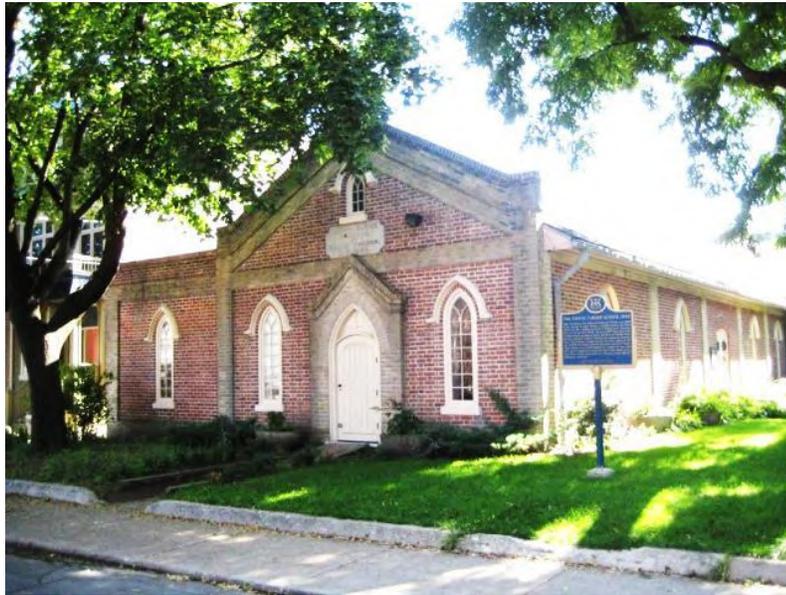


ENOCH TURNER SCHOOLHOUSE FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING THE ROOTS OF FREE SCHOOLING

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Enoch Turner Schoolhouse 1848

Owned and Operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust

Supported by the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

106 Trinity Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3C6

www.enochturnerschoolhouse.ca

Charitable Registration Number 11927 RR0001

About the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

- ◇ Our **Values** are Canadian history, heritage preservation and community.
- ◇ Our **Vision** is that the story of the beginnings of free schooling be accessible to all.
- ◇ Our **Goals** are to promote awareness of the struggle for free public education, to fund the school visit program, and to engage the community in programs, events and heritage preservation.

Message from the Chair

In 2020 work continued on the schoolroom desk upgrade. Our partnership with the Westfield Pioneer Village wood workers had revealed a surprising discovery. The reproduction desks, built for the 1971 Schoolhouse restoration, were constructed from old growth Ontario pine dating likely to the late 1800s. So we knew we had to restore, not replace, these remarkable pine desks – and we are proud of this sustainable heritage solution.

The desk restoration was delayed when the Village closed for the pandemic in early 2020. However, work continued slowly towards a completion date of March 2021. The restoration work was made possible by generous gifts from the Weston Family Foundation, the Hal Jackman Foundation, the Wilson Foundation and Nancy McFadyen.

Another pandemic related delay resulted in the postponement of the inaugural Enoch Turner Annual History Teacher Award within the Ontario Historical Society's awards program. We look forward to the resumption of the OHS program in 2022.

The closing of the Schoolhouse due to the pandemic meant we had to put a hold on our funding of the 19th century school day experience which promotes awareness of a significant chapter in the struggle for public education. With funding from the McLean Foundation and other generous supporters, school visit support will resume in 2022 to enrich the school curriculum and inspire visitors. Meanwhile, the OHT will offer virtual visits – see the OHT report below.

Treasurer Robert Leech provided valuable advice and expertise and we benefitted from the enthusiastic support and expert advice of the Directors and Joe Martin, Chair of our Advisory Board, on financial sustainability, strategic development, and community outreach for a successful year.

Our web master David Barr of Innogenesis Inc. and our marketing consultant Leonard Knott supported our efforts to attract media coverage and to develop audiences. Administrator Miriah Bough brought her expertise in historic interpretation, her administrative know how and IT media skills to our operations, social media and website management.

I am endlessly grateful to the Foundation Directors, members, and donors, to the leadership and staff of the Ontario Heritage Trust and to Dr. Paul Axelrod, academic consultant, for encouragement and support in keeping alive Enoch Turner's vision to give every child who came to his schoolhouse a

bet-
ter
fu-

Board of Directors

Irene Bakaric

Melissa Gordon

Lynne Kurylo

Robert Leech

Mark McQuitty

Helene St. Jacques

Abbey Sinclair

Brenda Webster Tweel

Advisory Board

Joe Martin, Chair

The Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman

A. Charles Baillie

Jim Leech

Financial

Thanks to generous donations by foundations and individuals, we were able to sustain our support for the schoolroom restoration, deliver public programs and celebrate the Schoolhouse's 182nd year.

Ontario Heritage Trust Report

The 2020-21 year saw the impact of COVID-19 limit the availability of the site for in-person programming and events. This had a direct impact on the number of bookings during the year, as well as the site's overall activity.

Bookings for Mrs. Henderson's Classroom and related programming were unavailable as schools turned to remote learning. In instances where schools were in-person, COVID-19 safety guidelines did not allow for field trips to the Schoolhouse. These guidelines and restrictions also impacted the Schoolhouse in its capacity as a venue.

In between stay-at-home orders, the Trust procured a videographer to create a set of Mrs. Henderson's Classroom videos, to help digitize the content and make it available to schools and interested audiences. The videos (eight in total) were filmed in March, and feature the interpreter, Veronika, in her role as Mrs. Henderson. Work continues on updating in-person programming, as the Trust looks forward to the fall and a possible return-to-classroom for students. This includes creating kits that can be sent to schools, which will include all that is needed to have a Mrs. Henderson's Classroom experience away from the Schoolhouse. A separate set of videos will be produced to complement the kits, and help explain the contents.

The Ontario Heritage Trust continues to explore new opportunities to bring programming and events to the Schoolhouse remotely as well as in-person. We expect schools to begin to slowly return throughout the 2021-22 academic year, with greater interest in bookings for 2022. As well as growing classroom booking numbers, the Trust will also focus on leveraging the neighbourhood and potential walking tours, as have happened in the past, to create space for programming outside the walls of the Schoolhouse.

The Trust continues to explore digital programming in 2021 and beyond. We are excited to continue to collaborate with the Foundation in our work at the Schoolhouse, to engage Torontonians and Ontarians in the history of this site.

Erin Mander

Annual General Meeting and Special Lecture

Our June AGM took place on ZOOM due to pandemic restrictions and so we decided to reschedule the planned special lecture. On September 25th, via ZOOM, James Thompson gave an entertaining and moving illustrated talk, **Remembering VE Day**, describing how some 75 years ago Canadians celebrated the end of WWII in Europe.

Annual Founder's Dinner

Another outcome of the pandemic was the cancellation of the Annual Founder's Dinner for the first time since the 1970s. While we were deeply disappointed to miss gathering with the Schoolhouse community, we made a donation on their behalf to The Fred Victor Regent Park Christmas Food Program.

Our 2020 Heritage Champion, Michael Meighen, will be formally recognized at the 2021 Dinner (event subject to public health guidelines).

Enoch Talks: Opening the Schoolhouse to All

A four-part ZOOM program began in November 2020 and would continue in January 2021. Funded by the Bridgewater gift, the series featured presentations and panel discussions on important educational themes. The series, free of charge, as designed to explore how access to public education has been expanded since the 19th century and what barriers remain.

The series was coordinated by Dr. Paul Axelrod, former Dean of Education at York University, and Professor Jason Ellis, Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia. The November sessions attracted 212 viewers and hundreds more later viewed the recordings on our website.

Community Participation

ETSF Directors participate in the activities of the Ontario Heritage Trust, the West Don Lands Committee, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, the Corktown Residents' Association, and Heritage Toronto and participate in the City of Toronto Planning Department's consultations on the First Parliament Site Plan.

2020 Gallery/Events



Guest speaker at the 2019 Annual General Meeting **James Thompson** spoke about **the 75th anniversary of VE Day in Canada.**



A FREE ENGAGING FOUR PART SERIES OF TALKS:

November 17th, 2020: *The Promise of Equity: Race, Multiculturalism, and Indigenous Education*

November 24th, 2020: *"Are We Moving Closer to Gender Equity in Education?"*

January 12th, 2021: *Doing the Right Thing: Disability, Autism and Special Education.*

January 19th, 2021: *"Does Liberal Education Matter in the 21 st Century?"*



Series Co-ordinators are Paul Axelrod, Professor Emeritus, York University and Jason Ellis, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia.

The pine school room desks were rebuilt and refinished by the master woodworkers at Westfield Heritage Village.

