

# St. Mary and St. Stanislaus Kostka Cemeteries

Wilno, ON K0J 2N0



## Report on Cemetery Activities 2023 and Plans for 2024

January 2024

The Statement of Finances for 2023 on the reverse side reflects the current status of our Cemetery Accounts. The Cemetery Committee met three times in 2023 to review activities and plan for the future.

### **Comments on 2023 Statement of Finances Items**

1. The groundkeeper wages may seem high from the \$520 of 2022 but the 2023 number reflects some of the wages from that year as well.
2. The big expenditure of \$25,000 for the columbarium downpayment was needed to proceed with our commitment for installation in 2024. The balance of the cost of the columbarium will come from some of our invested GIC certificates.

### **Cemetery Activities**

1. One of the three meetings that the Cemetery Committee had in 2023 was to do a Safety Audit of St. Mary's Cemetery next to the church. As a result, we reset quite a few dials to their bases to secure them from toppling over. These Safety Audits are mandated by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, the provincial governing body for cemeteries. If you receive a notice about your family's monument needing attention please do not be alarmed. The main reason is to ensure the safety of you, and the public, when visiting our cemeteries (not to mention looks). Remedial work done now will not only ensure safety for everyone but avoid more costly and extensive repair work in the future.
2. Our grounds keeper cleaned over 60 monuments at the request of parishioners and friends. If you would like to have a family monument cleaned this year please let Dave know at 613-756-2924. The cost is minimal and he does a great job.
3. Through a Campbell-Craft grant of \$7,132 we were able to get numerous repairs done on monuments at St Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery. Broken parts were reattached and bases of monuments straightened. Our cost was 25% of that, at \$1783. We are hoping that we can receive another grant to replace three unsalvageable monuments with flat marker monuments at St Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery in 2024. We thank Campbell Monuments for this funding assistance in maintaining the integrity of our monuments.
4. Lawrence made a large number of crosses for new installations and replacements for St Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery. The names have been engraved and after pressure treating they will be installed this spring. Speaking of crosses, if you wish to have a temporary cross installed before a permanent monument is placed, we can provide an engraved one at minimal cost. We encourage interment rights owners to have these crosses up temporarily (ie, short term)
5. We are grateful for two donations. We received a laptop from Ray and Dorothy to run the CNC machine we purchased, and heavy equipment work performed by Mike Murack to remove the unsightly cedars that were engulfing the entrance monument to St Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery. And on the topic of donations, the cemeteries again benefited from generous support from you parishioners and others. This sure helps with regular maintenance in soil replacement, seeding and safety remediation. Funds from donations augment our operating funds which come only from sale of *Interment Rights* and interest from investments. To make it easy to donate "In Memory" or "In Honour" of someone, you can download a Donation Form from our webpage at [stmaryswilno.com/cemeteries.html](https://www.stmaryswilno.com/cemeteries.html), eTransfer to [stmaryscemeteries@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscemeteries@gmail.com), or simply place your donation in an envelope, with details, and drop in the collection basket. All donors will receive a Tax Deductible receipt.

### **Other Topics**

Our big project in 2024 will be the installation of the columbarium at St Mary Cemetery. A concrete base will be going in at the beginning of the summer when ground water is not a factor. We have had great interest in the columbarium and if you wish to get in on the top floor, so to speak, please let one of the cemetarians listed below know. The prices will be scaled with the top two rows being a fraction more expensive than the bottom niches. The attraction for this method of interment is that you would realize a considerable cost saving as a granite monument, or marker, for your lot would not be needed.

Discussion is taking place to install an information kiosk at St Stanislaus Kostka Cemetery. We receive numerous visitors at the cemetery and since those grounds harbour an incredible history for a century and half, it seems beneficial to have a way to recognize the important significance of this sacred place. Materials for the structure have already been donated.

The Cemetery Committee is most thankful to all our parishioners and friends for the donations received in 2023 and in the past. You can rest assured that the funds will be used wisely for the enhancement and care of our cemeteries.

Navigate to <https://www.stmaryswilno.com/cemeteries.html> for info on cemeteries and minutes of committee meetings.

In closing, please reach out to one of our Cemetarians if you have any questions about cemetery operations or concerns, or something to suggest. They are Julie Ann Yaskolskie, Christine Recoskie, Richard Shulist, Lawrence Coulas, David Burchat or Ed Chippior. Each one of us is engaged in making this aspect of our parish work effectively. We hope you feel our cemeteries are being well looked after. Our email is [stmaryscemeteries@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscemeteries@gmail.com)