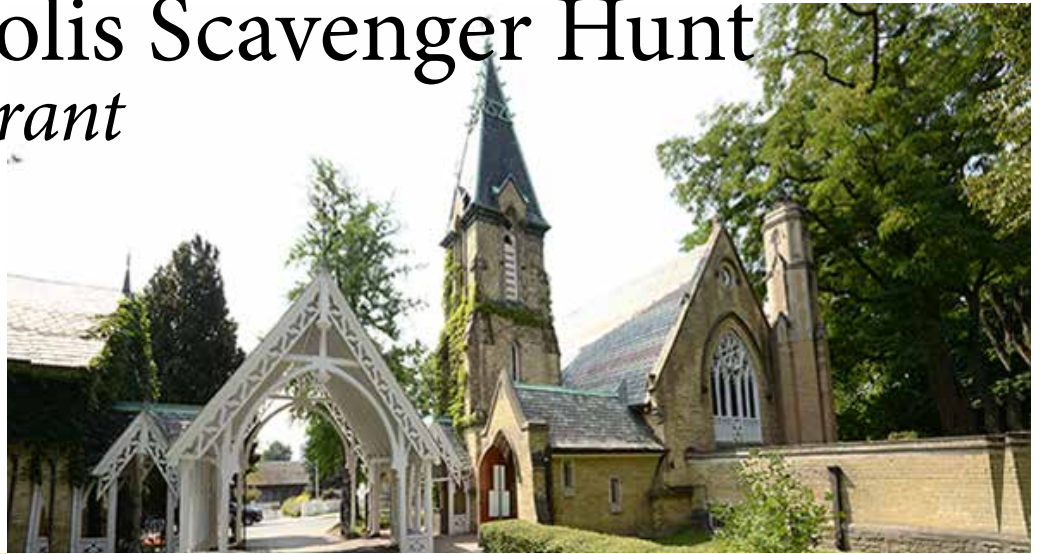


The Necropolis Scavenger Hunt

Western Quadrant



Important: The Toronto Necropolis is a cemetery, not an amusement park. Please be respectful: do not run, and keep noise to a minimum. Please do not lean on, walk on or touch monuments. Also keep your distances (at least 2 metres) from each other.

This scavenger hunt was designed to help people discover the Toronto Necropolis. There is no “prize” to win other than some knowledge of our history. However, feel free to challenge each other, play in teams, etc.

The Necropolis is an open history book, being the final resting place of a number of remarkable people whose lives had an impact on the city, the country, and sometimes the world.

Route: Start from the gates of the cemetery, walk up about 25 metres to what look like three short pillars. On top of one of them you will see a small sculpture representing a family. From there go west (left) toward Sumach Street, near the fence, then north toward Amelia Street (go around that part of the cemetery clockwise).

To find your way, it would be a good idea to orient yourself. The front of the Chapel is facing south. When you face the chapel, west is to your left (toward Sumach Street). East is to your right (toward the DVP). The back of the chapel points north.

Good luck!



1. The Porte-Cochère

The cemetery gate is a beautiful porte-cochère. A porte-cochère is a roofed structure covering an entrance. It protected the hearse that would have stopped beside the chapel. Remember that the chapel and the porte-cochère were built in 1872. Hearses back then were pulled by: _____.



2. Pebbles on Pillars

Can you see the pillars surrounded by a garden? Attached to the sides of these pillars are plaques with the names of people whose ashes have been scattered in the surrounding garden. You will see some pebbles on top of the pillars (and sometimes on top of tombstones across the cemetery).

Why do you think people have put these pebbles there?

_____.



3. Carol Anne Letheren

On one of the pillars you will find the name of Carol Anne Letheren. All her life, Carol Anne was involved in sports, as an athlete, coach, and administrator.

She was the Chef de mission for the Canadian Team at the Seoul Games in 1988. The symbol on the plaque indicates what movement she was part of. It was the _____ Movement.



4. Pink Granite Obelisk - Blackburns

From the pillars, go west. You know what an obelisk looks like? An obelisk is a slim column (with four sides) that tapers as it goes up. There's a small pyramid at the top called a pyramidion. It is unsurprising as obelisks are a style of monument that originates in Ancient Egypt. The name you are looking for on the obelisk is Blackburn.

Where were the Blackburns from? (clue: it's a state in the United States).
_____.



5. A Father of Confederation

Just a few metres from the Blackburn obelisk, you can see a couple of plaques marking the grave of a great Canadian. It is George Brown. There's a college named after him but, in his days, George Brown was a newspaper publisher and a politician. He joined forces with John A. Macdonald and helped establish the Canadian Confederation in 1867. On what date and year did George Brown die? _____.



6. Onward

Walk northwest from George Brown's grave and after a few metres, you will see an interesting monument that looks like rectangular blocks tumbling forward. It is a sculpture called Onward. The message the sculptor wanted to carry was: 'you just buried your loved one, now move on with your life.' The ashes of the artist are buried around his monument. His name is on a plaque at one of the corners. His family name is Eloul. What is his first name? _____.



7. Resting place of Pioneers

Walk west several metres. You will see on the ground a large rock with a plaque on it. The top of the plaque says "The Resting Place of Pioneers." Read it. It tells you that in this area are buried many of the early Europeans who settled in Toronto (which at the time was called York). Their bodies were moved from an earlier cemetery that used to be where Yonge and Bloor streets are today. What was the name of this early cemetery?
_____.



8. Monument to Rebels

Continue to walk west (toward Sumach Street) from the Resting Place rock. Before you get to the fence, you will find a tall monument with a column that looks broken. Buried there are a couple of “rebels” who took part in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837. There is a plaque telling their stories. What are the family names of the two rebels:

Samuel _____, and

Peter _____.

9. Edward Hanlan

Just a few metres from the broken column is the grave of “Ned” Hanlan (light grey monument with a small rounded cross on top). Everybody called him Ned. Ned grew up on Toronto Islands and was using a rowboat to reach the mainland to go to school. It gave him the bug and he became a world champion in sculling (a type of rowing). Hanlan’s Point is named after his family as they were one of the first families to live on Toronto Islands.

Year Edward Hanlan died: _____.



10. John M. McIntosh

Walk north toward Amelia Street. Find the light blue-grey monument. Can you see how different it is from the others? It looks much better preserved. Now gently knock on it. What does that tell you? Yes, it’s metal and it’s hollow. It is made out of zinc which was popular for a while at the end of the 19th century. Look at the symbols on the monument. What do you think they mean?

How old was John Marshall McIntosh when he died in 1877? _____ months and _____ days old.

Unfortunately, child mortality was very high then.

11. Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer

Walk east, back toward the centre of the road.

This monument (black granite) might be a little difficult to find. It is about 25 metres from the road, near a few trees.

Buried here is Ainsworth Dyer who grew up in Regent Park. He was a soldier and was killed by friendly fire in the early days of a war that took place in Central and South Asia. The country where he died is written on his tombstone. What is it? _____.

Answers: Western Quadrant

Answers are underlined.

1. Porte-Cochère

- Cars didn't exist in 1872. They are only accessible to the masses in the early 20th century, the Model T was released in 1908. Most of the vehicles were pulled by horses.
- The name of the gate gives us a clue.
- The French word cochère is the adjective associated with the name cocher. A cocher is a coachman.

2. Pebbles on Pillars

- Leaving pebbles on top of a tombstone is an old Jewish tradition. It has also been adopted by other cultures. It basically means "I was here and I remember!"
- People honour the dead by letting other visitors know that the gravesite has recently been visited.
- So any answer that comes close to this is good.

3. Carol Anne Letheren

- Carol Anne Letheren dedicated her life to the Olympic Movement.
- At the time of her death - suddenly from a brain aneurysm - she was the head of the Canadian Olympic Committee and a member of the International Olympic Committee.
- At the Seoul Olympics in 1988, she was the one who had to retrieve Ben Johnson's gold medal. He had been disqualified after testing positive for use of steroids.

4. Pink Granite Obelisk – The Blackburns

- Ancient Egyptians associated obelisks with Ra, the sun god (look closely — an obelisk looks like a ray of sun).
- Look at the pyramidion. It is a mini-pyramid. Pyramids in Egypt were giant tombs.
- The Blackburns were enslaved people in their home state of Kentucky.
- They escaped, making their way to Detroit and then Toronto.
- Once in the city, they were free and

established the first cab company in Toronto.

- They became wealthy. With their money, they helped several other American enslaved people cross into Canada through what was called the Underground Railroad.
- The monument is for Thornton Blackburn and his wife Lucy. Many other enslaved people they helped, who could not afford a plot, are also buried here but their names do not appear on the monument.

5. A Father of Confederation – George Brown

- George Brown was the publisher of The Globe, which in 1936 merged with the Mail & Empire to become the Globe and Mail.
- He became a politician and pushed for many important political ideals: representation by population at elections, better treatment of prisoners, etc.
- He was also involved in anti-slavery activities with his friend Thornton Blackburn. It is not an accident that they are neighbours in eternity.
- His grave marker is not the tall dark monument but the low one in grey granite just south of it.
- At the end of his political career, Brown went back to the Globe.
- One day, a drunk disgruntled employee who had been fired weeks before showed up in Brown's office and shot him. Brown was able to push the assailant's hand but was still hit in the thigh.
- Unfortunately, the wound became infected and gangrene developed.
- George Brown died a few weeks later on May 9, 1880.

6. Onward

- One monument in the Necropolis looks very different from the others.
- It is not very far from George Brown's grave, just a few metres northwest of it.

- It looks like (and is) a modern sculpture.
- There are many sculptures by this artist throughout Toronto. The largest one may be the one at the northeast corner of Church and Bloor streets. It is very similar: rectangles appearing to be tumbling forward. In the case of the one at Church and Bloor, the rectangles are enormous and made of stainless steel. Check it out the next time you are in that neighbourhood.
- The sculptor's name is Kosso Eloul. He was born in Russia. In Canada, he lived on Sherbourne Street, just a few blocks from here.
- He is one of the great Canadian sculptors of the 20th century and was married to the painter Rita Letendre.

7. Resting Place of Pioneers

- Cemeteries usually have a religious affiliation (e.g. an Anglican or Catholic cemetery).
- The Toronto Necropolis is a non-denominational cemetery. This means that anyone, regardless of their religious affiliation, can be buried here.
- The Necropolis is Toronto's second non-denominational cemetery and opened in 1850 to replace another cemetery that dated back to 1826 and had no more room. This first cemetery, which was at what is today Yonge and Bloor streets, was officially called the York (and then Toronto) General Burying Grounds. But most people knew of it under its common name: Potter's Field (it's the name used on the plaque).
- As the plaque says, Potter's Field closed in 1855 and the remains of hundreds of people were moved to the Necropolis and to the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. It took a couple of decades to complete the task.

8. Monument to Rebels

- The Toronto of the first half of the 19th century was very different from today.
- The government was led by an elite that

was remarkably self-serving.

- Of course they had opposition. This opposition culminated in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 when a group of rebels led by William Lyon Mackenzie tried to overturn the government.
- The Rebellion failed and many rebels were imprisoned.
- Wanting to “set an example” and avoid a repeat of the events, the Authorities decided to execute a couple of rebels by public hanging.
- Because of their rank, Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were chosen and hanged in April 1838 after their trial and many pleas for clemency.
- After their execution, they were first buried in Potter’s Field. The small plaque with their names on the ground in front of the big one was also moved here from Potter’s Field.
- They were called “rebels” by the then Authorities. But today, they are seen as martyrs and heroes to the cause of democracy in Canada. Were the rebels good guys or bad guys?
- Funerary monuments are often full of symbolism. For example, you may think that the column on top of the monument is broken. It is not. A broken column on a monument symbolized lives cut short.

9. Edward “Ned” Hanlan

- Imagine having to row your way to school on a boat every day from Toronto Islands to the mainland.
- That’s what Ned Hanlan had to do and it was great preparation for Ned to become a champion sculler.
- A movie of his life was made in the mid-1980s with Nicholas Cage playing the role of Ned Hanlan. The title is *The Boy in Blue*.
- After retiring from competition, Ned went into politics and was elected

Alderman (that’s the way City Councillors were called back then). He died in 1908 at age 52.

10. John M. McIntosh

- Life was tough in the 19th century. Families had many children and it was almost certain that a few would die before reaching adult age.
- Many died very young. We have an example here.
- You can see the name John Marshall McIntosh just under the lamb (symbolizing childhood).
- When he died, John Marshall McIntosh was 3 months and 14 days old.
- There are only a handful of zinc monuments spread through the cemetery.
- You could order your zinc monument “by catalogue.” You could choose the size, the various decorations, and have whatever you wanted written on the side.
- These monuments fell out of fashion because they always looked “new” while the stone monuments around them took on a nice patina and gravitas that suited a cemetery.

11. Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer

- Cpl. is short for Corporal.
- Ainsworth Dyer was born in Montreal in a family originally from Jamaica. He grew up down just the street from here in Regent Park.
- He enrolled in the Canadian Army. He died as a member of the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry in the Canadian Armed Forces.
- At the time, Canada was engaged in the war in Afghanistan.
- He was killed in a friendly fire incident. An American pilot mistakenly thought that he was firing on the enemy.

- Ainsworth was just 24.
- He was buried here with full military honours (gun salute, dignitaires, etc.). Hundreds of people were in attendance.