

Town of Lincoln's Jordan Historical Museum
Site Development Project:



LINCOLN'S HERITAGE GATEWAY

TOWN OF
Lincoln

Introduction

The Town of Lincoln's Jordan Historical Museum has been a fixture in the cultural landscape of Niagara since its beginnings in 1953 and is among some of the oldest museums in Canada. It proudly represents the story of the five communities of the Town of Lincoln, including one of the oldest settlements in Canada: that of the Pennsylvania German Mennonites who settled here in 1800.

The museum boasts two historic buildings.

- **The Fry House:** built in 1815, this wooden farm house is one of the last remaining structures of its type and features the life of the Fry family who built it.
- **The School House:** built of local limestone in 1859 and used up to 1948, the school house has been restored to how it would have looked in 1908.

The Jordan Historical Museum has its origins as a volunteer-based organization and while it became municipally owned and operated in 1995, it still stays deeply connected to the community through a vital and active Volunteer Association. The museum has reached out to the wider community through a broad range of high quality public and educational programming, featuring:

- **Pioneer Day:** coming into its 50th year, this festival is a tradition that highlights the activities, foods and crafts of early settlers.
- **Haunted Tour:** always sold out, this highly imaginative event brings the story of Jordan Village alive through tales of its past.
- **"Strict but Nice":** this program is offered to schools in the School House as a field trip to compliment the Grade Three curriculum. It is an extremely detailed and historically accurate interactive program that is highly regarded by the educational community.

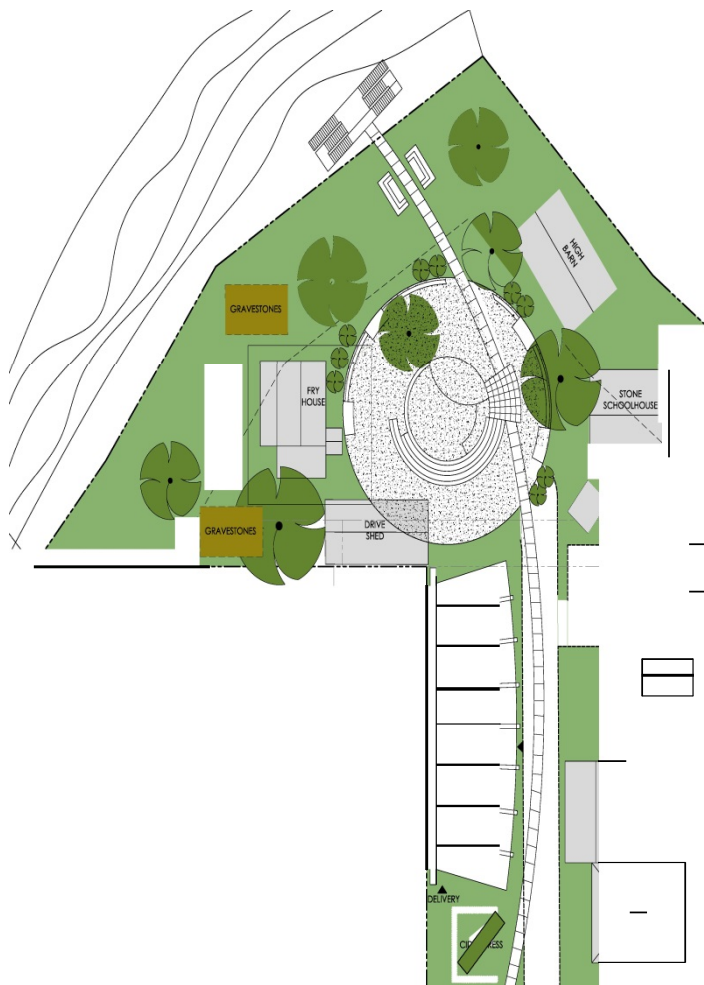
Other activities include a regular exhibit schedule, summer tours of the two historic buildings and children's activities, a year-round lecture and workshop series, and many other special events and activities, both on- and off-site.

The museum is the custodian of an important Permanent Collection of over 10,000 artifacts. Highlights of the Collection include one of the largest assemblages of *fraktur* folk art, a Pennsylvania German Mennonite medium that is highly collectible and very valuable. The Collection also holds material culture of the settlers and later townspeople of Beamsville, Vineland, Campden, Tintern, Rockway and Jordan.

Redevelopment

After sixty-three years, understanding that the current conditions for the Museum's Collections, exhibits, and programming space are woefully inadequate, the Jordan Historical Museum is moving into a new era and plans are afoot to redevelop the entire site.

The Museum is located in the Village of Jordan, the Town of Lincoln's hub for tourism, arts and culture and related economic development. Based on the site plan shown below, it is poised to develop into a key driver for each of those elements, as well as exploding into its potential as a community resource and destination.



What Does It Mean?

The redevelopment of the Jordan Historical Museum closely ties in with the new and welcome direction from all levels of government toward celebrating Canada's cultural assets and resources. That direction clearly recognizes the economic value of cultural resources and the social impact of such assets toward the development of healthy and thriving communities.

Further, the projected completion of the project is in 2017, which is the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation. The opportunity to help celebrate such a milestone event in Canada's history with such a long-awaited and meaningful project cannot be overlooked!

In the short term, job creation for the project will include technical and engineering personnel, construction crews, archaeologists, conservation specialists, and many other types of skilled craftspeople. It will also offer myriad volunteer opportunities for the moving and relocation of artifacts and other complimentary and associated projects.

In the long term, the redevelopment will be extremely beneficial. Potential effects are unlimited, but will include:

- Growth and development of the site coordinated with the renewed emphasis on cultural planning at the local, regional, provincial and national levels;
- Interest created by the authentically Canadian stamp of the architectural design of the site, which includes the new building itself as well as the overall concept which leads the visitor through the historical elements of the site to the natural heritage overlook of the Twenty Valley;
- Increased local community interest and value of the museum in general by the re-naming as "Lincoln's Heritage Gateway";
- Increased tourism traffic with associated economic spinoff that will impact the entire Town of Lincoln and extend out into the Niagara region;
- Vastly improved ability to protect, house, exhibit and provide access to the Permanent Collection of artifacts;
- The ability to open the current limitations on collecting due to lack of space, allowing the Collection to grow and to open the end-date from 1930 to the present;
- Accessible access to research materials and reference library;
- Much needed outdoor event space available to the entire community;
- Much needed indoor event/programming space for the museum and the community at large;
- Increased opportunities for community volunteer involvement through space and availability of artifacts and programs.

Recognizing the enormous potential of the museum's redevelopment, the Town of Lincoln's Council has enthusiastically endorsed the project and has approved the engagement of +VG Architects Group to provide consulting and project management services for the redevelopment of the Jordan Historical Museum Site.

The redevelopment of the Museum will be carried out in a phased approach.

- In 2016, this will involve a detailed design for the site and buildings prior to and in readiness for construction including provision for geotechnical surveys, archaeology, engineering and other preparatory work.

- In 2017, the work is expected to include the construction of the main facility, the amphitheater and landscaping/site detailing.

The Bottom Line

It is expected that the entire project will cost approximately \$3 million.

We have a pledge from our Volunteer Association for a donation of \$1 million, plus another recently announced donation of \$10,000 toward a particular element of the project.

In 2016, the Town of Lincoln has approved \$213, 750 for the detailed design work, including provision for geotechnical surveys, archaeology, engineering and other preparatory work.

The remainder of the funds will be sourced through grant applications from various sources including local foundations and corporations, as well as government funding.