



**Town of Arnprior**  
**Regular Meeting of Council: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Correspondence Package Number A-24-FEB-03**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package Number. A-24-FEB-03 be received, and that the recommendation(s) outlined be brought forward for Council's consideration.

**Action Items:**

1. **Resolution for Support – Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – AMO Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

**That** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Town of Orangeville and the Town of Hanover as information;

**Whereas** current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

**Whereas** nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

**Whereas** municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation, and unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

**Whereas** municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

**Whereas** inflation, rising interest rates and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity and property taxpayers, including people on fixed incomes and small businesses, can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

**Whereas** the Town of Arnprior has experienced significant reductions in provincial transfer programs including a combined \$254,399 reduction in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) programs for 2024;

**Whereas** municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** Council call on the Province of Ontario to commit to undertake a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances, in partnership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all municipalities across Ontario;

**Further That** a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

## 2. **Resolution of Support – Township of Clearwater – Cemetery Transfer, Abandonment, Administration and Management Support**

**That** Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the Township of Clearwater, Township of Wainfleet, Town of Plympton-Wyoming and Municipality of Calvin as information;

**Whereas** the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act* (“Act”) regulates the establishment, operation, maintenance and abandonment of cemetery sites across the Province of Ontario;

**Whereas** the Act currently requires the local municipality in which a cemetery is located to become the owner and operator of cemeteries that are abandoned within their municipal borders;

**Whereas** the Town of Arnprior currently operates two (2) cemeteries, being the Albert Street Cemetery and the Malloch Road Cemetery, and the Town is aware of one additional privately owned and operated cemetery located within Town’s borders (Oblates Cemetery);

**Whereas** cemeteries are important infrastructure for local communities and the reasonable costs for interment rights, care and maintenance funds, burials, monument installations and administration charges do not sufficiently support the full operations of municipal cemeteries;

**Whereas** the interest earned from the care and maintenance funds of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of cemetery operations;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** Council requests that the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), consider the following recommendations to assist in the long-term management of cemeteries:

- Provide stable and sustainable annual funding to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of active and inactive cemeteries; and
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration;

**Further That** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), and the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

### 3. **Resolution of Support – Township of Asphodel-Norwood – Rising Insurance Costs for Municipalities**

**That** Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the Township of Asphodel-Norwood as information;

**Whereas** the Ontario Municipalities are experiencing higher insurance rates at each renewal with limited access to insurance providers willing to quote on municipal insurance needs;

**Whereas** these annual increases are unsustainable and divert funds from critical municipal services as one of the most significant constraints in limiting yearly tax levy increases;

**Whereas** the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) have prepared several reports and papers on the [Future of Municipal Liability and Risk Management](#) over the years and AMO continues to advocate to the Government of Ontario for legislative changes that would help to reduce insurance costs for municipalities;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** Council of the Town of Arnprior supports the work of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to call on the Province of Ontario to take action to reduce insurance costs for municipalities;

**Further That** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke.

### 4. **Municipal Grants Application – The Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County (Daisy Café Pilot Program)**

**That** Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County; and

**Whereas** the Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy and provides supports services to persons with dementia and their families in our community;

**Whereas** the Daisy Café is a community-based pilot program that provides a social setting for persons living with dementia and allows their caregivers to have a respite period;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** Council approve the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre Community Hall rental fees (value of approximately \$800.00 plus HST) for the Daisy Café Pilot Program to be held weekly on Wednesday afternoons between April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and

**Further That** the Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County be advised that it is mandatory to carry sufficient liability insurance and have the Town of Arnprior added as an additional insured for their events.

# AMO Social and Economic Prosperity Review

## New realities demand a new approach to the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship

- Municipalities provide critical services that are central to Ontario's economy and quality of life, investing more than \$60B annually in important public services and infrastructure.
- The fiscal framework that enables municipalities to deliver infrastructure and services is broken – failing residents, small businesses and major industries.
- Long-standing structural problems have combined with growth pressures, economic factors, social challenges and provincial policy decisions to push municipalities to the brink.
- Last adjusted in 2008, a review of provincial-municipal financial arrangements is long overdue.
- AMO calls on Premier Ford to do what taxpayers expect – work together with municipal governments to modernize this partnership and build a solid foundation for economic growth and quality of life.

## The municipal fiscal framework is compromising Ontario's economic and social prosperity

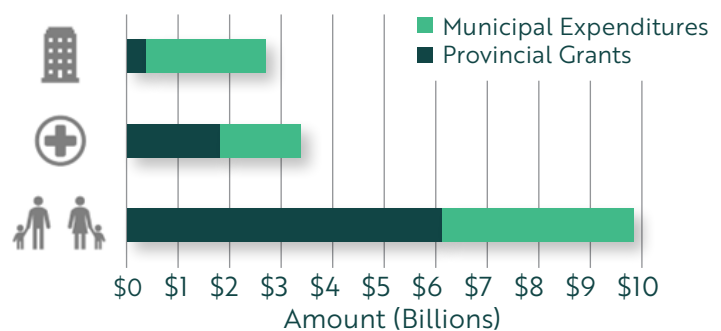
### Municipal revenues do not grow with the economy or inflation

- Municipalities rely heavily on property taxes, which do not grow with the economy or inflation.
- In 2022, annual average inflation rate was 6.8% – leaving municipalities to contend with increased wages, construction costs, and interest rates without corresponding growth in revenue.
- Federal and provincial governments saw record revenue growth in 2022 driven by inflation and economic activity, with no inflation adjustments to most municipal grants such as the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).

### Municipal property taxes subsidize the provincial treasury by almost \$4 billion a year

- Nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility – such as social housing, long-term care, public health, childcare and social services.
- Municipalities in Ontario provide services that typically fall under provincial jurisdiction in other provinces. **Provincial contributions offset these costs – but only in part.**
- In 2022, municipal expenditures in these areas outpaced provincial contributions by almost \$4 billion – a figure that is expected to grow in future years.
- This figure is not exhaustive, as the province continues to download costs in other areas.

For example, AMO estimates that municipalities and property taxpayers are currently on the hook for more than \$400 million in hospital capital and equipment costs that should rightfully be funded by the provincial treasury.



## Current fiscal arrangements undermine municipalities' ability to invest in infrastructure

- Municipalities own and operate more public infrastructure than the provincial and federal governments – valued at nearly half a trillion dollars.
- The ambitious goal of 1.5 million new homes by 2031 depends on building essential municipal infrastructure and the public investment to support it.
- Bill 23 resulted in municipalities' having \$1 billion less to fund growth.
- Maintaining current assets in the face of climate change also brings growing costs. In 2021, the Financial Accountability Office estimated that the cost to bring existing municipal assets to a state of good repair was approximately \$52 billion.

## Property taxpayers, including small business owners and seniors on fixed incomes, can't afford to pay for provincial costs

- Increasingly, municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises.
- Ontario's property taxes are already the second highest in the country.
- The property tax base was never meant to support income re-distribution.

## Partners in prosperity: the province can invest more in Ontario's prosperity

### Despite strong fiscal fundamentals, Ontario has underinvested for decades

- Ontario's spending per capita is the lowest in Canada at **\$11,974**
- Real per capita spending in children's and social services, education and post-secondary schools have all **declined by over 10%** since 2018
- Provincial deficit, debt-to-GDP ratios and the percent of revenues going towards interest payments are all at **10-year lows**.



- The Province is a key beneficiary of housing market.

» Provincial government's share of the purchase price of a new home has climbed steeply over the past 10 years – **increasing by 55%** compared to local governments' 13%.

» The housing market delivers the Ontario Government **\$4.4 billion** a year in Land Transfer Tax, in addition to HST collected on new houses.

## A social and economic prosperity review

### Ontarians expect their elected officials to work together effectively and respect their tax dollars.

We believe the time is right for a province-wide conversation where municipalities and the province come together to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances province-wide.

AMO is calling on the provincial government to commit to this review as part of the upcoming budget, with a view to developing a consensus report with recommendations by 2025.

Working together, we can build a better Ontario.

**Corporate Services**

January 26, 2024

**Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville, at its Regular Council Meeting held on January 22, 2024, approved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life; and**

**WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and**

**WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and**

**WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and**

**WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; and**

**WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and**

**WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income redistribution programs for those most in need; and**

**WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and**

**WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration; now**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Orangeville requests the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and**

**FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion is sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the MPP, Sylvia Jones; and all municipalities in Ontario.**

**Carried.**

Yours truly,

*Raylene Martell*

Raylene Martell  
Town Clerk



February 1, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

---

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Hanover adopted the following resolution at their meeting of January 15, 2024 regarding the above noted matter;

**Moved by COUNCILLOR KOEBEL      Seconded by COUNCILLOR HOCKING**

**Whereas** current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

**Whereas** nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

**Whereas** municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

**Whereas** unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

**Whereas** municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

**Whereas** inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

**Whereas** property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

**Whereas** the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

**Whereas** municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

**Therefore be it resolved that** the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

**And further that** a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

**CARRIED**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tanya Patterson  
Deputy Clerk

/tp

cc: Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Honourable Rick Byers, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Ontario Municipalities



CLEARVIEW  
TOWNSHIP

**Clerk's Department**  
Township of Clearview  
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street  
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0  
[clerks@clearview.ca](mailto:clerks@clearview.ca) | [www.clearview.ca](http://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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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



---

**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**

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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

# 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](mailto: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;

# 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.

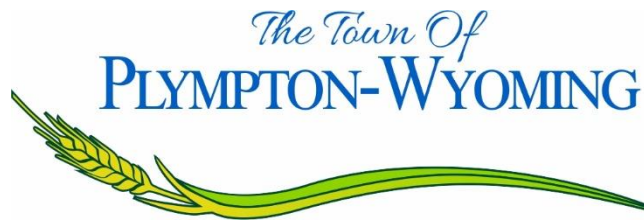
Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

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

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Re: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support**

Dear Minister McCarthy,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



# Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin Council Resolution

**Date:** January 30, 2024

**Resolution Number:** 2024- 30

**Moved By:** Councillor Manson

**Seconded By:** Councillor Grant

**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 for the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin 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, MPP Vic Fedeli and all Ontario municipalities.

**Results: Carried**

<u>Member of Council</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Mayor Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Latimer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Moreton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

December 22, 2023

**Sent via E-mail**  
david.piccinico@pc.ola.org

David Piccini, MPP  
Northumberland-Peterborough South  
117 Peter St  
Port Hope, ON L1A 1C5

**Re: Rising Municipal Insurance Costs**

---

Dear MPP Piccini,

At its regular meeting held December 12, 2023, the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood considered the above-noted matter and passed the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** Ontario Municipalities are experiencing higher insurance rates at each renewal with limited access to insurance providers willing to quote on municipal insurance needs;

**AND WHEREAS** the Township of Asphodel-Norwood's annual insurance premiums have increased from \$150,280 to \$299,729 from 2020 to 2024, representing an accumulated increase of 99.5% over this period;

**AND WHEREAS** these annual increases are unsustainable and divert funds from critical municipal services as one of the most significant constraints in limiting yearly tax levy increases;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood directs staff to send a letter to the MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South calling for action to reduce insurance costs;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that this Resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all Ontario Municipalities for support.

Trusting you will find the foregoing satisfactory, but please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Melanie Hudson, Acting Clerk  
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

Cc: Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities



Town of Arnprior  
 105 Elgin Street West  
 Arnprior, ON.  
 K7S 0A8  
 613-623-4231

## Municipal Grants Application

<b>General Information</b>	<b>Submission Date:</b> _____		
Name of Organization:			
Street Address:			
City/Town:		Postal Code:	
Contact Person:		Position/Title:	
Telephone:		Fax Number:	
E-mail:			
What is your organization's status?	Charitable	Not-for-profit	Other
Authorization:	I declare that I am authorized to sign this grant request on behalf of		Name (print):
	_____ [insert name of organization]		Position/Title:
	_____ <i>Carole Green</i> [signature]		
_____ [date]		Phone:	
Please provide project/event date(s) or any relevant timelines related to this request.			

NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Personal information collected on this application form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used for the purpose of processing the application and for administrative purposes. Questions about the collection and use of this information in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act may be made to the Town Clerk, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8 or by phone: (613) 623-4231 ext. 1817.



Town of Arnprior  
 105 Elgin Street West  
 Arnprior, ON.  
 K7S 0A8  
 613-623-4231

Grant Request	Please check applicable request	Brief description of request (i.e. dollar amount and/or type of in-kind support, staffing requirements)
Support Funding (complete Parts A and B)		
In-Kind Support (Partnership) (complete Parts A and B)		
In-Kind Support (Single) (complete Part A)		
Festivals and Events Support Funding (complete Parts A and B)		

NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Personal information collected on this application form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used for the purpose of processing the application and for administrative purposes. Questions about the collection and use of this information in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act may be made to the Town Clerk, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8 or by phone: (613) 623-4231 ext. 1817.



Town of Arnprior  
 105 Elgin Street West  
 Arnprior, ON.  
 K7S 0A8  
 613-623-4231

**Part A** (to be completed for all municipal grant requests)

Organization/Grant Information	
What is the function of your organization (mandate/key objections)?	
Please provide an overview of the service, program or event being supported with this funding.	
Please explain how this service, program or event benefits the Town of Arnprior and its residents.	
<p>Does your organization use volunteers?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b>      <b>No</b></p>	<p>If yes, how many volunteers are involved and in what capacity? (e.g. administration, service level, etc.)</p>

NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Personal information collected on this application form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used for the purpose of processing the application and for administrative purposes. Questions about the collection and use of this information in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act may be made to the Town Clerk, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8 or by phone: (613) 623-4231 ext. 1817.

<p>Please select target population that will benefit from this request.</p>	<p><b>Age Range:</b></p> <p>Children (Ages 0-12)</p> <p>Youth (Ages 13-18)</p> <p>Adults (Ages 19-59)</p> <p>Seniors (Ages 60+)</p>	<p><b>Number of participants benefitting from this request:</b></p> <p>1-50</p> <p>51-100</p> <p>101-499</p> <p>500-1000</p> <p>&gt;1000</p>
---	---	--

Does this request align with the Town of Arnprior's [Strategic Plan](#), as determined by Council? Please explain.

<p><b><u>Key Priorities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Development – Attraction, retention and marketing initiatives and economic impact</li> </ul>	
--	--



Town of Arnprior  
 105 Elgin Street West  
 Arnprior, ON.  
 K7S 0A8  
 613-623-4231

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Well Being – Community support, arts and culture, recreational and leisure, health and well being support initiatives</li> </ul>		
<p>Has your organization received support from the Town of Arnprior in previous years?</p> <p><b>Yes                  No</b></p>	<p>If yes, please provide additional details below.</p>	
	<p><b>Dollar (\$) value received:</b></p>	
	<p><b>Service/ Program/ Festival/ Event grant support was received for:</b></p>	
	<p><b>Type of grant support received:</b></p>	<p>Support Funding</p> <p>In-Kind Support</p> <p>In-Kind Partnership</p> <p>Festival and Event Support Funding</p>
	<p><b>Was Town staff support provided?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, in what capacity?</b></p>	

NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Personal information collected on this application form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used for the purpose of processing the application and for administrative purposes. Questions about the collection and use of this information in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act may be made to the Town Clerk, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8 or by phone: (613) 623-4231 ext. 1817.





Town of Arnprior  
105 Elgin Street West  
Arnprior, ON.  
K7S 0A8  
613-623-4231

**If this submission/request differs from previous year(s), please describe the difference?**

NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Personal information collected on this application form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 and will be used for the purpose of processing the application and for administrative purposes. Questions about the collection and use of this information in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act may be made to the Town Clerk, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8 or by phone: (613) 623-4231 ext. 1817.