



## News Release

For Immediate Release



### **Altona Cemetery Columbarium**

**Altona, MB. October 1, 2024:**

The Town of Altona has completed several key upgrades at the Altona Cemetery, including the installation of a new columbarium and successful hydroseeding.

Established in 1948, the Altona Cemetery is located just south of the town in the Municipality of Rhineland. As a key part of Altona's heritage, the Town remains dedicated to preserving and enhancing the cemetery for future generations. These improvements mark a significant step in ensuring the cemetery continues

to meet the community's needs while enhancing its long-term sustainability and aesthetic appeal.

The columbarium, located in the new expansion of the cemetery, stands as a 7-foot-tall, 3.5-foot-wide solid granite structure. It contains 48 niches, each measuring 12"x12"x12". These niches, now available for purchase, provide a respectful and secure resting place for loved ones. The cost for a columbarium niche is \$2,500 plus GST, with an additional opening and closing fee of \$250 plus GST. The purchase and installation of the columbarium were accounted for in the Town of Altona's 2024 Financial Plan, with a total cost just under \$25,000, staying within the budget for the project.

In addition to the columbarium installation, hydroseeding was conducted to address a failed seeding attempt from last fall in the new expansion area. Hydroseeding, a more effective alternative to traditional seeding, involves spraying a mixture of seed, mulch, water, and fertilizer over the soil. This method promotes better soil-to-seed contact, increasing the likelihood of successful growth, even in challenging environmental conditions. The success of the hydroseeding became evident just weeks after the initial application, with the area now boasting fully established grass.

Looking ahead, the Town of Altona is considering additional work at the cemetery this fall. Potential projects include applying another lift of road gravel and installing an additional row of headstone ribbons. These enhancements reflect the Town's commitment to ongoing cemetery improvements. Future plans include further road upgrades and adding more greenery along with a sitting area near the columbarium. Long-term, the Town intends to develop a comprehensive landscape design to adequately plan and maintain the cemetery's beauty for generations to come.

## Quotes

“While arranging cremation and burial plans, I realized the Altona Cemetery lacked a place for ash placement, making it one of the few in Manitoba without this option. Our community deserves a nice place to lay our loved ones, so it felt like the right time to bring a columbarium to the cemetery. There had been a plan in place, but it just needed a push and some adjustments. We are so thrilled that this option is now available, and we look forward to adding a peaceful place to sit and reflect on the wonderful memories of our loved ones.”

- Councillor Tammy Braun

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