

THE

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BEECHWOOD

WAY

MAGAZINE

“AMICITIA FRANCE-CANADA”

A NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATED TO THE
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA
by André Levesque and Christophe Raisonnier

A VERY PUBLIC MONUMENT FOR A VERY PRIVATE INSTITUTION

by Nicolas McCarthy

THE WILLIAMS AND FAIRBAIRN FAMILY BURIAL GROUNDS

by Bruce S. Elliott

82,000 STORIES TO SHARE

ELEANOR KINGSFORD

CHAMPION SKATER OF CANADA

by André Levesque and Andrea M. Levesque

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WE OFTEN REFER to Beechwood Cemetery as a community of communities. So many different people and groups have connections to our cemetery.

This issue is certainly a reflection of that. We have stories from our defense and securities community with the unveiling of the CSIS main monument, a story about a community led initiative where we are building a new international monument to honour over four centuries of history.

In addition, we had a reader who reached out to update us on a story we shared last month about Detective Stoneman. Nothing is better than having someone connect with us to share a story about their family or friends and adding another piece to the history of Beechwood.

As we look towards planning for 2021, we are working on developing a new tour program with different themes and more scheduled tours. Each tour will focus on different topics and celebrate an aspect of Beechwood and Ottawa's history.

We are also working on our public events, in hopes that our community will be able to safely join us and participate. Our community partners are excited to get involved again, to work together and plan thoughtful and interesting events. Keep an eye on our events page on the website or on social media to stay up to date.

Here's hoping that 2021 is different from 2020, and that we can get together again.

Remember to follow us on Social Media for quick stories, interesting information, and updates on all the activities of Beechwood Cemetery Foundation.

- **Facebook** (@BeechwoodCemetery, @NMCBeechwood, @cimetiereBeechwood)
- **Twitter** (@BeechwoodOttawa)
- **Instagram** (@beechwoodcemetery)
- **Youtube** (Beechwood Cemetery)

We, at Beechwood, would like to wish you a happy, healthy, and safe new year.

Thank you

Nicolas McCarthy

Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach



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Visit us online to learn more about Beechwood, the National Cemetery of Canada and read back issues of *The Beechwood Way* at: www.beechwoodottawa.ca

We want your feedback on how we are doing! Contact: Erika Wagner at foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca

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“AMICITIA FRANCE-CANADA”

A national monument dedicated
to the friendship between
France and Canada

by André Levesque and Christophe Raisonnier
Project initiators, Monument Amicitia France-Canada

AFTER MORE THAN four centuries of shared history and 90 years of official diplomatic relations between France and Canada, the large, often bi-national French community, but also Canadians, Francophones and Francophiles, have no place to celebrate their history, act in the present and prepare for the future with an intergenerational vision. This situation will soon change as since 2018, there has been a citizens’ initiative working with the French Embassy in Canada, four Franco-Canadian associations in the National Capital Region, and the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation to build “AMICITIA France-Canada” — the first national monument dedicated to the friendship between France and Canada.

The monument is planned to be erected during Fall 2021 in Beechwood’s Section 102 along an existing pathway and placed in front of an existing natural stone wall anchored into the Canadian Shield. The monument was strategically placed near the National Military Cemetery due to its strong military linkages between Canadian and French Forces since the First World War.

Artist’s rendering of the
“AMICITIA France-Canada”
monument.





This parcel of wooded land that will house the first national monument dedicated to the friendship between France and Canada may also pave the way for what could be a future memorial garden for Allied forces.

For the last three years, the French community have held ceremonies on site to commemorate its War Dead and honour its living veterans. The development of this commemorative site reflects the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation’s mandate to support conservation, preservation, and historical activities, as well as the beautification and maintenance of Beechwood as a National Historic Site and its official designation by the Government of Canada as the National Cemetery of Canada.

The Latin phrase “AMITICIA France-Canada” was chosen as the monument’s name as the meaning of Amicitia is “friendship” and is universally understood as such. Made of grey granite and bronze, the monument will measure about 7.5 metres long and 3 metres at its highest point. On its central part, below the inscription “AMICITIA” will be carved the effigy of “Marianne” — the historic symbol of France — superimposed on a large veined maple leaf representing Canada. At the top of the pedestal will be a sculpture of two forearms, female and male, mutually brandishing a torch. The female arm on the left will represent that of Marianne sculpted at the base of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris near the flame of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier buried there in November 1920. The male arm on the right is inspired by the figure of the “Torch Bearer” located at the foot of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France and near the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, from where Canada’s Unknown Soldier was repatriated to Ottawa in May 2000.

Two low adjoining walls will carry the sculptures of four French and Canadian decorations — in the order of protocol for France, the Legion of Honour, the Military Medal, the National Order of Merit and the National Defence Medal, and for Canada, the Victoria Cross, the Order of Canada, the Order of Military Merit and the Meritorious Service Cross.

Being a timeless memorial, “AMICITIA France-Canada” will not only honour the spirit of the contributions and sacrifices made but will also be a physical symbol highlighting the combined action of our respective strengths and excellences, as well as our desire to achieve common goals and gender equality. People and schools will be able to use this memorial to educate and transmit the values it evokes, in an enriching journey to make future generations aware of the realities of our world. This commemorative site will become an important vehicle to carry out cultural, social and educational actions. This parcel of wooded land that will house the first national monument dedicated to the friendship between France and Canada may also pave the way for what could be a future memorial garden for Allied forces.

If you are looking to support this project, please visit beechwoodottawa.ca/en/donation to donate today



A VERY PUBLIC MONUMENT FOR A VERY PRIVATE INSTITUTION

by Nicolas McCarthy

*Director of Marketing, Communications
and Community Outreach*



SINCE ITS INITIAL INCEPTION in 2014, the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery has seen numerous upgrades and enhancements. The community has worked together to fundraise and move projects forward in a timely manner. These enhancements are a testament to the dedication from the partnership between CSIS, the Pillar Society and Beechwood Cemetery Foundation.

In late 2019 and early 2020, there was a lot of preparation work undertaken around the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery. We have realigned the road to enlarge this section and allow for a proper independent entrance. We continued to add landscaping and began the preparation for a parade square and a main monument.

Throughout 2020, Beechwood finalized the parade square and also the design and overlook of the main monument.

Shortly after the installation of the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery Main Monument, we held a private unveiling ceremony. On October 30th, 2020, CSIS and Pillar Society leadership unveiled the CSIS National Monument. This black granite monument is two sided and stands tall over the entire CSIS National Memorial Cemetery. It is built to compliment the existing monuments around it and emphasize the relationship and history between the RCMP and CSIS.

We will continue to add enhancements in the near future with two flag poles and will complete the dedicated entrance and final landscaping.

As always, the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery is a memorial to those who served courageously in the shadows.



THE WILLIAMS AND FAIRBAIRN FAMILY BURIAL GROUNDS

by Bruce S. Elliott

Professor Emeritus at Carleton University — 18th–19th c. social history; gravestones, cemeteries and memorialization; history of eastern Ontario and western Quebec; immigration from 1760 to 1875

IN THE SETTLEMENT ERA, it was not uncommon for families to bury loved ones on their farms. It was all too common for family burial places to vanish without trace, especially if no permanent markers were erected. Some family plots became community cemeteries if neighbours were permitted to bury there, too. Still others were moved, and sometimes entries in Beechwood's burial registers which recorded reinterments, provide the only evidence of onetime burial grounds that have been long forgotten.

Billings Estate National Historic Site includes a Billings family burial ground which soon sprouted a community cemetery alongside it, on the Gloucester side of the Rideau River at Billings Bridge. The two families that farmed just north of Billings Bridge, on the Nepean side of the Rideau, also buried on their own properties: the Williamses and Fairbairns. Burials from both farms were relocated to Beechwood's Sec. 39. The Williams plot is on the eastern side of the road between Secs. 39 and 40, and the Fairbairn plot adjoins it to the northeast, behind the Rowat lot. The remains of Mary Williams and her infant son Thomas, who died in 1821, represent the earliest dates of death of individuals now interred at Beechwood.

The Williamses were among the earliest settler families in Nepean. Lewis Williams, wife Mary Phillips, and four children from Monmouthshire, Wales, arrived on the *Thomas and Mary* on October 2, 1817, the same vessel that brought John Burrows Honey (later known as John Burrows) who famously sold his grant, the site of Upper Town, to Nicholas Sparks for £95. Both families were officially located to lands in Nepean on January 31, 1818, the Lewises on Lot K, Con. C. Son Thomas, 10 months old, died in the summer of 1821, followed by his mother in the fall. Both were laid to rest on the farm, followed by Lewis in 1844 and six later family members, the last in 1880.

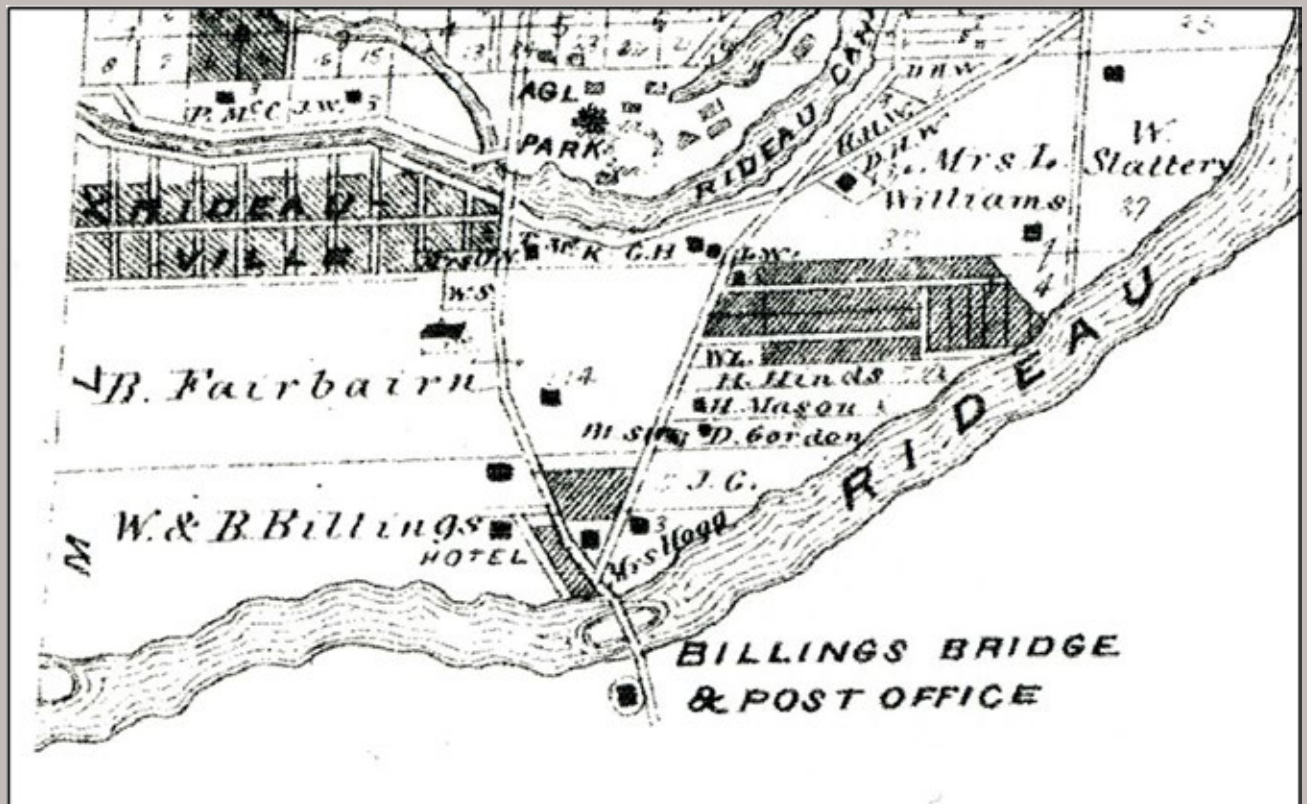
There appears to be no memory of the location of the family burial ground, but it is likely to have been near the house. The original log house is said to have been destroyed by fire (with Lewis Williams reportedly saving only his Welsh Bible), and to have been replaced in 1827 by the frame house that still stands at 96 Southern Drive in the Rideau Gardens subdivision. Before the Williamses subdivided their market garden operation for housing, the address was 207 Riverdale Avenue, even though the house was a quarter mile back from the road, overlooking the river. The frame house is likely to have been built on or near the site of the original cabin, where the family had 12 acres cleared by 1822.

The Fairbairns on Lot L arrived at least 15 years later. The lot was granted in 1801 to John Stegmann who had surveyed Nepean, as part of his survey fee; he sold it to the Frasers of Edwardsburgh who were accumulating properties near the confluence of the Ottawa and Rideau. Upon completion of the Rideau Canal in 1832 it was purchased by John Redpath of Montreal, one of the canal contractors and the

The Williamses were among the earliest settler families in Nepean.

founder of Redpath Sugar. Redpath's sister Elspeth and her stonemason husband Thomas Fairbairn from Earlston in Berwickshire, Scotland arrived in Montreal around 1828, where their youngest child was baptized early in 1829 with Redpath as witness. Fairbairn is said to have assisted in the canal work, and by 1833 had settled on Redpath's Nepean property. It was not until 1859 that Redpath sold the land to his nephew Peter Fairbairn. By this time, several members of the family had been buried on the farm: Peter's mother Elspeth in 1839, sister Margaret Ballantine in 1840, father Thomas in 1854, and two infants believed to have died in the 1850s. His stepmother Betsy (Nicholson) Fairbairn was laid to rest there in 1867.

Again we do not know the precise location of the former burial ground, but the original house is said to have been on high ground overlooking the river, behind 439 Riverdale, which would locate it in the current Windsor Park. Peter is said to have built a new house in the 1850s on a farm lane that is now Belmont Ave. just east of Bank Street, where the 1879 atlas appears to locate it. Perhaps the burial ground was somewhere west of Riverdale, as the lands to its east had been sold by the end of the 1870s. In 1891, Peter's widow Jane Fairbairn (a daughter of Lewis Williams II) sold off the remainder of the farm for development, and that was the year the family remains were relocated to Beechwood.



Billings Bridge area 1879. There were family burial grounds on the Williams and Fairbairn properties as well as on the Billings farm across the river in Gloucester. None are indicated on the map.



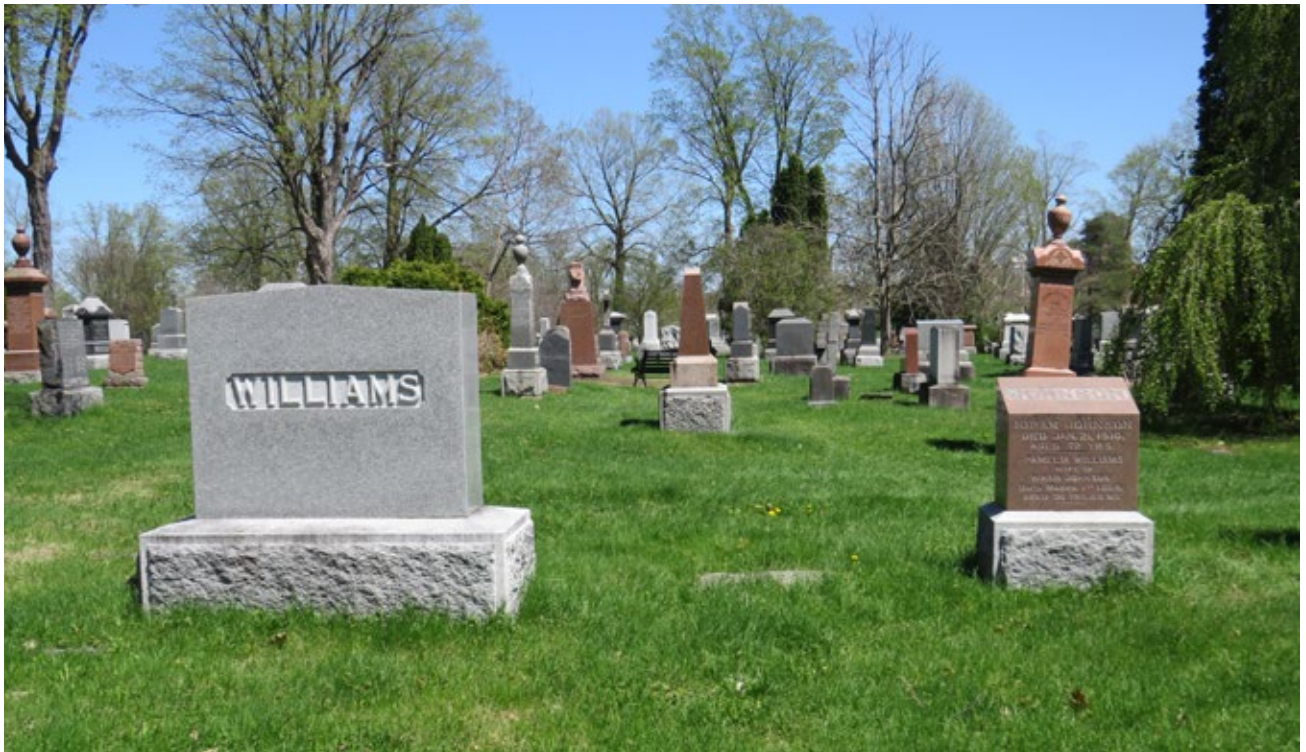
Fairbairn plot.
PHOTO: B. Elliot

Proximity to Ottawa had led both families to turn early to market gardening, and both Lewis Williams II and Peter Fairbairn took out vegetable cart licences in 1850.

On September 10, 1891, Jane and her son Thomas Lewis Fairbairn purchased Lot 96 and the northern part of Lot 97 (200 square feet). On the same day, the remains were moved there by undertaker George Shipman, at the behest of T.L. Fairbairn. Peter, who had died in 1881, was buried in grave 2, and his father Thomas and his two wives and Peter's sister Margaret Ballantine were buried in grave 5 along with the two infants. A granite monument was erected to the Peter Fairbairn family. An inscription to his sister Mrs Ballantine who died in 1840 was added on the side, but there is no commemoration of the original settler Thomas Fairbairn and his two wives. Another 12 members of the Fairbairn family were buried there between 1893 and 1988.

Proximity to Ottawa had led both families to turn early to market gardening, and both Lewis Williams II and Peter Fairbairn took out vegetable cart licences in 1850. The Williams farm had been bisected by construction of the Canal, and with the extension of Bank Street in 1865–66 and a bridge across the Canal, the family sold off two Canalside estate lots, followed by land for the Rideauville subdivision west of Bank Street in 1872. The area east of Riverdale Avenue, known as Rideau Gardens, continued to grow fresh produce for sale in the city till the final 36 acres were subdivided in the late 1940s.

Orilla (Healy) Williams, widow of Lewis II, died on May 7, 1900 and was buried in the Fairbairn plot; her daughter Jane, as already noted, was the widow of Peter Fairbairn. The first interment in the Williams plot was of her daughter Harriet Williams wife of Thomas F. Howard. She was buried Oct. 6, 1900 in Lot 107, joined by her husband in 1907. It was not until August 15, 1901 that Martha, Henry H., and Francis Williams and nephew Daniel E. Johnson purchased Lot 107 and the northern part of Lot 106 (460 sq. ft). Perhaps part of the plot was purchased the year before and replaced by the joint deed; we await access to the old Land Journal, currently in storage, to resolve that question. The following day, August 16, Orilla's husband Lewis II (1807–1875) and daughter Pamela Johnson (1838–1869) were moved from the farm at the instruction of Pamela's brother Henry H. Williams. Lewis was interred in the northern part of Lot 106 and Pamela in Lot 107, where she was joined by husband Hiram in 1910. It is unclear when Orilla was moved here from the Fairbairn plot.



Williams and Johnson markers in the Williams plot.
PHOTO: B. Elliot

On October 6, 1923, the rest of the remains were removed from the family farm in “1 small box” and placed in a small grave numbered “½” in the northwestern corner of Lot 107. In the box were the remains of Lewis Williams Sr. (d. April 5, 1844, aged 74), his wife Mary (d. Oct. 7, 1821) and son Thomas (d. July 9, 1821, aged 10m 7d), grandson Ezra (d. Sept. 2, 1857 aged 15y 10m 29d of a fever sore on his leg), Ezra’s sister Caroline (d. Jan. 10, 1880 aged 22) who had married her cousin Edward Lewis Frost of Owen Sound, and Mary Berry, the first wife of Lewis William III, who d. Jan. 16, 1874, aged 27, and her son Charles Henry who d. Aug. 18, 1872 at 3 months. The death dates were likely obtained from Lewis’s old Welsh Bible. It isn’t known whether headstones had been erected on the family farms. A central monument bearing the surname and thirteen small 20th century granite tablets flush with the ground today represent 22 members of the Williams family. (The Ontario Genealogical Society publication of inscriptions missed the marker to Mary Berry Williams and her son Charles Henry.) Finally on June 19, 1926 Hiram and Pamela Johnson were moved within the plot and their grandson Eric, who had been buried in Sec. 25, Lot 10 in 1897, was laid to rest near them at the southern end of Lot 106. An upright red granite monument was erected at that time that now bears the names of six members of the Johnson family. Nearby a small flat marker, likely moved from Sec. 25, marks the resting place of little Eric.

Bruce Elliott retired in 2019 from Carleton University, where he taught a senior seminar on gravestones and cemeteries.

UPDATE Detective Stoneman

In the last issue of *The Beechwood Way*, the 82,000 stories article was on Detective Thomas Stoneman. He was the first Ottawa police officer to be killed in active duty and the man who killed him, Eugene Larment, turned out to be the last man hung in Ottawa. Not long after the article was published, we were contacted by the son of William Edward Haughton who was the lawyer of the men who attacked Det. Stoneman. While he ultimately lost his case, he was praised in the Ottawa Citizen for his strong defense which in great detail covered how Haughton tried to steer his case away from the death penalty. It turns out Haughton is buried at Beechwood too. William Edward Haughton can be found in Section 19, Lot 194 NW.

See beechwoodottawa.ca/index.php/en/foundation/beechwood-way to read last edition of *The Beechwood Way*.

ELEANOR KINGSFORD

Champion Skater of Canada

by Dr. André Levesque and Andrea M. Levesque

ELEANOR AGNES LETITIA KINGSFORD was born in Toronto on May 31, 1886 and was the seventh of nine children of Rupert Etherege Kingsford (1849–1920) and Alice Laura Marion Kingston (1852–1934). It is known that while her father Rupert was born in Montreal, he followed his parents — William Kingsford (1819–1898), a civil engineer and a noted Canadian historian and Maria Margaret Lindsay (1820–1913) — to Toronto as early as when he was twelve years old. Her father at age 28 was a barrister practicing law, retired as a magistrate at age 59, and died in Toronto eleven years later. When Eleanor was six, she, along with two older sisters, moved to Ottawa to live with their grandparents William and Maria.

Eleanor became interested in figure skating, inspired by the graceful skating of Lady Minto, wife of the Governor General, who had been taught skating at a London club with artificial ice. Lord and Lady Minto were keen skaters, and when a new skating club was formed in Ottawa, it was named the Minto Skating Club in honour of its patron, the Governor General. One of his recommendations was that a certain level of skating skill be required for membership. To achieve this objective Lord Minto arranged to bring to the club Arthur Held, a professional skating coach from Germany. When Kingsford joined the club, the nature of skating was changing, from emphasis on the execution of “figures” to other forms of skating, such as the skating in unison of pairs and foursomes, and the practice of skating to music. Competitions between clubs became an important part of the sport, and under guidance of the Minto Club’s coach, Kingsford became a skilled skater and competitor.

In 1905, Eleanor Kingsford was among the five competitors who contended for the very first Women’s title at the Minto Skating Club. After first teaming up with Philip Harvey Chrysler (1883–1948), she won the silver medal in the pairs event at the 1911 Canadian Championships. The following year, with Douglas Henry Nelles (1881–1960), they were pair’s gold medalists. In 1912 and 1913, Kingsford was the Canadian champion of ladies’ skating. Kingsford, with Lady Evelyn Grey (1886–1971), daughter of the Governor General who succeeded Lord Minto, and two male skaters formed the “Minto Four” who, as a team skating in unison, won the Connaught Cup in 1914.

The First World War brought great change to Kingsford’s life. She married Captain John Crawford Law (1876–1919) — a civil engineer — at Toronto in 1917 but became a widow two and a half years later and returned to Ottawa with her daughter Margaret, also known as “Peggy” (1918–2006). Learning of a need in Europe for skating teachers, she moved there and spent several years in France and Switzerland teaching skating and giving exhibitions. Eleanor returned to Canada just as the Second World War commenced. Eleanor Kingsford Law died on December 11, 1975 at the age of eighty-nine and was buried in Beechwood Cemetery, along with other members of her family. The cross monument over her grave, in Section 41, bears the fitting epitaph, “Champion Skater of Canada”.



Grave of Eleanor Kingsford, Section 41, Lot 55SE.

PHOTO: André M. Levesque



Left to right: Ormonde Haycock, Lady Evelyn Grey, Eleanor Kingsford, Philip Chrysler.

PHOTO: Library and Archives Canada