



VICTORIA HALL

A Building for the Public

Presentation by Rick Miller, President & Chair, Marie Dressler Foundation
to Cobourg Town Council on June 25, 2018



TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- **BACKGROUND**
- **THE ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED**
- **NEXT STEPS**

BACKGROUND



- **Victoria Hall is a National Heritage Building**
- **Victoria Hall is a public building**
- **Victoria Hall is owned by the Town of Cobourg**
- **The Town's Chief Administrative Officer is accountable for the operations of Victoria Hall**

VICTORIA HALL IS A MULTI-USE PUBLIC BUILDING

Key features include:

- **Offices for the Mayor, Town Clerk and senior staff**
- **Council Chambers* and Meeting Rooms***
- **Concert Hall* and Ticket Box Office**
- **Vintage Court Room***
- **James Cockburn Room**
- **Citizens Forum***
- **Space leased to Art Gallery of Northumberland**

* denotes space available for rental to third parties

Victoria Hall has many different displays for viewing by the public



War memorials



Town Council, Lenah Fisher



Vintage landscape scenes



Prominent former Cobourg residents



Advertising for
Concert Hall events

These Prominent Cobourg citizens are on the walls of Victoria Hall



Edwin Guillet



Rev. A. Ryerson



James Cockburn

Honouring Cobourg's heritage

Unveiling framed
photograph of
Marie Dressler
in Victoria Hall
Citizens' Forum

December 13, 2016



**Today, the framed
photograph of
Marie Dressler is
missing**

June 22, 2018




WHAT HAPPENED ?


- **A Community Group (Victoria Hall Volunteers) objected to the image of Marie Dressler in Citizens Forum on the basis:**
 - **The photograph was disturbing to their members when they met in the Citizens Forum**
 - **Marie Dressler has nothing to do with Victoria Hall**
 - **Anything to do with Marie Dressler should be restricted to Marie Dressler House**
- **The President and former President of Victoria Hall Volunteers insisted to the Mayor that the photograph of Marie Dressler be removed from Citizens Forum**
- **The Victoria Hall Volunteers did not contact Marie Dressler Foundation to discuss their concerns.**



THE ISSUE

**What is the Policy governing what gets
displayed in Victoria Hall ?**

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- **As a citizen of Cobourg, if I object to the landscape prints in Citizens Forum, will the Mayor or Chief Administrative Officer remove them from the wall?**
 - **What if I don't particularly like the portrait of Lenah Fisher?**
 - **What if I don't think the picture of Edwin Guillet should be on the wall?**
 - **Etc...**

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- **The Directors of Marie Dressler Foundation are deeply disappointed with the conduct of the members of Victoria Hall Volunteers with respect to the photograph of Marie Dressler**
 - **It is the position of Marie Dressler Foundation that, as a part of Cobourg's history, Marie Dressler should be honoured with a photograph in the Town's national historic building**
 - **It is particularly disappointing during this year - the 150th birthday celebration for Marie Dressler**

Our Request of Town Council

- 1. That Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a policy governing the display of objects, photographs, pictures, and other media in public and rentable areas of Victoria Hall**
- 2. That the subject Policy be brought before Town Council no later than September 30, 2018 for approval and implementation**
- 3. That in the meantime, Council directs that the photograph of Marie Dressler be reinstated in Citizens Forum until such time as an approved Policy would otherwise not permit**