

## **The Corporation of the Municipality of South Huron**

### **Mayoral Decision No. MDE-04-2025**

#### **Veto of Budget Amendment**

I, George Finch, Mayor of the Municipality of South Huron, pursuant to the special powers and duties extended to the head of Council under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 (the "Act") and O. Reg 530/22 made under the Act, hereby veto the following resolution passed by South Huron Council at their Budget Meeting held on December 8, 2025:

- a) That Council amend the proposed 2026 Capital Budget by removing the proposed Dog park project (Resolution 507-2025).

My reasons for the veto are as follows:

A Delegation by a member of the public was presented to council on November 18th 2024 to provide a dog park that would provide a safe space for both dog owners and non dog owners.

A staff report presented on March 17th 2025 provided options and preliminary costs for a dog park. A dog park strategically located west of the pavilion at MacNaughton park as indicated in the report would allow the public to direct users to this location and away from other sports fields thereby providing a safe space for all. A dedicated location would also improve the mental health and well-being of our residents and demonstrate very positively that South Huron is a welcoming and accessible community in its largest settlement area. It would act as an economic driver and be located in an accessible location for those with disabilities as it is walkable. For those that drive, there is ample parking at this location and it is close to other amenities such as a pool, trail access and splash pad.

There have been several petitions presented to council in support of an off-leash dog park and is a valid request. Further, Council has received correspondence from members of the community since the December 8<sup>th</sup> Budget Meeting advising they would be willing to provide financial support towards a dog park.

A dog park is in alignment with our South Huron strategic priorities 2023 to 2026.

In priority #3 regarding recreation and community amenities.

Item #1 – "To provide adequate and quality amenities for South Huron's growing population".

Item #2 – “Encourage policy's, programs and services to be inclusive and reflect the needs of existing residents and newcomers”.

Item #3 – “Foster healthy lifestyles through planning for, sporting and providing a range of accessible, affordable, indoor, and outdoor recreation facilities, events and opportunities”.

It is also aligned with priority #5 for community safety and well-being.

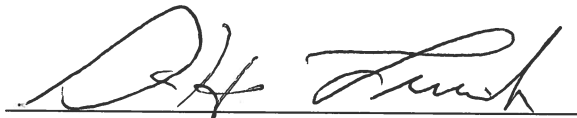
Item #1- “Work together to increase safety inclusivity and resilience across our community”.

Item #2 – “To foster a connected and caring community”.

Therefore I am providing this Mayoral Decision to veto the amendment of Council so a dog park or off leash dog park as it is commonly known remains included in the 2026 budget with MacNaughton Park west of the Pavillion being the preferred location.

The prescribed veto period shall expire on December 29, 2025.

Dated this 19 day of December, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Finch", written over a horizontal line.

George Finch, Mayor