



# Barn Dance Historical Society

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TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

August 24, 2018

Open Letter to the Reeve and Council, Township of North Huron  
Box 90  
Wingham, ON N0G 2W0

We read with interest, the article by Denny Scott in The Citizen last week (August 23<sup>rd</sup>) regarding "Museum decision will have to wait for new Council".

When we spoke last with Melissa Scott, Pool Supervisor, she noted that the Barn Dance Historical Society and Museum would be kept in the loop regarding any decisions on the museum property. To date, that has not occurred, so we were surprised to see the article in The Citizen as no dialogue has taken place with the Barn Dance Historical Society.

Last March, we submitted some facts to Council on the Barn Dance Historical Society Museum and the Annual Jamboree/Campout held in Blyth through Pat Newson, former Facilities Manager.

The sole reason in holding the Annual Jamboree/Campout in Blyth each year is to support the Barn Dance Historical Society Museum in Wingham. Without the museum, we have no real reason to continue with this event.

The Barn Dance Historical Society has paid the Township of North Huron approximately \$4,350 in rent for the museum each year. This was waived by council in 2018 due the closure of the building.  
In addition, our event generates annual revenue for the Municipality of approximately \$14,500 in Facility charges.

The Barn Dance Historical Society also donates to various Blyth Community Groups including the Blyth Arena Complex, Camp Grounds, Blyth Lions, and Blyth Festival Theatre, Huron Pioneer Threshers, Legion and others. To date, we have donated \$27,700 to these groups through our event.

Other economic spinoff of our event includes partnering with the Blyth Lions which is a major fund raiser for the Club and media advertising through Blyth Printing, The Citizen, CKNX and others, not to mention the increased tourism for Blyth and the County. We have people attend our event from British Columbia to Newfoundland.

We are asking Council for assistance to be included with any Museum deliberation and decisions. Both the Municipal Museum and the Barn Dance Historical Society Museum complement each other. We invite you to take a look at some pictures of the Barn Dance Museum at [wwwthebardance.ca](http://www.thebardance.ca) Click on "Museum" in the header.

Without the Barn Dance Historical Society Museum, the Jamboree/Campout held in Blyth each May is in Jeopardy.

The Barn Dance Historical Society is open to suggestions from council and/or any citizen where we might relocate and maintain our history and the Annual Jamboree/Campout in Blyth.

Ruth Baxter  
President  
On Behalf of the Board of Directors

David Wall  
Museum Chairman

c.c. Dwayne Evans, CAO, Township of North Huron

**"CANADA'S LARGEST TRAVELLING BARN DANCE"**