



## Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
3400 – 30 Street  
Vernon, BC  
V1T 5E6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 14, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT: Christy Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants

TELEPHONE: 250-550-3539

---

### Reminder of upcoming changes for floral tributes and memorial items at Pleasant Valley Cemetery

The City is reminding residents of changes being implemented regarding floral tributes and other memorial items at Pleasant Valley Cemetery.

- **Between March 15 and October 15:** only fresh-cut floral arrangements may be placed on plots.
- **Between October 16 and March 14:** potted plants, wreaths, artificial floral arrangements, and seasonal floral tributes may be placed on plots.
- All floral arrangements must be placed in approved tribute holders. These holders are available for purchase through the Cemetery Office, located at City Hall.
- Non-floral items (trinkets) placed at an interment site – including but not limited to ceramics, statuary, frames, photographs, glass, boxes, shells, toys, wire screens, baskets or stands – are not permitted on plots and will be respectfully removed.
- In regard to funeral flowers, any type of floral tribute is permitted on the day of the service and for a period of seven days following the interment.

The City recognizes that many artificial or non-floral tributes are currently placed at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. **To provide time for families to visit the cemetery and collect items they wish to keep, the City is providing a grace period until March 14, 2023, to remove items that are no longer permitted on gravesites.**

After March 14, 2023, in accordance with [Cemetery Management Bylaw #5767](#), all items that are no longer permitted will be respectfully removed. The City will also provide public notice each spring and fall, to remind residents of the types of items that may be placed on plots throughout the season.

In 2019, the City of Vernon Cemetery Master Plan and Bylaw #5767 were adopted for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. The Master Plan was developed to enhance the sustainability of the City's cemetery services and offer an implementation plan for improved cemetery operations, policies and practices.

These changes align with the operation practices of many cemeteries across British Columbia and Canada, and take into consideration the safety of the public and cemetery caretakers, maintenance operations, and environmental impacts.

The City of Vernon understands and respects the need for families to honour loved ones through the placement of offerings at gravesites. This is part of the grieving and healing process. The City welcomes these tributes, within the regulations and guidelines that are listed above, and which are common in many other communities.

The City appreciates the public's understanding as these changes are being implemented at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. For more information, please visit [www.vernon.ca/cemetery](http://www.vernon.ca/cemetery).