

Grey and Simcoe Foresters
Regimental Museum
36 Mulcaster Street
Barrie ON
L4M 3M1



September 30, 2016

Attention: Brigadier General (Ret'd) John C. Hayter;
LCol. (Ret'd) Lorne E. Williams;
Major (Ret'd) Peter B. Litster

Dear John, Lorne and Peter,

I would like to begin by thanking the three of you for taking the time to meet with Michael McKnight, Lynn Strachan and me Thursday afternoon. I would also like to thank you for your assistance and cooperation with the Heritage Impact Assessment. Your knowledge of the building was invaluable to Joey and Robyn in this process of preservation of the Armoury.

The purpose of this letter is to outline the commitments that PACC (the property developer) made to the Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum in our discussions. This support also recognizes that the City of Barrie is the owner of the building and, as such, are also a party to these commitments.

Now that we more clearly understand your concerns regarding the impact of a move of the building and closure of the Museum during construction, we will support you in the following efforts and directions in order to assist the Museum in this transitional period:

1. Physical Building

We recognize your clear concerns with respect to moving the structure and the impact that will have on the Armoury. We will:

- i. Invite you to a meeting with the engineers and moving team to review the plans for the building move to allow you to gain assurances that the move will occur without damage to the building;
- ii. Formally notify you we will carry an appropriate level of insurance to address any potential damage to the building.

2. Museum Storage

Presently there is a crawl space in the building that serves as a storage area for the Museum and also houses all of the electrical and mechanical components required for the building. Your concern is that, with the loss of the crawl space, these items will take up valuable floor space in the Museum. We will:

- i. Commit to equal or greater storage space within the new development;
- ii. Support design alterations with the City of Barrie for the mechanical and electrical components to be installed so as to not occupy Museum programming space.

3. Alterations to the Building

In the event the Armoury is relocated to the corner of Mulcaster and Collier we understand there are clear issues with respect to the state of the south facing wall and the sloped floors that currently exist in the building. In order to ensure that the building is preserved we will work with the Museum and the City to:

- i. Work on a plan that would alter the south wall to make it more visually appealing;
- ii. Remediate any direct issues in the building which do not have specific heritage significance.

4. Timing

The development team plans to begin construction in the spring of 2017 and expects that the project will take approximately 2 years to complete. During this time the Museum will be closed. We will support the Museum within a series of interim commitments:

a. The Collection

- The developer will professionally assist the Museum curator and volunteers in packing, documenting, storing and the re-installation of the collection;
- We will support the creation of a "Living History Document" in which volunteers, familiar with the collection, are video-interviewed on each important piece. This is a unique opportunity for the Museum and we are delighted to be involved in preserving the history of the Grey and Simcoe Foresters in this very exciting and meaningful way.

b. Volunteer Retention

The Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum is run entirely through the support and good will of its volunteers. A concern is that the Museum will lose volunteers during the closure. We acknowledge that this will be a challenging time for the Museum but also think there are excellent opportunities to keep volunteers engaged including:

- The creation of a "Living History Document" as stated above;
- The development of a renewed strategic plan and vision for the Museum in its new location (through which volunteers and key stakeholders can be involved);
- Creating special events in the community in which volunteers can be involved in the planning and execution.

c. Marketing

Marketing the Museum during the closure is a concern. We will:

- Commit a portion of our development marketing budget to support the Museum during the interim period.

d. Temporary Museum Site

The decision regarding an interim offsite location is at the discretion of the City of Barrie:

- However, we will advocate for the Armoury building to be left on Mulcaster Street during construction, and support the second location option of Queen's Park.

e. Parking

Currently volunteers park in the lot adjacent to the Museum. Once the development is complete and the Armoury building is relocated there will no longer be parking available on site:

- The developer will advocate with the City for alternative options for volunteer parking in the vicinity, including the Collier Place development across the street.

I hope that the points outlined above accurately reflect our discussed commitments to the Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum. We strongly believe, as recommended in the Heritage Impact Assessment, that relocating the Armoury building will preserve the Armoury, enhance the visibility of the Museum, create a sense of the historic Market Square, and bring more community awareness to Barrie's military heritage.

Thank you once again for your thoughtful input and I look forward to working with you and your volunteer team as the project progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. C. ...', is written over a horizontal line.

PACC Mulcaster