

Invitation to become a sponsor of the Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society

The Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society is seeking sponsors and donations.

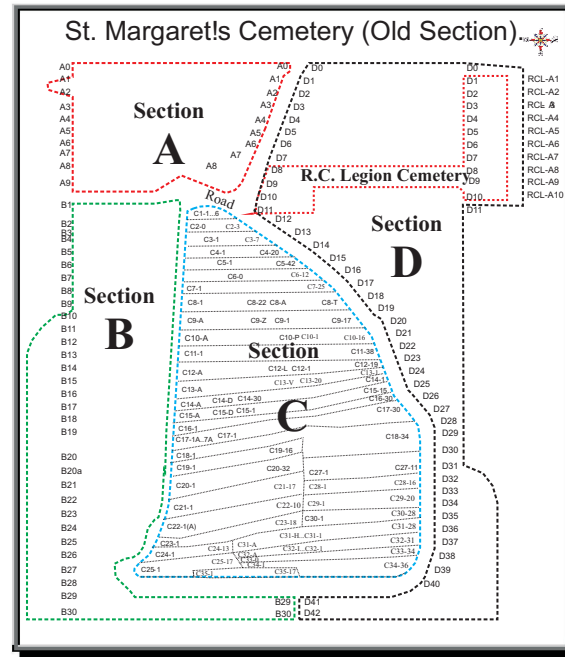
The benefits of the sponsorship are as follows:

- To aid in the restoration of the Old Section of St. Margaret's Cemetery to a park-like state.
- To aid in building a prosperous and creative community.
- To foster a successful, long-term partnership in a community organization.
- To provide the local private sector the potential to increase its community impact and stature.
- To participate in events of the Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society.

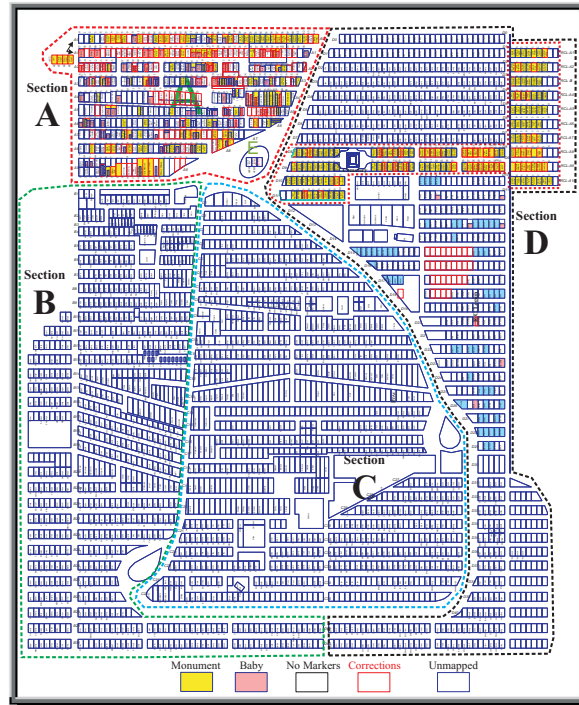
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Layout of Maps



Map Showing Internee Plot Layout



Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society

Invitation for Sponsorship



St. Margaret's Cemetery

New DVA Headstones

WWI & WWII Monument.

Website: www.fernierheritagecemetery.com

Background

Fernie was founded in 1887 as a coal mining town in the Elk Valley. The population came primarily from the British Isles, Eastern Europe, Italy and China. Fernie still has a significant number of descendants from these early families.

The archival records and monuments in the cemetery reveal that life was difficult and short lived. Stillborn babies and infant mortality were prevalent. Some families suffered several instances of those losses. Too many young women died from childbearing causes. Large numbers of men were killed in the mining disasters of 1902 and 1917. Typhoid fever, cholera, the Spanish flu and other diseases took their toll. Yet, the perseverance of these fore-bearers was strong enough to have laid a solid foundation for the Elk Valley to become and remain one of the most important mining economies in British Columbia.

The Old Section of St. Margaret's Cemetery where these founders are buried, however, has deteriorated deplorably. The earth has sunken severely causing broken and fallen headstones and monuments, many of which were purchased with great financial sacrifice to the families. Wild and unmanageable growth has invaded graves also causing tremendous damage. Added to the disrepair and need, there are approximately 2000 graves with no markers.

For the above reasons, the Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society was founded in 2009. The Society is now seeking sponsors to help support the restoration project in order (1) to give these fore-bearers and founders of Fernie the proper recognition and respect they deserve and (2) to provide to the young and future generations an accurate account of the contributions they made. The society is encouraging families and the community to participate in providing markers for the unmarked graves.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society is four-fold:

- To restore the Old and Legion Sections of St. Margaret's Cemetery in Fernie, B. C. to a serene park-like status.
- To preserve the history and culture of Fernie and the Elk Valley.
- To inspire the present and future generations of Fernie to continue to honour the history and culture and the fore-bearers of the area.
- To ensure that the internees are recognized for their contributions and sacrifices in building Fernie, British Columbia, and Canada.

Goals (2022)

- To continue the research of internees in order to have a more accurate history of the life and times of the era and the lasting contributions of the internees.
- To clean stones in Section C .
- To provide information to the public, academics, family members and/or other persons who may have interest.
- To photo digitize obituaries from the *Fernie Free Press*. (Over 100 years of newspapers, approx. 80,000 pages).
- To document approximately 2000 internees that do not have markers. To provide text for the markers.
- To drone video the Sections A, B, C, D and create uTube Videos for each section.
- To update the website for content/corrections and internee information. Backup and maintain website.

Accomplishments since 2021.

- Collected and researched archival maps and records in order to identify and verify internee data in Sections A, B, C, and D from multiple information sources.
- Acquired 33 stones for WWI and WWII veterans from the Last Post Fund.
- Produced accurate maps for Sections A, B, C & D with the Legion portion of the Cemetery.
- Completed GPS photography of stones with google map location for Sections A, B, C, and D.
- Complete video project on Life and Times of Fernie & 20 interviews (www.ourfernie.ca).
- Continue cleaning and repairing headstones 2020, 2021 clean stones in Section A, B.

Funders.

The project has been funded in part by the following:

- New Horizons Funding, Government of Canada
- RDEK Community Initiatives Program.
- Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives.
- Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.
- City of Fernie.
- Last Post Fund
- Royal Canadian Legion Banch #36.
- East Kootenay Community Credit Union.
- Fernie Alpine Resort Summit Fund.
- Teck Corporation.
- United Steel Workers of America, Local 9346
- ArtsVest British Columbia
- IGS Enterprises
- Private and in-kind donations.
- Various Society fund raising events.
- Columbia Power
- Heritage, Museum and Archive Grants: Columbia Basin Trust
- Denham Chevrolet GM Buick Ltd.
- Old Nurses Residence Bed and Breakfast