

### Victoria Jubilee Hall

111 Jackson Street South, Box 369 Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

**January 4, 2021** 

#### Mayor Peabody and Members of Brockton Council:

What a year it has been!

Victoria Jubilee Hall began 2020 with a schedule of 22 performances and the expectation of more. The County Towne Players' set had been built and decorated, and then........... March happened.



Sweetwood Mac Tribute Show

Victoria Jubilee Hall, Walkerton, Ontario As one would expect, our revenues have dropped, showing a deficit of around \$24,000 as of December. Our situation is similar to that of any theatre in the country, except that:

- 1) our fixed overhead is far smaller than Blyth's or Drayton's, eg.
- 2) we have income from our long-term tenants.

The Jubilee Arts and Music Committee (JAM) began meeting frequently at the start of the pandemic, frantically scheduling and rescheduling performances, to no avail.

When it became obvious that in-person shows were not going to happen, they started brainstorming other ways to keep VJH in the public eye.





The September 13 Outdoor Concert closed off Scott Street and attracted a large, socially-distanced crowd. All of the VJH volunteers breathed a sigh of relief. WE WERE BACK!



The next event JAM produced was the on-line Christmas Concert, taped by our extraordinary techies, in individual sessions on the VJH stage, and streamed on Wightman and Facebook.

So, while the Opera Hall has remained mostly silent, the JAM Committee keeps the flame alight.









**MEANWHILE......** planned major repairs have continued in 2020, thanks in large part to specific grants from: Walkerton Rotary Club, Spruce the Bruce, Brockton Council and individual donors.

#### Four of our long-term projects have been:

- 1) Eliminate water and dampness from the VJH basement.
- 2) Stop water penetration from the East Porch roof, into the building and down through the upper deck.
- 3) Do a full repair on the East columns (as one would repair structural bridge concrete)
- 4) Provide some outside security for the safety of our staff, patrons and tenants.

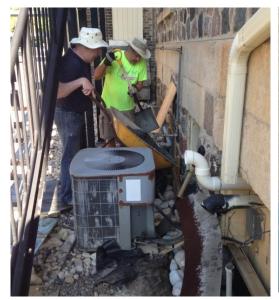
#### **REPAIRS ACCOMPLISHED in 2020**

1) Our chronic problem for 50 years: the ground level has risen slowly but steadily around VJH, and our ten basement windowsills had become access points for rainwater.





Two of these sills were raised 2 years ago, and this year, with the help of 2 new volunteers, we raised and sealed the other 8, and raised the grade of the soil to run rainwater away from the building.





2) **The East Porch roof** catches a great deal of water, most notably in winter when ice and then meltwater accumulates on the surface.

Last year, the windowsill above the porch was raised to prevent water running into the Hall.





This year, a very high-tech product called RhinoLiner was applied to the concrete porch decking and up the vertical surfaces (building wall and columns) to repel water.

This was entirely paid for by a Rotary Grant of \$6800.







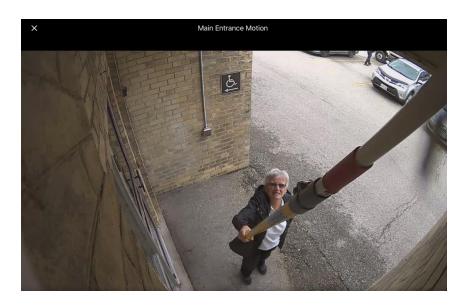
3) The front columns, like any steel-reinforced concrete structure, (think 'Gardiner Expressway') are susceptible to water / salt penetration, rust, and breaking- out of concrete. They have been patched, over the years, but this year, with the help of a Spruce The Bruce Grant, we did a thorough 'bridge-style' repair.





#### 4) Hall Security:

Over the years, there have been a few isolated incidents which highlighted the need for surveillance around our building. This summer, two motionactivated cameras were installed at the the North and East entrances of the building. Board members and our administrator have access to them.



#### **CORNERSTONE AWARD:**

Victoria Jubilee Hall was as one of 11 Heritage sites, nationally, to receive a Cornerstone Award.

"The Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Awards bring national attention to exemplary projects and places that contribute to quality of life and sense of place, and illustrate the viability of heritage buildings for traditional or new uses, that illustrate extraordinary resilience, significance, and benefit to a community over a sustained period of time, with a successful track record of 10 years or more."

# Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Awards Meet the 2020 Recipients



Announcing the National Trust for Canada's

#### 2020 Ecclesiastical Insurance Cornerstone Award Winners

And all through these harrowing times, our faithful volunteers have continued to do their extraordinary work, tending the gardens, painting, shovelling the snow, installing new taps and sinks and hand-washing stations (paid for by a \$1500 PPE grant) plus minor repairs and maintenance too numerous to mention...... basically, the tender loving care that this old building needs and deserves.



**In conclusion**, the Board of Victoria Jubilee Hall, the JAM Committee, the Administrator and volunteers would like to thank Brockton Council for their moral and financial support in the past. We would also request that Council continue to support Victoria Jubilee Hall as it did last year, in the amount of \$10,000.

## Respectfully Submitted, by the Victoria Jubilee Hall Committee:

Bruce Stickney - Chairperson

Henry Simpson - Treasurer

Ted Cobean - Heritage

Bob McCulloch - Secretary

Ruth Fischer - Hall Administrator

Jim Bohnert

Robin Zettel

Don Moore

Bill Carroll