



## **What you need to consider when arranging a funeral or cremation in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)**

The first step in arranging a funeral in the GTA is to decide upon a funeral company to conduct the funeral service. This can be a daunting task if you have not had to arrange a funeral beforehand. There are over 70+ funeral homes in the Greater Toronto Area, so it is important to have some clear criteria for how you are going to decide which funeral home can best serve you.

In the majority of cases, people opt to go to a local funeral home, or one that has been recommended by relatives or the hospital/hospice. A recommendation is always reassuring, however, if you are working to a budget for your funeral, you may need to do some funeral price comparisons. The price for a funeral in the GTA can vary considerably – do ensure you get more than one quote for funeral services if you are looking for an affordable funeral.

### **How much does a funeral cost in Toronto?**

Prices between funeral homes can vary considerably, of course much is dependent on what type of service you require and what funeral merchandise you select. All funeral homes have a 'general price list' that fully itemizes their products and services, and a funeral home must provide this to you when quoting you a funeral price. Prices for the funeral director's "professional service fee" can differ, and the cost of what kind of casket or urn you select can affect the overall price. Additional things such as visitations, officiants, flowers and obituary notices can all be supplemental costs. The cost of a funeral in Toronto can range anywhere from \$1,400 to \$12,000.

### **What is the most affordable funeral option in Toronto?**

A direct cremation is the most affordable and simple funeral option. A direct cremation simply means that the deceased remains are collected from the place of death, cremated and the remains returned to the family in a basic urn. The family can then choose to do as they wish with the cremated remains, including holding their own memorial service at a place and time suitable for all family members to attend, and/or an ash-scattering.

Canadian Funeral Online works with DFS Memorials of Canada to connect people at their time of need with a local, independent, family-owned funeral home that offers a low-cost funeral. We select licensed, local funeral directors who understand the need to balance cost and dignity.

The DFS Memorials provider for the GTA is 'Affordable Burials & Cremations' who offer a basic cremation service for \$1,497.95. Contact them now on **(437) 886-4318** with any enquiries.

### **Do I need to use the services of a funeral director for a burial in Toronto?**

No, you can arrange a burial without the services of a funeral director. Some funeral homes in the GTA offer what they call a “transfer service” and this basically means that they will perform the function of collecting the deceased and transporting them to the crematorium or cemetery. You can arrange to complete the necessary documentation yourself, or the transfer service will do this for you. A death certificate must be applied for, and a permit to cremate or bury the body.

**A list of the crematoriums and cemeteries in the Greater Toronto Area is provided at the bottom of this page.**

What can be referred to as “home funerals” are becoming more common, this is when the family coordinate the arrangements of the disposition and the care of the deceased’s body until cremation or burial. This significantly eliminates costs that a funeral business would ordinarily charge.

### **Is embalming required in Toronto?**

No, embalming is not necessarily required and it is not legally required in GTA. Funeral homes will often recommend embalming in certain circumstances. If there is likely to be a 48-hour plus delay before a burial or cremation; or if a visitation or viewing is required.

### **What can I do with the cremated remains?**

You have a few options as to what you can do with the cremated remains. You can just choose to keep the remains in a keepsake urn, or several urns, with the family. You can have the cremated remains interred in a columbarium at a crematorium or memorial garden.

Alternatively you can elect to scatter the remains, or ashes. According to the Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services you can scatter remains on any “unoccupied Crown land, and those Crown lands covered by water” and do NOT require a permit.

You should check if you wish to scatter the ashes in a public place as a permit may be required. If you wish to scatter remains on private property you will need the consent of the owner.

If you want to do something completely different there are now options such as creating a memorial gem, cremation fireworks or even sending cremated remains into space!

### **What happens if the deceased died in another province, or country, and needs transporting back to Toronto?**

This happens more often now that have become a more transient nation, and especially since more Canadians chose to ‘snow-bird’ or retire in warmer climates. The funeral home in Toronto would need to coordinate with a funeral professional at the place of death and arrange for the preparation of the body for shipping back to Toronto. Air Canada does offer a very comprehensive funeral shipping service.

### **Is it possible to donate a body to science in Toronto?**

Yes, many people choose to make an ‘anatomical donation’ as their legacy on death. Such a bequeathal can be a unique contribution to the advancement of medicine and is often also referred to as an “anatomical gift”. The Trillium Gift of Life Network Act (2002) makes such donations legal as long as there is no objection by an executor or next-of-kin. Donations are accepted by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. A donation consent form must be completed, either by the donor beforehand, or by family at the time of death. The University will cover all costs for the collection of the deceased, the anatomical donation and the cremation of the remains, which can then be returned to the family at a later date if desired. For more information contact the University: Division of Anatomy, University of Toronto, 1132-1 King's College Circle, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A8

### **What should you do if you have a complaint about a funeral home in Toronto?**

As the funeral industry is regulated, you can make a formal complaint about the services of a funeral establishment to either the Ontario Board of Funeral Services at 77 Bay Street, Suite 2810, Toronto, M5G 2C8, or the Ministry of Consumer Services 5775 Yonge Street, Suite 1500, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E5.

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The Greater Toronto Area is generally divided into four regions:

- Durham Region: Ajax, Brock, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering, Scugog, Uxbridge, Whitby
- Halton Region: Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, Oakville
- Peel Region: Brampton, Caledon, Mississauga
- York Region: Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Vaughan, Whitchurch-Stouffville

The City of Toronto is at the heart of the Greater Toronto Area (the GTA), and part of the “Golden Horseshoe” which has a total populace of approximately 8.1 million people.

### **Cemeteries, Crematoriums and Memorial Gardens in the Greater Toronto Area:**

Assumption Catholic Cemetery, 6933 Tomken Rd, Mississauga, ON, L5T1N4  
Bayview Cemetery Crematory Mausoleum, 740 Spring Gardens Rd, Burlington, ON, L7T1J3  
Beth Jacob Cemetery, 1250 Snake Rd, Burlington, ON, L7P5A7  
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park, 5822 Bathurst St, North York, ON, M2R1Y6  
Brampton Memorial Gardens Memorial Chapel & Visitation Centre, 10061 Chinguacousy Rd At Bovaird Dr, Brampton, ON  
BRAMPTON, Municipal Cemeteries Brampton Cemetery, 10 Wilson Ave, Brampton, ON, L6Y4R2  
Burlington Memorial Gardens, 3353 Guelph Line RR 1, Burlington, ON, L7R3X4  
Catholic Cemeteries-Archdiocese Of Toronto, 4950 Yonge St, North York, ON, M2N6K1  
Christ The King Cemetery, 7770 Steeles Ave E, Markham, ON, L6B1A8  
Duffin Meadows Cemetery, 2505 Brock Rd, Pickering, ON, L1V2P8  
Elgin Mills Cemetery And Visitation Centre, 1591 Elgin Mills Rd E, Richmond Hill, ON, L4S1M9

Forest Lawn Mausoleum & Crematorium, 4570 Yonge St, North York, ON, M2N5L6  
Glen Oaks Memorial Gardens Memorial Chapel & Reception Centre, 3164 Ninth Line, Oakville, ON, L6H7A8  
Glendale/Glenview Memorial Gardens Cemetery Crematorium Mausoleum, 7541 Hwy 50, Toronto, ON  
Glendale/Glenview Memorial Gardens Cemetery Mausoleum & Visitation Centre, 1810 Albion Rd, Etobicoke, ON, M9W5T1  
Groveside Cemetery, 5155 Baldwin St S, Brooklin, ON, L0B1C0  
Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries, 777 York Blvd, Hamilton, ON, L8R2A4  
Highland Hills Memorial Gardens, 12492 Woodbine, Bethesda, ON  
Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery Crematorium mausoleum, 33 Memory Gardens Ln, North York, ON  
Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, 8361 Yonge St, Thornhill, ON, L3T2C7  
King City Cemetery, 2580 King Rd, King City, ON, L7B1J7  
Meadowvale Cemetery And Visitation Centre, 7732 Mavis Rd, Brampton, ON, L6V5L5  
Mount Lawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Cremation Centre, 21 Garrard Rd, Whitby, ON, L1N3K4  
Mount Pleasant Cemetery And Visitation Centre, 375 Mount Pleasant Rd, Toronto, ON, M4T2V8  
Mount Pleasant Group Of Cemeteries, 65 Overlea Blvd, Toronto, ON, M4H1P1  
Mount Sinai Memorial Park, 986 Wilson Ave, North York, ON, M3K1G5  
OAKVILLE, Municipal Cemeteries, St Jude's Cemetery, 258 Lakeshore Rd W, Oakville, ON, L6K1E8  
Pardes Shalom Cemetery, 10953 Dufferin, Maple, ON, L0J1E0  
Park Lawn Company Ltd, 57 Linelle St, North York, ON, M2N2J4  
Pine Hills Cemetery And Visitation Centre, 625 Birchmount Rd, Scarborough, ON, M1K1R1  
Pine Ridge Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Cremation Centre, 541 Taunton Rd At Church St, Ajax, ON  
Prospect Cemetery & Mausoleum, 1450 St Clair Ave W, Toronto, ON, M6E1C6  
Resurrection Catholic Cemetery, 355 Taunton Rd E, Whitby, ON  
Spring Creek Cemetery Inc, Clarkson Rd N, Clarkson, ON, L5J3X9  
St James' Cemetery & Crematorium, 635 Parliament St, Toronto, ON, M4X1R1  
St John's Norway Cemetery & Crematorium, 256 Kingston Rd, Toronto, ON, M4L1S7  
St Volodymyr Ukranian Cemetery, 1280 Dundas St W, Oakville, ON, L6M4H9  
St. John's Dixie Cemetery & Crematorium, 737 Dundas St E, Mississauga, ON, L4Y2B5  
Thornton Cemetery Crematorium And Mausoleum, 1200 Thornton Rd N, Oshawa, ON, L1H7K4  
Trafalgar Lawn Cemetery, 1149 Dundas St W, Oakville, ON, L6M4L8  
Westminster Cemetery Mausoleum & Crematorium, 5830 Bathurst St, North York, ON, M2R1Y6  
White Chapel Memorial Gardens, 1895 Main W, Hamilton, ON  
York Cemetery & Visitation Chapel, 160 Beecroft Rd, Toronto, ON, M2N5Z5