



## Why Choose Cremation?

Cremation is increasingly the choice of Canadians when funeral pre-planning. It is a customary choice among many diverse religions and cultures.

**Most religions do not disapprove of cremation as a choice.**

Cremation is not an alternative to a funeral; it is an alternative to burying a deceased body in a casket. A funeral or memorial service is an important ceremony to celebrate a life – and a passing – and is an important event for mourners in the process of grief.

If the choice is cremation, family and friends can still have a loving funeral as a way to celebrate the loved one's life and passing; telling his or her story and celebrating his or her life.

# Considering Cremation



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## ■ Select your Ceremony

Any number of choices is available for a ceremony when the deceased is cremated. In some instances, a family may wish to hold a conventional tribute, before cremation, with the decedent present. Or, a memorial which may feature the memorial urn as the ceremony's centerpiece, can be selected.

Whatever choice is made, the ceremony or service can include music, poetry, eulogies, really any words or actions that reflect the life of the loved one and encourage support among family and friends. Whether simple, elaborate,

traditional, contemporary or religious, you'll want to select options that best reflect and honour the genuine life story of the deceased.

## ■ What to do with the Cremated Remains

Some families and friends choose to inter the cremated remains of a loved one in a cemetery burial plot, at a memorial site or in a columbarium, specially designed for cremated remains. Other people choose to keep the remains with them in a

mantlepiece urn, for example (cremated remains do not pose a health risk). Still other families may scatter the loved one's cremated remains over a favourite lake or alongside a favourite hiking trail.

*Permissions from landowners may be required.*

## ■ Help is Here

Please know that you can rely on those who have been here before. You should feel comfortable asking for advice and guidance from your funeral director, clergy or close friends.

## ■ What is Cremation?

Cremation is a high-temperature burning of a deceased body. In the process, all of the body's organic matter is burned or evaporated, leaving only the inorganic mineral fragments.

Cremation is done at the **Georgian Bay Cremation Services** crematorium northwest of Toronto. Our licensed operators, who are trained through the Ontario Association of Cemetery & Funeral

Professionals (OACFP), transport the body. After cremation, the remains are delivered by these same staff to your funeral home. During cremation, the casket or container is placed by itself in the cremation chamber. The temperature is raised to approximately 1000 degrees Celsius. After about two hours – depending on the size of the body – all organic matter will be burned or evaporated. The residue is inorganic

fragments (mostly bones). All recoverable cremated remains are removed from the chamber and reduced, by a mechanical process, to unidentifiable dimensions. These cremated remains are then placed in a temporary container, until an urn or other container is selected at the funeral home.