



Correspondence Items Presented for Information January 29, 2024

- 1) Correspondence from the following municipalities re: Provincial cemetery management support request:
 - a) Township of Wainfleet
 - b) Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
 - c) Town of Plympton-Wyoming
 - d) Township of Georgian Bluffs
- 2) Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) re: Policy update – social and economic prosperity review.
- 3) Correspondence from the Communications Lead, TC Energy re: Ontario pumped storage project.
- 4) Correspondence from the Clerk, Town of Mono re: Road safety emergency declaration.
- 5) Correspondence from the CEO, Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce re: Government grant funding opportunity.
- 6) Correspondence from the Clerk, County of Prince Edward re: Support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus.
- 7) Correspondence from the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs re: Rural Economic Development (RED) program funding and Rural Economic Development Strategy consultation.
- 8) Correspondence from the Province of Ontario re: Expansion of Ontario's Building Faster Fund (BFF).

**CLERK'S DEPARTMENT**

P.O. Box 40, 31940 Highway #3 Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0
Tel: 905-899-3463 Fax: 905-899-2340
www.wainfleet.ca

January 10, 2024

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5B 2H7

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Re: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support Request

Please be advised that at its meeting of January 9, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following motion:

“**THAT** the Township of Wainfleet receive C-2023-430 from the Township of Clearview and C-2023-442 from the Township of Tay regarding cemeteries and that we send a resolution of support for their correspondences to all appropriate parties.”

Should you have any questions, please contact me at achrastina@wainfleet.ca or 905-899-3463 ext. 224.

Regards,

Amber Chrastina
Deputy Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Niagara West, Sam Oosterhoff
Ontario Municipalities



Staff Report

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Date: December 11, 2023

Subject: Report # LS-032-2023 – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receives Report LS-032-2023 (Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support) dated December 11, 2023; and,

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities.

Background

Under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed.

Over the last decade there appears to be a trend where cemeteries in Ontario are being transferred, whether through abandonment or a mutually agreed upon transfer, to the care and control of municipalities. This is often seen when there is a breakdown in existing cemetery boards and/or when churches cease operations. For many existing private cemetery boards their board members and volunteers are aging and are unable to assist with the operations and maintenance of the cemetery any longer. Finding new members proves to be difficult for these boards to continue. In addition to aging board members, there are other issues that are contributing to the increase in cemetery transfers:

- high maintenance costs
- inaccuracy of records
- lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery

- increased regulatory processes that require ongoing training for selling of interment rights, and the financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.

Township Owned Cemeteries

The Township of Clearview currently owns and operates nine (9) cemeteries within its geographic boundaries. Out of these nine cemeteries, four (4) are considered active meaning that there are still interment rights to be sold, or burials to take place. Below is a chart outlining these cemeteries and their status:

Cemetery Name	Address	Status
Batteau Hill Cemetery	2670 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Bethel Union Cemetery	2249 Creemore Avenue, New Lowell	Inactive
Dunedin Union Cemetery	9 Turkeyroost Lane, Dunedin	Active
Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery	2870 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Lavender Cemetery	827103 Mulmur/Nottawasaga Townline, Creemore	Active
Old Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	6130 Highway 26, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive
Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery	2279 County Road 42, Stayner	Active
Stayner Union Cemetery	7661 Highway 26, Stayner	Active
Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	12358 County Road 10, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive

For the Dunedin and Stayner Union Cemetery, the Township looks after the maintenance and burials through a third-party contractor. The maintenance and burials for the Lavender Cemetery are conducted through the Board. For the Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery all the interment rights have been sold, but there remains one burial to be completed. The cost to maintain an active cemetery is expensive. Although burial costs and the installation of markers, etc. are cost recovery through the purchaser, grounds maintenance is not.

Inactive cemeteries still require consistent grounds maintenance, which includes any monument restoration for health and safety, and record searches for the public register.

Comments and Analysis

When analyzing the number of cemeteries that Clearview Township currently owns and operates, maintenance and administration is a large undertaking. To add any additional cemeteries by way of transfer or abandonment will only compound the issues the Township is already facing. In the past year, the Township has been approached by two separate entities regarding possible cemetery transfers. When a board or cemetery transfers ownership to the municipality, the issues are transferred with it. Municipalities are not immune to the same concerns. It becomes a strain on municipal resources, financially, administratively, and operationally.

Administrative Impact

From an administrative perspective the management of four active cemeteries is both time consuming and complex. No interment is the same, and providing good customer service takes time especially for those making arrangements while also dealing with grief. Administrative tasks include but are not limited to: interment right sales and mapping, burial contracts and scheduling, monument placement, historical record searches, plot and monument staking, fees and charges review, family transfers of interment rights and annual reporting to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

- **Incomplete records**

Often the records accepted by the Township from a dissolved cemetery board or church are incomplete and disorganized. This is no fault of the previous board members, as they are also often operating with limited resources. However, it does make it difficult to manage the cemetery post-transfer when records are sparse. Understanding which plots are occupied and by who is critical to the sound management of a cemetery. Unfortunately, this is not made possible in all cases because of incomplete records. In addition, records received during a transfer usually are maintained under different records management standards and are often organized and named inconsistently. Adaptation to Township records keeping practices takes time.

- **Lack of human resources**

Cemetery management is a highly regulated professional field, with the responsibility of which is often placed on public sector employees who may have limited knowledge of cemeteries in general. With reduced resources within municipalities especially rural ones, the management of cemeteries often becomes a secondary responsibility to another position. There is also a lack of affordable training available for municipal employees who are required to abide by regulations set out by the FBCSA and the BAO.

- **Increased regulatory processes**

Annual reporting requirements of the BAO can be extensive and complex. This includes monitoring the number of interments, the transfers to the Care and Maintenance Fund (C&M), and how the C&M fund can be used. There are also regulations pertaining to maintaining a public register, how sales are to be conducted and strict guidelines on Cemetery By-law approvals, and expansions including the erection of columbaria structures.

- **Inconsistent cemetery regulations**

Cemeteries can have many different regulations related to plot size, number of burials allowed in a given plot, monument size, what types of flowers/shrubs are allowed to be installed near a headstone etc. The transfer of different cemeteries having inconsistent regulations can make it difficult to adapt management practices in order to maintain original cemetery operational standards.

Operational Impact

Similarly, from an operational perspective the grounds maintenance of cemeteries, whether active or inactive, is both time consuming and complex. A key issue when analyzing the maintenance component of cemetery management is the lack of financial resources to support the operation. Cemetery maintenance includes, but is not limited to: grass cutting (whipper snipping around monuments), tree and shrub maintenance, monument and corner stone maintenance, water pipe and washroom monitoring, and general upkeep of cemetery grounds (removal of debris, etc.).

- **High maintenance costs**

As with many services, there are rising costs to contend with. Municipalities have adopted different models to address the maintenance of such, with third party contractors being commonly used or it becomes the responsibility of an internal department such as Parks & Recreation. Regardless the model, the costs have increased significantly over the last decade with equipment purchases/upgrades, insurance requirements for third-party contractors, and the time it takes to cut the grass and whipper snip around monuments. To put it into perspective, the Stayner Union Cemetery with the expansion is 25 acres with monuments to manoeuvre around during ground care. Other considerations for maintenance includes monument restoration and ensuring that they are not deteriorated to the point where they are unsafe. This is important for older cemeteries where restoration hasn't been provided in the past and there are many deteriorating monuments.

- **Cost of cemetery management software**

Cemetery Management Software can help municipalities manage cemetery records, including plot sale contracts, interment rights certificates, and regulatory reporting.

However, these software solutions are often expensive and require a large amount of staff time to implement especially with incomplete data and records. These software solutions range in price from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with annual maintenance costs. This investment in software can be a large budget request and one that would need to be supported from taxation with the limited funds in cemetery general accounts.

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

When the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA) was enacted, it stipulated that a care and maintenance fund for a cemetery shall be established. A cemetery operator is required to make contributions to the fund from the sale of in-ground graves, crypts, tombs, niches, scattering rights and monument installation. The contribution is prescribed under the FBCSA and differs dependant on the interment type. The idea is that the fund (income earned from the fund - interest) pays for maintenance costs after a cemetery has stopped making sales. In reality, this concept does not produce enough funds to maintain a cemetery. Looking at the Stayner Union Cemetery as an example, for the very basics (grass cutting and whipper snipping) the interest from the care and maintenance fund does not provide enough monies to maintain the cemetery for the 7 months it's required. In addition, the care and maintenance fund is also to be utilized for the stabilization, maintenance and security of markers. Cemeteries are not self funding, and maintenance of such is becoming a larger budget concern.

Support Request

Cemetery transfers and abandonments have been an ongoing concern for Clearview Township for many years. When you look at the large geography of the Township there are many cemeteries within the boundaries that have the potential to be transferred. To gauge the concern of other municipalities on this issue, staff addressed it at a Simcoe County Clerks group discussion. Many neighbouring municipalities expressed that they were dealing with the same issues and have also been approached by different external entities on possible transfers.

As result of the discussion, it was agreed that to assist with the real concerns with transfers and abandonments of cemeteries, it's vital that the Province provide assistance to adequately support this infrastructure. Support can be provided in many different forms, with staff making the following recommendations for the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the BAO:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

There is not one solution to solve all the issues, but at the very least it's important to identify the concerns and have open and real discussions at the provincial level on what support can be provided.

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

Financial Implications

It is difficult to identify an exact dollar amount that can be attributed to a cemetery transfer/abandonment to the municipality. Every transfer is different and depends on a multitude of factors beginning with the cemetery status (active/inactive), acreage, care and maintenance fund (if any), maintenance of records, etc. What is being recommended by staff by way of support from the province is not meant to erase the costs entirely, but rather, to alleviate the financial burden in some capacity.

Report Appendices

Not applicable.

Approvals

Submitted by:	Sasha HelmKay, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Reviewed by:	Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk
Financial Implications Reviewed by:	Kelly McDonald, Treasurer
Approved by:	John Ferguson, CAO



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5B 2H7

Sent by Email

RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on December 11, 2023, passed a resolution regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support as follows:

Moved by Councillor Walker, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

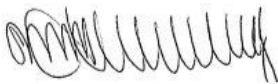
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries; Page 6 of 7
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Sasha HelmKay-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson
Ontario Municipalities

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-442

December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

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TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Tay requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amending the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost;

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Jill Dunlop and all Ontario municipalities.

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelyn Johns'.

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.



The Township of Alnwick/Haldimand

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

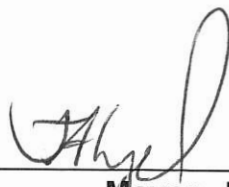
Council Meeting Date: January 9, 2024
 Council Resolution Number:
 Agenda Item Number: 11.4
 Agenda Item Title: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request
 Mover: MC. O'Neill
 Second: M. Answorth

"Whereas the Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand considered the Resolution from Tay Township, regarding a request for Provincial Cemetery Management Support;

Be it resolved that Council hereby provides its support; and

Further be it resolved that Council direct the Deputy Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution to: MPP David Piccini - Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, and the Ministry of Public and Business Services Delivery, and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities."

- Carried
- Defeated
- Deferred
- Recorded Vote



 Mayor, John Logel

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

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L0K 2A0



And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Tay requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

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And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Jill Dunlop and all Ontario municipalities.

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelyn Johns'.

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.



The Honourable Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 2H7
DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

January 15th 2024

Re: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Dear Minister McCarthy,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on January 10th 2024, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the resolution from Clearview Township regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support.

Motion 13

Moved by Councillor Bob Woolvett

Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

That Council support item 'k' of correspondence from Clearview Township regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

Erin Kwarciak
Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CAO / Registrar
Bob Bailey, MPP – Sarnia-Lambton
All Ontario Municipalities



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
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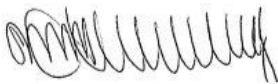
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For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Sasha HelmKay-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson
Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bluffs

January 18, 2024

Re: Letter in Support - Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

To whom I may concern,

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Georgian Bluffs considered the above-noted matter and passed resolution RES2024-005 at the January 17, 2024, meeting of Council:

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle

Seconded By: Councillor Rick Winters

That staff be directed to forward a letter in support of the resolution passed by Tay Township.

The resolution passed by Tay Township is included below.

Thank you,

Rayburn Murray
Deputy Clerk
Township of Georgian Bluffs
519-376-2729 x. 603 | rmurray@georgianbluffs.ca

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

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And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Tay requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amending the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost;

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Jill Dunlop and all Ontario municipalities.

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelyn Johns'.

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.



POLICY UPDATE

Policy Update – Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Yesterday, [AMO presented](#) to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs outlining our recommendations for the provincial 2024 budget. AMO highlighted how the current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining the social and economic prosperity of Ontario. We are asking the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together on a social and economic prosperity review: a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks and a detailed analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs.

We need *your* help.

Municipal councils are encouraged to support AMO's ongoing advocacy efforts by:

- Highlighting the challenges municipalities are facing and the need for this review during delegations at the upcoming ROMA conference in January, meetings with local MPPs, and your communities, using key messages included in [AMO's pre-budget backgrounder](#)
- Passing a [council resolution](#) at your next meeting, calling on the province to commit to this review in its upcoming provincial budget
- Sharing your support with local media channels using our [news release template](#)
- Meeting with or writing to local MPPs ([sample wording](#)) in advance of provincial budget

Good afternoon,

Earlier this afternoon, TC Energy issued a [media release](#) announcing that it will continue to advance planning for the Ontario Pumped Storage Project (Project) with its prospective partner Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

This decision follows [direction from Ontario's Minister of Energy](#) to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), outlining next steps related to the Project.

As we continue critical work on the Project, TC Energy will advance the following:

1. Immediate work with the Ministry of Energy and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to establish a potential long-term revenue framework for the Project, culminating in a report to the Minister by July 31, 2024.
2. Work with the Ministry of Energy and the IESO towards a potential cost recovery agreement to recover eligible, prudently incurred expenses associated with pre-development work.
3. Work with the Ministry of Energy to assist with the Government's assessment of the Project's societal and economic benefits.

TC Energy is encouraged by the Ministry of Energy's direction and we continue to believe in the important role that the Ontario Pumped Storage Project will have in growing the clean economy and building a sustainable, reliable and secure electricity system.

Should you have any questions about this announcement, please reach out at any time. [Further information about the Ontario Pumped Storage Project is available here.](#)

Best regards,

Sara Beasley

Communications Lead, Ontario Pumped Storage

External Relations

mobile: 416.807.6752

[TCEnergy.com](https://www.tcenergy.com)



Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca
minister.mto@ontario.ca

January 15, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria:

On January 9th, 2024, Council for the Town of Mono passed the following resolution declaring a **Road Safety Emergency**, calling on the province to take action to address traffic safety through measures including public education, increased Highway Traffic Act fines and expanded use of Automated Speed Enforcement.

Resolution #4-1-2024

Moved by Elaine Capes, Seconded by Melinda Davie

WHEREAS road safety is of continuing and increasing concern to Ontarians;

AND WHEREAS, the number of traffic collisions, injuries and fatalities are at unacceptable levels[i];

AND WHEREAS, recent statistics and media reports show increasing fatalities and police roadway activities[ii];

AND WHEREAS, speeding is a leading contributing factor in many accidents including fatalities[iii];

AND WHEREAS, fines for basic speeding have not increased for three decades or more thus losing at least 50% of their deterrent value through inflation;

AND WHEREAS, over 60% of all other Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Set Fines remain at \$85, an amount also suggesting no increase in decades[iv];

AND WHEREAS, municipalities are frustrated in their attempt to roll out Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) with current rules that restrict it to less than 80 km/h speed zones and make it contingent upon declaring Community Safety Zones where not warrant except to use ASE;

AND WHEREAS, Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) are the logical and efficient means of dealing with offences including parking violations, red light camera infractions and ASE charges, the Regulations involving its use are mired in red tape leading to unnecessary complexity and cost.

BE IT RESOLVED that we call on other municipalities and the Province of Ontario to recognize a Road Safety Emergency and take the following actions;

1. Launch a province wide road safety educational program to be funded from a portion of monies currently spent by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) to advertise games of chance and lotteries in Ontario.
2. Review and increase all HTA fines and penalties to reflect a deterrent amount and consequence that sends a message that driving is a privilege subject to conditions.
3. Permit municipalities to deploy ASE in 80 km/h zones or less without having to declare Community Safety Zones and without onerous conditions.
4. Establish a Working Group with municipalities to identify and recommend elimination of regulatory red tape associated with the use of ASE and AMPs.
5. Develop mechanisms that ensure POA fines and penalties do not lose their deterrent effect over time.
6. Work with municipalities to create better means of collecting outstanding POA fines and Victim Surcharge monies estimated to exceed \$1 billion as far back as 2011 ^[v].

"Carried"

^[i] The Preliminary 2022 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report indicates a total of 25,165 fatal and personal injury collisions and of that, some 530 fatal collisions (3.9 persons per 100,000 in Ontario).

^[ii] https://www.caledonenterprise.com/news/map-fatal-collisions-nearly-doubled-in-caledon-in-2023/article_3131acaf-acae-5b21-bee4-a67a33600c33.html. Since publication of this article, the number of Caledon fatalities has increased to nearly 20 last year. The Town of Mono has experienced an explosion of traffic stop occurrences, up over 300% since 2019.

^[iii] Speeding convictions account for over 50% of all HTA convictions - see <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/statistics/>.

^[iv] <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/provincial-offences/set-fines/set-fines-i/schedule-43/>.

^[v] <http://oapssb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OAPSSB-POA-WHITE-PAPER-FINAL-1-Nov-2011.pdf>. This report, prepared by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards,

suggests a number of effective mechanisms to collect unpaid fines including garnishment of Federal income tax refunds and other payments as is currently done in other provinces.

Respectfully,

Fred Simpson Digitally signed by Fred Simpson
Location: Town of Mono
Date: 2024-01-15 13:56-05:00

Fred Simpson, Clerk

Copy: Minister of Finance
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Hi Members,

I hope you're having a **GREAT DAY!** This is Diane CEO of the Owen Sound and District Chamber of Commerce, most of you are familiar with me. I wanted to reach out to you regarding a government grant funding opportunity you likely qualify for:

We are working with a company called Gustin Quon, which specializes in getting government grant funding for our clients. They are able to connect you with up to :

- \$15,000 in initial grant funding
- \$50,000 to \$100,000 in 0% interest government loans
- \$7,300 in wage subsidies to pay employees

We **HIGHLY** recommend that you book a meeting with one of their grant advisors to learn more about the program and to determine how much you qualify for.

To qualify for the loan, the business must have done 500K in revenue in one of the last three taxable years, have one T4 employee, and be for profit.

Please click the link below to book a 15-minute Introduction Meeting:

<https://calendly.com/dave-couch-gg/nitro-grant-framework-discovery-call>

All the best

Diane

CEO Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

January 22, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of January 16, 2024 the following motion regarding support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-46

DATE: January 16, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Nieman

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

WHEREAS By-Law 3256-2013, being a By-Law to Establish, Maintain, and Operate a Fire Department established service level standards for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 3256-2013, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS on November 16, 2023, Council, received report FD-06-2023 regarding asset Management - Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County direct the Mayor to draft a letter to MPP Minister Todd Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

THAT the Mayor draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Nieman, Councillor Branderhorst, Marcia Wallace, CAO and Fire Chief Chad Brown



Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3
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77, rue Grenville, 11^e étage
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Tél. : 416 326-3074
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January 22, 2024

Ian Boddy
His Worship
City of Owen Sound
iboddy@owensound.ca

Dear Mayor Boddy:

Rural Ontario is in a period of historic transformation, with new people moving in, businesses opening, and opportunities developing. While the future looks bright, we need to ensure that all our communities can seize these emerging opportunities.

Part of that work is being done through the [Rural Economic Development \(RED\) program](#). Since 2019, our government has invested over \$21.6 million to fund projects designed to enhance economic prosperity in rural Ontario. To further this support, I am pleased to share that the latest intake of the RED program is open, from now until February 21st.

Commented [SL(47)]: Hyperlink to the RED page

Each community has its unique strengths and challenges, and each one contributes significantly to this province. With this in mind, our government understands that our policies and approaches must be flexible to promote economic growth across Ontario.

That's why, at the 2024 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference, I was pleased to announce that our government is launching consultations to inform the creation of a Rural Economic Development Strategy. We know that we have a role to play in helping rural communities plan for success, but it's something that must be done in partnership.

We need your thoughts, your experience, and your ideas to define the opportunities and help inform a Strategy that will support the economic prosperity of small towns and villages across the province. By working together, it is my hope that we can build a brighter economic future for rural Ontario. Consultations are now taking place and I encourage you to share your feedback through our [online webpage](#) or by emailing ruralplan@ontario.ca.

Commented [SL(48)]: Hyperlink to rural ec dev consultation page

.../2



Good things grow in Ontario
À bonne terre, bons produits

Ministry Headquarters: 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2
Bureau principal du ministère: 1, rue Stone ouest, Guelph (Ontario) N1G 4Y2

Thank you for all you do to support rural communities. I look forward to continuing to work closely together and seeing what we can do to boost economic development in rural communities across our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lisa M Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Helping Rural Communities Grow With More Jobs, Homes and Infrastructure

Province making historic investments to support the unique needs of rural municipalities

January 22, 2024

[Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

Toronto — The Ontario government announced the latest steps in its plan to invest in rural communities and municipalities at the annual Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, with measures that will help to strengthen rural economies, get more homes and housing-enabling infrastructure built and increase access to important local services in rural areas.

"Unlike previous governments, our government will never ignore the needs of rural Ontario," said Premier Doug Ford. "We're working shoulder-to-shoulder with our municipal partners to attract new investments and jobs, provide better services closer to home and build the homes and infrastructure rural communities need to grow and prosper."

Premier Ford announced new details regarding the expansion of Ontario's \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund (BFF) to small, rural and northern municipalities that have not been assigned housing targets by the province. Ten per cent – or \$120 million – of the BFF will be reserved for these municipalities to help them build housing-enabling infrastructure, with the province intending to distribute these funds through an application-based process that will prioritize projects that can get shovels in the ground faster. The province will continue to consult closely with rural municipalities to ensure this process effectively reflects their unique needs.

In the coming months, the province will also begin to roll out BFF funding for municipalities that have met or exceeded their assigned housing targets. Premier Ford announced that the province intends to direct any unspent BFF funds leftover from municipalities that have not met their housing targets into additional housing-enabling infrastructure investments that can be applied for by all municipalities, including those that have already received funding through the BFF. This will ensure

all municipalities continue to receive the support they need to get homes built while also continuing to reward and incentivize municipalities that meet or exceed their housing targets.

“Our government is committed to do what it takes to build more homes as quickly as possible across this province,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Our goal is simple: To build more homes than we ever have before. We owe that to hardworking Ontarians, including the thousands of people who came here to make their dreams of home ownership a reality. We will continue to work closely with our small, rural and northern municipal partners to make sure that no part of Ontario is left behind.”

Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, announced that municipalities will be able to apply for funding beginning January 29, 2024 through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund to support municipal water projects that will help unlock housing opportunities and further protect communities. Through this program, the government is providing \$200 million over three years to help municipalities repair, rehabilitate and expand critical drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

“We have taken action to support municipalities through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund. Programs such as this are proof that our government is making targeted investments to build critical infrastructure in communities which will unlock housing and support our growing population,” said Minister Surma. “We will continue to build a stronger and more prosperous Ontario now and for generations to come.”

The government is taking further action to support rural municipalities and drive economic growth and success in rural Ontario. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs announced the start of consultations to help develop a new Rural Economic Development Strategy. Rural municipalities and the public will have an opportunity to share ideas about how Ontario can improve economic opportunities, create jobs and support growth in rural and Indigenous communities across the province.

Minister Thompson also announced the opening of the 2024/25 Rural Economic Development (RED) Program applications. Municipalities, Indigenous communities and not-for-profit groups have until February 21, 2024 to apply for cost-share funding for projects that will drive economic growth.

Quick Facts

- The Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund is an application-based program that will provide \$200 million over three years for the repair, rehabilitation and expansion of core water infrastructure to protect communities and enable new housing development.
- The [Building Faster Fund provides up to \\$1.2 billion](#) over three years to ensure municipalities have the resources needed to build more homes. The fund is designed to help municipalities pay for critical housing-enabling infrastructure needed to accommodate growth, such as site servicing and building new roads.
- The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund is providing \$500 million to 390 of Ontario's 444 municipalities in 2024. The funding is unconditional and can be used to support the local priorities and specific needs of each community.
- Ontario increased its annual investment in the [Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund \(OCIF\)](#) by \$1 billion over five years, starting in 2022. OCIF provides funding to help 425 small, rural and northern communities renew and rehabilitate roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.
- The Ontario government is [investing more than \\$108 million](#) to renew and expand Ornge air ambulance's fixed wing fleet so they can continue to provide Ontarians, especially those living in rural and remote communities, with consistent access to high-quality urgent care.
- As of January 1, 2024, the province is providing stable, sustainable funding to local public health agencies by restoring the 2020 75/25 provincial base funding cost-share model. The province is also providing a one per cent increase in base funding per year, for three years beginning in 2024.

Quotes

"Our rural communities are the heart of this province and crucial to Ontario's success. By supporting economic development across the province through initiatives like the RED program as well as a thoughtful strategy, we can create new opportunities and ensure small towns and Indigenous communities prosper."

- Lisa Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

"A strong Rural Ontario is key to the province's prosperity. Over the last few years, ROMA has delved deep into challenges like digital connectivity, affordable housing and access to healthcare in Rural Ontario. We have made dozens of research-based recommendations to unlock Rural Ontario's untapped potential. ROMA's 2024 Report, Fill the Gaps Closer to Home is a comprehensive study into the unique and distinct challenges to accessing health care in Rural Ontario. We thank the Ontario Government for participating in the ROMA conference, and look forward to working together to fill the gaps in Rural Ontario."

- Mayor Robin Jones
Village of Westport, Chair ROMA

Additional Resources

- [Tracking Housing Supply Progress](#)
- [Ontario's Housing Supply Progress](#)
- [Rural Economic Development program](#)
- [Rural Consultations](#)

Related Topics

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Information for families on major life events and care options, including marriage, births and child care. Also includes planning resources for municipalities. [Learn](#)

[more](#)

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