
The Journey Towards Equitable Education:

— A Museum's Role —

YRDSB Museum & Archives

Jan Emonson

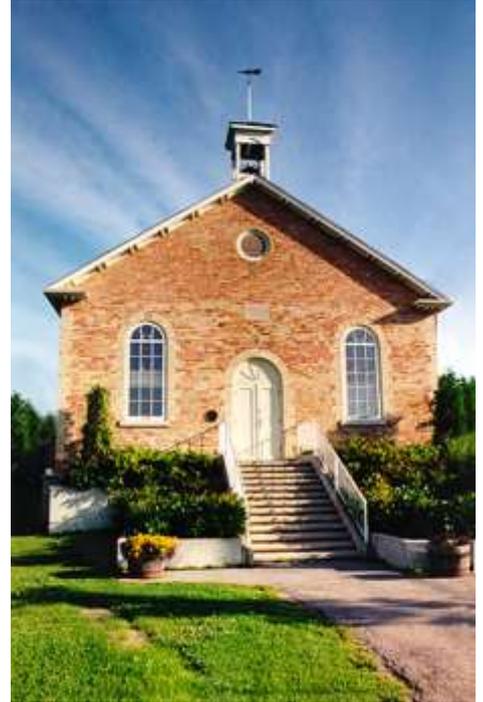
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What Is Equitable Education?

It is the recognition that there are multiple paths of learning and all are important.

It is one where different needs are recognized and opportunities are created such that all can access learning.



Accommodating Students From Different Cultures

Our in house program was created in the 1990's and based on a narrow understanding of the past.

Two major issues:

Increasing numbers of students coming to the program who had no connection to the experience of white settlers in Canada.

Our discomfort with the presentation of a history that excluded so many peoples.



Responding To The Cultural Landscape Of Our Audience

- How do we create an inclusive history program when it is delivered in a one-room schoolhouse and we don't have any alternative program space?



- How do we make the history relevant to our diverse audience many of whom are newcomers to Canada?
- How do we ensure that we are sensitive to cultural differences?
- How do we accommodate the different learning styles and needs of our audience?

Updating Our 20 Year Old In House Program



Considerations

1. Costuming/nametags
2. New curriculum SSHG (2013)
3. New time period
4. Dealing with questions that might be uncomfortable
5. Meticulous research/Authenticity
6. Consultation with specialists (FNMI, ISCS, curriculum consultants)

How Can The Students Explore How It Relates To Them Personally?

Adapt the message to the age of the students

Artefact analysis as a way of introducing critical thinking



WWI Arts Inquiry Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxHHupAyfWM&feature=youtu.be>

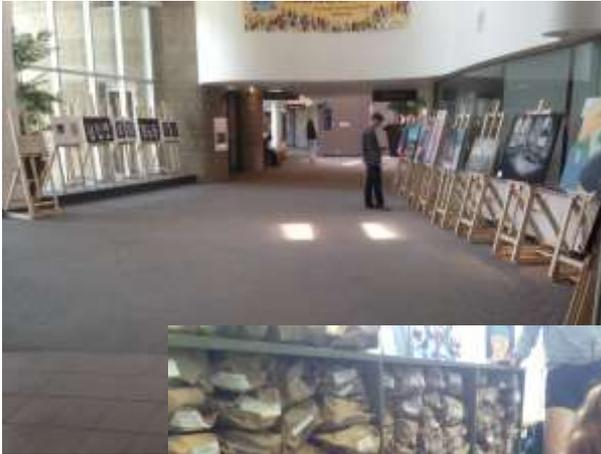
Working With Community Partners

Georgina Military Museum - worked with students at John McCrae PS. They brought artefacts to the students for hands on inquiry based learning about WWI

An Artist in Residence also worked with John McCrae students during their inquiry.



WWI Arts Inquiry - Student Work



Other Areas Of Our Practice

Working with teachers - WWI, Heritage Fairs

Dealing with textbooks - racism

Exhibits how do we do a display about mental health

