

To:	Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	June 28, 2018
Subject / Report No:	CAOR-CW-09-18
Title:	Grey Roots Museum & Archives Collecting Plan
Prepared by:	Sim Salata, Collections Manager
Reviewed by:	Petal Furness, Grey Roots Manager
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	N/A
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee of the Whole as presented as per Resolution CW167-18; Endorsed by County Council on July 12, 2018.

Recommendation

1. That Report CAOR-CW-09-18 regarding the Grey Roots Museum and Archives Collecting Plan 2018 – 2023 be received and approved.

Executive Summary

Grey Roots staff has prepared its first artefact Collecting Plan. This living document will guide the growth of its permanent artefact collection (PAC). The plan provides a framework for collecting artefacts that best tell the unique stories of Grey County while recognizing that space has limitations. In addition to the PAC the plan formally recognizes its three additional collections: Living History Collection – items such as the iconic Steam Traction unit demonstrated for special events; Education Collection – objects used as part of school and/or public programming; and Research Collection – reference books and the like to assist in telling the artefact stories.

Background and Discussion

Artefact (noun), an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest. Artefact is the British spelling, artifact is the American spelling.

Grey Roots cares for and manages Grey County's evidence of human history beyond the written word. Over 13,500 objects in our permanent artefact collection (PAC) tell the story of Grey County's evolution and the people who shaped it – from the first Indigenous peoples to recent immigrants. As stewards of Grey's material culture, we hold these objects in trust for the

people of Grey and present them to the public through programs and events, long-term and temporary exhibitions.

Since its humble beginnings in 1955, the permanent artefact collection (PAC) has grown substantially. Without a Collecting Plan to guide what was collected, most everything 'old' was accepted into the collection. There is a cost for each object accepted into the collection. Each object requires protected storage space (temperature and humidity), must be catalogued, photographed and digitized, researched and many objects require conservation.

Presently, the PAC is a wide-ranging local history compilation of artefacts. The Collecting Plan provides a vision for the collections. It specifies what Grey Roots will collect and what it won't. It lists the types of artefacts in the collection and defines its strengths and weaknesses. The plan lays out what is needed to build the ideal PAC (relevant, representative and unified), identifies collecting priorities, and recognizes that some items, while not part of the PAC, are vital to Grey Roots' goals and identity.

The Collecting Plan is a living document that fits into the larger framework provided by the Grey Roots' Strategic Plan, its vision and mission statements:

Vision: Grey Roots is the place people come to understand and reflect on Grey County's place in the world - past, present and future - while instilling a sense of pride and belonging, thereby building better communities.

Mission: Grey Roots engages and educates our communities in the human and natural history of Grey County by preserving and sharing collections, stories and memories that define our collective identity and guide our future.

The Grey County Brand statement proudly declares: "A distinctive history of independent thinking and perseverance has shaped Grey County into a colourful tapestry of unique communities that characterize the spirit of entrepreneurship, leadership and fortitude."

Legal and Legislated Requirements

In the case of high-value artefact acquisition or deaccession and disposal, there may be a need for insurance adjustments.

In the rare case of deaccessions and disposal of artefacts, Grey Roots will follow its Acquisitions and Deaccessions Policy which meets the Museum Standards for Ontario Museums set by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Financial and Resource Implications

Staff has written, reviewed and produced the Collecting Plan as part of normal collections management projects.

Over 95% of Grey Roots' PAC is acquired via donation. On occasion, Grey Roots has donated items professionally appraised for donors' tax receipt purposes.

Grey Roots currently has an artefact acquisition reserve of \$25,000 for items of high cultural-historical significance that may only be acquired for the PAC via purchase.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal - Kim Wingrove, CAO
Grey Roots Management staff

- External - Bev Dietrich, Curator (retired), Guelph Civic Museums
David Huff, Curator of Collections, Tom Thomson Art Gallery
Patti Lamb, Registrar, Huron County Museum & Historic Gaol
Melissa Shaw, Museum Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Culture, Town of Collingwood

Appendices and Attachments

[Grey Roots Museum & Archives Collecting Plan](#)

[Grey Roots Collecting Plan Process Presentation to Council](#)