

THE

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BEECHWOOD WAY

MAGAZINE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SPRING IS FINALLY upon us. After a record-breaking winter, Beechwood has finally come to life. The birds are singing, the animals have come out to walk the grounds and most important people have come to visit.

Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be hosting a series of interesting events from the Canadian Tulip Festival's Veterans Day Ceremony (May 14), to a documentary screening of the *Peacemaker* by the Irish Film Festival of Ottawa (May 18), to our Second Annual Vintage Carshow (May 19) where we admire historic vehicles in our historic cemetery. We end the month of May, with the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery Veterans Vigil (May 23) which includes a tour where we highlight the members buried outside of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery. I invite you to join us for one of these upcoming events.

I would also invite you to visit our completely rebuilt website featuring a brand new look, more information on our services and a fully responsive layout for all platforms — we hope you will find it easier to navigate and find what you are looking for quickly and efficiently. Our goal with this new website is to provide you with a simple way to discover more about our services and our historic grounds and company.

As always readers, I hope you enjoy this issue and maybe discover something new to ignite your passion for Beechwood on these (hopefully) last weeks of spring.

Make sure you stay connected between issues by following up for Beechwood Cemetery social media pages:

- Facebook (@BeechwoodCemetery, @NMCBeechwood, @cimetiereBeechwood),
- Twitter (@BeechwoodOttawa)
- Instagram (@beechwoodcemetery)
- Youtube (Beechwood Cemetery)

Nicolas McCarthy

Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach



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Visit us online to learn more about Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada and read back issues of at: www.beechwoodottawa.ca

We want your feedback on how we are doing! Contact: Erika Wagner at foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca

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THE OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Looking forward

by Nicolas McCarthy



OFFICIALLY OPENED in October 2011, the Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery is centrally located in the Beechwood Cemetery grounds. It lays near the National Military Cemetery and beside the RCMP and CSIS National Memorial Cemeteries.

The Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery looks to provide an opportunity to publicly display the pride that we all share in our police service as well as provide a central spot for all of commemorations.

Still early in its development, the section has received some major enhancements in recent years, with the addition of a beautiful half moon garden opening up to a walkway that will eventually lead to a main monument and parade square. This will be the central feature of the cemetery and provide all members a place to connect and commemorate. Upon request from the membership, we have also installed four beautiful niche structures that stand sentry on either side of the main path.

The Ottawa Police Service has supported the future development of the cemetery by way of the Annual Police Gala, has raised close to one million dollars for local charities from across the city in ten years.

Together, we will continue to build on the legacy of both organizations and celebrate our shared history and a rich policing tradition and here are two incredible stories.



PEOPLE OF BEECHWOOD — OTTAWA POLICE EDITION

Albert John Cawdron Section 24, Lot 72 SW

Albert John Cawdron was born in 1873 in Ottawa. As a young man, he joined the Dominion Police in 1897, and shortly after enlisted with the first Canadian Contingent going to South Africa for the Boer War. He returned to Canada in 1901, having been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Back in Canada, Cawdron rejoined the Dominion Police and was put on plain-clothes detail — the secret service branch of the Force. In September of that same year, he worked as a special operative for the royal tour through Canada of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. He held a similar position again, when they visited Quebec in 1908 as the Prince and Princess of Wales. Cawdron continued to rise through the ranks of the Dominion Police, and when then Commissioner Sir Percy Sherwood left Canada for England in 1915, Cawdron was appointed a Commissioner of Police in his absence.

Only a few years later, in 1918, Sir Percy retired officially, and Cawdron became his successor. As Acting Commissioner, Cawdron reorganized the military service police, which had been formed to prosecute evaders of the *Military Service Act* during WWI. In 1920 when the Dominion Police was absorbed into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Cawdron was named Superintendent and Director of Criminal Investigations.





During the Royal Commission on Customs and Excise in 1926, he was the chief investigator, appointed by the government for the Commission. Cawdron was promoted to Assistant Commissioner in May of 1932, a position he retained until his retirement in 1936. Sadly, Cawdron had little time to enjoy his retirement — he was killed in an automobile accident only a few years later, on September 8, 1938.

Rufus Gardner Chamberlin Section 29, Lot 117 SW
Rufus Gardner Chamberlin was born on August 4, 1863 in Chelsea, Quebec. In 1885 he joined the Dominion Police Force, the first Canadian federal police force founded in 1868 by Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald, after members of the Fenian movement assassinated Father of Confederation and politician Thomas D’Arcy McGee.

The Dominion Police was tasked with gathering intelligence on organizations and individuals posing a threat to the security of the country, protecting federal property and acting as bodyguards for federal politicians. As an agent of the Dominion Police, Chamberlin lived in Ottawa with his wife and children in a house on McLeod Street. However, he was required to travel throughout Canada and investigate a variety of crimes, some stranger than others. One such instance occurred in 1889, when he arrested two native men from Cat Lake, Ontario (now Kenora) for the killing of their tribe’s Chief, who had become possessed, or “windigo” (translated then as “insane”), and asked to be killed. Chamberlain escorted the accused to Winnipeg, MB for trial.

In 1903, Chamberlin was made an inspector with the Secret Services branch of the Force. During this period, he continued to travel throughout Canada to assist in the investigation of various crimes. In 1904, while visiting Vancouver, he became involved after the botched attempt to commit BC’s first-ever train robbery, just outside of Mission City. On May 1, 1907, Chamberlin left the Dominion Force and was appointed Chief of Police for Vancouver, BC, and later received commendation for his handling of the Anti-Asiatic riots in September of that year. He stayed in the position until January of 1913, when he resigned to take the position of first Chief of the Investigation Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Shortly afterwards, in the summer of 1914, he was appointed Commissioner of Police within all of Canada East (including Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces), based out of Montreal.

During his tenure, he arranged the protection for the Royal Visits to Canada in 1919 and 1923. Chamberlin was also involved with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and served as its president. Chamberlin died while still in office on December 23, 1923, in Montreal.



SET IN STONE

The Protestant Orphans' Home marker

by Ian Guthrie



BEECHWOOD IS A memorial to times past and lives passed; I usually enter Beechwood from the eastern gate, off St. Laurent Boulevard. Taking the right fork in the road I pass a grey marker with the stark lettering: *The Protestant Orphans Home Plot*, located at the beginning of section 17. I always notice this marker, and then think of former lives as I move on towards the Veterans' section.

I have not heard of a child being described as an orphan or seen a building designated as an orphanage for a long time. Presumably there are still children who become orphaned, although I would imagine that increased longevity makes this a rarer thing, particularly in Canada. If it does happen, I assume such children are taken into the care of the Children's Aid Society and placed in group homes, foster homes or adopted. 'Orphanage and orphan' in my mind conjure up images of Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist and a progression of unpleasant associations.

With the assistance of Roger Boulton, I found Beechwood's records of this plot. It was established in 1918, not as early as I might have thought. There is a list of those whose remains lay there, among them Clifford Moir, aged 5, who died in 1928, and Gladys McDonald, aged 2, who was buried in 1931. I wonder if anyone other than Beechwood's records remembers them. A child has not been laid to rest there in more than 60 years.

The address of the Protestant Orphans' Home is given as 75 Bronson Avenue. Out of curiosity I went there to see the building where the children lived. 71 Bronson (a fine building, a lumber baron's townhome?) is now the office of the Anglican Bishop of Ottawa; 85 Bronson is The Gardens, a strikingly modern and attractive block of apartments. There is only a space for the entry to Sparks Street between 71 and 85; there is no longer a 75. It was a bleak spot on the March day when I stood where 75 might have been, but the home must have had a spectacular view along the Ottawa River, and given a rare overview of the thriving community that was LeBreton Flats.

On passing the Orphans' Home marker in January, I was pleased to see that a garland of Christmas ornaments encircled the stone and a very substantial Christmas wreath was placed before it. Someone remembers! Perhaps there is a reader who does remember the Orphans' Home and might contribute their memories to the next edition of *The Beechwood Way*.

If you are at the eastern end of Beechwood, pause at the Orphans' Home marker, and the two equally poignant markers adjacent to it. Additionally, perhaps this summer you might find your way to the site of 75 Bronson Avenue, (close to downtown but a quiet corner of the city) enjoy the view,



POEM

The poem below was written by poet Russel Smart sometime in the 70's. It is dedicated to fellow poet Arthur Bourinot who is buried in Sec 48. Bourinot served in WWI, was a lawyer, and close friend with Confederation Poet Duncan Campbell Scott. In 1939 his poem *Under the Sun* won the Governor General's Award for English language poetry or drama.



To Arthur Bourinot:

From an even lesser Canadian poet-
I too would like to write about Beechwood Cemetery-
I grew beside it-
I too have dead friends there;
But I know how difficult it is-
How unlike London or Paris Ottawa is,
Especially in the winter.
Yes, I have dead friends here. Like yours
They lie in the frozen ground;
But, like you, they have an eerie presence,
Like these tombstones buried in the snow.

MACOUN MARSH

by Michael Léveillé

THERE HAVE BEEN dramatic changes to our marsh area over the past 20 years. Some species have disappeared completely while many species have made a temporary appearance. Visitors can discover a solitary red-backed salamander and an adult snapping turtle one day, but they can be gone the next - animals are always on the move. It is surprising just how much species movement occurs in an urban area. These unseen nature corridors are a saving grace to the survival of many wild populations. Over 100 bird species have been seen at Macoun Marsh. This past winter, many winter finches made our urban forest their home. The common redpoll and the pine grosbeak are two examples of winter finches found here. With the higher than normal snow fall the birds needed our feeders more than ever. Following tradition, students from St-Laurent Academy have drilled through the ice with augers to look at the microbial world in the dark of winter. We have also examined life on tree lichen and soil.



The past few years has seen an increase in dog walkers and young families. Education is key to keeping the marsh in pristine shape. Signs were created to encourage proper care of this space. Feeding ducks bread is a big issue as bread lacks nutrients and fills the stomachs of the birds. Throwing stones in the water disturbs wildlife and can kill delicate animals that use the marsh as a nursery. Allowing dogs off leash can discourage many native species from remaining in the marsh area.



Our native tree species are a great pride of the Macoun Marsh Program. Endangered butternuts dot the landscape and are trying to fight off the invasive fungus that attacks them. The rare rock elm has been seen growing near the Presbyterian Church. Conservation of all species keeps a landscape healthy. While there are many invasive plants in and around the marsh, native plant species are holding on.

The students of St-Laurent Academy have been active participants with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), bringing international attention to the Macoun Marsh. The next meeting we will attend will be in November 2019. GYBN aims to represent the voice of global youth in the negotiations under the United Nations

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), raise awareness among young people of the values of biodiversity, and connects individuals and youth organizations in order to build a global coalition to halt the loss of biodiversity.

As the official major group for youth in the negotiations under the Convention, GYBN is committed to bringing the opinions and positions of young people into the political process; empowering young people to take action. Recognized and supported by the CBD Secretariat, they seek to inspire global youth and future leaders to work for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

On a personal note, the marsh is a place of great joy and solitude. I can remember my children growing up exploring the many diverse habitats and the adventures they had taming chipmunks or feeding chickadees. Most of my updates on the marsh can be found on iNaturalist.ca under the Macoun Marsh project. Over 5000 observations have been placed there representing almost 700 species. Also there is a Facebook page on the marsh's flora and fauna.



THE BEST OF BRITISH LUCK

by Erika Wagner

Program and Fundraising Coordinator

A WWII SURVIVOR, an escape artist, and unbelievably lucky are just some of the words people use to describe the story of Ronald Joseph Power.

Born on 23 January 1921, in London, England, Ronald Power joined the British army in 1937 as a teenager and at the age of 21 volunteered for the Long Range Desert Group of the British Army. Known for having a Scorpion on their insignia, this branch of the British army roamed the Libyan Desert to attack the supply lines of German desert troops, often called “Desert Rats”.

In 1943, Pte. Power was captured during the German invasion of the Greek island of Leros and spent the last three years of the war in prison camps or working for labour parties around Germany. Not that he spent all that time in the camps as he managed to escape a total of 7 times. Despite being recaptured 6 out of the 7 times, each occasion is quite the story.

During one escape, he was with other escapees waiting at a train station when the Gestapo arrived to check papers. Instead of remaining calm, his friends ran and were shot. Power hadn't moved and managed to fade away in the chaos.

In another escape, he and his fellow escapees, this time an Australian and a Pole, managed to steal a car. While sitting in the back seat, Pte. Power found a touring map of Germany. He suggested that since they were in such an interesting area, they should take some time and tour it. While they did enjoy the beautiful sights, they were recaptured.

Even before his capture, Power managed to survive the sinking of 3 warships; the *Hasty*, *Hotspur*, and *Intrepid*. He said it was a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, sometimes helping with unloading while the ship was docked.

Often enough, people in 2019 tend to exaggerate stories or fill gaps with embellishments. When Power partook in a CBC television show, he knew not to lie as it was extremely likely someone who was there would see it.

Towards the end of the war, his sister introduced Power to his future wife, Helen Bodley, who worked with her in a war factory in London. After marrying and having two children, they immigrated to Canada where he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. After he became director of public relations for the Canadian Cancer Society and then the Brewers Association of Canada. He ended his career as the information chief at Royal Ottawa Hospital, retiring in 1988.

In cheeky fashion, Power applied for pension with the German embassy on the grounds that he spent so much time cleaning the streets and clearing rubble he was basically an employee. They denied his claim.

Power passed away on 9 June 2003 and is buried in Sec. 110, Lot 92, R. 13.



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