

# Then & Now

## INGLENOOK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

By Carolina Lemos

Located at Sackville Street and Eastern Avenue, Corktown's Inglebrook Community High School and playground has a wealth of history attached to it.

Designed by William G. Storm in 1887 the schoolhouse retained its original name, that of Sackville Public School, up to 1974 when it was changed to Inglebrook. Initially built as a primary school the building has served a number of uses while continuing to be a place for learning throughout its 134-year span. Within its walls during the 1970s, the first Montessori preschool program operated however, its tenancy

was short lived. Not long after the Wandering Spirit Survival School was allowed two classrooms to run linguistic and cultural programs. Said to be the first of its kind in Canada, the school was founded by the late Vernon Harper (Asin), a First Nations Cree Elder along with his spouse, Pauline Shirt.

Additional stories surfaced in 1985 as part of an archeological dig led by Carolyn Smardz. With help from students, parents, and community volunteers' fragments of Lucie and Thornton Blackburn home site revealed occupancy. Today two plaques, one by Parks Canada and another by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, commemorates the couple's community contribution and the excavation.



1916



2021