

# **COLD LAKE MUSEUMS**

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**ANNUAL PRESENTATION**

**TO THE**

**CITY OF COLD LAKE**

**2019**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Cold Lake Museums has been in operation for over 2 decades. We have operated out of the current location for a solid 20 years. It is in the past decade or so that we have been able to consistently improve the quality of exhibits, the safety and historical aesthetic of the buildings and the visitor experience. We have continued to make improvements large and small in the site. We have presented to council for approximately 14 years, continually reporting to and engaging the City Council in acquiring the support we have needed. We have always found Council amenable to our presentation and our needs. City Council has proven it is supportive of the museum and culture in our City with its continued support of the museum.


Some of our highlights are readily visible, eg the Dome project, however, we also have much to do and in progress behind the scenes which are as necessary as displays.

We are grateful for what we have accomplished and the help we have received. The City and community deserve thanks because it is a well-known understanding that culture and other leisure activities are not necessarily self-sufficient and require continued support from local governments.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

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- Dome opening
  - The most obvious highlight is the Dome Project.
  - This was the culmination of years of dreaming, plotting, planning.
  - This project ups the ante on all future projects.
  - We have become noticeable on our hilltop.
  - Hard to top something like that, but we're not done yet.
- Doors
  - Doors are very exciting to us as they are necessary for pest control and environment control as well as human egress.

- Pest control 
  - This is so vital to a museum there are whole books on the subject.
  - We have been working on this for years and now our doors will help.
- Grounds clean-up
  - Important for both for aesthetics and safety, well maintained grounds are also important for pest control.
  - This makes the grounds projects a priority.
- Visitor numbers
  - After a slight dip in the past couple of years, the visitor numbers are on the rise again with over 4000 visitors this year.
    - Attributable to the Dome project as well as a good word of mouth.
      - Unofficial Visitor Experience Survey concludes that word of mouth is our largest contributor to knowledge of our existence.
    - Increased large tours. (Free to schools)
    - Online presence.
- Staff insights
  - Staff are comfortable, happy and passionate about our work.
  - Summer staff gain real world experiences in dealing with visitors and co-workers and many transferrable skills.
  - Full-time staff make the museum world go round.
  - Staff all trained by Alberta Museums Association
- Volunteers
  - An increase in Volunteers.
  - Working with FCSS.
- Collections
  - One of the last large hurdles, we have now developed a solid plan for managing our collections, based on Alberta Museums Association Guidelines in which all our full-time staff are trained.
  - Implementation this winter.



## THANK YOU



(No more outhouse)

- Water
  - Water has been a hurdle this past year.
  - Water main breaks, etc. Thank you to City Workers for filling our tank so we could continue to work up here.
  - Thank you to City Workers for trenching in a line to the Oil & Gas museum for our staff washroom to operate year round.
  - This allows implementation of our Collections Project.
- Road
  - Beautiful! We look forward to smooth sailing on the entire road in the future.
- Operational funds
  - Thank you for your continued support of the Museum.

## 2020 PROJECTS

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- Observation Tower
  - We have an existing geo-technical survey
  - Engineered Drawings
  - Quotes from \$60- \$100, 000
  - Beginning fundraising next month
  - Currently exploring making tower accessible year round and after hours
    - Fencing needs to be moved
    - Looking for input about insurance, liability etc, from City

- Wall of Thanks/ Gratitude
  - Founders, supporters, partners, stakeholders
- Educational Programming
  - Community engagement, outreach and in-house
- Cruise missile testing exhibit
  - including point of view of protestors
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Snowbirds exhibit
  - Travelling exhibit
- Commissionaires Shack
  - \$10-15,000 estimates
- Hallway displays
- Doors
  - Steel exterior doors
  - New panic hardware on existing exterior doors
- Pest control
- Grounds cleanup
  - Include plans for grounds usage
    - Outdoor displays interpretation and signage
    - Memorial garden
    - Walking path around grounds
    - Picnic area
    - Community use area- festivals, etc
    - Maintained and safe
- Upper Museums
  - Ongoing development
- Power Plant
  - Key to interpretation of site as Cold War Era facility
  - Clean up, renovate office and washroom, connector to hallway
  - Inside and exterior

## NEEDS

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- Continued operational funds
- Continued “in-kind” support.

## ASK

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- Operational funding
  - 3% increase for Operational = \$131, 662.84
- Capital and/or in-kind assistance
  - \$50, 000 for assistance with ongoing projects (above)

## CONCLUSION

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The Cold Lake Museums continue to provide a cultural, educational and entertaining experience to residents and visitors alike. We continue to grow our collection of relevant, experiential, historical artifacts from our local population. We are able to care for our collection in compliance with provincial and federal standards. Our buildings and site continue to improve in safety and usefulness as a community resource. Museum Staff and Volunteers are able to function year round.

JUST FOR FUN...

HOW TO BUILD DOME-

GEOMETRY 101

1. BUILD A BOWL



2. BUILD A LID



3. PUT LID ON BOWL

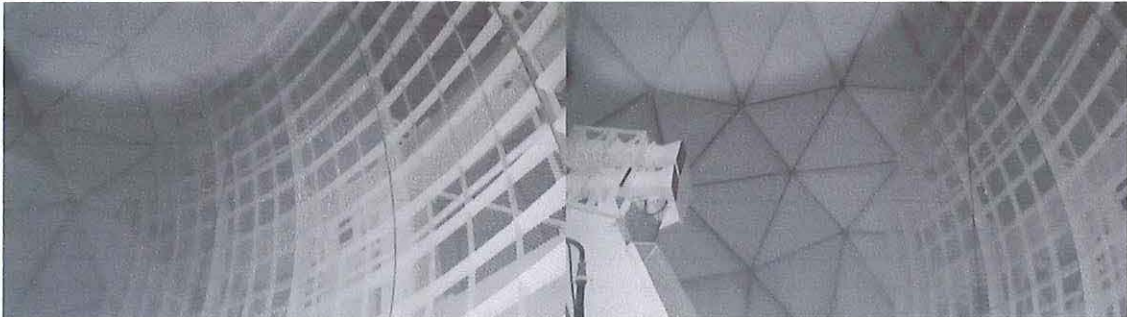




#### 4. VOILA



#### 5. Oh and build a fancy door into it so we can look inside.





# Proposed Tower location

