



The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

Celebrating Enoch Turner's vision of free schooling for all!

2024 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 286

Message from the Chair



When Enoch Turner arrived in the 1830s to establish a brewery, Toronto was a growing commercial centre. By 1848, the effects of immigration, especially the Irish famine immigration, were changing the city. With this tripling of the population came poverty and want, disease and social upheaval. Enoch Turner, by then a successful businessman, philanthropist and warden of Little Trinity Church, responded by establishing a free school for workers' children next to the church.

Over 175 years later, the Schoolhouse stands and we continue to honour Turner's generous gift of schooling for any child who came to the door of his school house. Since the restoration of the Schoolhouse in 1971, many thousands of children have experienced a school lesson as it would have been taught here.

The Foundation achieved this with the support of directors, members, donors and community leaders, thus preserving the unique heritage of the Schoolhouse, more recently in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust. In doing so, we have benefitted from the expertise and commitment of Foundation directors and from the wise counsel of Joe Martin, Chair of our Advisory Board. Their guidance on financial sustainability, strategic development, and community outreach is critically important.

I want to recognize Miriah Bough, our administrator, who works with us to create public events, to support our virtual programming, to engage with social media and to manage the website. It is such a pleasure to have Miriah on the team. My sincere thanks goes to Erin Mander, Toronto Sites Coordinator for the Ontario Heritage Trust, for her support and creative contributions to our activities.

Dr. Paul Axelrod, our consultant on the history of education, generously supports our goal of keeping alive Enoch Turner's vision to give the needy children of Corktown a helping hand and a better future. Paul has contributed four outstanding public programs on the state of schooling today to keep our mission current and relevant.

The strategic guidance of the advisory board, the generosity of donors and the work of volunteers is essential for us to achieve our goals. I am so fortunate to be working with the Schoolhouse leadership and community and I enjoy it immensely.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Kurylo".

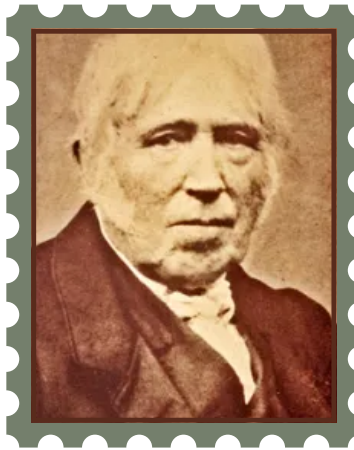
Lynne Kurylo
Chair of the Board

Vision, Values and Goals

Our **Values** are Canadian history, heritage preservation and community development.

Our **Vision** is to make the story of the beginnings of free schooling accessible to all.

Our **Goals** are to promote awareness of the struggle for universal access to public education, fund the school visit programs, present public programs for information and discussion, engage the community in supporting heritage preservation and celebrate Enoch Turner's enduring gift of schooling to the children of Corktown.



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2024 Highlights

Financial

Thanks to generous donations by foundations and individuals, we funded the Victorian school day program admission fees for many hundreds of school children. We also engaged in audience development by hosting social events and we presented a series of public events to inform and engage the community on history and heritage issues.



Ontario Heritage Trust Report from Erin Mander

The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse welcomed 121 school groups (520 students) in the 2024-25 fiscal year. In Mrs. Henderson's Classroom remained the most popular program, with many schools choosing to stay for a full-day and additional programs. The schoolhouse also welcomed its first high school, and the Ronald McDonald House charity school.

The Trust supported the Foundation with the second-annual Pub Night, and the annual Founders' Dinner. Capital work was undertaken on the West Hall and salon, including a new paint job and refinished floors. A new portrait of Queen Victoria was purchased for the schoolroom, as well as new posters to aid interpretation. We began the process of updating the exhibit case with the support of a University of Toronto intern. At the very end of fiscal we purchased new ads with the Toronto Star field guide directory for the 2025-26 school year.

In the future months, we will finalize the exhibit case upgrade, and explore incorporating a Canadian Library micro gallery at the site. We have also begun talks with Laurier University to host a field school at the Schoolhouse in the coming years to excavate two privy sites on the property.

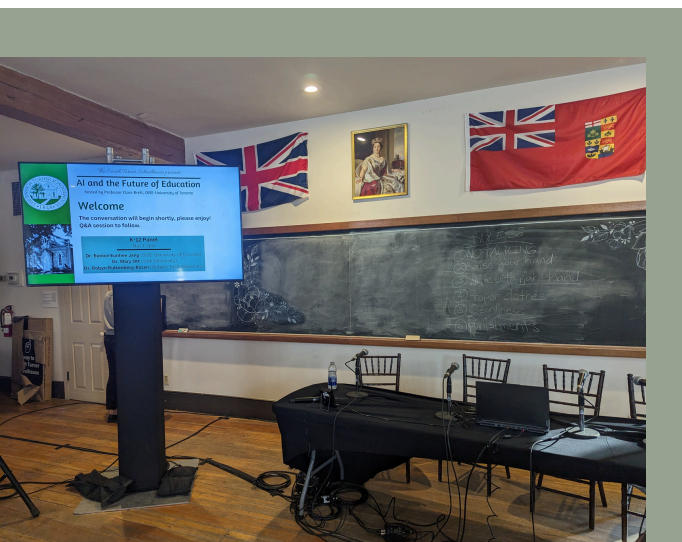
Community Participation

Foundation directors participated in the activities of the Ontario Heritage Trust, the West Don Lands Committee, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association.



AI and the Future of Education

This two part program was presented virtually and in-person as part of the State of Education series produced by Dr. Paul Axelrod. Panelists from the K-12 and post-secondary educational sectors discussed if, and how, AI could be used creatively in schooling and higher education. The panelists provided preliminary guidance as to how educators could contend effectively with this major educational challenge.



Annual General Meeting & Special Lecture - Toronto: Saving The City From Itself

We welcomed Christopher Hume, an award-winning architectural journalist who was the art/architecture critic and urban issues columnist of the Toronto Star for more than three decades. Mr. Hume argued the future of Toronto's architectural heritage and distinct character is at risk and explained the pressing need to take back the city from the development industry and from the province.



York University Student Teacher Award

A bursary of \$5,000 was donated by the Foundation to the York University Faculty of Education. This bursary is for undergraduate students in the BEd program or the BA Educational Studies program. Our purpose is to encourage the teaching of history, heritage and public education and to support the development of leadership in the teaching of history.



Victorian School Day Experience

We sponsored free admission to the Victorian classroom experience for both children and community groups in the recently renovated school room.

175th Pewter Ornament

We commissioned a 175th anniversary pewter Christmas ornament and offered it for sale at our events.

Heritage Champion Award

Barbara Hall, former Mayor of Toronto, accepted the award which recognized her work to revitalize the King-Parliament area and maintain its heritage character in consultation with the local community.





Annual Founder's Dinner

Our fifty-year tradition continued with a festive Canadian Christmas dinner and much good cheer in celebration of the opening of the Schoolhouse in 1848. As in past years, Canadian broadcast journalist Sean O'Shea emceed a lively program of traditional Irish music performed by the Brian Taheney Band, a seasonal reading and carolling led by well-known Canadian singer and actor Catherine McKinnon. The excellent catering by enVille Event Design and Catering added to the enjoyment. Former Mayor of Toronto Barbara Hall received the Heritage Champion Award for her leadership in restoring and preserving the heritage character of the King-Parliament revitalization.

Enoch Turner on Tap!

The Schoolhouse community gathered for an old-fashioned pub night in October. They enjoyed storytelling, snacks, Victorian games, and sipped on a custom brewed beer good enough to impress Enoch Turner himself. Thanks to the generous support of Granite Brewery (Toronto), their brew master partnered with beer historian and event host Jordan St. John to approximate Enoch Turner's Ale. The beer was a great hit and take home sales helped our bottom line. Storyteller and author Adam Bunch presented an illustrated talk on *The Toronto Book of the Dead & The City's Morbid Past*, with grisly tales of war and plague, duels and executions, showing how the city's shifting attitudes toward death have impacted the way Toronto sees its own history.





The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation Board would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to all Friends and Members for their continued support. Thank you for joining us to celebrate the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse. Because of generous donations, we are able to sponsor school programming to elementary students in ways that celebrate the vision of Enoch Turner. We thank you for considering a donation to our Foundation or the purchase of a membership. Visit www.enochturnerschoolhouse.ca for more information.

