

Carol Johnston

1-124 North Centre Road
London, Ontario, N5X 4R3

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To: London City Council

Dear Members of Council,

As I sit here at my desk writing this, I'm remembering back to the late 1970's and our first presentation to London City Council. At that time, we sought your endorsement for the concept of a Children's Museum for our city. Through hard work and with many angels, supportive funding was found, empowering us to open the doors to Canada's first Children's museum, and to flourish within our community. Now we are back again, this time looking for funding to expand and improve our facilities and services.

Time has a way of passing by and creates wear and tear on buildings, spaces and exhibits. The Children's Museum's present home - an old public school, while serving us well in the beginning, does not do well with present-day museum planning. The building has huge stairways and hallways and confining classrooms spread over three floors which makes it inappropriate for large exhibits or for many travelling exhibits, such as Harry Potter, the Titanic or for huge dinosaur exhibits. We need large open spaces to carry the imagination of our young visitors along a trail of discovery to create eureka moments. Our new building at Kellogg Lane has many unique features and dramatic height.

With the help of the greater community, designers and our staff, the ideas, dreams and "must-haves" for our new home have become visualized with drama, colour and organization. We can work with this! And the new building that has been chosen will make all of this spectacular.

We are appealing to all levels of government, businesses and the broad community to share our dream, but as many know we must have our own city securely on-side to leverage others. Your support is crucial to this initiative and we sincerely invite you to share in this endeavor to create a new bigger and better location for Canada's first Children's Museum.

We respectfully request two million dollars. With a fourteen- million- dollar goal, this is a modest ask. The city of London, our families, our employers and our tourism sector will benefit for years to come. The financial and cultural benefits will have a multifaceted effect enriching our community through the support of Canada's first Children's Museum.

It must be awesome, and it will be!

Most sincerely,



Telephone: (519) 471-9849
johnstoncarol@hotmail.com