



Cultural Roundtable Committee Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2025

7:00 p.m.

LaunchIt Minto

Attendance: Chair Peggy Raftis, Rosie Krul, Jennifer Frayne, Megan Raftis, Mary Jean Hartwig, Raissa Rogers, and Bob McEachern.

Staff Present: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director of Economic & Community Development, Erin Raftis, Marketing and Community Development Coordinator, Gordon Duff, Treasurer, Greg Mallett, Programs and Facilities Coordinator.

Regrets: Amy Sjaarda, Councillor Ed Podniewicz and Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson.

1. Call to Order at 7:02 p.m.

The Committee welcomed new members Bob McEachern, Palmerston Railway Museum Committee representative, and Greg Mallett, Programs and Facilities Coordinator to the group.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Minutes from November 25, 2024, Cultural Roundtable Meeting

MOTION

Moved by: Megan Raftis Seconded by: Mary Jean Hartwig

THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the November 25th, 2024, meeting.

CARRIED

3. Updates, Reports and Minutes for Approval

No updates were provided at this time.

4. Roundtable Discussion

- a. Committee Member Recruitment

The committee discussed the gaps in our committee membership based on our new Terms of Reference and agreed to seek representatives from the following sectors:

- Minto Chamber of Commerce
- Youth
- Agriculture or Minto Farmers' Market
- Norgan Theatre

b. Culture Days Recap

Gordon Duff, representing the Culture Days working group, reviewed 2024 Culture Days noting overall a slight increase in attendance from previous years. 2025 Culture Days runs from September 19th – October 12th. The Palmerston Railway Committee is interested in hosting a historical talk for Palmerston's 150th anniversary during Culture Days.

c. Community Event Development Fund Application

The committee reviewed application from the Palmerston Homecoming Committee (Attached as Schedule A) for \$1000 from the Event Development Fund.

MOTION

Moved by Raissa Rogers Seconded by Megan Raftis

THAT the Cultural Roundtable Committee approve \$1000 from the Event Development Fund to the Palmerston Homecoming Committee.

CARRIED.

d. Tourism Growth Grant Update

The Town of Minto, Township of Wellington North, and Town of Hanover were approved for the Tourism Growth grant for the following projects and initiatives: Driftscape App, ON Culture Days Guide, 2025 Cultural Symposium, and 2024 Culture Bus.

Training will begin this week on the Driftscape App. It will allow us to promote our Cultural assets through virtual tours, augmented reality, mapping, and more.

The Culture Days Guide for the Saugeen Region is live online and features cultural businesses and stops in the three communities. In 2025, the guide will be distributed to tourism offices around the region. The Committee is currently in discussions regarding target audience to most effectively spend time, resources, and funds.

The 2025 Spring Symposium is booked for May 30th, 2025, from 10am-2pm at the Harriston Library. The keynote speaker will be Cate Proctor who will speak on how arts and culture organizations can advocate and leverage partnerships. In the afternoon, she will lead a workshop. The afternoon speaker will focus on marketing for arts, culture and tourism. The symposium will be free for Cultural Roundtable members and tickets will also be sold to the public.

After the success of the 2024 Culture Bus, the initiative will carry through in 2025. It will be on October 4th, and Minto's stops will include the Palmerston Railway Heritage Museum and (hopefully) Wesley Bates Gallery. Tickets will cost \$50 each. Cultural Roundtables from Minto, Wellington North, and Hanover will contribute \$1000 to help offset costs of lunch, the \$50 fee covers the cost of the bus. Businesses and stops will be asked if they are interested in contributing swag for attendees but not required.

e. Review 2025 Cultural Plan Priorities - Next Steps

The Committee discussed the 2024 Cultural Plan priorities and created a timeline for completion (Attached as Schedule B). Some next steps are as follows:

- B5: invite Lynn Jamieson (2024 Volunteer Project Coordinator) to the committee. Inquire about her interest in presenting her findings to the wider Minto Community.
- C1 & C2: Engage youth in the community via surveys. Megan Raftis offered to connect with youth during Summer Youth Theatre. Offer prizes. Engage volunteer groups in how to work with youth volunteers.
- C5A: Reach out to other communities hosting similar activities for advice.
- D6: Create a Cultural Guide/Brochure with Minto's specific assets to distribute.
- E6: Host an event in April for volunteer organizations.
- F3: Work with downtown revitalization committees.
- F4: Reach out to ongoing activities to be involved in sponsoring. Some suggestions included working with the new potential Clifford Farmers' Market or helping the Palmerston Agricultural Society collaborate with the new Box Car at the Palmerston Heritage Museum.
- F7: Continue to work with businesses to promote and get them signed up as a Bike Friendly Business. Could include hosting a workshop locally to explain the program and its benefits.

The committee discussed the remainder of the Event Development fund and indicated interest in supporting with funds for Minto's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee with Pride in the Park and Indigenous Celebration.

5. Roundtable Updates

Gordon Duff reported on the Minto Arts Council noting that shows are booked for 2025. He added that the Christmas Silent Auction was monetarily successful with the online component but didn't draw many to the gallery itself. Peggy Raftis suggested a large prize for those who come to the gallery.

Duff also added that the first Film Fest showing was in January with smaller attendance due to stormy weather. The next movie is on February 17th.

Megan Raftis updated on the Harriston Historical Society, sharing that they will have the exhibit "Pastimes in Past Times" ready for Heritage Week (February 17th-23rd). The

Committee is working to update Harriston's Historical Book for 2028 (Harriston's 150th). If anyone is interested in attending a meeting regarding this, they can contact Megan Raftis for the Zoom link.

Raissa Rogers shared that the Crown Theatre has been busy with private bookings. She added that the Magic Ice Cream Shoppe will re-open on weekends starting with March Break.

Erin Raftis shared that she will be meeting about a potential Clifford Farmers' Market with Tammy who operates "One Blonde Vendor" Markets currently. She added that the Minto Farmers' Market meets again in March. Chair Luke Hartung hosted his first 2025 Trivia Night with the biggest attendance ever (over 200 with over \$1400 raised for the Market). The next two are in February and March. Raftis also added that both Clifford Connects and Harriston Rising had community meetings to brainstorm the direction of the towns. She also noted that the Egg-Scramble is scheduled for April.

Belinda Wick-Graham connected Greg Mallet & Chair Raftis on a discussion to repurpose the Norgan's seats for the Harrison Town Hall Theatre. Rogers expressed interest in getting the Town Hall seats for the Crown.

Bob McEachern added that he will be speaking to the Wellington Historical Society in October on Railway Heritage.

Jennifer Frayne added that the high school created Christmas Hampers for those in need in December and will be hosting a community dinner fundraiser for \$5/plate to raise funds for more hampers in March. She also shared that the high school announced their annual play will be "Freaky Friday".

Rosie Krul updated that there is currently an exhibit on fibre artists at the Wellington County Museum and Archives. She added that at the end of January, Clifford Library is hosting a tweens/teens café with a murder mystery theme. In February, the Palmerston Library will be hosting a Lego challenge, and the Harriston Library will be hosting a Carnegie Café with the theme "Winter is for the Birds". Additional details and programming can be found on their website.

Greg Mallet added that is he happy to be on the Committee to provide assistance when needed.

Peggy Raftis shared that the Grey Wellington Theatre Guild is preparing for their Spring Show "Death among the Delphiniums" directed by Megan Raftis. She also added that the Moore Band will be performing on Valentines Day.

Duff noted that the SPARC board had their first meeting, welcoming Peggy Raftis as a new member. Raftis shared that the next Symposium is scheduled for Sudbury in 2026 and will likely have a strong Francophone and Indigenous focus.

6. Adjournment at 8:27 p.m.

Next meeting is March 24th, in the new location at the Old Post (39 Elora St., Harriston)