



### **A CEMETERY IS FOREVER...PERPETUAL CARE RESPONSIBILITIES**

With the sale of each lot (grave, crypt or niche) the Board of Cemetery Trustees enter into a contract with the purchaser to care for their interment or memorial site specifically and the Burial Park generally - *in perpetuity*.

What work is considered 'perpetual care'? Provincial cemetery legislation defines such care as:

*"providing for the long term care and maintenance of the lots sold and the cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium of which they form a part."*

Work covered under Perpetual Care is restricted to our responsibility to lot owners and their survivors. Flowerbed planting, general tree maintenance, turf maintenance of non-interment / developed areas, and capital improvements do not 'qualify' as allowable perpetual care expenses.

Perpetual Care is a labour intensive responsibility. Maintenance related expenses comprise approx. 50% of the cemetery's annual operational costs. Of the funds allotted to maintenance, approx. 90% represents labour expenses with the balance representing supplies, equipment and other operational overhead.

#### **PERPETUAL CARE AT THE BURIAL PARK REQUIRES:**

- 1 worker working 4 hours per day / 1 day per week to empty / pick up trash from all garbage cans.
- 1 worker working 4 hours per day / 1 day per week to maintain the roadways.
- 2 workers working 8 hours per day / 5 days per week to blow / rake / collect leaves in the fall & winter (October 15 to December 15).
- 1 worker working 3 hours per day / 5 days per week to perform spring cleanup and removal of all artificial flowers and winter grave decorations. (2 weeks to complete)
- 1 worker working 3 hours per day / 1 day per week to complete the lifting / leveling of a previously installed marker or monument. We perform approximately 150 marker lifts per year.
- 2 workers working 8 hours per day / 5 days per week to perform the complete lifting and leveling of a sunken grave, including the marker leveling and replacement of sod. We perform approximately 1,200 complete grave lifts per year. Ground conditions restrict complete lifts to 4 months of the year, June through September.
- 3 workers working 8 hours per day / 4 days per week to trim around all markers and monuments in the 19 full casket interment sections of the cemetery. (April through September)
- 3 workers working 8 hours per day / 1 day per week to trim around all markers in the 3 cremation gardens. (April through September)
- 2 workers working 8 hours per day / 5 days per week to cut the turf grass in all 24 interment and cremation sections of the cemetery. (March through October)
- 1 worker working 5 hours per day / 2 days per week to maintain / coordinate and operate the sprinkler system and watering of interment sections. (May through September)

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Between April 1 and October 1 there is an outside workforce of 14 grounds workers directed by the Operations Supervisor.

In any given week during this period there are:

- 2 employees on holiday;
- 1 employee working 8 hours a day doing gardening;
- 3 employees working 8 hrs a day trimming over 50,000 headstones;
- 2 employees working 8 hours a day mowing approximately 55 acres of grass;
- 2 employees working 8 hours a day 'lifting / repairing' graves and headstones;
- 1 employee maintaining roads / watering / picking up garbage;

This balance of 3 employees are responsible to perform the majority of tasks related to the provision of;

- 5 traditional casket interments per week;
- 8 urn interments per week;
- 6 marker / monument installations per week.

Royal Oak Burial Park is in it's mid-life in terms of operation and activity. With an aging population over the next 20 to 30 years, the Burial Park is entering what may be the busiest time of activity in terms of demand on lot availability and interment services.

The Board of Cemetery Trustees regards perpetual care as one of its primary responsibilities. Strict adherence to high maintenance standards ensures our client families can literally see first hand that we take our 'perpetual' commitment to them and their descendants seriously.