

Galiano Island Cemetery Family Guidebook

Honouring Loved Ones Through Care, Ceremony, and Connection

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that the Galiano Island Cemetery is located on the ancestral, unceded, shared, and occupied lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Tsartlip and Penelakut Nations, along with others who have held rights and responsibilities to this place since time immemorial.

This site is part of a broader cultural and spiritual landscape that continues to hold deep meaning. We honour the histories, knowledge systems, and ongoing relationships that guide our responsibilities as stewards of this sacred space.

Introduction and Background

The Galiano Island Cemetery, under the stewardship of St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church, is a place of remembrance, rest, and responsibility. It holds deep cultural, spiritual, ecological, and historical importance for the community.

As stewards of this land, we are committed to practices that uphold:

- The sacredness of this place
- Its archaeological and ecological significance
- Community and intergenerational care
- The guidance and voices of local First Nations

Recent updates to our policies reflect meaningful consultation with local First Nations and archaeologists, as well as evolving legal and ethical standards. This guidebook was created to offer clear, compassionate guidance for families and to outline how to honour your loved one's wishes with respect and care.

This guidebook will:

- Support families with clear and respectful information
- Explain procedures for scattering ashes
- Share important background about the cemetery's stewardship and purpose
- Ensure all interments align with ethical, legal, and spiritual principles

We invite you to read this guide carefully and contact the Cemetery Committee for any support or clarification you may need.

Communication and Planning Guide

Planning a scattering or memorial placement at the Galiano Island Cemetery involves a collaborative and respectful process. The following guide outlines each step to ensure smooth coordination between families, the Cemetery Committee, and any spiritual or ceremonial leaders involved.

1. Initial Contact

- Families initiate communication with the Cemetery Committee via email or mail.
- The Committee responds within 5–7 business days to schedule an initial meeting.

2. Initial Meeting

- In person, by phone, or online (based on the family's preference).
- Purpose:
 - Share and review this guidebook.
 - Discuss eligibility and cemetery policies.
 - Identify preferences regarding scattering, marker placement, and ceremony.
 - Provide necessary forms (Appendix A–C).
 - Explain the fee structure and payment instructions.

3. Site Selection and Interment Planning

- Cemetery Committee offers options for scattering location (General or Select area).
- Families may visit the site for orientation or a walkthrough if desired.
- Tentative interment date is proposed.
- If a marker is planned, design and dimensions must be discussed and approved.

4. Committee Coordination

- Cemetery Committee confirms:
 - Site availability and preparation requirements.
 - Any necessary communications with *archaeologists* or spiritual representatives.
 - Installation logistics for markers or plaques.
- Confirm participation of clergy or elder, if requested.

5. Family Preparation

- Family organizes:
 - Gathering logistics and participants.
 - Coordination with Church, Elder, or Officiant.
 - Payment of all necessary fees.
- Submit completed forms and supporting documents (death certificate, cremation certificate, etc.).

6. Day of Scattering or Ceremony

- Committee ensures:
 - The site is prepared and accessible.
 - Presence of a Committee representative, if needed.

- Family leads the ceremony or works with the chosen officiant.
- Optional: Elder or clergy blessing or prayer.

7. Post-Ceremony Follow-Up

- If a marker is to be placed:
 - The committee coordinates with the family and Sexton to confirm placement.
- The committee logs the interment in cemetery records.
- Families may request a follow-up conversation or a copy of documentation.

History of the Galiano Cemetery

The Galiano Island Cemetery is not only a resting place, but a space of enduring community memory. The following offers a brief history of this sacred ground and those who have shaped its legacy.

The land on which the cemetery stands has held Indigenous cultural and spiritual significance for over 3,000 years. The two-acre area was donated by the Georgeson family (Henry “Scotty” Georgeson) “for the purpose of a cemetery” and has served as a burial site since 1863.

“We had our first Christian burial on Friday, September 25th (1891) — little Jessie Georgeson, of East Point Lighthouse. ... She was buried on her uncle’s ranch on Galiano Island.”

The land was officially granted to the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia on July 9th, 1928. As part of the gift, the Georgeson family requested and was granted that a plot be set aside for the Georgeson family.

The Lych Gate, made by Jordan Hartman, was donated by Donald New. The “Galiano Cemetery” sign was crafted by Bill Stevens. A bronze plaque commemorating the land donation was contributed by the Ladies’ Service Club, St. Margaret of Scotland Church, and many friends. The chain fence surrounding the Georgeson plot was placed in 1973 by the Cemetery Committee “to honour the family by whom the land was given.”

In the early 1970s, the Anglican Synod requested formal rules and regulations. These were accepted at a public meeting in 1981.

Arranging a Scattering at the Cemetery

Welcome to the Galiano Island Cemetery Family Guidebook. This guide provides all necessary information for those wishing to scatter ashes or place a memorial at the cemetery and outlines the steps to ensure a respectful, legal, and smooth process.

Required Forms and Documents

Before ashes can be scattered or placed, the following documents must be completed and submitted:

- **Application for Interment (Scattering of Ashes)**
 - Includes deceased's details, proposed scattering date, and type of scattering (Select or General).
- **Authorized Applicant Information Form**
 - Must be completed by the person legally authorized to make final arrangements. This form includes contact details and confirmation of authority.
- **Death Certificate or Equivalent Documentation**
 - A copy must be submitted with the Application for Interment.
- **Right to Inter Agreement**
 - This is a legal agreement signed by the authorized person and the Cemetery Committee. It must be completed and all fees paid before scattering occurs.
- **Payment Confirmation**
 - Payments must be completed at the time of reservation. See the fee schedule at the end of this guide.

Please get in touch with the Cemetery Committee with any questions or for assistance completing the necessary forms.

About the Cemetery

The Galiano Island Cemetery is located in Georgeson Bay and is under the stewardship of St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church. These sacred grounds are designated for the respectful scattering of ashes and for the remembrance of community members who have called Galiano Island home.

Eligibility

Scatterings are reserved for individuals who have resided on Galiano Island for at least five (5) years. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, with written approval from both the Cemetery Committee and the Parish of St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church.

What to Know Before You Scatter Ashes

- **In-Ground Interment Prohibited:** No in-ground burials or interments of cremated remains are permitted.
- **Above-Ground Scatterings Only:** Ashes may only be scattered above ground or placed in designated scattering areas and must be human remains.
- **Permission is Required:** You must obtain written permission from the Cemetery Committee before any scattering.

- **Right to Inter Agreement:** A legal document, the Right to Inter Agreement, must be signed and all fees paid before scattering or memorial placement. A death certificate (or equivalent document) must also be submitted.
- **No Reservations:** Future reservations of a scattering site are not permitted.
- **Scattering with Family:** Ashes may be scattered at the site of a previous interment with appropriate permission and documentation.
- **No Exhumation:** Remains may not be moved or exhumed without a legal warrant.

Memorial Plaques and Memorials

- **Optional Memorial Plaque Placement:** A monument may be placed following a scattering, subject to approval by the Cemetery Committee.
- **Size Restrictions:** Maximum Plaque size is 12 by 20 inches, with a height no greater than 8".
- **No Memorial Plaque?:** If no marker is placed, the Cemetery Committee may install one at its discretion. - no unmarked graves
- **Decorations:** Decorations are allowed but may be removed if they become unsightly or interfere with maintenance.

Visitor Guidelines

We ask that all visitors treat the cemetery with reverence and care.

- **Hours:** Open from sunrise to sunset.
- **Pets:** Allowed on leash. Owners must clean up after their pets.
- **Vehicles:** Motor vehicles are not permitted unless given prior authorization.
- **Cleanliness:** No littering or improper waste disposal.
- **Respectful Conduct:** Disruptive behavior, including interfering with services, recreational activity (e.g., fishing off the rocks), or tourism groups, is not permitted.
- **No Disturbance:** Do not dig, plant, or disturb the grounds under any circumstances.
- **Own Risk:** Any person(s) who enter the Galiano Island Cemetery property, do so at their own risk and liability.

Procedural Disclaimer

All cemetery policies are subject to change based on updates to provincial legislation, church governance, or Cemetery Committee discretion.

Legal Framework

The cemetery operates in accordance with the [Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act of British Columbia](#). These regulations uphold the dignity and legality of all cemetery practices.

The Synod of the Anglican Dioceses of BC is the legal owner of the property.

Special Notes

- **Georgeson Family Section (Section D):** Reserved in perpetuity for the Georgeson family, as per the 1928 land conveyance. This section may be used by the family without charge.
- **Non-Transferability:** A Right to Inter Agreement is non-transferable and may only be refunded at the original paid amount.

Contact Information

For questions, guidance, or to submit completed forms, please contact:

Cemetery Committee

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

 300 Burrill Road, Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0

 Email: cemetery@stmargaretsgaliano.com

Definitions (Appendix A)

This section defines key terms used throughout the Galiano Island Cemetery Family Guidebook and Operational Guide to support shared understanding, consistency, and respectful use of language.

Authorized Applicant / Authorized Representative

A person legally recognized under the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* (Section 5) to make final arrangements on behalf of the deceased.

Ash Scattering / Interment

The ceremonial placement or dispersal of cremated human remains. At the Galiano Island Cemetery, only **above-ground scattering** is permitted. No in-ground interment is allowed.

Cemetery Committee

The volunteer body that oversees the administration, care, and policy implementation of the Galiano Island Cemetery under the governance of St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church.

Cemetery Grounds / Site

Refers to the designated two-acre burial and memorial site located in Georgeson Bay, Galiano Island, under the care of St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church.

Ceremony

A culturally or spiritually significant gathering that may include prayer, storytelling, music, or quiet reflection. Ceremonies may be led by family, clergy, Elders, or other spiritual leaders.

Clergy / Elder / Officiant

An individual who may lead or participate in ceremonies. This can include a church leader, a cultural or spiritual Elder, or a person chosen by the family.

General Scattering Area

A shared section of the cemetery designated for the above-ground scattering of ashes without individual plot identification or permanent markers, unless otherwise permitted.

Select Scattering Area

A more defined section where ashes may be placed in a burial berm with the option of installing a small monument or plaque, following approval by the Cemetery Committee.

Georgeson Family Plot (Section D)

A reserved area within the cemetery set aside in perpetuity for members of the Georgeson family, as per the 1928 land conveyance.

Interment Record / Cemetery Records

Official documentation held by the Cemetery Committee that confirms a scattering has taken place and records the name of the deceased, date, and location.

Memorial Plaque / Memorial / Marker

An optional commemorative plaque, headstone, or other small structure is installed in accordance with the cemetery's size and design guidelines. Must be approved by the Cemetery Committee.

Perpetual Care

A fund held to support the ongoing maintenance and long-term stewardship of the cemetery grounds. This is required under provincial regulation and supported by the *Perpetual Care Fund Fee*.

Right to Inter Agreement

A legal document that must be signed by the authorized applicant and the Cemetery Committee before any interment or scattering. It affirms consent, eligibility, and responsibility.

Scattering Fee

A required payment for the use of the cemetery and its administration, covering site access, maintenance, and oversight.

Spiritual Stewardship / Sacred Space

Reflects the commitment to caring for the cemetery in a way that honours its sacred, cultural, ecological, and historical significance, including recognition of the Indigenous peoples connected to this land.

Fee Schedule (Appendix B)

Fee Description	Amount	Payment Timing	Notes
Scattering Fee (Select or General)	\$375.00	At the time of reservation	
Perpetual Care Fund Fee	\$125.00	At the time of reservation	Required by Consumer Protection BC; supports long-term cemetery upkeep
Maintenance Fee	\$250.00	At the time of reservation	Supports ongoing grounds maintenance
Administration Fee	\$100.00	At the time of reservation	
Site Preparation Fee	\$175.00	At the time of reservation	
Recommended Elder/Clergy Fee	\$350.00	At the time of scattering	Suggested minimum; additional travel expenses may apply; final amount at discretion of Elder/Clergy
Funeral Service Fee (Use of Church)	\$350.00	At the time of service (if selected)	Suggested minimum contribution; payable to the Church; final amount at the discretion of the Church

Payment Instructions:

- Make payments payable to: **St. Margaret of Scotland Church.**
- Include “**CEMETERY**” in the note line of the cheque or e-transfer.
- e-transfer to treasurer@stmargaretsgaliano.com
- For alternative payment methods, clearly indicate that the payment is for **cemetery services.**