

## Londonderry's Hillcrest Cemetery Hoping for a Hand

By Mona Scott

I don't know what it is about graveyards, especially old graveyards but there is definitely something that draws people to them. I personally find a great peace there, I see the history of the town, I feel the history of the people.

The Londonderry Hillcrest Cemetery is one of those graveyards that tourists flock to. Perhaps it is the charm of exploring a ghost boom town, or just the desire to revisit ones roots, the reasons are many. It occurred to me this summer that the road was in terrible shape, so bad in fact that it was not safe for a car. I thought how sad, that people are not able to go and the half mile walk in is really too far for many. I have a bit of experience in drumming up support for a good cause and so I made a couple of phone calls, once again I was amazed with the response. Will-Kare Paving & Contracting of Truro and Lafarge Canada Inc. of Folly Lake both happily agreed and each delivered a load of gravel free of charge. I was so happy. Sutherland's Lake resident Gary Matheson volunteered to spread it, and that has been a major undertaking (no pun intended). There were holes over a foot deep.

The future of the graveyard was always on the forefront for those involved. Back in the 80's a significant donation of \$18,000 was collected and those funds were locked away in a high interest GIC account. The investment eventually grew to \$20,000 and then the interest rates dropped from 10 to 1.2 %. As of right now the interest on that money is not enough to pay for a single mowing which is \$300.00. The budget only allows for roughly 5 mowings per year. Ideally it would be nice if mowing could be bi-weekly May through September.

In 1985 the graveyard committee launched a campaign to provide monies for the upkeep of the cemetery. This was known as "perpetual care" and for the very reasonable cost of \$200.00 at that time you would receive the continued upkeep of your plot. The idea was a great one, and had everyone paid those fees then, there would not be a problem now. Unfortunately there were many people that neglected to do so. Poor record keeping resulted in a vague list of who had and who hadn't paid. There was no way to decipher it and so in turn no way to collect. The committee members at the time have passed on and that left an honor system which just did not work. With inflation the current cost for perpetual care has risen to \$300.00. Hopefully this article will serve as a friendly reminder to anyone who was not aware of the fees or perhaps forgot, and will trigger them to participate.

It's not all bad news, however, there is new hope on the horizon for the financial security of the Hillcrest Cemetery. For many years space was limited and plots available for purchase were few and far between. In 2009, additional ground was cleared which facilitated 34 double plots to be offered for sale once again. The current costs for new plots including mandatory perpetual care fees are \$350.00 for a single plot, \$550.00 for a double plot (9' X 10') and \$850.00 for a four person family plot (20' X 10'). A one-time only special sale is being offered until December 1st, 2013, you can save \$50.00 on a double plot, and \$100.00 on family plot so don't delay if you would like to benefit from these savings.

Former Londonderry resident Kelly Eagles has been the overseer of the Hillcrest Cemetery since 1995. He has selflessly donated hours and hours of his personal time. He diligently tries to arrange for a

"work crew" every year to come in and help for a day. Some of those are getting older, no longer able. The time is here for some new faces, and new helpers to rally. This year the work crew is being scheduled for Saturday, September 7th at 8 am (rain date Sept. 8th same time). Kelly would like to try and get a full mowing done that day so bring your mowers, and grass trimmers if you have them, shovels, rakes, pruning shears, power saws, gloves, garbage bags etc., children age 12 and up can also participate with parental supervision. It is always a good crew on hand with a lot of laughs...contact Kelly @ 662-2074 or 902-956-9680.

I recently talked with Kelly and asked him what other impending projects he has planned for Hillcrest's future . He would also like to establish an active committee of approximately 6 to 8 members to organize and come up with ideas to maintain Hillcrest Cemetery and make improvements. Cleaning of some of the grave markers is also a project he has been hoping for. There are dozens of the older historical markers which have crumbled with age and others, sadly, that were vandalized definitely needing repair.

Cemeteries are a map on our landscape of the souls that have passed before us. As you stroll along you will see stones dating back to as early as 1880. You will also see more recent familiar family names such as Mattix, Eagles, Scott, Gamble, Matheson, Rushton, Spencer, Langille, Carroll, Johnson, O'Brien, Patriquin, and so many more. Keeping this graveyard looking good is imperative and a significant way to show respect for our Londonderry ancestors and especially our veterans. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help fuel the cause, you may do so by forwarding it to Kelly Eagles 14 Bonaventure Place, Debert, NS, B0M 1G0. Cheques should be made payable to Hillcrest Cemetery Londonderry.



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## West Colchester Minor Ball

West Colchester Minor Ball season ended with a Tournament at the Doug Peppard Memorial Ball Field on August 10th. Teams

from Great Village, Londonderry, Crowes Mills and Debert played throughout the season at Great Village and Londonderry Fields. Minor baseball has made a comeback in the area thanks to efforts of volunteers in the community, especially Michael Spencer, who helped turn an overgrown field into an impressive ball diamond a few years ago.

(Harrington Photos)



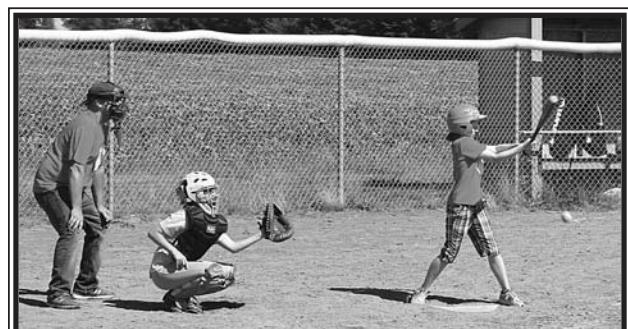
Londonderry Lumberjacks won the West Colchester Minor Ball Tournament on August 10th at the Doug Peppard Memorial Ball Field in Great Village. Front (l to r) Ali Hakem, Cameron Barnes, Ryan Miller, Dakota Smith, Mikayla O'Brien; Back (l to r)- Derek McMullen- Coach, Ethan Totten, Lucas Watson, Riley McMullen, Bailey MacKinnon, Jeff Miller- Coach.



Great Village Nighthawks were runners-up in the West Colchester Minor Ball Tournament on August 10th. Front (l to r) Marshall Field, Colby Spencer, Zachary Dykstra, Jennah Spencer, Damian Howell; Back (l to r)- Mike Spencer- Coach, Luke Smith, Michael Jollimore, Jacob Spencer, Kathleen Smith, Haley Spencer, Ron Smith- Coach.



Londonderry's Riley McMullin tries to outrun Great Village's pitcher Luke Smith's ball return to first base.



Great Village's Zachary Dykstra bat makes contact with the ball. Londonderry's Ryan Miller was back catcher and Warren Field was umpire for the Championship Game.

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