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Dr. Scott Fairgrieve publishes book on forensic cremation

Sudbury (Ontario) – Dr. Scott Fairgrieve, chair of the department of forensic science at Laurentian University, has recently published *Forensic Cremation – Recovery and Analysis*.

Presenting current research in forensic anthropology in a condensed, useable format, this book provides crucial information on the handling of cremated remains and a methodical approach designed to maximize the potential of the evidence, from the point of its discovery to the end of its analysis.

Beginning with the search and recovery of cremated remains (cremains) and the interpretation of the fire scene, *Forensic Cremation – Recovery and Analysis* summarizes the contexts and challenges that face the professional and introduces a wide range of preservation encountered in a variety of fire contexts. The book discusses the capacity and mechanisms of fire to alter the chemical and physical properties of materials, particularly those of human tissues. It emphasizes a flexible approach to the collection of cremains, taking into consideration the intermixing of the human tissue with the surrounding materials. A significant portion of the book also examines the effects of fire on bone and the ability to determine trauma as peri- or post-mortem. Finally, the book evaluates the practical use of dental tissue and DNA for identification in an investigation.

Dr. Scott Fairgrieve has been a faculty member of Laurentian University since 1991 and is currently the chair of the university's department of forensic science. Dr. Scott Fairgrieve is a forensic anthropology consultant to the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, through the Northeastern Ontario Regional Forensic Pathology Unit. His research activities focus on the effects of fire on human skeletal tissues at the macroscopic and microscopic levels, particularly using scanning electron microscopy. He is regularly sought out internationally to consult on cases of cremation homicides and has given expert witness testimony both in Canada and the United States for prosecution and defense. *Forensic Cremation – Recovery and Analysis* is his third book, but his first of which he is sole author.

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For more information, pleas contact Dr. Scott Fairgrieve at (705) 675-1151, ext. 4209 or by email, at sfairgrieve@laurentian.ca.

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Reference:
Guylaine Tousignant
Media relations officer
Laurentian University
(705) 675-1151, ext. 3406
gj_tousignant@laurentian.ca