

To: CAO for the Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2019-06-25

From: Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

File No: 6800-01

Subject: Electoral Area A & B Heritage Conservation Service – Tashme Museum Kindergarten Schoolhouse Project

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional Board support a contribution of \$55,000 from the Electoral Area A & B Heritage Conservation Service Area for the Tashme Museum Kindergarten Schoolhouse Project, subject to the imposition of a ten year covenant.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #4 Tourism

BACKGROUND

Sunshine Valley, formerly named Tashme, is an unincorporated settlement and former Japanese Canadian internment camp located on the Crowsnest Highway between the District of Hope and the entrance to Manning Park. Located just outside the 100 mile “quarantine” zone from which all Japanese Canadians were removed during World War II, it was the largest camp of its kind in Canada, housing 2,400 people on the site. Over the course of many years the remains of the internment camp have gradually been replaced, demolished or simply disappeared.

Today very little remains of the internment camp, however, a museum has been established in the former butcher shop of the camp to commemorate and mark the place where this part of Canada’s history happened. In 2017 Directors Adamson and Raymond, through the Electoral Area A and B Heritage Conservation Service Area, provided funding support to help in the development of the museum.

DISCUSSION

The Tashme Museum has the opportunity to further develop their site with the addition of the Kindergarten Schoolhouse Project. The schoolhouse is one of eight buildings which still exists in

Sunshine Valley today and which was used during Tashme from 1942-1946. The addition of the schoolhouse to the museum site will allow for dedicated classroom space for students during field trips and much needed additional exhibit space for the museum. The addition will also allow for two full disability accessible washrooms and a small food prep/museum storage area.

NHK Japan (public broadcaster in Japan) will be on site July 8th filming a mini-documentary on the history of Tashme, the Tashme Museum and the relocation/restoration of the kindergarten schoolhouse project.

A project budget, pictures of the kindergarten schoolhouse and pictures of the Tashme Museum are included with this report as attachments.

Directors Adamson and Raymond are in full support of this funding contribution from the Heritage Conservation Service Area.

COST

The Heritage Conservation Service Area was established to generate funding from Electoral Areas A & B to ensure items of historical significance in these communities can be maintained and/or renewed. A set level of taxation is collected each year and put aside in an account for projects such as the Tashme Museum. Sufficient funding exists in this account to cover the funding recommendation.

CONCLUSION

A funding request has been received from Tashme Museum to continue with the development of the Kindergarten Schoolhouse Project. Directors Adamson and Raymond, representing the two electoral areas that fund this service area, are in full support of this request.

COMMENTS BY:

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.