

# THORNTON

Cemetery, Cremation and  
Funeral Centres



# **MORE THAN A LIVING MEMORIAL TO PAST GENERATIONS, THORNTON 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 City of Toronto. While still a young cemetery, its value to the community is to chronicle the history of the area's growth with each passing year.

Since 1984, Thornton Cemetery has been providing service to the city of Oshawa, the town of Whitby and neighbouring communities. The award winning landscapes provide stunning beauty and a park-like natural setting for a final resting place.



Known as the “cemetery with the pond,” Thornton has been serving Oshawa, Whitby and neighbouring communities since 1984. A rolling countryside, tranquil pond, and colourful flowerbeds enhance the cemetery’s natural, park-like setting.

Our newest funeral centre brings the possibility of visitation, funeral, cremation, interment or memorial service and reception together in one stunning building. The chateaux-style centre’s timeless design provides an abundance of natural light, a gathering hall which can accommodate 120 people and versatile rooms which can

be configured or expanded to serve as visitation, service and reception areas. The efficient layout of the facility at Thornton allows families the ability to seamlessly move from funeral service to cremation without leaving the building.

The architecture and building materials of the cemetery’s office, chapel, cremation centre and mausoleum reflect the rural and religious buildings of Oshawa’s history. The warm red brick of the buildings, for example, is found in many Ontario farm homes, and the chapel features stained-glass works of art.





# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THORNTON 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.



# THORNTON CEMETERY ESTABLISHED IN 1984

Thornton Cemetery was named for the Reverend Robert H. Thornton. A Scot by birth, Dr. Thornton immigrated in 1833, settling in Whitby Township in the fall of that year. He was the only Presbyterian Minister between Port Hope and Toronto, serving the Townships of Whitby, Pickering, and Darlington by himself. Reverend Thornton was a strong proponent of a good education system. One of the principal supporters of Ontario's Common and Grammar school, he became the first chairman of the Ontario County Board of Education. By the time he died in 1875, Ontario had acquired one of the finest education systems anywhere.

The site of Thornton Cemetery was formerly farmland, and has the gently rolling terrain found throughout the Durham Region. Ongoing development is dedicated to preserving the natural character of the landscape.

Building plans for Thornton Cemetery, Crematorium and Mausoleum were

selected from designs submitted in competition. The winning entry was the unanimous choice of the judging panel who felt that its "old world charm," beautiful co-ordination of form and space, and domestic scale would be most attractive to those visiting Thornton. The former use and location of the site were given heavy consideration by the architects in designing these buildings. Their forms reflect farm and religious buildings in the surrounding countryside. Many of the construction materials, such as the warm red brick of the buildings, are found in many Ontario farm homes.

The cemetery was officially opened in October 1985 by the Ontario Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations Monte Kwinter and Oshawa Mayor Allan Pilkey.

In 2017, Thornton Cremation Centre was opened followed shortly after by Thornton Funeral Centre.



Outdoor Mausoleum Niches





Granite Monuments



Granite Columbariums



Cremorial Granite Bench



# YOUR OPTIONS AT THORNTON

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

## Ground Burial

- Single graves accommodate up to two burial containers – caskets or cremation urns – and a flat marker
- Single graves adjacent to a brick wall with a marker
- Single graves that permit an upright monument
- Larger lots of two or more graves that permits an upright monument

## Cremation

- Two indoor chapel columbariums, offering wood- and glass-fronted niches
- Outdoor granite columbariums
- Cremation burial plots which permit upright monuments, or are adjacent to walls or boulders
- An ossuary surrounded by granite columns for inscriptions
- Memorial areas where cremated remains can be scattered
- Cremorial granite benches

## Crypt Entombment

Thornton's mausoleum is an outdoor structure in a garden-court design that allows for inscriptions on the granite crypt fronts.



## SPECIAL FEATURES



### **Thornton Funeral Centre**

Our newest funeral centre brings the possibility of visitation, funeral, cremation, interment or memorial service and reception together in one stunning building.

The chateaux-style centre's timeless design provides an abundance of natural light, a gathering hall which can accommodate intimate to large gatherings and versatile rooms which can be configured or expanded to serve as visitation, service and reception areas. The efficient layout of the facility at Thornton allows families the ability to seamlessly move from funeral service to cremation without leaving the building.



### **Thornton Cremation Centre**

Thornton Cremation Centre features a beautiful on-site chapel with stained-glass windows by Canadian artist Mimi Gellman. Serving the Oshawa area since 1984, Thornton delivers the convenience of both holding a service and having the cremation take place in the same building.

After a major renovation in 2017, the cremation centre is now outfitted with the most technologically advanced cremation equipment, complete with an abatement system that is virtually emission-free, and a beautifully designed witnessing room.





Funeral Centre Visitation Room



Cremation Centre

# **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:

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**1826: Potter's Field (closed in 1875)**

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**1850: Toronto Necropolis**

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**1876: Mount Pleasant Cemetery**

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**1890: Prospect Cemetery**

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**1928: Pine Hills Cemetery**

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**1948: York Cemetery**

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**1965: Beechwood Cemetery**

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**1979: Elgin Mills Cemetery**

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**1981: Meadowvale Cemetery**

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**1984: Thornton Cemetery**

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**1993: Duffin Meadows Cemetery**

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**1994: The Simple Alternative Funeral Centres – Toronto**

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**1996: The Simple Alternative Funeral Centres – Mississauga**

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**1998: Pine Hills Funeral Centre**

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**2000: York Funeral Centre**

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**2000: Elgin Mills Funeral Centre**

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**2001: The Simple Alternative Funeral Centres – Pickering**

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**2009: Mount Pleasant Funeral Centre**

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**2010: Meadowvale Funeral Centre**

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**2014: Mount Pleasant Cremation Centre**

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**2014: Elgin Mills Cremation Centre**

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**2016: Thornton Cremation Centre**

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**2017: Meadowvale Cremation Centre**

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**2017: Thornton Funeral Centre**

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# 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:

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 **Meadowvale Cemetery**

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 **Mount Pleasant Cemetery**

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 **Elgin Mills Cemetery**

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 **Thornton Cemetery**

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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:

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 **Duffin Meadows Cemetery**

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 **Meadowvale Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Centres**

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## *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***

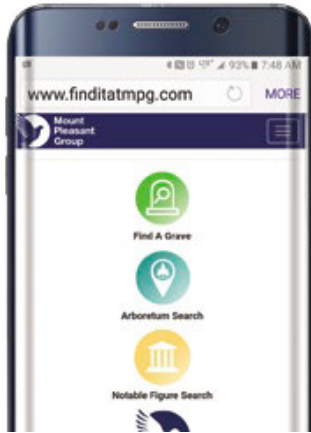
A memorial wreath or a monument saddle is a meaningful way to pay tribute to the deceased. Wreaths, which are available in a variety of shapes and sizes, are displayed on the grave with a stand which is supplied with the wreath. Saddles are designed to be mounted on top of the monument. Wreaths can be 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

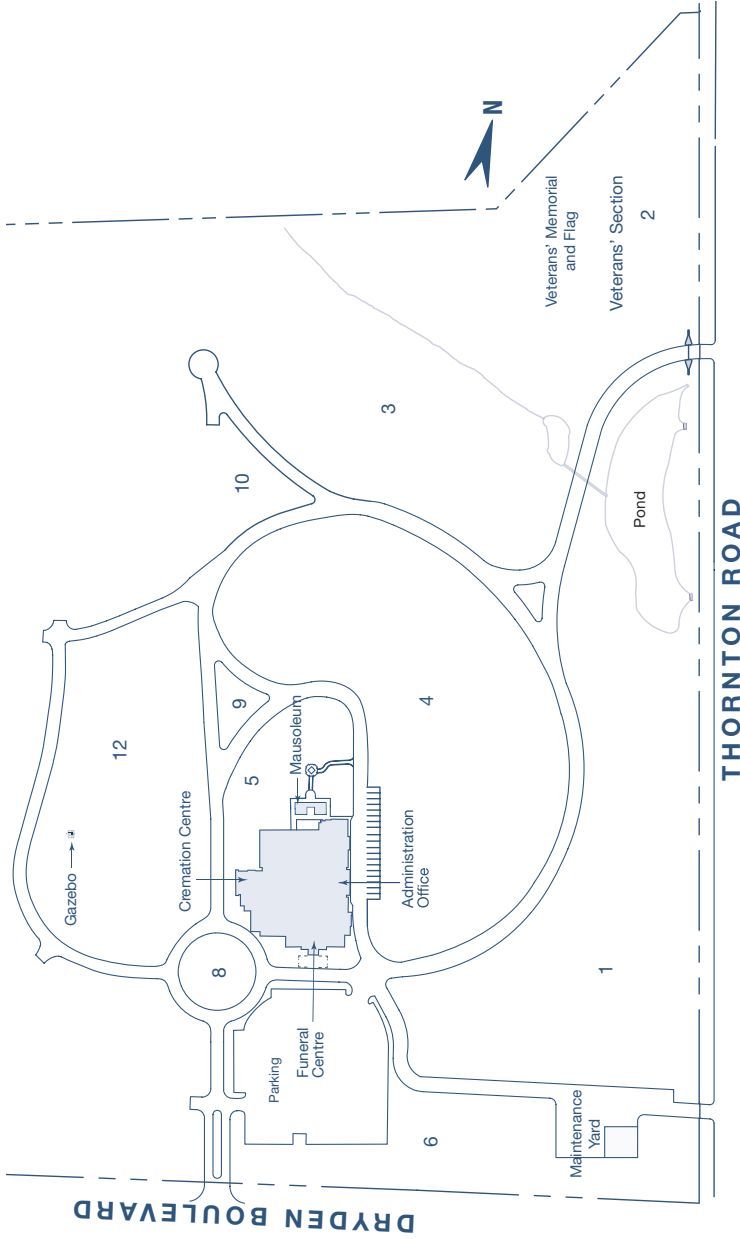
For your convenience, copies of our current price lists for all MPG locations have been posted on our website **www.mountpleasantgroup.com**. You can review them online or download them for future reference.

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.





## **Thornton Cemetary, Cremation and Funeral Centres**

1200 Thornton Road North  
 Oshawa, Ontario L1J 0C9  
 905 579 6787  
 thorntoninfo@mountpleasantgroup.com

### **Other establishments managed by MPG:**

**Beechwood Cemetary**

905 669 1827

**Duffin Meadows Cemetary**

905 427 3385

**Elgin Mills Cemetary, Cremation and Funeral Centres**

905 737 1720

**Meadowvale Cemetary, Cremation and Funeral Centres**

905 451 3716

**Mount Pleasant Cemetary, Cremation and Funeral Centres**

416 485 9129

**Pine Hills Cemetary and Funeral Centre**

416 267 8229

**Prospect Cemetary**

416 651 4040

**Toronto Necropolis Cemetary**

416 923 7911

**York Cemetary 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](http://www.mountpleasantgroup.com)**

Cemetary 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.