

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU WANT TO BE BURIED IN THE HORNBY ISLAND CEMETERY

The Cemetery, located at 4100 Central Road, is managed by Cemetery Stewards, a small group of Hornby citizen volunteers, members of Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association's (HIRRA) Cemetery Committee.

The Cemetery Committee recommends:

- That you make your wishes known and develop a plan for family and friends to follow at the time of your death.
- That a family member or friend be designated to make the burial arrangements. That person needs to familiarize him/herself with the process after death, before a burial can take place. The Committee is a source of some information, but does not act in lieu of a funeral services provider.
- To help with planning, seek out provincial resources available on the BC government website. Links are provided on the HIRRA website <http://hirra.ca/services>. Also, be aware that you may be eligible for CPP assistance with funeral costs.

Consider:

- There are 2 kinds of burials available at the Hornby Island Cemetery: Burial of cremated remains and full body burials.
- There can be no pre-purchase of grave sites. For current costs, visit the HIRRA website.
- You need to contact a Cemetery Steward when death is imminent or has just occurred, if the person desired a full body burial. Allow time for site selection and for you to make the necessary arrangements, including satisfying mandated requirements. For cremations contact us when you are ready for site selection and ashes burial. <http://hirra.ca/services>
- We follow “green” guidelines. No chemicals or preservatives used in embalming are allowed. Any clothing, shroud and coffin must be biodegradable. (Hardware can be metal and urns can be of any material). If a funeral provider is used, they must be informed of these “green” conditions.

Cremated Remains:

- Burial plots for cremated remains are 2 feet x 2 feet. You are eligible for a

plot if you are a Hornby resident. This includes those who have left Hornby Island at the end of their lives for extended care.

- These plots may now be shared by two people (e.g. a partner may be interred in the same plot at a later date), providing provision is made to ensure both names are indicated on the marker(s). Additional fees apply.
- A grave marker, headstone, or memorial plaque showing the name of the deceased and dates of birth and death, etc. must be placed on the grave **at the time of burial**. We encourage people to use materials with longevity and as much permanence as possible. Wooden markers are not suitable nor are markers that are easily removable.
- Cremation is always arranged through a funeral services provider. The Cemetery Committee requires a certificate of cremation and the installation of a marker at the time of burial.
- In addition to ashes burial in a cremated remains plot, it is possible for cremated remains to be buried in existing full body burial plots. **Grave markers are required for each family member's ashes buried.**

Full Body Burials:

- Each full body burial plot is 4 feet by 8 feet. You are eligible for a plot if you are a Hornby resident. This includes those who have left Hornby Island at the end of their lives for extended care.
- The family, or its representative, is responsible for having the grave site dug. If you are using a funeral home, advise them not to charge you for the grave digging (do not prepay them for this service). The family arranges and pays for the backhoe directly.
- Two plots should be chosen. An alternate plot should be chosen because rock, especially hard pan, can cause difficulty in digging the grave and add considerably to the cost. It is also common for graves to fill with water in winter.
- A marker showing name, dates of birth and death, etc., must be placed on the grave within one year of burial.
- Plot maintenance is the responsibility of family or friends. Non-invasive perennial plants are encouraged while shrubs and trees are not allowed.

At the Burial the Cemetery Stewards will:

- provide signage to reserve the parking area

- have guidelines regarding lowering body safely into the grave
- make available tools from the shed, such as shovels, ropes, etc.
- ask that the completed grave site be no more than 4 by 8 feet
- provide rakes to ensure rocks and soil are not left on ground but on the grave in order to facilitate mowing.

Your Designate's Responsibilities:

We recommend that you plan in advance for the practical aspects of burial. Some helpful links are on the HIRRA website <http://hirra.ca/services>. In our experience it is extremely stressful for grieving families and/or designates to meet the paperwork requirements. To have a local funeral services provider complete the paperwork is normally a blessing.

Memorial Plaques

Those with strong Hornby ties, but not buried on Hornby, can be commemorated with 3" x 5" plaques affixed to the portal at the entry to the Cemetery. Details will be posted on the HIRRA website and on the Cemetery portal.