

# Mix News

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## **Municipality silences concerns over Real Martin Cemetery**

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A handful of residents took to social media to air their concerns over having a burial ground in their proverbial back yard.

But the municipality says concerns over plans for a Real Martin Drive Cemetery have been quelled, in the wake of an information session last night.

"The fact that there's a large tree buffer first of all, that will surround the cemetery is giving people some piece of mind." Leila Zeppelin a Landscape Architect with LEES and Associates. "Also the fact that it's going to be more of a park like setting, as opposed to a very traditional cemetery without a lot of trees as the main sort of heart of the cemetery."

"It seemed that there were some phone calls of neighbours that were concerned about what was coming to their neighbourhood and a fear around a cemetery being in their neighbourhood, but the reaction has actually been quite positive." says Zeppelin, who is pleased with last night's response. "Obviously this piece of forest is really valuable to the community."

Although many concerns have been silenced after the information session, there are a few lingering issues that residents want solved before the project gets underway.

"I really like the look of it. I like the location. They are going to be quiet neighbours. The only thing I am really quite concerned about is that we get the water table and any kind of drainage problems under control right away." explains Wood Buffalo Estates resident, Iris Kirschner. "I remember in the Abasand cemetery it was quite fine until they took the trees down and the graves started to fill with water. I really don't want to be dead in the water up there."

The municipality says the cemetery, adjacent to Wood buffalo Estates will serve the community for more than three decades.

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