

# THIS COMMUNITY IS GOING TO LOSE A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ARTS CENTRE



## ...BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE TOO LATE.

### **Yarmouth Town Council may have killed the opportunity for a new Arts Centre for our community.**

Since 2005, the Yarmouth Arts Regional Council (YARC) has expended **thousands of volunteer hours** and tens of **thousands of dollars** in an effort to build a new Arts Centre for our community. In December 2008 a request for support of the project was made to the Town and **a letter of support was granted**. After offering support, and receiving clear information from the Arts Council on strict timelines for “shovel-ready” projects to access short-term stimulus funding, **Council began intentionally stalling** (as publicly stated by Councillor Dares). Instead of honouring their original commitments Council instead started a process with the intention of **forcing the project** into any one of numerous **pre-selected downtown locations** as well as a location at the top of Forest St. and in the South end of Yarmouth, neither of which are downtown. It became very clear that Council’s intent was to see the facility built anywhere but Parade St.. None of these sites would be provided for free. The Town was expecting that the ownership of the current Arts Centre and property on Parade St. would be transferred to the town in exchange. **What interest does the town have in our Parade St. property?**

In May, **delays continued** when Council decided that the project would be the catalyst for an “old” idea, that being downtown revitalization. A \$42,000 study was then commissioned by the town to confirm their wishes. To nobody’s surprise a hastily prepared snippet of a report recommended **Collins Street parking lot, a site previously discussed and discredited by the Mayor**, (during what he recently described as “lip service” discussions with the YARC), as not being feasible for the intended use. Now that same site has been re-offered.

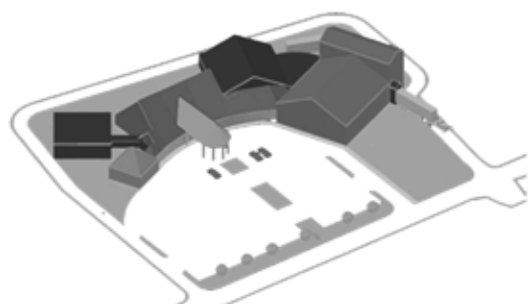
Very recently, Town Council was advised by our key Federal funder that the **current application is only valid for the Parade St. site with a deadline of October 16th**. With this information in hand, Town Council voted against supporting the project on Parade Street, knowingly killing the application and eliminating the opportunity to build a new Arts Centre anywhere in Yarmouth. Town Council’s decision has in essence **set the start of this project back by at least 3-4 years**, possibly more. This will undoubtedly expose any future construction to the uncertainties of government funding and the ravages of inflation.

**However, it may not be too late.** The Arts Council is attempting to negotiate a short deadline extension for its application. This extension, if granted, will once again allow Town Council an opportunity to do the right thing and immediately support this project and allow the current application to proceed, thereby realizing a new multi-purpose Arts Centre for our community in the near future.

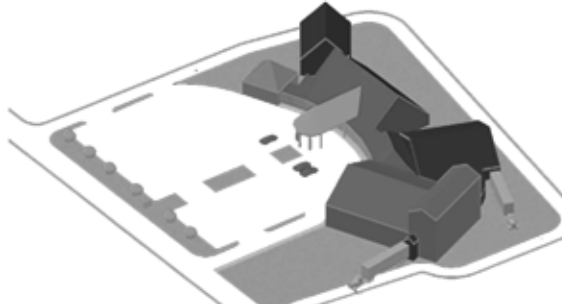
If you wish the YARC project to move forward, **your help is needed**. You need to let Town Council know today that **it is not acceptable to lose Federal and Provincial funding for a multi-million dollar facility** that this community so desperately needs. Tell Town Council that its behaviour and position are not in the best interests of the community and that **their responsibility is to support the wishes of its citizens and citizen organizations like the Arts Council**. Tell them that they may still have one last opportunity to right their wrong and urge them to do so.

**Contact details for your Mayor and Councillors can be found at [www.townofyarmouth.ca](http://www.townofyarmouth.ca)**. To ensure that your e-mail/letters of correspondence become public record, be sure to address them to both the Mayor and Councillors. Thank you for your support.

VIEW 1



VIEW 2



VIEW 3

