

Removal of the Prime Ministers Path is completed

The first step towards community healing and cohesion

Baden, ON – **Wednesday, July 7, 2021** – As of 8:00 this morning, the Prime Ministers Path has been dismantled and the statues are being placed into storage. Following the unanimous direction from Council on Monday night, staff arranged for the immediate removal of the statues of Sir Robert Borden, Kim Campbell, William Lyon Mackenzie King, and Lester Pearson.

In 2020 the statue of Sir John A Macdonald was also removed from the Prime Ministers Path by direction from Council. The aptly named "Unfortunate Four" statues of Sir John Abbott, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir John Thompson, and Sir Charles Tupper were placed into storage without ever having been installed.

As the findings from the public engagement conducted by the First Peoples Group indicated, the immediate removal of the remaining statues is a symbolic action for the Township to move forward on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and work towards community cohesion and healing. The other recommendations from the First Peoples Group report, when put into action, will further this rebuilding process for the community.

The full report from First Peoples Group and a media release from Monday night can be found on the Township official website at <u>wilmot.ca/PMPEngagement</u>.

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<u>Media Contacts</u>: Sandy Jackson, Acting CAO <u>sandy.jackson@wilmot.ca</u> 519-634-8444 ext. 241

Dawn Mittelholtz, Director of Information and Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk <u>dawn.mittelholtz@wilmot.ca</u> 519-634-8444 ext. 230