



Ross Peacock <rosspeacock@gmail.com>

Forever Green - 2025 Number 2 - Green Burial Newsletter

1 message

Green Burial Society <newsletter@haliburtongreenburial.ca>
 Reply-To: Green Burial Society <newsletter@haliburtongreenburial.ca>
 To: rosspeacock@gmail.com

27 September 2025 at 10:46



Haliburton Highlands
GREEN BURIAL SOCIETY
 ~ Forever Green ~

Volume 6, Number 2, Fall 2025

St. Stephen's Green Burial Official Opening

Sunday October 19, 2025 1:00 pm

[Map to St. Stephen's Cemetery on Buckslide Road](#)

Six and a half years after the **Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society** (HHGBS) first asked **Algonquin Highlands** (AH) Township Council to consider the creation of a



year-round green burial section at its St. Stephen's cemetery, an official opening ceremony will celebrate the achievement of that dream on **Sunday, October 19th**. Everyone is welcome to join members of AH Township Council and the HHGBS leadership at the opening.

The first burial in the Green Burial section actually occurred on March 19, 2025, when **Shirley Moore**, one of the founding members of the HHGBS was interred following her death on March 15th. The road to year-round green burial becoming a reality in Haliburton County has been a long and winding one but the HHGBS, along with the members of AH Council and staff, have finally achieved the goal of creating the first ecologically sustainable option to conventional burial and cremation in Haliburton County.

The Significance of Year-Round Green Burial

Year-round green burial means green burial that's available for all 12 months of the year. The only place in Haliburton County where green burial (actually, burial of any kind) is now available in the winter (November 15 - May 15) is within the green burial section at the St. Stephen's Cemetery in Algonquin Highlands. The HHGBS believes that for green burial to become a serious alternate it must be available regardless of when a person happens to pass away.

We're Getting Together by ZOOM on Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Please join us for a virtual community meeting on October 21st. We'll review 2025 and look ahead to future Society activity. This will be a great opportunity to ask questions about the availability of green burial and to discuss our progress to-date. So **please mark your calendar** to join our ZOOM community update at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 21, 2025**. *More details to come.*

We Need Your Views! – Our First Ever Member and Supporter Survey



Please participate in our short survey of member and supporter views on end-of-life planning and green burial preferences. Even if you are just exploring green or natural burial, we want to hear from you in our anonymous survey. Summary results will be discussed at our October 21 community meeting and in a future newsletter.

Completion time estimate: 10 minutes

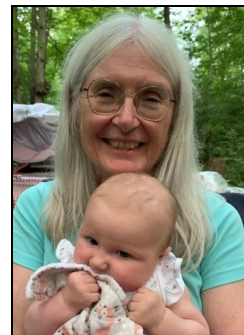


—> *Survey Closes October 10th*

Message from our President – Terry Moore

On a personal level, this year has witnessed crushing lows following Shirley's ALS diagnosis in late 2024 and death on March 15, 2025. However, along with the loss of my best friend and partner of 56 years (and the Society's Secretary/Treasurer) also came an incredible out-pouring of love and affection for one of the most loving people many of us had ever encountered. That love and affection was reflected not only in the turnout for Shirl's April 6th Celebration of Life but also in the amazing number of donations made in her memory – close to \$7,000! Thank you to everyone making a donation. We will take care to use that money wisely as we continue the work Shirl cared so deeply about.

In the wake of Shirley's death, the HHGBS had to grapple with a last-minute alteration of the AH cemetery by-law that made advanced green burial interment rights (plot purchase) impossible. Council and the Society had long agreed that the right to be buried in St. Stephen's green section would be a general right to burial somewhere within the green burial area with the actual plot to be determined at the time of death. The pre-need purchasing of an interment right is an essential element of end-of-life planning and is available to those wanting both conventional burial and cremation. Just days before the first interment in the green burial section, the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) insisted on a change to the wording of the township by-law eliminating "pre-need sales" of green burial interment rights. Recognizing the barrier this change created for green burial, the HHGBS immediately began an intensive effort to persuade the BAO to reconsider its interpretation of the regulation in question.



After our submissions and extensive consultation, I'm pleased and relieved to announce that we have been successful in achieving a reversal, with the BAO now working with the township on the required amendments to green-light pre-need (advance) sales of green burial rights in AH. While that change has not yet made its way through Council, all members are committed to making the change as quickly as possible.

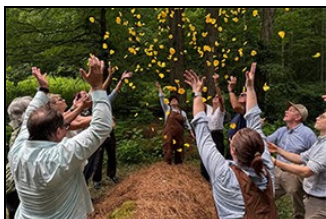
The Friends of the Library – Memorial Book Additions

The *Friends of the Haliburton County Library* have made a wonderful book contribution in memory of Shirley Moore. The hard copy additions to the library collection include: *The Green Burial Guidebook* and *Reimagining Death*. [Read the book outlines here](#). This collection is a valuable, lasting local resource with informative reading as you plan your green burial arrangements.



Green Burial Momentum - from the **New York Times**

Article: August 23rd [When I'm Going, I'm Going Green](#)



"There are approximately 500 natural or green burial cemetery sections in the U.S." (In Canada, there are [15 certified green cemeteries](#) with many more under development).

"A consumer survey conducted by the U.S. Funeral Directors Association found that more than 60 percent of participants said they would be interested in exploring green and natural alternatives." "A new craft industry has evolved around [eco-friendly green burial funeral items](#)." (Talk to a funeral director about local suitability and availability)

Join the Society!

Please visit the **Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society** [website](#) for more information on our activities and on green burial as the best end-of-life option. Membership renewal for 2026 will open in November, 2025, but **new members are always welcome** (please just email us at this time - no membership fee for remainder of 2025!)

You Can Help Support HHGBS Initiatives

Donate at any time through [Canada Helps](#) (all donations receive a tax receipt)

- or by E-transfer to hhgbstreasurer@gmail.com
- or by cheque made out to Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS) and mailed to HHGBS, Attention: Treasurer, PO Box 667, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0



Your HHGBS Leadership Team

We currently have six members on the HHGBS board of directors but are chartered for nine board members, which means that we have three open board positions available to community members with a desire to help shape the future of green burial in Haliburton County. Our board members lead Society direction for community outreach and advocacy. If you are committed to a greener future and would like to join us, please send Terry or Jennifer an email at hhgreenburialsociety@gmail.com.

Officers: Terry Moore, President, Jennifer Rieger, Vice-President

Ross Peacock, Treasurer

Directors: Carolyn Langdon, Sheila Ziman, Jenn Watt,

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We appreciate comments or suggestions related to both Society activities and our newsletter content.

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