

It is difficult to think about November and All Saints Day while still in the midst of the summer's heat. However, with the deep tradition and devotion that the Acadian community has to this feast day, now is the time to plan for this event.

A great deal of time and effort as been spent in maintaining the grounds at St. Paul Cemetery. It is important to remember that when one purchases a lot at St. Paul, one is not buying the property, but the right to be buried in the particular spot. General maintenance of the lot is covered by a perpetual care fund. However, improvements on the lots - for example a headstone - is the responsibility of the lot owner. Think of a cemetery lot like a home. Periodic maintenance has to be done to maintain the integrity of the structure. Over time, there may be ground settling or even events such as sonic booms which can cause the headstone to shift. If not taken care of, the headstone can sustain damage. It is important to know that the cemetery is not responsible for damage caused to a headstone or a tomb unless it can be shown that the cemetery caused the damage. For this reason, it is important to check your families' burials so that repairs can be done in a timely fashion and to avoid more expensive repairs. It is also important that families notify the Cemetery Office when addresses of contact individuals change so that we have a current address of someone in the event someone needs to be contacted if the lot needs attention.

A few years ago, an article was written in the *Meridional* advising lot owners that trinket type items would be removed from lots located in St. Paul. Since that time, many items have been removed and we thank those lot owners for their attention to this matter. However, there are some burials that still have restricted items around them. These items are considered any type of glass item or trinket. Effective September 1, 2010, if it is determined that these items are interfering with the general maintenance of the cemetery, the items **will** be removed and disposed of by the cemetery office without further notice. This action is not meant to be harsh, but it must be done to avoid the accumulation of ant piles and weeds around the headstones and tombs. Our goal is to provide a tranquil and attractive resting place for your loved ones and the only way to do this is to allow our maintenance people to do their job effectively.

The Cemetery Office at St. Mary Magdalen has great plans for all of its cemeteries in the future. We thank you for allowing us to assist you with your needs during a very difficult time. It is important to remember that a burial is for a lifetime and it is only with your efforts that we can maintain an attractive, dignified and spiritual home for your loved ones. Please feel free to contact our office at 893-0244. We look forward to serving you.