

Fort Frances Museum Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting: Tues Mar 21, 5 p.m. No meeting in February.

Present: Debbie Ballard✓ Robert Schulz✓ Mary Hickling✓ Caren Fagerdahl✓
Council representative: Paul Ryan Committee Secretary: Sherry George✓ Guest:

Minutes from last meeting, Jan 17, 2017: adopted as sent.

Governance:

- As noted, Bonny Montgomery has regretfully resigned due to health reasons. I have informed town clerk, who will advertise the vacancy as per protocol. Nell Laur has applied.
- Strategic Planning, Ian Simpson chair. Meeting March 9th; next meeting March 30th at 4 p.m.
- Regional Museums meeting scheduled for May 10 in Red Lake. Yet to be confirmed.

Finance:

- Trillium Ontario 150 grant funding signed. – 50% funding for roof, ramp and accessible washrooms. Waiting on FedNor for other half of funding. We will have a celebratory event following construction.
- **Not** approved in 2017 budget was \$10,000 requested to keep L.Hyatt employed Oct-Dec. Sherry in contact with L. Mose (MNDM). As NOHFC intern funding continued to Mar 2019, will approach council for another intern position.
- Andrew Elgee from Canadian Heritage, contact for MAP grant (Freemasonry exhibit) visited Mar 17th. We discussed museums in general, and lack of gov't (every level) funding for museum needs incl. staffing despite their increasing importance to economy. Suggested I keep him in mind should the museum need funding for a project. He knows where grant money may be available.

Collections:

- Tener digital photos are excellent: very hi-res images. M.Ahrens proceeding with project; working with N.Laur.

Exhibitions:

- Main floor — Freemasonry, A History Hidden in Plain Sight. Open House Feb 23, local masons in attendance. Closes March 30th; ships Apr 3.
- Canada 150 meeting Mar 13. Exhibit will open following Easter.

Interpretation & Education:

- Arts programming continues.
- Ran two children's classes during March break: egg decorating using natural food dyes and, in partnership with Sunset Country Metis, beading (over 40 people for each class!).
- Final report for Winnipeg Foundation funding submitted end of January.

Research:

- William Hampden Tener for Canada 150 project. M.Ahrens working with N.Laur.
- Canada 150 transportation themes.

Conservation:

Physical Plant:

- No building issues.

Community:

- SnOasis 5, Canada Alive! Sat Mar 4th. Excellent attendance and coverage in newspapers. Kudos to 'Friends'!
- Ordered Canada 150 merchandise sold only through museums/art galleries. Chocolates arrived.

Human Resources/Professional Development:

- Brochure for the recruitment of volunteers created; made available at Freemasonry Open House.
- Museum staff attended WHMIS training Mar 15th.
- Mid-year report for NOHFC (L.Hyatt) due early April.

Numbers: Jan visitors: 224 (230 in 2016); Feb visitors: 326 (306 in 2016).

Recommendations to be made to Executive Committee of Community Services.... M.Hickling moved that the museum apply for intern position through the NOHFC. Position pays \$34,944; at 90% NOIP contributes \$31,449.60, town pays approx. \$10,000 with mandatory benefits. D.Ballard seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Tues. Apr 18 at 5 p.m. M.Hickling will be away.