

The Necropolis Scavenger Hunt

Southern Border



Important: The Toronto Necropolis is a cemetery, not a park. Please be respectful: do not run and keep noise to a minimum. Please do not lean on, walk on, or touch the monuments. And, remember to follow any public health restrictions that are in place when you visit.

Directions: The the chapel and other buildings are on the south side of the cemetery. When entering the Necropolis, you are facing north, west is to your left and east is to your right (toward the Don Valley).



This scavenger hunt was designed to help people discover the Toronto Necropolis. There is no “prize” to win other than gaining a better understanding of our history. But 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 as well as local residents whose lives have had an impact on the city, the country, and, in some cases, the world.

Route: This hunt covers the southern border of the Necropolis, from Sumach Street along Winchester Street to the east end slope which goes down toward the Don Valley.

1. German Nobility

This plaque is flat on the ground almost in the SW corner of the cemetery (second row from Sumach, about 10 plots from the fence along Winchester Street). Ernest and Olga are buried here. It turns out that Ernest was a Baron. He was born in _____.

2. The Hass-Gibbons Monument

Walk east about 20 yards and you’ll notice a strange-looking marker. It looks like a tree stump carved in stone. Most of the words written on it are worn away but we can still see the first names of a husband and a wife. The wife’s name is _____ and the husband’s name is _____.



3. A Giant Urn

Continue walking east another 20 yards or so. You will see a giant urn. How many handles does it have? It has _____ handles.



4. A Literary Giant

Walk east, toward the chapel. About 50 feet from the chapel and another 50 feet north of the fence, you will find the grave of Josef Škvorecký. He was born in a country that no longer exists. He died on _____, 2012.



5. A WWI Hero

This grave is near the previous one but closer to the fence and the chapel, under an evergreen. It is a typical military monument. Arthur Roy Brown is actually buried in an unmarked grave a few yards from this monument which was only installed a few years ago. That is why the inscription reads “Within this Cemetery.” The symbol at the top of the monument should help you determine that Brown was a _____ during the First World War. But be careful, there’s a monument for another soldier named Brown nearby.



6. The “Father” Of New Cabbagetown

Walk east and cross the road to the other side of the chapel. The next monument is a plaque on the ground. Darrell Kent was a man of _____. Why do you think? Notice the half-circle at the top of his monument. It is a sunburst, a popular pattern for stained glass or gable woodwork in Victorian homes. Darrell Kent ran a successful real estate firm and the sunburst was his logo.



7. The Leader of the Opposition

Walk toward the NE for about 80 feet. This monument is easy to spot as it is the only *bust* in the cemetery. Jack Layton had a close connection to Toronto. He was involved in City politics and, in 1991, ran (unsuccessfully) to become Mayor of Toronto before jumping into the federal arena in 2003. In 2011, as NDP Leader, he ran a successful campaign that saw his party become the Official Opposition for the first time in its history. Cancer forced him to step aside and he died shortly thereafter in August 2011. According to him, being loving, hopeful and optimistic would change the _____.



8. Famous Song

Walk in a diagonal toward the fence for about 100 feet. Find the grave of Eduardo Fujisaki Dela Cruz who died in 1992. Its a flat bronze marker near the fence. A poem is written on the marker. Those lines are actually the lyrics of a famous 1980s song. The song title is _____ and it was used in the popular movie entitled _____.



9. More Than Friends

Go back toward the road. Find two triangular-shaped grave markers. They are not side by side but about 10 feet from each other. One shows an English name with a quote in French while the other shows a French name with a quotation in English. Both quotations mean “More than friends.” What kind of relationship do you think these people had?



10. Finding a Dinosaur

Nearby, about halfway between the road and the fence, you'll find the dark grey Tyrrell monument. Joseph Burr Tyrrell was a geologist, surveyor, cartographer, and mining consultant. He was he first to find dinosaur bones in Canada. Mary _____ was the name of his wife.



11. Victim of a Tragedy

Locate the refuse receptacle by the road. About 10 feet to its southwest, you will find a partially covered flat marker with the word *Christina* written across. In the middle do the monument, you can see the family name which is: _____.



12. Intriguing Headstone

Walking east towards the fence, you will notice a strange looking monument. It is a round stone with four “ears” sticking out. However, the strangeness is resolved once you look at its side facing east. Louisa Murchie is buried here. She was ____ when she died.



13. A Lost Captain

Walk further east in line with where the road bends north to find the large light grey Carmichael monument. Charles Carmichael was the Captain of a ship that did regular trips on the Great Lakes. The name of his ship was _____.



14. A Monument on a Mausoleum

This one is easy to find. It is a mausoleum - a free standing building in which deceased people are interred - at the SE corner of the cemetery. A monument was added onto it likely because, although large, the mausoleum is down the slope toward Riverdale Park and almost invisible. The Knowles family is interred here. The monument on top of the mausoleum includes the statue of a woman. The woman is leaning against an _____. The word _____ means “I will rise again” in English.



15. A Remarkable Woman with a Green Thumb

Just north of the Knowles mausoleum is a monument surrounded by a triangular fence. Walk north beyond that fence. About 20 feet from the end of the fence, to the right, you will see a monument that looks like a stone box. It is the grave of Alice Eastwood who was a

Answers: Southern Border

Answers are underlined.

1. German Nobility

- Ernest von Heimrod was born in 1910 in Anhalt-Dessau near Leipzig in Germany.
- Ernest was the illegitimate great-grandson of William I, Elector of Hesse. An Elector was a prince who had a right to participate in the election of the German king.
- Ernest was wealthy when he moved to Toronto. He invested in real estate but eventually lost almost everything in a real estate crash.

2. The Hass-Gibbons Monument

- The resting place of Elizabeth Gibbons (died 1924 at 89) and her husband Frederick Hass (1829-1899) has an unusual marker.
- They had a two sons who died young (age 4 and 11).
- The small stump or tree trunk might symbolize the brevity of life.
- The number of broken branches appearing on the tree trunk often indicate deceased family members buried at that site.
- “Rustic” monuments linked to nature were popular in the late 19th century.

3. A Giant Urn

- We don’t know anything about this unusual urn.
- It has three handles, each anchored within a laurel wreath.
- Laurel wreaths can represent victory, distinction, eternity or immortality.

4. A Literary Giant

- Josef Škvorecký was born in 1924 and died on January 3, 2012.
- He was from Czechoslovakia which was dissolved in 1993 to become two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
- After the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968, Škvorecký came to Toronto with his wife.
- He was a well-known writer and publisher, publishing from his home on Sackville Street banned Czech and Slovak books that were then smuggled back into communist Eastern Europe.

5. A WWI Hero

- Arthur Roy Brown was a pilot during the First World War.
- Brown was an ace pilot and is credited with downing, after a long chase in the skies, the German pilot Manfred von Richthofen also known as the infamous ‘Red

Baron’ in the skies over northern France in 1918.

- However, Brown’s downing of the Baron is disputed by the Australians who were also shooting at Richthofen from the ground.
- We will likely never know who actually shot down the Red Baron but the fact remains that Brown played a crucial role.
- After the war, Brown lived a quiet life, running a small airline and a farm.
- He wanted to join the Air Force during WWII but was rejected.
- He was not deemed fit, likely due to the injuries he received during WWI.

6. The “Father” of the New Cabbagetown

- Early in the 20th century, Cabbagetown had become a slum.
- By the late 1970s, some realtors saw the potential in this untouched and aging stock of Victorian homes.
- Darrell Kent bought rundown homes, renovated them, and sold them.
- He is considered the driving force behind Cabbagetown’s “renaissance.”
- He was a man of vision.
- He was also a great philanthropist supporting various community causes in the neighbourhood.

7. The Leader of the Opposition

- On his death bed, Jack Layton wrote a *Letter to Canadians*.
- It is a love letter to the country and its inhabitants.
- A few lines from the letter are written on his monument: “Let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we’ll change the world.”
- The bust was created by Olivia Chow, wife of Layton and a sculptor, as part of her grieving process. She was also a politician.
- She put a smile on his face and he is purposely looking at visitors at eye level.

8. Famous Song

- The words on the marker are a lyrics from the song *It Might Be You* by Stephen Bishop.
- It is the main theme of the movie *Tootsie* released in 1982.

9. More Than Friends

- We have no information on Richard MacDonald and Jean-Denis Lacroix.
- But the type of marker they chose and the years of their death are very telling.
- The “more than friend” quotation appears to signify that they were life partners.
- This is enhanced by the symbolic triangle that has

long been associated with the gay community.

- The late 1980s and the early 1990s was the height of the AIDS epidemic.

10. Finding a Dinosaur

- In the 1880s, the Canadian Government had ordered the construction of the Trans Canada railway.
- Joseph Tyrrell had been hired to find coal in Alberta. Coal was necessary to fuel the train engines of the day.
- During his search near Drumheller in Alberta, he encountered a strange rock which turned out to be the skull of a dinosaur, subsequently named *Albertosaurus*.
- It was the first dinosaur fossil to be found in Canada. Many others would be found later.
- At the turn of the century, he had made himself and others rich, by finding gold in the Klondike.
- He owned an orchard in Scarborough. This orchard is now occupied by the Toronto Zoo.

11. Victim of a Tragedy

- Christina Drummond died at age 11 in 1860.
- Her brother John is also buried here.
- John was killed in the Humber Railway Disaster.
- Before daybreak on January 2, 1884, a Grand Trunk Railway freight train

and a suburban commuter train collided near the southern edge of High Park in Toronto. The scene was horrible.

- Twenty nine people died in the disaster.
- John died of his injuries a few days later on January 11.

12. Intriguing Headstone

- Looking at the monument from the east, you realize that the circle contains a cross and in the spaces between the arms of the cross are hearts.
- Above these hearts are protruding “ears” that contain carved stylized oak leaves. These leaves represent strength, endurance, strength, and virtue.
- This is the grave of Louisa Murchie who was 23 when she died.

13. A Lost Captain

- Charles Carmichael was the Captain of the steamer *Bavarian*.
- On November 5, 1873, the ship left Toronto, headed to Montreal.
- It had six passengers and 30 crew members.
- Around 8:00 pm that evening, someone yelled *Fire!* It spread quickly.
- There were issues with the lifeboats and, in the end, 14 people died, including Captain Carmichael. He was 42.

14. A Monument on a Mausoleum

- This is the mausoleum of the Knowles family.
- Henry A. Knowles was born in Guelph in 1839.
- He moved to Toronto in 1864 and opened a drug store at Yonge and Wood Streets, which he operated for 30 years.
- His wife, Mary, was a Playter who were early settlers of York County.
- The woman on top of the monument is leaning against an urn.
- Although people were rarely cremated in Victorian times, the urns on Victorian monuments do reference ancient Greek and Roman cultures that did cremate their dead. Urns showed that people were cultured and knew the Classics.
- Look around in the cemetery and you'll see many urns also have shrouds on top of them.
- The shroud represents the "veil" separating the living from the dead.
- The latin word Resurgam written on the monument means *I Shall Rise Again*.
- At the time, it was frowned upon for women to get an education was frowned upon, so Alice was a self-taught scientist who became one of the great botanists of her age.
- She explored regions of the West that made for difficult traveling, negotiating unfavourable terrain. She fashioned a skirt that could be buttoned in the centre to make pants.
- She was the Curator of the Department of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences.
- She has 300 publications to her name. There are currently 17 recognized species named for Eastwood, as well as the genera *Eastwoodia* and *Aliciella*.
- Having spent most of her life in the United States, it is interesting to see that Alice was buried in the City where she was born.

15. A Remarkable Woman With a Green Thumb

- Alice Eastwood was born in Toronto in 1859 but spent her teenage years in Colorado.