

NETWORK

Canadian Cemetery Management

January 2024



IN HONOUR OF THE CHILDREN
OF AAMJIWNAANG
WHO ATTENDED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS
1870 - 1996

Aamjiwnaang First Nation
recognizes the dark legacy that has shadowed our Community.
Today and moving forward, we wish to honour all the children that
endured the pain and loss of community, connection, and culture.

To these children: you are our Legacy, and for this we will forever respectfully receive
your part of our history. Your bravery is a reminder to us how far we still must go and as
survivors, you will keep talking to us long after you have gone.
May your past become the beginning of our healing journey.

In Honour

OF THE CHILDREN OF AAMJIWNAANG

Memorial Restorations and The Fabhaven Group help bring residential school memorial to life

What's Inside?

Vol. 38 No. 1 • January 2024

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 2 | Cover Story
In Honour of the Children
of Aamjiwnaang | 4 | OACFP
Association Update | 8 | A Lifetime Dedicated to
Cemetery Management |
| | | 7 | WCCA
Association Update | 9 | Business Index |



In Honour OF THE CHILDREN OF AAMJIWNAANG

Memorial Restorations and The Fabhaven Group help bring residential school memorial to life

By Lisa Johnston

A new residential school memorial stands amid a park-like setting on Aamjiwnaang First Nation lands, five kilometres south of Lake Huron, within the city of Sarnia. Brought to fruition with the help of Memorial Restorations and The Fabhaven Group, the memorial will stand as a lasting tribute to the Aamjiwnaang children whose lives were forever changed by residential schools.

“The Aamjiwnaang First Nation recognizes the dark legacy that has shadowed our community,” reads the engraving in the marble memorial. “Today and moving forward, we wish to honour all the children that endured the pain and loss of community, connection and culture.”

Formerly known as Chippewas of Sarnia, the Aamjiwnaang is a First Nations community of about 2,500 Chippewa (Ojibwe) Aboriginal Peoples. In the mid-18th century, Aamjiwnaang territory covered a vast expanse of land on both sides of the waterway between Lakes Huron and Erie, supporting a population of 15,000 people. According to the Aamjiwnaang website, the community of Sarnia continued to encroach upon the north end of Aamjiwnaang. Through a series of treaties, the lands were reduced from over 10,000 acres to

approximately 3,100 acres. Today, Aamjiwnaang remains a vibrant and prosperous community, interacting on excellent terms with its surrounding neighbours.

Hired to serve as the general contractor for the residential school memorial, Tom Klaasen used his vast experience as president of Memorial Restorations to bring together all the elements of the project: landscaping, pathways, signage, a central fountain, a totem pole and lattice-work in addition to a large granite memorial carved with the names of children from the nation who attended residential schools from 1870 to 1996.

“I initially met with the folks from the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in the winter of 2021, listened to their thoughts and then prepared a proposal,” says Klaasen, who followed drawings provided by the Aamjiwnaang to tie all the pieces together. “They had a vision of what they wanted and were looking for someone to help bring it to reality.”

When it came time to construct the actual memorial, Klaasen contacted his longtime friend and business colleague, Fabian Di Maria, president of The Fabhaven Group.



“Tom called us with this project and went through the scope of it,” says Di Maria, who jumped at the opportunity to join Klaasen in donating some of his team’s time and services to keep costs at a minimum. “We did the initial drawings and the group liked what we came up with.”

It took Fabhaven approximately four months to create the memorial, including the etching of an eagle and over 160 names of residential school attendees. Fabhaven was also responsible for installing the monument in its permanent location.

Officially unveiled this past September, the memorial is located on unceded land close to the Aamjiwnaang Community Centre, the site of the annual powwow, near a splashpad, pavilion and sweat lodge. A stone pathway leads up to the central fountain, which is surrounded by garden boxes and lattice fences with the three-piece black granite memorial situated at the rear.

“It was an honour to be part of something this monumental,” says Klaasen upon seeing the project come to completion. “It will always be a place to go to show respect. What makes it extra special is that this is a local memorial. The names of the people etched on the side panels are not from across Canada; they are from our own backyard. These children either didn’t come home or if they did, they are now dealing with the ramifications of attending residential schools.”

Adding an extra special touch are the orange handprints visible in the inner circle of the fountain. “We had a day when we were pouring the cement that members of the local community could come down and put their hands in the wet cement circling the fountain. Now when you look at this inner circle, it is full of orange handprints which correspond to the national Every Child Matters initiative. We tried to replicate that theme with the orange handprints of close to 200 people who came out that day.”

Today, the newly constructed memorial has become a focal point of the Aamjiwnaang community. A place of reflection and beauty, it will serve as a lasting tribute to the local children of the residential school system.

“When we build monuments, they become standing memories to ensure we never forget,” concludes Klaasen. “They become hallowed ground. A tribute to the past, a reflection of the present and a path forward for the future.”

The etching on the memorial summarizes it best, “To these children: you are our legacy, and for this we will forever respectfully recognize your part of our history. Your bravery is a reminder to us how far we still must go. And as survivors, you will keep talking to us long after you have gone. May your past become the beginning of our healing journey.”

LEFS ASSOCIATES
elac.ca | info@elac.ca | 604.899.3806

Bringing meaning to your landscapes through cemetery planning, design, and management. Contact us to discuss the future of your cemetery.





John Perrotta



ASSOCIATION UPDATE

OACFP's Unique Value: Leading a Resilient Bereavement Sector in Ontario

By John Perrotta, OACFP President, Board of Directors

What does OACFP deliver to its members that is unique? What are we better able to do as a collective than we could do on our own as individual companies?

OACFP's executive committee recently contemplated these questions as it developed our new value proposition strategy.

Another focal question is, what unites us? OACFP's commitment to excellence in the bereavement sector is not just a strategic plan; it is a shared commitment to leading our profession, supporting elevated standards of care across Ontario, and building resilience for the companies and people within our sector.

My own personal takeaway brings this home. OACFP will be successful when our members are strong, supported and thriving. Let me share with you some key components of the strategy that you will see more of in the months ahead.

Meeting Challenges with Creative Solutions

At the core of our new value proposition lies a profound dedication to service by our member organizations and professionals. This commitment is not just a duty; it is a calling, a recognition that our work transcends mere business transactions. Our work requires special people – and OACFP is committed to supporting our member companies to find and prepare these people for what lies ahead. This requires partnerships, awareness-raising and ingenuity, and OACFP is ready to embrace this long-term challenge.

Leading the Bereavement Sector

No matter what we aim to do, OACFP must remain – and grow even stronger as – the leader of Ontario's bereavement sector. This strategy undertakes this in several ways.

At the core of our new value proposition lies a profound dedication to service by our member organizations and professionals. This commitment is not just a duty; it is a calling, a recognition that our work transcends mere business transactions.

1. Being a leader and trusted resource for the bereavement sector

OACFP is committed to serving our sector in ways that go beyond the basics. With financial management tools, market research insights or innovative solutions to human resource challenges, our goal is to provide leadership that empowers our members to survive and thrive in an ever-changing business environment.

2. Equipping member companies to innovate and solve problems

The importance of continuous learning emerged as an important theme during our discussions. This is about more than meeting licensure requirements; it's about solving the challenges facing our sector and equipping the next generation of leaders.

Our association aims to be a knowledge hub, offering a comprehensive program that includes workshops, seminars, conferences and certification opportunities. This commitment

Now, we can look forward to getting even better: at listening to members' needs, at raising our voices together with influence and at providing better, direct and meaningful support that all businesses and professionals in our sector can use.

to lifelong learning benefits our individual member companies and their employees and contributes to the overall elevation of our sector.

3. Advocacy that goes beyond policy and legislation to drive success in the sector

Through collaborative efforts with government bodies, regulators, community stakeholders and the public, our advocacy will extend far beyond policy discussions. It will be about raising awareness of the invaluable contributions made by cemetery and funeral professionals to our local communities and society at large. We will speak up about the need to build for the future, ensuring that the sector has the resources and flexibility it requires to solve problems, grow and stay resilient.

A Journey to Grow

Through the consultation, research and work we put into developing our new value proposition, it became clear that OACFP is moving into our next plan from a position of strength.

Now, we can look forward to getting even better: at listening to members' needs, at raising our voices together with influence and at providing better, direct and meaningful support that all businesses and professionals in our sector can use.

As I wrap up this first president's message, I am filled with optimism as I envision the positive impact our new value proposition will have on OACFP and the entire bereavement sector in Ontario. But we need your support to make it happen. Write, download, click, open, watch and engage. Then tell us what you think.

You, the members of OACFP, are its owners. So, join me, our committed board and our administration team in making our organization as valuable to you and your business as it can be.

Drop me a line any time. 



Made
in
Canada 

**ROCK OF AGES INC.
4 ROCK OF AGES ST.
STANSTEAD, QC.**

JOB 3E2

Tel: 1-800-567-2793

www.rockofagescanada.com



At your service for over 130 years.



*Direct from Canada's Premiere
Supplier of Memorial Products*



All NEW customers receive 20% off their first order!

Helping Families Honor Their Loved One

TO REQUEST A COPY OF OUR CREMATION PRODUCTS CATALOG FEATURING OUR COMPLETE SELECTION OF URNS IN ALUMINUM, BRASS, PORCELAIN AND WOOD OR TO REQUEST ACCESS TO OUR URN WEBSITE CONTACT BRAD MARSHALL

BRAD.M@SUMMIT-MEMORIALS.COM

306 717 6649



Ken Munday



ASSOCIATION UPDATE

By Ken Munday, WCCA President

I find it difficult writing articles for a January issue when I have just finished decorating the house for Christmas. Instead of being busy listening to Christmas music, watching holiday movies, wrapping presents and really looking forward to the festivities, I am writing an article that will come out with Christmas already behind us. I find that a bit depressing. However, when I look back on 2023, that all goes away. I am very proud of what the Western Canada Cemetery Association (WCCA) accomplished this last year.

WCCA had an incredible year. We had many successes that we can build upon in 2024, with a lot to look forward to. Highlights included our new WCCA newsletter created by our vice president, Soraya Timmerman; a full WCCA board; an amazing conference; and continuation of our webinar series.

We continue to offer our supplier members the opportunity to provide our cemeteries with an educational webinar. This is a great way for our suppliers to not only get in front of our entire membership, but to also demonstrate their expertise. In addition to our webinars, suppliers can also take advantage of our newsletter by submitting articles or pictures.


In 2023, Soraya put together the WCCA's first newsletter. The intent behind the newsletter is to provide a way for our cemeteries and suppliers to support each other by submitting articles and/or pictures that would be of interest to our members. We are hoping to release a newsletter at least once or twice a year. The frequency will be determined by the amount of content submitted.

We are hoping that our newsletter and webinars will complement our annual conference. In 2023, our conference was one of the best attended in years. We had a great lineup of speakers and came out of the conference with a full board for the first time that anyone can remember. We received great feedback from attendees regarding our speakers, the agenda, location and the overall feel of the conference. We heard more

than once that the conference had a family feel to it. We are looking to build on this in 2024.

The next year is going to be an exciting one for WCCA. We are hoping to release more newsletters throughout the year and host a few more webinars as well. The biggest news for 2024 so far is that we will be partnering with the Funeral Service Association of Canada (FSAC), the Manitoba Funeral Service Association (MFSA) and the Canadian Funeral Trade Association (CFTA) for a conference in Winnipeg! Instead of having separate annual conferences, FSAC, MFSA, CFTA and WCCA will be working together, and we will all be attending the 2024 FSAC Summit and Exhibitor Showcase June 11 and 12.

This all started back last April at the British Columbia Funeral Association's annual conference when I spoke to Pam Moss, executive director of FSAC, after hearing that their next event would be in Winnipeg. Knowing that WCCA was also leaning towards Winnipeg in 2024, and having discussed the idea of having a joint conference with provincial funeral service associations at WCCA board meetings, I mentioned the possibility of having a joint conference with FSAC. Pam thought this would be a great idea and we kept in touch throughout the year. WCCA surveyed our membership about the possibility of moving our conference to June and about linking with FSAC and/or funeral service associations. WCCA membership responded in favour of both options. While we are unable to have a full joint conference, we came to an agreement for a partnership that will allow WCCA members to attend the 2024 FSAC Summit and Exhibitor Showcase. At our November WCCA board meeting, the WCCA board made the partnership official by voting in favour of joining the 2024 FSAC Summit in Winnipeg. More information about this exciting event will be released soon.

Until then, on behalf of the Western Canada Cemetery Association (WCCA), board members and administration, happy new year! 

A LIFETIME DEDICATED TO CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

Gary Rogerson receives OACFP's Award of Merit

By Lisa Johnston

Serving 27 years as vice president of operations and development for Arbor Memorial, Gary Rogerson has always been a cemetery man. His dedication, commitment and willingness to take on volunteer roles for the continued advancement of the death-care profession was recently recognized with the presentation of the Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals (OACFP) Award of Merit.

The honour was bestowed at the beautiful Deerhurst Resort during the association's annual conference in October.

"It was a total surprise," says Rogerson, who has retired from his VP position at Arbor but remains active with the company as a consultant. "I was sitting with the rest of the crowd and my wife, Jo-Anne, listening to the presentation when all of a sudden, things started to sound familiar. I hadn't prepared an acceptance speech, but I was truly honoured."

Longtime friend and colleague Paul Taylor presented the award, making the honour even more special.

"The first association event I ever went to I met Paul and his wife, Cindy," says Rogerson. "It has been great to build such strong relationships, not with just Paul, but with all kinds of people. We would share notes and compare problems over the years. It's great to have someone to bounce around ideas."

Rogerson has always worked hard building relationships from the first moment he joined Arbor Memorial as a student. Over the years, he worked his way through several positions to the esteemed role of vice president, while always keeping a close eye on the day-to-day operations.

"I came straight into this industry like so many others have and really grew with the company," notes Rogerson. "I am quite proud that I started as a student, which I think keeps me very tuned into the daily challenges of our operations staff because I, too, did that work at one time."

Rogerson has never been one to shy away from any kind of involvement, amounting in several volunteer roles throughout the years. In addition to serving on multiple OACFP committees, Rogerson was association president in 1996. He played a role in helping develop the first cremation



Gary Rogerson, left, receives the Award of Merit from Meghan Henning, past president of OACFP, and good friend Paul Taylor.

workshop for the profession and more recently, helped lobby the Ontario government to allow cemeteries to be exempt from pesticide bans. Any time he can share his knowledge, he is willing to lend a helping hand – something he will continue as he inches closer to full retirement.

"Over the years, I have been invited to speak on ethics in our profession," says Rogerson. "It has always been a strong point of mine. It is so important that we all operate with ethical behaviour and business practices. I think that is critical for our profession to maintain our standards."

Past chair of the Funeral Profession Coalition Council of Canada, a national think tank that helped amend Canada Post standards for shipping cremation remains through the mail, Rogerson currently serves on the Integrated Pest Management Council of Canada, and is involved in the community as a board member for his curling club and as a City of Hamilton cycle committee member.

"I feel really strong about volunteering with both industry events and in my personal life," says Rogerson. "There is great value because of the networking opportunities which really allow you to draw on friendships to make sure you stay on track. If someone asks me to join any future endeavours, I'm more than happy to comply."

His go-to attitude and willingness to always step up makes Rogerson the perfect candidate for OACFP's Award of Merit. **N**

NETWORK BUSINESS INDEX

MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS

Bronze

MEMORIUM ART COLLECTION



Begin®
BRONZE • URNS

535, 2^e avenue, Saint-Romuald
(Québec) Canada
1 888 882-0512
www.beginbronzeturns.ca

Cemetery Supplies

H.S. ECKELS & CO. (CANADA) LTD.

23 Admiral Place
Guelph, On N1G 4N4
Tel: (519) 824-8020
Fax (519) 824-7161
Toll-free: 1 (800) 265-8350
www.eckelsandcompany.com
email: info@eckelsandcompany.com
Suppliers to cemeteries across Canada with interment products.

Columbaria and Mausoleums



Largest Builders of Quality Memorialization
Structures in the World

Toronto, Ontario: (905) 201-5918
Portland, Oregon (USA): (800) 547-4909

ROCK OF AGES CANADA

4 Rock of Ages Street
Stanstead, Quebec J0B 3E2
Tel: (800) 567-2793 • Fax: (819) 876-2234
Donald Labonté, President
Columbariums made entirely of granite,
carefully chosen for high quality.
Perpetual Warranty. Contact us to
refer you to a dealer in your area.



Alberta Wilbert Sales
Serving Families Since 1967

Columbaria
Personal & Community
Private Mausoleums
Urn Pedestals • Statuary • Ossuary



www.albertawilbert.ca • 1-800-232-7385

Wilbert

SUNSET MEMORIAL & STONE

3300 - 8 St. SE, Calgary T2G 5S7
Tel: 403.243.3393 • Fax: 403.243.7533
Toll-free: 800.363.3393
Web: www.sunsetstone.com

Marble Statues

GAWET MARBLE & GRANITE

Business Route 4, PO Box 219
Center Rutland, VT 05736

Tel: (802) 773-8868
Fax: (802) 773-2763
Toll-free: 1 (800) 323-6398

Quality-crafted Italian marble statues and
custom designs per request. Inventory. Free
brochure and price lists.

Mausoleum Developers



Largest Builders & Designers of Quality Memorialization
Structures in the World

1-800-547-4909
www.milneconstruction.com

David O. Dahl, CSE, President ddahl@milneconstruction.com
2601 Hwy #7 Suite 400, Markham, ONT L3R 0M3

Memorial Portraits



tel: 905-726-8288
fax: 905-726-8248

Dependable
1 week delivery

info@enduramemorials.com
website: www.enduramemorials.com
142 Deerglen Terrace, Aurora, ON L4G 6Y3

Quad Urns & Photo Porcelaine Dominic

4645 Jarry East, Montreal (Quebec) H1R 1X6
Tel.: (514) 725-8213 • Toll free: 1-866-725-8213
Fax: (514) 725-0492 • Web site: www.ppd1.com
E-mail: dominic@ppd1.com

The Symbol for Eternity...

- Canadian Manufacturer
- Delivery 15 - 20 Working Days.



Tell them you found it in NETWORK

Call **1 (800) 465-0322** or email
info@otcommunications.com
to book your listing today!

Your ad here!

Call (403) 264-3270
to place an ad

NETWORK BUSINESS INDEX

Monument Suppliers

SMITH MONUMENT COMPANY LTD.

349 Weston Road
Toronto, Ontario ~ M6N 3P7
Tel: 416-769-0674 • Fax: 416-769-5677

Full-service manufacturing company to satisfy all your needs for monuments, markers, carvings, mausoleums and cremation crypt units. Many granites to select from around the world.

Call Smith's today
for the latest pricing on your client's needs.
Toll Free 1-888-836-7771

WHOLESALE LETTERING & CARVING

6215 Netherhart Road
Mississauga, ON L5T 1G5
Tel: (905) 564-5617 • Fax: (905) 564-8380

Quarries

ROCK OF AGES CANADA INC.

4 Rock of Ages, Stanstead, QC J0B 1E0
Tel: (819) 876-2745 • Fax: (819) 876-2234
Donald Labonté, President

Vases

Please check
your listing for
accuracy.

Should any changes
be necessary,
contact us at

info@otcommunications.com

Vaults & Grave Boxes

AWS

Alberta Wilbert Sales
Serving Families Since 1967

Len Traub – Owner/President

Wilbert

Commemorating Life with Respect™



Larisa Day - 780-447-2222 Edmonton

Mike DePatie - 403-230-1666 Calgary

Frank Bozso - 204-694-4616 Winnipeg

1-800-232-7385



www.albertawilbert.ca

B.C. WILBERT VAULT

(A division of Fraser Way Pre-Kast Ltd.)
22765 Fraser Highway, Box 3294
Langley, BC V3A 4R6
Tel: (604) 534-2911 • Fax: (604) 533-3238

SUPERIOR VAULT CO. LIMITED

'Servicing Ontario for over 60 years'
Box 42200, 128 Queen Street South
Mississauga, ON L5M 4Z0
Tel: (905) 826-2870 or
(905) 854-2688 (after hours)

ECL FIBERGLASS MANUFACTURING INC.

Carter Kinvig, President

P.O. Box 782
Balcarres, Saskatchewan S0G 0C0
Tel: (306) 334-2662
edcarter@sasktel.net

Tony Desjarlais, B.C. Distributor

250-212-5604
Tonyd@duraglascomposites.com

VCL

Vancouver Casket Ltd.

4036 McConnell Drive, Burnaby BC V5A 3A8
Tel: (604) 431-0893 • Fax: (604) 431-0896 • 1 (866) 826-2275
Hamish D'Avellar - hamish@vcl-ca.com
Frank Scaglione - frank@vcl-ca.com

MONUMENT RETAILERS

British Columbia

MORTIMER'S MONUMENTAL WORKS

(in B.C. Since 1877)
709 Kings Road., Victoria, B.C. V8T 1W4
Tel: (250) 383-6421 • Fax: (250) 383-7770
Toll-free: 1-800-788-0188
www.mortimersmonuments.com
info@mortimersmonuments.com
Contact Ken and Kerry Mann
We service all of B.C. and the Yukon

Ontario

KINKAID AND LONEY MONUMENTS LTD.

41 William Street East
Smith Falls, ON K7A 1C3
Toll-free: 1 (800) 749-0807
Contact: Chris Loney
Complete Monument Services Since 1947.
Specialists in Cemetery Restoration. E-Z
Masks Computer Graphics. Made-to-Order
for Plastic, Bronze, Stone & Glass.
Used Worldwide.

ST. JAMES CEMETERY/CREMATORIUM

635 Parliment St.
Toronto, ON M4X 1R1
Tel: (416) 964-9194

Quebec

GRANITE LACROIX INC.

1735, Boul. des Laurentides
Vimont, Laval, QC H7M 2P5
Tel: (450) 669-7467
Manufacturer of Monuments.
www.granitelacroix.com

CEMETERIES/CREMATORIUMS

Saskatchewan

WARREN & SON LTD. MEMORY GARDENS CEMETERY

Box 37, 126 - 2nd Ave. N.E.
Swift Current, SK S9H 3V5
Tel: (306) 773-8831
Dick and Jim Warren, Owners