



March 3, 2021

To: Mayor McPhail and West Elgin Council

RE: Request to place a cycling-themed mural on the south wall of the Rodney Library in 2021.

The Elgin County Museum has recently become the recipient of a bequest from the Donna Vera Evans Bushell Estate, to be used to fund a series of projects over the next several years. One of these projects is the installation of a series of cycling-themed murals on buildings on or near existing or planned cycling routes in Elgin County.

In the course of an assessment of potential locations for the murals, the branch libraries were identified as a suitable option. They are located on existing or planned cycling routes and the distribution of the branches allows for the participation of each municipality in the project. An alternate site in Port Bruce has been proposed for Malahide and Aylmer is working directly with the Bushell Estate on a mural for that community.

We are now approaching each of our municipal partners with an invitation to participate in the development of a mural and a request to allow its installation on their branch library or other municipal building. The mural selected for the wall will come from an artist with demonstrated artistic ability and with experience in creating large-scale outdoor murals. Artists will be invited to submit to a Request for Pre-Qualification to the County's Purchasing Coordinator in April, 2021. We will report on the results of the selection process and share the proposed work with council prior to its installation.

Please find attached additional background information, details on the selection process, and technical considerations regarding the installation of the murals.

I would be pleased to attend a meeting of council as necessary. I can also be reached with questions as indicated below.

Thank you for your consideration,

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**Elgin County Cycling History Murals Project**

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## **Bushell Bequest**

Part of a bequest received by Elgin County Museum in July 2020 from the Estate of Donna Vera Evans Bushell provides \$75,000 in funding to “animate the existing network of cycling trails throughout Elgin County by adding new murals and signs along these trails in collaboration with private and public partners, and emphasize the theme of transportation.”

It was felt that installing these murals along with accompanying signage would bring attention to existing cycling routes as well as provide interpretation on Elgin County’s early interest in and engagement with cycling. Canada’s first cycling organization, the Canadian Wheelman’s Association, was formed in Elgin County in the 1880s and one of its founders, Luton native Perry Doolittle, went on to have a career in racing and later founded the Canadian Automobile Association.

## **Locations**

Discussions with the Estate’s representative reached the conclusion that the county library branches would be the best locations for the murals. Each branch represents an important cultural destination within its municipality, providing a contact point for residents and visitors to interact with the murals and the interpretive signage.

The south wall of the Rodney Library is the proposed site for the project. It is 134 square feet and has been budgeted at \$5600.00.

## **Selection Process and Timing**

A Request for Pre-Qualification (RFPQ) will be issued by the County of Elgin’s Finance Department in the spring of 2021. Candidates meeting the requirements of the pre-qualification will then be given approximately 6 weeks to complete a proposed image for each of the sites for which the artist wishes to be considered.

The final selection will be made by County staff based on scoring criteria that is part of the RFPQ process.

Work will be awarded on a site-specific basis, meaning that up to six artists could be engaged in the project. The Executive Director of the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre has agreed to act in an advisory capacity during this process. It is expected that the murals will be completed by fall 2021.

## **Technical Considerations**

- Warranty – a minimum five-year warranty for the work will be required of the artist.
- Insurance – the artist engaged will carry \$5 million in liability insurance and provide a certificate listing the Municipality of West Elgin and the County of Elgin as additional named insured.
- Anti-graffiti coating – will be applied to the finished mural.

- WSIB – the artist will have a current WSIB certificate and meet all other health and safety requirements.
- Wall preparation - is the responsibility of the artist.
- Maintenance - will be the responsibility of the County of Elgin.
- Eligibility - Individuals who are members of the municipal councils or municipal employees, County council or employees of the County are not eligible to submit. In order to be eligible for this competition, entrants must be 18 years of age or older.

