



# Staff Report

## Community Services

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**Report To:** Committee of The Whole  
**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2017  
**Report Number:** CSPW.17.099  
**Subject:** Acceptance of Gift from Charles and Ella Garrad  
**Prepared by:** Shawn Everitt, Director of Community Services

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report CSPW.17.099 entitled "Acceptance of Gift from Charles and Ella Garrad";

AND THAT Council, on behalf of the Town and its past, present and future residents, greatly accept the offering of a wool turtle blanket from Charles and Ella Garrad which Charles Garrad received from the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma;

AND THAT Council authorizes the Blue Mountains Public Library to take care and custody of the wool turtle blanket to ensure the proper preservation, storage and display of the donation.

### B. Overview

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Approval of this report provides direction to Staff to notify Charles and Ella Garrad that the Town greatly accepts the offering of the gift as outlined in this report.

The Report also provides direction to Staff that the gift be placed under the care and custody of the Blue Mountains Public Library for the proper preservation, storage and display as determined by the Craigleith Heritage Depot Museum Curator.

### C. Background

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Charles Garrad was gifted a wool turtle blanket when he was made an honoured person by the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma (refer to Attachment 1). The blanket was used to open a celebratory dance and was given to connect this nation with its ancestral homeland. The blanket was given to Charles Garrad as a token of affection and acceptance and is a form of reconciliation from an indigenous community who has lived through displacement generationally and across North America.

Charles Garrad gave the Wyandotte nation back their knowledge through his 40 years of research, bridging the gap of place and time. This turtle blanket symbolizes and honours what has gone before and accepts a tie between our community and theirs with peace and

brother/sisterhood. It is a tangible object of an international relationship between the Wyandotte of Oklahoma and Canada.

In 2011, this blanket was exhibited in the Town Hall after which it has been housed in a protective environment by Charles Garrad. Charles Garrad seeks to find a secure place where it can bring meaning to this community as well as the Wyandotte of Oklahoma.

Charles Garrad would like to gift the blanket to the people of the Town of The Blue Mountains in honour of our past, of reconciliation and as commemoration. This piece speaks to the preservation, education and protection of all Wyandotte ancestors in the Home Land.

## **D. Analysis**

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This donation provides an exceptional opportunity for the Town and the community to be the recipient of such a spectacular offering. The significance of the Turtle Blanket and its connection to such a key piece of the community, the Wynadotte Nation and our indigenous history and culture is exciting.

Charles and Ella Garrad have been in the forefront of researching and cataloguing the history of our region and have allowed for a connection and relationship with the people that have shared our lands and cultures throughout its history. Their relentless commitment to The Blue Mountains will be shared by future generations through the Petun Research Institute, publications and documented work of Charles and Ella Garrad that includes the significant Turtle Blanket that will celebrate their great efforts.

## **E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan**

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- Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability
- Goal #2: Engage Our Communities & Partners
- Goal #3: Support Healthy Lifestyles
- Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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Staff will ensure that all appropriate measures are taken to ensure the proper care and control of the piece are in place.

## **G. Financial Impact**

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No financial impact is projected by way of accepting his gift.

## **H. In consultation with**

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The Blue Mountains Public Library Acting CEO

The Blue Mountains Public Library Museum Curator

Senior Management Team

Manager of Purchasing and Risk Management

## **I. Attached**

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- 1) Picture of Wool Turtle Blanket

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Community Services

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