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North Peace Museum manager Garth Sager shows off a 1942 Native beaded jacket, one of several historical items that are presently boxed up in storage.

Taylor eyeing up museum options

Many artifacts in storage at F.S.J. North Peace Museum

CHRISTOPHER SUN ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Taylor council is interested in opening up its own museum to be a satellite of Fort St. John's.

Taylor mayor Fred Jarvis, who sits on the North Peace Historical Society board, said with the huge amount of material presently in storage – much of it from Taylor – it only makes sense to showcase the community's history at home.

"There just isn't enough space anywhere with everything they've got," Jarvis said about the present facility. "In storage, there's quite a lot of Taylor stuff."

Taylor had its own museum at one

time, but it moved and became part of the North Peace Museum in Fort St. John when it opened in 1983.

Taylor council talked about a suitable location for the satellite museum, agreeing it had to be located in a high traffic area such as the visitor information centre. While staff prepares a report on that, a building to house Taylor's history seems to have been decided on.

"We have a building," said Coun. George Barber. "The Pickle House. It's part of our heritage already. That could be moved to this side (of the river)."

The Pickle House is presently sitting empty in Peace Island Park.

All this discussion also caught the

attention and support of the manager of the North Peace Museum. He didn't know Taylor was even interested in opening a new museum.

"In my opinion, I think it would be a wonderful way to display this history," said manager Garth Sager. "It's doing nobody any good for it to be sitting in the back in storage."

The museum has been actively seeking donations to double its present size, but even when that happens, Sager said it would still not be able to showcase everything.

"The expansion would more than be a doubling of this building, but we would have quite a number of items still in storage," Sager explained. "We have items stored in the back here and (in a) trailer."

Taylor council has instructed staff to look at options and prepare a report on the location and cost of a satellite museum.