

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Parks and Open Spaces

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Collin Mardling
Supervisor, Cemetery Operations
Date: May 7, 2018
Subject: 2018 Columbaria Reserve – Maple Leaf Cemetery, Chatham

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Two columbaria complete with concrete foundations, walkways and landscaping totalling \$68,995 for purchase and installation at Maple Leaf Cemetery (Chatham) be funded by the Columbaria Reserve.

Background

On July 19, 2010, a Cemeteries Business Plan was approved by Council. The plan included the installation of columbaria, along with associated cremation options.

In 2011 as a first phase, four columbaria containing a total of 280 niches, and 54 associated in-ground cremation lots, were installed at the following Chatham-Kent Municipal Cemeteries: Evergreen Cemetery (Blenheim), Maple Leaf Cemetery (Chatham), Riverview Cemetery (Wallaceburg), and Dresden Cemetery. Carrier Mausoleums Construction Inc. was awarded the tender to supply and install the original columbaria.

Revenues from columbaria sales and increased lot sales were allocated towards paying off the capital loan. After the outstanding loan was repaid, the revenues were transferred to a reserve for future columbaria development.

In 2016, an additional 72-niche columbarium was installed, along with sidewalks and seating in the second phase of the columbarium garden at Maple Leaf Cemetery (Chatham).

Comments

The most recent statistics provided by the Cremation Association of North America indicate that the Ontario cremation rate has risen to over 60%. In 2017, of the 587 interments in cemeteries operated by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, there were 292 cremation interments/inurnments. This represents 49.7% of all burials. As consumers

expect alternatives in cemeteries other than traditional in-ground casket burials, cremations are expected to continue to increase.

The columbarium installed in 2011 is 100% sold. At the time of this writing, only 15 niches remain available in the columbarium installed in 2016. The 22 available in-ground cremation lots at the Maple leaf Cemetery Columbarium Gardens are now 100% sold.

The installation of the third and fourth columbarium at Maple Leaf Cemetery will provide an additional 160 niches to accommodate up to 320 cremated remains, as well as an additional 38 in-ground cremation lots to accommodate up to 72 cremated remains.

The project will also consist of the installation of columbaria foundations and the completion of concrete walkways around the two additional columbaria. This development in Maple Leaf Cemetery will ensure continued availability of alternative burial options, increase the overall lifespan of this cemetery, and ensure universal accessibility.

Plans for future columbaria additions at Dresden, Evergreen and Riverview Cemetery will be assessed on an individual cemetery basis when sales reach an 80% threshold, and the Columbaria Reserve has available funding.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendations in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendations in this report support the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

Financial Services has verified the 2017 balance forwarded to the Columbaria Reserve.

Financial Implications

2018 Columbaria Reserve

Description	Amount
2017 Balance Forward	\$156,038
<u>2018 Proposed Project:</u> Two Columbaria at Maple Leaf Cemetery (Chatham) with concrete foundations, walkways, landscaping and 15% contingency	(\$68,995)
Balance remaining in reserve	\$87,043

The balance remaining in the Columbaria Reserve will be used for future columbaria development.

Prepared by:



Collin Mardling
Supervisor, Cemetery Operations

Reviewed by:



Jeff Bray
Manager, Parks and Open Spaces

Reviewed by:

Thomas Kelly, MBA, P.Eng.
General Manager
Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

Hayley Wilbur
Financial Analyst I, Financial Services

Attachments: None

c. Hayley Wilbur, Financial Analyst, Financial Services

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