



TOWN OF MINTO

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2025
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
SERVICE AREA: Economic Development
SUBJECT: EC DEV 2025-007 – Community Garden Agreements, Clifford and Palmerston

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto hereby receives report EC DEV 2025-007 – Community Garden Agreements, prepared by the Director, Economic & Community Development, for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Town of Minto authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to sign the lease agreements with Wesley Bates and Juanita Wilkins and the Palmerston Evangelical Missionary Church.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Minto has operated community gardens across Minto since 2014, the first garden was located at the Harriston-Minto Community Centre. In 2015, the Clifford Community Garden was opened on a vacant lot located on the main street owned by Wesley Bates and Juanita Wilkins and in 2017, the Palmerston Community Garden was opened at the Palmerston Evangelical Missionary Church.

The community gardens have allowed residents to grow fresh plants and produce. We have partnered with several social organizations including the County of Wellington Social Services and the Mount Forest Family Health Team to provide boxes for clients.

Currently, the Harriston gardens have 28 plots that are fully used. Clifford has 10 plots with 6 rented and several boxes needing to be replaced this season before they can be filled. Palmerston has 20 boxes that are fully used.

COMMENTS:

Agreements are in place with Wesley Bates and Juanita Wilkins for the Clifford property and with the Palmerston Evangelical Missionary Church for the Palmerston property. These agreements have both expired and need to be renewed.

Upon consultation with both parties, we have agreed to extend the agreements for another five years (2025-2029). At that time, we would review the program.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The Town of Minto pays Wesley Bates and Juanita Wilkins and the Palmerston Evangelical Missionary Church \$500 per season to rent the properties housing the community gardens. This has been accounted for in the 2025 budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

GOAL 2: Quality of Life

Provide a holistic quality of life which supports the mental, physical, and social health of our community.

PREPARED BY: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director, Economic & Community Development

RECOMMENDED BY: Gregg Furtney, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)