

Ministry of Heritage, Sport,  
Tourism and Culture Industries

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Ministère des Industries du patrimoine, du sport,  
du tourisme et de la culture

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Bruce County Council  
Walkerton, ON

March 16, 2021

**Re: Proposed "Ontario Marine History and Underwater Archaeology Research Centre"**

To whom it may concern,

I am providing a letter in support of the proposal for the "Ontario Marine History and Underwater Archaeology Research Centre" through partnership between the Ontario Marine Heritage Committee (OMHC) and Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (BCM&CC).

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries works to improve Ontarians' quality of life and promote economic growth by supporting cultural experiences, tourism, and the arts and cultural industries across Ontario. To this end, the ministry provides programs and sets standards for the archaeology and museum sectors in order to help ensure that our collective heritage is conserved and accessible to all.

The ministry has worked with both BCM&CC and OMHC towards conserving Ontario's archaeological and cultural heritage and considers them valued stakeholders and partners. BCM&CC meets the *Standards for Community Museums* and is a recipient of Ontario's Community Museum Operating Grant. It also meets criteria required to act as a repository for archaeological artifacts, under section 66 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The proposed "Ontario Marine History and Underwater Archaeology Research Centre" would enable Ontario's marine artifacts and research to be safely stored, displayed and accessed by researchers, students, Indigenous communities and the visiting public.

We are able to provide technical support and guidance as BCM&CC and OMHC work together on this important initiative. Please feel free to contact archaeology program staff at [archaeology@ontario.ca](mailto:archaeology@ontario.ca) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Downing".

Gavin Downing, Director  
Programs and Services Branch

- c. Cathy McGirr, Museum Director/Curator, Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
- c. Ken Cassavoy, Patrick Folkes, Scarlett Janusas, Burke Penny, Ontario Marine Heritage Committee