



News Release

Multi-Year Restoration Project of First Community Cemetery Completed

26 September 2022

ST. GEORGE – Work is now completed on a multi-year restoration project of the First Community Cemetery (also known as the St. Mark’s Anglican Cemetery) at the center of the town.

Being positioned along the downtown core of Main Street, the cemetery was reviewed as part of a Main Street Rejuvenation Projects in 2018-2019. According to a review of the cemetery in 2018 by Smet Monuments, the cemetery has approximately 190 old marble and granite monuments. The review concluded that restoration would cost approximately \$15,000. A multi-year timeline was developed with total funding for the project being supported by Province of New Brunswick’s Regional Development Corporation (RDC) through three annual contributions.

“Being the central location of this historic cemetery, this project was part of a multi-year approach to revitalizing our Main Street area.” said Mayor John Detorakis. “However it was also important to return the resting place for many of our community’s founders to a place that is respectful and solemn.”

The cemetery was established in 1784 and used until sometime around 1876. The land was originally granted to town founder Peter Clinch who would deed it to the Anglican Church in 1830. In addition to being the resting place of Clinch, the cemetery is resting place for over 210 known individuals, many being early settlers to this area. The cemetery is recognized as a United Empire Loyalist Burial site by the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada and the New Brunswick Genealogical Society. In 2006, the cemetery was formally recognized as a historic place with the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

“As the Provincial representative for the area, I was pleased to recommend funding for this project which was funded under the Community Investment Fund. When I was Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation, I introduced this program which was designed to help communities and Not for Profits invest in small projects, that were identified at a local level, that may not otherwise get funding.” said Andrea Anderson-Mason, MLA for Fundy-The-Isles Saint John West. “Investing in the Cemetery Project shows not only pride in our community, as it is visible to all that pass through, but also recognition of our tremendous heritage. I appreciate being able to work with the municipality as we cooperate in our mutual goal of assuring that our community is a great place to work, play and live.”

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