



September 30, 2019

To Whom it may concern,

This letter has been requested in response to the Municipality of South Huron's decision to cease operations of the Exeter Cemetery annually from late fall to early spring.

Haberers Inc has been in operation for over 60 years offering interment services which include: providing concrete burial vaults, graveside setup and the necessary safety equipment and machinery to do so. With the facilitation of approximately 2000 interments annually, our experience working in over 300 different cemeteries, 12 months of the year should place our input as a valued contribution to the matter.

Although the winter months in South-Western Ontario do occasionally present challenges to outdoor work, it is our experience that there is no impact on the routine of safely setting up a gravesite. Within our operations, the only safety issue that we are concerned with during the winter is extreme weather conditions which can impact travel. It would be our position that extreme weather conditions (snow squalls, extreme cold, heavy rainfall, flooding) would warrant the delay of an interment – applicable 12 months of the year. Usual and expected winter conditions should not impact the facilitation of an interment, nor the safety of the public who are attending services.

Regarding cemetery maintenance during winter months; the ground is frozen giving trucks and equipment a solid surface on which to operate. In these conditions, there is little to no impact on the grounds. Spring can present more challenges for the grounds as frost is leaving the surface combined with increased rainfall. These conditions present the most issues for ground maintenance. An increased number of burials in the spring, as a result of closing during the winter will cause a significant amount of disruption to the grounds.

I would strongly encourage the council to thoughtfully consider the impacts of closing the cemetery during winter months. Should you require further consultation on the matter I would be pleased to make myself available for discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Haberer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nick Haberer
Owner, General Manager
Haberers Inc.