



Exhibition Place

Item No. 18

November 29, 2011

ACTION REQUIRED

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young
Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **War of 1812 Commemoration Fund**

Summary:

The Canadian Government, through the Department of Canadian Heritage, has established an “1812 Commemoration Fund” to assist community-based commemorative and educational projects aimed at celebrating the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Records & Archives staff are eligible to apply for this funding and are proposing a diorama of the “Battle of York” to be exhibited at the 2012 CNE and at other times during the bicentennial celebrations at Fort York. One of the requirements of the grant application process is to obtain a resolution from the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place authorizing the submission.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board authorize Exhibition Place staff to apply to the War of 1812 Commemoration Fund for the purpose of assembling a diorama of the Battle of York for the 2012 CNE.

Financial Impact:

The total cost of the diorama project is \$10,000, \$5,000 of which is provided for in the 2012 CNEA Operating Budget and \$5,000.00 from the 1812 Commemoration Fund program.

Decision History:

The Exhibition Place 2009 – 2012 Strategic Plan had a Recognition/Public Understanding Goal *To expand our heritage strategies* and as a Strategy to support this Goal we will *undertake to participate in the City’s Bi-Centennial celebration*”.

Issue Background:

In order for the Department of Canadian Heritage to consider the Exhibition Place submission the Board must approve the proposal. Given the submission of the Grant Application is required no later than December 14, 2011, staff will include in the covering letter a statement that the Board will consider the application to the War of 1812 Commemoration Fund at its meeting of December 16, 2011 and if approved, a formal resolution will be communicated.

Comments:

The diorama will form part of a larger exhibit on the wartime uses of what is now Exhibition Place. Apart from being the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812, the grounds have also been home to both a French fort (Fort Rouille, c. 1750-1759) and a British fort (Stanley Barracks, built in 1850 with one of its buildings still in existence today). The grounds also served as large military encampments during the First and Second World Wars. Staff did an exhibit on this topic in 1990, but had very little material on the War of 1812 and therefore the section on this important part of Exhibition Place's history was slight. In the 2012 version of the exhibit, staff will greatly expand the War of 1812 section by including the diorama of the Battle of York. Given the budget is limited for this exhibit, the additional expense is necessary in producing the diorama and can only be met through financial assistance from an outside source, such as the 1812 Commemoration Fund.

The funding, if approved, will be used for the following:

- Produce a pictorial backdrop approximately 15' long x 7' high showing British and American troops engaged in battle in the vicinity of the ruins of Fort Rouille;
- Engage an artist to repair the mannequins planned in the diorama. The incredibly life-like mannequins owned by the Board were originally made for Canada's Sports Hall of Fame (CSHF) and who then donated the mannequins to Exhibition Place in 2010. Both mannequins had originally been used in an exhibit on lacrosse (a First Nations lacrosse player and a European player). CSHF removed the lacrosse sticks (which were artifacts from their collection) by destroying the hands of the mannequins. Hence, both mannequins will have to have their hands restored. The artist who will do the work has produced similar mannequins for CSHF in the past;
- Have appropriate costumes made for both mannequins, wherein consultation will take place with a First Nations member of the City of Toronto's Steering Committee on the War of 1812, wherein recommendations regarding what the First Nations warrior would have been wearing;
- Discuss the uniform for the Canadian Militia mannequin with Fort York staff, who have referred staff to several companies that would be able to produce the costumes once provided with the necessary specifications;
- Purchase non-firing, replica muskets for the two mannequins to hold. Again, Fort York has referred staff to companies that can supply these items; and
- Have a raised painted platform made on which to situate the diorama. The platform would also have a one-foot high barrier (possibly made from split rails) running across the front and sides of the platform to restrict access to the diorama.

Contact

Fatima Scagnol, Corporate Secretary/Exhibition Place

Telephone: 416-263-3620

Fax: 416-263-3690

Email: fscagnol@explace.on.ca

Dianne Young
Chief Executive Officer