

H I N G H A M

C E M E T E R Y



Established circa 1672

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December 2006

Dear Friends,

If you have been a regular visitor to the Hingham Cemetery during the last 5 years, you will have noticed many changes and improvements. Today, after completion of our restoration program for over 450 Victorian headstones and years of tree pruning and replanting, the Cemetery looks much as it must have looked at the turn of the last century when the hand-carved, marble headstones and monuments were new. We are most grateful to the Wilder Charitable and Educational Fund for its generous funding of the monument restoration program, and we are delighted to publicly acknowledge their support. We are equally grateful to you, our friends in the community who have helped make possible other major improvements, such as the Memorial Garden, road paving and landscaping. All these improvements sustain the Cemetery's purpose as a cemetery and park to be used by the people of Hingham.

In 2006, the Cemetery continued planning for the new landscaping at the South Street entrance and along the train right of way – work that will be completed in 2007 when the train construction is finished. Funding for this project is from our settlement with the MBTA. We were also pleased to help with the town's proposed new park at our South Street entrance by donating the services of our landscape architect to work with the committee designing the park. In addition, we planted daffodil bulbs along the bank seen from Station Street and continued our tree maintenance program.

Our next big project, begun this year, is to address years of deferred maintenance of the Chapel, our beautiful 1887 structure now used as an office. It was originally built for funeral services when the custom often was to have services at the cemetery. We have not yet determined the scope or the cost of the Chapel restoration, which will depend on our fund-raising abilities as well as the planned use of the building. First, we will address the Chapel's most pressing repairs while we define the full project. This year we made the windows and roof weather-tight. We also have had the Chapel's stained-glass window restored and it is ready to be replaced once other repairs are finished.

Now it is time to appeal to you again. We are fortunate to have an endowment and income from lot sales sufficient to fund operating costs – but financial support from our friends and neighbors is critical to fund restoration and improvements. All donations are used to maintain our 16-acre property, to make improvements and to restore our historic monuments and arboretum. All donations are tax deductible. We thank you for your past interest and hope you will continue your generous support of Hingham Cemetery.

Sincerely,

Mary Josephs Reilly
President