



**Haliburton
Highlands
Arts Centre
Foundation**

Site Visits Ad Hoc Committee Report

The Site Visits Committee is an Ad Hoc committee whose goal was to visit several Performing Arts Venues in the region. Members of the Committee included Drew Allen, Beth Kipping, Tammy Rae and Michael Clipperton.

We visited the following sites:

1. Orillia Opera House, Orillia on April 26th
2. Market Hall, Peterborough on May 5th
3. Stockey Centre, Parry Sound on May 26th
4. Algonquin Theatre, Huntsville on June 1st
5. Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, Richmond Hill on June 20th.

A detailed comparison chart of all five locations is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Clipperton

Director: Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation.

	Orillia Opera House, Orillia	Market Hall, Peterborough	Stokey Centre, Parry Sound	Algonquin Theatre, Huntsville	Richmond Hill PAC Richmond Hill
Seating Capacity	Lightfoot Auditorium - Main floor - 400. Balcony - 275. Studio Theatre - 108	Flexible from 250 - 375.	400.	400.	Main hall - 631. Small hall - 200.
Seating Configuration	Lightfoot auditorium - main floor with balcony. Standard theatre-style. Studio - 5 rows in slight curve.	Flexible with permanent seating. Increased to cabaret-style with tables/chairs. Large windows that can be blacked out.	Flexible permanent seating and chairs. Shoe-box style venue with granite, wood and high ceilings	Main floor - 300. Balcony - 100. Standard theatre-style.	Main Hall: Main floor - 450. Balcony - 150. Standard theatre-style. Small hall - Flexible seating (stacking chairs)
Acoustics	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Very good
Principal Uses	Theatre, musicals, concerts.	Concert Hall	Concert Hall	Theatre, musicals, opera, concerts	Theatre, musicals, concerts, receptions.
Sound, Recording, Live-streaming	Lighting and Live-Sound. Live-streaming installation in progress	Yes.	Yes.	Yes	Yes
Projector/Screen	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes - in small hall
Grand Piano	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stage Size	Large	Drop-down stage (think Murphy Bed) 16x24	Can accommodate up to 30 musicians	Large	Large
Wing Space	Both sides	Can be created using draperies	No.	Both sides	Both sides
Fly Gallery	Yes. (automated)	No.	No.	Yes. (automated)	Yes (automated)
Orchestra Pit	No.	No.	No.	Yes. Can accommodate up to 25 musicians. Wired for sound and	Yes. Can accommodate up to 45 musicians.

Dressing Rooms	Lightfoot - 2 large rooms, 2 small rooms, 2 washrooms. Studio - 2 small rooms, 1 washroom	2 medium-sized rooms, 1 small room	2 medium-sized rooms, 1 small room	2 large rooms, 1 small room. Fully accessible washroom and shower	recording.	12 rooms of varying sizes accommodating from 2 to 20 occupants.	
Rehearsal Hall	No	No	No	No	No	Yes. Flexible space for rehearsal and smaller performances, lectures, receptions, etc.	Barely adequate
Storage	Large areas below the auditorium	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Adequate		
Loading Dock	Yes. Freight elevator	Yes. Elevator.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Bar/Concessions	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kitchen	No	Catering kitchen	Full professional kitchen	Catering kitchen	Catering kitchen	Catering kitchen	Catering kitchen
Office space	2 small offices, 1 larger office	Open concept for 4-5 people GM office. Board room	Small office for 2.	One for GM off the lobby. One for TD near the booth	One for GM off the lobby. One for TD near the booth	One for GM off the lobby. One for TD in back-stage area.	Corporate lounge
Meeting rooms/other spaces	One for about 30 people	No	No	No	No	No	
Lobby	Very grand with double staircase	Adequate	Large with glass wall overlooking Georgian Bay.	Yes. Also serves as an art gallery.	Yes. Also serves as an art gallery.	Large with glass wall overlooking Yonge Street	City of Richmond Hill
Ownership	City of Orillia	City of Peterborough with Board of Directors	Town of Parry Sound	Town of Huntsville.	Town of Huntsville.	City of Richmond Hill	
Number of full-time employees	4	4	4	2	2	3	
Other amenities	Many restaurants in immediate vicinity, 5 minute walk to waterfront.	Many restaurants in immediate vicinity.	Outdoor patio for 250 patrons. Used for summer concerts.	Two churches immediately accessible which are often used for rehearsal.	Many restaurants in immediate area. Access to public transit.		
Anchor Tenants, Major tenants	Opera summer season. Mariposa Theatre	House season. Arts	No.	Bobby Orr Hockey Hall of Fame. Festival of the Sound (July)	Muskoka Festival of the Arts. (June to September)	N/A	
Rentals, (weddings, etc)	Minimal	Yes. (minimum fee of \$7000)	Yes. 12 - 15 weddings per year.	No.	Facilities booked throughout the year.		

Split between commercial and local use	60/40	Mostly commercial	Mostly commercial	60/40.	70/30
Location	Downtown core	Downtown core	5 minutes from downtown core	Downtown core. Attached to municipal Town Hall	Downtown core. Old City Hall facade incorporated into new building.
Parking	50 cars in adjacent lot. Street parking.	None.	Paved and gravelled parking for about 150 cars	Very limited adjacent to building. Several lots and street parking nearby.	Several parking lots in immediate vicinity.
Assets	Iconic building with twin turrets.	Iconic clock tower dominates downtown.	Scenic location. Charles Stockey's name is attached in perpetuity. Design combines industrial and cottage look.	Superior tech facilities. Bands rehearse here before going on tour. (Tragically Hip, Jim Cuddy, etc.) TD has been there since day one.	Location, location, location. Attracts over 150,000 visitors every year. (10 times the original estimate).
Challenges	Cost of maintaining an old building (built in 1917). Dealing with City of Orillia bureaucracy.	Cost of maintaining an old building (built in 1886).	Maintenance Costs. Building opened in 2003. Heating bill is \$80000/year.	With only 2 employees, GM and TD handle everything. There is a volunteer base of 140. Building opened in 2005.	Building opened in 2003 and is showing considerable wear-and-tear.
Other	Booked solid years in advance	Booked September through June.	Booked solid well in advance.	Booked solid year-round.	Booked solid throughout the year.