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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interment Type</th>
<th>30-Year Demand</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burial</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cremation</td>
<td>17,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,100</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faith-based Cemeteries</th>
<th>Availability for Burials (est)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colchester Cemetery</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairmount Cemetery (Ardrossan United Church)</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephburg United Church of Christ (Reformed) Cemetery</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamoureux Catholic Cemetery</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Margaret Roman Catholic Cemetery</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Cooking Lake Cemetery</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimate</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Cemetery Fee Comparisons

Average Plot/Niche Fees

- Private Strathcona County
- Edmonton
- Comparable Communities
- Rural Strathcona County

- Columbarium Niche
- Single Depth Adult Burial Plot
- Cremation Plot
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Scenario 1 – Full Service</th>
<th>Scenario 2 – Green Burial &amp; Scattering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to a wide range of relatively affordable cemetery services</td>
<td>Provides access to a full range of cemetery services</td>
<td>Provides access to a limited range of cemetery services, with only one choice for full burial and one choice for cremated remains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of cemetery required</td>
<td>Larger site</td>
<td>Smaller site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale of cemetery operation</td>
<td>Larger operation</td>
<td>Smaller operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on private sector</td>
<td>Higher impact</td>
<td>Lower impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps
Next Steps

- Decision by Council on Phase 3
Thank you