

Tete Jaune Community Cemetery Newsletter – November 2011



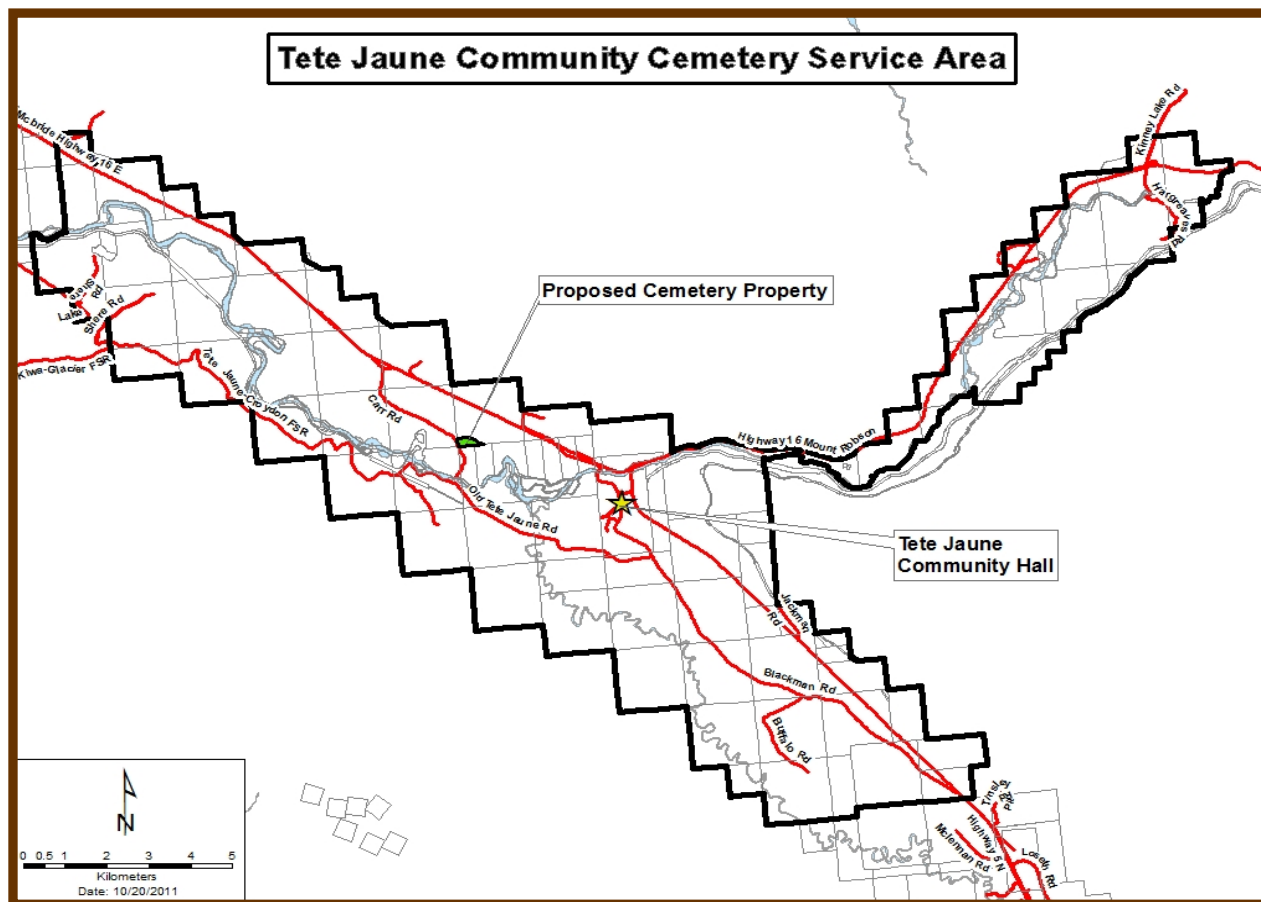
REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George

Community Services

In early October 2011, newsletters were mailed out to property owners in Tete Jaune and the surrounding area regarding a cemetery proposal in Tete Jaune. Community members from Tete Jaune had approached the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George requesting assistance in the development of a cemetery that would serve the Tete Jaune and surrounding area. A public information meeting was held at the Tete Jaune Community Hall on October 24, 2011, to discuss the proposal. At this meeting, presentations were made by the Tete Jaune Community Cemetery Steering Committee on why they felt a cemetery is needed and by the Regional District who discussed cemetery legislation and what kind of costs and processes would be involved in establishing a cemetery. The feedback from those that attended the meeting for the proposal was positive. It is important, however, that everyone in the proposed service area has an opportunity to express their opinions regarding this cemetery proposal. Attached is a survey for property owners to complete which will provide the Regional District Board with a more complete picture of what the community wants.

Background

As detailed in the October newsletter (see www.rdffg.bc.ca for a copy), the process to develop a cemetery on Crown land must include the establishment of a taxable service to ensure that there is long-term security in funding, not only for the capital costs of developing the cemetery, but for the annual maintenance costs as well. The Cemetery Steering Committee is proposing that the cemetery be located on a 3.6 acre portion of land located on Carr Road. The proposed taxable service area is as outlined on the map below.



The Proposal

The Regional District currently holds a Licence of Occupation on this property. In order to develop a cemetery, the property must be owned outright by the Regional District, whether by application to the Crown for a Sponsored Crown Grant (\$280) or by purchasing the property from the Crown (\$45,000). Although the Regional District has received Sponsored Crown Grants in the past, there is no guarantee of that in this circumstance. Therefore, when estimating the capital costs in developing the cemetery, the \$45,000 cost of purchasing the property (see Scenario No. 2 in the table below) must be accounted for.

When a taxable service is proposed, such as the Tete Jaune Community Cemetery, an establishment bylaw must be developed for consideration by the Regional District Board. The bylaw sets the maximum dollar (requisition) amount that can be recovered through taxation. Scenario No. 2 in the table below would be the maximum dollar amount proposed to be recovered through taxation for the establishment and maintenance of the proposed cemetery property. Scenario No. 1 is based on obtaining the cemetery property through a Sponsored Crown Grant.

	Scenario No. 1		Scenario No. 2	
	If property is received through Sponsored Crown Grant	After 10-Year Debt Repayment	Additional \$45,000 cost if property purchase is necessary	After 10-Year Debt Repayment
Capital Costs (10 Year Term)	\$33,079	\$0	\$78,582	\$0
Annual Operating Costs	\$9,157	\$4,210	\$15,791	\$4,210
Proposed Residential Taxation	\$0.0875/\$1000 value (i.e. \$8.75 per \$100,000 assessed property value)	\$0.0450/\$1000 value (i.e. \$4.50 per \$100,000 assessed property value)	\$0.1508/\$1000 value (i.e. \$15.08 per \$100,000 assessed property value)	\$0.0450/\$1000 value (i.e. \$4.50 per \$100,000 assessed property value)

The capital costs of building the cemetery will affect taxes for the first ten years (the borrowing term to pay for initial development costs). The second column in each scenario shows taxation after the end of the borrowing term based on annual operating costs only.

Pledges for donations of any kind that could possibly reduce the capital budget and annual taxation cannot be considered at the time the bylaw is established because they are not guaranteed. However, if this cemetery proposal is successful, when it is time to requisition taxes, only the amount necessary to operate the annual budget would be requisitioned. The annual requisition can be no more than the maximum amount as set in the establishment bylaw and if fundraising and receipt of donations occur, then the tax requisition could be reduced accordingly.

Your Input is Needed

Please help us gauge community interest by completing the short survey attached to this notice and refer to the bottom of the survey for options on how to submit the survey to the Regional District. COMPLETED SURVEYS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE REGIONAL DISTRICT BY DECEMBER 23, 2011.

The results of this survey will be one of the factors the Regional Board will take into consideration when deciding if this proposal should move forward to the stage where elector assent (e.g. referendum) would be sought for establishing a taxable service for a Tete Jaune cemetery. For more information, please call the Regional District office at 250-960-4400.

SURVEY

The Tete Jaune Community Cemetery proposal is now at the public consultation stage. The cemetery plan has been introduced to the affected property owners and feedback is requested. It is important to participate at the initial stages of this proposal as the results of the survey will be considered by the Regional Board in moving forward with this proposal (e.g. holding a referendum) and possibly result in the establishment of a community cemetery.

Please help us gauge community interest by answering the following:

1. Would you be in favour of paying up to \$15.08 per \$100,000 of assessed property value annually to support a community cemetery in Tete Jaune?

Value of Property	Annual Cost (with having to purchase Crown Land)
\$100,000	\$15.08
\$200,000	\$30.16
\$300,000	\$45.24

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No opinion

2. What are the reasons for your response to question 1?

3. Do you have any other comments?

The Steering Committee and the Regional District highly value your feedback and would like to thank you for completing this survey. PLEASE RETURN THE SURVEY TO THE REGIONAL DISTRICT BY DECEMBER 23, 2011 USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

1. fax to 250-562-8676
2. e-mail to district@rdffg.bc.ca
3. Canada Post mail, or
4. drop the survey off at 155 George St, Prince George BC V2L 1P8

You are also welcome to complete this survey electronically at www.rdffg.bc.ca.



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