



**Subject: Sugarloaf Street Archeological Investigation**

**To: Council**

**From: Public Works Department**

Report Number: 2023-52

Meeting Date: March 28, 2023

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### **Recommendation:**

That Public Works Department Report 2023-52 be received; and

That the Director of Public Works be directed to fund the archeological investigation to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Public and Business Services Delivery at an estimated cost of \$435,000 from the Infrastructure Reserve.

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of an archeological investigation within the Sugarloaf Street right of way and confirm an approved funding source.

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### **Background:**

On May 31, 2022, the City of Port Colborne was notified by the Ministry of Public and Business Services Delivery (MPBSD), formerly the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, that a burial site had been discovered within the City's right of way on Sugarloaf Street. The MPBSD has ordered the City to undertake a burial site investigation to determine the origin of the site.

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### **Discussion:**

Since being issued the order, staff have been working closely with the MPBSD, the City's Solicitor, and archeology consultants to complete an Archeological Assessment (AA). The AA has outlined an approach for undertaking the archeological investigation

with the purpose of determining if the cemetery extends into the City of Port Colborne right of way along Sugarloaf Street.

The investigation will require the road to be closed for approximately four weeks and is scheduled to start in April 2023.

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### **Financial Implications:**

The archeological investigation will consist of archeological work, First Nations monitoring, and construction support (signage, barricades, reinstatements), and a 5% contingency totalling \$435,000. Based on the investigation's findings the possibility of additional costs to fulfill the MPBSD order is possible.

City staff will be providing traffic control devices, heavy equipment, and completing the general site mobilization/demobilization to aid the investigation and minimize construction costs.

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### **Public Engagement:**

The City has engaged First Nations communities and anticipate their participation through the report and strategy review as well as monitoring during the field investigations. The public and Emergency Services will be made aware of the road closure duration and detour routes.

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### **Conclusion:**

The City of Port Colborne has been working with the MPBSD and our archaeological experts to fulfill the Ministry order. Staff will continue to finalize details surrounding the archaeological investigation and report back to Council with the findings.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**Report Approval:**

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.