

THE  
**BEECHWOOD** WAY

SECTIONALS

Poet's Hill



## POET'S HILL

Overlooking the Parliament of Canada, Poet's Hill stands tall above the city that has changed so much since Beechwood first opened its doors in 1873. The meandering path climbing alongside large stone retaining walls leads you to the focal point of this section - the monument of an open book, inscribed as "Poet's Hill, l'aire des poètes".

The century old trees nearly enclose Poet's Hill, giving visitors the feeling of quiet and contemplation. Poet's Hill is the perfect place to reflect and walk among the book shaped monuments, as many of them have favourite passages or sayings specially chosen by those interned at Poet's Hill.

The podium is surrounded by four flower beds, each marking a different period of Ottawa's writers: William Pittman Lett, Arthur Bourinot, Archibald Lampman, John Newlove. On the road just a little further up the hill, one can discover Lampman's sonnet written in 1894 inscribed on a plaque, detailing the wonder of the Beechwood Cemetery.

The beautiful Poet's Hill, originally conceived as the last anchor of the Poets' Pathway, became a reality in 2006.



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## POET'S HILL BOOKS

The monument of an open book, with the words inscribed “Poet’s Hill, l’aire des poètes”, is the central focal point of this section. It is contoured with a beautiful stone walkway and surrounded by open books calling for those visiting to read and learn more about the people buried at Beechwood.

Books large and small dot the section, each sharing a passage, a line of text that gives visitors a small glimpse into the lives of the people interred. These words, carved into granite books are meant to leave a lasting beauty, a sense of lasting comfort through words.

“As the written word endures, the spoken word disappears” – Neil Postman



**DID YOU  
KNOW:**

Poet's Hill is a section for everyone and embraces the diversity, the uniqueness that Beechwood has always represented.

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# OVERLOOKING PARLIAMENT

The sight of Centre Block, with the Canadian flag flying proudly from the top of the Peace Tower, is the iconic symbol of democracy in Canada. Early in the 20th century, there were rules to limit the height of downtown Ottawa buildings to ten storeys.

In the 1990s, the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa officials legally protected 21 specific spots in the city from which you must be able to see a number of “national symbols”, with the protection of Centre Block being in most cases. In 2008, the city added two more protected views from Beechwood Cemetery: one at the Tommy Douglas memorial, and another at Poet’s Hill. This gave these two areas a beautiful view of the Parliament buildings.



**DID YOU KNOW:**

**Poets buried in Beechwood Cemetery:**

Arthur Stanley Bourinot,  
Sir John George Bourinot,  
William Wilfred Campbell,  
Frederick Augustus Dixon,  
Norman Gregory Guthrie ,  
alias John Crichton,  
Archibald Lampman,  
William Dawson LeSeuer,  
William Pittman Lett,  
Henry James Morgan,  
John Newlove,  
Marian Osborne,  
John Almon Ritchie,  
Duncan Campbell Scott,  
Gustavus William Wicksteed

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# MARIAN DEWAR, THE MAYOR OF OTTAWA

**M**arion Dewar, born Bell, was born in Montreal on February 17, 1928. She was first elected as an Ottawa council member in 1972, and later became deputy mayor. While defeated as a provincial candidate in Ottawa West in 1977, she was elected mayor of Ottawa from 1978 to 1985.

Among the policy areas she emphasized were, improved public access to municipal decision-making, low-cost housing, and childcare. She co-hosted the Women's Constitutional Conference calling for gender equality provisions in the Canadian Charter of Rights. Under her mayoralty, Ottawa was declared a nuclear-free zone and provided homes to some 4,000 Southeast Asian refugees.

In 1985, Dewar was elected president of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP), and urged the party to have more female candidates. In July 1987, she was a successful candidate for the NDP in a federal by-election in Hamilton Mountain but she lost the seat in the 1988 general election. After her defeat, she became the executive director of the Canadian Council on Children and Youth from 1989 to 1992. In 1995, she became the national chair of Oxfam Canada, an organization created in 1963 and based on Oxfam International that seeks to reduce international poverty and create self-sustaining communities.

In the early 1990s, Dewar was appointed by Bob Rae's Ontario NDP government to the regional Police Services Board, but was subsequently fired by the Mike Harris Conservative government in 1995. She won a court ruling to be reinstated, in spite of the Tory government's appeal.

Dewar became a member of the Order of Canada in 2002. She also held the position of vice-chair of the Heart Institute and was a past-chair of Oxfam Canada. Dewar's son Paul was elected to the House of Commons as an NDP Member of Parliament in 2006. Dewar died suddenly on September 15, 2008.



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# IN BEECHWOOD CEMETERY

*By Archibald Lampman*



**H**ere the dead sleep--the quiet dead. No  
sound,  
Disturbs them ever, and no storm dismays.  
Winter mid snow caresses the tired ground,  
And the wind roars about the woodland ways.  
Springtime and summer and red autumn pass,  
With leaf and bloom and pipe of wind and bird,  
And the old earth puts forth her tender grass,  
By them unfelt, unheeded and unheard.  
Our centuries to them are but as strokes  
In the dim gamut of some far-off chime.  
Unaltering rest their perfect being cloaks--  
A thing too vast to hear or feel or see--  
Children of Silence and Eternity,  
They know no season but the end of time.

