



**HARRIET TUBMAN'S SALEM CHAPEL IN
ST. CATHERINES RECEIVES \$10,000 FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION FROM THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.**

Toronto, Ontario Canada
July 15, 2022.

The Upper Canada Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is proud to announce that a **\$10,000 DAR Historical Preservation** Grant has been approved to the Salem Chapel British Methodist Episcopal Church Society in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada towards the preservation of the chapel. **The Salem Chapel played a key role as the terminus of Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad** for the estimated one hundred thousand fleeing violence in the US. The church was attended by Harriet Tubman and many of those she guided to freedom in the 1850s.

In announcing the grant, Toronto based DAR Regent Helen Hatton remarked:
"We are thrilled that this grant, which will support the preservation of the Salem chapel, marks the **first time the DAR has supported a project outside the United States**, and pays tribute to the long history of friendship between our two countries. This important piece of our rich joint Canadian/American Black history is now being recognized for the important role it played in the Underground Railroad."

Historians note that people of African descent began arriving in the St. Catherine's area around 1788 and that between 1810 – 1850, when the Fugitive Slave Act was enacted, the Underground Railroad guided more than 100,000 people to freedom in Canada. In 1855, the chapel was opened and welcomed 200 people including Harriet Tubman. **It is reputed to be the oldest Black church in Ontario.**

Designated as a National Historic Site by the Gov't of Canada, the Chapel has also been featured in numerous TV shows including the PBS award winning documentary *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

The official ceremony and presentation of the grant will be held at the Chapel, 92 Geneva Street, St. Catherine's on Saturday, July 23 at 11 am. Speakers include historian Dr. John Lovejoy, who established the Harriet Tubman Foundation at York University and US Diplomat Larry Harris; gospel music with Chrissy Goodridge and Rev. Lois Dix. The public is invited to attend on a first come basis. Onsite parking is available.

For further information

Marcia McClung (media) marcia.mcclung6@gmail.com

Helen Hatton, Upper Canada Regent, uppercanadahelen@gmail.com

Rochelle Bush, Curator of the Harriet Tubman's Salem Chapel, schmec@gmail.com

Helen Hatton, Regent
Upper Canada Chapter, NSDAR
44 Charles Street West #3208 Toronto, ON M4Y 1R8
H: 647-340-4050 C:647-994-5717
uppercanadahelen@gmail.com