

Windsor – St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Cemetery in **Windsor** are pictured on Monday, April 7, 2025. (Mike Evans/CBC Windsor) Roughly a dozen tombstones were knocked over



Police in Windsor have launched an investigation after roughly a dozen tombstones in a local cemetery were damaged.

Staff at the St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Cemetery have wrapped the tombstones, knocked off their stone bases, in yellow caution tape.

Windsor police confirmed that they received a report on Monday "indicating that headstones had been knocked over" at the cemetery.

"This occurrence is in the early stages of investigation," a Windsor Police Services spokesperson said.

One local woman who visited the cemetery on Sunday said the scene overwhelmed her.

"I just couldn't get over how anyone could do that towards someone's resting space. They're in their final place," said Wendy Morano, who was there with her husband to visit her twin sister's grave. Morano posted [a video](#) of the tombstone damage to social media, where fellow Windsorites reacted with sadness and anger.

A representative for the cemetery said the damaged tombstones have been marked and will be repaired when the ground dries out in the coming weeks. It's not the first time the cemetery has been vandalized. In 2014, [thieves damaged](#) around 50 crypts when they removed vases and other items, leaving flowers and mementos on the ground. The cemetery is home to decades-old graves, including those of [veterans who served](#) in the First and Second World Wars. Morano said she and her twin were both born "very premature," and her sister did not survive.

"This is my only way to be with my sister," she said. "I never got that opportunity with her dying young."

Her sister's grave was not damaged, Morano said, but the experience of seeing the destruction nearby left her feeling traumatized nonetheless.

Morano said she posted the video so that other people whose family members are interred there would know to check on their loved ones' tombstones. "I couldn't imagine those poor people," she said.

She said she wants the public – and those who might be responsible for the damage – to know that there is already "so much hatred in our world right now."

"We just need to do better."

# Two cemeteries in **Poultney** vandalized last week

Aug 29, 2024

[By Sophia Buckley-Clement Staff Writer](#)

POULTNEY — The Rutland County Sheriff's Department is investigating a series of vandalisms that occurred in Poultney last week.

The Poultney Cemetery, St. Raphael's Cemetery and a nearby building located off East Main Street were the targets of the incidents.

Karen Atwood, Poultney Cemetery Association board of trustees president, shared that the damages to the town property consisted of six broken windows, which will cost the board several hundred dollars and several hours of volunteer labor to fix.

# SAINT ALBANS CITY, Vt. 38 gravestones knocked over during cemetery vandalism



Headstones

knocked down at Holy Cross Cemetery in St. Albans SOURCE: Michael Cusanelli Updated: 3:03 PM EDT Aug 12, 2022

## SAINT ALBANS CITY, Vt. —

Police are looking for more information regarding a vandalism at Holy Cross Cemetery in St. Albans that left 38 gravestones knocked down.

Frank Cioffi, the president of the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation, said the vandalism occurred during the evening of Aug. 10.

He said he noticed the headstones were overturned when he went to pay his respects to family members who were buried there. Some of the headstones that were damaged includes ones dating back before the turn of the century.

Cemetery managers Gale and Denise Messier said they have been able to restore most of the headstones, but want to find the person or persons responsible for the damage. A police report has been filed with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

Father

Cioffi said he plans to start a Go Fund Me page to help pay for some of the damages done to the older headstones.

Anyone with additional information should contact the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.



# Teen admits to cemetery vandalism

- Nov 14, 2007 Updated Oct 17, 2018

**WINOOSKI**—A Winooski teenager has admitted to knocking over more than 100 tombstones in a cemetery, causing an estimated \$100,000, police said Tuesday. Police believe the 15-year-old boy, who was not identified, acted alone.

"Clearly it was an act of rage on his part," Police Chief Steve McQueen said. The tombstones were knocked over, many of them damaged between Friday night and early Saturday morning. Relatives whose family members were buried at St. Francis Xavier graveyard have assessed the damage. Volunteers have been working to right the gravestones. On Wednesday, granite workers from Barre and other volunteers are expected to try to repair some of the monuments. "To desecrate a cemetery like this, it's devastating," said Leon Dabourin, 71. "There was no one here to fight back." The worst damage was in the old part of the cemetery where two angels from a tall crucifix were broken, one losing a wing and another shattered on the ground. Sue Dumont visited the graves of her parents and grandparents on Monday. "This is the worst thing that's ever happened to this place," she said. "It's too bad, when you're not even safe when you're dead." Police said the offenses carry a fine of up to \$5,000 and five years in prison.

# Gravestones damaged at **East Clarendon Cemetery**

By Keith Whitcomb Jr. Staff

Writer Nov 21, 2022

Anyone with information is asked to email Trooper Charles Gardner at [charles.gardner@vermont.gov](mailto:charles.gardner@vermont.gov), or call 802-773-9101.

Lane Douglass, superintendent of the East Clarendon Cemetery, said seven stones were damaged. "One was knocked off of its base and knocked into another stone probably about 12 feet away and then one got rolled underneath the vehicle," he said. "That one went probably 20 feet while underneath the vehicle."

He said he doesn't believe any of the stones were broken, but many were chipped. They'll need to be reset by a monument company using a lift, he said.

"They were going down the side road and definitely turned right into the graves," he said. "It looked very intentional so I don't know if it was a drunk driver or kids or what. I have no idea."

This is the first time Douglass said he can recall graves being damaged like this.

"Our shed was broken into, probably 15 or 20 years ago, but outside of that, we've never had trouble," he said.

Fixing the damage will be up to the cemetery. He hasn't estimated yet what the cost will be, and plans to contact families once he identifies whose gravestones were damaged.

One was knocked into its face, leaving it unreadable for the time being.

Earlier this month, Rutland City officials reported 30 gravestones being smashed by vandals at the West Street Cemetery. The damage is believed to have occurred around Halloween.

According to the Bennington Banner, about 200 gravestones were knocked over, and in some cases broken, at the Village Cemetery on Morgan Street in late October.

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# Vandals damage hundreds of gravestones at **Bennington** cemetery

By WNYT

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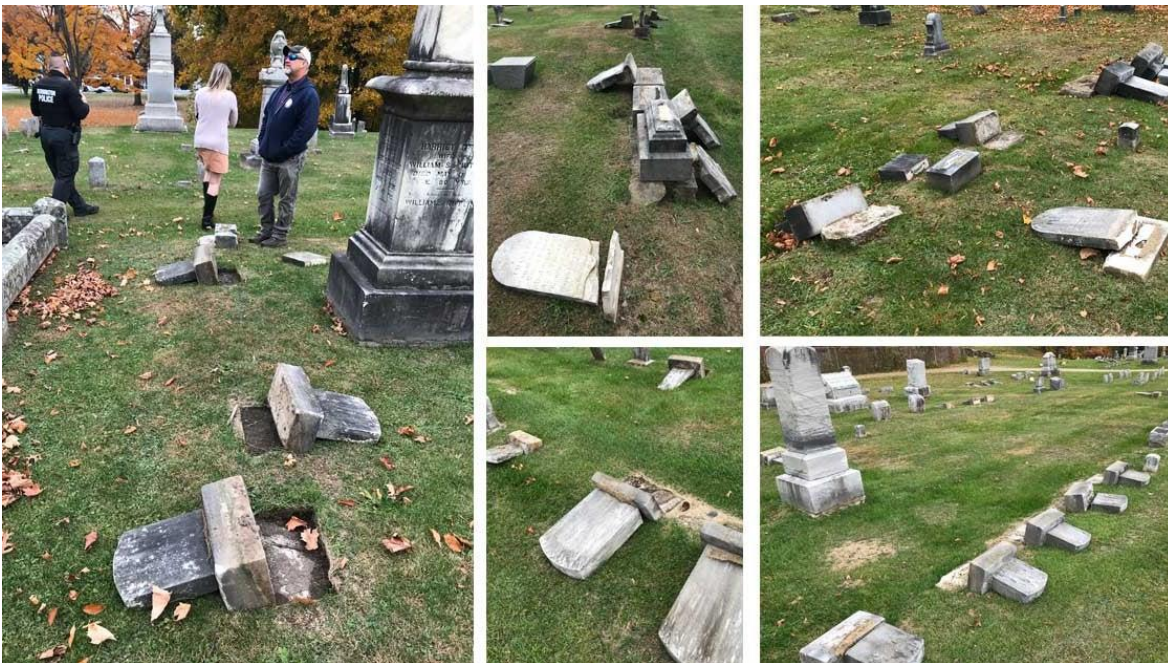
Some of the stones are from some of the oldest graves, dating back to the 1700s.

The Bennington Village Cemetery in Bennington, Vermont was damaged over the weekend. More than 200 gravestones are overturned at the cemetery on Morgan Street. Many of them are seriously damaged.

Town officials say veterans from every war are buried here, and the flags placed to honor them were just tossed to the side.

The town's communications coordinator tells me the disrespect is unbelievable. They plan to restore the damage as soon as possible, but they tell NewsChannel 13 they have no idea how long it'll take for them to restore some of these gravestones.

Once police finish their initial investigation, employees from the Department of Public Works will begin cleaning.



Police are asking for help. If you live near the area and have a security camera with a view of the cemetery, call police at (802) 442-1030.

# Community fights back after vandals target Rutland cemeteries



This isn't the first time Tom Giffin has dealt with vandalism at the West Street Cemetery.

"You can see all the ones we've been working on, it's a lot of work," Giffin said. "It's unfortunate but it's what's happening."

He says people have knocked over the headstones of some of Rutland's oldest founding members, some dating back to the 1700s. Now, the once-open cemetery will remain locked.

Down the street, we found another cemetery had also been targeted.

"How could someone do that?" asked Mary Rachel Voity, who works across the street from the West Street Cemetery.

Voity says vandals have also struck her business.

"We've had problems with graffiti, as well," she said.

One of the buildings on their property has been tagged multiple times.

"There's no need for tagging," Voity said. "We're a small community, we should be helping and making things pretty and not destroying them."

"I've been patrolling the city and noticing a lot of tagging in the city," Rutland Police Ofc. Emilio Rosario said. "If someone was coming from out our city that is coming into our city they would want to see what our city has to offer, not graffiti."

So Rosario started a project where he and work crews would take care of any graffiti.

"You know we're going to keep doing it. We're going to keep painting over it and we're going to make sure the city looks good. No need for graffiti," Rosario said.

As for Giffin, he didn't feel he had enough information to report this to the police. Instead, he wants to look on the bright side of a sad situation.

"I think a lot of positives come out of this because people have seen the damage and they want to see it fixed," Giffin said. He tells us he's getting help to do that from volunteers and from local schools.