

FRIENDS OF THE MARKHAM MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
Meeting No. 132
April 9, 2025, 5:00PM via Teams

In Attendance:	Regrets:
Wendy Kadlovski, Chair	Lionel Loganathan
Vidya Maharaj	David Melamed
Councillor Karen Rea	Anna Masci
Martha Mingay	Lorne Smith, Treasurer
Sue Smitko	Councillor Andrew Keyes
John Hyland	
Staff:	Guests:
Andrea Carpenter, Museum Director	
Matthew Wright (Recording Secretary)	

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

The Friends of the Markham Museum Board meeting was called to order at 5:11 PM with Wendy Kadlovski presiding as Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS

Nil.

3. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Moved by: V. Maharaj

Seconded by: S. Smitko

THAT the agenda for the April 9, 2025 meeting be approved as distributed.

Carried (3.1)

4. REGRETS

L. Smith and Cllr. A. Keyes sent their regrets.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD MARCH 12, 2025

Moved by: Cllr. K. Rea

Seconded by: M. Mingay

THAT the minutes of the Friends of the Markham Museum meeting on March 12, 2025 be approved as distributed.

Carried (5.1)

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Carpenter gave a report. (**Attachment A**).

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

Deferred to item 9.a

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chair gave a report. In March, we received \$151 in donations and one book sold via our website. Our bank balance was \$97,856.01 at the end of February.

9. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) The Chair gave a report. The Development Committee met recently, and brought forward the comments from the Board. Due to lack of support, we will defer the holiday fundraising idea. The Committee discussed how the Friends can support the new Museum exhibition. A new opportunity came forward to partner with local podcasters Nilesh Hathi and Michael Heap, to produce a series of video podcasts with a selection of the “Everyday Super Heroes” recognized in the exhibition.

Moved by: J. Hyland

Seconded by: M. Mingay

THAT the Friends of the Markham Museum support the Museum’s Everyday Super Heroes exhibition by partnering with Nilesh Hathi and Michael Heap to produce a series of video interviews, with a maximum budget of \$2,000.

Carried (9.a.1)

The Committee is also working on a promotional banner about the Friends, to be displayed at events they participate in.

10. COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

A short meeting was held on March 27. The Committee reviewed ten dollhouses from the collection for relevance. Eight were accepted, and two were recommended for deaccession. The next meetings will be held on October 16, November 27, and next year, January 29, 2026.

11. MARKHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

The Chair read a brief report from L. Smith, sent via email. The MHS will host a general meeting next Monday, April 14 at 7:30 PM. The group will have a chance to tour the new exhibition, Everyday Super Heroes.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 1. The volunteer being recognized this year is Rebekah Mitchell.
- b) A. Carpenter spoke about Bill O’Keefe, owner the rarest apple orchard in Ontario, located in Bruce County. He contacted the Museum, because he found a variety that was cultivated in Markham in the 1800s. We would like to add two of these trees to our orchard for the 40th AppleFest, this year. There would be a cost for purchasing and transporting them to the Museum. When the final costs are determined, the Museum will ask if the Friends would like to support.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2025 at 5:00 PM via Teams.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By: S. Smitko

THAT the April 9, 2025 meeting of the Friends of the Markham Museum Board be adjourned.

Carried (14.1)

Meeting adjourned 5:49 PM.

ATTACHMENT A

Friends of Markham Museum – Manager’s Report

April 9th, 2025

Programming and Visitor Services

- March break programming was successful! We got to test out many aspects of our education program with our camp group and the public.
- Education programs have been developed and training related to Everyday superheroes has been completed. The first school group came to explore the gallery in March and loved it so much the school has booked another trip for a different age group.
- Since opening Everyday Superheroes, attendance was 200-300 people per day on weekends. We have changed staffing structure in our galleries to accommodate the increase in visitors.
- Spring session pottery programs have begun with adult programming registration at about 90%. Children and Family programs have an average fill rate of about 50%
- We have reopened our galleries from Wednesday to Friday for the public's use.
- Teacher Appreciation Day – May 3rd – Free Admission to Teachers and their families
- Emergency Preparedness Week Kick-off – May 4th 10am-2pm – Admission by donation to galleries that day – rest of event is free
- International Museum Day – May 18th – FREE Event - working with a variety of community partners involved in the exhibition to activate the site in various ways – expecting approximately 800 visitors based on past years
- Doors Open Markham – Focus is on Education/Schools – September 20th – we will be only participating with the Mt. Joy School. As a free event the weekend before AppleFest this is the most we have capacity for and what makes sense for the site.
- Outreach opportunities/festivals are starting

Business Development and Events

- Captured video and photo content for commercial and social media use of new Everyday Superheroes exhibit.
 - Content captured by Cities Corporate Communications Department and Destination Markham content creator
- Received sign off on “Reverse Garage Sale” event agreement with event set for April 27th

- This is a third-party community engagement event hosted on-site in support of Camp Maple Leaf, a charitable organization. The event functions as a reverse garage sale, where members of the public are invited to drop off needed donations
- Continuing preparations for Volunteer Appreciation Dinner event set for May 1st
- Continuing collaborating and working with the Markham Dog Alliance on the upcoming “Barkham” event on site, set for May 31st – June 1st
- Continuing collaborating and working with Rouge River Brewery and Cheatin’ Hearts on the upcoming “Kickin’ It Country” event on site, set for July 5th

Rental Updates and Facility Developments

- Finalized details on the Micro Wedding contract, now in the final review stage with legal.
- Rental events have launched successfully, with strong momentum heading into a busy spring season.
- Staffing - Interviewed candidates for Summer Maintenance student positions and now on reference stage.
- Updated the maintenance and cleaning schedule to reflect the successful weekends of the new exhibition.

Curatorial

- We are continuing to put the offices back to order and are accepting research appointments and processing donations again. These public services were put on hold during the installation of ESH.
- York Public History Students (2) presented the results of their work/study experiences at a seminar at Aga Khan Museum on April 2nd
- Interviewed and selected candidates for summer curatorial staff (2 positions).

Capital Work

- Church restoration work began on Monday. Preparation of Church Sanctuary for renovation included wrapping large objects and securing others prior to the start of construction.
- Painting of the curatorial offices/workspaces and selected touch ups in the vaults was completed on Friday March 28.

Staffing Update

- Lilian Galstaniaan started March 31st as our new Business Development and Events Coordinator. She will be with us until the end of March 2026.
- Contract Maintenance Assistant posting has gone up and closes April 18th. Ideally this new team member will start before June.