



**NEWMARKET HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MISSION:** To preserve the past for the future by connecting people to the history of Newmarket.

**VISION:** To be recognized as the go-to place for an history of Newmarket.

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council  
c/o Town Clerk  
395 Mulock Dr. P.O. Box 328 STN Main  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

June 13, 2016

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

For over forty years the Newmarket Historical Society (NHS) has been serving the Town of Newmarket and its residents. Since our inception in 1975 we have grown from a small social society to a strong charitable organization, dedicated to preserving the vast history Newmarket has to offer.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 30, 2016, Item 10 Re: "Old Fire Hall and Other Downtown Parking Opportunities" it was recommended by the Commissioner of Development and Infrastructure Services and the Director of Engineering Services for staff to *"prepare a report outlining the heritage, planning and economic aspects of the Old Fire Hall within the next 120 days."*

Based on this action, the NHS Board would like to request Staff and Council's consideration of designating space within the Old Fire Hall for the NHS, specifically to house our extensive Archives collection. While the synergies between the NHS and this building located on Historic Main Street are obvious, we hope to enlighten Staff and Council on why this designation of space would be of further benefit to the NHS and the community.

Our current archival space is limited to one room within the Elman W. Campbell Museum. These spatial limitations mean several things: First, only two archival representatives can use the room at once. This not only prevents our volunteers from efficiently categorizing and digitizing archival material, but also gravely limits opportunities for Newmarket residents to peruse through these archives and learn more about our town.

Similarly, this lack of space has prevented the NHS from investing in equipment for large-scale scanning and printing – equipment needed for historical preservation – and results in the NHS outsourcing work to other print vendors, hindering our very sparse operating budget. We are also unable to take on and preserve any new archival records into our collection, losing precious records of Newmarket's history to the garbage dumps.

However, of even more significance is the dangerous damage NHS archival records are facing due to our current lack of space. Preserving these pieces requires specific archival boxes, files, and envelopes, along with shelving and drawers for proper storage. Without this storage space, Newmarket's archival history will continue to disappear at an alarming rate.

We sincerely appreciate Staff and Council's consideration to create space for the NHS Archives within the Old Fire Hall. In doing so, you will solve very serious issues we are currently facing in preserving our past for the future of Newmarket.

Best regards,

**Judy Perry**

President, Newmarket Historical Society

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