

ED-24-50

From: Peter Young <M.F.I.P.P.A. 14(1)>.

Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 4:20 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: City of Oshawa's Economic and Development Services Committee - re April 8 meeting - Oshawa Museum

To the City of Oshawa's Economic and Development Services Committee -

On Monday April 8 the Committee will be addressed by Melissa Cole, Curator of the Oshawa Museum to describe the exciting future plans for our city's Museum. As a long time member of the Oshawa Historical Society I would like to give my unconditional and enthusiastic support to Melissa, and her museum colleagues as well.

With 2024 being the year of our city's Centennial, it's really important that we all take time to look back on our community's growth and expansion, reflect on where we've been as a people, and how we've developed. It's also an opportunity for us to look at our future as we continue to add new neighbourhoods and welcome new residents to our City.

The preservation and presentation of Oshawa's past is a critical component for our future as the years move along. The Oshawa Museum has an incredibly dedicated staff of wonderful people committed to this goal. Community programs are offered year round, special exhibitions are presented on a variety of significant subjects related to our city's developing community, and the collection of artifacts and archives continues to grow.

However, in order for our City to properly preserve and present our past in a suitable physical environment, a larger facility is crucial. The Museum's expanding collection of precious artifacts and documents requires a proper space where temperature, humidity and air quality can be controlled. Increased space will allow the Museum to offer visitors a greater opportunity for education and to present larger exhibitions for the public. New office facilities would also really benefit the staff as they continue their work.

Many Ontario towns and cities have created destination museums and cultural centres which collect and present their communities' history and archives. The City of Oshawa has so many stories to tell. Let's set our community's goal to create a new, expanded and dynamic Museum facility that will tell these stories.

Peter Young

From: Wioletta Walancik <M.F.I.P.P.A. 14(1)>.
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 12:36 PM
To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>
Cc: <M.F.I.P.P.A. 14(1)>.
Subject: Letter of Support for Oshawa Historical Society

Hello,

Friends of Second Marsh (FSM) is writing to support the Oshawa Historical Society (Oshawa Museum) in their quest for a new office, storage space and welcoming centre. Oshawa Historical Society (Oshawa Museum) has been an invaluable resource for the community and for Friends of Second Marsh. This organization manages the archival records and artifacts of Oshawa's history. These are very valuable records and artifacts that require a proper and safe space to be held and displayed.

Friends of Second Marsh have had the fortune of partnering with the Oshawa Museum on a variety of projects in the past. Oshawa Museum staff supported our *Magic of the Marsh* event in the spring of 2022 with an Indigenous Peoples display. They were able to bring Indigenous artifacts to our event and teach our visitors about the Indigenous history of the area.

Our most recent collaboration was on the *History Beneath Our Feet* walk in the spring and fall of 2023. Oshawa Museum staff educated our participants about Indigenous and First Settler history around the Oshawa Second Marsh and FSM staff focused on how the natural environment was used for survival. These walks were well attended. The Oshawa Museum staff were able to bring some important artifacts from this time period to share with our participants.

We would not be able to share Indigenous and First Settler history of the area without being able to partner with the Oshawa Museum, pull on their historical knowledge of the area and have access to important historical artifacts. We hope that you will consider the request of the Oshawa Historical Society (Oshawa Museum) and allow them to continue to share Oshawa's history from a new and improved space.

Regards,

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Wioletta Walancik
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Registered Charity # 89793 2091 RR0001

Oshawa Second Marsh is a coastal wetland on the north shore of Lake Ontario - a hidden gem in an urban setting. It is designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW), a Provincially Significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and designated as an Urban River Valley within the Greenbelt.

From: Janet Dowson <M.F.I.P.P.A. 14(1)>

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 9:10 AM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Submission for the April 8th meeting of the Oshawa's Economic & Development Committee

I am writing as a lifelong resident of Oshawa, with a natural and keen interest in preserving the history and culture of our, now 100-year-old, City. Due to business commitments, I am unable to attend the April 8th meeting to support the presentation by Mike Leonard, Board member of the Oshawa Historical Society/Oshawa Museum. So, I am supporting Board and Museum members by writing to the City Clerk, the following:

I served on the Board of Directors of the Oshawa Historical Society (Oshawa Museum) for many years. As you are aware, the Museum grew from the restoration of 3 historical homes located at Lakeview Park (the creative group formed the Oshawa Historical Society....but focus has had to be only to the extent group of overseeing management of the 3 buildings at the lake and artefacts stored therein).

The Museum staff are very dedicated, provide many programs and manage the archival records of Oshawa's history. However, 3 historical homes do not provide the best resources for office facilities, nor storage of archives and artefacts. There has always been a severe lack of space....with the Curator often having to turn away donations of items by Oshawa citizens, regrettably.

Examples of **non-safety issues** for preserving archival storage: Fire (arson) at Guy House. Basement flooding of Robinson House where many artefacts are stored. Another safety issue for Museum staff and archives and visiting public, is the huge, towering tree that is far too close to (wooden structure) Guy House. Climate change heightens the risk for more severe windstorms. I believe the City should cut down this tree for safety reasons...perhaps replace it with a new tree, further from the building.

Over the years, the amazing Expansion of the Museum's creative programs/activities has generated an increasing need for more space to be successful and to better generate income. It was my understanding when I served on the Board (and a study was done to design a new building) that the Province had some Oshawa historical documents that they could not send to Oshawa due to our Museum's lack of proper archival space. If those items are still stored there, hopefully Oshawa will gain access to them before destruction by the Province.

By the City's 100th year, as an OHS Board member, it was hoped, by that time, and with the long-term dire need for space, the goal of a new, modern building, would have been accomplished. But, from my experience, City Councils change; creating a break in continuity of interested councillors' progress towards the goal.

When the new all-purpose Recreation Centre was being planned, it was my hope that some needs of the Oshawa Historical Society/Museum would have been addressed (especially climate-controlled archival/artefact space). Such was not the case. The OHS Board has had to reinvent its development plans. This is the purpose of the presentation on April 8th. Surely, something will be done in this 100th year!

I am sending this email, to urge Economic Development Committee, and City Council, to finally act based on the presentation by Mike Leonard on behalf of the OHS/Museum Board of Directors.

The Oshawa Lakefront is a special place. The creation of the Ed Broadbent Park will bring more residents and tourists to the area. Oshawa does not have a Welcoming Centre. A special building at the lake would be the City of Oshawa's official place to welcome tourists and display information about other places of (historical) interest in Oshawa, and special events taking place, at various times in our amazing 100-year-old City.

Of course, the presentation by Mike Leonard will provide all the necessary detail Council will need to know; to decide to proceed.

Respectfully submitted in support of the Oshawa Historical Society/Oshawa Museum.

Janet Dowson

Janet Dowson, B.A.,
Broker, ABR, ASA, CNE, SRES, SRS
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Oh, by the way, I am never too busy for your referrals. I will take great care of the people you care about. Remember, I'm not #1 – You are.

(This email is not intended to solicit the business of persons already under a contract of service with another brokerage.)