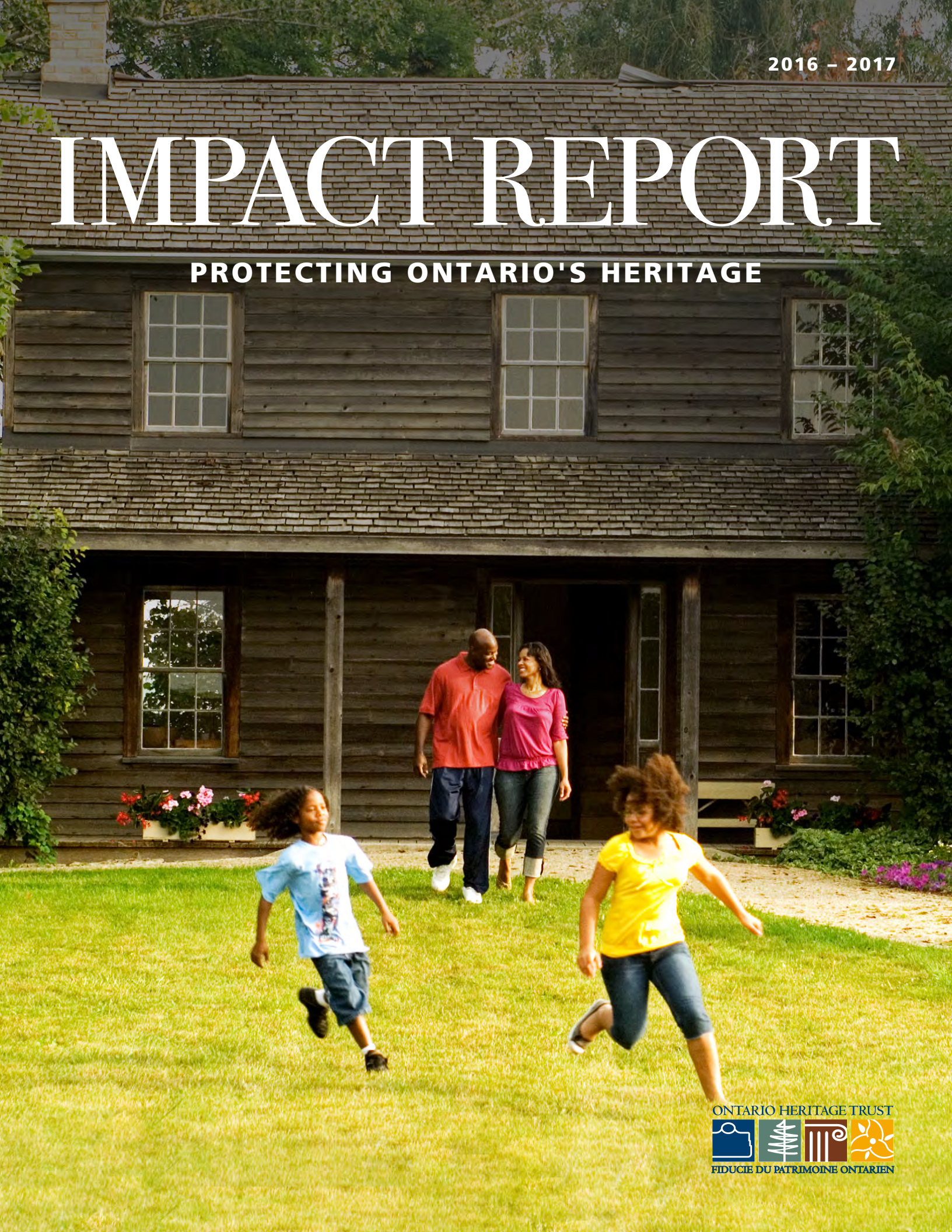


2016 – 2017

IMPACT REPORT

PROTECTING ONTARIO'S HERITAGE



ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST



FIDUCIE DU PATRIMOINE ONTARIEN




Members of Sandokwa, troupe de danse, lead a friendship dance during a commemorative event in Penetanguishene.
Photo: CNW/ Stephan Potopnyk

For information, contact:

Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 302
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Telephone: 416-325-5025
Email: donations@heritagetrust.on.ca
Website: heritagetrust.on.ca

Interested in learning more about the Ontario Heritage Trust?
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Cover:

Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site



Thank you, dear donor, for making Ontario a better place to live.

Your support enables us to carry out a breathtaking range of programs and services that will positively impact our diverse communities now and for generations to come.

From conserving our precious natural spaces and keeping our cultural heritage alive to engaging Ontarians of every age and background through our public education initiatives, and so much more, your donation goes a long way to safeguarding Ontario's heritage in all its forms.

Indeed, as you enjoy these highlights of our recent accomplishments, you may find yourself surprised at the scope and impact of the Ontario Heritage Trust's work across the province.

As we tackle the formidable challenges ahead, from climate change to rapid development, let's take this moment to reflect on the progress we made last year in protecting the places, landscapes and traditions that keep our communities healthy and diverse.

You are critical partners in the work we do. I hope you enjoy our 2016-17 Impact Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Hanna".

Beth Hanna
Chief Executive Officer

Our mandate

To identify, protect, renew and promote Ontario’s rich and diverse built, cultural and natural heritage that has influenced and continues to shape our society for the benefit of present and future generation.

Our vision

The Ontario Heritage Trust is the province’s heritage agency and provides services as:

- The heritage trustee and steward for the people of Ontario;
- A centre of excellence for the delivery of services to communities and government;
- A strong advocate and advisor for heritage;
- A centre of heritage information and education; and
- The promoter of Ontario’s built, cultural and natural heritage

How our work is funded

We rely on partnerships with individuals, corporations, foundations, and government to care for Ontario’s heritage.



66% Self-Generated Income*
34% Core Government Funding

** Includes revenue generated through the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, leases, public museum admission and program fees, donations, sponsorships and grants.*

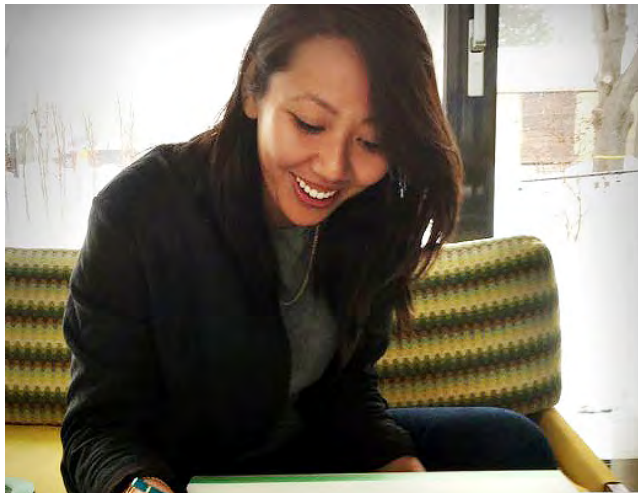
Maximizing your contributions

We invest your donation directly into programs and services that protect our treasured spaces.



44% Caring for Ontario’s Cultural and Natural Heritage
22% Educating and Connecting Ontarians with Heritage
26% Adaptively Reusing Heritage Venues
8% Administration

Testimonials from individuals and organizations the Trust helped in 2016



Winnie Truong

2016 Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program Beneficiary

"My artist residency was meditative, productive, and **propelled me into a whole new way of thinking and making.**"



Justin Nicholls

2016 Young Heritage Leaders Scholarship Recipient

"Preservation of history really matters to Justin, and I can see that **being recognized with the award and this scholarship has fueled his ambition** on a personal level."

- Deanna Nicholls, Justin's Mother



Bruce Trail Conservancy

2016 Community Partner

"The Ontario Heritage Trust was instrumental in supporting the Cheltenham Badlands project in 2016. The Trust brought together partner groups and addressed community concerns, helping to ensure a safe and sustainable future for this iconic piece of Ontario's heritage."

—Beth Gilhespy, Bruce Trail Conservancy CEO



View of Appleton Wetland Complex from the Mississippi River. Photo by K. Stiles, provided courtesy of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

Conserving our natural spaces

Ontario's natural heritage is exceptionally diverse, and with our partners, the Trust is focused on conserving this irreplaceable legacy. The Trust intends to protect it for generations to come!

This is the third property entrusted to the Trust in the Appleton Wetland Complex in which the Sanctuary is situated. In carrying out our stewardship duties we maintain natural biodiversity, safeguard this important part of the watershed, protect species at risk and minimize human disturbance.

Preserving our wetlands

In November, we took on the responsibility of **preserving and protecting over 20 hectares (50 acres) of provincially significant wetland**, a donation from a private estate.

Located 50 kilometres southwest of Ottawa, the newly named Wilfred and Jean Neilson Wildlife Sanctuary is the only significant representation of riverine marsh, swamp and upland forest on a clay plain in Ontario, **providing habitat for three identified at-risk species:** the Jefferson salamander (endangered), Blanding's turtle (threatened), and snapping turtle (special concern).

Expanding public access to Ontario's nature trails

The Ontario Heritage Trust owns or secures many sections of the Bruce Trail.

In January we acquired right-of-way easements near Lion's Head, a community located a few kilometres southeast of Bruce Peninsula National Park. Two private property owners generously agreed to donate trail easements over their respective properties to **secure a permanent hiking corridor for the Bruce Trail**. These actions



The exposed Queenston Shale of the Cheltenham Badlands. The Trust prevented further erosion and damage from increased visitor traffic when it took protective action and temporarily closed off access to this fragile piece of Ontario's natural heritage.

provide pedestrian access to a site already in the Trust's care, the Westover property, stewarded by our community partner, the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

These new easements will **support thousands of day trippers and hikers each year**, to promote healthy recreational activities and enable further appreciation of Ontario's natural beauty. They make a welcome addition to the more than 160 kilometres of public recreational trails on lands the Trust now cares for.

Saving the Cheltenham Badlands

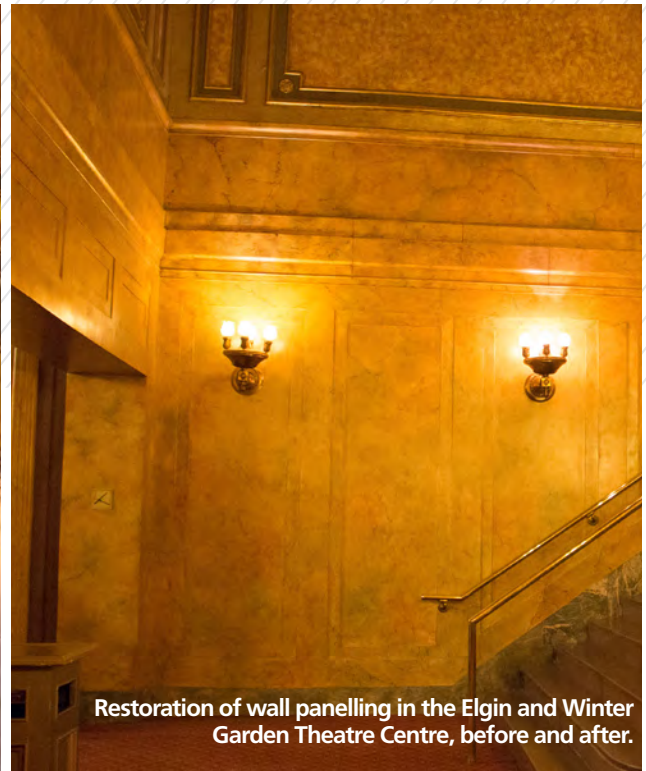
Due to public safety, conservation, and stewardship issues brought on by rising numbers of visitors, the Trust **took protective action** and temporarily closed off the Cheltenham Badlands (pictured) to the public in 2015.

Throughout 2016 we **hosted a series of public consultation meetings** to provide a forum for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to express their

thoughts, give valuable insight, and inform the Trust's decision-making for the multi-year Cheltenham Badlands Master Planning project. Improvements to the site include the revitalization of the trail system, an accessible parking area, an accessible boardwalk, a roadside walkway, and educational signage.

Our public consultations were highly successful, **engaging over 800 participants**. The feedback from communities, including that of eight Trust community partners, has played a critical role in outlining the final configuration for the Badlands' trails and infrastructure, and we are **on target to reopen this remarkable formation to the public** in early 2018, restoring it as one of Southern Ontario's most iconic environmental tourist attractions.

We gratefully acknowledge the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for their generous support of our work with the Cheltenham Badlands.



Restoration of wall panelling in the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, before and after.

Protecting our cultural heritage

The Trust undertakes the restoration and conservation of heritage buildings in our care, ensuring they remain an important part of the lives of Ontarians.

Restoring a legendary venue for the performing arts

We **completed a multi-year series of restoration projects** at the Trust's Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre in the spring of 2016.

During one major project, a recarpeting uncovered the original tile and terrazzo flooring in the Yonge Street Lobby bar dating back to the early days of the theatre. Rather than covering it up again, we **restored the tiling and flooring to their former glory** (pictured) for the delight of visitors to this elegant National Historic Site.

As well, the Grand Staircase and Yonge Street Lobby had their distinctive wall panelling replaced, with breathtaking results (pictured) that further beautify the world's last operating double-decker theatre.

Bringing Ontario's past back to life

Conservation is an ongoing commitment, requiring the care and expertise of craftspeople with dozens of specialty skills.

The Trust **completed additional restoration projects on multiple heritage sites across the province** throughout 2016. For example, we made extensive repairs to the barn and carriage shed at Toronto's Ashbridge Estate, fully restored the exterior of the Hudson's Company Staff House at Moose Factory, replaced the siding at the Niagara Apothecary, and carefully restored and conserved the Ontario Heritage Centre's original wood windows and sills.

We gratefully acknowledge the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places and the Province of Ontario for their generous support of our heritage restoration work.



The newly restored original tiling and terrazzo flooring at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre.



Young 'archaeologists-in-training' begin to unearth Ontario's past during our summer camp at the Spadina Museum.

Community connections in 2016



754,021

participants in Trust sites
and programs



465

Heritage assets and
resources protected



We work in

85%

of Ontario's municipalities



Students from Harriet Tubman public school and Lockview public school, St. Catharines receive a Young Heritage Leaders Award from Ontario Lieutenant Governor The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell. Photo: Ian Crysler.

Engaging Ontarians and celebrating diversity

Our supporters help provide engaging and memorable experiences for all Ontarians that forge connections to and nurture appreciation for Ontario's cultural and natural heritage.

Empowering children and youth

We **gave children and youth exceptional opportunities** to learn to excavate, analyze, and record artifacts while working alongside professionals as part of an archaeological dig during our annual archaeological summer day camp held in July at the historic Spadina Museum.

Nineteen children and youth ages 10 to 14 (pictured on p.10 and 13) benefited from this two-week, all-day adventure that we've co-run with our programming partners, the City of Toronto, for 15 years. Participants **uncovered artifacts dating as far back as the 1800s** while enjoying stimulating field trips and educational games.

At the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards, held during Heritage Week each February, we **celebrate and encourage young people** who take action to protect heritage in their communities with Young Heritage Leaders Awards. In 2016 we recognized a group of elementary school students from St. Catharines (pictured) who successfully campaigned to mark the site where Harriet Tubman guided freedom-

seekers into Canada with commemorative panels, receiving plenty of well-deserved media attention.

We awarded two youth scholarships, to Justin Nicholls (pictured on page four), also of St. Catharines, for spearheading a successful initiative to recognize the final cold war air raid siren remaining in his community with a plaque, and to Marica Pinnock of Oakville

for helping hundreds of students learn about their cultural identity and the importance of diversity.

We gratefully acknowledge Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life for their generous ongoing support of our Young Heritage Leaders Program.



A focused 'kids camp' participant reconstructs pottery samples during our archaeological summer camp at the Spadina Museum.



Ashbridge Estate.

Reviving Ontario's living cultural roots

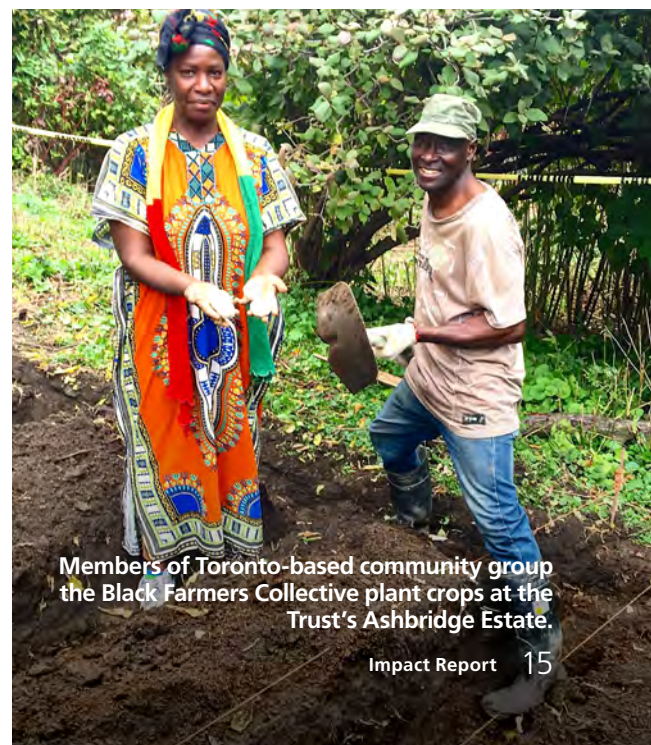
Ashbridge Estate, in the heart of Toronto's Leslieville neighbourhood, was the social hub of a thriving, 600-acre farm founded in 1796. Food grown by the Ashbridge family nourished tens of thousands of residents in the surrounding communities. As suburbs expanded, lands were sold off, leaving only a small urban estate. Now, after a century, farming has returned to this splendid heritage site, thanks to a strategic partnership.

Building Roots, our community partner, establishes and grows community and commercial food infrastructure into new housing developments and revitalizations. Together, we welcomed several local community groups, representing a true diversity of Ontarians, to Ashbridge Estate in 2016, **yielding a bumper crop of vibrant community garden projects.**

A Syrian farmer and refugee from the Arab Community Centre joined Building Roots' core group of volunteers to begin work on the Estate's expanding urban mini-farm in the early spring. Seeking an opportunity to connect with others who shared his passion, he happily shared his gardening techniques with other volunteers throughout the spring and summer.

That autumn, the Black Farmers Collective of Toronto (pictured), who grow affordable, organic food and promote food justice to their community, planted the first fall crop, garlic, on the grounds. The Collective brings their harvest to farmer's markets in neighbourhoods like Moss Park, offering them at affordable prices while providing the group with revenue to support their initiatives.

We continue to **revive living cultural roots while benefiting a diversity of community groups at Ashbridge Estate** in 2017.



Members of Toronto-based community group the Black Farmers Collective plant crops at the Trust's Ashbridge Estate.



Visual artist Steven Beckly in the studio during his residency at Fool's Paradise as part of the Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program. Mr. Beckly was one of five artists selected for the program in 2016.

Advancing Canada's diverse artists

Beloved artist Doris McCarthy requested that her Fool's Paradise, a serene heritage site along the Scarborough Bluffs, become a retreat for artists, musicians, and writers when she left it in our care through a charitable remainder trust. We've realized her vision by operating a robust artist residency program, **providing Canada's creative professionals with an inspirational studio and living space where they can grow and achieve their goals.**

Selected through an expert advisory panel, five artists benefited from the 2016 Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program: A poet; a painter, collage artist, and digital animator; a mixed media artist; a children's

author; and a visual artist. These highly creative professionals also acted as mentors to aspiring artists. They offered constructive criticism on technique and method, career counselling, and other professional insight tailored to the needs and interests of the mentees, **ensuring that Canada's diverse community of artists are supported, inspired, and connected.**

We gratefully acknowledge the RBC Foundation for their generous support of the Doris McCarthy Artist-in-Residence Program.

Enriching our sense of place

We established seven provincial plaques in five different Ontario communities in 2016. Three of these plaques honour the immortal Flying Frenchmen, an Ontarian trio of players for the Montreal Canadiens who hailed from Cornwall, Belleville, and Renfrew.

Standing prominently at entrances to major community recreation centres that attract

over 1,300,000 visitors each year, the plaques illuminate the critical role Franco-Ontarians played in building the National Hockey League, **inspiring generations of active children and youth to pursue their dreams of sports excellence.**

As of the end of 2016, we've created 1,277 plaques that share the stories of communities across the province, enrich our sense of place, and recognize the diversity of Ontario's history.



A family reads the inscription on a plaque commemorating The Flying Frenchmen in Renfrew.



Visitors explore Shopify Plus in Waterloo at the 2016 Doors Open Ontario event. Photo: Joe Martz

Connecting Ontarians with treasured spaces

Nearly half a million visitors from around the world accepted our invitation to visit over one thousand heritage sites during Doors Open Ontario 2016, **infusing more than five million dollars into the local economies of 145 participating communities across the province.**

This popular summer tourist draw has proven a boon to hundreds of towns, counties, and cities, attracting over seven million visitors since it launched in 2002. One of our community partners applauded “the personal stories, the connections, and the great spirit that was fostered between visitors and volunteers” during the event. Another partner was excited to tell us that their “community is thirsty for this type of engagement.”

Thanks to our enthusiastic donors we’re able to encourage public involvement, foster civic pride, boost public knowledge and interest in history, raise awareness of local heritage resources, and **promote conservation while creating opportunities for community jobs, tourism development, and new partnerships** by operating successful programs like Doors Open Ontario.

We gratefully acknowledge Celebrate Ontario for their generous support of Doors Open Ontario.

Highlighting Canada's black heritage

On August 1st we observed Emancipation Day, the anniversary of the end of slavery in Canada and the British Empire, at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden. Through this annual public event we brought over 500 community members together to **celebrate hope and freedom through music, dramatic re-enactment, and passionate educational interpretation.**

In May, for the second consecutive year, we provided elementary school educators from communities across Southwestern

Ontario with a full-day workshop on Black history, also at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. Teachers representing 35 Ontario schools learned powerful lessons about the achievements of Black Canadians and their struggle for equality. Afterwards, participants took back what they learned to share with their peers and incorporate into their course curricula, **enriching the education of thousands of students** for years to come.

We gratefully acknowledge RBC Royal Bank, Southwestern Ontario for their generous support of Emancipation Day at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site.



Community members celebrating Emancipation Day through lively, interactive musical performances.



The Hudson's Bay Company Staff House at Moose Factory, operated in partnership with the Moose Cree First Nation.

Strengthening Indigenous community partnerships

Supported by our donors and partners, the Trust works with Indigenous communities to protect their sacred lands and culturally significant places, celebrate community heroes, and commemorate important events.

Protecting Sacred and Culturally Significant Places

The Trust permanently protects and stewards several sites with special meaning to Indigenous peoples, including burial places, traditional use sites, and lands of sacred or spiritual value, in close partnership with their respective communities. Together, we **carry out monitoring and archaeological investigations, as well as natural heritage preservation and educational activities.**

During 2016, in partnership with the Moose Cree First Nation, we **restored the exterior of the Hudson's Bay Company Staff House** (pictured), a National Historic Site in Moose Factory. This is a site of great importance to the Moose Cree: It's where they first encountered English merchants in the late 17th century and began their long, sometimes dissonant and tragic relationship with the settlers, traders, and missionaries. Today, the Moose Cree operate this vital piece of Ontario's northern heritage as a seasonal attraction and a centre for staff housing.

We gratefully acknowledge Parks Canada's National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places and the Province of Ontario for their generous support of our capital restoration work.

Preserving and promoting Indigenous heritage

In June we marked 400 years of interaction between Europeans and Indigenous peoples in what is now Ontario by holding a commemorative public event in Penetanguishene, in partnership with the Office of Francophone Affairs and the Town of Penetanguishene.

Algonquin, Anishinaabe, Huron-Wendat, and Métis representatives (pictured) participated in the all-day intercommunity experience, which featured an official ceremony, plaque unveiling, youth educational programming, and Indigenous cuisine. We **engaged historians and knowledge keepers from several First Nations in developing the plaque's commemorative text**, written in English, French, and the languages of the Mohawk, Wendat, Anishinaabe and Montagnais-Innu people.

In February, in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, we awarded the Métis Nation of Ontario with the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Community Leadership.

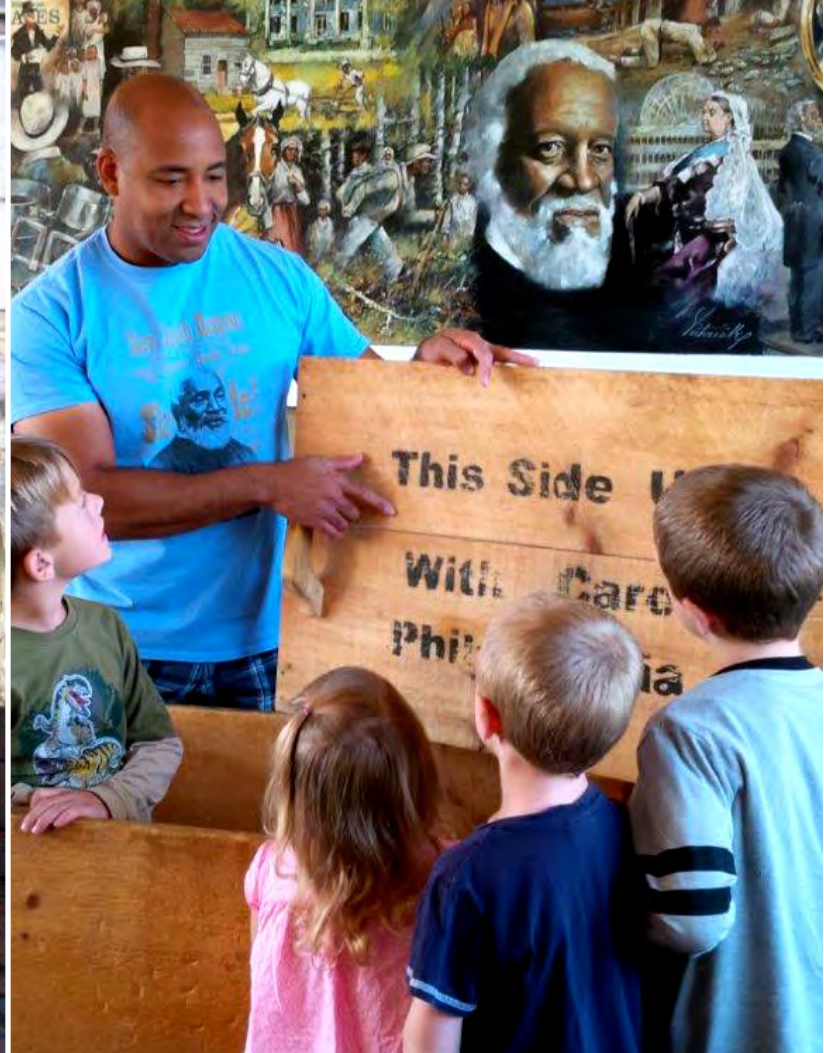
Throughout 2016 we undertook outreach work to a number of leaders and knowledge keepers, including within the Anishinaabe, Cree, Huron-Wendat, and Métis communities, **recording aspects of Indigenous intangible cultural heritage for current and future generations** and publishing highlights of this work online and in Heritage Matters magazine.



Dancers from Sandokwa address the crowd while Chief Jean Sioui of the Huron-Wendat Nation (back row, far left), Councillor Sherrylyn Sarasin of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation (back row, left), and former OHT Vice-Chair, now Chair, Harvey McCue (back row, far right) look on. Photo: CNW/ Stephan Potopnyk



Grand Chief Konrad Sioui of the Huron-Wendat Nation shares the history of his people during a video-recorded interview with Trust CEO, Beth Hanna.





**Your support
makes a difference.**

Thank You

Merci

Miigwetch

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