

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CONSULTANT

The Cemetery Consultant position functions as a resource offering support, advice and guidance for parish corporations and trustees entrusted with the operation and care of cemeteries, niche walls, scattering gardens and columbariums. It assists with the interpretation of and adherence to provincial guidelines and legislation governing cemetery operations and additionally, provides advice and support relating to situations and concerns that may occur.

During the preceding twelve months the Consultant has provided corporations and trustees assistance and support relating to the following circumstances:

- The sale of abandoned church cemetery lands
- The licensing of a number of Cemeteries throughout the Diocese
- Reviewing and updating cemetery bylaws and contracts of sale
- The expansion of an existing cemetery
- The regulations associated with liability issues relating to the maintenance and care of memorial markers
- Licensing and reporting issues

The biggest news is that the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act SO 2002 will be enacted on July 1, 2012.

This will affect cemetery operations as well as have an affect Church buildings assessment under the direction of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). This will be discussed at the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Building in the near future.

As part of the Diocesan Resource Centre, the Cemetery Consultant extends an invitation to all parish corporations and cemetery trustees seeking assistance or advice concerning operations, regulations, and other cemetery matters.

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Respectfully submitted,
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