

# Cash for barracks conversion

Group receives \$25,000 for museum work

A \$25,000 Trillium grant will go a long way to helping establish a museum in Cobourg, says former mayor Joan Chalovich.

Mrs. Chalovich is chairman of the Cobourg Museum Foundation, which has been trying to convert barracks on Orr Street into a museum.

"It's tough to fund-raise now what with the hospital so this money will help a lot," said Mrs. Chalovich.

In its application to the Trillium Foundation, the museum board said it needed \$8,350 to complete work on the roof, \$8,800 to replace a dirt floor with a sub floor, just under \$3,000 to re-build a door and other costs for fencing, promotions, hydro and a phone.

"People are going to see us up and proceeding with the work this year," said Mrs. Chalovich, who noted research into the barracks is still being done.

"We know at one point it was used as a brewery, storage shed and we are still researching the early use of it by the militia," she said.

Work on the building's restoration started in March 2000. Then, museum foundation president Doug Sifton said the building was used during the war of 1812.

"It's consistent with buildings constructed during that time frame. You have to picture that during 1812, there would have been a lot of warships out on the lake. The French and English were competing out there," said Mr. Sifton, who passed away last year.

Mrs. Chalovich said the project of converting the barracks into a museum was always estimated to take about five years.

"We are hoping to draw additional support for the project. We are doing this to preserve the heritage of the area and we hope people will help. We want to preserve the building so when people are walking along the harbour they will walk up to see the museum," she said



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*Joan Chalovich, head of the Cobourg Museum Foundation, stands near the barracks on Orr Street which the group hopes to convert into a museum. The group received \$25,000 from the Trillium Foundation.*