

DATE OF MEETING APRIL 8, 2024

AUTHORED BY ADRIENNE MERCER BREEN, MANAGER, CULTURE AND SPECIAL
EVENTS

SUBJECT VANCOUVER ISLAND MILITARY MUSEUM UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide Council with an update on operations at the Vancouver Island Military Museum.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Island Military Museum (the 'Museum') is located in the Centennial Building at 100 Cameron Road and houses over 60 exhibits and displays. The Museum was incorporated on 1986-JAN-11, is open five days a week and is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Museum houses a collection of military memorabilia, a Veterans' Wall of Honour, and artifacts ranging from the War of 1812 to recent years. Exhibits depict the Merchant Navy, the Red Cross, Women in the Armed Forces, Life on the Home Front and more.

The Museum has a six-member Board of Directors and 35 volunteers. Their aim is to preserve the past and its lessons and to share that history with the community. |

DISCUSSION

The City of Nanaimo (the 'City') has supported the work of the Vancouver Island Military Museum for many years. The Museum was located at Nanaimo North Town Centre from 1986 to 2011. In December 2011, the Museum relocated to 100 Cameron Road and entered into a 5-year lease agreement with the City. On 2013-JAN-01, the agreement was updated and the Museum and the City entered into a 10-year lease agreement for the building. The lease expired on 2022-DEC-31, and since then the agreement has continued under the same terms. The Museum pays \$42,000 in annual rent to the City in four instalments of \$10,500. The facility is maintained by the City and has an annual maintenance budget of \$27,299.88.

The Museum's Board members are aging and they know that they will soon need assistance with operations. Their goal is to keep sharing military history with the community. They are meeting regularly with Parks, Recreation and Culture staff to review operating model options and plan for the future. |

CONCLUSION

Staff and the Vancouver Island Military Museum Board of Directors will continue to update Council as long-term planning progresses. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Vancouver Island Military Museum is located at 100 Cameron Road and houses over 60 exhibits and displays. The Museum was incorporated on 1986-JAN-11, is open five days a week and is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors.
- The Museum's Board members are aging and they know that they will soon need assistance with operations. Their goal is to keep sharing military history with the community. They are meeting regularly with Parks, Recreation and Culture staff to review operating model options and plan for the future.
- Staff and the Museum Board of Directors will continue to update Council as long-term planning progresses.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Vancouver Island Military Museum Power Point Presentation

Submitted by:

Adrienne Mercer Breen
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Concurrence by:

Darcie Osborne
Director, Recreation and Culture

Richard Harding
Gen. Mgr. Community Services & Deputy
CAO

Dale Lindsay
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