Thames Road Elimville Community Park

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September 27, 2018

Municipality of South Huron 322 Main St. S., Box 759 Exeter, ON NOM 1S6

Dear Mayor Cole & Members of Council:

Re: Request for Community Partnership Agreement

The Thames Road Elimville Community Park Committee respectively request Council's consideration of the opportunity to develop a partnership agreement towards the beautification and maintenance of this popular community park.

Situated at 41391 Thames Road East (County Rd. 83) – six kilometres east of Exeter, this 5 acre park was gifted to the community's children in 1924 by Thomas and Margaret Cameron. It has been looked after by a wide variety of volunteers over the 94 years. This current committee has worked since 2011 to create a multi-use park so that it can continue offering a publically-accessible green space for the people of South Huron and beyond.

Over 1000 hours of volunteer effort has been put into this revitalization which includes trimming, pruning and clean-up, tree planting, participating in building the timber-frame pavilion on the site, installation of a playground relocated from a closed local school, erecting a split rail fence, maintaining gateway gardens as well as designing, painting and installing the 'Cameron's Legacy' barn quilt as part of the South Huron Barn Quilt Trail.

The park committee previously had a 30 plus year partnership agreement with the municipality, and would like to enter into a similar agreement again. This park provides an outdoor green space for local families and for community gatherings, special events as well as a play area for children and rest stop for people travelling on the busy Thames Road through South Huron.

Open to all local and regional residents, as well as visitors the Thames Road Elimville Community Park is a gem in the community. The committee has hosted the Communities in Bloom Judges barbecue for the past few years and has been recognized as a Garden of the Week by South Huron Communities in Bloom.

Our committee has applied for a South Huron Community Grant to support the beautification and maintenance of this open space for the community. The opportunity for a partnership was mentioned in that grant application, so we felt communicating with Council to discuss the potential for a renewed partnership was appropriate at this time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at $\underline{b.cooper@quadro.net}$. We appreciate the past support of Council and trust you will give this request all due consideration.

Sincerely,

Thames Road Elimville Community Park Committee

Beth Cooper, Chair; Robert Bray, Vice Chair; Judith Parker, Secretary Kathy Bray, Jack Hodgert, Kristy Bray, Jayne Rowcliffe, Brad Cann, Ryan Parker, Sydney Rowcliffe