



REPORT

Recreation Programs, Culture and Tourism

TO: Heritage Arts and Community Programs Committee

FROM: Katlyn Jones, Manager of Cultural Services, Tourism and BIA, and Julia Zolis, Assistant Curator

DATE: May 4, 2026

REPORT: RC-08-26 **FILE NO.**

SUBJECT: Horseshoe Pit Expansion at Historical Centre

BACKGROUND:

In 2010 two horseshoe pits were installed at the Uxbridge Historical Centre next to the Nesbitt Shed. In the summer of 2017, Bob Kirvan, a museum volunteer, set up a horseshoe pitching club at the Uxbridge Historical Centre to make better use of the pits. Bob has since promoted the club, running ads in the classified section of the Cosmos newspaper, and handing out posters around town. The result of all this is that there is now a club of 32 members, male & female, ages 55 to 96, that play every Tuesday evening from May to October. Many players had never been to the museum, and they are thrilled with the view and the fellowship, so much so that 4 additional pits were added to the site in 2018. Additional pits are now required to meet the growing demand.

DISCUSSION:

The Uxbridge Historical Centre would like to build 2 additional pits. The cost of these pits and the work will be covered by an anonymous donor and volunteers. Staff have reviewed the proposed area and agree that the additional pits will be beneficial to the site and will not interfere with other activities / rentals. The work will be superficial and require only shovels and not heavy machinery, to be executed in three (3) phases for a total cost of \$3,400. Volunteers will adhere to all health and safety regulations and report back to management.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- 1.2. Excel at operational efficiency and effectiveness: Delivered through coordinated facility and volunteer partnerships, maximizing impact with efficient use of resources.
- 2.1. Grow the economy and maximize opportunities to realize competitive advantage: Attracting return visitors to the site, strengthening Uxbridge's position as a competitive regional destination as the only horseshoe club in the region.
- 3.2. Explore new partnerships: Creates opportunities to expand partnerships with tourism organizations and community groups.
- 4.2. Promote resident engagement in our community: Encourages community participation, supports local heritage, and contributes to a vibrant Uxbridge experience.
- 5.2. Enhance community accessibility: Creates an accessible, affordable, and age-friendly activity for the community to participate in.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report RC-08-26 of 2026 be received for information;

AND THAT Committee approve the addition of two new horseshoe pits at the Uxbridge Historical Centre

Respectfully Submitted by:

Katlyn Jones, Manager of Cultural Services, Tourism and BIA, and Julia Zolis, Assistant Curator.