



Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Spring Report April 2006

Spring! At last! It is the time of renewal and new beginnings and we watch our communities shrug off winter and turn green and we marvel at the sight of our landscapes bursting forth with flowers. We trust and hope that 2005 was a good year for you and that 2006 is even better for you and your family.

2005 was a busy year for **The Friends**. We were thankful for the construction of the stone retaining wall along the riverbank because it proved its worth in late May and June. The unusually heavy rains caused the Red River to flood and the water levels reached heights on the riverbank that have not been seen in a very long time. Our stone wall saved us from horrific damage. We once again gave thanks for the foresight of the City and Province in helping us stabilize the riverbank.

Should you be traveling along the road that runs parallel to the river, you will see a number of large wood structures mounted high up in some of our trees. They are wood duck houses that were built and erected by a group of grade five and six students from a local school. The students will come in the spring and fall to clean these nests and observe the wood ducks. Please be on the lookout for these lovely ducks.

We are currently in discussions with another group of children and their teachers about developing a Monarch butterfly garden. This butterfly is a species of concern and The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Region, is offering schools help in developing gardens where this beautiful creature can grow and perpetuate. Hopefully, we will soon see Monarchs flitting about our cemetery.

The aforementioned spring rains caused extensive flooding in the eastern part of the cemetery. Hardest hit were sections 18 and 19, where the water remained standing until early fall. We took remedial steps to raise foot markers and level and seed gravesites, but we have to do additional improvements. These will be done during the fall months. Should you have any questions about this area of the cemetery, please drop into the office and we will listen to your concerns.

We purchased a small John Deere tractor for ground maintenance and snow removal. We used this tractor on the remedial repairs in section 18 and 19 and it allowed us to clear the roads of snow in a timely manner during the winter months. This little tractor has allowed **The Friends** to provide a better service to you and the cemetery grounds.

We will be celebrating Mother's Day on May 14 and invite you to visit the cemetery. We will have a number of potted mums for sale and look forward to greeting you between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

A number of people have made contributions to **The Friends** in memory of a friend or family member. We have informed the family of the deceased of the gift in memory of their loved one. We have now developed a beautiful card of remembrance and should you choose to make a donation in memory of a friend or loved one, we will send this card along with any message of your choosing to the remembered family.

Just a reminder - we are offering two programs for enhancing gravesites. **The Friends** have established a long-term care program that consists of an annual inspection of the gravesite, planting of flowers, leveling of the gravesite as needed and raising foot markers when required. By making a one-time payment to **The Friends**, you can ensure that your concerns will be addressed forever. We also provide this same service on an annual basis for a modest fee. For further information on either program, please contact the office at 204-667-9481.

Do you have any thoughts, ideas or comments about what we do or should be doing in the cemetery? We would be pleased to hear from you. Drop into the office, drop us a line, or speak to Mr. Charlie Birt, our Executive Director, at 204-663-6991.

Have a great summer.

Board of Directors
The Friends of Elmwood Cemetery Inc.