

Howarth Schoolhouse Preservation Project

THE MISSION of the Orion Historical Society is to involve people to actively participate in the growth and vitality of the Orion community through preservation activities and education about Orion's legacy. We believe that a sense of continuity grounded in buildings and places that have a significant place in our communal history contributes to our sense of well-being and connection to our neighbors. Connection in turn gives rise to informed and well-rounded decision-making about the future.

The *Howarth Schoolhouse Preservation Project* is a long-term restoration project conceived by *Leslie Pielack* and the *Orion Historical Society*. It incorporates accepted standards of historic preservation in the research, archaeology, assessment, planning, repair, and restoration of the structure. The goal is to return the building to a useful purpose that is respectful of its origins while helping the surrounding community appreciate its unique and important role in Orion's history. Following restoration, the building will be used for educational programs. It is expected that at some future point, development will force it to be relocated to *Orion Township's Friendship Park*.

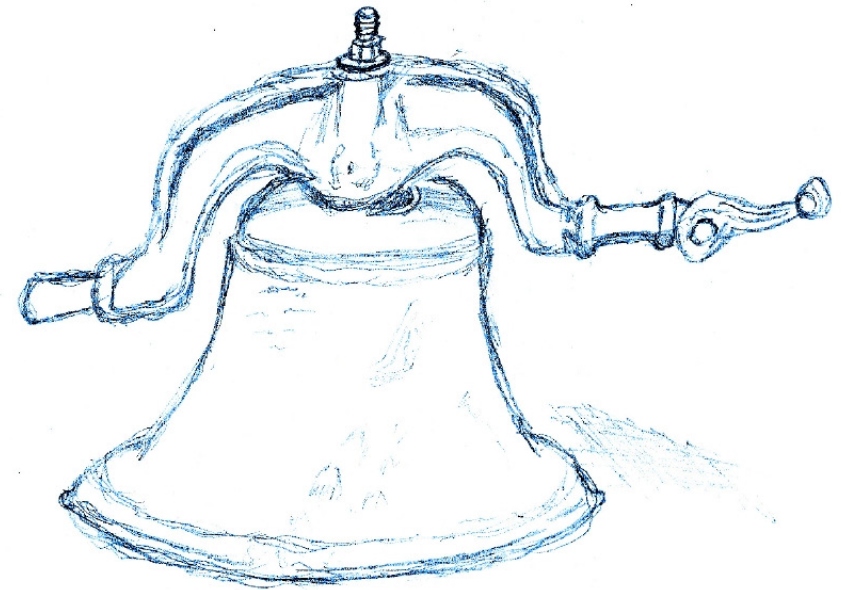
"School Bell" Cover Design by *Trent Bradley-Mitchell*, Upland Hills School

Restoration by *Steve Morris* of *Woodcrafters, Inc.* and *Todd Elder* of *Elder Building Company*. Other construction work donated by *Larry Mullins* of *Environmental Wood Solutions*.

About Save Our History--*Save Our History* is an Emmy® Award-winning strategic philanthropic initiative of The History Channel that launched in 1998, designed to further historic preservation and history education. The program supplements the teaching of history in America's classrooms, educates the public on the importance of historical preservation and motivates communities across the country to help save endangered local historic treasures. The *Save Our History* campaign includes original documentaries, special teachers' materials, national promotion on The History Channel, broadband activities in schools, and has worked with The Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National World War II Memorial, American Rivers and The White House 200th Anniversary.

Additional information about the grassroots *Save Our History* program, including a comprehensive school manual containing suggested lesson plans for grades two through 12 and details about working with local preservation organizations can also be found at www.saveourhistory.com.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL--The History Channel® is one of the leading cable television networks featuring compelling original, non-fiction specials and series that bring history to life in a powerful and entertaining manner across multiple platforms. The network provides an inviting place where people experience history in new and exciting ways enabling them to connect their lives today to the great lives and events of the past that provide a blueprint for the future. The History Channel has earned six News and Documentary Emmy® Awards and received the prestigious Governor's Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the network's *Save Our History*® campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. The History Channel reaches more than 89 million Nielsen subscribers. The website is located at www.History.com.



Trent Bradley-Mitchell



PROGRAM

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Upland Hills School
7th –8th Grade Students
DVD Presentation

“Howarth Schoolhouse Preservation Project”

As part of the *Save Our History*/History Channel grant, sixteen students from Upland Hills School and their teacher, **Ted Strunck**, participated in several aspects of the Howarth Schoolhouse Preservation Project.

7th-8th grade teams interviewed four former students who attended one-room schoolhouses in the Lake Orion area, including the Eaton and Howarth Schools. The schools closed in 1955 when they were consolidated into the Lake Orion Community School District.

Students also participated in the second phase archaeological investigation of the Howarth School site. They helped sift soil to uncover tiny (but very important) artifacts.

And, finally, students helped repair and restore the Howarth School bell tower. The tower was taken to the school site and students worked with their teacher and carpenter **Dan Kosuth** to apply the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation.

The student DVD incorporates their experience with this project and was produced under the supervision of **Ken Webster** of Upland Hills School.

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

Darrell Zehel
Archaeology Field Site Supervisor

“The Archaeology of the Howarth Schoolhouse Site”

Mr. Zehel will present a slideshow and discuss why the Howarth Schoolhouse site is so important, and what the artifacts found there can teach us about the human activity of the area.

The Howarth School site has an unusually long occupational history. It began as a settler farm along an Indian foot trail in 1836. In 1859, the timber-framed school was first built, doubling as a church meeting house until 1898. (That was also the year that the legendary Blanche Sims taught at the Howarth School.) The school continued in use as a public school until 1954, when it was closed with the consolidation of the Lake Orion School District.

The site was investigated in two phases; Phase I used test pits to evaluate the site and get a general understanding of the kinds of artifacts available. Phase II focused on those test areas that promised to yield the most information and artifacts.

A selection of artifacts will be available to view.