

THE
BEECHWOOD WAY

SECTIONALS

Section 110 Charity Pathway



As you enter Beechwood from the St-Laurent Gates, this section reveals itself, slowly rising up alongside the National Military Cemetery. The section quietly evokes a beautiful pastoral setting surrounding the central feature of the Elizabeth Bruyère Monument.

The Charity Pathway gently runs through its length, providing people a moment of private contemplation. The landscaping accentuates this section's natural beauty, while providing open views of the grounds and the community that surrounds it.

The fourteen Stations of the Cross stand tall amongst the individual and family monuments, reflecting their connection to their faith. Of all the sections at Beechwood Cemetery, this one truly represents the Christian Faith, and most of its denominations. Beechwood established this section in collaboration with different faith communities to better serve their members. This section always remains one of the most desirable sections at Beechwood.



WAY OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross, also known as Way of Sorrows or Via Crucis, refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. The idea behind the stations is to help faithful Christians make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. It has become one of the most popular symbols of devotions and can be found in many Western Christian churches, including Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic. Many of the Stations remain available for congregations or individuals.



Commonly the Way of the Cross is a series of fourteen images arranged in order along a path. The faithful then travel from image to image, in order, stopping at each station to say the selected prayers and reflections. This is done individually or in a procession most commonly during Lent, especially on Good Friday, in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during his passion.

STRONG FAITH COMMUNITIES

Faith Communities from various Christian denominations have collaborated with Beechwood to help establish this beautiful section. Beechwood proudly set aside areas of this section for St. George and St. Antony Coptic Orthodox Church, the Polish Congress of Ottawa, and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine.



CROSSES – THE SYMBOL OF THEIR FAITH

The Christian cross, seen as a representation of the instrument that crucified Jesus Christ, is the best-known symbol of Christianity. The cross is a symbol of atonement and reminds Christians of God's everlasting love which was proven by sacrificing his own son for humanity. It represents Jesus' victory over sin and death. The crosses found in section 110 not only represent those qualities, but also their specific faith communities which each have a beauty distinctly on their own.



THE ÉLISABETH BRUYÈRE MONUMENT

Sister Élisabeth Bruyère, a young member of the Grey Nuns of Montreal, had been chosen by her superiors to come to Bytown in 1845 with a few companions to establish the Sisters of Charity, the first religious congregation in Bytown. Mother Bruyère alongside the Sisters of Charity, established a school, a home for the aged, an orphanage, a home for abandoned children and founded a general hospital that would later become the Ottawa General Hospital and is now the Elizabeth Bruyere Hospital, part of the Bruyere Continuing Care organization. The Sisters of Charity cared for people of every religious denomination in Bytown.

The monument at Beechwood also honours the memory of St. Marguerite d'Youville. She was a French Canadian widow who founded the religious order of Sisters of Charity of Montreal, commonly known as the Grey Nuns of Montreal. She was canonized by Pope John-Paul II of the Roman Catholic Church in 1990, the first native-born Canadian to be declared a saint.



DID YOU KNOW:

Sister Élisabeth Bruyère was 27 years old when she arrived to Bytown.



Canadian sculptor Achim Klaas created five life-size figures, including a schoolgirl, an orphan boy and a sick or homeless person – who represent all those whom Mother Bruyère and her companions had come to help.

The monument was a community achievement, organized and brought to fruition by a dedicated fundraising committee: Sister Lorraine Desjardins, of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa; Mr. Klaas and Anita Bourdeau who were the initiators and driving force behind the project. This beautiful monument was the result of generous contributions from the community – individuals, organizations, religious congregations and businesses.



GOVERNOR GENERAL RAMON JOHN HNATYSHYN

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on March 16, 1934, Hnatyshyn was sworn in as Canada's 24th Governor General on January 29, 1990. He was the first Ukrainian and the 7th Canadian-born person to fill this position. During his term in office, Rideau Hall was reopened to the public and soon became known as a tourist destination. He encouraged the expansion of tours so that all could enjoy visiting the public rooms and historic grounds. He invited all Canadians to "Come Home to Rideau Hall" to benefit from their national heritage. In 1991, he created the Governor General's Summer Concert Series, a popular annual music festival. In 1992, he reopened the historic skating rink, which is now used by members of the public on weekends and by educational institutions throughout the week. He and his wife, Gerda, were determined to develop Rideau Hall into a showcase for Canadian excellence.

The Hnatyshyn's encouragement for the arts in Canada was one of the most important accomplishments of their term. In 1992, they established the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards and the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Arts, to honour lifetime achievement in such fields as drama, dance, music and patronage of the arts. Several other awards and scholarships were established during the Hnatyshyn mandate including the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Cup, presented annually to the winning team of the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival, the Flight for Freedom literacy award, the Canadian Bar Association's Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Law and scholarships in Environmental Engineering and Science. Hnatyshyn's honours included a 1988 appointment as Queen's Counsel for Canada, and a year later, an honorary life membership with the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

In 1989, he received the St. Volodymyr Medal Award from the World Congress of Ukrainians and in 1996, he received the Mount Scopus Award from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for demonstrating broad humanitarian concern throughout his career. At the time of his death, he was senior partner with the Ottawa law firm Gowling Lafleur Henderson, where he practised advocacy, business, international and trade law. He died at the age of 68 on December 18, 2002.

As Canada's Governor General, Ray Hnatyshyn understood the vital need to champion the diversity that enriched Canadian society. He was a strong supporter of the performing arts, he was interested in environmental issues and literacy and a strong advocate of multiculturalism.

