



THE CELEBRANT

A humanist ceremony celebrates the joy and beauty of life.
We believe that every life is worth honouring, and that each
end-of-life ceremony should be meaningful, unique and capture
the individuality and character of your loved one.

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The Celebrant® Officiants

The Celebrant Officiants, Christine Ball and Julia Bailey, are Humanist Officiants, registered with the Ontario Humanist Society to perform secular, non-religious end-of-life ceremonies.

What is a Funeral Celebrant?

A funeral celebrant is a ceremony specialist that will create and officiate a personalized end-of-life ceremony. They collaborate closely with families and loved ones to ensure the ceremony truly reflects the personality of the individual being honoured. Funeral celebrants are sensitive and responsive to client requests to make sure the ceremony is respectful of their preferences and beliefs. They are often chosen by families who prefer a non-religious or non-denominational ceremony, as they do not impose a faith-based agenda within their ceremony work.

An experienced funeral celebrant can help you plan a unique ceremony that honours your loved one and captures their individuality lots of opportunities to share fond memories, experiences and favourite stories.

The funeral celebrant will get to know the deceased through your words, as well as the experiences and anecdotes that you share. We pay careful attention to the personalization of the ceremony experience through words, poems, readings, music and ritual.

A Humanist Service of Remembrance

As Humanist celebrants, we believe that every life is worth honouring and that each end-of-life ceremony should be meaningful.

A humanist ceremony celebrates the joy and beauty of life that the human spirit affirms and has its roots in love, compassion and inclusivity. No two people are alike, each deserves honour, mindful respect and personal care at the end of their life journey. A humanist ceremony is non-religious. We make no mention of God or religion.

We have a deep respect for this transition in the life cycle, and welcome the opportunity to co-create a ceremony that reflects and celebrates the reality of your loved one's life and the depth of loss experienced by you, your family and friends. Each ceremony is created to reflect the individuality of the person being honoured and will embody the richness of memories of their lifetime.

It is our goal to provide a calming presence to those left behind as you honor the life of the person you have lost.

What is Humanism?

Humanism is a non-religious, democratic and ethical philosophy of life that emphasizes human rights and respect for all humans and the environment. Humanists support the belief that humans have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. A Humanist creates a more humane and responsible world through rational and reasonable thought, a respect for the scientific process, and empathy for others.

Types Ceremonies

Celebration of Life

Celebrations of Life can occur weeks, months and even years after a loved one has died. Together we will discuss the elements, words and music that would best reflect the life of your loved one and the impact of their loss on yours and others lives. It is never too late to gather to celebrate and remember someone you love, their presence never leaves your heart.

Living Wakes

When death is anticipated, a living wake is an opportunity to co-create a ceremony to honour a loved one in life prior to death, sharing time together to provide support, appreciation, healing and love for both the dying and living. We will work with you to design a ceremony that will help to provide a sense of closure for all in attendance.

Funerals & Graveside Ceremonies

We meet at a location, or virtually, with as many of your family and friends as you wish to have present. As a group we will discuss the words, music, and elements you want to include to create a ceremony that honors the life and unique essence of your loved one. The ceremony will take place graveside or at a venue selected for the occasion.

Pet Ceremonies

Our four-legged, furry friends are as close to our hearts as any loved one. Their departure from our lives can be a challenging time, especially when we would often turn to them in times of pain. We welcome the opportunity to co-create a meaningful ceremony to honour the loss of your animal companion.

Death is a human and natural experience, and a ceremony that truly fits can be a gentle turning point to living without the physical presence of your loved one.

Our goal at The Celebrant® is to guide and support you and your family through this difficult time, and to create a ceremony that is personalized to reflect the unique personality and character of your loved one.



What is the process for consultation and booking?

- The first meeting (in-person or virtually) includes a discussion with family and/or friends to learn about the person being honoured. This time can be helpful for the family as they share stories and consider the type of ceremony they would like us to prepare, including favorite music, special memories, readings. We will be responsive to your intentions and expectations for the ceremony.
- Our second meeting will be a brief discussion the day or evening before the service. We want you to be comfortable that you have a sense of control over the content of the ceremony and know in advance how it will unfold.
- On the day of the ceremony we will arrive approximately 20 minutes prior to the service. At that time we will review final details with the organizer. It is at this time we will deliver the ceremony as prepared.

Secular Ceremony Readings

So Small a Thing — Matthew Arnold

*"Is it so small a thing
To have enjoy'd the sun,
To have lived light in the spring,
To have loved, to have thought, to have done;
To have advanced true friends,
and beat down baffling foes;
That we must feign a bliss
Of doubtful future date,
And while we dream on this
Lose all our present state,
And relegate to worlds yet distant our repose?"*

Remember Me — author unknown

*"To the living, I am gone
To the sorrowful, I will never return
To the angry, I was cheated
But to the happy, I am at peace
And to the faithful, I have never left
I cannot speak, but I can listen
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard
So as you stand upon the shore
Gazing at the beautiful sea, remember me
As you look in awe at a mighty forest
And in its grand majesty, remember me
Remember me in your hearts,
In your thoughts, and the memories of the
Times we loved, the times we cried,
the battle we fought and the times we laughed
For if you always think of me,
I will never have gone."*

How to Grow Old — Bertrand Russell

*"An individual human existence should be like a river-
Small at first, narrowly contained within its banks,
and rushing passionately past boulders and over
waterfalls.*

*Gradually the river grows wider, the banks recede, the waters
flow more quietly, and in the end - without any visible break,
they become merged in the sea, and painlessly lose their
individual being.*

*The man or woman who in old age, can see his or her life
in this way, will not suffer from the fear of death, since the
things they care for will continue."*

Appreciate — author unknown

*"Life is ironic, it takes sadness to know what happiness is,
noise to appreciate silence, and absence to value presence.
All the things we value, however rare, however small,
that give point or meaning to our lives — the friendships,
loves and absurdities; those soundscaped memories
entwined with shared passions and glances that magically
ensnare and enfold; the intoxications of wines and words —
do indeed all cease to exist, yet that they, and we, existed at
some time remains timelessly true."*

