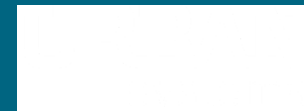





COMMUNITY CEMETERY
ASSESSMENT

Community Cemetery Assessment



Agenda

- Council Motion
 - Project Overview
 - Background Information
 - Community Cemeteries
 - Community Engagement
 - Market and Community Demand Analysis
 - Next Steps
- 

Council Motion

- In July 2018, Council approved “THAT the 2019 budget include funds, up to \$60,000, to support an external review and report on the viability and desirability of a community cemetery in Strathcona County; and that this report be provided to Council for consideration by the end of 2019.”





Project Overview

Purpose of Project

- Explore needs for a community cemetery in Strathcona County and what type of cemetery would be appropriate



Scope of Project

- **Phases 1 and 2** (to January 2020)
 - background information on cemetery forms, operational structures, comparable communities
 - community engagement
 - market and community demand analysis
- **Phases 3 and 4** (subject to findings of Phases 1 and 2)





Background Information

Policy Context

- Policies in Strathcona County's strategic documents are consistent with the objectives that a community cemetery would include –
options, inclusivity, affordability
 - 2013 – 2030 Strategic Plan
 - Social Framework, 2017



Community Cemeteries

Typical Design Principles

- Appealing, attractive, and spiritual place
- Universal design principles (accessibility)
- Variety of interment options
- Maximize interment space and integrate a sustainable approach to planning and design



Cemetery Services

Most common

- Full burial
- Cremated remains burial plot
- Columbarium walls



Cemetery Services

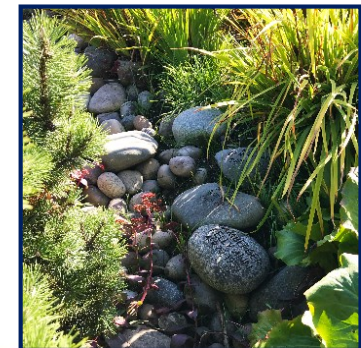
Less common, trending upwards

- Green burial
- Family columbarium



Secondary Services

- Scattering garden
- Memorial




Design Features

- Amenities that welcome appropriate public use, e.g., walking, sitting, small gatherings



Operational Structures

Analysis of Comparable Communities

- Most cemeteries perform all functions inhouse
 - Some cemeteries have portions of the cemetery operated by others, usually funeral homes (e.g., mausoleum, columbaria)
 - Common for cemeteries to contract out some services (e.g., concrete foundations, tree work)
 - No cemeteries reviewed involved non-profit groups in planning, management or operations – this involves high costs, specialized expertise and administration (e.g., regulations, software, operations), and significant risks
- 



Community Engagement

Purpose

- Inform and engage stakeholders and residents in a process that will increase the County's understanding of resident interests related to a community cemetery



Community Engagement

- Community Survey (online)
- Stakeholder Workshops (urban and rural)
- Public Open Houses (urban and rural)



Community Feedback

- 74% reported their remains were likely to be cremated
- 68% think that Strathcona County should have a community cemetery
 - More affordable option
 - Inclusive of all people and religious beliefs
 - Accessible
 - Offering environmentally friendly options – green burial



Market and Community Demand Analysis

Existing Cemeteries in SC

Private Cemeteries

- Glenwood Memorial Gardens

Faith-Based Cemeteries

- Bethany Lutheran Cemetery
- Colchester Cemetery
- Fairmount Cemetery (Ardrossan United Church)
- Josephburg United Church of Christ (Reformed) Cemetery
- St Paul's of Agricola Cemetery
- St. John's Lutheran Cemetery
- St. Margaret Roman Catholic Cemetery

Other

- Fort Saskatchewan Hutterite Cemetery
- Good Hope Cemetery
- South Cooking Lake Cemetery
- Clover Bar Cemetery, Edmonton AB (owned and operated by Edmonton, close to Strathcona County border)



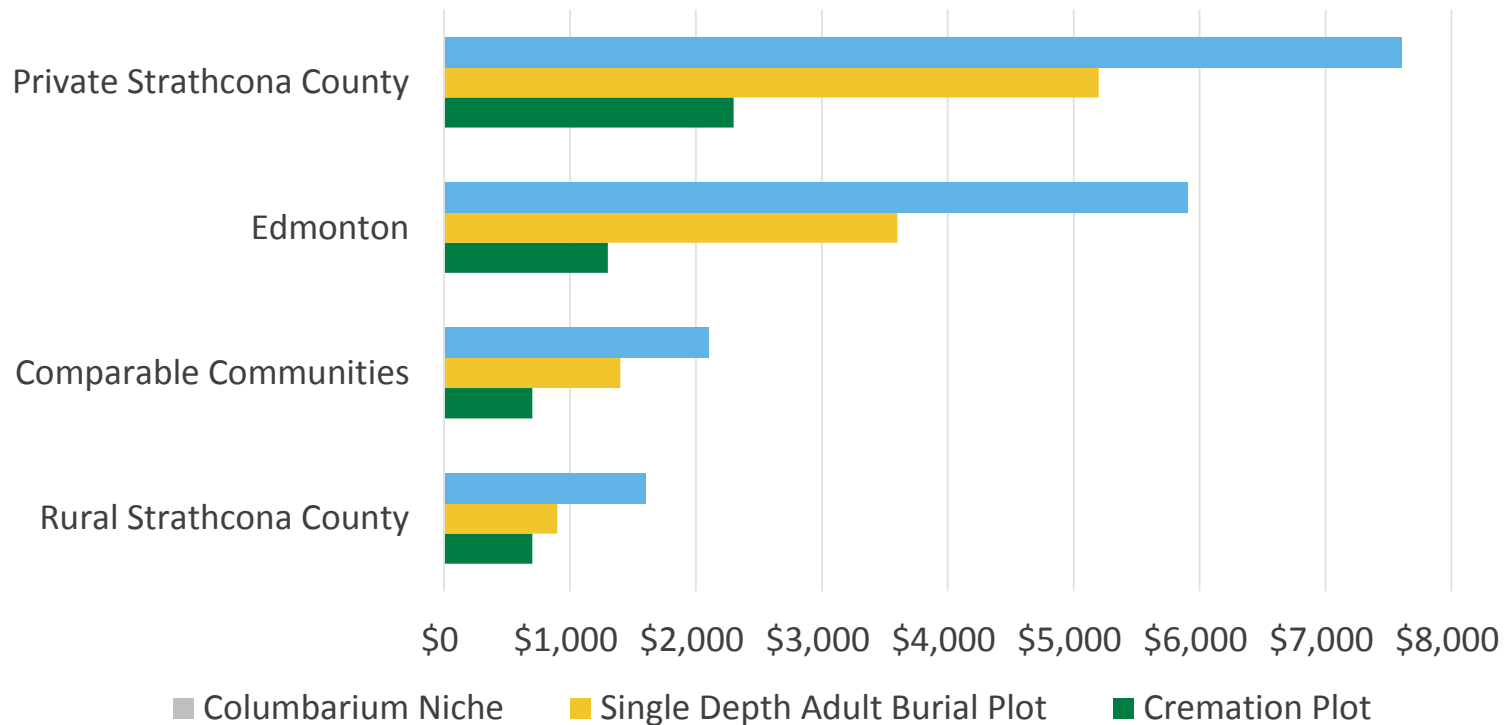
Cemetery Demand and Supply

Interment Type	30-Year Demand
Burial	5,000
Cremation	17,100
Total	22,100

Faith-based Cemeteries	Availability for Burials (est)
Colchester Cemetery	350
Fairmount Cemetery (Ardrossan United Church)	1,600
Josephburg United Church of Christ (Reformed) Cemetery	1,500
Lamoureux Catholic Cemetery	50
St. Margaret Roman Catholic Cemetery	100
South Cooking Lake Cemetery	400
Total Estimate	4,000

Cemetery Fee Comparisons

Average Plot/Niche Fees



Key Findings

- Existing cemeteries in Strathcona County have the capacity to meet demand for the next 30 years
- Capacity is primarily in two faith-based cemeteries and the private cemetery
- Faith-based cemeteries are not an option for some residents
- Fees at private cemeteries are generally higher than at other types of cemeteries reviewed, including comparable municipal cemeteries
- Existing cemeteries have limited options for green burial

A community cemetery would be consistent with the following themes:

options

inclusivity

affordability



Scenarios

- Scenario 1: full-service community cemetery
 - Provides all residents with a variety of affordable options
- Scenario 2: green burial and scattering community cemetery
 - Meets residents' needs for more affordable options, although the options are limited
 - Complements services at the private cemetery
 - Smaller scale operation for the County

Pros and Cons

Criterion	Scenario 1 – Full Service	Scenario 2 – Green Burial & Scattering
Access to a wide range of relatively affordable cemetery services	Provides access to a full range of cemetery services	Provides access to a limited range of cemetery services, with only one choice for full burial and one choice for cremated remains
Size of cemetery required	Larger site	Smaller site
Scale of cemetery operation	Larger operation	Smaller operation
Impact on private sector	Higher impact	Lower impact



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Decision by Council on Phase 3



Thank you
