



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	December 5, 2016
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Pokémon GO Locations in Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries (City Wide) – (PW16108) ( <i>Outstanding Business List Item</i> )
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Andrea McDonald 905-546-2424, Extension 2738
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch, B.Sc. Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## **Council Direction:**

On September 8th, 2016, Public Works Committee (PWC) passed the following Motion:

“That Parks and Cemeteries staff be directed to contact Niantic Corporation (the developers of the Pokémon GO app.) and request immediate removal of Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries as Pokémon Go locations.”

This motion was subsequently approved by Council on September 14, 2016.

## **Information:**

Pokémon GO is a new, free, location based game that became available for play in the summer of 2016. This game developed by Niantic Corporation (Niantic), works with game users’ mobile devices and global positioning system (GPS) to allow users to experience Pokémon play in a real world experience. As such, game users travel through environments searching and finding various types of Pokémon, including Hamilton Cemeteries.

As the City of Hamilton seeks to maintain a respectful and peaceful environment at its 67 cemeteries, it is recognized that this type of game play is not appropriate or compatible.

In September of this year, staff submitted an online request to Niantic to have the gaming program Pokémon GO remove City of Hamilton Cemetery locations. As a result of this on-line request, a communications “ticket” number was automatically issued by Niantic. Subsequently on November 1, 2016, Niantic responded with a request for more information and senior management approval for the request.

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*OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

*OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.*

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Senior Management is actively communicating with Niantic to finalize the removal of Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries from the Pokémon GO game and Niantic representatives have shown a willingness to cooperate with our request.