 Committee Report

| To: | Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council |
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| Committee Date: | October 14, 2021 |
| Subject / Report No: | EDTC-CW-15-21 |
| Title: | Deaccessions from Grey Roots Artefact Collection |
| Prepared by: | Sim Salata, Curator |
| Reviewed by: | Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Culture |
| Lower Tier(s) Affected: | All |
| Status: | Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented; Endorsed by County Council October 28, 2021 per Resolution CC76-21;  |

# Recommendation

1. **That Report EDTC-CW-15-21 be received; and**
2. **That the artefacts identified in the report be disposed of according to the Grey Roots’ Acquisition and Deaccessioning Policy; and**
3. **That any revenue from the disposal of these artefacts be transferred to Grey Roots’ Artefact Reserve.**

## Executive Summary

The items identified for deaccession are attached as Schedule A to this Report.

In order to be collected and maintained as part of Grey Roots’ artefact collection, an object should support the mandate of Grey Roots Museum & Archives by having strong Grey County provenance or manufacture, be in good (exhibitable) condition and not be already represented in the collection. Artefacts should be relevant and representative of Grey County in order to remain in the collection and ensure that staff, financial and space resources are optimally utilized.

## Background and Discussion

Before the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries instituted museum standards and best collecting practices for Ontario Museums, Grey Roots, like other museums had few guiding principles on which to base its decision to accept or decline object donations. These decisions were left up to the opinions and preferences of managers, curators, and other staff, and often did not align with the mandate of their institutions. This led to many museums collecting items which are not relevant to or representative of their residents or regions, and a collective lack of storage space due to collecting multiple examples of similar objects.

Over the past 10-15 years, like many other museums, Grey Roots has identified objects which have little or no relevance to its mandate, objects in poor condition that are not suitable for exhibit or research, and those that are well represented in the collection through multiple examples.

The list of items Grey Roots is recommending to deaccession are general items that were donated between 1956 and 2008 that have little or no relevance to Grey County or are over-represented in the collection (multiple examples) including one non-functioning George White steam traction engine (donated 1996) and 41 spinning wheels (donated 1998).

The George White steam traction engine has a boiler that was condemned by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) in 2009. That year, Grey Roots staff obtained an estimate to repair the boiler at a cost of $20,340 with no guarantee that the repair would last many years. The cost to replace the boiler at that time was $49,700. The traction engine has been sitting as a static display piece since that year. Grey Roots has a fully functioning Robert Bell steam traction engine that was restored to working order in 2012. It is stored and on display in the Large Agricultural Storage and Display Building in Moreston Heritage Village and demonstrated at events.

With regard to the spinning wheels, Grey Roots will keep eight that have strong Grey County provenance and those used in Moreston Heritage Village for demonstration purposes.

In order to dispose of these artefacts, staff recommends following Grey Roots’ [Acquisition and Deaccession Procedure](https://docs.grey.ca/share/public?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/d3ce2415-5370-459f-b34c-b88b8874bcec), in order to put forward every effort to ensure that the deaccessioned artefacts remain in the public domain by transferring ownership to a more suitable museum or public institution. Following that, objects not claimed by such institutions except for firearms will be offered via public auction as per Grey County’s [Purchasing Policy](https://docs.grey.ca/share/public?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/b08a1e80-f9d2-447d-884c-d11de78fe9ef). Since the purchase, sale and transportation of firearms are subject to legal regulation, staff will determine the most appropriate disposition of firearms that are not transferred to another museum or public institution.

Since Grey Roots acquires objects with a view to permanence in its collections, every deaccession/disposal is approached with caution.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

Any transfer or disposition of firearms must be carried out in accordance with the Firearms Act (Canada).

## Financial and Resource Implications

This work is part of the collections’ staff workplan. Transfers will only be made to non-profit institutions which operate in the public trust, ensuring a level of care for the artefacts in keeping with the County of Grey’s expectations. All transportation costs will be borne by the receiving institutions.

Staff estimates that the total fair market value of these artefacts is under $10,000. Should any of these artefacts be sold, all monies realized from their sale will be used exclusively for the purchase of artefacts as per Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. Staff recommends that any proceeds be deposited in the existing reserve for this purpose.

## Relevant Consultation

[x]  Internal – Grey Roots, Finance, Tourism and Economic Development, Communications, Legal Services

[ ]  External –

### Appendices and Attachments

Schedule A – Items Identified for Deaccession

Schedule A

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OBJECT ID** | **OBJECT NAME** | **PLACE OF ORIGIN** | **MADE** | **CONDITION** |
| 1956.016.002 | Seeder, Hand Seedbox | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1957.001.002 | Cane | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1957.002.049 | Spike | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1957.011.002abc | Watch, Pocket | London, England | "Tomson London" & Alex Troup Watches & Clock Maker" | Fair |
| 1960.053.001 | Parasol | Unknown | Unknown | Poor |
| 1960.054.001 | Model | Ontario | Chalmers, James B. | Fair |
| 1961.031.008 | Eyeglasses | Unknown |   | Poor |
| 1962.055.010abcd | Pot, Glue | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1963.037.001 | Hat, Top | Unknown | Unknown | Poor |
| 1964.024.001 | Piano, Square | Boston, Mass. | Emerson Piano Co. | Far |
| 1968.074.001 | Settee | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1969.091.001 | Wringer, Clothes | Toronto? | The T. Eaton Co. Limited Canada | Good |
| 1970.052.005 | Harrow | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1970.096.186 | Knife, Hay | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1971.120.080ab | Coffeepot | England | Wm. Adams & Sons | Fair |
| 1972.019.113 | Cap, Boudoir | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1972.097.008 | Chisel, Ice | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1973.015.001 | Piano, Upright | Oneonta, NY | McCammon | Good |
| 1973.114.001 | Revolver | Britain | Webley | Good |
| 1973.114.002 | Holster | Britain | Finnigans Ltd. | Good |
| 1974.025.002abcd | Chopper, Feed | Toronto  | Wilkinson Plough Co. | Good |
| 1974.083.023abcde | Crib | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1975.052.001 | Motor, Outboard | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Elto Outboard Motor Co. | Fair |
| 1976.021.002 | Cap, Bottle | Collingwood, Simcoe Co. | Potts Bros. Dairy | Fair |
| 1976.022.001 | Bucksaw | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1976.147.001 | Bullet | Unknown | Winchester Repeating Arms Co. | Good |
| 1976.153.001 | Bullet | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1977.035.002 | Blouse | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1977.053.001 | Bucksaw | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1977.083.001 | Blouse | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1978.019.001 | Chopper, Feed | Brantford, Ontario | Cockshutt Plow Co. Ltd. | Good |
| 1978.057.001abc | Vise, Woodworking | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1979.085.002 | Digger, Post Hole | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1981.002.001 | Ornament, Christmas Tree | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1981.060.004 | Ornament, Christmas Tree | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1981.060.005 | Ornament, Christmas Tree | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1981.060.006 | Ornament, Christmas Tree | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1981.169.001ab | Cushion | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1982.022.115 | Bucksaw | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1982.039.002 | Holder, Bag | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1982.090.001 | Blouse | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1987.015.010 | Clevis | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1987.023.005ab | Rein, Driving | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1989.024.001 | Motor, Outboard | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Elto Division, Outboard Motors Corp. | Fair |
| 1991.016.001 | Wheel, Spinning | Middlesex County, Ontario | Glendillen, Elijah | Fair |
| 1991.041.001 | Engine, Steam Traction | London, Ontario | George White & Sons Ltd. | Fair |
| 1991.052.002 | Pistol | Chicopee Falls, Mass. | J. Stevens A&T Co. | Good |
| 1992.025.006 | Blade, Windshield Wiper | USA | Anco Rainmaster | Good |
| 1992.027.054 | Box | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1992.045.002 | Torch | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1994.042.003 | Grindstone | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1997.026.001 | Derringer | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.028.014 | Ornament, Christmas Tree | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.028.015 | Ornament, Christmas Tree | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.028.016 | Ornament, Christmas Tree | Unknown | Unknown | Excellent |
| 1998.030.001ab | Wheel, Spinning | Burghaslach, Germany | Diller, Wilhelm | Good |
| 1998.030.003 | Wheel, Spinning | Bavaria? Germany? | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.004abcde | Wheel, Spinning | Bavaria? Germany? | C H Happes/ C.H. Kappes | Good |
| 1998.030.005 | Wheel, Spinning | Norway | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.007 | Wheel, Spinning | Ireland? | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.008 | Wheel, Spinning | Reproduction | Kirk, Harry J. | Good |
| 1998.030.010 | Wheel, Spinning | India | Unknown | Fair |
| 1998.030.011ab | Wheel, Spinning | India | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.012 | Wheel, Spinning | Anatolia, Turkey | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.016 | Wheel, Spinning | Manitoba | Made-Well Mfg. Co. | Good |
| 1998.030.017 | Wheel, Spinning | New Zealand | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.018 | Wheel, Spinning | Acton, Ontario | Mr. Rognvaldson | Good |
| 1998.030.019 | Wheel, Spinning | Manitoba | Sedore, William | Good |
| 1998.030.025 | Wheel, Spinning | Strathroy, Ontario | Solomon Dell | Good |
| 1998.030.026 | Wheel, Spinning | Canada? | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.027 | Wheel, Spinning | Quebec | Heureux, J. L. | Good |
| 1998.030.028 | Wheel, Spinning | Korea? | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.029abcd | Wheel, Spinning | Western Europe | Unknown | Fair |
| 1998.030.033 | Wheel, Spinning | Bavaria  | Unknown |   |
| 1998.030.034 | Wheel, Spinning | Saskatchewan | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.035 | Wheel, Spinning | Ireland? | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.036 | Wheel, Spinning | United States? | Unknown | Fair |
| 1998.030.037 | Wheel, Spinning | Quebec | La Compagnie Desjardins | Good |
| 1998.030.061 | Wheel, Spinning | New Glasgow, Nova Scotia | Nute, J. H. | Fair |
| 1998.030.062 | Wheel, Spinning | Quebec? | Morin, C. | Good |
| 1998.030.068 | Wheel, Spinning | Quebec? | Unknown |   |
| 1998.030.076 | Wheel, Spinning | Denmark | Nicholaisen, P. C. | Good |
| 1998.030.077 | Wheel, Spinning | Nova Scotia | Mr. McIntosh | Good |
| 1998.030.078 | Chair | Tideswell, Derbyshire, England | Hunstone | Good |
| 1998.030.080 | Wheel, Spinning | Middlesex County, Ontario | Glendillen, Elijah | Good |
| 1998.030.082 | Wheel, Spinning | Ontario? | Lucas & Lyons? Justin Wait & Moorehouse? | Good |
| 1998.030.083 | Wheel, Spinning | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1998.030.084 | Wheel, Spinning | Quebec? | Unknown | Fair |
| 1998.030.085 | Wheel, Spinning | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.086 | Wheel, Spinning | Quebec | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.087 | Wheel, Spinning | New Zealand? | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.088 | Wheel, Spinning | Ontario  | Glendillen, William | Fair |
| 1998.030.089 | Wheel, Spinning | Reproduction of Korean | Kirk, Harry J. | Good |
| 1998.030.095 | Wheel, Spinning | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.097 | Wheel, Spinning | Unknown | Rispin? | Good |
| 1998.030.098 | Wheel, Spinning | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1998.030.118abc | Wheel, Spinning | Reproduction | Kirk, Harry J. | Good |
| 1998.030.130 | Wheel, Spinning | Acton, Ontario | Rognvaldson? | Good |
| 1999.027.001 | Rope | Unknown | Unknown | Good |
| 1999.034.001 | Sweep, Animal-powered | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 1999.039.001 | Vise | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 2004.022.001 | Wheel, Spinning | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 2008.004.004 | Chest, Tool | Unknown | Unknown | Fair |
| 2008.015.003 | Scythe | Unknown | Unknown | Good |