



**St. George's Anglican Church  
"WAYGATE Project"**

**Deputation to Council  
Town of The Blue Mountains  
December 1, 2025**

**Michelle Hughes, Outreach Coordinator  
Rev'd Grayhame Bowcott, Rector**



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

St. George's team of dedicated men and women prepared and delivered over 10000 meals to seniors and families in need during the COVID pandemic. Our mission is "Caring For Others because God Cares For Us All" This important work continues today.



ROTARY DINNERS



SENIOR'S MEALS



FAMILY MEALS



# OUTDOOR HOSPITALITY



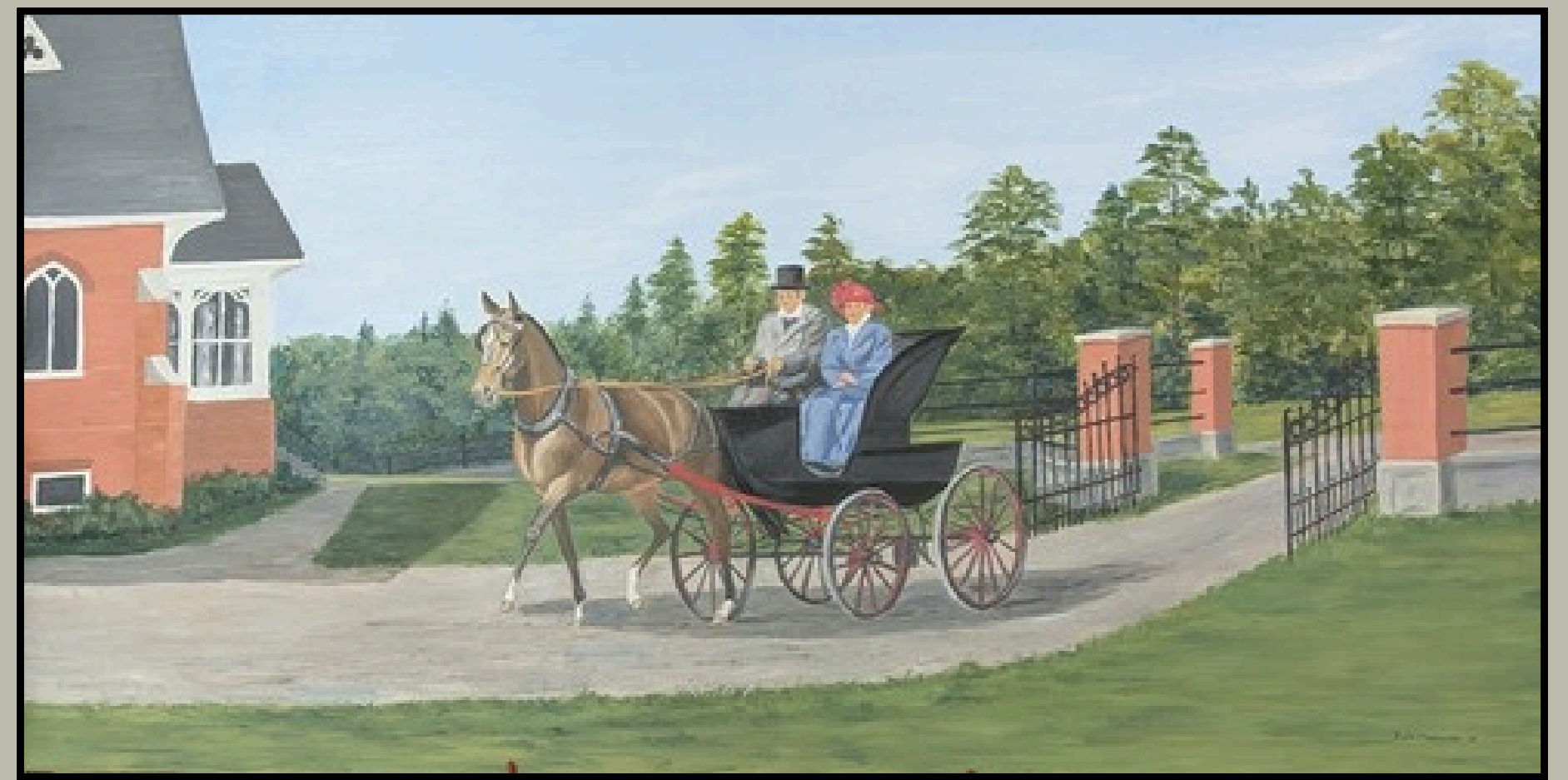
# **ABOUT THIS PRESENTATION**

**St. George's is always seeking for ways to care for those beyond our doors, in our neighbourhood and surrounding community. We are here today to present an initiative that strengthens that mission and aligns with the Town's goals for a healthy, inclusive, and connected community.**

**This deputation is intended to:**

- 1. Introduce Council to St. George's WAYGATE redevelopment project for their approval of the concept.**
- 2. Seek guidance in terms of reference to TBM by-laws for the new digital display church sign.**
- 3. Invite Council's support, partnership, and guidance for the implementation of the project going forward.**





## **WHAT IS A WAYGATE? (A Place of Historic Tradition)**

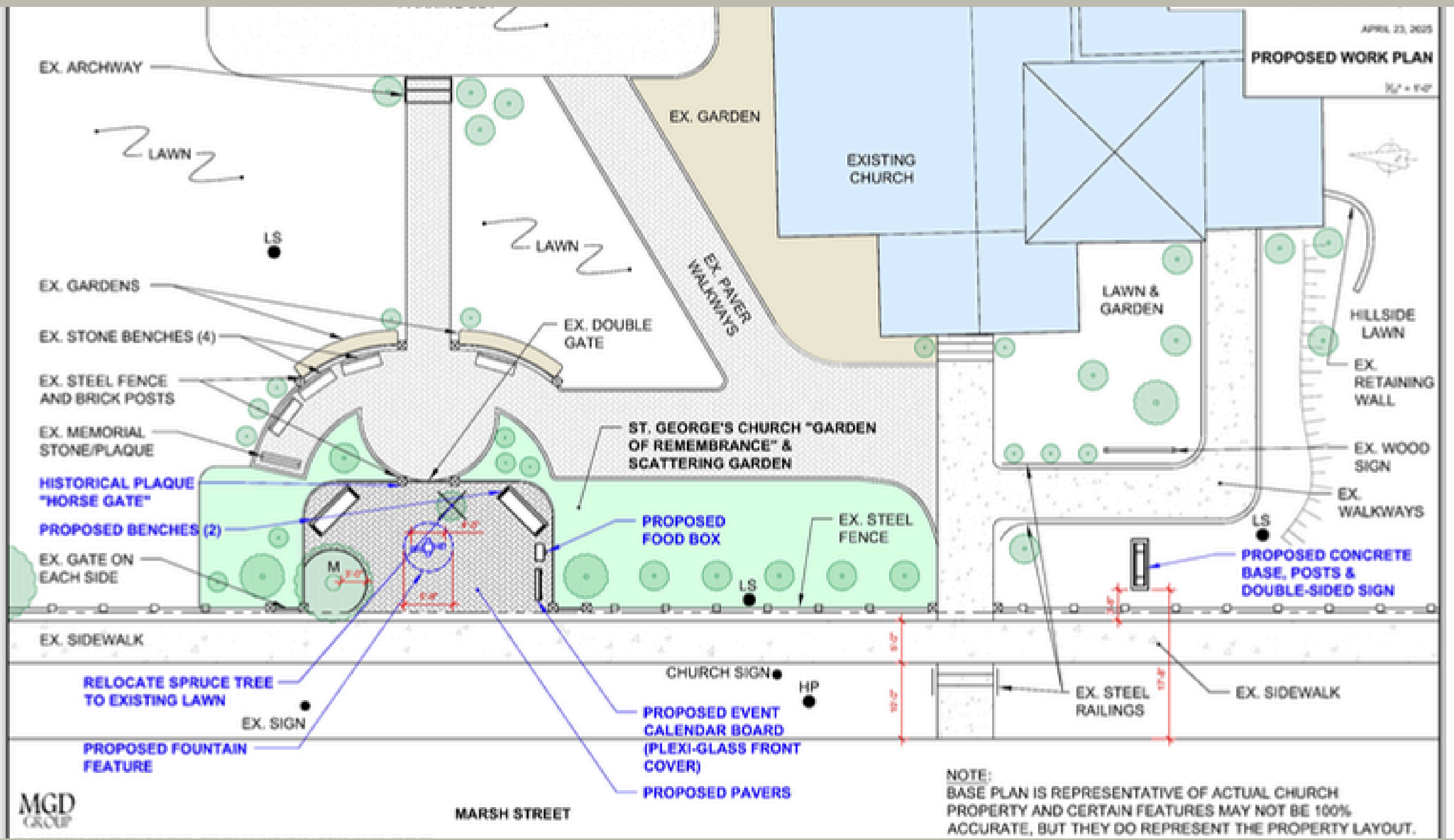
**In English Christian tradition, Waygates, or often better known as Lychgates, were places at the edge of a church property where charitable services were made available: including food, clothing, sometimes a place of respite, and with some churches, even a covered porch where funeral services could be offered.**

**In the spirit of English Lychgates of the past, our proposed Waygate Project hopes to include a number of outreach elements that will offer support to residents and visitors in our neighbourhood.**

# Overview of the WAYGATE Redevelopment Project

## Elements will include:

- **A refillable water station, including a dog-friendly fountain, to support residents, cyclists, walkers, and pets, especially during warm-weather months.**
- **An emergency food cupboard, accessible 24/7, to assist neighbours facing food insecurity or unexpected need.**
- **Benches and seating to offer a safe, restful place for seniors, families, and pedestrians.**
- **An Indigenous treaty land acknowledgment marker, developed with guidance and in the spirit of reconciliation.**
- **A prayer and reflection box, providing a quiet way for community members to share hopes, needs, or concerns.**
- **A community services announcement board, highlighting local programs, supports, and resources.**
- **A new digital display sign to share information about church activities but, more importantly, will rotate announcements from local social-service organizations, community groups, safety partners, and Town initiatives. It is designed to serve as a central point of reliable, up-to-date community information.**



NOTE:  
 BASE PLAN IS REPRESENTATIVE OF ACTUAL CHURCH  
 PROPERTY AND CERTAIN FEATURES MAY NOT BE 100%  
 ACCURATE, BUT THEY DO REPRESENT THE PROPERTY LAYOUT.



## Digital Display Sign:

**Purpose:** to share information about church activities but, more importantly, will rotate announcements from local social-service organizations, community groups, safety partners, and Town initiatives. It is designed to serve as a central point of reliable, up-to-date community information.

- **Operating guidelines:**

- **Brightness controls, with night-time dimming.**
- **Placement minimizing sightline issues for traffic. (Double-sided, Side-facing)**
- **Content policy ensuring announcements remain community-oriented, respectful, and non-commercial.**
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**Benefit:** Remove the need for Metal A-Frame signage which fall over, overcrowd, are expensive to maintain and cause safety issues for senior volunteers.

## Rationale and Community Benefit

**This project arises from needs we see every day. Access to clean water, emergency food, supportive messaging, and a safe resting space are small but meaningful ways we can advance community wellbeing.**

**The parkette also contributes to the Town's goals relating to:**

- **Healthy communities and active transportation**
- **Accessibility and inclusiveness**
- **Community support and social connection**
- **Reconciliation and Indigenous recognition**
- **Environmental stewardship and public beautification**



**The Church grounds sit at a well-travelled corner in Clarksburg, making the site ideal for hydration access, wayfinding, and communicating critical information to residents and visitors alike.**

## Maintenance and Stewardship



**St. George's will assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the parkette, including:**

- Regular cleaning of the grounds
- Upkeep and stocking oversight of the emergency food cupboard
- Seasonal care of plantings and seating areas
- Monitoring and management of digital sign content

**We are committed to ensuring the site remains safe, clean, and beneficial to the public at all times.**



## **Partnerships and Collaboration**



**St. George's been engaging in dialogue with local service organizations and community members, including the BVO, High School, Rotary and TBM Library to learn more about the construction and implementation of elements such as the Emergency Food Cupboard . We are very grateful for all of our community collaboration and support.**

**We look forward to opportunities for collaboration with the Town. We would welcome cooperation on messaging for the digital sign—particularly around safety advisories, community events, and seasonal notices.**

**We also look forward to continued dialogue as we finalize the treaty land acknowledgment marker in meaningful consultation with Indigenous voices.**



## **REQUEST OF COUNCIL:**

**This deputation is intended to:**

- **Introduce Council to St. George's WAYGATE redevelopment project, ask for their approval of the concept.**
- **Seek guidance in terms of reference to TBM by-laws for the new digital display church sign.**
- **Invite Council's support, partnership, and guidance for the implementation of the project going forward.**



**In closing, this project reflects our deep belief that small acts of care can create lasting impact. We are pleased to invest in infrastructure that supports eco-friendly hydration, food security, reconciliation, communication, and neighbourliness.**

**We are grateful for the Council's time and for your commitment to the wellbeing of The Town of The Blue Mountains.**

**We look forward to working together as this project comes to life.**

*Thank You*