



Warren Munro, Director
Planning Services, City of Oshawa
8th Floor Rundle Tower
50 Centre Street South
Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 3Z7

Wednesday October 4, 2017

Mr. Munro,

Further to our discussions earlier this year, the Oshawa Historical Society is formally requesting of the Corporation of the City of Oshawa, the use of a portion of Lakeview Park (noted on the attached map by the red circle) for the purpose of Museum expansion. This location was chosen in the 1990s by our consultants, Sears and Russell, after consultation with City staff, as being the most appropriate location for an expansion project.

For the past 60 years, the Oshawa Historical Society has been preserving and actively promoting awareness and appreciation of Oshawa's history by operating the only community museum in the City. In 1996 we completed a Master Plan study that recommended collections and museum support services be consolidated in a new purpose designed building. In 2016 this recommendation was once again echoed by the Canadian Conservation Institute in their Facilities Assessment Report noting, "Oshawa Museum staff have exhausted options for using historic spaces efficiently; therefore, new space is needed." (CCI: Oshawa Museum Facilities Assessment Final Report, December 2016, pg. 11)

A new facility would offer:

- Centrally located reception/admissions area;
- The opportunity to repatriate the Oshawa municipal collection from the Archives of Ontario
- Consolidated administration, staff and volunteer work area;
- Oshawa history orientation gallery;
- Enhanced exhibit and program space;
- Consolidated collection storage in spaces large enough to facilitate access, permit growth and provide high security and environmental controls;
- Improved visitor amenities;
- Increased fire protection through fire-resistive construction and spaces protected by automatic fire suppression;
- Spaces built using materials that facilitate preservation and good housekeeping; and
- Sufficient storage for all collections above grade and outside of flood risk zones.

The Oshawa Historical Society recognizes the stewardship of the collections and our spaces as a public trust. We value the trust placed in us to safeguard the collection for the citizens of Oshawa and we recognize our responsibility to strategically develop and administer the collection for future generations. A new museum facility in Lakeview Park would allow us to improve spaces and amenities and support the efficient and sustainable operation of the Oshawa Museum going forward. The upcoming 100th anniversary in 2024 of Oshawa becoming a city is the perfect opportunity to not only celebrate our past but embrace our future with the opening of a new, improved, community museum facility.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and would appreciate a response, in writing, at your earliest convenience. For your information, I am available for questions or a presentation as required.

Sincerely,

Laura Suchan

Laura Suchan, Executive Director
Oshawa Museum, 905 436 7624 ext. 104

