



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Dave Charron, Manager of Infrastructure & Development
Date: 2025-08-14
Subject: Rodney Cemetery

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Dave Charron, Manager of Infrastructure and Development; And

That West Elgin Council accepts responsibility and ownership of the Rodney cemetery;

That West Elgin Council directs staff to research municipal cemetery operations and return with a fulsome report on how to best proceed with the future operations and management of the Rodney cemetery.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to review the request of the Municipality of West Elgin to accept the ownership and operations of the Rodney Cemetery from the Rodney Cemetery Company.

Background:

The Rodney Cemetery Company (RCC) approached the municipality with a request to accept the ownership and management of the Rodney Cemetery due to a lack of corporate structure; this leaves the plot holders, the trustees, and the cemetery itself vulnerable.

Due to its vulnerability the RCC has recently decided to abandon the cemetery and has approached the Municipality of West Elgin to accept the ownership and operations of the cemetery. A municipality may voluntarily accept the transfer of responsibility for a Cemetery, together with a transfer of the land on which the Cemetery is situated. Alternatively, the municipality/Crown, the Registrar or the owner/operator of the Cemetery may apply to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for an order of abandonment, which results in the municipality being required to take ownership and care responsibilities for the Cemetery according to the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 and Ontario Regulation 30/11.

The Rodney Cemetery is currently operating in a good state with recently paved laneways, the completion of repair and restoration to old monuments, and an established reserve fund due to the

recent sale of adjacent lands. The RCC has informed the Municipality of West Elgin that the organization is financially healthy and has up-to-date by-laws and pricing lists.

If the municipality accepts transfer of responsibility for the RCC, the reserve funds may be directed to support the immediate needs of the cemetery, such as the digitization of current records and the establishment of electronic files; and the current plot sales support the immediate cost of contractors to prepare plots and maintain the cemetery grounds. Further assessment will need to be undertaken to determine future operational policies and practices.

It is recommended that Council accept the ownership of the Cemetery, and direct staff to proceed to work with the Rodney Cemetery Company to transfer files to an electronic format and establish operational policies and practices. It is further recommended that Council direct staff to research municipal cemetery operations and return with a fulsome report on how to best proceed with the management of the Rodney cemetery.

Financial Implications:

The Rodney Cemetery reserve fund will support the transfer and set up cost. The municipality will need to undertake further assessment of the long-term cost implications.

Policies/Legislation:

Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 and Ontario Regulation 30/11.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dave Charron
Manager, Infrastructure and Development

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Rodney Cemetery - 2025-16-Operations (Infrastructure Development).docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 11, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Robin Greenall