



FORENSIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

August 21, 2015

The Honourable David Oraziatti,
Minister of Government and Consumer Services
doraziatti.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Dear Sir:

Subject: Removal of septic tanks and pipes at the HRC cemetery

I understand that Premier Kathleen Wynne has asked you to address concerns about the sewage system that seems to have disturbed graves at the Huronia Regional Centre (HRC) cemetery in Orillia.

I am a certified Forensic Anthropologist and Professor Emeritus of the University of Toronto, I'm a supporter of the survivors of the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia and am concerned about the state of the cemetery that house up to 2000 individuals. As a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology and Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, I am highly trained in the analysis of skeletal, decomposed, mummified, burned, cremated, incomplete, fragmentary, dismembered, and commingled remains.

There has been a great deal of press of late in regard to the Huronia Regional Centre (Orillia, Ontario) and the three locations on the GPR survey map produced by the archaeological firm Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) that are simply labeled 'Utilities'. During my investigation of these three 'utilities locations' I was horrified to discover that these utilities are septic tanks equipped with an electric pump to pump the contents to a septic bed that had been installed during the early 1950's. Attached to the septic tanks are pipes buried approximately four feet in the ground, well within the depth of all the known burials in the cemetery.

I believe that at least 150 graves from the 1930's would have been disturbed when this pipe was installed - which raises questions about the fate of the remains.

My main concern now is to determine the state of the graves along the pipeline running through the cemetery and in and around the area of the tanks. In order to do this I request the support of your Ministry to allow me to decommission the septic system and pipes that lie across the graves to expose the area of concern. I would then conduct a discreet independent and professional

assessment of the state of the graves that were disturbed by the original installation of the above mentioned pipes.

I strongly believe that we all deserve basic human rights in life and in death, and if I can contribute my expertise to bring some peace to these victims as well as the survivors, then it's something I must do. I've been an advocate for over 30 years for those individuals who cannot speak for themselves.

The cemetery can then to be reconstructed to show respect for the individuals that are laid to rest there. If disturbed burials are discovered during the excavation we may never be able to positively identify these individuals, but we will at least be able to right this terrible wrong. They suffered horribly throughout their lives and now because of the condition of their resting place, continue to suffer throughout death.

I request that I be commissioned by your Ministry to correct this situation in the spring of 2016 and show the survivors that we do care about them and their HRC family by creating a graveyard that truly reflects respect and dignity.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Kindest Regards,



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