

Sydney & Louisbourg Railway Museum Funding Request to CBRM

Chris Bellemore, President,
community volunteer



S&L Railway Historical Society

Mission: To share, celebrate, and preserve the story of the S&L Railway and the rich history of the greater Louisbourg area.

- Opened to visitors on June 26, 1972. Celebrating 50th anniversary this year.
- Two provincially and municipally designated heritage buildings (station, freight shed).
- Operates the museum and the regional visitor information centre with the relocation from the town hall.
- Over 6,000 artifacts and vast archives managed.
- Museum the first point for visitor engagement to the community- the gateway.



S&L Railway Historical Society - Goals

- Sustainability: From liability to a community asset - infrastructure improvements, revenue generation program renewal.
- Relevance - engage our key stakeholders, meet visitor interest
- Broadened scope of work- consolidation of services, increased partnerships, tourism sector coordination, Cape Breton heritage coordination.



Train Station (Sept 12)

- Removal of station displays and artefacts.
- Foundation replacement (lifting the building).
- Removal of furnace and furnace room and installation of heat pump system.

Freight Shed (Ongoing, initiated in May 2022)

- Roofing repairs
- Foundation repairs

Funding Partners

	Dollars	In-kind
Community Revitalization Fund	\$75,000	
Cape Breton Regional Municipality	\$35,000	\$3200
Sydney and Louisbourg Railway Historical Society		\$6850
Totals	\$110,000	\$120,052



	Activity	Cost	In Kind
Train station	Removal and reinstallation of station displays and artefacts (S&L volunteers)		\$28.54x 2 people x 8 hours x 8 days = \$3650
	Raise building and replace frost wall, install drain tile, foundation coating, gravel, replace rotted joists and sill, laminated support beams.	\$60,329	
	Improve accessibility to front and back entrances, hand rails, smoke detectors, electrical, furnace and furnace room removal	\$10,350	
	Heat pump installation	\$7360	
Freight shed	Foundation repairs, trim and sill plate repairs, joist connectors, asphalt roof, soffit, fascia, corner board replacement, remove waste material.	\$29,612	
	Overall project management: S&L - oversight, planning		\$28.54 x 2 volunteers x 8 hours x 7 days = \$3200
	Overall project management: CBRM - permitting, oversight, planning		\$40 x 2 staff x 8 hours x 5 days = \$3200
	Costs as per quotes	\$107, 651	
	Contingency (related to unforeseen damage to windows, trim, etc. from lifting the building.	\$2,349	
	Total Project Cost (with, without in-kind)	\$110,000	\$120,050



Considerations: Milestones

- New strategic plan and Louisbourg heritage charter facilitated exercise in 2019 focused on sustainability and community engagement.
- Infrastructure improvements and planning- buildings and train cars (e.g. cabooses).
- Research, in partnership with CBU, to position story focus on equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Participation in key planning and development projects (Louisbourg waterfront development, CBRM Forward, Engage NS Local Leadership Team).
- Improved social media reach and media presence.
- Events
- We have 50 years of volunteer commitment!



Consideration: CBRM Involvement and Commitments

Partnering

- Lease agreement (2017) re. CBRM building and property.
- Engineering reports -buildings - CBRM funded (Dillon 2016, 2019)
- May 2021 report on state of the train cars.
- Partner on Beautification and Streetscaping program - caboose
- CBRM review of ACOA proposal (with \$35k funds identified) and provided letter of support. June 2021
- CBRM participation in federal funding announcement as a supporting partner - Mike Kelloway. Jan 11, 2022.

Funding

- Verbal commitment - Sept 30, 2019 - (former Mayor's meeting - Louisbourg Playhouse - \$170k to S&L from Town Hall sale.
- Public commitment -Feb 20, 2020 -CBRM budget consultation meeting - Louisbourg Fire Hall- \$170k to S&L - senior staff, former Mayor, councillor (present Mayor) in attendance - Direction to proceed with leveraging prov/fed funds.
- Post election Oct 2020 - state of committed funds unknown, unallocated.
- March 2021 -Letter from the new Mayor committing funding support for S&L with the sale of the Town Hall - no allocation.
- Revised commitment from council - \$160k of the money from the sale of the Town Hall.
- Today - Vote to approve funding - \$35k of \$160k



Investment Summary

- Critical infrastructure improvements ensure museum and visitor centre continue to operate as a community asset and that provincial and municipal designated heritage buildings owned by CBRM are preserved.
- Positions for future federal/provincial community and heritage funding proposals to further improve accessibility (e.g.. washrooms), infrastructure (e.g.. rail cars, green building design) and enhancements to exhibit space, community space and programming.
- Momentum - volunteers to continue to be engaged and feel they are supported in their efforts.



Thank you!

