**REPORT OF THE FLATROCK CEMETERY COMMITTEE – JUNE 24, 2025**

To begin, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all those who have supported us as we strive to do our best to care for Flatrock Memorial Gardens – St. Michael’s Cemetery. Without your support, none of this would be possible.

Since our last AGM in April 2024:

* The section of the cemetery bordering on Haley’s Place was cleared and gravel added.
* Section 7 (currently used for parking inside the Cemetery) was widened, cleared and tidied up with the addition of a berm and the spreading of Class A gravel.
* Improvements were made to the four handicap parking areas.
* The section outside the fence bordering on Old Flatrock Road was cleared and gravel added with the intention to use that area for additional parking.
* Foilage was removed from the area near Wildberry Ridge and road gravel added.
* Work on the altar began in Fall 2024 and is now nearing completion. The paint colors from St. Michael’s Church were carried over and used on the Altar. Thanks to the generosity of the Town of Flatrock, we also have the white cross that was on St.  Michael’s Church and, after some resizing, will be added to the back wall of the altar.
* Thanks to volunteers, the large cross at the cemetery received a new coat of paint.
* Two water containers were installed and filled with water at the Cemetery for the use of the public when watering plants.
* A new sign was erected at the entrance of the Cemetery with a plan to erect a second sign at the beginning of Old Flatrock Road pending Department of Transportation and Infrastructure approval. If approval is not received, the second sign will be installed at Gate 2 to the Cemetery.
* Several clean up days were held in preparation for the Annual Cemetery Mass held July 25, 2024. The Collection taken at the Mass was $3,034.00.
* Clean up of the Cemetery has begun in preparation for the Annual Cemetery Mass to be held Thursday, July 24, 2025. We received funding under the Canada Summer Jobs Grant Program to hire one student as Cemetery Labourer. We are currently in the process of hiring. This is a new venture for us, and we are learning as we go.
* Wayne White, Master Pruner, along with Michael Murray from Murray’s Garden Center, were onsite to prune an overgrown lilac tree on a plot. The videos were uploaded to Facebook on July 18, 2024, if anyone would like to view them.
* We introduced the Adopt-A-Plot Program. The aim of this program is to provide care and maintenance to the resting places of those with no family to provide care or whose family are unable to care for their loved ones resting place due to age, health issues, etc.
* The Annual Flatrock Garden Party had been a long-standing tradition within our community that, unfortunately, had to be put on hold due to the Covid pandemic and the uncertainty of the future of St. Michael’s Church. On May 18, 2024, it was announced via Facebook that the Flatrock Garden Party was being brought back with the same attractions as before along with some added attractions namely, a fish pond and a dunk tank, and that, instead of cold plates, afternoon tea would be offered. The tradition would continue. The first Garden Party held since 2019 took place on July 14, 2024, and was a great success not only financially but in bringing the community together once again in a united effort especially after the disappointment of losing our Church.
* With the success of Garden Party 2024, on August 2, 2024, it was announced via Facebook that the tradition would continue once again and that there would be another Flatrock Garden Party to be held July 6, 2025. Planning and preparation is currently under way. We are pleased to announce that we have two additions to this year’s event – Plinko and Tom and Pam’s Barnyard Buddies. As part of Garden Party 2025, we will be holding a Shoot the Puck event on July 1 at the Flatrock Recreation Complex in conjunction with the Town of Flatrock’s July 1st celebrations. The prize will be a Hockey Net valued at $250.00 that was generously donated by Niki Scott to be used as a fundraiser for the Flatrock Garden Party.
* The following work continues at the Cemetery:
  + Cleaning, restoring and leveling of headstones
  + Leveling of graves with topsoil
  + Removal of deteriorating railings and forms
  + Installation of grave markers
  + Renumbering of plots
  + Cutting and removal of vegetation

With plans to:

* Repair the fence
* To rent a chipper to chip all limbs that have been removed from the older sections of the cemetery.
* Hydroseed as needed, including the area inside the fence along Old Flatrock Road
* Finish road gravel parking area on Old Flatrock Road and Wildberry Road
* Make improvements to the road from Gate 1 to the road backing on Haley Place
* Connect both roads running through the cemetery
* Our plan forward includes:
  + Establishing a more structured Flatrock Cemetery Committee
  + Exploring the installation of a Columbarium at the Cemetery
* We are learning as we go and there have been many growing pains but, with your continued support, we hope to continue the great work that has been started.