

Dundalk and District Historical Society

c/o Box 280, Dundalk, Ontario

NOC 1B0

November 6, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Letter of Support for the Restoration of the Dundalk Olde Town Hall

The Dundalk and District Historical Society was first formed in the mid 1950's and over the years it has been consistent in its mandate of preserving and sharing local history. Since its reactivation in 2018, we have had presentations about a community cemetery and its founding families, a local brick making business, the history of sport in Dundalk, a virtual walk through Dundalk in the 1940s with a description of the buildings and their changing uses and businesses over time. DDHS sponsored a well received Antique Show in July in partnership with the annual Dundalk Automotive Swap Meet. The picture display of Dundalk buildings, businesses and streets was particularly popular. Most recently, we have visited a neighbouring town's museum which was particularly relevant to us as it contains many items that came from Dundalk and area people.

We support the restoration of the Dundalk Olde Town Hall. It is a beautiful building which holds many memories of the pealing bell and the welcome home dinners for returning soldiers, the wedding receptions, dances, and the movies that played. Dundalk Little Theatre made its home in the building and presented wonderful plays with a talented cast, directors and a multitude of other volunteers who were all local citizens. The second floor venue is a beautiful theatre with great acoustics and comfortable seats. We would like to see this theatre be back in use by Dundalk Little Theatre and so many other groups.

The Dundalk and District Historical Society want to see a home and centre for our area's history. The Town Hall is in the heart of the town and it should be the natural repository for local artifacts and history. We propose that the main floor be renovated to be a museum and cultural centre that hosts picture and art displays as well as special displays of local heritage and exhibits from other museums. It's impossible to imagine a more fitting setting. The Town Hall could house genealogy and historical research. At present and without the use of the Town Hall, there is limited preservation of records, pictures and artifacts, decreasing awareness of local culture and heritage, and long distances to be travelled to reach other centres. This is

rural Ontario, living in a major snow belt area - our local culture and history needs to be accessible - including affordable.

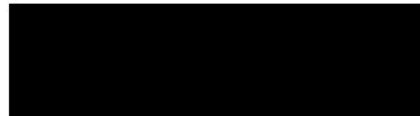
Dundalk and the surrounding area are attracting new housing developments and many new people. We would like people to know why making their home here is a great decision and to engage in keeping this community vibrant. People will be proud to live here - preserving the Town Hall is key to this.

The Dundalk Olde Town Hall has strong and broad based support from both young and older citizens. The Dundalk and District Historical Society is pleased to support the restoration of this heritage building and, with your help, to ensure its use as a community heritage centre, and for other cultural uses.

Sincerely,



Mary Redmond
Chairperson



Muriel Scott
Vice Chairperson