

## REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN CEMETERY CONSULTANT

The duties are just as the title implies. To consult, help and guide the cemeteries throughout the Diocese in their day to day operations.

The day to day responsibilities of any cemetery in Ontario (and certainly the Diocese) can be quite extensive.

The responsibilities would include correct mapping, price list, rights to interment certificates and up to date by-laws all approved by the Cemeteries Regulation Unit in Toronto.

The annual responsibilities include the Annual Report for the Cemetery which shall identify the yearly sales, cost of grounds care, number of burials and financial commitment to the Care and Maintenance Fund. There is a very stiff penalty for not completing this report.

Hopefully most Cemeteries in the Diocese have updated the Cemetery records, maps and by-laws since last Synod.

Presently the Diocese is experiencing a transition period. There are Churches closing that have Cemeteries and this going to create a challenge for the Diocese. The BACCB will be reviewing these properties in the near future.

There is only one constant in life and that is change. This constant change certainly applies to cemeteries.

When we think of traditional cemeteries the Anglican tradition is to visualize headstones row on row. There has been a massive shift in the methods concerning the disposition of human remains in Ontario and indeed throughout North America.

Cremation is now the leading method of disposition!

I try my very best to steer all Anglican cemeteries towards columbaria and scattering gardens. These placements are very easy to maintain and equally important, provide the greatest income per footprint.

We are currently working on securing new or replacement licenses for Cemeteries in The Diocese. All cemetery legislation is predicated on consumer protection, and this means the cemetery books should always be in good order and completely transparent.

All changes in Diocese cemeteries concerning the establishment, expansion, alteration and additions such as scattering gardens and columbaria must have permission from The Bishop and the Cemetery Regulation Unit in Toronto.

**The important news for 2014 is that the Cemeteries Regulation Unit is requesting that all cemeteries in Ontario apply for a new Cemetery Licence. This application shall be completed by December 31, 2014. All Cemeteries will have received this request by mail.**

**Additional news is that the Cemeteries Regulation Unit, in the near future, will, with the Board of Funeral Services, be placed under the control of the Designated Administration Authority. I will report this event when the change takes place.**

If any Parish requires any assistance I would be more than happy to help.

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