



Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery Committee (ODRBPCC)

June 22, 2021

Dear Warden Hicks, Deputy Warden McQueen and General Manager of Grey Roots Museum and Archives, Jill Paterson,

The Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery Committee wishes to thank you for hearing our objections to the county purchase of part lots 21 and 22 on Durham Road B (north side) for the purpose of building a transportation depot. Moving forward in the spirit of solidarity, we stand firm in our commitment to participate in the county's efforts to make our Black history and heritage more visible and to promote Black heritage sites throughout the county.

As we stated at our meeting on June 11, 2021, we request that the county be proactive and show leadership when it comes to protecting and preserving our shared rural heritage. We join a growing number of interested community members in recommending that the county purchase this property for the purpose of establishing a commemorative and interpretive space for Grey County's historic Black settlement and settlers. A walking trail, a place for indigenous plants to re-establish (after 170 years of agricultural use), some interpretive signage, and a welcoming area for those visiting the cemetery, would go a long way in promoting Black history and healing a long festering community wound.

It has become amply apparent that there is widespread support for this community-generated initiative. For example, people have been suggesting a "Go-Fund-Me" campaign to raise money towards the purchase and are coming forward with words of support and encouragement. This growing interest suggests the need to organize a public consultation, that would include bringing together of various stakeholders and determining the best avenue to channel community monetary donations. The Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery Committee is requesting a meeting with county officials to discuss the best way forward to bring this proposal to fruition.

On behalf of the entire committee, I remain sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Naomi Norquay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Naomi" and last name "Norquay" clearly legible.

Naomi Norquay
President, ODRBPCC
405150 Grey Road #4, Priceville, Ontario, N0C 1K0

Committee members:

Darryl Kleebaum, Grey Rd# 4, Grey Highlands
Cindy Dymond, Durham Road B, Grey Highlands
Allan Coleclough, Markdale
Eula Coleclough, Markdale
Carl Stevenson, *descendant*, Blyth
Terri Jackson, Hepworth
Cathy Griffin, Durham Road B, Grey Highlands
Diccon Garrett, Durham Road B, Grey Highlands
Ananda Jones, Holstein
Clinton Lopez, Holstein

Cc: Kim Wingrove, CAO, Grey County
Nancy Matthews, Heritage Committee, Municipality of Grey Highlands
Robert Iantorno, Curator, South Grey Museum
Robert Leverty, Executive Director, Ontario Historical Society