

STAFF REPORT: **Recreation**



REPORT TO: **Council**
MEETING DATE: **October 23, 2008**
REPORT NO.: **DOR 08 56**
SUBJECT: **Summary of Opening Day
reception**
PREPARED BY: **Suzanne Ferri, Curator**

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receives this summary report of the Opening Day reception of the Craigleith Heritage Depot for information purposes only.

B. Background

The Opening Day reception of the Craigleith Heritage Depot on September 21st 2008, was a huge success. It has been estimated that over 300 people were in attendance at this reception as reported by the volunteer responsible for distributing each guest a “Depot” lapel pin. Local press and media released very positive articles in support of the project. Letters of best wishes were received from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Honourable Josee Verner (Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women), MP Helena Guergis, MPP Jim Wilson, Honourable Lincoln Alexander. Many other letters of support were received from those heritage institutions, with which we are associated, but could not send a representative such as the Ministry of Culture, the Ontario Historical Society, Ontario Heritage Trust, the Instiut de France, in recognition of the Town’s French heritage to 1650, etc.

Since the official opening, the Craigleith Heritage Depot has been open to the public three days/week and has been receiving on average ten visitors per day with several offers of artifact donations each week. Statistics are currently being compiled on admission levels, volunteer involvement, and gift shop sales to be released in a future report.

Two upcoming events scheduled are;

1. October 20th - An official visit from Chief Janith English of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas to visit the display recognizing their ancestors who lived in the area until 1650.
2. Remembrance Day exhibit opening tentatively scheduled for November 11th.

C. The Blue Mountains’ Strategic Plan (Statement(s) identifying how actions further the goals of the Strategic Plan)

“develop information and education initiatives to promote culture and heritage.”

D. Environmental Impacts (Focus on local impacts and comment on greenhouse gasses if appropriate)

The Craigleith Heritage Depot opening day reception was the Town of The Blue Mountains' very first "zero waste event".

The Craigleith Heritage Depot will incorporate into the mission statement and programming initiatives;

"Preserving our environment as we preserve our heritage"

E. Budget Impact (cc: Treasury if required)

The gift shop sales on opening day, September 21st, amounted to \$153.00. Four offers of artifact donations were received on this day, as well offers of oral histories to be donated to the museum collections and records. With the museum now open to the public three days per week, we do anticipate further revenue generation. Our goal is to have volunteer assistance help us to open our doors on weekends so as to allow weekend visitors through the building thus generating further revenue.

F. Attached (Relevant documentation not personal information about an identifiable person)

Respectfully submitted,

Signature

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