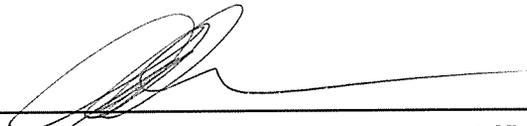
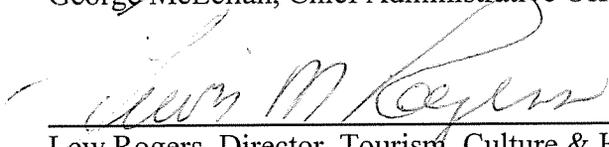

Halifax Regional Council
December 17, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer


Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture & Heritage

DATE: December 9, 2002

SUBJECT: Evergreen House Renovations

ORIGIN

Approved 2002/03 Capital Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council;

1. Approve an increase in the 02/03 capital project, CBG00306, Evergreen House - heating upgrade, in the amount of \$13,000 with funding as a withdrawal from the Heritage & Cultural Reserve, Q312.

BACKGROUND

At the time of amalgamation, HRM inherited the heritage collection of the City of Dartmouth. This collection contains approximately 40,000 items from the community of Dartmouth and the Eastern portion of the Municipality. A variety of materials; archival, genealogical, visual art and social history artifacts are housed at 100 Wyse Road, Dartmouth.

The Halifax Regional Municipality has been working with the Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society that provides care for the Municipality's Heritage collection on a fee for service basis. Housing for the collection is provided by a Municipally owned building (100 Wyse Road).

A study received in September, 2002, conducted at the request of the HRM, has indicated that the building has a serious mould problem and advice has been received to remove staff and the collection immediately. To protect both, they must be relocated to new locations. This report provides an outline of the proposed solution and a request for funding approval.

DISCUSSION

Given the health risk at 100 Wyse Road, a decision was made by the Society and the staff of the Culture and Heritage unit of the Halifax Regional Municipality to reestablish the curatorial functions of the Dartmouth Heritage Museum at Evergreen House, 27 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth. The house is a centrally located, heritage building and can accommodate the staff, research and exhibit functions of the museum for the continued enjoyment and education of the community. This is seen as a temporary measure while the society locates a permanent home for the museum.

As the building is owned by HRM, there will be minimal costs involved. Some changes to the house will be required, however. The present lighting, while in keeping with the historic nature of the house, is inadequate for office/research space. Minimal additions are being proposed to rectify this. As well, the electrical heating system will need to be augmented with a more economical hot water system.

The collection will have to be cleaned of the hazardous mould, packed and stored off site. This storage facility has not been located, as yet, although the search is underway.

Capital project CBG00306, was approved in 02/03 at \$25,000 to cover modifications to the heating system. These modifications are expected to save \$7-10,000 / year in heating costs.

The electrical modifications, collection cleaning, moving and storage have not been budgeted for. This report is to address the electrical upgrade costs at Evergreen house, which is expected to cost in the vicinity of \$13,000.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Approved 02/03 Capital Budget Account CBG00306, Evergreen House, Heating System in the amount of \$25,000 is to cover the cost of the heating system upgrade. The recommended increase of \$13,000 with funding provided by a withdrawal from the Heritage & Cultural Reserve, Q312 is available from this Reserve as confirmed with staff of Financial Services.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating budget and policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved, this will increase the 02/03 Capital Budget as well as increase the withdrawals from the Reserves.

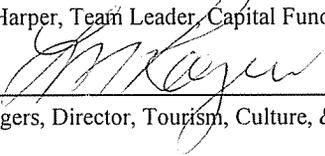
A subsequent report will be presented to Council at a later date, once price estimates for the cleaning and storage of the artifacts are confirmed.

ALTERNATIVES

Council can seek other proposals from staff to secure funding. This is not the recommended alternative.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Betty Ann Aaboe-Milligan, Heritage Tourism Officer 490-5113
Nancy Harper, Team Leader, Capital Funds & Disbursements 490-6527

Report Approved by: 
Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism, Culture, & Heritage 490-5978