

From: Norman Steele

Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 12:38 PM

To: PEC <pec@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of support for " The Fugitive Slave Chapel " relocation from 432 Grey St. to Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

To the Members of the PEC Committee,

As per subject line:

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you my unequivocal support for the relocation of " The Fugitive Slave Chapel " to Fanshawe Pioneer Village and it's restoration there.

For many years now I have been actively involved as a volunteer in the preservation and restoration of " The Fugitive Slave Chapel ".

As part of the volunteer committee I have come to the conclusion that the relocation of this very significant part of London's history and the Black community is to Fanshawe Pioneer Village, for the following reasons:

- 1] Restoration process and oversight.
- 2] Greater public awareness once opened.
- 3] Education.
- 4] Stewardship.
- 5] Maintenance.
- 6] Sustainability.

The Chapel will fit in very nicely with the other historical buildings at the Pioneer Village and will provide a better setting for the telling of the history of the Black settlement in London and Middlesex County.

It will also better lead into the much larger picture of the Black settlement in southwestern Ontario.

What connections it had with the U.S. Civil War and those escaping slavery up to that time through the Underground Railroad and those involved like Harriet Tubman, Fredrick Douglas and the Quakers just to mention a few.

There are many more stories and lessons to be learned that are waiting to be told once " The Chapel " is moved, restored and opened at Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

Sincerely,

Norman G. Steele