

FEATURE/EVENTS

BUSINESS PROFILE

Unique, quality workmanship hallmark of KMI Columbaria

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KMI Columbaria is a 12-year-old business based in Cranbrook that has placed its products all over North America and has a reputation for the best quality and customer service.

A columbarium (plural columbaria) is a place for the storage of cremated remains. The term comes from the Latin word columba, which refers to doves, which is where Romans originally began storing cremated remains.

KMI Columbaria is owned by Mark Fynn, Wendy Fynn, Derek Maher and Allan Diemert and the four are the only employees of a company that designs, engineers, manufactures, builds and installs all of its products.

Part of why the company has such success in an industry that has it competing against multi-billion and multi-national companies, is the quality of materials it uses.

"We're known as one of the foremost providers of columbaria in North America. There are very few who

match what we do. We deliver a patented marine-grade aluminum interior, which we believe is the best interior there is in terms of being everlasting," Mark Fynn said. "We build our product out of non-deteriorating materials. We shroud it in granite, which is the most durable rock known to man in terms of

longevity. We use monument-grade granite, which has proven to be a much more durable material (than marble). The marine-grade aluminum will not ever rot or deteriorate and neither will the granite." Another thing that makes the company stand out is the fact that it designs all of its columbaria specifically for clients.

"That's our marquis, the fact that we don't do cookie cutters," Mark said.

A look at the company's website shows the many different shapes and sizes they have created over the years to suit a client's needs



COURTESY KMI COLUMBARIA

Columbaria installed in Oakland, California. The company also worked with a landscape architect for the project.

and wishes. You can also see the company's work locally in Cranbrook, Kimberley, Sparwood and Fernie.

Deciding to live in Cranbrook and base the business here was a lifestyle decision, Mark said, and the Internet has been a great help to their business.

Because it is the four owners doing the installation of every project, Mark said they are invested and finish the work carefully and usually much faster than a competitor would. One project they are finishing at the beginning of March is the largest glass front columbarium in Canada, in the basement of the Sacred Heart Church in Calgary.

Unique projects like the one in Calgary is part of what Mark enjoys about his job.

"I get a kick out of my job, it's the best job I've ever had," he said. "I'm very passionate about what we do, it's very rewarding."

The next step for the busy company is to have others selling their product and delivering it while the owners retain the design, engineer and manufacture side. They may also be making a step into the European market sometime soon.

Demand for columbaria is high for a number of reasons, the first being that real estate in cemeteries is at a premium.

"Our above ground structures are very environmentally friendly. We can put 100 companion niches that will hold 200 urns in approximately the same spot that you'd have four plots," Mark said.

People are also turning to cremation, as they may not have the disposable income that comes with a casket burial. Mark said for those who choose cremation, a niche in a columbarium is a good place to put the remains to rest.

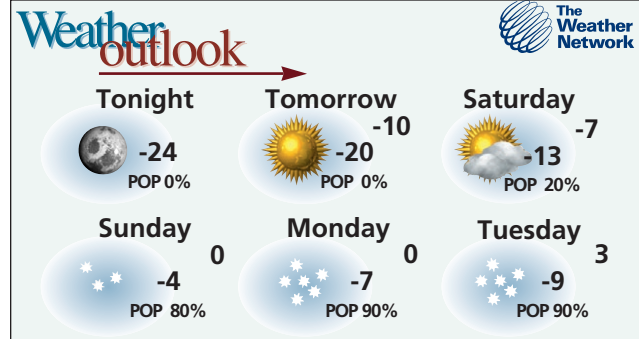
"Columbaria allow for dignified storage and deservng memorialization.

The dignified storage is of course important because a lot of people don't know what to do with cremated remains and in some faiths the remains cannot be scattered," Mark said. "And of course the whole science of genealogy is based, and continues to be based, on the ability to trace back to memorialization on headstones. It's nice to be properly memorialized and a columbarium niche affords that."

To learn more about the company visit its web site at www.kmicolumbaria.com.

"We're known as one of the foremost providers of columbaria in North America. There are very few who match what we do."

Mark Fynn



Almanac

Temperatures	High	Low
Normal	3.5°	-7.4°
Record	13.5°/1995	-22.3°/1993
Yesterday	-9.2°	-11.1°

Precipitation	Normal
Normal	0.7mm
Record	6.8mm/1999
Yesterday	0.04 mm
This month to date	5.6 mm
This year to date	44.9 mm

Tomorrows	
Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.	☀
Sunset: 5:18 p.m.	☀
Moonrise: 3:10 a.m.	☾
Moonset: 11:14 a.m.	☾

What's Up?

KIMBERLEY AND CRANBROOK COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

SPECIAL GOSPEL SERVICES: Each Sunday to February 27, 2011 from 3:00 - 4:00 PM. Evolution Martial Arts Academy (Old Alpenhaus) 120 - 7th Ave S Cranbrook. Phone contact (250) 426-4791.

Jubilee Chapter #64, Order of the Eastern Star, special Birthday Night meeting will be held Monday Feb 28th at 7.30pm, Masonic Hall, 401-3rd Avenue South, Cranbrook. All members, and visiting members are welcome.

Madagascar Travelogue-An Endangered Ecosystem presented Randy Harris RPF, Monday February 28th, 7pm College of the Rockies Lecture Theatre Sponsored by Citizens for a Livable Cranbrook Contact: Tara 250-426-0140

2011 COMMUNITY FREE SWIM Wednesday 5:00-6:00 PM. This month's swim is March 2nd and sponsored by Kimberley Fellowship Baptist Church.

Free Computer classes for Seniors 60+ hosted by CBAL & Cranbrook Public Library. New session starts Mar 4th @ 1pm. Limited space! To register or FMI Katherine 250-417-2896

Ecumenical Service World Day of Prayer 2011; Friday, March 4th, 2011, 1:30 PM at Cranbrook United Church, 2 - 12th Ave. S, Cranbrook. The Theme of the day will be "How Many Loaves Have You?" Written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Chile. Everyone welcome. Refreshments to follow.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - How Many Loaves Have You? Join us at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Friday, March 4th at 2:00pm. as we pray and act in solidarity with the people of Chile.

Saturday, March 5. Local owls are beginning to call. Go Owling with Peter Davidson of the Rocky Mountain Naturalists. Meet at the Staples Parking Lot, 7:00 pm. For more information call Peter 250-426-2458.

The Kimberley North Star Skaters, proudly sponsored by Kimberley Independent School, present their annual skating show, "That's Entertainment", Friday March 11th, 7pm at Kimberley Civic Centre. Everyone welcome. Admission by donation. Please come out and support the youth skaters of Kimberley.

The East Kootenay Railway Pensioners' Association will be having a Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 pm. General Meeting at 7:00pm, on Tuesday, Mar. 15th at the Seniors Citizens Centre, 125-17th Ave. S., Cranbrook. All Railway Pensioners and Spouses are welcome. Info: Gary Lancaster at 426-7478.

ONGOING

ESL: CBAL hosts Conversation Cafe Tues 7-9pm @ Family Connections; Morning Time class Wed 9-11:30am @ Steeples Elem; Evening Time class Wed., 7-9pm in Rm#152 COTR. Childcare upon request. All programs are free. FMI: Bruce 250-919-2677 or khough@cbal.org

Tuesday Night Fun League: 7pm, Cranbrook Curling Club, 1777 - 2nd St. N. All welcome! Info: 250-426-4415. Drop-in fee \$5. All equipment is supplied.

Cranbrook Branch of the Stroke Recovery Association of BC. Meetings are from 10:00am-1:00pm the 2nd and 4th Wed. in the lower level of the Senior Citizen's Hall, 125-17th St. S. Bring bag lunch. Tootie Gripich, 426-3994.

The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations (COSCO) is an advocacy group devoted to improving "The Quality of Life" for all seniors. Contact Ernie Bayer, ph. 604-576-9734, fx. 604-576-9733. Email: ecbayer@shaw.ca for info.

1813 Cranbrook Army Cadets. Youth and parents are invited to join us at Kennedy Hall (1305-1st St S., Cranbrook) on Tuesdays (Sept-June), between 6:15 pm and 9:00pm. The Army Cadet Program is a free program for youth 12-19. For more information please call Stacey at 250-489-5767.

LADIES ONLY XC SKIING at Kimberley Nordic. Thursdays 1-3pm. All abilities welcome. Ski & socialize! Members Free, Non Members \$7 (Ski Ticket) Info: Barbara 250-427-3570.

Family Fun Night! Eat & Play with your preschooler every Thursday from 4 - 7 pm at the Blanchmont Early Learning Centre. Families or caregivers can drop in to enjoy a free meal and meet new friends! Gina 250-427-5309.

TREEHOUSE - Families with children 5 & under are invited to come play. Free drop-in program in the gym of the Kimberley Early Learning Centre. Transportation avail. Tuesdays 10:30 - 12:30. Diana 250-427-0716.

Baby Goose - free program for parents with babies under 1 year old at Kimberley Early Learning Centre. Rhymes, songs and stories, guest speakers. Thursday's 10:30-11:30. Call: Terri 250-427-2215 or Kim 250-427-4468.

Kimberley Heritage Museum invites anyone with pictures, stories about Kimberley's past to participate in its New Horizons for Seniors Project. For more info call Heather 250-427-5354 or email owlteapot@shaw.ca.

Al-Anon: Are you or someone you know being affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon can help. Anne: 426-5409, Rita: 489-1388.

Gamblers Anonymous meets Mondays at 7pm at Community Living Center, 22-14th Ave. S., Cranbrook. Info: Joan 250-427-4875.

New Life Foursquare Church will present the Alpha Course 2 - A Life Worth Living - beginning Wednesday, Jan. 12 to Wednesday, March 9th, 6:30 pm at 308-10th Ave. S., Cranbrook. Info: Pastor Gordon Henry at 250-489-1057 between 9am to 5pm daily, Tues-Fri.

Open Invite to all over 19 women Cranbrook Roller Derby Practice at TM Roberts Elementary School Gym. 7pm-9pm every Wed.

Place your notice in your "What's Up?" Community Calendar FREE of charge. This column is intended for the use of clubs and non-profit organizations to publicize their coming events — provided the following requirements are met:

- Notices will be accepted two weeks prior to the event.
- All notices must be emailed, faxed or dropped off in person. No telephone calls please.
- Notices should not exceed 30 words.
- Only one notice per week from any one club or organization.
- All notices must be received by the Thursday prior to publication.
- There is no guarantee of publication. Notices will run subject to space limitations.

CRANBROOK TOWNSMAN & KIMBERLEY BULLETIN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Drop off: 822 Cranbrook St. N. • Drop off: 335 Spokane Street
E-mail: bulletinprod@cyberlink.ca • Fax: 250-426-5003