

Mundy's Bay Public School

When it was decided to replace two elementary schools in Midland with one structure, Ted Handy and Associates Inc. Architects configured the new building to take maximum advantage of the site and orientation, and incorporated a variety of energy saving and sustainable features. Many of the architectural components and expressions of the two older schools were recycled and/or recreated in the modern new structure. All sustainable features are expressed in the character, the form, and the finishes throughout the building to such an extent that a LEEDS Gold certification was achieved. (The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or LEED is a Green Building Rating System).

Site Development

The site was an existing school bound by a busy commercial road to the south, two residential streets on the east and west, and single family residential property to the north. The playfield was in place and in reasonable condition (irrigation is being considered for the future). A number of mature trees on the property were preserved. The maple trees that could not be saved were harvested, milled, and became the wood flooring and wainscoting in the General Purpose Room of the new school. The arch surrounding the main entrance to

the original (Parkview) school building was carefully removed and is to be reconstructed as a gateway sculpture to the main entrance.

Building

The new building is a two storey, masonry structure stepped in response to the natural grade of the land. The exterior finish is primarily brick with precast highlights and glazing to blend in with the traditional neighbourhood and replicate some feeling and form of the original schools.

The windows are detailed to express a heritage flavour in some instances and a more contemporary glazed wall in others. A mural painted on a brick wall of the older school by noted Midland artist Fred Lenz, was digitally captured and replicated on the glazed walls over the entrance of the new structure.

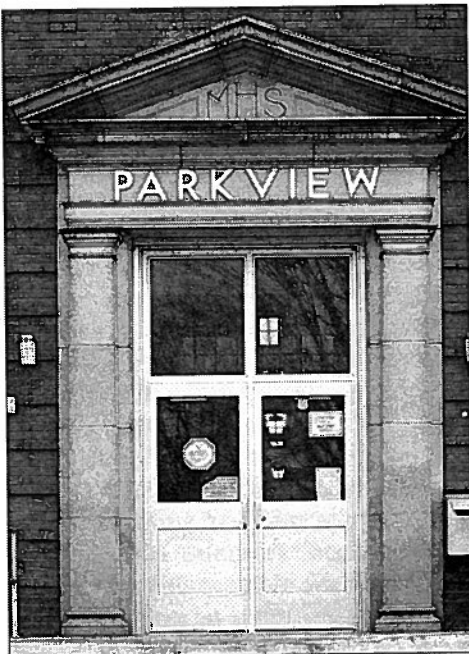
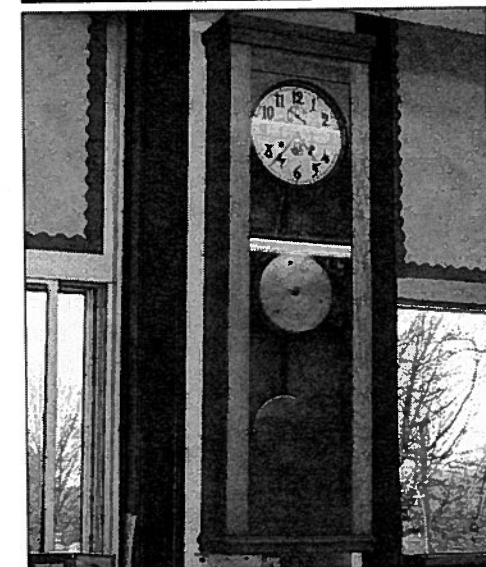
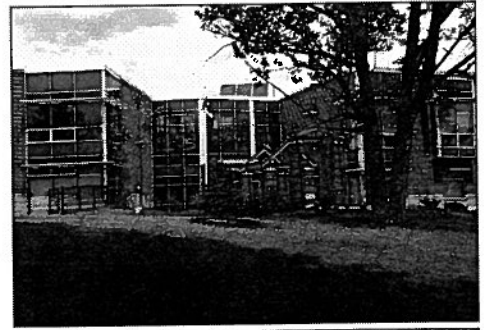
The Multi-Purpose room is a "historical" room with hardwood flooring, wood wainscoting, fireplace mantels, and displays to replicate the feeling of the original schools.

Bricks from the original buildings were preserved and used to "warm" the interior streets. An original triple arch form was replicated. Bookcases, millwork, and entrances from the two schools were used to create special areas of interest. The original stairs were re-configured as an attractive and convenient focal point to the lobby.

The classroom entrances have glazed sidelights and transoms. Doors from the original schools were preserved and refinished to provide warmth and character to the classrooms and all public areas on the main floor.

The public message posted on the Mundy's Bay Public School's website states:

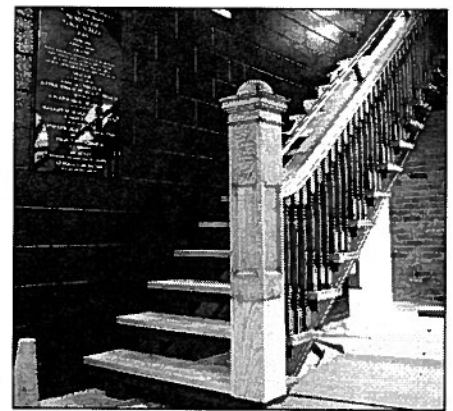
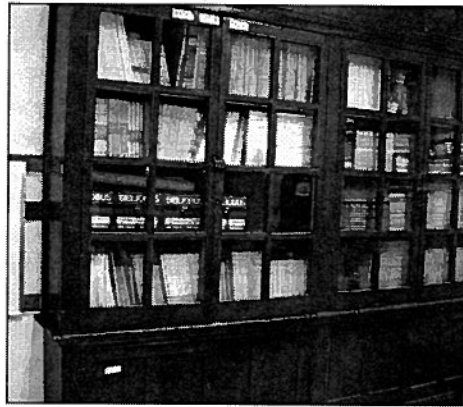
We are very excited to be into our new facility which incorporates not only environmental systems, but also many pieces of the old Parkview and Regent school buildings. The wood from the trees off our property has been milled and used in the school, as has some of the brick. Incorporating all of these special features allows us to apply for Leeds Environmental designation. We will soon have a computer set up in the front hall so that students, families, and school



community members can view all the special features of our building.

Apart from any argument of whether the two original schools could or should have been retained, the sense of pride in the design of this new, yet old, school building is evident.

Photographs and information for this article were provided, in part, by Ted Handy and Associates Inc. Architects, of Barrie, Ontario.



National Places of Faith Roundtable

Ontario Heritage Trust in collaboration with the Heritage Canada Foundation hosted a National Places of Faith Roundtable on September 24, 2009, in Toronto. A record of the proceedings available from HCF includes the following Executive Summary, which concludes there is a need for:

Strategies and Case Studies

- Examples and success stories to be shared amongst the heritage, faith, and planning communities in order to foster creative thinking about reuse
- Dissemination of information on the management of properties and how a local community can take over a church or parish
- Ethical standards to increase the knowledge of adaptive-reuse appropriateness
- Integration of "green" or eco-friendly perspectives for future strategies

Education and Training

- University teaching and training programs on the management and evaluation of heritage properties
- The importance of the Ontario Places of Worship online inventory for research, strategic planning, and reference
- Lack of an electronic manual or workbook on religious properties (specifically related to adaptive reuse strategies)

- Need for a book publication to report the current status of the situation

Community Responsibilities

- Greater understanding of the building for the broader community
- Continued stewardship of heritage places in order to ensure their survival and growth and the importance of future planning for significant religious buildings
- Lack of human resources, manpower, and community involvement
- Owners have to acknowledge the need for some closures, but proceed carefully with the input from stakeholders

Barriers to Address

- Church adaptations for residential use are challenging projects that are slow to materialize due to controlled laws and guidelines for development
- The religious heritage of a sacred building needs to be integrated within the overall planning process to ensure the successful longevity of the building
- No funds to support conservation and limited external funding is available
- Abandonment of historic central churches for newer and larger facilities located outside urban centres

Student Activities 2009

Paul R. King

Most CHO Board members have gray hair but we recognize that it is important to interest young people in heritage matters. We are pleased to learn that there will be a "youth" component to the 2010 joint CHO/ACO Heritage Conference being organized by an enthusiastic local committee in Chatham-Kent. The Youth Coordinator, Helen Button, is integrating a Youth Program into Saturday's schedule with sessions related to history and "new media." Helen is also organizing

an architectural photographic safari led by photographer Dan Reaume.

For a number of years, CHO has sponsored student activities through government funding at the federal and provincial levels. These initiatives are often done with the assistance of other organizations. This year, CHO sponsored Karthy Chin to work with the Heritage Resources Centre at the University of Waterloo. Karthy wrote the following enthusiastic explanation of her work at the Heritage Resources Centre:

Parks Canada launched the Historic Places Initiative (HPI) in 2000, a project by Parks Canada in collaboration with local, provincial, territorial, and the national government. One of the goals of HPI is to add recognized heritage places onto the Canadian Register of Historic Places, an online database established to educate Canadians from all walks of life, and to serve as a heritage planning tool for governments and groups alike. The Initiative is daunting, and in Ontario, the