

Vision



BURLINGTON MUSEUMS FOUNDATION

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SEPT. 2018



THE FINAL PUSH

A new milestone is reached as the roof deck for the expanded museum is poured in August (see the video on our YouTube channel). The homestead is to be placed in its new location this month.

Campaign shifts into high gear as project continues taking shape.

*By John Doyle
Chair, Burlington Museums Foundation*



The Joseph Brant Museum expansion project is on schedule and on budget, with everyone very

excited to see this impressive new facility taking shape.

And with the arrival of Fall our fundraising campaign is shifting into high gear with an objective of completing 150 visits to community leaders as we strive to raise the final \$800,000 by year's end toward our \$2.5 million contribution to the \$11.4-million project.

Please welcome our calls - we are working to raise funds as well as friends for the new museum. If you can't contribute financially, there are other ways you can help us reach out into the community to bring more people to the museum when it is unveiled in the summer of 2019.

I want to thank the Rocca Sisters real estate team for promoting our fundraising campaign in literature they will be distributing this Fall. This type of creativity in telling our story is very much appreciated.

Also over the summer we were very pleased to welcome the Paletta family to our Community Builders Initiative that enables individuals and families to share their unique Burlington connection in the

Burlington Builders Gallery. This generous contribution brings us closer to our goal while adding valuable historical content to our virtual exhibition.

Special thanks to Michael and Jane Schwenger (profiled in this edition) and their family for their support through the Community Builders Initiative. Our next edition will feature the Hogarth family, long-time supporters of this initiative.

So please visit our web site - burlingtonmuseumsfoundation.ca - to learn more, and show your support on our various social media sites (see opposite side). On behalf of the Burlington Museums Foundation, thank you for being a friend.

Passing down the belief in philanthropy



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 www.youtube.com/channel/UCytnsUqxBtRwRnCPRAskK-g

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Michael Schwenger Sr. says the decision to support the museum expansion is simple – “If you can afford to do it, you should.”

Philanthropy is a virtue Michael and Jane Schwenger are instilling into their family through the creation of a family foundation, and by creating a permanent home for the family’s history through the Community Builders Initiative in the expanded Joseph Brant Museum.

“The museum will have future needs once it is open, so by having our family front and centre in the Burlington Builders Gallery it will be a constant reminder to our kids and future generations about what we have in that facility,” says Michael, who took over his father’s business in 1976, transforming it into a company that supplies concrete poles and decorative light fixtures across North America.

The Stresscrete Group today is run by his son Michael Jr. with facilities in Burlington and the U.S. employing more than 400 people, including 160 at its Burlington plant.

Michael says he was approached about five years by Burlington Museum Foundation Ambassador Dan Lawrie, founder of Dan Lawrie Insurance Brokers. “We had been supporting the museum a little bit, but Dan came by and asked me to step up in a bigger way for the project they are doing now.”

The decision, he said, was simple. “If you can afford to do it, you should. That’s what I want to teach my kids. We have been very lucky, we have been blessed and I believe it’s important that we give back.”

He said he and his wife were excited to become part of a project that will build on the successes of the Burlington waterfront.

“With the new hospital and what’s happening at Spencer Smith Park, the expanded museum will be a great addition. It will encourage people to visit, to learn and be educated. You have to respect your history, and it’s important to show our children that too.”

Michael says it’s a great cause for community leaders to support. “We need to support our community whenever we can, and the museum is an important part of that. It will be exciting to see the finished product. They’re doing a great job on the expansion.”