



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	October 20, 2025
SUBJECT:	Hamilton Cemetery Vandalism (Ward 1)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 1
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries staff regrets to share that an incident of vandalism occurred at Hamilton Cemetery, 777 York Blvd, during the evening of October 17, 2025. Twenty monuments and markers were deliberately toppled and damaged within the cemetery grounds a number of which were older sandstone monuments that are beyond repair.

Staff became aware of the incident in the morning of October 18, 2025, when arriving for their shift.

Cemetery staff are working closely with the Hamilton Police Service and the City's Safety & Security team, who are actively investigating this vandalism and theft. At this time, staff do not feel that this was targeted, but a random act of opportunity. Staff are assessing the extent of the damage and will be reaching out to affected families for those the City has contact information on file. Given a number of the monuments and markers date back to the 1800's, no contact information is available in a few cases.

Should family members of these affected monuments wish to reach out to Municipal Cemeteries staff, they can do so by contacting 905-546-4704.

This incident of vandalism comes at a time where cemeteries in neighbouring communities have been the victims of various acts of theft, vandalism, and other criminal activity.

The City understands the deep emotional and historical significance of these monuments, and we share in the distress this has caused to families and our

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

community. Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries remains committed to restoring dignity and respect to the affected areas as soon as possible.

SECURITY

Currently, the City's Corporate Safety & Security team patrols the City's various cemeteries through a rotating schedule. These are conducted at various times during the day and night by uniformed security guards. The Security team will support Hamilton Police's investigation as required with tools such as CCTV footage.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A