

THE

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# BEECHWOOD WAY

MAGAZINE

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## Letter from the editor

AS WE APPROACH a milestone in Beechwood's history, we tend to reflect on the years behind us. For over 150 years, Beechwood has had the honour of serving the community, the city, and the country.

Beechwood serves as a keeper of knowledge, history, and heritage, where people may discover a little more about themselves and who they are. With all our events, new tours, new themed Beechwood Way, we look to share a little more about Canada and our shared history.

Over the course of the last year, we have had the honour to host Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet, Princess of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, Princess of Lippe-Biesterfeld and The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. We celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Governor General's Foot Guard, started a new ceremony for the Battle of Amiens, welcomed members of the French Government on many occasions, and hosted a dinner where we raised funds for the local food bank with our partners over at the Vanier Business Improvement Areas.

On September 30, 2022, we continued our commitment to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Report. We closed operations and held a day of education, tours, and documentaries. Hundreds and hundreds of people were led across the grounds to learn about the policies and public figures who enacted or fought against the Indian Residential School Program. Many people learned for the first time that people like Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce fought for Indigenous children and advocated for their health and rights.

As we prepare for Remembrance Day, activities are always aplenty. We had a commemoration for the historical relationship between France and Canada, the first ever Latin-American Remembrance Ceremony (article is in this issue), and held our No Stone Left Alone Event, where children and the 76th Communications Regiment placed a single poppy on each military headstone within the National Military Cemetery as an act of remembrance.

Lest we forget

Make sure you stay current on all that Beechwood has to offer with:

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

Thank you and, as always, we hope you enjoy this issue.

**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 at: [www.beechwoodottawa.ca](http://www.beechwoodottawa.ca).

**We want your feedback on how we are doing!**

**Contact:** Erika Wagner at [foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca](mailto:foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca)

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# A Remembrance Ceremony for the Latin-American Community in Canada

By Captain Rey Garcia-Salas,  
*Head of the Latin American Heritage Month  
Planning Committee for National Defence*

**MORE THAN 80 LATIN-AMERICANS** enlisted to fight for Canada and many of them died for Canada in the First World War, while approximately 40 Latin-Americans enlisted to fight for Canada and many of them died in the Second World War. The majority belonged to the Expeditionary Force in the First World War and in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War. History and many Canadians forgot about them for more than 100 years. There is no recognition for these soldiers.

One of the stories is of Private Rodriguez:

Many Canadians and Latin Americans do not know that Private Rafael Rodriguez was a fine first-class soldier who served overseas in the First World War with the 42nd Battalion (Montreal) for nearly a year and a half with an excellent conduct. He returned to Canada disabled due to shrapnel wounds during battle. On the 20th of Jan 1919, he died alone far away from his friends and relatives in Toronto because of his wounds, pneumonia, and tuberculosis when the Spanish Flu was everywhere. When Secretary Joseph Warwick Soldiers Aid Commission of Ontario was notified of this case, he said, "If we had only been advised sooner," he stated, "we might have been able to give more service to this very deserving case, as he was entitled to the war gratuity, which had been relieved his condition." At the end he indicated, "I am sincerely sorry that we did not have the opportunity to help him."



There was an inquiry for Pte Rafael Rodriguez on February 7, 1919. During the inquiry, Coroner Mason indicated that Pte Rodriguez died of tuberculosis and said that the army did not take care of him after his release. It was revealed that he was not paid for the last three months of his salary nor the War Gratuity before he passed away.

The government of Canada is making a lot of efforts to improve the elimination of systematic racism and discrimination, understanding that more needs to be done. They will have the opportunity to rectify it from the past to heal any damage and construct a better future, paying respects and honours to this outstanding soldier. Nationwide, it will strengthen reconciliation, truth, and justice.

Veteran Affairs, and other organizations, will prevent cases such as Pte Rodriguez to happen in the present and future. Around 2400 veterans are homeless. Many veterans are entitled to receive help, but they need help to fill out forms. The system has too many barriers.

The Latin-American community in Canada will feel more included with this Latin American Remembrance Ceremony while working together for the best country: Canada.

This event honoured the memory of the Latin American soldiers by giving them a historical identity. The generations to come will love their country even more by learning that their ancestors defended Canada since the First World War.

- First World War: Argentina (20), Brazil (11), Chile (10), Colombia (2), Costa Rica (1), Cuba (1), Guatemala (1), Mexico (23), Panama (2), Peru (3), Dominican Republic (1), Spain (4), Uruguay (2), Canada (2), and USA (6).
- Second World War: Argentina (11), Brazil (2), Costa Rica (1), Cuba (3), Dominican Republic (1), Guatemala (2) and Mexico (1).





The first ceremony had the hallmarks of the traditional military remembrance ceremony, however, we decided to include a few of Latin American touches including a band playing Latin-American music and the Recitation of the poem "Fatality" written by Ruben Dario.

### Fatality

The tree is happy because it is scarcely sentient;  
the hard rock is happier still, it feels nothing:  
there is no pain as great as being alive,  
no burden heavier than that of conscious life.

To be, and to know nothing, and to lack a way,  
and the dread of having been, and future  
terrors...

And the sure terror of being dead tomorrow,  
and to suffer all through life and through the  
darkness,

and through what we do not know and hardly  
suspect...

And the flesh that tempts us with bunches of  
cool grapes,  
and the tomb that awaits us with its funeral  
sprays,

and not to know where we go,  
nor whence we came!...

Lest We Forget.





## The first Annual Spooky-Soiree - A Capital Pop-Up, Chamberfest and Haunted Walks Ottawa event at Beechwood

By Nicolas McCarthy,  
*Director of Marketing, Communications and Community Outreach*

ON A BEAUTIFUL CLEAR NIGHT in October, the community came together to experience an evening of music, classic film, and stories.

The Partners:

- Beechwood has long partnered with Capital Pop-Up Cinema offering a unique open-air movie experience behind our mausoleum. Since 2018, we have been offering great family classics, mostly from the 1980s. The community has been engaged and enjoyed the events. However, our hope was to dig back into the golden era of Hollywood and celebrate classic film in a special and unique way.
- Beechwood has partnered with Chamberfest for over a decade, bringing talented musicians to perform at our Sacred Space. And in recent years, we have expanded the musical offering to include intimate concerts around the grounds, from the schoolhouse at the Macoun Marsh to Poet's Hill. These concerts celebrate talented musicians of our country.
- Beechwood has also been quietly working with Haunted Walks for a number of years by providing private tours by the wonderful team of guides who share our city on their tours. A





collaboration has been in the works, and Haunted Walks Ottawa hosted weekend tours throughout October 2022.

Together, we decided to host an evening like no other, with each partner offering a unique part of the evening. On October 1, 2022, at dusk, lawn chairs in hand, guests joined us behind the Beechwood Mausoleum and heard artist Ryan Davis perform for 30 minutes before he played live to the 1902 silent film “A Trip to the Moon.” Mr. Davis matched the visuals on the screen with a live viola instrumental piece, leaving all in attendance to experience this familiar film in a most incredible way.

Following the performance, a guide from Haunted Walks Ottawa shared their most interesting stories from the Chateau Laurier to the people buried at Beechwood who are still known to frequent their old haunts in the city. This sharing of stories announced the beginning of the Beechwood/Haunted Walks Ottawa Tour program for October 2022.

Once the stories were shared, Capital Pop-Up played the 1931 “Frankenstein” with the ever talented Boris Karloff as the monster. This original telling of Mary Shelley’s 1818 novel “Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus” was enjoyed by all.

- Frankenstein was deemed culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant by the United States National Film Registry in 1991 and placed the film on its Best 1000 Movies Ever list by the New York Times, while the line, “It’s alive! It’s alive!” was ranked as the 49th greatest movie quote in American cinema.

This evening of classic music, film, and story was the start of new programming that celebrates each of our partners and looks to give back to the community that we all service. If you enjoy a unique evening, make sure you keep your calendar open for the next Annual Spooky Soiree.

# A new technology! A new ability at Beechwood Cemetery

By Matthew Cudmore and Ryan Mullens,  
*Co-founder of Memory Anchor.*

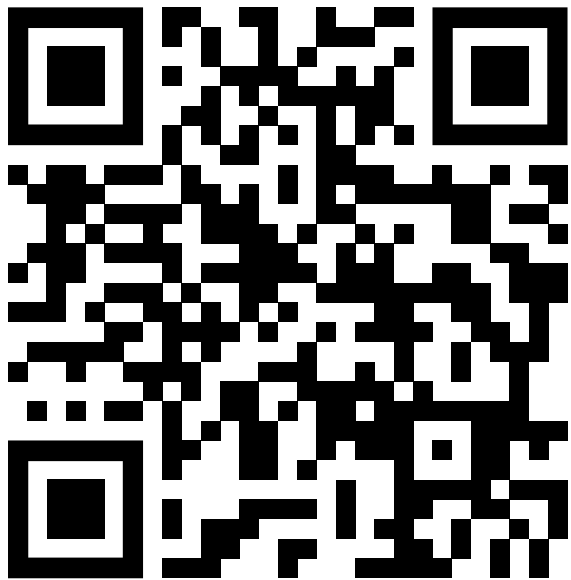
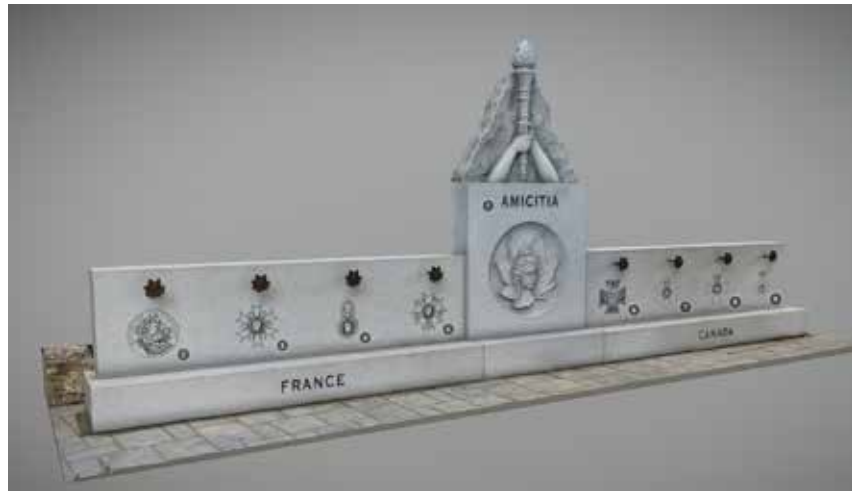
IN SEPTEMBER 2022, Memory Anchor travelled to Ottawa to digitally capture notable heritage resources that are resident at Beechwood Cemetery, a National Historic Site and site of the Canadian National Military Cemetery.

In partnership with Beechwood, we are pleased to make available a free and enduring library of 3D digital replicas of Beechwood's notable heritage resources. These digital objects are available for viewing on PC/Mac, smartphone, in Virtual Reality (VR), and in Augmented Reality (AR):

- Amicitia France Canada Monument - national monument recognizing four centuries of shared history and heritage between France and Canada
- Monument to Marmaduke Graburn - first RCMP member to be killed on duty
- Gravestone of Captain Nichola Goddard - first female Canadian combat soldier killed in combat
- 8th Hussars 'Easy Eight' Sherman Tank
- The RCMP National Monument

Canada's heritage resources reflect our collective histories. Vandalism, weathering, and climate change continue to place this heritage at varying degrees of risk. Digital technology can be used to preserve, protect, and mobilize knowledge about Canada's diverse heritage sites. Many of these resources have lasting value and significance, and therefore constitute a heritage that should be protected and preserved for current and future generations.

Our work at Memory Anchor continues so these resources will remain accessible to future generations. We are committed to expanding the accessibility and impact of heritage and culture in our community through digital objects, mobile apps, and programs that provide meaningful experiences for all Canadians whether they are on-site in Ottawa or anywhere across Canada.





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# Influential Women

by Erika Wagner,  
*Fundraising and Program Coordinator*

**SINCE 1994, BEECHWOOD** has celebrated the history it holds by bringing to life the stories of the people buried here with the Annual Historical Tour. With a different theme each year, four people get selected to be brought to life by actors. The Annual Historical Tour's 27th event was no exception, with the theme of Influential Women. Due to COVID-19, the Annual Historical Tour decided to have the vignettes once again be performed on a stage, with an English show at 2:00 pm and a French performance at 3:30 pm.

Under the shade provided by the Mausoleum, the actors of the Ottawa School of Theatre regaled the crowd with stories about the impact four incredible women had on the world. There was even a female vocalist, Violet Wyche, who sang songs 30 minutes before the English show and 30 minutes before the French show.

The Foundation was also thrilled to unveil two Great Canadian Plaques for Diane Stuemmer and Chow Quen Lee. In alphabetical order, we highlighted:

**Violet Archer** - Born Violetta Balestreri on April 24, 1913, in Montreal to a family of Italian immigrants. In response to her early interest in music, the family bought Violet a piano at age nine, and she soon received formal training. At age sixteen, she began to compose music and her first composition, like many others during her career, was an attempt to put poetical work into musical form.

Archer obtained a teacher's certificate for the piano from McGill University in 1934, a Bachelor's degree in Music in 1936, followed in 1938 by a diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Her extensive academic achievements included a Master of Music degree from Yale University in 1949. In 1942, she studied in New York under Hungarian composer Bela Bartók, who suggested the use of folk melodies and harmonies in her compositions, and at Yale she was a student of Paul Hindemith. Her studies were supported by scholarships and fellowships from universities and the Canada Council, and her detailed knowledge of many instruments, including the piano, organ, clarinet, strings, and bass, provided a firm foundation for her compositions.

Archer's early teaching positions included McGill and American universities. In 1962, she became a professor at the University of Alberta, where until 1990 she taught music and musical composition. She also served as the resident composer at the Banff Centre for the Arts. A list of her compositions, exceeding 120 works, includes a symphony and other orchestral works and various solo, trio, and quartet pieces for the piano, organ, strings, and other instruments. Many of her compositions were based on Biblical texts, poetry, and folk songs, and many have been recorded.

Archer's accomplishments were recognized by numerous awards, including honorary degrees from several universities, and her appointment, in 1983, to the Order of Canada. In 1993, she was named by an American organization as "International Woman of the Year," and in that year another American institution described her as "The most admired woman of the decade." Archer died in Ottawa on February 21, 2000.

**Howard Robert Lambert** - Known to his colleagues as one of the best firefighters this city had ever seen, Lambert rose through the ranks to retire as executive fire chief for the Ottawa Fire Services. Joining on February 3rd, 1958, he barely made the height and weight requirements, but pushed through with vigor that earned the respect of his colleagues. He would go to great limits to save lives; during an all-night blaze, firefighter Dawson McVeeters became separated from his unit after climbing onto the roof. Suddenly it collapsed under him but just as he felt himself falling into the pits, Lambert grabbed him. "If you're going to go down, I'm going to go down with you. Because you're not going to die alone," he told McVeeters. Becoming a captain in the 1970s, followed by acting district chief in the late 1980s, Lambert was then district chief and finally executive chief in the 1990s. His rank allowed him to help establish the Ottawa forces' first formal command and control systems, which separates sections of large fires for better control. When he retired in 1998, on doctor's orders, Lambert had worked at almost every fire station in Ottawa and had at least 300 firefighters (half of the city's numbers) under his command.

Section 19, SG 280



**Chow Quen Lee** - Born in China on October 18, 1911, Chow Quen Lee was nicknamed "Nooney Quen" — meaning women's rights in English. She married Guang Foo Lee in 1930, who had returned to China from Canada to find a wife. He paid a \$500 head tax in 1913 to enter Canada and would have had to pay another \$500 had he stayed in China longer than two years. Guang had to leave his pregnant wife and two children behind.

Due to the Second World War and the civil war in China, Lee was unable to reach her husband for almost 14 years. Lee raised the children on her own until the repeal of the Chinese Immigration Act in 1947, which for more than two decades had effectively banned Chinese immigration to Canada. After saving up to afford the journey to Canada, the Lee family arrived after Christmas in 1950 and settled in Sudbury, Ont. There, they opened several restaurants: the Capitol Café, the Star Restaurant, the China House Restaurant, the Empress Tavern, and Lee's Palace.

While in her 80s, Lee volunteered to be one of the lead claimants of the class-action lawsuit representing the head-taxpayers' widows with the Chinese-Canadian National Council. Between 1885 and 1923, the Canadian government collected a total of \$23 million from some 81,000 people under the various forms of the Chinese Immigration Act. Lee travelled between Ottawa and Toronto to attend fundraising and public awareness events, all in a wheelchair. Despite the lawsuit being dismissed, it created a groundswell of new support.

On June 22, 2006, the Canadian government issued an official apology at the House of Commons and those who paid the head tax were issued redress.

Section 18, Lot TG20, Grave 2



**Madge Hamilton Macbeth** - Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 6, 1880, MacBeth came to Canada at age twelve, attended college at London Ontario's Hellmuth Ladies' College, and at age 20 married Charles Macbeth of London. After living in the USA for two years, the family moved to Ottawa, but within a few years, Charles died. To provide for her two young sons, Macbeth turned to writing. Her literary talents were perhaps inherited from her grandmother, one of the first American women to become a professional author.

Macbeth's first two articles were published in the Canadian Magazine 1908, followed by many more. Her works also appeared in American publications, including *Survey* (1912), the *Ladies' Home Journal* (1914), and *The New York Times Current History Magazine* (1922). However, most of her work was published in Canada by *Maclean's*, *Chatelaine*, *Canadian Home and Garden*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Canadian Home Journal*, and the *Canadian Geographical Journal*. *Saturday Night* alone printed 42 of her articles between 1912 and 1937.

Macbeth also wrote books and newspaper articles, and in the 1950s she was a regular columnist for the *Ottawa Citizen*. As a journalist, she was known for her freelance interviews of Members of Parliament. Her first book was published in 1909 and her last in 1965, the year of her death, for a total of more than twenty, which included fiction, drama, and non-fiction on everything from the Elysian Islands to Ottawa Valley Baptist history. An early book, "Kleath," was printed in 1917 and was later, without her permission, made into a movie. In the early days of civilian aviation, she made her first flight, resulting in a 1924 *Saturday Night* article, as well as a book "Wings in the West," written with Colonel (later, General) E. L. M. Burns. Extensive travel provided subject matter for much of her writing — she sent dispatches from as far afield locations as Tobago, Palestine, and Yugoslavia — and her interest in the literary and art worlds produced articles that introduced readers to persons destined for fame, such as Yousuf Karsh and Emily Warren. Several of her novels dealt with politics in a satirical manner, a possible reason for pseudonyms on some of her writings.

Macbeth's association with the Ottawa Drama League probably started an important part of her writing, that of playwright. She wrote for both the stage and for radio drama broadcasts, the latter in the 1920s when the newly formed Canadian National Railway opened ten radio broadcasting studios in its hotels across Canada. The broadcasts, heard locally by those with a radio receiver, were also heard by CNR train travellers who were provided with earphones. Macbeth not only wrote dramas broadcast from CNR's Ottawa studio, she was also part of the cast. When the CNR ceased its broadcasting activities in 1932, Macbeth became a strong advocate for the establishment of a national Canadian broadcaster.

Madge Macbeth's long and successful career as a writer began under adverse circumstances, which she overcame to become a highly regarded journalist, novelist, and playwright, who, for more than a half-century, contributed greatly to Canada's literary activities.

Section 19, PC 360

**Diane Stuemmer** - Born in Sarnia in 1960, Diane Stuemmer's family moved to Calgary when she was still an infant. She grew up in the city, meeting her future husband Herbert at age 17 while working as an usherette for the Calgary Stampede. When she decided to move to Ottawa to attend Carleton University's journalism program, Herbert followed her.

By 1994, Diane was the co-owner of a successful advertising business, living a normal suburban life with her husband and three children. But everything changed after her husband, Herbert, had a serious accident, and Diane herself was diagnosed with malignant melanoma, a potentially fatal skin cancer. Soon the couple embarked on a re-evaluation of their priorities and a search for a way to live life more fully. In 1997, they sold their business, rented out their home, took their three sons, then aged 5, 9, and 11 out of school, and set out on an ambitious four-year plan to navigate around the world by sailboat. Their entire sailing experience at the time consisted of six afternoons of sailing on the Ottawa River on a 23-foot boat. When they departed Ottawa in September of 1997, the Stuemers had never even once sailed *Northern Magic*, the 42-foot, 39-year-old steel ketch they had purchased and refitted for the world-circling voyage.

As they learned how to sail and cope with life at sea on a cramped and tiny boat, they overcame many obstacles — including two deadly storms in which other boats and lives were lost, a close encounter with a waterspout, a lightning strike, an arrest at gunpoint, surgery in Sri Lanka, pirates, the terrorist bombing of an American naval destroyer in Yemen, dysentery in Sudan, and a difficult crossing of the stormy North Atlantic. Yet at the same time they found new closeness as a family and a profound realization about their role in the world.

During the voyage, Diane wrote weekly dispatches for the *Ottawa Citizen* newspaper, generating more response from the public than any series in the paper's history. When the Stuemers began getting involved with local people — finding a teacher for a small island in the South Pacific, helping volunteer veterinarians care for endangered orangutans in Borneo, and providing school fees for poor African village children — readers from all over North America began to participate as well.

By the time the family returned to Ottawa, in August of 2001, more than 3,000 people lined the shores of the Ottawa River to welcome them home. After their return, Diane and her husband, Herbert, remained passionate about carrying home the message of how ordinary people can achieve great dreams and make a difference in the world. They continued to stay involved with and raise funds for two projects in Indonesia and Kenya, the Friends of The National Parks Foundation and the Bonface and Hamisi Project, respectively. The former is dedicated to preserving Indonesia's wilderness and national parks, and the latter provides funding for Kenyan children to attend school.

Diane wrote a book about the family's adventures, titled *The Voyage of the Northern Magic*, soon to be published by McClelland and Stewart and excerpted in *Reader's Digest*. The family was featured on national TV and radio many times and was the subject of a TV documentary. In late 2002, Diane's cancer made her increasingly ill, and she succumbed to the disease on March 15, 2003.

Section 110, Range 13, Grave 15