

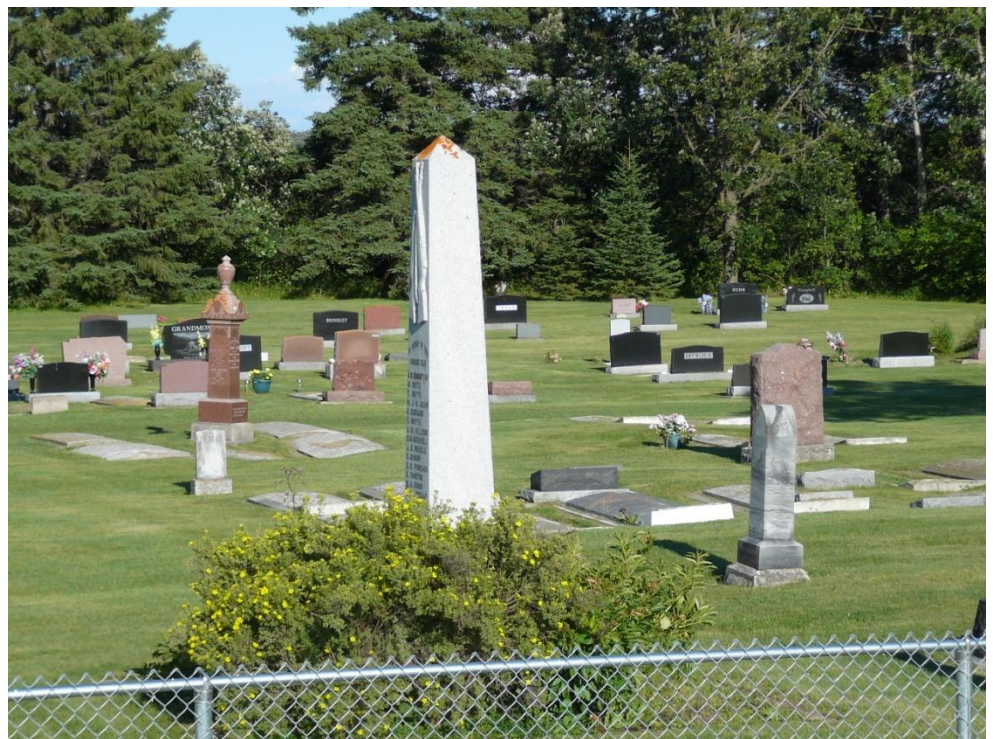
BRANT-ARGYLE CEMETERY



Viewed from the southwest - The "little church" was built after the church was moved to the village, and this one is a re-creation in 2009.

The cemetery includes a cenotaph listing the war dead, a cairn where the original church stood, a model replica of the church, a picnic table, and a toilet. Surrounded by evergreen trees, it is a sheltered and peaceful final resting place for Argyle's residents.

Note that there is a Visitors drawer at the rear of the little church, which contains a cemetery map and record of burials, along with a guest book (and previous guest books that are filled). Please feel free to browse through the guest entries and leave one of your own!



Viewed from the northwest. The cenotaph lists all the local boys who died in the two world wars.

The Brant-Argyle Cemetery was begun in 1881 and is restricted for the use of those who are or were residents of the area historically recognized as the Brant-Argyle community. It is operated by the Brant-Argyle Cemetery Board Inc. as a volunteer Board that manages the sale of plots, grounds maintenance, placement of burials and permanent markers, and records.

The cemetery is located ½ mile north of the village of Argyle, on the east side of the Meridian Road.

For more detailed information, please contact the following 2011 Board members:

President	Russ Snell	383-5274
Vice-President	Ron Watson	467-5816
Secretary/Treasurer	Shirley Campbell	383-5321
Director	Heather Gillespie	467-5701
Director	Donna Stewart	467-8319

BRANT-ARGYLE CEMETERY - Questions & Answers....

The cemetery is “community-owned”, meaning that the Brant-Argyle community owns the cemetery and makes the rules that govern it, within a framework established by the Province of Manitoba. It is subject to laws as outlined in The Cemeteries Act, and is regulated by the Public Utilities Board. The Cemetery Board was incorporated in April, 2010, with the 5 individuals above as volunteer directors. Those positions are for 3-year terms, and elections will be held at annual meetings beginning in 2011.

What is the most important rule to remember? PLEASE TALK TO US! Contact the Cemetery Board before doing anything at the cemetery. Contact numbers are as noted above, and are also available on the website and on a sign at the cemetery. You must ask for permission, and sites must be marked out by the Board in advance, before there can be any digging for graves or ash burial, or placing of headstones or concrete markers. The cemetery is a labyrinth of gravesites and walkways – not all of them in the right places -- and it is very easy to make mistakes, especially when headstones are placed a year or more after burial. The headstone must be placed within the boundaries of the gravesite so as not to overlap another grave. Digging for burial of ashes must be placed exactly to limit overlapping with previous (or subsequent) ash burials. Also, there are specific regulations governing the burial of human remains, so please call first.

Who is a member of the corporation? You are a member if you have resided in the Brant-Argyle community at any time, even if you’ve since moved away. The “community” is identified in By-law #1 as “the area historically recognized as the Brant and Argyle communities, defined herein as the geographical area encompassed by Canada Post’s postal code ROC OBO (as of the year 2010)” which is when the cemetery was incorporated. For purposes of transacting business or voting at membership meetings, you must be at least 18 years of age. Members have the right to participate in any meetings, to participate and vote at any general membership meetings, and to be elected as directors. Membership is non-transferrable and ceases upon death (i.e., heirs do not inherit any rights to have a say in the cemetery operations).

WHO CAN PURCHASE GRAVESITES AND BE BURIED HERE? Burial is limited to human remains. Sale of gravesites is **limited to members of the corporation** as defined above. I.e., if you have never lived in this community, you cannot purchase a gravesite. However, members are allowed to purchase gravesites and transfer the ownership to others, with restrictions as noted below.

***Ownership of a grave can only to be transferred to a family member** and only as follows:

1. If the owner wishes to transfer ownership to an ‘immediate family’ member, the transfer is done without additional charge, whether or not the family member has ever lived here. “Immediate family” is strictly defined as the owner’s spouse and children.
2. If the owner wishes to transfer ownership to an extended family member who is also a member of the cemetery (i.e., one who is entitled to purchase a gravesite as identified above), that transfer will be processed with a “transfer to member fee”.
3. If the owner wishes to transfer ownership to an extended family member who has never lived in the area, then that transfer is subject to approval – on a case-by-case basis – by the Cemetery Board, and any such transfer will be processed with a “transfer to non-resident fee”.
4. If a gravesite is not going to be used by family members as identified above, then it can be released back to the Cemetery Board, without refund of fees, and will be available for sale again. If ownership is not transferred back to the Cemetery Board, then that gravesite must remain vacant forever, so it would be appreciated if members could discuss their needs with their immediate family and turn back any gravesites which will not be needed.

5. If an existing gravesite is located in the southwest quarter of the cemetery – the oldest section of the cemetery comprising lots #1 through #48 – the Cemetery Board reserves the right to refuse the sale or transfer of, or interment in, any of those gravesites to ensure that unmarked, miss-marked, or misplaced gravesites remain undisturbed. This includes the interment of ashes. In the event that interment is refused in that area, another gravesite elsewhere in the cemetery will be allocated for the burial at no additional charge.

How much does it cost to purchase a gravesite and be buried here?

There are two costs: (1) purchase of the gravesite, and (2) a fee for interment of a casket or ashes in that gravesite. Prices are subject to change at any time as determined by the Cemetery Board.

One gravesite: \$100.

- Transfer fee to immediate family member (#1 above): no charge
- Transfer to an extended family member who is also a member (#2 above): \$100
- Transfer to an extended family member who is not a member (#3 above): \$1,000, and only if approved by the Cemetery Board
- Transfer to someone who is not an immediate or extended family member: not allowed.

One interment of casket or ashes: \$100.

This cemetery has been in operation since 1881. Gravesites originally cost fifty cents each, which often had to be paid in installments. That price was gradually raised to \$1, then \$2.50, then \$5. The price now sits at \$100, which is far below average for gravesites. The price has historically been minimal because the land was donated and all work was performed by community volunteers. The world has changed, and most services are now hired out. It is our responsibility to ensure that funds will be available for perpetual care, and those funds must come from the above charges. The cemetery must ensure that it charges enough, in today's dollars, to provide for perpetual care of the cemetery, so increases will be discussed at a future meeting.

How many burials are allowed in one gravesite? Burial in one gravesite in this cemetery is limited to one casket plus two cremations, or two cremations.

- Note that, in the case of a veteran's gravesite purchased and marked by Veterans Affairs, their regulations stipulate that only one cremation can be added to their gravesite.

What do I have to know about owning a gravesite? The sale of a gravesite is a land transaction that does not require registration through the Land Titles Office, but it is essentially the same otherwise. It needs to be planned for. If graves are sold to a member and intended for his family, the transfer into their names should be done while the purchaser is still alive, or should be part of instructions in the purchaser's will. For example, if Joe and Mary purchase 4 gravesites, then Joe and Mary die and are interred in 2 gravesites, the Cemetery Board cannot automatically transfer the remaining gravesites to the names of their children; it must be specified somewhere who is allowed to be a future owner of one or both of the remaining gravesites. What about any cremations that may want to be buried in the same grave? In a small community, it might seem obvious what was intended or what is "okay", but this is an area that is causing a lot of problems for all cemeteries, especially with families more widespread and sometimes in dispute. Talk to your family about it.

What do I have to know about headstones? Upright or flat or raised or none – it's your choice. Likewise, the style is up to you, and also whether or not to have any built-in receptacle for flowers, etc. Any and all headstones must be placed completely within the boundaries of the gravesite, so that there is no overlapping of walkways or other graves. Also, if

there is more than one headstone for a grave, then they must all be placed together at one end of the grave, still within its boundaries. No headstone shall be placed in the centre of a grave or at an opposite end to the original headstone or facing the opposite direction for reading. Ideally, we would prefer that all headstones be placed so that the headstone is on the west end of the grave, to be read by someone standing east and looking west. (That's the preferred placement, but there may be good reason to change that in a particular circumstance, e.g., if the grave faces the back fence.)

What maintenance is the cemetery's responsibility?

- The Cemetery Board is required to establish and post the rules by which the cemetery is governed. The Board has the right to change such rules as necessary (but only on a go-forward basis). The Board must also keep records as required by The Cemeteries Act, maintain property and liability insurance (thanks to the R.M. of Rockwood for including us in their insurance package), and provide reports as required.
- The Board must maintain the grounds in good repair, including proper drainage, mowing grass (including over graves that are grassed), trimming trees/shrubs on the grounds (not on the gravesites), clearing snow before burials, and maintaining amenities (fencing, gate, parking, driveway, garbage disposal, signage, toilet, well, cairn).
- The Board may, at its discretion, clean up unsightly graves if the family has been notified but fails to do so.

What maintenance is the family's responsibility? The family is responsible for repair and beautification of the gravesite and the headstone (i.e., sowing of grass if desired or planting of flowers/shrubs), including leveling the gravesite. There is a mound of dirt available at the side that may be used for such leveling. It is recommended but not required that grass be sown, and planting of large shrubbery is discouraged because it will eventually obscure the headstone. The Board will mow the grass over graves and trim growth around the headstones, but is not responsible for tending to any flowers or shrubs on the gravesite.

- Note that, for headstones that lay flat to the ground, grass and dust may accumulate around the edges of the headstone. It is the responsibility of the family to maintain the appearance of that headstone if they wish it to remain completely clear.
- A trash container is available for use in cleaning the gravesites or replacing flowers.
- A well is located on the grounds for watering grass or flowers on the gravesites, and a pail is provided as well.
- In the case of damages to headstones caused by other parties, repair is generally considered to be the responsibility of the family.
- The Board may, at its discretion, clean up unsightly graves if the family has been notified but fails to do so.

What is NOT regulated? This cemetery does not have rules in the following areas: the use of real or artificial flowers; the use of flower vases or lights or reflectors on or beside the markers; type and size of markers; hours of operation is 24 hours.

Can I make a donation to the cemetery? Yes, donations would be very much appreciated! Any donations are used specifically for care and maintenance of the cemetery, as are all the fees above. The cemetery is a registered charity. Donations are welcome and, in fact, will be necessary to ensure funds are available in perpetuity to care for the grounds. Donations should be made payable to Brant Argyle Cemetery, General Delivery, Argyle, MB ROC OBO. Please think of the cemetery when suggesting "donations in memory of ..."