

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

April 2020 – March 2021

Year in Focus

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 response, the Ontario Heritage Trust explored new programming options and opportunities that will be carried forward into the next fiscal year, and will become part of the site's permanent offerings.

New Programming

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. The videos are currently undergoing final edits. Topics include: introduction to the Schoolhouse and its history, interpretation of some key artifacts in the schoolroom (e.g. the abacus, the stove, the pews), classroom rules, and curriculum.



1 Still from a draft of "Intro to the Schoolhouse"

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. This will include a new fabric component, with swatches for student use, and a fabric board at the Schoolhouse for in-person visits. A separate set of videos will be produced to complement the kits, and help explain the contents.

Promoting the Schoolhouse

During 2020-21, the Ontario Heritage Trust supported programming created by the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation, by promoting their Speaker Series on our social media channels.

In addition, we were pleased to welcome Chinese-language television network Fairchild TV to the Schoolhouse in March, as part of their feature on arts and culture in the city of Toronto. Wayne Kelly spoke to the reporters about the history of the Schoolhouse, as well as the Mrs. Henderson's Classroom programs.

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Tonight at 7 p.m.! Join the [@Enoch_Turner_SH](#) for a free virtual lecture on: "Does Liberal Education Matter in the 21st Century?"

Register now: enochturnerschoolhouse.ca



Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation @Enoch_Turner_SH · Jan 18

There is still time to register for our last free talk "Does Liberal education matter in the 21st Century?". Tomorrow at 7:00.

bit.ly/2NihlGT

2:37 PM · Jan 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Booking Totals

- 3 bookings (2 weddings, one orchestra group)
- School bookings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown

Capital Work

Though impacted by COVID-19, capital work continued in 2020-21 when safe to do so.

The wooden school desks were successfully refurbished and returned to the Schoolhouse, with an accompanying teacher's desk and a couple benches, thanks to the support of the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation. The remaining plywood desks will be donated as necessary through the Ontario Museum Association's online marketplace. We are grateful for the support of the Foundation for the ongoing work to beautify and conserve the Schoolhouse, and look forward to future projects we can collaborate on.



2 Wayne Kelly speaking to Fairchild TV staff

There was a capital project related to a number of exterior and interior architectural details, to support the long-term conservation needs of the site. Woodwork, including window trim and doors, were painted the same green as trusses in the West Hall. These trusses, at the time, represented the only "original" colour in the Schoolhouse from the mid-19th century. Repairs were also made to some exterior masonry, and interior plaster.

Beyond repairs and improvements to the site, Trust staff were onsite regularly throughout the year, making sure the Schoolhouse was in excellent shape, and that its collection was properly cared for. As

such, though COVID-19 precautions kept visitors away from the site, it is in prime condition to welcome them again when restrictions are eased and the Schoolhouse can open again.

Moving Forward

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 happening primarily in 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.

In addition, we will continue building out the video products that help showcase the Schoolhouse, its history, and its legacy for our growing audience, as 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.