



**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 7:00 pm
Committee Room

Pages

1. ROLL CALL
2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
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4. PUBLIC PRESENTATION
5. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF CORPORATE REPORTS
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6. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - 7.1 Update on the Civic Centre
8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - 8.1 Update on the Community Hub
9. CORRESPONDENCE
10. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD
11. ADDENDUM
12. CLOSED SESSION
13. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING
14. ADJOURNMENT



**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
7:00 pm
City Hall Committee Room

Present:	N. Mann, Council B. Blewett, Member C. Margetts, Chair M. Meloche, Member D. Marchisella, Mayor/Ex Officio S. Finamore, Council M. Caverly, Member P. Sarich, Member F. Perkins, V. Chair
Resources:	D. Brandow, Recording Secretary T. Dunlop, Director Recreation & Culture
Regrets:	P. Torrance, Member
Guests:	L. Cyr, Council M. Thomas

1. ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by S. Finamore

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nomination of C. Margetts for Chair by B. Blewett / F. Perkins

Nomination closed by P. Sarich

Nomination accepted

Nomination of F. Perkins for Vice Chair by P. Sarich / N. Mann

Nomination closed by B. Blewett

Nomination accepted

Vote - **Carried**

S. Finamore turned the meeting over to the Chair

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Minutes of 30 October 2018

Res#: 2/19

Moved By: B. Blewett

Seconded By: M. Meloche

That the minutes be received as read

Carried

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Terrain Park at Mount Dufour by D. & T. O'Grady

Res#: 3/19

Moved By: D. Marchisella

Seconded By: P. Sarich

That the Terrain Park at Mount Dufour by D. & T O'Grady be presented to the AdHoc Budget Committee for funding with the upset limit of \$22,000

Carried

5. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF CORPORATE REPORTS

5.1 Director of Recreation & Culture Report

Res#: 4/19

Moved By: S. Finamore

Seconded By: F. Perkins

That the Staff Report Blue Flag Approval Request of the Director of Recreation & Culture be presented to the AdHoc Budget Committee for consideration with an upset limit of \$25,000

Carried

- Request for alternative products with pricing to be presented at the AdHoc Budget committee

5.2 Recreation & Culture 2018 Statistics Report

5.3 Progress Report from the Director of Recreation & Culture

6. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Skate Path

Deferred to September agenda

8. CORRESPONDENCE

9. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Chair questioned Mayor on the status of the Community Hub:

- The City has until 6 April 2019 to resubmit the business plan for the Community Hub to the Provincial Government

10. ADDENDUM

11. CLOSED SESSION

12. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be 16 April 2019 at 7pm

13. ADJOURNMENT

Res # 5/19

Moved By: B. Blewett

Seconded By: D. Marchisella

That the meeting be adjourned at the hour of 8:15 pm.

Carried

Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum 2019

Past, Present, and Future

Report by Interim Curator, Samantha Peever

Presented to the Museum Advisory Board

March 28th, 2019

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Abstract

This report has been compiled for the board of the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum by Samantha Peever, the Interim Curator. The purpose of this report is to show the work which Samantha has done in the museum both before, and after the collapse. While the collapse of the Civic Centre roof may seem catastrophic, the positive momentum which the museum had experienced beforehand was not lost. Much work has been done to keep the museum afloat, and while we may be down, we are not out!

Who I Am: Your Interim Curator's Background

My Education

This past June, I graduated from Trent University with a joint major honours degree in Environment and Resource Studies, and Canadian Studies. Environment and Resource Studies teaches its students how humans interact with the natural world. Examples of interactions I studied include scientific research, cultural practices, environmental ethics, policies, and laws. Canadian Studies teaches its students about Canadian culture and identity, through a variety of disciplines. For example, I completed courses in Canadian history, Indigenous Studies, Geography, Environmental Studies, Gender and Woman Studies, and English for my degree. Each of these disciplines provided different answers to the questions “What is Canada?” and “What does it mean to be a Canadian?” Together, these dual degrees have provided me with a solid foundation upon which to understand the cultural and environmental landscapes of our nation.

My Previous Employment

While I have an extensive resume, at this time I would like to highlight my past employment in heritage industry specifically. My first job in the industry was at a summer camp in Lyndhurst, Ontario. I was hired for the summer to develop and present nature programs to the camp's children each week. The children ranged in age from 5 to 14 years old, and the topics covered included flora and fauna, survival skills, and Climate Change. This was my first introduction to leading educational programs outside of a school setting.

My second job in the industry was at Thousand Islands National Park. For the past four summers, I have worked at Thousand Islands National Park as a heritage interpreter. This job involved a variety of tasks, such as developing and presenting pop talks and exhibits, answering visitor questions, interpreting exhibits, and handling and caring for live animals. At this job, I built upon my skills as an educator, and learned new skills such as interpretation and exhibit design.

My Career Training

Through my university career and my job at Thousand Islands National park, I also undertook the following training:

- Emerit Heritage Interpreter Training (Knowledge portion of the certification): This training taught me the basics of interpretation, product development, and product evaluation.
- Community Based Research Project: As part of one of my university courses, I created an exhibit for a museum in Stanhope. This project taught me how to write an historical script, work in an archive, manage competing expectations, and choose and display artifacts.

Samantha's Work: Projects Completed September - January

Project #1: Thematic Touch-ups to the Gallery

I created, and began implementing a plan for thematic touch-ups to our museum exhibits. This involved moving artifacts and display cases to new locations, to better fit with the themes we had in our exhibits. This plan was designed to ensure that a minimum number of artifacts needed to be moved into storage. It was not meant to change the museum, but to build on the already present themes in our displays. I was about half way through implementing this plan when the roof collapsed (see photos in the next section for a visual tour).

Project #2: Museum Merchandise

I inventoried, restocked, revamped, repriced, and relabeled our museum merchandise. After a busy summer, our merchandise reserves had been depleted. In September I created an inventory of what merchandise we had left. I then made sure that all the price tags matched the prices in the cash register, as there were some discrepancies. I also created new labels so that all of our merchandise labels would be uniform, and would include tax. Finally, I purchased new merchandise, which I believed would set us apart from other souvenir stores in the city. With the exception of the books we sell, all of our merchandise is in the museum and must be evacuated.

Project #3: Christmas Open House to Advertise the Museum

To help publicize the museum, I held a Christmas Open House in 2018. The dates of the Open House were November 30th (1-7pm) and December 1st (10 – 3pm). The goal of this Open House was to encourage the public to visit the museum, and to buy Christmas presents from our selection of merchandise. We had two traveling exhibits from the ROM on display during this time; Inuit art, and Medieval Europe. The Medieval Europe display was specifically chosen to advertise at the local schools, as it fit with a unit students were completing at the time. To match the Christmas spirit of the event, I also had refreshments available. This event was a great success, with 59 visitors in attendance, many of whom were children.

Project 4: Cataloging in Past Perfect

Until now, the museum had used only a fraction of our Past Perfect software, by cataloguing all artifacts as “Objects” with unclassified names. I changed the way the museum catalogued artifacts, by using more Past Perfect functions such as the Archives, Library, and Photographs settings, and the Past Perfect lexicon. I have also begun photographing artifacts with a light tent and a scale bar. These are a few of the changes I made to the cataloguing process.

There are many benefits to this change in cataloguing procedures. For example, it allows us to use our Past Perfect software to: search our data, create exhibits, export information, build an archive, and keep track of loans and artifacts in storage. The use of the Past Perfect Lexicon also allows for other museums to understand our collection, which is ideal for setting up loans. Finally, the use of photographs that include a scale bar and light tent allow for easier artifact identification and detail reporting. In general, these changes allow us to capture the potential of our computer software, loan our artifacts to other museums, and better track and identify our artifacts.

Unfortunately, our original Past Perfect software and our backup drives are in the museum. If we are unable to evacuate the museum itself, then we will need to begin cataloguing our artifacts again from scratch.

Project 5: The Christmas Village

The cataloguing of the museum's Christmas Villages is a project which I am quite proud of. In early November, the museum's two Christmas Village collections were transported from Rio Den to the Civic Center. These collections were intermixed with each other, improperly stored, and never inventoried. Fortunately, Darla was able to provide information about the origin of these collections, as well as photographs of what one of them looked like. I used these photographs to separate the two collections, before repackaging them, and cataloguing them. In total, I catalogued 38 containers of artifacts, which contained between 3 and 100 artifacts per container. This included the completion of 42 Past Perfect artifact entries, 4 exhibit entries, and almost three months of work. Due to this cataloging, our collections can now be lent out to other museums, and we have already received expressions of interest.

I also set up one of these villages by the Civic Center Welcome Desk, to advertise the museum. When the Elliot Lake Standard expressed an interest in our village, I wrote a press release which was published in the paper. The result of the village and the press release was the arrival of visitors who came with the sole purpose of viewing the exhibit. Many complements were received from the public about the display, and it fostered a lot of good will towards the museum. It is my hope that the setting up of a Christmas village could become a tradition for the museum moving forward.

Project 6: Museum Networking and Information Sharing Through Conferences

During my internship, I attended two conferences. The first was the Ontario Museum Association's annual conference. Here, I learned about current industry trends, and I promoted our museum through networking events. By then end of the conference, I had not only learned more about the industry, but I also walked away a list of museum professionals who had agreed to help if I needed guidance. Due to the useful outcomes of this conference, I would suggest that staff from our museum continue to attend it every year.

The second conference was the North Shore Cultural Attractions Network (NSCAN)'s inaugural meeting. Darla, Teresa, and I all attended this meeting, which had the goal of reviving the North Shore's museum network. This conference was important, as it strengthened the ties between the museums from Massey to Sault Ste Marie, who need to work together in order to thrive. We also attended a seminar on the purpose, creation, and proper care of archives. Yet again, this conference provided useful information and contacts with which to help our museum thrive in the future.

Changes Made to the Museum Prior to the Collapse

The Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum has changed dramatically over the years. Below are photographs of the museum while under construction in 2008, in contrast to its layout in January, 2019.

2008 Photographs

Main Gallery Left Side:



Main Gallery Center and Right Sides:



Back of Main Gallery:



Side Room:



2019 Photographs

Main Gallery Front and Right Side:



Main Gallery Back:



Main Gallery Left Side:



Side Room Entrance:



Side Room Long View:



Side Room Reading Area:



Summary of Work Since the Collapse

On February 21st 2019, the roof of the Lester B. Pearson Civic Center caved in on the right hand side. Unfortunately for us, the museum is in the basement of the Civic Center on this side of the building. Here is an update on what work has been done to recover the museum since the collapse.

Evacuation of the Museum Storage Room

After five hours of non-stop transportation of artifacts, we were able to empty the museum storage room and time capsule of their contents on March 9th, 2019.

The storage room and time capsule held artifacts from almost all of our collections, including the: Joubin, Kirkham, Mining Hall of Fame, Fire Tower, Christmas village, Jean Boudreault, police, stope, and mine art collections. The artifacts were no worse for wear due to the collapse, and artifact triage actions were not needed. The artifacts are now being stored in the Collins Hall, Rio Den, and Renaissance Centre.

Evacuation of the Museum Itself

We are currently waiting to hear whether an evacuation of the museum itself will be possible.

During the week of March 18th, engineers were sent into the right side of the Civic Centre to assess the damage. We have been told that damage to the museum is minimal, but we have yet to receive the go ahead to enter that side of the building. We are continuing to work with City staff and engineers in the hopes of evacuating the museum in the near future.

However, we are also planning for the worst case scenario as well. In the case that the building is deemed unstable and must be torn down, we are looking into the possibility of an archeological dig. This would mean the building would be removed in a way which allows future access to the basement through digging. We would then work with archeologists to uncover our artifacts. As the majority of our artifacts are either in display cases or are pieces of mining equipment, time spent underground should not be overly detrimental. Thus, even if we cannot evacuate our artifacts now, we will still be able to rescue them in the end.

Storage of Evacuated Artifacts

Due to the hurried nature of the initial storage room evacuation, our artifacts at the Collins Hall will need to be re-organized. Our storage space at the Collins Hall is very small, and each inch of floor space must be put to good use. Currently, I am working with an assistant to move all of our archival material and books into the cupboards in the room. Once these artifacts are safely in place, we will begin organizing the rest of our artifacts by collection. It is our hope that once this organization is complete, cataloguing the artifacts and making a list for insurance purposes will be easier.

Our Christmas Village collections will be stored in Massey this summer, as the Massey Area Museum has asked to borrow them. While the collections are on display, the Massey Area Museum has agreed to put up a sign mentioning where the exhibits came from. This means that we will gain publicity, free up storage space, and strengthen our ties with Massey Area Museum through this interaction. It is a beneficial arrangement for everyone involved.

If we are able to evacuate the artifacts from the museum itself, new storage arrangements will need to be made. For now, we plan on moving the artifacts out to the museum and into the 50th Room and Art Gallery on the “safe” side of the Civic Centre. This would ensure that our artifacts are not in immediate danger. It would also provide us with the space needed to preform artifact triage actions, if necessary. Then, once we were able to secure a safe offsite location for the artifacts, we could move them out of the Civic Centre completely. We are still looking for an offsite storage location for our artifacts.

Events Held and Projects Continued

“Diggers and Scoops” and Heritage Move Marathon Events

Before the collapse, we had planned to host two Heritage Month events at the museum. A Heritage Movie Marathon was planned for February 22nd, and a “Diggers and Scoops” children’s event was planned for March 1st. The goal of these events was to promote the museum in the local community. Both of these events were relocated to different venues after the collapse.

The Heritage Movie Marathon was held at the Public Library the day after the roof collapsed, and we had three visitors in attendance. While this number is small, it was a great success considering the last minute change of venue. On top of the visitors in attendance, we also received positive feedback on Facebook. Posts about the event reached over 100 people, and we received complements about the quality of our videos, and our resilience in spite of the collapse. Thus, while attendance was limited, the event succeeded in its goal of promoting the museum in the community.

Our Diggers and Scoops event was held at the Collins Hall during March Break. The event was a huge success, with approximately twenty children and twelve adults in attendance. The children enjoyed playing with the mining toys we had available, and some stayed for almost the full three hours. Our Facebook post about the event reached over 200 people, making it one of the most successful posts this year so far. This event shows that our museum is able to attract young families, when events are planned for this audience in mind.

Indigenous Consultations

In January, I began a series of consultations with members from local Anishnabe communities. At this time, the goal was to revamp our museum's Anishnabe exhibit, and to ensure its authenticity. For this reason, I met with a number of Elders from Serpent River on January 31st. The Elders provided feedback on our storyboards, and helped to identify some of our artifacts. This was the beginning of the consultation process.

The reason for my consultations changed when the Civic Center roof collapsed. As all of our Anishnabe artifacts were on display at the museum, I no longer had an exhibit to work with. For this reason, I travelled to Sagamok and Mississauga to ask for a partnership. I asked if their communities would be willing to work with us to create a new exhibit, as well as potentially create programs or presentations in the future. Both of my contacts at these reserves were enthusiastic about the potential for a partnership, and said that they would ask for the permission needed to formally accept.

My next steps are to formalize a partnership between the three reserves. I will set up a meeting with all three of my contacts at once, to talk about how we can help each other in promoting Anishnabe history. For example, I have already offered to provide guidance to my Mississauga contact, who is hoping to start up a museum on his reserve. Hopefully there will be projects with which we can help Serpent River and Sagamok as well, to make the partnership beneficial to all.

Organizations Contacted about the Collapse, and their Responses

Ontario Museum Association

The Ontario Museum Association (OMA) is the group which oversees museum operations in Ontario. The OMA made sure we were in touch with all the governing bodies and organizations necessary after the collapse. They also provided us with information on disaster recovery, and planning. This information was very important when discussing our museum's insurance coverage when the time came.

Canadian Conservation Institute

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) is an organization which runs a crisis line for museums who have had a fire or flood. While a roof collapses is outside of the CCI's expertise, they were able to provide important information on artifact triage. Artifact triage is the process of stopping a dangerous situation such as mould, soot, or water damage from causing further harm to an artifact. This information will prove to be important if the museum artifacts have water and/or mould damage due to snowmelt after the collapse. The CCI will also be able to recommend archeological companies to us if a dig is needed.

Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Sport

Elka Weinstein is our contact at the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Sport. Like the OMA, she has been able to suggest organizations to reach out to, who may be able to help us.

North Shore Cultural Attractions Network

The North Shore Cultural Attractions Network (NSCAN) consists of a variety of museums and heritage organizations between Massey and Sault Ste. Marie. The day after the collapse, Will Hollingstead (the head of the network) sent out a call to NSCAN members asking for help. We received messages from multiple museums offering to help us evacuate artifacts when the time came. Will was also instrumental in providing advice right from the beginning, and volunteered his time to help us prepare for the museum storage room evacuation. We are very grateful for the support of our NSCAN partners.

Canadian Mining Hall of Fame

Upon hearing about our situation, the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame has offered to donate to us their traveling exhibit. The exhibit is an exact replica of the display at the Royal Ontario Museum, and consists of touch screen kiosks and video screens. This traveling display would replace the kiosks which are currently in the museum. The Hall should be able to store the traveling exhibit for us until we are ready for it.

Moving Forward: March 28th to May 3rd

As there are only five weeks left in my work term, I have begun preparing for my departure. My main objectives for the upcoming weeks are as follows:

Museum Revitalization

- If the chance arises to evacuate artifacts from the museum, this will become my first priority.
- I will research archeological digs.
- I will continue to work with staff to organize the Collins Hall storage room, and inventory the artifacts there.
- I will continue to assist Teresa in grant writing for our summer students.
- If the insurance company needs information, then I will work with them to create our claim.
- If possible, I will arrange for a meeting with Serpent River, Mississauga, and Sagamok in order to cement our partnership before I leave. If this is not possible, I will arrange a meeting to be held after I leave, with Darla, Teresa and Joanne.
- Teresa, Darla, Joanne and I will be attending the Spring NSCAN conference on April 2nd.

Staff Training on Past Perfect, Archival Research, and Interpretation

- I will train Joanne (one of our Welcome Centre employees) to take over my duties this summer. I will be training her on our Past Perfect system, and archival research. She will be in charge of training and supervising our summer students this year.
- I will create a presentation about Heritage Interpretation and Canadian/Environmental Studies. This presentation can be used by one of our department managers to train our Fire Tower and Museum summer students.

Employment Wrap up

Before I leave Elliot Lake, I will make sure that Joanne knows where all of my files are. I will also leave a list of what I was able to complete, and what still needs to be done.

Summary and Conclusion

Our volunteers, staff, and community should be very proud of what has been accomplished in our museum. Before the collapse, we were making progress to update our museum's design and publicity. Since the collapse, we have strengthened our museum's ties with outside organizations, rescued a large portion of our artifacts, and impressed the community with our resilience. We need to continue to build upon this momentum, to push us forward into a brighter future.

I have enjoyed my time in Elliot Lake, and will look back fondly on my time spent in the museum. I ask that the board consider me as a potential employee, should a position become available in the future.

Sincerely,

Samantha Peever

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