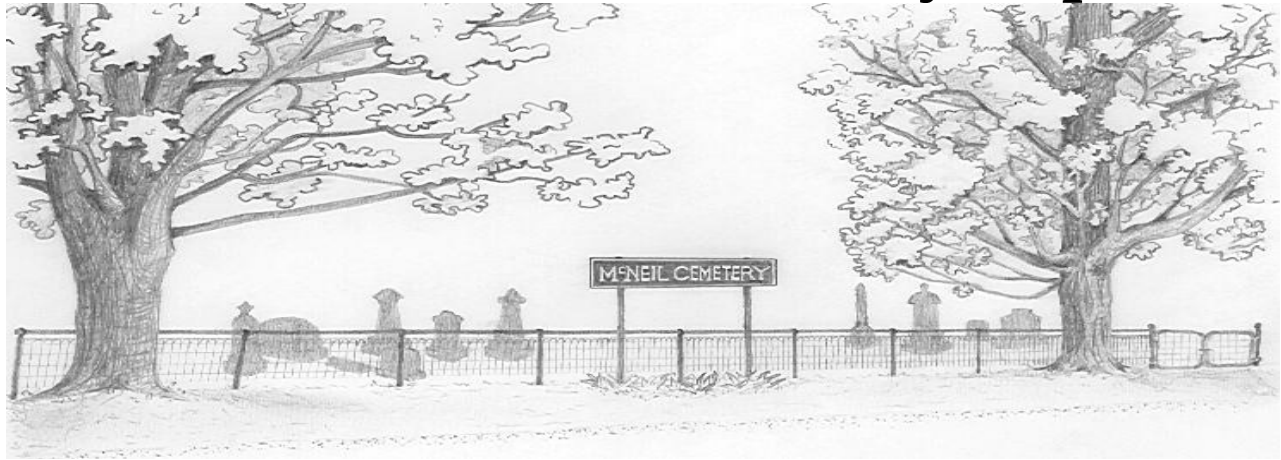


The 2026 McNeil Cemetery Report



Website: www.wickmcneilcemetery.ca Email: info@wickmcneilcemetery.ca

McNeil Decoration Day June 21, 2026 at 1:30 PM

McNeil Cemetery's Decoration Day service will be Sunday, June 21, 2026 at 1:30 PM with a fine, respectful service planned by the Board of Directors. We are especially pleased to have Wick Presbyterian minister, **Rev. Denise Boyd**, officiate the service. Back to provide special music is a familiar trio – **Reflections** – featuring **Brian Evans Ralph Sider**, and **Ron Evans** singing favourite hymns and songs! We know the service will be a meaningful way to honour those at rest at McNeil Cemetery. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held at Wick Church 1 km west of the cemetery.

Refreshments will be provided after the service as you visit with friends and family. A self-guided tour will also be available in our effort to highlight some of those at rest in our beautiful cemetery.

2026 McNeil Cemetery Enhancements

The Board of Directors, with its ongoing commitment and responsibility to maintain and enhance our cemetery, undertook the following initiatives:

Thanks to Director Beth Hooper, many visits are being made to the McNeil website which continues to expand in its content. Please go to www.wickmcneilcemetery.ca and view our five informative website tabs.

The Board ordered and installed a plaque on the Tool Shed door directing visitors to our website and to our email address. Extra copies of our newsletter are also situated there for guests to peruse.

Thanks to the generous donation of high-quality topsoil by Regina and Brian Marsh of EarthArt, the Board will continue to level and reseed low areas of the cemetery grounds.

After receiving three bids and a summary of the work expected, Hillside Fencing, a local company that did work for us previously, was contracted to complete the work of removing and installing a new north and east wire fence. With help from Directors Warren Jibb, Doug Rennie, and Kevin Robertson the work was completed and one of the requirements was to have the fence raised slightly above ground level to accommodate weed-eating along our new fence. The fence installation was nearly \$9 000.00. The Board has already received appreciation for this enhancement of McNeil Cemetery.

The Board requested that Director James De Jong provide a quote on replacing the aging windows and wooden door of the Tool Shed as we are anxious to preserve this cemetery asset.

Many thanks to Lisa and Kevin Robertson for installing a new Canada flag on our flag pole.

Concerned with the hazard and high potential of damage by the aging birch trees on the Vault Room building and metal roof, the Board decided to remove the two birch trees later this year and replace them with two beautiful, smaller trees likely to be planted on the east side of the Vault Room.

Thanks to the efforts by Doug Rennie, one tree and several overhanging limbs were removed as a safety precaution. Additionally, Doug installed cement blocks by the NE refuse pile to protect our new fence. We thank Doug, and his son Nathan, for their proactive efforts!

The Board met with Colton Currins of King Currins Lawncare and confirmed this year's Service Agreement wherein the following rates were approved:

Spring/Fall Cleanup): \$44.00/hour (15-20 Hrs)
FULL Cut of the Cemetery: \$450.00/Full cut

HALF Cut of the Cemetery: \$300.00/Half cut

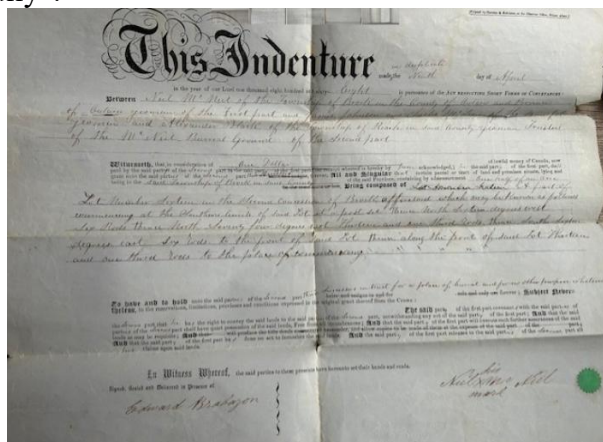
Many thanks to Colton Currins and his hardworking and dedicated team for taking such fine care of McNeil!

The Board continued to research those at McNeil who served for Canada. See the enclosed summary as we honour our Veteran Soldiers.

Historical Documents in Safety Deposit Box

Curious about its contents, the McNeil safety deposit box were retrieved and examined by representatives of the Board. Very interesting and certainly historic! Three of the documents were deeds to the lands granted or purchased by McNeil Cemetery starting with the formal deed filed in April 9, 1868 well after the cemetery was established in 1849.

This 1868 Deed was for ½ acre of land sold for \$1.00 to the Trustees of the Cemetery. The original dimensions in rods (1 rod = 16.5feet) were: Starting from the most southwest point of Lot 16 north 6 rods (99 feet), east 13 1/3 rods (219 feet), south 6 rods (99 feet) and back to the commencement point of 13 1/3 rods. The deed was signed with an “x” by Neil McNeil, and witnessed by Commissioner George Brabazon and Edward Brabazon. Not sure if Neil McNeil could write. The deed was registered in Brock on November 24, 1888. On the outside of the deed are printed three names: Alexander McMillan, Duncan Ferguson, and John (?) McLeod as well as “J. McCully”.



1868 McNeil Cemetery Land Deed – land donated by Neil McNeil

Look for more information on these important documents in future newsletters or on the McNeil website at www.wickmcneilcemetery.ca.

McNeil Cemetery - Priceville

Some of you know that there is another “McNeil Cemetery” in Ontario. It is located near Priceville, near Hopeville, and not far away from Boothville about an hour south of Collingwood. While in that area, I stopped by the cemetery and took a photo of the McNeil Cemetery Priceville front gates:



McNeil Cemetery Priceville – the other McNeil Cemetery!

Doris Lorine Rennie

June 8, 1923-January 25, 2026

A Rennie Family History

by Marie Wilson (nee Rennie)

In 1948, Doris Phair, a Greenbank girl, married Ivan Rennie, who was farming with his father, John T. Rennie, at Lot 17, Concession 1, Brock Township. Doris would spend the next 75 years on that farm. In the early years, Doris supported her husband on the farm while raising their four children; Jim, Marie, Nancy and Doug. Later in life, Doris and Ivan enjoyed their new home built on the northeast side of the farm, near Layton. It was there, in June of 2023, that the family hosted a 100th birthday party for Doris, which was attended by family, friends and neighbours. A truly wonderful celebration! Doris loved her gardening and baking and many of her entries at the Sunderland Fall Fair were prize winning. Ivan served for many years on the Board of Directors of McNeil Cemetery, a role that their son, Doug, continues.

The Rennie family first came to this community in 1848, when Charles and Mary (Kirtan) Rennie purchased the original 50 acres of land, two years after their emigration to Canada from Aberdeenshire, Scotland. There, they had been crofters, working the fields of others who owned the land, but were eager to have their own land and to have more opportunities for their seven children. It was not surprising that they should choose the Wick area, since it was largely a predominately Scottish settlement at the time. They named their new farm, “Mossie”, after the name of their home back in Scotland. Two more sons were born after their arrival in Canada. It was their son, James, who with his wife, Jean Moir, took over the farm about 1875. Jean’s father, William Moir, a blacksmith from Aberdeenshire, settled with his family at Layton and had a shop there. James became a prominent breeder of Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle and attended many exhibitions in Toronto, Chicago and Guelph in the early years of the 20th century. The main hip roof barn was erected in 1879 and the brick house was built in 1902. Sometime after 1905, James purchased the Gothic style, Wesleyan Methodist church located to the east of the farm at Layton and had it moved down the road to be used as an addition to the main barn. James and Jean raised seven children on the farm. Their eldest son, John Taylor Rennie, married Zella Shier of Sunderland and they continued to farm after James and Jean retired to Toronto around 1916. Their eldest son, Ivan and

his wife Doris, took over the farm in 1948. Ivan’s brother, Clarence, studied at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph and became a professor in the Dept. of Animal Husbandry there.

The Rennie farm is now managed by Ivan’s son, Doug, and his wife, Karen Zolinski, who have raised a family of three, Ruth, Joel and Nathan – the 6th generation of the Rennie family at Mossie Farm.

McNeil Cemetery Time Capsule

In recognition of our special 175th McNeil anniversary in 2024, our community was invited to celebrate the lives of those resting at McNeil by submitting a historical writing, poem, funny story, lesson learned, or memorable event to be placed in a McNeil time capsule to be opened in 25 years from now. Many submissions, all interesting and informative, were received and are now encapsulated in a sealed container, labeled and stored in the McNeil Vault Building. Special thanks to those who submitted their contribution to the McNeil Time Capsule! Please be on hand in June, 2049 to enjoy its opening!

2026 McNeil Board of Directors

During the March 31, 2026 McNeil Annual General Meeting, the following McNeil Board of Directors was confirmed: President Warren Jibb, Vice-President James De Jong, Trustee Magil Darnley, Secretary-Treasurer Rick De Jong, and Directors Jim Carson, Neil Crockford, Brian Hadden, Beth Hooper, Doug Rennie, and Kevin Robertson. On behalf of the McNeil community, we wish to thank our Board for their volunteer efforts and commitment to our beautiful cemetery!

McNeil Cemetery Website Update
By Director Beth Hooper

New Page: I recently added a "Cemetery News" tab to the website.
Upcoming Pages: Before Decoration Day, I plan to launch an "Our History" page featuring the documents from the safety deposit box. If you have any additional historical tidbits or details about your guided historical tours, I think that would make an excellent addition to the site.
Google Maps: Wick McNeil Cemetery is now officially listed and searchable on Google Maps.
Analytics: 374 views over the year!

McNeil Legacy Fund

We are grateful to the late Isabel Carson and her family who donated \$6000.00 to the McNeil Legacy Fund. Interest from the Legacy Fund was directed to the cost of adding two small trees for the cemetery. We wish to recognize Isabel Carson and thank the Carson family!

We Remember

It is with respect and fondness that we solemnly remember those resting in our cemetery. In this respect, we

acknowledge those who recently passed away and were laid to rest in 2025 and 2026:

2025

Robert Lawrence Rodman - May 17, 2025
Darlene Joyce Hadden (nee Darnley) - May 22, 2025
Ruth Eleanor Williamson - June 14, 2025
John David Meadows - February 13, 1998
Roberta Jane Baird - August 28, 2025
John Colley Beaton - August 29, 2025
Bruce George Maxwell - October 17, 2025
Gilbert Wesley Donneral - November 29, 2025
We also wish to recognize **Michael Ferguson**, a long-time supporter of our cemetery, who passed away on June 24, 2025,

2026

Ian Hubert Tietze - January 26, 2025
Doris Lorine Rennie - January 25, 2026
Greg Rembosz – May 16, 2026

Honouring Those Who Served

Starting in 2024 the Board began to recognize those who at rest in our cemetery who served our country. Proud to share the following names, we do so “Lest We Forget”:

Russell Charles Emby Plot 141-1	Russell enlisted in the Argyll and Scottish Highlanders of the Canadian Divisional Artillery, likely around 1938 and likely served in WWII. Russell passed away in 1985.
Hugh Leask Ferguson Plot 226-1	Corporal Hugh Leask Ferguson served in WWII with the Royal Canadian Signals passing away in 1992.
Angus Mcleod Hill Plot 158-3	Brother to veteran John Hill, Angus enlisted in 1917 and served his country in WWI. Angus passed away in 1969.
John David Hill Plot 141-1	John Hill enlisted in the CEF in 1916 at the age of 18 serving in WWI and passing away in 1983.
Gordon Russel Innes Plot 178-2	Gordon Russel Innes was a private in the CEF in WWI arrived back in Canada in 1918. Gordon passed away in 1982.
John Malcolm Ferguson Plot 227-1	Served in WWII with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps passing away in 1999.
Samuel James McCully Plot 179-3	Samuel James McCully of Blackwater enlisted in 1915 and served at Vimy, Ypres, and Passchendaele. Samuel never married, and died in 1962.
William John “Willie” McCully Plot 141-3	William “Willie” McCully of Blackwater enlisted in 1915, at the age of 29 serving with the CEF surviving WWI. Married with no children, John passed away in 1967.
Clarke McLean Plot 123-1	Clarke served in the 116 th Battalion of the CEF in WWI. He passed away in 1968.
William Duncan McMillan (Killed Overseas)	Born in Sonya, William served in WW1 with the CEF 38 th Battalion enlisting in 1915. William was killed in action in the trenches just north of Lens, France at the age of 22.
Thomas Murray Watson (Killed Overseas)	Thomas Murray Watson, born in 1898, enlisted in March, 1916 and fell at Vimy on April 8, 1917 at the age of 18. A memorial to Thomas

See Plot 164-1 and 2	by his parents is noted on Plot 164.
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2026 Financial Statement Summary

The Board remains very grateful for the generous financial support provided to McNeil this past year. As part of its important fiduciary responsibilities, these funds enabled the Board to continue to manage, plan and enhance this beautiful resting place! Sincere gratitude is extended to our community for its generous support and commitment to McNeil. The following is a brief summary of the 2025 McNeil Cemetery Financial Report.

Balance on Hand – December 31, 2024	\$10233.24
Revenue:	
GIC Cashed In at Maturity	\$20693.91
Donations	\$9258.00
Legacy Fund – I. Carson	\$6000.00
Funeral Receipts	\$8709.00
Plot Sales and Cornerstones	\$1600.00
Care & Maintenance Interest	\$1877.73
TOTAL 2025 RECEIPTS	\$48138.64

Expenses:	
Bank Fee/Safety Deposit Box	\$165.43
GIC Investment	\$25000.00
Care and Maintenance Fund Transfer	\$1240.00
Insurance	\$1412.64
Secretary-Treasurer Expenses	\$1214.16
Secretary-Treasurer Honorarium	\$750.00
Decoration Day	\$901.00
Grave Opening/Closing/Cornerstones	\$3897.37
Cemetery Maintenance/Grass-Cutting	\$6055.55
New Fencing	\$8672.50
Website	\$149.05
TOTAL 2025 EXPENSES	\$49457.70

Bank Balance December 31, 2025	\$8914.18
Long Term GIC Investments	\$139 301.26

As noted, the McNeil Decoration Day Service will be held at the cemetery on **June 21, 2026 at 1:30 PM**. Please find enclosed an addressed envelope in case contributors are not able to attend this year's cemetery service. Please make cheques payable to "McNeil Cemetery". E-transfers can also be made through our email: wickmcneilcemetery@gmail.com. Donations of \$25.00 or greater will receive a receipt for taxation purposes in February, 2027. We are most grateful to our McNeil community for their outstanding givings and generous support!

Plot Prices

The Board approved the following burial and plot prices for 2026 :

Grave Prices

Single Grave	\$900.00
All grave prices include 40% or \$360.00 from the grave purchase price to be set aside for deposit in the CARE & MAINTENANCE FUND and held in trust with the Trustee.	

Interment & Other Service Charges

Open and Close of Grave (May 01 to Nov 29) No Sunday Interment	\$1300.00
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Surcharge for late arrivals (after 04:00pm) and Saturday/Holiday burials	\$275.00
Open and Close of Grave (Winter season Dec 01 to Apr 30)*	\$1650.00

***Winter Burials are subject to Board approval depending on weather conditions**

Burial of Cremated Remains (opening and closing fee)*	\$575.00
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*** Winter Cremations (Dec 01 to Apr 30) are subject to Board approval depending on weather conditions.**

Cornerstones - set of four	\$375.00
Disinterment Charge	\$3600.00
Grave Location and Staking Fee	\$65.00
Fee to Record Transfer of Interment Rights	\$65.00
Fee to Issue Duplicate Interment Rights Certificate	\$65.00

Honouring Indigenous Peoples

Our community lands are the traditional territory of Michi-Saagiig people who are part of the larger Anishinaabeg (Ojibway) nation. The nearest communities are the following: Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and Hiawatha First Nation. Nearby Georgina Island First Nation identify as being Chippewa which are also a branch of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibway) nation. We honour and respect Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of this land and commit to learning their knowledge and values.

Historic Wick Presbyterian Church

Available in various sizes and at reasonable prices, beautiful prints of historic Wick Church, by noted artist Walter Campbell, are still available for purchase. To order your print or hold a special event at Wick Church, like birthdays, family reunions, anniversaries, etc., please contact Victoria Hadden at victoriahadden@gmail.com for additional information. We are proud that this special building, so historically connected to McNeil Cemetery, is being utilized to support many community events!

Closing Comments by the Editor and Director

Magil McNeil Darnley

The McNeil Board trusts you found this newsletter informative and enjoyable. The Board invites you to share any comments or anecdotes about our cemetery and its community. Please contact me through Rick De Jong at Pinedale14@hotmail.com!

At this time, on behalf of the Board and the McNeil community, I would like to extend deep appreciation to Rick De Jong for his significant efforts, energy and commitment to McNeil Cemetery. I would also extend sincere appreciation to President Warren Jibb and the McNeil Board of Directors for their many contributions that result in making McNeil Cemetery a safe, attractive, and respectful resting place for our loved ones. The Board looks forward to meeting many McNeil Cemetery community members on Decoration Day on June 21st!