

## **Appendix K Cemetery Etiquette**

Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries  
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## *Cemetery Etiquette*

Cemeteries are sacred places where the dead are laid to rest with dignity; therefore, visitors are expected to behave respectfully. Use the following as a guide when visiting a cemetery.

- \* Observe all posted rules.
- \* Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries are open to visitors between 8:00 a.m. and sundown. Stay out of cemeteries after dark. Not only is it disrespectful, but you may also trip and injure yourself or inadvertently damage monuments or markers.
- \* Keep noise to a minimum. Most people that you will encounter on cemetery grounds are mourning the death of a loved one. Shouting or laughing loudly is inappropriate and hurtful.
- \* Whenever possible, stay on the roadway. Try to avoid walking on the graves to the best of your ability. If you wish to visit a particular grave, use the monument located at the head of a grave and the foot-marker placed at the foot of the grave as a guide for walking on the path between graves.
- \* If you see a funeral or other service in progress, leave the vicinity as quickly and quietly as possible.
- \* Maintain supervision of your children and teach them to respect the dead. Ensure that your children walk on the roadway. Do not allow your children to touch or climb on tombstones, as many of these are very old.
- \* Do not bring alcohol, firearms or entertainment items into a cemetery.
- \* Pets are required to be leashed and accompanied by the owner. Keep your pet under control and clean up after it. Do not allow your pet to roam over graves; rather keep it on the roadway.
- \* Do not litter. This includes cigarette butts. Take away any trash that you bring with you or deposit it in the garbage receptacles placed on the grounds.
- \* Do not interfere with the plants or wildlife that inhabit the cemetery. Do not pick or damage flowers on cemetery grounds or adorning a grave. Families have taken the time and money to plant a memorial garden for their loved one. It is greatly upsetting for them to visit the grave and find flowers picked or damaged.
- \* Do not remove any wreaths or bouquets left on a grave.
- \* Do not take rubbings of any monuments or markers without getting written permission from the Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries to do so. Many stones are fragile and should not be touched.

*This document is intended for educational purpose.  
Failing to follow the guide could be a violation of the Cemeteries By-law.*