

# **BARRIE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

**P.O Box 316,  
Barrie, Ontario L4M 4T5**

*"If we do not honour our past, we cut off the roots from which we grow!" Hundertwasser*

October 11, 2011

Mayor Jeff Lehman,

Members of Council

This letter is written to you to ask for advice, assistance and support in the preservation and display of the history of our City.

The Barrie Historical Association (BHA) was founded in 1996. The BHA is an independent organization affiliated with the Ontario Historical Association and is a registered charitable organization.

The main aims and objectives of our organization are the preservation and display of our history for the people of Barrie, young and old.

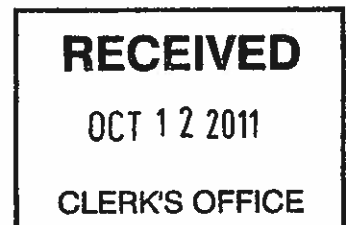
Over the past 15 years we have organized and assisted in numerous historical events in our City, such as:

- a) 100 year Yonge Street celebration;
- b) Designing and organizing the burying of the 150 Year Time Capsule in Centennial Park;
- c) The planning, designing and manufacturing of 5 historical plaques along the waterfront;
- d) Producing a set of DVDs on old Barrie from 8 or 16 mm films;
- e) Collection and display of photographs of old Barrie in various establishments throughout Barrie;
- f) And supported 2 of our members in writing the award winning book "Beautiful Barrie. A History of its People"

We have never asked for or received any monetary funds from the City of Barrie.

As our City undergoes great changes, we of the BHA envision a central heritage museum where the citizens of our beautiful City can observe their history in pictures, sound and artifacts.

Many of our older citizens have artifacts which are 100 or more years old but we are unable to accept any of these donations since we have no place to display them.



Barrie is one of the very few cities in Ontario that has no museum or permanent heritage display. Council support of the new Grey and Simcoe Foresters museum is commendable, but a city the size of Barrie certainly deserves much more. Midland and Alliston all support excellent museums that demonstrate what is possible to do.

With the completion of the exterior restoration of the Allandale Station we believe that it is imperative that Council make provision, now or in the near future, for a heritage centre within this complex. We believe that to do otherwise would be short-sighted if not illogical, given the historic nature of this site and the money expended on the exterior restoration.

It is widely accepted that the cultural attributes of any urban centre are found not only in the activities of the present but in the celebration of the past. Increasingly, communities throughout Canada and North America are recognizing this fact, not just from an educational point of view, but more importantly, as a major promoter of the economic development of the City. Given the rich heritage of both Allandale and Barrie, why would we do otherwise?

What has been revealed so far of the restored Allandale Station shows that it is an outstanding achievement, in large part due to the perseverance and support of Council. Now, what remains is to finish the job! To simply turn over the interior of these structures to social and/or commercial interests would be to throw away the opportunity of a lifetime, when so much of Barrie has been destroyed or lost in the past.

The Barrie Historical Association urges Council to ensure that adequate space be reserved both within and outside the Allandale Station so that the history of Barrie and this site may be properly acknowledged and preserved for the future.

The Barrie Historical Association in conjunction with and under the direction of the Cultural Department of the City of Barrie would be pleased <sup>to</sup> participate in the development of this long overdue project.

We thank you for your attention and consideration of this proposal.

On behalf of the Barrie Historical Association Executive,

Val Brucker



Vice President.

Cc Dr. Al Scarth, Co-President

CC Mark Fisher, Co-President