



Cemeteries serving the back concessions of Dunwich during and after settlement in the 1840s were small, sparsely located, and insufficient. John McCallum of Cowal donated a portion of his deep and suitable property, located near the Dunwich Southwold townline, for part of the current north cemetery. It was laid out so each stone faces the east, which was then considered a necessity. A community grew around it and the cemetery was expanded 5 times before it reached capacity in the 1890s. In 1898 a separate new cemetery across the road to the south was created and the two later joined as Cowal-McBride in 1938.



Being one of the oldest cemeteries in Dunwich, Cowal-McBride is indicative of the early settlers' Scottish heritage and the difficult conditions they found in their new home. Many stones commemorate very young wives, children lost to disease, and men killed in tragic accidents. Prominent names include McBride, McCallum, McTavish, Duncanson, and Campbell, many of which are still found in Cowal today as seen on the mailboxes lining Aberdeen Ln.

Modern burials largely take place in the south cemetery and regular maintenance is undertaken by the Cowal-McBride Cemetery Assn.



Cowal-McBride Cemetery

33163 and 33166

Aberdeen Line, Cowal



Municipality of
Dutton Dunwich

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

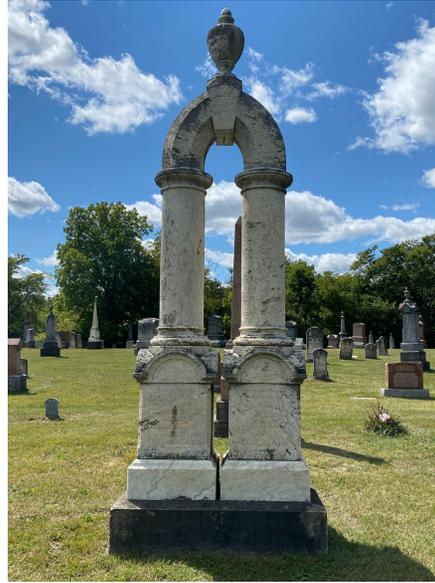
1



Carved Edwardian Stones

Much of the south cemetery holds newer burials. However, towards the west side are many fine examples of ornately carved stones from the Edwardian period (1901-14). These stones are often made of black granite and represent a shift in craftsmanship and tools used for more intricate, standardized headstone inscription.

2



McCallum-McPherson

This uniquely arched marble stone features intricate carvings and inscriptions, some taken from poetry. It marks the resting place of John and Sarah Carr McCallum as well as Archie D. McPherson. The two poems are variations of common epitaphs at the time, notably found on Elgin County headstones, and reflect the deep mourning customs of the late Victorian period.

3



Ross

Two unique cast metal markers commemorate the memories of baby Walter and little Mabel Ross. Following the Civil War when people were looking for inexpensive yet durable burial markers, a civil engineer from Alabama patented the cast iron headstone. They were made from pouring molten iron into decorative molds and cooling them.

4



Carved Stones- Hands

Several stones bear various carved images of human hands, including clasping, pointing, and holding a Bible. Hands represent the deceased's relationships with others and with God. A hand with the index finger pointing up symbolizes the hope of heaven. The handshake or representation of clasped hands dates back to the Victorian era and represents a farewell to earthly existence and God's welcome into heaven.

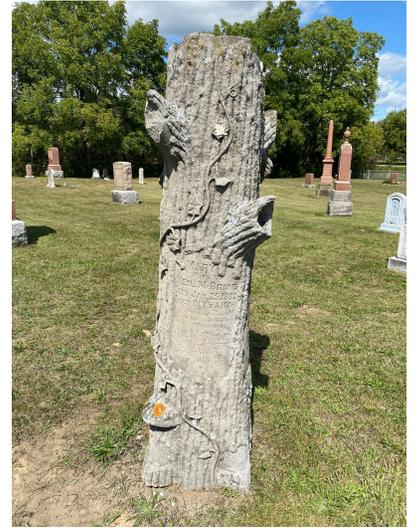
5



Mary Patterson

This unique stone marks the resting place of young Mary Patterson, who died at age 29. Many stones in the cemetery commemorate young women and reflect the tragic risk of death in childbirth before medical advances. A poem is inscribed on the reverse in tribute to a beloved young mother.

6



McBride

A uniquely carved stone resembling a tree trunk, commemorating Neil and Mary McBride. Neil was born in Kilfinan, Argyll and Bute, Scotland in 1807.

There is another carved white stone commemorating Neil elsewhere in the north cemetery, can you find it?