



Dear Members of the Region of Waterloo Council,

My name is Beatriz Gomez and I am writing on behalf of Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater festival, a beloved event that has been proudly hosted at the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum from 1996 to 2019. Over the years, this festival has become a significant part of our community, drawing thousands of children, parents and teachers every year to experience its unique offerings. The Doon Village, with its charm and cultural richness, has always provided a perfect backdrop for the festival, creating an atmosphere that enhances the experience for attendees and brings people together. We are eager to bring the festival back to its historic venue and return to the Doon Village in 2025. We anticipate 6,000 to 7,000 elementary students, teachers and parents will visit the festival at Doon Village in 2025.

We understand that the site has been closed for construction and that there are considerations to keep it closed to save costs. However, we strongly believe that reopening the historic site to the public, especially for events like our festival, would be a tremendous benefit to the community. The site's historical and cultural significance offers a unique opportunity to deepen the connection to our past while simultaneously providing a lively and educational environment for present-day celebrations.

The value of historic sites cannot be overstated. They serve as tangible links to our shared history, offering an educational experience for all generations. They also contribute to the cultural fabric of our region, offering a sense of pride and identity to our community. By reopening this site, we not only preserve its cultural value but also provide an enriching experience for local children and families who look forward to visiting Doon and attend the festival each year. The festival has consistently brought joy and education, and the historic site itself adds an irreplaceable element that enhances the event and encourages a deeper appreciation for the region's heritage.

Moreover, the festival's continued presence at this site contributes to the local economy and supports community spirit. It attracts visitors, and offers educational programming that promotes both history and culture. Keeping the historic site closed may save money in the short term, but the long-term benefits of preserving and celebrating this asset far outweigh the costs.

We respectfully ask the Council to consider the broader cultural and community benefits of reopening the historic site. The festival, combined with the site's unique historic charm, provides an invaluable resource for our community, and we hope that you will support us in continuing this important tradition.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to the possibility of collaborating with the Region of Waterloo to ensure the ongoing success of this cherished event.

Sincerely,

Beatriz Gomez (she/her)
Executive Director
Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival
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