



## Exhibition Place

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### Item No. 15

May 24, 2011

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

**ACTION REQUIRED**

From: Dianne Young  
Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **Plaque Commemorating the Scadding Cabin**

#### Summary:

This report recommends the approval of the York Pioneer and Historical Society installing a more visible plaque commemorating Toronto's oldest surviving house built in 1794, known as the Scadding Cabin, with the unveiling being celebrated in 2012.

The proposed location for the plaque is inside the fencing of the entrance to the Scadding Cabin as noted on Appendix "A" of this report and will be unveiled in May 2012. A small ceremony will take place for members of the York Pioneer and Historical Society, Heritage Toronto, media, and representatives of both the Board of Governors and the CNEA Board will be invited to attend.

#### **Recommendations:**

##### **It is recommended that:**

- (1) the Board approve the installation of a plaque commemorating the Scadding Cabin; and**
- (2) appropriate Exhibition Place officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.**

#### Decision History:

At its meeting of July 26, 1999, the Board adopted a policy for the installation of commemorative plaques on the grounds of Exhibition Place.

#### Issue Background:

In accordance with the Commemorative Plaque Policy, the York Pioneer and Historical Society is requesting the installation of a plaque with the inscription set out in detail below commemorating the Scadding Cabin.

#### Comments:

Scadding Cabin is Toronto's oldest surviving house and is considered the first act of built heritage preservation in Toronto. The York Pioneer and Historical Society, that saved the cabin, is Ontario's and probably Canada's oldest such society.

The new commemorative plaque is to replace a small plaque affixed to stone installed in 1978 which will be moved into the herb garden area. The new plaque will inform visitors to the area about the history of the Scadding Cabin

The proposed plaque will be approximately 18" x 24" and will be affixed a 4-foot post and installed inside the fencing to the entrance of the cabin. The proposed wording of the plaque is as follows:

**Scadding Cabin, Toronto's oldest surviving house, built 1794**

**Original location the east bank of the Don River**

**Present day, on the Don Valley Parkway, south of the Queen St overpass**

**Built for John Scadding, personal clerk to Upper Canada's first Lieutenant-Governor,  
John Graves Simcoe**

**When Early 1794 after John's first cabin burned down the night of Jan 31, 1794. John lived in the cabin until he returned to England in 1796; during his absence the cabin was cared for and occupied by members of the neighbouring Playter family.**

**In 1818, John returned to York (Toronto) and sold this property to farmer William Smith who used the cabin as an outbuilding. In 1879 John Smith offered the cabin to the 10-year-old York Pioneer and Historical Society.**

**The cabin was reassembled on this spot in the summer of 1879, the inaugural of the Industrial Exhibition (now the CNE).**

***This plaque made possible by a Guy Saunders bequest The York Pioneer and Historical Society, and Heritage Toronto***

The Corporate Secretary has conferred with Capital Works and Archives staff and all agree that the location is appropriate and that the York Pioneer and Historical Society has adequately addressed or otherwise satisfied the issues and procedures required by the Exhibition Place Plaque Policy. As well, the plaque will not impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic and will not present a problem to any trade and consumer shows or events held at Exhibition Place. The Toronto Historical Society will sponsor the cost of the plaque and its installation, and Heritage Toronto will maintain the upkeep of the plaque.

Contact:

Fatima Scagnol, Corporate Secretary

Tel: 416-263-3620

Fax: 416-263-3690

Email: [Fscagnol@explace.on.ca](mailto:Fscagnol@explace.on.ca)

Submitted by:

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Dianne Young  
Chief Executive Officer

Proposed location of plaque inside the fence

