

THE

# BEECHWOOD

WAY

MAGAZINE



Influential Women at  
Beechwood Cemetery

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# Influential Women at Beechwood Cemetery

Established in 1873, Beechwood is recognized as one of the most beautiful and historic cemeteries in Canada. It has been designated as a National Historic Site. Its breathtaking park-like setting boasts 160 acres of colourful gardens, century-old trees, ponds, enchanting fountains and over 35,000 spring tulips.

Beechwood Cemetery is the final resting place for over 85,000 Canadians from all walks of life. Since the War of 1812, Beechwood has been the final resting place of women who impacted the world around them. Each in their own unique way, these women influenced change. Revolutionary in their fields, their impact has lasted the test of time.

The influential women have changed the course of their own fields and been leaders in their community, their city, provinces and Canada. Many of the women were pioneers and the first in their areas of influences in all aspect of life.

This magazine is not the exhausted list of all the influential women buried at Beechwood.

When using this magazine as a tour guide, please begin at the Gazebo and follow the biographies across the Beechwood Cemetery. It will lead you across the ground and back to near the Beechwood National Memorial Cemetery.





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## MARION DEWAR - Section 64 PH, Bench 1

Marion Dewar, née Bell, was born in Montreal on February 17, 1928. She was first elected Ottawa alderman in 1972, and later became deputy mayor. While defeated as a provincial candidate in Ottawa West in 1977, she was elected mayor of Ottawa from 1978 to 1985. Among the policy areas she emphasized were improved public access to municipal decision-making, low-cost housing and child care. She co-hosted the Women's Constitutional Conference calling for gender equality provisions in the Canadian Charter of Rights. Under her mayoralty, Ottawa was declared a nuclear-free zone and provided homes to some 4,000 Southeast Asian refugees.



In 1985 Dewar was elected president of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP), and urged the party to have more female candidates. In July 1987 she was a successful candidate for the NDP in a federal by-election in Hamilton Mountain but she lost the seat in the 1988 general election. After her defeat she became the executive director of the Canadian Council on Children and Youth from 1989 to 1992 and in 1995 the national chair of Oxfam Canada, an organization created in 1963 and based on Oxfam International that seeks to reduce international poverty and create self-sustaining communities.

In the early 1990s Dewar was appointed by Bob Rae's Ontario NDP government to the regional Police Services Board, but was subsequently fired by the Mike Harris Conservative government in 1995. She won a court ruling to be reinstated, in spite of the Tory government's appeal.

Dewar became a member of the Order of Canada in 2002. She also held the position of vice-chair of the Heart Institute and was a past-chair of Oxfam Canada. Dewar's son Paul was elected to the House of Commons as an NDP Member of Parliament in 2006.

Dewar died suddenly on September 15, 2008.



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## OLIVE PATRICIA DICKASON - Section 64, Range G, Grave 123

Olive Patricia Dickason was born on March 16, 1920 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. 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.



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## LADY LAURA BORDEN - Section 60, Lot 46

Laura Bond was born in Halifax in 1862, the daughter of a prominent local merchant. In 1889, she married Halifax lawyer Robert Laird Borden who, in 1911, Canada's eighth Prime Minister.

Lady Borden was the first Prime Minister's wife to assume an independent public role. While still living in Halifax she supported various organizations relating to expanding women's rights and interests. She was an officer as well as patron of the National Council of Women founded in 1893. During World War I and afterwards, Lady Borden worked tirelessly in support of the Red Cross and the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE).

The Borden's Ottawa home was a Rideau riverside property called "Glensmere" at 201 Wurtemberg Street. Here they maintained a busy social life even after Sir Robert retired from politics in 1919. They were active parishioners of All Saints Church on Laurier Ave. where they are commemorated by a plaque and a stained glass window. Sir Robert's state funeral took place there, as did Lady Borden's.

Borden died on September 7, 1940, and was remembered for her volunteerism her "tact, kindness, gracious hospitality and understanding of many types of people." Her funeral was attended by many notables including Prime Minister Mackenzie King and representatives of the various interests she had supported. Now she lies beside her husband in Beechwood under the Canadian flag.

## LADY GRACE VERNON RITCHIE - Section 48, Lot 35

Grace Vernon Nicholson was born in 1838 to Captain Thomas L. Nicholson and his wife Amy (née Vernon). After her father's death, her mother married Vice-Admiral William Fitzwilliam Owen, a British naval officer and explorer. He is best known for his exploration of the west and east African coasts, for the discovery of the Seaflower Channel off the coast of Sumatra and for surveying the Canadian Great Lakes.

In Saint John, New Brunswick on May 5, 1856, Nicholson married Sir Thomas Johnstone Ritchie, one of the first judges appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada and became the second Chief Justice of the Court, and the longest serving Chief Justice to date. The couple had seven sons and five daughters, in addition to Ritchie's son and daughter from his first marriage.

Lady Ritchie shared in her husband's rise to prominence in Ottawa, and played an active role in the capital's society, even after his death in 1892. She was a founder and first president of the Ottawa Chapter of the National Council of Women of Canada and served as an original board member and a governor of the Victorian Order of Nurses. Lady Ritchie died on May 7, 1911 in Ottawa.

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## **ROBERTA ELI ABETH ODELL TILTON - Section 50, Lot 15 SE**

Roberta Elizabeth Odell Tilton was born 20 September 1837 in Maine, USA and was a social reformer and founder of the National Council of Women. Tilton was described as an attractive, energetic member of Victorian Ottawa society who could write convincingly and be a formidable speaker, especially concerning the role of women in society.

Tilton served as Secretary to the Church of England Benevolent Society at Christ Church in 1871, which would appear to be the first record of her public involvement. In 1878, she was elected first vice-president of the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), becoming a founding member of the Ottawa WCTU in 1881.

She was the principal initiator of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada in April 1885. Tilton was appointed general secretary and formed the diocesan boards' Women's Auxiliary, with the consent of the diocesan synods. In 1892, the constitution changed and the officers were made elective; Tilton was elected president. Her involvement with this organization continued until 1908.

This group, which had grown to 70,000 members at her death in 1925, is still the Anglican Church of Canada's oldest continuous national organization. Tilton redefined the role of Anglican women in their church, allowing them to initiate specific projects, where before they had been seen as helpmates in defined activities prior to this time.

Tilton was also the founder and President of the Protestant Orphan's Home, worked to reorganize of the Girls' Friendly Society, and was one of the founders of National Council of Women. She exemplified the desire of women to make their life deeds a living testimony to their faith, by assisting those around them to improve their lives.

Tilton died on May 28, 1925 in Ottawa. The Anglican Church of Canada commemorates her life of service each year on May 30th.

## **SHIRLEY MOULDS - Section 41, Lot 39 E Ctr**

Born in Ottawa in 1904, Shirley Moulds lived in the same house in the Glebe her entire life. What set her apart from most women who grew up in the 1920's was not the wide array of sports that she played – tennis, bowling, basketball, softball and hockey – but the proficiency that she displayed, particularly in hockey.

Moulds played for the Ottawa Alerts from 1919 to 1925, a team that won the Canadian Championship six times in those years. On February 5, 1925, the Alerts defeated Renfrew, 4-0, with Shirley getting all the goals. In the first game of the two-game Ontario Ladies' Amateur Hockey Association championship series, Moulds scored the lone goal for the Alerts in their 4-1 loss at the hands of University of Toronto Varsity.

She was captain of the Ottawa Rowing Club (later the Soloway Mills) Ladies Hockey team Canadian Champions in 1927. Moulds and this team are featured at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

In addition to her hockey prowess, Moulds was a leading scorer for the Ottawa and District Champion Alerts basketball team, played shortstop on the Rowing Club's city and district champions softball team and was a top scorer on their championship basketball team. She was also a three-time city champion in tennis in 1923, 1924 and 1925 and a bowling champion in her 50's.

Moulds was inducted into the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame on May 5, 2010.



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## ELEANOR AGNES KINGSFORD LAW - Section 41, Lot 55 SE

Eleanor Agnes Kingsford was born on May 31, 1886 and was the daughter of engineer and historian William Kingsford. Her family's eighth child, Kingsford came to Ottawa from Toronto in 1892 at age six to live with her grandparents.

She became interested in figure skating, inspired by the graceful skating of Lady Minto, wife of the Governor General, who had been taught skating at a London club with artificial ice. Lord and Lady Minto were keen skaters, and when a new skating club was formed in Ottawa, it was named after its patron, the Governor General. One of his recommendations was that a certain level of skating skill be required for membership. To achieve this objective Lord Minto arranged to bring to the club a professional skating coach from Germany.

When Kingsford joined the club, the nature of skating was changing, from emphasis on the execution of "figures" to other forms of skating, such as the skating in unison of pairs and foursomes, and the practice of skating to music.

Competitions between clubs became an important part of the sport, and under guidance of the Minto Club's coach, Kingsford became a skilled skater and competitor.



Kingsford, with Lady Evelyn Grey, daughter of the Governor General who succeeded Lord Minto, and two male skaters formed the "Minto Four" who, as a team skating in unison, won the Minto Cup. In 1912 and 1913 Kingsford was the champion of ladies' skating, and in 1912, with Douglas Nelles, was pair's champion.

The First World War brought great change to Kingsford's life. Early in the war she married Captain John Law and moved to Toronto, but in 1919 she became a widow and returned to Ottawa with her daughter. Learning of a need in Europe for skating teachers, Law moved there and spent a number of years in France and Switzerland teaching skating and giving exhibitions. She returned to Canada just as the Second World War commenced. Law died on December 11, 1975 and was buried in Beechwood Cemetery. The monument over her grave, in Section 41, bears the fitting epitaph, "Champion Skater of Canada".



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## **SARAH LAMPLOUGH - Section 41, Lot 81 NW**

Sarah Wilkins was born in Orangeville, Ontario on April 27, 1870. On June 15, 1892, at Ottawa, she married Frederick Leonard Lamplough (1866 - 1924), a dispatcher with the Canada Atlantic Railway, but the happy event almost turned tragic when Fred was severely injured in a freak accident soon after they embarked on their honeymoon trip to Boston and New York. In spite of the rough start, Sarah and Fred were married for over thirty years and had several children.

Two of Sarah's sons served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War and were killed in action. Leonard Alderson Lamplough, well-known in Ottawa as a football player at Ottawa Collegiate, was a corporal with the 1st Battery, First Division, Canadian Field Artillery. He was killed in action on September 5, 1915 at the young age of 21. His younger brother, Frank Wilkins Lamplough, volunteered with the CEF too and went overseas as a signaller. He transferred to the Artillery and died of wounds received in action on July 10, 1918.

In 1942, Sarah Lamplough was chosen to represent Canadian "Motherhood" as Silver Cross Mother on Remembrance Day ceremonies at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, in recognition of her loss and the loss experienced by all mothers whose sons and daughters had died in the service of their country. She has the distinction of being one of the first official Silver Cross Mothers. Lamplough died in Ottawa on September 12, 1958.

## **ISA MAY BALLANTYNE - Section 50, Lot 35 NW**

Isa May Ballantyne was born in Ottawa on May 7, 1864, to James Ballantyne, a successful coal and lumber merchant who was one of the Camera Club of Ottawa's first members.

Ballantyne was a cultured woman with a life-long interest in the arts, including literature, music, painting and photography. She served as vice president of the Camera Club of Ottawa in 1898-1899.

Several hundred Ballantyne family photographs are held by Library and Archives Canada. They provide a fascinating view of family life between the late 1880s and the First World War. The Ballantyne family and their involvement in amateur photography provide the real evidence that they were amateur in name only, because they approached photography as an art form and have left us an invaluable record of daily life.

Ballantyne never married, and died May 6, 1929, on the eve of her 65th birthday. She was survived by her brother, Adam.

## **JESSIE KATHERINE ARGUE (FISHER) JARMAN - Section 50, Lot 36 N**

Jessie Katherine Argue was born in Carp, Ontario on February 16, 1881. She was the sister of Dr. John Fenton Argue of Ottawa, and also had a career in the field of medicine.

Argue was the Lady Superintendent of the Lady Grey Hospital, later called the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium. She also established a Training School of Nurses in the Sanatorium and was part of the group that organized the Emergency Hospital during the influenza epidemic in 1918. It was during this time that Mayor Harold Fisher visited the Hospital and met Argue. By the next year, they were married.

After Fisher's death in 1924, she married again, to a Mr. Frank Jarman. She passed away May 30, 1970.



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## MARION OSBORNE - Section 50, Lot 37 SE

Born in Montreal, Quebec on May 14, 1871, Marion Osborne was a poet and dramatist. She lived in Toronto for many years, but from 1920 until her death she lived in Ottawa.

She was known to have artistic, dramatic and athletic talents. She had an excellent voice, painted, sang, acted in the theatre and as a young woman, was a fencing champion in Ontario.

She published three books of poetry, two children's books and two plays, one of which was produced in Ottawa and Montreal. She was the author of *Poems* (1914), *The Song of Israel and Other Poems* (1923), *Flight Commander Stork* (1925), a lyrical drama entitled *Sappho and Phaon* (1926), and a prose comedy called *The Point of View* (1926).

She also wrote ballets and screenplays. She was Vice-President of the Poetry Society for Canada and councillor for Canada for the Poetry Society of England.

Osborne died on September 5, 1931.

## JENNY RUSSELL SIMPSON - Section 41, Lot 120 NW

Jenny (Jeanette) Russell Simpson was born in Montreal in 1847 to Andrew Russell, commissioner of Crown Lands. She was an artist, and sometimes employed as a copyist by the Public Archives of Canada. Russell was taught to paint by her uncle, Alexander Jamieson Russell, an artist who used his skills to illustrate articles and a book he wrote. His sketches also appeared in the *Canadian Illustrated News* and other publications.

Simpson came to Ottawa in 1866, and married John Barker Simpson, son of the Hon. John Simpson. She acted as English secretary of the Historic Landmarks of Canada (part of the Royal Society of Canada) from 1915-1921.

From 1923-1932, Simpson was curator of the Bytown Museum in Ottawa, then called the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa. She greatly enhanced the collection and one of the Museum's most notable works, the bust of Lady Macdonald, 1874, was acquired during her tenure. She was also responsible for writing the Museum's first collection catalogue entitled *Guide to the Bytown and Ottawa Historical Museum*. The first edition was published in 1926, Ottawa's centenary year, and was republished in 1929, when it listed 481 artefacts. It was largely through Simpson's efforts that the WCHSO was able to take possession of the Registry Office, which helped turn the little institution into a notable municipal museum.

In 1909, Simpson represented the WCHSO at the American Historical Association in New York the first time a Canadian society was officially represented at this prestigious meeting. She died April 25, 1936.



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## MARIA HILL - Section 37, Plot 59 & 60

Throughout her long life of service to king and country, Maria Hill always thought of herself as “a soldier all through.” Even at age 90, she said her only regret was that she had “no sons to wear the British uniform and, if occasion called, offer his life for England.” She was what historians call “a daughter of the regiment,” raised from infancy in military traditions and lived as an army wife who followed the regiment into the war zones.

Born in Lancashire in 1791, Maria lost both her parents when she was still a child – a father who was an army surgeon in England and a mother who was remarried to a recruiting sergeant. Maria’s stepfather brought her to Upper Canada in 1799 and to Fort Amherstburg, near Windsor, where she married Sgt. Andrew Hill, an Irish soldier in the 100th Regiment of Foot in 1811. They had two daughters. She was one of the wives whom the army permitted to travel to the forts and armed camps where the women were given accommodations and food rations in return for caring for 600 men in the regiment.

After the American invaders were defeated at the Battle of Queenston Heights on Oct. 13, 1812, Maria met Laura Secord who was searching the battlefield for her gravely-injured husband. We know that Maria, a nurse, left Fort George and went to aid injured soldiers while “her husband was under arms among the rest” who were sent to fight the invading enemy.

Playwright Sarah Anne Curzon, in her 1887 drama about Laura Secord, identified Maria as a “brave woman” who hid “her babe under a wood pile” and walked among the wounded. She described Maria as “one in whom the heroic blood ran thick and strong as e’er in times gone by.”



When the U.S. army invaded again in 1813 and occupied the Niagara frontier, British generals ordered women and children to withdraw to Montreal. Legend says Maria disguised herself as a man, donning a redcoat, to follow Sgt. Hill. Her identity was revealed when she was run over by an ammunition wagon and examined by a doctor. She was partially disabled for life. Yet, as a nurse, she was allowed to stay and help the surgeons cope with overwhelming numbers of badly injured soldiers at the 1814 battles of Chippawa and the bloodiest, at Lundy’s Lane.

Once the war ended, the Hills took land in the Richmond military settlement and ran the tavern in the town. Maria died in 1881 and is buried in a family plot at Beechwood with two husbands and the only one of her children to survive – Margaret – who married Edward Malloch, an MP in early Upper Canada. A granddaughter, also named Maria, also shares the burial site. She had become Lady Grant, having married Dr. James Alexander Grant, who was knighted by Queen Victoria for medical care of our first eight governors general. Dr. Grant was also a MP in John A. Macdonald’s government. They raised seven of their 12 children in a mansion on Elgin Street, which much later became Friday’s Roast Beef House.



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## HENRIETTA LOETITIA TU O WILSON - Section 24, PC 23

Henrietta Tuzo was born in Victoria in 1873 and was educated there and in England. She was a pioneering woman, but not in the traditional sense.

Wilson was known for her love of climbing. By 1906 she had climbed many mountains in the Alps and in western Canada, being the first Canadian-born woman mountaineer. And a pioneer she was: she made the first ascent of Peak Seven of the Ten Peaks (3,246 m) in the Canadian Rockies. This peak was later named for her – Mt. Tuzo. She was also a charter member of The Alpine Club of Canada, which was where she met her future husband. In 1907 she married John A. Wilson, another pioneer, known as the “father of civil aviation” in Canada.

After marriage and a move to Ottawa, Wilson retained her love of climbing but was also involved in many public-spirited organizations, including the National Council of Women, the Red Cross, the Canadian Parks Association, the Women's Canadian Club, the League of Nations, the Ottawa Local Council and the Horticultural Society.

Wilson was awarded the King's Jubilee Medal 1935 and Coronation Medal 1937 for her successes. Her husband praised her common sense.

Wilson was a tall and elegant woman with a sunny disposition, a dedicated homemaker, a warm companion and tireless worker for so many causes dear to her heart and to her commitment to improve society. She made it her mission to visit every WW II war bride who came to Ottawa.

Wilson died 11 January 1955 at 81, just three months after her husband.



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## Ruth Margaret Spencer - Section 27, F, grave 274

Ruth Margaret (Church) Spencer was born in Montreal on March 3rd 1919. She attended McGill University and graduated in 1940 with a Bachelor of Arts. She pursued her passion for reading by attending the University Library School and graduated with a coveted Bachelor of Library Science degree. Upon her graduation, Spencer began working at the library in the Head Office of the Royal Bank of Canada.

The Royal Bank of Canada was the first of five nationwide banks to establish a library. The library declared its purpose on September 17, 1913: "A library has been established at Head Office with the object of encouraging the staff, particularly junior officers, to read standard books on banking, finance, exchange and kindred subjects." The accompanying catalogue listed 398 books; the budget was \$2,000 and a bookcase to hold 1,200 books cost \$265. Originally named the Head Office Library of the Royal Bank of Canada, it was renamed to Information Resources in 1979. The library housed materials on Canadian banking and finance, Canadian industry, management, marketing and personnel, financial analysis, foreign trade and accounting. The Information Resources allow the public and students from various universities in Montreal to use the collection, not only because it was one of the largest but also because Montreal had no public library with a specialized business collection. The librarians, however, were not often used for research type of questions. The typical job of a librarian working in these commercial libraries was to do the processing of the books and filing periodicals. In 1979, The Information Resources was maintained by a staff of 11, who looked after a collection of 55,000 volumes and 2,000 periodicals. This is the largest banking and finance collection in Canada within a non-government institution.

As a librarian at the Royal Bank, Ruth and the Bank's Chief Librarian would bring books down to the Montreal Harbour and distribute them to the merchant seaman. This was her first connection with navy and what spurred her to enlist in the Women's Royal Canadian Navy Service in September 1943. During her training in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Ruth established the first library at the RCN base. After applying for overseas service, she was posted at a Canadian base in Londonderry, Ireland. While there, Ruth along with fellow RCN colleagues ran a library that became a haven for travelling seamen. Ruth loaned books to travellers, which for the most part were returned. The books back then were all hard cover, as paperbacks had not yet arrived.

At the war's end, the base in Londonderry was closed and Ruth was discharged in October 1945. She returned to school at the University of London to do a post graduate degree in Library Science. This lasted only a short few months, as in early 1946 Ruth was given the job of Librarian at the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, strategically located at Canada House on Trafalgar Square, London. She was the first professional librarian to join the staff of the Canadian Mission and faced the daunting task of constructing a library whose purpose was to serve as a reference centre for the High Commission's staff and for the General British public interested in matters Canadian.

After marrying her husband Robert Spencer, the couple moved back to Canada in 1950, as Robert received a teaching position at the University of Toronto. Soon after her arrival, Ruth was appointed Chief Librarian of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (CIIA). She worked there until the day before her birth of her first son, Charles, in October 1953. While raising her three children, Ruth worked part-time in the CIIA Library and later established and maintained the library at St Clements's School in Ottawa.

Ruth passed away in Ottawa on July 2, 2000.

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## EVA CATHERINE BUELS - Section 29, Lot 43 E

Born Eva Catherine Ault on October 11, 1891 in Aultsville, Ontario, she was raised in nearby Finch before the Aults moved their family of five girls and three boys to Ottawa where they would lay down strong community roots.

Buels was among the young women who skated for the first Ottawa Alerts hockey team, which was founded in 1915 with girls from the Ottawa Ladies College and the Young Women's Christian Association. She became one of the game's first female stars and a fan favourite, earning the nickname "Queen of the Ice."

In March of 1922, her play was singled out in a Toronto newspaper article in which she was called "a real star," noting that she scored at least one goal in practically every game she had played. Sharing in her success was her younger sister Bessie who was also on the team.

The Alerts were one of the most successful ladies teams in Canada, winning the Championship in their first season and earning the Eastern Canadian Championship in 1922 and the Ontario Ladies title as well as the Dominion Championship in 1923.

Buels married Ottawa athlete James Buels, who played for the Rough Riders Football Club. The couple did not have any children, and Buels did not work outside of the home, but was an active volunteer with the Minto skating club. She died in 1984 at the age of 93.



## RUTH WILDGEN - Section 19, TG 216A, Grave 1

Born in Saskatchewan in 1921, Ruth Wildgen was a former City of Ottawa Councillor and noted social activist. Her family, immigrants from Lebanon, moved from Saskatchewan to Almonte, Ontario when she was three years old, and Wildgen spent much of her youth working to help support her family.

Wildgen married in 1952, and struggled with her husband's mental illness, which led to their estrangement. In 1973, left homeless with six children to care for after a house fire, Wildgen moved into public housing. Despite these difficulties, Wildgen worked tirelessly in the community: at the Carlington Community Resource Centre, she set up seniors' programs, including a popular cooperative lunch-and-learn session with leadership from Ada Clark. A permanent legacy is the commercially-equipped kitchen at Lepage Manor, which was then a seniors' building with many residents who weren't eating well on their own. Wildgen helped tenants to organize a low-cost dinner service that met all health requirements and was still operating decades later. She went on to serve as an alderman for the Britannia Ward from 1985 to 1988, and served as a councillor for the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton



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Wildgen worked closely with the community as a social activist. She was the founder of the Foster Farm Soup Kitchen and the Foster Farm Food Co-operative. She also sat on the board of directors for several organizations, including At Your Service restaurant, a food service training program for people having difficulty finding employment (for which she was also one of the founding partners), Operation Break, a holiday camp for disadvantaged families in the region, the West End Legal Clinic and the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Housing Authority. Wildgen also served as the President for the Ottawa Council for Low Income Support Services.

Wildgen was nominated for a Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case by MP Marlene Catterall. Since her death, several parks and public amenities have been named in her honour.

Wildgen died on September 11, 1999, at her home in Dunrobin, Ontario.

## **VIOLET ARCHER - Section 19, SG 280**

Violet Archer was born Violetta Balestreri on April 24, 1913 in Montreal to a family of Italian immigrants. In response to her early interest in music, the family bought Violet a piano at age nine, and she soon received formal training. At age sixteen she began to compose music and her first composition, like many others in the course of her career, was an attempt to put poetical work into musical form.

Archer obtained a teacher's certificate for the piano from McGill University in 1934, a degree of Bachelor of Music in 1936, followed in 1938 by a diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Her extensive academic achievements included a Master of Music degree from Yale University in 1949. In 1942 she studied in New York under Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, who suggested the use of folk melodies and harmonies in her compositions, and at Yale she was a student of Paul Hindemith. Her studies were supported by scholarships and fellowships from universities and the Canada Council, and her detailed knowledge of many instruments, including the piano, organ, clarinet, strings and bass, provided a firm foundation for her compositions.

Archer's early teaching positions included McGill and American universities. In 1962 she became a professor at the University of Alberta, where until 1990 she taught music and musical composition. She also served as the resident composer at the Banff Centre for the Arts. A list of her compositions, exceeding 120 works, includes a symphony and other orchestral works and various solo, trio and quartet pieces for the piano, organ, strings and other instruments. Many of her compositions were based on Biblical texts, poetry and folk songs, and many have been recorded.

Archer's accomplishments were recognized by numerous awards, including honorary degrees from a number of universities, and her appointment, in 1983, to the Order of Canada. In 1993 she was named by an American organization as "International Woman of the Year", and in that year another American institution described her as "The most admired woman of the decade". Archer died in Ottawa on February 21, 2000.

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## MADGE HAMILTON MACBETH - Section 19, PC 360

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 6, 1880, MacBeth came to Canada at age twelve, attended college at London Ontario's Hellmuth Ladies' College, and at age 20 married Charles Macbeth of London. After living in the USA for two years, the family moved to Ottawa, but within a few years, Charles died. To provide for her two young sons Macbeth turned to writing. Her literary talents perhaps inherited from her grandmother, one of the first American women to become a professional author.

Macbeth's first two articles were published in the Canadian Magazine 1908, followed by many more. Her works also appeared in American publications, including Survey (1912), the Ladies' Home Journal (1914) and The New York Times Current History Magazine (1922). However, most of her work was published in Canada by Maclean's, Chatelaine, Canadian Home and Garden, The Dalhousie Review, Canadian Home Journal and the Canadian Geographical Journal. Saturday Night alone printed 42 of her articles between 1912 and 1937.



Macbeth also wrote books and newspaper articles, and in the 1950s she was a regular columnist for the Ottawa Citizen. As a journalist, she was for her free-lance interviews of Members of Parliament. Her first book was published in 1909 and her last in 1965, the year of her death, for a total of more than twenty, which included fiction, drama, and non-fiction on everything from the Elysian Islands to Ottawa Valley Baptist history.. An early book, "Kleath," was printed in 1917 and was later, without her permission, made into a movie. In the early days of civilian aviation she made her first flight, resulting in a 1924 Saturday Night article, as well as a book "Wings in the West," written with Colonel (later, General) E. L. M. Burns. Extensive travel provided subject matter for much of her writing - she sent dispatches from as far afield locations as Tobago, Palestine and Yugoslavia - and her interest in the literary and art worlds produced articles which introduced readers to persons destined for fame, such as Yousuf Karsh and Emily Warren. Several of her novels dealt with politics in a satirical manner, a possible reason for pseudonyms on some of her writings.

Macbeth's association with the Ottawa Drama League probably started an important part of her writing, that of playwright. She wrote for both the stage and for radio drama broadcasts, the latter in the 1920s when the newly-formed Canadian National Railway opened ten radio broadcasting studios in its hotels across Canada. The broadcasts, heard locally by those with a radio receiver, were also heard by CNR train travelers who were provided with ear phones. Macbeth not only wrote dramas broadcast from CNR's Ottawa studio, she was also a part of the cast. When the CNR ceased its broadcasting activities in 1932 Macbeth became a strong advocate for the establish

Madge Macbeth's long and successful career as a writer began under adverse circumstances which she overcame to become a highly-regarded journalist, novelist and playwright, who, for more than a half-century, contributed greatly to Canada's literary activities.

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## ROSA SHAW - Section B, Range 6, Grave 25

Born in 1895, Shaw began her career in journalism as a reporter overseas in the London offices of Vogue. Upon her return to Canada in the late 1920s, she joined the Canadian Women's Press Club, and served as the first women's pages editor at the Montreal Gazette from 1925 to 1939.

Shaw was the longest ever serving member of the CWPC, as well as its president in 1938. As the President of the CWPC, she fought for many causes including equal pay for equal work, and the right for women in Quebec to vote. She also wrote a volume, published in 1957, that chronicled the history of the National Council of Women, with its forward written by then Governor-General Vincent Massey.

Shaw came to Ottawa in 1940 and took a position as an editor of the Canadian Welfare Council journal. Not long after, she moved over to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. During WWII she organized a major conference that brought women journalists from across Canada to Ottawa to ask questions of officials with various ministries how they could promote – through the media (both women's pages and general sections – ways to keep the home front running.

Shaw was a colourful figure who mentored up and coming young women reporters, organized lavish parties and rode around town in a convertible roadster. She was remembered in her Ottawa heydays by former CBC journalist and Senator Betty Kennedy as the “best-heeled woman in Ottawa.”

Shaw was closely linked to another influential newspaper woman from her era, Bettie Cole. The two lived together in several houses in Sandy Hill through most of the 1940s and into the mid-1950s, when they moved to a small bungalow near Cumberland, apparently in search of a quieter life than what they had known in Ottawa. In the 1970s they moved back to town, settling in Orleans, but there their connection appears to end.

Shaw died in Ottawa on February of 1981, in relative obscurity as a ward of the province with only three people at her burial – interestingly, Bettie Cole was not among them. Correspondence written by Rosa in the late 1970s describes Bettie's behaviour as abrasive and abusive. However, it is hard not to conclude from her writing that it was Rosa who in fact suffered from some sort of mental illness that led her to believe that Bettie had turned against her. In either case, it appears evident that this lifelong companionship ended unhappily.

## BETTIE COLE - Section B, Range 6, Grave 20A

Born in the village of Marbleton, Quebec in 1908, Cole began her career filing social notes to the women's pages of the Sherbrooke Record. During WWII, Cole left the Eastern Townships and landed a reporting job on the city desk of the Ottawa Citizen in 1941, where she made her mark amid the clacking typewriters of the then-downtown newsroom, spending nearly two decades as a newspaperwoman.



According to her headstone, Cole was the 'First Girl Journalist on Men's General Staff 'Ottawa Citizen.' Cole was apparently close friends with Rosa Shaw, who is buried in the same section of Beechwood, five plots over. The two women lived together in various houses from the 1940s up until the 1970s, when they apparently went their separate ways.

In 1981, the year of Rosa's death, Bettie Cole appeared on a local CBC television program to speak about her career as an early newspaperwoman. She appeared proud of being one of the pioneering women who made journalism accessible to the legions of younger Canadian women. This appears to be the only recorded instance where she spoke publicly about her time as an early newspaperwoman.

Cole passed away in 1989. Cole's headstone, and that of her onetime companion, Rosa Shaw, are identical in style, design and font, and were purchased by Cole. While the two women may not have overcome their falling out in life, they are reunited again in their final resting place.

### Quen Chow Lee – Sec 18, TG20, Gr 2

Born in China on 18 October, 1911, Quen Chow Lee was nicknamed "Nooney Quen" meaning women's rights in English. She married Guang Foo Lee in 1930, who had returned to China from Canada to find a wife. He paid a \$500 head tax in 1913 to enter Canada and would have had to pay another \$500 had he stayed in China longer than two years. Guang had to leave his pregnant wife and two children behind.

Due to the Second World War and the civil war in China, Lee was unable to reach her husband for almost 14 years. Lee raised the children on her own until the repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act in 1947, which for more than two decades had effectively banned Chinese immigration to Canada. After saving up to afford the journey to Canada, the Lee family arrived after Christmas in 1950 and settled in Sudbury, Ont. There, they opened a number of restaurants: the Capitol Caf , the Star Restaurant, the China House Restaurant, the Empress Tavern and Lee's Palace.



While in her 80's, Lee volunteered to be one of the lead claimants of the class-action lawsuit representing the head-tax-payers' widows with the Chinese-Canadian National Council. Between 1885 and 1923, the Canadian government collected a total of \$23 million from some 81,000 people under the various forms of the Chinese Immigration Act. Lee travelled between Ottawa and Toronto to attend fundraising and public awareness events, all in a wheelchair. Despite the lawsuit being dismissed, it eventually led to the Canadian government giving an official apology at the House of Commons on 22 June, 2006.

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## DIANE STUEMER - Section 110, Range 13, Grave 15

Born in Sarnia in 1960, Diane Stuemmer's family moved to Calgary when she was still an infant. She grew up in the city, meeting her future husband Herbert at age 17 while working as an usherette for the Calgary Stampede. When she decided to move to Ottawa to attend Carleton University's journalism program, Herbert followed her.

By 1994, Diane was the co-owner of a successful advertising business, living a normal suburban life with her husband and three children. But everything changed after her husband, Herbert, had a serious accident, and Diane herself was diagnosed with malignant melanoma, a potentially fatal skin cancer. Soon the couple embarked on a re-evaluation of their priorities and a search for a way to live life more fully. In 1997 they sold their business, rented out their home, took their three sons, then aged 5, 9 and 11 out of school, and set out on an ambitious four-year plan to navigate around the world by sailboat. Their entire sailing experience at the time consisted of six afternoons of sailing on the Ottawa River on a 23-foot boat. When they departed Ottawa in September of 1997, the Stuemers had never even once sailed Northern Magic, the 42-foot, 39-year-old steel ketch they had purchased and refitted for the world-circling voyage.

As they learned how to sail and cope with life at sea on a cramped and tiny boat, they overcame many obstacles – including two deadly storms in which other boats and lives were lost, a close encounter with waterspout, a lightning strike, an arrest at gunpoint, surgery in Sri Lanka, pirates, the terrorist bombing of an American naval destroyer in Yemen, dysentery in Sudan, and a difficult crossing of the stormy North Atlantic. Yet at the same time they found new closeness as a family and a profound realization about their role in the world.

During the voyage, Diane wrote weekly dispatches for the Ottawa Citizen newspaper, generating more response from the public than any series in the paper's history. When the Stuemers began getting involved with local people – finding a teacher for a small island in the South Pacific, helping volunteer veterinarians care for endangered orangutans in Borneo, and providing school fees for poor African village children – readers from all over North America began to participate as well.

By the time the family returned to Ottawa, in August of 2001, more than 3,000 people lined the shores of the Ottawa River to welcome them home. After their return, Diane and her husband, Herbert, remained passionate about carrying home the message of how ordinary people can achieve great dreams and make a difference in the world. They continued to stay involved with and raise funds for two projects in Indonesia and Kenya, the Friends of The National Parks Foundation and the Bonface and Hamisi Project respectively. The former is dedicated to preserving Indonesia's wilderness and national parks, and the latter provides funding for Kenyan children to attend school.

Diane wrote a book about the family's adventures, titled *The Voyage of the Northern Magic*, soon to be published by McClelland and Stewart and excerpted in Reader's Digest. The family was featured on national TV and radio many times, and was the subject of a TV documentary.

In late 2002, Diane's cancer made her increasingly ill, and she succumbed to the disease on March 15, 2003.

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## Captain Nichola Kathleen Sarah Goddard - Section 103 Grave 227

Nichola Kathleen Sarah Goddard was born on May 2, 1980 in Papua New Guinea where her parents were working as English teachers. The family returned to Canada but continued to move frequently – Goddard’s two sisters were born while they were living in Shilo, Manitoba. Goddard herself attended junior high school in Edmonton, Alberta, and high school in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

When military recruiters visited her high school, Goddard found her calling and enlisted right after graduating. She applied to and attended the Royal Military College in Kingston, with the goal of being an officer. After her graduation, Goddard joined the 1st Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery based out of Shilo, MB, and went on to fill the position of Forward Observation Officer, or FOO, considered to be one of the most dangerous jobs in an army. In 2002, Goddard married Jason Beam, whom she met while at the RMC. The couple had dogs, and volunteered together leading a local Scout troop.

Goddard was deployed to Afghanistan in January of 2006 as part of a combat mission with the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry. On May 17, 2006, she participated in a military operation against Taliban forces near Kandahar, where the majority of the country’s 2,300 soldiers in Afghanistan were serving. Goddard was acting as a forward observer, helping to target the artillery by observing where the shells fell. She was partially exposed, and at 6:55PM local time her Light Armoured Vehicle was struck by two rocket-propelled grenade, fired by local Taliban insurgents. When the battle finally ended several hours later, 18 Taliban militants had been killed, 35 captured, and one Afghan National Army soldier was killed.

Goddard was the first Canadian woman to be killed in action since the Second World War, and the first female combat soldier killed on the front lines. Goddard’s husband became the first widower to receive the Memorial Cross. The Memorial Cross (also known as the Silver Cross) has traditionally been presented to widows and mothers of Canadian war dead. Less known is that a few hours before she was killed, Goddard also became the first army officer (male or female) to direct artillery fire against an enemy force since the Korean War. Friends and her fellow soldiers have noted that Goddard would have been horrified to be pigeon-holed by her gender – she is remembered by them as a tough and charismatic officer who won the loyalty of those serving under her.

Goddard was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on Oct 27, 2006 and the Sacrifice Medal on Monday, November 9, 2009. Sacrifice Medals are awarded to members of the Canadian Forces and those who work with them who have been wounded or killed by hostile action and to Canadian Forces members who died as a result of service.





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## MARION ADAMS MACPHERSON - Section 100, Grave 291

Marion Macpherson was born on May 16, 1924 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, but grew up in the much smaller town of Moosomin, where she attended Moosomin Collegiate Institute. She received a Bachelor's degree in Economics and History from the University of Saskatchewan before attending the University of Toronto, where she received her Master's in Economics.

In 1947, Macpherson took the Foreign Service Officer examination. Not only was she one of the first women from outside the civil service to be allowed to write it, but she was the first to gain entrance to the Department of External Affairs based on merit. In 1950, Macpherson was posted to the embassy in Washington, D.C., starting as the most junior officer there. She returned to Ottawa after a promotion in 1954, and went on to become the first woman from the diplomatic core to serve on the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam. As part of her role, she spent nearly a year in Hanoi.

After another promotion in 1958, Macpherson became first secretary at the Canadian high commission in Ghana. Several years later, she was made third secretary to the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations from 1963 to 1968, and went on to receive her first head-of-post assignment in 1973, when she was named High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. From there, Macpherson went on to Boston, MA as consul general for several years, starting in 1976, before being named ambassador to Denmark in 1979. In 1983, she was made Deputy Commandant of the National Defense College for two years, before accepting her final posting as High Commissioner to Zambia and Malawi from 1985 to 1987.

Macpherson was only the third woman in Canada to hold the post of High Commissioner when she was appointed High Commissioner to Sri Lanka in 1973, and the first woman to do so as a career diplomat. She was also a skilled pianist who studied the instrument throughout her life. After her career, Macpherson retired in Ottawa, where she died on October 30, 1998.

## DR. ETHEL G. MARTENS - Section 47, Lot 216, Grave 2

Born July 19, 1916 in La Pas, MB, Ethel Martens began her career as a school teacher in Manitoba. She went on to receive training as a Health Educator from the provincial government, before obtaining a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley in 1957. Martens returned to Canada and started work with the Medical Services branch of Health Canada in 1958, starting an illustrious and public-minded career.

At Health Canada, Martens developed a Primary Health Care Training Program which was used to serve indigenous communities in northern Canada. After completing her doctorate in Social Preventative Medicine in 1973 at the University of Saskatchewan, Martens was appointed to the position of Associate Professor of Health Education and Community Health at the University Centre for Health Sciences in Cameroon, Africa. She remained there until 1979, after which she returned to Manitoba to become the Executive Director of Northwest Health Clinic in Winnipeg.

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By 1982, she had retired from the public sector to Ottawa, where she remained active in her field. Martens served as the first Executive Secretary of the Baha'i International Health Agency. In this capacity, at the request of the Universal House of Justice, she began working to integrate Primary Health Care into Baha'i development programs in South America, Asia and Africa – 83 countries in total. Her work created culturally sensitive training programs that enable local people to take responsibility for their own health services.

During her career, Martens also served on an Advisory Committee to the Privy Council and worked with the Canadian International Development Agency and the World Health Organization. Her emphasis on preventative as well as curative care is considered to have influenced a broad range of medical workers, and by her example she has been a source of encouragement to women in health care.

Martens was made a member of the Order of Canada on October 31, 1998. She died shortly after, on December 10, 1998.

### **JEAN MORRISON PIGOTT Sec 47, Lot 99, Gr 2**

Jean Elizabeth Morrison Pigott was a pillar of the Ottawa business community. Born on May 20, 1924, she was the eldest daughter of Cecil Morrison, owner of the Morrison-Lamothe bakery. From a young age, Jean was taught about profits and losses, customer relations and practiced basic bill payments for the family at the age of eleven. Her father took the extra step of forbidding her to take typing lessons lest she becomes a secretary. All that grooming paid off when after a year at Albert College Jean officially joined her father in the business. In 1948, at the age of 24, Jean was put in charge of rebuilding a failing restaurant on Rideau St. While assembling her team, Jean hired accountant Arthur Pigott as her assistant manager. They were married in October 1955, and Jean left the work force to raise her three children.

In the early 1960's, Morrison Lamothe bakery had over extended itself and was in danger of going bankrupt. At the age of 42, Jean was asked by her father to take over, making her one of three female CEO's in Ottawa at the time. Choosing to break into the frozen food business, the bakery turned a profit her first year.



After conquering the business world, Jean moved on to serve the public by successfully running for Conservative MP for the riding of Ottawa-Carleton. However, three years later she lost her seat but was then asked to be an advisor to then Prime Minister Joe Clark. In 1984, she was appointed by then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as chairwoman of the National Capital Commission (NCC), where she showed her innovation and a knack for saving money. On top of being the first woman chair of the NCC, Pigott also served as the first chairwoman of the Ottawa Congress Centre as well as a number of corporate boards and charities, including Ontario Hydro. She was also a member of the predominantly masculine Rideau Club. In 1995, she was made an officer in the Order of Canada. She died on January 10th, 2012.

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## MARY KATHERINE (MINNIE) GALLAHER - Section 39, Lot 85

Minnie Gallaher was born January 16, 1876 in what is now Kingston, Ontario, the third of 10 children. Her Irish parents, Rev. John Gallaher and Maud Elder, came to Canada after their marriage in 1871.

Minnie received her nursing education and graduated from the Lady Stanley Institute for Trained Nurses in Ottawa in 1901. After graduation she was in charge of a model hospital set up on the Toronto Exhibition Grounds, and later returned to Ottawa where she worked as the Assistant Superintendent of the Ottawa General Hospital. She enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on September 2, 1915 and sailed for Britain September 27, arriving at Shorncliffe, Kent on October 17.

Gallaher's first assignments included the Moore Barracks Hospital and the Westcliff Eye and Ear Hospital. In January 1916, she was posted to No. 1 Canadian General Hospital in Etaples, France, which at that time was a vast Allied military camp and a giant 'hospital' city. Over the course of the next two years, she served at several hospitals and casualty clearing stations at or near the front lines.

On March 25, 1918, Gallaher was posted to HMHS Llandoverly Castle, a British merchant vessel turned into hospital ship that had been put at the disposal of the Canadian government to transport sick and wounded soldiers from Britain to Canada. Assignment to a hospital ship was generally regarded as a safe posting in wartime, but sadly, that was not to be the case.

After successfully completing four voyages to and from Canada, the Llandoverly Castle was torpedoed on June 27, 1918, while sailing from Halifax to Liverpool. The attack came when the ship was just off the coast of southern Ireland. Despite regulation Red Cross lights, and the fact that firing at a hospital ship was against both international law and standing orders of the Imperial German Navy, the ship was deliberately torpedoed by SM U-86.

Those who did survive the torpedoing fled to the lifeboats. The 14 Nursing Sisters posted to the Llandoverly Castle, including Gallaher, were amongst this group. Sadly, Captain Helmut Brümmer-Patzig of the U-86 attempted to cover his crime: he surfaced his submarine, ran down all the lifeboats and executed by machine-gunfire survivors. One boat of 24 people escaped notice, and were the only survivors of the 258 people on the ship.



The Llandoverly Castle became the rallying cry for the Canadian troops during the Last 100 Days offensive. In terms of the number of deaths, the sinking was the most significant Canadian naval disaster of WW1, and became renowned as one of the war's worst atrocities. Minnie was lost and presumed drowned, and as a result, her family was unable to bury her. However, a monument was placed in Gallaher's honour at her family plot, here in Beechwood Cemetery.



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## FAITH FYLES - Section 40, Lot 80 SE, Grave 1

Faith Fyles was born September 30, 1875 in Cowansville, Quebec. Her father was the Reverend Dr. Thomas Fyles, an Anglican clergyman (and entomologist) who came to Canada from England to establish churches.

Fyles graduated from high school with honours, entered McGill University with a first-class scholarship and completed a B.A. degree. After graduation, she spent a year studying the flora of Quebec with her father and took art classes. Fyles then taught school for six years, which was followed by a year travelling and studying in Europe.

In 1909 Fyles obtained a clerk's position in the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa as an assistant seed analyst. Two years later, she was transferred to the Botany Division at the Experimental Farm as an assistant botanist, where she was put in charge of the Arboretum. She was also responsible for identifying the large number of plants sent to, or collected by, the division. During this time Fyles also prepared a bulletin, Principal Poisonous Plants of Canada which was illustrated with her own paintings and sketches.

In 1920 Fyles became the first artist employed by the Horticulture division, where she worked under William Tyrrell Macoun. Additional publications and the creation of a herbarium came from her work in the Department.

In 1931 poor health forced her retirement, but she continued painting in oils, pastels and watercolours. For two decades she had entered her work in Royal Canadian Art A exhibitions and exhibited it elsewhere, work that expressed an appreciation of nature's beauty, especially that of plants and flowers. Fyles died on October 22, 1961.

## ISIS MINERVA OFFICER Section 51N- SG56A

Born in Jamaica, Officer came to Canada in 1965 to work as a nurse at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. Her life was not only dedicated to physically saving lives, but also working diligently to improve race relations in Ottawa and helping those in need. Officer began her long career with the Ottawa Police in the early 1990's when she volunteered with the Ottawa-Carleton Area Police and Community Council. Through the Council, she became a key stakeholder in the Partnership in Action initiative. She also served as a member on the Ottawa Police Service's Race Relations Advisory Committee. Officer worked as a police race relations mediator with the Jamaican community and multicultural liaison officer. She went to schools in the community to promote diversity and help immigrants adjust to Canadian life. She repeatedly assisted and attended community dialogues, problem-solving sessions, and training development for the police service.

Officer was a co- founder of the Jamaican Ottawa Community Association, an organization that works to develop a social and political voice for Jamaicans in Canada. For her efforts, she received a number of awards including the Award for Excellence from the Canadian Centre for Police Race Relations and the Order of Distinction which is one of Jamaica's highest honours. In her honour, the Ottawa Police Service created The Isis Officer Ethnocultural Equity Award. It is presented annually to two schools, one elementary and one secondary, which demonstrate outstanding effort in the area of ethnocultural equity within the school, the Board and/or the community.

The recipient schools must demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting equity and ethnocultural harmony through inclusive learning environments that promote fairness of access and treatment for all students. Officer's efforts in the community weren't only political. She worked with Meals on Wheels and volunteered with the elderly and disabled, driving them to appointments and providing comfort and support. Throughout her life, she financially supported her family and friends back home in Jamaica. Officer passed away after a long battle with cancer on December 18, 2000 at the age of 75.



### **Barbara McInnes – 51S, Lot 304, Gr 3**

Born on September 29th, 1943, in Edmonton, Alberta, Barbara McInnes was the daughter of Allistair Gamble and Margaret Greerson. One of five siblings, the family moved around due to their father's military career. When Barbara was 5 years old, their family moved to Manor Park, Ottawa. At the age of 16, she met the love of her life, Glen McInnes, who Barbara was married to for 57 years. McInnes attended Carleton University and graduated with a bachelor's in philosophy.

McInnes, along with her father, helped launch the Ottawa Community Foundation in 1987, and in 1991, took over as President. Over her 27 years at the helm, McInnes helped over 191 community foundations and helped raise operational assets of \$100 million. McInnes worked tirelessly in the effort to better the Ottawa community through philanthropy.

McInnes was also a founding director of Community Foundations of Canada for 13 years. She served as president of the board of the Ottawa School of Art and was on the founding board of Refugee 613. She was a board member of the Shorefast Foundation, Match International Fund for Women, Carleton University and the Community Foundations of Canada, among numerous other organizations. On top of this, McInnes mentored six new Canadian Community Foundation CEOs during their first year on the job.

Internationally, McInnes was a member for 13 years of the Transatlantic Community Foundation Network, dedicated to assisting the growth of community-based philanthropy in Europe, Mexico and the United States. McInnes was a frequent speaker locally, nationally and internationally on various philanthropic and community-based topics. She contributed a chapter to *Local Mission: Global Vision*, published in September 2008 by the Foundation Centre in New York and now available in four languages.

For her exemplary leadership in the philanthropic community, she was invited into the Order of Canada in 2010, received a lifetime achievement from the Ottawa chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, an Honourary Doctorate from Carleton University, and received the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

After a battle with cancer, Barbara McInnes died on July 1st, 2021.

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## MARGARET HOWETT AHEARN - Section 50, Lot 123

Born in Montreal, Quebec in 1849, Margaret Fleck was educated at McGill Model School, Mill Normal School and Bute Home. In 1888 at age 38, she went to look after her recently deceased sister's two young children in the house of her brother-in-law Thomas Ahearn. Six years later, she married Thomas who was an interesting character himself.

Ahearn became part of what must have been a very 'forward-thinking' household. Her husband Thomas started a company creating electricity, and has been called the man "who lit up Ottawa" because he provided the electricity for Ottawa's first street. Thomas was also instrumental in the development of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company, and in 1900, Ahearn became the first woman driver in Ottawa when she drove her husband's electric car down Sparks Street!

Ahearn was also one of the first members of both the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa and the Victorian Order of Nurses. She published her first paper which she presented to the Canadian Women's Historical Society of Ottawa on 11 May 1900. In the Biographical Index of Artists in Canada, she is listed as a painter.

Ahearn was a member of several other societies, which included the Ottawa Ladies' College, the Local Council of Women and the Local Board of Management. She also served as President of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and she was a director of the Women's Art Association. Ahearn died on January 3, 1915.

## ELLA HOBDAY WEBSTER BRONSON - Section 50, Lots 119, 120, 128

Ella Hobday Webster was born on September 1, 1846 in Portsmouth, Virginia to Nathan Burnham Webster a prominent Southern American educator. The family moved to Ottawa in 1862, where, at some point, Bronson met her future husband, Erskine Bronson.

The couple married in Virginia in 1874, before returning to the Canadian capital and starting a family. Bronson focused on her role as a mother, and began her public career in earnest only after her primary domestic and child-raising duties were behind her.

Between 1890 and 1892 Bronson served on several informal committees to furnish the new nurses' institute building. She was also treasurer for funds raised to provide Ottawa soldiers with comforts during the South African War. A staunch member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, she was active in its women's missionary society and sat on a number of committees.

In 1893 Ella Bronson answered a call from Lady Aberdeen to help establish the National Council of Women of Canada. Although she served as a delegate to several national conventions, she was more consistently involved at the local level, where most of the council's work was centred. Local councils were associated with the national one in a loose federation. These councils served to educate potential female leaders such as Bronson; through them, women learned about the economic and social needs of their community and acquired a network of female contacts; they also provided a legitimate forum from which women could exercise authority and defend the Christian family as they saw it.



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A vice-president of the Ottawa Local Council of Women from 1894 until 1911, Bronson served on committees to lobby for the teaching of domestic science in the city's high schools, the creation of a free library system, and the establishment of cottages for consumptives. In 1894 she pioneered the Associated Charities of Ottawa, a scheme intended to coordinate the efforts of various agencies, set standards for recipients of charity, and provide work-placement programs for the unemployed.

The culmination of Bronson's public projects was the foundation and successful operation of the Ottawa Maternity Hospital. With Bronson as president and an all-female board of directors, the hospital opened in 1895, and it functioned until the mid 1920s, when it was absorbed into the Civic Hospital. Much of its funding was raised by Bronson through her contacts in the elites of government and the lumber industry, and she served as its president for nearly 30 years. Fashioned on a new, medical, model of hospital, the Ottawa Maternity Hospital provided obstetrical services to women, most of whom paid a small fee. It eschewed any religious agenda, although it accepted support from church groups, and did not concern itself with its patients' moral purity as some institutions did. Professionalism was stressed, and from 1897 a three-month certification course was offered for nurses from other hospitals. They were educated in post-natal medical and nutritional care for new mothers as well as in pre-natal and obstetrical matters. By the hospital's 25th anniversary in 1920, it had trained 600 nurses, and by its closing it had served more than 10,000 patients. On 3 Feb. 1925 Ella Bronson signed over its property to the city; she took ill the next day and died a week later.

Ella Bronson's contribution to her community, in a private life of duty and kindness and a high-profile public career, was representative of that made by a legion of women who were intent on reshaping society. The Ottawa Journal commemorated her life of engagement when it praised her as "a notable figure, who had given her best in public service." Bronson died on February 11, 1925.

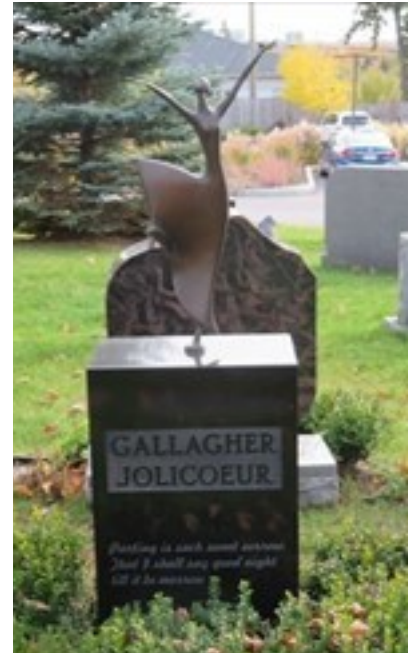


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## CARMEN JOLICOEUR - Section 51S, Lot 1271

Born in Costa Rica in 1926, Jolicoeur's family moved to Montreal at age 4. There she attended the Montreal School of Fine Arts, and, from the age of 8 onwards, trained in ballet dancing. For several years she performed with a ballet company. In 1948, at age 22, Jolicoeur was awarded a four-year bursary by the Spanish government which provided travel to Spain and lessons in Spanish dance. There she developed a great interest in, and aptitude for, flamenco dancing. After two years in Spain, Jolicoeur began performing flamenco in a Madrid theatre and also danced with a ballet company that toured Scandinavia, Britain, France and Italy.

Jolicoeur danced with Spain's internationally famous Antonio and in 1950 she soloed in Madrid's Old Fontalba Theatre. In 1953, while on holiday in Canada she met and later married Paul Jolicoeur. In Montreal she established her own dance company and took on the stage name Carmen Cortez. She was featured on programs on CBC radio and television.



In 1973 the family moved to Ottawa and Jolicoeur began to teach flamenco at the Classical Ballet School of Ottawa. She became the first performer and teacher of Spanish dance in Canada. Jolicoeur also worked in the theatre, choreographing flamenco dance routines for various theatres, including Theatre Triangle Vital in Montreal. Her career as a teacher lasted for more than a decade before she had to retire due to ill health which caused her death in 1998.

Carmen Jolicoeur, widely known Spanish flamenco dancer died on October 10, 1998. The Joy of Dance, a bronze sculpture by D. E. McDermott, stands atop her gravestone.

## Bertha Wernham Wilson, CC FRSC – Sec 54 (scattering)



Bertha Wilson was born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, on September 18, 1923. The daughter of Archibald Wernham and Christina Noble, Wilson attended the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and Training College for Teachers, obtaining her diploma in 1945. Wilson married the Reverend John Wilson in December 1945 and they emigrated to Canada in 1949. In 1955, Wilson enrolled at Dalhousie University to study law, and three years later she completed her LL.B. and was called to the bar of Nova Scotia.

In 1959, Bertha Wilson was the first female associate and partner at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt in Toronto. During her 16 years at Osler, she created the first in-firm research department in the Canadian legal industry.

Wilson was the first woman appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1975 and one of the first to the Supreme Court of Canada on March 4, 1982. She was also appointed to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 1984. Wilson served on the Supreme Court for eight years and retired on January 4, 1991. Justice Wilson died on April 28, 2007, at the age of 84.

## About Us

Beechwood is the National Cemetery of Canada and is the home of the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces, the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery, the Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery, the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery and many more organizations and religious groups. Beechwood has been proudly serving our community since 1873.

Take advantage of all the services offered by Beechwood Cemetery, including pre-arrangements, full service funerals, cremation, cemetery services and executor assistance. Beechwood Cemetery can meet whatever wishes you may have from visitations, informal gatherings, life celebrations, memorial services, catered receptions, to a custom monument or memorialization.

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# BEECHWOOD

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