



Heritage Toronto

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Mr. Colman McSweeney,
Secretary, O'Connor Irish Heritage House Inc.
27, Crowland Drive
Toronto
M9W 2S5

December 9, 2008

Dear Mr. McSweeney,

Heritage Toronto is happy to support your proposed partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School Board to restore Senator O'Connor House as a heritage, culture and education hub, and to offer any assistance that we can in partnering on programs which meet our shared heritage mandate.

In the few years that you have been working on this initiative, you have made great strides, as illustrated by the jury's comments on your receiving the 2008 Heritage Toronto Community Heritage Award for North York.

"It is exciting to see so creative an approach to heritage preservation, especially at a time when financial support for historical endeavours is not readily forthcoming. The partnership between the Toronto Catholic District School Board and a community-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home of Senator O'Connor demonstrates the importance of public-private partnerships in saving Toronto's past for the future.

Of special interest are the group's plans for highlighting the crucial role played by Irish immigrants in the development of our city as we know it today. The ongoing engagement of both children of the city's Catholic schools and of the public with programs and projects planned for this unique facility demonstrates how innovative heritage programming can involve people of all ages and walks of life in saving threatened urban heritage structures.

The applicants have displayed a considerable amount of enthusiasm and drive in their efforts to preserve this site and to plan for its future uses as a site to celebrate the Celtic heritage of Toronto."

Good luck with your proposal.

Peggy Mooney
Executive Director