



**The Corporation of the
TOWNSHIP OF MATACHEWAN**

A MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE

SEPTEMBER 2011

BELOVED CONSTITUENTS OF MATACHEWAN,

FIRSTLY, THE MATACHEWAN CEMETERY IS SHOWING ITS AGE AND SO ARE SOME OF THE GRAVE MARKERS. OVER THE DECADES, MARKERS MADE OF WOOD HAVE SLOWLY DISINTEGRATED LEAVING MARKERS ILLEGIBLE, CRUMBLING AND AS A RESULT, MANY HAVE VANISHED. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PLOTS THAT NO LONGER HAVE MARKERS ALSO NO LONGER HAVE LIVING RELATIVES TO CARE FOR THEM.

SECONDLY, THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MATACHEWAN IS CONSIDERING PLACING A MORE PERMANENT AND WEATHER RESISTANT MARKER AT SITES IN NEED, THIS ONE TIME ONLY. THE NEW MARKERS PLANNED FOR THESE SITES MAY BE MARBLE AND FLAT WHICH WILL MAKE LAWN CARE AND CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP MUCH EASIER.

YOU ARE URGED TO CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE **IN WRITING WITHOUT DELAY** IF:

- YOU ARE AWARE OF A MARKER THAT IS MISSING OR IN NEED OF REPLACING WHERE THE DECEASED NO LONGER HAS LIVING RELATIVES
- YOU ARE AWARE OF A MARKER THAT IS MISSING OR IN NEED OF REPLACING WHERE THE DECEASED STILL HAS LIVING RELATIVES
- YOU ARE OPPOSED TO HAVING AN OLD OR MISSING MARKER IN YOUR CARE REPLACED OR PROVIDED

IN ADDITION TO DISAPPEARING MARKERS, I MUST ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY PLANTING. PLANTING TREES, BUSHES AND SHRUBBERY AT THE MATACHEWAN CEMETERY IS **PROHIBITED**. ROOTS ARE VERY INVASIVE AND CAN CAUSE ABUTTING PLOTS TO CAVE IN. PLANTING HAS PROVEN TO BE PROBLEMATIC DURING SUBSEQUENT INTERNMENTS TIME AND TIME AGAIN. ALSO, WHEN TREES MATURE, THEY AND THEIR BRANCHES CARRY WITH THEM THE RISK OF FALLING AND CAUSING DAMAGE TO MORE THAN ONE GRAVESITE SURROUNDING IT. THE MORE TREES THERE ARE THE MORE ASYMMETRIC THE CEMETERY APPEARS AND THE MORE DIFFICULT IT IS FOR PUBLIC WORKS TO MAINTAIN THE GROUNDS.

FURTHERMORE, WE ASK THAT EVERYONE MAKES A POINT OF CLEANING UP ANY DERELICT PLOTS IN YOUR CARE OR OF YOUR CONCERN. REMOVE, REPLACE OR REPAIR ANY AND ALL AGED TRIBUTES AT THE SITE OR THE MUNICIPALITY WILL TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO DECIDE FOR YOU WHICH ITEMS WILL BE REMOVED AND THEY WILL BE DISCARDED FOR YOU, SUCH AS;

- DYSFUNCTIONAL SOLAR LIGHTS
- DECOMPOSING PLUSH TOYS
- FADED SILK FLOWERS OR ARRANGEMENTS
- BROKEN OR DISFIGURED TRIBUTES AND MONUMENTS OF ANY KIND
- NEGLECTED GARDEN FENCING, ETC.

FINALLY, THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MATACHEWAN ALONG WITH OUR NEWLY FORMED CEMETERY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF HEATHER MARTIN, KIMBERLY GAUTHIER, GUY DUBÉ AND MYSELF ARE MAKING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. THE COMMITTEE WILL SOON BEGIN TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS; HOWEVER, "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK". IF YOU HAVE ALWAYS EXPRESSED STRONG OPINIONS AND IDEAS ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CEMETERY AND WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPGRADES OR BE A PART OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER TO JOIN THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS CAN EXPRESS THEIR INTEREST IN WRITING TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION,

BEVERLEY HINE