



CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
From:	Robert Fyfe Hamilton Veterans Committee (to be signed by the Chair)
Date:	April 8, 2014
Re:	Woodland Cemetery – Section 18 – “Fields of Honour” – Eligibility Criteria (HVC14-002) (City Wide)

Recommendation:

- (a) That the Eligibility Criteria for the “Fields of Honour”, Woodland Cemetery – Section 18 be revised to include:
- Veterans and their Partners;
 - War Veterans who were members of Her (His) Majesty’s or Allied Armed Forces, on active service during periods of war subsequent to the Korean War;
 - Members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have served in all Peace-Keeping Conflicts and were honourably discharged; and,
 - Members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are honourably discharged.
- (b) That all other criteria and protocols for the “Fields of Honour” be updated to reflect current Hamilton Municipal Cemetery policies and procedures.

Background:

The Fields of Honour, Section 18 in Woodland Cemetery was established in the late 1970s when the original Field of Honour, Section 5A in Woodland Cemetery, was nearing capacity. The Hamilton Veterans’ Committee was responsible for determining the regulations by which a Veteran is permitted to be buried in this section.

The protocols established were approved by Committee and Council and have been adhered to since they were implemented. Recently, the Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries have been receiving requests to update the eligibility criteria to allow the burial of members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have served in Peace-Keeping

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conflicts and who were honourably discharged, as well as those who die while on active service in current or any future conflicts, in the Fields of Honour. Additionally, they have received requests from non-military spouses to be buried with their veteran partners.

Analysis/Rationale:

The Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries have received numerous requests, in recent years, from non-military spouses to be buried with their veteran partners. In order to accommodate the wishes of the community, the Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries reviewed their veteran grave inventory and found that in Section 18 in Woodland Cemetery, there are approximately 1000 available graves. On average, four (4) Veterans are buried in this section each year. Many Veterans are choosing other sections in order to be buried with their spouses.

A survey was conducted of cemeteries in Ontario with a designated Military/Veteran Section to get an understanding of how non-military personnel burials are accommodated. Information gleaned from the survey was used to develop the criteria for the proposed “Veterans and their Partners” area within Section 18, Fields of Honour, attached as Appendix A to Report HVC14-002.

Relevant Consultation:

Superintendent of Cemeteries, Parks and Cemeteries, Environmental Services, Public Works Department

APPENDICES:

Appendix A to Report HVC14-002 - CRITERIA FOR BURIAL IN THE FIELDS OF HONOUR – WOODLAND CEMETERY – SECTION 18

Appendix B to Report HVC14-002 – Application for War Veteran Burial in Fields of Honour