

EXETER MASONIC LODGE

PRESENTATION TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON MONDAY JANUARY 7th 2019

The Exeter Masonic Lodge would like to thank the South Huron Council for this opportunity to present our concerns about the rumor that the provincial government is planning to close the O.P.P. station located here in Exeter. A rumor that seemingly holds some truth with the recent breaking of ground for the building of a new O.P.P. police station in Clinton

In the late 1970's the Exeter Masons recognized the need to have an active police presence in South Huron and made an offer to the Provincial government to erect a purpose built police station to provide a base of operations for a police detachment. The offer was accepted and the station was built.

It has served the town of Exeter and the municipality of South Huron well for the past 40 years. During that time the Municipality flourished. In recent years the population of the area has grown along with significant investment in housing and commercial enterprises. Indeed we have a vibrant economy that enables us to look forward to future growth and prosperity.

With a widely distributed population of 10,000 in South Huron now is not the time to be reducing the effectiveness of police services. Indeed to the contrary a case can be made for an increased police presence. Closing the O.P.P. station in Exeter will result in a reduction in law enforcement capability and extended response times to emergency situations.

The Masonic fraternity in South Huron is concerned that the disbanding of the Exeter O.P.P. detachment and closing their headquarters will be hugely detrimental to the safety and security of the citizens of South Huron.. We urge the Municipality of South Huron to do all within its power to persuade the Provincial Government to bring pressure to bear on the O.P.P. not allow them to disband their Exeter detachment and to retain the existing police station as their headquarters.

Members of the Exeter Masonic Lodge No 133.