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MERRICKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Merrickville Public Library Board's meeting was held on November 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Merrickville Public Library.

Present: M-W: Chris Eyton, Jane Coghlan, Amelia Wilding, Margaret Gural (Council Rep)

Montague: Olivia Enns

and Mary Kate Laphen (CEO)

Regrets: Kait Brady,

Other:

1. **Library Tour:** Meeting was preceded by a tour of the Library (started 6:20 pm).
2. Meeting called to order at 6:42 pm.
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** None.
4. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Jane; seconded by Margaret. **ADOPTED.**
5. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Oct 24/23 board meeting – Moved by Margaret; seconded by Olivia. **APPROVED.**
6. **Delegations from Public:** None.
7. **Friends of the Library Report:** The MaxSold auction was a success, raising \$2300. The next fundraiser will be the Louise Penny-inspired dinner during the winter.
8. **Report from Council:**
 - There is a working budget meeting planned for Dec 18 to discuss Council priorities, etc.
 - Re: subdivisions and potential impact on MW population: there are potentially 500 new residences in the works, although this is not expected to happen right away.
9. **Librarian's Report:** see notes below.
10. **Correspondence:** We received a letter from an anonymous, but seemingly religious group protesting COVID restrictions and similar government actions. It is not clear why the letter was sent to the Library. We received a similar letter a couple of years ago during the heyday of the pandemic.
11. **Other Business:**
 - a) **Updates**
 - i. **AODA training:** Board members have completed the required training.
 - ii. **Computer Upgrades:** Purchased 2 laptops for public use during the Black Friday sales, as neither of our old ones are currently working well. Looking into additional upgrades.
 - iii. **Sponsorship Opportunity:** Forwarded a copy of the Library's Partnership/Sponsorship Agreement. Have not heard anything further as yet.
 - iv. **Insurance:** Still pending.
 - b) **Building/ Lease:** Board discussion of Amelia's verbal report on possible legal counsel re: the lease. Reviewed the 3 suggested names and made a selection.
Note: Amelia presented her findings, but recused herself from the decision-making process because of a prior relationship with one of the candidates.
MOTION: that Amelia take the lease and comments to Robert Eisenberg of Weirfoulds (Toronto) and request a review and comments to bring back to the Board.
Moved by Margaret, Seconded by: Jane. **APPROVED**, with one abstention (Amelia).
The Board offered Amelia thanks for taking the lead on this.
 - c) **Policy Review:**
 - i. **Accessibility Policy:** **MOTION:** to approve policy as amended.
Moved by: Amelia; seconded by: Olivia. **APPROVED**
 - ii. **Accessibility Procedures & Practices:** **MOTION:** to approve procedures as amended.
Moved by: Jane; seconded by: Margaret. **APPROVED**
 - iii. **Accessibility Plan:** **MOTION:** to approve plan.
Moved by: Margaret; seconded by: Olivia. **APPROVED**
 - iv. **Accessibility Work Plan (2024):** Discussion of plans for 2024.
MOTION: to approve for 2024 as updated.
Moved by: Margaret; seconded by: Jane. **APPROVED**
 - d) **Performance Review:** Scheduled for a special meeting closed session on Wed, Jan 10, 2024, 6:30 pm. Mary Kate to distribute the evaluation form in advance.
 - e) **Financial**
 - i. **Resolution re: transfer of Surplus funds for Building Work:**
Resolution 23-NOV-01: The Library Board authorizes the transfer of \$6,667 from the Library Surplus Account (GL-79-7110) to the Library Operating Account for work done on

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the Library roof and crawlspace in September and October 2023 (originally planned and budgeted for 2022).

Moved by: Olivia; seconded by: Amelia. **APPROVED**

ii. **2024 Budget and Salary Grid:** Reviewed the draft 2024 Salary Grid and the draft 2024 Budget.

MOTION: to request a municipal operating grant of \$106,000 from Council for 2024.

Moved by: Amelia; seconded by: Olivia. **APPROVED**

f) **Other:** Olivia suggested looking into a Canada Post Foundation grant in 2024, as public libraries are eligible for this funding. Will discuss potential projects for this funding (maximum \$5,000) at the January meeting.

12. **Questions from the Public:** None.

13. **Closed Session:** Cancelled.

14. **Next meeting:** The December regular meeting is cancelled. Special meeting: Wed, Jan 10, 2024 – for CEO performance review and Budget approval (if needed). Next regular meeting: **Tues, Jan 23 at 6:30 pm at the Library.**

15. Meeting adjourned.

Librarian _____

Chairperson _____

Librarian's Report:

Statistics

Oct	Oct 2023	Sept 2023	Oct 2022	Oct 2021	Oct 2020	Oct 2019
Patrons	1089 (w/mtgs) + 114 unique OverDrive users: 8 new (member households)	1046 (w/mtgs) + 100 unique OverDrive users: 14 new (member households)	1123 (incl. mtgs) + 94 unique OverDrive users:	720 + 109 OverDrive users	774 + 93 OverDrive users:	1316 w/mtgs 1326 13%
(Kids/ Youth)	265 (97k / 168y)	271 (78k / 193y)	305 (92k / 213y)	132 (44 k / 82 y)	157 (50k / 107y)	434 (87 / 347)
(Progs)	210 – in lib (21 prgs) 117 –out (5 visits) CVs: 19 – in (1 class) 146 – out (8 visits)	104 – in (13 prgs) 36 –out (3 visits) CVs: 40 – in (2 classes)	152- at lib (14 prgs) 103 – out of lib (6 prgs) Class Visits: 227 (5 CVs @ lib, 10 CVs @ school)	33 – in liby (5 prgs + Halloween stations) 23 - Take & Make (2 crafts) 30 - Zoom programs (4 prgs)	31- at lib (4 prgs) Online Storytime (YouTube) 23 views	109-in (11 prgs, 2 CVs- in) 36-out of Lib, (4-prgs) 62 - Story Trail (6 + 1 CV)
Mtg Rm users	48 (7 mtgs)	43 (7 mtgs)	66 – in lib(10 mtg) 7 – Zoom (1 mtg)	13 – in liby (4 mtg) 7 – Zoom (1 mtg)	15 virtual (2 Zoom mtg)	10 (1 mtgs)
Circulation	TOTAL: 2605 Lib: 1538 (A-919, J/ T- 619) OverDrive: 881 (circ) Kanopy: 186 plays Seed Library – 0	TOTAL: 2617 Lib: 1609 (A-832, J/ T- 640) OverDrive: 868 (circ) Kanopy: 140 plays Seed Library – 0	TOTAL: 2816 Lib: 1919 (A-1039, J/T – 819) OverDrive: 785 (circ) Kanopy 112 (plays)	Total: 2083 Lib: 1398 (A-836, J/T-562) OverDrive: 633 (circ) Kanopy 52 (plays)	TOTAL: 2436 Lib: 1789 (A-947, J/T- 837) OverDrive: 598 (circ) Kanopy 49 (plays)	TOTAL 2497 Lib: 2057 (A-1298, J/T- 759) OverDrive: 440 (circ)
Internet use (+wireless):	240 (84 / 151w / 5-tab)	225 (79 / 137w / 9-tab)	177 (62 / 115 wifi)	181 52 / 129 wifi)	188 (75 / 113 wifi)	341 +40% (300 / 28w / 13 Tab)
ILL borrowed/ lent:	70 in / 42 out	73 in / 54 out	51 in / 39 out	71 in / 29 out	57 in / 50 out	50 in / 48 out

October was much the same as last month, but down somewhat from last year, partly due to fewer class visits to the Library. Computer use is continuing to move upward, although still lower than pre pandemic. We had a higher number of programs in October.

November has been a mixed bag with some busy days, but some very slow days.

Programs & Services:

Children's Programs:

StoryTime: attendance is up and down, but we have a number of families that are coming.

Saturday Play Days: attendance is uneven, but it has been doing well overall.

French StoryTime: This has started up as a monthly program, led by a teacher from Ste M-B. It is off to a slow start, but we are continuing to publicize.

Class Visits: One class from Ste Marg has been visiting. Have Christmas visits scheduled to Montague school and will be contacting Merrickville Public School teachers.

Daycare: I do story visits once a month to 2 of the groups.

Playgroup: I am doing story visits most weeks. It is a fairly small group at the moment.

Adult Programs: **Off the Shelf**, the **Meditation group**, **Library Book Club**, and the **Knitting Group** met this month. The Grief Group has wrapped up their session.

Brain Fitness: This program has started up and is proving popular with the participants. There is a cost for this, but we have had some donations to offset this.

Seniors Mobile Phone Course: We will be hosting a "beyond the basics" cell phone course for seniors in Jan-Feb in partnership with the Adult Learning & Training Centre (Smiths Falls). There's a lot of interest in this.

Seed Library: the microgreens workshop for Nov had to be cancelled because the presenter was ill. We have rescheduled it to January.

Museum Passes: demand is lower this time of year, but continues.

Internet/Computers: use of the computers and has been slowly increasing. See Agenda item 11a(ii).

InterLibrary Loans: has been fairly steady through the fall.

Meeting Room: The meeting room is being used regularly for programs and meetings: the Historical Society, Fair Board, Chamber of Commerce, Trails Society, Scouters and the Knitting group have held meetings here in Oct and Nov.

Collection: Have started weeding the Adult Fiction, the Scholastic warehouse sale (for kids' books) is coming up in Dec, will be putting in the order for the Winter best-sellers soon. Have renewed e-resources for 2024.

Volunteers: All is good on this front. The volunteers do shelving, processing new books, packaging ILLs, and working on the genealogy collection. Gift certificates will be given out in December.

Facilities: Another dead mouse – will try to move shelving to check for access points.

Accessibility Plan: updating the work plan at this board meeting.

Publicity/Outreach: Continue to write a column for the Phoenix, but the next will be a Dec-Feb issue.

Continue to post info on the webpage and social media (including groups).

Partnerships/Outreach: Continuing to participate in the planning for the Rideau Roundtable nature/environmental program with 4 other libraries. Working with Adult Learning & Training Centre for the Seniors Mobile course (see above). The Trails Society has a new display in our display case. We are continuing to change the story on the Story Trail. Will also be doing green screen photos at Christmas in Merrickville.

Professional Development, Meetings, etc: Went to RCHS (Rideau Community Health Services) event for community wellness/helping agencies with an emphasis on social prescription. Did some additional JASI training (re cataloguing/circulation) and some online background re AI.

Donations: Received a donation for the term endowment fund and some donations towards seniors programming which will offset the cost of the Brain Fitness subscription.

Grants, etc: expect to receive the provincial public library operating grant (PLOG) in Dec.

Plans for Dec & Jan: Mary Kate will be taking some holidays between Christmas and New Year. Library will be closed or on reduced hours, depending on Linda's availability.

Other plans: Christmas visits to the schools, get the new computers up and running, do more weeding, work on Board items & review policies, do year end wrap up (stats and finances), work on January programming and publicity. And the usual Library business.

MERRICKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Merrickville Public Library Board's special meeting was held on January 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Merrickville Public Library.

Present: M-W: Kait Brady, Jane Coghlan, Chris Eyton, Amelia Wilding, Margaret Gural (Council Rep)

Montague: Olivia Enns

and Mary Kate Laphen (CEO)

Absent:

- 1. Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm.
- 2. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** None.
- 3. **Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Jane; seconded by Mary. **ADOPTED.**

4. New Business:

a. Building Updates:

- i. **Front Door:** The automatic opener has been fixed and doesn't need to be replaced at this time.
- ii. **Furnace:** The furnace began malfunctioning (not turning on reliably) intermittently in December. As the furnace was 14+ years old and there was no clear repair needed, we asked for a price for a new unit from our current service contractor and received a very reasonable quote. The problem became more urgent over the holidays. Mary Kate consulted with the Head of Public Works and received a recommendation to continue working with our current contractor for this. As per our purchasing policy for urgently needed goods and services, Mary Kate accepted the quote and ordered the new furnace. It arrived early and was installed on Jan 9. The remaining funds from the 2022 Building Grant and some additional money from the Library Surplus account will be used to pay for the furnace.

Motion to accept this update on the replacement of the Library furnace. Moved by: Margaret, seconded by Amelia. **CARRIED.**

b. Financial:

i. Year End Financial Resolutions:

- **Resolution 24-JAN-01,** re: the transfer from the Library's Operating Account of donations received in 2023, but
 - a. directed by the donors for expenses in 2024 to the Library Reserve
 - b. specified by the donor to be directed to the Library Reserve Fund with the Ottawa Community Foundation.

Motion to approve: Moved by Kait, seconded by Jane. **APPROVED.**

- **Resolution 24-JAN-02:** re: the transfer of any 2023 donations remaining at year end to the Library Reserve.

Motion to approve: Moved by Amelia, seconded by Olivia. **APPROVED.**

ii. Budget 2024: Reviewed the draft 2024 Library Budget.

Motion to approve the Budget as presented: Moved by Jane, seconded by Margaret. **APPROVED.**

c. In camera session:

Motion to go into a closed session for the following reason:

- i. Personal matter involving an identifiable individual, including employees (Annual CEO Performance Review).

Moved by: Margaret, seconded by Olivia. **APPROVED.**

Mary Kate left the meeting.

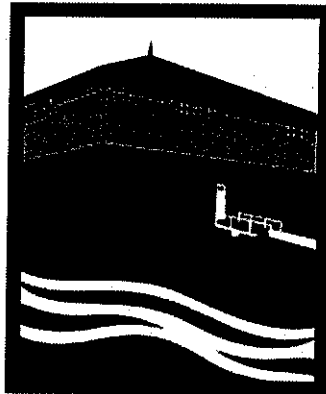
Direction having been given, the Board motioned to return to Open Session. Moved by: Jane, seconded by Olivia. **APPROVED.**

- 5. Meeting adjourned at 7:30. Next regular meeting: Tues, January 23, 6:30 pm at the Library

Librarian _____

Chairperson _____

MDHS



MERRICKVILLE DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Merrickville-Wolford Museum Municipal Services Board (MWMMSB)

Joint Board Meeting with

Merrickville and District Historical Society Meeting (MDHS)

2 pm on December 14, 2023

Council Chambers

MDHS Draft Minutes

1. **Call to Order** by Ann Martin, Chair MWMMSB at 2:16pm
 In attendance MWMMSB – Ann Martin, Omar Simonyi, Anne Barr, Darlene Plumley
 MDHS – Jane Graham, Chris Eyton, Bob Long, Cheri Kemp-Long
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Nature Thereof** – none noted
3. **Approval of the Agenda** with addition of item Sharing of Documents
 Moved by Jane Graham
 Seconded by Chris Eyton, Carried
4. **Business Items**
 - a. **Introductions** – quick introduction from each person in attendance

b. Staffing for summer 2024

- i. **Grant Writing** – will be done by the MWMMSB, MDHS has provided some historical documents for reference and contact information.
- ii. **Hiring process** – will be done by the MWMMSB
- iii. **Training** – MWMMSB will provide training including an up-to-date operations manual that Ann Martin will prepare. MDHS will be responsible for providing training specific to the care and maintenance of the Collection.
- iv. **Supervision** will be provided by MWMMSB

c. Care of MDHS Collection

- i. **Insurance in case of damage/theft** is the responsibility of each owner as will any claim submissions. There have been no claims to date as far as the group was aware. Operations manual includes a report process for incidents and should be updated to include damage and maintenance information as well.
 1. MDHS' property – MDHS has updated all insurance for property when in the Museum or in storage in Burritts Rapids, including liability related to the Collections.
 2. Parks Canada property – they have some responsibility which should be outlined in the Lease agreement with the Village.
 3. Village of Merrickville-Wolford Property – Village has coverage but will verify the requirements of the Lease agreement with Parks to ensure it is all in order.
- ii. **Spring cleaning/setup of Blockhouse Museum for summer 2024**
 - Many collection items and operational items are removed from the Museum and moved to heated storage either in Burritts Rapids or elsewhere. In early May the Museum needs to be cleaned and the Collections items in storage returned and set up for the summer season; some items are heavy.
 - The process for the 2024 season was decided to be a joint undertaking, with MDHS providing support and supervision to Village Public Works staff – while the building is the responsibility of the Village the Collection is the responsibility of MDHS – so a share process is important at least for this first year.

- Mention was made about the WIFI not being needed over winter – is there a cost benefit to pausing the service?

iii. Access to the Museum by MDHS' volunteers for:

1. **Care of collection** – an obvious need to look after the Collection under their ownership.
2. **Tours** – of the museum and collection for MDHS members and events, promotional tours for LeBoat, journalists, specialty groups, and Kawartha Voyageur cruise passengers, most of which are outside the standard working hours of the summer students.

Most do not generate revenue, Kawartha historically provides a donation.

Decision to have MDHS manage the tours for 2024 and track the revenue generation for discussion at the end of season debrief.

3. **Key management** – there are 6 keys to the Museum

Decision that there will be a written agreement drafted for review to include items of access, key management and follow-up. Council is considering an Event Bylaw within areas of Municipal control – potential events at the Museum would be included in that process.

- iv. **Village of Merrickville-Wolford HR review** will include consideration of the Museum requirements – likely within the responsibility of Public Works along with other recreational facilities.

v. **Financial Relationship**

1. Summer 2024 donations – Jane to provide information on donations and uses for MDHS with a draft plan/budget for the next 2 years. Clarification of use of donations from both the perspective of MDHS and the Village – square, wifi, storage, overhead, staffing – a shared agreement will then be drafted for review.
2. **Annual grant for off-site storage facility** – this might be a good use of donations received rather than the Village processing a payment for storage of MDHS collection.

3. **Heritage Organization Development Grant** – MWMMSB will apply for the Grant in June but without historical expense information it may be rejected. Explanation of the circumstances has been provided but a decision has not yet been confirmed by the granting body. Clarification from MDHS of 2024 as a transition year may be useful.

- vi. **Sharing of Documentation**

Ann Martin would like approval from MDHS to continue to have access to MDHS digital files to ease operational transfer of the Museum operations to the MWMMSB. MDHS agreed to the access until the end of the summer student period in 2024.

5. **New Business** - none

6. **Next Meeting Date** - A fall debrief session following the close of summer 2024 operations and the Museum close-up – late October.

7. **Adjournment**

Moved by Omar at 3:26 p.m.



MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD
Jewel of the Rideau

Blockhouse Museum Municipal Services Board

Minutes

Thursday January 11, 2024

Council Chambers

Members Present: Anne Barr, Kirsten Rahm, Omar Simonyi, Joshua Terpstra
Robin Turcotte

Regrets : Ann Martin.

Guest: Darlene Plumley, interim CAO/Clerk

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Nature Thereof

None Declared.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by O. Simonyi

Seconded by R. Turcotte

That the Merrickville-Wolford Museum Board does hereby approve the agenda,
as amended.

Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved by K. Rahm

Seconded by J. Terpstra

That the Merrickville-Wolford Museum Board does approve the minutes of the November meeting as circulated. - Carried

5. Business Items

- a) Items arising from joint meeting with Merrickville and District Historical Society: No update on the written agreement. D. Plumley to proceed with draft, O. Simonyi to reach out to MDHS regarding the minutes of the meeting.
- b) Hiring paths for summer staff: i) K. Rahm has sent out the application for Canada Summer Jobs. ii) the Young Canada Works will be sent out today. iii) A. Martin to follow up for the Carleton University Summer Session internship. This position will be funded by the municipality.
- c) Heritage Organization Development Grant application: i) Creation of organizational profile – A. Barr has created the organizational profile in OneKey for this grant.
- d) Operations Manual for Summer 2024: i) A subcommittee consisting of A. Martin and J. Terpstra was formed to work on this document. ii) No discussion was held on the process for approval of the manual.
- e) Proper name of this Municipal Services Board: As per the by-law crating the board, the proper name for the board is Blockhouse Museum Municipal Services Board. Any change to the proper name would require an amendment of the by-law. The board has chosen to also use a short form, Museum Services Board, or MSB for internal use.

6. New Business

- a) Hiring process for summer staff: A. Barr will provide content of the advertisements, and K. Rahm will post the job ads. D. Plumley and R. Turcotte will review resumes received and interview applicants, and municipal staff will complete the hiring process for the selected candidates.
- b) Record Keeping: The minutes, agendas, and agenda package information are a matter of public record and will be maintained by the municipality with public access. Working documents will be kept in a sharepoint folder which was created during the meeting.
- c) Points of contact for MSB business: for now, D. Plumley interim CAO/Clerk will be the point of contact. Once the Museum Supervisor is hired, they will be the primary point of contact. On days that they are not working, Brad Cole, Manager Public Works will the alternate contact. Once the season is completed, the CAO will once again be the point of contact.
- d) Budget/Finances: i) The MSB budget will be set likely in March after Council approval of the municipal budget. ii) The supervisor will be authorized to spend \$1000.00 on their own initiative, however the municipality has accounts set up with vendors of record for most items. iii) Donations – All donations will be sent through the municipality, and remittance to MDHS will be as per the written agreement.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Merrickville-Wolford Museum Board is scheduled for Thursday 8 February 2024 at 2:00 pm in the Council Chambers

8. Adjournment

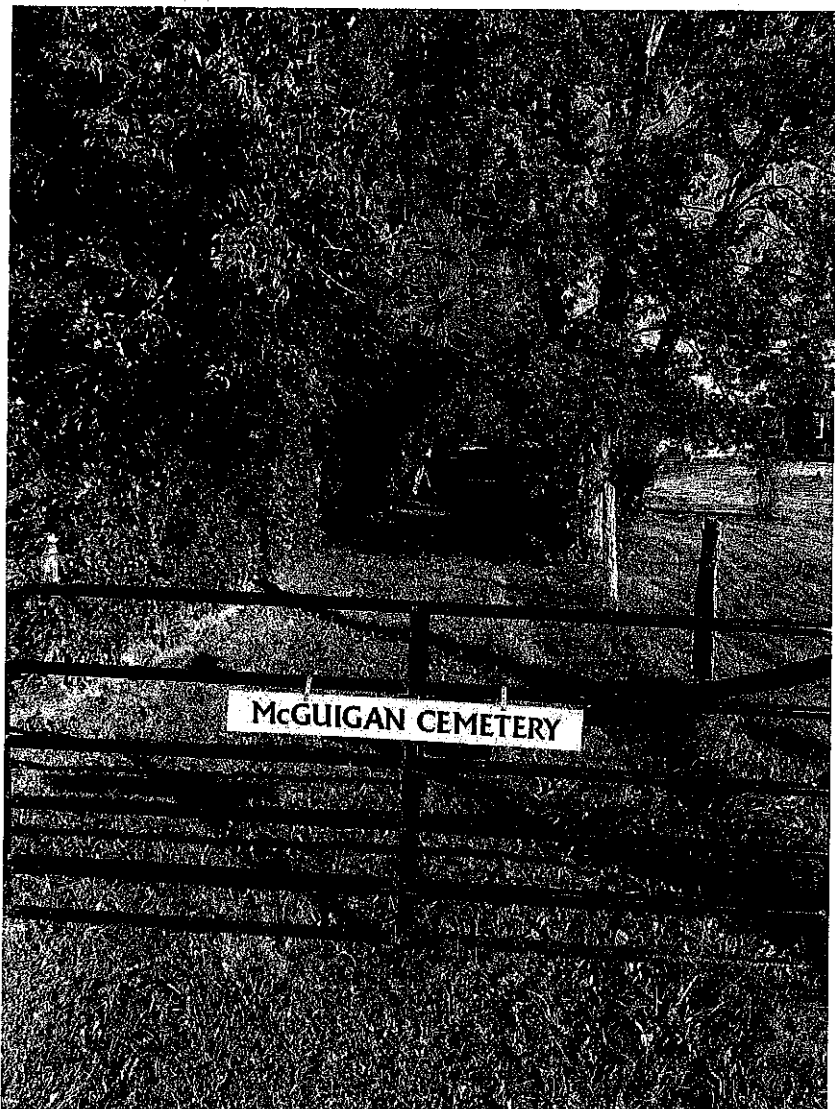
Moved by R. Turcotte

That the Merrickville-Wolford Museum Board does hereby adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Heritage Designation Submission

McGuigan Cemetery

448 County Road 23, Merrickville-Wolford, Ontario



Submitted by: Donna Ross & Peter Szmidt
437 County Road 23,
Merrickville-Wolford
April 2023

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Appendix

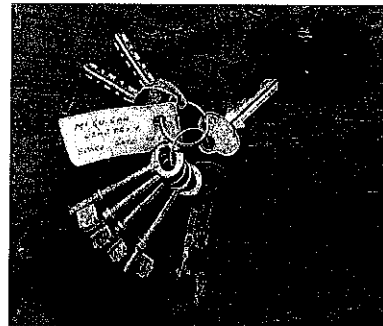
- A. Names of families buried in McGuigan Cemetery and still dominant in the area
- B. Grave markers reference map and list by Alice Hughes and Max Martyn, 1979

Introduction

We moved to Merrickville in the summer of 2017 into our c1835 stone house, Spillway Farm on the Rideau River. Along with a few other relics left in the house, we came upon a bundle of keys, old-fashioned cast-iron ones on a ring, with another ring attached to it that held two padlock keys. There was a label made from cardboard on this smaller ring: *McGuigan Cemetery Spare Gate Keys*. It piqued our interest, but it would have to wait for another day.

Over the last five years, we have grown 'fond' of the rural cemetery across the road from us. A burial plot abandoned and closed yet frequented by hikers on the Rideau Trail, tourists or relatives searching for their ancestors. We often engaged with the visitors and heard their stories and answered their questions as best we could. In doing so, we have met several people whose relatives have lived in our stone house or in the area or are buried in McGuigan. We cannot help but remember one such story. In the fall of 2019, while we were working in the gardens, we noticed a car parked in front of McGuigan Cemetery gate and a couple heading up to the cemetery. Later, the same car stopped at our house and a woman asked if there was a Horatio Chester that once lived in the house. Elizabeth Manshreck from Okotoks, Alberta was researching her grandfather, Alfred Manshreck's roots (1867-1962). She was overwhelmed with tears when we invited her into our home to see where her grandfather lived with his adopted family, Horatio and Yatty Chester and their four children. McGuigan Cemetery is a piece of community history, and we are delighted to be, in some way, custodians of the cemetery. To us, it is an honour.

The day we spoke about 'investigating' the spare gate keys to the McGuigan Cemetery has arrived. We were ready to research the history of the inactive cemetery and officially seek Ontario Heritage Designation status, as one of the oldest cemeteries in eastern Ontario. If designated, it would join some 120 designated cemeteries in Ontario; the closest to Merrickville being the Old Burying Grounds on Craig Street in Perth.



Like the heritage designation we were granted for Spillway Farm in 2021, McGuigan Cemetery warrants its place in history too. The old burying grounds were once part of the original 100-acre farm granted by the Crown to William Robert Nicholson Leahy in 1830. In the early 1980's, following the restoration of McGuigan Cemetery, Olive May Hilliard, owner of the Spillway Farm 100-acre property for 54 years (1959-2013), donated the cemetery land which is now maintained by the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, in partnership with Merrickville and District Historical Society.

Introduction (continued)

Much of our historical research for Spillway Farm in 2020-2021, included McGuigan Cemetery and the entire 100-acre farm. It made sense to us that one day we would seek heritage designation for McGuigan. Our cemetery research included written documents, letters, maps, heritage, government and other websites, individuals, and site visits.

The cemetery heritage designation submission completes our journey of historical research: first, our c1835 stone house and now McGuigan Cemetery. We have thoroughly enjoyed looking into the past. In 2021, we honoured the families who lived in the Spillway farmhouse with Ontario Heritage Designation and now we hope the same for those who are buried in McGuigan. It is a way to recognize and protect the souls who once lived on the land and gives our community a tangible link to ordinary folk who came before them. Our research followed the Ontario Heritage Act for designation of a cemetery as a heritage property.

Consequently, we feel that heritage designation of McGuigan Cemetery:

- Recognizes the historical association of the cemetery to the community at large.
- Protects the cultural heritage value of the cemetery.
- Safeguards and preserves the property, stones, and grave markers.
- Promotes and encourages understanding and learning.

In closing, McGuigan Cemetery has become one of 'ownership' for us. We realized that it was a piece of valuable history that needed protection. It had served a valuable community purpose in the 1800s. Since it's 'discovery', hidden under overgrown brush and weeds in the early 1960's, it has become a 'living and breathing' destination for visitors. It is time to honour and protect this very special piece of property with Ontario Heritage Designation. The souls of long ago and their families thank you.

*Beneath my feet the dust of those
Who reached their end long ago
I wonder while at this resting place
How we will join one day below*

*We are never to live as one
Never to connect while alive
But we will lie together
In the form of which we derive*

*I think about their history
How it has made the life I know
Will the life I lead today
Be viewed when I lie within a row*

*This place of life and death
Located in silence and seclusion
Gives me serenity and peace
By its complete immersion*

A. Bailey, 2016

Heritage Designation Submission

Description of Property

McGuigan Cemetery, 448 County Road 23, Merrickville-Wolford is located on the east side of County Road 23, between Merrickville and Burritts Rapids.

McGuigan Cemetery is an abandoned cemetery on land that was donated in the early 1980's by Olive May Hilliard, owner of the 100-acre Spillway Farm which included the cemetery. The cemetery is bounded by a residential lot to the south and a new residential property to the north, to the east is forested land, all once part of the 100-acre farm. It is a non-churchyard cemetery.

Cemetery property size and content:

- Dimensions of the cemetery plot: 100' x 200' = 20,000 sq. ft.
- Dimensions of the path leading from the CR 23 to the cemetery: 15' x 575' = 8,625 sq. ft.
- Total square feet = 28,625 (0.66 acres or 0.27 hectares)
- The cemetery has 69 grave markers showing, with numerous others sunk into the ground as well as unmarked fieldstones above the ground.
- A wood frame visitors' hut, built during the restoration of the cemetery (1979-1981).

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

McGuigan Cemetery is of cultural heritage value as one of the oldest cemeteries in Eastern Ontario. In use between 1806-1899, the grave markers are invaluable historic records that tell a story of who lived and worked and died in the area.

Graves include those of:

- the United Empire Loyalists who arrived as pioneers in the closing years of the 1700s. These earliest settlers received loyalist land grants along the lower Rideau. The earliest stone uncovered (1806) was that of Samuel McCrea, a Loyalist from New York state who took up land in Oxford Township in the vicinity of Burritts Rapids;
- British veterans of the Napoleonic War, between 1818 and 1830, whose pensions included the opportunity to take up land in the "colonies". Joseph Cox, one such soldier, died in 1860, having fought not only with Wellington against Napoleon, but in Canada in the war of 1812. One of his descendants, Harvey Cox was one of the last burials (1890) to take place, with Frederick Weedmark being the last (1899);
- the unknown, unmarked slabs of fieldstone believed to be commemorating the resting place of predominantly Irish labourers who died of accident or disease during the construction of the Rideau Canal (1826-1832);
- pioneer sons and daughters whose family names are still dominant in the area, including, McCrea, Stafford, Nicholson, Cox, Chester, Tackaberry and Weedmark (see Appendix A for a list of family members buried in McGuigan).

The grave memorials, simple or elaborate, serve as a piece of history and a lasting reminder of some of the first inhabitants of Merrickville-Wolford. As a place of memory, the cemetery provides a physical connection to that past in this very sheltered and forested landscape.

Heritage Designation Submission (continued)

Contextual Value

McGuigan Cemetery has contextual value for its hidden location along County Road 23, a scenic and winding country road alongside the Rideau River. The cemetery's historic presence across the road from the Rideau River, designated a Canadian Heritage River and the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO site, help to define its contextual value. The property is a well-known local landmark, yet its secluded location keeps it a mystery until you are there. From the road, the gate opens to a wide tree-lined, fenced grassy pathway with a slight incline up to an open grassy knoll surrounded by a split-rail fence and giant pines. In the clearing, some 69 graves and field stones are visible. The peace, tranquility and silence are deafening and at the same time warrants respect and reflection. The property remains physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings including the Rideau River and Canal, County Road 23, the mostly forested environment, and larger property, where once the cemetery's namesake, Miles McGuigan lived with his family.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes of McGuigan Cemetery that reflect its value as an important link to the history of Merrickville-Wolford:

- Original grave markers and stones with their surviving inscriptions and decorative elements;
- The variety of markers and stones in material, style, size, sophistication, from modest to elaborate, providing some indication of the financial status of the deceased;
- Represents the early settlers to the area and the contributions they made;
- Representative example of a rural historic cemetery;
- The size of the McGuigan site indicates it had served a valuable community purpose in the 1800s and not just a family plot on a pioneer farm;
- The sinking and cracked grave markers and fading inscriptions reach out, each with a story;
- Last vestige of a time over 200 years ago;
- Archaeological potential (a survey using ground penetrating radar to locate the buried markers);
- Encompasses the natural landscaping elements surrounding it, including the elevation, pathway, the nearby Rideau River, the deep forest along its boundary and its secluded location;
- A place for descendants to discover the resting place of their pioneer ancestors.

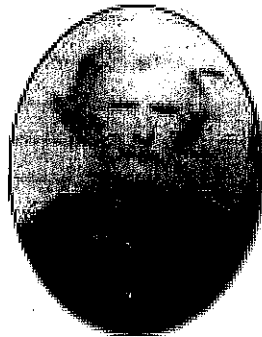
The McGuigan Cemetery's historical association to Merrickville-Wolford has been established and recognized over the years. For the visitor, it gives a perspective and connection to that time long ago.

McGuigan Cemetery History

Miles McGuigan after whom the cemetery was named was an Irishman, born 1787 in Bodny, County Tyrone where he joined the local militia in 1806. The following year he enlisted with the 81st Regiment Loyal Lincoln Volunteers and served under Wellington as a Drummer Boy in the Peninsular War. In early 1814 he was moved with his regiment to Canada and was stationed at Iroquois and Kingston to participate in the last days of the war of 1812. When his term of service was over in 1815, he was given his discharge, a small pension and 100 acres of land on the second concession of Oxford Township.

Probably anticipating the value of waterfront property when the Rideau Canal was built (1826-1832), he sold his inland property allotment in Oxford in 1834 and purchased land on the Rideau River in Wolford. There he is credited with having built and owned several of the attractive stone "cottages" along the Rideau waterfront. About 1839 he sold his home and married the widow of UEL John Leahy, Phoebe Nicholson Leahy, and moved to the widow's farm on the cemetery property. In the Leahy/McGuigan home Miles and his wife raised their family, including Phoebe's two children: Catherine Leahy and William Robert Nicholson Leahy. The cemetery, which was located on their property, became known as McGuigan Cemetery. This parcel of 100 acres was a Crown Grant to William Robert Nicholson Leahy in 1830 but held in trust by his mother, and stepfather, Miles McGuigan for 10 years until he came of age. (He was only 10 when his father, UEL John Leahy died in 1818.)

The discovery of the cemetery occurred in the early 1960's by Alice Hughes, Delmar Thompson, and Harold Richardson. Clearing of brush, trees and clean up was accomplished over the following years with help from various organizations, including the Merrickville and District Historical Society and Wolford Township. It was not until 1979 that the Historical Society was able to undertake a significant restoration of the site with an Ontario Provincial New Horizon Grant and manpower contributed by the Katimivak group from Smiths Falls, and volunteers from the Historical Society. The restored McGuigan Cemetery was officially reopened in July 1981. Since then, the property donated by Mrs. Olive Hilliard, Chair of the McGuigan Cemetery Restoration Committee, who with her husband, Colonel Jack, owned and lived on the Spillway Farm property for over 50 years, has been maintained by the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, in partnership with Merrickville and District Historical Society. Today McGuigan Cemetery stands as proof of what a committed group of volunteers, who had a passion to see the cemetery brought 'back to life', can accomplish.



Miles McGuigan (1787-1862)
Credit: Merrickville and District Historical Society

Brief Summary of McGuigan Cemetery Grave Markers

Ask Alison Bailey about the grave markers at McGuigan Cemetery. She completed her Bachelor of Architectural Studies, with a Major in Conservation and Sustainability at Carleton University and her Master of Architecture, with a Major in Design (2016). As her thesis for her master's dissertation, she chose to focus on the use of architecture to reestablish a connection between the living and the dead within the landscape of a cemetery. She used the historic and inactive McGuigan Cemetery as a case study. Alison presented at a Merrickville and District Historical Society lecture last year, the title of which was: McGuigan Cemetery: Analysis of the Stones. Much was learned and is included in this submission.

Number of grave markers still showing – approximately 69; this does not include the unmarked field stones and the graves that are evident only by a depression in the ground; stones are of varying size, shape, and detail. (In comparison, *Find a Grave*, lists 101 grave markers.);

Inscriptions – names, birth and death dates, icons are disappearing over time. In particular are the icons, such as weeping willow, cherub head, urn, wreath, lamb, dove, flowers, shaking hands, masonic, bible, each with a significant meaning to the family of the deceased;

Epitaphs – wording and sometimes incorrect spelling tells something about the life of the deceased, often sadness in the words, words of wisdom, important values of the deceased, or summary of the person's life;

Unmarked fieldstones – a reminder of the times and people's regard for death or their financial means to have an inscription (e.g. canal workers, poor pioneer farmers) yet important to them for a proper burial;

Placement – stones are scattered in no order, some in family groupings, unmarked field stones in the centre, flat stones along the perimeter of the cemetery, some standing solitary, no semblance of order;

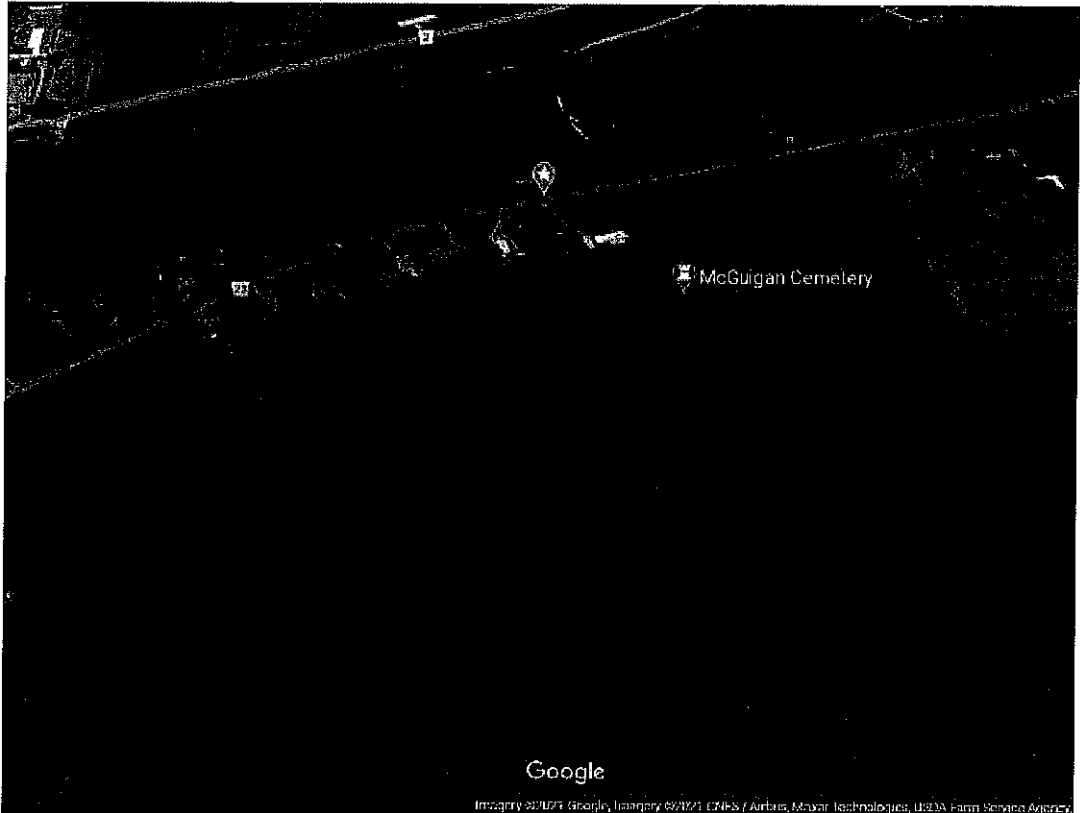
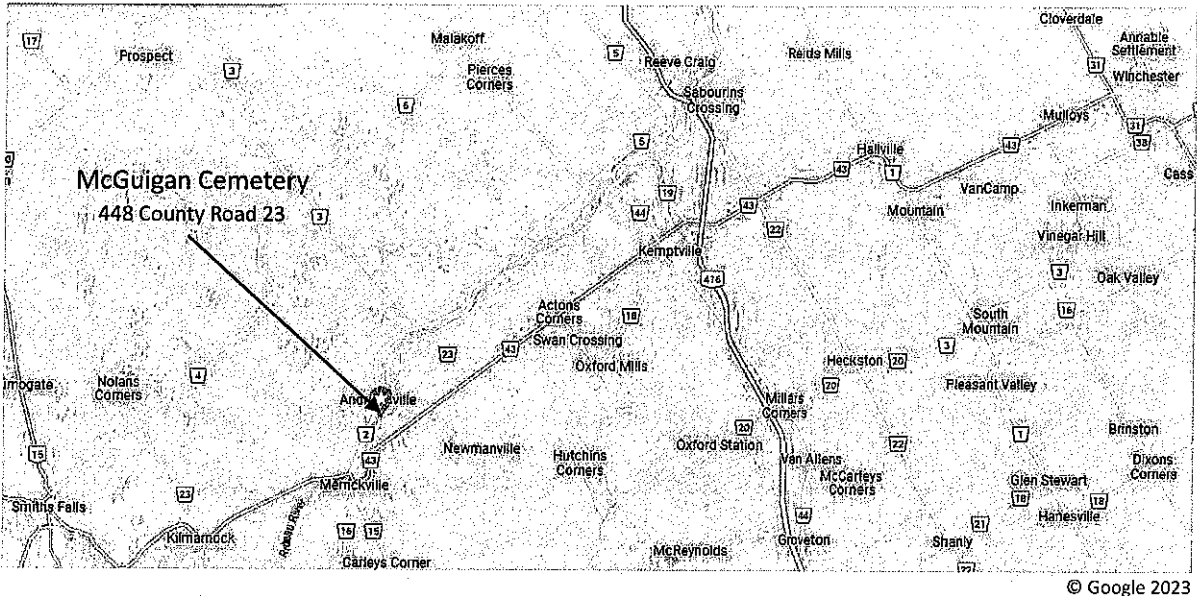
Material – quarried stone, limestone, and simple fieldstone;

Condition of markers – mostly not in pristine condition: leaning, upright, cracked, toppled, moss covered; some have been repaired, following the discovery of the cemetery in in the early 60's and then reopened in July 1981.

Seeing these graves of lives lived, many forgotten, sinking, buried, or partially slipping into the ground brings a sense of sadness yet reality to the visitor. In quiet reflection, we observe death.

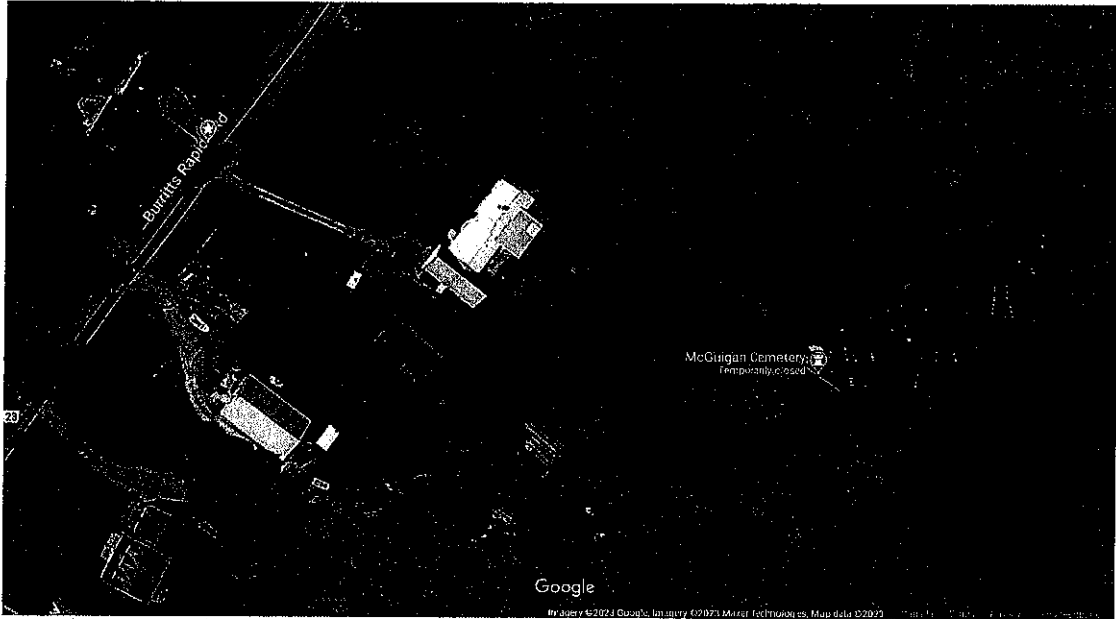
History of McGuigan Cemetery Property

Location Maps

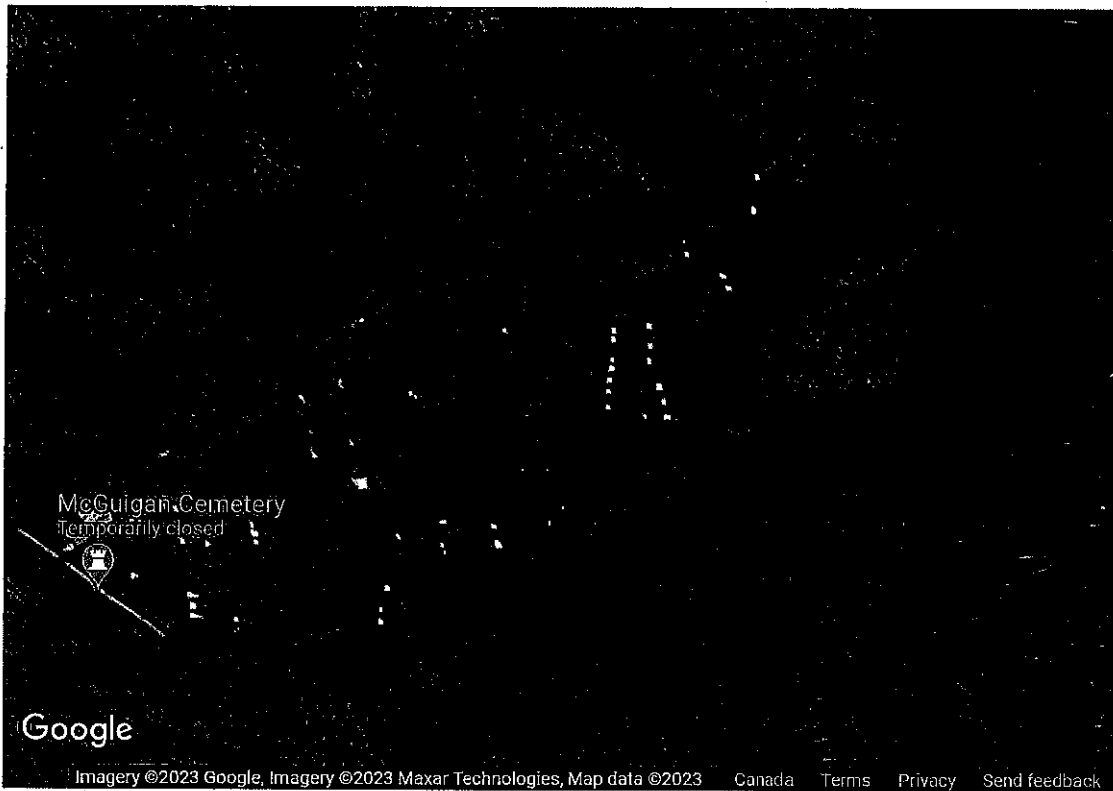


History of McGuigan Cemetery Property (continued)

Location Maps



C 2018



C 2018

History of McGuigan Cemetery Property (continued)

Property History

(McGuigan Cemetery is part of the original 100-acre Crown Grant parcel known as Lot 3, Concession 'B')

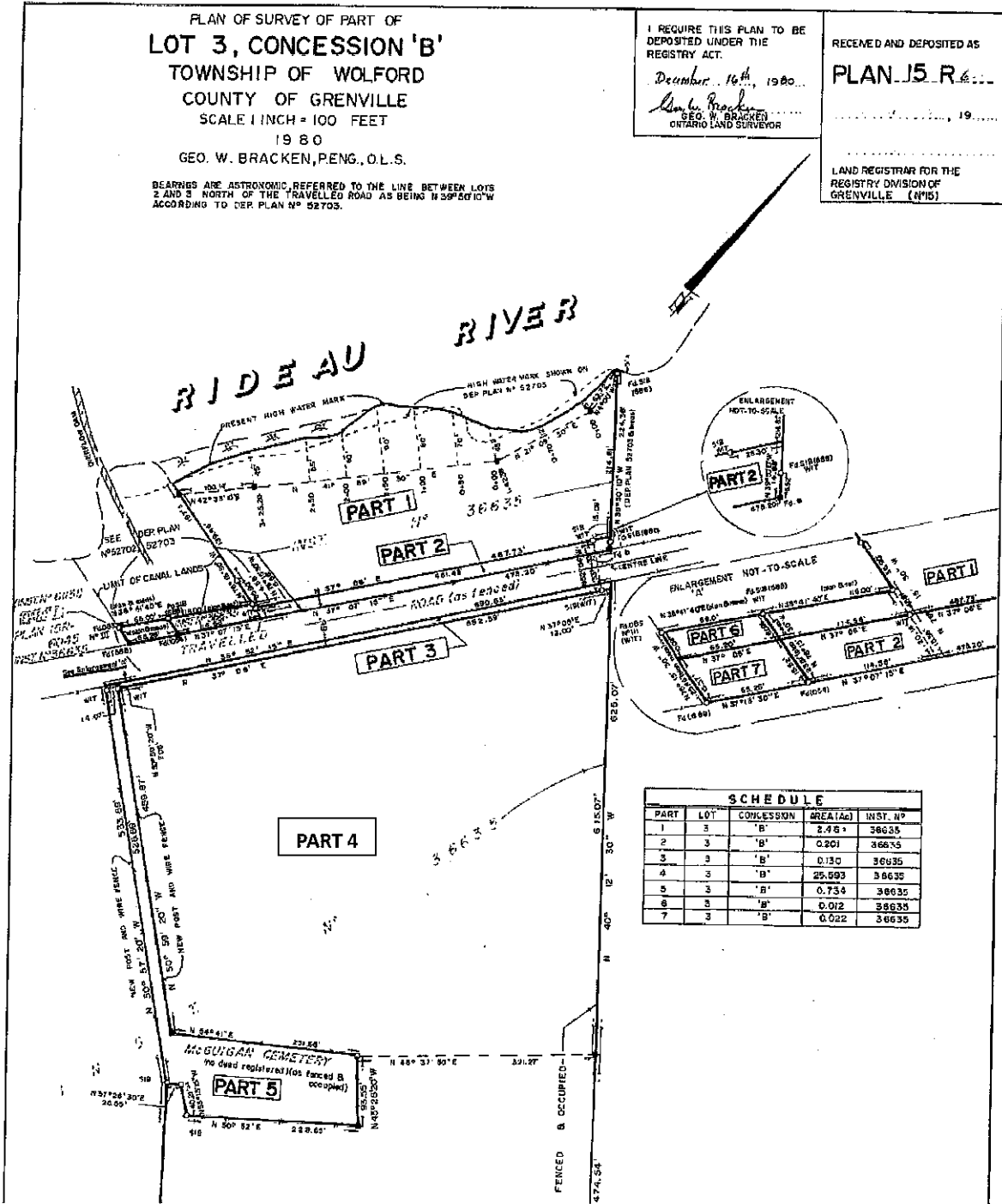
Date	Description	From	To and/or Comments
1806			Earliest known McGuigan Cemetery grave marker (Samuel McCrea)
March 17, 1830	Entire 100 acres	The Crown	William Robert Nicholson Leahy
June 24, 1839	Entire 100 acres	William R.N. Leahy	Augustus H. Chester (later owned by various Chester family members through to June 1914)
1899			Last known McGuigan Cemetery grave marker (Frederick Weedmark)
June 6, 1914	Entire 100 acres	William Ernest Chester	Alexander Kelly Senior (later owned by various Kelly family members through to August 1959)
August 29, 1959	Balance of 100 acres (except 10 subdivided lots)	Alexander & Delia Laverne Kelly	Olive May Hilliard (and for a time, co-owned with husband, Col. Jack Hilliard)
c1982	Northeast 1/3 of Lot 3, Concession 'B'	Olive & Jack Hilliard	This section was subdivided from the 100 acres into seven parts, collectively known as 15R6202. McGuigan Cemetery was Part 5, later renamed Lot 68107-0263 (see Property Survey next page)

Note:

- Per the Ontario Land Registry Record for the cemetery (current as of January 2021) shows the owner as Olive May Hilliard. Since she passed away in November 2011, the property is now presumed to be owned by the Estate of Olive May Hilliard (see two pages ahead).

History of McGuigan Cemetery Property (continued)

Property Survey (Includes property surrounding McGuigan Cemetery)



History of McGuigan Cemetery Property (continued)

Ontario Land Registry Record



ServiceOntario

LAND
REGISTRY
OFFICE #15

PARGEL REGISTER (ABBREVIATED) FOR PROPERTY IDENTIFIER

48167-0268 (LT)

PAGE 1 OF 1
PREPARED FOR FCS
ON 2021/01/07 AT 12:24:21

ONLAND

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: PT LT 3 CON B WOLFORD ST S, 1SR6202; MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD
 * CERTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAND TITLES ACT * SUBJECT TO RESERVATIONS IN CROWN GRANT *

PROPERTY REGIME: PLANNING ACT CONSENT AS IN PRS1977.

RIGHTS/QUALIFIER:

REVENUE:

FPU CREATION DATE:

THE SINGLE
IF CONVERSION QUALIFIED

FIRST CONVERSION FROM BOOK

2009/05/28

OWNER'S NAME

CAPACITY UNDER

HILLIARD, OLIVE MAY

BOOK

REG. NUM.	DATE	INSTRUMENT TYPE	AMOUNT	PARTIES FROM	PARTIES TO	CERT/ CND
		INCLUDES ALL DOCUMENT TYPES AND DELETED INSTRUMENTS SINCE 2009/05/28 **				
** SUBJECT,		ON FIRST REGISTRATION UNDER THE LAND TITLES ACT, TO				
**		SUBSECTION 49(1) OF THE LAND TITLES ACT, EXCEPT PARAGRAPH 14, PROVINCIAL SUCCESSION ENTITIES -				
**		AND ESCHEATS OR REVERSION TO THE CROWN.				
**		THE RIGHTS OF ANY PERSON WHO WOULD, BUT FOR THE LAND TITLES ACT, BE ENTITLED TO THE LAND OR ANY PART OF				
**		IT THROUGH LENGTH OF ADVERSE POSSESSION, PRESCRIPTION, MISDESCRIPTION OR BOUNDARIES SETTLED BY				
**		CONVENTION.				
**		ANY LEASE TO WHICH THE SUBSECTION 70(2) OF THE REGISTRY ACT APPLIES.				
** DATE OF		CONVERSION TO LAND TITLES: 2009/05/28 **				
1SR6202	1991/01/08	PLAN REFERENCE				C
DL44212	1997/07/03	TRANSFER	22		HILLIARD, OLIVE MAY	C

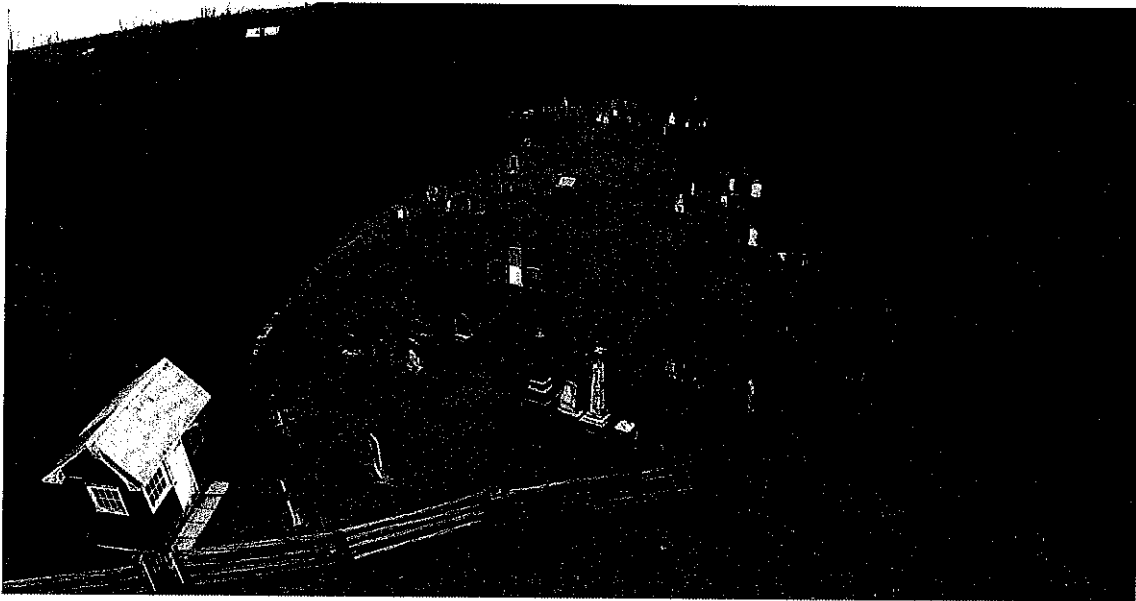
McGuigan Cemetery Photos over the Years



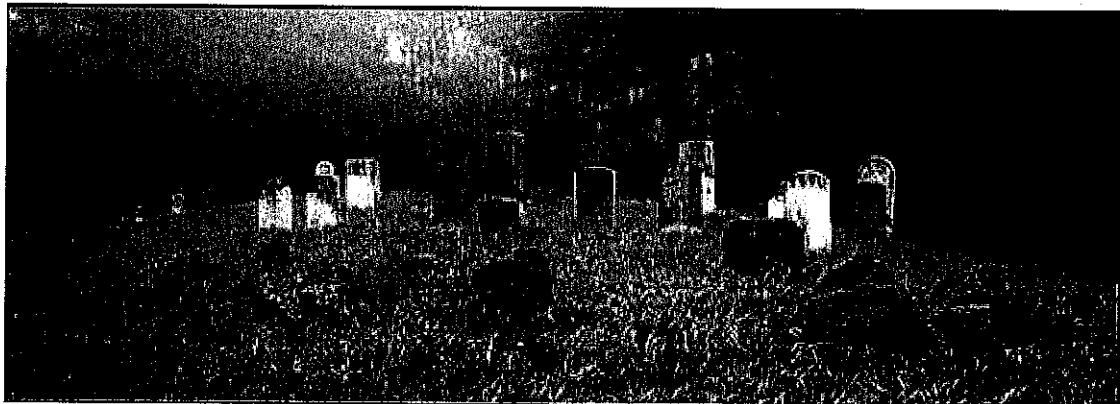
McGuigan Cemetery before restoration, 1965
Credit: Merrickville and District Historical Society



Unearthed stones during restoration, 1970's
Credit: Merrickville and District Historical Society

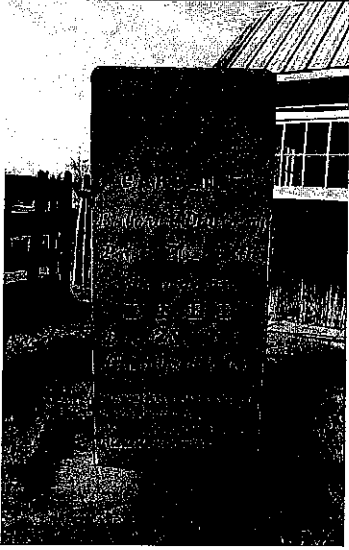


Credit: A. Bailey, 2016

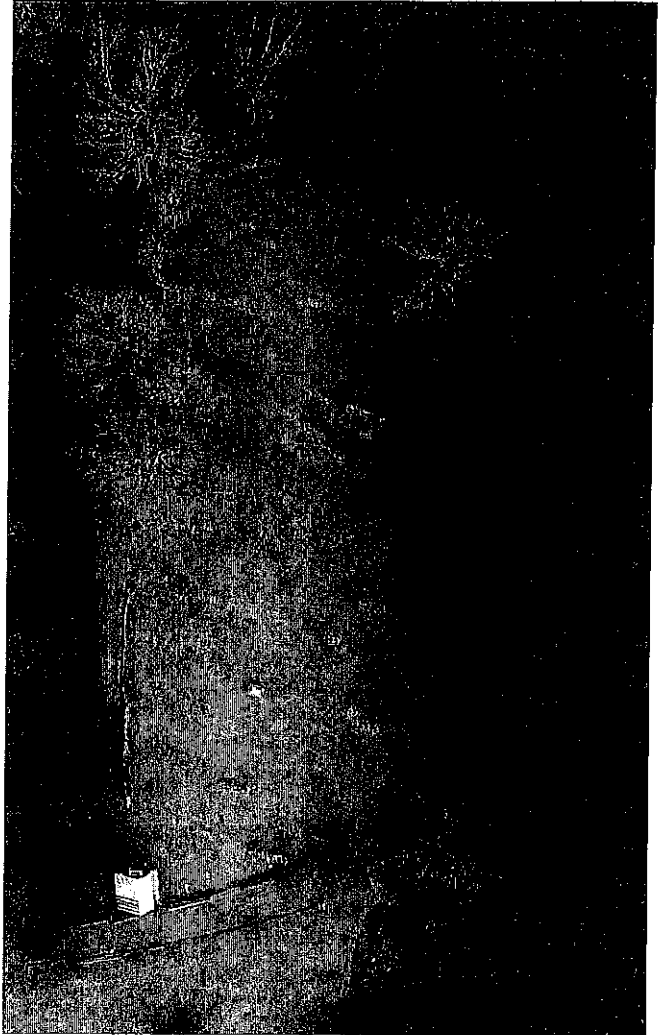


Credit: Merrickville and District Historical Society

McGuigan Cemetery Photos over the Years (continued)



The grave markers often tell a story.



Scattered grave markers in family groupings, some standing alone, unmarked fieldstones and flat stones along the perimeter.



Unmarked field stones beside grave markers.

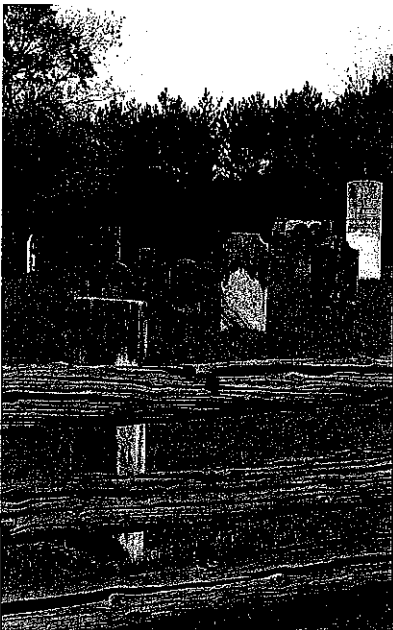
Credits: A. Bailey, 2016

McGuigan Cemetery Photos over the Years (continued)



Some of the existing grave markers at McGuigan Cemetery.

The dead and the living come together at McGuigan Cemetery.



The rail fence, the markers of the dead, and the forested environment on a secluded knoll overlooking the Rideau River make for a distinct landscape.

An arch of trees lines the fenced pathway to the cemetery.



Credits: A. Bailey, 2016 and P. Szmidt, 2022

McGuigan Cemetery Photos over the Years (continued)



The unmarked fieldstones provide a glimpse into the history that is held within McGuigan Cemetery. Specifically, they represent the workers who passed during the construction of the nearby Rideau Canal (1826-1832). (Clowes Lock is located across the river from the cemetery.) Today, many of the same fieldstones have sunk deeper into the ground.

Credit: A. Bailey, 2016

Heritage Designated Cemeteries in the Area*

Ontario has over 2,500 designated heritage properties. Of these, approximately 120 are cemeteries designated under the Ontario Heritage Act for historic or architectural value or interest. These municipalities recognized and protected the cemeteries with designation, acknowledging them as an irreplaceable part of the province's cultural heritage and valued repositories of vital information on early settlements and familial history.

Lanark County: Old Burying Ground/Craig Street Cemetery c1818, 21 Brock St S, Perth

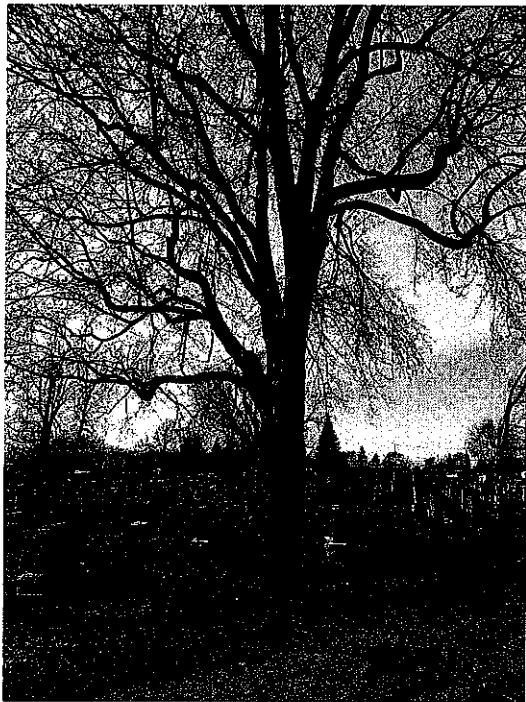


Credit: P. Szmidt, 2023

**For further information and locations of all these cemeteries, please visit www.findagrave.com and search for the cemetery name.*

Heritage Designated Cemeteries in the Area (continued)

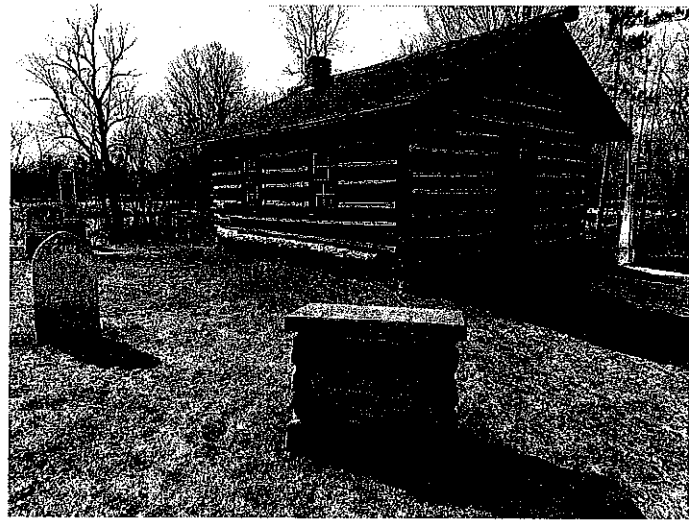
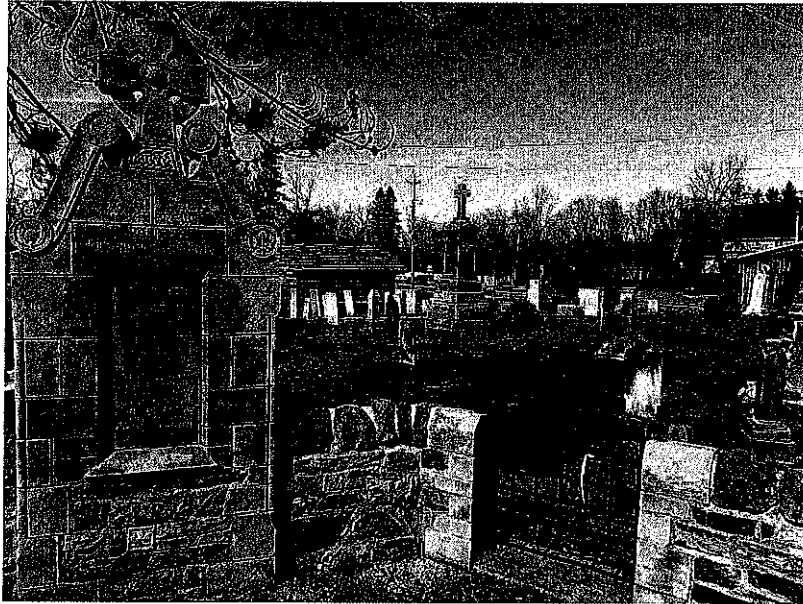
Stormont Dundas and Glengarry United Counties: Saint Columban's Cemetery, c1835,
Eleventh St W, Cornwall



Credit: P. Szmidt, 2023

Heritage Designated Cemeteries in the Area (continued)

Stormont Dundas and Glengarry United Counties: St. Andrew's West Cemetery, 1784,
County Road 18 and Highway 138, Village of St. Andrew's West, Cornwall



Credit: P. Szmids, 2023

Abandoned/Closed Cemeteries in Merrickville-Wolford*

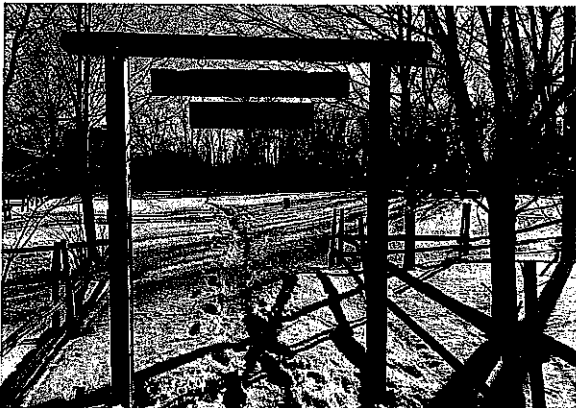
Baldwin Cemetery

Located off County Road 15 at 482 Wolford Center Road, about 500 feet along a path. Markers include plaques placed into a flat monument and an intricate grave marker with a dove and carved flowers.



Collar Hill Cemetery

Located across from 112 Collar Hill Road, in the village of Merrickville. The cemetery was abandoned for over 100 years before it was rediscovered in 1983 and partially restored. There are several grave markers left standing and four above-ground crypts.



Credit: P. Szmidt, 2023

**For further information and locations of all these cemeteries, please visit www.findagrave.com and search for the cemetery name.*

Abandoned/Closed Cemeteries in Merrickville-Wolford (continued)

Smith Family Burying Ground/Cross Cemetery

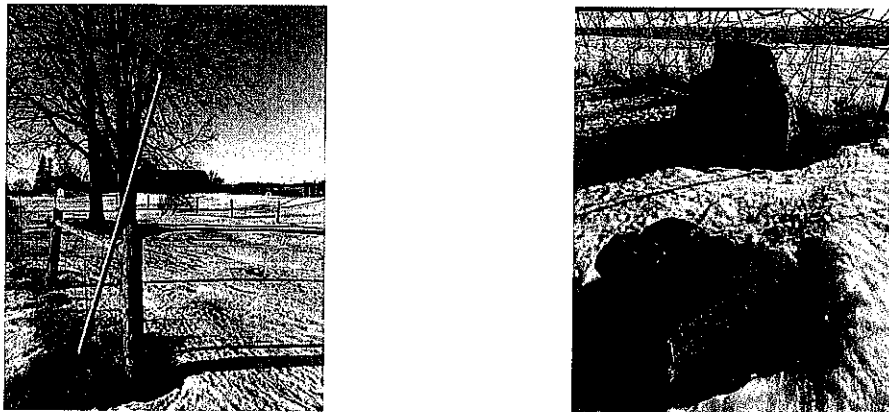
Located off County Road 16, at 334 Putnam Road, behind an occupied stone house and beside a cornfield. Many of the stones are just fieldstones or are badly deteriorated or sunk into the ground and marked by wooden stakes. The cemetery is surrounded by a steel post and chain fence and has a large tree standing in the middle of it.



Credit: P. Szmidt, 2023

Willoughby Cemetery

Located southeast of Smiths Falls, at 383 County Road 17. This is a small, abandoned cemetery at the front of a farm field on Willoughby Farm. The cemetery is surrounded by a wire fence. In 1963 Alice Hughes found 11 headstones and four plain field stone markers.

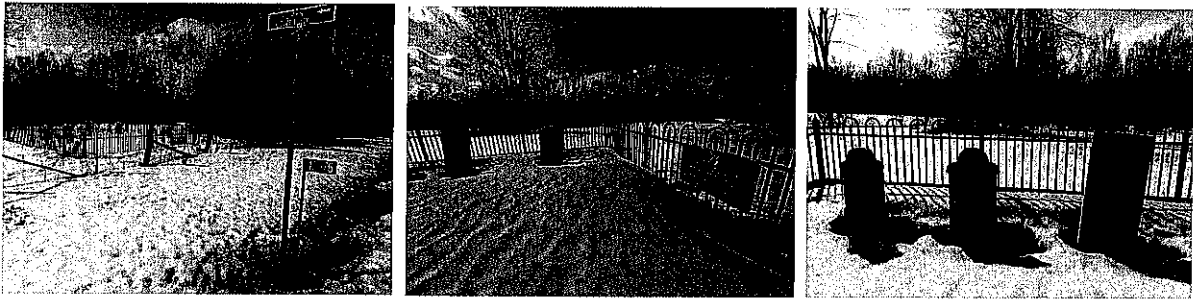


Credit: P. Szmidt, 2023

Abandoned/Closed Cemeteries in Merrickville-Wolford (continued)

Burk Family Cemetery

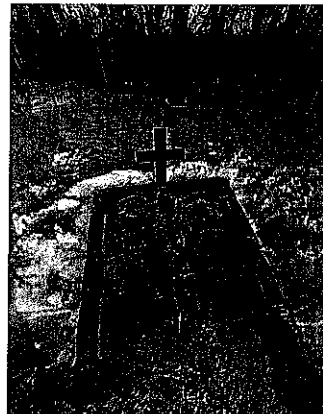
Located at 12976 County Road 15, south of Hemlock Corners. Includes four headstones representing the Burk family with internments in 1858, 1861, 1874 and 1876.



Credit: P. Szmidt, 2023

Barton Family Burial Site

Located west of Merrickville, just south of 284 Rideau River Road on the east side. The only gravestones visible are installed on a cement slab with a steel cross at its head.



Credit: P. Szmidt, 2023

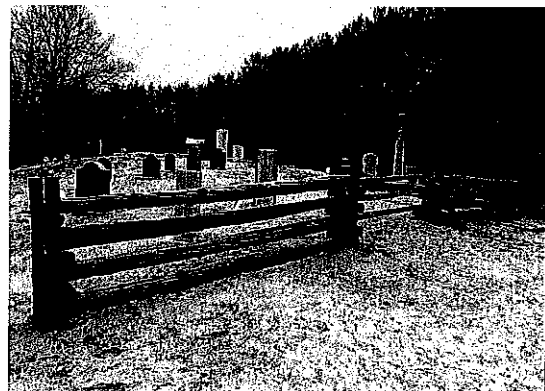
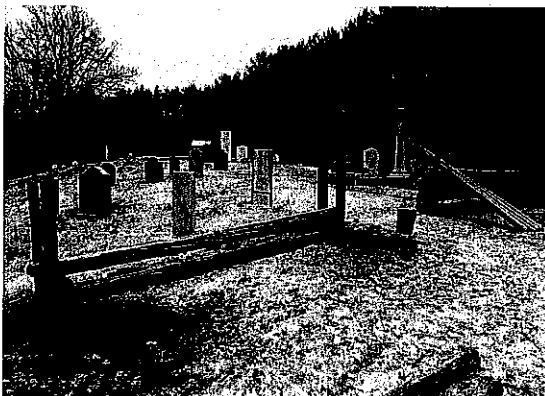
The Last Word...

Last fall, a visitor to McGuigan Cemetery mistakenly drove up the pathway and while trying to maneuver a turnaround, drove into the rail fence. After calling the Village and reporting this incident, I waited for a crew to repair the fence in a timely manner. When that arrival did not seem imminent, a neighbour, my husband and I decided in early December that we could fix the fence ourselves.

The posts were replaced, and the rail fence repaired with the assistance of several others living nearby. First, there was John who we went to for 6-6' cedar posts. John didn't have any but steered us to Wayne down the road. I had never met Wayne before, but he gladly said he would help us. He cut the posts for us and delivered them the next day! And when asked what he wanted for the posts, he replied nothing.

The community involvement continued. I wanted to thank Wayne somehow so when I was in *Violets on Main Bakery* for our weekly bread purchase, I asked Patti if she could make me some sugar cookies with Christmas icing motifs to bring to Wayne. I told her the rail fence story. When I asked her how much I owed, she said nothing; they are a donation for the rail fence project at McGuigan.

The Merrickville-Wolford community cares for the welfare of the old McGuigan Cemetery as a hidden treasure of a time long ago that now belongs to us all.



Credit: P. Szmidt, 2022

Acknowledgements

- N. Walsh, Merrickville, Letter to the Editor, The Record News, Smiths Falls, October 1953
- A. Price, Deathscape: the silent city, a master's dissertation, Bachelor of Architectural Studies; Master of Architecture, Carleton University, 2016
- Land Registry Office, Prescott
- M. Iglesias, Senior Planner, Heritage, and Development, Centre Wellington
- K. Jamieson, Heritage Tourism Manager, Town of Perth
- Merrickville and District Historical Society
- E. DeLaurentis, Oakwood Research Services, Centre Wellington
- Village of Merrickville-Wolford
- Coba Studios and Print Shop, Merrickville Wolford
- Heritage Designation Submission, Spillway Farm, 2021 Merrickville-Wolford
- Elizabeth Manshreck, Okotoks, Alberta
- Find A Grave (www.findagrave.com)
- Google Maps (www.google.ca/maps)

Appendix A*

Names of families buried in McGuigan Cemetery and still dominant in the area

Chester:

John Chester 1761-1839
Mary Ann Chester 1836-1844
Augustus H. Chester 1810-1853 (see Fig.1)
Rachel Howey Lane Chester 1799-1874
Eva Pearl Chester 1883-1884
Roy Chester 1881-1883
Michael Chester 1799-1880
Teresa Chester dates unknown

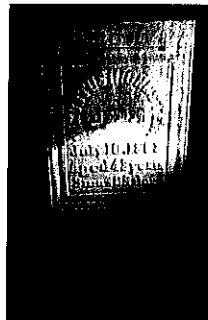


Fig. 1

Cox:

Elizabeth Fuller Cox died 1819
Mary Cox 1816-1831
Narina Cox died 1834
Aaron Cox died 1848
Joseph Cox Sr. 1776-1860 (See Fig.2)
Joseph Cox Jr. 1828-1829
Walter McCrae Cox 1861-1862
Rosannah Stafford Cox 1797-1869
Harvey Cox 1829-1890
Thomas Cox dates unknown

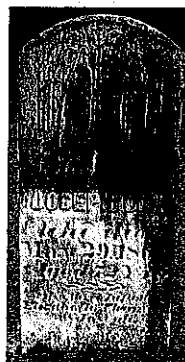


Fig. 2

McCrae:

Mary Sarah Brown McCrae 1787-1811
Rebecca Colvin McCrae 1807-1830
Samuel E. McCrae 1749-1806 (See Fig.3)
John McCrae 1776-1869
Rebecca McCrae Maitland 1892-1870
Elizabeth McCrae Stafford 1754-1843
Mary McCrae Lake 1782-1864
Harriet Andrews McCrae 1800-1835
Janet Simpson McCrae 1756-1816
Phoebe Edmunds McCrae 1784-1860
William McCrae 1809-1842

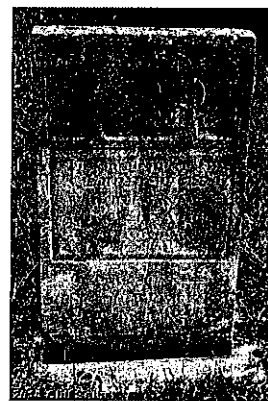


Fig. 3

*Photos found in this appendix are credited to www.findagrave.com

Appendix A (continued)

Stafford:

Amos Stafford 1792-1816
Samuel Stafford 1759-1808 (See Fig.4)
Pheba Stafford Nettleton 1785-1825
Elizabeth Stafford Nicklesson 1793-1863



Fig. 4

Tackaberry:

Eli Tackaberry 1852-1854 (See Fig.5)
Francis Tackaberry dates unknown



Fig. 5

Weedmark:

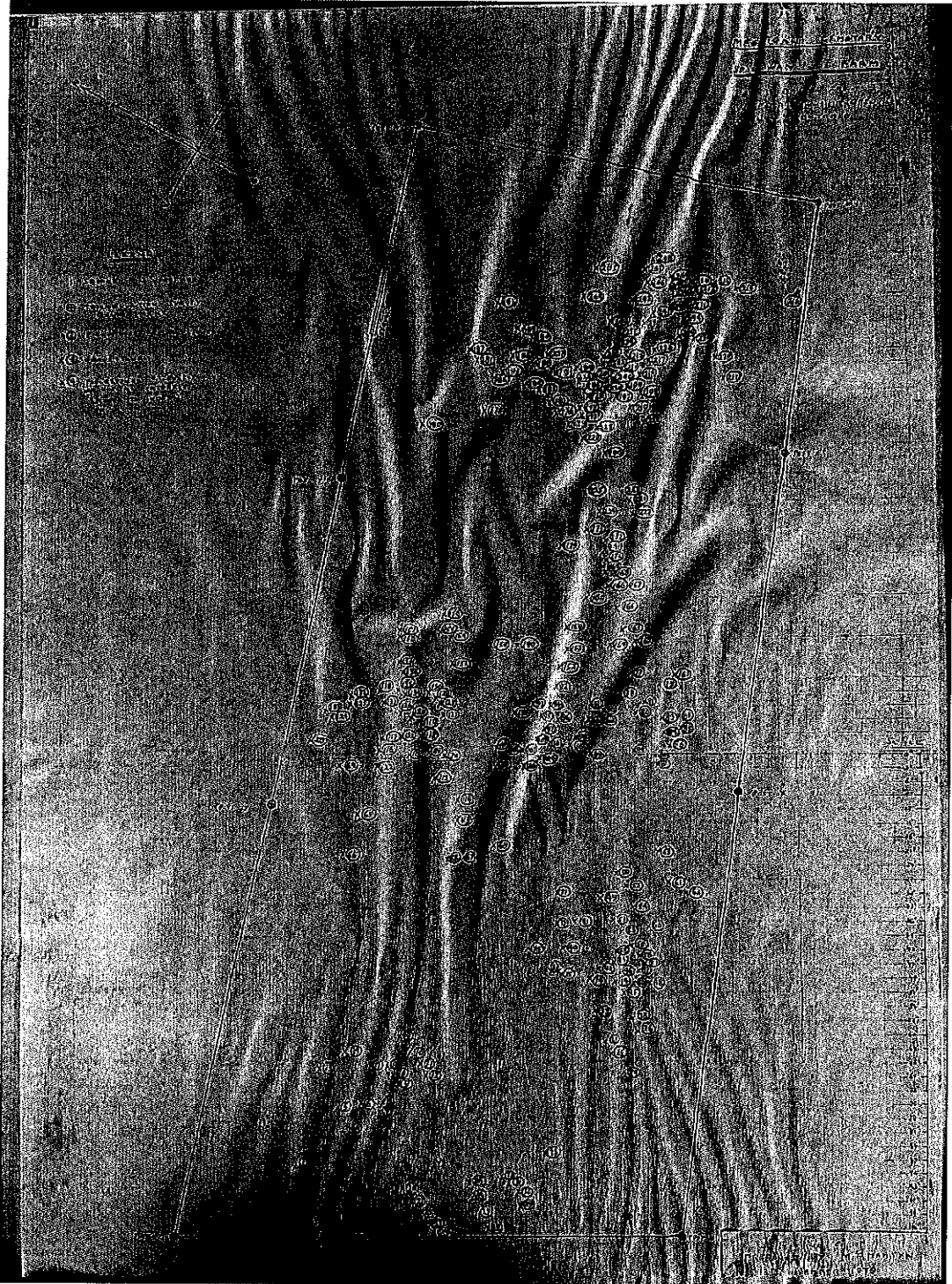
Phoebe Chester Weedmark 1821-1863
Frederick Weedmark 1817-1899 (See Fig.6)



Fig. 6

Appendix B

Grave marker reference map and list by Alice Hughes and Max Martyn, 1979
Found in the visitors' hut at McGuigan Cemetery



Appendix B (continued)

McGuigan Gravestones				
By Alphabetic Order				
listing by Alice Hughes				years
name	died	age	location	additional information
Alexander, R. Desta	1881, Aug 14	22	20	
Bigham, James	1840, May 16	44	39	
Bolton, Ann	1859, June 13	?	197	
Bolton, Mercy	1843, June 10	41	219	
Bolton, Richard	1860, Apr 7	83	197	
Campbell, Elizabeth	1885, Mar 1	26	40	
Campbell, John H	1861, Mar 3	1	87	10 mos
Campbell, Robert M	1869, Feb 1	38	88	
Chester, Augustus H	1853, July 16	43	61	
Chester, Eva Pearl	1884, Mar 4	0.75	85	9 mos 11 days
Chester, John	1839, May 19	77	77	UEL
Chester, Michael	1860, Mar 27	30	75	4 ms 8d
Chester, Rachel	1874, May 22	75	79	
Chester, Roy,	1883, Apr 18	1	85	
Cox, Aaron	1848, Jan 12	?	184	
Cox, Joseph	1860, May 29	72	53	veteran Napoleonic and 1812 wars
Cox, Marina	1831, Oct 22	13.5	183	13 yrs 5 ms 2 days
Cox, Marina	1831, Apr 1	11.5	182	
Cox, Rosannah	1869, Sept 22	73	186	
Cox, Walter	1862, March 22	0.3	175	4 mos
Croan ?, John ?	1876, Dec 28	48	37	
Davidson, Caroline	1851, Dec 28	13	2	nice inscription
Davidson, Margaret	1829, Nov 13	2	1	
Dougherty, Ann	1849, Aug 27	52	24	
Dougherty, Mary	1844, Feb 18	26	24	
Dougherty, Matthew	1868, May 29	45	22	
Dougherty, William Albert	1870, Dec 3	?	21	
Frayne, Francis Ivers	1830, Feb 23	0.4	247	5 months
Gibson, Elizabeth	1862, Jan 25	22	28	
Gibson, John	1870, Mar 20	33	27	died Colorado, USA. civil war??
Gibson, Julia Ann	1850, March 26	7.5	25	
Gibson, Mary	1884, March 18	67	28	
Guest, Annn Jane	1867, Jan 11	78	33	
Guest, Emma J	1861, Jan 18	1	26	
Guest, Richard F	1864, Feb 18	0.6	29	7 mos
Guest, Thomas Sen.	1860, March 6	83	33	
Gurthis, Elizabeth	1857, Oct 1	66	3	wife of Peter Davidson
Guy, West	1876, Aug 28	4	223	Wesley?, 4 yrs 8 days
Hagerty, George	1845, Apr 27	29	203	
Hinton, James	1864, Nov 25	35	140	
Howey, Christopher P	1868, June 15	1	62	
Jenkins, Thomas	1847, Sept 11	54	35	ex Sapper, later Nicholson Lockmaster
Lake, Abraham	1822, May 24	76	235	5 yrs 5 days
Lake, Abraham	1858, August 3	83	235	82 yr 10 mos
Lake, Mary L.	1823, Mar 13	2.6		2 yrs 6 mos, 7 days
Lake, Mary L.	1864, Oct 14	82	239	wife of Abraham
McCrea, Harriet	1886, Apr 11	45	4	daughter of James McCrea/Eliz Lamb ?
McCrea, Janet Simpson	1811, July 27	60	226	UEL, wife Samuel McCrea
McCrea, John	1869, Sept 10	93	51	Waldo McCrea says died sep 10 1863
McCrea, Mary Brown	1811, Dec 11	24	178	1st wife Edward McCrea Sr.
McCrea, Phoebe	1860, March 23	78	53	wife of John McCrea
McCrea, Rebeca	1830, June 27	23	49	daughter of James Edmund McCrea
McCrea, Rebecca	1870, Apr 1	78	242	wife James Maitland Sr Waldo - apr 7
McCrea, Samuel	1806, Nov 15	55	233	UEL, Stillwater, NY
McCrea, William	1842, July 14	33	49	son Jas McCrea, wed Margret Spencer
Nettleton, Barnabas	1867, Nov 6	84	162	
Nettleton, Pheba	1825, June 24	40	163	
Nickleson, Elizabeth	1863, Set 21	70	172	
Nickleson, Robert	1876, Oct 16	88	273	8 ms, 27 d Owner land Nicholson locks
Stafford, Amos	1810, Mar 10	?	165	
Stafford, Elizabeth	1843, Nov	89	171	possibly 82
Stafford, Samuel	1808, May 28	49	168	UEL
Tackaberry, Eli	1854, Aug 19	1.9	216	1 yr 11 mos 19 days
Talford, James	1847, Sept 5	43	204	
Weedmark, Phoebe	1862, May 13	42	100	wife of Frederick
Woods, Margaret	1826, May 14	2	10	
Woods, Sarah	1883, Oct 31	85	11	

Ontario Waterways/Voies navigables de l'Ontario
 Parks Canada / Parcs Canada
 Rideau Canal Office / Canal-Rideau
 34 Beckwith St. S. / 34, rue Beckwith Sud
 Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2A8

Email / Courriel électronique : susan.millar@pc.gc.ca
 Telephone / Téléphone : 343-553-9290

www.parkscanada.gc.ca | www.parcscanada.gc.ca

January 5, 2024

RE: Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy - Pathway Forward - Municipal Reps & Spring meeting
 Good morning all,

It has been quite some time since I have reached out regarding the **Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy**. Due to competing priorities, I haven't been able to support the Steering Committee and Planners Group to the extent that I would have liked to/intend to. In fact, it has been 2 whole years since we last met in Merrickville! My apologies for that. I would like to take this opportunity in the limbo between Christmas and New Years to kick-start this working group again!

Firstly, with the municipal elections in Fall 2022, the **municipal representatives will need to be reappointed by their respective Councils**. While I did receive some communications from clerks to this effect in early 2023, I have been delayed in sending out a formal request to each municipality. As such, I have included all municipal clerks in this communication and **respectfully request that early in the new year a municipal representative is appointed to the Steering Committee of the RCLS**. To support this discussion, I attach here the current (Dec 2021) Steering Committee contact list, as well as material summarizing the structure, evolution and key work of the RCLS.

Secondly, once sufficient number of municipal representatives are secured to ensure a minimum number of SC members (14 is quorum), we would like to advance with a late winter/early spring meeting (say March/April) to briefly look back at what has been accomplished and discuss the pathway forward. This can include advancing preliminary past discussions on the role of protecting the natural environment in the conservation of the World Heritage site; the potential to expand the working group to include other jurisdictions/disciplines to facilitate communication and cooperation; and opportunities to work together to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the construction and ultimate opening of the Rideau Canal from 2026-2032. This spring meeting is also a good opportunity to discuss some of the targets in the 2022 *Rideau Canal and Merrickville Blockhouse National Historic Sites of Canada Management Plan* which are applicable to the goals and objectives of the RCLS, including a target on the continuation of this group.

I have also included the members of the Planners Technical Advisory Group in this communication for awareness, and to help support the continued work of the Steering Committee through land use planning.

Lastly, I am heading off on maternity leave for the 2024 calendar year, returning the beginning of January 2025. Tom Green, whom some of you will remember from my mat leave in 2019-2020, is taking over my planning duties for the Ontario Waterways and my role as coordinator/secretary for the RCLS.

Please send confirmation of municipal appointees, and any questions or comments on the RCLS, to Tom at tom.green@pc.gc.ca.

If there are other non-municipal representatives that have changed since we last met in December 2021, please send along the updated contact information for the new appointee to Tom

I do hope all has been well with everyone and best wishes for 2024.

Sincerely,

Susan Millar, BComm, MSc
Planner / Planificatrice

ADWIN.GALLANT@forces.gc.ca
RE: 8th Annual Ride For Disabled Vets - 11 May 2024 - Merrickville -
Request >>
Merrickville Town Support //Royal Canadian Legion Support //
Road Closure Certificate

Hello

The ride is planned for 11 May 2024.

Based on past history, the road closure should be similar to the attached.

To be realistic the event will be finished by 12:00 PM (Noon)

So Main Street: 06:00 to 12:00 hrs

See attached image of the route, and the Poker Stop location (@ Royal Canadian Legion, Main Street)

Looking for support from town of Merrickville.

The plan is have the ride stop location on Main Street @ Royal Canadian Legion

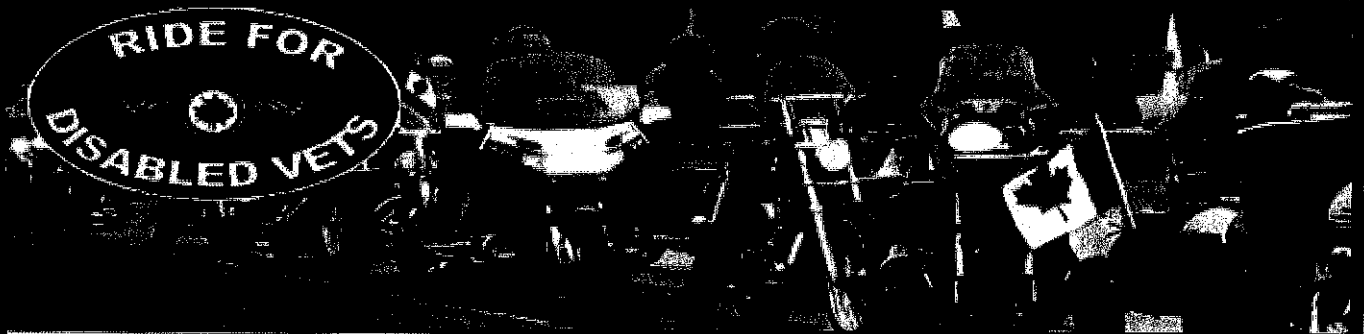
Adwin"OJ" Gallant, PMCD 1, B Eng, CD , MSc (Aerospace Vehicle Design)
www.ridefordisablevets.ca

Adwin"OJ" Gallant, B Eng, CD , MSc (Aerospace Vehicle Design)
Ride Director //Coordinator
ojveteran@gmail.com
613=4-6-1194

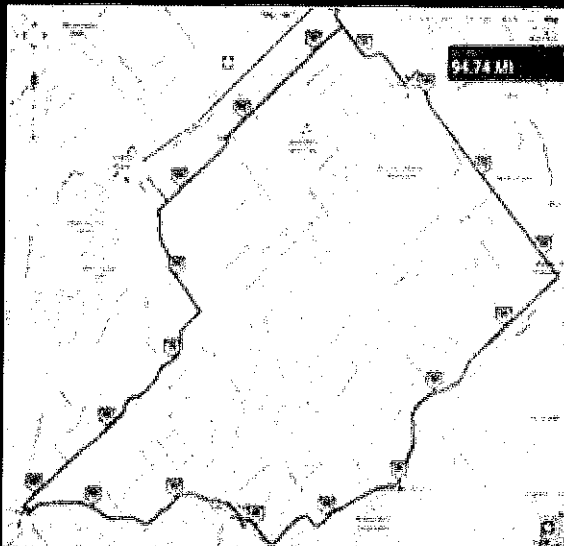


Ride for Disabled Vets

8th Annual RIDE FOR DISABLED VETS



Date: 11 May 2024, Starting in Stittsville



Registration Time (Stittsville): 8:30 to 9:45am
Pokers Run "Kickstands Up" Time: 10:00am
Poker Ride End (Stittsville): 2:00pm
BBQ: 2:00 to 3:00pm
50/50 Draw & Prizes: 3:00pm

Rider cost is \$30
and passenger is \$10

For more information:
gallantoj@gmail.com or

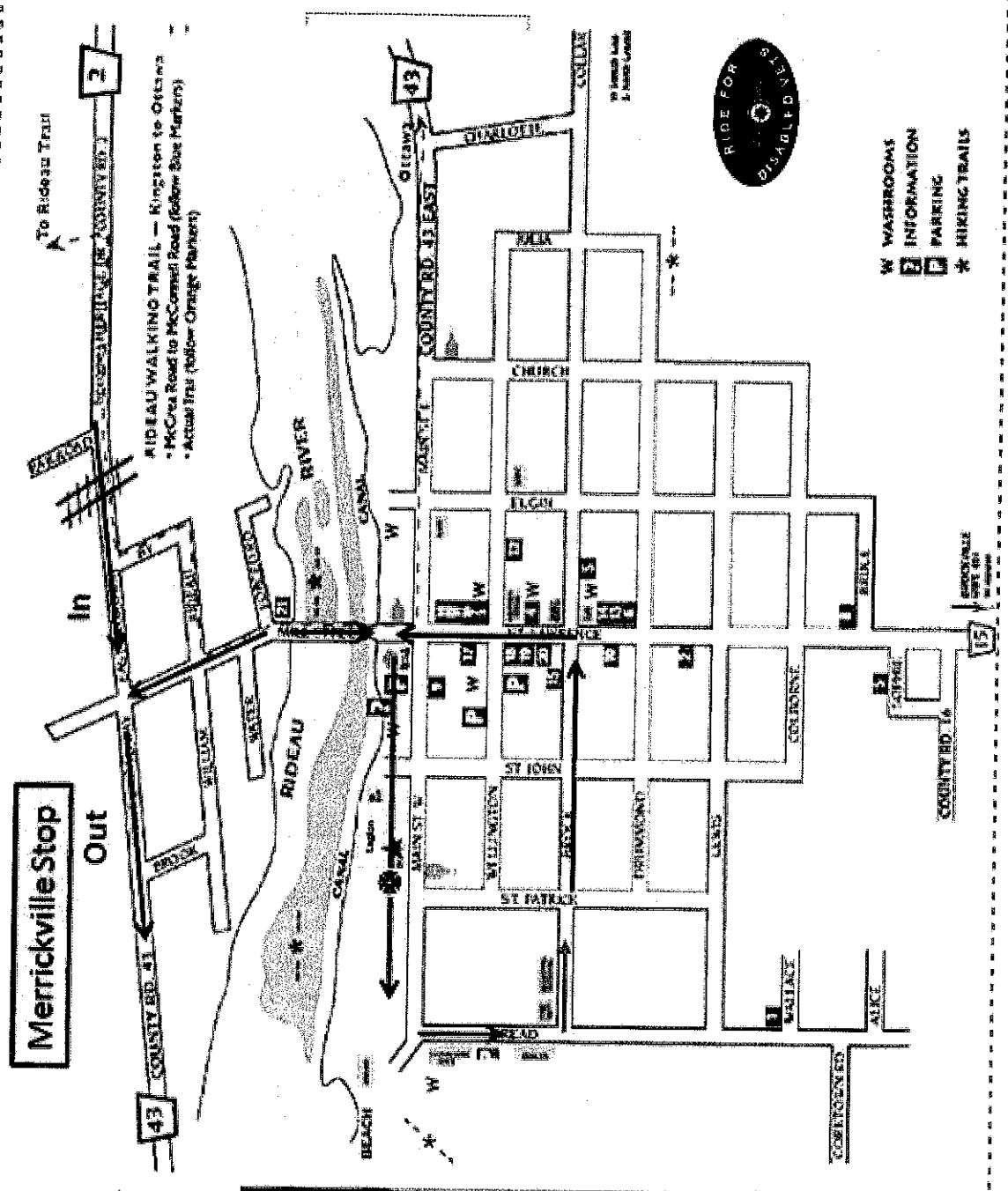
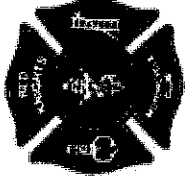
E-mail Contact: ojveteran@gmail.com

facebook.com/RideForDisabledVets



RideForDisabledVets.ca

Merrickville





11 d

From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

January 22, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of January 16, 2024 the following motion regarding support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-46

DATE: January 16, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Nieman

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

WHEREAS By-Law 3256-2013, being a By-Law to Establish, Maintain, and Operate a Fire Department established service level standards for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 3256-2013, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS on November 16, 2023, Council, received report FD-06-2023 regarding asset Management - Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County direct the Mayor to draft a letter to MPP Minister Todd Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

THAT the Mayor draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

CARRIED

Yours truly,

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Nieman, Councillor Branderhorst, Marcia Wallace, CAO and Fire Chief Chad Brown



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

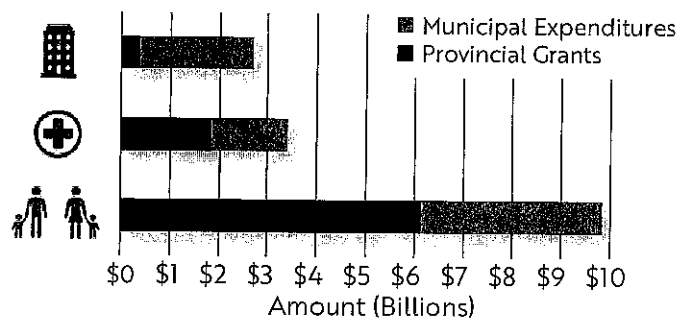
Municipal revenues do not grow with the economy or inflation

- 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.

11 f.

Darlene Plumley

From: Michael Cameron
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 4:17 PM
To: Darlene Plumley
Subject: Fwd: A recent Ontario Energy Board decision
Attachments: Letter from Enbridge.pdf; Rebasing and natural gas information.pdf; Customizable letter.docx; Sample Access to Natural Gas Resolution.docx

[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Matthew Wilson <matthew.wilson@enbridge.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 4:01:00 PM
To: Matthew Wilson <matthew.wilson@enbridge.com>
Subject: A recent Ontario Energy Board decision

Heads of Council in Eastern Ontario,

My name is Matthew Wilson and I am a Senior Advisor, Municipal and Stakeholder Relations for Enbridge Gas in eastern Ontario. If we haven't met yet I look forward to. I write regarding a recent Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision from late December which, if applied, will affect the accessibility of natural gas.

If implemented, starting in 2025, the cost of new connections to the natural gas system would no longer be distributed over a 40 year period (within monthly bills) but would be required to be paid entirely in advance. For a new home that amounts to between \$4-6,000 in upfront costs and would be even more than that for new businesses or industry. The OEB also reduces Enbridge's annual capital spending budget for new customers starting in 2024 which will affect projects not already approved.

Enbridge has filed a notice of appeal with the Ontario Divisional Court and filed a motion to review the decision with the OEB. Enbridge was also very pleased to see the Minister of Energy state his intention of reversing the OEB decision.

These developments have a significant impact on accessing natural gas in the future. Please find attached some information including a letter from Enbridge Gas President Michele Harradence, a one-pager of information, a draft letter for provincial politicians or the Ontario Energy Board, and a resolution to add your voice. We'd appreciate the support. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

Matthew Wilson (he/him)
Senior Advisor, Municipal and Stakeholder Engagement
Public Affairs and Communications

—
ENBRIDGE GAS INC.
Cell: 343-596-4605
400 Coventry Rd, Ottawa, ON K1K 2C7

enbridge.com
Safety. Integrity. Respect. Inclusion.



1191

Enbridge Gas Inc.
500 Consumers Road
North York, Ontario M2J 1P8
Canada

January 30, 2024

Your Worship and Members of Council,

I am writing to inform you of our concerns with the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, issued on December 21, 2023. The disappointing decision puts future access to natural gas in doubt and sets a deliberate course to eliminate natural gas from Ontario's energy mix. This decision is about the millions of Ontarians who rely on natural gas to keep their homes warm, and the many businesses throughout Ontario who depend on natural gas for day-to-day operation.

Our 2024 rate rebasing application was designed to provide our customers with safe and reliable natural gas at a reasonable cost, in addition to measured steps to help Ontario advance a practical transition to a sustainable energy future. Natural gas plays a critical role in Ontario's energy evolution mix while supporting the reliability of Ontario's electricity system. Natural gas meets 30 percent of Ontario's energy needs, which can not be easily or quickly replaced.

We are taking action to secure the future of natural gas in your communities. We have filed a motion to review evidence with the OEB and are seeking a judicial review of this decision.

Without natural gas, communities across Ontario will feel the impacts of this decision in their everyday lives – the stakes are high.

- **Energy Affordability:** Those looking to connect to natural gas will be required to pay an upfront fee, which creates a significant financial barrier to all forms of residential and commercial development. This resulting fee adds thousands of dollars to individual consumers' cost to obtain or expand gas service.
- **Economic Growth:** This decision will put economic developments in your community at risk. The decision limits the ability of future expansion projects to support regional investment to meet the ever-growing energy needs in your community and communities across Ontario. That includes greenhouses, grain dryers, industrial parks, and any new businesses or housing developments seeking access to natural gas.
- **Energy Access:** Preserving customer choice is critical. Constraining access to natural gas through a reduction in capital will significantly limit the future development of essential energy infrastructure vital to moving manufacturing, agriculture, and the consumer goods industry in Ontario.
- **Energy Security:** On an annual basis, natural gas delivers twice the energy to Ontario than electricity, and five times the maximum peak capacity of Ontario's electricity grid at a quarter of the cost. Even in the worst weather conditions, our reliable natural gas system delivers.

As local leaders across the province, your voice matters, and we encourage you to take action.

Reach out to your MPP to share your support for the government's quick action and write the OEB about the consequences of reduced access to the natural gas grid to support economic development, housing growth, energy reliability. Use your voice to acknowledge the need for natural gas and infrastructure in Ontario today and into the future while we take a measured step towards energy transition.

We ask that you reach out to your municipal advisor or find us at municipalaffairs@enbridge.com to get started.

Sincerely,

Michele Harradence
President
Enbridge Gas Inc.

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Ontario Clean Water Agency
Agence Ontarienne Des Eaux

To: *Darlene Plumbley, Brad Cole, Kirsten Rahm*

From: Mark Lauzon, Ontario Clean Water Agency

Subject: Water Quality – Test Results for Town of Merrickville-Wolford

No adverse water quality test results were reported in December 2023 treated & distribution water samples taken at:

- Merrickville Well House #1.
- Merrickville Waste Water Treatment Plant, 108 Collar Hill Road.
- 305 St Lawrence
- 317 Brock St.
- Merrickville Public Library
- Easton’s Corners Distribution

Copies of all test results are available upon request from OCWA.

The Treated water flows for the month were 9214 Cubic Meters.

Date: January 12, 2024

Signature:

Mark Lauzon

Mark Lauzon
Senior Operations Manager
Ontario Clean Water Agency



25 Central Ave. W., Suite 100
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800-770-2170
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www.leedsgrenville.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2024

ROOM-TO-DONATE CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF MAPLE VIEW LANDINGS PROJECT LAUNCHES FEBRUARY PROMOTION

Show your LOVE to our residents, a loved one and CELEBRATE FAMILY through a meaningful donation

ATHENS -- Building upon the success of the pre-holiday campaign for the Maple View Landings Redevelopment Project, the Room-to-Donate initiative is offering donors of \$5,000 not only the opportunity to designate a room in the new home, but also provide a special gift.

From now until the end of February, contributions of \$5,000 will give donors a receipt AND send roses to both residents AND the donor.

"We felt February was a great time to encourage individuals and families to consider a \$5,000 gift to the G. Tackaberry and Family Home in a meaningful way for residents and the project," explained Doug Struthers, Chairman of the Fundraising Committee.

Give a Rose, Get a Rose is a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day (throughout the month of February) with residents and have a rose delivered to Maple View Lodge AND to a loved one.

The campaign will continue past Valentine's Day and throughout the month with Family Day on the 19th.

The \$5,000 donation gives donors the opportunity to have their name, their family's name or *In memory of a Loved One*, on a plaque on an individual resident room in the new 192-bed home.



January 30, 2024

People interested in participating in this event are asked to email Lesley.todd@uclg.on.ca or call 613-340-6038 for further information.

The redevelopment project is the largest capital construction project in the history of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville at a cost of more than \$84,000,000. Construction of the new three-story, six-wing building is well underway on the Maple View Landings property in Athens, Ontario and will replace the existing 60-bed Maple View Lodge facility upon its opening expected in the summer of 2025. The existing building will be repurposed, with options currently under review. The project is 40 per cent complete and is on time and on budget.

To find out more or to donate online, visit www.mvldonate.ca.

-30-

Media inquiries:

Cathy McHugh, McHugh-COMM Marketing and Public Relations
613-341-1116 or cathymchugh@cogeco.ca

Fundraising inquires:

Lesley Todd, Fundraising Coordinator
613-340-6038 or Lesley.Todd@uclg.on.ca



25 Central Ave. W., Suite 100
Brockville, ON K6V 4N6
T 613-342-3840
800-770-2170
F 613-342-2101
www.leedsgrenville.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2024

Leaders Advocate for Leeds and Grenville Priorities at ROMA 2024

United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG) leaders joined participants from 300 municipalities at the 2024 Rural Ontario Municipal Association's (ROMA) Annual Conference in Toronto, ON, from January 21-23, 2024. As one of Ontario's largest municipal gatherings, ROMA provides municipal officials with a chance to participate in workshops, connect with key stakeholders, and build relationships across sectors, all while championing policies and advocating for funding in rural communities. The Chair of ROMA, is Counties Council member and Mayor of Westport, Robin Jones.

UCLG leaders met with Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Deepak Amand; Minister of Education, the Honourable Stephen Lecce; Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy, Stephane Sarrazin; Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care, John Jordan; and Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the Honourable Sylvia Jones.

During their delegations, UCLG leaders addressed local issues and initiatives including:

- Local labour shortages in early childhood education and long-term care;
- Taxpayer costs for Emergency Detour Routes and maintenance along the 1000 Islands Parkway;
- Improving local access to natural gas infrastructure;
- Expanding virtual access for seniors to local family doctors.

Warden Nancy Peckford thanked all members of Counties Council, and UCLG staff, who attended the conference, noting, "we had six delegations that were very well received and moved the dial on a couple of issues; we look forward to seeing what materializes in the next few months."

For more information, please contact Interim County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Geoff Clarke, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2456 or by email at Geoff.Clarke@uclg.on.ca



January 31, 2024

Media inquiries:

John Kalivas, Communications Coordinator
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Avenue W., Suite 100, Brockville, ON, K6V 4N6
613-802-1687 or John.Kalivas@uclg.on.ca

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT NO. PAC-001-2024

AGRICULTURAL AREA REVIEW – ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION SUMMARY

**CHERIE MILLS
MANAGER OF PLANNING SERVICES**

RECOMMENDATIONS

For information only.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no added budget implications with this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Under the Planning Act, adaptation to a changing climate is a provincial interest that the Counties shall have regard to in land use planning matters to which the Act applies. The 2020 Provincial Policy Statement and the Counties Official Plan both have land use planning policies encouraging the minimization of negative impacts of climate change and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate through land use and development patterns. This includes maintaining agricultural lands, which are a non-renewable resource, and encouraging opportunities to support local food, and promote the sustainability of agri-food and agri-product businesses by protecting agricultural resources, minimizing land use conflicts, and supporting on-farm diversified uses.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This report can be provided in alternative accessible formats on request. Under the Planning Act, accessibility is a provincial interest that the Counties shall have regard to for all facilities, services and matters to which the Act applies.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

This report has been posted on-line as part of the Council agenda. There is a dedicated study webpage on the Counties' website that is kept up-to-date and there has been a continuing comprehensive consultation program for the Agricultural Area Review study. Any resulting OPA from the study will be advertised according to/exceeding the regulations of the Planning Act.

BACKGROUND

As part of the approval of the Counties Official Plan (COP), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) added a policy to require a Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) or equivalent study to assist in identifying and designating prime agricultural areas in the Counties prior to the next review of the COP, expected in 2026.

In 2022, the Agricultural Area Review (AAR), was initiated using a LEAR methodology, to identify, preserve and protect the best agricultural lands across the Counties for future generations. The expected product will be an Official Plan Amendment including a map of the recommended agricultural system and implementing policies. The Agricultural Area Review has been undertaken using a three-stage process. Stage 1 was the Project Introduction and Stage 2 was the Technical Analysis. Currently the study is nearing the end of Stage 3 - Recommended System whereby final refinements and additional feedback are being incorporated into the agricultural system map.

At a meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee on September 6, 2023, there was Committee support for added public consultation directly with property owners potentially affected by changed Counties Official Plan designations resulting from the updated agricultural system map. On September 21, 2023, Counties Council endorsed the approach staff presented for the additional public consultation. In early October, staff sent out information packages to potentially impacted property owners across the Counties and posted the same background information on the dedicated website page. There were several hundred residents who contacted staff and the consulting team. On February 6th and 7th, there are also local consultations being held in four municipal locations across the Counties. This report will provide the Committee with background, summary information on the individual consultations and next steps in the study.

DISCUSSION/ALTERNATIVES

In September 2023, in a recommendation from the Planning Advisory Committee and direction from Counties Council, staff were requested to undertake additional public consultation directly with impacted landowners. This consultation was in addition to the two rounds of advertised public consultation (an open house and an information session), two meetings with representatives of each Ontario Federation of Agriculture branch (Leeds and Grenville), meetings of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), individual resident requested on-site visits from the consultants, Counties website updates, stakeholder list updates, and five presentations/reports to PAC/Council regarding the study. Local area consultation meetings are also being held February 6th and 7th in four municipal locations.

The mail-out notified those owners of properties being considered for re-designation from Agricultural Area to Rural (about 340 properties) or from Rural to Agricultural Area (about 1,686 properties). Some of these property owners had already been involved in the study and its consultation prior to the mail-out.

The Committee may recall the properties to be included in the agricultural system were determined through the province's LEAR methodology which assessed lands across the County using a grid of 40-hectare (100 acre) blocks. The evaluation criteria used included the soil quality (60%), lands in agricultural production (30%) and the amount of fragmentation (impacts by residential development) (10%). In order to be considered an "agricultural area" (as per the province's guideline for conducting LEAR studies) a contiguous area of 250 hectares (618 acres) must be achieved.

During Stage 1 of the study, the methodology was provided to PAC and stakeholders for discussion. The project team reviewed the input and determined that based on the topography, soil classifications and extensive natural heritage features throughout the Counties, the score of 60% best represented the appropriate foundation of the Counties agricultural areas using the systems approach. This threshold score also represented the previous agricultural work completed by area municipalities and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

As part of this round of consultation, there was a resolution received from the Township of Augusta Council (October 23, 2023) to consider changing the threshold score to 70% instead of 60%. This idea had been considered earlier in the process when the consulting team was investigating the appropriate threshold score and at that time, the

consultant was concerned that using a higher score such as 70% would exclude too much potentially valuable agricultural land by default.

The 60% threshold score was therefore used to create the foundation of the systems map that was then refined over many months. The refinement process allowed the consultant to consider and include local area, property specific information from residents with removals of lower scoring (marginal) land through this process. Upon resident request, lands located on the “fringe” of the proposed system that would not compromise the integrity of the large agricultural system, were removed from the agricultural area designation. The study methodology and additional refinement efforts have resulted in a thorough and appropriate agricultural area designation system recommendation. The consulting team advised the “fringe” lands of the system are more likely to score between 60 and 70%, whereas lands more central to an agricultural area often score greater than 70% and therefore, as a result of the extensive consultation, the representative average scoring of lands has in effect shifted closer to the 70% score. Going forward, the draft Official Plan Amendment (OPA) to implement the study has built in flexibility to accommodate any anomalies and permits the agricultural boundaries to be refined in a minor manner without a COP amendment, if supported by a qualified professional.

The study approach was reviewed with and accepted by both the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and OMAFRA, both of which are on the study’s TAG. At the last TAG meeting in early September, OMAFRA advised that they believe the current public consultation completed by the Counties to be one of the most comprehensive processes in the Province.

Mail-out

In early October, staff prepared and mailed out 2,026 information packages to the potentially impacted property owners. These landowners were located across the Counties in nine local municipalities. The Village of Westport, while having some farms within its boundaries, is an urban settlement area with no Agricultural Area designated land and therefore not included in the study review and the mail-out.

The information packages included a letter advising the landowners of their potential Counties Official Plan designation change, where they could find additional information, a staff phone number and email contact for questions, inquiries, assistance with mapping, and potential in-person meetings. The package also contained a map showing the original Official Plan Agricultural Area designation and the study recommended Agricultural Area designation, background information on the evaluation process

undertaken by the consulting team, frequently asked questions and next steps, including how to be notified of the future statutory public meeting, and options if the property owner is not in agreement with the mapping.

Other Public Notification

Staff posted the same background information on the dedicated Counties website page along with an interactive map of the recommended agricultural system that residents could use to search their property by address and review their LEAR evaluation scores. Paper copy maps were also provided at the Counties office and in each local municipality so municipal staff could assist any local landowners with reviewing the mapping, if they were unable to review it on-line.

How many residents contacted staff and the consulting team?

There were 276 landowners that contacted staff and the consulting team either by email, phone or in-person visits between the first week of October to the end of December 2023. Most landowners contacted staff as a result of the mail-out. Where appropriate and/or requested, staff forwarded any requests to the consulting team for their input.

In response to the mail-out, landowners generally asked questions and submitted additional information. The response rate from the landowners was almost 14% of those who received the mail-out. There were 1,750 landowners or 86% of landowners notified that did not contact staff. Generally, staff believe the mail-out and website information have created a good level of resident awareness of the study and answered many of their questions.

Those landowners who provided further information to the consulting team through the mail-out helped inform the on-going review and refinement of the system mapping, particularly along the “fringe”. This added local knowledge is beneficial to the study as it provides for a more locally defined system, while preserving the integrity of the recommended agricultural system mapping and the LEAR study methodology. Attached is a map of the revised recommended agricultural system. At the end of the consultation period, 264 property owners or 96% of the property owners who contacted staff appeared satisfied by the answers they had received to their questions.

Frequently Heard Issues/Questions

There were some general themes or frequent questions that staff and the consulting team received during the consultation period. A few of the most common are noted below. Some of the issues heard from resident’s are not of a land use planning nature

and may not be within staff's expertise to comment on fully. In some cases, other experts were consulted.

Will these changes impact my taxes?

No, landowners will not pay more in taxes because of changes from the Agricultural Area designation to the Rural Lands designation or vice versa. Property taxes are based on use and not the land use designation under the Counties' Official Plan. There is information about how property assessments are conducted on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation link – www.mpac.ca/en/PropertyTypes.

Can I still build a dwelling on my vacant lot of record?

Yes, a landowner's right to construct a dwelling will not be altered by the Agricultural Area Review (AAR) study.

Can I still build an accessory structure on my property?

Yes, landowners can construct accessory structures (e.g. shed) if they are permitted to do so under the existing zoning and can meet the zoning regulatory provisions (i.e. setbacks from property lines). Even if the zoning is changed to an agricultural zone, residential accessory structures will still be a permitted use.

Will this change impact my ability to get a mortgage (insurance)?

While not a land use planning issue, staff checked with various sources, including a legal expert in real estate/mortgages, and changing the land use designation on a property from rural to agricultural (or vice versa) does not have an impact on whether or not a lender should deem it adequate for whatever loan is under consideration. Most lenders will not lend on the security of vacant land, regardless of zoning. Typically, the value of the loan relates to the home and 2 to 3 acres surrounding the home.

It is also understood there may be a reluctance to insure agriculturally zoned lands due to fear the mortgagee may invoke the "Farm Debt Mediation Act" (FDMA). This Act exists to provide farmers with a period of time to demonstrate long-term viability of the farm to creditors. It requires that the farmer be farming for "commercial purposes" and can be on rural and agricultural designations.

Will this impact the market value of my property?

Inquirers were advised that it may impact the market value of their property (for sales purposes) if there is a resultant loss of land division rights.

Will this impact my ability to apply for severances?

For some properties (generally those changing from Rural Lands to Agricultural Area), severance policies will be more restrictive. For other properties (generally those lands changing from Agricultural Area to Rural Lands), more permissive severance rights will apply. The impact to a property's severability depends on a number of factors, including whether all or only part of the property is impacted by the designation changes, past severance activity on the property, compliance with Minimum Distance Separation formula, entrance permissions, other designations on/in proximity to the property, the ability to be considered limited locally appropriate rural development, and the ability to comply with all applicable severance and general policies. In discussing with some landowners, they may be choosing to pursue severances on their property in advance of the designation changes.

Generally, within the Agricultural Area designation, landowners can only sever a lot for a farm use (100 acres or 40 hectares minimum lot size) or for a surplus farm dwelling as a result of farm consolidation. This is a long-time provincial restriction in the Provincial Policy Statement intended to prevent agricultural lands from being lost to residential or other non-agricultural uses.

Local Area Consultation Meetings

As suggested by the Committee, Planning staff and the consulting team have offered local area consultation meetings in various locations across the Counties. These will occur on February 6th and 7th. Planning staff contacted each local municipality to gauge if they were interested in hosting a consultation session in their local municipality. The Township of Augusta, Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, Municipality of North Grenville and the Township of Rideau Lakes were interested. The local municipalities booked the locations and facilities for the meetings. These local municipal meetings are intended mainly for those persons who have not previously reached out and have not yet discussed their property with staff and the consulting team.

Ads for the meetings were put into the local area newspapers, on the Counties and local websites, through social media (twitter/X) and stakeholders on the email list have been advised. Comments received at the local area consultation meetings will be reviewed and considered in the finalization of the recommended agricultural system map that will form part of the draft OPA.

Next Steps

Following the local area consultation meetings, staff and the consulting team will finalize the Agricultural Area Review report, the recommended agricultural systems map and the

implementing draft OPA. The draft OPA attached to this report will incorporate the study mapping as the "Agricultural Area" designation on Schedule A – Community Structure and Land Use in the Counties Official Plan and update some of the policies. The draft OPA will undergo consultation with the local municipalities and the TAG, followed by a technical circulation to agencies.

Due to statutory timelines and technical reviews, staff are anticipating that the Statutory Public Meeting for the draft OPA will be held in April and hosted by the Planning Advisory Committee. In accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act, a notice of the statutory public meeting for the Counties draft OPA will be advertised as set out in the Planning Act and both the notice and draft OPA will be made widely available.

ATTACHMENTS

Recommended Agricultural System Map
Draft Official Plan Amendment

CHERIE MILLS
MANAGER, PLANNING SERVICES

JANUARY 19, 2024
DATE

RICK KESTER
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS

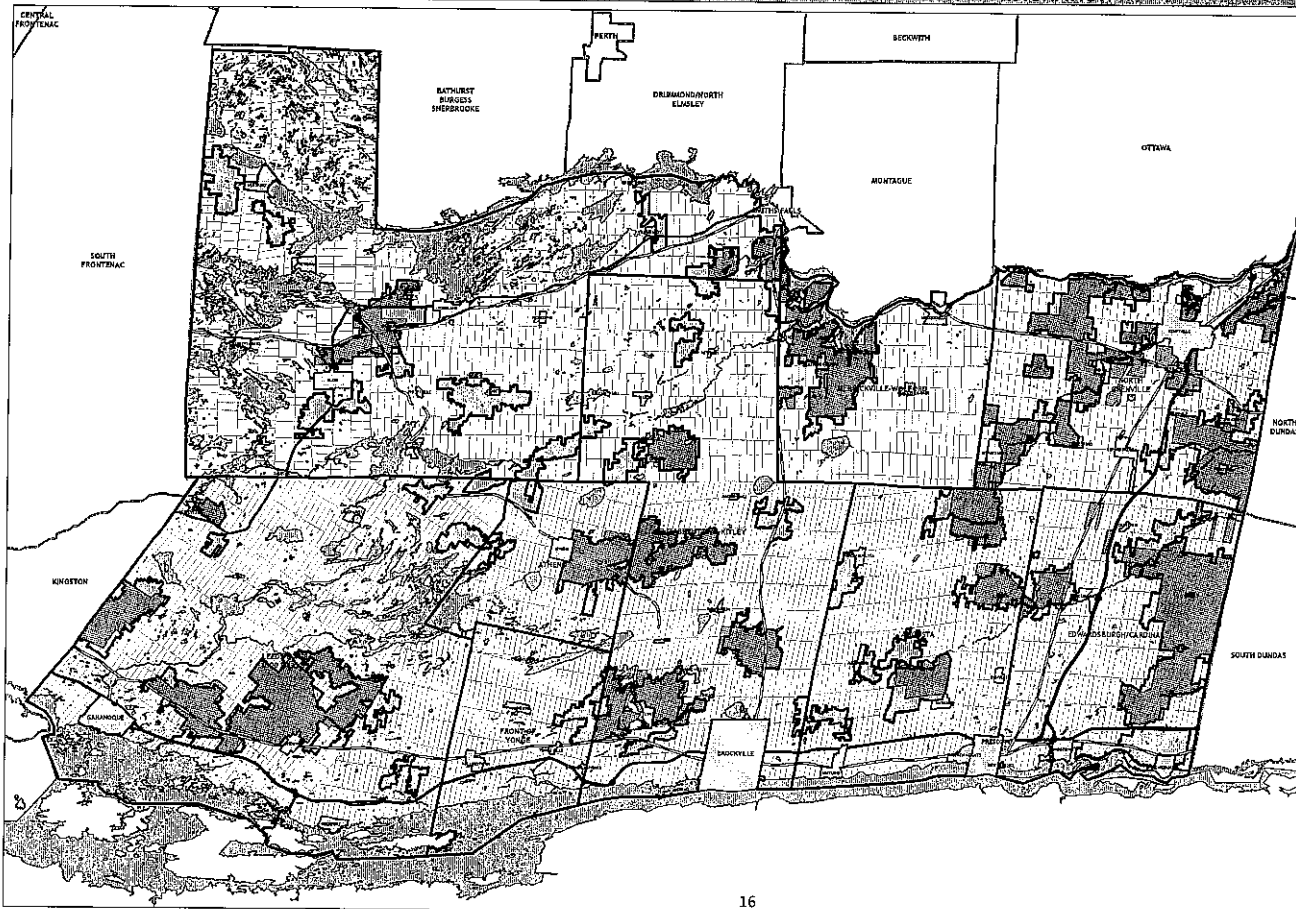
JANUARY 22, 2024
DATE

RAYMOND CALLERY
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

JANUARY 30, 2024
DATE

DRAFT

UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS & GRENVILLE
PRIME RECOMMENDATION & EXISTING PRIME AGRICULTURAL DESIGNATION



Leeds Grenville

RECOMMENDATION
 Prime Agriculture

OFFICIAL PLAN DESIGNATION
 Prime Agricultural Lands (Current Official Plan)
 Active/Abandoned Railway

The information displayed on this map has been compiled from various sources. While every effort has been made to accurately depict the information, this map should not be relied on as being a precise indicator of location.

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SRG
 SURVEYING GROUP

PLANSCAPE
 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
 January 2024

Schedule "A"

**OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 5
TO THE OFFICIAL PLAN
FOR THE UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE**

DRAFT
(Agricultural Area Review)

February 7, 2024

File D09-COPA-LG-2024-01

Amendment No. 5
To the Official Plan for the
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
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IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

INTRODUCTION

The following Amendment to the Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville consists of two parts.

PART A – THE PREAMBLE consists of the purpose and effect, location and basis for the Amendment and does not constitute part of the actual Amendment.

PART B – THE AMENDMENT sets out the actual Amendment along with the specific schedule and policy changes to be made to the Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

DRAFT

PART A – THE PREAMBLE

TITLE

The title of the Amendment is “Official Plan Amendment No. 5 to the Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville”, herein referred to as Amendment No. 5.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

This is a Counties initiated Amendment to the Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The main purpose of this Amendment is to update policies in Section 3.2 Agricultural Areas of the Official Plan and to amend Schedule “A”, Community Structure and Land Use to update the existing “Agricultural Area” land use designation in the schedule to reflect the updated agricultural system as developed through a Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) study as required by the Province.

LOCATION

Official Plan Amendment No. 5 studied all lands in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. It applies to various lands throughout the Counties being redesignated to, from or being maintained as Agricultural Area. Policies will apply to all lands designated Agricultural Area by this amendment.

BASIS

Official Plan Amendment No. 5 has two components. The first component involves the inclusion of additional and amendment to existing agricultural policies in Section 3.2 of the Official Plan to recognize the agricultural systems approach to updating and protecting the agricultural resources in the Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The second component involves a revision to Schedule “A” to replace the “Agricultural Area” mapping layer to reflect the updated agricultural system. Below is a rationale for these proposed changes.

Land Evaluation and Area Review Study

In 2015, the Counties of Leeds and Grenville adopted its first Official Plan, approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) in 2016. Due to a compressed timeline for the Official Plan preparation, it was not possible to review the status of the lands included in the Agricultural Area designation. As a result, the Agricultural Area designation consists primarily of the agricultural areas as identified in the local municipal Official Plans that were in place in 2015. At that time, it was known/suspected that the agricultural land mapping was not comprehensive

and that some agricultural areas were missing. Many of these local official plans and their mapping were developed under previous provincial policies and using varying definitions of prime agricultural lands. MMAH recognized this issue by modifying the Counties Official Plan to add policy 3.2.3 (a), which states: "The Counties, in consultation with the local municipalities and the Province, will undertake a comprehensive Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) or equivalent study to assist in identifying and designating prime agricultural areas in the Counties prior to the next review of this Plan under Section 26 of the Planning Act."

On July 29, 2022, the Counties of Leeds and Grenville released a Request for Proposals for the preparation of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Agricultural Area Review, based on a modified Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) approach.

A modified LEAR methodology, suitable and tailored to the Counties identified candidate Agricultural Area lands following a comprehensive review and evaluation of all lands currently designated Agricultural Area and Rural Lands. A final agricultural system was developed to address this provincial requirement.

For the purposes of this study, the 2018 Agricultural System Mapping Method Technical Document from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) was used as a baseline methodology and adjusted to the specific needs of the Counties, as appropriate.

Extensive consultation with Counties staff, OMAFRA and MMAH staff, local municipal staff and their Councils, the Planning Advisory Committee and Counties Council, the Technical Advisory Group (formed for this project) and specific outreach to the agricultural community through meetings with the Leeds Federation of Agriculture and the Grenville Federation of Agriculture have further informed the final LEAR mapping product. Public notification occurred throughout the process.

Additionally, all landowners impacted by a recommended change in their land use designation because of the recommended agricultural system were informed by individual letters and a project website was maintained to provide consistent access to project documentation. There were 2026 letters mailed to residents. There were 276 residents who followed up the letter by contacting Planning Department staff. Where appropriate, the consulting team provided follow-up correspondence to residents. Staff attempted to reach out to each resident that contacted the project team by email, survey response, letter or phone call to respond to each inquiry.

The final agricultural system is a system of connected lands that form agricultural areas based on the LEAR methodology of scoring lands based on their calculable agricultural potential (mainly based on soil classification), then refined to: include lands over the selected scoring threshold; add lands where connected upon land-owner request; adjust boundaries to identifiable landmarks (road, parcel fabric, natural heritage feature); and reflect local agricultural knowledge. The resultant agricultural system forms the revised "Agricultural Area" land use designation on Schedule "A" of the Official Plan.

Proposed Policy Changes

The revised Agricultural Areas designation represents a net addition of [redacted] ha of land that are now subject to the Agricultural Area designation in the Official Plan. The main impact to residents who had lands added to the Agricultural Area designation is that agricultural policies restrict the ability to subdivide (including severance) their property in the future except for surplus dwellings or farm lots. Agricultural policies are meant to protect the agricultural land base from fragmentation, and agricultural policies limit conflicting land uses in the Agricultural Area designation. Existing uses, additional residential units, residential development on vacant lots, agricultural uses and agriculture-related uses remain permitted under the Counties Official Plan, subject to local Official Plan policies and zoning provisions.

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is issued under the authority of section 3 of the Planning Act and came into effect on May 1, 2020. Section 3 of the Planning Act requires that decisions affecting planning matters "shall be consistent with" policy statements issued under the Act.

The PPS provides policies regarding agriculture. The Official Plan policy amendments are consistent with these applicable statements.

2.3 Agriculture

2.3.1 *Prime agricultural areas* shall be protected for long-term use for agriculture.

Prime agricultural areas are areas where *prime agricultural lands* predominate. *Specialty crop areas* shall be given the highest priority for protection, followed by Canada Land Inventory Class 1, 2, and 3 lands, and any associated Class 4 through 7 lands within the *prime agricultural area*, in this order of priority.

2.3.2 Planning authorities shall designate *prime agricultural areas* and *specialty crop areas* in accordance with guidelines developed by the Province, as amended from time to time.

Planning authorities are encouraged to use an agricultural system approach to maintain and enhance the geographic continuity of the agricultural land base and the functional and economic connections to the agri-food network.

2.3.3 Permitted Uses

2.3.3.1 In *prime agricultural areas*, permitted uses and activities are: *agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses.*

Proposed *agriculture-related uses* and *on-farm diversified uses* shall be compatible with, and shall not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations. Criteria for these uses may be based on guidelines developed by the Province or

municipal approaches, as set out in municipal planning documents, which achieve the same objectives.

2.3.3.2 In *prime agricultural areas*, all types, sizes and intensities of *agricultural uses* and *normal farm practices* shall be promoted and protected in accordance with provincial standards.

2.3.3.3 New land uses in *prime agricultural areas*, including the creation of lots and new or expanding livestock facilities, shall comply with the *minimum distance separation formulae*.

2.3.4 Lot Creation and Lot Adjustments

2.3.4.1 Lot creation in *prime agricultural areas* is discouraged and may only be permitted for:

- a) *agricultural uses*, provided that the lots are of a size appropriate for the type of agricultural use(s) common in the area and are sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operations;
- b) *agriculture-related uses*, provided that any new lot will be limited to a minimum size needed to accommodate the use and appropriate sewage and water services;
- c) *a residence surplus to a farming operation* as a result of farm consolidation, provided that:
 1. the new lot will be limited to a minimum size needed to accommodate the use and appropriate *sewage and water services*; and
 2. the planning authority ensures that new residential dwellings are prohibited on any remnant parcel of farmland created by the severance. The approach used to ensure that no new residential dwellings are permitted on the remnant parcel may be recommended by the Province, or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objective; and
- d) *infrastructure*, where the facility or corridor cannot be accommodated through the use of easements or rights-of-way.

2.3.4.2 Lot adjustments in *prime agricultural areas* may be permitted for *legal or technical reasons*.

2.3.4.3 The creation of new residential lots in *prime agricultural areas* shall not be permitted, except in accordance with policy 2.3.4.1(c).

2.3.5 Removal of Land from Prime Agricultural Areas

2.3.5.1 Planning authorities may only exclude land from *prime agricultural areas* for expansions of or identification of *settlement areas* in accordance with policy 1.1.3.8.

2.3.6 Non-Agricultural Uses in Prime Agricultural Areas

2.3.6.1 Planning authorities may only permit non-agricultural uses in *prime agricultural areas* for:

- 1) extraction of *minerals, petroleum resources and mineral aggregate resources*;
or
- 2) limited non-residential uses, provided that all of the following are demonstrated:
 1. the land does not comprise a *specialty crop area*;
 2. the proposed use complies with the *minimum distance separation formulae*;
 3. there is an identified need within the planning horizon provided for in policy 1.1.2 for additional land to accommodate the proposed use; and
 4. alternative locations have been evaluated; and
 - i. there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid *prime agricultural areas*; and
 - ii. there are no reasonable alternative locations in *prime agricultural areas* with lower priority agricultural lands.

2.3.6.2 Impacts from any new or expanding non-agricultural uses on surrounding agricultural operations and lands are to be mitigated to the extent feasible.

PART B – THE AMENDMENT

INTRODUCTION

Part B – The Amendment, outlines the changes that constitute Amendment No. 5 to the Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

DETAILS OF THE AMENDMENT

The Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville is hereby amended as follows (modifications noted in red and with ~~strikethrough~~ text):

- 1) That Schedule "A", Community Structure and Land Use, to the Official Plan is hereby amended by replacing the existing "Agricultural Area" adopted in July 2015 and replacing it with the "Agricultural Area" mapping layer adopted by Council attached hereto as Schedule A to this amendment.
- 2) That Section 3.2 of the Official Plan is hereby modified as follows:

3.2 Agricultural Areas

Lands within the Agricultural Area designation consist primarily of *prime agricultural lands* as defined by a comprehensive County level Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) study and designated on **Schedule A**. The Agricultural Area is based on a systems approach to preserving the long-term viability and potential for agriculture by including Class 1, 2 and 3 lands primarily as well as supporting lands that may be considered more marginal in nature but provide an overall strengthening of an agricultural area where appropriate. The Agricultural Area designation represents the Counties *prime agricultural areas*. ~~are based on the agricultural areas established in the local municipal Official Plans, and are designated on **Schedule A**. Prime agricultural areas will be designated in local municipal Official Plans in accordance with Provincial guidelines. This Plan requires that these lands will be protected for agricultural uses unless appropriate justification is provided for alternative uses.~~

Lands designated as Agricultural Area are intended to preserve and strengthen the continued and long-term viability of the agricultural community. Lands designated Agricultural Area are to be protected from fragmentation and incompatible uses, while accommodating a diverse range of agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses.

- 3) That Section 3.2.1 e) of the Official Plan is hereby modified as follows:

- e) Promote a diverse, innovative and economically strong agricultural industry that includes *agri-tourism* and the *agri-food network* and associated activities, including local food production, by enhancing their capacity to contribute to the economy by accommodating a range of agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses.
- 4) That Section 3.2.2 of the Official Plan is hereby modified as follows by inserting a new subsection (c) as follows, and that the remaining policies are re-lettered accordingly:
- c) Additional Residential Units and Garden Suites shall be permitted in accordance with Section 2.7.4 of this Plan, local municipal Official Plans and local zoning by-laws. Additional Residential Units are to be located in proximity to the existing dwelling or the farm building cluster or on non-Prime Agricultural Lands. As per Section 3.2.5 of this Plan, Additional Residential Units and Garden Suites in the Agricultural Area would not be eligible for severance.
- 5) That Section 3.2.3 a) of the Official Plan is hereby modified as follows:
- a) Local municipalities will designate and protect the Agricultural Areas ~~prime agricultural areas~~ in local municipal Official Plans in accordance with **Schedule A**. ~~designate prime agricultural areas in their Official Plans, through procedures established by the Province. Prime agricultural areas are designated as Agricultural Area Any reduction in the Agricultural Area designation will require an amendment to this Plan and an amendment to the local municipal Official Plan. The Counties, in consultation with the local municipalities and the Province, will undertake a comprehensive Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) or equivalent study to assist in identifying and designating prime agricultural areas in the Counties prior to the next review of this Plan under Section 26 of the Planning Act.~~
- 6) That Section 3.2.3 f) of the Official Plan is hereby modified as follows and Section 3.2.3 of the Official Plan is hereby modified by inserting new subsections g) to h) as follows:
- f) Land may only be removed or excluded from the Agricultural Area ~~prime agricultural areas~~ for expansion of *settlement areas* in accordance with the policies of this Plan or at the time of an Official Plan update.
 - g) Notwithstanding Section 3.2.3 f) of this Official Plan, the boundaries of the Counties Agricultural Area designation may be refined (reduced) without amendment to this Plan in a minor manner subject to the following:
 - i. The lands are part of the boundary of the Agricultural Area; and
 - ii. A Qualified Person provides a professional opinion the removal is minor, in accordance with the refinement principles of the 2024 comprehensive LEAR

and will not compromise the integrity of the surrounding Agricultural Areas to the satisfaction of the Counties; and

- iii. An amendment to the local municipal Official Plan.
 - h) An Agricultural Impact Assessment may be required to evaluate the impact of any proposed new, or expanding, non-agricultural use on surrounding agricultural operations and lands. Impacts will be mitigated to the extent feasible.
- 7) That Section 3.2.5 of the Official Plan is hereby modified as follows to add subsections h) and i):
- h) The creation of a new lot on lands that have both the Rural Lands and the Agricultural Area designation will be permitted on the Rural Lands portion of the land subject to all applicable policies including the minimum distance separation formula being met and provided the Agricultural Area lands are not reduced in size.
 - i) Interpretation of the Agricultural Area designation boundaries shall recognize the intent to have the boundaries align with 2024 parcel fabric, roads and/or natural heritage features. Where the interpretation of the boundary on a parcel is unclear, the preference is to maintain as much Agricultural Area as possible.
- 8) That Section 7.8.2 of the Official Plan is hereby modified as follows and renumbering of all definitions as appropriate:

6. Agricultural condition: means

- a) in regard to *specialty crop areas*, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored, the same range and productivity of specialty crops common in the area can be achieved, and, where applicable, the microclimate on which the site and surrounding area may be dependent for specialty crop production will be maintained or restored; and
- b) in regard to *prime agricultural land* outside of specialty crop areas, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored. (Source: PPS 20142020)

7. Agricultural System: A system comprised of a group of inter-connected elements that collectively create a viable, thriving agricultural sector. It has two components:

- a) an agricultural land base comprised of prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, and rural lands that together create a continuous productive land base for agriculture; and
- b) an agri-food network which includes infrastructure, services, and assets important to the viability of the agri-food sector.

~~7.~~ **8. Agricultural uses:** means the growing of crops, including nursery, biomass, and horticultural crops; raising of livestock; raising of other animals for food, fur or fibre, including poultry and fish; aquaculture; apiaries; agri-forestry; maple syrup production; and associated on-farm buildings and structures, including, but not limited to livestock facilities, manure storages, value-retaining facilities, and accommodation for full-time farm labour when the size and nature of the operation requires additional employment. (Source: PPS 2014 2020)

9. Agri-food network: Within the agricultural system, a network that includes elements important to the viability of the agri-food sector such as regional infrastructure and transportation networks; on-farm buildings and infrastructure; agricultural services, farm markets, distributors, and primary processing; and vibrant, agriculture-supportive communities.

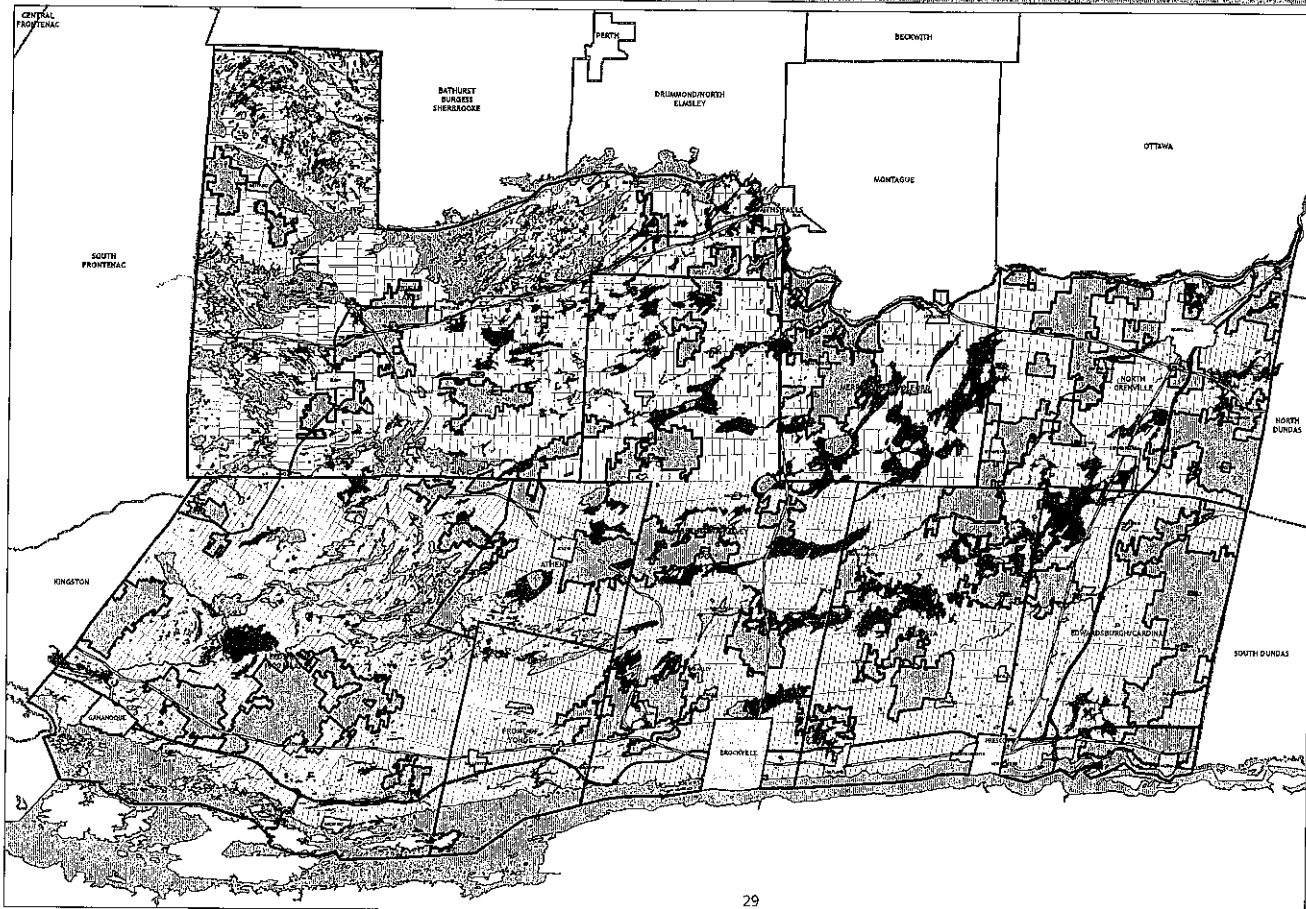
~~8.~~**10. Agri-tourism uses:** means those farm-related tourism uses, including limited accommodation such as a bed and breakfast, that promote the enjoyment, education or activities related to the farm operation. (Source: PPS 2014 2020)

~~9.~~ **11. Agriculture-related uses:** means those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are directly related to farm operations in the area, support agriculture, benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations, and provide direct products and/or services to farm operations as a primary activity. (Source: PPS 2014 2020)

~~79.~~ **81. On-farm diversified uses:** means uses that are secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property, and are limited in area. On-farm diversified uses include, but are not limited to, home occupations, home industries, agri-tourism uses, and uses that produce value-added agricultural products. Ground-mounted solar facilities are permitted in prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, only as on-farm diversified uses. (Source: PPS 2020)

~~88.~~ **90. Prime agricultural land:** means specialty crop areas and/or Canada Land Inventory Class 1, 2, and 3 lands, as amended from time to time, in this order of priority for protection. (Source: PPS, 20142020).

SCHEDULE A to OPA 5

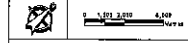


- RECOMMENDATION**
- Prime Agriculture
- NATURAL FEATURES**
- Provincially Significant Wetlands
 - Active/Abandoned Railway

DRAFT

The information displayed on this map has been compiled from various sources. While every effort has been made to accurately depict the information, this map should not be relied on as being a precise indicator of location.

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PLANSCAPE
 Municipal Community Transition Planning
 January 2024

12.e

Ontario
Provincial
Police

Police
provinciale
de l'Ontario



Municipal Policing Bureau
Bureau des services policiers des municipalités

777 Memorial Ave.
Orillia ON L3V 7V3

777, avenue Memorial
Orillia ON L3V 7V3

Tel: 705 329-6140
Fax: 705 330-4191

Tél. : 705 329-6140
Télééc.: 705 330-4191

File Reference: 612-20

January 30, 2024

Dear Mayor/Reeve/CAO/Treasurer,

April 1, 2024, has been proclaimed as the official date on which the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)* will come into force. At that time, it will repeal and replace the current *Police Services Act, 1990 (PSA)*. The provision of OPP municipal policing services is preserved under the CSPA, however, no municipality will remain in a contract or municipal group contract arrangement under PSA s. 10.

We wish to confirm that the OPP 2024 Annual Billing Statements remain in effect after April 1, 2024, and municipalities will continue to be billed in accordance with costs in the statements.

Under the CSPA, all municipalities policed by the OPP will be subject to Regulation 413/23 *Amount Payable by Municipalities for Policing from Ontario Provincial Police*. This regulation preserves the cost-recovery methodologies currently in effect. The OPP Billing Model cost allocation method remains the same under Reg. 413/23. There are transitional provisions included in the Regulation that stipulate that 2024 annual billing statements will not need to be reissued.

Should you have any further questions about your annual billing statements or any other billing inquiries, please reach out to the OPP Municipal Policing Bureau Financial Services Unit at OPP.MPB.Financial.Services.Unit@opp.ca

Sincerely,

Phil Whitton
Superintendent
Municipal Policing Bureau Commander

c: Detachment Commander

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