

Assumption Cemetery Cremation Centre

Assumption Cemetery Cremation Centre, Catholic Cemeteries – Archdiocese of Toronto

By Lou Bortolin,
President Milne Construction Company

On September 26th, 2002, members of JC Milne Construction were pleased and proud to accept the invitation of Richard Hayes, Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries – Archdiocese of Toronto, to attend the opening ceremony at the recently completed Assumption Cemetery Cremation Centre in Mississauga, bordering on Toronto's West End. The Centre was built by Milne.

The Centre includes a crematorium, chapel, and reception hall in an elegant one-storey building. The exterior of the building is clad with Arriscraft Laurier stone in various shades of brown, with Arriscraft Renaissance stone accents for the window surrounds and trim of Manor White stucco. The roof is finished in timber-line architectural shingle.

Entering the property past imposing signage of wrought iron and stone, a visitor will first spy a copper-domed cupola placed above four white columns and crested with a unique depiction of an Ecumenical Gothic Cross and Sphere. This universal edifice was conceived and patterned to enhance the many gothic features of the building as well as to extend an invitation to all those seeking the service of cremation while stating that this is a House of Prayer and Reflection. The cupola sits high above the peaked roof of the apse and the spacious colonnaded portico which greets the visitor at the north elevation of the Centre. A smaller portico on the east face of the building is also crowned by a copper-domed cupola.



Above and below, Assumption Cemetery Cremation Centre



Large double doors welcome the visitor into the vaulted vestibule tiled with Dakota Mahogany granite and complemented with patterned opaque glass windows set in detailed wood partitions. Comfortable seating areas are arranged on each side of the vestibule.

Crossing the foyer, the visitor enters the elegant committal chapel which provides seating for 100. The simple wooden altar is flanked by gothic arched stained glass windows depicting the Annunciation and the Assumption.

A white dove soars in a round stained glass window feature above the altar.

The chapel and the entrance receive a golden glow from the many wrought iron and glass chandeliers.

At one end of the foyer, wooden doors with gothic arched windows lead to the Centre's office and reception hall.

The reception hall can attend to large groups from its fully equipped servery. Two large windows overlooking the landscaped grounds brighten the room.

The other end of the foyer leads to a tastefully-appointed viewing room.

Beyond is the crematorium where one retort is installed and provision made for two additional retorts.

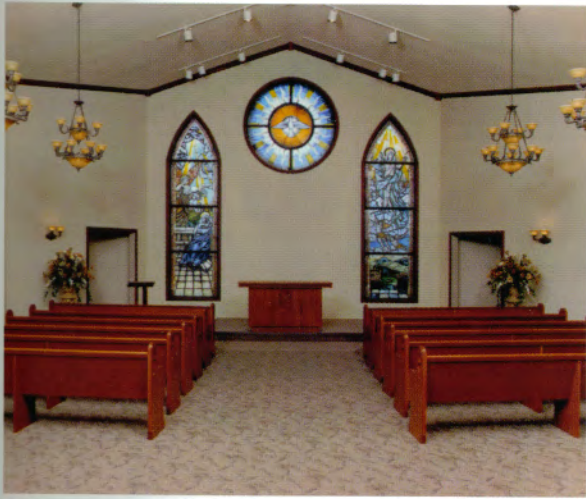
Participants in this project were of the Catholic Cemeteries Archdiocese of Toronto, represented by Richard Hayes, Executive Director, and Joseph

Beattie, Manager of Facility Development, and the design/build team of Graff Architect Inc and JC Milne Construction Co, including Lou Bortolin, President, Anita Jain, Milne Corporate Project Manager, Daniel Dame, Milne Project Supervisor, and Allan Knowlton, Milne Field Engineer.

All of those who worked together to make this project a reality have been gratified at the positive response from the community. This elegant addition to its facilities enables the Archdiocese of Toronto to provide even more services to the people of the Toronto. ■

Lou visited Australia in June, and was a guest speaker at the Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of Victoria (CCAV) general meeting held on June 13, 2003.





Above and below, interior views at Assumption Cemetery Cremation Centre



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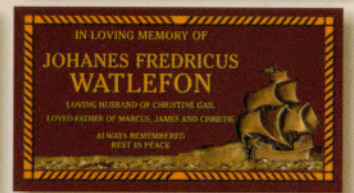
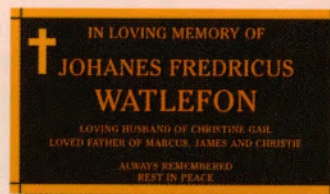
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