

RESTING PLACE

FALL 2004

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

PEACE OF MIND AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS SPUR PRE-PLANNING

Family counselling staff at The Catholic Cemeteries are convinced that one of the most thoughtful things people can do is plan in advance for their burial or entombment.

"There can be a lot of confusion," says counsellor Nanda Cozzi, of situations where the deceased has left no instructions. "Adult children will be on cell phones calling each other, trying to figure out what their mother's or father's wishes are."

"Sometimes a large group of people will come in together to make arrangements on behalf of a deceased loved one," offers Angela Schon, a family counsellor for two years. "You get groups of uncles, aunts and cousins, and disagreements can arise about what is best."



Nanda Cozzi, counsellor

When no interment plans are made in advance, families may be left struggling with no instructions or conflicting instructions. "And it's not a time when you're thinking very clearly," says counsellor Dwayne Cahill. "When someone passes away you have three or four days at the most to make several arrangements. It can be much less stressful for family members if some of these things are done ahead of time."

All the family counsellors say peace of mind is certainly a motivator for people who make arrangements in advance, but so is the financial benefit. "It can be worrisome for surviving family members when they have to come up with the finances to pay for a burial or entombment in a short period of time," Mr. Cahill says. "The advantage to pre-planning is that you can choose what you want at today's prices and spread the payments out over a period of time instead of one immediate lump sum."

Not only that, adds Ms. Cozzi, but the selection is better if you pre-purchase. "If you buy today you are more likely to get the exact location you want than if you leave it to whatever is available at the time of need." Often family and friends will pre-purchase as a group so that their final resting places will be close together.

When couples come in to make arrangements in advance, it can be an eye-opening experience. Mr. Cahill has met with people who are very surprised to learn what their spouse actually wants. "They'll say, 'I had no idea you wanted to be cremated.'"

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Angela Schon, counsellor

NOW AVAILABLE:

● **Web Site**

Now there's another way to get information about The Catholic Cemeteries – a detailed web site at www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca.

"We recognize that many people like to do research online, especially if they are in the preliminary stages of gathering information," says John O'Brien, managing director. "A web site is a convenience service – it means that people will be able to get information about our products and services at any time of the day or night."

The new site has a strong educational focus, including a glossary of terms relating to cemeteries and mausolea, and detailed descriptions of the services available, including pre-planning.

"Often we are working with family members who don't live in the Diocese and have no first-hand knowledge of our cemeteries," Mr. O'Brien says. "In those instances the web site will be invaluable, because the online directory of cemeteries and mausolea shows a photo and description of every one. It can help people make decisions from a distance."

Visit www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca

● **Cremation Brochure**

Looking for information on The Catholic Cemeteries' new crematorium? A brochure has been distributed to all parishes in Brant County, Hamilton and Halton. If you missed seeing a copy, please call The Catholic Cemeteries at 905-522-7727 or 1-800-661-5985.

Holy Cross Catholic Cremation Centre opened on Governor's Road in Paris (Brant County) in November, 2003.

MAUSOLEUM CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN STONEY CREEK

By next summer, Stoney Creek will have its first Catholic mausoleum.

Construction began in August 2004 for a mausoleum located at the Diocese of Hamilton's newest cemetery, Our Lady of the Angels on Mud Street in upper Stoney Creek.

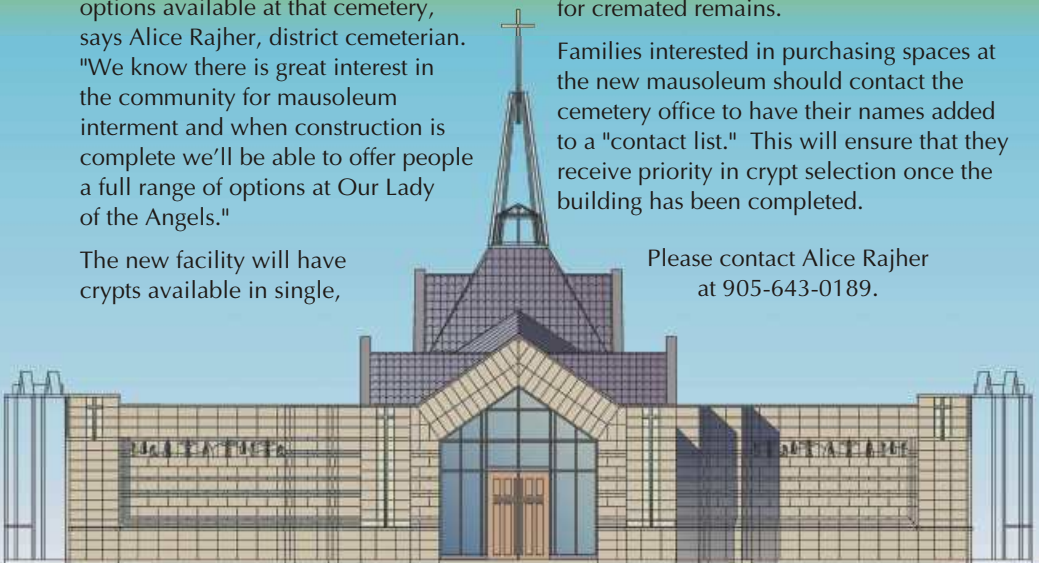
The new mausoleum will expand the options available at that cemetery, says Alice Rajher, district cemeterian. "We know there is great interest in the community for mausoleum interment and when construction is complete we'll be able to offer people a full range of options at Our Lady of the Angels."

The new facility will have crypts available in single,

double and family sizes, as well as niches for cremated remains.

Families interested in purchasing spaces at the new mausoleum should contact the cemetery office to have their names added to a "contact list." This will ensure that they receive priority in crypt selection once the building has been completed.

Please contact Alice Rajher at 905-643-0189.



Pre-Planning – continued from front –

While for most people making arrangements in advance includes selecting their cemetery lot or mausoleum space and pre-paying for it, some people take it a step further and select their monument, or grave marker, and even the inscription. "The children are often very relieved that their parents have thought of everything in detail," Ms. Schon says.

Details aside, the family counsellors say there's no question that more people are pre-planning. Younger people, seeking to secure interment rights close to other family members, are making burial decisions now. And as people realize that in-ground interment rights are no longer available at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington, they're more inclined to start a new tradition at one of the newer Catholic cemeteries, such as Our Lady of the Angels in Stoney Creek, Resurrection in Ancaster, or Gate of Heaven in Burlington.

WREATHS NOW AVAILABLE



Wreaths are available from The Catholic Cemeteries and may be placed at gravesites from October 1 to April 1. Families may purchase a wreath and have it placed by cemetery staff by simply calling the main office at 905-522-7727. Credit card orders can be taken over the phone at any cemetery office. Please note that families are responsible for removing wreaths by April 1 to allow for spring clean up.

GATE OF HEAVEN

Mausoleum Update

A planning process for the development of a mausoleum at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Burlington has slowed down due to provincial legislation that affects all escarpment-area development. Construction was initially planned to be underway by September 2004. "We hope to be back on track with the development stage within the next few months," says John O'Brien, managing director.

The cemetery has no buildings on site. The mausoleum would provide space for indoor committal services, along with space for 300 crypts and 300 niches for cremated remains. Gate of Heaven Cemetery was developed in 1982 and is the site for The Catholic Cemeteries' most naturalized landscaping, incorporating native grasses and wildflowers.

All Souls' Day MASSES

Everyone is welcome to attend our annual All Souls' Day Masses:

Saturday, October 30 • 11 a.m.
Marymount Cemetery, Guelph

Sunday, October 31 • 2 p.m.
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Burlington

CONTACT US



THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
of the Diocese of Hamilton

600 Spring Gardens Road
Burlington, ON L7T 1J1

T: 905-522-7727

F: 905-522-5742

Toll-free: 1-800-661-5985

www.thecatholiccemeteries.ca