
To: Mayor and Council

From: Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk

Date: June 4, 2024

Subject: Report #LS-022-2024 – Awake Canada - Municipal Cemetery Adoption Program (MCAP)

Recommendation:

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receive report LS-022-2024 (Awake Canada - Municipal Cemetery Adoption Program (MCAP) dated June 4, 2024; and,

- 1) That Council authorize staff to apply for the Municipal Cemetery Adoption Program through Awake Canada at the cost of \$8,800 plus H.S.T. to be funded from the Stayner Union Cemetery operating account.

Background

Earlier this year, the Township was contacted by the co-founders of Awake, a company that focuses on innovation and sustainability of cemetery lands. They are currently working with a Federal cleantech program to turn active and inactive cemeteries into sustainable revenue streams, with a fraction of the maintenance. They focus specifically on scattering gardens (designated spaces within a cemetery where families can scatter cremated ashes of their loved ones) and understand that ashes have an extremely high pH level and sodium content that is not compatible with the environment. Awake has created a patented organic soil amendment product to turn cremation ashes to living, organic earth.

Comments and Analysis

Since meeting earlier this year, Awake has recently reached back out with an update on their sustainable scattering garden project, known as the [Municipal Cemetery Adoption Program](#) (or, MCAP).

Their goal is to help cemeteries with minimal resources become truly sustainable, both financially and environmentally. With much higher revenue, and a positive footprint on the earth, all while giving communities a beautiful, affordable, and eco-friendly resting place.

The MCAP is an all-inclusive program to create 50 sq ft scattering grounds that is advertised to have the potential to generate over \$250,000 revenue in interments. Selected municipalities will receive support for full planning and launch of an industry-

leading scattering garden. Their team will lead project management, BAO approval process, materials delivery, soil health monitoring, staff training and provide marketing packages.

Requirements for the project are:

- Registered municipality with one or more cemeteries
- \$8800 + HST program fees (consulting and materials)
- 50 square feet available cemetery space

Spaces to the program are limited, and applications opened on May 28, 2024.

There is currently a portion of the Stayner Union Cemetery (Map attached as Appendix A) that is not suitable for casket or urn interments as the water table is high. This area would be an ideal location for this project, starting with a small section being dedicated as the scattering garden and expanding as required. What is unique about this concept is that it allows there to be an actual “garden” where plants and seedlings can survive in the soil and create a beautiful natural feature at the north end of the cemetery.

As Council is aware, cemeteries are becoming a financial burden on municipalities as the interest made on the Care and Maintenance Fund often falls short of true operational costs. This program could assist immensely and eventually be implemented at the other municipally owned cemeteries in the future if feasible. If approved by Council, staff will amend Cemetery By-law 24-01 to include rules and regulations of scattering gardens, as well as amend the Fees and Charges By-law to include fees for scattering interments.

Clearview’s Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Climate

Financial Implications

The funds for this project would come from the Stayner Union Cemetery operating account.

Report Appendices

Appendix “A” – Map of Stayner Union Cemetery

Approvals

Submitted by: Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk

Reviewed by: Sasha Helmky-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC,
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Approvals

Submitted by: Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk

**Financial Implications
Reviewed by:** Kelly McDonald, Director of Finance/Treasurer

Approved by: John Ferguson, CAO

Appendix A – Stayner Union Cemetery

