

NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

CEMETERY INCREASES CAPACITY FOR CREMATION REMAINS

As more people are choosing cremation over burial, Perth's Elmwood Cemetery is expanding its columbarium facilities, so that cremated remains can rest in peace.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, three columbariums were delivered to cemetery — the largest contains 72 units, while two smaller units contain 48 units.

"Two out of three are cremations now," said David Batchelor, the cemetery's treasurer, during an interview just before the arrival of the third, and largest, columbarium. "The plan is to finish the circle," he said, pointing to the outline of the current semicircle. There are plans for similar circles in the years to come, "but it'll be quite a while. There's a lot of interest."

These are not the first columbariums at the cemetery, though.

"There are five (columbariums) at the front and they are nearly full," said Batchelor. "We first looked at it some time back (expansion), but we hadn't had quite



Desmond Devoy/Torstar

Kevin Young, left, and Howard McMillan, beside him, direct the placing of the third columbarium at the Elmwood Cemetery in Perth on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 17.

noticed a "change of attitude, change of interests. In other countries, it's much higher, where they are shorter of space. We don't have a space problem (here)."

The cemetery board is always looking to be accommodating to people's needs, and "it was time to move ahead."

The rock used to create the three columbariums are drawn from the Nelson Granite quarry in Vermilion Bay in northwestern Ontario, 405 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay.

"We'll start selling those quite soon," said Batchelor.

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WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON SOMEWHERE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?