



Maryboro Lodge
The Fenelon Falls Museum
50 Oak Street
Fenelon Falls, Ontario
K0M 1N0

Maryboro Lodge: The Fenelon Museum, a City owned facility, is fast becoming a community hub and tourist attraction. It offers programs for everyone from children to seniors, being a venue for arts, heritage and culture.

The museum features a free one-room school program, that is designed to provide a fun and educational experience for disadvantaged youth. Operated by the staff in partnership with numerous volunteers (including a retired principal and the Fenelon Falls Horticultural Society) this year's theme was time travel. Recreating poignant moments like the Moon Landing, students learned arts, crafts, enjoyed snacks from the school's garden, and of course, the 3 R's.

On top of their involvement in the one-room school, the Horticultural Society and museum have been active in creating a variety of community gardens. From the whimsical Fairy Garden, to the Victory Garden and Butterfly Garden, these volunteers are busy beautifying Fenelon's waterfront and providing fresh produce for use at the Food Bank.

Maryboro Lodge offered a variety of programs directed at seniors, including *Folk Under the Oaks*, where talented local musicians led community sing-alongs. *Fenelon Live* joined the museum in offering Open Mics. The museum offered a series of classic films, yoga classes, photography walks and a great variety of educational workshops: everything from visual arts to traditional crafts to blacksmithing.

Museum staff and volunteers visit local seniors, particularly in retirement and nursing homes to share their memories and record the history of the Kawartha Lakes region. The museum is particularly working with seniors to bring our community's former prominence in toy manufacturing to life.

For several decades, our area's largest employer was a toy factory that produced the Tinkertoy, ring toss, bowling sets, croquet and pounding benches, among many others. In conjunction with the imminent completion of the Fenelon Falls splash pad, we are preparing to offer visitors a children's museum. It will include a host of exciting activities, including the chance to play with (replicas of) the toys that were once made in our community.

Maryboro Lodge's Afternoon Teas were more popular than ever this year, taking advantage of our new flagstone patio, constructed to commemorate the provincial designation of Fenelon Falls' bur oak grove. Other successful events included the Strawberry Festival, and a candlelight evening celebrating local magic, such as Fenelon

Falls' famous Yip Stick. This fall we are planning a community ball and a Christmas celebration.

The museum offers a variety of special exhibits, on topics ranging from our environment to the 1950s to local fashion. This year it featured a 'Then and Now' photography exhibit that digitally combined historic and contemporary images to dramatically depict our region's growth.

The museum offers all of these program on a very tight budget. Currently our only secure funding is the \$13,500 we receive through the Community Services budget. The balance of our funding is through donations, sponsors, fundraising, and grants that are for specific programs.

We presently use the secure funds to pay utility bills, minor building repairs, and staffing costs, including hiring summer students. Every year we struggle to make ends meet and seem to fall further behind in our ability to meet our financial obligations.

We are here today to ask Council to consider having Community Services put in the 2018 budget the cost of Maryboro Lodge's water, propane and electricity. This currently totals approximately \$7,500 per year. This would take the pressure off our annual budgeting exercise, and help us to continue to grow Maryboro Lodge as a community hub and tourist attraction.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.