

THE

FALL 2020 • Vol. 14

# BEECHWOOD

WAY

MAGAZINE

---

## COMMEMORATIONS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

by Nicolas McCarthy

---

## CANADIAN POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE RCMP NMC

by Suzanne Sarault

---

## THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN AT BEECHWOOD CEMETERY

by Sue Cocek

---

## 82,000 STORIES TO SHARE: DETECTIVE THOMAS STONEMAN

by Erika Wagner

---

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**IN A SHORT SPAN OF TIME**, the COVID-19 virus has changed all of our lives significantly. Our schedules, our routines, our way of spending time with our friends and family has been altered in a major way. We can't help but think of the Spanish Flu and how it also impacted everyone's lives.

The Spanish flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic caused by the H1N1 influenza A virus. Lasting from February 1918 to April 1920, it infected 500 million people — about a third of the world's population at the time — in four deadly waves.

It was interesting during the Beechwood Annual Historical Tour, to hear the public health recommendations on how to protect yourself. The Public Health Authorities suggested wearing masks, washing your hands, avoiding large gatherings and getting plenty of fresh air. Good advice then — good advice now!

Our magazine focuses on some of the commemorations we held under the Covid-19 regulations with our partners. Beechwood was still able to hold memorials and commemorations under this new reality.

Again, stay up to date and join us on one of the many social media platforms or even our bi-weekly blog available on our site.

- **Facebook** (@BeechwoodCemetery, @NMCBeechwood, @cimetiereBeechwood)
- **Twitter** (@BeechwoodOttawa)
- **Instagram** (@beechwoodcemetery)
- **Youtube** (Beechwood Cemetery)

We are always so thankful for the support of our community and those who chose to join us on the livestreams.

Thank you

**Nicolas McCarthy**

*Nicolas McCarthy, Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach*

Executive Director: Andrew Roy; Editor-in-Chief: Nicolas McCarthy; Editor: Jacques Faille; Design Editor: Erika Wagner; French translation: Jean-Luc Malherbe; Contributors: Nicolas McCarthy, Suzanne Sarault, Marc Dureau, Erika Wagner.

Photos were taken in combination by Richard Lawrence and Nathan Pigeon. Cover photo taken by Nathan Pigeon.

ISSN 2368-545X, 2368-5468

*The Beechwood Way* Magazine is a free, independent publication and, unless otherwise clearly stated, its articles imply no endorsement of any product or service. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation is a registered Canadian charity, and will issue an income tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more. Registration number 88811 2018 RR0001.

How to contact us: E-mail: [foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca](mailto:foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca) Phone: (613) 741-9530 Mail: 280 Beechwood Ave., Ottawa ON K1L 8A6

Visit us online to learn more about Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada and read back issues of *The Beechwood Way* at: [www.beechwoodottawa.ca](http://www.beechwoodottawa.ca)

We want your feedback on how we are doing! Contact: Erika Wagner at [foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca](mailto:foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca)

Publications Agreement number 42640528 Please return undeliverable Canadian addresses to The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation. 280 Beechwood Ave., Ottawa ON K1L 8A6.

## **The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation – Board of Directors**

BGen (Ret'd) Gerry Peddle, Chair; Chamika Ailapperuma; Gen (Ret'd) Maurice Baril; Clare Beckton; Stephen Bleeker; Louise Boyer-Guindon; BGen (Ret'd) Cajo Brando; Col (Ret'd) Dr. Ronald A. Davidson, Stephen Gallagher; Ian Guthrie; RCMP D/Commr. (Ret'd) Tim Killam; Louise L. Léger, Rebecca Murray, Maureen O'Brien; Richard Wagner; Grete Hale (Chair Emeritus), Robert White (Board Emeritus).

# COMMEMORATIONS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

by Nicolas McCarthy

*Director of Marketing, Communications  
and Community Outreach*

**HUMANS ARE SOCIAL BEINGS.** We need a connection to each other, to our community and to our history. Every year, we welcome thousands of people to our commemorations, events and memorial services. The community gets together and shares a moment. We take time out of our busy lives to remember a loved one, honour those who served Canada, remember and commemorate battles or simply join in song and psalms to light our Christmas lights.

Covid-19 has forced us to go against our very social nature. For the good of the community and people we love, we have socially distanced, avoided contact with others and refrained from doing our desired activities.

However, commemorations remain something we all look forward to attending. Even when we cannot get together in our normal group sizes, we really want to ensure we commemorate our loved ones.

We undertook a commitment to hold our annual services in a way that still respects tradition while simultaneously ensuring we are safe and protecting each other. Beechwood adapted by creating mixed services with in-person and virtual attendees; we had registrations and welcomed our communities back to Beechwood. This adaptation allowed Beechwood to host a varied of events.

In this year of disconnection, commemorations of all kinds are probably more important than ever. In mid May, under restrictions of 10 people, we held the Canadian Tulip Festival's Veterans Day Ceremony. As in previous years, we regrouped around the Cross of Sacrifice and honoured the sacrifice of our Canadian Armed Forces and allies. It broadcast over the Canadian Tulip Festival's network and was shared on our online platforms.

The RCMP Veterans Association – Ottawa Division held their annual vigil on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Force, and broadcasted it over Beechwood's Facebook. During the event, people shared comments, thoughts and pride in the ceremony. Every year, we hold a tour of the other sections of the cemetery to honour the North-West Mounted Police, Royal North West Mounted Police and RCMP members buried outside the RCMP NMC. We pre-recorded the tour and premiered it online the day of the ceremony.



*So grateful for this intimate and meaningful memorial! It would have been such a beautiful and perfect day for a parade to honour our fallen colleagues. Thank you all for your efforts and commitment to ensuring that this memorial went ahead this year, despite the challenges!*

Facebook comment by Sandy S. after participating in the CPPO Service 2020.

The RCMP Veterans Association – Ottawa Division also held in the Fall a Memorial Service for the Canadian Police & Peace Officers. Yet again, the online engagement was high as well.

In the summer, we welcomed the National Memorial Ride. We were unable to have the several hundred motorcycle riders on the grounds; however, we still held the Memorial Service. Riders did their own rides locally in their community and then joined us for the livestream.

In late summer, we hosted the First Nation Caring Society for a book launch and book reading, where community members took part in the launch of the latest *Spirit Bear: Echoes of the Past*. This event was a mix of in-person and online events. We placed hula-hoops on the grounds for kids to sit inside while maintaining social distancing, and everyone received a copy of the book to follow along.

In late September, we held the Beechwood Annual Memorial Service. The Salvation Army Band and soloist Chelsea Honeyman performed beautiful hymns. The service was overseen by Canon James Beall and Monsignor Jean-Pierre Fredette. The Beechwood Annual Memorial Service is a yearly memorial that allows our community to take a moment and remember their loved ones together. Our hope was to welcome guests in-person, however, in the end we decided to go virtual.

As we approached the Veterans Week and our largest single event, Remembrance Day, we needed to retool the ceremony and ensure we met the COVID-19 regulations. There was no question not to hold the Remembrance Day ceremony. We decided to mirror the National Ceremony that takes place downtown Ottawa and only have 25 registered guests representing the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, Military Families, Beechwood and our partners like RCMP, CSIS and Ottawa Police Service. This year's Remembrance Ceremony was intimate and livestreamed to the public. Visitors were able to come to the cemetery before and after the ceremony to pay their respects.

We also decided to host smaller ceremonies during Veteran's Week for individual groups, regiments and partners to have their own time to commemorate and honour the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces. These smaller ceremonies were livestreamed so everyone could feel included and participate at their own time.

Even in this time of uncertainty, our community wants to commemorate, to participate and to be active in our events. Our livestream services seem to fill this void. Commemoration in the time of Covid-19 may not be exactly how we had envisioned, but it does provide an intimate way to participate and connect with each other.



*"During these uncertain times it brought comfort in knowing our loved ones are not forgotten."*

Laura W. after participating in the Beechwood Annual Memorial Service 2020.



# CANADIAN POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood

by Suzanne Sarault

*RCMP Veterans Association - Ottawa Division*

**THE FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICE** was held on Sunday, September 24, 1978, following the death of Ottawa Police Officer David Kirkwood in the line of duty in July 1977. Since 1995, the ceremony includes all peace officers so that all areas of law enforcement are included in the ceremony.

On September 24, 1998, the Government of Canada officially proclaimed the last Sunday of September as Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day. In his announcement on September 27, 1998, the then Solicitor general of Canada stated that: "A formal, national Memorial Day gives Canadians an opportunity each year to formally express appreciation for the dedication of police and peace officers, who make the ultimate, tragic sacrifice to keep communities safe."

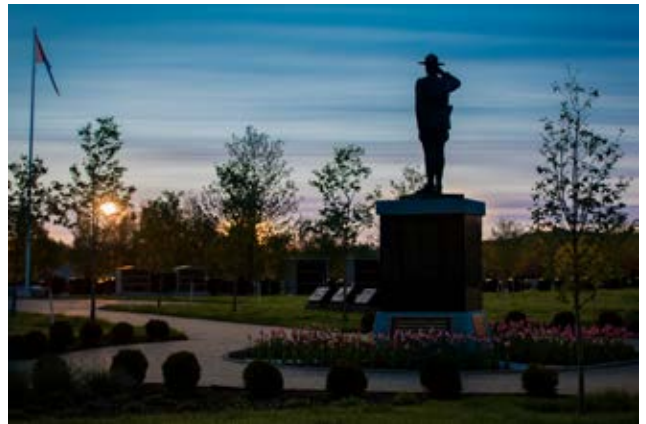
This day is also meaningful for police and peace officers to remember their colleagues. Marc Dureau, an RCMP Veteran said that: "Everyday thousands of police and peace officers work to serve and protect our cities and communities. Some have paid the ultimate sacrifice doing so. We, as a society, can never forget their service and dedication. We need to keep their memories alive and show our gratitude to their families to ensure their spirits will live on forever through this special day".

"When I stand in front of the Cenotaph at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery, I look at the "Mountie" saluting and I recollect marching in the funeral procession with thousands of police officers for the members killed in Mayerthorpe. I also remember the members listed on the honour roll that I knew personally like Doug Coates who died on a peacekeeping mission in an earthquake in Haiti or Joe Oliver's twin son who died in a traffic accident" said Michel Pelletier, also an RCMP Veteran.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the participation at the Canadian Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service was limited to a small group of dignitaries on Parliament Hill and there was no parade. The RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division, who usually participate in this annual event on Parliament Hill, decided to hold a ceremony at the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood. The participation was limited to 10 people and all public health guidelines were followed. The event was live streamed on Facebook to give everyone the opportunity to participate.

We are grateful to those who serve, to those who are no longer with us and to their families who are always in our thoughts.

Source: [thememorial.ca/memorial/index/history](https://thememorial.ca/memorial/index/history)



# THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

## at Beechwood Cemetery

by Sue Cocek

Communications Advisor, Directorate – Air Force Public Affairs

**AMID THE PEACEFUL SERENITY** and beauty of the Beechwood Cemetery, the National Military Cemetery, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain with a low-key commemoration ceremony on Sunday, September 20, 2020. The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic meant there were no large gatherings and no parades, but it was essential to take the time to remember the valiant members who fought in this momentous battle. Canadians were invited to watch the ceremony live on the RCAF Facebook page.

Eighty years ago, from early July until the end of October 1940, a battle was fought in the skies over England. This battle ultimately shaped the rest of the Second World War for the Allied Forces in Europe. It also played a key role in the future of the RCAF.

More than 100 Canadian pilots, and an estimated 300 Canadian ground crew, served side by side with their colleagues in the Royal Air Force. Together, they fended off Nazi domination of the air space over Britain and prevented a planned invasion of Great Britain.

The commemoration ceremony was held beside the Cross of Valour in the Veterans' section of Beechwood Cemetery. It included readings by veterans, audio recordings by cadets, and a fly-past featuring aircraft representative of those flown in the Battle of Britain (courtesy of Vintage Wings of Canada). Second World War air gunner, Mr. Robert Bradley, laid a wreath on behalf of the veteran community.

“Over forty RCAF members who served back in 1940 are laid to rest here,” remarked Lieutenant-General Al Meinzing, Commander of the RCAF. “While we do not know exactly what role each of these individuals played during that turbulent time, and in the period around the Battle of Britain, we continue to reflect on their courage, their bravery, and we will always honour their service to Canada.” In tribute, a Canadian flag and RCAF flag were placed on the graves of members who served in 1940.

“It now falls upon us to remember — to remember their actions, their bravery, their sacrifice, and above all, their names,” continued LGen Meinzing. “We must teach those who follow about the importance of the Battle of Britain, and what it meant to Canada, to England, and to the world. As we continue our planning for the RCAF Centennial in 2024, we strive to be worthy of those who gave their lives in service to Canada.”

With his final words, LGen Meinzing echoed the sentiment of remembrance from the poem *In Flanders Fields*, “We have been passed the torch, and we must not fail.”

For more information about the Battle of Britain, please visit [www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca](http://www.rcaf-arc.forces.gc.ca).



Lieutenant-General Al Meinzing, commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force, addresses the audience during the ceremony marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain held at the Beechwood National Military Cemetery, in Ottawa, Ontario, on September 20, 2020.



Lieutenant-General Al Meinzing (right), commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), and Chief Warrant Officer Denis Gaudreault, RCAF Command Chief Warrant Officer, salute the Canadian flag during the ceremony marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain held at the Beechwood National Military Cemetery, in Ottawa, Ontario, on September 20, 2020.



Robert Bradley, Second World War Veteran, lays a wreath during the ceremony marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain held at the Beechwood National Military Cemetery, in Ottawa, Ontario, on September 20, 2020.

# RECAP OF THE ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR – DOCTORS AND NURSES



First Lady Superintendent—Miss Annie Chesley taken when in training at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Miss Chesley was Ottawa born, in 1857, and was the first lady superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital. After twelve years of hard and conscientious service, she passed away, attended by one of the nurses she, herself, had trained.

THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Historical Walking Tour – Doctors and Nurses, occurred Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Up until the day before, the event was planned to be in-person, however, due to COVID escalating in Ottawa, Beechwood felt it was important to protect the community by making the event virtual. Overcoming some technical difficulties, the Annual Historical Tour was streamed on Facebook Live. Actors from the Ottawa School of Theatre performed vignettes highlighting the doctors and nurses who shaped healthcare in Ottawa and Canada.

**Ella Bronson** (1846–1925) sat as President on an all-female board of directors when the Ottawa Maternity Hospital opened. When it was later absorbed into the Civic Hospital, she did an immense amount of fundraising to help women's health.

**Annie Chesley** (1857–1910) was the superintendent at St. Luke's, which was the training school for nurses. She improved the quality of healthcare by revolutionizing the training of nurses.

**Jessie Argue Fisher Jarman** (1881–1970) was the Lady Superintendent of the Lady Grey Hospital, later called the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium. She also established a Training School of Nurses in the Sanatorium and was part of the group that organized the Emergency Hospital during the influenza epidemic in 1918.

**Frederick Montizabert** (1843–1929) assumed the duties of a medical inspector at the Grosse-Ile Quarantine station. At the time, the Quarantine station was the main point of entry for all immigrants coming to Canada from Europe and a long history of deadly cholera epidemics. The scientific concepts and principles he helped established would revolutionize the struggle against infectious diseases during the last two decades of the 19th century, and create the modern public health programs we are using in 2020.

You can watch the actors performing the stories of these great Canadians on our Facebook page or our Youtube channel.

Thank you to the actors from the Ottawa School of Theater, to Director Kathi Langston and writer Susan Flemming for bringing this event to life.



## DETECTIVE THOMAS STONEMAN

by Erika Wagner

**SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO** Ottawa lost its first serving Police Officer, Detective Thomas Stoneman.

Thomas Dougal Watson Stoneman was born on a farm near Mortlach, Saskatchewan in 1908. He joined the Ottawa police force in 1931 and was promoted to detective a decade later. His biggest case was in 1942 when he apprehended the two men responsible for the holdup of Montreal's Tic Toc Club. The watchman and clerk were tortured with matches to get them to open a safe containing \$3,000.

This story begins the night before with a robbery at the Canadian War Museum, where three men stole Thompson sub-machine guns (Tommy guns), and revolvers. The city was on alert. The next evening, on Oct. 24, 1945, three men were seen trying to break into cars parked on O'Connor St. A bystander called the police and Det. Stoneman raced to the scene. Upon encountering the men, one of the robbers, Eugene Larment, pulled out his gun and shot Det. Stoneman in the chest. He passed five days later at the age of 37.

He left behind his widow Lois and their 13-month-old twins, Richard and Jill. His death was felt throughout the city of Ottawa. On that cold Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, thousands of Ottawans lined Elgin Street for 15 blocks to honour the fallen officer as his funeral procession passed on the way to Beechwood Cemetery.

The loss of Det. Stoneman was not only personal for his wife Lois, who was only 23 at the time of his death, but it also left their family struggling financially. Stoneman was earning \$2,500 a year when he was killed and had he lived, he would have been given a pension of \$1,500 annually for being incapacitated in the line of duty. However, Lois was only entitled to \$780 (\$45 a month + \$10 per child until the age of 16) because Stoneman passed. This was lessened when Lois remarried in 1950. On top of that, the city did not provide a headstone and Lois could not afford one at the time. Finally in 1990, after 45 years, Stoneman was given a headstone.

The man that killed Det. Stoneman, Eugene Larment, was found guilty of murder in a court of law and was sentenced to death. Larment, at the age of 24, was hanged at 12:32 a.m. on March 27, 1946. His identity has been only remembered as the last man to be hanged in Ottawa. His body was returned to his family and buried in an unmarked grave at Beechwood Cemetery.

Larment is buried in Section A, Range 73, Grave 50.

Stoneman is buried in Section 37, Lot 4 S.E.

This story begins  
with a robbery at the  
Canadian War Museum...

