



Mayor Avis & Council

The Museum Advisory Committee, at their Oct 20th meeting, passed two motions: 1) to request someone from council to sit as part of the committee, and 2) to request additional staffing for the museum.

1) The Committee believes that having a council member sit on the committee will give management and council a better understanding of the issues faced by the museum and vice versa.

2) The Committee firmly believes that the museum requires additional full-time staffing in order to meet the standards laid out by the Canadian Museums Association. The collection is not being adequately managed to CMOG specifications, there is minimal programming for seniors and children (necessary for future sustainability), the needs of artists and the wider cultural community are not being met, and with the increased traffic through the museum, the curator is struggling to meet deadlines.

The committee understands that a full-time position may not be possible at this time. We do feel strongly about making the request however. What we are hoping for, in the interim, is that you will consider part-time help for the museum – someone to cover the hours the museum is open (20 hours/week), thereby allowing Mrs. George to properly manage the collection and to expand the role of the museum in our community.

To help with staffing limitations, Mrs. George is making other changes to the way the museum is managed. Some of these include: running fewer exhibits (only two new exhibits next year; holding this one over the winter), and shortening the summer season (returning to off-season hours following Labour Day).

She continues to investigate intern positions that would help address the accessioning backlog issue. The museum also relies heavily on volunteers for assistance with research, but neither of these options solves the staffing shortfall over the long term.

Sincerely,

Museum Advisory Committee:
Debbie Ballard
Bruce Caldwell
Robert Schulz
Judy Kielczewski
Mary Hickling