



Cemetery Services



Purpose of Presentation

- **Key facts about cemetery services**
- **Funding challenges**
- **New legislation**
- **Committee approval regarding**
 - **Credit for families**
 - **Legal agreements with 3rd parties**
 - **Cemetery bench program**

Key Facts

- **Mandatory municipal service**
- **Active cemeteries produce revenue**
- **9 cemeteries are active, 16 are full**
- **One cemetery is privately owned (Parklawn)**
- **950 burials per year**
- **70 % cremation vs 55% 15 years ago**
- **\$7 million care and maintenance fund**
- **No tax levy support for current operations
(rare in Ontario)**

Beautification Program

- Introduction of flower beds at most cemeteries
- Memorial tree program
- Memorial bench program
- Monument restoration program
- Grounds beautification



Additional Cemetery Services

- Perform winter burials at all cemeteries
- 6 day a week service including holidays
- Full service mausoleum
- Interior niches (Civic)
- Exterior niches



Funding Challenges

- Revenue supports current operational requirement
However, does not support all capital needs
- Shortfall of approximately \$ 300,000 per year to support capital needs



Reasons For Funding Pressures

- 16 cemeteries full (no revenue)
- 100 acres of grass to cut
- 4 miles of fencing and road
- 35,000 monuments
- Expansion needs (Waters, St.Johns...)
- Equipment replacement
- Mausoleum revenue not sustainable (\$300,000)

Funding Options for Capital Deficit

- **Increase fees for existing services**
- **Tax levy support to fund the 16 full cemeteries.**
Surpluses from 9 active cemeteries will fund capital needs
- **New Services**

New Regulation

- In 2012 the Cemeteries Act was revised
- The new act is called The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act (FBCSA)
- CGS cemetery by-laws are currently being amended to reflect the changes in legislation

New Regulation Key Highlights

- **Requires Council to enter into an agreement with third parties (i.e funeral homes) to collect funds on the City's behalf**
- **Permits co-ownership and co-location of cemeteries and funeral establishments**
 - **funeral home can now own a cemetery and a crematorium**
- **Allow for free-standing crematoria**
 - **Crematorium can now be located off of cemetery lands**
- **Allow for a funeral establishment (funeral home or visitation center) on cemetery lands**

Providing Credit for Families

- **Currently families pay up front for all cemetery services**
- **Often families need time to collect CPP death benefit or life insurance**
- **Staff is recommending that families be allowed payment terms of 60 days**
- **Consistent with local funeral homes, other cemeteries**

Memorial Bench Program

- Current bench ownership is allowed however the number of aging benches has become problematic
- Recognize the importance of benches to families at need
- Recommend continuance of program but 10 year lease rather than ownership
- Controls safety and maintenance of benches over the long term
- Existing benches grandfathered in

THANK YOU

