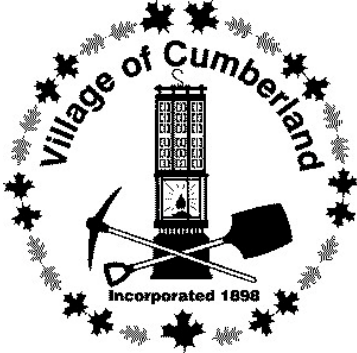


COUNCIL POLICY



<p>Title: Cumberland Cemetery Grave Curbing and Landscaping</p> <p>Authority: Adopted Date: June 11, 2018 Amended Date:</p>	<p>No. 9.4</p> <p>Section: Legislative & Regulatory Services</p> <p>Motion No. 1-358</p>
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Policy Statement

While the cemetery bylaw prohibits placement of grave curbing, landscaping, and provides for limited adornments, the bylaw will not be enforced in certain sections at this time.

Purpose

Cumberland’s first cemetery bylaw was adopted in 1963 (the Village took over management of the cemetery in 1954) and prohibited any type of grave curbing. While upright markers were initially permitted by in the 1963 bylaw, it was amended in 1970 to prohibit them and only permit markers flush with the ground.

In 2009, a new cemetery bylaw continued the flat marker rule and prohibition of grave curbing. The bylaw permitted cut flowers and wreaths, artificial flowers through the winter, as well as plant materials and adornments associated with seasonal events. The bylaw also authorized the cemetery caretaker to remove and dispose of personal mementos, decorative or breakable vases, candles, landscape rock, plants and plantings.

Despite this regulation, over the last six decades many family members have installed a variety of curbing, upright and raised markers, hard and soft landscaping, landscape rock, plants, statuary, twinkly solar lights, and other personal mementos and decorations, affecting many sections of the cemetery. Through inconsistent or no bylaw enforcement, these have been left in the cemetery over the years.

Rather than reduce the cost of maintenance, the situation has increased the level of effort for public works maintenance and created a hodge podge look to the cemetery, which some may

consider unsightly. All sections must be mowed then run through with a weed eater around these curbing.

Staff have been told by members of the community that the drive to decorate and landscape graves by family members is partly driven by the limited maintenance of the cemetery by the Village. Community feedback at the Cemetery Master Plan open house identified “site maintenance” as one of the top issues the Village should address at the cemetery. However, the existing subsoil, surface soil, climate, and lack of on-site reliable water source at the cemetery make it impossible to provide grass turf landscaping. (The Master Plan told us that lawn is the most labour and energy-intensive component of the traditional cemetery environment.) After an interment, lots are now left bare to naturally revegetate with the existing groundcover of moss, kinnikinnick, dandelion and other small flowering plants, and sparse grass. While it is tempting to try to change the cemetery landscape by seeding with grasses or other more desirable groundcover, it is important to recognize that any landscaping is not possible without costly irrigation and major soil amendments, which would lead to increased operating and maintenance costs. It is necessary to work with the existing elements and maintain the existing groundcover suited to that dry environment.

In order to move forward with updating the cemetery bylaw, Council has approved this policy to resolve this ongoing bylaw enforcement dilemma on curbing, landscaping, and adornments that has occurred since 1963.

Policy

This policy applies to the following blocks:

- (a) Blocks 1 to 8
- (b) Blocks 9 to 17
- (c) Blocks 13 and 18
- (d) Blocks A to X

This policy does not apply to

- (a) Block BB
- (b) Block 19
- (c) any new infill rows, e.g. the new rows adjacent to Blocks 5, 6, 7, 8 and 13
- (d) the new central area and ashes only row (previously the ashes only section)
- (e) the new infant and children blocks,
- (f) the natural burial areas

This policy takes the approach that the landscaping and adornment of graves over the last six decades is recognized as part of Cumberland’s culture and heritage. The blocks identified above will be left as-is and the family-placed landscaping, adornments and grave curbing be allowed to naturally deteriorate while this policy remains in place.

While the cemetery bylaw prohibits placement of grave curbing, landscaping, and limited adornments, the bylaw will not be enforced for these sections at this time. However, such a policy does not prevent a future Council from any change in policy in this regard, including to refurbish these sections as more funding became available and as grave landscaping deteriorates and is no longer maintained by families that installed the landscaping. Families are discouraged from adding new landscaping and curbing are cautioned that any landscaping or curbing installed against Village bylaws may be subject to removal and disposal if this policy is amended or rescinded at any time.

These lots will receive minimal maintenance by the Village. The lots will be included in the Village's annual spring clean up, where broken and faded adornments and floral offerings are removed. Village operations will continue to mow and weed-eat these sections as permitted by allocated budgets and operational availability.

The bylaw prohibiting curbing, landscaping or adornments will be enforced in areas to which this policy does not apply. This will allow Village operations ease of maintenance with a ride-on mower. It is intended that new rows and areas be free of curbing and landscaping, and that a small number of lot adornments be permitted at the head of a lot by bylaw. This is intended to set the standard for future new sections and infill rows of the cemetery.