

# CEMETERY RULES *and* REGULATIONS



Catholic Cemeteries  
Archdiocese of Vancouver

GARDENS OF

*Gethsemani*



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## INTRODUCTION

There are rules and regulations that inform our cemetery's operations and how lots may be used or memorialized. Taking the time to review this brochure will answer most questions surrounding the use of a memorial site in the cemetery.

Every reasonable effort is made to be responsive to an individual or family memorialization wish. However, standards of operation and design are established to ensure a consistent plan, dignified environment, and operational efficiency to provide a reverent and respectful environment for all families and visitors. While the reason for a particular rule or regulation may not be self-evident, it is based on a regulatory requirement, a tradition or historical precedent, operational factor, future continuity, and perpetual maintenance concern.

Since our complete Rules and Regulations document is over 30 pages in length, we have compiled this summary for your convenience. Upon request, a complete copy is available. We welcome questions you may have.

## DEFINITIONS

The use of the word 'lot' in this brochure refers to any casket grave, cremated remains grave, columbarium niche, or mausoleum crypt or niche.

The use of the word 'memorial' in this brochure refers to any flat, ground level marker, upright monument, or other form of lot memorialization.

## DUE CARE AND RESPECT

All visitors to the cemetery are requested to demonstrate proper respect for the deceased and act accordingly, with care and consideration for all. Please drive slowly in the cemetery, within the posted limits, and adjust the volume of your vehicle's sound system so that it cannot be heard outside of your car. While on the grounds please be considerate and respectful of other visitors and services that may be in progress.

Always use designated roads, walkways, and pathways to reach the gravesite you may be visiting and avoid walking across other interment spaces unless necessary.

Pets are not permitted in any area of the cemetery.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

The cemetery is open every day of the year, including holidays, for visiting. The gates are open at 8:30 am each day and are closed at dusk. Because the closing time is seasonal, the precise times of closing are posted in the Cemetery and are on our website at [rccav.org](http://rccav.org).

### *Office*

Office hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Appointments are recommended. The office is closed Sundays and statutory holidays.

### *Interment Services*

Upon provision of 24 hours' notice, of which eight hours must be regular office hours, services may be scheduled Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, or on Saturday from

9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Interment services arriving at the cemetery after these hours are subject to an overtime fee.

### ***Saturday Services***

Interment bookings will be accepted for Saturdays but are subject to an overtime fee. No services may be booked on Sundays or holidays.

### ***Immediate Assistance***

If the office is closed, families requiring immediate assistance due to a death should call a local funeral home (all of which maintain 24-hour phone services). The funeral home will be able to look after your immediate needs and, when the cemetery office reopens, coordinate the cemetery service requested. The cemetery enjoys a professional working relationship with all Greater Vancouver's funeral service providers and memorial societies.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

It is the responsibility of the lot holder or designates to notify the cemetery of any change in mailing address. Notice sent to a lot holder at the address and/or email address in the cemetery records shall be considered sufficient and proper legal notification.

## **FLOWER REGULATIONS - OUTDOOR**

### ***Flowers at Time of Interment***

On the day of interment, regardless of the time of year, any type of floral tribute is permitted. For five days following an interment, these floral tributes will remain at the gravesite unless they wither, deteriorate, or otherwise become unsightly.





After five days, at the discretion of the ground's maintenance personnel, these flowers will be removed without notice.

We understand and respect the need for families to show love and respect for their deceased through the placement of floral tributes at gravesides. By following the guidelines below, families can be assured such placements will be permitted to remain undisturbed on gravesides for as long as reasonably possible.

### ***Flower Regulations at Other Times***

#### **APRIL 1 TO OCTOBER 31**

Only fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves and they must fit and be placed in the containers approved or supplied by the cemetery. Potted plants, wreaths and artificial flowers are not permitted during these months and will be removed without notice. For Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Easter, flowers may be placed one week prior to and one week after the date.

#### **NOVEMBER 1 TO MARCH 31**

In addition to fresh cut flowers, artificial flowers may be placed on graves, seasonal wreaths and sprays are also permitted in these months so long as they are not inconsistent with the dignity of, or infringe on, adjacent lots.

## **FLOWER REGULATIONS - INDOOR**

### ***Flowers at Entombment and Inurnment Services***

On the day of entombment or inurnment, any type of floral tribute is permitted. For three days following the service, floral tributes will remain in proximity to the crypt or niche unless they wither, deteriorate, or otherwise become unsightly. After three days, at the discretion of maintenance personnel, these floral

tributes will be removed without notice. The cemetery reserves the right to limit the number of tributes that will be placed in proximity to a crypt or niche.

### ***Flower Regulations at Other Times***

The cemetery is continually upgrading the flower beds surrounding the mausoleums. Families are discouraged from placing excessive numbers of floral arrangements in proximity to the mausoleums. Only moderate sized fresh cut flower arrangements or potted plants are permitted in proximity to an exterior crypt or niche from April through October.

Vases containing flowers or potted flowers must not exceed 6" in diameter and 12" in height (including flowers or plants). Glass or other breakable containers are not permitted as they are a hazard to other visitors and cemetery personnel. The cemetery limits the number of arrangements / potted plants to one per crypt or niche. Any other types of adornment of crypts or niches are strictly prohibited and are subject to removal without notice.

## **LIABILITY**

The cemetery is not liable for vases, floral pieces, baskets, or flowers in which, or to which, such floral pieces are attached, beyond the acceptance of such floral pieces for funeral services held in the cemetery.

## **FLOWER RESTRICTIONS & REMOVALS**

Fresh flowers and artificial floral tributes which have withered, deteriorated, or otherwise become unsightly may be removed at any time without prior notice. No trees, shrubs, flowering,

or other plants may be plated on any gravesite. Unauthorized plantings are subject to removal without notice.

Articles, materials, decorations or adornments that constitute a hazard to the public, employees or machinery and/or are unsightly, do not conform to the approved plan of the cemetery or are inconsistent with the dignity of adjacent lots or community standards are subject to removal without prior notice.

### ***Non-permitted items***

Non-permitted items also include porcelain, glass and other statues, crosses, large potted plants, and store-bought items. Gardens of Gethsemani offers permanent memorial options befitting a Catholic cemetery.

## **MEMORIAL REGULATIONS**

### ***Responsibility***

It is the responsibility of the executor and/or the surviving family to arrange for a permanent memorial. In the absence of such arrangements, graves remain unidentified and unmarked.

The price of a lot does not include the cost of installation of a memorial. The installation fee will vary depending on the size and type of the memorial. The fee is due and payable at the time the memorial is delivered to the cemetery.

### ***Memorial Types***

The type and location of the lot(s) selected will determine the form of memorial that is allowed, where on the lot the memorial will be installed, and the orientation of the memorial placement. There are sections of the cemetery that are restricted to ground level flat markers only and there are sections where upright monuments are allowed in combination with flat markers.

## ***Memorial Sizing***

The allowable size of the memorial will depend on several factors that may include single or companion lots, flat marker, or upright monument lots, traditional casket, or cremation lots, etc. Detailed information about the allowable type and size of a memorial for a specific lot can be obtained from the cemetery office.

Permanent memorials are required to be granite or bronze on a granite base with a border allowance. The design, inscription and installation of a memorial are subject to approval and must be consistent with the plan of the section it is being installed in and the type of lot selected.

Installation of memorials is performed by cemetery staff. The cemetery reserves the right to postpone the installation of memorials when weather or ground conditions are deemed to be unsatisfactory for effective installation.

## **LOT TYPES & PERMITTED USES**

A reminder: The use of the word “lot” means any casket grave, cremated remains grave, columbarium niche, mausoleum crypt or niche, or other form of memorial site.

As the cemetery is developed, a plan of each section or feature is registered with the Provincial Registrar of Cemeteries. Once registered, and for the purpose of operational consistency and historical continuity, the cemetery is obligated to operate each

section under the terms it was registered. The design of a section determines the lot layout, the type and intended use of the lots, and the location, type and orientation of marker installations allowed on each lot.

### ***In-ground Lots***

In-ground casket interment lots may be used for one casket interment and three individual cremated remains or, where no casket interment occurs, four individual cremated remains. In-ground double tier interment lots may be used for 2 casket interments and 2 individual cremated remains.

### ***Cremation Lots***

Cremation lots are available in single, companion (two) or family (up to four) interment designations.

## **LOT – LEGAL AUTHORITY REQUIREMENT**

At the time a lot is used, or a memorial installed, the cemetery is obligated to ensure that all authorizations are being made by the lot owner or their legal representative.

The right of control over a lot falls to the registered lot owner while they are alive. At the time of their death, that authority over the lot and all future use passes to the “personal representative named in the will of the deceased,” commonly referred to as an executor. In the absence of a named “personal representative,” authority falls to a spouse or other family members in an order of succession set out in Section 51 of the Cemetery and Funeral Services Act.

It is important to note that an executor’s authority and decisions supersede the authority of a spouse or other family members.

## PERPETUAL CARE FUND

The cemetery manages a Perpetual Care Fund, required by law, and placed in trust. The fund ensures sufficient monies are in place for the long-term care and maintenance of the cemetery. The “perpetual” nature of a cemetery is thus protected by the establishment of this fund.

The Perpetual Care Fund contributions and their subsequent earnings do not cover the cost of maintaining, restoring, repairing, or replacing memorials or monuments. The use of earnings may only be applied to the care of the land which comprises a lot and on which a memorial is situated (e.g. grass trimming, grave and memorial leveling, etc.)

As required by the Cemetery and Funeral Services Act of BC, a portion of the fee charged for every lot purchased, or memorial installation made, is set aside for investment in the Perpetual Care Fund of the cemetery. The amount of the contribution is up to 25% of the lot purchase price.

The Perpetual Care Fund portion of the lot price or memorial installation fee is invested in the Perpetual Care Fund. The principal of the fund is protected by law and cannot be used by the cemetery in any manner other than its intended purpose, to generate interest income. The interest income, available for use by the cemetery, may only be used for the “long-term care and maintenance of the lots sold and the cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium of which they form a part.”

If, at any time, lot owners, family members or visitors have a concern about the appearance or condition of a gravesite, they should not hesitate to advise the cemetery office. Those concerns will be investigated promptly, and repairs made as deemed necessary.

SE J. PERKA

1919 - 1994



UGO P. RIZZO

1920 - 2003



AFRA G. RIZZO

1921 - 2018



LUCA LA

1917



DEL GROSSO

1927 - 2006



DEL GROSSO

JOHNNY  
- 1995



DEL GROSSO

GIUSEPPE

1921 - 2018



STEVEN R.

1995





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Who owns The Gardens of Gethsemani?***

The Gardens of Gethsemani is owned and operated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver. The cemetery does not receive any subsidy for operating or maintenance. The cemetery is not owned by, or affiliated with, any of the major death care corporations.

### ***How are fees established for lots and services at the cemetery?***

Fees charged for lots and services are subject to annual review and approval by the Provincial Registrar of Cemeteries. The fees, as approved by the Registrar, are established to ensure full and adequate funding of current maintenance and operational expenses, future development and “perpetual” maintenance requirements.



### ***Does the cemetery have a pre-arrangement plan?***

Yes. All cemetery lots, products and services may be purchased in advance of a need. Products and services that are prepaid are guaranteed in perpetuity, meaning no additional fees will be charged for those items at the time of use.

### ***Does the cemetery operate a funeral home?***

No. At the time of death, the disposition of human remains is handled in two phases. The transfer of the remains, legal documentation and memorial or funeral service arrangements are coordinated through a local funeral service provider. The cemetery then assumes the responsibility for coordinating the “final” disposition of the remains whether traditional casket burial, mausoleum casket entombment or cremated remains inurnment. The cemetery enjoys a professional working relationship with Greater Vancouver’s local funeral service providers and memorial societies.

## **THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY**

Conscious of the profound religious significance, the Church has shown keen interest and concern throughout the centuries for the care of the deceased, surrounded with deep Christian faith and profound reverence for the burial and the burial places of those who hope to rise with Christ.

Catholic Cemeteries established and cared for by the Church from its beginning, often at considerable sacrifice, are not primarily a matter of economics, or even of public service, but the fulfillment of a religious act.

The bodies of the faithful, once temples of the Holy Spirit, washed, anointed and nourished by the saving action of Christ, remain sacred, to be treated with reverence and religious care even in death.

The Catholic cemetery is not simply a repository for the dead, so that we might look backward, but in a very real sense, pulpits to the truth we live by and altars to eternity where our prayers go forth: for some, that they might be speeded to heaven: to others, that they may intercede for us and direct us along the same paths.

Through the Catholic cemetery, a Christian, in death, continues to give "witness" to the world, of his belief in the resurrection of the body and eternal life.

## **ABOUT CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**

Catholic Cemeteries are an extension of parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver; a place of prayer, reflection, remembrance, and hope. We advocate for the community to set aside their sacred place for remembrance. As part of the Church family and a community of believers, we exist to help families live on.

Proceeds after costs stay in the community to support Archdiocesan ministries and pastoral care programming.



GARDENS OF

*Gethsemani*

CATHOLIC CEMETERY

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