

Honouring Our
Legacy:

—
The RCMP
Commemorative
Pathway Plaque
Program



Beechwood Cemetery
proudly serving our community
since 1873

 **BEECHWOOD**
Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services
Services funéraires, cimetière et crémation

In a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a dedicated group of volunteers representing RCMP Veterans and the RCMP have partnered with Beechwood Cemetery to create the **Commemorative Pathway Plaque Program**.

This initiative celebrates the rich history of the RCMP (including the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) and the Royal North-West Mounted Police (RNWMP)), recording significant people, events, and accomplishments on informative plaques placed along the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery's serene pathways.

The Power of Plaques

Each commemorative plaque tells a story through bilingual inscriptions and images, bringing the past to life for all visitors.

Equipped with near-field communication (NFC) technology, these plaques offer an interactive experience: visitors can use smartphones and tablets to access a dedicated website with detailed information on each subject.



Honouring Heroes: The First Installations

In its inaugural year, 2019, the program unveiled plaques honouring three RCMP members awarded the Victoria Cross for acts of extraordinary bravery:

- Sgt. Major Arthur Herbert Lindsay Richardson, North-West Mounted Police, South African War (July 5, 1900). The only serving member ever to receive the Victoria Cross, his plaque stands proudly on the cemetery's Parade Square.
- Constable Michael John O'Leary, Royal North-West Mounted Police, who re-joined the Irish Guard for World War I (February 1, 1915). A highly decorated soldier who fought in both World Wars and also served with the Ontario Provincial Police.
- Constable George Randolph Pearkes, Royal North-West Mounted Police, who joined the Canadian Army for World War I (October 31, 1917). He rose to Major General and later served as Canada's Minister of National Defence and the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.



Expanding the Legacy: Subsequent Years

In the years following, the program has continued to honour the legacy of the RCMP:

- **2020:** Commemorated the No. 1 Provost Company (RCMP) 1st Canadian Infantry and the 12 RCMP members killed during the Second World War.
- **2021:** Celebrated the 60th anniversary of RCMP Civilian Members and their critical technical support to policing operations.
- **2022:** Recognised Public Service Employees for their administrative support across Canada.
- **2023:** Honoured the RCMP 2nd Man—spouses of RCMP members who provided critical support in isolated detachments (May 23rd); Cpl. Robert Teather, recipient of Canada's Cross of Valour for a heroic 1981 underwater rescue (May 28th); and the North-West Mounted Police's service in the South African War (Veterans' Week, November 5th)
- **2024:** Honoured the service of Commissioner Maurice Jean Nadon, the history of the RCMP Band and celebrated 50 years of women in RCMP uniform on May 23 2024.



Preserving Memories

A major project underway aims to identify nearly 250 Mounted Police members interred at Beechwood Cemetery. A commemorative plaque within the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery will list their names, regimental numbers, and dates, ensuring their service is forever remembered.

Ongoing Efforts and Community Involvement

The committee actively seeks suggestions for new plaque subjects, raises funds to support the program, and, with Beechwood staff, organises commemoration ceremonies. Through these efforts, the RCMP's historical significance and the dedication of its members and employees are highlighted, ensuring the enduring legacy of those who have served.

Join us in this journey to honour the past and inspire future generations through the [RCMP Commemorative Pathway Plaque Program](#).

Together, we remember, celebrate, and preserve the remarkable history of the RCMP.





A Place for Generations to Commemorate

To commemorate the founding of the RCMP (NWMP) on May 23, 1873, the RCMP Veterans Association – Ottawa Division holds an annual sunrise vigil.

On May 23, a bugler and a piper from the RCMP Pipes and Drums start the vigil, calling serving members and veterans to participate in a sunrise Flag raising ceremony at the Main Monument recalling their basic training at Depot and to stand in repose at the Fallen Member Cenotaph from 06:00 hrs until the memorial services at 11:00 hrs.

Wreaths are placed to remember those who have served Canada diligently and their families who supported them.

Tours are provided to show respect to the over 250 North West Mounted Police, Royal North West Mounted Police, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police members buried across the National Cemetery of Canada. These were some of the members who each shaped the Force in their own way.

A Remembrance Ceremony is held prior to Remembrance Day (November 11) to honour the service of the military and para-military of the RCMP, RCMP Veterans and their families.



Supporting the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is a not-for-profit collaboration and needs your support for current and future projects and programs.

The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation issues tax-deductible receipts for donations of \$20 or more. The charitable registration number is 88811 2018 RR0001.

Find out more at www.beechwoodottawa.ca/en/communities/defence-and-security-services/rcmp-national-memorial-cemetery.



Questions?

EMAIL

nmc@beechwoodottawa.ca

PHONE

613-741-9530

866-990-9530

WEBSITE

beechwoodottawa.ca

ADDRESS

280 Beechwood Ave
Ottawa, ON K1L 8A6

*Owned by The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation
and operated by The Beechwood Cemetery Company.*



About us

Beechwood is the National Cemetery of Canada and is the home of the National Military Cemetery, the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery, the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery, the Ottawa Police Service 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.

Beechwood Cemetery is here to provide you with everything you need to make the right decision for you and your loved ones.

Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services is owned by The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and operates on a not-for-profit basis. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, it is the only organization of its kind in Ottawa. In choosing Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services, you can take comfort in knowing that all funds are used for the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of this National Historic Site. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation was created for the purpose of safeguarding Beechwood's future and increasing public awareness of Beechwood, as well as the important historical persons buried within it.