

# Toronto Irish Players

December 10, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to introduce ourselves to the Toronto Catholic District School Board. The Toronto Irish Players are a community theatre group, focused on the works, literary and dramatic of Irish culture. We produce plays of the works of well known Irish playwrights such as Sean O'Casey and J. M. Synge as well as the modern dramatists such as Martin McDonagh and Brian Friel.

Our group was started in 1975 and one of our founding members was a TCDSB drama teacher, Pat Hunt. Our first plays were performed at Michael Power High School and Neil McNeil High School and many Catholic School students have performed on our stages. Our mandate is to introduce Irish dramatic culture to Toronto and this illustrates our connection to both the TCDSB and the proposals of the O'Connor Irish Heritage House committee.

We offer our full support to the O'Connor House Heritage group in their quest to restore O'Connor House to its former state and to use it as a centre for cultural, heritage and educational programmes. This group has worked diligently to share its vision for O'Connor House with and gained the support of many different groups including but not exclusively, those of the Irish community and it has impressed me with its carefully researched and well conceived presentations regarding their plans for O'Connor House.

We would certainly look forward to working with them in the future to add our contributions to the cultural and educational aspects of their proposed programmes. We would like to state our support for this initiative and would hope that the TCDSB would also continue its support the O'Connor House group which has so much to offer the students and their communities and whose ideals seem, to me, to be so close to the ideals of Senator O'Connor himself.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Hunt,  
President,  
Toronto Irish Players.