



# Drake Cremation & Funeral Services

I hope you found this booklet on scattering helpful... and now a word from our sponsor!

Are all funeral homes the same? No. Here are some things that makes us different:

- Whatever service you choose, it will be affordable & we'll help people who simply can't afford it.
- No up sell, no pressure to spend more....ever!
- If you pre-pay you get half the commission; the other half goes to local charity!
- For your comfort (and ours), we wear no black suits (except at a service)
- Relax in comfort in our living room or tea room, not a stuffy board room. Or, we'll come to your home.
- No cardboard box for your loved one. No cardboard urn. Ask us why.
- Drake's Wall of Memory is our special gift to you.
- We're not lawyers, but if you're struggling with paper work we'll try to help at no charge.

**What if we're not the right place for you?**

**We want you to feel comfortable and to have your needs met.**

**As part of our professional service, we will not hesitate to refer you to another funeral home if we believe it is in your best interests.**



**And remember, at Drake's there are NO BLACK SUITS! (except at a service)**

210 Lansdowne Street, Kamloops, BC, Tel.: 250-377-8225

www.DrakeCremation.com

Email: Drake@DrakeCremation.com

# Drake's Guide To S-C-A-T-T-E-R-I-N-G.

## Do's & Don'ts when scattering ashes

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- Is it legal?
- Will Murray's ashes help to grow a tree...and other gimmicks.
- Should I check the wind direction?
- *And MORE!*



Drake Smith, MSW  
Funeral Director/Owner

*If you're planning to scatter ashes, this booklet could help YOU.*

Drake Smith has worked with seniors most of his life, including seniors' housing, recreation, counselling, and fitness for seniors. He holds a Masters degree in Gerontological Social Work and is a fully licensed funeral director and embalmer.

His column, "ASK DRAKE" appears every Friday on the obituary page of Kamloops This Week and monthly in the Senior Connector.

You'll see Drake, his wife Avril and beagle Maggie on their daily walk near their home in Kamloops.



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**IT'S ILLEGAL TO SCATTER ASHES.... ISN'T IT?**

The Federal government says you can scatter ashes on Crown Lands. You can't bury ashes in a Federal park, but you can scatter them there. There is no Provincial legislation on this subject, so you're not breaking BC laws. There are no specific laws in Kamloops either, but you could get charged with "littering." **IMPORTANT:** it depends on who owns the property. If it's private property, you need the owner's permission.

A lot of people are scattering ashes these days. Remember, once they're gone, they're gone! Children, grandchildren and great grandchildren may lose a wonderful opportunity to connect with the memory of Grandma if she is scattered in the river or on the mountain top.

I'd encourage you to consider a place where family can visit, such as a cemetery. I know that they are "out of style" these days, but styles change (as do priorities and values). And, it doesn't have to be expensive. For example, for just over \$100 you can put the ashes in the Garden at Hillside Cemetery in Kamloops. We have a special place at Drake's. It's called the Wall of Memory. Come and check it out.

**WHAT SINGLE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSIDERING SCATTERING ASHES?**

**By the way... WHO IS MURRAY?**

**SHOULD I SCATTER ON A WINDY DAY?**



I've only scattered ashes a few times in my career, but even on a calm day the ashes seem to go wherever they want. Windy day? Forget it!

You'll read about Murray and his wife Alice throughout this booklet. I think it's nicer to use names than to refer to "deceased people" all the time... And...they're mythical people!

Some people get very "creeped out" by urns and the idea of touching ashes. If that describes you, you want to protect yourself from the anxiety. Dress properly (it probably wouldn't be the best time to wear your cashmere sweater), pour the ashes out slowly and remain at arms' length.

Or, have someone else do it.



**MURRAY'S GONE...NOW WHAT?**

My biggest goal when serving a family is to ensure that they won't regret their decision to scatter Murray. After all, once he's scattered he's SCATTERED! It's one reason I encourage people to keep a little of Murray in a keepsake urn at home, or in Drake's Wall of Memory.

**IS THERE A TIME LIMIT ON SCATTERING?**

Ashes have no “best before” date. As long as they don’t get wet, they will remain pretty intact for a very long time. So, if you keep them home in a dry place for a week, a year, or a decade, they should be fine.

This is an important question for some people. If Alice wants to keep Murray’s cremated remains with her and have the kids scatter her and Murray when Alice’s time comes, its’ good to know Murray won’t have changed much.

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

The law in BC\* says control over the disposition of cremated remains (and non-cremated human remains) vests in the following persons in order of priority:

1. The executor if there’s a will.
2. The spouse of the deceased.
3. An adult child of the deceased.
4. If deceased was a minor, the guardian.
5. A parent of the deceased.
6. An adult sibling of the deceased.
7. An adult next of kin...
8. The government Minister.
9. Someone Murray met in a bar last night.

\*This section is to provide general guidelines and not specific legal advice or instruction. Please check with a lawyer for that.

**WHO IS ALLOWED TO SCATTER MURRAY’S ASHES?**

**WHY AM I SCATTERING MURRAY’S ASHES?**

Maybe Murray told you to scatter his ashes, so you want to honour his wishes. Maybe you don’t like cemeteries or their cost. Maybe you believe that the body is simply a vessel and doesn’t really “count” after death so it’s okay to scatter ashes. It’s a question you need to ask yourself.

Before you head out to the scattering spot, make sure you examine the container or urn holding Murrays’ ashes. Do you need scissors, a knife or screw driver to open it?

The ashes come from the crematorium in a double plastic bag. Nowadays it’s sealed with a zap strap (it used to be a twist tie, but the new owners of the crematorium changed the policy). So you’ll need to get that off. Careful...don’t puncture the bag while removing the zap strap!

If you’re going to keep some of the ashes, you’ll need a little container or baggie to take them home in.

**WHAT DO I DO WITH THE URN AFTER MURRAY’S SCATTERED?**

Some people save it for the next time. Some people store Murray’s love letters or other important treasures. Some people donate it back to the funeral home. I’ve even seen used urns in thrift stores!

**IS THERE A “SCATTERING TOOL KIT” I SHOULD TAKE ALONG?**

**If I plan to cremate Murray and simply scatter Murray's ashes, how much does the cremation cost?**

**SERVICE FEES & FACILITIES**

Professional Staff Services:	\$	220
Personal Care of Deceased:		100
Completing Documents:		265
Transfer of Deceased:		225
Transfer Vehicle:		125
Facilities:		95
Cremation:		<u>765</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,795</b>

**CONTAINER/CASKET/URN**

Container for the body (*Plywood)		175*
Wood Urn for Ashes:		<u>n/c</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>175</b>

**CASH DISBURSEMENTS**

Death Certificate:		27
Consumer Protection Fee:		<u>30</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>57</b>

**PRE-TAX TOTAL** **\$ 2,027**

**TAXES**

GST:		98.50
PST:		<u>12.25</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL :</b>		

**TOTAL:** **\$ 2,137.75 \*\***

\*\*Prices are subject to change. If you want us to scatter Murray, it's \$50

*\*You have many other options, for example...  
Substitute a Cowboy Coffin: add \$380 (\$555).  
Pre-tax total: \$2407. GST \$117.50 & PST  
\$38.85, TOTAL: \$2563.35*

A Cowboy Coffin is light pine & shaped like this.



We fill out CPP death benefit forms (max. \$2500) at no charge

**MURRAY HAD SEVERAL "FAVOURITE" PLACES... SHOULD I SCATTER SOME OF HIS ASHES IN ALL OF THEM?**

There seem to be no rules anymore. Some people still believe that the ashes should not be separated.

Other people think it's a wonderful way for the family to connect and share in Murray's legacy....so they take him to all his favourite places and leave some of his ashes behind.

**WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO SCATTER MURRAY?**

If Murray wrote his wish to be scattered in his Will or in a pre-paid funeral contract, you're supposed to honour it. On the other hand, if he mentioned it around the campfire after two hot dogs and a six pack...the law's likely on your side. But the law's only one side to that dilemma - how will you feel next year if you disregard Murray's wishes today? But, if you scatter Murray, will you wish you hadn't?



People THINK they are breaking the law when they scatter ashes. So, they unceremoniously pour Murray's ashes onto the ground or into the water and, slightly relieved, quick-step back to the car. It reminds me of the woman in the IKEA ad who hollers "Start the car!" All because people think it's illegal. It's a shame really, as this important moment should be shared and savoured by the family and friends gathered.

**WHY DO PEOPLE RUSH WHEN SCATTERING THE ASHES?**