

# 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS:

14 WEEKS

14 TEACHERS

10 LDSB

3 ALCDSB

335 STUDENTS

133 VOLUNTEERS

54 OBSERVERS

78 GUEST SPEAKERS

## 7 SITES

- AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE
- KINGSTON CITY HALL
- MILLER MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY
- MUSEUM OF HEALTH CARE
- FRONTENAC COUNTY SCHOOLS MUSEUM
- MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS MUSEUM
- BELLEVUE HOUSE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- WHIG STANDARD
- CKWS
- KINGSTON HERITAGE
- K-TOWN SOURCE
- KINGSTON HERALD
- STATION 14

# Beyond Classrooms

- Kingston

## A message from our Board Chair

For the second year in a row, our Annual General Meeting has a celebratory feel. Beyond Classrooms Kingston continued its meteoric rise in 2016-17: we've grown from four to fourteen programming weeks in three years, which explains why we may be feeling equally overwhelmed and celebratory!

Thanks primarily to an Ontario Trillium Fund Grow Grant, Program Coordinator Karla Tynski became our first employee. The addition of Karla to our team in February 2016 really started the ball rolling. We added three new host sites – Bellevue House, Frontenac County Schools Museum, and the Military Communications Museum, and added ten new teachers to our expanding list of alumni. In all, a staggering 627 children and adults were engaged in Beyond Classrooms programming last year alone – most at host sites they'd never visited before.

Again thanks to Trillium, we were able to conduct a formal, arms-length program review led by Queen's Faculty of Education – Classroom Assessment group; they will be sharing their results with us this evening. I think you'll be as delighted with their results as we are.

We've faced a few challenges also, not the least of which is keeping the momentum going, post Grow Grant. Program demand - both from teachers and host sites - is now outstripping our ability to keep up. Maintaining current program fee levels is critical for our teachers, who assume fundraising duties in addition to the expanded work load a Beyond Classrooms week entails. And, in a world of shrinking resources for the cultural heritage sector, our host sites are facing increasing pressure to monetize their participation.

I'd like to acknowledge the City of Kingston for its ongoing support through the City's Heritage Fund, and through their support of Local Government Week programming. The Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites helps us in ways too numerous to mention, and the Retired Teachers of Ontario – Eastern Ontario group purchased a video projector for us. Community sponsors Peter's Drugs, Tackaberry Heating & Cooling, Camera Kingston, James Reid Furniture, and The Works-Kingston, all provide critical support, and are community minded businesses Kingston can be proud of. Speaking of pride, a quick read of the over 100 student quotes curated by Karla from this year's programming, however, proves that Beyond Classrooms Kingston is making a difference in the way our children see their world – powerful motivation for us all.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Blake, Board Chair



## A message from our Coordinator

Thanks to the Trillium Foundation funding, we had the unique opportunity to examine the potential growth and impact of the BCK program in 2016-17. Full-time support allowed us to add five programming weeks, resulting in a 51% increase in participation from students and educators. We also added three new community heritage sites, providing further opportunities for students and teachers. Thank you to the dedicated staff and volunteers at our seven host sites for helping to create engaging learning experiences for students.

With the support of our Board and Committees, we were able to develop our volunteer policies and expand our educational partnerships with Queen's University and St. Lawrence College to host placement students to assist in programming. Between BCK's own volunteers and strong parent support, over 100 volunteers contributed over a 1000 hours to support cultural enrichment in Kingston last year.

Special thanks to the team at Queen's AEG group for their expertise and dedication in helping us complete a yearlong evaluation to examine the impact of our program on teachers, students, and host site facilitators. This evaluation will give us a better sense of what the program is doing well and where it can improve in coming years.

Finally, I want to extend my appreciation to our Board and Committee members for dedicating their time to enhancing the BCK program. Ann Blake, I am forever grateful for all that you have done to support BCK and champion heritage in our community. I also want to thank Caroline Petznick, Debbie Holdich, and KAM for promoting BCK and Kingston's museums and galleries.

When I think back to the ways in which students built deeper community connections last year – whether by sharing Kingston's stories online with children across Canada, constructing monuments to Canadian soldiers to exhibit at the Military C&E Museum, hosting their own art open-house at the Agnes, or feeling empowered to create a petition to present to Council after a lively debate at City Hall – I feel proud to work for an organization that inspires students to take ownership in Kingston's heritage and culture.

Respectfully submitted, Karla Tynski



**“ This artifact makes me feel proud to be free in Canada... This artifact has made me more interested in every soldier's past and story.”**  
\_ Grade 6 student



## Sponsors, Funders & Grants

Ontario Trillium Foundation  
City of Kingston Heritage Fund  
Kingston Association of Museums, Galleries, and Historic Sites  
Retired Teachers Organization

The Works  
Peters Drugs  
Camera Kingston  
Tackaberry Heating



**“The deeper you look into this painting, the more secrets you unlock.” - Grade 4 student**

## Our Classrooms

Site	Teacher	School	Inquiry
Agnes Etherington Art Centre	Laura Lamarche	Winston Churchill PS, Gr. 7/8	What can we learn by looking at the narratives of communities in Canada and around the world?
	Sarah McCourt	Sydenham PS, Gr. 3-4	What can art teach us about identity, time, and place?
Kingston City Hall	Skot Caldwell	Centennial PS, Gr. 5	What is the role of local government in our lives?
	Simon Pottery	Molly Brant ES, Gr.5	How does local government affect us in our everyday lives?
	Jennifer Banham	Ecole Sir John A Mac-Donald, Gr.6	How has the role of City Hall changed or evolved through the years?
Miller Museum of Geology	Harley Gallagher	Molly Brant ES, Gr. 5	How are rocks formed & how do rocks form who we are?
	Amber Halls	Mulberry Waldorf School, Gr.5-6	How have different cultures related to rocks & minerals throughout time?
Museum of Health Care	Christine Kirk	Welborne Ave PS, Gr. 4	How has scientific innovation had a major impact on the health of people over time?
	Angela Douglas	Our Lady of Lourdes CS, Gr. 4-5	How have health practices changed or stayed the same through the years?
Military C&E Museum	Tricia Ryan	St Martha CS, Gr.6	What impact has the military had on Canada and the Kingston community?
Bellevue House	Mark Kyte	Ecole Catholique Cathedrale, Gr 7-8	How do the events & people of the past shape who we are today?
Frontenac County Schools Museum	Lana MacDonald	R.G Sinclair PS, Gr.4	How has our region been influenced by the environment?
	Lisa Phippen	Truedell PS, Gr.5	How do primary sources tell a story?
	Jennifer Connell	Molly Brant, Gr.3-4	What can we learn about colonial Canada, in the Kingston area, by studying objects & artefacts?

**“...I am grateful for this experience, this has changed me...”**  
**- Grade 7 Student**

## Audience

### Journal Writing:

5230 journal entries and sketches

**Website:** [www.beyondclassrooms.ca](http://www.beyondclassrooms.ca)

Visits: 8,908

Pages viewed: 32,223

Hits: 80,382

**Twitter:** @BCKYGK

Tweets: 439

Impressions: 183,541

Profile Visits: 8274

Followers: 469

Mentions: 250

**Facebook:**

People following: 150

Post reach: 25,142



**“It was probably the best week of my 25 years of teaching.”**  
**- Teacher**



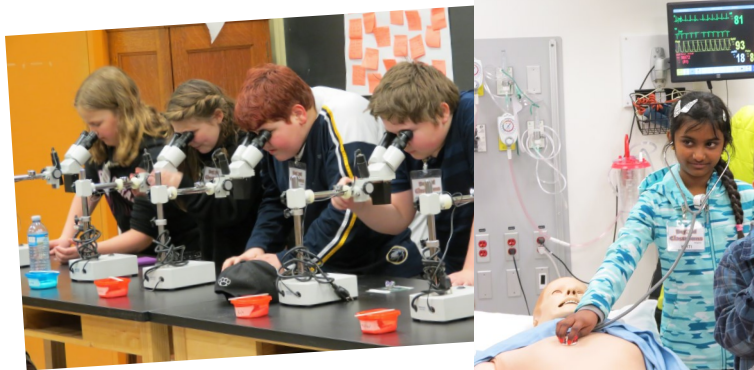
# Why Beyond Classrooms?

Beyond Classrooms is a year-long program that builds inquiry learning and journal writing into a classroom environment. During the program year, teachers are able to move their classroom into a community museum, art galleries or community site for an entire week. The site becomes an extension of the classroom where students to enhance their learning skills and knowledge of their community. Teachers integrate collaborative, inquiry-based learning while working alongside experts and the Beyond Classrooms Coordinator. Learning at a museum or gallery for a week takes away the field trip feeling and creates an environment where students slow down. They look closely and reflect through journal writing and they apply these new skills to their everyday learning.

## *Beyond Classrooms creates:*

- Active citizens
- Engaged thinkers
- Positive attitudes towards writing
- Students connected with the community

*Thank you to presenters, volunteers, and site staff who shared their time and expertise with us!*



REPORT BY ANN BLAKE AND  
KARLA TYNSKI, SEPTEMBER 2017

## **Beyond Classrooms**

- Kingston

### Upcoming in 2017-18

Kingston City Hall - 2 classes

Agnes Etherington Art Centre - 2 classes

Frontenac County Schools Museum

Military Communications & Electronics  
Museum

Museum of Health Care

Miller Museum of Geology - 2 classes

Kingston School of Art

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority

Lennox & Addington County Museum

*Moving classrooms into community spaces*