

**WHY SHOULD I SUPPORT THE SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH RESTORATION SOCIETY?  
IS SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH WORTH SAVING?  
TWO GOOD QUESTIONS...MANY GOOD ANSWERS.**

Saint Patrick's Church, Church Hall and Rectory were built between 1883 and 1885 mainly by volunteer Irish Immigrant laborers under the supervision of Henry Peters. The Church is an architectural jewel and a municipal and provincial registered heritage site.

Henry Peters left in his will as a gift to the parishioners of Saint Patrick's Church, sufficient funds to pay off the mortgage of the Rectory. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a tunnel was built physically connecting the Rectory to the Church Hall.

Saint Patrick's Church was, still is and will continue to be a place of beauty, peace and healing...a sacred space.

Saint Patrick's Church has some of the finest acoustics of any building in Nova Scotia. It is a natural concert hall. In 2008, the Restoration Society purchased, at a reduced price, a new Yamaha Grand Piano. Since that time, many people have enjoyed concerts at Saint Patrick's.

Saint Patrick's Church is the home of one of the few remain Casavant organs in Canada that contain the original internal mechanisms.

Saint Patrick's Church survived the Halifax Explosion of 1917 and the exquisite stained glass windows, which suffered extensive damage, were replaced in 1922 by their original stained glass artisans, the Mayer Company of Germany.

In 2007, the Archdiocese of Halifax announced the closure of Saint Patrick's Church. It was said to be sold, demolished and condos slated to be built on its site. A group of dedicated volunteers joined together to form the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society and signed a lease with the Archdiocese. That allowed Saint Patrick's Church to remain open and since that time, the Restoration Society has paid significant ongoing operational costs of the Church and begun the Restoration process.

In 2006 and again in 2008, an extensive architectural and engineering studies were conducted. Saint Patrick's Church, Church Hall and Rectory were proved to be structurally sound but immediate work needs to done on the bell tower and the area both inside and outside above the high altar.

Saint Patrick's Church has a vibrant, multicultural faith community which serves as welcoming home for newly arrived immigrants and refugees from around the world. Each month, on average, more than 1,200 people attend Sunday Mass. In 2007, this number was less than 400. The Parish receives the weekly collections and uses this money for its purposes.

Father Joe Mills, the pastor of Saint Patrick's Parish in the 1960's, founded Hope Cottage. The parishioners of Saint Patrick's Church have supported this outreach program since then. In 2011, more than 1500 meals were prepared, paid for and served at Hope Cottage by our parishioners.

Volunteers from the Saint Vincent de Paul Society work 5 days a week from their Saint Patrick's Church Rectory office, providing food vouchers, home visits and telephone support (more than 1,000 in 2011), and Christmas baskets and toys.

The Father George Leach SJ scholarship committee provides scholarships and bursaries to students who live or worship within our parish boundaries.

With some financial assistance from Saint Patrick's Parish, marimbas (an African musical instrument often found in Zimbabwe) were purchased for the Saint Patrick's Church Marimba band. Lessons are offered free of charge to the youth of the Parish.

The Saint Patrick's Church Refugee Committee works to receive refugees and their families and to support them when they arrive in Halifax.

Dedicated volunteers from Saint Patrick's Parish provide a ministry to Seniors living in Victoria Hall, Gordon B. Isnor Manor and Sunrise Manor.

The volunteers of the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society have worked non stop since 2007 to raise funds to pay for operating expenses, maintenance, repairs and have begun the Restoration of our beautiful Saint Patrick's Church. Our average monthly expenses are very substantial. This money is raised through donations and fundraising.

The Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society held the first Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Halifax in March 2008 since 1939. The parade has grown each year and is now an annual celebration in the old north end of Halifax.

In 2007, the back roof above the sacristy was replaced and substantial repairs have been made since then to the sacristy.

In 2009, the entire basement area was completely renovated and a new gas furnace was installed.

In 2011, the Hall was repaired, repainted and now is the home of the Restoration Society offices, the Saint Patrick's Church Hall of Honor, the Halifax Explosion Irish Interpretation Centre and our Irish gift Shop.

The Restoration Society has hosted an annual fundraising dinner and auction each year since 2007.

The Restoration Society has inducted 5 members into its Hall of Honor. This takes place each year at the Annual Dinner and recognizes an individual or group who has made a substantial contribution to the Saint Patrick's Parish and to the Irish community in Nova Scotia.

With your continued support, the Saint Patrick's Church Restoration Society will continue to grow and thrive. If you want any additional information on the work of the Society, please visit our website or call our office at 429-4170.