

WILLOW BANK NEWS

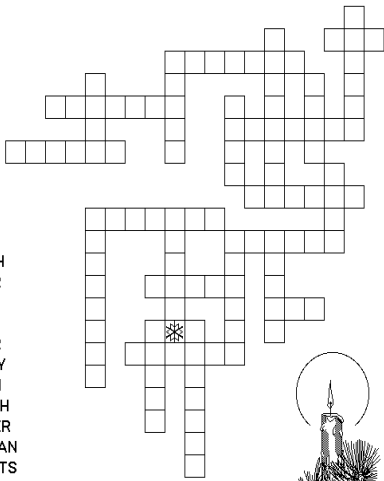
CHRISTMAS 2020



Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

ELF
TOY
GIFT
BELL
TREE
STAR
SANTA
COMET
CUPID
VIXEN
CANDY
FROSTY
WREATH
DASHER
DONNER
SLEIGH
DANCER
CHIMNEY
BLITZEN
RUDOLPH
PRANCER
SNOWMAN
PRESENTS
REINDEER



- From the President -

Except for the 2 World Wars and perhaps the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918/19, this will be the longest time between Willowbank Cemetery Annual General Meetings.

It has been a trying time for us all. Many of you have continued to play an active role in serving the cemetery, and those of us, myself included, that have had less direct involvement during the Covid 19 pandemic, have been clear that they have been willing to help if called upon to do so.

You will learn during the course of this brief and novel outdoor meeting, the work that everyone has performed, and I do wish to thank you profusely for keeping things ticking along. The cemetery looks terrific in terms of the grounds, clean up, and tree maintenance, and this of course reflects the hard work of Gary and our hired groundsman, Ray. The administrative management of cemetery matters, including the financial, legal, , public relations, secretarial, web site, sales, and plot research and identification has continued apace. Everyone has played their part. So thank you, thank you, thank you.

I do drop into the cemetery almost weekly to drive through, water a couple of young trees and wander through the

graveyard, as well as sit a while and enjoy the peace and quiet of the garden of memories which our cemetery represents.

Over the course of the Covid pandemic I have read two lengthy and beautifully illustrated books on Canadian cemeteries. It is clear that in Willowbank we have a gem, a treasure, perhaps one of the smallest of the continents garden cemeteries. In the mid 19th century, the willow tree became strongly associated with Victorian ideas about death and the after life, because the Willow tree is seen as a weeping tree, the way its branches reach down to sweep the ground. But it is not only , the Willow regenerates quickly, simply by sticking the cutting in the ground, no fuss, no muss. So even our name Willow bank is classic mid 19th century parlance for the promise of spring, despite the sorrows of past winters of discontent.

Alas I must close on a note of sorrow, since our last A.G.M. in 2019, we have lost Shirley's husband and also former board member Jack Whyte. .Please know Shirley that our thoughts are with you.

Thank You.

*Stephen Heaton,
President*

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INTERMENTS UP TO NOVEMBER 11, 2020

	Date of Interment	Name	Lot no.	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Interment Type
1	June 10, 2020	Saddlemire, Deborah	Section C - 149		May 09, 2020	cremation
2	July 03, 2020	Griffin Shirley Rae	Section A - 23	November 20, 1937	December 20, 2019	cremation
3	July 31, 2020	Wheeler, Stephen Sheldon	Section A - 121	April 04, 1957	December 23, 2019	cremation
4	July 22, 2020	Whyte, John George (Jack)	Section C – 101-102	July 22, 1933	February 20, 2020	cremation
5	August 07, 2020	Jackson, Nancy (née Heaslip)	Section A - 159	January 08, 1952	July 29, 2020	cremation
6	August 21, 2020	Miller, Marion Lucy	Section A - 178	December 15, 1918	August 09, 2020	cremation
7	August 22, 2020	O'Brien, Clifford	Section A - 561	No date – 92 yrs	March 14, 2020	Casket/vlt
8	October 28, 2020	Giffin, David John	Section A - 546		August 14, 2020	cremation
9	October 28, 2020	Giffin, Rhylla	Section A - 546		November 12, 2018	cremation

TREE MAINTENANCE



We wish to thank all who have generously donated in the past years to the tree fund. In 2019 we had to remove 5 of our 85 mature trees as they showed signs of advanced rot and two were further damaged by wind and storms. Four large stumps were also removed, allowing the soil to re-build nutrients for replacement trees in their exact locations next year. As beautiful as these majestic trees were, many of them are more than 100 yrs. old and frail. Not only must the cemetery ensure safety of the public but as well of the gravestones which can incur significant damage in the event of fallen branches and trees.

This year, we advanced further on the tree care plan so that we may concentrate on tree replacement in 2021. Several large-felled tree sections required removal in the spring, and three further trees were removed on the west side of the cemetery, along section C graves. Large branches from sections are being trimmed where they represent a hazard to the graves should they break.



ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

Having spent much of the last three years occupied by administrative functions, enactment of Willowbank Cemetery Revised By-Laws (2018) approved by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) which governs the administration and operations of the cemeteries, as well as updating and digitizing Willowbank Cemetery's Official Registry and formalizing our administrative and operating structures of responsibilities, all required by the Cemeteries Act regulations, the volunteer directors can now devote more efforts in forward planning of the cemetery. Rights for interments on 4' x 5' half-lots are now available for interments of ashes in the north-east corner of the cemetery adjacent to the area reserved for a future columbaria. Plans for the installation of a new columbaria in the central area in the north section of the are in the works for 2021. Stay tuned.

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Due to COVID our Annual General Meeting typically scheduled in May was deferred. To suit the very unusual context we are experiencing, the Board proceeded with their annual board meeting on September 08, 2020 but kept the attendance to members of the Board deferring an invitation to the public in order to comply to the restrictions being imposed by the province. It was the Board's first social distancing annual board meeting which included the option of a google meet for members not able to join us in person. Our President, Stephen and his partner were most gracious hosts, inviting the board members to their most exquisite exterior garden and landscape. While the setting was informal, the welcome by the red guard was quite unexpected but very fitting of a land once referred to as 'Loyalist country'.

MONUMENT FOUNDATION REPAIR PLAN 2020 – 2022

2020 saw a new team of volunteers initiate a Monument Foundation Repair Plan, where tilted monuments were identified, prioritized (safety and imminent toppling). Our team was busy on-site from July through October righting and stabilizing several monuments, twenty-three in total. We are proud to say their cumulative efforts are now quite noticeable upon visiting the cemetery. The list is still long and the schedule for 2021 already impressive. We certainly hope that all will be addressed by the end of 2022. The work on the monuments to date has been done solely by steadfast volunteers and members of our board of directors. A special thanks to Glenn Cowan!



LOT #167 BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

		NOTES Priority: G	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div>  </div> <div>  </div> <div>  </div> </div>			

*Monument Foundation Repair Program Survey
- Example*

WE OFFER THANKS

Much work has been accomplished this year and most through the efforts and kindness of several steadfast volunteers. Willowbank continues to be frugal in its expenditures as we depend mostly on donations. That being said, your donations and help goes a long way to maintaining our beautiful historical cemetery. We wish to thank all who have already so generously donated funds through this year:

List of Donors (As of November 2020)

Marjorie Dawson, Doug Garrah, Nancy Babcock, Deborah West-Shamhart, Brent Giffin, Raymond Baldock, Judith Adams, Patrick Davison, Doug Garrah, James Garcelon, Judith Hampton, Ronald G. Anderson, Edward Dowd, Rod Pope, Gayle Skelton, Caryolyn Gates, Pauline Dickson, Robert Dennis, Nancy Waldie, Grace Leakey, Charlie Burrridge, Bonnie McCann, Harry Cook, Ron Garrah, Marilyn Braden, David Abeles, Hugh Johnston, Coleen Emmerson, Carol Thomas, Marie Day, Orla Larsen, Carol Davis, Stuart Leakey, Michael McBean, Francis Hough, Evelyn Murray, Janice Slack, Dwayne and Nora Reed, Geoffry Pratt, Elizabeth Ross.

As well, we wish to express our gratitude to the following individuals:

To **Ray from St-Lawrence Property Maintenance** for his continued availability during the year and most particularly for his donation of time and equipment to dispose off-site the leaf and tree waste gathered by volunteers during our annual spring cleaning. We also wish to thank Ray for his considerable help and participation in the repair of monument foundations this summer.

To **Dave Tompkins from Tompkins Funeral Home** for his on-going reliable and professional assistance in matters relating to funerals and interments.

To **Doug Wilson from Leeders Monuments** for his generous sharing of knowledge and expertise of gravestones and monuments repair. Most particularly, we are also grateful for his imparting of Willowbank's unique history.

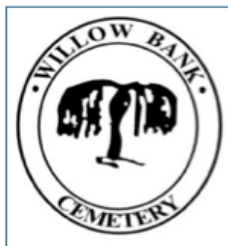
To **Paul Larmon owner and operator of Timber Tree Service** for his expertise and guidance in the management and conservation efforts of our heritage trees.

To **Mark from Norterra Organics** for their generous donation and delivery of several loads of compost topsoil much needed to maintain our cemetery's historic landscape.

To **Gananoque Canadian Tire** for their kind donation of grass seed.

To **Gyorgyi Cowan** for her efforts in preparing and mailing out each edition of the Newsletter.

A NEW ERA



2020 has certainly been an unusual year for all. It has been a year of learning and adjustments to the COVID imposed restrictions. Our board of directors has been diligent in remaining up-to-date with the on-going and ever-changing provincial rules for cemetery operations thanks in large part to the reliable information provided by the BAO through webinars and notification alerts. It has been a busy year but Willowbank has been successful in integrating the recommended protocols to its' cemetery operations.



Contact Information

Interment Services: Mr. Gary Bullock at 613-929-9120

Purchase of Interment Rights: Mr. Jim Douglas at James087@sympatico.ca

“Be a Part of Your Family’s Heritage”

WIC