

**Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**  
**Infrastructure and Engineering Services**  
**Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Collin Mardling  
Supervisor, Cemetery Operations  
**Date:** February 4, 2021  
**Subject:** 2021 Columbaria Reserve – Evergreen Cemetery (Blenheim)

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. One columbarium complete with concrete foundation, walkways and seating totalling \$59,340 for purchase and installation at Evergreen Cemetery (Blenheim) 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.

Since the original project began, three additional columbaria have been installed at Maple Leaf Cemetery due to growing demand for this cremation option.

**Comments**

In 2020, of the 540 interments in cemeteries operated by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, there were 294 cremation interments/inurnments. This represents 54% of all burials. Cremation-oriented services are expected to continue to increase as consumers seek alternatives to traditional in-ground burials in municipal cemeteries.

The columbarium installed at Evergreen Cemetery (Blenheim) in 2011 is now 85% sold with only 11 niches remaining at the time of this writing. The 12 available in-ground cremation lots surrounding the columbarium are now 100% sold.

The installation of the second columbarium at Evergreen Cemetery will provide an additional 72 niches to accommodate up to 144 cremated remains, as well as an additional 16 in-ground cremation lots to accommodate up to 32 cremated remains.

The project will also consist of the installation of a columbarium foundation and the extension of concrete walkways with additional seating. This development in Evergreen 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 Maple Leaf, 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 2020 balance forwarded to the Columbaria Reserve.

### **Financial Implications**

#### **2021 Columbaria Reserve**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2020 Balance Forward	\$294,272
<b><u>2021 Proposed Project:</u></b> One Columbarium at Evergreen Cemetery (Blenheim) with concrete foundation, walkways, seating and 15% contingency	(\$59,340)
<b>Balance remaining in reserve</b>	<b>\$234,932</b>

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

Prepared by:

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Attachments: None

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