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LUNENBURG ACADEMY FOUNDATION

LUNENBURG ACADEMY

# Lunenburg Academy



## Next Century Capital Campaign



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LUNENBURG ACADEMY FOUNDATION

# Conclusion



The preservation of historical infrastructure has the capacity to inspire a population, to preserve Canadian identity, and to help us share our rich history with future generations, not only from Lunenburg but also across Canada and around the world.

Lunenburgers are no strangers to the financial challenges to be met in order to ensure we preserve our built heritage, as witnessed by the remarkable effort undertaken to restore the St. John’s Anglican Church, following a devastating fire in 2001.

In addition to providing a place of learning, the Lunenburg Academy has been an important anchor that has helped to define and sustain our community throughout its history. Preserving this key element of our shared heritage is important not just to the collective memory, but to providing support to the creative economy that benefits the Town of Lunenburg and surrounding areas.

Campaign Goal \$1.5 Million

Making the Academy a home for arts, culture and innovation in Lunenburg will require support from all corners, not just our town. We hope that you will join us in completing the rejuvenation of the Lunenburg Academy and helping it flourish for decades to come.



*Please consider contributing to  
The Next Century of The Lunenburg Academy.*



# The Next Century Capital Campaign

Since 1981, Lunenburg Academy alumni have contributed a significant amount of money toward the building’s preservation and maintenance. Reunion 1995, which celebrated 100 years of learning, was responsible for bringing back fond memories of schooldays and friendships forged in the hallways and on the playground.

To stand proud as a symbol of history in Lunenburg, with a renewed community centric purpose, the Foundation aims to raise \$1.5 million to create the Heritage Interpretive Classroom and to make financial contributions to Phase II of the Exterior Restoration and the Lot Development Plan.



Desks and artifacts await their incorporation into the Heritage Interpretive Classroom design.

# A National Treasure

Lunenburg’s most prized architectural masterpiece, the iconic Lunenburg Academy, sits high atop Gallows Hill visible from most viewpoints when approaching the Town. The citizens of Lunenburg colloquially refer to it as ‘the Castle on the Hill’. This ornate Second Empire style Academy building is a registered Municipal and Provincial Heritage Property, and as of 1983 a National Historic Site.

The historic town of Lunenburg was designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in 1995. This designation demonstrates the international significance of much of Lunenburg’s unique architecture and civic design, being the best example of a planned British colonial settlement in Canada.

Our UNESCO World Heritage Site designation is an international asset and calling card. The Town of Lunenburg has the distinction of being one of the most visited tourist destinations in the province. Over 400,000 visitors from all over the world descend on Lunenburg annually to take in its charms. The first stop for many is the Lunenburg Academy, perhaps the most photographed building in Nova Scotia.

Built at a cost of \$35,000 between 1893 and 1895, the Lunenburg Academy is a three-storey wooden Victorian building in the eclectic tradition, boldly painted in red, black and white and adorned with four towers, one of which houses the old school bell weighing 600 pounds. The building replaced the first Academy situated on the town quadrangle after it burned to the ground November 1, 1893. The Academy continuously functioned as a public school from 1895 until 2012 when it closed concurrent with the opening of the new Bluenose Academy.

Designed by well-known New Brunswick architect H.H. Mott the Academy is a monument to the historical development of Nova Scotia’s educational system. It provides an architectural example of the evolution of education in nineteenth century Nova Scotia from one-room schoolhouses to the Academy system. The Academy is one of very few large-scale wooden buildings in all of Canada that survive from the nineteenth century.

The exterior remains intact and most interior features remain including wainscoting, stairways and banisters, detailed hinges and doorknobs, and the layout of classrooms and cloakrooms.

The Lunenburg Academy Foundation, since its inception in 1981, has dedicated itself to the care, preservation and restoration of the building. Comprised of former staff and alumni, community members and otherwise interested citizens, the Foundation works closely with the Town of Lunenburg to respect the past and ensure the future of the Lunenburg Academy.

It is human nature to take for granted that which occupies our everyday experience. The importance of the long-term restoration and preservation of the Lunenburg Academy Heritage Site to Canada, is beyond measure.



*Please join us for a once in a lifetime opportunity to gift our National Historic treasure to future generations.*



# Be Part of a Global Effort

Architectural preservation and restoration play an important cultural role in our society. Heritage buildings teach us about history prior to our own time and promote respect for those who came before.

Architectural wonders are great attractions for tourists. Everyone likes to experience the “spirit” of a place, and the Academy represents extraordinary architecture. Today tourism plays a major role in the economy of Lunenburg and is a growing provincial industry.

In our world today, restoration and preservation go hand in hand in creating environmentally friendly buildings. New green buildings and energy-efficient buildings are important, but restoring heritage structures is as “green” as it can get. It is the ultimate form of recycling, helping to reduce construction waste and save the energy that is spent on manufacturing and transporting building materials and tools.

## Lunenburg Academy Today

As the only intact 19th century Academy building surviving in Nova Scotia the heritage value of the Lunenburg Academy lies in its architectural and historic significance as a local, Provincial and National landmark.

Since 2012, repurposing the Academy from a school into a Community Cultural Centre with an eclectic tenant pool has been key to proving the Lunenburg Academy’s current vitality, while we continue to pursue funds to restore and preserve it.

Over the last four years, investments of over \$4 million have been made to render the building more accessible and user friendly to tenants, restore the exterior and rebirth of the library.

These investments, shared by various combinations of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Parks Canada, the Province of Nova Scotia, Town of Lunenburg, and the Lunenburg Academy Foundation include:

**2015 Tenant Readiness Renovations**

\$1.5 million

**2017-2018 Exterior Restoration Phase I**

\$2.3 million

**2017-2018 Library Construction**

\$500,000

# Moving Forward



The Lunenburg Academy boasts 120 years of rich history where generations of students gained valuable education that supported their future dreams. It is an exceptional place where the hearts and minds of thousands of children have been shaped for over a century. It moves forward with renewed purpose, playing a vital role as an active, sustainable Community Cultural Centre.

At the heart of all of the planning and execution, has been the aim of making the Academy self-sustaining on an operational basis. To that end, at 85% occupancy, income derived from leases is fast approaching a break-even point with expenses.



Full occupancy of the building, expected by the fall of 2020, will close the gap.



SECOND FLOOR CREATIVE ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Designating the second floor of the Academy as a Creative Enterprise Centre within this Community Cultural Centre has proven highly successful.

Second Floor tenants include Class Afloat West Island College, John Hendra Consulting, the Lunenburg Academy Foundation, Lunenburg Travel/ Lunenburg Walking Tours, Nevermore Press, South Shore Genealogical Society (SSGS), and South Shore Regional Centre for Education Pre Primary Program.



THE THIRD FLOOR LUNENBURG ACADEMY OF MUSIC PERFORMANCE

The Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance (LAMP) is an anchor tenant occupying the entire third floor. Pursuing their goal of “Creating the next generation of outstanding performing artists within the walls of a Canadian architectural treasure,” LAMP provides talented graduate musicians from around the world with the opportunity to train and work with Canadian and international performing artists. The wider community has the remarkable benefit of witnessing this process and experiencing these talented musicians in the Assembly Hall space. Having LAMP continue to offer a variety of programs, as well as playing host to a stellar array of renowned international performers, will preserve the role of the Academy as an outstanding centre of learning well into the future.



Joint preschool reading programs with the library where LAMP musicians help animate the book with music.  
Photo credit LAMP.

Securing the Future

Much work has been accomplished in our efforts to not only save the Lunenburg Academy but to once again make it a vital part of the community.

A final phase of investment is now required to complete the Academy’s exterior restoration to a pristine condition and our extraordinary architectural gem.

Plans are well underway to complete the transformative repurposing of the Academy over the next two years at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million, as follows:

2019-2020 Lunenburg Academy Heritage Interpretive Classroom  
\$350,000

2019-2020 Exterior Restoration Phase II  
\$1 million

2020-2021 Lot Development Plan  
\$1 million

LUNENBURG ACADEMY LOT DEVELOPMENT PLAN





# The Work Ahead

The Foundation remains deeply committed to the creation of a Heritage Interpretive Classroom in room 106 of the Academy. Preliminary work and amalgamation of furniture and artifacts, including the construction of three new display cases by Academy alum and former Foundation Board Member David Afford, were undertaken as early as 2015.

The vision for the future design and installation of a world-class interpretive centre, serving the aspiration of the Board to provide a meaningful experience to alumni and past staff, to the general population of Lunenburg, and to the visiting public, has guided the work undertaken up till the present. Fathom Studio Inc. has begun the full-scale design process which will be completed by December 2019, and potential for completion of construction in time for a summer 2020 opening.

Concurrent with the Foundation’s pursuits regarding the classroom, the Town has been leading two Capital projects that will complete the remarkable transformation. These projects are the Exterior Restoration Phase II to complete the east façade, and the implementation of the Lot Development plan. Both of these projects are very far along in their development.



Heritage Classroom conceptual design.



Heritage Classroom conceptual design.



Heritage Classroom conceptual design.

# A Vision for the Future

In order to complete the full scale repurposing of the building, the Lunenburg Academy Foundation and the Town of Lunenburg are pursuing a Future Use Business Plan adopted in April of 2015. The recently completed follow up document, the Future Use Business Plan 2.0 makes it current and updates the financial projections. The vision for the Lunenburg Academy has been ambitious and its full realization is within reach.

## A VERY PUBLIC FIRST FLOOR

A winning concept for the first floor of the Academy included the relocation of the Lunenburg Library to three classrooms plus common areas. Conceptual considerations for the design of the library included furnishings and fittings aimed to juxtapose a contemporary, working library space within the heritage characteristics of classroom design and public space from the 1890s. With the generous support of an anonymous donor, the William J. Roué Study celebrates Lunenburg’s most famous naval architect.

On July 28, 2018, a beautiful summer day, a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony took place with representatives from all levels of government funding partners, Mayor Rachel Bailey, and John Harker, President of the Lunenburg Academy Foundation. An immediate hit, the library captured the imaginations of the citizens of Lunenburg, has become exactly the kind of a community meeting place envisioned, and has brought the public into the building.

Development of the remaining three classrooms is the final piece of the overall repurposing plan. Fathom Studio Inc. has been awarded the contract to design the Heritage Interpretive Classroom to be located in room 106. Further development of rooms 101 as a potential café, and 105 as the new location (within the building) of current tenant, is underway.



Minister Leo Glavine, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Mayor Rachel Bailey, MP Bernadette Jordan, and MLA Suzanne Lohnes-Croft cut the ribbon to open the Lunenburg Library at the Academy.