

## PRESENTATION TO COBOURG COUNCIL 2020 FOR 2021

Your Honour, Council Members, members of the press and all in attendance.

It is my pleasure this evening to represent the Cobourg Museum Foundation. In the past it has usually been former Mayor Joan Chalovich making this presentation. However, for health reasons, Joan has recently given up her position as our President and I am following in her footsteps. Joan will continue to be involved as our Past President

I would like first of all to thank Council for your support particularly during the past two years. We had asked for financial help in adding soffit, fascia and gutters for a drainage system to help protect our historic limestone building. Because of the heritage nature of the building that project turned out to be much more expensive than anticipated. But because you had shown faith in it and us, other funders were found and together with our own members the project was completed and fully funded this spring. Thank you.

Before looking ahead to our Budget request I would like to briefly mention what else has happened this year:

In spite of COVID-19 we were able to open on July 18 on a limited basis and with appropriate protocols in place. We showed a selection of stories from the previous 8 years. Attendance was sporadic with approximately 350 visitors, about ½ local. Disappointing in some ways, but we were open!

We were able to provide summer employment for one student, through the Young Canada Works program, and as I speak we have a placement with us for 2 ½ months through the extended Canada Summer Jobs program.

All in all, while it is not what we had envisioned, 2020 has been far from a total loss.

Our request for the coming year is in three parts:

Firstly the payment of our property taxes which amount to approximately \$4,300. As you can imagine this is a significant chunk of our annual budget and having to pay it could put considerable pressure on our resources.

Summer students play an important part in our operations, greeting visitors and handling office duties. A major portion of their salaries come from the programs already mentioned, but support from the Town is considered a positive in the granting of that funding. Our request in support of student employment is for \$2,000.

And finally: one of the positive outcomes of COVID-19 was that it forced us to look at producing video presentations in support of our other methods of telling our stories. A group of new volunteers combined to produce 4 short and one longer video on the characters being introduced by the 2021 theme of “The Heinous, the Heroic and the High Flyers”. In order to make these videos available to visitors we are requesting assistance in purchasing 4 tablets and stands. These, of course, would represent a long term investment and support our moving more fully into this type of collaborative story telling. Our request these is \$2,000.

This makes a total of \$8,300 with \$4,300 in forgiven taxes and an additional \$4,000 for students and electronic equipment.

Thank you!