

Repairing the stone walls



2022 - 2025

with donations by local members

Work carried out by Mick Bettany

History

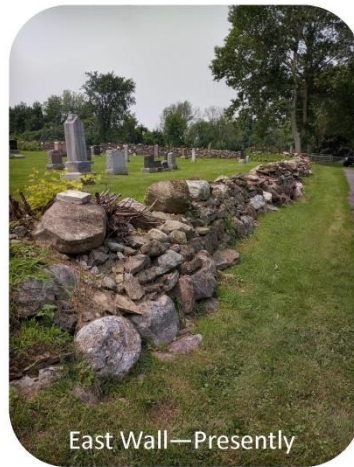


- ❧ The rock walls that surrounds the old cemetery at the Salem United Church Cemetery have degraded over the years.
- ❧ As a result, in 2021, the Cemetery Committee decided to repair the rock fence wall. This involved a fundraising campaign and a 3 year work phase being carried out by Mick Bettany.
- ❧ The Committee was able to raise the total funds for the wall project with local support.

Fundraising Letter sent to community members.

-WE NEED YOUR HELP! -

SALEM UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY CEMETERY EAST STONE WALL PROJECT



East Wall—Presently

After much deliberation, the Salem United Church Cemetery Committee has decided to hire a stone mason, **Mr. Michael Bettany**, to rebuild the Cemetery's east stone wall.

This will be **Phase 1** of a two-phase project. Mick plans to begin in early spring 2022 and to have the work completed by December 2022. He will completely rebuild the wall on the existing footprint.

At this time, the Committee has not committed to Phase 2 – the repair of the north and west cemetery stone walls which would cost an additional \$15,000. However, depending on the success of fundraising and on the completion of Phase 1, it may be a consideration for the future.

Phase 1 will cost **\$15,000** for materials and labour. Although this is a significant amount of money and necessitates targeted fundraising, the east wall is most in need of attention. Lot holders and members of the community alike have expressed disappointment over its slow deterioration, most evident in the past several years.

The stone wall is a familiar feature of the Cemetery. It is not meant to prevent visitors from freely entering the Cemetery to pay their respects to those buried there. Rather, it is designed to serve as the symbolic guardian of a sacred space.

If you can provide financial support, please make your **cheque** payable to **Salem United Church Cemetery Association** and either give it to a Committee member or send it to:

Ms. Christine Jeffrey, Treasurer,
Salem United Church Cemetery Association
Box 411, Lancaster, ON K0C 1N0

Please indicate in the 'memo' line or in an attached note that it is for the Cemetery Stone Wall Project. Please provide your name and address. A **tax receipt** will be issued.

Your donations to support this project and for the ongoing maintenance of Summerstown's historic Salem United Church Community Cemetery are much-appreciated. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Chair, **Walter MacLean** at 613-933-3931 or via email to: wmaclean@g-m-c.on.ca

Thank you,

Salem United Church Cemetery Committee Members for 2022

Walter MacLean, Diane Lunan, Christine Jeffrey, Sheila Casgrain, Blain McMath,
Ian Kentell, Al Cooper, Shawn White, Sue DeRochie and Rev. John Noordhof

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 13, 2022

Maintaining our Historical Roots

SUMMERSTOWN: The first non-indigenous settlers to this area, the United Empire Loyalists, arrived in 1784. As they began to clear land, build log houses and farms; their first need as a community was for a church and a burial ground.

From about 1787, Rev. John Bethune began to minister to the Summerstown settlers, and in 1804 Loyalist James Clark conveyed one acre of land by Deed to Rev. Bethune for use as a community cemetery and to provide a site for a church. In fact, the cemetery had been in use for years before that, and the church has been a site for worship and a hub of community activity since.

Over the years, the stone wall surrounding the original cemetery has slowly deteriorated. It is a familiar feature of the Cemetery. It is not meant to prevent visitors from entering to pay their respects to those buried there, but, rather, it is designed to serve as the symbolic guardian of a sacred space.

The Cemetery Committee responsible for this community cemetery has decided to maintain the walls and has hired a local stonemason, Michael Bettany to restore the east wall first. The work began in late spring 2022 with completion of Phase 1 by year end.

"This is a two-year project" explained Walter MacLean, Committee chair. "We are presently fundraising to fund the substantial cost of the repairs to all three stone walls and the repair of many historic markers on the cemetery grounds."

If you can provide much-appreciated financial support for this project and for the ongoing maintenance of Summerstown's historic Salem United Church Community Cemetery, please make your cheque payable to Salem United Church Cemetery Association. A tax receipt will be issued. For additional information, please contact Walter MacLean at 613-933-3931 or via email: wmaclean@gm-c.on.ca

- 30 -

PHOTO: Chair Walter MacLean with builder Mick Bettany

Stories sent to Glengarry News & Seaway News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28th, 2022

Cemetery East Wall is Completed

With much financial assistance from the community, we are happy to announce that the work was undertaken this summer by stonemason Mick Bettany to restore the east wall of Salem United Church in Summerstown is back to its grandeur.

"We are very pleased with the work" says Walter MacLean, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. "As a result, the Committee has given the green light for Mick to continue working on the north and west walls which also require some adjustments."

The stone walls are designed to serve as the symbolic guardian of a sacred space. Visitors are most welcome to enter the cemetery to pay their respects to those buried there.

Again, a fundraising campaign is taking place to help offset the costs of the project. If you can provide much-appreciated financial support for this project and for the ongoing maintenance of Summerstown's historic Salem United Church Community Cemetery, please make your cheque payable to Salem United Church Cemetery Association. A tax receipt will be issued. For additional information, please contact Chris Jeffrey at 613-931-2430 or via email at: jeffrey.christine.m@gmail.com

- 30 -

PHOTOS: The completed east wall with widened roadway & the north wall requiring work.

Maintaining Our Historical Roots

July 20, 2022 – Changed at 14 h 04 min on July 19, 2022

Reading time: 1 min 30 s

Salem United Church Community Cemetery



(Photo : Salem United Church Community Cemetery)

SUMMERSTOWN, Ontario – The first non-indigenous settlers to this area, the United Empire Loyalists, arrived in 1784. As they began to clear land, build log houses and farms; their first need as a community was for a church and a burial ground.

From about 1787, Rev. John Bethune began to minister to the Summerstown settlers, and in 1804 Loyalist James Clark conveyed one acre of land by Deed to Rev. Bethune for use as a community cemetery and to provide a site for a church. In fact, the cemetery had been in use for years before that, and the church has been a site for worship and a hub of community activity since.

Over the years, the stone wall surrounding the original cemetery has slowly deteriorated. It is a familiar feature of the Cemetery. It is not meant to prevent visitors from entering to pay their respects to those buried there, but, rather, it is designed to serve as the symbolic guardian of a sacred space.

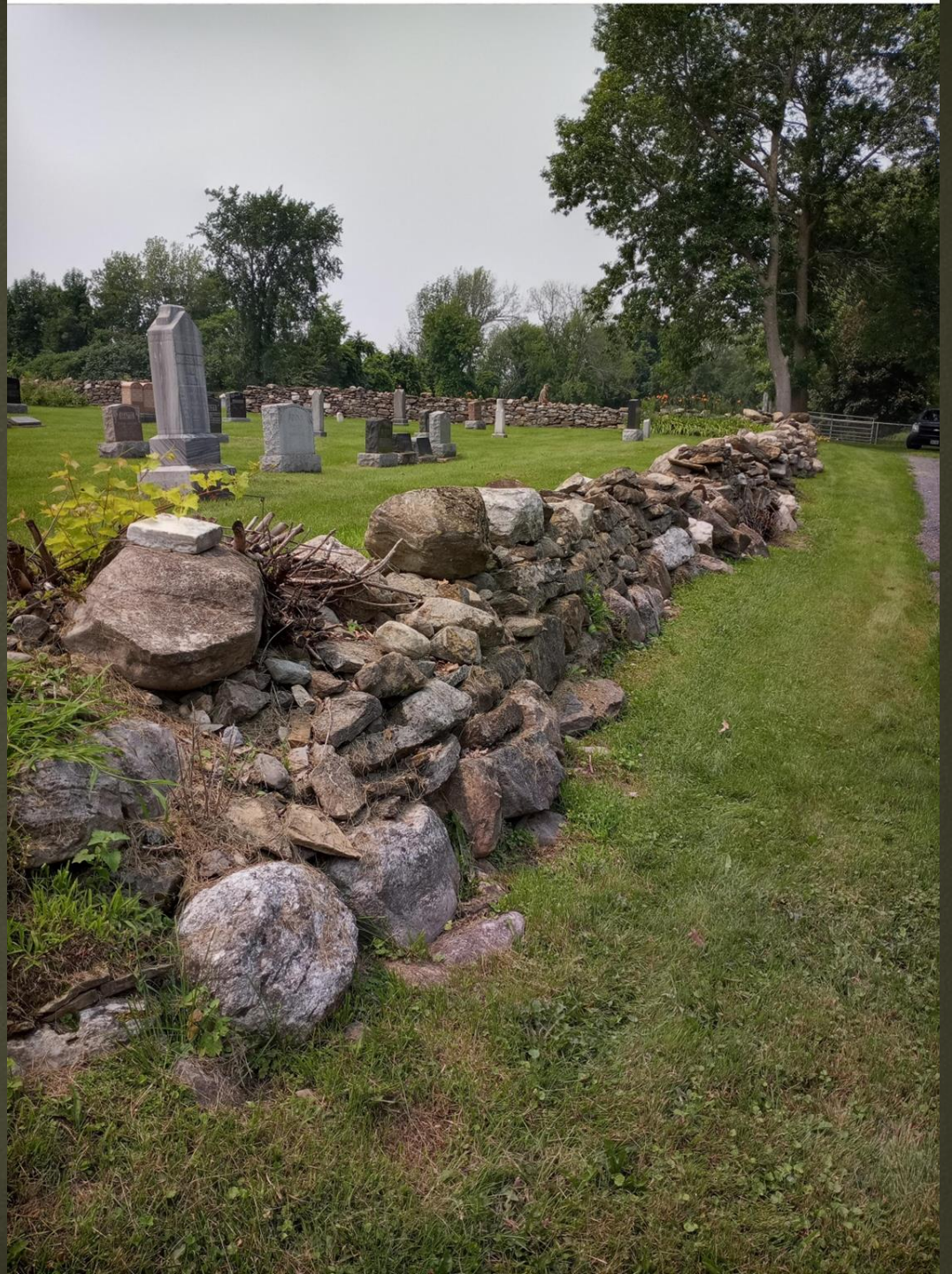
The Cemetery Committee responsible for this community cemetery has decided to maintain the walls and has hired a local stonemason, Michael Bettany to restore the east wall first. The work began in late spring 2022 with completion of Phase 1 by year end.

“This is a two-year project” explained Walter MacLean, Committee chair. “We are presently fundraising to fund the substantial cost of the repairs to all three stone walls and the repair of many historic markers on the cemetery grounds.”

If you can provide much-appreciated financial support for this project and for the ongoing maintenance of Summerstown’s historic Salem United Church Community Cemetery, please make your cheque payable to Salem United Church Cemetery Association.

A tax receipt will be issued. For additional information, please contact Walter MacLean at 613-933-3931 or via email: wmaclean@gm-c.on.ca

Phase 1 – 2022
East wall prior
to work
looking north





Mick working on the east wall





Walter MacLean,
chairman (right)
inspecting work carried
out by Mick Bettany

Chairman Walter McLean (left) with Mick Bettany, builder standing by completed east wall looking south.







Completed work – east wall





It took all summer but the east wall was completed in 2022

Cemetery East Wall is Completed

November 29, 2022 – Changed at 15 h 59 min on November 28, 2022

Reading time: 1 min

Provided by Salem United Church Cemetery Association



The completed east wall with widened roadway & the north wall requiring work along with Walter MacLean and Mick Bettany.

With much financial assistance from the community, we are happy to announce that the work was undertaken this summer by stonemason Mick Bettany to restore the east wall of Salem United Church in Summerstown back to its grandeur.

“We are very pleased with the work” says Walter MacLean, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. “As a result, the Committee has given the green light for Mick to continue working on the north and west walls which also require some adjustments.”

The stone walls are designed to serve as the symbolic guardian of a sacred space. Visitors are most welcome to enter the cemetery to pay their respects to those buried there.

Again, a fundraising campaign is taking place to help offset the costs of the project. If you can provide much-appreciated financial support for this project and for the ongoing maintenance of Summerstown's historic Salem United Church Community Cemetery, please make your cheque payable to Salem United Church Cemetery Association. A tax receipt will be issued. For additional information, please contact Chris Jeffrey at 613-931-2430 or via email at:

jeffrey.christine.m@gmail.com

Phase 2 - 2023
North wall
prior to work
looking west



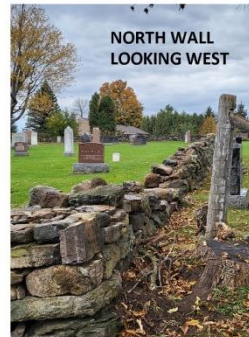
Fundraising letter for Phase 2 work

We need your help!

**SALEM UNITED CHURCH CEMETERY
STONE WALL PROJECT PHASE 2**

Thanks to generous contributions from lot holders, families and members of the community, Phase 1 of the Cemetery Stone Wall Project is complete. Mick Bettany has finished the rebuild of the Cemetery's east wall!

The Cemetery Committee has given Mick the go-ahead to begin work on the west and north stone walls which was designated as Phase 2 of the project. The cost for materials and labour is an additional \$15,000, some of which is already in the 'Stone Wall Project' account. The shortfall is currently approximately \$8,000. Hopefully, with a final fundraising push, these funds can be raised this year.



If you can provide financial support, please make your cheque payable to Salem United Church Cemetery Association and either give it to a Committee member or send it to:

Ms. Christine Jeffrey, Treasurer,
Salem United Church Cemetery Association
Box 411, Lancaster, ON K0C 1N0

Please indicate in the 'memo' line or in an attached note that it is for the Cemetery Stone Wall Project. Please provide your name and address. A tax receipt will be issued.

Your donations to support this project and for the ongoing maintenance of Summerstown's historic Salem United Church Community Cemetery are much appreciated. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Chair, Walter MacLean at 613-933-3931 or via email to: wrmaclean@outlook.com

Thank you,

Salem United Church Cemetery Committee members for 2023

Walter MacLean, Diane Lunan, Christine Jeffrey, Sheila Casgrain, Blain McMath, Ian Kentell,
Al Cooper, John Vipond, Sue DeRochie and Rev. John Noordhof



North wall looking west
prior to work



2023 summer work on north wall
looking west by Mick





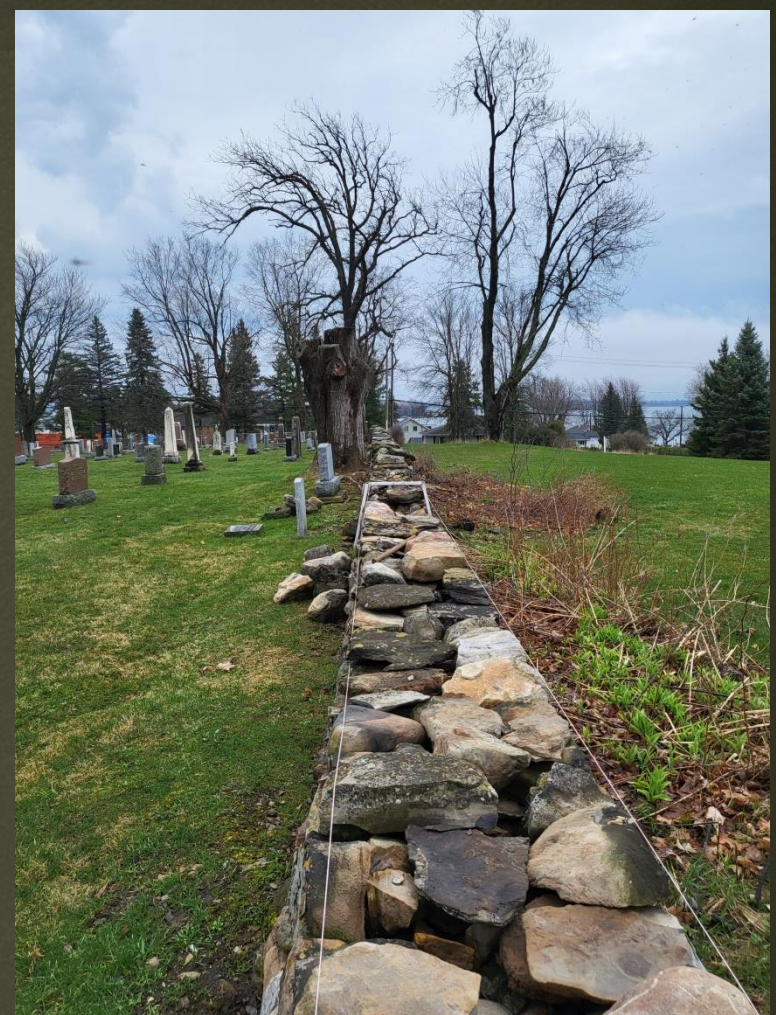
North wall looking east once
completed with small opening
to go from old to new
cemeteries.



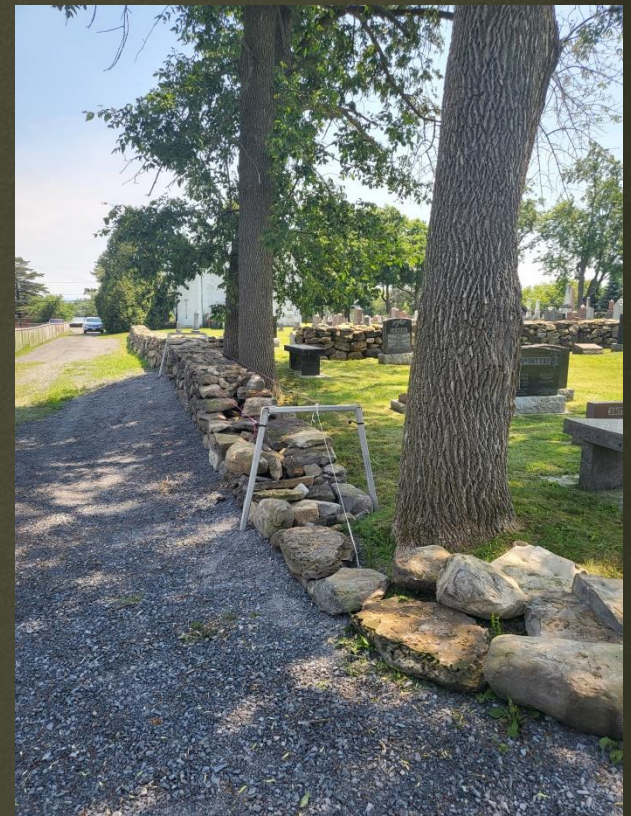
North wall looking south where large opening is –
note east side is completed and working on west
side



Phase 3 – 2024
West wall looking north and
west



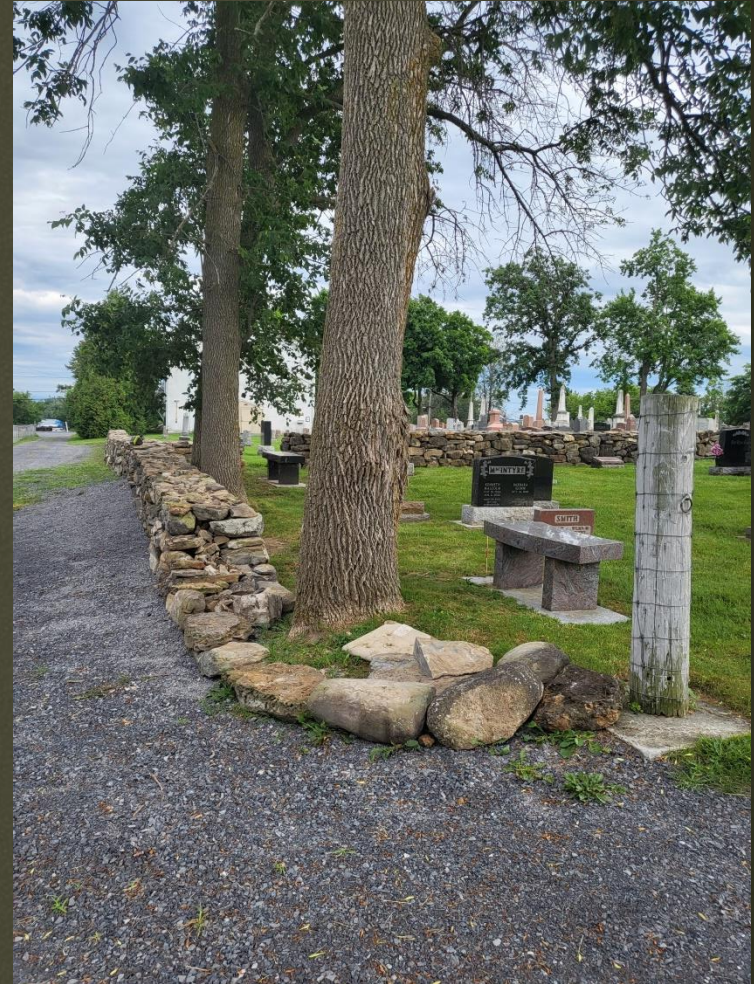
Work on the west wall is
underway



We decided to remove the page wire fence to the gate by the ash trees and extend the rock wall.



Work on the extended
north wall





Dedication of
completed
rock wall at
our Memorial
Cemetery
Event June
2025.



STONE WALL RESTORATION 2021-2024

This restoration was made possible through
generous donations from lot holders, their
families and members of the community.

Michael Bettany, historical mason repaired
the stone walls.

Thank you to one and all!



Alas the two large ash trees along the rock wall in the north cemetery died from the Asian long-horned beetle.



The trees were removed, trunks chipped and 2 new red oaks were donated by the Casgrain-Robertson and Gunn families. They were planted in 2026.



Thank You



We wish to thank everyone who helped
fund this very important project.

The grounds look amazing!