



Shuswap Agriculture Association
490 5th Ave SW
Salmon Arm, BC
E: admin@salmonarmfair.com

Mayor and Council
City of Salmon Arm
Box 40 500-2nd Ave NE
Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2

June 13, 2025

Dear Members of Council,

Re: Request for Funding Support – Grandstand Arena Repair Project

As a board member of the Shuswap Agriculture Association, a professional engineer, and a dedicated community member, I am writing to respectfully request funding support in the amount of \$7,500 from the City of Salmon Arm to assist with the ongoing restoration of the Grandstand Arena.

Working closely with a large group of volunteers from the Agriculture Association, the local construction industry, and Dave Schwandt's Demolition Derby team, we've taken on the significant challenge of bringing this iconic structure back to life. You should be very proud of the community members you serve—they're truly amazing! Their passion, commitment, and hands-on support have been the driving force behind the progress we've made.

As identified in the condition assessment, critical structural work was required to address immediate concerns—and I'm pleased to share that this work has now been completed. However, additional repairs are still needed to ensure the long-term integrity of the building.

To date, we've received approximately \$15,000 in financial donations, \$15,000 in in-kind materials, and over \$40,000 worth of donated labour. I've personally invested significant time and effort into this project, alongside many passionate community members who are committed to preserving this iconic building.

If you haven't had the chance to see the progress firsthand, I encourage you to visit the site—the transformation is both visible and inspiring.

One of the next essential steps is to replace the west foundation. The building was originally constructed on structural fill, while the west post-and-beam line is supported on a pier foundation at a lower elevation. This discrepancy is creating a situation where the structural fill lacks support, posing a risk of settlement for footings located on the edge of the structural fill.

To resolve this, I'm proposing the installation of a new frost-protected foundation along the west side to replace the aging pier system. This will involve temporarily shoring the structure in stages while pouring the new foundation. The work will continue to be completed entirely by volunteers, but we will need to purchase 25 cubic meters of concrete to move forward. Salmon Arm Ready Mix generously donated concrete for earlier phases of the project, and we hope to support their business by purchasing the materials needed for this next stage.

Looking further ahead, I have grand plans for this building—it's going to be spectacular! My vision includes cladding the entire structure in the vibrant red and white colour scheme we've already



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begun. This will continue with the replacement of the old, faded roof metal to complete the transformation. Imagine this beautiful building shining bright in the heart of the park—a source of pride for the entire community.

This building needs to be used for more than just the Fall Fair, Roots & Blues, and the Demolition Derby. The new Shuswap Agriculture Association Board is enthusiastic about expanding its use, and we're eager to see more events and activities brought to life in this space. Many community members have already asked me, "When are we going to have a rodeo?" There's strong interest and momentum for making this a venue that serves the community beyond just three weekends a year. Let's do it!

We are asking the City to contribute \$7,500 toward this important phase. Your support would be a powerful endorsement of the community's efforts and a vital investment in the future of this much-loved facility.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to provide further details or attend a Council meeting to speak to this request in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Syme", with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Syme, P.Eng
Shuswap Ag Association, Director.