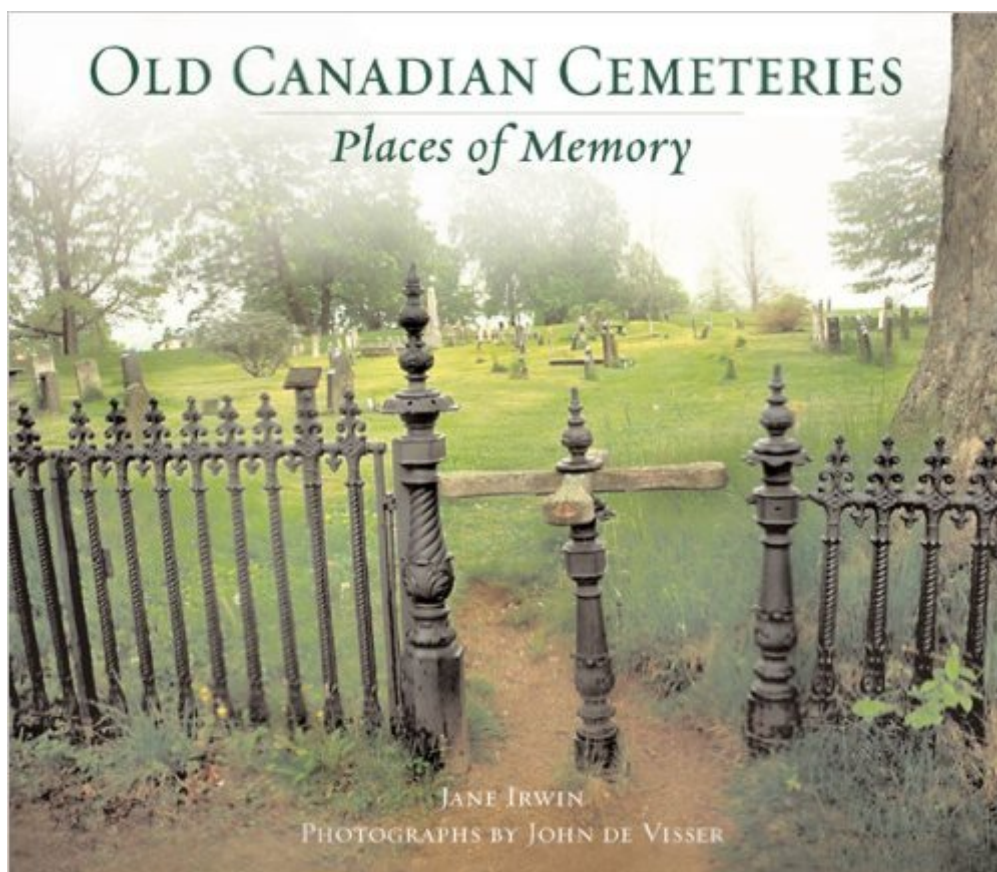


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Old Canadian Cemeteries: Places Of Memory



Synopsis

Canada abounds in historical burial places. Once you begin noticing their presence, old cemeteries seem to be everywhere. But these important links to the past are in danger of disappearing forever. The expansion of cities and roadways reclaim valuable land, and inscriptions are worn away by weather and time. Older cemeteries may be important records of immigration, settlement, armed forces, epidemics, class and religious schisms, and upward mobility of ethnic groups. In *Old Canadian Cemeteries*, Jane Irwin invites the reader on a visual tour of historic cemeteries across Canada, examining such diverse topics as: Burial traditions, including customs from Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Ukrainian, Quaker, Pioneer, Acadian, Chinese, Japanese, Inuit, First Nations and African-American cemeteries War memorials Graveyard symbols and motifs, and their meanings Materials used in cemeteries-stone, wood, bronze and cast iron Historic graveyard conservation. *Old Canadian Cemeteries* is a must for anyone interested in Canadian history.

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Customer Reviews

I developed an interest in cemeteries over 50 years ago while in the army. We were taking Driver Training and other training which meant we were off in the countryside. Naturally, when mealtimes arrived, instead of returning to base, a meal truck would arrive to serve noon meals. Often the location chosen would be a country church which had a fairly large parking area, being a weekday, it would be empty, and it almost always had a cemetery beside it. The noon break would be an hour, and once the meal was completed, I would stroll in the cemetery. It was fascinating to read the tombstones which gave much interesting information about the community and the people who lived there, and

had been laid to rest. It brought home the struggles the families went through just to survive things like several in a family dying in a few days with epidemics, young wives dying in childbirth, miners dying in cave-ins, fishermen "lost at sea", graves of those "killed in action" in various wars, graves of Firemen, famous people, large percentages of children and babies dying from sickness, and even those hardy or fortunate people who actually survived to ripe old ages of 90 and more. Along with all that it was very interesting to see the symbols and various forms the grave markers took and the materials used. There were many that were simple wood markers, long since fallen into decay as well as elaborate monuments and crypts. Sometimes we would come across abandoned sites where the town or village had long since vanished and the cemetery had fallen into disrepair. We would often come across an assemblage of "stones" that families had rescued from cemeteries that had been overgrown and they had collected the markers together to create a remembrance.

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