



Haliburton Highlands
GREEN BURIAL SOCIETY

~ Forever Green ~

Volume 5, Number 3, Year-End 2024

As we wrap up 2024 and look forward to a fulfilling year in 2025, we would like to give special thanks to all Society members, contributors and caring friends for their support and encouragement throughout the year. Best wishes to all for a wonderful and greener new year.

...your Society leadership team

2024 in Review

An Eventful Year for Green Burial Planning in the Haliburton Highlands

2024 has been a wonderful year for the Green Burial Society, with much accomplished. The successful collaboration between our Society, the Township of Algonquin Highlands and Haliburton School of Art & Design, Timber Frame Building program resulted in a beautiful welcoming gazebo being erected at St. Stephen's last summer. The gazebo will become a place to sit, reflect and remember. This project is a cost-share arrangement with Algonquin Highlands. We are so grateful for everyone who donated to the funding campaign. We have almost reached our target, with more than 80% of the Society's share now raised.



Throughout the year, we worked with Algonquin Highlands staff to revise the municipality's cemetery bylaw, which governs all aspects of burial and cemetery use, including the new green burial section at St. Stephen's. The revised bylaw is now under review with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, the governing body for cemeteries. Algonquin Highlands anticipates approval later this winter leading to the planned spring 2025 opening for plot purchases and interments.

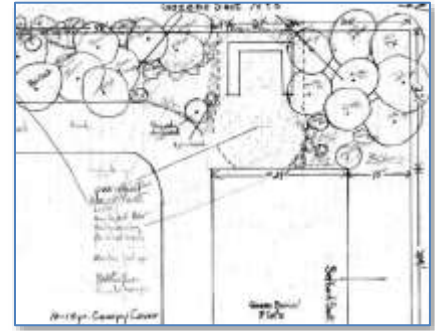
Looking Ahead to 2025

St. Stephen's Green Burial Section Planned Opening in Late Spring

The Haliburton County Master Gardeners (HCMG) will work with Algonquin Highlands to implement a landscape design plan starting in 2025. In November, Carolyn Langdon, of the HCMG and also a Society board member, presented a plan to Algonquin Highlands Council that was highly praised and approved.

"Mayor Praises Scope of Green Burial Plans" The Minden Times, Nov 13, 2024

In the next phase of preparation, the portion of the new section that will not contain burials will be forested with a casual path winding through the “L” shaped space. Planting and ongoing maintenance will be undertaken by community volunteers with supervision by the Master Gardeners, along with oversight by the cemetery manager. Three hundred trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants will be needed along with topsoil, mulch and a solar operated watering system. With the assistance of the HCMG, Algonquin Highlands has submitted a funding application to Tree Canada. Successful applicants will be notified in March 2025.



The burial plot area will be planted as interment occurs. This section is now designed for 156 burial plots with interment occurring from front to back to maximize naturalization goals. Families will not purchase a specific plot but plots will be progressively opened as needed. The restoration of the burial area will also complement the ecological characteristics of a nearby forest. The woodland restoration will provide habitat to native fauna and encourage natural self-sustaining regeneration into the future. The eventual woodland setting will provide visitors to the cemetery a peaceful place in nature to remember the departed with the satisfaction that their passing had a positive ecological impact.

Highlands East - Deer Lake Cemetery

Approvals are in Place!

Highlands East is moving forward with a green burial section at the Deer Lake Cemetery although it will not include winter interment. The township has updated its bylaw and has received Bereavement Authority approval, so purchases of green burial plots can happen soon. First interment availability should be in the spring of 2025. The approved bylaw includes HHGBS recommended considerations for green burial, with a plan to return the designated section to a natural state with localized vegetation as burials are completed. We will continue to advocate for a year-round approach. We'll also update township plans as they are released.

Community Education

In addition to hands-on work with the Township of Algonquin Highlands, Society leadership also participated in many other community educational activities on behalf of the membership.

- Made a presentation to Highlands East Township Council in support of winter green burials on February 13, 2024
- We staffed a booth at the Haliburton Cottage & Home Show - June 2-4
- Terry Moore presented a green burial update to the Haliburton CARP AGM on October 6th
- Terry also presented a green burial update on November 11th to *For Our Grandchildren (4RG)*, a senior's climate change action group headquartered in Peterborough.

Membership: A Shared Commitment to Greener Future

Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society membership joins caring community members in an organization that is focused on reducing the environmental impact of traditional burial and cremation. As highlighted above, all of our activities are connected to creating fully-green options for year-round burial in Haliburton. We do this through advocacy, education and direct support.

Your membership gives you an insider's seat and a voice in advocating for green burial options in the Highlands. With the St. Stephen's green burial section opening, 2025 will be another busy year for the Society. Your annual membership fee helps to fund needed supplies, administration costs, website development and limited sponsorship of activities, such as the Master Gardeners' collaboration. Annual fees may also contribute to the development of educational materials, workshops and webinars on green burial options.

For 2025, individual HHGBS membership is \$25.00 and a couple's membership is \$40.00. **Renew your membership** via the links below and please consider recommending membership to friends and to family members. Also note that voting rights at the Annual General Meeting to be held in May, 2025, require a paid-up membership.

Gazebo Cost-Share Donations are Still Needed



If you have already contributed to the St. Stephen's gazebo fund, **thank you so much!** So far, we have raised over \$10,000 for this memorial investment. Many individuals stepped up to make the lasting gift to the community a reality. But we are still at only about 80% of the total funds needed to meet our commitment and to finish the structure.

Please visit St Stephen's to see the gazebo and the land that will hold our green burial section, then **consider adding to your previous contribution** or, if you haven't taken the opportunity, **come on board now** as a stakeholder in a greener future. Donations made via [Canada Helps](#) receive an immediate electronic tax receipt.

Is a Legacy Gift in Your Future?

No matter your age or where you are in your planning, including a **legacy gift** to the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society in your will and ideally in a separate "last wishes" letter to your family is a caring way to create memorial recognition on your passing. Your estate gift will help to ensure that the Society can continue its work on your behalf. Please speak to your family, write down your wishes and seek your lawyer's advice on how to include the tax-sheltered gift in your will. Let us know if you would like to receive a "how-to" pamphlet.

Green Burial Has a History in Canada

Royal Oak cemetery in Victoria, BC recently celebrated the 15 year anniversary of its [Woodlands](#) green burial section. Connect via the link to read a wonderful story of peaceful burial among the trees and grasslands in a recent post from the Green Burial Society of Canada. One message is clear, when you have the opportunity (as we will next spring), reserve your spot. Green burial reservations now exceed the designated 500 interment capacity at Royal Oak.

Connect to our Society

Please visit the [Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society website](#) for more information on our activities and on green burial as the best option.

How to Support the Society:

- Donate or renew membership online through [Canada Helps](#)
- or by E-transfer to hhgreenburialsociety@gmail.com
- or by cheque made out to Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS) and mailed to *HHGBS, Attention: Secretary, 1193 Braeloch Rd., Algonquin Highlands, Ontario K0M 1S0.*

Your HHGBS Leadership Team

We currently have seven (7) members on the HHGBS board but are chartered for nine (9) members, which means that we have two (2) open board positions needing volunteers. If you're interested in helping to create a greener future as a Society Director or in volunteering in other activities in 2025, please send us an email at hhgreenburialsociety@gmail.com.

Officers: Terry Moore, President, Jennifer Rieger, Vice-President,
Shirley Moore, Secretary/Treasurer

Directors: Carolyn Langdon, Sheila Ziman, Jenn Watt, Ross Peacock

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We appreciate comments or suggestions related to both Society activities and our newsletter content. Please also let us know by email if you would like to unsubscribe from future newsletters and updates.

Links to copy and paste in your browser, if preferred:

<https://www.haliburtongreenburial.ca/>

<https://greenburialcanada.ca/2024/01/24/woodlands-at-royal-oak-burial-park-celebrates-15-years-of-green-burials/>

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/haliburton-highlands-green-burial-society-inc>