



Committee Report

To:	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 13, 2020
Subject / Report No:	EDTC-CW-05-20
Title:	Militaria Purchase for Permanent Artefact Collection
Prepared by:	Sim Salata, Collections Manager, Grey Roots Museum & Archives
Reviewed by:	Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Culture
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	None
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That Report EDTC-CW-05-20 regarding **Militaria Purchase for Permanent Artefact Collection**, be received; and
2. That the amount of \$3,827 be taken from Grey Roots' Artefact Reserve in order to purchase the Grey County veteran related militaria collection.

Executive Summary

Over the past two to three decades, a local historian and private collector of World War I and World War II militaria has accumulated a number of items including military badges, medals, insignia and identification tags issued to and owned by late Grey County veterans. The collector is now downsizing and moving away from Grey County. He has donated a number of items to Grey Roots' archives and artefact collections, but as he has a financial investment in some of this collection, he is looking to be compensated at fair market value for it. These items help tell the story of Grey County's contribution to both World Wars and meet Grey Roots' collecting mandate and collecting plan.

The total fair market value of these items exceeds the annual permanent artefact acquisition budget. Staff proposes that this collection be purchased with a portion of the Artefact Reserve which was created when the Owen Sound-Grey County Museum received an insurance settlement for losses related to a 2001 storage building fire. As of December 31, 2019, this reserve totaled \$24,800. The last time an amount was taken from this reserve was in 2010 to fund boiler work on Grey Roots' Robert Bell steam traction engine, part of the museum's Living History Collection.

Background and Discussion

Telling the stories of Grey County citizens, past and present, is one of Grey Roots Museum & Archives' core functions, which Grey Roots achieves through its research, exhibits, and interpretation. Collecting and preserving physical culture is also a Grey Roots core function. As Grey Roots is the steward for Grey County's history, it is optimal that these items are cared for and made accessible in the interest of the public (become public domain) and stay in the County where they are relevant and representative of its past.

The collection of items spans the County and its past citizens. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Grey County 31st Battalion helmet plate
- Nursing Sister Olive Kilbourne, Owen Sound - World War I Service and Victory medals, identification tags and Red Cross service insignia
- Melbourne Kilbourne, Owen Sound – World War I Service and Victory medals
- William Armstrong, Owen Sound – World War I Military Medal (extraordinary valour)
- Frank McFadden, Markdale – World War I Memorial plaque (“death penny”)
- Johnston Currie, Hepworth – World War I Memorial Cross
- Wilfred Butler, Artemesia Township, Lyness Myles, Thornbury, and C. Donaghy, Durham - Grey County World War I presentation medallions
- James Arthur Tugman, Owen Sound - World War I Service and Victory medals
- R. J. J. McFadden, Markdale - World War II Memorial Cross
- Grey Regiment collar and shoulder titles
- Grey and Simcoe Foresters collar badges and shoulder titles

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None

Financial and Resource Implications

The budget for annual acquisitions is \$2500, which has been included in the 2020 budget. Throughout the year, various purchases will make use of this budget in order to build the collection according to the collections plan. This collections purchase is an unexpected opportunity that will present incredible value to Grey Roots. Rather than utilizing the acquisitions budget, it is recommended that this collection be funded by The Grey Roots Artefact Reserve in the amount of its appraised fair market value, \$3,827.

Relevant Consultation

- ☒ Internal – Collections, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture, Finance Officer, Clerk
- ☒ External – Sydenham Auction Appraisals for comparative fair market value of local militaria

Appendices and Attachments

None

