

# City of Belleville

Report No: FM-2025-01

Meeting Date: April 14, 2025



**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**Department:** Community Services Department  
**Staff Contact:** Rob McGlashan, Facilities Manager

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**Subject: CN Yardmen Memorial Project**

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## Recommendation:

THAT the 2025 Capital Budget be amended to add the CN Yardmen Memorial Project - additional funding in the amount of \$18,000, to be funded through the Asset Management Reserve Fund.

## Strategic Plan Alignment:

Tourism and Waterfront Revitalization: Promote and support the development of attractions, events, facilities and services that will draw visitors to the community.

## Background:

In the 1970's the Canadian National Railway employees, identified as "Yardmen", came together to form the Belleville Yardmen 50/50 Draw to raise funds to support the Yardmen and their families in need. Shortly thereafter, they were licensed and incorporated to meet provincial requirements, and the organization grew rapidly along with its fundraising. Eventually they were in a position to contribute millions of dollars towards the construction of an arena facility for the Belleville community. The new facility opened in 1978 with an Olympic sized ice surface, the largest surface in the Ontario Hockey League. It was eventually named the "Yardmen Arena" to honour the railroaders and their contributions. Signage identifying this facility as the Yardmen Arena was installed on the west side of the building.

As the site continued to develop over the years, the complex transitioned to be known as the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre, which included the Yardmen Arena.

The CNR Yardmen Tribute Committee of Council, with representation from the CN Pensioners Association, was created in 2019 to assist in the design and fundraising for a memorial project to recognize Belleville Yardmen. Through their fundraising efforts the Committee has raised to

date \$223,500.00 with the City of Belleville contributing an additional \$150,000.00. The Committee developed a detailed design for a CN Yardmen Memorial Monument to be located at the west entrance of the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre. The Request for Proposal for the complete project scope was released in 2023, exceeding the budget (fundraising and city contribution totaling \$373,500.00) by \$276,647.25. To allow the project to proceed within available funding the city worked with members of the CNR Yardmen Tribute Committee to identify components of the design which could be altered or eliminated. At that time the eliminated components included a brass train from the top of the monument, the bronze figures of children and the bronze ground cover.

With the project commencing in 2023 and the long lead times of products, the previously approved work has been completed as of January 2025.

Fundraising has continued to take place during the construction phase. The former CNR Tribute Yardmen Committee members are requesting that the city reconsider purchasing the bronze train and coal/water car located on the top of the monument with the remaining funding of \$34,771.00 including \$10,000.00 for the donor wall.

**Financial/Analysis:**

As a supplier of the bronze figure conductor from the original project, a quote was solicited from Campbell Monument for the bronze train and coal/water car. The procurement of this portion of the proposed project will be completed through the single/sole source procurement process.

The following chart summarizes Campbell Monument’s proposal:

Vendor	Bid Amount	HST	Total Bid Amount	Net Cost to City	Budget Amount
Campbell Monument	\$42,700.00	\$5,551.00	\$48,251.00	\$42,700.00	\$373,500.00

The Capital Account Number for this project is: 1-3-4100605-0200 Cost Centre 210087.

Budget	\$373,500.00
Less: Spending and Commitments	\$348,729.00
Remaining Budget for Project (HST excluded)	\$24,771.00

The proposed bronze train and coal/water car will be purchased at a reduced cost due to an alternate production method and procurement directly from the supplier/installer.

The Capital Budget of \$373,500.00, which is comprised of \$150,000.00 in funding from the City of Belleville and \$223,500.00 of donated funds was insufficient to complete the proposed project. An additional \$17,929.00 of project funding is required to provide the bronze train and coal/water car as a feature at the CN Yardmen Memorial.

It is requested that this be a reconsideration of funding as this project was previously approved with the removal of the bronze train and coal/water car and award as such under the approval of Council.

**Conclusion:**

It is recommended that Capital Account #1-3-4100605-0200 Cost Centre 210087 be increased by \$18,000 to complete the CN Yardmen Memorial Project, and the 2025 Capital budget be amended to reflect this increase.

**Approved by:**

Jaclyn Morgan, Purchasing Supervisor  
Brandon Ferguson, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
Doug Irwin, City Clerk  
Matt MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

**Status:**

Approved - 09 Apr 2025  
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