



Cemetery Regulations





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Introduction

With the selection and use of a grave, niche or crypt, and for every memorial, Catholic Cemeteries is governed by the Cemetery and Funeral Services Act and its required Bylaw and Regulations Schedules. Regulations set out how the Cemetery operates and how lots may be used or memorialized. Taking the time to review this brochure will answer most questions.

Every reasonable effort is made to be responsive to an individual or family memorialization wish. However, standards of operation and design ensure consistency, a dignified environment, staff safety and operational efficiencies. While the reason for a particular regulation may not be self-evident, it is based on a regulatory requirement, traditional or historical precedent, operational factors, future continuity and perpetual maintenance consideration.

Because the complete Bylaw and Schedules are over 30 pages in length, we have compiled this summary for your convenience. One can view the full documents on www.rccav.org or upon request, complete copies can be provided.

Due Care & 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, within the posted limits and adjust the volume of your vehicle's sound system so that it cannot be heard outside of your car.
- ✓ 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 absolutely necessary.
- ✓ Pets are not permitted in any area of the Cemetery.

Sacred Character

Canon law guides the value of protecting and fostering the sacred character of our cemeteries. Catholic cemeteries are on consecrated ground under the oversight of the Archbishop of Vancouver. Fostering sacred character is pursued with statuary, art, memorial practices, an onsite chapel and in the burial of the dead with the Rite of



Committal. We encourage visitors to pray for Holy Souls and to use the devotional areas of the Stations of the Cross and Stations of the Resurrection.

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 and locked at dusk. Because the closing time is seasonal, the precise times of closing are posted in the Cemetery and are on our website at www.rccav.org.

Office

Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (appointments are recommended). The office is closed Sundays and statutory holidays.

Interment Services

Upon provision of 24 hours' notice, of which 8 hours must be regular office hours, services may be scheduled Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Interment services arriving at the Cemetery after 3:00 pm are subject to overtime fees.

Saturday Services

Interment bookings will be accepted for Saturdays but are subject to an overtime fee. Cremation inurnment is at regular weekly rates. Casket burial is charged a premium fee due to the additional labour required. 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 funeral home (24-hour phone services). The funeral home will be able to look after immediate needs and, when the Cemetery office reopens, co-ordinate the cemetery service requested. The cemetery enjoys a professional relationship with Greater Vancouver's funeral service providers and memorial societies. Please visit <https://rccav.org/funeral-homes/>.

Change of Address

It is the responsibility of the lot holder or designates to notify the Cemetery of any change in mailing address, email or phone information. Notice sent to a lot holder at the last 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 up to 7 days following an interment, these floral tributes will remain at the gravesite unless they wither, deteriorate or otherwise become unsightly. After 7 days, at



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

Flower Regulations at Other Times

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 regulations, families can be assured such placements will be permitted to remain undisturbed on gravesides for as long as reasonably possible. No glass, ceramic or metal vases are permitted due to safety of staff.

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.

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 3 days following the service, floral tributes will remain in close proximity to the crypt or niche unless they wither, deteriorate or otherwise become unsightly. After 3 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 close 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 close proximity to an exterior crypt or niche during the April 1 to October 31 period.

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 (1) 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 planted on any gravesite or in any garden. Unauthorized plantings are subject to removal without notice.

Articles, murals, 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.

Memorial Regulations

The use of the word “memorial” refers to any flat, ground level marker, upright monument, or other forms of lot memorialization.

Responsibility

Memorialization is expected and required. It is the responsibility of the executor and/or the surviving family to arrange the permanent memorial.

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 ordered.

Memorial Types

The type and location of the lot(s) selected will determine the form of memorial that is allowed. There are different installation and orientation permissions in the cemetery.. Some sections of the cemetery are restricted to ground level, flat markers only and there are sections where upright monuments are allowed in combination with flat markers. A staff member can assist with the particulars depending on the lot location.

Memorial Sizing

The allowable size of the memorial will depend on 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 is subject to approval and must be consistent with the plan of the section it is being installed in and lot selected.

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

Lot Types and Permitted Uses

The use of the word “lot” means any casket grave, cremated remains grave, columbarium niche, mausoleum crypt or niche.

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 1 casket interment and 3 individual cremated remains or, where no casket interment occurs, 4 individual cremated remains.

Cremation Lots

Cremation lots are available in single, companion (2) or family (up to 4) interment designations.

Crypts

Crypts in Holy Angels may be used for 1 casket interment. All Holy Angels crypts are in close proximity to single and double cremation lots. Cremated remains cannot go into these crypts. Where possible one urn may be added to a casket interment crypt. The Cloister’s Mausoleum is mostly sold out.

Lot – Legal Authority Required

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 Care Fund, required by law, is established to ensure sufficient funds are in place for the long-term care and maintenance of the Cemetery.

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 (Fund) of the Cemetery. The amount of the contribution is 25% (or less) on the lot purchase price.

The Fund interest income may only be for the “long-term care and maintenance of the lots sold and the Cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium of which they form a part.” The Fund and its earnings do not cover the cost of maintaining, restoring, repairing or replacing memorials or monuments. This cost of restoring or repairing a memorial needs to be covered by the family.

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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who owns The Gardens of Gethesemani?

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 prearrangement plan?

Yes. All cemetery lots, products and services may be purchased through a pre-payment plan. 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 co-ordinated through a local funeral service provider. The cemetery then assumes the responsibility for co-ordinating the "final" interment of the remains. The Cemetery enjoys a professional relationship with all of Greater Vancouver's 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 to 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.

Information & Journey

With encouragement for the community to strive for practical and spiritual preparation – we've collected prayer resources, educational papers and videos, and other information on rccav.org. We are on a journey with the offer of eternal life. You are encouraged to review these resources and to listen to the words of the Divine Teacher – Jesus Christ.



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