

## The RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall

Le Mur historique  
des Vétérans de la GRC



### ***“PORTFOLIO” RCMP NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY (RNMC)***

**RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall  
*PROPOSAL*  
21 April 2021**

*“The fundamental objective of the RNMC is to honour our deceased members, employees and their families who dedicated their lives to the peace and security of Canada. We have a responsibility to protect, preserve and build on this legacy.”*

Michel Pelletier, Past President,  
RCMP Veterans' Association  
Ottawa Division

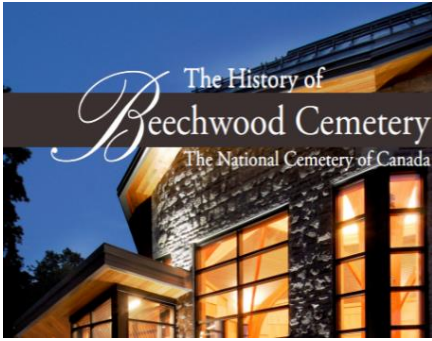
#### **RNMC Committee:**

Kevin Mole, Chair  
Roy Berlinquette  
Suzanne Sarault  
Louise Morel  
Michel Pelletier



**Portfolio developed by:**  
Gary Walkling

**Photos compliments:**  
Gilbert Bouffard



Beechwood Funeral, Cemetery & Cremation Services was founded in 1873 just fourteen years after Queen Victoria selected Ottawa as the capital of the Dominion of Canada. It became a prime example of the type of rural cemetery that emerged in the United States and Canada in the 19th century characterized by winding roads, picturesque vistas, wooded groves, unique landscaping, as well as monuments and markers of considerable architectural and historical interest.

In the 1920s, an important construction project started at Beechwood: the erection of a mausoleum. Built in a Gothic architecture style, (first introduced to Ottawa when the Parliament Buildings were constructed) provided a final resting place for many important Canadians including Father of Confederation William McDougall. Forty years later, the lower level of the mausoleum became home to a crematorium. To meet today's needs, Beechwood constructed a new crematorium in 2014 on different area of the property.

Originally perceived to be the Anglo-Protestant cemetery of Ottawa, today Beechwood is a reflection of Canada's identity as a multicultural, multi-faith society with sections reserved for religious and ethno-cultural communities. This shift began in the 1920's when the Chinese community wanted to have a section within the cemetery. Beechwood, being one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in Ottawa, naturally was the perfect fit to be the final resting place for their community. It is designed according to Chinese religious principles, and distinguished by a Pagoda to honour the community's ancestors.

Beechwood is proud to now have sections set aside and specifically designed to meet the interment needs of the Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Lebanese, Latvian, Muslim, Polish, Portuguese, Ukrainian and Vietnamese communities.

The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation was created in 2000 for the purpose of safeguarding the cemetery's future, and increasing public awareness of the cemetery and the important events of Canadian history associated with persons buried within it. Since then, Beechwood has grown in national significance, first becoming the home of the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces, then being recognized as a National Historic Site in 2001 and finally by becoming the home of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery in 2004. This culminated in 2009 with Beechwood's designation as the National Cemetery of Canada by way of Bill C-17, an Act of Parliament that received all-party support in the House of Commons. In 2011, Beechwood became the Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery.



Today, due to a recent change in provincial regulations, Beechwood is a full-service provider in the bereavement industry. This means that together with the approximate 35 acres of undeveloped cemetery land and their on-site crematorium Beechwood now also provides a broad choice of funeral styles, from catered receptions, life celebrations and memorial services, to traditional funerals. Being able to provide funeral, cemetery and cremation services all in a location of unparalleled beauty is a great service to the Ottawa community. With almost 400 famous burials, and over 82,000 total burials of people from all walks of life, Beechwood serves as place of national tribute and remembrance for all Canadians.

[MORE HISTORY DETAILS CLICK HERE](#)



# COMPLETED



2004



2004



2014



2014



2015



2017



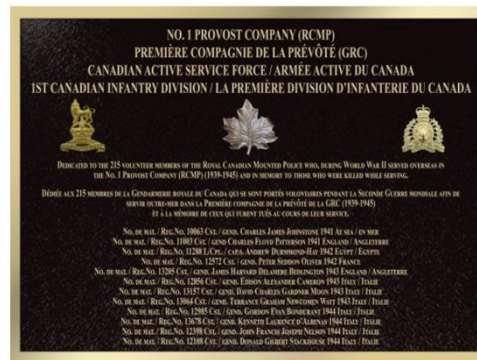
2018



2019



2019



2020

**INTRODUCTION TO THE RCMP NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
CEMETERY (RNMC) AT BEECHWOOD**  
**“Canada’s National  
Cemetery ” PREFACE**

The concept of a veteran’s cemetery was inspired in 2000 by RCMP Veteran Bill Becker who posed the question to the RCMP Veterans’ Association (Ottawa Division) Executive Committee why the RCMP did not have a cemetery in Ottawa since the city is the home of the RCMP National Headquarters and, given the fact many serving and former members of the RCMP were located in Ottawa. Mr. Becker proposed Beechwood as the site of a veterans’ cemetery based on the historical significance of Beechwood that was founded in 1873 in the same year as the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) was formed in Canada. It was indeed a natural choice for the future site of an RCMP Veterans’ cemetery. As the concept began to materialize however, it became apparent that the fundamental purpose of establishing an RCMP cemetery in Ottawa was to honour the members and their families who dedicated their lives to the peace and security of this country as the notion of the “police family” has always been a distinguishing characteristic of the RCMP. What began as a vision of a veterans’ cemetery quickly evolved and the concept of an RCMP National Memorial Cemetery unfolded as the true meaning of the RCMP family became the focus of the discussions. Regina, home to the RCMP “Depot” Division Training Academy, is the site of the RCMP Regimental Cemetery. The differences between this site and Beechwood are noteworthy as the latter presents a dignified alternative sanctuary that includes the families and dependents of all employees.

The vision of an RCMP National Memorial Cemetery officially began in 2001 as an initiative of the RCMP Veterans’ Association (Ottawa Division). Originally, the site was conceived for RCMP Veterans and it was named the RCMP Veterans’ Cemetery in a bilateral agreement signed on September 1st.

(L>R): Tim Graham, Beechwood Foundation; RCMP Commissioner Guiliano Zaccardelli; Mrs. Grete Hale, President of the Beechwood Foundation; Al Haggerty, President, RCMP Veterans’ Association (Ottawa Division)



Dedicated Veterans and representatives of the RCMP, in partnership with Beechwood Cemetery, successfully acquired a parcel of land at Beechwood to be the final resting place for deceased employees of the RCMP and their families. The site is immediately adjacent to the National Military Cemetery and strategically positioned within the grounds of Beechwood Cemetery.

The RCMP symbolizes Canada’s commitment to peace and security both domestically and internationally. It is a proud organization comprised of individuals who endorse this vision fully and who are profoundly committed to its achievement. However, this reality of service to the RCMP is not without personal sacrifice to the families of its dedicated employees.



## PREFACE (cont'd)

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood was created to recognize the significant contribution of the families of the members of the North West Mounted Police, (NWMP), the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and employees of the RCMP.

The vision was realized with the official dedication ceremony at Beechwood on October 17, 2004 and the site was officially named the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery on January 11, 2006 in a Tripartite Agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

### Tripartite Agreement / MOU

January 11, 2006

Signing the MOU L>R)  
Chief Superintendent Al Rivard  
(rtd), President of the RCMP  
Veterans' Association (Ottawa  
Division; RCMP Commissioner  
Guiliano Zaccardelli; Mrs. Grete  
Hale, President of the Beechwood  
Foundation.



The Ottawa Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association is the driving force in actively promoting the creation and continued development of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood as a legacy of the past and vision for the future.

The concept of the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is unique in the sense that it was conceived for the exclusive use of all employees of the RCMP, regular members, civilian members and public service employees and their families. This is an important consideration as the unwavering support of the families of all employees has always been a distinguishing factor in their lives.

It is only fitting that Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada, is the chosen site as it is a beautiful public site where 300,000 visitors per year can pay their respects to those who have committed their lives to peace and good order on behalf of all Canadians.

The RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood is a legacy to the Force's intricate role in the history of Canada from sea to sea to sea. It demonstrates the appreciation, respect, recognition, and unwavering commitment of the RCMP to its employees and their families.

The creation of the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery at Beechwood, with land shared for the internment of our partners of the Ottawa Police Service (OPS), and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), along with the opening of the Sacred Space inside the main building at Beechwood, make Beechwood Cemetery a place of honour for all Canadians.



## RCMP VETERANS' HISTORICAL WALL



### *Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police – May 23, 2023*

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) will be marking its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 23, 2023. The RCMP Veterans' Association, Ottawa Division, is seeking your support in recognizing this milestone by contributing to the construction of a very special historical wall.

The intent of the RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall is:

- to profile the contributions of the RCMP to the development of Canada,
- to capture the highlights of the history of the RCMP from its inception in 1873, and
- to recognize all those who served throughout the years.

The Ottawa Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association is raising funds from those who would like to celebrate the historical role of the RCMP in keeping our communities safe, in protecting our values and in upholding the law.

In a beautiful garden setting at Beechwood, Canada's National Cemetery in Ottawa, the *RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall* will be in the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery and will be located near a cenotaph honouring the many fallen RCMP Members who have lost their lives while serving Canadians. The RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall will be a foundation of 120-140 feet (40 meters) which will hold 10 interpretive panels (5 in English and 5 in French) to highlight the history of the RCMP in the development of Canada.

A main feature will be the interactive communications on the site which will expand the story – in written and verbal formats - through immediate web connections making the visit to the RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall attractive to all visitors, and particularly youth.

Fundraising has been set at a minimum of \$1.6 million to cover the full cost of construction. Final costing will be available shortly. The Ottawa Division of the RCMP Veterans' Association is raising funds from those who would like to celebrate the historical role of the RCMP in keeping our communities safe, in protecting our values and in upholding the law.



[CLICK ON THIS PHOTO TO VIEW VIDEO](#)



[CONTACT US](#)

## RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall

Building on the foundation for tomorrow



[Click here to make a donation to the RCMP Veterans' Historical Wall today!](#)