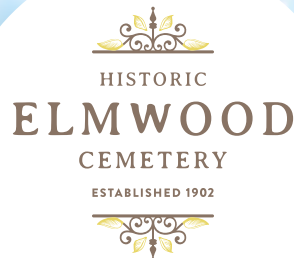


connections

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.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

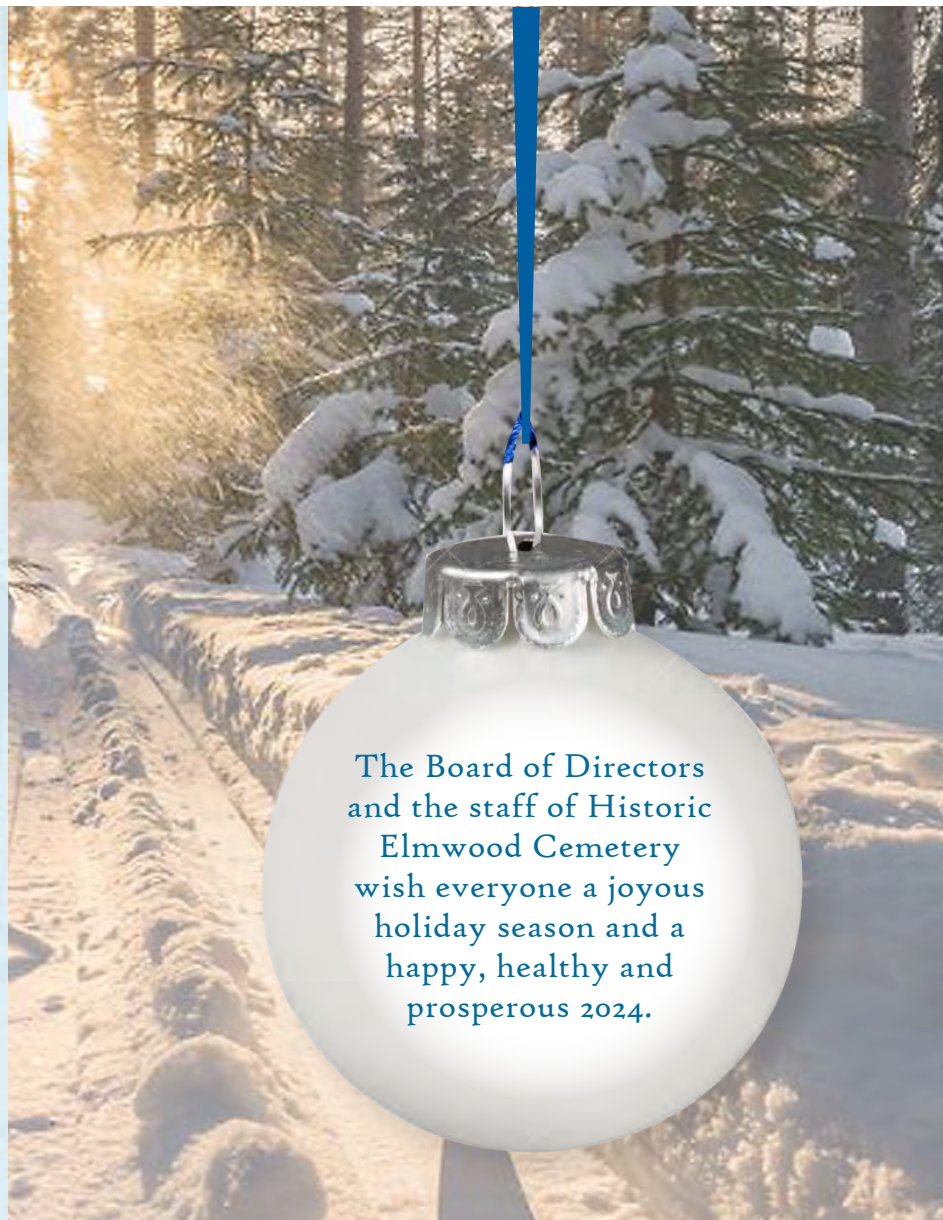
Whose woods these are I think I know
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost



The Board of Directors
and the staff of Historic
Elmwood Cemetery
wish everyone a joyous
holiday season and a
happy, healthy and
prosperous 2024.

connections

Report of the Executive Director



Bruce Birchard

Historic Elmwood Cemetery, as with other charities, has had a particularly challenging year. Donations and operational revenues are significantly below prior years, and the investment portfolio has been affected by the sudden rise in interest rates. The capital reduction will affect future income derived from the Winnipeg Foundation.

We attribute the change to inflation, which is impacting our donor base, at the same time increasing our expenses. Seasonal wages are up as the minimum wage has increased this year.

On the positive side, after adding over 190 yards of soil and lifting and levelling 150 markers we have finished the project in Section 18. This should protect the Section from flooding in the future. In Sections 3, 4 and 5 the grass has been repaired and it reacted well to the spring melt and precipitation.

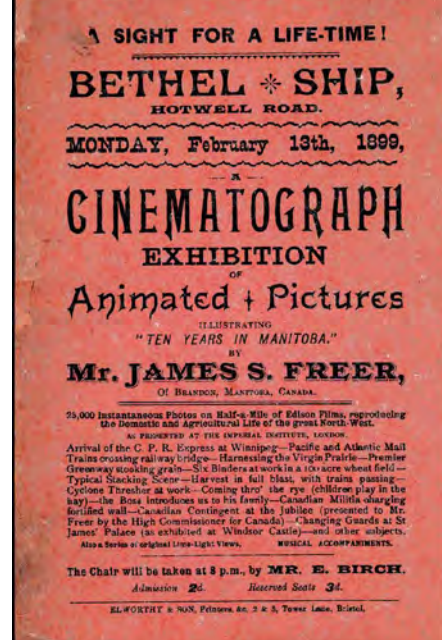
Sadly there was vandalism in early September. Monuments were knocked over, planters were upended, plants were ripped from graves and the perpetrators attempted to light trees and other areas of the cemetery on fire. Repairs have been made to all damaged monuments and security patrols have been increased to prevent any other problems.

Thank you to all of the donors and patrons who come to the cemetery. The cemetery is thirty-eight acres and, if you are visiting, please stop by the office for a map to help you find your relatives' gravesites.

The Board and I would like to thank you for your generosity and past support as we cannot continue to keep the cemetery in shape without you. We know these are challenging times for many. We wish you well over the winter and pray that you are safe and healthy.

Have a great Holiday Season and we look forward to seeing you in the future.

We know these are challenging times for many. We wish you well over the winter and pray that you are safe and healthy.



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Canada's First Filmmaker

James Simmons Freer was born in England in 1855. Later, inspired by two French brothers who screened the very first motion pictures in Paris, Freer purchased his own "cinematograph". At the time he was living and farming in Elkhorn, Manitoba. In 1897 he became Canada's first filmmaker. His films were of farm scenes and railway scenes and lasted about two minutes each. As he went along, his films became more sophisticated and he began combining subjects. "Harvesting Scene With Train Passing By" and "Premier Greenway Stooking Grain" are two examples. Subsequently he embarked on film and lecture tours to the British Isles. After a second dismal tour, he abandoned movie making altogether. In 1917 he left Elkhorn for Winnipeg where he began working for The Winnipeg Free Press. James Freer passed away on December 23, 1933 and was buried beside his wife and one of his sons in Historic Elmwood Cemetery.

Best wishes, Nancy

Nancy Borne, our Office Manager, for the last eight years is retiring at the end of 2023. We thank her for her dedicated service to Elmwood Cemetery and wish her well in retirement and in future endeavours. At the same time, we welcome Liz Wallace who will take over Nancy's duties. The Board and Elmwood staff look forward to working with her.

Daniel Arthur McGregor Bissett

(1894-1972)



The Manitoba Provincial Police

Did you know that from 1870 to 1932 the province of Manitoba had its own provincial police force? Contrary to popular belief, the RCMP did not police Manitoba until 1932 when they absorbed the Manitoba Provincial Police into their ranks during the Depression.

Daniel Bissett was one of the eighty-eight (88) Manitoba Provincial Police officers that were absorbed into the RCMP in 1932.

Born on April 26, 1894, in Stratford, Ontario, Bissett was the youngest of ten children. His mother died when he was one year old, and he was sent to live with his grandmother for a short time in Miniota, Manitoba, before rejoining his father in Brandon.

Bissett joined the Miniota Troop of the 12th Manitoba Dragoons in 1910 before enlisting at Virden on August 12, 1914, for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. On September 23, 1914, he attested with the 5th (Western Cavalry) Battalion in Valcartier, Quebec, where he was promoted to Sergeant.

The 5th Battalion embarked for England on September 29, 1914, and arrived in France on February 14, 1915. The 5th Battalion saw fighting in Ypres, Mount Sorrel, Somme, Passchendale, and Vimy, among others. Bissett suffered from gas attacks in Ypres in April 1915 and contracted diphtheria while in trench in June 1915. He was wounded on November 5, 1916, from a shell explosion in the Somme, suffering from shell shock and an injury to his right eye.

Bissett was promoted to Lieutenant in 1916, then Captain in 1917. He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre on March 30, 1916, for distinguishing himself by acts of heroism involving combat with the enemy. On November 7, 1918, he was further awarded the Military Cross for "conspicuous gallantry during an attack". He was

He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre on March 30, 1916, for distinguishing himself by acts of heroism

subsequently discharged in Winnipeg on September 7, 1919, as part of the general demobilization. He joined his brother, Charles Edward, another returned soldier, in farming a section of land just west of Birtle.

On May 1, 1928, Bissett joined the Manitoba Provincial Police at Dauphin and became one of the first officers to be stationed in the new mining town of Flin Flon in 1929 when the provincial police established a permanent barracks along the shore of Ross Lake, at mile 84 of the railway. Located about one mile from the Flin Flon mine, "a log building has been built to house the officers, and it was here the first court was held last month with Magistrate H.R. Welsford and D.G. Potter as the crown prosecutor", noted the Winnipeg Tribune on October 14, 1929.

During his policing career Bissett was stationed at Winnipeg, Headingley, Roblin, Swan River, Eriksdale, Riverton, The Pas, and Flin Flon. He became a member of the RCMP on April 1, 1932, at Winnipeg when the provincial police were absorbed. He was promoted to corporal with the RCMP on November 1, 1943, and retired to pension on May 15, 1952.

After he retired from the RCMP, Bissett joined the staff of the University of Manitoba, working in the Botany Department. He remained there for the next twelve years. He died on June 11, 1972, at the Grace Hospital and was buried at Elmwood Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and three daughters.

John Burchill, President
Winnipeg Police Museum

Author of *Pioneer Policemen: the History of the Manitoba Provincial Police, 1870-1932*.

Did You Know?



Lewis Benjamin Foote, who is buried at Elmwood Cemetery, was a Winnipeg Coroner Photographer who took the famous photo of the tipping of the street car during the 1919 General Strike.



There are three sites at Elmwood with niches in columbaria and there are also ground burial options. Contrary to popular notion, the cemetery is not “full”.



Sky Burials in Tibet

Every culture has its own way of honouring the dead and of treating their bodies. In the western hemisphere funeral practices are comprised of either ground burial or cremation. There is a custom called “sky burial” or “celestial burial” which is practiced in places like Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan and parts of India. To westerners the ritual is shocking and seemingly barbaric, but to the practitioners it is an expedient and efficient method of returning bodies to nature.

Because the ground in these mountainous areas is hard and often frozen it is difficult to dig graves. Tibetans remove the bodies of the dead to a selected site in the mountains. A Burial Master dismembers the body while someone builds a fire that gives off the black smoke which signals to vultures. Some of the central values in Tibetan culture revolve around being humble, generous, and honouring nature. Sky burials allow the physical bodies to be returned to the earth in a way that generously provides a meal for the vultures and minimally disturbs the earth. Because of the Tibetans’ belief in reincarnation, death is seen as a transition as opposed to an ending. In fact, in order for the soul of the person to have an easy transition into their next life, Tibetans believe there should be no trace left of the physical body after death. The physical body then is merely an empty vessel. The practice of “sky burials” is carried on to this day.



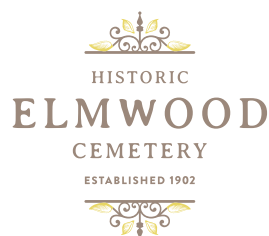
Please meet
our dedicated
Board of Directors
& Cemetery Staff

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*
Mr. James Houston, *Director*

Our Operations Team

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



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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

Save Our Elms Campaign

In the fifth year of the Save Our Elms Campaign, sixty-one mature elms were injected. To date over 80% of the mature elms in the cemetery have been protected. Elms that are near the end of life due to other diseases are not injected so that Green Drop Tree Care can concentrate on the healthy elms in the cemetery. Attesting to the success of the program, only eight trees will be removed this winter compared to 30 to 40 each year before the campaign began. Fifty-one trees were pruned last winter and the canopy was sprayed for canker worms this summer, reducing stress on the trees and providing a worm-free walk in the cemetery.

Twenty-five new trees, a combination of disease resistant elm, oak, and maple, were planted in the cemetery in late August. Over the last several years more than one hundred trees have been planted. These trees are beginning to thrive and are adding to the canopy.

Protecting the tree canopy has cost over \$350,000 which is a major expense for the cemetery, but it is deemed necessary to keep the grounds looking beautiful.

How can you help? Any donation to the cemetery builds our perpetual fund which provides the income to support these projects, and, for a \$500 donation, you can Adopt a Tree.

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.