



To The Mayor and Councillors-Municipality of South Huron:

Another controversy? No doubt...this time the focus is on the Exeter Cemetery. One has to pick their battles in life and when you are passionate about something, you do what needs to be done in order to be heard. Not everyone has to agree BUT everyone has a right to be heard.

By this time you will have read the letter from Bill and Linda Russell regarding the unexpected removal of the fence from around the Exeter Cemetery grounds the content of which raised some concerns. We, the members of the Exeter and District Heritage Foundation have these questions for you:

1. Who authorized the removal of the fence?
2. Why was it removed?
3. Was any consideration given to repairing it, getting more than one quote or replacing it with a similar design and quality?

It is our understanding that the fence was taken to Advance Auto Parts and subsequently sold to a gentleman from the Exeter area. Was the Municipality paid by Advance Auto Parts for the iron fence? If so, where did the proceeds from the sale go? Sadly the decision to remove the fence was made without any public consultation or input from the citizens of our Community.

The Exeter and District Heritage Foundation would like an opportunity to explore the feasibility of replacing the fence-which until recently surrounded the perimeter of the Exeter Cemetery-with either wrought iron or with a product that will be similar in design but cost effective and which would also eliminate the less than appealing plastic fencing now situated along Airport Line.

Wrought iron fencing has been used around cemeteries for centuries; it is not only a durable fence that can last for decades, if properly cared for, but it has a distinguished and reverent appearance-unlike chain link or plastic.

Over the past years, the Exeter Cemetery has been described as an absolute showpiece admired by many both in and outside the Exeter area. Let's maintain that reputation. With the loss of the fence, no doubt there will be an accumulation of garbage and other debris strewn about the cemetery which will certainly detract from its overall appearance.

The fight to save and restore the "Olde Town Hall" in the 1970s by the Exeter and District Heritage Foundation should be a strong indication of the commitment and determination of the organization and its supporters to ensure the preservation of our historic past. With the backing of the South Huron Council and the Community, the Foundation will hopefully be able to move forward with this new proposal.

The Foundation would appreciate a favourable reply to this letter following its review at your next Council meeting.

Thank you.

Valerie Gould on behalf of:

Exeter and District Heritage Foundation
July 27th, 2018