

***HHCR Cultural Symposium
Case Study
Acton Town Hall Centre/ Heritage Acton
January 2010***

Status:

Registered Charity - 1983 - 11895 6242 RR 0001
Board size: 3
Committee and Volunteers: 20
Years in Operation: 22 years
Facility: Own
19 Willow Street, Acton, ON L7J1Z6
519 853 5302

Primary Contact

c/o Ron Birrell, Chairman
252 McDonald Blvd., Acton, ON L7J 2R9
(519) 853-4426

Purpose / Vision

Heritage Acton combined the Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee and Acton Town Hall Fund Raising Committee, which were formed in response to the plan by the Town of Halton Hills to demolish Acton's 100-year old Town Hall to make a small parking lot (approximately 10 cars) for the attached Fire Hall. The Fire Hall was relocated and the former premises was also sold to Heritage Acton.

Heritage Acton received its Letters Patent in January, 1983. Heritage Acton is made up entirely of volunteers; members receive no remuneration.

Heritage Acton's mission is:

- to promote, facilitate and manage the restoration of buildings of historical and/or architectural importance in the former Town of Acton;
- in particular, to manage the restoration of the Acton Town Hall, located at the corner of Bower Avenue and Willow Street, in the former Town of Acton;
- to acquire title to buildings of historical and/or architectural importance and to lease same and manage same without purpose of gain for its members, but for the purpose of promoting the preservation of the buildings aforesaid;
- in order to facilitate the preservation of the buildings aforesaid, to engage in fund raising activities of all kinds and to accept donations, gifts, legacies and bequests;
- to preserve historical objects of every kind which relate to the history and development of the former Town of Acton

Revenue

We currently have ongoing revenue from the down stairs offices rented to Halton Mental Health Association. We have a separate office with outside entrance available to rent. We have the fire bays rented for Vintage Car Storage. We have storage space rented to Acton Soccer Club. Without any promotion of the facility we have user groups for our upstairs facility including weekly line dancing, monthly teen dances, Scottish Dancing and two wedding and a potential table top trade show.

Funding

Trillium Grant received in 1991 to upgrade the structure and keep it viable.

Combined with local fundraising \$350,000 was spent on the facility

Since 2008 and the renewed effort \$125,000 has been spent.

We are applying for a Trillium Grant and a Fed Dev Grant as well as local fundraising.

Major Challenges

- Volunteers
- Getting skilled volunteers
- Raising funds
-

Current Projects

Since 2009 the committee has been entirely focused on getting the downstairs and upstairs facilities up to code and ready for a grand reopening (Early Spring 2010) .

Projects completed to date:

- Bell Tower Rebuilt
- Kitchen renovated
- Basement and ground floor renovated
- Leased first floor
- Old Fire Hall repaired
- Roof repaired
- Front steps rebuilt
- New wrought iron railings installed
- Fire alarm system installed
- Fire exit constructed
- Accessibility Washrooms
- Accessibility Washrooms
- Air Conditioning and Heating
- Fire Rated Grand Staircase
- Wall break through and Stage reconstruction
- Repainting of Theatre
- Window Replacements

Almost complete:

- Refinishing of theatre floors
- Installation of trim and moldings
- Window coverings
- Theatre Curtains
- Stage System

Next Steps

- Build Citizens' Hall Entrance
- Accessibility Foyer with Elevator
- Theatre Sound System
- Theatre Lighting System
- Enhanced Catering Facilities

Our next step is to raise funds for an accessibility addition including an elevator, a secondary entrance and enhances storage and catering facilities.

Making the facility fully accessible to all in the community will increase the vitality of the community and downtown core, increase community capacity and build tourism throughout this community and within the region. Our community-based initiative will engage local citizens and support Acton's future as a more vibrant and creative community."