

STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



Report to:	Mayor and Council Members	Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low
Submitted by:	Brian Geerts, Director of Community Services bgeerts@cobourg.ca	Meeting Type:	
		Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>	
Meeting Date:	June 5, 2023		
Report No.:	Community Services-177-23		
Submit comments to Council			

Subject/Title: Canadian Fire Fighter Museum Update – Memorial Arena

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive this report for information purposes,

FURTHER THAT Council extends its thanks to the Canadian Fire Fighter’s Museum for choosing Cobourg as their new location,

FURTHER THAT Council approves the non-exclusive temporary use (up to 12 months) of the Memorial Arena by the Canadian Fire Fighter’s Museum for in-depth non-destructive engineering and architectural work for the purposes of determining detailed plans for museum development, and

FURTHER THAT Council approves the non-exclusive temporary use (up to 12 months) of the Memorial Arena by the Canadian Fire Fighter’s Museum for fund-raising meetings, tours, and activities for the purpose of generating funds to finance future lease-hold improvements for the site.

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

Culture Master Plan – Defining Culture and Cultural Resources (Page 12)
Cultural Enterprises - This resource represents a wide range of cultural businesses engaged in the creation and production of cultural goods or services. Assets Include: antique dealers, artistic representatives, public art gallery, book stores, breweries, wineries, local radio stations, craft suppliers, dance studios and instruction, graphic design services, web design and production services, motion

picture and video productions, libraries, **history museums**, musicians, music instruction and studios, photographers, newspaper publishers, and visual art studios.

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

N/A

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the progress made to date with the Canadian Fire Fighter's Museum, and their plans for developing the Memorial Arena as a new museum home site.

4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

Memorial Arena: New Use Recommendations Report to Council

https://cobourg.escribemeetings.com/_layouts/escribe/pages/landing.aspx?action=report&Id=775

5. BACKGROUND

Since November 22, 2022, the Canadian Fire Fighter's Museum and staff have met monthly to work on plans focusing on transition planning and coordination. Progress and process related to events prior to this date are captured in the report above in Section 4.

6. ANALYSIS

Museums offer numerous benefits to a community, enriching both individuals and society as a whole. Museums offer these key benefits:

1. Preservation of cultural heritage: Museums serve as custodians of artifacts, artworks, and historical documents, preserving the cultural heritage of a community. They safeguard these treasures for future generations, ensuring their longevity and accessibility.
2. Education and learning: Museums are valuable educational institutions, providing opportunities for learning and expanding knowledge. They offer exhibitions, displays, and interactive programs that educate visitors about diverse subjects, including history, science, art, technology, and more.
3. Cultural enrichment: Museums foster cultural understanding and appreciation by showcasing different art forms, traditions, and historical events. They provide insights into diverse cultures, encouraging dialogue and respect for cultural diversity within the community.
4. Economic impact: Museums can have a positive economic impact on a community. They attract tourists, who contribute to the local economy by spending on accommodations, dining, transportation, and other services. Museums also create job opportunities, both directly and indirectly, through various roles such as curators, educators, administrators, and support staff.
5. Community engagement and social cohesion: Museums often act as community centers, hosting events, workshops, and exhibitions that engage local residents.

They serve as gathering spaces for people to connect, share experiences, and foster a sense of belonging. Museums can also collaborate with schools, universities, and community organizations to enhance learning opportunities and community outreach.

6. **Inspiration and creativity:** Museums inspire creativity by showcasing artworks, historical achievements, scientific discoveries, and technological advancements. They encourage visitors to think critically, question, and explore new ideas. Museums also provide a platform for artists and innovators to display their work, promoting creativity within the community.
7. **Health and well-being:** Museums offer spaces for relaxation, reflection, and contemplation. They can provide respite from daily routines, reduce stress, and improve overall well-being. Many museums incorporate green spaces, gardens, or natural environments, offering a peaceful and calming setting.
8. **Research and scholarship:** Museums contribute to research and scholarship by supporting academic studies, archaeological expeditions, scientific investigations, and other forms of research. They often maintain collections that are accessible to researchers, promoting further knowledge and understanding in various fields.

Overall, museums play a vital role in fostering cultural, educational, and social development within a community. They enhance quality of life, promote understanding, and contribute to the collective identity of a society.

What is a Fire Fighter's Museum?

A firefighter's museum is a specialized museum that focuses on preserving and showcasing the history, equipment, and traditions of firefighting. A firefighter's museum typically:

1. **Preserves firefighting artifacts:** A firefighter's museum collects and preserves historical artifacts related to firefighting. This can include old firefighting equipment such as helmets, uniforms, hoses, axes, nozzles, and fire engines. The museum ensures that these artifacts are properly stored, cataloged, and displayed for the public to learn about and appreciate.
2. **Exhibits historical firefighting equipment:** Firefighter's museums often have exhibitions where visitors can see and learn about the evolution of firefighting equipment over time. They showcase vintage fire engines, hand-pumped fire apparatus, antique firefighting tools, and other equipment used in the past. These displays provide insight into the technological advancements and changes in firefighting practices.
3. **Shares firefighting history:** Firefighter's museums educate the public about the history of firefighting. They may display photographs, documents, and archival materials that highlight significant fires, heroic firefighting efforts, and the development of fire departments in the community or region. These exhibits help preserve the memory of firefighting events and honor the bravery of firefighters.
4. **Educates about fire safety:** Firefighter's museums often have educational programs and interactive exhibits that promote fire safety and prevention. They may provide information on fire extinguisher use, emergency evacuation procedures, and other important safety measures. These educational initiatives aim to raise awareness and help prevent fires and accidents.
5. **Offers guided tours and demonstrations:** Many firefighter's museums offer guided tours led by knowledgeable staff or volunteers. These tours provide visitors with

detailed information about the exhibits, the history of firefighting, and the role of firefighters in the community. Some museums also offer live demonstrations or simulated experiences to showcase firefighting techniques and equipment in action.

6. Conducts research and documentation: Firefighter's museums engage in research and documentation related to firefighting history. They may collaborate with historians, scholars, and fire service professionals to gather information, conduct oral history interviews, and document significant events or individuals in firefighting. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the profession and helps preserve the historical record.
7. Community outreach: Firefighter's museums often engage with the local community through outreach programs. They may organize events, workshops, and educational activities for schools, community groups, and families. These initiatives aim to promote fire safety awareness, provide a deeper understanding of the firefighting profession, and foster community engagement.

Overall, a firefighter's museum serves as a hub for preserving, celebrating, and educating the public about the rich history and contributions of firefighters. It offers an opportunity for visitors to appreciate the bravery, skill, and dedication of those who protect communities from fire-related emergencies.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS

Museums can be funded through a combination of sources, which may vary depending on the museum's size, scope, and location. Here are some common funding sources for museums:

1. Government funding: Many museums receive financial support from local, regional, or national government bodies. Governments may allocate funds to museums as part of their cultural or educational budgets. This funding can be provided through grants, subsidies, or specific programs aimed at supporting museum operations, exhibitions, or capital projects.
2. Donations and philanthropy: Museums often rely on donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. Philanthropic contributions can range from small individual donations to significant endowments. Donors may be motivated by a passion for the arts, cultural heritage, or a desire to support educational initiatives. Some museums have membership programs that offer benefits to individuals who contribute regularly.
3. Corporate sponsorships: Museums may establish partnerships with corporations and businesses for financial support. Companies can sponsor exhibitions, programs, or specific events, and receive recognition and promotional opportunities in return. Corporate sponsorships can provide museums with funding and help enhance their visibility in the community.

4. Membership programs: Museums often offer membership programs to the public, where individuals or families pay an annual fee in exchange for benefits such as free or discounted admission, special events, exclusive access, and other privileges. Membership fees contribute to the museum's operating budget and can help foster a sense of community engagement.

5. Admission fees and ticket sales: Many museums charge admission fees to visitors, which contribute to their revenue. This can include general admission fees, special exhibition fees, guided tours, workshops, and other educational programs. Ticket sales for performances, lectures, or special events held at the museum also contribute to their funding.

6. Grants and foundations: Museums can apply for grants from private foundations, arts councils, or other grant-giving organizations. These grants may be project-specific or provide general operating support. Museums need to align their initiatives with the objectives and criteria of the granting organizations to secure funding.

7. Earned revenue: Museums generate income through various revenue-generating activities. These can include museum shops, cafes, restaurants, bookstores, facility rentals for private events, licensing and reproduction of artworks, and online sales of merchandise or digital content.

8. Endowments and trusts: Museums may receive funding through endowments or trusts established by individuals or organizations. These funds are invested, and the returns generated provide ongoing financial support for the museum's operations, acquisitions, or specific programs.

It's important to note that funding models can vary greatly between museums, and some museums may rely on a combination of these funding sources to sustain their operations and fulfill their mission.

The Memorial Arena remains closed to the public. It is currently used for storage and police training activities. The Canadian Fire Fighter's Museum has done all the preliminary investigations they can do with intermittent access to the building. The next step in the development of the site is detailed design and initial fundraising and research. **As this design and fundraising work progresses, staff will continue development of an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding for long-term use of the site, including the transition to exclusive use and transition of operating costs to the Canadian Fire Fighter's Museum as sole operator.**

8. CONCLUSION

A firefighter's museum is a specialized museum that focuses on preserving and showcasing the history, equipment, and traditions of firefighting. If detailed plans determine site feasibility and funding sources are sufficient, the Canadian Fire Fighter's Museum will be an exciting addition to the cultural fabric of Cobourg, and a long term contributor to the county and region. The CFFM is progressing well through their museum design and development plans and is moving to the next stage of their project.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Canadian Fire Fighter Museum Update - Community Services-177-23.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 26, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer - May 26, 2023 - 8:49 AM