

CHAPLAINS' MEMORIAL WINDOW

AT BEECHWOOD

*Many of us know of Arlington National Cemetery in the United States.
Far fewer will know that Canada also has a national cemetery.
It is Beechwood, located in our national capital of Ottawa.*

Beechwood Cemetery was opened in 1873, just six years after Confederation. At the time it was well outside the city limits of Ottawa. Burials were not allowed within the city due to the fear that burial grounds harboured diseases which could cause deadly epidemics.

The military nature of Beechwood goes back a long way. Among those buried there are: **Sir Donald A. Macdonald**, who joined the Militia in 1863, survived the Fenian Raid of 1866, the Red River conflict of 1870, the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, and served in WWI as the militia's Quartermaster-General **Charles F. Winter**, also a member of the Militia, who took part in the Nile campaign of 1882, was later wounded in the Northwest Rebellion but recovered to see service in the Boer War, and in WWI served as a Brigadier-General

In 1918 a Military Cemetery was established at Beechwood by the Soldiers Aid Commission. A large military section was opened in 2001, and in combination with earlier military areas, now forms the National Military Cemetery.

In 2008 her Excellency, the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, opened the Beechwood National Memorial Centre which houses the inspirational "Hall of Colours" that exclusively serves the memorial needs of Canada's Forces and Veterans. **The Hall is highlighted by a beautiful memorial stained glass window, called "Hope in a Broken World," donated by the Canadian Military Chaplains' Association.** Sunlight shines through it onto a stately black granite plinth and the laid-up colours of some of Canada's Military Regiments.



"HOPE IN A BROKEN WORLD"



The central figure in the window is a chaplain giving benediction to a downed soldier. The chaplain is easily recognizable from a well known photograph taken of Chaplain and Honourary Captain Robert Seaborn.