

The Corporation of the Town of Saugeen Shores

By-law 21 - 2026

Being a By-law to Authorize a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Sister City relationship with the City of Zonnebeke, Belgium

Whereas the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 , Chapter 25, authorizes Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding; and

Whereas the Corporation of the Town of Saugeen Shores is desirous of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Zonnebeke, Belgium.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Saugeen Shores enacts as follows:

1. That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Saugeen Shores enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Zonnebeke. Belgium;
2. That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute, deliver, sign, and seal the Memorandum of Understanding attached hereto and forming a part of this By-law.
3. That this By-law shall come into force and take effect upon the final reading thereof.

Read, Passed and Sealed this 23rd day of February 2026.

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor

Morgan McCulloch, Deputy Clerk

By signing this By-law on February 23 2026, I, Mayor Luke Charbonneau, will not exercise the power to veto this by-law pursuant to subsection 284.11 (4)(a).

Luke Charbonneau, Mayor

Memorandum of Understanding

Between the Town of Saugeen Shores, Ontario, Canada and the Municipality of Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium Sister City Partnership

Preamble

The Town of Saugeen Shores, represented by Mayor Luke Charbonneau, and the Municipality of Zonnebeke, represented by Mayor Koen Meersseman, recognize a shared historical connection through the First World War. Zonnebeke was at the heart of the Third Battle of Ypres, including Passchendaele, and is home to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world. These events shaped the national identities of Canada and Belgium, and the courage and sacrifice of those who served continue to inspire civic pride and remembrance.

Through this Sister City partnership, both communities seek to honor this legacy, foster civic engagement, and strengthen the bonds of friendship between citizens of Canada and Belgium.

Purpose

The agreement aims to:

- Promote education and youth engagement
- Support remembrance and veterans' commemoration
- Encourage cultural, heritage, and community exchange
- Raise awareness of tourism and business opportunities

Principles

- Act with transparency, collaboration, and mutual respect
- Ensure activities are historically accurate, age-appropriate, and foster pride in Canada and Belgium
- Encourage broad participation; participation is voluntary and project-based

Areas of Collaboration

- **Education & Youth:** Student exchanges, classroom history projects, and museum programs
- **Museum & Heritage:** Collaborative exhibits, storytelling, and digital content
- **Remembrance :** Commemorative events at Tyne Cot Cemetery and local memorials, intergenerational programs

- **Community & Tourism:** Heritage tourism, cultural festivals, and business awareness initiatives

Municipal Coordination & Resources

- Municipal contacts may be designated to support coordination
- Activities may be supported via grants, sponsorships, fundraising, municipal contributions, or in-kind support
- No financial obligations arise unless approved by council

Review & Non-Exclusivity

- Activities will be reviewed periodically; the agreement may be expanded or revised
- Participation in other international partnerships is permitted.

Adoption

This Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective upon approval by both municipal councils.

Signatures

For the Municipality of Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium

Koen Meersseman

Title: Mayor

Date: _____

For the Town of Saugeen Shores, Ontario, Canada

Luke Charbonneau

Title: Mayor

Date: _____