



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

... Lend Me Your Ears

BUSINESS (NOT QUITE) AS USUAL..

Dear people of Halton Hills;

During these uncertain times, rest assured we remain open to serve you. We have adjusted services according to the guidance by Health Canada.

Please call for an appointment. We are not accepting walk ins at this time.

We handle every call on an individual basis to best handle each person's needs.

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NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED REGARDING CREMATED REMAINS SCATTERED IN PARK

BRYAN MYERS
bmyers@metroland.com

Since 2019, the Town of Halton Hills has received a number of reports of cremated remains being scattered in and around Credit River.

Notably, complaints have been made of cremated remains and other objects being placed in the river at McNab Park.



Bryan Myers/Metroland

So far, the Town has installed signage at McNab Park in English and Hindi, to provide park users with information on the impacts of activities, though not expressly forbidding them. Trail cameras have also been installed to monitor activity. Funeral homes known to direct families to Halton Hills locations as scattering sites have also been contacted.

At the March 22, Town of Halton Hills meeting, council voted in favour of taking a stewardship/educational approach over prohibiting the practice completely.

Scattering of cremated remains in town water ways from town parks is permitted, while river offerings are prohibited.

JUST THE FACTS

- The practice, it was determined, is part of a traditional end of life ritual for Hindus. In addition to cremated remains, offerings such as flowers and leaves, clothing, or coins, may also be left as part of a religious offering.

- Between June and October 2020, the town received an increase in re-

ports and complaints regarding ceremonies in McNab Park.

- While the Town of Halton Hills doesn't explicitly prohibit the scattering of cremated remains, the town's parks bylaw 2013-0062 does prohibit littering on town parkland or altering the landscape — including polluting waterways.

- The Province of Ontario permits the scattering of cremated remains on Crown land or water, or on municipal land where not prohibited — provincial parks even have designated scattering locations.

- Credit Valley Conservation prohibits the scattering of cremated remains on its property, though there is no posted signage or enforcement.

- While all agencies agreed there is a negative environmental impact from river offerings, provincial agencies and conservation authorities did not have concerns about scattering cremated remains in water ways.



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