

ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY CEMETERY

- Est. 1957 -

*“An Historical Cemetery
Where Peaceful Waters Flow”*

A member of the OACFP (Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals)

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THE NEWSLETTER

An annual publication - February, 2018 - Volume 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE CHANGING TRENDS OF THE DEATH CARE INDUSTRY— Hello everyone!

If you have attended a funeral home service recently, you may have noticed some changing trends. Many are opting for less traditional funerals and are now incorporating more personal and life celebratory elements into the service for their loved ones. This could be anything from video clips by the deceased to including an all-terrain vehicle right in the viewing room. One only needs to look online as well to see how quickly the industry is changing. This is also true for interment services at the cemetery. We have noticed quite a dramatic change in requests over the last 10 years and especially in the last five. I am referring to the people who are rediscovering the importance of memorialization, but they don't want old solutions, they want new ones. There's a huge movement to redefine the burial as a life celebration so this could include anything from live music and singing, the releasing of doves or the release of fireworks. Not to mention, many new looks in monuments and what to include on them. Needless to say, there is a limit to which we can abide.



Also, a desire for less expensive and simpler ceremonies appears to be a major driver for the increase in cremation disposition. Cremation, which can be a less expensive alternative, has exploded in popularity over the last few decades and is now the preferred option for about 65 percent of Canadians—up from 6 percent in 1970. St. Lawrence Valley Cemetery is seeing a continual rise in cremation disposition and just last year was 81%. We will, however, continue to offer and be mindful of traditional means for burial. The cemetery is presently working with 32 developed acres and still has another 40 acres to the west. This will take us far into the future for whatever the trends may turn out to be.

Speaking of trends, this year the cemetery is fortunate to have in place a wonderful new software program which will help to streamline record keeping and improve access to the list of rights holders and interments. The large wall map is also getting a re-do as it has seen the better part of twenty years. Because of the scope of the work, we have hired a part-time assistant this year who, for the most part, will be spending her days doing data entry into the new software program. Data entry will take some time as all records from 1957 will be entered. That works out to be close to 9,000 burials. There will be a bit of a learning curve to the new program when it comes to the manner in which sales of interment rights take place. These changes are certainly needed as the cemetery has seen a steady increase both in interments and general business over the last ten years. Thank you to Board member Ken Kyer for all his hard work and assistance in getting us started on this important project. *“Cemeteries are forever”* and with your help, we are endeavoring to ensure that St. Lawrence Valley Cemetery exists in perpetuity no matter the TREND!

...cont'd

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2017

Mike Cook, President

(613) 534-2315

Doug Wereley, 1st Vice-President

(613) 534-2667

Ron Symington, 2nd Vice-President

(613) 932-8125

Bonnie Ross, Secretary-Treasurer/
Administrator

(613) 534-2915

Ken Kyer, Director

(613) 938-1013

Shirley Johnston, Director

(613) 933-8709

Debbie Jones-Tinker, Director

(613) 537-8833

Wendy MacDonald, Director

(613) 362-4003

Linda Runions, Director

(613) 931-1493

We presently have two openings on our Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining our Board, please contact the Administrator for more information.

Administrative Assistant,

Tammy Shannon

Grounds Keepers, Kevin Tobin and Mark Cook

General enquires may be directed to the Administrator

April 1st to October 31st - Monday to

Thursday - 9:00 am. - 4:00 pm. and

Friday - 9:00 am. - 3:30 pm.

Off-Season

November 1st to March 31st -

Monday to Thursday - 10:30 am. - 3 pm.

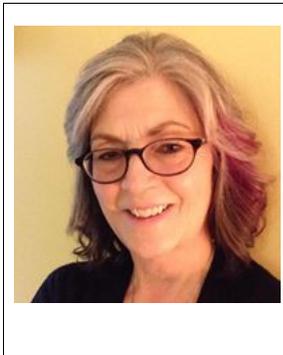
and Friday - 10:30 am. - 2:30 pm.

A special thank you to Bonnie our Administrator for her strong work ethics and her personal touches and influence in and around the Cemetery. 2017 proved to be a very busy year here at the Cemetery which created a lot of challenges in the day to day operation just to keep up. Her care and devotion to the cemetery and especially the Rights Holders and their families are above and beyond the call of duty.

The cemetery, which I consider to be one of the most pristine and tranquil cemeteries in S.D. & G., is made possible because of our dedicated grounds keepers, Mark Cook and Kevin Tobin. St. Lawrence Valley Cemetery would not be in the present condition if it were not for the extra care and pride they take in the cemetery.

A special thanks once again to our dedicated cemetery Board members. They donate their time, energy and input for the greater good of this cemetery. We have a great team with strong team leaders. Last, but not least, thanks to you the Rights Holders for your continued support and donations which are greatly appreciated which allows us to keep going forward. Hope to see you again in June at our Annual Memorial Service!

Sincerely – Mike Cook, Chairman



ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTES

by Bonnie Ross

It's pouring rain today as I am typing this. It has been for two days now. But it's the middle of winter! You would think I would be used to these Canadian winters by now but no; especially after the summer we really didn't have last year.! It took most of the season to get the grounds, grave lots and shrub beds looking decent but, in the end I have to say, in all my 23 years here as the Administrator, the cemetery never looked more beautiful. My personal thank you goes out to our team of grounds keepers, Kevin and Mark who took

everything in stride and take pride in everything they do. Special thanks to Ron Symington and his Maintenance Committee who are bringing fresh new ideas to the Board.

I've often been asked over the years- "So what do *you* do all day working at a cemetery?" I have to laugh to myself because I guess it would appear to the outside world that there wouldn't be much to do "at a cemetery", however, that is certainly not the case. As a "not-for-profit, charitable organization", there are many departments with which we are dealing with on a regular basis. Here is a short summary to give you an idea of what all is involved in running a busy cemetery –

January – Budget Meetings with the Board of Directors, initial preparations for the Memorial Service, completion of four reports required by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, year-end office and record filings and maintenance, winter vault reception, receiving of families with immediate needs, just to name a few.

February – Auditor attendance to prepare year-end Financial Statements, this Newsletter, commencement of records on new cemetery software program (new this year), updating office material and handouts, reporting to the Board, continuation of January.

March - Continuation of January and February, answering general office inquires, contract renewals, reports, updates for Website and Facebook page, board recruitment, Memorial Service and Annual Lot & Niche Holders Meeting preparation, reporting to the Board. **From April to October**, the grounds keepers have returned and interments have begun. It is a full day of dealings with families, Funeral Homes, monument companies and contractors. The Annual Meeting takes place in April and the Memorial Service takes place in June. The office is usually closed for a week in July for some vacation time.

November and December – we may still be conducting interments depending on the weather, office administration as usual and planning for the new year. Also, the volunteer Board of Directors meets approximately 6 to 7 times per year of which I am also a part as the Secretary-Treasurer. **I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and the Board for all their hard work and support helping to make my job that much easier! "May Spring come quickly – Blessings!"**



IN LOVING MEMORY - 2017

by Month of Interment

April

Byers, Wallace Alexander
Blanchette, Lucile

May

Brunet, Florian Pierre
Tobin, Charles Francis Joseph
Meyer, John Hendrik William
Arthur, Curtis Robert
Arthur, Anne Helen
Duchesne, Robert
Collins, Alda Myra
Young, Lea Margaret
Gove, William John
Williams, William Robert
Cutler, Thomas Nathan
Cutler, Margaret Seymour
Lopez, Susan Lillian Helen
Campbell, Gwendolyn
MacDonald, Dolores Mary
Abrams, Gordon Westley
Warner, Shirley

June

Wert, Joan Adena
Styles, James Harvey
Haworth, Jack
Galt, Robert John
Beattie, Stephen Raymond
Leavitt, Russell Reed
Malone, John Archibald
Smith, Kathryn MacDonald
Brown, May Irene
Burrell, Betty
Scrimshaw, Marvin Seymour
Gadbois, Edward Howard
Woods, David Edward
Charlebois, Germaine Francoise
Giroux, Judy Joyce
Giroux, Andre
Dutrisac, Reginald Omer
Markell, Isabella C.
Surprenant, Judy Donna
Keen, Mary Dorothy Gothard
Manning, William
Loucks, Barbara Ann
Hollister, Anne Kathryn
Whitney, Stephen H.
Beavers, Patrick
Dillabough, Ralph Henry
Shillito, Veronica
Gogo, Jean
Ouderkirk, Melvin Watson
Mason, Norman Joseph Raoul
Smith, Janet Watkinson
Hillis, George
Killoran, Deborah Ann
Poapst, Garnet

July

Murphy, Lorenzo
Leger, Gilles Rodolphe
Whitehead, Gladys Mary
Kyer, Dorothy
Garratt, Dorothy
Auburn, Darlene Pamela
Mack, Stewart Ashdown
Gowan, Marilyn Alison
Hamel, Gerard
Lunn, Anne Marie
Douma, Bertha Julia
Douma, Edward Dominicus
Archambault, Emile
Maskery, Wilfred Samuel
Hedley, Gwendren
Carvell, Margaret Scott
Paulin, Anna
Reilly, Jane Taylor Watson
Duplantis, Margeret

Aug.

Daigen, Sarah
Whittaker, Carolyn Gladys
Roy, Leo Albert
Bulbuc, Helen
Leduc, Claude Wilfred
Aikman, Norma
Poirier, James
Stuart, Robert McConkey
Stewart, Alan Dale
St. Jean, Thomas C.
Kelso, Robert
Goguen, Bernard
Goguen, Jean Marie

Sept.

Lapierre, Tylor Michael Patrick
Weagant, Cameron Brock
Shane, Joseph Arnold
Walker, Ross
Winters, Rev. James Alvin
Alguire, Elgin Sutherland
Alguire, Barbara
Underwood, Bette Mae (Infant)
Marion, Raymond
Schade, Shirley Blanche
Copithorne, Guelda Eileen
Carter (Zeran), Patricia
Roderick, Mary Crawford

Oct.

Campbell, Betty Lou
Cameron, Donna C.
McDonald, William Jr.
Kuzyk, Margaret
Villeneuve, Marcel Joseph
McAllister, Brian
Steele, Duane Everett
Sutherland, Daniel
White (Cordell), Nora Pauline
Murphy, Douglas Clement

Cont'd

KINDLY MARK YOUR CALENDERS

The annual **LOT & NICHE HOLDERS MEETING**

will be held on
Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 at 7 pm.

All Rights Holders are welcome to attend. The meeting will be comprised of Committee Reports, motion to appoint our Auditors, passing of the General By-Laws and election of the Board of Directors for 2018.

PROMOTION COMMITTEE REPORT

by **Debbie Jones-Tinker and Wendy MacDonald**
Committee Co-Chairwomen

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

will be held on
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018 at 2 pm
on the Cemetery grounds, rain or shine under the tent.
Please bring a lawn chair and plan to join us for refreshments after the service.

GUEST SPEAKER

Father Kevin J. Maloney
St. Francis de Sales Parish
Cornwall, Ontario

MUSIC BY – Candice Provost

The Committee is always open to suggestions and new ideas on how best to promote our lovely cemetery.

Please feel free to contact us.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by **Ron Symington**
Committee Chairman



Again, I would to start by thanking our grounds-keeping team of Mark Cook and Kevin Tobin for their hard work and great ideas to make and keep our cemetery looking beautiful. Their dedication and pride in workmanship makes my job easy.

In 2017, we installed Lakeshore Columbarium #4. The final interlock walkways will be installed early this year. This fall we will construct the foundation for Columbarium 4B to be ready for a May/June, 2019 delivery of the new columbarium.

This year our Administrator, Bonnie Ross and her new Assistant, Tammy Shannon, have begun the long and time-consuming task of entering all of the historical information in the new computer program that the cemetery has recently purchased. This program will not only improve efficiency but, more importantly, preserve our irreplaceable records in a safe orderly fashion.

Signs have been installed to identify the new [Sunset Cremation Garden] on the westerly side of the grounds.

We will continue to identify and replace the foundations on existing monuments that are failing or sinking and causing an unsafe and/or unsightly condition.

We plan to construct a new funeral coach entrance from the Ring Road to the southeast corner of the grounds to provide a safe stable access to gravesites in this area.

We will endeavor to keep St. Lawrence Valley a beautiful and peaceful memorial garden. Should you have any comments or concerns, please send them to our Administrator for our consideration.

Thank you.

SERVICES, MEMORIALS AND PROGRAMS

4' x 10' in-ground burial lots for caskets and urns / 3' x 4' in-ground cremation lots for one or two urns
Columbaria niches for one or two urns

Solid bronze vases, emblems and porcelain pictures / Completion inscription service

Winter Vault Committal / Pre-Need Planning Services

Flat bronze or granite markers with or without a vase

Memorial Tree and Bench Programs / Genealogical Research Assistance / Annual Newsletter and Memorial Service

One-time Care & Maintenance fee on lots, niches and foundations

Website - www.stlawrencevalleycemetery.ca and "Like" us on Facebook at "St. Lawrence Valley Cemetery"