

ROYAL GEORGE UPDATE – PRIORITIES & NEXT STEPS

August 5, 2025

The Shaw team, our architect and engineering partners, are actively reviewing all of the feedback you have shared with us.

We're working closely with the Town, and their Heritage consultant, as well as Region staff, as we incorporate the results of our Community Consultation process into the next round of Royal George designs. These are a few of the core priorities we've been focusing on:

Heritage and Streetscape

You've told us the streetscape is paramount. So, we are working to ensure the façade on Queen Street really reflects the faux-Georgian look that the theatre is so known for, while still ensuring that we are meeting the current and future needs of a modern audience and our workers. We're also reviewing the design with an eye to creating a more residential look and feel from Victoria Street.

Size and Height

We've heard your questions about the increased footprint and height of the building. Modern day building and accessibility codes require elements in the new Royal George that we don't have in current building, and we are committed to being able to accommodate all our patrons and our workers with dignity and comfort.

We are working to see where we address the community's concerns while meeting building codes and creating a world-class building that will meet the needs of the next 100 years.

Community Impact

Despite spending millions of dollars over the last 20 years to mitigate the impact of the dissolving clay foundation, the building cannot be saved and we must leave it at the end of the year. We're working with neighbours and local merchants to find ways to minimize the impact of the 30 months of demolition and construction, but there will be disruption. We have been in conversation with the immediate neighbours for several months already and are exploring what support we might be able to offer through the construction period.

The Royal George supports local businesses by bringing more than 100,000 visitors to Queen Street each year, generating over \$70 million in economic impact by itself of the total \$280 million in economic impact that The Shaw generates for our region. To minimize the local business impact and number of seasons of the Royal George's closure, we are planning for the houses on the property to be brought down this fall and then the demolition of the Royal George will start in February to be completed before the high tourist season on Queen Street.

Queen Street will remain open throughout construction. Victoria Street may have occasional closures or reductions, but we are working to keep those to a minimum. Our construction firm, Govan Brown has hired a traffic consultant to create a traffic plan for the duration of this project. Once developed, plans will be proactively communicated by a Community Liaison Coordinator, and a website will be created so the community will know well in advance what to expect and when.

Planning and Communications

We've heard many questions about the planning and decision-making process and we are doing our best to align the 3-year rebuild timeline provided to us by the province of Ontario with the Town's planning process, while ensure we communicate fully and transparently with the community.

Right now, we are working expeditiously with the Town's Heritage Committee and our architects and engineers to create the next round of plans, meeting the time requirements from the Town so they have time to do a full and comprehensive review.

We are committed to continuing conversations with the community to hear everyone's thoughts on how to create the best new Royal George Theatre. If you would like to share your feedback or schedule a meeting with The Shaw, email us at royalgeorge@shawfest.com.

Next Steps:

- Continue working on designs including ongoing conversations with community and Town
- Submit ongoing updates to the site plan and design to the Town for review and feedback
- Resubmit updated plans for zoning and building applications

We will be hosting an Open House later this month to share with the community our progress on all these fronts (and backs). We hope you'll come, have a look, and continue the conversation.

For more information visit www.shawfest.com/royalgeorge