

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Pickard, Gail" <Gail.Pickard@vancouver.ca>

"Chungath, Gracen" <Gracen.Chungath@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 8/31/2020 4:38:25 PM

**Subject:** Memo - Removal of Hedge and Closure of a Pedestrian Access at Mountain View Cemetery

**Attachments:** ACCS - AGM - Memo (Mayor Council) - Removal of Hedge and Closure of a Pedestrian Access at Mountain View Cemetery (2020-08-31).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Mountain View Cemetery will be removing a section of perimeter hedge and closing one designated pedestrian entry and at least 2 other informal entries adjacent to the Horne2 Section Field of Honour. This work is being initiated as part of the 4-year Veterans Affairs Canada grave restoration project.

Staff recognize that the impact of this work may not be well received by some of the neighbours – those who live across the street from the hedge and those who make use of the entries. However, the hedge is decades old, not cost effective to maintain or repair and obscures the commemoration of dozens of military markers. The entries are also leading to visible impacts on adjacent veteran graves.

In order to access and secure the construction area the removal of the hedge and closure of these entries is required. The renovation work in this area is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. A plan for the permanent perimeter treatment will be developed during the renovation work and communicated prior to its implementation.

Staff will be directly notifying residents across the street and post signage along the perimeter regarding the hedge removal and entry closures. Additional project signage will be installed providing broader information on the overall Veterans Affairs Canada funded \$2.7m project to renovate more than 7,373 military graves in the 2 largest Fields of Honour in Mountain View Cemetery

The attached memo provides more detail as well as photos.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email Gracen Chungath at [gracen.chungath@vancouver.ca](mailto:gracen.chungath@vancouver.ca) or Sandra Singh at [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)

Best,  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager  
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Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

## MEMORANDUM

August 31, 2020

TO: Mayor & Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement & Communications Director  
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Susie Saunders, Managing Director, Non-Market Housing and Social Operations

FROM: Gracen Chungath, Acting General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services

SUBJECT: Removal of Hedge and Closure of a Pedestrian Access at Mountain View Cemetery

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### PURPOSE

This memo is to provide information on work being performed along a portion of the perimeter of Mountain View Cemetery. The work includes the removal of a hedge and closure of a pedestrian access point and may have impacts on residents living across the street from the work area.

### BACKGROUND

In February 2020 Council authorized the City to enter in to an agreement with the Government of Canada to restore the monument installations of 7,373 military graves in two Fields of Honour within Mountain View Cemetery. Canada is providing \$2.709 million to cover the complete costs of this work over a four year project term.

### DISCUSSION

The first stage of this work will take place in the Horne2 Field of Honour that lies on the east side of Prince Edward Street between 31st Avenue and 33rd Avenue. Part of the project will result in the removal of approximately 240m of hedge along this perimeter edge to support

construction and restoration efforts. Additionally, the hedge is encroaching, and obscuring the markers, on dozens of military graves. The hedge is decades old, of mixed varieties and not cost effective to maintain nor repair and as such its removal is an appropriate step at this time. The removal of the hedge will provide additional access options for cemetery and construction staff and equipment during the project. The visible work is anticipated to begin immediately with the removal of the hedge with work in this project area expected to be complete by the end of 2022.

Prior to the hedge removal Cemetery staff will erect signage along the perimeter and deliver letters to the residents living directly across the street from where the hedge will be removed. The removal of the hedge will commence not less than 1 week later.

The following information will be communicated to Cemetery users and residents of Prince Edward Street:

- Mountain View Cemetery has entered into an agreement with the Government of Canada and Veterans Affairs to restore the monument installations of 7,373 military graves in two Fields of Honour.
- As part of the renovations of the Horne2 Field of Honour, the cemetery will be removing the hedge on the east side of Prince Edward Street between 31st and 33rd Avenues.
- This existing hedge is decades old, damaged, and made up of a mix of inappropriate species which encroach on adjacent graves.
- After removal, a temporary construction fence will be erected along the entire Prince Edward Street edge to secure the construction area.
- A plan for the permanent perimeter treatment will be developed during the renovation work and communicated prior to its implementation.
- For more information contact the cemetery office (with email and phone details)

This perimeter edge presently contains one designated pedestrian entrance. That pedestrian entrance begins with a concrete path between 18 military graves leading to a larger concrete pad. The graves on either side of this narrow path have been subjected to significant foot and bicycle traffic resulting in compacted soil and dirt paths instead of turf. In addition, two additional desire-line pathways have been established by the public at gaps between the hedge and fencing. The two desire-line pathways stretch between 40 graves each and are directly on top of the graves – there is no non-grave space between these sites.

This work and the resulting construction fence will close these entryways. Signs at these points will redirect the public to wider and more appropriate entrances at the mid-point of 31<sup>st</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. The closure of these entrances will provide an opportunity to encourage visitors on foot and bicycle to use alternate and preferred entry points that do not negatively impact the veteran graves.

## FINAL REMARKS

If Council has any questions about the content of this memo please contact me (August 5 – 31) via [gracen.chungath@vancouver.ca](mailto:gracen.chungath@vancouver.ca). After August 31, please contact Sandra Singh via [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gracen Chungath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gracen Chungath  
Acting General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

604.673.8405 | [gracen.chungath@vancouver.ca](mailto:gracen.chungath@vancouver.ca)



**APPENDIX**

**Aerial view of Horne2 Section (east of Prince Edward Street between 31<sup>st</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenues)**



**Pedestrian Entrance**

looking east from Prince Edward Street



looking east from inside cemetery





**Turf damage and grave encroachment adjacent to pedestrian path**



**Desire-line entries at fence/hedge gaps**



**Desire-line paths on military graves**

