Agenda
ELDON HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virtual Meeting Wednesday, 4:30 PM
Zoom
July 15, 2026

Attendance: L. Henderson, R. Fraser, B. McClure, T. Wittmann, J. O'Neill, M. Southern, R. Armistead
Apologies: M. Donachie

Board Meeting

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Fraser moved. Southern seconded

2. **Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**

None

3. **Approval of the Annual General Meeting Report of the Eldon House Board of Directors**

Henderson moved. Fraser seconded

4. J. O'Neil – **Chair's Remarks**

Weather on Canada Day was vile! Congratulations to the staff of Eldon House for keeping the house going through the weather was above and beyond the call of duty. Please thank the staff for their work in such weather.

Smokey weather. If staff need to shut down because of weather (not just smoke) O'Neill gives full support to keep everyone safe with bad weather. Use common sense if it is needed to shut down. Wittman-keeping blanket note of asking for forgiveness later. Staff does watch Environment Canada and follows their advice for activities and cancelling or modifying programming.

Update of board roster: unlikely until after elections but get word out for future members to join in the new year. L. Henderson leaving with election in November.

5. T. Wittmann – **Overview of Staff Reports** (attached)

Successful early spring and summer this year. Strong visitor numbers and grant opportunities. First half of the year update: restoration work ongoing and expected to end July/August. Humidity challenges in the house. Stair replacement in interpretive centre and tree trimming. Conservation work is exceeding targets. New exhibitions for bicentennial celebrations and new research interest from locals and international scholars. Gardens looking great with Kendal's foresight to plant drought resistant plants. Continuing work on TD Friends of the Environment work ongoing. Highest ever Celebrate Canada grant and 2 summer jobs and CMOG application applied. Submitted new grants to TD Friends of the Environment and New Horizons Seniors Grant. Staff completed new strategic plan and will be shared with innovation committee for review. On track for 12,000 visitors this year. Over 1,200 attendees as Mother's Day event. Social media trends up. Staff focused on tea, pride month, and special events as

well as fall programming. The Climate Management Plan submitted to city. Asset Management Plan on going and will be sent to the Board for review in September.
CUPE agreement expiring and Board needs to nominate members for negotiations.

Henderson-Memory Lane program changes?
Wittman-New Horizons was successful for 8 years to outreach to seniors, but alteration to proposals, needed to be stand alone for grant period only. Result is rebrand and refresh of program in Curators Corner to go out and be on site. No longer dedicated to just memory programs but to all seniors and more inclusive. Robust volunteer program and allow staff to go out and acquire supplies. Current kits still in use.

Fraser-Eldon House late night results? Beneficial?
Wittman-Other museums have done late night/open late. Research to see if viable and possible going forward. Response was variable. First date hangout. Low numbers did not support initiative. Need to be year-round and every week to see if possible. Not possible to support during busy months due to burnout and resources. Pushed on marketing and social media but numbers not there.
Fraser-Try again during special events/exhibits in periods of the year.
O'Neill-Always be ready to try again.
Wittman-Children's Museum "Fail often and Fail better"

O'Neill-volunteer to serve for CUPE negotiations but ask Donachie if he wants to do it, previous experience.
Wittman-board and management meet with CUPE and staff reps at the table for discussion and go through agreement. Look for improvements and CUPE make no reductions/extractions. Refine and edit the agreement things out of date. Document negotiations go to CUPE and staff to vote on. Conversation with CUPE. Note Wittman will have to step aside for some areas due to alignment of contract with CUPE, need for board reps.

Fraser moved. McClure second.

6. **Committee Reports**

O'Neill-need to sit down in fall to discuss committees and activities.

Strategic Plan-needed for CMOG and the work of Innovation Committee was on specific parts. Needed to be completed but worked with chair of committee to have finalized plan for grant. Sharing full draft with committee for refinement and final send to board for approval and then onto the Cit for records.

a. Policy review
b. Strategy and Innovation Committee

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

O'Neill-September meeting in person suggested, or October. Send out email in August to Board for vote on meeting.
Wood work and painting going well. Gardening looks good as well. Replace dead tree in the front?

Wittmann-Replacement ready, it was a crab apple tree and was dying for years. Bigger project for tree removal and repair going after construction, in mid-August. Damage braced or cut back and should be replaced by end of August.

O’Neill-Acknowledge the dangers/security downtown and suggest to shutdown in dangerous situations.
Wittmann-Emergency plans and contingency plans ready for staff and volunteers for any situation. Security patrols around throughout the night as trends are obvious.

ADJOURNMENT
Fraser moved.

NEXT MEETING

September 16, 2026 – Virtual (pending email from O’Neill for vote on in person)