



# Museum Master Plan

## January 14, 2020

### Introduction

For several years the Municipality has been trying to come up with strategies to address museum planning objectives. In January 2018 Council received and in principle accepted Report 2018.02 titled “Museum Master Plan” that laid out a direction and plans to deal with our museums. The initiative got bogged down primarily since senior government funding program officials were not very receptive to proposal to build a 10,000 sq. foot building at the Founders’ property to house artifacts and antique cars. Since the building was forecast by an architect in July 2018 to cost \$1.47 million plus HST, Council was reluctant to commit significant funding to the project too.

At the Aug. 28/19 meeting Council had a discussion about the Museum Master Plan and since the current strategy had failed decided the Municipality needed to get a new strategy developed. Some ideas were suggested and Councillors Alana Bishop and Brandon Postuma along with employees Wayne Hanchard, Chris Bowles and Devon Multamaki were asked to develop a new Museum Master Plan, which they did.

The Plan was presented to Council for approval on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Council approved the Plan and directed that the Plan be provided to the Museum Board for its review.

On Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> the Museum Board met with the Working Group to review the Master Plan. The Plan had been provided to the Board Members well in advance of the meeting. The meeting lasted two hours. The Board recommended some changes that have been incorporated into this version of the Plan. The changes do not affect the overall intent and major elements of the original Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> version of the Plan.

### Plan Summary

The plan proposes the car museum project to house the Russ Wanzuk Auto Collection be separated from the artifact museum at Founders’. In 2020 the Duke Hunt Museum artifacts will be moved to the Founders’ property, and afterwards the Duke Hunt property will be put up for sale. The Slate River Hall will be repurposed and renovated to serve as display space for Duke Hunt artifacts. It could be named the Duke Hunt Museum. The Municipality will need to advance funds to do this work until proceeds from lot sales are realized. No new building at Founders is being proposed. In 2020 and subsequent years proceeds from lots sales and the Duke Hunt property sale will be used for capital projects at the Founders including renovating buildings, replacing roofs and siding, demolishing dilapidated buildings, landscaping, well and septic system work, etc.

### Plan with Timelines for Duke Hunt Museum

1. Get two sea-cans. (Fall 2019 - done)
2. Remove worthwhile items from portables and load into sea-cans. (Fall 2019 – done)
3. Move trailer and contents to Founders’. (Fall 2019 – done)
4. Demolish portables and haul away debris. (Fall 2019 – done)
5. Move the fabric clad steel building to Founders’. Obtain a building permit to erect it east of the main grounds. (Spring 2020)

6. If desired and prudent get professional help to assist Museum Board in determining item values and what is worth keeping at Duke Hunt. (Spring 2020)
7. Get another sea-can. (Spring 2020)
8. Put worthwhile items in the sea-cans. Move them to Founders'. (Spring 2020)
9. Take other artifacts to Founders and put them in the fabric clad steel building. (Spring 2020)
10. Try to donate remaining items to other museums. Sell remaining items that no museum wants. Have an auction if necessary of remaining items. Relocate or dispose of unsold items. (Summer 2020)
11. Sell Duke Hunt. (Fall 2020)

In order to achieve the plan objectives the Duke Hunt Museum will not open in 2020.

#### Plan with Timelines for Founders' Museum

1. Sell two lots from Founders and sell two lots from the Agriplex property. (Spring 2020)
2. If desired and prudent get professional help to assist Museum Board in determining item values and what is worth keeping at Founders'. (Summer 2020)
3. Renovate the Slate River Hall to be used as a display building for Duke Hunt artifacts. (Summer 2020) - DETAILS BELOW
4. After Duke Hunt items are received, move them to the Hall and if necessary or desired to other locations at Founders'. (Summer 2020)
5. Put surplus items worth keeping in sea-cans, trailer or tent. (Summer 2020)
6. Continue selling Founders' items from Red Barn or if desired elsewhere. Have an auction if necessary at Founders'. Relocate or dispose of unsold items. (Summer 2020)
7. Using the 3 sea-cans with purchased trusses and roofing, build a structure to store worthwhile items. This will be located east of the main grounds. (Summer 2020 or later)
8. Construct a structure between the Slate River Hall and the covered stage approx. 12' x 20'. (Summer 2020 or later)
9. Make plans for 2021 to do further capital projects at Founders' using money generated from Duke Hunt sale and lot sales (Fall 2020)

It will be possible to open the Founders' Museum in 2020, but plan activities may affect Museum activities at certain times.

#### Russ Wanzuk Car Collection Museum

1. Prepare funding applications to have a building constructed on the municipal office property. The building will be approximately 5,000 sq. feet and cost \$500,000 to \$600,000. We will consult with the racetrack developers on our plans. Since this location has economic development potential, getting funding should be possible. (Spring/Summer 2020)
2. Construct the car collection building. The Museum Board will be responsible for this museum. (2021)

#### Repurposing and Renovating the Slate River Hall for Display Space

This is a key component of the new Museum Master Plan. The Municipality cannot afford to run the two locations, so making space for the Duke Hunt collections at Founders' is necessary. Experience

has shown us we are not going to get any money from senior governments to build a museum at Founders. The Slate River Hall is to be the space for Duke Hunt collections.

The following documents cover the major aspects of the renovation work:

1. Current Layout: Diagram showing current uses.
2. Revised Layout Area Use: Diagram shows the plan.
3. Exterior Renovations: A list giving major work items.
4. Interior Renovations: A list giving major work items.

CBO Paul Manzon has said using the Slate River Hall as a museum is permissible provided we do not change the occupant load, do not affect the exits and do not do any renovations that affect the structure of the building. We will need to check the building's foundation to ensure it is sound and if required do remedial work before investing money in the building.

### Rationale for Plan

With regard to our museums there are stark realities we all face. Here are some key points:

1. We cannot run two museums at Duke Hunt and Founders'. Founders' has more potential since it draws more people.
2. The Duke Hunt property needs to be sold to raise money to sustain our museum operations.
3. We have too many items. We can only keep what we can manage. Surplus items need to be sold, given away or disposed.
4. There will be no new museum building(s) at Founders'. Senior governments won't provide any funding and the Municipality cannot afford to build anything itself.
5. The proposed car museum has potential to get funding if it is located at the municipal office. The racetrack behind the office is the key factor. If the project is realized the Museum Board will be responsible for it.
6. The Slate River Hall is underutilized and with relative inexpensive renovations can be converted to be used for collection displays.
7. Activities that did occur in the Slate River Hall may be able to be done at other venues at Founders' or other municipal facilities.
8. Money generated from lot sales from the Founders' and Agriplex properties and the sale of surplus items can be reserved and used to maintain the buildings at Founders'. Most of those buildings need work now and will need work in the future.

If the museums are to survive and prosper we all need to understand status quo is not an option, accept the situation and make the best of the opportunities with the resources available.

Wayne Hanchard  
CAO/Clerk