

**GREY BRUCE CULTURAL NETWORK
ANNUAL GENERAL PROCESS
MAY 2008**

**REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
DRAFT FOR MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

The Steering Committee, meeting monthly in Owen Sound, has been conducting the business of the Grey Bruce Cultural Network for some three years now, and is pleased to report the following progress:

1. **Name and Mandate.** We have chosen to call the organization the Grey Bruce Cultural Network, and have established its mandate broadly as a service organization to the "cultural sector" by which we mean arts, culture, and heritage.

2. **Web Site and Logo.** We obtained funding from the Trillium Foundation to create a web-site, train users and volunteers in its use, and to create a logo ("branding"). This project is complete and **www.gbcn.ca** is in operation. It will evolve further. We solicited proposals for both these projects through public tendering processes. The web site was designed by Emma Hogbin, who continues to provide web-tending services and as a most active member of the organization. The branding design was the work of Robi Walters. We are grateful to both these people for their fine work. The contributions Emma has made to the organization go far beyond the web site, and we look forward to a continuing partnership with her.

3. **Incorporation.** We have completed all requirements for incorporation except that we must, through the first Annual General Meeting, approve a Constitution and By-Laws and to appoint a formal Board of Directors. We have decided to use an Annual General Process, by e-mail, instead of a Meeting. All necessary documentation has been prepared and the final requirements will be met through the AGP.

4. **Annual Gathering.** We held our first Annual Gathering in Hanover on November 17th, 2007, which yielded three recommendations for future projects:

- (i) A communications project;
- (ii) A cultural mapping + database project;
- (iii) A legal requirements project to complete incorporation, leading to a Spring AGM.

This third recommendation will be fulfilled by the current Annual General Process. Work continues on the others.

5. **Funding and Resources.** One of the most important functions of the new Board of Directors will be to raise and recruit the resources, in money and volunteers, necessary to develop the organization as a strong regional service provider. We continue to probe suggestions and prepare proposals. For the time being our resources are entirely in volunteers.

6. **Meaford Hall.** In the Fall of 2006, at the request of interested community members, a committee of the Steering Committee reviewed the consultant's report on Meaford Hall and wrote a report with recommendations to the Meaford Town Council.

Recommendation:

The Steering Committee recommends to the new Board of Directors that the program for the Grey Bruce Cultural Network in 2008 and 2009 should consist of the following four Projects:

- 1. Communications and Awareness:** to establish effective communication and interaction with individuals and organizations in arts, culture and heritage across the Region, and with other stakeholders and parties of interest, in order to raise awareness and engage interest and support.
- 2. Cultural Mapping:** to gather and organize data and analysis of all feasible kinds concerning the arts, culture and heritage sector in Grey Bruce.
- 3. Funding and Resources:** to raise the money and recruit the volunteers necessary to develop an effective organization. We will always need volunteers, but until we can afford to hire staff its capacity will be limited. We will need to be inventive and aggressive in our fund-raising.
- 4. Arts, Culture and Heritage Support:** The Directors will from time to time be approached by individuals, organizations and communities with specific requests for support and service. The organization needs policies and approaches necessary to respond well to these requests, which are sometimes urgent. The organization's capacity to respond to these requests will remain limited for some time, but complete lack of response is unthinkable.

Our thanks to all who have contributed to the formation and early evolution of the Grey Bruce Cultural Network: members of the Steering Committee past and present, resource-persons, active supporters, art-culture-heritage-ists who have attended meetings and workshops, politicians and community leaders who are listening, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and all who have been enthusiastic about the idea.

We owe particular thanks to Sheatre, who have provided us with a legal home, an address, and financial management and reporting services while we have been unincorporated, and to the Owen Sound Little Theatre, who have provided facilities for our meetings at the Roxy Theatre.

Submitted and Recommended by the Steering Committee:

Anne Frost	Joan Chandler	John Harrison
Judith Glover	Paul Conway	
with the help of Emma Hogbin		

and with the assistance, gratefully acknowledged, of former Steering Committee Members and occasional participants:

Anne Finlay-Stewart	Lin Souliere	Rob Cotton
Suzanne Myers	Suzanne Simmie-Stier	