



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLN

REPORT TO: Community Services Committee
DATE OF MEETING: October 7, 2015
SUBJECT: Jordan Historical Museum Programs and Projects Update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report CM 15 – 41 regarding the Jordan Historical Museum programs and projects update be received as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the tremendous amount of work and effort currently underway at the Jordan Historical Museum. More specifically, this report will highlight:

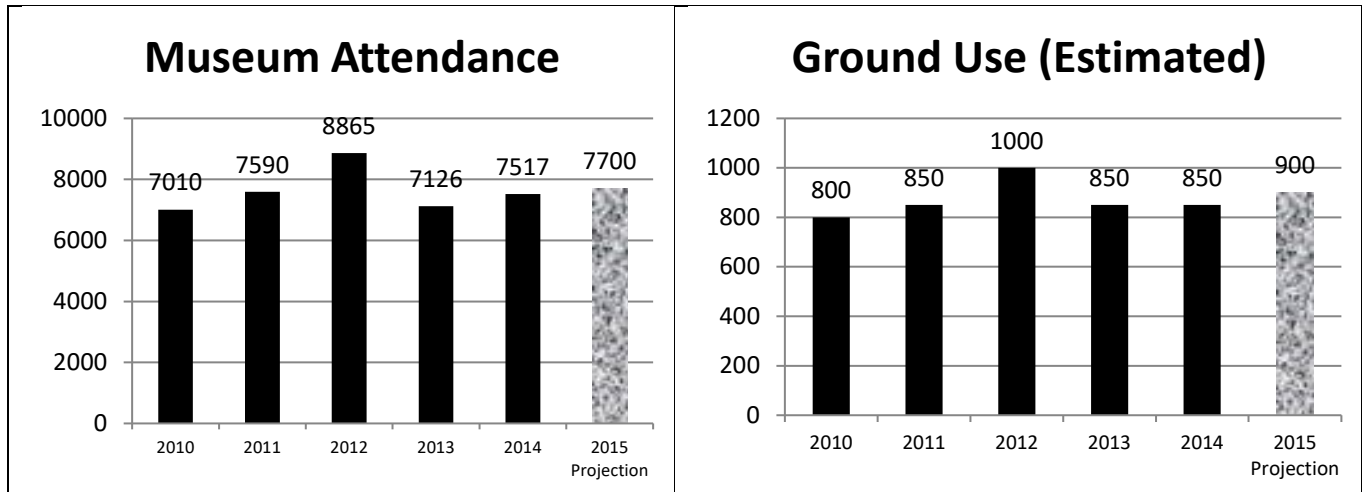
- attendance and usage information for both the museum and the grounds, and
- highlight the many programs and services that have ended, and showcase what is coming up, and
- provide a brief update on the ground radar work in partnership with Niagara College and the Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty Volunteer Association (JHMTVA), and
- provide an update on the Twenty Mile Creek embankment project.

STAFF COMMENTS & FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Attendance and Usage

The following charts illustrate attendance at the museum and use of the grounds between 2010 and 2014. 2015 figures are staff projections based on past trends and usage to date.

Please note that attendance figures are a numerical accounting and do not represent the overall quality or experience of visitors. Many visitors spend substantial time at the museum, school groups in particular.



Attendance for 2012 peaked due to the War of 1812, 200th Anniversary Commemorations.

Please note that for future reference, key performance indicators (KPI) will be shown bi-annually and in preparation of the budget process.

Programs and Services:

Workshops and Public Programming Summary to Date:

- Fun Fridays Children’s programs: August 2015: 45 total attendees.
- “Night at the Museum” movie in the School House: August 14th: 15 attendees.
- Community Services Summer Camp: 32 children.
- Pioneer Day, the annual heritage festival held on museum grounds, was held on October 3rd, 2015.

Upcoming initiatives:

School House

- Bookings are being taken for the “Strict but Nice” program and will commence as usual with the onset of the school year. The program (led in third person representation by a fully costumed School House Interpreter), allows children to roleplay pupils in 1908. This program continues to be aligned with the grade three curriculums with recent development to reflect new focus on Native Canadian elements.
- The Haunted Tour will be held on October 23rd and 24th. The event consists of a walking tour of Jordan Village, punctuated by vignettes and theatrical events highlighting both local history and paranormal lore. The event was sold out on both evenings.

Staff are developing further new initiatives including:

- Development of a Collections Committee to oversee new donations and exhibits.

- Off-site opportunities for exhibits and other concepts.
- Art in the Village event with the Twenty Valley Tourism Association with a potential grant opportunity
- Community use and programming of museum site.
- Working with the Lamplighters to coordinate the first of the exhibits in the Exhibit Plan, to be installed in January 2016.
- Interviewed on CKTB Radio on August 10th regarding historical stories of Jordan Village and area.
- Working with the Lincoln Archives on their House Tour, planned for June 4th 2016. The Fry and School Houses will be included in the roster of homes.
- Working with Museums of Niagara Association (MONA) in a Mutual Assistance Program initiative. The program is being developed to provide emergency professional assistance and available resources should a disaster of any nature befall a museum signed in to the program. Disasters could include fire, flood, earthquake, bombing, or any other catastrophe. A list of expertise, supplies, equipment and resources available at each site will be part of the final package and copies will be given to each participating site. It will be expected that in the case of a disaster at a site, other signatories to the initiative would pitch in to provide those listed staff and materials to help manage the situation.

Ground Radar Survey

Staff are excited to have partnered with Dr. Ian Smith of Niagara College who will be selecting students to work on the project. The project will include the identification of ancient burial grave sites which will support the planning underway for the Master Site plan. This partnership has also been extended to the Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty Volunteer Association (JHMTVA). The JHMTVA have agreed to provide up to \$1000 of the estimated project cost of \$2000. Staff are excited about this tri-partnership arrangement and ensure all parties are continually informed of the project status.

Staff will be involved in overseeing interim planning reports developed by the students during the school year. The actual survey work and equipment rental is estimated to be carried out in April 2016 and the final report is to be ready by early June 2016.

Twenty Mile Creek Embankment

Staff have been working with the Ontario Heritage Trust on recommendations to aid in the stabilization of the embankment and have carried out the following:

- Creation of a natural regeneration border along the perimeter of the museum property and advising groundskeepers not to mow grass in the natural regeneration area.
- Delivery of public notices to local residents advising them to discontinue any practice of dumping garbage or organic/yard wastes onto the embankment.
- Creation of signage regarding the natural regeneration area and dumping ban.

Future work to be included in the 2016 Budget process will include:

- Creation of a shallow trench to divert storm-water from sensitive areas.
- Planting of native shrubs and groundcover to help stabilize soils.
- Periodic monitoring of any movement of fence posts to indicate any subsiding of the soil.

The project will connect nicely with the Master Site Plan project presently underway.

Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty Volunteer Association (JHMTVA): Submitted by Lloyd Haines, Chair.

*“The JHMTVA was most encouraged with our +VG meeting on September 10th. The cooperation and creativity around the table was exactly what has always been hoped for. We are looking forward to exciting ideas this Thursday to continue exploring the Museum’s theme of a “Pioneer Cultural Gateway”. We are very appreciative of the leadership from Mayor Sandra Easton, the generation of ideas by Wayne MacMillan, Paul MacPherson and John Nicol and the creativity shown by Paul Sapounzi and Deb Westman... a truly fantastic team!
We are sorry to lose Rob Axiak’s professionalism but appreciate his situation and wish him well as he responds to family obligations.” Lloyd Haines, Chair*

CORPORATE PLAN

This report supports the 2014- 2018 Future Focus Plan for the Town of Lincoln, specifically the Cultural Planning and the Customer Service segments.

Report prepared on September 21, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:



Helen Booth
Museum Director

Reviewed by:

Robert Axiak
Director of Community Services

Approved by:

John Nicol, BA(Hons), MA, MPA
Chief Administrative Office