

3 charged in cemetery vandalism

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[CBC News](#)

Two adults and one youth have been charged with mischief after two crosses were ripped off headstones in a historic graveyard in south-end Halifax over the weekend.

Raymond Coolen, who lives near Holy Cross Cemetery at the corner of South Park and South streets, saw three young men drinking near Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel on the grounds of the cemetery.

He said that one of the men was holding a cross, which had been broken off a granite headstone dating to 1900.

"One of them did have a cross in his hand, so what he was going to do with that, I have no idea — that could have been in the windshield of somebody's car, it could have been smashed across somebody else's headstone," Coolen said Monday.

Coolen said he followed the men out of the cemetery and called police, who arrested them a short time later.

A 17-year-old and two 20-year-old men have been charged with mischief.

The oldest Catholic cemetery in Halifax, the burial ground opened in 1843.

Robert Thomson, a volunteer caretaker who has spent hundreds of hours restoring it, reacted angrily to the damage.

"This is hallowed ground," he said Monday. "I think I'd be very tempted, if I were to catch someone in the act, to have a fervent desire to knock them into next Wednesday."

Rob Nash was worried when he heard about the vandalism because four generations of the Nash family are buried in the cemetery.

"Personally, I'm relieved that there's been no damage to my family's area, but I do feel for any that have been violated," Nash said.

The Catholic Cemeteries Commission maintains the site, but the Holy Cross Cemetery Trust has undertaken a restoration project.

According to the cemetery's website, an estimated 25,000 people, many of Irish descent, are buried in the graveyard.

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**John Sansom**

The story says two adults and one youth have been charged in this matter. Okay, who are the adults....or don't they have names?

The names have not been withheld pending a formal court appearance...or hasn't there been one yet? And where are these guys at the moment? Come on, fellows, give us some useful information, please.

**king solomon**

Two weeks in jail and force them to repair and maintain every cemetery in Halifax for a year.

**S. Leblanc**

Throw the book at these anti-Christians, and make them serve jail time, pay a fine, pay for all repairs, and 500hr community service in the cemetery.

**James_Kirk**

Make them pay for the repairs.

**Senile**

They should be made to work in the cemetery cleaning up and assisting the caretaker; then when that's all finished; horsewhipped

**do from go**

Imagine attacking a plaque of the dead, who cannot defend themselves. The so called men are citizens of the smallest order. They should be made to straighten up their deeds and to pick up garbage for a month around the streets of Halifax, because they are nothing but garbage.

If we don't respect the dead, how can we begin to respect the living things around us.

**Matt in NS**

Alcohol can make people do stupid things... but this is a whole new level.

WayneSimpson



"charged with mischief" ? Mischief be damned, make them totally responsible for the repairs, otherwise it's just a big joke to them.



JWBlunden

Mischief? How about trespassing, defacing property, destruction of property, defaming a corpse?



ShellyCasey

Someone needs to get a job! Too much time on their hands I'd say!

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