



## MEDIA RELEASE

We are proud to present our annual Ghostwalk “A Grave Undertaking.” It is a satirical yet factual look at the rituals surrounding death in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Victorians followed clearly defined customs and beliefs. We need to understand how the lack of sterile practices, proper medical treatments and medicines, made death a daily possibility. One of the areas of their lives that followed a strict social code was death. Anyone daring to flout these strict guidelines risked becoming the focal character of scandal and gossip.

Specific lengths of time were considered appropriate for mourning. Curtains were drawn and clocks stopped at the exact time of the death. Household mirrors were covered to ensure that the lingering spirit of the recently departed would not become trapped in the reflective glass making their journey to the glories of the afterlife impossible. Embalming was a new science brought about by the American Civil War. Many were very distrustful and disturbed by both the practice and the practitioner.

Small groups will be taken by guides to various locations within Grey Roots, to experience the rituals surrounding the death of one Nathaniel Harrison. They will first pay a visit to Mr. Saunders the embalmer to hear how he views community reaction to his newly established business. The group will be then given a brief glimpse into a photography studio offering of post-mortem photography. From there the group will pay their respects to the Harrison family as they gather in a pre-funeral vigil over the body. This will be followed by an internment ceremony and a talk with a local grave digger. Finally, the group will visit the Barrister’s office for the reading of the will which may result in some family disputes as to inheritance.

Offered October 28 & 29<sup>th</sup>. Each evening offers a total of seven tours, beginning at 6:45pm, last tour leaving at 9:45pm. Advance sales only - \$6. per adult. \$3.50 per child. *Not Suitable for small children or the weak of heart!*

Grey Roots: Your Heritage & Visitor Centre  
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