

WILLOWBANK CEMETERY

4714 County Road #2 - PO Box 123 - Gananoque ON K7G 2T7 www.willowbankcemetery.ca

Newsletter Fall/Winter 2025/26



President's Message

This year we had to accept the resignation of two of our board members for health reasons. Stephen Heaton has served on our board since 2014, several years as president and Gary Bullock has served as our Cemetery Chief Operations Manager since 2010. We owe a great deal of thanks to these two gentlemen for their long and dedicated service. We are fortunate to have 2 new nominees for board members. Ron Grice and Andrew Murray have long histories in the area and come with a variety of skills and experiences. The future of our volunteer Willowbank Cemetery Board is in good hands as we move forward. We look forward to working together as a team.



We have focused much of our energy this year on the cemetery site. The new columbarium, which was originally scheduled for installation in September 2024, has not yet arrived. After serious enquiries by our vendor to his sources overseas, we have learned that the purchase order was lost in the administration process. Recently reordered and at the same price, we have now been promised delivery in the spring of 2026. Jim and Tom are not yet accepting "orders" or deposits, but are keeping an informal list of potential interment rights purchasers.

The Spring Clean-up was a success, critically following the March ice storm. This event also gave us an opportunity to meet a number of nearby Willowbank residents. We found out that many people in the area love Willowbank Cemetery as much as we do and so inspired us to create a *Friends of Willowbank Cemetery* group. Such friends would be willing to help out with one-time activities in support of the cemetery such as the Spring Clean-up Day. The goal is to get the wider community involved and we feel this is a good way to raise the profile of our cemetery and thereby ensure its ongoing sustainability. The Friends of Willowbank would communicate through Facebook and an email list rather than just the twice yearly newsletters. If you are interested or know someone who would like to join please have them contact Robert Burtch at burtchrobert1@gmail.com

We have arranged for a local contractor to repair a number of our older memorial stones that have toppled over or are at risk of toppling over either due to tree damage or ground settling. This will be an extensive project and is expected to continue for several years.

One of the changes most likely to affect our Interment Rights Holders is a policy change to increase the capacity of our in-ground plots. Prior to this change, the capacity of a standard 4'x10' plot was either (a) one full sized traditional casket interment and one cremation urn interment OR (b) two urns . We reviewed these capacities and determined there would usually be physical space for a third urn in a standard plot. This change would provide more options for our families and allow for a more efficient use of our available land. Accordingly, we have changed our policy so that families can retain the original capacity of their existing or new plot or have the option, with an incremental cost of one-half of the standard price for interment rights, in their existing or new plot, upgrade the capacity to either (a) one full sized casket interment and two cremation urns, OR (b) three cremation urns.



In 2026 we are making plans for the installation of our new 48 niche columbarium, a complete review of our by-laws, renewal of our charitable status, development of a policy on the location of benches, tree care and maintenance, and repainting our memorial gateway.

Please accept my best wishes to you, our Willowbank families, for the holiday season and the new year.

Charles Kidd
President

Trees For the Future



The care of our beautiful “Garden Style” Cemetery requires regular service from licensed arborists who annually assess tree health and maintenance. Thanks to your generous donations we are able to defray the significant costs. Our goal is to be proactive and do the work before natural disaster strikes such as ice storms, wind damage or disease. Please go to our website: www.willowbankcemetery.ca click on **Donate** link or mail to:

Tree Fund

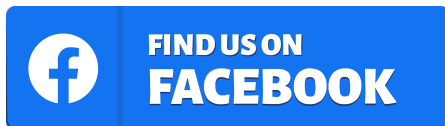
Willowbank Cemetery

PO Box 123 Gananoque ON K7G 2T7

Thank You



Speaking of trees for a new generation, it would be preferable to have the majority of our newsletters sent digitally by email or read/downloaded from our website. If you are currently receiving this newsletter by Canada Post won't you please consider this option? It would be a significant saving in costs for paper and postage. If you have not already done so, please email our secretary Robert Burtch at burtchrobert1@gmail.com and he will add your email address to our database.



Did you know you can now follow us on FaceBook ? Check out our page and keep in touch at facebook.com/willowbankcemetery

Willow bank Cemetery Heritage Walking Tours **September 21 and October 12, 2025**

Our secretary Robert Burtch led a total group of 15 people over 2 Sundays, September 21 and October 12, around the cemetery stopping at about 10 sites of interest which highlighted the fascinating history of Willowbank Cemetery and those laid to rest here. The stories shared covered the years from late 18th century to mid 20th century. We have such a rich history that we just love to share with you and the community. This year was a trial to see how it would work out and from the feedback of the participants it seems we will be planning more tours next year. We will keep you posted on dates and times in the Spring/Summer of 2026 Newsletter.





Obituary for Alia Hogben

We would like to share the obituary of this notable and well loved member of our community. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and colleagues:

Remarkable retired social worker and Muslim feminist Alia Hogben died at Brockville General Hospital on June 16, 2025, surrounded by her immediate family. She was one of those women who lights up a room, welcomes everyone with a warm smile and earns the love of countless people across the country. Alia never let her beauty go to her head and instead was very modest but was not afraid to stand up for people and issues she believed in.

Alia was a much-loved lady among her family, a former program supervisor with the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and later the first executive director of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women from 2002 until 2018. Born in Rangoon, Burma, in 1937 and fleeing to India during the war, Alia first came to Canada in

1954 as a daughter of the High Commissioner of India from whom she inherited her great devotion to books and ideas.

In 1959, after a struggle with her family, she was allowed to marry William Murray Hogben whom she met at Carleton University in Ottawa, and they lived in Toronto with their children, Noorjehan India, Ameera Minna, and Omar William.

In 1973, Alia and Murray moved to Kingston and soon to their ever-expanding Marshview Farm, near Gananoque. Alia was involved with the Muslim Society of Toronto and the Islamic Society of Kingston, and became a very strong Muslim feminist and advocate for all girls and women. A critical Muslim, Alia did not bow to what she considered unnecessary male traditions. She also travelled widely around the world to Muslim women's conferences, including speaking to Musawah and as a representative of Foreign Affairs Canada from Damascus to Rome. Alia and Murray also visited from Morocco to India on various occasions, and she took a great interest in the wider world, including despairing of the current India and Gaza.

Alia received honorary doctorates from Queen's University and the University of Toronto and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2012. Alia was then invited to accompany then-Governor General David Johnson on a delegation to the King of Sweden in 2017. In 2014 she was featured in a MacLean's Magazine issue on "The 50 most important people in Canada." Alia also wrote a number of articles for books and until recently a monthly column on women, Islam and other issues for The Kingston Whig-Standard.

Alia was one of ten children of Dr. Mohammed Abdul Rauf of Rangoon and Maqsood Jehan Begum Meer of Allahabad, India. She was predeceased by five of her siblings, Qudsia, Saleem, Naseem, Raheem and Ameen, as well as her beloved daughter Ameera in 2015. She is survived by her much-loved surviving children Noor (John Henson) and Omar (Wendy Fu) and by grandchildren Bibijehan, Shakoor, and Isra Henson, and by Reza Hogben, and countless grieving relatives. Alia was interred in Willowbank Cemetery. Alia will be forever missed by her husband Murray of the past 66 years. "From God we come and to Him do we return."

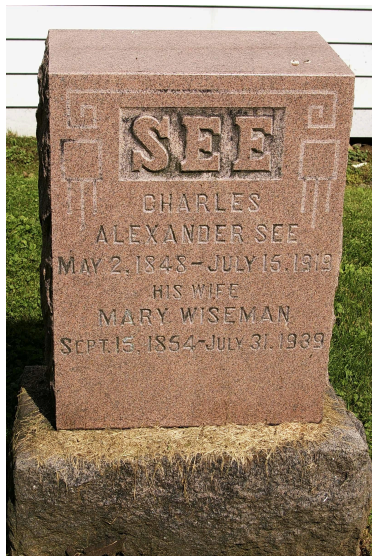
Mary See : The Sweet Smell of Success



Mary Wiseman was born on September 15, 1854 on Howe Island. Mary was 20 years old when she married Alexander See, with whom she assisted in managing a successful hotel on Tremont Park Island just off Gananoque. Their son Charles was born in 1882. Their daughter May became a nurse and daughter Bertha married and moved to Toronto. Charles went north to the Algoma district of Ontario during the 'Goldrush' of the early 20th century. He owned a couple of shops and was quite successful until the devastating Great Porcupine Fire of 1911 wiped out several towns and killed at least 70 people. He tried his luck again, this time opening a business in Toronto. Alex See died in 1911 making Mary a widow at 64. Not long after that a fire destroyed the Hotel on Tremont Park Island. Maybe because she had nothing left to lose, Mary agreed to join her son Charles and his family when he decided to pick up stakes in Canada and move to Pasadena, California.

No doubt Mary See's years of managing a hotel gave her the skills to produce food that would keep her clientele coming back for more. Her candy recipes in particular were big favourites. Her son Charles recognized his mother's talent and opened up a small candy shop in Los Angeles in 1921. Mary See took pride in her candy and only used the finest ingredients and never skimped on quality. Her candies soon became famous and so production increased and more shops were opened. Even during the dark days of The Depression, when other companies used cheaper ingredients or reduced the size of their product, See's Candy maintained their quality control. They found that people were willing to pay for a special treat if the product was exceptional.

Mary See's Candy was so highly respected for its quality and brand recognition in Western United States that in 1972 Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway invested a majority share in the company. He recognized that this company was special and deserved to be supported to reach new levels of growth. Today See's has proven to be an exceptionally efficient user of capital, generating impressive return on



investment even during periods of economic downturn. A famous quote from Buffett relating to the purchase of the See Candy Company states, "Price is what you give, value is what you get." In 2019 the company delivered over \$80 million USD in pre-tax profit. Mary See died in 1939 at the age of 85 and her body was laid to rest with her husband Alex in Willowbank Cemetery in a plot about half way along the eastern boundary line.

In 1992 several members of the See family along with executives of the company travelled from California to visit the grave site and pay their respects to this remarkable woman.



Willowbank Family Histories

Willowbank Cemetery appreciates any family histories . If you would like to share a short history of your family connection please feel free to contact us at burtchrobert1@gmail.com

Thanks to Judith Hampton for submitting this piece about the Baldock family who were located right across the road from the cemetery for many years.

See the aerial shot below of the store , gas pumps, cabins and pool taken around 1969. The Willowbank subdivision to the south was just beginning to be developed and the canals were being dredged.

The Baldocks at Willow Bank

Jane Ellen Dove, 29 year old spinster, blouse presser in the London garment industry, affectionately known as Jenny or Jeanie, emigrated from England to Canada in September 1909. Documented in the SS Lake Manitoba's passenger list was Jane's reason i.e. "to be married". And marry she did...within two weeks Jane became Mrs. George Baldock. George, a former British navy seaman, had grown up near Canterbury. He arrived in Canada in 1907. Descendants assume that George and Jane were acquainted in England.

In World War I, George served overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Meanwhile in Gananoque, Jane cared for their three young children: Madge, Doris, George W.H. After the war, the Baldocks had two more children: Stanley and Lillian. Jane was 44 years old when Lillian arrived.



(photo of George Baldock Sr and Jane)

Eventually George and Jane farmed on land east of Willow Bank Cemetery on the north side of Highway 2. Little Lillian loved the cemetery, where George occasionally assisted. She held pretend tea parties among the grave stones and knew the names of many occupants.

George joined the Home Guard in World War II, serving locally.

Young George trained as a cheese maker, and married Betty Anderson.

"Baldocks", on the south side of Highway 2, grew to become a thriving concern: cheese, Texaco gas pumps, groceries, snack bar and tourist cabins. George and Jane moved to Brock Street,

Gananoque in retirement. Son George and Betty occupied an apartment above the shop until building a new home on the canal behind.

Jane, Betty and the Georges occupy the Baldock burial plot at Willow Bank Cemetery.

After widowhood, Lillian often toured Willow Bank Cemetery with me on our mother-daughter drives. One time, she and I were taken aback by a white apparition that suddenly arose from behind an older gravestone on the west side of the hill. We discovered the gentleman was real: a researcher in white coveralls recording the names of tombstone carvers.

Lillian used to muse that she might not live past 77, given that her parents, brother, and his wife died at ages 76-77. However, Lillian lived to almost 95. She and husband Herbert Hampton are inurned close to her parents (in the first columbarium).



Judith. E Hampton, July 2, 2025

Record of Interments/ in Memorium

Audrey Garrah and Gerald Garrah
Alia Hogben
James Mutch Gates
Joyce Lynn Hawkins
Gladys Audrey Cowan
Joseph Ernest Beaubien and Sandra Beaubien
Tracey Ann MacIntyre
Carol Willoughby and Guy George Willoughby
Richard Graham Bell

November 23, 2024
June 18, 2025
June 20, 2025
June 28, 2025
June 30, 2025
August 23, 2025
August 24, 2025
September 3, 2025
October 16, 2025

Willowbank Cemetery would like to express our sincere thanks for the following generous donations and bequests.

*Judith Adams
Richard Bell Estate
Norah Bruner
Marlene Fenton
Ron Garrah
Aase Larsen
John and Barb Nalon
John Quinn
Jack Whyte (Kingston Community Foundation)*

*Nancy Babcock
Boerner Joanne and Peer
Edward Dowd
Judith Hampton
Carolyn Gates
Mary Ann Maruska
S.E. Nuttall
Arthur Silver*

*Silvia Baker
Brent Giffin
Sarah Epstein
Janet Hartel
E. Jones
Evelyne Murray
Joan Quinn
D. Williamson
Canada Helps*

Willowbank Cemetery Memorials



In remembrance of your loved ones, please keep our beloved Willowbank Cemetery, a charitable organisation in mind.

We would appreciate anyone making a donation in memory of loved ones as an option in your choice of charitable giving.

Please go to our website at www.willowbankcemetery.ca and go to the Donate link. OR you can reach us at our mailing address: PO Box 123-Gananoque, ON-K7G 2T7

We would also ask you to consider us in your estate planning by remembering us in your Will. There can be considerable tax advantages to charitable giving with careful estate planning. Imagine the comfort of knowing that this special place of remembrance will continue to be administered in a sustainable manner for years to come. You are invited to connect with board member Tom Shillington for a confidential discussion about your legacy options. You can reach him at: **613 849-6091** or by email at tom@limestonefinancial.ca



Willowbank Cemetery Board of Directors

PRESIDENT/REGISTRY OFFICER

Charles Kidd

VICE-PRESIDENT/ WEBSITE

Victoria Maitland

TREASURER

Glenn Cowan

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Robert Burtch

CEMETERY OPERATIONS OFFICER

Greg Owen

SALES OFFICER

Jim Douglas /Tom Shillington

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Robert Burtch

DIRECTOR

Shirley Clark

DIRECTOR

Ron Grice

DIRECTOR

Andrew Murray

In the Bleak Mid-Winter ***By Christina Rossetti***

*In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.*



All of us at Willowbank Cemetery wish you and yours a very special holiday season.