



THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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**The 2021 Annual General Meeting
Special Provisions**

Date: Saturday February 27th, 2021

The York Pioneers wish to comply with public health measures to protect our members and the public-at-large. Page 2 explains in greater detail how we will conduct business this year.

**Seeking an Editor to join the
Board of Directors**

Do you or someone you know have a passion for local history? Are you looking for an opportunity to join an adroit group of volunteers and make a tangible contribution to regional cultural development? Are you a professional or amateur historian looking to expand your horizons? If so, the Board of the YPHS would love to hear from you! Send us your portfolio or contact us at yorkpioneers@gmail.com.



Above: Scadding Cabin in light snow, October 2020. Photo: Grant MacDonald

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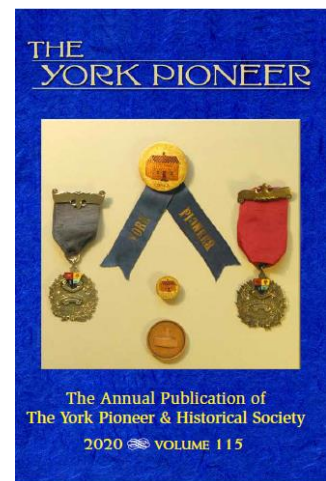
The Annual General Meeting will be different this year

This year, we have to do things differently for our Annual General Meeting. It seems quite likely will not be able to gather in person by the usual time of our AGM. Respecting gathering limits and provincial, regional, and municipal restrictions, the Board has decided instead to use a mail-in ballot for the votes which normally take place in person at the AGM.

Our plan for the AGM is as follows:

Friday January 15, 2021

- Deadline to be a Member in Good Standing who is eligible to vote at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.
- If your membership is paid up for 2020, or if you renewed already for 2021, you are eligible to vote using the mail-in ballot. If you received your copy of the 2020 York Pioneer magazine then you can be assured your membership is in good standing for 2020 and you will be eligible to vote.
- If you did not receive your 2020 York Pioneer magazine then likely your membership has lapsed. We must receive your renewal by January 15th if you wish to be eligible to vote at the AGM. Renew online on our website, <https://www.yorkpioneers.com/membership/> or send your renewal by mail as detailed on Page 10.
- This is also the deadline for us to receive any further nominations for positions on the Board of Directors. See details on Pages 11 and 12 of how to put yourself forward as a candidate below the report of the Nominating Committee.



Friday February 5, 2021

- Ballots will be mailed to all Members in Good Standing, and a return postage paid envelope will be included.
- Included with the ballot will be:
 - Year-end financial statements for approval
 - Board of Directors slate of candidates from the Nominating Committee, together with information about anyone else also seeking election to a Board position
 - Other background information for additional votes to take place

Friday February 26, 2021

- Deadline for ballots to be received by us. Please allow plenty of time when mailing back your ballot.

Saturday February 27, 2021

- Date of record for the Annual General Meeting (no meeting to be held)
- Ballots will be counted.
- Elected candidates will be notified.
- Results will be announced by email and also in the next Update newsletter.

REPORT FROM THE SHARON TEMPLE 2020 ILLUMINATION!



*Above: The Sharon Temple.
Photo: David Raymont.*

The annual celebration of the Sharon Temple Illumination was held on September 11. This was a challenge this year due to the covid-19 restrictions and safety protocols. The Temple staff did a wonderful job to navigate and coordinate the special set up needed. The thought was not to miss the event. During the Spanish Flu 1918-1920, the Illumination continued in the manner in which the York Pioneer organized picnics and gatherings at this historic site. So the Temple made a decision to do likewise and carry on.



*Above: Diane Reid, Lionel Collier, Kayoko Smith
Photo: David Raymont*

As a bonus for some, a dinner was added to make the evening a special time. The pre-orders were taken and prepared by Temple staff with Executive Director Lori Woodyatt heading the team.

As the late afternoon blended into the early evening the guests and friends began to arrive. President Fred Robbins made a point to arrive before most to do the welcome to the Members planning to attend. Treasurer Lionel Collier was very helpful and drove a few Toronto Members up from the big city. With him came Diane Reid, former Past President, and Kayoko Smith, Scadding Cabin Chair.

Fred was surprised to see Honorary Life President Audrey Fox, with her husband Leo Fox and granddaughter Keana Fox (both Life Members), in attendance. David Raymont current Past President made the drive up through Toronto on Don Mills Road. Melissa Vella, former event and programming manager at Sharon Temple and York Pioneer, was working behind the scenes with the junior summer staff.



Above: Top row: Diane Reid, Fred Robbins, Kayoko Smith, Lionel Collier. Bottom Row: Leo Fox, Keana Fox, Audrey Fox. Photo: David Raymont.

Guests picked up their pre-ordered dinners and sat, socially distanced, at long picnic tables. A large marquee tent was erected to provide safe space to listen to the words of welcome and entertainment. The entertainment was provided by Jeremy and Jenn, an acoustic duo which performed a good variety of songs.

The skies darkened and the special candle lighting of the windows in the Temple showed off the incredible architecture which was completed many years ago in 1831. The farewell was concluded by the distribution of the traditional Illumination apple cake given to all upon their departure.

This was the largest public event attended by York Pioneers in 2020 and the most in attendance at the Illumination in the past few years.



Above: The Sharon Temple Illumination.

Photo: David Raymont.

The Scadding Estate Plaque Unveiling! Commemorating our 150th Anniversary

It has been a long wait, but patience has paid off once again for our Society. One day after Remembrance Day, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 12th, Board and General Members convened at Riverdale Park East for the long-awaited unveiling of the Scadding Estate Plaque in partnership with Heritage Toronto.



*Left: YPHS President Fred Robbins inspects and admires the Scadding Estate Plaque.
Right: General view of the park and city skyline from the plaque. Photos: Gerry Lee.*

The Plaque is located about 2 feet from the sidewalk at the intersection of Withrow and Broadview Avenues. A bus stop and park bench are nearby facing a beautiful panorama of the Park and the wider city skyline in the background.

The gathering took place at 2 P.M. and members were pleasantly surprised to discover that the plaque had been installed about two hours prior. President Fred Robbins inspected the plaque and spoke to the small group in attendance, all of whom were masked and maintained physical distancing (except during photographs).

Nearby neighbours joined the small convention. They commented that the plaque is “bright and colourful” and that “they loved it.”

The York Pioneers wish to thank Heritage Toronto and the City of Toronto for their ongoing commitment to this project.

The York Pioneers also wish to recognize the tireless efforts of members Audrey Fox, John Marshall, Gerry Lee, David Raymont, and Fred Robbins for driving this vision to fruition.

In what has been a very difficult year, this has certainly proven to be a rare good news story for 2020. Thank you to all!



Above: The Scadding Estate Plaque. Photo: Gerry Lee.

Happy 100th Janet!

The York Pioneers extend our warmest early 100th birthday wishes to Past President Janet Hester Watt!

Janet was born in Onoway, Alberta on December 16th, 1920. She became a York Pioneer in 1961 and a Life Member in 1982 for a fee of \$150.00. She served many roles including:

- Manager of the Scadding Cabin from 1969 until 1975
- Vice President for two terms: 1976 and 1977
- President for two terms: 1978 and 1979

Janet then moved to Past President for the years 1980, 1981, and 1982. During this period, she took on the duty as Manager of the Scadding Cabin for a second time until 1986. She served as Member-at-Large for 1987 and 1988. Janet's final office on the Board was to represent the Society on the CNEA Board as a York Pioneer. At the June 25th, 2013 annual dinner, Janet was made an Honorary Life Member.

In all, Janet provided more than 20 years in service to the Society! Janet has always been a valued member of the York Pioneer and Historical Society, noted for her unpretentious disposition and wry wit.



Above: Janet Watt honoured for 50 years of service at the YPHS Annual Dinner, June 2nd, 2011. Pictured with Janet are Past President Paul Litt and then-President Audrey Fox. Photos: Damien Fox

Janet also served our nation in the Second World War as part of the Women's Royal Naval Service. The students at Crestwood posted a series of video interviews with Janet which can be found here:

<https://www.crestwood.on.ca/ohp/watt-janet/>

Janet's veteran stories can also be heard though The Memory Project here:

<https://www.thememoryproject.com/stories/750:janet-hester-watt/>

Janet, the York Pioneers extend our love and many thanks to you, and wish you a very happy and healthy 100th birthday!



Above: Janet Watt honoured, June 2nd, 2011 with then-President Audrey Fox. Photo: Damien Fox

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

This is a friendly reminder to all existing Members that Annual Memberships run from January 1st through to December 31st. Memberships that are renewed before the end of 2020 will be carried forward through to the end of 2021.

In 2020, we have a **new Membership Structure** as follows:

- Students: \$20
- Individual: \$30
- Family: \$50
- Life: \$300

Individuals taking out a life membership will receive an income tax receipt.

Your membership fee will be put right to work, supporting the publication of “The York Pioneer”; helping to preserve our City’s heritage; and making it available for all to enjoy.

Won’t you please continue your support of *Ontario’s oldest historical society?*

Please *renew your membership today* online through PayPal at:

<https://www.yorkpioneers.com/membership>

or *send us your cheque or money order today to:*

The York Pioneer and Historical Society
PO Box 186
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Thank you!

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2020 Nominating Committee members:

- From the current Board: Kayoko Smith, Fred Robbins, Brent Cunningham
- From the general membership: Audrey Fox, John Marshall

The Committee hereby reports, proposing the following slate of candidates for the 2021 Board of Directors:

Officers:

Past President: David Raymont

President: Fred Robbins

Vice President: Michael Nettleton

Treasurer: Lionel Collier

Recording Secretary: Gerald A. Lee

Corresponding Secretary [Social media]: Melissa Vella

Archivist: Jennifer Gray

Committee Chairs:

Editorial: vacant

Membership: Angus D. Palmer

Programme: Beth Alaksa

Publicity (newsletter): Brent Cunningham

Scadding Cabin: Kayoko Smith

Representative on the Board of Sharon Temple: Fred Robbins

Members at Large: Cindy Ewins, Sarah Gossip, George Duncan, Stefanie Lem

Appointment, Canadian National Exhibition: Barry Mapes

In addition to the above slate of candidates, any member of the organization in good standing is free to put his or her own name forward and to stand for election to any Board position.

If you wish to stand for a Board position, please complete the form below and return to us by email to yorkpioneers@gmail.com or by regular mail to the address on Page 12. Deadline for us to RECEIVE is Friday, January 15th, 2021.

Anyone declaring as a candidate by Friday, January 15th will be included on the ballot going out to all Members, and the mail in vote will determine the outcome of the election.

For further information, contact Cindy Ewins at 416-618-9084.

I wish to stand as a candidate for the Board position of _____
for the year from the AGM February 27, 2021 until the AGM in 2022.

My name: _____

My address including postal code: _____

My phone number: _____

Brief bio, including information about your association with the York Pioneers and why you wish to be considered for the Board position (50 - 100 words):

If submitting by mail, please send to: York Pioneers
c/o Cindy Ewins
3 Anewen Drive
Toronto, ON
M4A 1R9

SCADDING CABIN VOLUNTEERS - PAST & PRESENT

Everyone looks forward to our summers working at the Cabin. Health measures this year have kept the doors and windows closed. However, Kayoko maintained the garden as colourful and butterfly friendly through the spring and summer as usual. Fred has seen to several necessary repairs throughout 2020. All of us are hopeful for a safe reopening and “spring cleaning” in early 2021.

Can the rest of us, like Sarah use this unexpected free time to do some reminiscing, with a pen? Can you share a short story of the interesting memories you have enjoyed at the Cabin? Perhaps recalling who or what inspired your participation?

Our visitors always have the most surprising information to enrich our experience. So often visitors compare Cabin life with their own, when growing up in various locations around the world!

Please everyone, tell about the fun of your summers at Scadding Cabin. These stories will be another treat waiting for us when we reopen in 2021.

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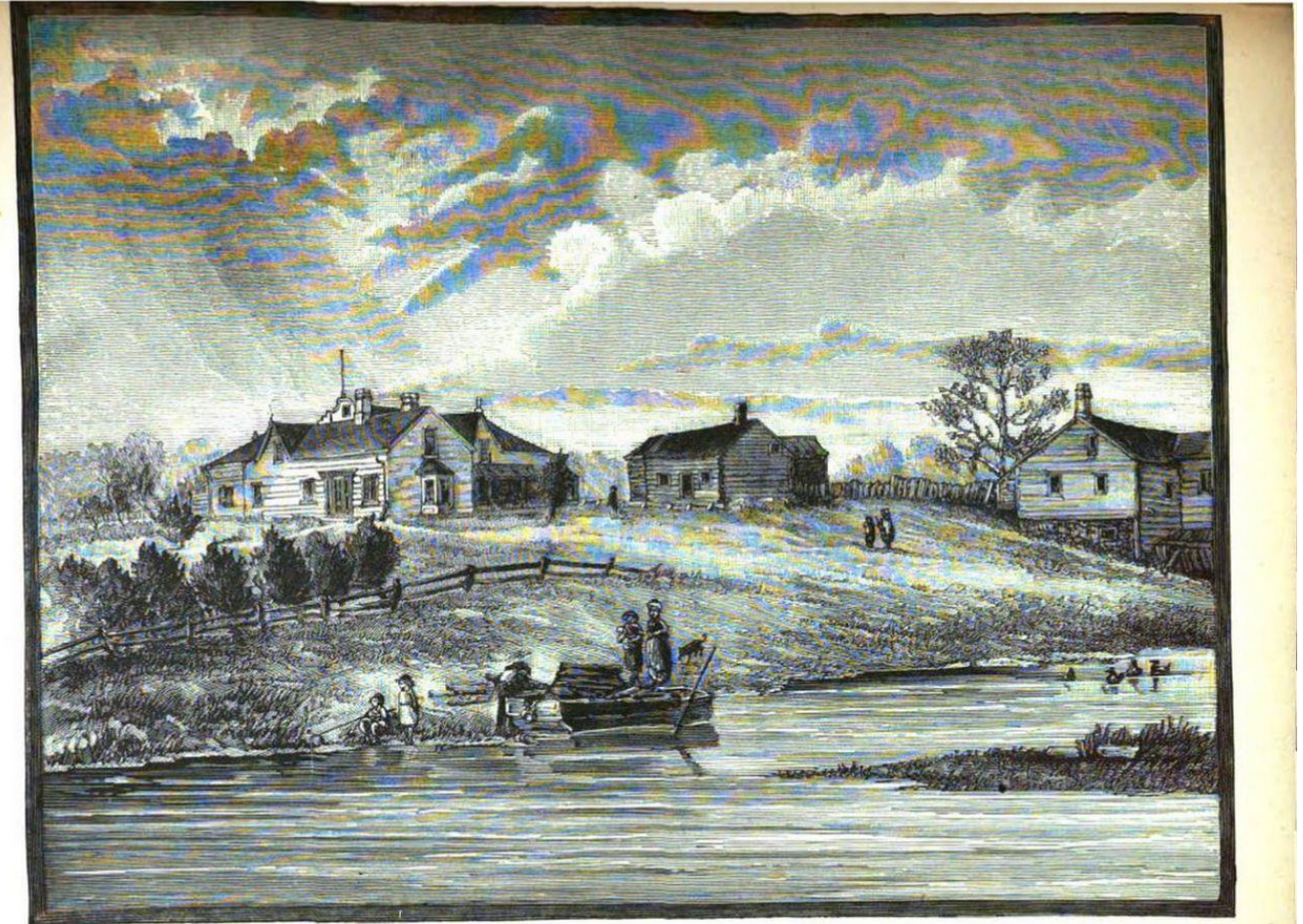
Welcome New Members!

Melissa Vella

New Life Members!

Ms. Sewell Russell

The YPHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN SMITH, Esq. (SHOWING THE OLD LOG HOUSE OF 1794).

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES IN 2021 FROM THE
YORK PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY!!!