

# THE BEECHWOOD WAY SECTIONALS



## RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood





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# Located in the heart

of the National Cemetery of Canada, the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is the ideal final post for all RCMP employees, Veterans and their loved ones. It is a place where families and visitors can pay their respects to those who have committed their lives to peace and order on behalf of the people of Canada.

In 2009, Beechwood was recognized by an Act of Parliament as the National Cemetery of Canada. It is also the home of the National Military Cemetery, the Veterans and War Dead, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service Cemetery and the Ottawa Police Memorial Cemetery

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood uniquely recognizes the courage and dedication of RCMP employees, Veterans and their families, who proudly serve and have served alongside each other protecting our country.

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# HISTORY

**THE RCMP** (originally the North West Mounted Police) and Beechwood Cemetery were established in 1873 and grew to become two of Canada's most respected institutions.

In 2001, the RCMP Veterans' Association (RCMPVA) researched the possibility of establishing an RCMP cemetery in Ottawa, the birthplace of the original Force. Following a bilateral agreement signed by the RCMPVA and Beechwood, the official opening of the RCMP Memorial Cemetery occurred in October 2004. In 2006, the RCMP joined the partnership and the site was then officially named the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood.

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is a complement to the RCMP-designated cemeteries at Depot Division in Regina, Maple Creek and Battleford in Saskatchewan, and Fort Saskatchewan in Alberta.



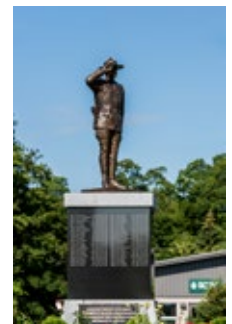
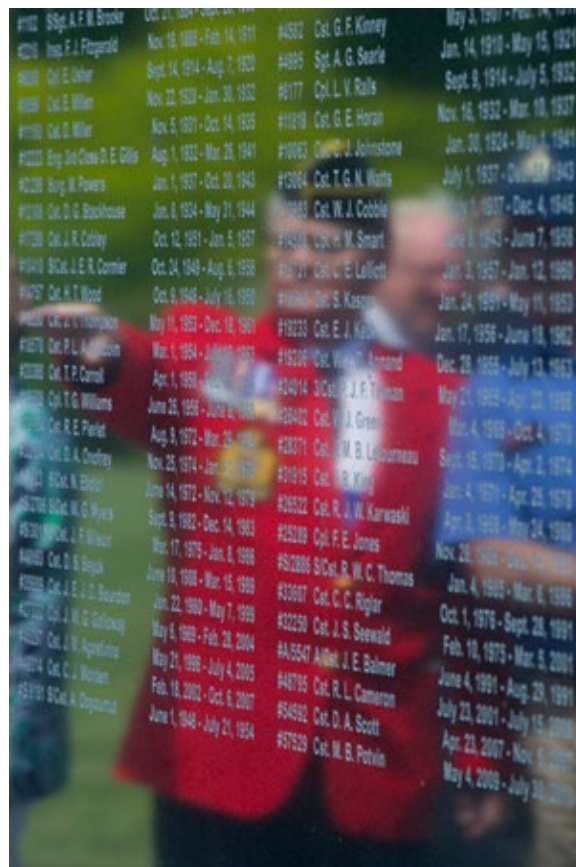


# SYMBOLISM

**THERE ARE SEVERAL** beautiful monuments in the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood. The focal point of this cemetery is the main monument with flagstaff. It is significant in shape, emulating that of the Chapel at Depot Division, Regina.

This imposing feature embodies the strengths of the Force, with the badge carved in black, flanked by two uniformed members, a bugler and a member standing vigil. The back of the monument proudly displays the most iconic of RCMP symbols — the Horse and Rider.

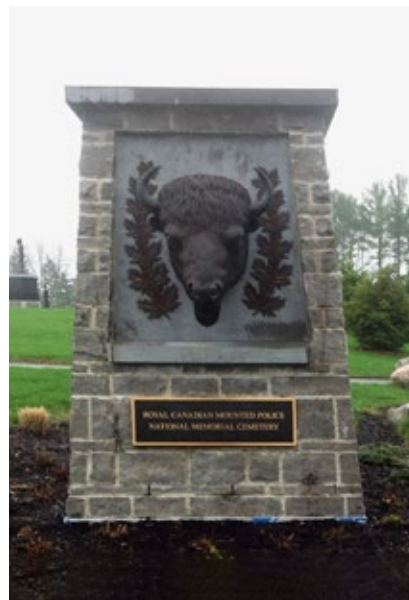
At the centre of the cemetery stands the cenotaph with an RCMP member saluting those who have died in the line of duty and who are memorialized on the honour roll. This dedication provides a constant reminder to all those who visit the RNMC at Beechwood of the service and sacrifice of over 230 members. At each corner of the cenotaph, stepping stones, facing north, east, south and west, are carved with the ensigns of each division, the Commissioner, the RCMP Veterans and various other components of the RCMP.



To the side is the Memorial Flame on a granite pillar. This flame serves as a constant reminder of the profound respect for those who have passed before us, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada.

Accompanying space with the Memorial Flame are two other granite pillars, each with their own unique symbolism. One pillar depicts a globe to honour members who proudly served Canada and the world. The third pillar “Lady Justice” honours the women who trained and served, and the women who will follow in their footsteps.

Two Bison head columns flank the northwest entrance of the RNMC at Beechwood. The bison is of historical significance as it provided food and clothing for the March West of the original North West Mounted Police. Today, it continues to be reflected in the Force’s badge. A laurel of thirteen maple leaves surround the Bison heads, representing Canada’s ten provinces and three territories.





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# A PLACE FOR GENERATIONS

## ELIGIBILITY

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is open to current RCMP employees, members of the RCMP Veterans' Association and those who may meet the criteria of the RCMP Veterans' Association and members of their respective families.

## A PLACE FOR GENERATIONS

Beechwood has dedicated a plot of land with over 4,000 gravesites and two granite walls with the capacity to hold thousands of niches in the years ahead. Beechwood will provide you with a dedicated family services' representative to help you along the way and make the right decision for your family.

## GROUND INTERMENT

Families have the option of both casket burial and/or urn interment with up to eight urns per grave. Each location is designed to accommodate an upright monument with the RCMP badge and surname, service dates and regimental numbers prominently placed at the top. Monuments can be constructed in a variety of colours and designed to allow eight or more names, enabling multiple generations of casket or cremation burials in one location.

## COLUMBARIUM NICHES

Beechwood has constructed two granite columbaria for families choosing above-ground inurnment. Each location has room for two urns. Identification is placed prominently at the top on a bronze plaque along with the RCMP badge.

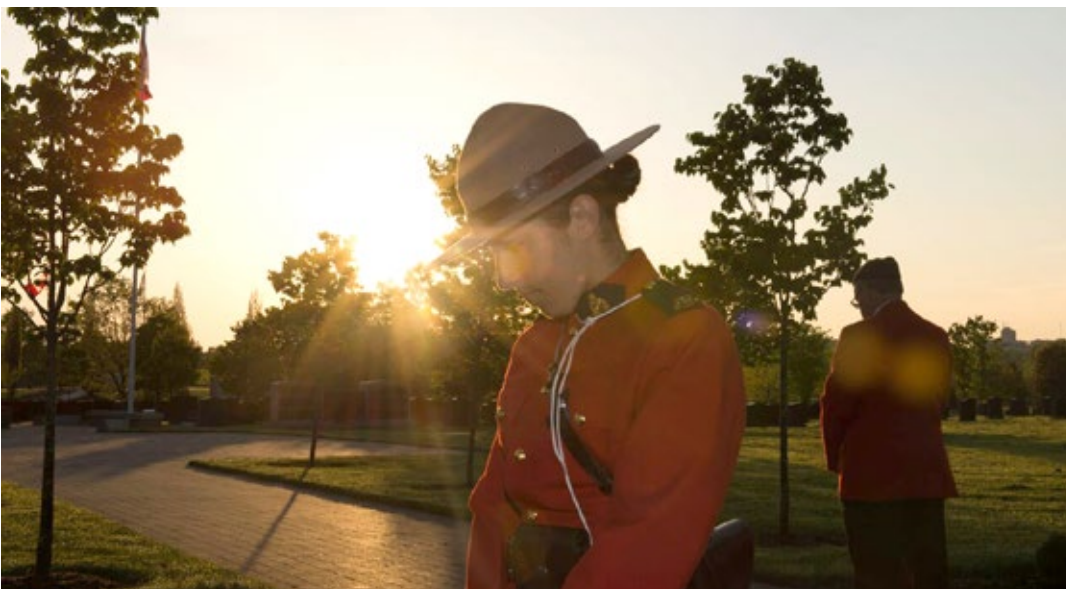


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# COMMEMORATIONS AT THE RNMC AT BEECHWOOD

**TO COMMEMORATE** the founding of the RCMP (NWMP) on May 23 1873, the RCMP Veterans Association – Ottawa Division holds an annual sunrise vigil. On May 23, a bugler and a piper from the RCMP Pipes and Drums start the vigil, and calls serving members and veterans to stand in repose from 6:00 AM until the formal ceremony at 11:00 AM. Wreaths are placed to remember those who have served Canada so diligently and their families who supported them.

We honour those who are laid to rest in the RNMC at Beechwood and beyond, as tours are provided to show respect to the over 250 North West Mounted Police, Royal North West Mounted Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police members who are buried across the National Cemetery of Canada. These were some of the members who each shaped the Force in their own way. Lest we forget.





# A PROUD AND LENGTHY LEGACY

SET IN A PROMINENT location along the road in the south-eastern corner of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is the memorial for Constable Marmaduke Graburn.

As a memorial should, it brings thoughts of the person, and then leads to speculation about the context of his or her life.

On June 9, 1879 Marmaduke Graburn was sworn in as a Constable in the Northwest Mounted Police in Ottawa. On November 17th, 1879 Constable Graburn was the first member of the Force to be killed while on duty. He is buried at Fort Walsh, Saskatchewan, now a national historic site. His troop mates erected a memorial stone at the Beechwood Cemetery





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# SUPPORT THE RCMP NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT BEECHWOOD

THE RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is a not-for-profit collaboration and needs your support for current and future projects and programs. Beechwood Cemetery Foundation issues tax-deductible receipts for donations of \$20 or more. The charitable registration number is 88811 2018 RR0001.

Find out more at [www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/communities/defence-and-security-services/rcmp-national-memorial-cemetery](http://www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/communities/defence-and-security-services/rcmp-national-memorial-cemetery)

