

Mayor Guthrie & Councillors, I support the proposal for the City to retain the Drill Hall and provide necessary financial support to the Guelph Centre for Visual Art as proposed by Mike Salisbury for the following reasons:

- This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to re-purpose a heritage landmark (possibly the oldest municipally owned building in Guelph) and provide a high-profile centre for visual art in Guelph
- This prominent gateway to Guelph will compliment the GO Train and transportation hub providing an oasis, gathering place and rendezvous for visitors, travellers and commuters awaiting their rides while they view examples of fine art
- Train riders will see arts as a priority to the culture of Guelph and an attractive place like-no-other along this rail line corridor
- Having examined the interior heavy timber frame structure, which includes old growth wood that is unavailable today, I have confidence that the interior can be retained and exposed to provide a magnificent space for the creation of works and art display
- For local artists, this will be a show place for exhibits, studios and workshops for instruction, collaboration and interaction with patrons, customers and students
- For artists working independently, this centre will be a place to gather and work together on projects, share resources, materials, learn new techniques and meet each other
- With a vibrant innovative use of this building, and an extension of the farmers market and Guelph Armories, uses of the Drill Hall will enrich and compliment nearby shops, restaurants and businesses
- Employing environmentally sustainable and energy efficient renovation methods, the heritage building will meet Passive Building, Net Zero criteria and universal design principles. This will be an example for the creative re-use of other public buildings
- To honour and in memory of our earliest soldiers of the 1860's the Drill Hall will compliment the McCrea House and Guelph Civic Museum as monuments to those who served
- A visual arts centre will return the Drill Hall to it's original community focused facility as a centre for the Guelph Studio Tour, Doors Open, exhibition space, conferences and other events.

I have registered as a delegate and look forward to speaking to Council and answer any questions at the meeting. All the Best, David

David McAuley Architect (ret) B Arch B E S