



Exhibition Place

Item No. 23

ACTION REQUIRED

April 29, 2011

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young
Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **Plaque Commemorating the Bandshell**

Summary:

This report recommends the approval of the CNEA installing a plaque to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Bandshell being celebrated in 2011.

The proposed site for the plaque is directly on the Bandshell structure on the brick wall on the east side as noted in the attached photo and will be unveiled during the 2011 CNE wherein a small ceremony will take place and may include artists that performed in the last seventy-five years, members of the media, and representatives of both the Board of Governors and the CNEA Board.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board approve the installation of a plaque commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Bandshell; and**
- (2) the 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 CNEA is requesting the installation of a plaque with the inscription set out in detail below commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Bandshell. In recent years, the CNE has focused on invigorating the Bandshell program with great success and the celebration of the 75th anniversary of this heritage structure will also allow for a focus on the 2011 programming at the Bandshell.

Comments:

Modelled after the Hollywood Bowl, the Bandshell is a fine example of Art Deco design. When built, the Bandshell also embodied the latest in acoustical engineering and stage lighting.

Well situated in relation to neighbouring buildings, the Bandshell is an integral component of the west end of the Exhibition grounds. It holds great sentimental value for many people as a place to congregate and listen to a variety of military bands and big bands from the 1930s to the 1950s. Since its construction in 1936, the Bandshell has often served as the site of the official opening of the annual CNE. From the stage of the Bandshell, dignitaries such as William Lyon McKenzie King, Rear Admiral the Earl Mountbatten of Burma and Vincent Massey have presided over opening day ceremonies for the CNE.

The proposed plaque will be approximately 2-feet wide by 2-feet high and will be affixed to the Bandshell stage generally on the brick wall on the east side of the Bandshell which is shown on the picture attached to this report. The proposed wording of the plaque is as follows:

The Bandshell was built in 1936, replacing the Bandstand that had occupied this area of the Exhibition Place grounds since 1906.

Its Art Deco architecture, designed by Craig and Madill Architects, is modeled after the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, California. The Bandshell was officially opened on August 28, 1936 by Toronto Mayor Sam McBride and Sir Percy Vincent, Lord Mayor of London, as part of the CNE Opening Ceremonies.

Since that time, it has been home to a host of the world's finest entertainers including military and jazz bands, orchestras, vocalists, choirs, comedians, cartoon characters, musical shows, rock 'n' roll bands, urban music, multicultural events and dignitaries from across Canada and around the world.

This plaque commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Bandshell.

August 19, 2011

The Corporate Secretary has conferred with Capital Works and Archives staff and all agree that the location is appropriate and that the CNEA 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 CNEA will sponsor the cost of the plaque, its installation and its upkeep.

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Dianne Young
Chief Executive Officer

Brick Wall on the East Side of Bandshell Stage

