



The members of the NOTL Canada Sesquicentennial Committee met on November 15, 2016 in the Rotary Room at the NOTL Library at 1:30 pm.

PRESENT: Bill Cowie, Rick Meloen, Richard Coyne, Jim Alexander, Tony Chisholm, Clare Cameron, John Mather, Terry Flynn, Pat Darte, Bill French, Cheryl Morris, Sarah Bowers (representing Cathy Simpson), Guests: Rene Bertschi (Skyview Arts), Rima Boles (Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre).

REGRETS: Sarah Kaufman, Amanda Gamble, Peter Martin, Lisa Curtis

ABSENT: Sheldon Randall, Janice Thompson

Co-Chair Bill Cowie called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

There were no conflicts of interest declared at this time.

MATTERS FROM MINUTES:

- Cheryl Morris wished to confirm that the Sidewalk art idea interested the committee and if worthwhile doing more investigation. The Writers' Circle and the Niagara Pumphouse are interested in participating in this project. The committee asked for more details on the substance used on the sidewalk. Cheryl will investigate further.
- Rick Meloen wanted to clarify the committee's feeling about erecting Canada 150 flags around the Town. Approximate cost for 30 flags = \$2000. A motion to put before Council was approved by Jim Alexander, seconded by Dick Coyne.

DELEGATIONS:

There were no delegations made at this meeting.

AGENDA for November 15, 2016 approved by all.

MINUTES of November 1, 2016 meeting were approved by all.

PRESENTATION:

Rima Boles, the Managing Director of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, presented two projects that require financial support from the committee:

1. The Pumphouse's participation in the committee's July 3 outdoor event in Simcoe Park. The Pumphouse would like to offer an activity for children to create artworks. As well, plein art activity plus sales of local artists' work could be offered. Support is needed to pay for art supplies.
2. Second project is twofold: Proposal to run workshop(s) to create art of historic homes in NOTL. This could be run as one of the usual art programs at the Pumphouse, or a special program. Following this, a call for artists for an exhibition of these works that would take place in November 2017, as part of the Rotary House Tour. A map and other collateral would be created that could be useful to residents and tourists beyond the event date. Support is needed to pay for collateral printing & event logistics. The Pumphouse has applied for Canada 150 grants.

Another program the Pumphouse is considering is a lecture series: "150 Years of Canadian Art" to happen throughout the summer. No committee funding is being sought for this.

A formal request will be submitted to the committee. Comments from the committee: Clare Cameron suggested the Pumphouse tie in their July 3 activity with Doors Open activities (managed by the Museum).

BUSINESS:

1. Sub committees' reports (Note: in the interest of time, the committee has decided to hear from only those subcommittees with reports)
 - a. Finance: no report
 - b. Legacy: Rick Meloen reported on the first Legacy subcommittee meeting of Nov 2 where the following proposal was presented:
 - **Upper Canada Heritage Trail:** Cam Lang, a resident and unofficial lead of a group interested in restoring the trail to be safely utilized. The trail goes along an old railway line and, in many areas, is overgrown and encroached on by farmers/wineries. Portions of the trail are owned by Niagara Region who have suggested they make some repairs to the trail and hand over to the Town for future maintenance. The Town currently maintains some parts of the trail.
 - The trail project would connect many of NOTL's communities via non-automobile ways, is environmentally-friendly, would improve safety for trail users (walkers, cyclists, equestrians), and would recognize historical significance of old railway.
 - Cam's plan is first to engage a company to do a survey of the trail to determine what would be involved to restore the trail. This survey could cost approx. \$15,000. Cam has applied for a Canada Heritage grant.
 - If the Canada 150 Committee decides to adopt this project, the first step might be to erect signage at beginning and end of trail to raise awareness of the trail as being significant.
 - This project would last beyond the life of the Canada 150 Committee, so a grassroots committee organized by Cam would take over after the initial launch – could be an event in June to unveil signage (tbd).
 - Comments from the Committee: Jim Alexander suggests establishing a "Friends of the Heritage Trail". Terry Flynn said there might be pushback from farmers who have encroached on the trail. Bill French suggested the Legacy subcommittee investigate further and come back to the committee with a proposal. Terry proposed a direction in principle to the Canada 150 committee to go forward with this investigation.
 - c. Communications:
 - Bill French and subcommittee members have drafted a set of criteria and a process for local groups to request funding from the Committee, who is satisfied with the document. Cheryl will send to Sheldon Randall and Holly Dowd to review and clarify particular wording (e.g. event insurance).
 - Committee will direct all groups previously contacting us for financial support to apply through the Canada 150 website (www.notlcanada150.ca)
 - Public information session November 15 at 7pm. Report on this for next committee meeting (Nov 29)
 - d. Logistics: no report
 - e. Sponsorship: no report
 - f. New Year's Eve:
 - Terry Flynn reported that logistic plans are moving along. Cheryl has applied for Town & NRP permits. Terry has volunteered to speak to restaurants on Queen St to alert them to the public outdoor event. One band has been engaged to perform.

- Cenotaph must be fenced off. Terry will contact Air Cadets or other volunteer group to stand guard on the evening.
- g. Canada Day weekend: Co-chairs Tony Chisholm, Rick Meloen
- First subcommittee meeting will take place Nov. 17. Will report back to committee at Nov 29 meeting.
- i. Education: no report
- j. 225th Anniversary: Our proposal given by Ryan Donnelly to Ontario Legislature on event plan on Sept 17/17 was met with satisfaction. (Note: proposal is below in this document).
2. New business:
- a) Snowbirds event: Pat Darte has been in contact with the Snowbirds who proposed Sept 13, 2017 for public event at Niagara District Airport. Cost is \$17,000 for a 45 minute show. Someone at airport would manage event, but for now Rick Meloen and Bill Cowie will oversee. Committee members agreed to proceed on event and suggested the following:
- Charge for parking and premium seating (tents). Have food trucks, beer/wine sales. Possibly use the Greater Toronto Airways hangar.
- b) Canada Day cake parade: Jim Alexander reported The Friends of Fort George were approached by the Royal Canadian pipeband who indicated they were invited to participate in the parade to help avoid crowd rushing in at the end of the parade and to protect the cake. It seems there is some miscommunication about this invitation (if they were invited specifically, or took it upon themselves to approach the Friends). The Friends declined this offer, as it would upset plans already in place, as well as the tradition of the parade. Jim asked that no interference come from the Canada 150 Committee on July 1. Pat Darte mentioned that the Committee does not want to interfere with the parade, but does want to help in enhancing the day's events. Rene Bertschi (a meeting guest) suggested that flag bearers close gaps in the parade procession.

Meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting: 1:30 p.m. Tuesday November 29 at Mori Room, Community Centre.

COMMEMORATION OF 225th ANNIVERSARY EVENT:

Date: Sunday, Sept 17, 2017

Time: 11:00am-1:00pm (approx)

Location Simcoe Park (in a tent to hold approx 500 people + a stage)

VIPs to be invited: Lt Governor, Premier, Speaker and perhaps some others in legislature e.g.reps from the areas that were impacted by the first parliament. Lord Mayor and Regional Councillors would be involved, of course.

Local schools would be invited to attend and participate in some fashion, although we may have to control numbers for space considerations. If the weather is bad we will need bigger tents/covered areas, but having students attend would enhance the event, and make the anniversary more relevant and memorable for them.

Program:

10 minutes: Welcome (by TBD) & intro of guests (MPP's et al)

10 minutes: Remarks by Premier or senior ranking official in attendance

10 minutes: Performance by a local choir or dance group (indigenous?)

30 minutes: A re-enactment of the first parliament, perhaps add in some original songs/music. Keep this segment light and entertaining, rather than a dry history lesson. Period-attired soldiers/re-enactors and the Fort George Fife & Drum Corps, would definitely add to the colour and significance of the event.

20 minutes: Musical program (Music Niagara).

10 minutes: Project factoids (on screen with voice-over) of significant milestones through the decades - Act Against Slavery, first female MPP, etc. especially highlighting the important decisions/ laws that were made by legislature over the years, and the ones made here 1792 -1796. Could make this segment participatory in some way to involve the attending

VIPs.

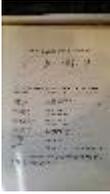
10 minutes: Presentation of some commemorative object from NOTL to be placed in House of Parliament.

15 minutes: Musical interlude/closing (Music Niagara)

Following the event, MPPs and other invited guests will be provided a light lunch at St Mark's Church. If guests arrive Saturday, we will invite them to a dinner at a winery, but only if there is a small group coming in.

Budget-wise, here are a few items on the list:

Tent(s), staging, producer/writer for re-enactment "play", sound/technical resources, transportation for students, food (dinner, lunch), stage props, marketing/promotional items, printed handouts, equipment rentals (e.g. cannon), security (police), honoraria/fees for performers, and so on.



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