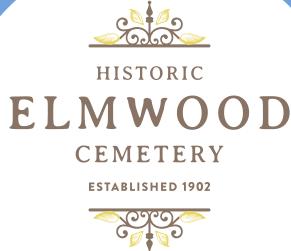


connections

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.

I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
 That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
 When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host, of golden daffodils;
 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
 Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
 And twinkle in the milky way,
 They stretched in never-ending line
 Along the margin of the bay:
 Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
 Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
 Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
 A poet could not but be gay,
 In such a jocund company:
 I gazed - and gazed - but little thought
 What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
 In vacant or in pensive mood,
 They flash upon that inward eye
 Which is the bliss of solitude;
 And then my heart with pleasure fills,
 And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth (1807)

connections



DID YOU KNOW?

The costliest funeral in modern times was that of Ronald Reagan. Because the stock market was shut down for the day, it cost the U.S. \$411 million! "One for the Gipper."

Lewis Benjamin Foote became one of Winnipeg's most prolific historical photographers. It was he who captured the angry mob overturning the streetcar during the 1919 general strike. Foote is buried at Elmwood.

The word "funeral" was first used in 1386 by Geoffrey Chaucer in *The Knight's Tale*, one of the stories in *The Canterbury Tales*. He refers to a "funeral servyse" after the passing of a character.



This year MOTHER'S DAY falls on Sunday, May 8. Members of the Board of Directors will distribute carnations as they have in the past. If you wish to pre-order a mum plant, please call the office. If Covid restrictions are once again in place, carnations will be available on a serve yourself basis.



Report of the Executive Director



Bruce Birchard

As I write this report we are all longing for spring. Record snowfall in Winnipeg combined with extreme cold has made this one of the toughest winters in memory. With the

large amount of snow, we expect a soggy spring which will slow our maintenance. On the bright side, the snow melt should replenish the ground water in the cemetery which will help the trees which have suffered over the last couple of dry summers.

Covid regulations are easing so we should be returning to a more normal operation this summer. We will continue to have some minor restrictions in the office into late spring.

We continue to update electronic records and are actively scanning family histories and historical documents into our system. We have been updating our rights holders for plots and during this process we have been able to transfer rights to the next generation for many family plots. If you are a current rights holder and want to transfer your rights to a new generation, please contact our office. If you are unsure as who holds the rights to your family plot, please contact us. Our staff is happy to assist.

We continue to level areas of the cemetery. This summer we will continue work in 3B, along with work in sections 6, 7, and 12. We plan to hire extra maintenance staff this summer who will work on uncovering flat markers and the levelling of some of our smaller historic monuments.

We also thank those who have donated unused graves in the cemetery. This adds to the inventory of available plots and, more significantly, provides purchase options in some of the oldest sections of the cemetery. Though we have over 700 plots available for sale our inventory of double monument plots is limited. If you are interested in a double plot, please contact the office to ensure we can accommodate your needs.

Last summer we completed a new columbarium area by the Red River. We now have 3 columbaria areas, Henderson, South Side, and the Red River providing an abundance of options when choosing a niche.

The cemetery comprises 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.

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

The Board and I take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and past support



Save Our Elms Campaign

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

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

We have injected just under 150 of 250 mature elm trees with Arbotect 20-S fungicide, a product developed by BioForest Technologies Inc. This protects them from Dutch Elm Disease for 3 years. BioForest has been donating extra product each year and we thank them for their support. Starting this summer, we will begin re-injecting trees that were protected 3 years ago. We will also inject some trees which have not been protected yet.

To date we have spent \$250,000 on this program. As stated above we have protected 150 of our 250 mature elms in the cemetery. We have trimmed and pruned every elm in the cemetery along with most of our maples and oak trees. Pruning is ahead of schedule and will move to a longer cycle in the future. We have also removed the diseased trees in the cemetery along with any which were in a poor or dangerous condition. We have planted over 60 new trees and removed most of the old stumps in the cemetery.

We were happy to see that only 12 elm trees were removed last year for Dutch Elm disease. We feel that the program is having a significant impact on the health of our tree canopy.

So how can you help? To begin with, any donation to the cemetery builds our perpetual fund which provides the income for these projects; however, 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 we can have adopted, the faster we can protect our elms. I would like to thank the families who adopted a tree over the past year and encourage everyone to help as much as they can. Please just mark your donation slip or let our staff know if you wish to adopt a tree.


HISTORIC
ELMWOOD
CEMETERY
ESTABLISHED 1842


**Historic Elmwood Cemetery
Adopt-A-Tree Program**

Help protect our threatened Elm population from Dutch Elm Disease. For only \$500 you can Adopt-A-Tree which will be pruned and protected for three years with a preventative treatment of Arbotect.

To donate please contact our office at **204.667.9481** or email office@elmcem.ca

OUR PROUD SUPPORTERS



Joseph Walter Sparling

Dr. Walter Sparling was an ordained minister and an educator. He died in Winnipeg on June 16, 1912 and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

Joseph Walter Sparling was born in Ontario in 1843. He obtained several degrees from Victoria University in Cobourg. In 1889 he earned a Doctor of Divinity degree from Northwestern University in Illinois. He had been ordained in 1871 as a minister in the Methodist Church in Belleville, Ontario.

Over the years, Dr. Sparling served in various pastorates in Montreal, Kingston, and Ottawa. As a member of the Board of Education and the General Board of Missions at the Methodist Church of Canada, Dr. Sparling was selected by the Church Board of Governors to establish Wesley College in Winnipeg.

Wesley College was a liberal arts and theological college which was founded in 1888 and first held classes in Grace Church. In 1896 the college moved to a site on Portage Avenue where it later became known as United College. The location is now the home of The University of Winnipeg. Wesley College became the life's work of Dr. Sparling. The school flourished under his wise leadership and it grew from a handful of students to over 400 students. When he died, Dr. Sparling left the college free of debt and with an endowment of \$250,000.

The legacy of Dr. Walter Sparling is commemorated by Principal Sparling School and the Sparling Building at the University of Winnipeg.

DISASTER AT DUGALD

On the night of September 1, 1947, CNR Train No. 4, running 2 hours late was boarding passengers at the Dugald Station. At the same time, CNR Extra No. 6001, the Minaki Campers' Special was barreling back to Winnipeg at 80 km per hour with 326 passengers on board. The Minaki Special, instead of switching to a siding as it was supposed to, continued on the main line. The reasons why became court cases later. At 9:44 pm the Minaki Special smashed into the stationary train, causing one of the worst train disasters in the history of Manitoba.

Considered a "beach train" the Minaki Special was pulling very old wooden cars which were lit and heated by oil. The cars closest to the engine splintered and disintegrated on impact and many of the cars that followed jumped the tracks. The cars were set alight by the oil lamps and heaters and people were trapped in the ensuing conflagration. Many of them were burned beyond recognition.

Dr. Glen Hamilton, the first medic on the scene, likened what he witnessed to the horrific images that he had seen during World War 2. Quick-thinking citizens who were close to the station

pitched in to help and heroically saved many lives or the death toll would have been much higher.

In the end, 31 people lost their lives, all of them from the Minaki Special. Eighty people were injured, many of them seriously with major burns, severed limbs, and multiple broken bones. Of the 31 bodies, only seven could be identified. Two people were never found.

It was decided that there would be a mass grave at Brookside Cemetery to accommodate the unidentifiable. The families of one identified person chose to bury their loved one in this grave so that he could be close to his wife who was among the unrecognizable. At the cemetery RCMP pallbearers placed each coffin next to a marker which read "Unidentified. Died September 1, 1947." Later a permanent gravestone was placed to honour all of the victims.

Four of the victims of this horrifying train accident are interred at Historic Elmwood Cemetery. The train engineer of the Minaki Special, Gaylord Bennett Lewis, was 59 years old. He had lived in Transcona and left his wife, Mamie D. Lewis.

Mrs. Gertrude Simpson, 52, of St. Vital perished in the accident along with her two daughters, Winnifred Ann Simpson who was 26 years old and Elizabeth Grace who was 17 years old. Their husband and father, Albert Simpson, survived the crash along with his two-year-old granddaughter, Peggy.

Mr. Lewis's service was held at Cook's Funeral Home in Transcona while the Simpson ladies' service took place at Mordue Brothers in downtown Winnipeg. All four were buried at Elmwood at 4 o'clock on Thursday, September 4, 1947, mother and daughters in side by side graves.

As a result of the accident there were various enquiries to lay blame. Because all of the crew of the Minaki Special died in the crash no one could ascertain what went on in the moments before impact and witnesses on the ground were inconsistent in their analyses. Therefore, the tragedy remains a bit of a mystery with human error at its core.

Thank you to Rhonda Joy-Favreau for historical research.



Quick-thinking citizens who were close to the station pitched in to help and heroically saved many lives or the death toll would have been much higher.



Wadi-Al-Salaam Cemetery is the world's largest cemetery

A Few Facts About Cemeteries

The word, "cemetery", from the Greek meaning "sleeping place", is land set aside specifically for burials. A "graveyard", on the other hand, refers to a burial ground within a churchyard. You didn't know that, did you?

In Winnipeg there are 29 cemeteries. The oldest is Brookside, begun in 1878. It contains over 200,000 graves and it remains the largest cemetery in Western Canada. The little-known and well hidden Children of Israel Cemetery with 113 graves may well be Winnipeg's smallest cemetery. Children of Israel was the first Jewish burial ground in Western Canada. It operated from 1883 until 1933 when frequent flooding closed it to burials.

It is believed that cave men piled rocks on the remains of a deceased person. Was this reverence for a life now ended or was it a method of keeping wild animals from the body? We will never know.

Possibly the world's oldest cemetery has been identified as the Taforalt Cave in Morocco. Dated 15,100 to 14,000 years ago, the cave contains the remains of 34 individuals. If the Taforalt Cave is a true cemetery, it may also be one of the smallest in existence.

The world's largest cemetery is the Wadi-Al-Salaam Cemetery in Najaf, Iraq. "Wadi-Al-Salaam" ironically means "Valley of Peace". In use since the 7th

century the Valley of Peace has an area of 3.54 square miles. More than 5 million people are buried there, mostly Shia Muslims. With its densely packed tombstones and mausoleums and its network of vaults and catacombs, the cemetery was a perfect hiding place for armed insurgents. Many tombs were damaged during frequent clashes and battles during 2004. During the Iraq War as many as 250 bodies were interred at Wadi-Al-Salaam daily.

On the list of the world's costliest cemeteries is Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York. It is also considered to be one of the most beautiful cemeteries and attracts millions of visitors annually. Babe Ruth, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, and Herman Melville are some of the notables buried at Woodlawn. Amid its 400 acres there is also a 1912 Titanic memorial for the 192 passengers and crew who perished. A basic burial

plot costs about \$5000 and private mausoleums are as high as \$1.5 million. Cemeteries occupy a special place in our communities. A well-kept cemetery is a peaceful and serene oasis in the midst of a bustling world. One of the last acts we complete for a departed person is to find a respectful and appropriate final home. The cemetery affords us a quiet and contemplative area where we can visit the resting places of loved ones and tend to their graves. Cemeteries also chronicle the history of the area. Reading the inscriptions on monuments gives us a glimpse into the past. We also see the changing styles of the various markers which mirror societal changes. Therefore, cemeteries remain very important parts of communities, connecting the past to the present and to the future.

Brookside is Winnipeg's oldest cemetery



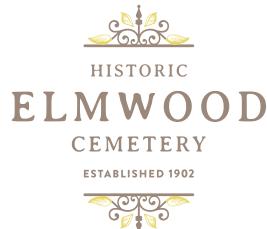
Please meet
our dedicated
Board of Directors
& Cemetery Staff

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*
Rhonda Joy-Favreau, *Office Clerk*
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 \$100,000 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 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.