

October 16, 2025

Item 13.1.1
HALIFAX

Phase 2 Regional Museum Strategy

Parks & Recreation

Culture and Community

Origin

- January 28, 2014 Halifax Regional Council Motion (11.1.10) Directed the proceeds of the sale of 90 Alderney towards establishment of a municipal museum in Dartmouth.
- April 12, 2022 Halifax Regional Council motion (15.1.5) Commence Phase 2 of the Regional Museum Strategy and implement operational recommendations.

Background

April 2022 - Phase 1 Regional Museum Strategy approved by Regional Council. Recommendations provided operational actions and next steps for development of Phase 2.

Phase 2 Strategy report completed in 2024. Recommends a phased approach to defining Municipality's role within the regional system of museums. Strategy was developed through workshops with over 20 museums and heritage organizations.

Strategic Direction

A central municipal museum build is **not recommended** at this time due to cost, redundancy, and potential competition with existing community museums. This is a shift from a centralized museum model to a decentralized, regional approach.

A **decentralized model** is proposed, enhancing municipal support for interpretation, collections management and community museums. Focus is on community-led storytelling and equitable access to heritage resources across the region.

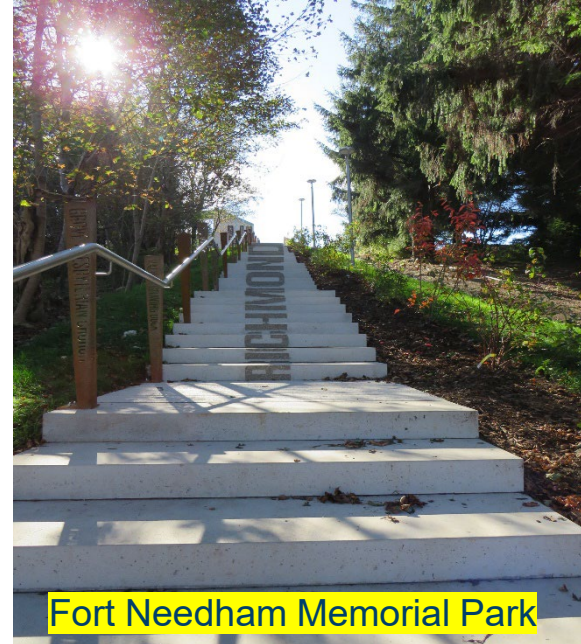
The Model

- Staffing requirements in Culture and Community, Parks & Recreation.
- Fee-for-service partnership with ANSM and CSNA for key functions to support existing regional museums and deliver related municipal programming.



Model Functions

- Leadership and high-level strategic planning supported by direction and advice from a Regional Museum Advisory Working Group.
- Civic interpretive projects and content that can be displayed digitally and/or in municipal owned facilities and parks.



Fort Needham Memorial Park

Model Functions

- Indirect expertise to museums within the system by leveraging skills and existing resources within other municipal divisions.
- Collections management for the municipal collections and HRM/DHMS collection.



Financial Implications

- **Staffing:** Two new FTEs (Cultural Developer – Collections & Programming) starting in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- **Capital Repairs:** \$2.395M from the sale of 90 Alderney Drive to be allocated to repairs and collection relocation.
- **Operating Budget:** \$50,000 annually for contribution agreements with ANSM and CNSA.



Implementation

- **Short-Term (Year 1):** Staffing, advisory group creation, strategic planning, and capital repairs to Evergreen and Quaker House.
- **Medium-Term (Years 2–4):** Interpretive master planning, collection relocation, exhibit development, and expanded partnerships.
- **Long-Term (Year 5+):** Potential new cultural facility for exhibits consideration, expanded digital infrastructure, and ongoing support.

Outcome

- Strengthens existing community museums by leveraging municipal support
- Investment in existing HRM-owned museums
- Collection management and stewardship
- Enhances civic interpretation and CHPP alignment
- Builds regional capacity for heritage programming
- Avoids high costs of building a new central museum



Evergreen House