

Donations Sought for Saltcoats Cemetery

The Town of Saltcoats has a long-standing reputation for maintaining its cemetery in good condition. A series of caretakers have, over many decades, taken pride in their work offering an amazing service to the town and surrounding area and to the many families whose family members have been buried here.



Every year there are many visitors to the cemetery, most with some family connection to the community, some seeking information about their ancestors, some intrigued by its local designation as a historic cemetery and keen to do the walk guided by the flags and printed story.

It is important to note that maintenance of the cemetery falls entirely on the Town of Saltcoats and its tax revenue. Cemetery fees cover only a fraction of the annual costs. Many communities are served primarily by parish cemeteries. Some have local organizations that seek donations and organize workdays. Some receive substantial grants from service clubs and local foundations. Some are maintained through generous endowments. Some are frequently named as recipient for memorial donations at the time of a death. The Saltcoats cemetery was fortunate to have \$1000.00 a year for five years arranged by the Town and the Saltcoats Agricultural Society. (When the Society disbanded, the Town purchased the land owned by the Society and used by the School as a portion of school playground, and by agreement \$1000.00 has been paid into the Cemetery Fund. The \$1000.00 payment to be made in August of 2012 will be the last payment from that source.) Total monies in the Cemetery Trust (August 31, 2011) is \$5435.00

While regular maintenance of the cemetery has been stellar, we now face the need to do considerable work. Over seventy graves needed substantial fill this season and many more will require that in the spring. There is a need to remove broken cribbing and to level many markers. Considerable work must be done on the roads within the cemetery.

In the past necessary snow plow work and summer grading has not been charged to the cemetery account but absorbed into routine street maintenance.

The following chart will show the shortfall in revenue from fees and donations compared to annual costs

	2008	2009	2010	2011 (to August 31, 2011)
REVENUE	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 3,093.85	\$ 6,475.00	\$ 5,440.00
EXPENSES	\$12601.75	\$ 9,362.62	\$ 9,117.15	\$12,143.35
DIFFERENCE	(\$9,906.75)	(\$6,268.77)	(\$2642.15)	(\$6,703.35)

Donations made to the Cemetery Fund are made to the Town of Saltcoats, and, as donations to a Canadian municipality, can be used to claim income tax deductions.

Please consider a donation to help us maintain this well kept and historic cemetery. Consider passing this request on to former residents, especially those whose family members have been buried here.