

From: Bill Russell <brussell@hay.net>
Date: April 5, 2018 at 11:37:54 AM EDT
To: <w.deluca@southhuron.ca>
Subject: historical fence

Hi there,

We e-mailed Bob Heywood as we knew at one time he was part of the Heritage committee & he suggested we contact you. Have you been out #83 West lately? Maybe you already know being on Council & representative on the Heritage Advisory Committee. Or maybe this issue isn't something this Heritage committee deals with but we believe is heritage related. Or is there a community cemetery advisory committee we could contact?

My husband Bill & I both are FUMIN'!!! Bill found out on Good Friday our cemetery fence is definitely HISTORY!! 800 feet of history gone! Apparently it came up on the train at the turn of the century, so is 100+ years old. It was taken to the scrap yard near Crediton, cut up for scrap. We saw it taken down and lying on the ground for a couple of days. We *assumed*, as many others we spoke with, it was going to be taken to be repaired, sandblasted, painted then put back up. Not!! A neighbour inquired about it, to buy it if it was for sale, when he saw it laying on the ground but they didn't call him back. He just couldn't see history destroyed so when it disappeared he ended up tracing it to the local scrapyard then buying it back from them! Sadly it was chopped up for easier handling.

According to him, it will NOT be replaced as too expensive...REALLY!! Apparently someone complained about the fence, whether it was an appearance or a safety issue. So 1 person has that much influence?? Yes, it was needing painting & some repair from vehicle damage & along the bottom. They say it will be sooooo much easier/quicker for grass cutting now....so a cost cutting reason? Now they'll spend more time getting off the lawnmowers to pick up all the garbage that now will be blown around all over the cemetery, instead of being caught in the fence. Or is it for uniformity with the cemetery expansion across the road? Are they going to leave the *ugly* chain link fence along Airport Line? That is what should've been complained about & removed.

Who will be responsible for repairs of the monuments when vehicles careen off the road hitting them knocking them over, esp. those older ones? That yearly increase they want for plots is

supposed to be used for ongoing maintenance... will they repair them if damaged? Up to insurance? Families responsibility? Just like the trees, now left unprotected from vehicle damage, that fence added character & uniqueness for which this cemetery is known. Now it looks so bare & open. Volunteers or community groups maybe could've rallied around to paint it, fundraise to save it? ...if folks were aware. Maybe pieces of it could've been sold to residents as part of history & raised more funds than scrap prices for a maintenance friendly replacement. Now what about the lovely stone pillars & gorgeous intricate gates that are left there for now? Are they going to used for decor around town...or be stolen for someone's backyard decor?

We're not the only ones upset over that decision. No, we're not South Huron residents now, but have paid to be residents of this cemetery, & live a 'stones throw' from the cemetery & boundary. We pass this cemetery & fence regularly as we are neighbours with our family farm been in this area longer than that fence. We visit regularly as we have parents, many family, friends residing there even one of the earliest monuments represent our family. So we've watched the maintenance decline over the years since the last full time caretaker, with its once beautiful now failing chapel/mausoleum, eventhough the cost to reside there increases yearly.

The South Huron staff responsible for cemetery has not been known to be receptive to suggestions or comments of any kind from the public in the past & appears to have no accountability. The community should've been informed before such a destructive decision made, or if it was it was not well publicized. Someone should take responsibility for it. We realize now we should've taken the time to inquire when the fence was laying awaiting pickup. If we were on Facebook, we would've then posted this all over. Sadly, we know it's too late to make a difference now that this history has been removed.

Extremely disappointed,

Linda & Bill Russell

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