

Welcome to the Mindemoya Old School



... more than just a building

Outline

- How we got here
- About the Mindemoya Old School
- Why this building should be saved and repurposed
- Establishing the Friends of the Mindemoya Old School (FOMOS)
- What we plan to do
- Making the building environmentally and fiscally sustainable
- Where we are now
- Challenges to meet our goals
- How this building will raise environmental awareness and engage our indigenous neighbours

The Mindemoya Old School

- located on Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater Island in the world

This landmark building was slated for demolition by the Municipality of Central Manitoulin until concerned citizens formed a not-for-profit corporation to save it.



Completed in 1921 and located beside a park in downtown Mindemoya, the Old School is a sturdy brick & stone, single storey building with a raised basement, offering approx. 8,000 sq. ft. of space



Why Save The Mindemoya Old School?

It's a historically significant landmark

Built in 1921, the school consolidated two school districts into one in order to provide education beyond Grade 8

Through the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, architects with an interest in historical buildings visited the site and confirmed its cultural value, noting Georgian and neo-Classical design features as well as proximity to other historically significant buildings

Built before Central Manitoulin got electricity, it's designed for maximum natural light

Retrofitting buildings reduces waste

Solidly constructed of brick and stone, this building is in remarkable shape and requires little structural intervention to once again function as a valuable community hub.

Other Reasons to Save The Mindemoya Old School

We can help boost the economy

The median income for people on the Island is below the rest of Ontario — women and Indigenous people are particularly disadvantaged

As a great proportion of local artists are female and/or indigenous, a new artists' hub will provide another avenue for exposure to both tourists and the broader community

We can create a Seniors' Centre in the building

An increasing number of people are retiring to Manitoulin and to Mindemoya in particular, yet there are currently no facilities that are specifically directed at the health and recreational needs of seniors

We can showcase eco-friendly retrofits



Friends of the Mindemoya Old School

FOMOS incorporated in January 2021 as a not-for profit and is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society and is a partner with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (a registered charity)

The Board of Directors currently has six members (its constitution allows up to 9 directors). At the moment, 5 directors are female, 3 are seniors, 3 are full-time residents of the Island and 2 are summer residents; and 3 are former students of the Old School

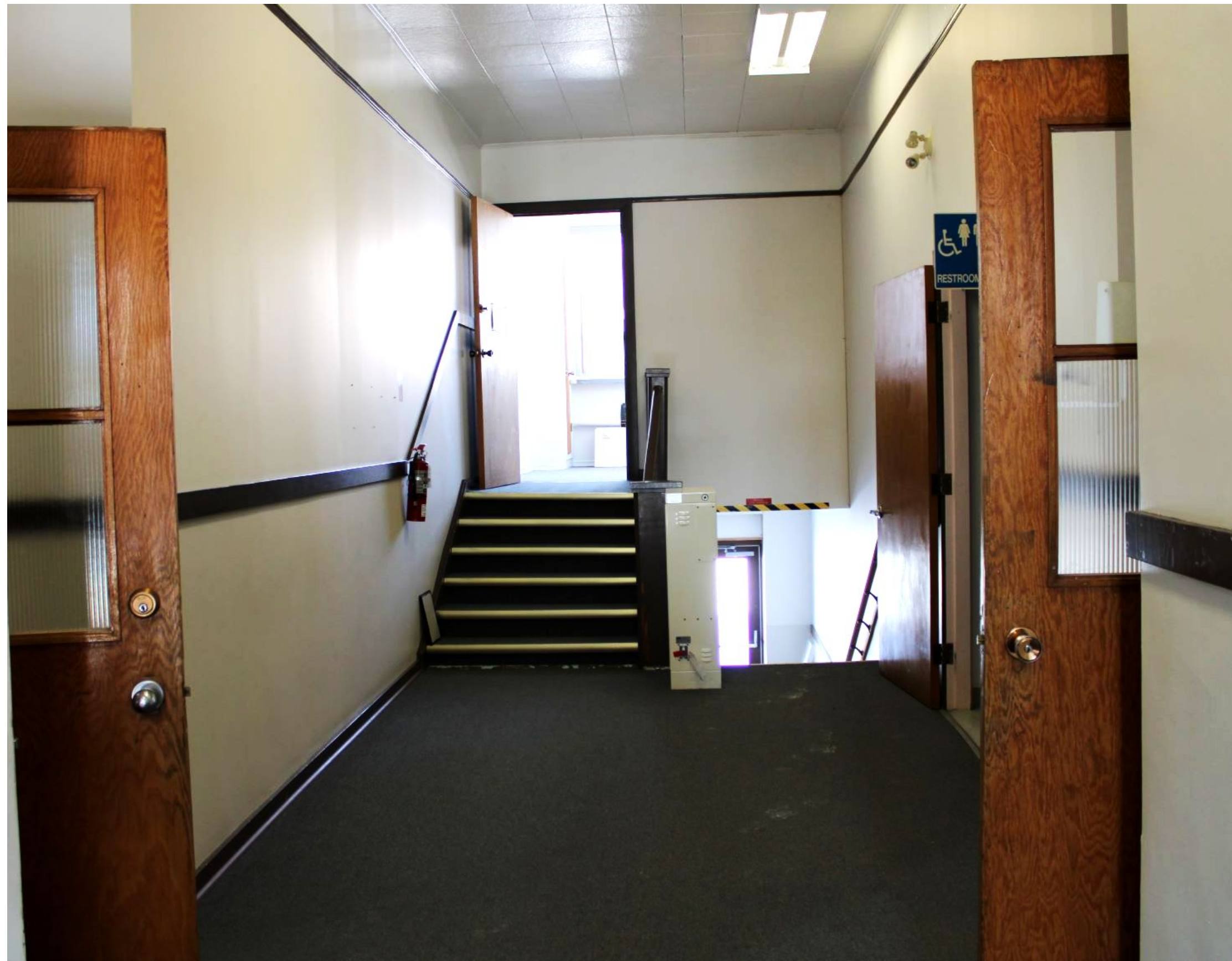
FOMOS has many active member volunteers, and a total membership of nearly 300

**Building on the past to create a prosperous, green,
creative and inclusive future**

Our Goal

**We are saving the Old School from demolition and will renovate it to
create display, studio and workshop spaces
for local artists and crafters, along with a centre for seniors**

Main hallway and southeast room



Southeast room to become a
centre for workshops and
presentations



West side of building with kitchenette

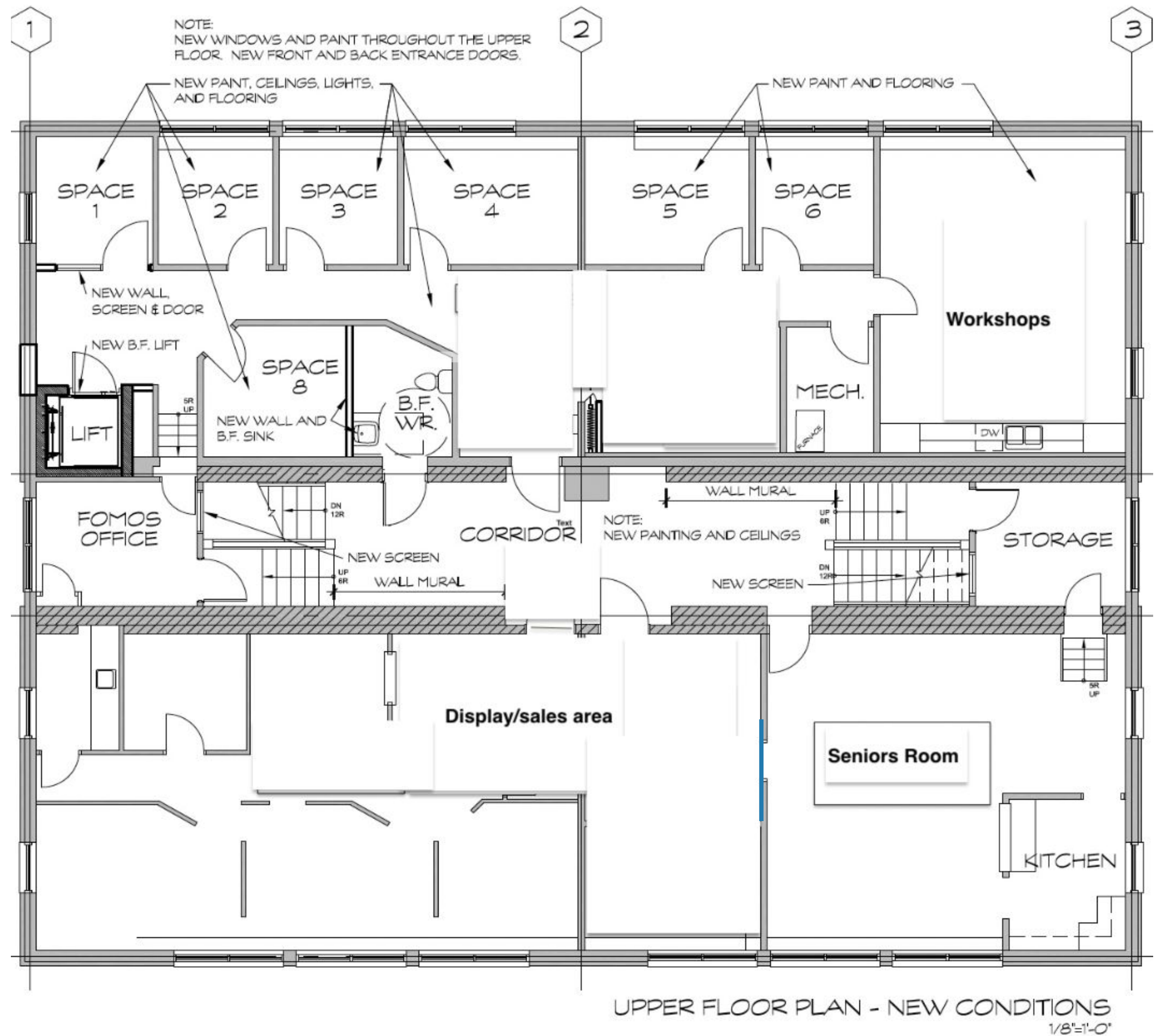
The former dentist's suite can easily be modified for display space



Our first objective is to renovate the main level

Architects will re-design the space as art galleries, studios and a seniors gathering room

A lift will be installed and washroom will be made accessible



We've Accomplished a Lot!

- ★ Obtained a 21-year lease
- ★ Partnered with a charity, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario allowing donors to receive tax-deductible receipts for their donations
- ★ Received the Ontario Historical Society's Conservation Award for 2022
- ★ Raised \$190,000 from foundations, individuals and fundraising campaigns
- ★ Applied for government funding for renovations
- ★ Received government funding to employ a summer student in 2023
- ★ Performed two energy analyses - the RETScreen analysis estimated greenhouse gas emission reductions of 76% with planned modifications.

We've begun work already...

- ★ We've obtained letters of intent from 11 artists/crafters, committing to rent more than 70% of the total space available on the main level. Like FOMOS they believe in the project and are keen to participate in this venture
- ★ Eight of these artists/crafters are women and three are indigenous
- ★ Concept drawings prepared by our architect were submitted to the Municipality of Central Manitoulin in September of 2023 and were accepted
- ★ FOMOS had an eco-friendly steel roof installed in the Fall of 2023

Our building will be green with low operating costs

- ★ Heat pumps will replace existing oil-boiler
- ★ R60 insulation will be added to the attic
- ★ The windows will be retrofitted with triple glazed panes to reduce energy loss
- ★ “Cool” grey steel roofing - high reflectivity compared to shingles and most coloured steel roofing, lessening costs to cool the space in the summer
- ★ Low flow toilets and LED lighting to be retrofitted throughout

Benefits for the entire Island

- ★ **The Local Economy** will be stimulated by providing a new destination for Island tourists, where local art and products will be featured
- ★ **Social Equity:** Women and indigenous artists/crafters in particular will benefit from working and/or selling their products in a central “hub”
- ★ **Women as Leaders:** A 6-person Board consisting of 5 women serves as an equity model
- ★ **Health benefits** for older adults through social engagement and activities
- ★ **Environmental Sustainability** will be showcased by the building and its renovations as well as with regularly rotated explanatory displays

We Still Have Challenges Ahead

- ★ We continue to fundraise for our first priority, the main floor retrofit and renovations.
Estimated costs for this stage of our project are \$670,000
- ★ In cooperation with professional grant-writers, we are identifying more foundations and businesses to approach for support
- ★ Our immediate goal is to open the main floor display area, studios and seniors' centre by July 2024
- ★ By July we aim to have have the remaining space available rented to artists/crafters

WE CAN DO THIS...TOGETHER

We are asking for your support in making make a reality of our vision to repurpose the Mindemoya Old School

To donate and receive a tax-deductible receipt you can either:

- **Write** a cheque to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and **mail** it to:
 - Friends of the Mindemoya Old School, P.O. Box 107, Mindemoya, ON P0P 1S0, or
- Transfer funds electronically to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (please ask us for further details)

Thank-you!