



MEDIA PACKAGE

November 13, 2009

MP DEL MASTRO DELIVERS TIMELY FEDERAL FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF TWO MUSEUM PROJECTS

Today, the Peterborough Museum & Archives gratefully accepted two grants from the Department of Canadian Heritage. The funds will be used to defray part of the costs associated with two projects already approved by Peterborough City Council:

Public Spaces Renovation Project

A grant of **\$100,000** was awarded under the **Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund** towards this exciting project.

Places of Power, Objects of Veneration in the Canadian Arctic

A grant of **\$7,170** was awarded under the **Museum Assistance Program (MAP), Exhibition Circulation Fund Component** to offset costs associated with bringing this important traveling exhibit to Peterborough.

The funds were delivered by Dean Del Mastro, Member of Parliament for Peterborough and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, on behalf of the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.

“This funding comes at an important time for the Museum,” notes Museum Director, Susan Neale. “Staff have tightened their belts and rolled up their sleeves to ensure that there are no increases to our operating budget. This new funding will allow us to continue to meet public expectations without costing the taxpayers any additional money.”

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Media contact: Jon Oldham | joldham@peterborough.ca | 742-7777, ext 2479



PO Box 143, 300 Hunter Street East • Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6Y5
705.743.5180 • Fax 705.743.2614 • www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca



Public Spaces Renovation Project

The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) is a multi-faceted cultural institution serving the residents of Peterborough and surrounding regions.

The Museum's public spaces are in dire need of renovation, in terms of access, presentation, comfort and security, as well as efficiency. The original building construction in 1967 anticipated 20 years - *not 42 years* - of community development in collections, exhibitions and programming.

While the Museum completed the *Schematic Design and Design Development Phase* for a comprehensive facility renovation and expansion in 2008, this initiative has been removed from the City's financial forecast. Current Municipal fiscal direction is to implement components of the Design, through alternative cost-effective, creative solutions.

Several such innovative solutions have already been implemented: installation of a 1,500 square foot modular building (to host Fleming College's Museum Management and Curatorship program), the assumption of the lease of a 1,000 square foot modular building (to serve as a 'clean' workshop space), landscaping and painting to unify the front two modular buildings with the existing building, installation of a new roof, installation of an accessible parking spot, and significant redesign of the Museum's permanent galleries.

These initiatives were achieved through considerable financial support from Fleming College, the Eco-Challenge Fund, and the Council for Persons With Disabilities.

Under this project, the Museum's entryway, lobby, stairwell, *Rogers Room* (public reading room) and *Heideman Gallery* (temporary gallery space) will undergo a significant facelift with the considerable financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, through its *Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund*.

The goal of this project is to improve the visitor's experience, display more of the Museum's collection, and meet accessibility and environmental needs.

Total Project Cost: \$225,000 (\$125,000 from Peterborough City Council, see Report CSACH09-011 dated June 8, 2009*. \$100,000 from Department of Canadian Heritage)

* <http://eagenda.city.peterborough.on.ca/sirepub/pubmtgframe.aspx?meetid=130&doctype=AGENDA>





Places of Power, Objects of Veneration in the Canadian Arctic

This traveling exhibit from the Canadian Museum of Civilization features photographs of sacred sites and *inuksuit* (plural of *inukshuk*) in the Canadian Arctic.

The Canadian Inuit *inukshuk* (a stone marker used by the Inuit to help guide through the northern terrain for centuries) has become a symbol of leadership, cooperation, friendship and the human spirit. As such, it has been adopted as the logo and mascot of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. The Olympics has created a new awareness of the inukshuk and its deeply rooted symbolism and this exhibit should prove to be popular.

The exhibit opens on January 9, 2010 and closes on Mar 21, 2010 and therefore will be on display for the duration of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

With the exhibit, the Museum will explore the history of the Tunit (Paleo-Eskimos) in tandem with the functional and spiritual significance of the inuksuit in its scheduled 2010 programming: Snofest winter carnival, a “family day”, and March Break children’s programs.

The Museum is also planning several special events in conjunction with the exhibit, including several lectures as part of the Museum’s new *Word on the Hill* lecture series (see PMA Media Release, “The Real Apocalypso - A Lecture by Gyles Iannone”, released November 13, 2009 for more details about this exciting initiative.)

Total Project Cost: \$13,910 (\$7,170 from the Department of Canadian Heritage)

