



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Repurposing Reclaimed Willow Tree Wood

Issue Date: November 26, 2025

Revised Closing Date: January 9, 2026

Municipality of Bluewater

www.municipalityofbluewater.ca

1.0 Overview

The Municipality of Bluewater ("Bluewater") is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from individuals, community groups, artisan collectives, or organizations interested in repurposing wood salvaged from the historic Willow Tree formerly located on Bayfield Main Street North in front of the Little Inn. The tree, a long-standing local landmark, was removed following structural failure during a storm event for public safety reasons. This initiative supports waste reduction and celebrates local heritage by giving new life to salvaged wood. Council has directed staff to invite proposals that honour the tree's legacy through creative, community-oriented, or commemorative uses.

2.0 Purpose of the EOI

This EOI aims to gather proposals for how the willow tree wood can be used in creative ways that allow the community to share in a commemorative piece of history. Please note that the Municipality will not be providing financial compensation or resources for any activities or projects proposed through this Expression of Interest. Submissions may include, but are not limited to:

- Crafting, woodworking, or artisan pieces
- Other creative or practical uses

It is the responsibility of the successful proponent to arrange all pickup and transport of the wood required for their proposal. The Municipality is not responsible for any long-term storage of any materials.

3.0 Available Material

The available material consists of logs and wood sections from the removed willow tree. Sizes, conditions, and quantities vary. Wood is provided as-is; recipients are responsible for safe handling and any necessary processing. Interested parties may request a viewing by contacting Municipal Staff.

Based on the scope of the proposal submissions, Materials may be awarded to multiple parties subject to availability

4.0 Submission Requirements

All Expressions of Interest should include:

1. Name and contact information of the individual, group, or organization
2. A brief description of the proposed use of the willow logs/wood
3. Any experience or background related to woodworking, crafting, or art (if applicable)
4. Estimated timeline for project completion
5. Include any plans for community engagement or public benefit, if applicable

Submissions do not need to include finalized designs, concept-level proposals are sufficient.

5.0 Evaluation Process

Municipal staff will review all submissions based on the following considerations:

- Alignment with community interests and values
- Feasibility of the proposed project
- Capacity to complete the work as proposed
- Preference may be given to proposals that provide a clear benefit to the community.

Staff will prepare a report to Council summarizing all Expressions of Interest received, along with recommendations for allocation of the wood material.

6.0 How to Submit

Expressions of Interest may be submitted by email to the Municipal Office at:

Becky Wilson at pwfassistant@municipalityofbluewater.ca

Please include '**EOI – Willow Tree Wood**' in the subject line.

Alternatively, submissions may be dropped off at:

Municipality of Bluewater
14 Mill Avenue, Zurich, Ontario

7.0 Deadline for Submission

December 10th, 2025, at 11:00am

Late submissions may not be considered.

8.0 Questions or Additional Information

Pickup will be scheduled by appointment; transportation is the responsibility of the recipient.

For questions or to arrange a viewing of the wood material, please contact:

Alex Basciano – Public Works Technician

519-236-4351 x 246

pwtech@municipalityofbluewater.ca

9.0 Ownership and Liability

The Municipality retains ownership until allocation and assumes no responsibility for condition or suitability of the wood after transfer.