



Trinity Historical Society

Adopt a Headstone Project Update

November 29, 2022

The Trinity Historical Society (THS) is pleased to report that Robyn Lacy and Ian Petty from Black Cat Cemetery Preservation completed their fourth week of work on the restoration of the headstones in the churchyard at St. Paul's on October 7th, 2022. They have now reset, repaired and cleaned a total of 151 headstones in the yard, which includes all of those which needed to be up-righted and repaired. This is about one headstone per hour of work. The remaining stones do not need to be up-righted or repaired but do need to be cleaned. During their fourth week in Trinity, they also restored 6 headstones in the old Methodist Cemetery on High Street which were in urgent need of restoration. Robyn and Ian are both archeologists and are experts in cemetery preservation. We are very pleased with their work. They have taught us much about the care of the headstones and what not to do to avoid damaging the stones.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the many individuals who made donations to this project. Many of you who made donations are descendants of those who are in the churchyard and we appreciate being able to make contact with you. Some of you have joined the Society and we welcome your membership.

We completed the repair of the War monument and added storyboards which tell the stories of the 21 men whose names are on the monument in time for a ceremony on November 11, 2021. The storyboards were unveiled by descendants of these men at that ceremony.

The cost of the restoration and enhancement of the War Monument was \$12,661.60. We raised \$13,751.20 for the Project which was Phase I of our churchyard restoration. We applied for and received a grant from Veterans' Affairs in the amount of \$5000.00, we received a donation from the Town of Trinity in the amount of \$2,500.00, and we raised \$4,060.00 in ticket sales for Pam Sullivan's hooked rug. The remainder of the funds raised came from private donations. The \$1,089.60 in excess of Phase I costs was applied to Phase II of the restoration project. Phase II was restoration of the 50 headstones most in need of repair and Phase III included the remaining stones.

The restoration of the headstones in the churchyard was performed by Black Cat Cemetery Preservation. The cost for Black Cat to perform this work over four weeks was \$30,795.04. We incurred additional costs related to materials and transportation of \$1,508.43. Other expenses including the printing of tickets and promotional material, ticket license fee and bank fees totalled \$653.78. The cost of the initial site visit by Black Cat was \$342.24. The final report when completed will cost an additional \$258.75. Total expenses thus far have totalled \$33,299.99.

As of November 29, 2022, we have raised a total of \$34,498.75. We applied for and received a grant from Come Home 2022 in the amount of \$13,000.00. We raised \$3,700.00 on ticket sales on the painting donated by Ed Roche. Mike Murphy of Halifax won the hooked rug on tickets and he donated this back to the Society. The rug was sold at our in-person auction for \$1000.00. Masonic Union Lodge #28 donated \$500.00 and the remainder of the funds raised came from private donors. The amount remaining in the project account as of November 29, 2022 is \$1,198.76. The cost of the final report from Black Cat will be paid from this account when that invoice is received.

Black Cat Cemetery Preservation estimates that about three days of work will be required to clean the remaining headstones. Over the next few months, we hope to raise the additional funds needed to complete the project in the spring of 2023.

The success of this project depended on the efforts and contributions of numerous individuals. Once again, we would like to thank Corey Jones for providing accommodations for Ian and Robyn at Trinity Cabins free of charge for the four weeks they were in Trinity and we thank Pam Sullivan and Ed Roche for donating the beautiful hooked rug and painting for sale on tickets. We thank Ervin Locke for the donation of crusher dust used to stabilize the headstones. We thank those members of THS who helped with ticket sales and we thank Pam Sullivan and Sharon Jeans for their communications expertise. We thank THS staff members Jim Miller and Dean Bailey for their work in the organization and implementation of the Project and Kyle Hurdle for his help on site. We would again like to thank all of those who donated to the Project, those who bought tickets on the hooked rug and the painting, and the Government of NL for their support through the Come Home Year Program. The Adopt a Headstone Project would not have been possible without this considerable effort and financial support.

The churchyard looks lovely following this restoration. We believe caring for these headstones honours the memory of those who are buried there.

Further work to complete the restoration of the remaining headstones will depend on our ability to raise the additional funds required.

Kevin Toope and Ian Morris,
Project Co-leads



Photo: Courtesy, Elaine Vokey