

Mount Patricia Cemetery Flower Policy & Environmental Philosophy

A Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

As a perpetual care cemetery, Mount Patricia Cemetery Association (MPCA) is committed to maintaining a place of comfort, dignity, and natural beauty. In line with our mission and the global movement toward environmental sustainability, MPCA has revised its flower policy to reduce waste, protect wildlife, and preserve the cemetery's natural setting for generations to come. This shift reflects our vision of a park-like setting as a peaceful space that honours both our ancestors and the environment.

New Flower Policy: Phasing Out Artificial Flowers

Effective **October 1, 2026**, the following changes will take place:

- Unclaimed artificial flowers will be removed.
- Beginning in **2027**, artificial flowers will no longer be permitted anywhere on the cemetery grounds.

Why We're Making This Change

This change addresses the environmental impact of artificial flowers, which are:

- made from petroleum products
- non-biodegradable
- prone to fading and damage
- a hazard to wildlife
- a contributor to environmental degradation of natural areas, and
- a source of waste that ultimately ends up in landfills.

We also recognize that some visitors feel pressure to adorn graves with expensive artificial arrangements. This policy encourages more sustainable, meaningful, and cost-effective alternatives.

Respecting Memorial Traditions: Alternatives to Artificial Flowers

1. In-Ground Plantings (Available Now)

You may plant real flowers or small non-invasive plants directly adjacent to a headstone.

- MPCA staff will prepare the soil (till and topsoil) for free.
- Approval is required before planting.
- Contact us at 709-634-4774 or info@mountpatriciacemetery.com to get started.

Please choose annuals that will not spread into mowable areas. Given NL's rainfall, most will require little maintenance.

2. Fresh Cut Flowers

- Fresh flowers may be placed directly on graves.
- Please remove all plastic wrapping before placing.
- Composters will be provided for flower disposal.

3. Potted Plants & Flower Hangers

- Real flowers in pots or hangers beside monuments are allowed.
- All displays must adhere to existing MPCA guidelines.
- Again, plastic wrapping must be removed.

4. Memorial Tree Planting (Starting Spring 2026)

Families may sponsor the planting of a tree along designated roads, paths, or other areas.

- Trees will be planted by MPCA staff and include a commemorative plaque.
- This creates a lasting tribute and becomes part of the cemetery's natural infrastructure.
- Costs to be determined (similar to commemorative benches).

5. Perennial Memorial Garden (Starting Spring 2026)

A perennial flower garden will be created behind the columbaria.

- It will feature benches overlooking the City and the mouth of the Humber River.
- MPCA staff will plant and maintain the garden.
- Families can contribute to a perennial plant or shrub and receive a commemorative plaque.

Longer-term plans include expanding these gardens across the cemetery to enhance its beauty and provide peaceful, nature-based memorials.

Columbaria Guidelines

The design of the columbaria reflects our commitment to dignity and grace.

- Artificial flowers and objects are not permitted on or around niches.
- These can cause permanent damage to the niche surface and compromise the appearance of surrounding areas.

Thank You for Your Support

We deeply appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we move toward a more sustainable future for Mount Patricia Cemetery.

For updates or to view the latest list of alternatives, please visit our website or contact MPCA staff directly.