

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE

THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE was established in 1991 to advise the Town on the operation, maintenance and preservation of Jaffrey's public cemeteries: Conant, The Old Burying Ground, Cutter, Cutter Extension and Phillips-Heil (also the inactive cemeteries, Village and Smallpox). It is composed of representatives of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Historical Society, Cournoyer Funeral Home, the Board of Selectmen and three appointed Members at Large. Town employees Randy Heglin, Rick Forcier and Peachie Chalke assist the Committee in its work.

CEMETERY STATISTICS FOR 2008

Available Lots:	Conant	Phillips	Phillips-Heil	Cutter	Cutter Extension	Old Burying Ground
Burial (double)	352	0	80	0	29*	0
Cremation	23	21	30	0	131*	0
<u>Sale of Lots:</u>						
Burial (double)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Burial (single)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cremation	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Burials:</u>						
Full	2	0	0	2	1	0
Cremation	3	2	0	4	0	4
Disinterment	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Section I only.

During 2008 the Committee met six times with Town staff to discuss operation, budget and maintenance issues, to participate in work sessions or to undertake inspections and cleanups. Each cemetery is overseen by a member of the Committee. This oversight involves inspecting the cemetery from time to time and reporting on conditions and problems at Committee meetings.

A Cemetery Trees Fund was established at the 2007 Town Meeting. At last year's Town Meeting, \$3,000 was added to the original \$5,000 (and \$500 in private contributions). The present balance is \$8,624. This fund has paid for the removal of a very large dead maple tree in the Old Burying Ground. Treework is planned for this Spring at Phillips-Heil and Conant Cemeteries.

This past Fall, repair to headstones and lot curbing in Conant and Cutter Cemeteries was undertaken by the Kaufhold Family Memorials & Stone Works of Peterborough. Additional stone straightening was also done by volunteers, mainly in the Old Burying Ground.

Phase III of the volunteer effort of restoring the iron fencing surrounding John Conant's grave at the cemetery named for him was undertaken by members of the Committee and others. Two sections were scraped and partially painted. With luck this project will reach the half-way point in 2009. Anyone wishing to help out for a two- or three-hour work session should contact a member of the Committee.

On November 13th the Committee and Public Works staff visited all active cemeteries and removed all unauthorized materials from gravesites. This was preceded by newspaper advertisements and signs posted at each cemetery. This is now done annually after October 31st.

Residents and lot owners are reminded that the Town's *Cemetery Rules & Regulations* and *A Guide to the Public Cemeteries of Jaffrey* are available from the Department of Public Works and on the Town website at <http://town.jaffrey.nh.us>.

The Ice Storm of December 11th & 12th resulted in many tree branches coming down in all the Town's cemeteries. At least two headstones were broken at the Old Burying Ground and one at Phillips-Heil. Portions of the fencing at Conant were damaged. A considerable amount of cleaning-up will be required when conditions permit.

The contract for maintaining Jaffrey's cemeteries and other public spaces was advertised in December. The Committee looks forward to working with the winning bidder.

The Committee thanks those volunteers who have shown an interest in Jaffrey cemeteries by devoting their time and attention to their care and maintenance over the past year.

And lastly, the Committee looks forward in 2009 to 1) improving cemetery record keeping including computerization; 2) continuing the restoration of the iron fencing around John Conant's grave; and 3) finding ways and means to remove several aged trees posing a hazard in the Old Burying Ground and to maintain and replace trees in the Town's other cemeteries.

For front matter of Town Report:

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Donald Cramb, Member at Large (Conant Overseer)	Term expires 2010
Cynthia Hamilton, Member at Large (Cutter Overseer)	Term expires 2010
Thomas Rothermel, Member at Large (Phillips-Heil Overseer)	Term expires 2011
Randyl Cournoyer	Cournoyer Funeral Home
Vacant	{ American Legion Representative
	{ V.F.W. Representative
Robert B. Stephenson (Old Burying Ground Overseer)	Historical Society Representative
Donald MacIsaac	Selectmen's Representative

NOTE: Because of space we've not included names in the main entry, although this can be added if the editor wishes.