

Beyond Classrooms

- Kingston



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Table Of Contents

1

2022 At A Glance

2

A Message From Our Board Chair

3

A Message From Our Program Coordinator

4

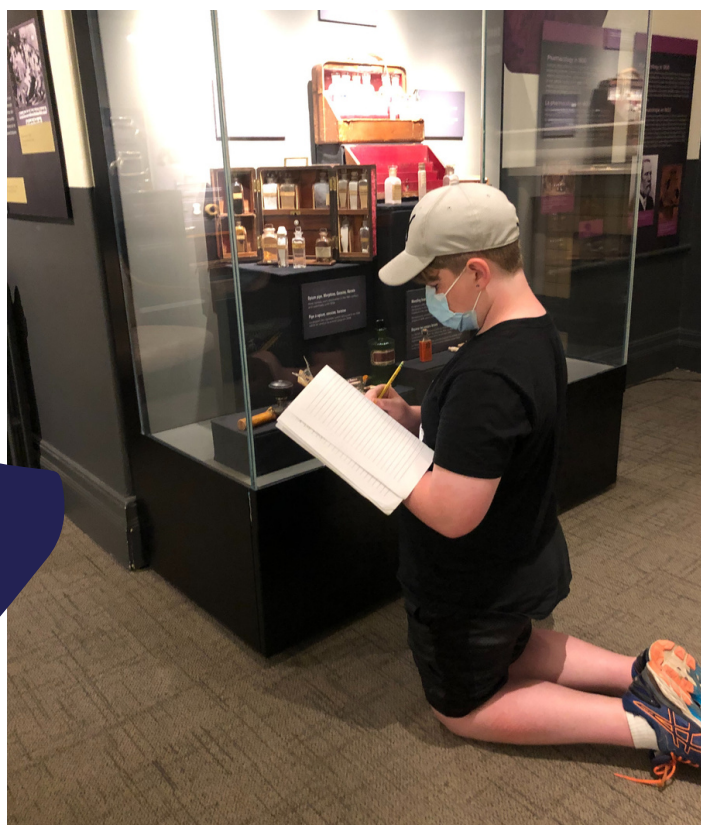
Grants Committee Report

5

BCK Communications

6

Looking Forward & Thank You



2022 AT A GLANCE



8 SITES VISITED



180 STUDENTS



6 TEACHERS



OUR PARTNER SITES

Frontenac County Schools Museum

Museum of Health Care

Miller Museum of Geology

Pumphouse Museum

Military Communications and
Electronics Museum



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



This past year BCK successfully progressed from only virtual programming options to expand its outreach to include a flexible hybrid virtual/on-site model, while embracing new school and site partnerships.

These successes were driven by the incredible efforts and teamwork between BCK staff, volunteers, and community partners. I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation, admiration, recognition and thank you to all members of the BCK team.

Thank you, Karla, for your dedication and expertise, which you gave whole-heartedly to BCK over many years. We wish you well in your new journey. Thank you, David, for your incredible ability to simultaneously see the big picture and attend to detail to the benefit of BCK's programming growth and enrichment. Thank you, Robin, for always calmly addressing BCK's organizational needs in a timely manner. And finally, thank you, Sarah, for jumping right into your BCK communications role with such enthusiasm and efficiency.

BCK's origins began with a corps of visionary, hard-working volunteers, and today the volunteer team is as determined and as strong as ever. Thank you, to each of you, for your flexibility, ideas, enthusiasm, and work ethic. Beyond Classrooms Kingston, the BCK Board and all BCK committees are richer for your commitment.

And finally, but by no means lastly, thank you to all BCK community partners. Without you, there would be no BCK.

BCK's achievements this past year have been significant and impressive. In addition to navigating the constantly changing COVID challenges to produce and implement effective programming, BCK also committed time to customize the 5-year Strategic Plan to end in 2026. All Board and Committee workplans are up to date and being followed.

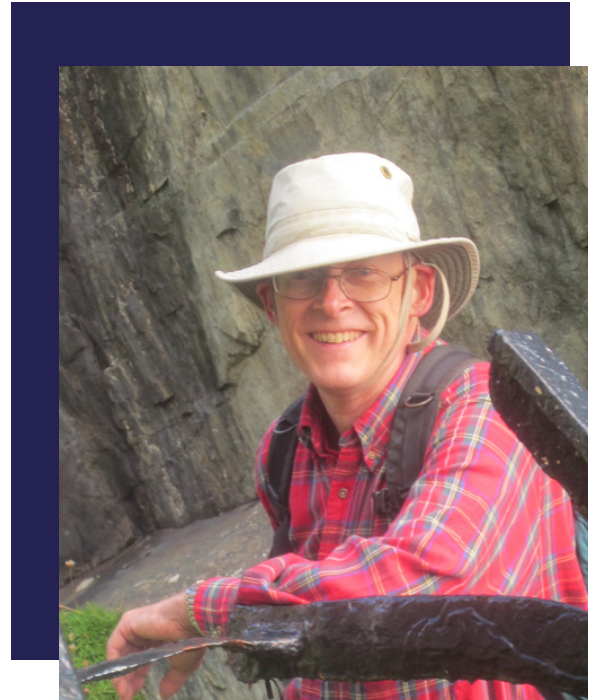
And lastly, BCK moved into its new space! A house-warming party will need to be an agenda item in the near future! The most significant achievement this year, however, has been that cohorts of students were given a setting and an opportunity to express themselves and be heard. As Antoine de Saint-Exupery stated in *The Little Prince* "Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them." The BCK team not only listens to the children, but listens sincerely, patiently, and always.

**Respectfully submitted by
Lynn Brown- Board Chair**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The impact of the BCK program, even with the restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, may be highlighted by a story:

In the spring of 2022, as we resumed onsite programming with our cultural heritage site partners, albeit only for single days, a grade 4/5 class from Sydenham Public School attended the Museum of Health Care . A week later, we arranged for Dionne Nolan, Indigenous Navigator at the Cancer Care Centre to come into their classroom as a guest speaker. Dionne began by quietly setting out her sacred medicines and ritual objects. She offered a prayer and brewed a large pot of fresh cedar tea, using water boiled in the staff room kettle. The fragrance of the tea permeated the room while Dionne sang songs of healing to the heartbeat of her hand drum. She shared teachings and stories about Cedar, Tobacco, Sage and Sweetgrass, and the practices of her people, that for generations have cared for each other, Mother Earth and all our relations. She passed these medicines and the sacred objects around to all the students, who handled them with great interest and respect. As the teachings drew to a close, she invited the students to serve each other samples of the freshly brewed cedar tea. When she thanked us all for the opportunity to share with us and bid her farewells, many students called out, “Don’t go! We want you to stay.”



Guided by the wisdom of the Board and the Programming Committee, BCK continues to expand its own creation and dissemination of resources designed to complement our onsite experiences, and to make deep inquiry-based learning more accessible to underserved populations. Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Kingston and Area (CFKA), we have been able to extend our outreach to more rural and remote schools by subsidizing their higher transportation costs. CFKA has also funded the creation of our Museum Inquiry Kits, whose development has been greatly assisted by several Queen’s University history majors through their community internship program. We have engaged a professional to translate one of these kits into French in order to address the many requests for materials we receive from Francophone educators. These kits, which will be loaned to schools in order to introduce the rich learning experiences available through our cultural heritage site partners, provide fully developed lesson plans, curriculum-based activities, and video presentations by community knowledge keepers and content experts.

BCK’s influential programs are made possible because of our valued partnerships with a diverse and valued community of funders, like the City of Kingston Heritage Fund, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the CFKA, but also from corporate sponsorships and individual donors, as well as a growing family of dedicated volunteers. One of these volunteers deserves special mention here—Karla Tynski, who has recently stepped down as Program Coordinator after many years of faithful and creative service. Karla embodies an unparalleled spirit of generosity, hard work and devotion to the work of BCK, and we are honoured and blessed that she is continuing her commendable service as a valued member of our volunteer family.

**Respectfully submitted,
David Melhorn-Boe , Program Coordinator**

Grants Committee Report

Since our last AGM in October 2021, the Grants Committee has submitted four grant applications and one outreach for new funding. A successful grant application was submitted to the Ontario Trillium Foundation in December 2021 for \$40,200. This grant focused on recovering from the impact of Covid-19 and supported our Strategic Plan “by equipping employees with support to strengthen our communications links and develop new approaches to meet the needs of program participants”. Two grant applications were submitted to support the development of the Museum Kits. Last November, an application to the Davies Charitable Foundation for just over \$7,200 to support this initiative was unsuccessful. However, the Museum Kits development was supported by the successful Spring application to the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area (CFKA) for \$15,150.



Our most recent application to the CFKA, this October for \$16,000, if successful, would provide support for our operating on-going programming. An outreach proposal was also made to the Smith Homestead Foundation in April, but we have had no response to date. In addition to the grants cited, the Committee reviewed and supported our annual application to the City of Kingston Heritage Fund prepared by staff. Our thanks to Karla Tynski, David Melhorn-Boe and Robin Hendry for their critical contributions to the grant writing and committee discussions.

Submitted by
Carynne Arnold

Committee Members
Debbie Nesbitt-Munroe Chair Patrick Large

BCK Communiactions

Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Beyond Classrooms Kingston (BCK) increased staffing capabilities in 2022 by hiring a Communications Assistant.

This year, BCK also re-introduced a Communications Committee. Members of this committee have been hard at work planning and developing innovative communications strategies and developing a plan for moving forward.

BCK has a lot of exciting things planned for communications in the coming year. Work is well underway to develop an enhanced digital media presence. Over the next year, we will work to increase our presence by updating our website, creating a social media strategy, building relationships with community stakeholders, and so much more.



WEBSITE STATS

1.4 K

WEBSITE USERS

3 K

PAGEVIEWS

1.7 K

SESSIONS

Looking Forward

BCK sessions are already in full swing for the Fall of 2022! During the fall sessions, we are working with eight community sites to deliver BCK programming for students in grades 3-8.

BCK has many new initiatives planned for the upcoming year. We are so excited to be officially launching our museum kits, which will include videos translated into french.



Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors & community partners. We couldn't do this without you!

