



AGENDA

Magnetawan Cemetery Board (MCB)

Wednesday August 5th, 2026

4:30 PM

Magnetawan - Community Centre

OPENING BUSINESS

- 1.1 Call to Order by the Chair
- 1.2 Adoption of the Agenda
- 1.3 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
- 1.4 Adoption of Previous Minutes April 8th, 2026 and July 6th, 2026

MOTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 Resignation of Member Brad Lewis
- 2.2 Cremation Interment Services - Memorandum of Understanding
- 2.3 Spence Cemetery Fence - Awarded RFP 2026-04 Mr. Fencee
- 2.4 2027 Budget Recommendations

INFORMATION ONLY (NOT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES)

- 3.1

ADJOURNMENT

- 4.1 Confirm the Proceedings of Committee and Adjourn



Magnetawan Cemetery Board (MCB)
Meeting Minutes, April 8th, 2026

The meeting of the MCB was held on Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, 4:30 pm at the Magnetawan Community Centre with the following present:

Garfield Robertson (Chair)
Doris Langford (Vice Chair)
Bill Bishop
MaryJane Campbell
Jack Crossman
Brad Lewis
Keith Miller
Erica Kellogg (Secretary)

OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:30 pm.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

RESOLUTION 2026-01 Crossman - Campbell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Magnetawan Cemetery Board adopts the agenda as presented.
Carried.

1.4 Adoption of Previous Minutes

RESOLUTION 2026-02 Campbell - Crossman

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Magnetawan Cemetery Board approves and accepts the Cemetery Board Minutes from November 5th, 2026, as amended.
Carried.

MOTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1 Veteran Wallace, William McFarland - Monument Request Last Post Fund

RESOLUTION 2026-03 Langford - Lewis

WHEREAS the Magnetawan Cemetery Board receives with thanks correspondence from Last Post fund regarding the installation of a monument for Veteran Wallace, William McFarland;

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED the Magnetawan Cemetery Board supports the Secretary's request to waive the Municipality's staking fee for the monument installation.
Carried.



**Special Magnetawan Cemetery Board (MCB)
Meeting Minutes, July 6th, 2026**

The special meeting of the MCB was held on Wednesday, July 6th, 2026, 4:30 pm at the Ahmic Harbour Community Centre with the following present:

Garfield Robertson (Chair)
Doris Langford (Vice Chair)
Bill Bishop
MaryJane Campbell
Erica Kellogg (Secretary)
Regrets
Jack Crossman
Brad Lewis
Keith Miller

OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:30 pm.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

RESOLUTION 2026-12 Campbell-Bishop

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Magnetawan Cemetery Board adopts the agenda as presented.

Carried.

MOTIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1 Chapman Interment Proposed Reimbursement - Family of Andy Wilson C-39-4

RESOLUTION 2026-13 Langford-Bishop

WHEREAS the Magnetawan Cemetery Board acknowledges that the state of the Chapman Cemetery during the interment of the late Andy Wilson caused avoidable despair to family and friends of the late Andy Wilson at an already difficult time;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Board respectfully requests Council reimburse the interment fees as per the current Fees and Charges By-law to the family of the late Andy Wilson.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

3.1 Adjournment

RESOLUTION 2026-14 Bishop-Langford

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Magnetawan Cemetery Board adjourns this meeting at 4:53 pm to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Approved by:

Chair Garfield Robertson

Secretary, Erica Kellogg

Erica Kellogg

From:
Sent: July 13, 2026 1:52 PM
To: Erica Kellogg
Subject: Withdrawal from Cemetery Committee

Hi Erica.

Because of my having to miss so many Cemetery Committee meetings due to other ministerial and family commitments, I feel it best if I withdraw myself and make room for another member of our community to join this group.
It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you, and I wish you the best.

Brad Lewis

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May 5th, 2026

ADSC Renovations and Lawn Care
C/O: Mandy Cooper and Andrew Degagne
3298 Highway 520
Sundridge, ON
POA 1Z0

Dear Mandy and Andrew:

RE: Cremation Interment Services - Memorandum of Understanding

This letter will serve to confirm the acceptance of your offer to perform cremation interments within the Spence, Ahmic and Chapman Cemeteries located in the Municipality of Magnetawan.

You will not be an employee during interments; there will be no compensation, no employee benefits or any other such compensation as provided to employees. It is also understood that your fee associated with the interment service is \$375.00 (not inclusive of HST) for a single cremation grave opening and \$525.00 (not inclusive of HST) for a side by side opening beginning in 2026. Fees shall be collected by yourself in a manner of your choice; however, you have provided an etransfer email (_____@outlook.com) to which the Municipality would be happy to share when making cremation interment arrangements with families.

As the cemeteries are under the administration of the Municipality; the Municipality will reach out to you to confirm interment dates and times before confirming with the families. You have indicated that the fee for service is a standard fee and there are no exclusions to interment dates or time, this will include holidays, weekends, and weeknights. The Municipality provides confirmation of interments through email and with confirmation provided, you will be required to open the grave (2"x2"x2") prior to the interment time and to close the grave following the interment. All graves will be staked by the Municipality and each stake will include the name of the individual being interred.

Thank you for providing the required confirmation of insurance, to which \$5 million liability is noted along with the Municipality being an additional insured. Insurance will be required on an annual basis each and every time your policy either changes or renews.

Any questions, please reach out at your convenience.


Erica Kellogg
Deputy Clerk


Mandy Cooper
Contractor


Andrew Degagne
Contractor

Corporation of the
Municipality
of
Magnetawan

Tel: (705) 387-3947
Fax: (705) 387-4875
www.magnetawan.com

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 195

P.O. Box 70, Magnetawan, Ontario P0A 1P0

JULY 29, 2026

Moved by: Brad Kneller

Seconded by: John Hetherington

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives and approves the report from Deputy Clerk Planning and Development Erica Kellogg Award RFP 2026-04 Spence Cemetery Fence and awards the proposal to Mr. Fencee Inc. in the amount of \$40,828.81 plus HST with funds coming from Cemetery Capital account 1-4-5010-8000.

Carried ✓ Defeated _____ Deferred _____

Sam Dunnett
Sam Dunnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: _____

Recorded Vote

Member of Council	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bishop, Bill			
Hetherington, John			
Hind, Jon			
Kneller, Brad			
Mayor: Dunnett, Sam			



*Knowing our heritage
we will build our future*

St. John's Anglican Cemetery

(Dufferin Bridge) – Also known as Vigrass Cemetery

— A PLACE THAT REMEMBERS OUR PIONEER PAST —

HISTORY OF A PIONEER COMMUNITY

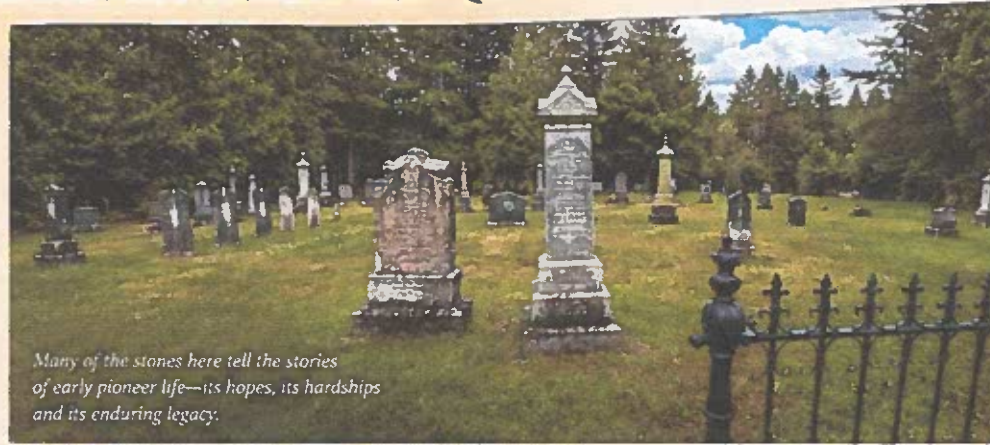
In the late 1800s, a small St. John's Anglican Church once stood near this site on Muskrat Valley Road. It served the pioneer families of Dufferin Bridge and the surrounding Spence Township.

Today, only the outline of the church's stone foundation remains, with a pine tree marking where the church once stood. The cemetery beside it is all that remains of a close-knit community that worshipped, worked and raised their families along the historic Nipissing Road.

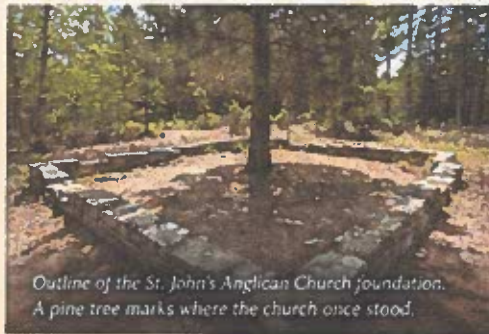
This inactive cemetery is maintained by the Municipality of Magnetawan.

FIND US HERE

4675 Nipissing Road South
Concession A, Lot 38
Spence Township
Municipality of Magnetawan



Many of the stones here tell the stories of early pioneer life—its hopes, its hardships and its enduring legacy.



Outline of the St. John's Anglican Church foundation. A pine tree marks where the church once stood.



The Old Nipissing Road near Dufferin Bridge, circa early 1900s.

PART OF A ONCE-BUSTLING COMMUNITY

During the late 1800s, communities like Dufferin Bridge, North Seguin and Spence each had a church, cemetery, school, hotel and post office. They were connected by the Old Nipissing Road—a vital link for pioneers, travelers and the timber industry. Though the settlements faded, their legacy remains.



This quiet place is a powerful reminder of the faith, courage and sacrifice of the early families who helped build our community. May we honour their memory.



NOTABLE STORIES



WILLIAM BEASLEY

William is buried here with two of his wives. One of them died at just 19 years, 7 months—likely during childbirth.



RUTH ELLEN DOWNING VIGRASS

Ruth was only 18 years, 10 months old when she was struck by lightning just two weeks after her marriage.



LILLA JANE VIGRASS (14) & EDWIN PAUL VIGRASS (22)

Brother and sister who both lost their lives in drowning accidents just four years apart.



JAMES & MARTHA BECKETT VIGRASS

Early pioneer family members. Their monument has been vandalized but their story remains part of our history.



MANY PIONEER FAMILIES REST HERE

Including the Downing, Burns, Hughes, Granger, Moring, Sawdon, Phillips and Shelswell families and many others.



Remembering the Past
Honouring Our Heritage

Please respect this historic site.
Take only pictures, leave only footprints.



For more information about our local history,
visit magnetawan.com



Magnetawan
The Natural Place to Be

ROCK HILL CEMETERY

Where the Forest Reclaimed a Pioneer Community

Hidden in the forest along the Old Nipissing Road, this quiet cemetery is one of the last reminders of the people who once built a life in this rugged and beautiful wilderness.

HISTORY OF ROCK HILL

Rock Hill Cemetery lies about 8 miles south of Magnetawan on the Old Nipissing Trail. More than 140 years ago, this was a busy corridor of travel and settlement.

Pioneer families cleared land, built homes and farms, and established a community here. When sickness, accident or old age came, their loved ones were laid to rest on this hillside.

Over time, the settlement disappeared. The fields returned to forest. But the cemetery remains—preserving their names and their story for future generations.

DID YOU KNOW?



The Nipissing Road was one of Ontario's earliest colonization roads, opened in the 1860s.



Most of the Rock Hill community has vanished—only the cemetery and a few traces remain.



Many buried here came from Scotland, England and Ireland in search of a better life.



Today, the cemetery is reached by trail and is accessible by ATV / 4-wheeler.

WHERE IS ROCK HILL CEMETERY?



HOW TO FIND IT

The trail to Rock Hill Cemetery is located east of the Old Nipissing Trail.

Turn off the Old Nipissing Trail about 1 kilometre before Orange Valley Road when travelling south from Magnetawan.

Trail access is suitable for ATV / 4-wheeler.

PLEASE RESPECT THIS HISTORIC SITE.
Leave only footprints.



Rock Hill Cemetery today—peaceful, isolated and surrounded by the forest that has reclaimed this pioneer settlement.

THE OLD NIPISSING ROAD

Constructed beginning in the 1860s, the Old Nipissing Road connected settlers between Gravenhurst and Nipissing. Thousands travelled this route by wagon, on horseback or on foot in search of farmland and new beginnings.



The Old Nipissing Road, early 1900s.
Photo: Archives of Ontario.

A COMMUNITY THAT FADES

Rock Hill once had homes, barns, a school and families who worked the land. Poor soils, isolation and hard living forced many to move on. Nature slowly reclaimed the fields, leaving behind only faint traces of the lives once lived here.



Pioneer family along the Nipissing Road.
Photo: Muskoka Heritage Place Archives.

NATURE RECLAIMS HISTORY

Moss covers the stones. Pines grow tall. The forest now guards the memories of those buried here—reminding us of the passage of time and the strength of nature.



Moss and time have softened but not erased the past.



A STORY CARVED IN STONE

Many of the earliest settlers buried here came from Scotland, England and Ireland. This stone, inscribed "From Scotland," tells us where he came from—and the faith that sustained him in this new land.

*Sleep on, brother, thy work is done,
Thy mortal pang is past,
Jesus has come and borne thee home,
Beyond the stormy blast.*

SPENCE TOWNSHIP - 1879 MAP (EXCERPT)



Early maps show several settlements along the Nipissing Road that rose and faded over time. Source: Historical Atlas of the District of Parry Sound, 1879.

FAMILIES REMEMBERED

The following families are known to be buried at Rock Hill Cemetery:

- Burns
- Downing
- Hughes
- Granger
- Moring
- Phillips
- Sawdon
- Shelswell

...and many others.
Each name on these stones represents a life, a story and a legacy.



Magnetawan
The Natural Place to Be

RESPECT OUR HERITAGE

Please help preserve this sacred place.
Do not move or damage stones.

Thank you



Honouring the Past. Preserving Our Heritage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LOCAL HISTORY, VISIT MAGNETAWAN.COM

