

Officeofthemayor@brantford.ca

Re: Complaint with regards to Oakhill Cemetery in Brantford, Ontario.

December 9, 2020

Dear Mayor Davis

This complaint is in response to public information disseminated by the City of Brantford which is to build a highway through the centre of Oakhill Cemetery property.

My infant granddaughter was the first of our family to be buried there in the year 2000. In 2008, I purchased a plot and buried my husband who had passed unexpectedly. I am hoping to be buried in that same plot next to my husband. At that time my daughter, Sandra Holman, and her husband purchased the plot next to ours and erected a headstone for their future resting place. It was not disclosed to me or my daughter that the City of Brantford intended to erect a highway directly down the centre of the property.

At that time the documents and information provided to me specifically pointed out

- (a) that the front entrance to Oakhill Cemetery offers a view of the on-site pond.
- (b) that the Grand River borders the eastern side of the property, creating a natural, peaceful area for reflection and memories.
- (c) The brochure also stated "In all instances, development will emphasize and maintain the dignity and respect due in all burial areas."

My family and I believed that Oakhill Cemetery, as described to us would be the perfect final resting place. We had no cause to suspect that the City was going to violate this trust as well as the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002. S.O.2002, c.33 (the Act)*.

The City of Brantford, should it continue with its plan to build a 4-lane highway through the centre of the Oakhill Cemetery, will damage and destroy several trees planted in the cemetery, many of which were bought and dedicated as memorials to deceased family members. It is clear from section 103 in the *Act*, that the *Act* is intended to preserve the serenity and dignity of a cemetery and not allow for any unnecessary destruction, once the cemetery is established.

I look to you, as mayor of the City of Brantford, to protect the interests and integrity of all interment plot holders of Oakhill Cemetery, and apply conditions to maintain the property in the manner that was disclosed to the consumers, in its current state, without the disruption of a highway passing through the centre of the entire property.

The City of Brantford severely misled my family and myself in not disclosing its plans for this property and we are being forced to accept a final resting place for our loved ones that differs from what we were promised. We would not have chosen the Oakhill Cemetery had we known of a pending highway through the centre of it.

Dec 9, 2020