

THE

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BEECHWOOD WAY

MAGAZINE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WE OFTEN REFER TO BEECHWOOD AS “A PLACE FOR THE LIVING,” and this fall it did not disappoint. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation was in full swing with events, tours, and new projects.

We honoured our soldiers, paid tribute to those we lost at the 9/11 attacks, celebrated the coming home of soldiers for WW2, commemorated the 81e of the Battle of Britain, showed respect to the Canadian Police Force and Peace Officers by hosting a wreath ceremony in the RCMP Memorial Cemetery, and welcomed back A Company of Fools' Shakespearean theatre group for three sold out shows.

We also held our Annual Memorial Service and the Ottawa Hospital Service to remember all who we lost in the last eighteen plus months.

The month culminated with the first National Truth and Reconciliation Day/ Orange Shirt Day at Beechwood. We were lucky to partner with the Project of Heart, the Assembly of 7 Generations, and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society who together built an incredible day of education, action, and reflection. We will be dedicating several pages in the next issue on this event and Reconciliation at Beechwood.

Although fall is turning to winter, we still have plenty of activities left! We are currently planning for a full swing for 2022 and 2023, where we will all join and celebrate our community and the 150 years that Beechwood has been honoured to serve it.

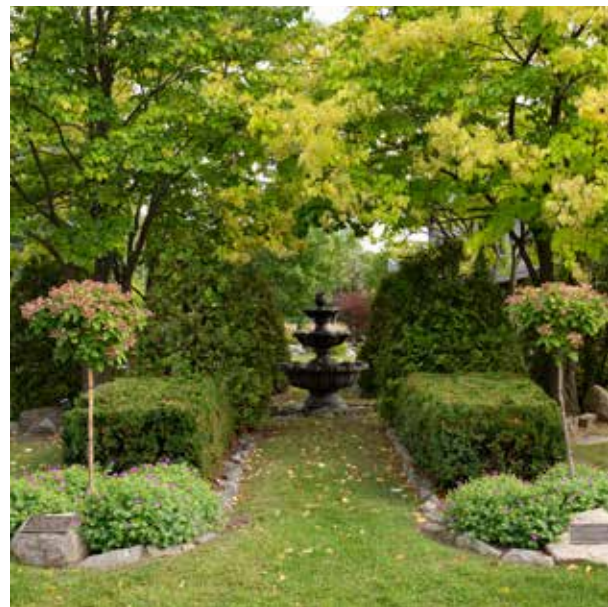
Remember to follow us on social media or subscribe to the Beechwood Blog found on the homepage of our site for quick stories, interesting information, and updates on all the activities of Beechwood Cemetery Foundation.

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


Thank you and, as always, we hope you enjoy this issue and come for a tour.

Nicolas McCarthy

Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach



Join us for our next in-person events here at Beechwood Cemetery!

 **Wreaths Across Canada**
December 5th

 **Christmas Candlelight Service**
December 12th

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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

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

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20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 CEREMONY

by Nicolas McCarthy

Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach

ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, the Beechwood Cemetery planned a remembrance ceremony to honour the victims of a tragedy and take a moment to reflect on the effects of that day.

The September 11th attacks became a defining moment on our collective history. We can all vividly remember the moment we found out. We can remember what we were doing, who we were with, and all felt that need to stop. We stopped and stood in disbelief as our greatest ally, neighbour and friend was attacked. We stood in solidarity as we supported each other.

On that day, nearly 3,000 victims died in the attacks, including 246 people on the four airplanes, 2,606 in the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center, and 125 people at the Pentagon. The overwhelming majority of casualties were civilians, including people from over 92 countries. That day, we lost 26 Canadians.

Supported by the community, we were joined by Cindy Barkway, and her sons Jamie and David Barkway, whose husband and father was killed in the Twin Towers.

Canadian Senator Pamela Wallin and the Chargé affairs, Ambassador Arnold Chacon from the American Embassy spoke about their experiences and memories of the hours, days, months, and years leading to the 20th anniversary.

The First Responders were represented by Retired Officer Steven Carroll for Ottawa Police Service and a Director for the Ottawa Police Veterans Association, Captain John Sobey of the Ottawa Fire Services, and Superintendent of Special Operations and Planning Gillian Cross of the Ottawa Paramedic Service.

Piper Brad Hampson and Bugler Travis Mandel performed the Last Post, and Reveille and Roust and soloist Roxanne Goodman sang the anthems and Amazing Grace to a moved audience.

The ceremony took place in front of Beechwood 9/11 Memorial, which was dedicated on September 15, 2002. The Beechwood 9/11 Memorial was one of the first 9/11 memorials built. It remains the only memorial dedicated to the Canadians who were killed in the 9/11 attacks.

The plaque has the following inscription:

**“IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE CANADIANS LOST À LA MÉMOIRE
DES VICTIMES CANADIENNES SEPTEMBER 11 SEPTEMBRE 2001,”
along with the names of the victims.**

The concept for the monument was initiated by Beechwood’s Tania Turpin and supported by Beechwood Management and Board of Directors. Mrs. Turpin understood the need for people to have a physical place to share in their grief and sorrow. This monument was built by our community with partners and the families of the victims of 9/11 to provide a place to commemorate and mourn.

The event was held on September 11, 2021, in front of the 9/11 Memorial (Opposite the Tank in Section 27). The ceremony was held under all COVID-19 rules and regulations.



HONOURING SOLDIERS OF SUICIDE

A Ceremony to Honour our Fallen

by Nicolas McCarthy

Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

For the Fallen – a Poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869–1943), published in *The Times* newspaper on 21 September 1914.

At the going down of the sun, families and friends gathered around the National Military Cemetery Main Monument for an intimate ceremony. We gather to remember those we have lost to suicide, a combat injury all too often seen. This small military community had not been together for several years.

The families and friends were greeted by Beechwood Cemetery staff and members of the Hope Program who are part of the Canadian Armed Forces Transition Group. Each guest received a simple white candle and was asked to wait to light it together.

We held a short ceremony, with a few small speeches under the master of ceremonies, Erika Wagner, Beechwood's Program and Events Coordinator. As Micheline Reed, a mother of a soldier, read a poem of remembrance, her candle was lit, and that flame shared with all those present connecting everyone together.

As the flame was passed from person to person, soloist Roxanne Goodman sang *Amazing Grace*, while the family submitted photos or names were projected onto the main monument — a quite dignified moment for those we lost. Families left the parade square and walked with candles to their loved headstones.

Before leaving, the families and friends connected one last time, spoke, shared memories, and supported each other.

The Honouring Soldiers of Suicide ceremony is meant to open the conversation on the stigma of suicide in the military and share in active remembrance. This service, we hope, will help connect one another through healing and understanding.

The event was held on September 10, 2021, which is World Suicide Prevention Day. The event was held under all COVID-19 rules and regulations.



The Hope Program

If you, or anyone you know, is struggling with the loss of a soldier from suicide, please reach out to HOPE. The HOPE Program offers continuous peer support and education on grief, to help bereaved military families better understand the grief process and provides coping strategies.

www.HOPE-ESPOIR.com 1-800-883-6094

THE VETERANS' PROJECT

A Find a Grave.com Photography Project

by Doreen Steidle

Retired Canadian Ambassador and Volunteer for Veterans' Project



BEECHWOOD CEMETERY IS HOME TO CANADA'S NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY, which hosts thousands of memorials in four sections representing over a century of Canada's engagement in conflicts such as the NW Rebellion, the World Wars, the Korean conflict, and other UN campaigns, as well as humanitarian missions.

In addition to memorials to Canadian service men and women, Beechwood is also home to the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery, which contains memorials to those servicemen and women from Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

While individual memorials to Canada's veterans and war dead may also be found throughout the Cemetery, often buried with family members, the two main sections that are dedicated to Canada's military are Sections 27 and 103. Section 19, the Last Post Field of Honour, is much smaller.

Although the effort to put all of Beechwood's memorials online has been ongoing for years, the size and scale of the thousands of memorials to be documented has been a challenge. However, we are pleased to share with you that with a few exceptions, almost all our memorials to veterans, war dead, and members of Canada's military are now available to view online thanks to a two-year effort, informally known as The Veterans' Project.

The Veterans' Project coalesced around an observation by retired Canadian Ambassador, Doreen Steidle, who noted that while many of Beechwood's memorials for veterans were online, the bulk of them did not contain photographs of their headstones and, as well, there were thousands of memorials yet to be created. As a volunteer photographer for Find a Grave and as someone who had represented Canada at Remembrance Day ceremonies in Singapore and Hong Kong, she knew the importance of photographs to family members.

In 2019, she slowly began photographing the memorials in the Commonwealth War Graves section. "I thought this would be a good place to start as we could help family members in distant Commonwealth countries visualize this location," she explained. Some of the headstones had already been digitally captured but she decided to introduce a standard headstone photo, include a photograph of Beechwood's explanatory plaque and a view of the Section itself. She and others recorded the inscription on the headstone and anonymous volunteers in a virtual cross-Canada network, and filled in the details such as service records or family relationships for Find a Grave.



“The hardest part was bending down, taking a photo, and then taking a step to the right, bending down and doing it again, row after row, but the outcome was worth it.”

Once completed, she moved on to the Last Post Fund cemetery and then, in the spring of 2020, decided to begin to photograph every headstone in Section 27. As a result, a virtuous circle of activity was created. “The more photographs I uploaded, the more other people stepped up to the plate to fill in the details.” From anonymous volunteers in BC to those walking the terrain in Ottawa and beyond, slowly thousands of memorials with photographs became available online.

By the fall of 2020, this section was also completed, and Doreen had a decision to make. “I had worked very hard through the spring and summer to take these photographs and I had a choice — I could take it easy over the winter and return to the charge in the spring or I could bite the bullet and take photographs of the thousands of headstones in Section 103 before the snow fell.” It was an easy decision in the end. In November of 2020, she spent weeks in the Section, waiting for the sun and the right light, to take photographs of the thousands of remaining memorials. “The hardest part was bending down, taking a photo, and then taking a step to the right, bending down and doing it again, row after row, but the outcome was worth it.”

Family members from afar have been complementary of the effort and appreciate seeing photographs of the final resting place of their loved ones. Military researchers and archivists have benefitted from the additional information provided on the headstones themselves. As more and more recent veterans are buried not only with spouses, but with a child or a friend, the headstones tell a family story. Now in October of 2021, Doreen is back with her camera, capturing the newest memorials and walking the rows between the stones in all of Beechwood’s cemeteries.

85,000 STORIES TO SHARE

27th Annual Historical Walking Tour – Coming Home

by Erika Wagner
Program and Fundraising Coordinator

COVID-19 MAY HAVE DELAYED the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II by one year, but it won't stop Beechwood from highlighting these important men and women. Hence the theme of "Coming Home," as it took a year to get everyone home from Europe.

JOYCE BRYANT

SECTION 52, RANGE G, GRAVE 119

Joyce Bryant (Née Turpin) was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 3rd of July 1922 to Constance Muriel and Norman Scott Turpin. Bryant was educated at Rupertsland Ladies College, an independent girls' school, until 1935 when she was enrolled in St Mary's Academy.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Bryant worked as an air raid precaution warden with the Women's Voluntary Service. In 1943, Bryant enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division) and served as secretary to the Director of RCAF Medical Services, Air Commodore A.G. Corbett, ED, CD, QHP. Bryant was awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division) in recognition of her meritorious service throughout the war.

Bryant was then posted to the Department of National Defence in Ottawa in 1946, where she continued to serve in the RCAF until she was transferred to Rideau Hall in 1951, where she served as clerical secretary to Field Marshal Lord Alexander of Tunis and then the Right Honourable Vincent Massey.

After a brief period as a private secretary to the retired Right Honourable Massey, Bryant returned to Rideau Hall. In 1967, the Order of Canada was established, and Bryant was the first permanent member of the Honours Secretariat staff. In 1973, Bryant was recognized for her dedication and service to Government House and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada.

In 1977, Bryant married her dearest friend and love of her life Bertram Bryant, who passed away in March 1987. Bryant continued to work at Rideau Hall until 1992, having served under eight Governors General.

Retirement did not stop Bryant's public service, as she remained active in various voluntary organizations for fifty years, notably for St. Bartholomew's Church, Altar Guild, Anglican Church Women of Canada (ACW), Royal Canadian Air Force Association, and the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. In later life, she gained a passion for writing and would author two books, *Slender Threads: A Memoir* (2007) and *Changes, Challenges, and Chats* (2015). Bryant passed away in her home surrounded by loved ones on the 4th of November 2017, at the age of 95.





Crerar is best remembered for his role in World War II, at the outbreak of which he was promoted to brigadier general.

HENRY DUNCAN GRAHAM CRERAR SECTION 27, RANGE G, GRAVE 226

Born in Hamilton, Ontario on the 28th of April 1888, Crerar graduated from the Royal Military College at Kingston in 1910 and received a commission as an artillery officer. He took a position with the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission in Toronto but continued to serve with the militia. At the outbreak of the First World War, Crerar was a Lieutenant in Toronto's 4th Battery, 2nd Brigade of the Non-Permanent Active Militia. He immediately joined Canada's First Division as an artillery officer and was sent overseas with the First Contingent. He served in France with the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, then later as the Brigadier Major for the 5th Canadian Divisional Artillery. Crerar was responsible for designing the largest and most successful creeping barrage towards the end of the war, at Canal du Nord. This three-day barrage successfully halted the final German advance. Crerar was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for this and went on to finish the war as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Unlike many others, Crerar remained with the army after World War I. He attended the British Staff College and returned to Kingston to teach at the Royal Military College. He represented Canada at the 1932 Geneva Disarmament Conference and at the 1937 London Imperial Conference. By 1935, Crerar had been promoted to Colonel and made commandant of the Royal Military College.

Crerar is best remembered for his role in World War II, at the outbreak of which he was promoted to brigadier general. He went on to become chief of the General Staff in 1940 and a lieutenant general in 1941, when he commanded the First Corps. He assumed command of the First Canadian Army on the 20th of March 1944, and went on to become the first Canadian to gain the rank of full general while still in active service at the front.

The contribution of Crerar's troops to the Allied victory in Europe was immense; their victories had great bearing on the advances of Allied forces through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Crerar died in Ottawa on the 11th of April 1965.

CHARLES FOULKES

SECTION 27, RANGE G, GRAVE 224

Born in the United Kingdom on the 3rd of January 1903, Foulkes joined the Canadian Army as a private and was commissioned in the Royal Canadian Regiment in 1926. He rose through the ranks to become chief of the Canadian general staff in 1945. At 42, he was the youngest man ever to hold that position.

On the 4th of May 1945, south of Hamburg, Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of the German forces in the Netherlands, northwest Germany, including all islands, in Denmark, and all naval ships in those areas. The surrender preceded the end of World War II in Europe and was signed in a carpeted tent at Montgomery's headquarters on the Timeloberg hill at Wendisch Evern.

On the 5th of May 1945, Foulkes summoned German General Blaskowitz to the Hotel de Wereld in Wageningen to discuss the surrender of German forces in the Netherlands. His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard, acting as commander in chief of the Dutch Interior Forces, attended the meeting as well. Blaskowitz agreed with all the proposals made by Foulkes. However, nowhere in the building — some sources claim: nowhere in the whole town — could a typewriter be found. Thus, the surrender document could not be typed. The next day, May 6th, both parties returned, and in the presence of both General Foulkes and Prince Bernhard, Blaskowitz signed the surrender document, which in the meantime had been typed. He served with distinction during the Second World War on both the Western and Italian fronts.

Following the war, he became the first Canadian appointed chairman of the chiefs of staff committee and served in that post until his retirement. General Charles Foulkes passed away in Ottawa on the 12th of September 1969.





MARY WARD RAYMONT SECTION 64, RANGE G, GRAVE 119

Mary Ward Raymont was born in London, England, to Sir Ashley Skelton Ward and Hilda Lewis Ward on the 17th of January 1917. Mrs. Raymont was educated at St John's School, Bexhill-on-Sea and Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Later in life she discovered she had been adopted from a Canadian family and brought to England.

During the Second World War, Mrs. Raymont served as Sergeant-Major with the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), which tasked women with a range of vital roles during the Second World War. Mrs. Raymont was given the task of driving military personnel to varied locations within the United Kingdom, usually in the blackout of night. She was also trained to fix motorcycles in the dark. ATS women were granted full military status, unlike in the First World War. In December 1941, conscription was extended to include women, who then either entered the ATS or went into nursing with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Services.

On February 7, 1944, she married Robert Lewis Raymont, and in 1949 they moved to Ottawa, Canada, where her husband continued his military career.

Her work with the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) included support for increased secondary education in Northern Canada and, in 2007, she was presented with a Citation by Governor General Michaëlle Jean for her work as the longest-serving member of the Laurentian Chapter. She was a faithful parishioner at St Bartholomew's Church, and her projects for the Church Bazaar were constant for over 70 years.

Mary Ward Raymont died peacefully at her home on the 13th of February 2021, aged 104.



WE NEED YOU!

ANNUAL HISTORICAL TOUR - 2023 - 150TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

We would like to hear from you, our readers, about the theme or the people we should be highlighting for our 150th Anniversary Annual Historical Tour.

Email us at ewagner@beechwoodottawa.ca with your suggestions