

THE

# BEECHWOOD

WAY

SECTIONALS

## Sectionals: Botanical Gardens



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# As you gently climb

the hill into Beechwood Cemetery, our Botanical Gardens reveal themselves to you in all their beauty and splendour.

With every season, the Gardens provide something unique and different. Spring brings the renewal of our signature tulip beds, which grow taller than most visitors have ever seen; summer brings roses and a variety of perennials; fall brings the ambers, auburns, reds and browns of all the trees lining the paths. In winter, the Christmas lights dot the paths and Gazebo and bring a sense of serene calm on the coldest nights.

The path leads you over a bridge, with waterfall running into a fish-filled pond, to our iconic Gazebo which is surrounded by flowers, blossoming trees and shady places to sit.

The Botanical Gardens are a signature section at Beechwood, often admired by visitors who choose to make it their final resting place.

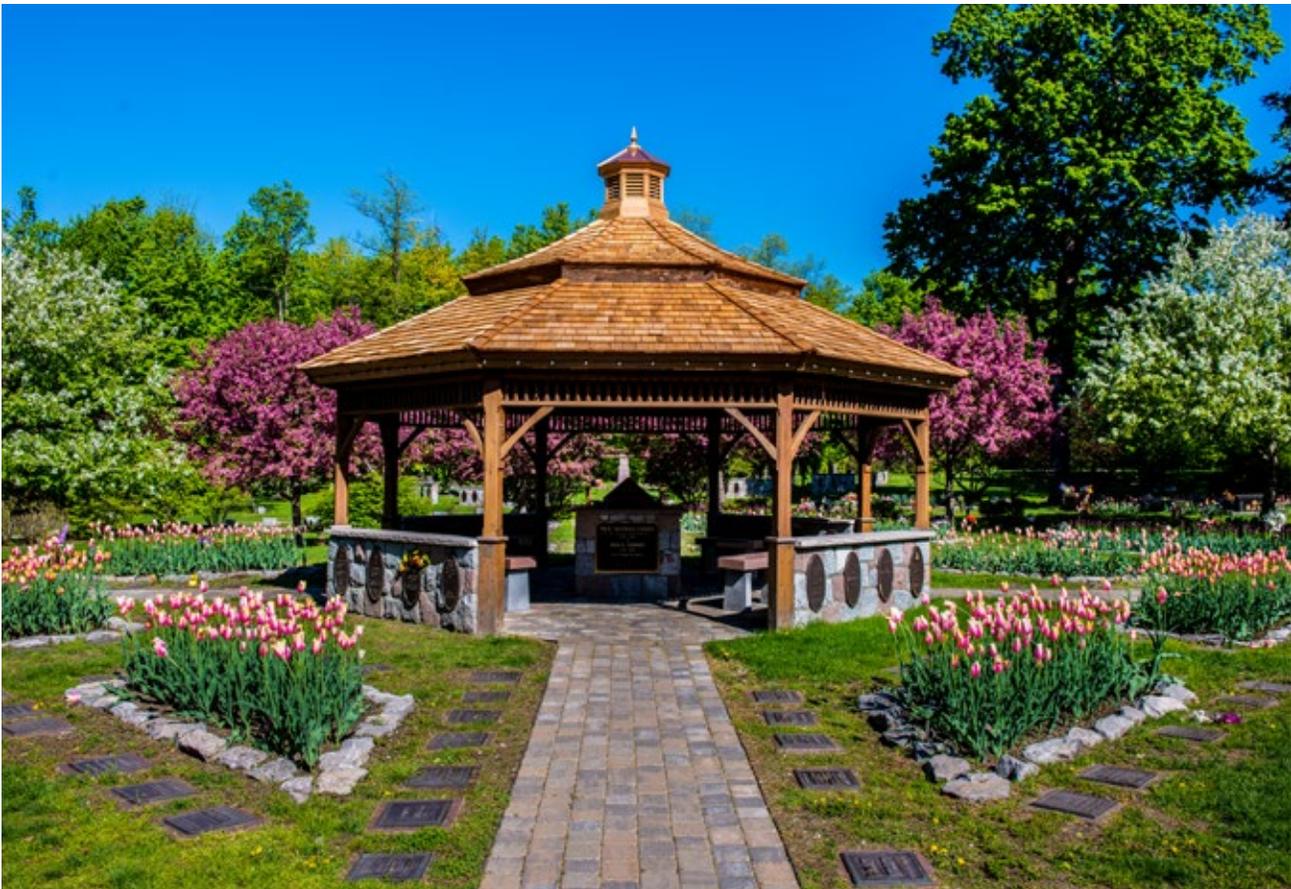
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# THE BEECHWOOD GAZEBO

**THE BEECHWOOD GAZEBO** is one of the more iconic features within the cemetery. It sits at the highest point in this section, allowing our visitors to see the entire Beechwood National Memorial Centre. The gentle curving paths that cross this section lead from garden to garden.

The sight of Centre Block, with the Canadian flag flying proudly from the top of the Peace Tower, is the iconic symbol of democracy in Canada. Early in the 20th century, there were rules to limit the height of downtown Ottawa buildings to ten storeys.

In the 1990s, the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa officials legally protected 21 specific spots in the city from which you must be able to see a number of “national symbols”, with the Centre Block being the most frequent site. In 2008, the city added two more protected views from Beechwood Cemetery: one at the Tommy Douglas memorial, and another at Poet’s Hill. This gave these two areas a beautiful and protected view of the Parliament buildings.



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# THE DESIGN OF THE SIMPLE CIRCLE

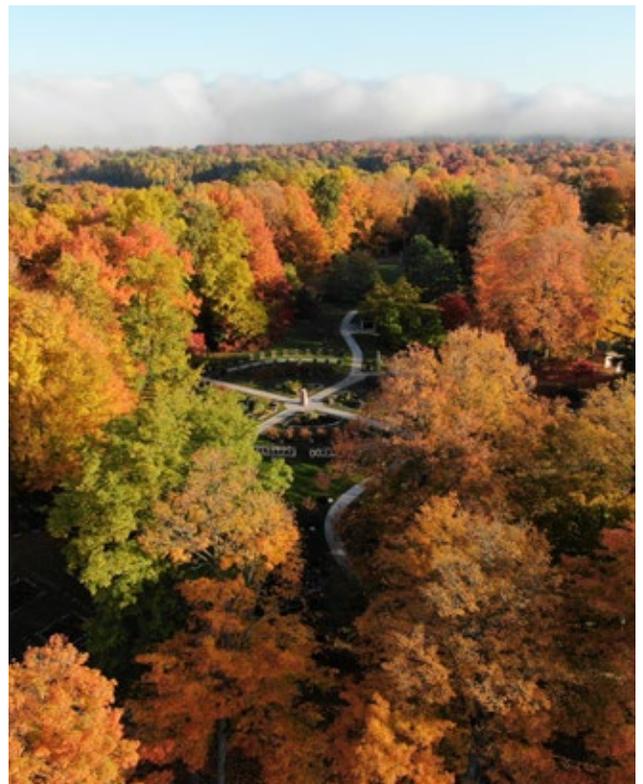


**AS YOU WALK**, you begin to notice the design of the section is a circle of monuments. The monuments are placed in a large curve forming two large circles. It is nearly unnoticeable at first, but as you walk from path to path, the theme is repeated and becomes very apparent.

Ancient cultures all over the world used the circle to represent the same thing. The circle can represent the power of the female, a symbol for a goddess, and the sun. It can represent infinity, being complete, or being whole.

The circle has many different meanings. Ancient cultures used the circle to note the way that time and seasons passed in a cyclical way. The circle in alchemy is used for a focus point. Celts used circles for protection. They believed neither enemy nor evil could cross the boundary. In Chinese cultures, the circle can symbolize heaven, and a square to symbolize earth. Also the yin yang symbol is made up of circles. It represents the two sides of balance.

The modern meanings can vary; however, most cultures use it as a symbol of eternity or hope of eternal life. The circle has no beginning or end and can symbolize resurrection.



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# THE BOTANICAL GARDENS PROVIDE CHOICES FOR FAMILIES

**MEMORIALIZATION** provides a place for family and friends to come together to celebrate the spirit of a life once lived. In fact, more and more people are planning and buying ahead so that they get to choose their memorialization. This eases the burden on their loved ones and ensures the memorial will be what they want.

**Sir Robert Borden structures** - Located in front and behind the gravesite of Sir Robert Borden, the 8th Prime Minister of Canada, stand two columbaria. These architecturally interesting structures are surrounded by benches and provide a place of quiet contemplation. The columbaria are covered by the canopy of heritage trees near the original road leading up from our 1873 entrance. These columbaria are ideal for those who have a passion for what Beechwood represents – heritage, history and Canada.

**Shared monuments** - Shared monuments provide families with a sense of community and togetherness in a wide circle contouring a central monument and garden.

**Family benches** - Throughout our gardens among a natural canvas of flowers, plants and trees, Beechwood's family bench of stone memorials have some of the most breathtaking panoramic views of the historic cradle of our nation's government, Parliament Hill.

**Columbaria** - Families may choose to accommodate two to twelve urns with or without a bench, where they may sit and enjoy the serene landscape and the magnificent surroundings.

**Flower vase memorials** - Beechwood's bronze-on-granite vase memorials are designed to accommodate up to two urns and provide families with an opportunity to honour their loved ones with a bouquet of fresh flowers within a removable bronze vase.

**Granite and bronze markers** - Granite and bronze markers usually only have a person's name, lifespan and a small line of text etched on them, and can be placed either flat on the ground or above on a wall.



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# A PLACE OF COMMEMORATION



**THE BEECHWOOD** Botanical Gardens attract a wide variety of people who come and visit them, tend to their loved ones' graves or just enjoy a quiet moment to themselves in the shade. You will often see painters, pencil sketch artists, photographers and bird watchers looking for their elusive prize. These gardens have become a communal space where people sit and enjoy its beauty. Beechwood with our partners host two events in the gardens:

## **The Bereaved Families of Ontario**

Ottawa Region Memorial Butterfly Release. Families and friends share in the symbolic release of a butterfly in memory of a loved one, a symbol of hope and a symbol of transformation. This event happens once a year in the spring.

## **Peace Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Memorial Service**

The Latvian community hosts an annual memorial service inside the Gazebo during the summer months. It is a way for the community to honour its culture and traditions.



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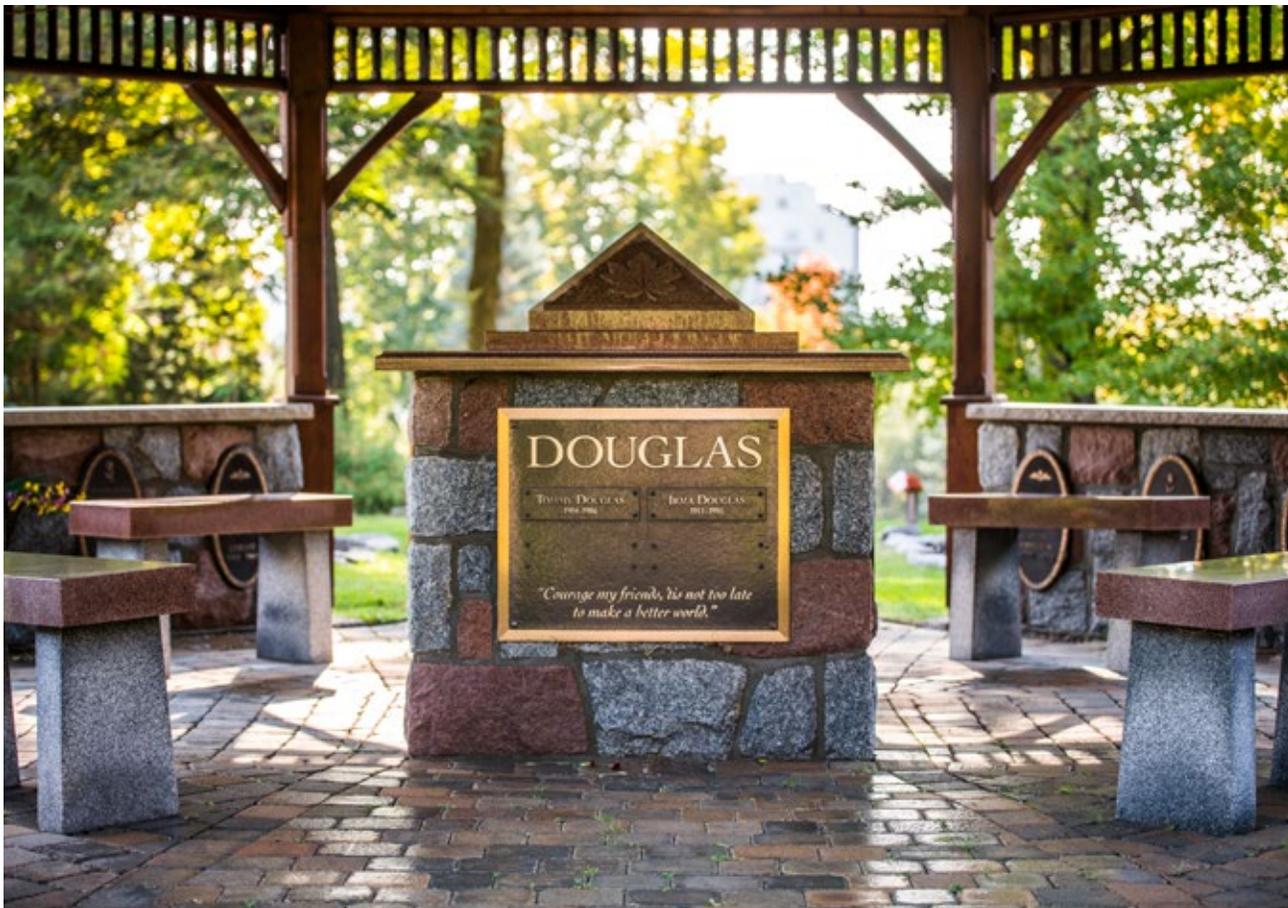
# THE PEOPLE OF BEECHWOOD

## **TOMMY DOUGLAS** Section 64, Grave 285

Born in Falkirk, Scotland on 1 October 20, 1904, Tommy, his mother and his sister moved to Winnipeg to join his father who had moved there the previous year. Shortly after settling in Winnipeg, Tommy was diagnosed with osteomyelitis in his right leg. Tommy's family was not wealthy and subsequently it could not pay for the best or most immediate treatment. The delay nearly cost Tommy his leg. This experience marked the beginning of Tommy's quest for universal, public health care.

By the time he was 18, Tommy set his sights on a career as a preacher. In 1924, when Tommy reached 20 years of age, he enrolled at Brandon College in Manitoba, where he would obtain his Bachelor's degree in the Faculty of Arts. In college, Tommy was active in elocution classes, drama and debating. His peers accepted Douglas as a natural leader and scholar. During weekends and summer months, Tommy would speak at rural churches.

In the fall of 1928, Tommy became a minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. He felt first-hand the harshness of the Depression in the prairies. Douglas knew that something had to be done for the common man. His experience with the vast unemployment and poverty transformed T.C. Douglas, the clergyman, into a social activist.





**During 42 years in politics, Douglas proved himself as an outstanding Canadian leader. He is largely responsible for our central banking, old age pensions, unemployment insurance and our universal Medicare.**

By 1932, Douglas helped organize an Independent Labour Party in Weyburn of which he became president. The movement soon evolved into the Farmer-Labour Party. This party offered hospital care for everyone on an equal basis, including unemployment insurance and universal pensions. By July of 1932, the labour parties of the four western provinces formed an alliance under the name Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF). The CCF became Canada's first national socialist party. In 1935, Douglas was elected into parliament under the CCF.

At the age of 31, Douglas impressed the House of Commons with his fiery, yet relevant speeches. By the end of the 1930's, the Depression and WWII had created an opening for popular support toward the CCF and its socialist ideas and by the end of WWII Douglas was promoting social reform. In a radio broadcast, he said: "If we can produce such abundance in order to destroy our enemies, we can produce in equal abundance in order to provide food, clothing and shelter for our children." Douglas also argued that Ottawa had no effective western farm policy.

By the early 40's, Tommy moved away from federal politics and became leader of the Saskatchewan provincial CCF party (1942) while maintaining his seat in the House of Commons. In 1944, the CCF under Douglas, won the provincial election to become the first socialist government in North America. Douglas emphasized that his brand of socialism depended on political and economic democracy. In 1944, the old age pension plan included medical, hospital and dental services. Douglas' government radically changed the education system and established larger school units and provided the University of Saskatchewan with a medical school. In his first four years in government, Douglas paid off the provincial debt, created a province wide hospitalization plan, paved the roads, and provided electricity and sewage pipes to the common man.

In 1948, Douglas was re-elected Premier after a long and difficult campaign due to surging fears of Communism. He would be re-elected for three more terms to serve Saskatchewan as Premier for 17 years. In 1961, the CCF joined with big labour unions to create the New Democratic Party in which Douglas was elected leader. In Saskatchewan, the North American Medical Establishment tried to defy Medicare, Douglas' top priority project. The striking doctors were no match for Douglas. Tommy proved two things: that it was possible to develop and finance a universal Medicare system and that the medical profession could be confronted. By 1971, Douglas resigned as leader of the NDP, although he remained the party's energy critic until 1976. Tommy Douglas died of cancer on February 24, 1986 at the age of 82.

#### **OLIVE PATRICIA DICKASON** Section 64, Range G

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on March 16, 1920 . After losing everything during the Great Depression, Dickason's family moved to the Interlake region, where she, her sister and her mother trapped and fished to provide food for the family. Dickason finished high school in Saskatchewan and went on to complete a BA in French and Philosophy at Notre Dame College, an affiliate of the University of Ottawa.

Dickason first became aware of her Métis ancestry as a young adult upon meeting some Métis relatives in Regina. She began a 24-year career in journalism at the *Regina Leader-Post* and subsequently, worked as a writer and editor at the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the *Montreal Gazette*, and the *Globe and Mail*. She promoted coverage of First Nations and women's issues.

In 1970, aged 50, Dickason entered the graduate program at the University of Ottawa. She struggled with faculty preconceptions regarding Aboriginal history, including arguments that it did not exist, before finally finding a professor to act as her academic advisor. She completed her Master's degree at the University of Ottawa two years later, and her PhD in 1977. Dickason's doctoral thesis, entitled *The Myth of the Savage*, was eventually published as were *Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from the Earliest Times* and *The Native Imprint: The Contribution of First Peoples to Canada's Character - Volume 1: to 1815* (1995), which she edited.

In addition she also wrote *Indian Arts in Canada*, which won three awards for conception and design and coauthored *The Law of Nations and the New World*. Dickason taught at the University of Alberta from 1976 to 1992, and retired from this professorship when she was 72 after fighting the mandatory retirement at age 65. Her time as a professor and her significant contributions to the literature of history in Canada have influenced a whole generation of scholars, and will continue to be the basis for much historical work done in the future.

Dickason was awarded the Order of Canada in 1996 and was the recipient of the Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1997. She has also been the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates throughout the years. Dickason died on March 12, 2011

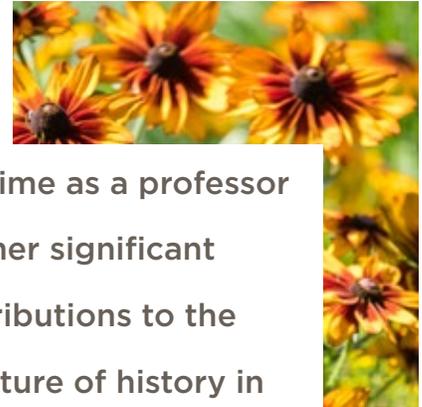
#### **GERHARD HERZBERG** Section 64, Grave 1050

Born in Hamburg, Germany in 1904, Herzberg studied physics at Darmstadt Institute of Technology. In 1933, to escape the Nazi regime he was forced to leave Germany as a refugee. He came to Canada and worked at the University of Saskatchewan, and within months was appointed research professor of physics.

In 1948, Herzberg accepted a position with Canada's National Research Council in Ottawa and was the Director of Physics there from 1949 to 1969. His main contributions are to the field of atomic and molecular spectroscopy, and he is known worldwide as the father of modern molecular spectroscopy.

During his lifetime, Herzberg received countless honours and awards. In 1971, he received the Noble Prize in chemistry for a lifetime of achievement and in his discovery of the spectrum of methylene. He was also a Companion of the Order of Canada and a member of the Canadian Science & Engineering Hall of Fame.

In 1987, asteroid 3316 was officially named after him, as was a street in Kanata, Ontario. He was also appointed as a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada on July 1, 1992. Herzberg worked at the National Research Council as a Distinguished Research Scientist until his death at the age of 94 on March 4, 1999.



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