



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee

From: Susan Neale, Museum Director

Meeting Date: June 10, 2021

Subject: Report MAAC21-008
Peterborough Museum & Archives: COVID-19 Pandemic Update

Purpose

A report to recommend that the Committee receive a presentation regarding the Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) response to the COVID-19 pandemic health measures.

Recommendation

That the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report MAAC21-008 dated June 10, 2021, of the Museum Director, as follows:

That the presentation regarding the PMA response to the COVID-19 pandemic health measures be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

Federal and provincial federal health measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted PMA operations. The PMA has applied to COVID-19 pandemic relief programs and has confirmed \$157,622.70 in external funding to date.

Background

Museums and Archives – Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Extensive international, national, and regional resources are available to guide museums and archives in their response to COVID-19. These resources continue to evolve and to be updated as the scientific knowledge around COVID-19 and its spread expands and grows. Primary resources include:

- a. International Council of Museums (ICOM) COVID-19
<https://icom.museum/en/covid-19/>
- b. The REALM Project: REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums
www.oclc.org/realm
- c. Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI): caring for Collections During the COVID-19 Pandemic
www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/conservation-preservation-publications/canadian-conservation-institute-notes/caring-heritage-collections-covid19
- d. Canadian Museums Association (CMA)
<https://museums.ca/site/aboutthecma/covid19>
- e. Ontario Museum Association (OMA)
<https://members.museumsontario.ca/resources/tools-for-museum-practice/COVID19>
- f. Federal and provincial health measures have been implemented to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human health.

Peterborough Museum & Archives - Pivoting Operations in the Face of COVID-19

The PMA, and all other Ontario museums and archives (as well as most Ontario organizations and businesses), faced the first full closure to the public beginning March 14, 2020. Since that date, phased levels of openings and closings have impacted the traditional methods of fulfilling deliverables.

The following 10 tips for pivoting a business in the face of COVID-19, set out by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA), have proven a useful framework for creative solutions: solve delivery dilemmas; go back to basics; provide entertainment; add to the product mix; tackle health needs; take it on-line; incubate ideas; get inspired globally; support your community; and look for guidance.

As always, the PMA priority is to fulfill its mandate:

As part of the collective memory of the community, the Peterborough Museum & Archives preserves, presents, and promotes the heritage and culture of Peterborough and area and provides significant heritage programs for the education and enjoyment of both visitors and residents alike.

COVID-19 Relief Programs

The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) regularly applies for external funding, as opportunities arise that support its Mandate, its 5-Year Plan Accommodation Objectives, and its operational needs. The PMA has been successful in its submissions to COVID-19 funding relief programs (refer to MAAC21-005).

Summary

The federal, provincial and municipal governments recognize the importance, and the associated challenges, of maintaining museum and archives operations during a global pandemic. Ongoing access to core funding, to funding relief programs and to tools for ensuring human safety have proven critical to the continued delivery of services by the Peterborough Museum & Archives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Submitted by,

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