



Drake Cremation & Funeral Services

I hope this booklet has been 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 The Last Good-Bye.

How to Hold a Celebration of Life

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- I'm organizing this myself. What are some tips I should know?
- Should Murray's ashes be there, even if he loved Elvis?
- Will this bring CLOSURE for me, my family & friends?
- *And MORE!*



Drake Smith, MSW
Funeral Director/Owner

If you're planning a "Celebration of Life" 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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MURRAY SAID HE DIDN'T WANT A SERVICE, BUT I WANT SOME KIND OF SEND OFF FOR HIM...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

By the way...

WHO IS MURRAY?



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!

Over the years hundreds of people have told me they want NOTHING, NO SERVICE when they die.

But when I asked them: "What if your family just wants to have a little party for you, in the back yard perhaps?" almost all of them said "YES, that would be fine."

Have a talk with your 'Murray' today. If you need some help starting it, come and see me.

What if I want to see Murray one last time, before cremation...to say good-bye?

Most people dislike the traditional 'viewing'. The sombre music, the satin casket, and usually "he doesn't even look like Murray!"

So, we came up with the Drake Wake. If you wish to say goodbye before cremation, ask us about it. It's a very natural, comforting moment.

NO fancy casket
NO sombre music
NO rush
And NO BLACK SUITS!

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 Wall of Memory at Drake's. Come and check it out.



What will I want when MY time comes?

In the days/weeks following the celebration, why not sit down with your family to discuss how they felt about Murray's Celebration of Life? What worked? What didn't?

YOUR day is coming. When that time comes, wouldn't it be great if your family knew what was important to you? It might really help them to plan a meaningful, memorable CELEBRATION OF YOUR LIFE!

THE CELEBRATION'S OVER!

NOW, WHAT DO I DO WITH MURRAY?

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE THE GATHERING "SPECIAL"?

When you and your family/friends look back on the gathering, perhaps years from now, what will "stand out" in your memory?

- Maybe it was when you all planted the little tree (look how big it's grown!)
- Maybe it was when you tried to build and fly a kite, just like the one Grandpa used to make?
- Maybe when you all went back to the hospice house to thank them for their care?
- That last idea, going to hospice, might lead you to think about something that helps many people with their grief process: help others by volunteering your time and skill. Hopefully, when the time is right for you, you will consider this.

Notes _____

For some people this is essential; for others it's creepy. Some people prefer instead to have a display of Murray's cherished treasures: his Swiss army knife, the baseball glove he wore as a child, perhaps his wedding photo.

If you have an urn, what kind will it be? I'll never forget Alice's urn. She loved Elvis. So, the family placed her ashes into a cookie tin and pasted photos of Elvis all over it! I'll bet she'd have been thrilled! And everyone at the gathering thought it was great too!

SHOULD MURRAY'S URN BE AT THE GATHERING?

...EVEN IF HE LOVED ELVIS?

Why am I DOING this "Celebration" anyway?

That's a very good question. Is it to honour your loved one? To feel better? Is it because family/friends/the funeral director are pressuring you to DO SOMETHING? Is it for CLOSURE*?

When you can clearly answer that question, you'll be better prepared to decide what kind of "celebration" to have...or not have. ***P.S. Clients over the years have told me that closure can be an elusive target.**

Here are a few things to consider:

- Are you comfortable having an unknown number of people in your home at this time. Will you feel like being a host/hostess?
- If you put a notice in the newspaper, will the bad guys get your address?
- What will you remember?" Recently, a widow told me that the family is going to a lake nearby...where her husband built their cabin long ago. Great memories there!
- How about holding the "celebration" in several places & stages? Maybe in the corner of the library where Alice used to go to read; then on the green at the third hole where she sank that infamous putt; followed by a visit to the local A&W where she met her buddies every morning. Hmm...Inexpensive & memorable!

Why am I doing this "Celebration" anyway?

That's another good question. If it starts to feel overwhelming you can certainly call us. We've taken care of hundreds of funerals, memorial services and "Celebrations" over the years. We can help you.

WHERE SHOULD I HOLD THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE?

**If I organize the Celebration myself,
and just get Drake to look after the cremation,
WHAT'S IT GOING TO 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>
SUBTOTAL:	\$	1,795

CONTAINER/CASKET/URN

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

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

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

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

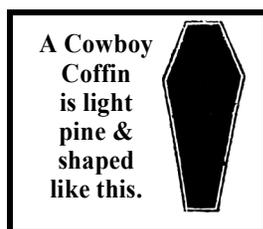
TAXES

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

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

**Prices are subject to change.

**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*



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

**WHAT GOES ON AT
A "CELEBRATION
OF LIFE"?**

Some are highly structured -- a celebrant, a step-by-step program, Murray's favourite ZZ Top songs playing in the background, etc. Others are as informal as you could imagine -- a few family/friends gathered together to raise a glass to Murray at his favourite watering hole, for example.

Don't forget to have an escape route (maybe a password with a trusted friend) so you can easily get away if it all becomes too much.

One last note: Don't forget why you're there. Murray has died! It's time to remember Murray! Long, exhausting debates over the weather or last night's game should probably be held at another place & time.



That's an idea...

I've seen great tributes and some not so great. Here's why:

1. With technology something often goes wrong, causing stress.
2. Many power point tributes are simply too long, showing every single photo ever taken of Murray. I'd suggest you keep it short & simple (3 to 4 minutes)
3. Consider some old fashioned creativity. For example, each grandchild might pick a photo of Grandma Alice from a hat and tell a story about it & her. UNFORGETTABLE!

**SHOULD I HAVE A
"HIGH TECH"
AUDIO-VIDEO
PRESENTATION...
LIKE A POWER
POINT?**