

The cemetery in Osler is operated and maintained by Osler Mennonite Church. This cemetery has been in use for more than 75 years and we believe it has been well maintained and has provided a beautiful and peaceful setting for remembering those who have passed on and have been buried there. The Trustees Committee of Osler Mennonite Church supported by the Church Council has developed and carried out a plan to further beautify the cemetery and make it easier to maintain. The information that follows describes the project that has been carried out and we encourage those who have friends or relatives buried there to support the project and take this opportunity to make improvements to the gravesites of their loved ones.

At the start of the project the cemetery contained a wide variety of headstones, with or without grave covers and at varying levels of repair or disrepair. Several years ago a policy was established to discontinue the use of grave covers and to encourage families to remove covers that are there. This was done both to allow easier maintenance and to eliminate the unsightly result of them sinking, which inevitably happens. Some grave covers were removed but many remained. There was also a concern that many headstones were sinking or twisting into a crooked position as they settled.

In order to eliminate the type of problem described above the church undertook a Cemetery Improvement Project which involved the installation of a 2 ft. wide strip of concrete along the head of each row of graves. This provides a solid base on which headstones can be mounted. While this was being done, existing grave covers were removed and existing headstones placed on the concrete strip. In some cases there were no headstones or the markers were illegible. In such cases a new marker with basic information will be prepared and placed on the concrete strip at the head of the grave. The space between the concrete strips will be planted to grass. Although all of the improvements are not yet complete, the changes can be seen by visiting the cemetery. A picture showing a couple of the rows after the improvements is shown below.

In addition to making improvements to the graves (headstones) of their loved ones, we would also like to encourage families to consider a donation to the project to help cover the costs that are being incurred. This is a project of the church and no one is being "charged" for the improvements so any donations made to the project will be eligible for charitable donation receipts. For information purposes the cost of the project has been approximately \$60 per foot of concrete strip that was poured or about \$240 per grave.

The project is being headed up by Joe Guenther and any questions about it can be directed to him (phone 306-239-4689). Should you wish to make a donation to the project please make cheques payable to Osler Mennonite Church and mark them as being for the "Cemetery Improvement Project". They can be mailed to:

The Treasurer
Osler Mennonite Church
P.O. Box 129
Osler, SK
S0K 3A0

We hope you will agree that these changes will be helpful in beautifying the cemetery and making it easier to maintain so the memory of those buried there will endure.



Update – Sept. 20, 2010

In early September when the mud in the cemetery dried up, further work was done in leveling the areas between the concrete strips at the head of each row of graves. Topsoil was added and grass was planted in these areas and the grass is starting to emerge. As indicated above, headstones that were already in place before the renovation have been placed on the concrete strips. Where the markers were in the concrete “pillows” as part of a grave cover or where the markers were illegible or seriously damaged by weathering, such markers could not be salvaged and families are strongly encouraged to purchase enduring headstones which are designed to be permanent and able to withstand weathering. A check with local companies from whom such markers can be purchased indicates that the prices begin at about \$150 for a small, simple marker. In the meantime, any gravesites which do not have a headstone have been marked with a temporary marker identifying who is buried there.

The pictures below show the cemetery after the areas were leveled, topsoil was added and grass was planted. The cemetery is again starting to look very attractive and will look even better as the grass grows. We encourage you to visit the cemetery and arrange for permanent markers for your family members buried there if they aren't already in place.

