



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 @ 12:00 PM
MOUNT FOREST & DISTRICT SPORTS COMPLEX, MEETING ROOM**

Committee Members Present:

- Bonny McDougall, Chair
- Doris Cassan, Member
- Penny Renken, Councillor (left at 1:29 p.m.)
- Tim McIntosh, Member (left at 12:26 p.m.)
- Carol Vair, Member
- Faye Craig, Member

Regrets:

- Trina Reid, 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 12:07 p.m.
Adoption of Agenda
Moved by Member Renken Seconded by Member Cassan THAT the agenda for the October 16, 2025, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee meeting be accepted and passed. CARRIED
Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
None
Minutes of Previous Meeting – August 14, 2025
The Committee reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 14, 2025. These minutes were accepted at the September 8, 2025 Wellington North Council Meeting. Moved by Member Cassan

Seconded by Member Vair

THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee receive for information the minutes of the August 14, 2025, Committee Meeting.

CARRIED

Deputation

None

Business Arising

None

New Business

None

Heritage Discussion

Moved by Member Cassan
Seconded by Member Craig

THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee receives for information the verbal report on the Heritage Discussion from the September 8, 2025 Wellington North Council Meeting.

CARRIED

A staff report was presented to council regarding historically significant buildings within the community.

Council directed staff to consult with the Arthur BIA and Mount Forest BIA, as well as the Cultural Roundtable. Early feedback from that consultation has indicated that both BIAs acknowledge the importance of historically significant buildings in the downtown cores. Additionally, they shared concerns regarding the restrictions that could potentially be put in place if buildings or districts are designated. Instead, both BIAs have indicated they would prefer to see the CIP expanded to provide greater incentives to property owners seeking to upgrade their facades. Committee and the BIAs are supportive of enhanced communication around the CIP program and sharing historical information about buildings with property owners and businesses.

Committee reviewed the following questions, included as an attachment on the Report.

Q1. What is the main goal/objective that the Cultural Roundtable would like to see with respect to heritage in Wellington North? For example, recognition of properties and their historical importance, investment in properties, preservation.

Answer: Recognition, historical importance and preservation

Q2. If preservation and aesthetic appeal is the goal, has the committee discussed the limitations of the designation process?

Answer: Yes, cost and time for staff as well as regulations

Q3. Is the Committee prepared to provide resources to accomplish any goals related to designation? What would these be?

Answer: Committee has limited funds, this would need to be a budget consideration.

Q4. Are there any other creative ways the Committee could achieve their goals related to heritage?

Answer: Yes. The committee came up with a couple of creative ways to bring awareness to the importance of historical attributes.

- Work with the Mount Forest Museum and Archives to identify historically significant buildings and communicate the Community Improvement Program and new Design Guidelines.
- Provide Cultural Moments on various buildings in the downtown cores to raise awareness. These Cultural Moments could be shared directly with property/business owners as well as the Biz Bull. This project could be titled “What Lies beneath”

Action: Faye, Bonnie and Doris to identify buildings of historical significance in Arthur and research historical information.

Action: Penny, Carol and Trina to identify buildings of historical significance in Mount Forest, working with the Mount Forest Museum and Archives.

Action: Robyn to email the downtown heritage maps included in Façade Design Guidelines.

Update on Workplan Items

Workplan Item 1: Wellington North Farmers' Market

Staff member Mulder presented an update of the Wellington North Farmers' Market 2025 season. Committee agreed it was a very successful season and look forward to continuing with this success into next year.

Workplan Item 2: Cultural Grants and Donations

Criteria for future grants and donations was tabled to be discussed at the next meeting.

An update was provided on the 2025 Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Program. To date, a total of \$1,125.00 has been allocated:

- \$750 to Metz Pumpkinfest
- \$375 to the Mount Forest and District Arts Council

There has been no update received from the organizers of the proposed Diwali event. Staff suggest Committee proceed on the assumption that this event will not take place in 2025 based on the date and lack of communication.

A total of \$875 remains for 2025.

The 2026 Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Program will be considered through the annual operating budget. The Community Grants and Donations program applications will be

reviewed by Council on November 3.

There are some applications that may be of interest to the Cultural Roundtable to consider as part of the 2026 Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Program:

- Mount Forest and District Arts Council (\$400)
- Wellington North Pride (\$290.41 – full day pavilion rental)

Staff inquired if Committee would like to direct these applications to the Cultural Events Funding and Sponsorship Program. The Committee didn't come to a decision.

Action: Member Craig to fill out an application for pipers at the cenotaph in Arthur for next summer.

Workplan Item 3: Cultural Moments

Staff member Wilson advised Committee that the Cultural Moments are well received at Council. Mayor Lennox made the comment at the most recent Council meeting, "I don't know where the Cultural Roundtable digs up these moments, but I am sure glad they do."

The views of the Cultural Moments continue to be strong.

765 is the average total views

1265 is the average post reach

The total views is 12242

The Biz Bull also continues to publish Cultural Moments monthly that focus on the communities of Arthur, Damascus and Kenilworth.

Additional Cultural Moment ideas are required for upcoming council meetings; November 3 and 17, December 1 and 15. Staff have gone ahead and written a Cultural Moment on Joseph Driscoll, who was born in Arthur and moved west in the early 1900s to become a political and sporting figure.

Staff member Mulder suggested the Committee prepare a Cultural Moment discussing the Arthur and Mount Forest BIA 2025 projects, and subsequently include this content on the Culture page of the Wellington Advertiser. Committee was in agreeance with both.

Historical Society Reports

In addition to the reports, Kate Rowley from the Mount Forest Museum and Archives will be making a presentation to Council later this year or early next year with an update on the Lynes Blacksmith Shop.

Workplan Item 5: Wellington North Culture Days

Staff member Mulder gave a verbal recap of the Culture Bus Tour and showed images of the day. The Culture Bus tours are a partnership between the Town of Minto, Town of Hanover and the Township of Wellington North. This year the tours took place on Saturday October 4th from 10am to 4pm. Three tour buses, each departing from a different municipality, followed the same route at differing times. This year's locations were:

1. Arthur Greenfield Cemetery, Tour and stories by Jeff McKee
2. Mount Forest Museum & Archives, 25th Anniversary, behind the scenes storage tour; outdoor market and new Baskets to Caskets Exhibit
3. Saugeen Airport in Hanover, tour of the terminal, hangers, photos with planes
4. Heritage Square and Clock Town, Hanover, Farmers' Market; Heritage Square tours and clock tower
5. Wesley Bates Gallery & West Meadow Press, tour of facility and demonstration of how to make a Print Press Card
6. Minto Arts Gallery, Harriston, "Works of Art by Connections Fibre Artists"

The cost to participate was \$35.00, and each participant received lunch, treats, beverages, gifts from local businesses as well as a behind the scenes tour of these favourite landmarks. A follow-up survey was circulated, and staff look forward to reviewing the feedback. Staff and Committee look forward to partnering again next year to provide this wonderful cultural event.

Workplan Item 6: Minto, Hanover, WN Cultural Roundtable partnership - Tourism Growth Program

No update.

Items for Consideration

None.

Upcoming Events

Mayor's Charity Bonspiel
Friday, November 7, 2025
Arthur and Area Curling Club
At present, only six team spots remain.

Roundtable (verbal)

None

Date of next meeting and adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 12:00 noon at the Arthur and Area Community Centre (Upper Hall).

Moved by Member Craig
THAT the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable Committee meeting of October 16, 2025, be adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

CARRIED