



## Thinking outside of the casket...

### Good Green Death Project Newsletter July 2019



#### Recompose, Washington State, Update

Now that Washington State has legalized “natural organic reduction” effective May 1, 2020—the first and only jurisdiction in the world so far—we’re working even harder to make Ontario next! The full text of the bill can be found [here](#). We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Katrina Spade and her team at [Recompose](#) for this groundbreaking work. They are currently looking for investors to build the first facility in Seattle, Washington.

#### Good Green Death Project in the Community Hanover Mennonite Church

Susan was delighted to accept the invitation of the pastoral committee of the Hanover Mennonite Church at the end of April to talk about the GGDP. The presentation was well-attended, with great questions about the project and interest in both green burial and natural organic reduction. We are also very grateful for their generous donation to the GGDP.



#### FAMS

[The Funeral Advisory and Memorial Society](#) of Southern and Eastern Ontario invited the GGDP to their first Information Day and annual general meeting at Grand River Unitarian to be an exhibitor. We also had the opportunity to sit on a panel with the guest speakers for a Q & A session. FAMS is currently looking to grow the organization. Contact Ellen Papenburg at [sagittaep@gmail.com](mailto:sagittaep@gmail.com) if interested.

#### Cities of Waterloo and Kitchener

As a result of a GGDP supporter emailing City of Waterloo Mayor Jaworsky, we were given the opportunity to present to senior parks and cemetery staff and Councillor Jen Vasic. The GGDP also presented to senior park and cemetery staff and Councillor Debbie Chapman at the City of Kitchener. The cities are currently two of only four municipalities in Ontario that operate crematoriums and are currently conducting business reviews. We saw this as an opportunity to discuss replacing them with composting units.

Although they expressed strong interest and support for natural organic reduction, Waterloo staff would like to see a business case for the project; Kitchener staff thought a private business partner would be needed (i.e. funeral home).

If you live in Waterloo, you can share your thoughts with the future of the City of Waterloo’s Parkview Cemetery [here](#) before September 2019. You can also reach City of Kitchener Mayor and Councillors’ office [here](#).

#### MPP Mike Schreiner and Bereavement Authority Ontario Registrar Carey Smith

The GGDP team was fortunate to be able to arrange a meeting with both Mike and Carey to discuss their perspectives—regulatory and legislative—for the future of natural organic reduction in Ontario. Although current legislation loosely allows for alternative methods of disposition of human remains, it does not provide the regulatory requirements.

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The BAO must consider public safety, environmental impact and consumer protection for a go-ahead and would defer to Public Health for an international assessment. Currently, the only human trials have been conducted for Recompose at Washington State University by Dr Lynn Carpenter-Boggs, although composting is the common practice in the agricultural community for animal mortalities.

As a follow-up we have sent a request to meet with the newly appointed Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Lisa Thompson. If you think natural organic reduction should be an alternative option to cremation and burial in Ontario, please write Minister Thompson at [lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org)

### FYI

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario just released their updated [Guide to Death Care in Ontario](#). Thanks to death care educators and advocates like Ellen Newman, the new guide includes information about emerging options such as home funerals and shrouds. What is old is new again...

### GGDP in the News...

June 2, 2019 Global News [A green death: Is human composting or natural burial for you?](#)

### Upcoming Events

#### Compost Council of Canada – National Organics Recycling Conference

**Thurs. Sept. 26, 2019 - Guelph**

A big thank you goes to the GGDP's composting guru, Jen Turnbull, for connecting us with the council to arrange for the GGDP to present at this year's [conference](#). The conference is geared to both municipal and private business professionals in the composting business.

#### Modern Deathcare Expo

**Sat. Oct. 19, 2019, 9-5 – Elora Centre for the Arts**

The GGDP is excited to be part of this event where you can learn about, plan and make decisions about end-of-life options and alternatives and get connected to these resources. The day will include a curated exhibitor marketplace, music, speakers, food and connecting to others in this emerging field. Contact Marion Willms [mwillms2008@gmail.com](mailto:mwillms2008@gmail.com)

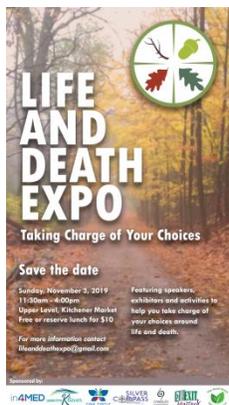
#### Life and Death Expo: Taking Charge of Your Choices

**Sun. Nov. 3, 2019 – 11:30 – 4 Kitchener Market**

The GGDP is collaborating with several emerging small businesses that specialize in services for seniors, making it easier to have those uncomfortable talks with family about end of life, and more.

Check out the [website](#) and postings on the [Facebook](#) page as we add information about the event.

Register on [Eventbrite](#) for this informative event with speakers, hand-picked exhibitors and activities. The event will be free with the option of pre-registering for a \$10 lunch. Contact us at: [lifeanddeathexpo@gmail.com](mailto:lifeanddeathexpo@gmail.com).



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### **Funding and Membership**

The Good Green Death Project is a volunteer initiative driven by passion and personal interest. Donations are gratefully received to help cover current expenses of website hosting and domain name fees, building a resource base for future events, and incorporation costs. Email money transfers are preferred using [info@goodgreendeathproject.ca](mailto:info@goodgreendeathproject.ca)

**You can reach us at** [info@goodgreendeathproject.ca](mailto:info@goodgreendeathproject.ca) to subscribe, unsubscribe, become a member, volunteer, ask questions, invite us to speak, and share your thoughts...your time...your expertise...your money... ;-)

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