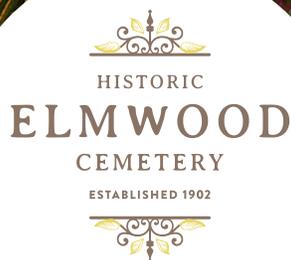


# the bulletin

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.*

## In Winnipeg at Christmas

In Winnipeg at Christmas there's lots and lots of snow  
 Very clean and crisp and hard  
 And glittering like a Christmas card, Everywhere you go;  
 Snow upon the housetops, snow along the street,  
 And Queen Victoria in her chair  
 Has snow upon her snowy hair, And snow upon her feet.  
 In Winnipeg at Christmas they line the streets with trees—  
 Christmas trees lit up at night  
 With little balls of coloured light, As pretty as you please.  
 The people hurry past you in furry boots and wraps;  
 The sleighs are like a picture book,  
 And all the policemen look, Like Teddy Bears in caps.  
 And oh! The smiling ladies and jolly girls and boys;  
 And oh! The parties and the fun  
 With lovely things for everyone — Books and sweets and toys.  
 So if someday at Christmas you don't know where to go,  
 Just pack your bags I beg,  
 And start at once for Winnipeg;  
 You'll like it there I know.

- Rose Fyleman



## In Winnipeg at Christmas



Jean Alexandra MacDonald (nee Hembroff) was born in Winnipeg on April 5, 1908 and passed away at the age of 102 on February 2, 2011. Words, along with articulation, were of utmost importance to Jean, and,

over the years, she was in demand for readings and recitals of poetry and prose. She became somewhat of a celebrity and was often called upon to speak at various Winnipeg clubs and organizations. Public speaking led her to become an adjudicator for drama and poetry festivals across Canada. Her career of over 50 years encompassed teaching and coaching public speaking, adjudicating, and broadcasting for CBC.

In December of 1929 Rose Fyleman, a noted British children's author, was invited to Winnipeg as a guest speaker. One evening the author and Jean MacDonald walked from the Fort Garry Hotel to the Manitoba Legislative grounds in order to see the statue of Queen Victoria. It was a beautiful winter evening and later Mrs. Fyleman was inspired to write the poem, "In Winnipeg at Christmas". Jean recited this poem countless times on various broadcasts and events.

There is so much more to be related about Jean MacDonald, a remarkable woman, but space does not permit. Mrs. MacDonald is interred at Historic Elmwood Cemetery.



\*Most of us who were school aged in the '50's will remember this poem.

## Report of the Executive Director



*Bruce Birchard*

As I write this report the cemetery is closed due to the unprecedented winter storm that struck Winnipeg in mid-October. Our tree canopy suffered severe damage and several trees have large branches which are broken and hanging. Only one single monument

was damaged by the branches and trees that fell, which is a small blessing. It will be repaired next summer.

Thank you very much to Green Drop Tree Care for making cleanup of the cemetery a priority so that normal operations can return shortly.

The summer was busy with interments and with maintenance of the cemetery. The dry weather stressed the tree canopy and a few trees succumbed for lack of water. In addition a few monuments shifted and fell or are in danger of falling. Staff has repaired as many monuments as possible, but if you are concerned about a family monument please contact the office and it will be checked on.

In partnership with Veteran Affairs and the Commonwealth Graves Commission, 200 markers and monuments have been cleaned, replaced, raised, and levelled in several larger areas. New grass was planted and this has enhanced the entire cemetery.

The mapping project has been completed and an accurate list of gravesites in the cemetery has been developed. There are several hundred excellent sites available although there is a shortage of double monument sites. If you desire a double monument site, please contact the office.

In general the new maps will help our visitors more easily find the grave locations of ancestors and loved ones. If you are planning a visit to the cemetery and do not know the location of the grave, please call the office and staff will prepare a map for you in advance of your visit.

Historical documents are continuously scanned into our system so that an electronic record is available for easy recovery. We are interested in your family history; if you have obituaries or family records, please send them to us so that we can attach them to our system.

We had a successful summer and I thank you for your generosity and past support as we cannot keep the cemetery in top shape without you. Every dollar donated is invested into the endowment fund at The Winnipeg Foundation which provides inflation protected investment income to Elmwood Cemetery in perpetuity.

The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery group is dedicated to preserving and ensuring that the cemetery is maintained forever. We wish you well over the coming winter and look forward to meeting you in the future.

## Treasurer's Report



*Jim Baker*

The Board members review financial statements and the related Executive Director's reports throughout the year. Operations have shown strong results so far on the revenue side along with managed expenses. This makes for good cash flow and for opportunities

to maximize our matching program with the Winnipeg Foundation. Yields from the Foundation have been good in relation to market returns during the year.

I would not be doing my job if I didn't encourage your continued support by way of donations. There will come a time when revenues will be virtually all from the investment fund as traditional burial sites become fewer. The ongoing mapping program shows a good supply of single sites and fewer doubles at this time. We will also run out of columbarium spaces eventually. Please think of the cemetery in your will planning and annual giving.

I would like to thank Nancy and Bruce for their timely reporting and the Board members for their input throughout the year.





## In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.

Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

James Frederick Kilgour practiced law in Guelph, Ontario before moving to Manitoba where he became a partner in the law firm of Philip and Kilgour in Brandon. In 1927 he was appointed to the Court of King's bench and moved his family to Winnipeg. He was married to Geills McCrae, the daughter of David McCrae and Janet Simpson Eckford. Her two brothers were eminent physicians and became distinguished soldiers. John McCrae, her younger brother, died in World War I in France. He was the author of a book of verse called "In Flanders Fields", the poem which has become synonymous with Remembrance Day. Judge Kilgour and Mrs. Geills McCrae Kilgour are both buried in Historic Elmwood Cemetery.



## ANNUAL SLEIGH RIDE

The annual sleigh ride through the cemetery will take place on Louis Riel Day, February 17, 2020 from noon until 3:00 p.m. Bring the family. Coffee, cookies, and hot chocolate will be supplied in the office.

## Save Our Elms

In order to preserve the existing canopy of trees at the cemetery, management and the board have developed a multi year plan to slow the loss of trees.

First of all, elm trees that are infected with Dutch Elm Disease are removed over the winter months. This ensures that the beetles do not migrate in the spring. In late August the trees are sprayed with Basal to prevent the elm bark beetles from overwintering since they carry the Dutch Elm Disease fungus.

Working with Matt Vinet of Green Drop Tree Care, the staff has electronically mapped the mature trees in the cemetery. Green Drop will

trim approximately 50 of the healthiest elm trees annually on a 6 to 7 year rotation. In July each tree will be injected with "Arbotect 20 S Fungicide", a product developed by Bioforest Technologies, Inc. This procedure protects each elm from Dutch Elm Disease for 3 years. The cost is between \$500 and \$1500 per tree.

This spring the cemetery will also be sprayed for canker worms. The heavy infestation for the past two years has put additional stress on the trees. Even though the natural cycle should result in fewer worms in 2020, Green Drop recommends spraying because a third year of infestation could have a lasting impact on the trees.

Forty two new trees were planted this year; however, these will take decades to mature.

So how can you help? Any donation to the cemetery builds the perpetual fund which provides the income for these projects. For a \$500 donation you can "Adopt a Tree". A specific tree will be injected and, if desired, a plaque with the family name can be placed by the tree. The more trees that are 'adopted', the faster we can protect the elms. Everyone is encouraged to help as much as they can. Please mark your donation slip or let staff know that you wish to adopt a tree. Thank you to the families who adopted a tree over the winter!



## The Storm

There was extensive damage to the trees in the cemetery due to the unseasonable storm that ravaged Winnipeg on October 11. For safety reasons and in order to clean up the debris, the cemetery was closed from October 11 until October 17. Cleanup is ongoing.



## Did You Know?

- In 1918 the remains of Jemima May Waterston Paterson were disinterred and moved to the paupers' area of the cemetery because her grandfather had neglected to pay the cemetery fees.
- In the 1907 list of rules for the cemetery, we find the following: "Horses must not be left without a driver unless securely fastened and must not be tied to trees."
- Dr. Paul Thorlakson, who is buried at Elmwood Cemetery, formed the Maclean-Thorlakson Clinic in partnership with N.J. Maclean. In 1938 the clinic was renamed The Winnipeg Clinic. Dr. Thorlakson was also instrumental in organizing the Manitoba Medical Centre now known as The Health Sciences Centre.
- Historic Elmwood Cemetery covers 38 acres of land.



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*
- Mrs. Alison Mendres, *Director*
- Mr. Harry Sklar, *Director*
- Mrs. Linda Klassen, *Director*
- Mr. Rudy Klassen, *Director*

### Our Operations Team

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

### Legacy Program

The ten year 'legacy program' includes planting and watering flowers annually at the monument. Levelling the ground, seeding grass, raising, levelling, and cleaning of markers and the monument is done as required. Adjoining graves get "care" but no flowers. A tax receipt is issued for the full amount.

- First grave .....\$1500
- Each adjoining grave .....\$800

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.

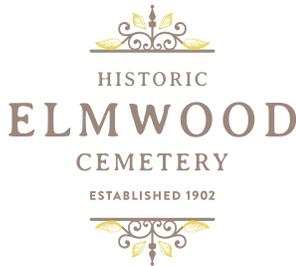
If you know of friends or family who would like to be added to our mailing list, please let us know.

### Why do your donations matter?

For Historic Elmwood Cemetery to be financially self-sufficient in the future, the annual amount of our investment income will have to cover most of our annual operating costs.

Our policy is to place 100% of all donations into the Perpetual Endowment Fund thus growing the fund and increasing income each year. Income from the fund covers over 50% of current operating costs with the remainder split between plot and niche sales and fees for interments and maintenance. Some time in the future the plots and niches will be sold, and this source of revenue will cease for the cemetery. This income, currently \$125,000 annually, will have to be replaced by investment income. Based on a current payout ratio of 5% this would require the endowment fund to grow a further \$2.5 million from today's base.

So your donations matter because each dollar donated moves us closer to ensuring the care of the cemetery in perpetuity for your loved ones.



88 Hespeler Avenue,  
Winnipeg MB R2L 0L3  
Phone: 204 667 9481  
Email: office@elmcem.ca  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_  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.