



The members of the NOTL Canada Sesquicentennial Committee met on October 4, 2016 in the Mori Room at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre at 2:00pm.

PRESENT:

Bill Cowie, Richard Coyne, Lord Mayor Pat Darte, Amanda Gamble, Rick Meloen, Tony Chisholm, Sheldon Randall, Janice Thompson, Lisa Curtis, Sarah Kauffman, John Mather, Cheryl Morris, Sarah Bowers (representing Cathy Simpson). Guests Tim Taylor (Music Niagara), Hermine Steinberg and Sharon French (NOTL Writers' Circle).

REGRETS:

Bill French, Claire Cameron

ABSENT:

Terry Flynn

Co-Chair Rick Meloen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

There were no conflicts of interest declared at this time.

MATTERS FROM MINUTES:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

DELEGATIONS:

There were no delegations made at this meeting.

AGENDA for October 4, 2016 approved by all.

MINUTES of Sept 15, 2016 meeting were approved by Pat Darte, Ricard Coyne seconded.

BUSINESS:

1. Presentation from NOTL Writers' Circle – Hermine Steinberg and Sharon French
 - The Writers' Circle holds an annual writing contest with the results announced at a celebration evening in late October. They wish to expand their program for 2017 – "The Rising of the Canadian Spirit". Theme will be topics related to Niagara on the Lake's past and future. There will be a youth category and specific initiatives to engage students to write and learn about the region's history. Other promotional initiatives were presented.
 - The proposed budget is \$45,000. Their current budget is approx. \$6000 + sponsor support for prizes.
 - Following this presentation, the guests left and the Committee discussed the proposal. **It was decided unanimously that the 150 Committee supports the Writers' Circle writing contest in principle and will offer promotional support via the website and social media. Funding support is pending.**
2. Review/ discussion of significant events for 2017
 - The Committee discussed the list of 6 events that resulted from the brainstorming meeting on Sept 15, along with the meeting with the Ontario 150 delegation on Sept 27. The guidance given to the Committee was no capital projects (infrastructure), must be a celebration event, should incorporate youth where possible, innovation and be a draw to new audiences. If equipment is needed for the

events, that can be added to funding request. There is no competition for this grant; Niagara-on-the-Lake will receive something as we were approached by this delegation, as Niagara-on-the-Lake was the site of the first Parliament of Canada in 1792. The amount of funding available is not known at this time. Ranking of these events by the Committee members will end on Oct 5.

- “Celebrate NOTL” has come out as the favorite choice so far. Suggestion by Pat Darte is to propose one event (at low end of funding request), then add additional events to scale up to medium and large funding requests.
- The final proposal will be sent to Ontario 150 delegates on Oct. 13 and will consist of a description of the event(s) along with 3 levels of funding. Cheryl Morris will prepare the proposal and send for review to Rick Meloen and Bill Cowie before submission to Ontario 150.

3. Sub committees’ reports

- a. New Year’s Eve: Dick Coyne – 100 tickets have been sold for the St Andrews event. Cheryl will set up a meeting of the sub-committee as soon as possible to discuss plans for public event. (Now set for Oct 7)
- b. Queen’s (Victoria) proclamation May 22, 2017 – council meeting – no report
- c. Canada Day weekend
 - i. Friday night musical celebration
 - ii. Saturday activities – Citizenship ceremony needs Canadian government permission. Cheryl will work with Carrie Enns to investigate and coordinate.
 - iii. Sunday – musical events in Simcoe Park. There is some confusion about what is taking place in Simcoe Park on Sunday. Bravo Niagara has put in an event request as has this Committee. There is also a promoter in contact with Parks Canada (Lisa Curtis) who would like to augment the Sunday evening event by having something during the day. Cheryl will investigate and report back.
 - iv. Monday – Cross-border event: Pat will appoint someone (on Council?) to take the lead on this.
- j. Living Flag – Event was very successful. Photo and videos available on notlcanada150.ca Article/photo on front page of local papers. Posters will be printed and sent to sponsors and others. Framed posters will be presented to the 4 schools.
- k. Legacy – UNESCO proposal, Queenston park – no report
- l. Finances and budget, sponsors, grants – Sheldon Randall reported that budget approval has not been passed by Council yet.
- m. Communications – no report

4. New business –

- Pat Darte proposed inviting Michelle-Elise Burnett to become a Committee member to represent the indigenous community. He also mentioned he would talk to the Regional Native Centre about involving them.
- Janice Thompson proposed inviting a student to represent youth involvement in events. Willowbank, Niagara College, a call for participation to nearby high schools were mentioned as potential sources. Someone needs to take the lead on this

5. Next meeting – proposed to have meetings every 2 weeks for a while, and potentially move to monthly.

Meeting ended at 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting: 1:30 p.m. Tuesday October 18 at TBD.

(see next page for minutes from brainstorming meeting Sept 15)

**Canada Sesquicentennial Committee
Minutes, September 15, 2016
Special Funding/Brainstorming Meeting**

1. Approval of Minutes.
2. Present: Dick Coyne, John Mather, Tony Chisholm, Bill French, Lisa Curtis, Peter Martin, Sarah Kaufman, Rick Meloen (Chair), Pat Darte, Sarah Bowers (library), Tim Jennings (Shaw), Sheldon Randall (Town), Clare Cameron
3. Regrets: Janice Thompson, Jim Alexander, Terry Flynn, Bill Cowie, Cheryl Morris

Rick began the meeting at 9:10 am and announced that Chris Gilchrist had resigned from the committee due to time constraints. Motion was made by Bill F. to accept this recommendation seconded by Tony and was passed.

Rick introduced Clare Cameron who lives in Virgil and asked to be involved. She is a history major who works for the City of Burlington. Dick proposed to accept Clare on the committee- seconded by Tony and carried.

Rick asked if we'd seen the "Ontario 150 Strategic Framework". Copies were passed out.

Rick reminded all that in speaking with the Provincial representatives who we will be meeting near the end of September they indicated that we should develop some ideas for a significant event (which may or may not include a legacy project). They seemed to be looking for an event for after the July 1st week-end.

Before everyone presented their ideas, Bill F and Dick suggested we do this in an organized manner. Consequently, we broke into 2 groups to brainstorm and refine some ideas. After 20 min or so the two groups compared notes. After another short session, the findings were presented.

NOTE: Janice Thomson and Jim Alexander sent in suggestions by e-mail and these were incorporated into the lists of ideas.

Bill F. and others pointed out that the ideas tended to formulate themselves in to some general themes. Bill promised to take this rough information and try to organize it into each of the 5 themes and then submit these comments to the committee.

These Themes were:

1. Waterfront- "Put the "Lake" back into Niagara-on-the-Lake
2. Travelling Celebrations - Cultural
3. Town gateway up-grades (waterfront- Welcome Centre etc)
4. Local History including Memorials
5. Agricultural celebration- fall harvest, wineries etc

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am with Bill F promising a detailed summary of the many excellent brainstorming ideas.