



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee

FROM: Susan Neale, Museum Director

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Report MAAC10-017
Peterborough Museum & Archives: Objects Identified for
Deaccession

PURPOSE

A report to recommend that objects identified through the Peterborough Museum & Archives Deaccessions Policy be approved for disposal.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report MAAC10-017 dated December 9, 2010, of the Museum Director, as follows:

That the objects identified through an assessment according to provincial and national criteria for deaccessioning and itemized in Table 1 (Appendix A) be disposed of in compliance with the Peterborough Museum & Archives Deaccessions Policy.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation can be accommodated within the Peterborough Museum & Archives 2010 and 2011 annual Operating Budgets.

BACKGROUND

As a designated Category “A” institution, the Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) strives to adhere to ethical guidelines for collection storage and growth. There are circumstances when disposing of objects in a museum or archives strengthens and refines the collections. Such circumstances have been identified in the criteria for deaccessioning artifacts or archival material in the Peterborough Museum & Archives Deaccessions Policy (Appendix B).

Objects are only deaccessioned from the Peterborough Museum & Archives collection in accordance with recognized standards and current professional ethics. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture, as part of the annual Community Museum Operating Grant assessment process, has reviewed and approved the Peterborough Museum & Archives Deaccessions Policy. This Policy also reflects the Canadian Museums Association Ethics Guidelines (Appendix C) and the Association of Canadian Archivists Code of Ethics (Appendix D).

With assistance from the faculty and students of the Fleming College Museum Management and Curatorship Program, Peterborough Museum & Archives staff (Curator, Archivist and Conservators) has identified a total of 638 objects for deaccession. Table 1 - Peterborough Museum & Archives: Itemized List of Objects Identified for Deaccession (Appendix A) includes the following information: Accession Number, Object Name, Reason for Deaccession (according to Deaccessions Policy, Section 4), Date of Deaccession and Method of Disposal (according to Deaccessions Policy, Sections 6 and 7). In all circumstances, deaccession is being recommended based on lack of provenance, excessive duplication, poor condition and/or a potential health hazard.

SUMMARY

To ensure future and positive growth of the Peterborough Museum & Archives collections, staff is recommending deaccession for the objects listed in Table 1 (Appendix A), according to the criteria set forth in the Peterborough Museum & Archives Deaccessions Policy (Appendix B).

Submitted by,

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Museum Director

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Attachments:

Appendix A: Table 1 – Peterborough Museum & Archives: Itemized List of Objects
Identified for Deaccession
Appendix B: Peterborough Museum & Archives Deaccessions Policy
Appendix C: Canadian Museums Association Ethics Guidelines
Appendix D: Association of Canadian Archivists Code of Ethics