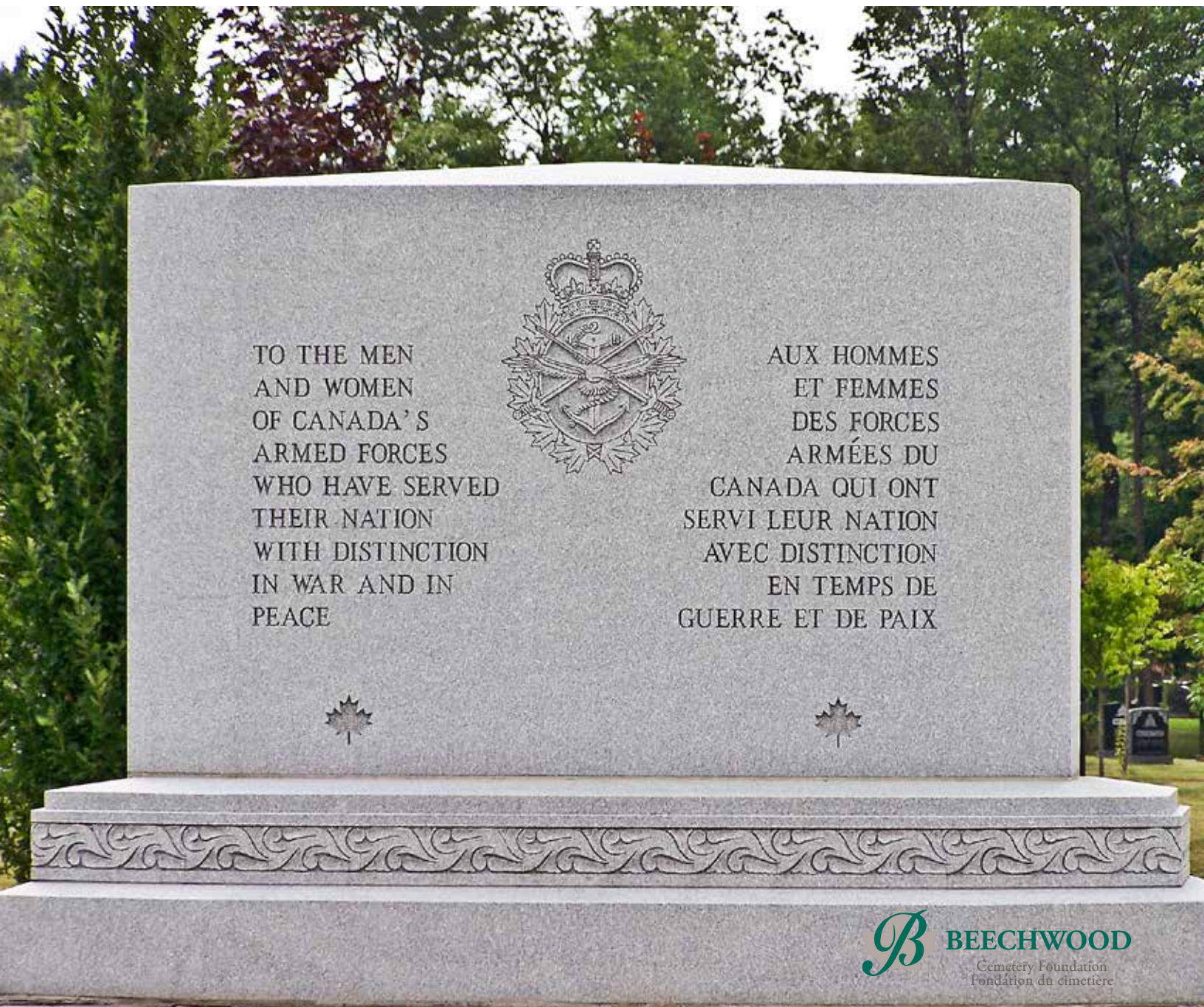


THE BEECHWOOD WAY

SECTIONALS

National Military Cemetery



The National Military Cemetery is a national focal point of honour which recognises the men and women of Canada's Armed Forces who have served their country with distinction in war and in peace. As a national site of recognition, this cemetery is unique within Canada. Military burials are based on tradition and the carrying out of that tradition must always be done in a dignified and professional manner to ensure those we mourn are provided the honour and homage that they have earned.

The mission of the NMC is to provide a dignified and serene place of rest for deceased eligible members and their families following the traditions and regulations of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The vision of the NMC is to preserve the important balance between the collective identity of the Canadian Military as an institution and the individual identities of the members who comprise it. The collective identity is maintained by preserving historical traditions, uniformity of appearance, and equality of treatment regardless of rank or status. Individual identities are maintained by allowing a degree of personal expression on headstones, by maintaining a sense of natural beauty, and reserved solemnity that gives families peace to remember their loved ones for whom they once were.



DID YOU KNOW:

Beechwood planted six Vimy Ridge English Oaks. They are the descendent from the original English Oak trees that once stood at Vimy Ridge.



SECTION 19

“To honour and protect in death seems but a small return to those who have protected their country in life.” Arthur Hair, Founder

The Last Post Fund Field of Honour markers were provided through Veteran Affairs Canada’s Funeral and Burial Program (which is administered by the Last Post Fund). The program provides financial assistance in order to help give dignified funerals, burials and grave markings for eligible veterans. Unlike other sections, the Veterans’ graves are flat military granite markers, which commemorate each individual’s services to Canada.



DID YOU KNOW:

Since 1909, nearly 150,000 service men and women were provided financial benefits by the Last Post Fund.

SECTION 29

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter with the responsibility for the maintenance of graves and memorials in some 150 countries and nearly 1,700,000 members of Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. It's funded by its partner governments in proportion to the war dead in its care – those of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Newfoundland was a full and equal partner until it entered the Canadian Federation in 1949.



DID YOU KNOW:

To be considered War Dead one must have died during the designated war years in service or of causes attributable to service. The war years are considered to be from 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 for the First World War and from 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947 for the Second World War.



The Field of Honour is reserved for Canadian Forces Veterans, War Dead from the Northwest Rebellion, the World Wars, the Korean conflict, United Nations Campaigns and other humanitarian missions. This land was purchased by the Crown in 1944, and up until the amalgamation of the National Military Cemetery of Canada was overseen by Veterans Affairs Canada and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

This section is arranged to be like the defense tactic, the hollow square. While in battle, the men would arrange themselves to have their guns facing outwards with their backs against their own. This meant they had their compatriot protecting their backs giving them the confidence to focus on the task or enemy in front of them. This also meant the men protected their general who stood in the centre and gave out orders



The Beechwood Cemetery Sherman tank originally stood outside the old Canadian War Museum for nearly 30 years, but was ceremoniously moved in 2004.

SECTION 27

The central feature of this section is the Cross of Sacrifice, found in most Commonwealth war cemeteries around the world. The Cross was designed in 1918 by Sir Reginald Blomfield and is present in Commonwealth war cemeteries containing 40 or more graves. Beechwood's Cross of Sacrifice was erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission (now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) in 1959.

The sword is made in bronze and is pointed downwards. In military tradition and classical art, when the sword is in an upward direction is it the symbol for war or that one was under attack. When the sword is in a downward position, like it is on the Cross of Sacrifice, it is symbolizing a time of peace.



DID YOU KNOW:

Beechwood is home to one of 26 Crosses of Sacrifice located in Canada.

SECTION 103

In 2001, Beechwood Cemetery became the home of the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces. Section 103 is open to all Canadian military personnel who served and were released honorably. It does not matter if the individual died in a Canadian uniform or as a result of natural causes, the only requirement is that they served in a Canadian military.

Located at the west entrance to Section 103 is the main monument was dedicated in 2001. The inscription on the front of the light barre granite monument reads, “The National Military Cemetery of The Canadian Forces”. The inscription on the back reads, “To the Men and Women of Canada’s Armed Forces Who Have Served Their Country with Distinction in War and Peace”. The design of the monument is based on four Canadian First World War monuments: Courcellette, Le Quesnel, Hill 62, and Passchendaele. It most closely resembles the Passchendaele monument – simple and dignified, yet imposing.



DID YOU KNOW:

The monument weighs over 20,240 kilograms (over 20 metric tons) and is 2.59 metres wide, 84 centimetres thick, and, including the base, measures 2.26 metres in height. Placement of the monument required the largest crane in Eastern Ontario and Western Québec. This monument is a saluting area.

SECTION 103

The Tri-Service monument was unveiled on June 28, 2004. Inscribed on each side is a poem representing each branch of the Canadian Forces: *the Naval Hymn* for the Navy, *In Flanders Fields* for the Army and *When I Think of Famous Men* for the Air Force.



DID YOU KNOW:

The Canadian flag and CAF ensign located at the entrance of the NMC is flown at half-mast on the day of interment of any eligible member or family member. Both flags are raised to full staff upon the completion of all interments scheduled for that day. As a point of mutual respect, flags will also be lowered when interments take place in section 27 or the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery. Conversely, the flags flown at those locations are lowered in the event of an interment at NMC.