

Township of  
**Langley**



Est. 1873

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** OCTOBER 26, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING  
**FROM:** ENGINEERING DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** FORT LANGLEY CEMETERY - MAUSOLEUM

**REPORT:** 20-135  
**FILE:** 4100-01

### RECOMMENDATION:

**That** Council consider a request put forward for the design and construction of a family mausoleum at the Fort Langley Cemetery on a cost recovery basis, and should it decide to proceed, direct staff to bring forward the necessary bylaw amendments for Council's consideration, subject to approval from the provincial regulator, Consumer Protection BC.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Township has received a request to design and construct a family mausoleum at the Fort Langley Cemetery. Staff retained Lees & Associates who are consultants knowledgeable in cemetery development and operations, to complete a comprehensive review and identify key steps required to ensure successful implementation.

The requested mausoleum would be an above ground structure, typically constructed of concrete augmented with granite/marble facing and architectural features for the interment of casket and cremated remains solely for the use of the family.

The Township's Cemetery Bylaw 2016 No. 5236 currently does not provide for mausoleums as an interment option. Consumer Protection BC (CPBC) is responsible for the administration of the Provincial Cremation, Interment, and Funeral Services Act and associated regulations. Their approval is required to add interment options and locations within any Cemetery in British Columbia.

Should Council wish to endorse the request, next steps would include meeting with the family, identifying a preferred location at the cemetery, developing design and construction standards, conducting more specific consultation with the Heritage Advisory Committee, and preparing a draft agreement, which can be finalized after receiving approvals from the Regulator, CPBC.

Should Council wish to accommodate the request, the costs associated with design and construction would be borne by the family with no financial implications to the Township. This includes the ongoing care and maintenance required, the cost of which will be recovered by increasing the care fund contribution for the proposed mausoleum.

Upon receipt of Council direction, staff will prepare the associated bylaw amendments and bring forward for Council's consideration concurrently with the next steps identified above.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that a request has been received to have a family mausoleum constructed at the Fort Langley Cemetery.

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**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Cemeteries in the Township have been serving the community since 1881 when pioneers in Fort Langley first began using the cemetery there. In 1891, Mr. Murray buried his son at what is now the Murrayville Cemetery. Over the past 138 years, the system of burial grounds has grown to accommodate the Township and citizen's needs for places of interment, memorialization and commemoration. Langley Lawn Cemetery is now the most utilized cemetery in the Township. Murrayville and Fort Langley cemeteries are almost at capacity and while there is still some capacity at the Langley Lawn Cemetery, they do have a finite lifespan with limitations. The range of services at the three cemeteries are casket and cremated remains burials, interment of cremated remains in columbaria, and scattering gardens.

There are no mausoleums presently located on any of the Township's cemeteries and the current provisions of the Township of Langley Cemetery Bylaw 2016 No. 5236 do not provide for mausoleum as a right of interment option.

Staff had engaged the services of Lees & Associates, who are consultants knowledgeable with expertise in the field of cemetery development and operations, to complete a comprehensive review of all Township cemeteries and identify key steps required to ensure their continued and successful operation to meet the needs of the Township's current residents and future population. The findings of the consultant was the subject of a report and presentation to Council in May 2019.

The scope of the work was subsequently expanded to incorporate recommendations related to the mausoleum request; and to complete a high level feasibility review and provide guidance on required steps and procedural approvals necessary. The Lees & Associates report also recognized the historic context and unique characteristics of the Fort Langley cemetery as a registered historic site, and as such, did not recommend mausoleums.

The Township has received a request to construct a family mausoleum at the Fort Langley Cemetery. The family that approached the Township currently holds the right-of-interment for eight (8) unoccupied in-ground plots at the Fort Langley Cemetery; and has agreed to cover all associate costs, subject to Council approval.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

On May 13, 2019, after receiving a presentation and report on the Township cemetery operational expansion plans, Council authorized staff to bring forward the necessary budget and rate increases to support and implement the expansion plans. The expansion plans for the Fort Langley Cemetery can be modified to accommodate a family mausoleum; in return for which, the eight plots currently reserved for the family would return to the Township's inventory.

Based on the research and findings of Lees & Associates, the demand for Mausoleum are on the decline, likely due to cost, form and character, and the trend towards more cremations.

The Township's Cemetery Bylaw 2016 No. 5236 currently does not provide for mausoleums as an interment option. Consumer Protection BC is responsible for the administration of the Provincial Cremation, Interment, and Funeral Services Act and associated regulations. Their approval is required to add interment options and locations within cemeteries in British Columbia.

Next steps include meeting with the family, identifying a preferred location at the cemetery, developing design and construction standards, consulting with the Heritage Committee, and preparing a draft agreement, which can be finalized after receiving approvals from the regulator.

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Concurrently, staff will prepare the associated amendments to Cemetery Bylaw 2016 No. 5236 as well as Fees and Charges Bylaw 2007 No. 4616, as amended, for Council's consideration.

**Financial Implications:**

Staff recommended that, should Council decide to accommodate the request, the costs associated with the design and construction of the family mausoleum be borne by the family.

It is anticipated that subject to Council direction, the fees for the Right of Interment and for opening and closing of the mausoleum crypt shutters will be developed; and further that Township will own the mausoleum, including ongoing care and maintenance responsibilities.

When an individual purchases a right of interment in the Township, a care fund contribution of 25% is assessed on the total right of interment cost. The care fund is deposited into a statutory reserve fund administered by the Township. The provincial government established the care fund as a means to ensure that when cemeteries cease to operate, they are still maintained in perpetuity.

The additional costs for ongoing care and maintenance of the mausoleum will be recovered by increasing the care fund contribution for the Mausoleum structure and Mausoleum interments.

Respectfully submitted,

Tab Buckner  
MANAGER, PARKS OPERATIONS  
for  
ENGINEERING DIVISION

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

<b>CONCURRENCES</b>	
<b>Division / Department</b>	<b>Name</b>
COMMUNITY AND POLICY PLANNING	J. Chu
FINANCE	S. Ruff