

*(Cemetery, continued from page 1)*

There is a good record of all who are buried in the cemetery, but not a map of where individual burial sites are located. Damaged grave markers and headstones that currently reside at their original locations can be repaired and restored in their proper location. However, there is no way that the stones lying down can be matched to their original burial sites. The restoration project is faced with the challenge of how best to treat those stones.

The County's Pioneer Cemetery Standards call for all stones to be standing (if possible) and argues that this is in the interests of preserving the life of the stone. This is an instance where the project



should be guided by a combination of community wishes and expert advice. The material in the 140 headstones ranges from hard to extremely soft. It is not clear how they best should be handled. Being stood upright is only one option. Where they should be located is another issue. Standing or reclined they could be located where they are,

or they could be relocated with a walking path. They could incorporate a modest cover as protection against the elements, with a display space to convey the story of the cemetery.

This is an area where the plans should come from community dialogue. The bottom line here is that we need a discussion, primarily but not exclusively in South Marysburgh, about the details of the site work. That discussion needs to involve, and inform, the Cemetery Committee of the County, the staff of Recreation, Parks and Culture, the efforts of the various volunteer groups involved in the work, and the residents of South Marysburgh.

There are a number of ways in which that discussion can occur. Each of the several communities of interest in South Marysburgh can have a discussion within itself. This includes the churches, and the various formal and informal committees and groups (Rec. Committee, Fair Board etc.) within the

community. The results of these discussions need to be shared so that the community, the offices of the County and the County Cemetery Committee, can arrive at a working consensus on the work on the South Marysburgh Cemetery.

At the moment there is no identified South Marysburgh Cemetery Committee to coordinate these flows of information and opinion. Over the remaining weeks of winter and the wet days of Spring, I am prepared to receive feedback, in whatever form, to share with all and hopefully help move toward consensus and a plan of action here. Further information is available at: <http://www.southbaycemetery.pbworks.com>.

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