**Grace United Cemetery**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why are there no more casket burials?**

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) reviewed the information that the Township received from the previous operator and advised that all full casket burials must stop. It was found that there are inaccuracies regarding burial locations and occupied plots without markers.

**Will full casket burials be permitted in the future?**

The Registrar, *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002*, Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), requires that a professionally licensed archaeologist retained to conduct any Stages 2-4 archaeological fieldwork and apply for and receive a [Cemetery Investigation Authorization (CIA)](https://thebao.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Application-for-a-Cemetery-Investigation-Authorization-updated-12-February-2021.pdf) prior to conducting this fieldwork (**\*1**).

**What is the cost of the Archaeological assessment?**

Stage 2 (Testing): approximately starting at $10,000.

Stage 3 and 4 (Data Recovery/Excavation): approximately starting at $100,000.

Plus, labour costs

Plus, equipment fees

**Is ground-penetrating radar (GPR) considered a satisfactory assessment?**

No. Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) or other non-invasive methods are considered supplementary and not a replacement for a full Stage 3 cemetery investigation for confirming the presence or absence of burials.

**Where can I read further information about archaeological assessments?**

<https://thebao.ca/registrars-directive-authorization-for-stages-2-4-archaeological-fieldwork/>

**What do I do if I do not want a cremation burial in the lot I have previously purchased?**

After proof of your interment rights has been provided to the Township, you may transfer interment rights to another party. According to By-Law 1449-25, the resale of interment rights to a third-party is prohibited.

**Why are there gates at the two driveway entrances?**

This was done to preserve the cemetery and all that resides in it. There has recently been damage caused by motorized vehicles driving directly over top of graves and monuments.

This is also to assist in the prevention of unauthorized burials.

**Have the gates been installed to discourage visitors?**

No. It is in no way meant to discourage anyone from visiting the cemetery.

**How can I access the cemetery?**

Accessing the cemetery through the walking paths is encouraged.

If you require access via motorized vehicle,arrangements can be made through the Hilton Township Office during office hours.

**What are the Township office hours?**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9 am and 4:30 pm. Closed on weekends, and holidays.

**How do I contact the Township office?**

Phone: 705-246-2472

Email: admin@hiltontownship.ca

Visit: 2983 Base Line, Hilton Beach

**Can I purchase a cemetery plot or lot in the Grace United Cemetery?**

No. The BAO has advised that no sales of new lots in the cemetery are permitted until an archaeological study is completed.

**What is the process to plan a cremation interment into a previously purchased lot or family-owned plot?**

Arrangements must be made in advance with the Township office. You will be required to provide the cremation certificate, death certificate showing that the death has been registered with the province, and your interment rights certificate of your lot or plot in the cemetery.

**What do I do if I do not have an interment Rights Certificate for my family-owned plot or the lot that I previously purchased?**

Ownership will have to be established. If the plot was owned by someone who has passed away, the last will and testament of the deceased that establishes you as the executor of the estate, can be provided to the Township. This will prove your inheritance rights through *Succession Law Reform Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. S.26*.

**What do I do if the last will and testament establishes someone other than myself as the executor of the deceased estate and I still want to plan a cremation burial in the family-owned plot?**

The executor of the deceased’s estate will be required to sign the Township’s Consent and Release form, releasing the interment rights to you.

If the last will and testament cannot be provided, you will be asked to sign the Township’s Legal Affidavit stating that you agree to be responsible if any other person claims to be entitled to ownership of the lot(s). You can view a copy of the affidavit on our website at <https://www.hiltontownship.ca/cemetery/>

Once proof of interment rights has been established, the Township will provide you with an Interment Rights Certificate.

**Can I transfer interment rights to someone else?**

Yes. You will provide your Interment Rights Certificate to the Township office and a Consent and Release Form will need to be signed.

**What are the fees associated with the cemetery?**

The price list located on the Township website at the following link: <https://www.hiltontownship.ca/cemetery/>

**Where can I find more information regarding rules and regulations in the Grace United Cemetery?**

By-Law 1449-25 located on the Township’s website at the following link: <https://www.hiltontownship.ca/cemetery/>

**Where can I locate further information or to file a complaint?**

BAO Inquiries and Complaints Department:

Phone at 1-844-493-6356 or by email at info@thebao.ca

The Hilton Township website under “Cemetery” at the following link:

[www.hiltontownship.ca](http://www.hiltontownship.ca)

The Hilton Township Office:

 705-246-2472

admion@hiltontownship.ca