

TETE JAUNE COMMUNITY CEMETERY

STEERING COMMITTEE

Proposal

The members of the Tete Jaune Community Cemetery Steering Committee have been working towards building a rural cemetery for the use of families in the community of Tete Jaune Cache and surrounding areas. The Tete Jaune Cemetery would be an important asset to the community to utilize as a place to **honour our history, a place for families to experience the pleasant landscape of solitude and reflection**, and a final resting place for our residents who loved their home.

A Short History of the Proposal:

In 2006, some members of the Tete Jaune community expressed a wish to have a cemetery of their own. There was a cemetery but it was located on private land and the owners did not wish to have the public continue to use it. The Tete Jaune Community Club (TJCC) formed a Cemetery Steering Committee to explore this idea. We first looked at the Crown Land area beside our Community Hall. There were three problems with this site; some public opposition to a cemetery within view of their homes and businesses; the requirement to remove and stump a dense stand of dead and dying pine trees; and the nature of the ground itself which is sandy with a high component of boulders. While this soil provides excellent drainage, it is very difficult to dig in and does not hold an excavation well (i.e. gravesites).

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George currently has a License of Occupation on 8.3 hectares (20.51 acres) of land located along Carr Road less than 10 minutes away from the hall. Historically, Carr Road used to be a vibrant part of Tete Jaune before the bridge over the Fraser River washed out. This particular area was originally leased to the TJCC for a recreational site for the Club to hold picnics and baseball games. The Cemetery Steering Committee walked the site and found it to be a very pretty, quiet and peaceful site with a lovely view of the mountains. There is a flat area adjacent to Carr Road suitable for the cemetery itself. The backdrop to this is a hillside which circles around the flat and provides privacy and protection from the wind. Easy walking trails could be located on this hillside to provide a view of the cemetery below and of the Cariboo Mountains across the valley. It has been previously logged to remove mountain pine beetle killed trees but a variety of Douglas-fir, spruce and aspen trees remain growing on site. There is already a relatively clear area for a parking lot and the cemetery plots. A short driveway exists and the access is good in wet or dry weather.

What we envision is a small cemetery similar to the pioneer cemetery along Hwy 16 en route to Jasper by Lucerne Lake. We would begin with a simple plot configuration that would allow for 50 traditional gravesites as well as a place for cremation urns. We welcome input on future plans for a special memorial wall for those who have already passed away but whose families wish to remember them with memorial plaques. We have proposed using a split rail fence to surround the cemetery plots. We would like to situate benches nearby and develop simple gardens using naturally occurring wildflowers and shrubs that do not require irrigation.

All the work to date has been done by generous volunteers with the help of the Regional District staff. We would invite you to contact us with any thoughts or concerns regarding this proposal. Community feedback is critical as we continue to explore the feasibility of establishing this cemetery.

Please contact the following members of the Cemetery Society for more information:

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