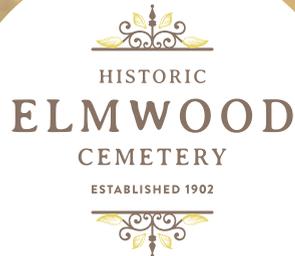


# connections

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.*

Once again, due to the pandemic, we have had to cancel the annual distribution of carnations on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9. Of course, you are still very welcome to pay tribute to your mothers at the cemetery.

Of all the special joys in life,  
The big ones and the small,  
A mother's love and tenderness  
Is the greatest of them all.



### Historic Elmwood Cemetery Rules

1. The planting of new shrubs, bushes or trees is not permitted on any portion of the plot.
2. The planting of annual flowers only is permitted directly in front of the monument or adjacent to a flatmarker.
3. A flat footmarker is allowed on a lawnsite plot, and must be granite.
4. Artificial flowers are permitted between April 15 and September 15. Flowers and wreaths which are placed at the gravesite during a funeral will remain for 10 days. Wreaths with stands are permitted Oct. 15 - April 15 only.
5. All artificial flowers should be removed by the owner on or before September 15th in order to facilitate the Fall clean-up.
6. The use of glass and metal containers, border fences or other obstructing objects are not permissible as they become a safety hazard to the general public as well as to the cemetery staff and equipment.
7. The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Inc. does not accept any responsibility for the damage or theft/vandalism to monuments, footmarkers, wreaths, flowers, vases, etc..
8. The water main is not turned on until after May 24th and is turned off during the first two weeks in October. This is usually an inconvenience to visitors but the danger of freezing prevents the selection of any other period in the year for water service.
11. NO DOGS ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES.
12. The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Inc. reserves the right to revise or change the Rules, Regulations, Limitations and Restrictions from time to time.



*Bruce Birchard*

As I write this report the geese are arriving and an early Manitoba spring is rolling in, the vaccines are rolling out and we all sincerely hope that we return to a normal summer. We would like to thank you, the generous donors and supporters, for your tremendous support over the past year. We are happy to report that the cemetery was able to remain on budget last year due to your support.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families whose loved ones passed away during these times. Many families were unable to hold funerals and those who did had to manage them with severe restrictions in place. Many interments have been delayed and we hope that with the vaccine rollout that travel restrictions will be lifted allowing interments to take place and assisting in closure for families.

With our mild winter we completed a fair amount of tree maintenance. We removed all of the trees affected with Dutch Elm Disease in December and trimmed 87 other elms in the cemetery. In addition, several stumps were removed as well as a few other trees that were dead or diseased. The Save Our Elms campaign continues with your generous support.

We are happy to report that most of our historical documents have been scanned creating an electronic record that is readily available and easy to recover. Our scanning project is ongoing, and we are interested in your family history, so if you have obituaries or a written family history, we would appreciate a copy that we can attach to our system.

As mentioned in the fall Connections newsletter we have completed new

maps for the cemetery and an inventory of available grave sites. We still have hundreds of gravesites available, but double monument plots are in short supply. If you are interested in a site, please call the office.

The cemetery covers 38 acres, so if you are visiting and do not know where your relatives are located please stop by the office and we will be happy to provide a detailed map. If you have concerns about a site in the cemetery, please contact the office for a maintenance quote.

This summer we look forward to installing some new columbaria on the river side of the cemetery. Although, we have plenty of niches available at the Henderson Gate, we have a limited supply of niches in other areas.

Work will continue levelling areas of the cemetery. We plan to continue in sections 3B and 7. Smaller areas throughout the cemetery will be attended to also. Staff will probe, uncover, and re-level markers and monuments in many sections of the cemetery.

The Board and I take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and past support as we cannot continue to keep the cemetery in top shape without you. Every dollar donated is invested at the Winnipeg Foundation. This provides inflation protected investment income for Elmwood Cemetery in perpetuity. The Winnipeg Foundation is a remarkable steward of our investment funds and they continue to grow our funds despite these turbulent times.

The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery is dedicated to preserving and ensuring that the cemetery is maintained forever. We wish you well over the summer and pray you are safe and healthy. We look forward to seeing you in the future.





## Save Our Elms Campaign

We are moving into Year 4 of the campaign to Save our Elms and the tree canopy in the cemetery. The plan, developed by the Board and Green Drop Tree Care, is to trim all of the trees in the cemetery over a 6-7 year rotation, inject our elms with a fungicide which protects them from Dutch Elm Disease, plant new trees, and to ensure that infected trees are removed quickly from the cemetery.

In addition, we remove old stumps and spray the trees to protect the foliage from canker worms and the overwintering of elm bark beetles.

We have injected just under 100 elm trees with Arbotect 20-S fungicide, a product developed by BioForest Technologies Inc. which protects them from Dutch Elm Disease for 3 years. BioForest has been donating some extra product each year and we thank them for their support. Starting next year, we will start re-injecting some trees as their protection from the fungicide will end.

We trimmed and pruned 87 elm trees in the cemetery this winter and planted 20 new trees last summer. We plan to plant a further 45 trees this August. Some of these will replace trees that were snapped during the vandalism last August.

Unfortunately, we still lost 43 trees to Dutch Elm disease and a few of our oak trees due to the dry weather. These were all removed in December.

We will continue to plant new trees. However, these young saplings will take decades to mature.

So how can you help? For starters, any donation to the cemetery builds the perpetual fund which provides the income for these projects, but for a \$500 donation you can Adopt A Tree. For a \$500 donation we will specifically inject an elm tree selected by your family. The more trees that are adopted, the faster we can protect the elms. I sincerely thank the families who have adopted a tree over the past year and I encourage everyone to help as much as they can. Please just mark your donation slip or let our staff know if you are adopting a tree.

The more trees that are adopted, the faster we can protect the elms.

OUR PROUD SUPPORTERS



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to host the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the cemetery. However, we are very pleased to tell you that the veterans did not go unnoticed. April Morton's Grade 2/3 class from Glenelm School visited the Field of Honour in early November. The children wrote down names of veterans, took them back to school, and then printed the names on outlines of doves thus creating a wall of honour. On November 10, 2020 the children returned to the cemetery to place a poppy on the soldiers' graves. What a wonderful learning experience for these young children. Thank you, April Morton for sharing this story with us and enjoy your retirement!



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Mrs. Elenora Derry (nee Warder), who is interred at Historic Elmwood Cemetery, is a descendent of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England. He lived from 1599 until 1658.
- The cemetery is the final resting place of William Hastings Cockburn. He was captain and goal keeper of the Winnipeg Hockey Team which won the gold medal at the 1932 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York.
- Dogs are never permitted in the cemetery even on a leash. Please leave Fido at home when visiting.
- Elmwood Cemetery has over 700 graves available for sale.
- We welcome volunteers to help with planting in the spring. Please call the office if you can spare some time.
- If you have a family plot with unused graves that will not be used in the future, please consider donating them back to the cemetery. A tax receipt for the current value of the grave will be issued.



# Planting a Tree

as a Living Memorial for Helen Litz

### Thank you to the Koop Family

We received the following information from the Koop family and we sincerely thank them for their thoughtfulness in remembering their friend and well-known Winnipeg personality, Helen Litz.

Our family have been neighbours of the Elmwood Cemetery since moving into the little enclave in northwest Glenelm in the late 60's. As children we spent many hours walking around and playing in the Elmwood Cemetery, and have witnessed its many changes over the years. Our parents, John and Erika Koop are now buried there.

On January 13th, 2021, we lost a dear family friend, Helen Litz. She was a legend in our city and internationally as the passionate founder and conductor of the multi-award winning Mennonite Children's Choir of Winnipeg, in which we all sang. She too was laid to rest in the Elmwood Cemetery in January 2021.

In planning for a way to honour her, we observed the sad demise of so many of the trees in the cemetery, and felt that a gift of a tree to be planted in her honour would be most appropriate.

We were also reminded of the song about trees that Helen composed and we sang as young girls in her choir. Among the lyrics were these words....

*"Trees make a playground for children,  
Trees hide a lovers lane,  
Trees have been kind to the old folks,  
Trees have not lived in vain..."*

*by Helen Litz*

Just like the trees, which provide beauty and a nurturing environment for generations, Helen did not live in vain. Through her passionate leadership and musical gifts, she gave beautiful music to so many and nurtured the talents of generations of young singers and musicians.

The Koop family is happy to be able to contribute a gift of a living tree in memory of Helen Litz, and to assist in the renewal of the tree canopy of the Elmwood Cemetery for decades to come.

Submitted by,  
Elvira, Wanda, Kathy, Charlotte,  
Dorothy and Carla Koop



*Helen Litz conducting the Mennonite Children's Choir*

## Albert Walmsley Kirvan 1870-1951



Mr. Kirvan was born in Meaford, Ontario and came to the Hilbre area of Manitoba in 1916 where he developed the area's most well known farm.

He was an electrician by trade and had an electrical business and several shops.

He had more than 1100 acres and employed a roster of 12 men. In time the Kirvan farm was one of the finest livestock farms in the Hilbre area. By

that time Albert had 1400 acres and had herds of Angus and Friesian Holstein cattle, a large flock of sheep, and many purebred pigs. The farm implemented modern farming techniques that became industry standards.

In 1920 Albert Kirvan was elected by a one vote majority to the Manitoba Legislature. He was an MLA for 7 years. During the time that he was in office, Kirvan supported northern agriculture and worked to improve transportation to the more remote areas.

Mr. Kirvan was a real philanthropist. He was generous to anyone in need. Also the Kirvan Cup Trophy was competed for by baseball teams in the region he lived in and is now on display in the Moosehorn museum.

After he retired from farming in 1941, he moved to Winnipeg where he died on May 6, 1951. He, along with his second wife Beatrice Ellicott, is buried at Elmwood Cemetery.



# A Brief Look at Symbolism in Cemeteries



No doubt you have noticed recurring themes on headstones as you traverse Historic Elmwood Cemetery. The symbols used in modern days have a long and evolving history.

During the Middle Ages Christian graves were generally marked with simple wooden crosses. Sometimes the resting places of clergy and noblemen were designated by a stone slab with a symbol of the cross. Then came the Reformation and most of these early markers were destroyed by iconoclasts. Especially vulnerable were stones with the Catholic cross.

With the restoration of the monarchy in England in 1660, memorials began to reappear. Nobility and the wealthy were often interred in the church itself with more ornate markings. During this era there was an obsession with death. This was likely due to short life expectancies and to disease epidemics like the plague. Symbols tended to represent the rapid passage of time, death, and resurrection.

Hence there was a prevalence of the skull and crossbones, the hourglass to emphasize the shortness of time, angels, winged cherubs representing the rise of the soul to heaven, and even depictions of the tools used to dig graves.

Tools of the trade of the deceased became popular on headstones in the 18th century. By the end of the

1800's morbid themes of death were slowly being replaced by more classical imagery. Doves, angels with urns, mourning female figures, and weeping willow trees were popular along with the anchor, a symbol of hope.

It was not until the mid 19th century that the cross returned to popularity on grave markers. Victorians favoured either very plain, decorated, or Celtic varieties of crosses. Towards the end of the century crosses with foliage and flowers were being used more often. Palms and lilies which had strong associations with Christianity were particularly in vogue. This time period also saw the use of symbols such as trees, tools, plants, and clasped hands. These images were often selected because they pleased the customer or because they were simply fashionable.

Today on modern tombstones symbolism is still an important feature. Few of the old symbols are in use. The cross and the dove remain popular. Often, too, headstones are commissioned with carvings which are personal and meaningful to the deceased.

Next time you are in the cemetery please enjoy the beauty of the monuments and their various symbols.

## Popular Symbols and Their Meanings

Lambs - the symbol of Christ, purity, innocence. Often on a child's grave.

Broken column or pillar - a life cut short

Angels - accompanying the deceased to heaven, God's guardians

Birds - flight of the soul

Willow tree - mourning and earthly sorrow

Anchor - hope, steadfastness

Gates - passageway to heaven

Doves - peace, the Holy Spirit

Clasped Hands - showing love and serenity

Lion or Dog - protection of the master

Hourglass or Clock - the passage of time

Benches - mourning and contemplation



By the end of the 1800's morbid themes of death were slowly being replaced by more classical imagery.



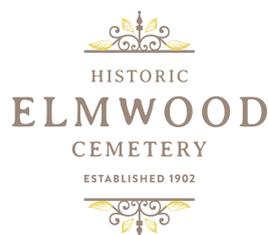
Please meet  
our dedicated  
Board of Directors  
& Cemetery Staff

### 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*



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

## 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 need to cover most of our annual operating costs.

Our policy is to place 100% of all donations into our Perpetual Endowment Fund held at the Winnipeg Foundation. This grows our fund and provides increased investment income each year. Income from our fund covers over 50% of our operating costs, with the remainder split between plot and niche sales and fees for interments and maintenance. Sometime in the future our 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 our current payout ratio of 5% this would require our endowment fund to grow a further \$2.5 million from today's base.

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



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.



## 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.