



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 15 @ 12:00 PM
ARTHUR AND AREA COMMUNITY CENTRE, UPPER HALL**

Committee Members Present:

- Bonny McDougall, Chair
- Doris Cassan, Member
- Penny Renken, Member, Councillor
- Faye Craig, Member
- Carol Vair, Member
- Trina Reid, Member (joined at 12:07 p.m.)

Regrets:

- Linda Hruska, Member
- Tim McIntosh, Member

Staff Members Present:

- Robyn Mulder, Economic Development Officer
- Mike Wilson, Community Development Coordinator

Calling to Order
Chair McDougall called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
Adoption of Agenda
Moved by Councillor Renken Seconded by Member Cassan THAT the agenda for the May 15, 2025, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee meeting be accepted and passed. CARRIED
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
None
Minutes of Previous Meeting – March 20, 2025
Moved by Member Cassan Seconded by Member Craig

THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee receive for information the minutes of the March 20, 2025, Committee Meeting.

CARRIED

Deputation

None

Business Arising

None

Update on Workplan Items

Workplan Item 1: Wellington North Farmers' Market

EDO Mulder introduced Casey Taylor – Summer student and Project Lead – Farmers' Market and Community Gardens.

There are currently seven Growers/Producers (four confirmed for the whole season), eight bakers/crafters (three confirmed for whole season) including two Youth Entrepreneurs.

The committee discussed further vendor ideas, weekly events and food options.

The Market will be located on Grant Street for the initial three markets of the season, allowing the newly planted grass seed to get established.

Rain contingency. There is no indoor/undercover contingency, however the market will move onto Grant Street if rain is forecasted. Notice will go out to vendors on Friday night preceding the market.

ACTION: Project Lead to reach out to Barrel House for Pickle Pete giveaways and reach out to High School for student participation.

ACTION: Member Reid to send Farmers Gold contact information to the Project Lead to reach out for corn snacks, popcorn stand.

Workplan Item 2: Cultural Grants and Donations

CDC Wilson provided a verbal update to the committee about the grants awarded so far in 2025:

- \$750 to Metz Pumpkinfest
- \$350 to the Mount Forest and District Arts Council

CDC Wilson noted that there is a remaining \$900, of the \$2,000 that was included in the 2025 operating budget.

The Committee asked about adding a reporting component to the grant process that would see funding recipients provide a brief report to the Cultural Roundtable on how those funds were spent. CDC Wilson will investigate and report back at a future meeting.

Workplan Item 3: Cultural Moments

CDC Wilson provided a verbal report to the committee about the Cultural Moment videos being presented at Council meetings and shared on social media. These videos continue to be well received by Council and the public, with videos in 2025 averaging 786 views per video. CDC Wilson said the number of views per video seems to vary, so he will investigate and come back with an update at the next meeting. CDC Wilson informed the committee that the Cultural Moment schedule for May 20 will be used on June 2, as the May 20 meeting of Council has been cancelled.

CDC Wilson is also working on a booklet of past Cultural Moments that can be distributed to local long-term care homes for residents to enjoy at their leisure. He will bring a draft of this booklet to the next meeting for the committee to review and provide feedback on.

Member Reid has recorded 15 Cultural Moments to air on 88.7 The River at various times throughout the month. Member Reid reported that she has received several positive comments from the public about these segments.

The committee discussed several potential topics for future Cultural Moments:

- Ted Arnott
- Mike Murphy
- The Swamp Sisters
- Marvin Howe/Howe's House
- Dentist Chair from the Arthur Historical Society

Workplan Item 5: Wellington North Culture Days

EDO Mulder provided a verbal report to the Committee on Culture Days activities, including the Ontario Culture Days event September 19 – October 12.

Event Registration has opened on the Ontario Culture Days Website.

Culture Days Bus Tour – is scheduled for October 4. In partnership with the Town of Minto and the Town of Hanover.

The Wellington North Artisan Showcase will be held on September 27, and will include the Wellington North Farmers' Market in the parking lot at the Mount Forest and District Sports Complex. Councilor Renken suggested having some funds from the Cultural Roundtable available to provide coffee/tea/snacks to guests.

ACTION: Project Lead to add Wellington North events to the Ontario Culture Days website.

Workplan Item 6: Minto, Hanover, WN Cultural Roundtable partnership

Tourism Growth Program

Driftscape: EDO Mulder provided a verbal update to the committee. The Project Manager is a quarter of the way through uploading Wellington North 'Places of Interest' to the Driftscape App. The content upload will continue for another week or until all locations have been completed. It was suggested to add charging stations and washrooms to the app if feasible.

May 30 Symposium: Committee members Craig, Reid and McDougall advised they were not able to register on Eventbrite.

ACTION: EDO Mulder will ask the event organizer to add committee members to the registration list.

Other Items

Member Vair reported the local art exhibit will take place at Strathcona Long Term Care on Friday, May 23. A local photographer has taken several photos of the area and arranged for them to be framed. These photos will remain at Strathcona following the May 23 event for residents to enjoy.

Items for Consideration

Wellington Advertiser Cultural Ads

The Committee reviewed the March, April and May 2025 cultural advertisement pages in the Wellington Advertiser.

Upcoming Events

Cultural Roundtable Symposium

May 30, 2025

Wellington County Library, Harriston location

Hosted by the Town of Minto in partnership with Hanover and Wellington North

Wellington North Farmers' Market

June 14 – September 27

393 Parkside Drive, Mount Forest

Roundtable (verbal)

An update was provided to the Committee regarding a meeting held between Mandy Jones, Manager of Recreation, Community and Economic Development, Councillor Renken and Kate Rowley of the Mount Forest Museum and Archives. The Main Street Plaque Program has placed 22 plaques on downtown businesses in the historical downtown area, from Queen St. to Birmingham. Many building owners have participated, although some out-of-town owners are taking longer to engage. The program aims to evoke memories and create storytelling opportunities, showcasing the heritage-friendly nature of the community. The housing plaque program, which began in 1979 to recognize centennial homes, has transitioned to a digital registry maintained by the Archives, documenting over 200 homes with addresses, images, and details of the homes today. Updates on the Lynes Blacksmith Shop include anticipated door installation and occupancy by the end of July, with future programming focusing on summer use. Kate expressed desire to maintaining the current approach to the Blacksmith Shop's heritage designation, though Councillor Renken expressed interest in pursuing formal designation through by-law eventually.

ACTIONS: Request updates from the Arthur and Mount Forest historical societies to be included in the Cultural Roundtable agenda. Send updated draft Community Improvement Plan (CIP) guidelines, specific to heritage, to Kate Rowley for review and comment.

The Volunteer Celebration and Newcomer Welcome Event on May 1 in Arthur was cancelled due to a power failure. All meals were successfully distributed by take-out the following day. Special thanks to caterer Linda Saunders for accommodating the change in date/times/delivery.

Councilor Renken – Pike Lake Auxiliary plant sale takes place on May 17, 2025.

Member Reid – Wellington Heights Secondary School is hosting its drama presentation this weekend. Artists in Mount Forest will be doing a new summer mural in the downtown. The Mount Forest Art Gallery's next exhibit is "June with June Turner." Mount Forest plant sale is on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at the Mount Forest Green House on Durham Street.

Member Cassan – Township wide yard sale this Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Member Craig – Canada Day celebrations June 28, 2025 from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Vendors, entertainment and three food trucks.

Date of next meeting and adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 19, 2025 (Arthur and Area Community Centre, Upper Hall)

Following Meeting: Thursday, July 10, 2025 (Mount Forest and District Sports Complex – Meeting Room)

Moved by Member Cassan
Seconded by Member Craig

THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee meeting of May 15, 2025, be adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

CARRIED