

February 26, 2021

Tara Baker, CPA, CA, Treasurer, GM Finance  
Finance  
City of Guelph

**RE: Request for 2021 Debenture funds:**

Dear Tara Baker,

The Guelph Cemetery Commission met February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for a regular GCC meeting by ZOOM. At that time, a motion was made to proceed with a request to the City of Guelph to consider issuing a \$2M debenture on behalf of the GCC.

Woodlawn Memorial Park requires 1.2 million for a needed Cemetery expansion onto property purchased during the 1930's, bordered by Woodlawn Road, Nicklin Road, Guelph Junction Rail Line and Bailey Park. This expansion will be for additional Interment Rights inventory and will include expanding Woodlawn's natural burial area (green burials), expanding and adding new religious areas. It will include the first phase of a planned cemetery road and trail system. \$500,000 of the requested funds are for upgrades to the WMP original Cemetery Stable (1886 est.) to increase Woodlawn's existing office space. By leaving the historic building stand and completing a total renovation with environmental updates, it will be keeping in line with the GCC's concerns for the environment. The final \$300,000 will be for additional Columbarium Walls and Garden Graves in our cremation gardens increasing inventory and expanding cremation interment options for the Community of Guelph.

Woodlawn Memorial Park has had a long history in the City of Guelph that can be traced back to 1828 and to Guelph's first Cemetery which was located where the present-day Baker Street parking lot is (a location chosen by John Galt) and another location where the original St. George's Church was erected in the centre of Guelph, which is now St. George's Square. We were required to move from these locations to our present location in 1854 by a Guelph By-Law passed in 1853. At the time we purchased 40 acres, the largest track of land set aside for cemetery use in Wellington County. Through land purchases we have grown to approximately 80 acres in size and have been entrusted with over 36,000 interments during the past 167 years. We are a more than just a community cemetery. We are a place where people come to reflect and heal from loss. The requested funds will help the GCC continue the long tradition and proud historic reputation of a place of honour which is once again inside the borders of Guelph.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Ralph  
Chair of Guelph Cemetery Commission



Paul Taylor  
General Manager / Treasurer