

THE BEECHWOOD WAY

MAGAZINE

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82 000 STORIES TO BE TOLD

Around the world and back again



Letter from the editor

The theme of this latest issue of the Beechwood Way Magazine is kindred spirits. Loosely defined: kindred spirits are people that make a special connection by sharing a bond that has joined them by means of an experience or place.

Over the course of the last year, there have been so many interesting events, people, communities and groups that have made Beechwood part of their traditions and history. This issue truly embodies this theme of kindred spirits, we have articles on:

- How monuments capture peoples' eternal love,
- Beechwood staff helping children with bereavement,
- The wild tale of the last Australian Bush Outlaw,
- How touch helped provide healing for a couple,
- Sharing our values with others companies,
- The sharing of a passion between continents.

I've noticed that it doesn't take much for people to come to Beechwood and discover something to be passionate about. Beechwood Cemetery is a place to discover, a place to learn, to heal and to share. I invite all readers to bring someone new to Beechwood and take a moment to share something with them. Let them become a kindred spirit with you.

As always readers, I hope you enjoy this issue and maybe discover something new to ignite your passion about Beechwood on these (hopefully) last weeks of winter.

Nick McCarthy



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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

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THE THUNDERBOLT MYSTERY

by Shayne Cantly

While travelling back from a film shoot in Sydney, Australian husband and wife team Shayne and Joanna Cantly drove past Thunderbolt's Rock near Uralla. "Who is this Captain Thunderbolt fellow?", Joanna asked. A quick Google search, and within a month, we found ourselves wrapped up in a bushranger story too incredible to be believed!

Frederick Wordsworth Ward, aka, Captain Thunderbolt, was a young man wrongfully convicted...

Persecuted by the police...

Driven to a life of bushranging...

But...who never fired a shot to kill...

Lost the love of his life...

Then hunted down and shot dead in 1879...

Only to escape to the USA, and make the perfect getaway into Canada, and was later buried in "The Ottawa Cemetery" ...
But wait...there's more...

Government conspiracies...

Police cover-ups...

A literary scandal...

Claims of secret documents...

Mysterious inconsistencies...

Stories of forged evidence...

Death threats...

And the public battle between a Thunderbolt Family Historian and a professional genealogist/author, and you've got a powder keg ready to blow!!

We decided to make a self-funded docu-drama which follows our journey searching for the truth as we talk with the various players involved in this Australian melodrama.

From Northern New South Wales, the New England Ranges to Sydney, Canberra, as well as California and Canada, we've tracked down leads all over the world, which lead to the final location for research and filming...Ottawa, Canada, and Beechwood Cemetery.

But why Beechwood?

According to the Ward family stories, the grave of Frederick Wordsworth Ward, aka Captain Thunderbolt, was seen by a family member in the "Ottawa Cemetery." There are of course numerous cemeteries in and around Ottawa, but given the fact the family stories say THE Ottawa Cemetery, we've assumed they meant the oldest and largest repository of deceased people in Ottawa, which would be Beechwood.

With a discounted economy ticket to fly to Montreal for just one person, three cameras, and only enough money to stay for a week, I started my quest to find the grave of Fred Ward. I started by searching the smaller, outlying cemeteries around Ottawa, moving my way into the larger burial places including Notre Dame, and finally, Beechwood Cemetery.

Nick McCarthy, the Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach, took myself and my camera gear on a tour of one of the most well maintained, and beautiful cemeteries I have ever experienced.

With the gracious help of our new friends at Beechwood, I was allowed to view the original, handwritten internment records, showing the names of every person buried at Beechwood, to help me locate the final resting place of our Captain Thunderbolt.

Even the President and Executive Director of Beechwood, Roger Boulton gave up a brief capsule of time to grant me an interview and offer further insights into my research.

It was a fantastic week, in a truly beautiful part of the world, and I was so blessed to be helped and supported by the team at Beechwood. Hopefully, we'll be able to sell enough copies of our movie on DVD and Blu-Ray, which will give us enough money for both myself and my wife to return to Ottawa for a holiday in 2019, to experience one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

So...did I find the grave of the Australian bushranger, Captain Thunderbolt, at Beechwood cemetery? You'll have to wait until the film is released in late 2018 to find out! Check out our website. www.thunderboltmovie.com.au

Photos provided by Shayne Cantly

KINDRED SPIRITS, ON A ROMANTIC THEME

by Ian Guthrie

Ah, February, when winter lightens and the days lengthen, when a young man's (and young woman's) thoughts turn to that wonderful day between the thirteenth and fifteenth of the month. Thank you, St. Valentine!

Romance plays a significant part in our lives and in our culture, it enriches us and sustains us through the rougher times, so it is no surprise to find romantic sentiments represented in the grounds of Beechwood. Let me recognise some of those representations.

I believe it was the Romans who first identified the heart as the residence of romantic sentiments so that is why we find heart-shaped headstones in several parts of the cemetery, affection and love carved into shape by the stonemasons' craft. Now, computer technology can do an amazing job of etching hearts into a headstone. One headstone is particularly striking - it is two hearts partly overlaid to show two lives joined and shared. This shape is in black granite and looks particularly wonderful on a sunny winter day rising above fresh snow. There will probably be such days this February. I will leave my readers to find this stone; it is not concealed, standing close to one of the principal roadways.

A symbol of committed lives is demonstrated by two rings entwined and carved into a stone or moulded onto a bronze plaque. This is invariably accompanied by the sentiment 'Together Forever.' On this theme, I have a great affection for Celtic Crosses, many of which can be seen at Beechwood. I like to think that they are all alike and each one different. One way in which many are differentiated is by the entwining of threads carved into the arms of the crosses, which to me symbolises lives that are entwined, lives combined to produce something greater than their parts.

Of course we employ words to express our affections (how would the Valentines card makers achieve a living otherwise?), the best of these, in my opinion, is on the stone of Dr. and Mrs. Wilson: "Better lov'd ye canna be". This phrase epitomises the hopes with which we enter into the romantic relationships which enrich our lives.

I hope it is a fine sunny February day as you read this, with a fresh fall of snow to whiten the landscape and brighten our lives. The modern era has produced a plethora of words or phrases which try to capture that which truly is inexpressible in mere words: soul mates, love of my life, partner, best friend, companion, kindred spirit. No word can equal the strength of the human spirit, but it tries!

I wish you all the blessings of close romantic and caring relationships in your lives, with those who have the good fortune to be with you now, or if you are celebrating memories of those who have gone before and who live on in our hearts.



Photos by Erika Wagner and Nicolas McCarthy

A COMPANION FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN

by Joelle Baker and Jennifer Reid

A plush, a stuffy, a lovey. They have many names and they have taken many forms, but when things get difficult, they are the first item a child will reach out for.

These items, also known as “comfort objects”, can provide psychological reassurance during troubled times. This is especially true when a loved one passes away.

Often described as “forgotten mourners”, Fran King, an Educational Consultant and Grief Therapist, said that children typically “let in just a little of their pain briefly and then return to their play and other distractions so it appears to the world that they are just fine”.

Adults surrounding the children are essential in helping them mourn - or “sharing their grief outside of themselves”, as Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt, an expert in the field, would say.

Their foremost need is to be comforted, which can be done in a variety of ways. For example: quietly listening to them, answering their questions candidly, or using language familiar to them.

“Any child old enough to love is old enough to grieve and mourn. Including children in the funeral process acknowledges that they too are part of the community of mourners.”

~ Alan D. Wolfelt

Fran King also suggested that a “Comfort Bag” be put together for the child, which would contain items such as a soft plush toy, a piece of clothing from the lost loved one or something with their perfume sprayed on it, or even crayons and paper. The bag should be adapted to the child’s needs.

In order to validate this grief, and to acknowledge the difficult time following the passing of a loved one, Beechwood is introducing Echo the Fox – a companion for children during funeral services, a companion to hold and cuddle when things get too confusing or difficult.

Given at the time of the funeral services, children are invited to cuddle with their Echo whenever they get sad or miss their loved one.

A special room can also be created to give reprieve to grieving children. A place just for them, away from the main services, where they can colour, read, play and even have a snack.

Echo’s purpose goes beyond the funeral services. He can be used as a teaching tool to open conversations regarding death and the grieving process.

Echo the fox is available for sale exclusively at Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services. All proceeds go to the Beechwood Foundation, to be used to maintain its urban nature and gardens.

About Echo the Fox

Beechwood is renowned for its urban nature and beautiful gardens. The goal was to create a comfort object that would reflect this quiet beauty, while being comforting to children. A fox family, famous amongst the employees, lives in the Macoun Marsh area of the cemetery. Any pictures taken of the foxes are always proudly shared with staff members.

With this in mind, an artist was approached with the idea to create a lovable, cuddly character, unique to Beechwood. The Fox was proudly named Echo, to remind us that those who leave us are never completely gone. An “echo” of them stays with us always through our memories. The fox was designed with a tear on its cheek - to represent all the tears shed for a lost loved one, and a heart locket - to represent the love of those surrounding us.

Sources:

- “How Bereaved Children Think, Feel and Behave, and What Adults Can Do To Help” by Liana Lowenstein, MSW (www.lianalowenstein.com/articleBereaved_children.pdf)
- “Preparing Children for Funerals and Memorials” by Michelle Methven, FD and Andrea Warnick, RN, MA (www.lianalowenstein.com/articleParentFuneralsWarnick.pdf)
- “Center for Loss & Life Transition” website by Alan D. Wolfelt (www.centerforloss.com)



DID YOU KNOW:

Echo the Fox was inspired by a family of foxes that live at Beechwood Cemetery.



Photos by Erika Wagner

A TOUCH OF LOVE

by Erika Wagner

Despite what television and magazines tell us, the love we give to another person is not defined by the size and clarity of the jewelry we receive. Love cannot be measured or explained, rationalized or reasoned with. Love is the most beautiful gift on this earth, and for some, can be taken away far too soon.

Throughout the grounds of Beechwood, there are memorials to thousands of couples who loved each other up until the very end. However, there is one monument which, at first glance may seem commonplace, but is anything but. Tania Turpin, a Beechwood Cemetery Councilor, tells the beautiful tale of a couple who, despite their personal challenges, found each other.

In October of 1998, still in her first two years working at Beechwood, Turpin received a call from the Canadian Association of the Deaf. On the phone was a young woman interpreting for Mrs. Yvonne Bertrand, who was looking to set up arrangements for ailing husband. This couple however was anything but an ordinary couple. You see, Mrs. Bertrand was born blind, deaf and mute. She had no concept of colour or sound. Her husband, Mr. Lucien Bart, was blind and deaf as well. The pair had met through the Association of the Deaf many years earlier, and had fallen madly in love.

It absolutely broke Mrs. Bertrand's heart to have to make the arrangements for her husband. Through an interpreter, Mrs. Bertrand would tap her fingers on the interpreter's open hand in a very similar fashion to that of Morse code. The interpreter would then relay the message to Turpin who would reply and have the interpreter tap out her answer to Mrs. Bertrand. As you can imagine, this process took quite a while.

Turpin was determined to ensure Mrs. Bertrand choose exactly what she wanted, the same way any able-bodied client would, but had to be done in a different way. She narrowed it down to three beautiful sections of Beechwood and took Mrs. Bertrand out there so she could get a 'feel' for each area. Most of us take for granted the natural beauty of the world, not really noticing the way the trees rustle as we rush into work or the beauty of the flowers as we run past to catch the bus.

During the communication process, it became clear to Turpin that Mrs. Bertrand loved her husband more than anything and wanted to honour him properly. It was then that she had the idea to do a brail monument. It would be the same concept as raised lettering, which is easily done with sandblasting, but have it be the raised dots used for the brail letters. Mrs. Bertrand was so excited about this idea. She had the brail done for both their last names so when they would come to visit, they could sit, feel, and read the monument.

Sadly, Mr. Bart died before he could feel the monument. Mrs. Bertrand was inconsolable when he passed. When she went to talk with Turpin again, she told her just how proud she was that she could honour her husband and be able to read his name. It meant the world to her.

It goes to show you that love is not something that fits into a square box. The way that I interpret love is different from how you interpret love. Mrs. Bertrand had no way to see the world except through touch. Thanks to the brail she was given a real image and connection to her true love. Mrs. Bertrand lived almost another 10 years until she passed in 2008. Should you wish to visit their monument, and feel the brail for yourself, it is located in section 100, grave 276. A map to this location can be obtained at our main office.



Braille was named after its creator, Louis Braille, a man who lost his sight as a result of a childhood accident. In 1824, at the age of fifteen, he developed a code for the French alphabet as an improvement on a tactile military code called 'night writing'.

MORE MEANINGFUL THAN A TABLE

by Geneviève Lalonde

Beechwood is always looking to give back to the community, to be sustainable and innovative. We recently discovered a company during the renovation of our Borden/Fleming Reception Rooms, which meets this triple bill.

Maker House, a local woodworking company in Hintonburg, outsourced the creation of our masterpiece dining table to Ottawa GROW Training Centre which was founded in 2008 by Christian Horizons. This feature table was handcrafted from wood that was harvested in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. The wood for the Beechwood table is from a fallen tree near Almonte, Ontario. The artisans at Grow studios built a beautiful wood table with live edges that are mirrored in a center cut-out. This table was a labour of love by these artisans.

It is said that most people's fondest memories are made gathered around a table. This is what we hope to provide a place to gather, to fill the chairs with loved ones, have a meal and together share their fondest memories.

Grow Studios employs 50 people with exceptional needs, who operate 6 different businesses including Jewellery, Pottery, Woodworking, Art, Printing Studio, and Lawn Care. For more information, please visit their website: <http://www.growstudios.org/about-us/>



DO YOU ENJOY WALKS OUT IN THE FRESH AIR?

DO YOU LIKE TALKING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE?

DOES THE HISTORY OF BEECHWOOD FASCINATE YOU?

If all of these things apply to you, then apply to be a volunteer tour guide!

Beechwood is looking for bilingual tour guides to lead groups around the beautiful and historical grounds of Beechwood. If you're interested, or would like more information, contact Erika Wagner at ewagner@beechwoodottawa.ca.

82 000 STORIES TO BE TOLD – AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN

By Lee Hatfield and context written by Nicolas McCarthy

When it comes to genealogy, there is much to explore. There are ancestors to be found, mysteries to be solved, and stories to be written. People all over the world are excited about finding out who they are, where they come from and what their ancestors did.

Every day, people come to Beechwood to explore their family history. They come to the front desk, with a family legend, a mystery, a person that may or may not be at Beechwood. Over the fall of 2017, Lee Hatfield came to Beechwood to help others explore their history. Here is Lee's very interesting story.

"I started researching my family tree about 18 months ago, and have found many fascinating facts in the process.

I found out that I had two great uncles who both fought in the First World War, one was Thomas and the other was George King (brothers). Whilst researching their war records, I discovered that George immigrated to Australia, sometime around the start of WWI, and then joined the Australian Imperial Force. He was transferred back to Europe and fought in both France and Belgium before he was killed in action on the 30th July 1918. Thomas died in October of the same year.

During my research, I discovered a website that stored photographs of worldwide war graves, and for a very small fee, will send either a hardcopy or a digital copy of headstones requested.

The War Grave Photography Project (TWGPP) is a voluntary organisation that recruits the help of volunteers to go to cemeteries and churchyards around the world, and take photographs of the head stones of our fallen soldiers who died in both the 1st and 2nd World Wars.

After quickly finding Thomas's headstone in the records, I immediately requested a digital photo. I received my photo within an hour, and this is despite the project being run from the UK, and there being a 5 hours' time difference between Ottawa and the UK. I was unable to find George's headstone.

Because of the swift service and professionalism of this project, I immediately decided that I wanted to help, so enquired how this was possible. I received a reply stating that I could become a volunteer and I was sent a list of 'missing' headstones that they did not have, from the cemeteries in Ottawa.

With the assistance of the lovely people in the Beechwood front office, I was fortunate enough to locate approximately 80% of the list I was given. There are still a few stragglers to find, and I am hoping to locate them before the winter.

The War Graves Photography Project is a fabulous asset for people who are researching their family tree, and I feel privileged that I am able to help others in finding the location of lost relations. Walking around the cemeteries certainly brings awareness to the number of men and women that gave their lives to ensure our freedom.

Long may they rest in peace - Lee Hatfield"

Like many other before him, Lee came to Beechwood to help people discover their history. He has chosen to pay it forward. Although his own story takes him to other continents, he has very much become one of Beechwood's kindred spirits.



DID YOU KNOW:

Beechwood staff answers over 1000 genealogical specific requests a year.