

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Sunday, June 12, 2011

HOCKEY HEROES AT BEECHWOOD!



History Told, Lives Celebrated



On the front page:

Members of the Ottawa Hockey Club, known as the *Silver Seven*,
1905 Stanley Cup winners

Standing (L to R): Harry “Rat” Westwick, M. McGilton, Hamilton
“Billy” Gilmour, Frank McGee. Sitting (L to R): Dave Finnie,
Harvey Pulford, Alf Smith, Arthur Moore.





The Ottawa Rebels hockey team
Ottawa, Ontario, March 1894



Eva Ault (Buels)



Jack Darragh



Hod Stuart



William "Bill" Beveridge



James George Aylwin Creighton

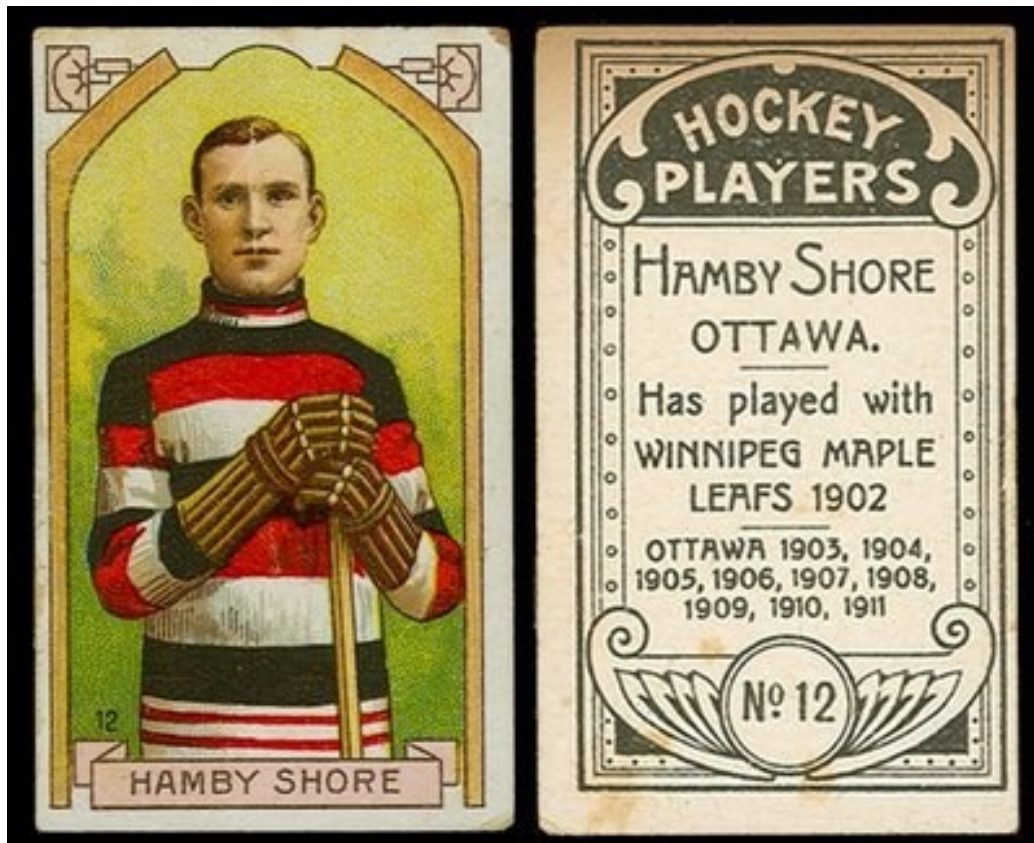
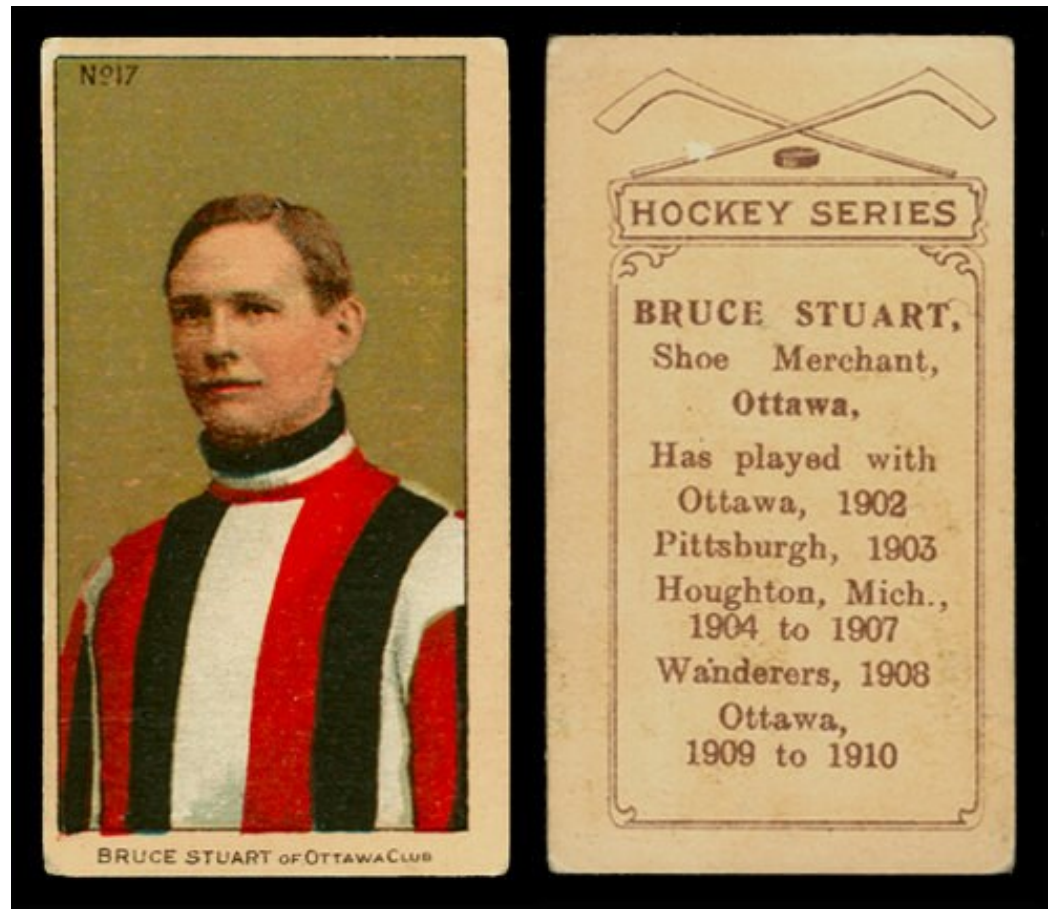


Clinton Stevenson Benedict

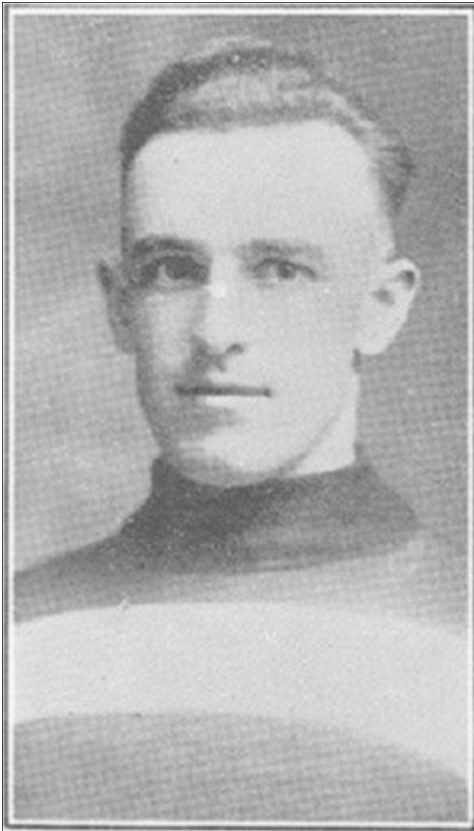


Edward George "Eddie" Gerard

Right:
the 1910–1911
Imperial Tobacco
Hockey Card for
Bruce Stuart



Left:
the 1911–1912
Imperial Tobacco
Hockey Card for
Samuel Hamilton
“Hamby” Shore



John George Boucher



Shirley Moulds



Edwin Peter Dey

HOCKEY IN OTTAWA

The experts say that, technically, it was not hockey. But surely it was, of a sort – a game of “shinty” played on the grounds of what is now Rideau Hall on Christmas day 1852. The players wore no skates, their sticks looked like shepherds’ crooks, and the puck was a ball. How the game, here and abroad, has evolved, thanks in large measure to the enthusiasm and athletic spirit of Ottawa’s own, both men and women.

The Ottawa Hockey Club, formed in 1883, competed in the second Montreal Winter Carnival in 1884, won the first Ontario championship in 1891, and brought the city its first of many Stanley Cups in 1903.

Women’s teams were champions too. Think of Eva Ault and Shirley Moulds leading the legendary Ottawa Alerts to an Ontario title in 1923. Were they inspired by a governor general’s daughter? Perhaps. An 1890 snapshot captures Lady Isobel Stanley sweeping around an opponent on the outdoor rink at Rideau Hall.

Today, twelve of the great old names in early hockey come to life: ten players and two builders of what has become Canada’s official winter sport. They loved their city, and oh how they loved the game. J.G.A. Creighton wrote rules, E.P. Dey built rinks. The women were amateurs, and from 1907 the men were professionals.

Hockey salaries were thought to be quite good for a time when people were just getting used to players being paid money to engage in sport. Still, the local pros had day jobs in government and business. And that’s one reason why the hockey men were so popular. They were fully integrated into the community. Same for the women.

So, come along and meet just a few of those who, through passion for the game, helped shape our glorious sport of hockey.

James George Aylwin Creighton

The Halifax native was an avid sportsman who excelled in hockey, both as a player and an innovative organizer during the formative stages of the sport, helping set into motion the development of the game of hockey as it is known today.

Creighton was captain of one of two teams that participated in the first recorded indoor game in Montreal on March 3, 1875, and captained teams in every recorded game there during the development years. It was Creighton who first suggested that they obtain hockey sticks from Halifax and move indoors the game he had seen played in his home town.

In 1878, he married Eleanor Platt of Montreal while studying law at McGill University, graduating with a Bachelor of Civil Law degree in 1880. In 1882 he accepted the position of law clerk of the Senate in Ottawa, where his hockey interests would continue, playing with the Parliamentarian-Government House team which included sons of Lord Stanley, donor of the Stanley Cup.

James Creighton died in 1930 while still serving as law clerk some 48 years after assuming the role. The Creightons did not have any children, and laid in an unmarked grave until October of 2009 when the Society for International Hockey Research erected a monument following a fundraising campaign that garnered national attention.

John Proctor “Jack” Darragh

Jack Darragh was far more than a hockey star. He was a family man and a trusted employee in business. Jack was born in Ottawa on December 4, 1890 and grew up in the Arlington Avenue area. He played on the city league’s Stewarton Hockey Club, where he was captain. Later, while playing with Cliffslides of the interprovincial league he caught the attention of the Ottawa Senators, who signed him to a professional contract in 1910.

Scoring a goal in his first professional game, he became the first player to do so in a third period of play, the league having changed that season from one to two intermissions. In a career spanning 14 years, Darragh won four Stanley Cups as a high-scoring forward with the Senators.

Off the ice, Darragh worked at the Ottawa Dairy where he was in charge of checking the drivers and receiving the cash they collected on their routes. Darragh and his wife Elizabeth had three daughters, Aileen, Frances and Mary. Aileen remembered her father coming home late on Saturday nights because of his work. Darragh’s hobby was raising chickens, which he showed at fairs where he won numerous trophies.

On June 28, 1924, three months after retiring from hockey, Jack Darragh died from peritonitis at the age of 34. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1962.

William “Bill” Beveridge

Born in Ottawa on July 1, 1909, Bill Beveridge was an outstanding goaltender from an early age. He played with Shamrocks of the Ottawa Junior City League at the age of 14, and later enjoyed success with New Edinburgh, winning the Ottawa City and District championship in 1926-27.

In 1929, prior to start of the season, the Detroit Cougars of the National Hockey League came calling and Beveridge made his NHL debut on November 29, 1929. He was loaned to the Ottawa Senators for the 1930-31 season, and then, while the Senators took a sabbatical from the NHL for a year, he moved to the Providence Reds of the Can-Am League where he registered 23 wins.

With the return of the Senators, Beveridge was the top net-minder until the demise the team in 1933-34. He followed the franchise to St. Louis for one season before heading to the Montreal Maroons for the next three campaigns. After that, he made stops in the minors with teams in Syracuse, New Haven, Providence, Buffalo and Cleveland before returning to the NHL with the New York Rangers for 17 games in 1942-43.

After his retirement, he started up a juvenile hockey league in 1945 in order to develop young players. In 1947-48, he coached Carleton College in the Intermediate Intercollegiate Hockey League. After his playing career, he turned to the real estate field and was a member of the Ottawa Real Estate Board. He was also an active member of the community with South Ottawa Kiwanis Club. He passed away on February 13, 1995.

Clinton Stevenson Benedict

From childhood, Clint Benedict seemed destined to be a hockey goaltender. He was also an innovator. Born in Ottawa, September 26, 1894, Benedict attended Archibald Street School where he played goal for the junior fourth grade squad. Following a stellar amateur career, Benedict joined the Ottawa Senators in 1912 as a back-up goalie. Two years later he took over as the regular.

In those years goalies were not allowed to fall on the puck to trap it. They had to remain upright. Dubbed "Praying Benny," Benedict got around the rule by pretending to fall on the puck accidentally, resulting in the rule eventually being relaxed. Benedict was with the Senators for 12 seasons, winning three Stanley Cups. He then played six years with the Montreal Maroons, winning another Cup.

In 1930 he took a puck between the eyes. Returning to action six weeks later, he was wearing a leather face mask, becoming the first pro to do so. He shortly discarded it because it interfered with his vision.

Following his hockey career Benedict returned to Ottawa, working as a municipal clerk. He lived for many years within a five-minute walk of the Ottawa Auditorium where he played when the rink opened in 1923. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1965. Clinton Stevenson Benedict died in Ottawa, November 12, 1976.

Eva Catherine Ault (Buels)

Eva Ault 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.

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.

Ault 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.

Ault married Ottawa athlete James Buels, who played for the Rough Riders Football Club. The couple did not have any children, and Ault 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.

Edward George “Eddie” Gerard

When Eddie Gerard turned professional with the Ottawa Senators in 1914 his father, a God-fearing man of Scottish origin, exclaimed in disguised delight, “They must be a bunch of damn fools!” His son had signed for an unheard of \$400 bonus.

Born in Ottawa on February 22, 1890, Gerard was a natural athlete, excelling in many sports including football, paddling and lacrosse. But it was as a hockey player with the New Edinburgh Canoe Club that he drew the Senators’ attention. Working at the Geodetic Survey of Canada, he was reluctant to turn pro for fear of losing his day job. The Senators, however, assured him he could continue at the Survey while playing hockey. And for the next ten years he did just that, serving variously as captain and playing-manager, and winning three Stanley Cups as a solid, clean-playing defenceman.

A non-malignant growth in his throat, resulting from an errant hockey stick blow, forced his retirement after the 1923 Stanley Cup season. But Gerard remained in hockey, first as manager of the Montreal Maroons, where he won another Stanley Cup, then as manager of the New York Americans. He retired from hockey in 1934, part way through the season as manager of the St. Louis Eagles. Eddie Gerard died August 7, 1937 at age 47. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1945.

William Hodgson “Hod” Stuart

Hod Stuart was a star of early organized hockey who played with several amateur and professional teams in Canada and the United States, earning two US championships and a Stanley Cup in the process.

After three seasons of pro hockey in the US, Stuart signed to play for the Pittsburgh Pros of the International Hockey League in December of 1906 and was assigned Captain. Stuart grew increasingly disillusioned with the level of violence in the game, and claimed that the referees of the IHL were incompetent and had been discriminating against him since he joined the league. In protest, he pulled his team off of the ice with only two minutes left in a game on December 26, 1906.

A game played on January 4th against the Portage Lake team would prove to be the breaking point for Stuart. The second half of the game was characterized by fierce play in which Stuart was ejected from the game and resulted in fans mobbing him, requiring the sheriff and a force of deputies to intervene. Two days later, Stuart would skip out on his contract and return to Canada to join the Montreal Wanderers, with which he would win the Stanley Cup the following season.

In the summer of 1907, Stuart moved to Belleville to work on a construction project for his father while contemplating his future in hockey. On June 23rd, he joined friends swimming in the Bay of Quinte. Unaware that the water was shallow, he dove from a lighthouse platform and was killed instantly.

Stuart was one of the first twelve players inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1945.

Bruce Stuart

Bruce Stuart was one of the great forwards of seven-man hockey in the early part of the twentieth century. Born in Ottawa in 1881, he was one of five children and the younger brother of Hod, an equally gifted player.

After a few seasons of amateur hockey in Canada, Stuart was lured to the United States, first playing in Pittsburgh and then in Houghton, Michigan with the Portage Lake team of the International Hockey League, the world's first openly professional circuit. He would score a staggering 44 goals in only 14 games, and net another 28 in nine playoff games on his way to winning both the U.S. and World Championship titles in 1904.

He returned to play in Canada in 1907 and won the Stanley Cup with the Montreal Wanderers. The following season saw him join the Ottawa Senators where he would round out his career, winning the coveted trophy again in 1910.

While with the Ottawa club, he opened Bruce Stuart and Co., a shoe store on Bank Street which he would operate until 1952 when his health began to fail. Among the offerings at his store was the *Bruce Stuart Arch-Saver Shoe*, for which advertisements proclaimed "Shopping is a Pleasure when Feet Never Tire."

A sports enthusiast until the last, his final public appearance was to attend the official opening of the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto in August of 1961 where he saw himself enshrined with his brother Hod, who had been elected some 15 years earlier. Bruce Stuart died on October 28, 1961.

S. Milton “Milt” Halliday

It was in the Spring of 1922 that the headlines first proclaimed S. Milton Halliday as the star of the Glashan Public School team, where his play was singled out in newspaper accounts. Following another season of school hockey with Kent Street School, he went on to play senior hockey with the Ottawa Gunners, leading the team in scoring during the playoffs in 1926 and winning the city title.

Riding the momentum of his performance of the previous season, Halliday was signed as a free agent by the Ottawa Senators of the National Hockey League in October of 1926. Managing only one goal in thirty-eight games, Halliday struggled to perform at the level expected of him, but still contributed to the team's success and won the Stanley Cup in his rookie season.

The following season Halliday was sent to the minors after thirteen games with the Senators, having been accused of “listless” play. After another half season with the team, he was sold to Hamilton Tigers of the International Hockey League in 1929. The minor leagues would prove to be a good fit for Halliday, who would go on to play seven seasons with stops in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Boston and Buffalo and Rochester.

Following his retirement from hockey, Halliday remained active by participating in fund-raising games organized by the Ottawa NHL Oldtimers Association into the mid 1950s. He died in 1989 at the age of 82.

Edwin Peter “Ted” Dey

Ted Dey was interested in water in both its liquid and solid states. E.P., as he became known, was born in Hull, Quebec on April 21, 1864. Following in his father’s footsteps, he operated a boat works at the canal basin, specializing in racing canoes, which competed in many championships. He was also a builder and owner of ice hockey rinks.

In his youth, Dey, with brothers William and Frank, played hockey on a team called the Dey’s Rink Pirates. Dey was the manager of that rink, adjacent to their boat business. In 1896, Dey and William built the city’s first rink meant specifically for hockey at the corner Bay Street and Gladstone Avenue. It was the site of Ottawa’s first Stanley Cup victory in 1903. In 1907, the brothers built their third and final arena on Laurier Avenue where the Senators played for 15 years.

Dey and partner Tommy Gorman bought the Senators in 1918 and ran the club for five years, culminating in a Stanley Cup championship in 1923. With his clipped moustache, dour expression and trademark white spats protecting his shoes, Dey was a familiar figure around the arena. Fans were thus shocked when he abruptly sold his interest in the team and moved to New York City. Eventually, Dey and his wife relocated to British Columbia, where he passed away on April 15, 1943.

Samuel Hamilton “Hamby” Shore

Samuel Hamilton Shore, better known as “Hamby,” was one of the best defence players to ever take to the ice for the Ottawa Senators.

Born in Ottawa, he was educated in the public school system and began playing senior hockey at age seventeen before heading to Winnipeg to play the 1907–08 season. After sitting out one season due to illness, he signed as a free agent with the Senators in November of 1909 and would stay with the team for the remainder of his career, winning the Stanley Cup in 1910 and 1911.

In a time when players kept day jobs, Shore was employed in the distribution branch of the Department of the Interior while playing for the Senators.

In 1918, when the world was in the grip of the Spanish Influenza outbreak, Hamby’s wife Ruby became ill. It was while caring for her that he himself was stricken by pneumonia which took his life on October 13th after a week in hospital.

The following spring, members of the Senators staged a benefit game against the top amateur players from Ottawa to raise funds to erect a grave marker for Hamby.

Shirley Moulds

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.

John George “Buck” Boucher

Born August 19, 1896, Boucher started his professional hockey career in 1915 with the Ottawa Senators.

He was a mainstay of the Senators during their success in the 20's, winning Stanley Cups in 1920, 1921, 1923 and 1927. In 1928, the Montreal Maroons sought the services of the veteran, and Boucher went to play for them. While still an active player with the Maroons, he also took on their coaching assignment on occasion. He was behind the bench when they finished third in the Canadian Division in 1930–31.

Boucher returned to Ottawa in 1933–34 to take the reins of the Senators and remained with the franchise through their one-year stay in St. Louis in 1934–35. Following that time, after some minor league coaching assignments, Boucher stepped away from the game.

In 1946–47, Tommy Gorman purchased the Ottawa Senators of the Quebec Senior Hockey League. Gorman persuaded Boucher to come out of retirement and coach his club. The Senators were a successful franchise under Boucher, winning the Allan Cup in 1949.

In 1948, he helped his nephew Frankie select the members of the Ottawa-based RCAF Flyers prior to their participation in the Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland. The Flyers went on to win the gold medal.

Boucher was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1960 while he was battling throat cancer. Three weeks later, after a courageous six-year battle, he succumbed to his illness on October 17, 1960.

OTHER IMPORTANT HOCKEY HEROES

Thomas Franklin Ahearn
Section 50, Lot 123 S

Harry Broadbent
Section 29, Lot 22 S0

Hamilton, David and Sutherland Gilmour
Section 53, Lots 15, 16 & 33

Harold Herbert Helman
Section 40, Lot 93 SW/94 NE, Fosse 4

John Bower Hutton
Section 37, Lot 38 SE

Frank Maurice Stinson Jenkins
Section 24, Lot 17 S0

René Joliat
Section 19, PC Fosse 466

Rennison Manners
Section 29, Lot 81 N Centre

Horace Jefferson Merrill
Section 39, Lot 55 N0

Arthur Cutler Moore
Section 48, Lot 18 S

Ernest Harvey Pulford
Section 39, Lot 62 N0

John Sweetland
Section 61, Lot 2

Harry "Rat" Westwick
Section 26, Lot 12 NE

SPECIAL THANKS / REMERCIEMENTS SPÉCIAUX :

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The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation would also like to gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the **City of Ottawa** for our tour.



Fondation du Cimetière

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Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada