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Church of the Holy Trinity looks to repurpose doors burned in fire

A spokesperson for the Toronto church said they don't want the damaged wood to go to landfill and are looking for ideas about what to do with the doors.



Toronto Fire services said they responded to a call at the Church of the Holy Trinity near the

Eaton Centre after a fire was set. (ALANNA RIZZA / TORONTO STAR) | [ORDER THIS PHOTO](#)

By **BRYANN AGUILAR** Staff Reporter

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The Church of the Holy Trinity is asking for the public's help in determining how to recycle its historic doors, which were damaged by fire during the summer.

The 170-year-old doors were one target in a series of [small fires in downtown Toronto](#) on Aug. 23. Toronto Fire services rushed to the church near the Eaton Centre around 5 a.m. The fire was put out before the building caught fire.

Keith Nunn, the church's warden, said it was pretty clear that they won't be able to save the doors, which suffered too much damage.

"I don't think it was structurally viable," he said, adding the idea of repurposing the doors came to him when he realized they would otherwise end up in a landfill. He said the wood from the doors came from a nearby forest in 1847.

"When I thought about how they might wind up in landfill, I thought that's just wrong. It's not just any lumber that timber came from. We need to find a better home for it, even though they can't be doors anymore," said Nunn.

On Twitter, the church [posted a poll](#) asking what they should do with the doors.

"In 1847, our doors were logged and crafted right here in TO. They were burnt beyond repair in 2017. How should we recycle them? #BurntDoor," the post read.

The church gave four choices: have a solstice bonfire, build a bar for parties, create drum frames, and some other idea put forth by the public.

The church is also organizing a "Burnt Door" concert on Oct. 20 to raise money for replacement doors. The church said insurance will cover most of the costs of replacement, but the parish still needs to come up with at least \$3,000.

Nunn said the concert became possible after several musicians from the congregation offered to perform, adding most of the pieces that will be performed at the concert are fire-themed.

There church will also serve up some burnt-door cocktail, said Nunn. A single ticket costs \$25.

According to the police, on the night of the fire at the church, five other fires occurred an hour before the church was targeted. Four garbage fires were started and a discarded mattress was set on fire. Jordan Cuthbert, 32, was charged with six counts of arson, five counts of mischief under

\$5,000 and one count of mischief over \$5,000.

A temporary door has been installed to replace the damaged ones, and Nunn said the church hopes to install the new permanent door in November, but said the replacement has been pushed back as they are having difficulty finding a carpenter.

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