

ELGIN MILLS

Cemetery, Cremation and
Funeral Centres



MORE THAN A LIVING MEMORIAL TO PAST GENERATIONS, ELGIN MILLS CEMETERY IS ONE OF THE CUSTODIANS OF OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY.

This beautiful resting place emulates that of a living city. It reflects the rich mosaic of cultures that have joined together to form the Greater Toronto Area. While still a young cemetery, its value to the community is to chronicle the history of the area's growth with each passing year.

Elgin Mills Cemetery boasts a large, natural setting conveniently located just north of Toronto off Highway 404. The headwaters of the Rouge River run through the east end of this vibrant cemetery, adding to the tranquility of the grounds. The numerous trees planted throughout Elgin Mills include the "nuttery," a collection of nut-bearing trees that blossom in the spring. The cemetery's large flowerbeds are planted seasonally, which add to the natural splendour of the environment.





Cremation Burial Section

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ELGIN MILLS CEMETERY



OUR CEMETERY ROOTS DATE BACK TO 1826

On January 30, 1826 the York General Burying Ground was established through an act of the parliament of Upper Canada. This first non-sectarian burying ground in the Toronto area was better known as The Strangers' Burying Ground or Potter's Field, and was located on the north-west corner of Yonge and Bloor Streets. Today, the York General Burying Ground is known as Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries (MPGC), which owns and operates ten cemeteries in the Greater Toronto Area.

By 1850, the area surrounding Potter's Field had become quite built up, and the residents of Yorkville decided they

no longer wanted a cemetery in their midst, so they lobbied the government to have it closed. They won their petition and the cemetery was ordered closed, the bodies to be removed and re-interred elsewhere. A new cemetery was needed. At about this same time, a group of Presbyterian businessmen opened a small non-sectarian burying ground, the Necropolis, in what is today's Cabbagetown. MPGC purchased this cemetery in 1855, and many of the remains from Potter's Field were re-interred in this cemetery. Others were re-located to Mount Pleasant Cemetery which MPGC established in 1876.

ELGIN MILLS CEMETERY ESTABLISHED IN 1979

The land on which the present Elgin Mills Cemetery is located was originally owned by the Heise family, pioneer settlers who immigrated to Markham Township from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in 1804. The first member of the family to own property was John Heise who purchased the west half of Lot 25 (100 acres), Concession III, Township of Markham from the Clergy Reserve Board.

John Heise left the farm to his son, Peter, in 1842. Around 1851 Peter built a 1½ storey, fieldstone house, which replaced the log house presumably built by his father. Peter Heise sold a one-acre parcel of land for a Methodist church site, for the nominal sum of \$10.00. Heise continued to work the farm until selling the remaining 99 acres to Joseph Gee, an English immigrant, in 1877. In 1884, Gee purchased 50 acres N.W. ¼ Lot 24, Concession III, from Christopher Robinson. In 1893, he acquired another 50 acres S.W. ¼ Lot 24 from John A. Harper, and the one-acre church property, giving him a total of 200 acres. At the same time, Joseph Gee sold one acre for \$1.00 to Eliza Rands, the widowed mother of John Horner. The remaining 199 acres remained in the Gee family and continued to be worked as a dairy and cash crop farm. Eventually

the north half, a 100-acre parcel of land, was deeded by Joseph Gee to his eldest son Robert. Son Joseph, Jr. received the remaining 99-acre parcel of land. Following the deaths of Robert, in 1948, and Joseph, Jr. in 1947, Robert's sons, Fraser and Douglas inherited the two properties. Nine acres from each farm were sold off for Highway 404, and one acre from Fraser's farm went to his son, leaving a total of 90 acres in each farm. Fraser retired in 1967. Douglas and his sons, Bryan and Norman, continued to farm the properties, selling them in 1978, to Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries, although they continued to farm part of the land, under lease, for an additional 10 years. As well as the Gee property, Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries acquired additional parcels of land so that today, Elgin Mills Cemetery covers 180 acres.

The old Heise farmhouse, which was erected c. 1851, has been retained and is used as a residence. The two Heise barns were dismantled by members of the Mennonite community with one barn re-erected just outside the city of Kitchener and the other now in re-use near Elmira.

Interestingly, Elgin Mills Road, on which the cemetery fronts, was laid out as the

Elgin Mills and Markham Plank Road, a wooden thoroughfare that connected Yonge Street with communities like Victoria Square and Cashell to the east. To provide for the upkeep of the road, a tollgate was erected at the Yonge Street corner and fees to traverse the thoroughfare were charged according to the type of vehicle and number of horses or oxen pulling it. The tollgate lasted until the late 1860s when the planks were removed and the dirt road graded.

Flowing through the property is a small unnamed creek that forms part of the headwaters of the Rouge River, so-called by the early French explorers because run-off from the surrounding land gave the watercourse a red (rouge in French) colour.

The origin of the name Elgin Mills is lost in time, but it's possible that this pioneer Yonge Street Community, which straddled both sides of the important thoroughfare and had several saw and grist mills on the nearby Don River, took its name from the Governor of the Province of Canada from 1846 to 1854, Lord Elgin.

After extensive grading, landscaping and planting had taken place, the

first six acres of the new Elgin Mills Cemetery was officially opened by the then mayor of the Town of Richmond Hill, H. David Schiller on November 17, 1979.

In 2000 a Funeral Centre (FC) with its stunning chapel was erected on the corner of Elgin Mills Cemetery where Leslie Street and Elgin Mills Road meet. This meant that for the first time, grieving families in Richmond Hill and the surrounding area could make all arrangements associated with a death in one place. The FC allows families to have visitation, the funeral service (or a memorial service), the burial and the reception all in one location.

In 2004, the Mausoleum of the Heavens, an indoor mausoleum was added to the existing office building, which was, itself, converted to house cremation niches. The cemetery office moved into the Funeral Centre.

In 2014, the Cremation Centre at Elgin Mills was opened, the first of its kind in the area. It was outfitted with an advanced cremator technology system and designed with cremation witnessing in mind.



Upright Granite Monuments



Granite-Fronted Niches



Mausoleum of the Heavens

YOUR OPTIONS AT ELGIN MILLS

There are a variety of burial, cremation and crypt entombment options available to suit your personal wishes.

Ground Burial

- Single graves that can accommodate up to two burial containers (caskets or cremation urns) and a flat marker
- Single graves that can accommodate up to two burial containers (caskets or cremation urns) and permit upright monuments
- Larger lots of two or more graves that permit an upright monument

Cremation

- A landscaped columbarium with granite-fronted niches that can be inscribed on the front
- An indoor columbarium with glass-fronted niches to place small mementos beside the visible urn
- Special feature areas for urn burial
- Burial in a grave or family lot to a granite wall, upon which inscriptions may be placed
- Cremation burial plot adjacent to a granite wall, upon which inscriptions may be placed

Crypt Entombment

Elgin Mills offers indoor crypt entombment options in a climate controlled environment at the Mausoleum of the Heavens, featuring rich Italian white Carrara marble crypt fronts. This intimate one-storey mausoleum features:

- An extraordinary stained-glass window
- A selection of several bronze vases, lamps, photo frames and lettering styles
- A spectacular hand-painted sky relief on the ceiling
- Heating and air conditioning
- Rich Italian white Carrara marble crypt fronts
- No annual electricity, maintenance or hidden fees
- Fine leather furniture



Elgin Mills Cremation Centre

SPECIAL FEATURES



Veterans' Section

Elgin Mills has a lovely section for Canadian and Allied veterans and their spouses. In recognition of veterans' service to their country, the costs of interment rights in this section are reduced.



Elgin Mills Funeral Centre

Bright and welcoming, the funeral centre at Elgin Mills provides families in the Richmond Hill and Markham areas a facility to host a visitation, funeral service, cremation and reception. Our space includes a 200-person gathering hall featuring three-storey-high windows with a calming view of our garden, and two reception rooms, each with a fireplace, and patio access. Two visitation rooms capable of hosting 75 people each can be combined for large groups as well.



Elgin Mills Cremation Centre

Opened in 1986, the cremation centre, at Elgin Mills Cemetery, was the first of its kind in the area. Outfitted with Mount Pleasant Group's modernized, advanced cremator technology system in 2014, the centre was designed with witnessing in mind and can host about 100 guests. An extension of the funeral centre, families can now have a chapel service, cremation and reception after an interment service all in one location and with the new cremation technology all of this can be completed in one day.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mount Pleasant Group

Pre-planning

Ground Burial and Entombment

Cremation

Our Cremation Centres and Cremation Technology

Cremation Witnessing

Natural Burial

Product Selection

Additional Tools and Resources

MOUNT PLEASANT GROUP (MPG)

We are a not-for-profit corporation. This means we are not owned or subsidized by any level of government. All revenues generated over-and-above expenses are retained within the organization for the operation of our properties. This allows us to invest in innovations that our customers see value in such as environmentally advanced cremation centres, indoor mausoleums, natural burial areas, modern and spacious multi-functional funeral centres and geothermal/solar niche buildings to name a few.

Cemetery, Funeral and Cremation Establishments Managed by MPG

MPG manages ten non-denominational cemeteries, nine funeral centres, and four cremation centres in the Greater Toronto Area. Here is a list of dates of establishment in chronological order:

1826: Potter's Field (closed in 1875)

1850: Toronto Necropolis

1876: Mount Pleasant Cemetery

1890: Prospect Cemetery

1928: Pine Hills Cemetery

1948: York Cemetery

1965: Beechwood Cemetery

1979: Elgin Mills Cemetery

1981: Meadowvale Cemetery

1984: Thornton Cemetery

1993: Duffin Meadows Cemetery

1994: The Simple Alternative Funeral Centres – Toronto

1996: The Simple Alternative Funeral Centres – Mississauga

1998: Pine Hills Funeral Centre

2000: York Funeral Centre

2000: Elgin Mills Funeral Centre

2001: The Simple Alternative Funeral Centres – Pickering

2009: Mount Pleasant Funeral Centre

2010: Meadowvale Funeral Centre

2014: Mount Pleasant Cremation Centre

2014: Elgin Mills Cremation Centre

2016: Thornton Cremation Centre

2017: Meadowvale Cremation Centre

2017: Thornton Funeral Centre

PRE-PLANNING

If you have already pre-arranged your funeral and cemetery arrangements then you're most likely aware of the benefits of pre-planning.

If you have not yet planned your final arrangements, or have just begun your research, here is some information for your consideration.

- Planning your own funeral is not top of mind for most but there are many benefits to planning ahead, both for you and your family. For one, it provides a clear record of how you would like to proceed, as well as direction to the executor of your estate.
- More than this, planning ahead lets you make your own decisions, from cremation to burial and all other cemetery and funeral services, to the type of memorial you want. Wrapped into all this, you can also

begin to consider overall cost and how much you would like to spend.

- And that brings up the third main benefit: When you prepay, you are protected from inflation. And in doing so, you're protecting your family from having to make hard decisions about what's appropriate, and what's affordable.

Still have a lot of unanswered questions? Ask for an appointment with our Pre-planning Advisors. They are there to help answer all your questions and take you through every step of the process.

If our office hours are not convenient, or if you are unable to get to us, one of our Pre-planning Advisors will come to you. Contact our office and ask to have one of our representatives visit you at your home or office.

GROUND BURIAL AND ENTOMBMENT

Most people are familiar with the concept of burial, or interment, but may not be aware of the variety of options that are often available. Many cemeteries offer one or more of the following:

Ground burial: burial of the casket below ground.

- **Mausoleum:** a large building that provides above ground entombments.
 - Single crypts accommodating one person
 - Companion crypt permits one or two entombments side-by-side

- **Private family mausoleum:** a small structure that provides above-ground entombment of, on average, two to twelve decedents.
- **Private family estate:** a small section of a cemetery, usually bordered by gates, shrubbery, or other dividers, that allows for ground burial of several members of the same family.

If Casket Entombment

- Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the crypt.
- What type of memorial package would you prefer?

If Casket Burial

- Would you like other members of the family to be with your loved one in the future? This determines the size of the lot.
- What type of memorial do you prefer (a marker set flush with the ground or an upright memorial)?
- Would you like to protect your loved one's casket with a vault?
- What type of presentation would you prefer for the burial service, e.g. a tent canopy, chairs, mats leading to the grave, etc.?

CREMATION

Cremation is an alternative to casket burial or mausoleum entombment: it does not limit the funeral in any way. Should you choose cremation, you will still have the same options for memorialization that any other family has. Cremation can take place before or after the funeral service.

A few facts about cremation

- If you choose cremation for your loved one, you can still have a service.
- You have numerous options for the final resting place.
- You can bury an urn in a cemetery, providing a permanent resting place where family and friends can visit.
- You can place a portion of cremated remains in a keepsake urn and a portion in an urn in a columbarium niche, providing a permanent location where you can pay your respects.
- You can scatter the cremated remains.

OUR CREMATION CENTRES AND CREMATION TECHNOLOGY

Available at these MPG locations:

 **Meadowvale Cemetery**

 **Mount Pleasant Cemetery**

 **Elgin Mills Cemetery**

 **Thornton Cemetery**

As the interest in cremation has grown, we have sought to find ways to enhance the service in two specific areas: environmental cleanliness and adapting to customer needs.

Environmental Cleanliness

Mount Pleasant Group is proud to continue its strong heritage as an innovator bringing advanced cremation technology and modern witnessing facilities to the communities we serve in the GTA. Our cremators are the cleanest in North America. It may surprise you just how clean our new cremators are. In fact, many common activities in our daily lives contribute far more contaminants in the air we breathe, and in far less time than our cremation centres do.

We are proud to present the first crematoriums in North America with fully automated environmental abatement systems. These technologically advanced units eliminate nearly 100% of all emissions and particulate matter making them

the cleanest cremators throughout North America. Independent testing confirms our emission levels are so far below the Ministry of the Environment's safe health thresholds that several contaminants are non detectable.

Customer Needs

Our cremation centres were designed keeping in mind the cultural, religious and last-rite practices preferred by the vast range of customers coming to us. Our goal has always been to create modern, family oriented facilities with expanded witnessing capabilities in a comfortable environment that allows families to safely and comfortably witness the cremation process. Witnessing is vital to many religions, which consider cremation an essential part of their service. For Hindus and Sikhs, tradition demands that the oldest son light the flame or funeral pyre. This is accomplished remotely within the witnessing room by pushing a button that starts the cremation process. For others, the act of witnessing is not a religious ritual but rather a respectful expression of their final farewell or helping them bring some sense of closure.

For more information about our cremation technology, please ask for our more detailed brochure on cremation and cremation technology titled "Are you thinking about cremation?".

CREMATION WITNESSING

Cremation witnessing is another way to say a final goodbye to a loved one in a comfortable, spacious environment prior to the cremation. Many of us think of cremation as taking place in very old, dark places using industrial equipment.

Witnessing feels a lot like a memorial service or graveside service. At our funeral and cremation centres, family and friends can gather in the bright, well-lit, modern and comfortable witnessing rooms. There, the casket is placed on a special lift in front of the cremator doors. If the family wishes, they can ask a faith leader, celebrant or officiant to share a few comforting words with the group and then, at the appropriate time, a button is pressed by a designated family member or one of our staff, automatically opening the doors and gently pushing the casket directly into the cremation enclosure, where the cremation process begins.

For many, especially those of the Hindu, Sikh and Jain faiths, being present during the cremation is an important part of their faith and traditions. For others, it's a respectful way to say a final goodbye. But until

recently, North American crematoriums weren't suited to accommodate witnessing. Most are old, cramped and very hot. We have upgraded all of our crematoriums with state-of-the-art equipment and entirely new, welcoming environments that completely transform the experience. Now families and friends can witness cremation in a dignified space in comfort.

The benefits of witnessing are largely personal. For some people, being present when the casket takes its final journey into the cremation enclosure is comforting or may be part of their traditions. For others, it may demystify something that they weren't able to be part of in the past. But the cremation equipment that makes witnessing possible also has other benefits. Once we put witnessing at the center of the cremation process, we needed specially designed equipment that would accommodate the witnessing room concept. This allowed us to incorporate the most advanced, cleanest and most environmentally responsible cremation equipment in the world.

NATURAL BURIAL

Available at these MPG locations:

 **Duffin Meadows Cemetery**

 **Meadowvale Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres**

A Natural Return to the Earth

Natural burial is becoming increasingly popular as a way to lessen one's environmental footprint. With this form of burial the body is allowed to return to the earth as naturally as possible – without embalming and in biodegradable caskets, urns or shrouds.

A Tranquil, Peaceful Setting

While natural burial has existed for hundreds of years in Europe, it was not available in the GTA until 2012 when we opened the first natural burial ground at Meadowvale Cemetery in Brampton. In addition to our Meadowvale location we now have a second natural burial section at Duffin Meadows Cemetery in Pickering.

Our Definition of Natural Burial

Natural burial can be defined in many ways. For our purposes we have taken

into account the health and safety of our staff and visitors to the cemetery while providing a natural alternative for those seeking an environmentally conscious approach to ground burial. Designed to let nature take its course, promote a “tread-free” mind-set and encourage people to refrain from walking on the graves, the plants and grasses in these burial grounds are left to grow freely. Additionally, we do not permit placing tokens of remembrance, such as teddy bears, photographs or flowers on the graves. As an alternative, a central memorial feature area provides a peaceful vantage point to pay respects.

Interment Rights

Interment rights are available in our natural burial sections at Meadowvale Cemetery and Duffin Meadows Cemetery. They consist of single graves that can accommodate one casket and one biodegradable urn with ashes, or two biodegradable urns of ashes. Scattering ashes is not permitted in these sections.

PRODUCT SELECTION

Caskets

A casket serves two purposes: it holds the deceased, and it allows for the remains to be moved from one location to another. A casket can also be personalized to reflect the personality of the deceased, such as emblems affixed to the corners or special embroidery of the interior.

On a deeper level, the casket plays another role. Often, people have difficulty coming to terms with the death. For some, having a casket at a funeral service can help enlighten them with what's happened, and help them come to terms with their loss.

Caskets come in numerous designs, from plain to elaborate, and may be made from wood, cloth-covered wood or metal.

Cremation Urns

Similar to a casket in purpose, a cremation urn holds the deceased. If there's a funeral service, it also acts as a physical symbol of the person, and can provide a focal point for family and friends to gather around – to grieve and to share memories. Some urns can also be personalized, with inscriptions or photos.

Cremation urns are available in a range of materials, designs and sizes. Ask us about size before choosing, as not all urns can accommodate the volume of cremated remains or will fit into every niche.

Keepsake Jewellery

Keepsake jewellery is designed to hold a small portion of cremated remains, a lock of hair, flower petals or earth from the gravesite. Unique and elegant, this jewellery is designed for both men and women, and comes in options including pewter, brass, sterling silver and gold.

Memorials

What people sometimes call “grave stones” are actually memorials. Beautiful and often made from bronze or granite, these act as landmarks for family and friends to come visit, while also preserving the deceased's memory through customization or inscription or design. They might sit upright (monuments) or lay flat on the ground (markers).

With ground burial, the options include upright granite monuments, markers in granite or bronze which lie flat on the grave, or a boulder. With casket or urn entombment, the memorialization is the inscription on the crypt or niche front.

There are also memorial options not associated with burial such as having their name inscribed in a Book of Remembrance or on a Tree of Life.

Casket and Urn Vaults

A burial vault is an outer container for the casket or urn that provides an extra layer of protection against sub-surface elements as well as the weight of the soil. The casket or urn is placed inside the vault which is then lowered into the ground. Pricing depends on the structural materials used, the degree of reinforcement and other features. While the use of vaults is mandatory in some cemeteries, we believe it should be based on personal choice.

Photoceramics and Frames

Nothing is more personal than a photograph. You can create a lasting image of your loved one through a photoceramic. Available in black and white or colour, and sized to fit a variety of bronze or stainless steel frames that

sit on a ceramic base, these can be installed right onto a monument, crypt or niche, or taken home to display.

Lanterns and Vases

A beautiful fitting to a marker or monument, a vase offers an elegant place for flowers. A lantern provides candlelight for reflection. Available in bronze or stainless steel, vases and lanterns come in different sizes and designs.

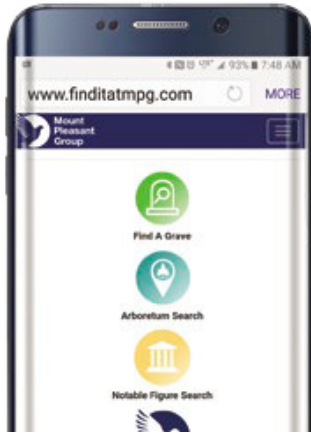
Memorial Wreaths

A memorial wreath or a monument saddle is a meaningful way to pay tribute to the deceased. Wreaths, which are available in a variety of shapes and sizes, are displayed on the grave with a stand which is supplied with the wreath. Saddles are designed to be mounted on top of the monument. Wreaths can be displayed from November 1st to March 31st, whereas saddles can be placed year round.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS & RESOURCES

Cemetery App

Discover the burial spot of a loved one; Mount Pleasant Cemetery's arboretum which is one of Canada's most diverse; and all notable figures buried in Mount Pleasant Group's cemeteries with our mobile search tool: **Finditatmpg.com**



Our Price Lists

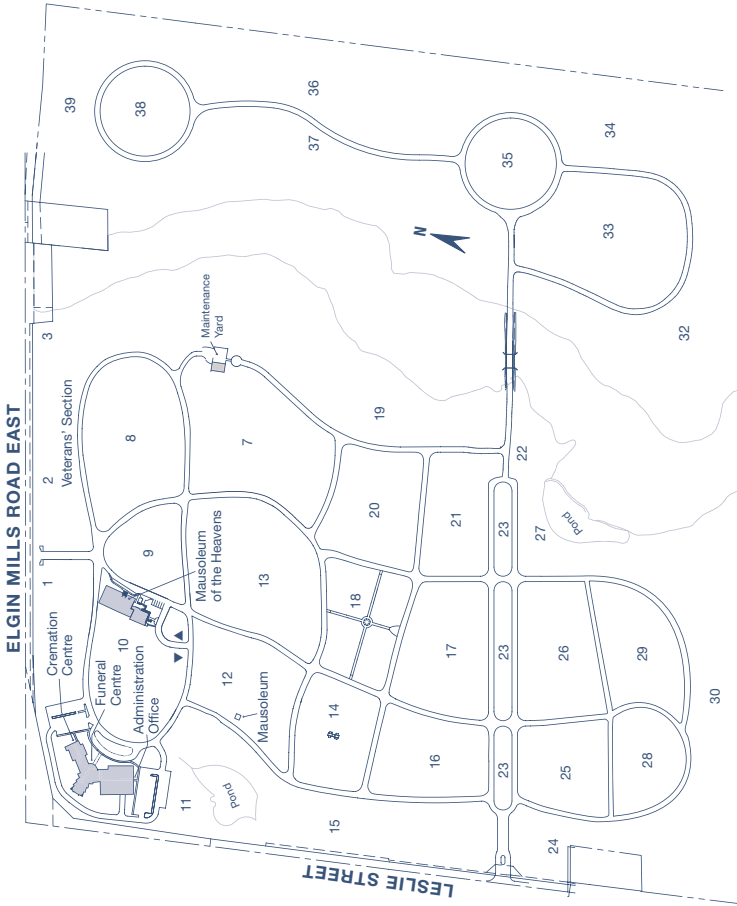
For your convenience, copies of our current price lists for all MPG locations have been posted on our website **www.mountpleasantgroup.com**. You can review them online or download them for future reference.

Interment right prices (graves, crypts and cremation niches) can vary widely from one location to another within each cemetery. Accordingly, please note that for most interment right prices, we indicate the starting price. In the case of monuments, markers and cremation urns, prices vary according to size, shape and materials used.

For more specific information relating to our prices, or any other issues, please contact the cemetery or funeral centre directly.



CEMETERY MAP



Office Hours

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
We are closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Gate Hours

Daylight Saving Time to September 30
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
October 1 to Eastern Standard Time
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
E.S.T. to Daylight Saving Time
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Elgin Mills Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres

1591 Elgin Mills Road East
 Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1M9
 905 737 1720
 elginmillsinfo@mountpleasantgroup.com

Other establishments managed by MPG:

Beechwood Cemetery

905 669 1827

Duffin Meadows Cemetery

905 427 3385

Meadowvale Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres

905 451 3716

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres

416 485 9129

Pine Hills Cemetery and Funeral Centre

416 267 8229

Prospect Cemetery

416 651 4040

Thornton Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres

905 579 6787

Toronto Necropolis Cemetery

416 923 7911

York Cemetery and Funeral Centre

416 221 3404

The Simple Alternative Funeral Centre – Mississauga

905 602 1580

The Simple Alternative Funeral Centre – Pickering

905 686 5589

The Simple Alternative Funeral Centre – Toronto

416 441 1580

Did a death just occur?

Call us for immediate assistance: **1-800-408-6033**

www.mountpleasantgroup.com

Cemetery and cremation services are provided by Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries. Funeral services are provided by Canadian Memorial Services which is affiliated with Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries.