

The Township of The Archipelago

Recommendation Report to Council

Report No.: 2024-025

Date: November 21, 2024

Originator: Josh Badger, Director of Operations and Facilities

Subject: Pointe Au Baril Lighthouse Preservation and Interior Works

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council review, within the 2025 Capital Budget, a proposal to work with the West Parry Sound Museum to digitize and historically preserve the Pointe Au Baril Lighthouse information and artifacts, and,
 2. That procurement of services to remove interior wall and ceiling finishes, as well as exterior caulking, be planned by the Township without interfering with the aid to navigation.
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BACKGROUND

The Pointe Au Baril Lighthouse is owned by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and is an important aid to vessel navigation. The Township of The Archipelago leases a portion of the dwelling and property from DFO through a successful partnership that has spanned many decades. The current two-year lease agreement is set to expire on March 31st, 2025. DFO and The Archipelago intend to enter into a subsequent agreement as the Township of The Archipelago views the lighthouse as an important symbol, and landmark, within our community. A recent building condition assessment and hazardous building material assessment were completed by a third party which recommended that work be undertaken for the continued preservation of the lighthouse.

To ensure the history of the lighthouse is preserved, and the necessary maintenance is completed, the following recommendations are proposed.

Lighthouse History:

Township staff collects all artifacts from the lighthouse in the spring of 2025.

- This would involve contacting community members who may have donated items and requesting any other historically significant items be loaned.

Township staff deliver all artifacts to WPS Museum staff for cataloguing, digitization, and historical research. The estimated duration is 6 months.

- The WPS Museum would also conduct interviews with Emmaline Madigan and other important personnel.

Upon completion of the WPS Museum scope, the artifacts would be returned to the Township.

- In 2026, the artifacts would be returned to the lighthouse, either to the interior if appropriate for public access, or to the covered screened-in porch area.
- In 2026, the Township would use the digitized history to create new storyboards and video history, creating a small exhibit at the Township Office and the Pointe Au Baril Wharf.

Lighthouse Repairs:

Capital budget funding is recommended to be allocated in the 2025 Budget for necessary repairs and maintenance to the lighthouse.

- A Request for Quotation would be distributed for the removal of mould, and water damaged lead-containing interior wood fibre paneling. No replacement paneling will be installed until DFO has addressed the required work on the navigational portion.
- A request for Quotation would be distributed for the caulking of vulnerable exterior siding and roof locations.

Lighthouse Visitors:

Within the covered screened-in porch area a storyboard display with public seating be constructed to allow visitors to continue visiting the site during repairs.

- The interior of the lighthouse would not be available to the public for 2025 during the repairs.
- Township staff could perform weekly property checks or could employ a part-time lighthouse attendant to work one day a week.

The Township must make these necessary arrangements at the lighthouse to avoid further condition degradation. Any inconveniences to the public should be seen in a positive light, as the Township looks to address required repairs and improve the condition of the lighthouse. The position of the Township is that DFO will transfer ownership of the lighthouse to The Archipelago. The commitment to preserve the historical data and conduct necessary repairs highlights the Township's support in acquiring ownership of the facility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be considered within the 2025 Capital Budget. Estimates for the scopes of work are identified below:

- Historical Preservation, Digitization, and Research - \$25,000
- Removal of Interior Paneling - \$15,000
- Caulking of Exterior Roof and Siding - \$8,000
- Creating a History Board and Furnishings - \$4,000

The total estimated undertaking for the lighthouse within the 2025 Capital Budget would be \$53,000. This would be solely borne by the Township of The Archipelago, as it is not directly related to the aid to navigation. DFO is responsible for the repair costs required to the aid to navigation structure, which is a larger scope and cost.

ANALYSIS/OPTIONS

Option 1 – Recommended

1. That Council review, within the 2025 Capital Budget, a proposal to work with the West Parry Sound Museum to digitize and historically preserve the Pointe Au Baril Lighthouse information and artifacts, and, that procurement of services to remove interior wall and ceiling finishes as well as exterior caulking be planned.

The financial commitment anticipated for these undertakings is \$53,000 and will require the Facilities Supervisor and the Director of Operations and Facilities time during the spring season, which will be identified in the 2025 departmental work plan.

Option 2 – Not Recommended

1. That Council, upon considerations of the 2025 Capital Budget, choose not to proceed with working with the WPS Museum to catalogue, digitize, and complete historical research related to the lighthouse. In addition, Council may choose not to proceed with any repairs or maintenance work on the lighthouse. In this situation, the lighthouse artifacts would remain at the lighthouse in their current state, and the Township would recommend that the interior of the lighthouse be closed to the public until the necessary repairs are completed.

Option 3 – Not Recommended

1. That Council choose to direct staff to bring forward, within the 2025 Capital Budget, a portion of the identified recommendations while omitting other recommendations or propose an alternative scope of work all together.
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STRATEGIC PLAN

This direction is in alignment with the following Strategic Priorities contained within our Strategic Plan:

- Sustainable & Cost-Effective Services
- Effective Relationships & Partnerships
- Leadership & Communications

CONCLUSION

That Council review, within the 2025 Capital Budget, a proposal to work with the West Parry Sound Museum to digitize and historically preserve the Pointe Au Baril Lighthouse information and artifacts and, that the procurement of services to remove interior wall and ceiling finishes as well as exterior caulking be planned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Josh Badger
Director of Operations and Facilities

I concur with this report
and recommendation,



John B. Fior
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

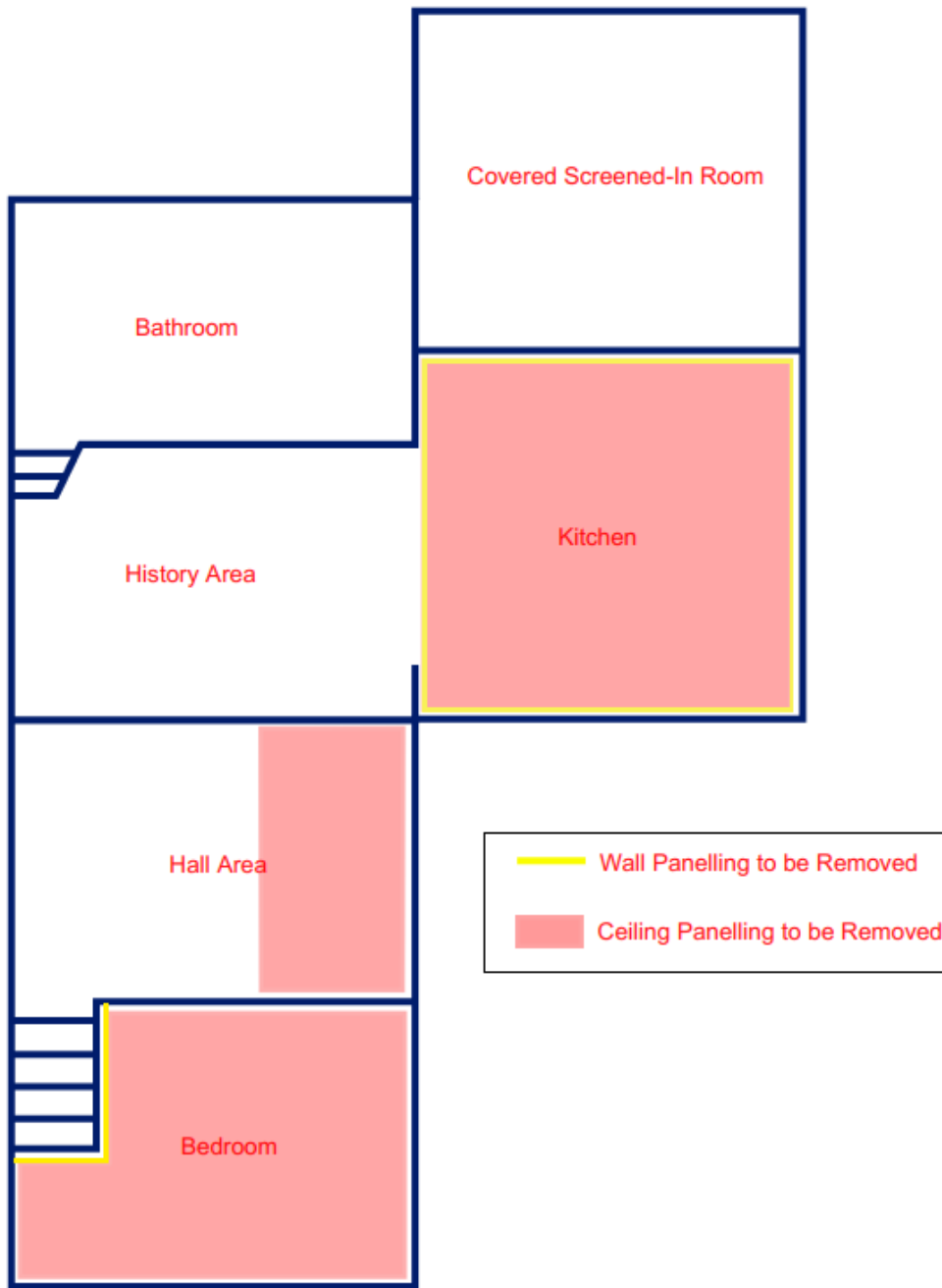


Figure 1 - PROPOSED INTERIOR REMOVAL SCOPE

