



Looking South on the grounds



The Cemetery present day



New Columbarium

# THE HISTORIC BROCKVILLE CEMETERY

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Just west of Brockville city limits, on highway 2, lies the beautiful Brockville Cemetery. Since 1860 this historic cemetery has been used by many generations of local families in remembrance of their loved ones.

The cemetery is managed by the Brockville Cemetery Board, composed of Brockville residents appointed by City Council. There truly is "A History of Remembrance in a Heritage Setting."

The story begins in 1851 when, for health reasons, Mayor George Sherwood and Town Council decided to close all in-town burial grounds. The first cemetery in town was begun after the cholera epidemic in 1803. Burials began on the Murray farm, which today is the south side of King St. at North Augusta Road. In 1831 a new cemetery was sponsored by William Buell Sr., one of the original founders of Brockville, and Rev. William Smart of First Presbyterian Church. It was located west of William St. along Buell's Creek over to Louis St. Victims of the cholera epidemics of 1832 and 1834 were buried there, including William Buell Sr.

St. Peter's Anglican Church (now St. Lawrence Anglican) had a cemetery in what is now Victoria Park on Pearl St. E. The Methodist Church (now Wall Street United) had a cemetery on the east side of the church and St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church had a cemetery in the churchyard and across the street on Church St.

A by-law on March 15, 1851 established a cemetery fund, with a levy of three pence on the pound, to purchase land. Fourteen acres were bought for 110 pounds from the Grant family, along Grant's Creek, on the south side of the first concession of Elizabethtown Township. The new land was divided into three sections, one for each denomination.

Burials began in 1860 and many families authorized the moving of remains from the old cemeteries in town. In 1890 the Brockville Cemetery was enlarged with the purchase of forty-six acres on the north side of the highway from James Grant, grandson of the original settler Sgt. Allan Grant U.E.L. who had received 200 acres in 1798, for service in the 84th Regiment during the American Revolution.

The new area was named Oakland and included new St. Peter's, new Protestant and St. Francis Xavier. The name Oakland began to be applied to the whole cemetery. The Roman Catholic Diocese today pays the Brockville Cemetery for maintaining their grounds.

For three generations, from 1871 to 1939, the same family of Lancelot DeCarle, Leopold DeCarle and Victor DeCarle operated and maintained the cemetery. They lived on the grounds and also ran a monument and tombstone business across the highway. Their 1928 house is now owned and rented out by the cemetery.

In 1940 the family of Albert Gilmour (1865-1932) prominent wholesale grocers, donated funds to build the handsome Gilmour Memorial Chapel, still available for small memorial services.

The Brockville Cemetery today, along with all Ontario cemeteries, report to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO). The Cemetery Board seeks to maintain the 19th century garden cemetery idea, under a canopy of mature trees and ongoing tree planting. As you walk over the grounds you might notice the names of many prominent people from Canadian history as well as Brockville history who are buried there. You might also notice how funerary art has changed over time, with all the variety of gravestones.

Superintendent Dale Trickey and his staff take pride in a well-maintained, peaceful setting, honouring and respecting the memory of those who have gone before us. [LH](#)



Horse-drawn hearse in the cemetery, 1890



Lancelot DeCarle monument business circa 1890's on highway 2 west of Brockville.



Gilmour Chapel on the grounds of the Brockville Cemetery