



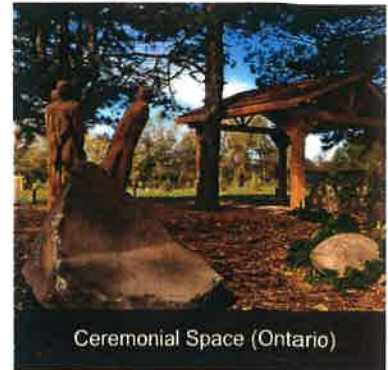
Green Burial Society of Canada

Société canadienne de l'enterrement vert

WHAT IS GREEN BURIAL?

Green or Natural Burial

is a statement of personal values for those who seek to minimize their impact on the local and global environment. For people who are mindful of the cyclical nature of life, green burial is a spiritually fulfilling alternative to conventional burial or cremation. It is an environmentally sensitive practice: the body is returned to the earth to decompose naturally and contribute to new life.



Ceremonial Space (Ontario)

FACT vs. FICTION

Some people think green burial is:

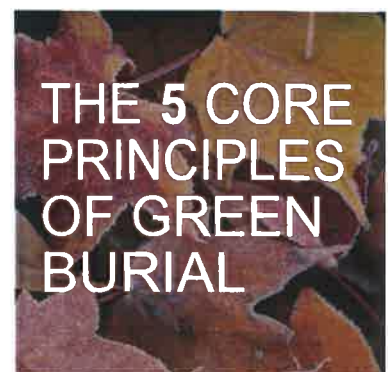
1. A new idea
2. A low-cost, budget-driven choice
3. A fringe fad, just for environmentalists
4. A poor use of land; cremation is "greener" than burial
5. Akin to doing nothing to honour our dead

In FACT green burial is:

1. Historically, how most families provided for their deceased
2. One of many options supporting meaningful end-of-life rituals
3. A steadily growing trend reflecting the values of people from all walks of life
4. An environmentally sensitive alternative to conventional burial and cremation
5. Part of a set of deliberate choices founded on five core principles (right)



Communal Memorialization (BC)



THE 5 CORE PRINCIPLES OF GREEN BURIAL

- 1 No Embalming
- 2 No Outer Burial Container & Shallower Graves
- 3 Biodegradable Casket or Shroud
- 4 Minimal Memorialization
- 5 Ecological Restoration/ Conservation

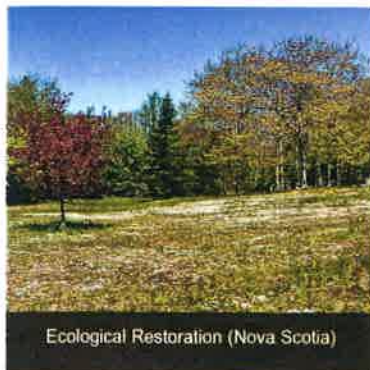


Ecological Restoration (Ontario)



For people who are mindful of the cyclical nature of life, green burial is a spiritually fulfilling alternative to conventional burial or cremation.

*The world we leave our children tomorrow is
inextricably linked to the decisions we make today.
This is especially true when it comes to the environment.*



Ecological Restoration (Nova Scotia)

THE NUMBERS (2023)

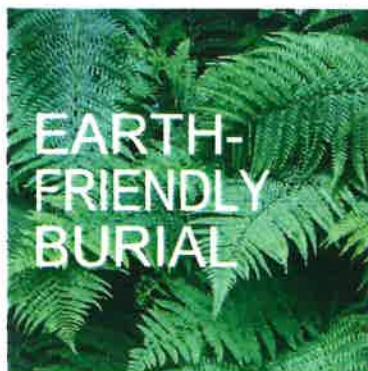
- 1993** the first green burial cemetery opens in the United Kingdom, in Carlyle, Scotland
- 300+** the number of active green burial grounds now operating in the UK
- 1998** the first green burial cemetery opens in the USA, in South Carolina
- 150+** the number of active green burial grounds now operating in the USA
- 2008** the first active green burial cemetery opens in Canada, on Vancouver Island, BC
- 12** the number of GBSC-certified green burial cemeteries now operating across Canada

GREEN BURIAL CRITERIA

The Green Burial Society of Canada (GBSC) certifies FIVE categories of green burial sites.

The Environment

- Families are given the opportunity to participate in the planting of native trees and shrubs;
- Open space is restored with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers;
- Communal markers made of local stone are inscribed with the names of those buried in the area, and
- A permanent footpath can provide visitor access while allowing habitat restoration over the grave sites.



1. Green Burial Service Provider

- Fulfills all five core principles of green burial, and
- Promotes environmentally sustainable practices, provides outreach regarding green burial, and works to eliminate barriers to green burial.

2. Green Burial Cemetery - Small

- Fulfills all five core principles of green burial;
- Offers green burial at a site 1/4 to 1 acre in size, and
- Commits to achieving 8 additional sustainability criteria.

3. Green Burial Cemetery - Large

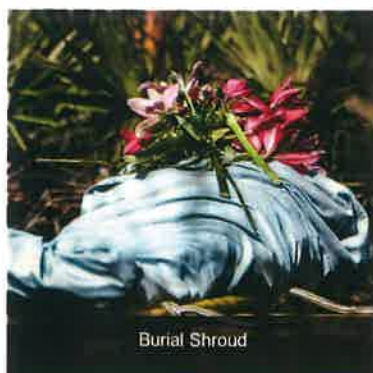
- Fulfills all five of the core principles of green burial;
- Offers green burial at a site more than 1 acre in size, and
- Commits to achieving 10 additional sustainability criteria.

4. Conservation Cemetery

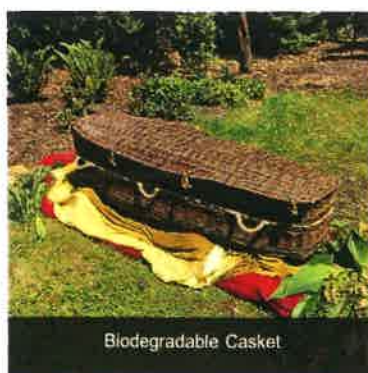
- Fulfills all five of the core principles of green burial;
- Offers green burial in a standalone green burial cemetery of any size, and
- Meets at least 12 additional sustainability criteria.

5. Hybrid Green Burial Cemetery

- Does not have enough land for a separate green burial area, but
- Fulfills all five core principles of green burial, and
- Offers green burial in a conventional cemetery without habitat restoration.



Burial Shroud



Biodegradable Casket



For more information visit:
www.greenburialcanada.ca



Green Burial Society of Canada

Société canadienne de l'enterrement vert