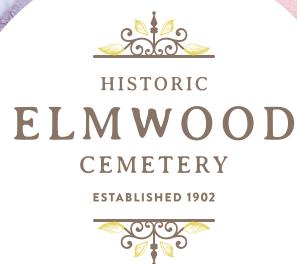


# the bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE HISTORIC ELMWOOD CEMETERY



*Historic Elmwood Cemetery has been a trusted part of Winnipeg's rich tradition and history for well over a century. Since its founding in 1902, Historic Elmwood Cemetery has committed itself to providing outstanding service and beautiful environments for honouring heritage, remembering loved ones, and commemorating special events. We welcome and serve all faiths and cultures, and we offer a wide range of options for memorialization.*

## No Stone Left Alone

Elmwood Cemetery has an official "Field of Honour" which is a national designation honouring veterans. On Friday, November 10th, school children from Victor Wyatt School placed poppies on the 700 gravestones of veterans. Elmwood Royal Canadian Legion #9 organized the morning.



## Welcome

The Historic Elmwood Cemetery Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Mr. Harry Sklar as its newest director. Harry's long history of marketing and sales will be a real asset and we all look forward to working with him.



## ANNUAL SLEIGH RIDE

On Louis Riel Day, Monday, February 19, 2018, we will be hosting the annual sleigh ride through the cemetery from noon until 3:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the day with your family. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available. Donations are gratefully accepted.

# the bulletin

## The Mirimba Family

Since 1998 six million people have been killed in the Congo in what has been referred to as a 'silent genocide' and four million Congolese have been forced to flee for their lives amidst the violence. Such was the plight of the twelve member Mirimba family. Amos Mirimba had lost his first wife in the warfare and was left with six children. He subsequently remarried and had more children with Esther. They all fled to Uganda to a refugee camp in Kampala. After waiting for the red tape to be sorted out, the Mirimba family were finally accepted as refugees to Canada in 2013. Welcome Place, a Manitoba Interfaith initiative, was their first home in Winnipeg.

We at Elmwood Cemetery were fortunate in being able to hire Daniella and Nicole Mirimba for the summer to scrape, prime, and paint the iron fence fronting Henderson Highway. They did a splendid job and the fence has been restored.

Daniella has returned to university and has also obtained her driver's licence while Nicole is now at St. Boniface College in a nursing program. We wish them both well and thank them for their hard work over the summer!

## Did You Know...

- The cemetery office will be closed on Dec. 25, 26 & 27 and Jan. 1.
- You should check your family's monuments for listing or damage. Inform the office and it will be attended to.
- Legend has it the Turk family interred their horse, Chips, in the family plot.

## Executive Director's Fall Report



Bruce Birchard

Where did the summer go? It seems like just yesterday that I took over for Jim Baker as the Executive Director. The staff and I have been very busy with a few projects on the go and a heavy schedule of interments and maintenance.

Upon my hiring, the Board of Directors asked that the staff and I continue to enhance the cemetery, while continuing to improve our policies and procedures. The Board had many priorities, but the first order of business was the fence alongside Henderson Highway.

We investigated replacing the fence and found that repair was the more efficient way to proceed; however, we still needed to find workers to grind off the rust, and to prime and repaint the fence. We settled on hiring the Mirimba family, recent refugees from the Congo. The daughters, Daniella and Nicole, took on the project and did a wonderful job, with some help and encouragement from their father, Amos. We wish the girls well this year as they return to their studies.

The second major project was new lighting and the levelling of the area around the Henderson Gate entrance. This project was championed by Richard Joy, our cemetery manager, and his staff. The site was under construction for most of the summer, but was finished in September of this year. I must say Richard did a great job and as the grass

grows in next year it will be a highlight of the cemetery.

In the office we continued our archive project and have now scanned and saved electronically over 45,000 interment sheets (Records of Burial) to date. In addition, we continue to compare and rectify differences between our electronic and historical records. We thank The Winnipeg Foundation for their generous grant which is allowing us to preserve our historical records.

In addition to the above two major projects we installed new planters around our columbaria and planted disease resistant elm trees throughout the cemetery. On a sad note, the City of Winnipeg has marked 45 elm trees for removal from the cemetery over the winter.

None of the above could be accomplished without the generous support of our donors. Every dollar donated is placed in our endowment fund at The Winnipeg Foundation, which now provides half of the operating dollars required to continue to improve and maintain the cemetery. The remainder of our funds comes from the sale of plots, niches, interment fees and fees for miscellaneous services.

Despite the numerous projects completed this year we are planning several initiatives for the next year. We will continue to digitize our historical records and are enhancing our mapping of the cemetery. This allows us to provide more accurate mapping for our visitors enabling them to locate graves in the cemetery in an easier fashion.

In addition, we are asking for volunteers this spring to help uncover flat markers in the cemetery. Over the years the flat markers sink into the ground or are buried with debris. This will help preserve the markers and assist in navigating the cemetery.

With the generous help of one of our donors we are building a mobile wash station for monuments which will allow cemetery staff to clean efficiently and help preserve some of

(continued on back page)

**Call for Volunteers** The Cemetery is looking for volunteers who can help uncover and dig around flat markers in the cemetery. We will provide all tools required. Please call Nancy in the office (204-667-9481) if you can help out this spring.

## A Pioneer Story

Our country and our city were built on the sweat and blood of a brave and hardy group, the pioneers. These courageous people left their countries, their loved ones and all that was familiar and struck out for new lives in new lands.

Pearl Kernatz was one such pioneer. She was born Paraska Malkowich in 1880 in Ukraine. All alone, she secretly came to Canada in 1904, fleeing from an abusive husband. In 1916 she married John Kernatz who had been born in Ukraine in

**SHE ACCOMPLISHED  
MUCH... AND CERTAINLY  
ADDED TO THE COLOURFUL  
TAPESTRY THAT IS  
WINNIPEG.**

1890 and arrived in Canada in 1913. John was a machinist for many years for CP Rail. The couple had two sons, Anthony in 1918 and Nicholas in 1920.

Pearl was an astute business woman who bought and repaired rental properties and she provided mortgages to those who needed them. As well, Pearl was a founding member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Through her hard work, she was also able to return to Ukraine and arrange for her mother and five younger siblings to come to Canada.

In 1939 tragedy struck when Anthony, one day after his twenty first birthday, was in collision with an automobile and killed. Pearl and John purchased a family plot in Historic Elmwood Cemetery and Anthony was the first of the family laid to rest there. Other family members followed. In 1957 the Kernatz family lost their second son, Nicholas, who was thirty seven years old. Nicholas was survived by his wife, Edna Mae (nee Dack), and four young daughters. Pearl impressed on her granddaughters the importance of an education.

Pearl Kernatz passed away in 1963 and was buried beside her sons. In 1968 John Kernatz was also interred in the family plot. There have been ash burials in the plot as well. Pearl's brother, Anthony (Angus) Malkowich, who immigrated to the United States in 1907, died in Chicago in 1960. Adelaide Mae Dack, mother of Edna, died in 1994. Edna Mae Genyk (nee Dack, Kernatz) who was Nicholas's widow and the mother of his children died in 2004 and was also interred in the family plot.

Pearl Kernatz was an anomaly in an age where women stayed in the kitchen and tended to children. She accomplished much through hard work and perseverance and certainly added to the colourful tapestry that is Winnipeg.



## Financial Information

Our cemetery operations were very busy this summer with interments increasing over 15% from last year. Our staff still managed to complete some large projects in the cemetery and we have received many compliments on the cemetery grounds. The Winnipeg Foundation continues to steward our endowment fund in an exemplary fashion and grants from the endowment now contribute over 50% of our operating costs.

As in the past we operate without government support and must cover all costs from our perpetual trust endowment income and from the sale of plots, niches and various fees.

I take this opportunity to thank our generous donors for their past support as without you we would not be able to operate. We are half way to our goal of \$50,000 in donations for the year and we hope that you will consider us in your year-end charitable donations. All donations are placed into the perpetual care fund held at The Winnipeg Foundation. We would also like to thank all our Long-Term Care patrons as their support allows us to ensure the cemetery is well planted with flowers. Please note, if your ten-year term is coming to an end contact the office for renewal rates.

This summer we managed to repair and paint our fence on Henderson Hwy, install new lighting at the Henderson Gate and level the area surrounding the columbaria. In addition, we replaced the tractor, planted new trees and installed new planters throughout the cemetery. In the office, we continue to digitize and preserve our historical records.

Next year, we hope to begin repairs on the roadway and build a new garage to store our equipment.

Donations can be made to the cemetery and designated in the following ways:

### **Annual, Monthly, and General Donations:**

■ Perpetual Care Fund   ■ Save Our Elms

.....  
■ Provide for a donation in your will

■ Dedicate all or a portion of a life insurance policy to Elmwood Cemetery

### **Long Term Care – 10 years of service**

■ \$1500 first grave - \$800 each adjoining grave  
(prices subject to change)

■ Receive a tax receipt for 100% of the contribution

Please contact Nancy Borne, Office Manager, for additional information.

(We do recommend consultation with a financial advisor for Estate and other tax implications.)



# the bulletin

Please meet our dedicated Board of Directors & Cemetery Staff

## Our Board of Directors

Mr. Richard Schwartz, *Chair*  
Mr. Jim Baker, *Director*  
Mr. Hollingsworth Cowan, *Director*  
Mr. Ron Hector, *Director*  
Ms Alison Mendres, *Director*  
Ms Deb Schwartz, *Director*  
Mr. Harry Sklar, *Director*

## Our Operations Team

Mr. Bruce Birchard, *Executive Director*  
Ms Nancy Borne, *Office Manager*  
Mr. Richard Joy, *Director of Cemetery Operations and Maintenance*

Due to a computer malfunction we have had to back up the newsletter mailing list. We apologize for any errors in names or addresses.

If you have received this newsletter in error, or if your address has changed, please call the cemetery office so we can update your information.

If you know of friends or family who would like to be added to our mailing list, please let us know.



(Executive Director *continued*)

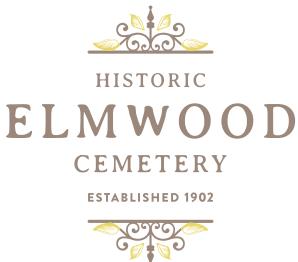
our oldest monuments. Monument cleaning is a service our staff provides and we are happy to show you the difference the acid wash and cleaning makes on your monument.

Hopefully, we will be able to repair the roadway next year and, also, enhance our storage for equipment thereby lowering future maintenance costs.

Again, I would like to thank all of our donors and The Winnipeg Foundation for their stewardship of our endowment funds. As a side note, visitors to our website, [www.historicelmwoodcemetery.ca](http://www.historicelmwoodcemetery.ca), can make donations directly to our endowment fund at The Winnipeg Foundation.

The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery are dedicated to preserving and ensuring the cemetery is maintained forever. We always appreciate your help and wish you well over the winter months.

*Bruce Birchard, CPA CA  
Executive Director*



88 Hespeler Avenue,  
Winnipeg MB R2L 0L3  
Phone: 204 667 9481  
Fax: 204 668 2232  
Email: [office@elmcem.ca](mailto:office@elmcem.ca)  
[www.historicelmwoodcemetery.ca](http://www.historicelmwoodcemetery.ca)

Proudly owned & operated by  
Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Inc.

HOURS OF OPERATION:  
Office 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Monday to Friday

Closed 12:00 - 1:00 for lunch

Cemetery 8:00 am - 8:00 pm  
(April to October)  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
(October to April)

Charitable Registration No:  
88462 0626 RR0001

## Yes, I would like to help preserve and care for Historic Elmwood Cemetery:

- Please accept my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (return envelope enclosed)  
 Annual Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_  Monthly Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Please accept my credit card donation: (please print)

To make a gift by credit card fill out this form or call 204-667-9481

Card number \_\_\_\_\_  VISA  MC  Amex

Expiry \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
MONTH YEAR

To receive a charitable tax receipt please include the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Inc.