



NEA Memorial Gardens Inc.

NEA-MGI

Managers / Operators / Owners
Cemeteries in

Pouch Cove

St. Agnes Cemetery

Flatrock

St. Michaels Cemetery

In the Community Maintain	By the Community Own	For the Community ReFurbish
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Commonly Asked Questions .. In no specific order. as NEA Memorial Gardens Inc. (NEA MGI) see it

What is the law that governs burials and cemeteries?

Please see the reply from Sheena Gough, Registrar, Vital Statistics Division, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador at the end of this document.

Here is a link to the Vital Statistics Act (the "Act"):

<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/v06-01.htm>

How do I pay for Cemeteries services?

Most of our, at either Pouch Cove, St. Agnes Cemetery (PC-SAC) or Flatrock Memorial Gardens - St. Michaels Cemetery (FMG-SMC), services will go through the Funeral Home. If you have bypassed the Funeral Home and come to us directly we will need all the required documents filed and accepted and you will be required to pay upfront preferably by an eTransfer or cheque, we do not accept cash.

What documents are required?

As per NEA MGI Policies & Procedures; A Burial Permit and a fully completed and accepted Committal Request Form and must be Pre-Approved by either the PCCC or the FCC.

Am I able to choose exactly where in the cemetery the plot I buy will be located?

Not always. Of course, you'll be able to see what areas in the cemetery are already occupied by graves, and you'll know they're not available. But even areas that appear unoccupied might be unavailable — because they may have already been reserved by others who have done their own preplanning. If it's important to you that you be buried in a specific place, ask to see what is available and confirm that if you choose a particular plot, the burial will take place in that exact spot.

Can we dig our own grave to avoid the charge for opening and closing?

The actual opening and closing of the grave are just one component of the opening and closing fee. Due to safety issues which arise around the use of machinery on cemetery property and the protection of other grave sites, the actual opening and closing of the grave is conducted by NEA MGI approved and insured contractor.

What if I want to be buried in an existing family plot?

You can, and the details are outlined on NEA MGI Committal Request Form. The main point is that you have to have agreement with your family. If you are going through a Funeral Home, the Funeral Director will review this with you. If you are dealing with either PC-SAC or FMG-SMC and have our Committal Request Form completed you can discuss that with our Cemetery Steward.

To protect everyone's interest full family agreement is necessary.

Is a private committal of cremated remains without the services of a funeral director allowed?

Yes. As said before we will need all the required documents filed and accepted by either PCCC or FCC and all fees need to be paid in advance. NEA MGI cemeteries are a Sacred Place, a Place of Reverence and must be treated as such at all times by everyone especially during a private committal service.

It is advisable to have a member of PCCC or FCC present for observation.

What is permitted or not permitted regarding a cemetery liturgy?

Pouch Cove- St. Agnes Cemetery is a Sacred Place, a Place of Reverence and must be treated as such at all times by everyone.

Flatrock Memorial Gardens - St. Michaels Cemetery is a Sacred Place, a Place of Reverence and must be treated as such at all times by everyone.

All liturgies must be in full compliance with this.

Does my religion restrict me or my family from being buried at FMG-SMC?

No. Flatrock Memorial Gardens is a Community Cemetery. There has been a long history, over 100 years, with the parish of St. Michaels, that ended in 2023 and now the cemetery is owned by the people of Flatrock and managed by the FCC.

Does my religion restrict me or my family from being buried at PC-SAC?

No. Although St. Agnes Cemetery is a Roman Catholic Cemetery, that does not mean you have to be a Catholic to be buried there. Any resident of the Town of Pouch Cove or Bauline can be buried there with no consideration for your religion.

Can I plant a tree, bush, or flowers at my loved one's grave site?

No. As per NEA MGI Policies & Procedures; The planting of a tree, large shrub or other such items anywhere in the cemetery including on an individual grave is prohibited. All unauthorized planting will be removed without notification to the plot holder.

Can I place artificial flowers or silk floral arrangements on the grave?

Yes. To repeat; Both Pouch Cove - St Agnes Cemetery and Flatrock Memorial Gardens - St. Michaels Cemetery are Sacred Places, a Place of Reverence and must be treated as such at all times by everyone.

Please when placing artificial flowers and/or silk floral arrangements on or in your family plot remember this and have respect for the neighbouring plots. Wind can be horrendous at both SAC and SMC and can easily move anything that is not securely attached.

What is a grave liner and its purpose?

A grave liner is a structure that protects the casket from collapse. It does not protect the casket from all elements because soil and water can go through a porous grave liner. A grave liner simply ensures that the earth's weight doesn't cause the coffin to break.

The purpose of a grave liner is to prevent the grave from collapsing and to protect the coffin from the weight of the earth and to avoid the collapse of the casket. The collapse would also cause the ground to be uneven, making walking through the cemetery unsafe. Also, the uneven surface would make it difficult to grow and mow the grass.

Do I need a grave liner?

Yes. As per NEA MGI Policies & Procedures; All Burials require a Liner. For an Urn burial a wooden liner or outer box made of wood is acceptable. For a Casket burial many choices are available please discuss this with your funeral director for a suitable one, wooden liners are acceptable.

Forms around Plots at FMG

It is much easier to maintain a plot for grave without forms, be it wood or concrete. In 2023 with the families permission we did remove 3 forms and have request from 4 families to remove theirs in 2024.

From our Policies and Procedures ...At this time the FCC has made no Firm Decision on Forms. It is most likely that this will change in the future and forms will not be allowed. Forms are not allowed in Section 7.

Forms around Plots at PC SAC

Forms are not allowed St. Agnes Cemetery.

Grave Markers - Headstones

As per NEA MGI Policies & Procedures; Monuments are allowed and encouraged but must Be Pre-Approved Before Erection. Some rules;

If a fee applies it must be paid in advance.

All memorials must remain within your plot boundaries.

All memorials are the private property of the purchaser.

Repairs and upkeep of all memorials placed on cemetery lots are the responsibility of the plot or lot holder.

Do I Own the Land when I Purchase a Plot?

You do not own the land but you will have purchased the right to be buried there. This is called an "interment right."

Why Is Having a Place to Visit So Important?

To remember and to be remembered are natural human needs. A permanent memorial in a cemetery provides a focal point for remembrance and memorializing the deceased. Throughout human history, memorialization of the dead has been a key component of almost every culture. Psychologists say that remembrance practices, from the funeral or memorial service to permanent memorialization, serve an important emotional function for survivors by helping them bring closure and allowing the healing process to begin. Providing a permanent resting place for the deceased is a dignified treatment for a loved one's mortal remains, which fulfills the natural human desire for memorialization.

Our Goal at FMG-SMC is to have a perpetual care cemetery within 20 years. It's a big challenge and we believe we can achieve it.

PC-SAC is pretty much at Perpetual now.

What is a perpetual care cemetery?

A perpetual care cemetery is a type of cemetery that has a perpetual care fund set up. Every time that someone is buried in one of these cemeteries, a portion of the proceeds from their burial site will be put into this fund. This fund is then used to maintain the cemetery and to make any necessary repairs to it.

What is perpetual care?

Perpetual care is what it says, the graves/plots will be maintained by the Cemetery Committee. It's a lot of work and can be expensive, but we have it as a goal. One of the things we, FMG-SMC, have to get done before we embark on perpetual care is to rid our cemetery of Forms. We are working on that now.

How much does perpetual care typically cost?

We have to yet get a handle on this, probably in 4-5 Years we will have enough experience to start to look at this.

What is the perpetual care trust fund?

We all know what a trust fund is, a perpetual care trust fund is a fund exclusivity set up for future cost to be used for the care and upkeep of our cemetery. We really hope this can be accomplished.

What is the alternative to a perpetual care cemetery?

One could say a run down cemetery or a cemetery where all the maintenance and upkeep is done by families or volunteers, but that is getting thinner every year.

Does perpetual care actually mean forever?

While the term "perpetual care" implies that the cemetery will be maintained forever, this is not always the case, the fund may not be enough to maintain the cemetery indefinitely.

FMG-SMC Policies & Procedures;

Cemetery Perpetual Care:

1. There are a few plots at FMG-SMC that have no care taker and the FCC is doing their best to bring these plots up an acceptable appearance. We try our best but with limited volunteers we are making progress albeit slow but we progress forward.
2. At FMG-SMC full perpetual care is a long term goal, 20 years out. It will be expensive and we are working towards it.

Even though we don't have a columbarium, we thought it was good to put these in.....

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is a structure that houses urns containing cremated remains. It can be a room, a wall, or a freestanding structure. Columbaria can be found in cemeteries, churches, and other locations. They can be used for individual or family remains, and they can be indoors or outdoors

St. John's Archdiocese Inc.

Columbaria are above ground granite structures with secured compartments called 'niches'. These structures are designed for the committal of cremated human remains. The columbaria are placed on a concrete base on a specifically designed site to provide an appropriate atmosphere for remembrance and meditation.

A lot more on their web site

<https://rcsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Columbarium-Information-19Mar21.pdf>

Extraordinary Conditions**Previous Question****Can we dig our own grave to avoid the charge for opening and closing?**

The actual opening and closing of the grave are just one component of the opening and closing fee. Due to safety issues which arise around the use of machinery on cemetery property and the protection of other grave sites, the actual opening and closing of the grave is conducted by NEA MGI approved and insured contractor.

Fees for Opening and Closing of the Grave

Our NEA MGI approved contractor will provide the fee for opening and closing of a grave for a casket or an urn. This information can be obtained directly from and the cost can be paid directly to the funeral home.

A mini excavator maybe unable to access plots in the older areas of both Cemeteries. Getting access to your Family Plot is your responsibly and you have to assume all liability. Dismantling and restoring of other plots, removal and replacement of an existing headstone and removal and replacement of a section of the fencing maybe required. All options are expensive and we recommend you obtain a complete cost estimate before they proceed for your approval. NEA MGI assumes no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any damages to the Cemetery or to any plot or Headstone.

Our goal is to ensure that every deceased person is laid to rest where they or their family have chosen. NEA MGI will do our very best to ensure that this happens. If you would like to prediscuss this please contact our Cemetery Stewarts.

Flatrock Cemetery Committee's (FCC) main contact & Stewart of St. Michaels Cemetery is;
Dave McCarthy mccarthyd76@gmail.com
709-763-0801

Pouch Cove Cemetery Committee's (PCCC) main contact & Stewart of St. Agnes' Cemetery is;
Bobbie Connors
709-335-2311

We, NEA MGI did send some basic questions to the Registrar, Vital Statistics Division, here are the questions and her answers

I have provided answers to your questions below.

Here is a link to the Vital Statistics Act (the "Act"):

<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/v06-01.htm>

1. Who can issue a Burial Permit?

Section 17 of the Vital Statistics Act states that a funeral director can issue a burial permit.

2. Is a Burial Permit required to open and close a new plot or an existing plot?

Section 19 of the Act states that a person shall not bury or otherwise dispose of a body, remove a body from the province or conduct a funeral or service in connection with the burial or disposition unless a medical certificate portion of the death registration form is completed, a burial permit is issued by the funeral director and the person conducting the service or funeral is in possession of the permit.

Is there any circumstance when a burial permit is not necessary?

See answer above. A burial permit is not required for a cremation, however approval from the Medical Examiner's office is required. If the family decides to bury the remains, a permit is required.

3. What is the process to obtain a Burial Permit at the time of Death (casket or urn)?

Whichever funeral home is handling the case can issue the burial permit.

4. What is the process to obtain a Burial Permit for a urn at a future time?

Whichever funeral home handled the case can issue the burial permit.

Does the funeral home who performed the cremation have to provide the Burial Permit or can a different funeral home provide this?

There are cases where one funeral home performs the cremation on behalf of the family's chosen funeral home. If a different funeral home is handling the registration of death and the service, they can issue the burial permit.

5. Who can issue a Burial Permit for a casket or urn when a person has passed outside the province and wishes to be buried in NL?

If a body is being shipped into NL, a ship in request will need to be approved by the Medical Examiner's office. This is requested by a funeral home.

6. Can a Death Certificate, Funeral Director's Statement of Death or Notice of Cremation or any other documentation replace a Burial Permit?

No.

7. A Burial Permit has to be obtained prior to the burial?

Yes.

I hope this offers some clarification.

Thanks,

Sheena Gough

Registrar, Vital Statistics Division

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Digital Government and Service NL (DGSNL)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
149 Smallwood Drive
Motor Registration Building, Mount Pearl
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/vitalstats/>