

**Columbarium:** niches for the storage of cremated remains (ashes)

Cemeteries have columbariums

Churches may have columbariums subject to municipal zoning

Columbariums are common in Buddhist Temples in Japan.

**Jodo Shinshu Temples in Canada with columbariums:**

Calgary (opened 2018)

Vancouver

Steveston (2003)

Toronto hopes to build one in the future

Temple **bylaws and policies** are created relating to use.

The Temple Board approves each application.

**Niche owners** sign an **agreement**

There is a designated person(s) to be the columbarium **custodian**.

There would be a **small shrine (naijin)** within the columbarium.

**Family/friends may visit** to pay their respects within the columbarium

**Proposed location** at BTSA: the **current library space** adjacent to the Board room

(The library books can be moved to the Dharma school room

The space is appx 8' x 10' (current closet, sink, cupboard to be removed)

**Physical description** of columbarium (details may change):

Niches will be small cupboard-like spaces with individual openings

They will line 3 walls within the space, floor to ceiling

Standard niche: appx 10"wide, 10"high, 14" deep – holds 2 urns (possible 140?)

Large niche: appx 25"wide, 10"high, 14" deep – holds 4 urns (possible 32?)

Inscription plates on individual niches - name(s) of deceased

Naijin (small shrine) located in recessed area on one wall

An opaque glass wall with sliding door would separate Board room and columbarium

**Cost to build:** (estimate being prepared by Westbridge) Rough estimate, \$35,000?

**Cost to rezone:** rough estimate \$5000

**Potential revenue:** Charges for existing columbarium spaces -

City of Lethbridge	appx \$2,300 - \$3,700	
Steveston Temple	appx \$1,200 - \$1,800	(more for non-members)
Calgary Temple	appx \$2,400 - \$4,800	

(Estimate: \$2,300 x 170 niches = \$391,000)

**Questions:**

- \* Is the BTSA membership sufficiently interested in the concept to go forward?
- \* Are there any strong feelings against it? Resolvable?
- \* Are members interested in using the columbarium themselves?
- \* Would there be sufficient demand from both members and non-members such that the columbarium could be fully utilized in the near future?
- \* Given our present circumstances, can we provide the appropriate long-term commitment needed for a columbarium? (decades)