

# Vision



BURLINGTON MUSEUMS FOUNDATION

A COMMUNITY PROJECT COMMEMORATING CANADA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

JAN. 2018



## THE FINAL MILLION

*Fundraising shifts into gear as long-awaited construction begins*

*By John Doyle  
Chair, The Burlington  
Museums Foundation*



**We've finally broken ground on the long-awaited expansion of the Joseph Brant Museum, a facility**

**that will open its doors to the community in about 18 months.**

Now we need your support as we launch The Final Million fundraising drive - a goal that will drive us toward meeting the commitment of the Burlington Museums Foundation to raise \$2.5 million toward the \$11.4-million project on behalf of the community.

The balance of the funding is coming

from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, each of which has now firmed up their commitment that now allows this project to move forward.

I can't tell you how grateful the Foundation is for the support that has been forthcoming to this point, enabling us to already raise \$1.5 million of our commitment, funds that financed the conceptual and detailed working drawings to keep this project on track.

That support was given in good faith that this exciting community development would come to fruition - a wait that spanned almost a decade.

One of those supporters was Dan Lawrie,

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Shovels finally hit the ground for the \$11.4-million Joseph Brant Museum transformation. Pictured from left: Larry Waldron, Chair, Burlington Museums Board; Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring; Burlington Councillor Blair Lancaster; The Honourable Eleanor McMahon, Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport; Burlington Museums Director Barbara Teatero; The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Democratic Institutions and Member of Parliament (Burlington); Burlington Councillor Rick Craven; and Evan McDade, Treasurer, The Burlington Museums Foundation.

*Below, First Nations' dancer helps lead the groundbreaking celebrations (see back page).*



# PACKING FOR A MOVE

## It's a Labour of Love

Packing up the Joseph Brant Museum in preparation for the museum expansion turned into a labour of love for dedicated museum volunteers.

Volunteer Steve Scheffer says sifting through artifacts has been a rare privilege.



### And Museums of Burlington Curator Kim Watson says the process has produced other far-ranging benefits.

The Joseph Brant House has now been moved away from its original location to allow construction to proceed.

"This process has allowed us to examine each artifact and note items that may be in need of future conservation treatment," said Kim, adding acid-free packing materials were employed to prevent possible damage.

"The information gathered through this project will be beneficial in exhibition planning as well as accessing future collection needs. We are so grateful to have such an engaged group of volunteers."

In preparation for the relocation of artifacts to a temporary storage facility, volunteers carefully inventoried and repacked the museum's collection of costumes, historical artifacts, letters, books, and more.

Steve Scheffer, who has been a volunteer with the museum for 12 years, said sifting through the collection was a rare privilege. "I have loved museums since I was a kid,

and getting the opportunity to go through all these boxes has been exciting. I've come across a lot of surprising information."

He said penmanship in the 1800s was quite the art. "A lot of the letters in the collection are written impeccably. It almost looks like a computer font, but it is all hand done. I'm also cognizant of the fact that the people who wrote and received these letters are all gone now. It's like a window into lives long ago."

Kim adds that much of the collection is never seen by the public because there is not enough space to display everything.

About 500 boxes will be transferred to a climate-controlled storage facility before construction begins on the site. The existing Joseph Brant House that houses the museum will be moved to another part of the site to allow construction of a 12,000-square-foot expansion.

Once the expansion is completed, the house will be moved to its new home atop a green roof over the four exhibit halls below.



Curator Kim Watson and volunteer Jodi Perri discuss letters written by Joseph Brant.



# LAYING DOWN THE CHALLENGE

Community leader urges support  
'museum expansion will be good for business'

**Dan Lawrie says the overwhelming benefits of expanding Burlington's Joseph Brant Museum convinced him to get behind the project almost 10 years ago.**

The founder of Dan Lawrie Insurance Brokers, which celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2017, was first approached about the project by John Doyle, President of the Burlington Museums Foundation. The Foundation has committed to raising more than \$2.5 million as the community's contribution toward the \$11.4-million project.

"There are several things I like about this project. One is the attraction to youth. The museum has been active in getting school kids involved in learning about the history of Burlington. I also think that it's important to know our history; it's a really important factor in people staying in their community. Joseph Brant Museum has been instrumental in letting people know where we came from and where we are going. That sense of history is really important to me."

The economic benefits are far reaching, he adds "The expanded museum will be a cornerstone, an entrance to the downtown. It's going to be a very important addition to what's already there - the exciting waterfront developments, the art gallery, the performing arts centre. This expansion will

allow the museum to attract exciting new exhibitions - it's going to be a great tourist attraction."

Dan says he continues to support the Foundation's fundraising drive which now must raise the final \$1 million of its commitment.

"I invite my friends, and challenge them to get on board to make this a very successful project. I think we all who make our living in a community understand it's not just about the history, events and festivals that bring everyone together in a facility like this but it's the economic factor."

"Richard Florida (American urban studies analysis) stated that culture, and facilities like this, are the foundation that attracts the creative class, which in turn is the foundation for our economic prosperity. Business owners want a community that is vibrant, engages our citizens and that's good for business."

In addition to its support to date, Dan Lawrie Insurance Brokers is commissioning a statue of Joseph Brant for the new facility.

> *continued from page 1*

founder of Dan Lawrie Insurance Brokers. When I first met with Dan nearly 10 years ago, he jumped in without hesitation, providing financial support and giving of his time to assist our fundraising drive in the community.

Dan explains why he feels the project is so important to the community in this edition of Vision 2017.

I also salute the many dedicated volunteers (see story inside) who worked so hard to get the museum packed up in preparation for the construction.

I am so pleased the project is finally moving forward. We need more people like Dan to jump on board. We will be meeting with community leaders over the coming weeks, and hope you will open your doors to learn more.

Construction is now underway. Aquicon Construction, an Ontario contractor with many exciting municipal facilities to its credit, has been named general contractor for the project.

On behalf of the Burlington Museums Foundation Board of Directors, I want to thank you for being a friend of the museums. We know you will be thrilled to join us for the ribbon-cutting at this waterfront centre-piece when it opens its doors to the public in just over a year and a half.



Above: Evan McDade, Burlington Museums Foundation Treasurer, speaks at groundbreaking celebration. Evan said museum friends are needed to help reach the project fundraising goal.

Right: The Joseph Brant Museum, a 1937 replica of the house that Mohawk native Joseph Brant, Thayendanegea, built on a 1798 Crown land grant, will be moved to another part of the site before construction begins.



## Museum building moving before construction begins

### If you drive by the Joseph Brant Museum site early in the New Year and notice the building has vanished, there's no need to worry.

It has simply been moved to another part of the property to allow Aquicon Construction, on behalf of the City of Burlington, to begin construction of the 12,000-square-foot expansion.

The current Joseph Brant Museum is a 1937 replica of the house. A modern addition to the museum will be built into the grassy area under the current museum.

The current 5,000-square-foot house will be expanded to provide barrier-free space for gallery displays, interactive programming, the storage of collections and community outreach.

The October groundbreaking celebration

was led by a group of First Nations' dancers where Burlington Museums Foundation Treasurer Evan McDade said the event was the culmination of years of efforts by many passionate people.

"We have an exceptional board of community leaders who share the vision. We are now launching our campaign to raise the last \$1 million to put this campaign over the top. We are grateful for the positive response thus far and are confident we will have a successful conclusion."

### Quick Facts

- Total square footage of expanded site: 17,000 square feet
- Construction will take 18 months, depending on weather
- The total project amount is approved at \$11.4 million, which includes a

contingency fund and allows for cost increases due to a winter construction period. Funding includes:

- \$2.9 million from the City of Burlington
- \$4.5 million from the Government of Canada
- \$1.5 million from the Province of Ontario
- \$2.5 million from the Joseph Brant Museum Foundation

To join with us in this exciting project please welcome our representatives when they call, or visit our web site: [burlingtonmuseumsfoundation.ca](http://burlingtonmuseumsfoundation.ca)

The Burlington Museums Foundation is a registered charitable foundation that helps raise friends and funds to support Burlington's two museums - Joseph Brant Museum and the Ireland House at Oakridge Farm.

## BURLINGTON MUSEUMS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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