

May 17, 2021

City of Hamilton
Planning Committee

Dear Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity on behalf of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and the Carluke Cemetery Board to present our views on the how the sale of School/Community Center property at 435 Carluke Rd. W will dramatically impact the Carluke Cemetery which is located directly on east side of the school property.

Since the donation of the school land by the Calder family in 1844, the cemetery has used 435 Carluke Rd. W as parking and pedestrian access to the cemetery. The map in front of you does not show that the driveway to the cemetery is located at the bottom of a hill with no area to pull fully off the road and is very dangerous in light of the amount and speed of traffic, including transport trucks.

90% of all parking for funerals is at the School/Community Center as the actual cemetery driveway can only accommodate 3 vehicles. Parking on the side of the road on the hill is extremely dangerous due to traffic and sightlines. There is a pedestrian access gate from the property at 435 Carluke Rd. W to the cemetery which makes easy access for all, including the elderly and those with disabilities.

Although the cemetery dates back to the 1800's, there are still 129 plots available for sale and there are 108 plots that are sold and awaiting burial to people within the community. If you take into account that cremation has become much more prevalent in society today, this could translate into several hundred additional burials as each plot can accommodate 3 cremations and one traditional burial. This is and will continue to be a viable and operating cemetery for many years to come.

In addition to funerals, families who come to the cemetery on a regular basis to tend the graves of their loved ones use the 435 Carluke Rd. W for parking and access to the Cemetery. Regular lawn care maintenance providers for the cemetery also use this property for parking.

The solution to the parking problem that the sale of 435 Carluke Rd. W. will cause, would be for the City to offer the Cemetery either a 65' severance off the East side of the school/Community Centre property or that the City purchase the equivalent on the east side of the cemetery to continue to provide safe access to the Cemetery.

We have discussed this issue fully with our city councillor, Lloyd Ferguson and have not been contacted by City staff to date to address the parking issue. We look forward to working with the Planning department and City staff to find a workable solution to this issue. If no solution can be found, we would have no alternative but to turn the day to day operation of this cemetery over to the City of Hamilton who would then assume the liability should anyone be injured or killed while having no other alternative than to park on this dangerous, hilly stretch of road while attending a funeral or visiting a loved one's grave.

As a community, volunteer board, we cannot assume the liability that eliminating our parking would cause. The School/Community Center has been used continuously for over 150 years for parking and safe pedestrian access to the Carluke East Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Cranston', written over a horizontal line.

Doug Cranston

Chair

St. Paul's Carluke Cemetery Board