

Honoring the Past, Planning for the Future

As any steward of an old property knows, one project invariably leads to another, often unexpected one, which can lead to shifting priorities when budgets need to be considered. Over time, deferred maintenance can seem to suddenly sneak up, leaving little time to plan before the next need surfaces. Such is the case for the Town of Cazenovia's South Cemetery on Number Nine Rd.

The deterioration of the brick pillars marking entrances to the cemetery has been among the concerns for maintaining the hallowed ground. When reviewing options for repair of the pillars, it became clear the row of sugar maples looming large over them are in an equal state of decline. Mitigating the potential hazards from the trees to passing motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, as well as any newly constructed entrances, led to confirmation from a certified arborist that unfortunately, it is time to say goodbye to these dear friends.

Befitting the location where families and friends gather to bid adieu to loved ones, the Town of Cazenovia now must do the same for the trees that have long stood sentinel at South Cemetery. And just as those who have passed often leave cherished belongings to the generations that follow, a plan to replace the sugar maples with species predicted to withstand our changing climate is underway. As an oft-repeated proverb says, "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now."

As you travel Number Nine Road in the coming weeks, please take a moment to recognize the role the sugar maples at South Cemetery have played since long before any current residents were alive, thank those who had the forethought to plant them, and in the spring, welcome the new plantings with another musing, "A society grows great when old (wo)men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit."