

# Cortland Rural Cemetery

[www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com](http://www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com)

110 TOMPKINS STREET • CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045

November 2012

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS SUPPORT THE CEMETERY

Highly visible this summer was a Cemetery improvement project funded by grants obtained by the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation from the Cortland Community Foundation (\$8,000) and the Wilkins Foundation (\$5,000): repaving sections of the roads which had suffered extensive deterioration over the past many winters. Heavy equipment spread and smoothed an asphalt mixture derived from reprocessed materials (called “grindings”) which were recycled from public roads under renewal.

The scenes of this project pictured here bring to mind an important role of the Cemetery Foundation. Members of the Board actively participate in soliciting grants to support the Cemetery in line with our mission: “to promote the preservation and beautification of the Cortland Rural Cemetery by encouraging individual and corporate giving.” These members research funding opportunities, gather the necessary facts and figures to

substantiate their requests, and then write and submit specific proposals or applications to local and occasionally distant foundations to seek support. When funding is received, the Foundation volunteers then administer the grants and submit reports required by the grant provider. In most cases, the Foundation turns the monies over to the Cemetery Trustees for implementation, such as the purchasing of equipment and services.

Some local foundations have been particularly helpful. The Wilkins Foundation has been generous over the years and recently the Cortland Community Foundation has become a major benefactor. And of course, while not based in Cortland but with deep roots here, the McDonald Foundation has been extraordinary in its donations to the Cemetery as it has been to other entities in Cortland County.

Case in point: In June of 2011, the McDonald foundation provided the Cemetery with a grant of \$30,000 focused on helping with both needed technology upgrades and enhancements to the Cemetery’s groundskeeping capacity. To date, \$15,000 from this fund enabled the Cemetery to



*Smoothing the asphalt surface on a perfect summer day, August 2012*

*(Continued on page 2)*





*The contractor identified spots of crumbling pavement*



*"Grindings" have been delivered in preparation for the paving project*

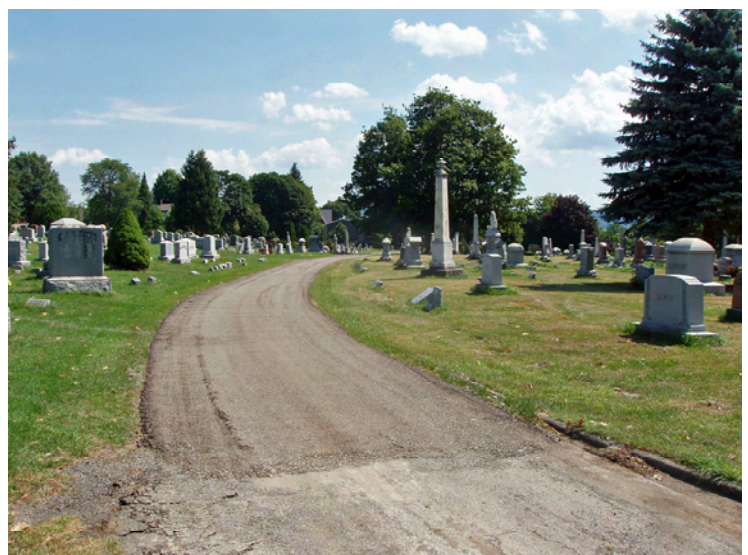
purchase a new Ventrac, a commercial-grade lawnmower that far surpasses any other mower in the Cemetery's fleet in terms of width, steering, and overall efficiency. Another \$10,000 from the same grant has enabled the Cemetery to purchase and begin to populate software for tracking past and future burials (CIMs Lite, from Ramaker, Inc.), as well as electronically scan and save to duplicate CDs over 5000, one-of-a-kind individual burial records that were heretofore at risk of deterioration due to age or complete loss (heaven forbid) due to fire or flood.

At times monies from foundation grants are supplemented by the Cemetery Foundation with funds from individuals. For example, the repairs to the Gibson Chapel featured in an earlier newsletter were paid for by a grant of \$4,000 from the Wilkins Foundation, a gift from Board member Margaret Gibson, and proceeds from the Cemetery Foundation's modest endowment which was created by a campaign in 2009.

Incidentally, the most important supplemental source of funds is this newsletter which is now prepared entirely by Board volunteers: James Clark, Carol Fenton, Margaret Gibson, Mary Ann Kane, Jean Seligmann, and Elizabeth Spaulding. An envelope is included with each issue to facilitate donations.



*Ottenschot Construction Company employees Joe Gale, Kelly Mondics, and Todd Robertson interrupt their work to pose*



*Improvement in the road surface is apparent in a completed segment*



# TWO BROTHERS SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY



Thanks to several happy circumstances the Cortland Rural Cemetery has been able to hire two brothers who learned from childhood what the cemetery business is all about. The father of Jim Toolan (38, left) and his younger brother Justin (35, right), is the foreman of Glenwood Cemetery in Homer, New York. Both men helped their Dad as summer employees or volunteers while they were growing up. For the past year Justin has served as our Groundskeeper; Jim has been employed as Office Manager since June 2012. Both live near their work and try to keep up with three children -- each. The Cemetery Trustees and Foundation Directors feel fortunate to have these two men dedicated to serving the public and maintaining our historic site.

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## GETTING READY FOR WINTER

Winter's howling winds and snow are only weeks away, so we're taking this occasion to point out some winter basics at the cemetery:

1. Our cemetery is open year round, but for your safety -- and to reduce damage to the Cemetery's grounds and grave markers -- portions of the Cemetery grounds will be closed to automotive traffic during winter. Foot traffic throughout the grounds during these months is still allowed, provided that visitors and families take appropriate precautions for walking on snow and ice.
2. Before the snow flies, please consider cutting back perennial flowers, removing any/all portable urns, and picking up any wind-blown debris that may have accumulated there. (Officially, all cut flowers and urns should be removed by October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year; of course, the cemetery reserves the right to take any such actions it deems necessary to ensure that the cemetery remains peaceful, aesthetically pleasing, and reasonably well-maintained for all.)
3. Visitors with electronic passcode access to the Gibson Chapel are encouraged to keep their visitations to 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. When entering and exiting the building, be sure to close the door firmly behind you in order to keep the cold out -- and to keep our heating costs at bay. (Now may also be an opportune time to remove any memorial items left within the Chapel that, officially, are not allowed in any case. Otherwise, as with such items throughout our grounds, we must reserve the right to remove and dispose of such items at our own discretion.)

Thanks for your understanding and co-operation. See you next Spring!

## Cortland Rural Cemetery Trustees

Mr. James Place, *President*  
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Ms. Margaret Gibson  
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Ms. Mary Ann Kane  
Mrs. Dianne Robinson  
Mrs. Jean Seligmann



Spaces in the Gibson Chapel are available in its public mausoleum and its columbaria for cremation remains. The Chapel may also be used for memorial and other services. Please call the Cemetery office at (607) 756-6022 for costs and other information.

**Tax-deductible gifts to preserve and enhance the Cemetery may be made to the Foundation. Checks should be made out to the Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation. Gifts may also be made via our website: [www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com](http://www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com).**



## Cortland Rural Cemetery Foundation

Post Office Box 288  
Cortland, NY 13045-0288  
[www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com](http://www.cortland-rural-cemetery.com)

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

The first cemetery for Roman Catholics (about 1859) in what became the city of Cortland, was located on River Street between Cleveland and East Garfield Streets in the churchyard of their first formal place of worship. The need for a larger area was met in 1891 when land on the West Road was purchased. Gradually, graves and monuments were removed to it. In 1920 the remaining unmarked sites on River Street were also taken there and buried in a common grave opposite today's chapel, and marked with a Gaelic cross. Catholics dying earlier than the operations of these cemeteries were generally buried in Syracuse.

--Mary Ann Kane