

Pet Heaven facility will officially open Jan. 27,28,29

Two Calgary men, fully licensed as funeral directors/embalmers have pooled their time, talents and resources to open Calgary's only privately owned and operated, fully licensed and insured pet crematorium and funeral chapel in the Calgary area.

Arnold Paterson, 55 and **Jaron Chasca**, 26, will hold a grand opening of their premises at 5648A Burbank Road SE Jan. 27 from 12 to 4 p.m., Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Jan. 29 from 12 to 4 p.m. There will be tours and refreshments will follow.

The two men have more than 40 years in combined experience in funeral service and say they are dedicated to providing prompt and dignified service while maintaining a superior level of customer satisfaction.

Services include:

- Full service pet cremation
- On-site funeral chapel
- Home and veterinary removal
- Pet caskets and urns
- Memorial photo CD's
- Pre-planning available
- Pet grooming
- Pet cemetery in Calgary region
- Ordained pet clergy available



The two men say considerable thought was given to their enterprise and they are confident it will catch on with the public. To enhance their decision they purchased a \$65,000 cremation chamber from a Florida company which will accommodate cats, dogs, birds, monkeys, rabbits, hamsters to a maximum weight of 500 pounds.

Pet cremains will be ready for clients 72 hours after cremation and can be delivered directly to the residence or veterinary clinic in the same time frame. Pet Heaven offers 24-hour service. Embalming is not available.

Paterson started his funeral career with three years at Brockie-Donovan in Brandon, spent some time in Edmonton, Peace River, and High Prairie. Five years were spent with Jacques in Calgary and then he bought into a funeral home serving Innisfail, Sundre and Olds in which he sold his interest in 2004 to Heartland Funeral Services. Paterson then started up Patra Holdings as a distributor of urns and vaults, and will continue in this venture as well.



Opening a new venture for pets in Calgary and region are Arnold Paterson (right) and Jaron Chasca.

Chasca received his diploma from the Western School of Funeral Service. Dad **John Chasca** operates a funeral home at Cranbrook and was a regional manager for SCI operating from Foster's Garden Chapel in Calgary. Jaron worked as a youngster around the SCI locations in Calgary and worked for his father in Cranbrook for five years. Most recently he worked in the cemetery division, City of Calgary for two years.

The Paterson/Chasca combination got its start when Chasca, aged eight, played junior baseball in Calgary and Paterson was coach of the team.

Pet Heaven's offices are located in 3,000 square feet of space which includes, a reception area with cozy chairs and fireplace, arrangement room, display area, office, lavatories and warehouse/crematorium area..

The two men have done market research on death disposition of pets and agree there's nothing greater than an idea whose time has come. In this connection they join **Bill Edwards** of Saskatoon Funeral Home who launched a similar pet service two years ago. **GFJ**