

Q1 & Q2 2023

ELLIOT LAKE MUSEUM'S **QUARTER REVIEW**



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1. GOALS & ACTIONS

1.1 COMMUNICATION

To create awareness and generate support for the Museum through in-person and digital platforms with the purpose of enhancing Elliot Lake's cultural identity and creating beneficial partnerships.

| Action | Progress | Next Steps |
|---|--|---|
| Mailer Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include updates and a specially curated artefact of the month | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> front page of March mailer announcing new strategic direction updates on events and programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continued updates curate a monthly "Did you know?" |
| Electronic Newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sign up mailing list provide monthly updates on exhibits, programs, interesting tidbits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> joined email marketing company initiated campaign to collect subscribers first monthly update = June 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> advertise to join mailing list monthly update to go out first Monday of each month past monthly updates archived on website |
| First Nations Roundtable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> representatives from Serpent River, Mississaugi, Sagamok, and Thunder Mtn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> currently preparing a review of our First Nations collection potential for repatriation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review pending |
| Community Museum Roundtable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> representatives from Timber Village Museum, Massey Area Museum, Heritage Park Museum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> research into local heritage centres and history of partnerships complete | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introductions and site visits |

1.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

To support the continued development of the Museum as a destination site, in recognition of the economic benefit of visitors and tourists to Elliot Lake's economy, to establish ourselves as a vital community asset.

| Action | Progress | Next Steps |
|---|---|--|
| App <ul style="list-style-type: none">• cultural and historical landmarks mapped• guided cultural and historical tours | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• launched April 15• responsible for Arts, Heritage, and Culture landmarks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• historical downtown tour• geology tour• scavenger hunt |
| Interpretive Trail Signs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signs along our trails that indicate places of cultural or historical significance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identifying areas of interest | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pending collaborative input |
| Microsite <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital platform for museum news, programming, and digital archive | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• upgrading CMS to incorporate an online site | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• prepare records for public viewing• continue archival work to |

1.3 EDUCATION

To encourage community engagement and participation through the provision and promotion of educational and cultural programming, activities, and events as well as by fostering active volunteerism and partnerships.

| Action | Progress | Next Steps |
|---|--|---|
| Community Museum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students provide artefacts and tags • in conjunction with schools • displayed for public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lesson plan still in progress (all grade levels + accomodations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan for 2023-2024 school year |
| Rotating Exhibits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategically placed throughout community at high traffic areas • informative, engaging, and interactive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELM display at library • working with families Farquhar, Albert, and Pierce on arena displays • Fire Tower prioritized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more rotation for library • complete displays for arena and pool in off-season |
| Trivia Nights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • involves category about community history • informative, engaging, and interactive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • postponed March 3 due to lack of participants • ran March 31 successfully | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review event structure • reprise in Oct 2023 |
| Language Translations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all of our programming, exhibitions, and events will be available in English and French | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • website pages currently in translation process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offer for exhibits and programs |

1.4 COLLECTION & CONSERVATION

To collect, preserve, interpret, exhibit, and house artefacts, in a responsible and sustainable manner, which illustrate the heritage and evolving history of the City of Elliot Lake.

| Action | Progress | Next Steps |
|---|---|---|
| Condition Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">Each artefact will undergo an annual condition review to ensure no deterioration | <ul style="list-style-type: none">each artefact archived undergoes condition review and scheduling of next review | <ul style="list-style-type: none">continue as scheduled |
| Collections Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adhere to policy to ensure we are accepting and using resources on artefacts which meet criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none">have selectively re-accessioned items of public interest and for research and exhibition purposes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">deaccession artefacts which do not adhere to the criteria |
| Collections Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarterly updates made to Council on collections management status | <ul style="list-style-type: none">updating for Q1 and Q2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Next update: Aug 29 |

2. ADMINISTRATION

Staff

The Elliot Lake Museum retains one full-time City of Elliot lake staff in the position of curator, responsible for overseeing the museum's operations.

From October 2022 until the end of June 2023, the Museum has staffed five part-time lifeguards while the Ruben-Yli Juuti Centre has been closed, who have assisted in a variety of collections management related duties—archiving, cleaning, photographing, and digitizing museum artefacts and records.

During the final week of June, two students will begin work for the museum, working full-time at the Fire Tower Lookout's Heritage Centre for the duration of the summer.

Advisory Board

The Elliot Lake Museum Advisory Board for the 2022-2026 term has commenced its quarterly meets in May 2023. The board is made up of five members of the public, two councillors, and the museum curator as staff resource and secretary.

Professional Development

The museum curator of the Elliot Lake Museum will be participating in the Indigenous History and Heritage Gathering (IHHG) conference, hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres (FNCCEC), in Ottawa from June 5 to 7, 2023.

Some intended takeaways from the conference are to improve the effectiveness of our organization's Indigenous, historical, and heritage initiatives, identify ways to work effectively and meaningfully with Indigenous partners, and to orient our museum to support Indigenous perspectives.

3. CONSTITUENTS

Miners' Memorial Park

On April 25, 2023, a fourth column and a mining helmet monument were installed at the Miners' Memorial Park. The purpose of the fourth column was to provide space to accommodate more names to be added to our Miners' Memorial Wall, a monument dedicated to recognizing the miners who passed away due to occupational tragedy, hazards, and illness due to their time in the Elliot Lake mines. The mining helmet is intended to shine a figurative light on this new column, illuminating these sacrifices, and now sits beside the miner on his rock. A temporary plaque has also been installed onto this rock in recognition of Robert Cyr who procured and donated the specimen to the site. A permanent plaque will be installed in its place during the summer upon receipt. Work will be completed throughout the summer to better integrate the new column with the original three Walls, so that the site looks cohesive and intentional.

Day of Mourning Ceremony, 2023

Our annual Day of Mourning Ceremony took place on April 28, 2023, at the Miners' Memorial Park. We were joined by guest speakers Mike Mantha (MPP), Sue Girard on behalf of Carol Hughes (MP), and Janice Martell. Linda Aelick presented an original poem, "The Miners," and Kim Arnold performed an original song, "In My Memory," both in dedication to the event. Deputy Mayor Andrew Wannan helped us to formally induct the following names to our Memorial Walls: Gabriel Deraps, Irwin Fast, Dennis W. Major, and Richard Rochon. These names as well as those inducted in 2022 (Ronald Johnston, Julien Marcotte, Giuseppe Persechino, and Paul Trudel) will be engraved on the column once during the month of June.

Memorial and Commemorative Bricks

This year, nine bricks have been purchased and installed at our Miners' Memorial Park, to recognize the services and sacrifices of the following workers at our Elliot Lake mines: Richard T. Brunton, Benjamin Geigl, Joseph Caron, Claude Bourdages, Alphonse Perreault, Eugene Restoule, Jorg Bergelt, Terri Svela Bergelt, and Bob Grummett. All funds raised through the purchase of these memorial bricks goes to help maintain the Miners' Memorial Park.

Fire Ranger's Heritage Centre

The Fire Ranger's Heritage Centre will be open to the public this year as a secondary Welcome Centre and satellite museum location. The grand opening for the season will take place on Saturday, July 1, 2023. Special hours for our Heritage Days Weekend will be as follows:

July 1: 10:00AM-6:00PM

July 2: 12:00PM-4:00PM

July 3: CLOSED

and our regular seasonal hours will be as follows:

Tues to Sat: 10:00AM-6:00PM

Sun & Mon: CLOSED

The cabin will be staffed by two full-time summer students for the duration of July and August, with the potential to remain open on weekends through our Fall months.

4. EVENTS

Completed

Trivia Night

The museum hosted one Trivia Night in 2023 on March 31, 2023. We had 11 teams play, for a total of 82 participants. Despite the night's success and positive feedback, there was a very marginal net profit of \$66.98 for the event, when accounting for staff wages and hall rental fees. We will look into revisions to our event structure, and possibly host these night again in the fall of 2023.

Public Information Session:

McIntyre Powder, Other Mining Exposures, Compensation, & Supports

On April 28, 2023, we partnered with Janice Martell to offer a free public information session to provide important information about mining exposures, health issues & workers' compensation. The event was well attended and brought more awareness to this relevant social issue.

Upcoming

Geology Tours

The Museum will once again be hosting Geology Tours as part of the City's Heritage Days Weekend. These tours take you through town and north along Hwy 108 to learn about the interesting rock features and formations in the area. We will be running two tours on Sunday, July 2, 2023, the first from 9:30AM-12:00PM, and the second from 1:00PM to 3:30PM. These tours are free of charge but there is limited capacity so registration is required.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Paulette Steeves

Dr. Paulette Steeves (Cree-Metis), an Indigenous Archeologist, will be coming to Elliot Lake in the Fall to give a presentation on her book *The Indigenous Paleolithic of the Western Hemisphere (The Americas)*. This story winds through colonization within the Americas and the erasure and denial of a deep Indigenous past in the Americas during the Pleistocene.

5. DIGITAL PROJECTS

Driftscape

In partnership with the Economic Development Department, the museum will be inputting content on the Driftscape app! Visitors can use the Driftscape app to find unique attractions ranging from art, culture, history, local businesses to much more—helping them better plan and enrich their visit while deepening their connection to the area. Planned future updates will include an historical downtown walking tour, a geology tour, and a Buckles mine site POI.



Online Collections Database

Many heritage institutions share their collections online in some capacity, often to give visitors access to artefacts which would not normally be on display. In the case of the Elliot Lake Museum where so few pieces of our collections are accessible due to lack of exhibition space, the demand for a virtual collections database becomes that much more relevant. Other benefits of a public-access digital collection include increased engagement, expansion of audience, crowdsourcing to identify artefacts, and maximization of our resources.

The Elliot Lake Museum will be upgrading its collections management software to incorporate a publicly accessible site featuring the museum's collections. We are currently in the midst of the transition process and hope to have a fully integrated site in the Fall of 2023.

Photo & Artefact of the Week

On our Elliot Lake Museum Facebook Page, @elliottlakemuseum, we post photos and artefacts of the week, inviting people to share their own knowledge of the photos and objects. In terms of reactions and comments, are then and now photos are generally the most popular and have boosted our followership. These posts receive the most engagement when shared to different user accounts and private groups.



Facebook Page followers ⓘ

543

Facebook Page reach ⓘ

6,767 ↑ 18.9%

6. COLLECTIONS

Accessions

Our archival focus over the past two quarters has been on digitizing our extensive slide collections and our mining company periodicals: the Nucleus and Rio Atom. These have been prioritized as valuable informational and visual reference tools. In 2023, we have archived 4998 individual items:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 2023.1.1-545 | Slides: Heritage Days, Winterfest |
| 2023.2.1-376 | Slides: downtown construction, baseball, mine rescue |
| 2023.3.1-457 | Slides: Heritage Days |
| 2023.4.1-435 | Slides: Aerial shots of Elliot Lake, residential shots |
| 2023.5.1-140 | Slides: Denison promotional slides |
| 2023.6.1-752 | Slides: Civic events and buildings, Spruce Beach, Hwy 108 |
| 2023.7 | Ontario's Vacation Treasureland: Elliot Lake, guide |
| 2023.8.1-1278 | Slides: underground Denison Mines operations |
| 2023.9.1-335 | Slides: mine rescue, Panel Mine, Panel Days, Atom Symbol |
| 2023.10.1-447 | Slides: mine rescue, Nordic Days, Mt. Dufour, Nordic Mine |
| 2023.11-151 | Nucleus, 1959-1991 |
| 2023.152-184 | Rio Algom Ltd Newsletters, 1969-1980 |
| 2023.185-241 | Rio Atoms, 1981-1990 |
| 2023.242 | Elliot Lake Police: A History - 25th Anniversary Booklet |
| 2023.243 | Vikings game 50/50 ticket |