

Vision

A COMMUNITY PROJECT COMMEMORATING CANADA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL



BURLINGTON MUSEUMS FOUNDATION

AUGUST 2016



An artist's rendering shows the expansive new Burlington Museum and Heritage Centre viewed from Lakeshore Road. The existing Joseph Brant house will be situated atop a green roof over the 14,000 square foot expansion below.

MOVING AHEAD: *At Last!* By John Doyle

After more than two decades of planning, the much-needed expansion of Burlington's Joseph Brant Museum is finally poised to become a reality.

All levels of government are now indicating a willingness to support the expansion as a major community project to celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) in 2017. Coincidentally, 2017 is also the 75th Anniversary of Joseph Brant Museum!

We are now moving beyond 'conceptual' renderings to detailed architectural drawings that will allow the city of Burlington to seek tenders for construction. This stage is being financed through generous community support provided through the Burlington Museums Foundation.

The \$10.8-million expansion will add 14,000 square feet including four exhibit halls that offer the opportunity to showcase special exhibits, two multi-purpose rooms, a lobby, shop, resource centre and storage for over 25,000 artifacts and historical treasures.

More importantly, it will enable the Burlington Community Museum and Heritage Centre to showcase blockbuster touring exhibitions from around the globe.

In partnership with the Burlington Performing Arts Centre, the Art Gallery of Burlington

and Discovery Landing, this facility will also enhance Burlington's waterfront as a destination for local families and tourists.

In this inaugural issue of Vision 2017, we are pleased to bring you the latest news on where the project stands now, what is planned in the coming months, and what to expect when we open. On the back page, you'll also learn how you can partner with the Burlington Museums Foundation to be a founding friend.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have supported us to this point. Thanks to your support, we are able to push forward toward our goal of opening this new facility during Canada's Sesquicentennial celebrations.



*John Doyle, Chairman,
Burlington Museums
Foundation*



EXPANSION WILL OPEN DOORS

Aerial view of the expanded Burlington Community Museum and Heritage Centre shows the 'green roof' design that creates a public space above the expansion area.

Full accessibility, expanded collections and blockbuster exhibits

Barbara Teatero talks passionately of the hidden gems – the collections from Burlington’s past that sit in storage for want of display space.

Now that the expansion of Joseph Brant Museum is closer than ever to reality, the Director of Museums in Burlington is excited at the prospect of showing off the wealth of artifacts that are currently hidden away.

Even better, the displays will be physically accessible to all.

The museum is currently housed in a 1937 replica of the house of Mohawk native Joseph Brant, with little or no access to those with physical limitations. That will all change in the newly designed museum that will see the main entrance onto Lakeshore Road accessible to all, with an elevator providing access to the existing facility that will be

placed atop the grassy knoll.

“We are limited by space and physical accessibility,” says Ms. Teatero, who has worked with the museum for almost 32 years. “The expansion literally opens the doors to a whole new world of possibilities. The Museum will become a major exhibition centre bringing in national exhibitions, as well as being able to showcase our own collections.”

“A MUST-SEE DESTINATION”

Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring agrees. “Downtown Burlington offers many attractions to residents and visitors. An updated museum with more display space in this prime location will make it a must-see destination to visit in the area.

“Joseph Brant Museum is Burlington’s

community museum and serves a population of more than 187,000. It reflects a historical cornerstone, literally and metaphorically, for Burlington’s waterfront and downtown development. I encourage the community to support the expansion.”

The unique design of the museum includes an underground addition with a ‘green’ roof.

“The design was initially created by Chamberlain architects about seven years ago, and at that time it was leading edge with green-roof technology and LEED Silver designation,” says Project Manager Craig Stevens. “Since then we have seen significant developments in materials and technologies, so this will be a very advanced facility.”

Chamberlain has again been commissioned to produce detailed architectural drawings

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that will allow the City of Burlington to seek bids for construction. “We expect to have the detailed drawings completed and approved by November with the final site plan approval and building permits prior to award of tender.”

Mr. Stevens said he expects to submit the winning bid for construction of the \$10.8 million expansion to council for approval in February 2017. “Our plan is to get shovels in the ground by March, and be ready for occupancy before the end of the year.”

Burlington Councillor Rick Craven, whose ward encompasses the museum, says the timing is perfect.

“The Museum expansion during Canada’s 150th anniversary gives us an opportunity to share the story of Burlington’s beginnings,” says Mr. Craven.

CELEBRATING CANADA’S 150TH

Burlington MP Karina Gould agrees.

“Canada’s stories, shaped by our diversity, deserve to be celebrated and shared with our community. What better way to celebrate Canada’s 150th Anniversary than to celebrate its heritage. The expansion of the museum is a terrific way to celebrate Canada’s identity both in the past and the present and learn of the role the people of Burlington have played in shaping our present.”

Ms. Gould notes the project will also enhance the vibrant lakeshore community. “This project will provide local families and out of town visitors with an enhanced history lesson of the Burlington community and more opportunities to spend time in the beautiful downtown core.”

The Hon. Eleanor McMahon, Burlington

MPP and Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, notes museums are where tourism and culture meet. “They keep our heritage alive and tell our stories while making a valuable contribution to our economy. As an important tourism asset, museums attract more than three million Canadian and international visitors to Ontario every year.”

VITAL PART OF OUR CULTURE

Ms. McMahon adds the Joseph Brant Museum is a vital part of our culture and heritage, with an important role in building Burlington’s future and attracting visitors to the waterfront area. “The proposed expansion and renewal project would allow the museum to fulfill its desired role as a community leader in heritage, providing a year-round, interactive discovery experience.”

As the museum continues to build stronger partnerships with Canada’s First Nations, this space has the potential to offer a new gathering platform for our communities to come together and tell the story of Joseph Brant, while celebrating Indigenous heritage, Ms. McMahon added.

“As we approach the 150th anniversary of Confederation in Canada, these partnerships and shared community spaces will take on new and greater significance.

For its part, the Ontario Government will be celebrating the milestone with a series of events and initiatives that will showcase Ontario’s unique culture and community diversity. This celebration will be an opportunity for people in Burlington and

across our province to reflect on our history and how it has shaped our cultural identity –Indigenous heritage will form an important part of this celebration.”

Burlington MPP and Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Eleanor McMahon was busy serving up strawberries at the Strawberry Social in July.



Burlington MP Karina Gould, right, and Mayor Rick Goldring, behind, greet visitors at the Strawberry Social event held in July at the Joseph Brant Museum.



How you can help

The Burlington Museums Foundation is well on the way to meeting its \$2.1 million commitment, thanks to the generosity of its many friends in the community, says Chairman John Doyle.

"The support from the community has been outstanding, despite the many delays in bringing this project to fruition," says John. "Now that we are almost there, the funds will be essential in meeting our commitment to our \$2.1 million contribution, in addition to meeting any additional costs that may arise."

The Foundation is currently about \$600,000 away from meeting the initial target.

To pledge your support, please visit our web site – burlingtonmuseumsfoundation.ca

The project is being funded by three levels of government along with community support. The federal and municipal governments have committed their funds, and a provincial government commitment is expected in the coming weeks.

Thank you for being a friend of the Burlington Museums Foundation. We look forward to sharing our adventure with you over the coming months.



Kimberly Watson, Curator, Museums of Burlington, shows off the costumes on display as part of the Eileen Collard exhibit.

COSTUME GALLERY TAPS INTO HISTORY THROUGH FASHION

One of the key collections at the Joseph Brant Museum is its costume gallery.

"We are very proud of the fashion collections we have acquired, but unfortunately we have limited space to show them off," says Director of Museums Barbara Teatero. "We are looking forward to making this area larger and more interactive after our expansion."

Currently on exhibit is Eileen Collard (1912-2002), a couturier, costume collector who was instrumental in founding the costume collection at the Joseph Brant Museum. She was a pioneer of her day, becoming one of a few self-published authors and resident authorities on historical fashion.

Eileen was passionate about her craft and between the years 1969 and 1983 wrote

12 books on Canadian fashion history. This exhibition explores the Collard costume collection and the lady behind the designs.

Be sure to visit. Among the displays:

- A large button mosaic art piece where you can examine some of the design details of early antique buttons.
- Beautiful costumes from the Collard Collection ranging from the 1820s-1930s.
- A large vinyl mosaic showcasing Eileen's sketches and fashion plates she collected during her career.
- Large fabric prints highlighting interesting and intricate design features of costumes in the collection.
- A touch screen interactive component where you can explore more of the Collard Collection.

BURLINGTON MUSEUMS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Doyle (Chair)
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Jeff Paikin
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Joseph Brant Museum is temporarily closed this summer due to roadwork construction. See museumsorburlington.com for updates.