

## CEMETERY GENEALOGY DAY August 18

For many years, a group of over 80 volunteers have been learning and working to restore the abandoned cemeteries in Rideau Lakes Township. This restoration has provided an opportunity for the volunteers to establish information from buried and broken stones as well as those standing, although information for everyone in those cemeteries is not always available because of stones that have disappeared or persons buried without an engraved stone. Lists are being compiled of the location of unmarked graves as discovered by ground penetrating radar and sonar. Because of their location in the cemetery or due to other information, names are possible to add to these sites.

In 1991, the Ontario Government passed legislation which stated that abandoned cemeteries not maintained by the property owner would become the property of the Municipality. The Municipality would own the land and be responsible for the maintenance of the abandoned cemetery. However, the grave stones in each cemetery were purchased by the family that erected them and are owned by the descendants of that family. That meant that the care, cleaning and restoration of the stones fell to the volunteers.

When the Township of Rideau Lakes passed legislation to deal with abandoned cemeteries, they created a volunteer committee to oversee an ongoing restoration program. This committee has provided restoration to over a dozen abandoned cemeteries and produced a large quantity of genealogical information along the way.

The genealogical information at these cemeteries is being made available to interested families on Saturday, August 18 between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. The restoration progress made to date will also be detailed, and visitors may discuss ongoing restoration of their family's site and become a part of the future program.

The following cemeteries will have people in attendance who can answer your genealogy questions about those interred in each cemetery:

Chaffey Cemetery (1631 Chaffeys Lock Road) - Neil Patterson

Clear Lake Cemetery (478 Clear Lake Road) - Brodie Burt

Denny Cemetery (1421 County Road 8) - Doug Sly

Knowlton Cemetery (2966 County Road 42) - Tiffany Thomas

Philipsville Baptist Cemetery (573 County Road 8) - Anna Greenhorn

Polk Cemetery (2828 Highway 15) - Eldon Polk

Ripley/Sly Cemetery (99 Smith Road) - Kim Proud & Linda Sly

Royal Sappers and Miners (8640 County Road 42) - Gerry LaPointe

Stevens Cemetery (near 707 Daytown Road) - Mary Dier & LuAnn Furzer

Wood Mausoleum (299 County Road 29) - Ron Lyon

The Rideau Lakes Local History Centre beside the Delta Library (18 King St) will also be open during the same period for further genealogical research.