



PR Release

February 28th, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cottonwood Mansion Museum would like to announce that there are upcoming changes in our leadership. We have regrettably accepted the resignations of Clayton Spears, President; Debbie Van Dalen, Vice President; Jane Van Dalen, Treasurer; and Peter Jaycock, Trustee.

These four members have contributed many years of commitment and effort to the mansion, and it is because of this devotion that the mansion has been successful in the past. In particular, Clayton Spears took the helm in 2021, one of the most challenging years to run a museum in recent history; under his stewardship the foundation weathered the storm to steer Cottonwood in the direction it is headed today.

Since 2022, under the capable leadership of Iona Whatford, Museum Manager, Cottonwood has positioned itself as a successful wedding venue, hosted popular local events such as Afternoon Teas, Ghost Walks, and the Victorian House Guest Experience; she has also brought in several grants to purchase new onsite equipment and enable the museum to begin restoration projects.

As Ms. Whatford goes on Maternity Leave, Casey Monkelbaan is stepping in as Interim Museum Manager. She is a graduate of Nipissing University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Specialist Degree and a Masters Degree in History. She also has several years of experience working at other museum sites, and as a previous Cottonwood volunteer, she has demonstrated her passion and love for Cottonwood. The Board is confident that Cottonwood will continue to achieve new levels of success under her leadership.

Cottonwood is thriving both financially and structurally, and we have already recruited several interim Board members from our highly committed volunteer pool. We are excited about 2024's upcoming events and are looking ahead to a bright future.

Signed,

The Cottonwood Mansion Preservation Foundation