

Rochelle Silva

Subject: FW: Bear Sculpture

From: Gabrielle Untermann [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:42:36 AM
To: Uxbridge Mayor <mayor@uxbridge.ca>
Cc: Jennifer Gowland <jgowland@uxbridge.ca>
Subject: Bear Sculpture

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Dear Mayor Barton,

As you know, the sculpture "Spirit Bear" at the Town Hall was created by my late husband Gerd Untermann as part of a sculpture symposium with Fly Freeman and Wynn Walters in 2008. The Township was fully supportive of the initiative in providing the trees, winter storage and the cost of placing all the sculptures strategically around the town. Gerd felt honoured to have his work chosen to be outside the Town Hall, and undertook maintenance of it as long as he was able; in 2018 the Township gave the two artists, Francis Muscat and Jeff Baker, the task of conserving it. The colour they chose was not what Gerd wanted, but created a lively discussion among the artist community. Gerd passed away in 2020.

Last year I noticed that the condition of the Bear had deteriorated. I spoke with Francis and he said he would bring it to the Township's notice. He also stressed what I already knew, that because it is rotting from the inside, the only way to conserve it would be to have it restored and moved to an indoor location.

It is now 2025, and Spirit Bear is looking very scruffy indeed, which I don't think reflects well on Uxbridge, especially as it is in such a public location. I am writing to suggest that removing it would open up space for a fresh new sculpture. Since I doubt that you would consider spending any more on having it restored, I would gladly arrange to have it at my home outside Claremont.

I look forward to hearing from you,
With very best wishes,
Gabrielle Untermann
[REDACTED]