



CCABC News

Highlights from groundskeepers and maintenance staff workshop

Coming This Fall
Cremation Equipment / Operator Training Certification Program

New Licensing Matters Toll-free telephone number

GST on Preneed Arrangements

What We Learned From CCABC Members

You Are Invited to Attend the FSABC golf tournament!

Upcoming Events

Aug 25 – FSABC golf tournament, Kamloops

Oct 31 – Cremation Equipment and Operators Training Program, Surrey

March 14- 16, 2007 – CCABC & FSABC annual conference, Kelowna



Groundskeepers and maintenance staff gather at Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery.

A GRAVE EXPERIENCE

Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery in South Surrey lived up to its name, and on a beautiful sunny day in May the CCABC held its first workshop focused on cemetery groundskeepers and maintenance staff. The successful education day saw over 70 people from all over British Columbia and the Yukon gathered to specifically discuss issues surrounding what both families and cemetery workers experience at the graveside.

The day was designed to aid cemetery staff in creating a positive experience and memory for each family within an efficient and safe environment.

The day started with Sam Chauhan, City of Surrey and Dar Franklin, United Rentals Trench Safety Dept., providing a hands-on demonstration and discussion related to excavation and safety procedures when preparing a grave for either interment or disinterment. WCB regulations, safety practices and shoring options were reviewed. Jason Horton from District of Mission stated that “this topic alone was worth being here today.”

David Warren, Stihl Equipment, followed with a demonstration focused around small equipment safety and maintenance such as greasing hedge trimmers and line trimmers and showed the latest in Stihl products. Comments from the session included “this was one of the best practical presentations I’ve ever seen on small equipment safety and maintenance” and “I can see a few new purchases coming from us”.

A short walk across the road to neighboring Victory Memorial Park was the location for a break from the sunshine, lunch and an inspirational speech from Bob Linklater, General Manager Victory Memorial Park.

Bob spoke about how important the role of the cemeterian is and told a story of how one cemeterian had made a difference for his own family. After 36 years in the industry he states “in simple words we just help families say good-bye, take care of their memorialization for years to come, and we work for the family whose grave we take care of.”



The group tries out some equipment.

During lunch, time was provided to take a walk and see the Sunnyside and Victory cemetery operations, the products they offer and the opportunity to network with other cemeterians. Time was also given to test drive smaller equipment including lawnmowers, and utility vehicles typically seen and used on a daily basis. The big toys were left behind for today. Thanks to a couple of mowing enthusiasts the grass at Sunnyside has never been mowed in such a unique pattern or height in a long time.

The final session focused on the family experience at the graveside. Kevin Traub, Alberta Wilbert Sales, and John Zamprogno, BC Wilbert Sales, provided a graveside set up example for both burial and cremation interment. The importance of the set up was stressed to show the family the dignity and commitment of quality the cemetery has not only on the day of the funeral but for years to come.

At the end of the day those attending expressed "What a great idea it was to have a workshop for the cemetery outside staff." and "I hope this is the start of an annual event." When asked what the best value was during the day many proclaimed it was the opportunity to network with others in the same position. Many stories and experiences were shared and discussion surrounding common issues and similar challenges were heard throughout the day.



*CCABC Board members volunteer their time to provide members with valuable seminars and programs that assist with cemetery operations.
Debbie Sproule, John Chasca, Lorraine Fracy, Linda*

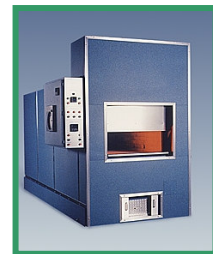
John Chasca, workshop chairperson and CCABC Director explained, "The CCABC already offers a crematorium certification program and we needed to expand our educational offerings to other areas for our membership. By offering a one day economical workshop both small and large operations can participate and benefit, and attendance today shows exactly that."

For further CCABC information and upcoming educational opportunities visit www.ccabc.org, call the office at 250-592-3213, or email info@ccabc.org

CREMATION EQUIPMENT / OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM – Wednesday, October 31, 2006

Crematory owners and managers recognize the benefits of cremation equipment and operator training.

- Fewer operational problems
- Fewer mechanical problems
- Better environmental awareness
- More operator responsibility
- Increased operator awareness of operational safety.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan on attending the next operator and training program scheduled to be held in Surrey on October 31st. **Full details and registration information will be forwarded to you soon!**

BUSINESS PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY

On May 30th the BPCPA announced that in an effort to improve services to licensees, they now have a toll-free telephone number that goes directly to BPCPA licensing staff and is to be used exclusively for licensing matters only.

The new toll free Licensing Matters number is 1-888-777-4393.

All other enquiries can be directed through the regular toll free number 1-888-564-9963.

Don't forget to "bookmark" the BPCPA website for quick access to information regarding:

Places of Interment and Crematoriums

Fee Schedule

Operator's Guide to the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act.

Licensing Application Package

Forms

Licensing Actions

Licensee Search

Advisory Groups

www.bpcpa.ca

GST on PRENEED ARRANGEMENTS

Applying the GST Rate Reduction to Prepaid Funeral and Cemetery Arrangements

Effective July 1, 2006, the rates of the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) will be reduced.

An information sheet has been posted to the home page of the CCABC website www.ccabc.org

The info sheet explains how to determine the rate of the GST that applies to products

or services sold under prepaid funeral and cemetery arrangements and to taxable interment rights.

Download file from CCABC homepage
www.ccabc.org

CCABC MEMBERSHIP CONTACT 2005

Late last year you received a telephone call from one of the CCABC board members. The purpose of the telephone call was to fulfill the CCABC board of directors responsibility of communicating with the membership so that any decisions made were not board opinion but information based.

If we don't understand what matters to our members how can we provide relevant information and services to them?



We wanted to learn and asked ...

"What kind of day to day challenges are cemetery and crematorium operators currently facing?"

- How do I promote the value of interment?
- Records management and grave locations
- Budgeting and staffing
- Being progressive with changing times
- Public awareness about cemeteries
- High water table and landscaping
- Disposal of metals (cremation)
- Privacy issues / genealogy
- Windstorms
- Green burials
- Regulations and restrictions for memorialization
- RCMP / Veterans markers

“What kind of projects or plans are you considering for your cemetery or crematorium?”

- Theme areas in cemetery
- Making cemetery more user friendly
- Installation of columbariums
- Memorial Nature Walk
- Master Plan RFP
- Software
- Cemetery enhancement project
- Historical project to reclaim plots

Thanks to everyone who participated! Your input will assist with growth for existing programs and new member programs for the CCABC!

AN INVITE TO CCABC MEMBERS!

**25th GEORGE WRIGHT MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH!**

It all started at the Kamloops Golf and Country Club 25 years ago when past Funeral Service Association of BC president, George Wright, a golfer of serious countenance, had a heart bypass.



His friends thought a golf tournament in his name would do much to give him cheer. It did the job and even though

George had a second bypass in 1990, he continued for several more years to be one of the fittest golfers on the greens.

And thus a tradition was begun ...

Over the past 25 years we have united with our many friends and colleagues of funeral service to enjoy a round a golf, celebrate

and honour those who have made a difference and contributed to our profession, share a laugh, a hug, and sometimes a tear, and give a little back to the community through the tournament fundraising activities.

On May 28, 2002 at the age of 76 years George Wright passed away. George began his career in funeral service in Winnipeg in 1948. He owned and operated Schoening Funeral Service in Kamloops for 41 years and touched many lives in the community and throughout the funeral service profession.

On Friday, August 25, 2006 we will be honouring George's memory by hosting the 25th George Wright Open Memorial Golf Tournament at the Kamloops Golf and Country Club.

Shot Gun Start – 12 Noon

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2006

Kamloops Golf & Country Club

TOURNAMENT PACKAGE = \$125.00 per : Includes green fee, shared power cart, concession sandwich & beverage voucher, refreshments, prize, golfers deluxe dinner, door prize draw, and a fun filled day!

A SPECIAL INVITATION AND REGISTRATION PACKAGE TO CCABC MEMBERS WILL BE FORWARDED SOON!

We hope you will consider joining in on the fun on August 25th