

CANADIANA COSTUME SOCIETY
OF B.C. & WESTERN CANADA
c/o 4990 Empire Drive, Burnaby B.C. V5B 1M6

March 17, 2017

✓ Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Councillor Paul McDonnell
City of Burnaby

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (2017.04.06)
Community Heritage Commission (2017.06.08)
City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Dir. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Dear Councillors:

Regarding our conversation at Confederation Centre on March 2, 2017, about the Canadiana Costume Society, I was surprised you did not know about us as we have been functioning for 41 years and showing, always at Burnaby Village Museum and other places. Our storage area is presently upstairs at Elworth House at Burnaby Village where we have a phone and heat supplied. We are grateful, but the space is not adequate, and not climate controlled. You are welcome to visit us, just let us know when so we can arrange it.

Costume is the old English name for clothing. We have a sizable and valuable collection in mostly women's clothing ranging from the 1880s on, mostly worn in Burnaby - also children's, men's, military, books, pictures, patterns, shoes, purses, and hats.

Our problem is the inadequate space to store our treasures. When we outgrew our space at the upstairs location at Elworth House, Carol Rush donated her basement at 3041 Bristlecome Court, Coquitlam. It is a long way to drive to work on our collection. Now, Carol's husband has been placed in a care home, and she doesn't know how long she could live in that big house alone. It would be ideal if we could find a place in Burnaby's heritage area. As this is Burnaby's 125th year, and Canada's 150th, what an ideal time to put on a great display.

Since 1976, I have been a founding member of the costume society for 41 years and it is part of my life. I know I am asking for a lot, but what we have is real special. We need dedicated members; if we cannot get them we may have to get paid and trained people. We all know museums do not make money, and that is why Burnaby Village is free.

I am a member of the Heritage Commission seeking a home for our costume society. I many times have inquired about getting part of the Townly Estate when it is opened to the public. To my dismay, Dennis Nokony offered to rent it to Ivan Sayers, the most famous costumer around, but as far as I know he doesn't want to be located in Burnaby.

Another alternative is Overlyn at 3755 McGill Street in North Burnaby. I know it is privately owned, but if the upper floor could be used for the Canadiana Costume Society of B.C. & Western Canada (note our name - the government doesn't give out that name any more) they could make money by renting out to local clubs for costume viewing and tea events.

Please help us, even if it is by just knowing we exist.

Yours truly,



Ruby Johnson, Vice President

Canadiana Costume Society of B.C. and Western Canada