

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event)



Applicant Information	
Organization	1000 Islands History Museum
Contact Name	Joanne van Dreumel
Title	Executive Director
Address	125 Water St., Arthur J.E. Child Building Gananoque ON
Phone #	613-382-2535
Email	ed@1000islandshistorymuseum.com
Event Website	https://1000islandshistorymuseum.com/
Event Information	
Event Name	New Exhibit
Event Dates	N/A
Event Organizer Name	N/A
Event Organizer Phone #	
Event Organizer Email	
Funding Amount Requested	\$5000

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



Please provide a description of event (300 words).
If there is not enough space, please answer the question on a separate page.

Please see attached

Additional items to be attached to the application:

- List of Board of Directors or Event Organizing Committee including emails and phone numbers
- Full Schedule of Events
- Detailed Event Budget/Financial Plan
- Please provide 2 letters of support from organizations and partners that support the project.
- The Town of Gananoque reserves the right to ask for copies of receipts validating expense claims.

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



If there is not enough space, please answer the questions below on a separate page.

1. Has this event been hosted before? If yes, when and where?

N/A

2. Who is your target market/audience?

1. Local/regional community
2. Tourists
The Museum hosted over 42,000 visitors last year, and we have succeeded in creating and maintaining loyal clients that comprise of the local community, travelling families, several bus tour companies from Ontario and Quebec, and St. Lawrence River boat tour lines. The Museum is an integral part of the community, has formed strong partnerships with other community organizations, has organized and participated in annual celebratory events (Family Day, Heritage Day, Canada Day, Writers' Fest etc.), and regularly contributes to the overall rewarding visitor experience in Gananoque.
Local/regional Community
1) Families with small children, families new to the community - so that they may have an educational, entertaining, and inclusive destination exhibit that reflects and involves them
2) Seniors - so that they may be able to share their stories from the past and create a legacy of knowledge, and so they may have programming and a destination exhibit available to them
3) Youth from the high school and returning from post secondary for the summer - so that they may form a connection, involvement through sharing and contributing, and have pride of place with their area through knowledge and understanding
Tourists
Regional, Provincial, National and International Travellers
French speaking - so that they will have an educational, entertaining, and inclusive destination exhibit, celebrating Canadian heritage in our area.

3. Estimated # of tourists/visitors your event will attract to Gananoque (from 40+km away)

40,000+ per year

4. How and where will the event be advertised/marketed?

We use our website, social media, radio, and print media to promote the 1000IHM.



You agree that the information provide in this application is accurate. This is an application for funding and does not guarantee funding approval. Should the TAP and Council approve funding to your event, a funding agreement outlining the details of the funding and any associated recognition will be signed by both the Town of Gananoque and the organization receiving the funding.

Date: January 20, 2026 Title: Executive Director

Name: Joanne van Dreumel Signature: 

Completed application (with all requested attachments) to be submitted to:

Attention: Tourism Advisory Panel

30 King St. East, Gananoque, ON K7G 1E9

Phone: 613-382-2149 ext. 1125

Email: businesscoordinator@gananoque.ca



1000 Islands HISTORY MUSEUM

NEW EXHIBIT FUNDING REQUEST

January 10th, 2026



Submitted by: [The Historic 1000 Islands Village Foundation](#)

Board of Directors: Richard Gilbert (Chair), Layne Larsen, Paul Scott, Susan Weston Smith, Alice Burton, Kathy Karkut, Pat Rule, Peter van Sickle, Michael Burrows, John Beddows (Representative, Town of Gananoque), Lynne Harper (Finance Officer), Joanne van Dreumel (Executive Director)

Museums play an essential role in cultural and social life. They are hubs that generate, preserve, attract, and disseminate culture of every type, old and new. They tell our stories, preserve our heritage, interpret the past, and explore the future. In this way, museums enrich our lives daily: feeding a hunger for knowledge and igniting our imaginations. They provide forums for learning, but also a place for enjoyment and escape.

CREATIVE CITY NETWORK OF CANADA, "CULTURE AS AN ECONOMIC ENGINE"

Background

The 1000 Islands History Museum (1000IHM) holds a unique position in the community of Gananoque. The Museum has been an incorporated non-profit institution under the Historic 1000 Islands Village Foundation for over 30 years. It serves the community of Gananoque and the 1000 Islands region, manages the Town of Gananoque Civic Collection, and houses the Gananoque Historical Society archives.

As well as being a steward of its own collection, the 1000IHM has a partnership with the Town of Gananoque (TOG) sharing in the stewardship and use of the Civic Collection. This shared responsibility enables the 1000IHM to expand its public service capacity in designing exhibitions and programming. This investment vastly improves accessibility to the Civic Collection and further strengthens the 1000IHM's ability to serve the community and fulfill its mandate.

The Village (constructed from 1992-1994) was intended to provide a significant heritage attraction on the waterfront, and was the result of a gift by Arthur J.E. Child to the TOG together with funding from the TOG, Federal and Provincial Governments of Canada, Parks Canada and by several generous, private donations. The TOG owns the building and bears responsibility for some facility costs. The 1000IHM is responsible for operations, insurance, normal maintenance on the interior and the security system. The waterfront has become a destination for thousands of global visitors year-round, and continues to enhance tourism, which in turn contributes to the economic well-being of the community.

In 2025, the 1000 Islands History Museum welcomed over 41,000 visitors!

Consistently ranked online as one of the top three things to do in Gananoque and the 1000 Islands!

Municipalities that adopt culture as an industry have gained positive economic benefits for their communities. Cultural industries create job growth, turn ordinary cities into “destination cities,” create interconnections between arts and business, revitalize urban areas, attract skilled workers, and create spin-off businesses.

CREATIVE CITY NETWORK OF CANADA, “CULTURE AS AN ECONOMIC ENGINE”

Thanks to grants received from Government of Canada and private foundations we were able to hire 8 local summer students, host an Algonquin College co-op student, two GISS co-op students, and an intern.

Involvement with the community

- The Museum offered our spaces to host events and run activities in bigger town events.
- We had the honor of hosting the Gananoque Art Network’s Urban Sketchers several times throughout the year
- Staff members took part in the pride events in Gananoque to support our community
- Celebrated Family Day (360), Canada Day (450), 1000 Islands Waterfront Festival, Festivilles (550), and Culture Days (330)
- 252 visitors for March break crafts workshop, mini yarn weaving, friendship bracelets and Paddling Puppeteers show. Duck hunt with Kingston and Area Association of Museums (KAM)
- We provide free Wi-Fi for our community
- We delivered several education programs to local school children, grades 1 to 6
- We delivered presentations to the Seniors Support Network, Rotary Club and hosted book readings.
- 31 tours with the Canadian Empress and Kawartha
- 75 visitor surveys completed, with excellent feedback
- 132 guest log signatures, all positive responses

Exhibits: *Music (Winter 2025), Snapshots of Canada (Summer 2025), Handpicked History (Fall 2025), Photography (Winter Window 25/26), plus two new displays at Town Hall*

We serve as a resource for and work collegially with:

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere; The Gananoque Arts Network; The Gananoque BIA ; The Gananoque Chamber of Commerce; The Gananoque Historical Society; The Gananoque Horticultural Society; The Gananoque Legion; The Gananoque Public Library; The Half Moon Bay Organizing Committee; The Leeds County Heritage Network; The Mallorytown Coach House Historical Committee ; Parks Canada; Rotary and Lions Clubs; The Thousand Islands Accommodation Partners; The Thousand Islands Association; The Thousand Islands Boat Museum; The Thousand Islands Playhouse; Thousand Islands Pride

We have offered support and/or leadership on:

The Artifact Oversight Committee - We manage the care and oversight of the Town's artifacts and archives and have been instrumental in building confidence in, and funding for, the ongoing custodial care and security of the collection.

The Municipal Heritage Advisory Panel

The Gananoque Historical Society

Winter Hours

We are open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The community has expressed a need to have waterfront attractions open on the shoulder seasons in Gananoque (we are the only waterfront attraction open year-round).

Funding Proposal:

The Board of Directors of the Historic 1000 Islands Village Foundation presents the following funding proposal to the Gananoque Tourism Advisory Panel:

The 1000 Islands History Museum respectfully requests \$5000 in support for the creation of a new exhibit in the permanent galleries on the second level of the Museum. This is the last space in need of updating. Created in 1997, "Early Settlers" no longer reflects the message that the Museum is working to deliver. It is obviously dated, lacks sensitive interpretation, and has no interactive features which help to engage visitors of all learning abilities, languages, and ages. By continuously improving our offerings, we can increase repeat visits, elevate pride of place for residents, and increase knowledge and appreciation of our heritage for this special region. As a community-focused Museum for Gananoque and the 1000 Islands, we strive to center the people, their stories, and their past, present and future connections to this area in the immersive exhibits we showcase.

Budget:

- **\$1200 2 x woods wall covering background (made in Canada)**
- **\$700 interpretive panels (Gananoque Sign Works)**
- **\$500 silhouettes (GSW)**
- **\$200 display enhancements**
- **\$2000 display cases**
- **\$1000 interactive features**
- **\$5500 design, curate, text, edit, translation, installation**

Total: \$11100

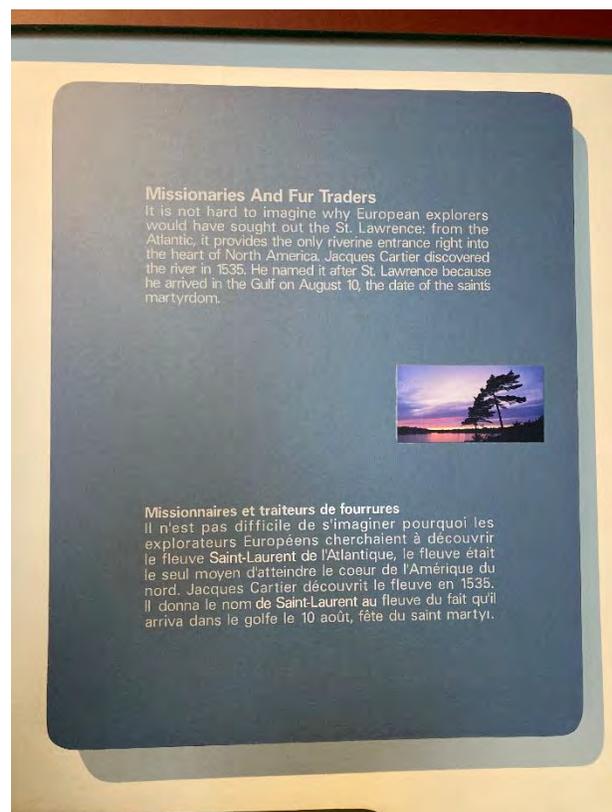
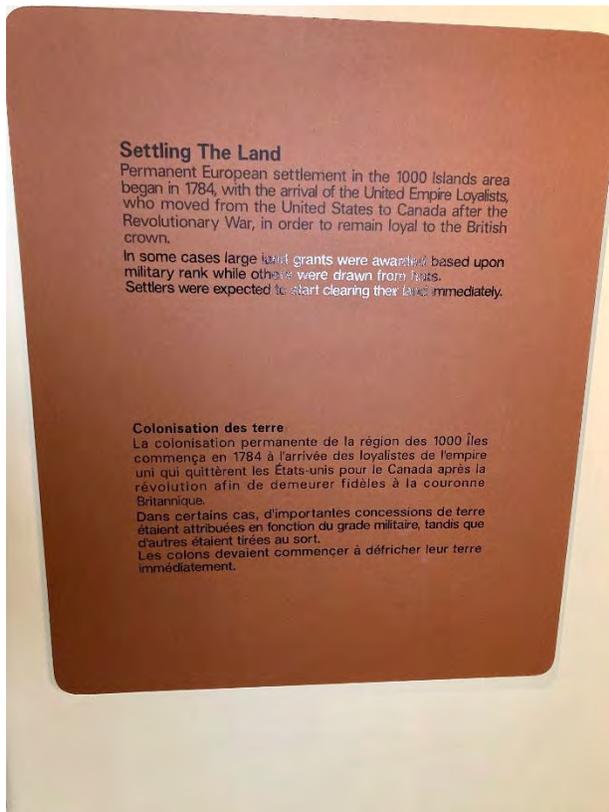
Amount Requested: \$5000

Conclusion

Our visitors attest daily to the value that this Museum adds to their visit of the 1000 Islands. Our youth, through their teachers and class visits confirm the relevance of our exhibits and programs. Our members and patrons have demonstrated their faith in and commitment to the 1000 Islands History Museum through their donations and support of our operations, fundraisers and events. The Town of Gananoque Council has placed trust in the 1000 Islands History Museum since its establishment in 1995, to care for their collection and interpret the heritage of this significant region.

The 1000 Islands History Museum's Board of Directors respectfully requests support for this funding proposal.

Current Exhibit Photos





From: GHS <gananoquehistoricalsociety@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 11:04 AM

To: Joanne van Dreumel <ed@1000islandshistorymuseum.com>

Subject: Letter of Support for Settler Exhibit

On behalf of the Gananoque Historical Society, we are pleased to offer our strong support for the 1000 Islands History Museum's First Contact & Settler section: **Telling Hands**. The re-imagining of the exhibit will feature much needed localized context to the content currently presented, by focusing on the people and the place we call home. Their stories, lives, and the community they built resonates with us today, so that it can be shared with all who visit this region.

Dirk Avé

President, Gananoque Historical Society



Gananoque Arts Network

Réseau artistique de Gananoque

February 25, 2026

Dear members of the Gananoque Tourism Advisory Panel (TAP)

Please accept this letter from the Gananoque Arts Network in support of the application by the 1000 Islands History Museum for TAP funding for the creation of a new exhibit in the permanent galleries of the Museum. This new exhibit will replace the present, and now out dated, “Early Settlers” displays and allow the museum to present a fuller, more balanced account of the encounters between Indigenous peoples and early settlers. This update represents an important step toward presenting history with honesty, respect, and inclusivity.

The 1000 Islands History Museum has been a valued friend and community partner to the Gananoque Arts Network (GAN) since our inception in 2021. The Museum has generously opened its community-designated space to host several satellite exhibitions featuring Gananoque artists. The GAN Urban Sketchers have also visited frequently, inspired by the rich and varied subject matter the Museum provides. On every occasion, staff have been welcoming, supportive, and accommodating, ensuring that artists feel both encouraged and at home.

The Museum is an important community asset that deserves continued care and investment. It enriches the lives of local residents of all ages and enhances the experience of visitors from around the world. Supporting this initiative is an investment in education, community connection, and the responsible stewardship of our shared history.

Thank you for the opportunity to support another organization dedicated the promotion of arts and culture in our community.

Sincerely,

Dennis O'Connor

Chair, Gananoque Arts Network