

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
CEMETERY**

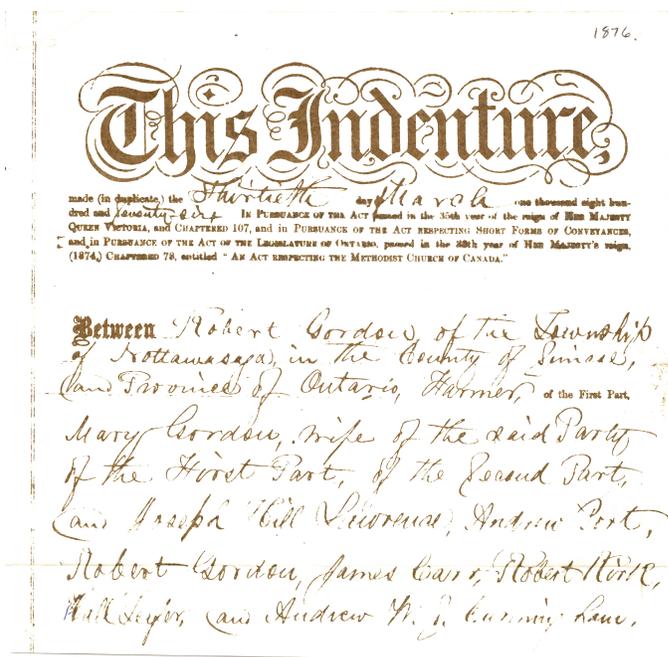
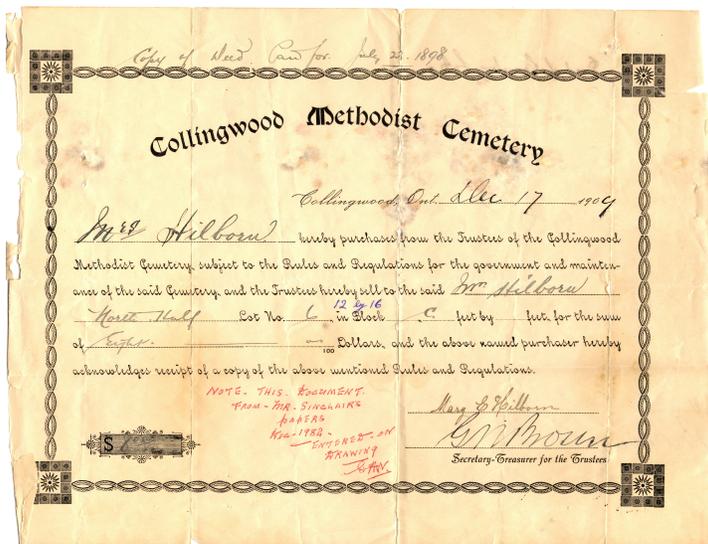
A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1858, the former Hens and Chickens harbour was incorporated as The Town of Collingwood.

Prior to that, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the first Church in the hamlet, was founded in 1853. The congregation met in various houses until a building was constructed in 1861 on a double plot of land on Maple street donated by Sheriff B.W. Smith who controlled the sales of the land on the west side of Hurontario Street.

Various burial arrangements existed, but by 1872 the Wesleyan Methodists identified a need for a proper cemetery and selected a seven acre parcel of land (described as 10 chains by 7 chains) on Poplar Sideroad. It was surveyed in November 1872 by B. Gilleland of Eugenia Falls. The sale from Mr. & Mrs Robert Gordon to the Trustees of the Collingwood Congregation of the Methodist Church of Canada is dated March 30, 1876 and specific reference was made to the use as "a cemetery or grave yard" but the fine print allowed for many other Church related uses. The purchase price was \$350. Mr Gordon was also one of the Trustees at the time, along with Joseph Hill Lawrence, Andrew Port, James Carr, Robert Kirk, Hall Taylor and Andrew W.P. Cunningham.

The documents below are copies of a 1908 Interment Rights Certificate and the original purchase agreement - Indenture.



The Cemetery was subsequently registered with the Province.

Although the Church moved to Maple Street in 1862 and became Maple Street Methodist, the original name of the Cemetery persisted. By January 1911 it was known as Collingwood Methodist Cemetery and with Church Union in 1925 it became Trinity United Church Cemetery.

In September 1942, the Cemetery was “Approved” by the Department of Health

As more graves were needed, additional plots were created on some of the original east-west “Avenues” and a double row was added along the western boundary and in north east corner.

In 1951, additional land to the west was purchased from Elmer Campbell and the 1942 approval of the Cemetery by the Department of Health was expanded to cover the entire property. There was a further sale and return of a strip land along the western border before the current boundary was formally established, preceded by a rezoning by the Township to permit its use as a Cemetery. The total area of the Cemetery was established at that time as 3.72 ha (approx. 9.2 acres). A legal plan, 51R-23042, covering the entire Cemetery was prepared by Ronald J. Emo O.L.S. and subsequently registered on June 10, 1992.

As a Centennial project in 1953, iron fencing and brick pillars were erected across the frontage including a Centennial plaque. The brick pillars were replaced in 1991 and a complete refurbishing was undertaken in 2020.



At one time, water was supplied by a windmill located at the pumphouse at the “fork” in the main entrance road. The pump house, which accommodated the subsequent electrical pumping equipment was replaced in 2006. In 2015, an agreement was reached with the adjacent Presbyterian cemetery to use their pumping system and to share the cost of electricity and repairs.

The layout of the original seven acres allowed for large family plots with six to twelve graves in a "Plot". As time passed, the Interment Rights were sold in smaller groups, often only one or two graves. In order to accommodate maintenance, separate areas were designated for "single graves" so that the monuments were more consistently spaced. The new section to the west was set out as single graves with the ability to sell the rights to as many as requested.

The 1992 grave layout for the new westerly area provides for 1,121 new graves in addition to the approximately 5,500 in the original area. Up until 2020, 4,470 burials have been recorded.

Since the number of cremation burials was increasing the Church congregation was canvassed on the desire to have a columbarium installed. As a result of a very positive response, a 48 niche unit was purchased and installed in 2014. The location set aside will allow for an additional seven similar units in the future.

Since the original area is well treed and the new section was basically on open field, a tree planting plan was prepared and in 2015, three flowering pear trees were planted at the columbarium site and a mixture of ten maple, oak and linden trees were planted in the open area to the west. The following year, two granite benches were installed and in 2020 another



bench was donated and installed in the new west area.

Archives at the Church contain some of the original Wesleyan Board Minutes and other records from 1862 to 1892, Maple Street Methodist Board minutes to 1921 and Trinity United (including some MSM) records to 1977.

Paper copies of Burial Records exist from 1911 to 2010 after which digital and paper copies have been prepared and distributed to the Church office and the Collingwood library Genealogy Department. A data base with all the available Interment Rights and burial information from the beginning of the cemetery to present day has been prepared.

January 2021