

Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum awaits council OK

BY BRENT WITTMEIER, EDMONTONJOURNAL.COM NOVEMBER 12, 2011



Once restored, the Lodge Hotel and Brighton Block on Jasper Avenue are slated to become the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum.

Photograph by: Larry Wong, edmontonjournal.com

EDMONTON - Work could start next month on long-delayed plans to build a new Ukrainian Canadian museum and archive after city councillors consider renewing Edmonton's \$3-million contribution to the project.

A non-profit group bought the historic Pendennis Hotel and adjacent Brighton Block in 2003 in hopes of creating a new home for the Ukrainian Canadian Archives & Museum of Alberta, now located at 95th Street and 110th Avenue.

HIP Architects and David Murray Architect created a design which features a modern glazed structure emerging from the existing Edwardian-era building on Jasper Avenue east of 97th Street.

The hotel was slated to hold the archives and museum, with income to help pay the operating costs coming from renting retail and commercial space next door in the Brighton Block, also known as the Ernest Brown Block.

Their plans won the 2006 Canadian Architect Award of Merit. The city pledged \$3 million to the scheme, but that agreement expired and the facility was never built because funding from other levels of government didn't come through.

However, last November the federal government agreed to put \$3.1 million into the project, matching money already promised by the province.

Some provincial cash has been advanced for demolition work and structural support for the building's facade, already underway. An additional \$1.8 million has been raised through private donations.

The museum applied for a development permit in September and hopes to start construction in December.

The \$11-million first phase of the project, including maintenance to character defining elements, exterior lighting and signage, fitting out most of the main floor and part of the basement, and mechanical work, is expected to be completed in January 2013.

"It'll be an exciting addition to Jasper Avenue," says Paul Teterenko, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives & Museum of Alberta.

"It's an award-winning design, with an original historic building with a museum inside."

A report recommending the city renew its funding commitment will be discussed Wednesday by council's executive committee.

Teterenko says he's excited six-year-old plans for the site finally appear to be moving forward.

"We're looking forward to getting it built," he says.

"The new facility will ensure the survival of an important collection that documents the history and contributions that Ukrainians have made to Alberta and Canada."

Fundraising will begin in the new year for the \$5.8-million second phase, Teterenko says. This includes fitting-up costs for the rest of the basement as well as the main, second and third floors, and part of the roof.

The new facility will include galleries, an archive and library resource area, collection storage areas, and meeting and programming areas. The organization hopes to attract more than 50,000 visitors a year.

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