

**TOWN OF MINTO****DATE:** March 29, 2017**REPORT TO:** Mayor & Council**FROM:** Belinda Wick-Graham, Business & Economic Manager**SUBJECT:** Palmerston Community Garden

---

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

10.2 Promote urban forestry, low maintenance landscaping and park development to create more environmentally diverse green spaces including pursuing small plots/community gardens/remote plots in public space.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, the Town of Minto established its first Community Garden at the Harriston-Minto Community Complex within the fenced area formerly containing tennis courts. 20 plots were created and have been full with a waiting list each year.

In 2015, the Clifford Community Garden was established on a piece of property owned by Wesley Bates and Juanita Wilkins. This garden contains 10 plots and currently has two plots available.

On December 13, 2016, Mayor Bridge, TLC Coordinator Paul Judge and Business & Economic Manager Wick-Graham met with officials at the Palmerston Evangelical Missionary Church to begin discussions on the establishment of a Community Garden in Palmerston at the back of the Church property. The site of the proposed 30 X 60 Community Garden is identified below. This Community Garden would house 20 plots.

Staff proposes a similar agreement to the one in Clifford where the Town uses the lands for the community garden for four and a half months per year at \$500 annually. This is intended to cover the cost of utilities. The Town will provide the community garden improvements (fencing, planter beds, composters rain barrels, signage etc.) to the lands and maintain the property during the leased period. There is a 60 day written notice of cancellation and each party is to maintain insurance for their own purposes

**COMMENTS:**

The location is suitable for the community garden and will be secured with 6 ft. fencing that we were able to obtain from an area that was dismantled at the Palmerston Public Works Shop. The PEMC will be re-gravelling/grading the parking lot so the installation of the garden will be scheduled around that project and is expected to be completed by the middle of April.

We are looking forward to this positive partnership with the Evangelical Missionary Church who has already agreed to assist with erecting the fencing, constructing the garden boxes, promotion of the program and providing a venue for educational workshops for the public on planting, harvesting and cooking.



**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Community Gardens have a budget of \$6,000 in 2017 and the Palmerston Community Garden will be established within the budget parameters.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Council receives the Business & Economic Manager's report dated March 29, 2017 regarding Palmerston Community Garden and a by-law come forward authorizing the Mayor and CAO Clerk to sign the lease with the Palmerston Evangelical Missionary Church.

Belinda Wick-Graham, Business & Economic Manager