



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To:	Council
From:	Andrew M. Siltala, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Date:	July 8, 2019
Report No:	ES-013-19
Subject:	Potential Townsend-Smith Foundation Hospice in Milton
Recommendation:	<b>THAT Report ES-013-19 be received for information;</b>

**AND THAT** Town of Milton Council endorse, in principle, the concept of the Townsend-Smith Foundation developing a hospice within Chris Hadfield Park, incorporating the existing historic railway station on a long-term lease basis;

**AND FURTHER THAT** Town of Milton staff be directed to work with the Townsend-Smith Foundation staff to explore the feasibility of a hospice being developed within Chris Hadfield Park, subject to all required public agency approvals (i.e. Region of Halton, Conservation Halton, Town of Milton, Ministry of Health and Long-Care) and required financial considerations (ie. development charges, permit and approval fees, taxes and capital and operating budgets);

**AND FURTHER THAT** Town of Milton staff be directed to engage legal representation to investigate, on a preliminary basis, a potential long-term lease agreement between the Town and the Townsend-Smith Foundation with respect to the potential development of a hospice within Chris Hadfield Park.

## REPORT

### Background

The Townsend-Smith Foundation is a non-profit corporation founded in 2011, guided by a volunteer Board of Directors who are committed to developing a hospice that would serve Milton and the North Halton area. The Foundation's vision is for a community where every individual has access to a dignified and caring end of life journey. To achieve this vision, the Foundation will provide access to palliative care for residents of Milton and Halton Hills, serving the needs of terminally ill people and their families. Further, they aim to provide individualized care based on trust, integrity and personal



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choice offering physical, social, emotional and spiritual support in a comfortable and compassionate environment.

Currently, there is no hospice service operating locally, causing a significant gap for those who require end of life care. The Foundation plans to fill this gap in service, partnering with Acclaim Health to provide palliative care in Milton. The Foundation aims to work in conjunction with local hospitals, municipalities and the Region of Halton on community outreach, engagement and patient support programs.

In February 2019, the Townsend-Smith Foundation hired a Director of Development to advance the organization and lead a capital campaign with the goal of raising \$10 million to fund the building and equipping of a 10 bed hospice in Milton. Initial design concepts for the project identified a requirement of 3 to 5 acres of land and approximately 10,000 to 20,000 square feet of operable space.

## Discussion

After considerable investigation and a vast site selection process, the Townsend-Smith Foundation has centered its concept for a hospice on the Town of Milton's Chris Hadfield Park, with the idea of incorporating the existing historic railway station as part of its facilities. Designated as an Institutional use in Milton's Official Plan, Chris Hadfield Park has potential to be re-purposed for development, given its location adjacent to an employment area and current state as an underutilized site. The historical building on the property has remained vacant for the past several years, creating the opportunity for an adaptive re-use while maintaining the heritage aspects. Located in Milton's 401 Business Park and with excellent access to Highway 401, the site is perfectly situated to serve the Townsend-Smith Foundation's clients across the entire North Halton area. While a portion of the property is regulated by Conservation Halton due to the presence of a watercourse and headwater floodplain, approximately 3 acres may be developable. Town of Milton staff have begun discussions with Conservation Halton to identify all site constraints, including top of bank in order to verify the viability of the site for development.

There is a considerable amount of work to be done between now and the realization of the hospice on this site. The Foundation requires an indication, in principle, of whether or not the Town would support such an endeavor. As such, Town staff, through preliminary meetings with Foundation staff, believe that there is merit, in concept, in looking forward to a preliminary site investigation being carried out by the foundation; and therefore, are asking Council to direct staff to be involved on a preliminary basis.

## Financial Impact







# Property Asset: Chris Hadfield Park

