



THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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The 2021 York Pioneer Magazine Launch

Given the ongoing State of Emergency measures taken by the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario, we regret that our customary release event of the 2021 York Pioneer Journal will not involve our public Launch this year. In spite of the restrictions, the YPHS wishes to assure all members that our Editorial Committee is working diligently to send out our magazine by mail by end of June!

OHS Digital Journal Archive - 120 Years

As York Pioneers and Ontarians at-large remain confined to our homes during this time of physical distancing, the YPHS is pleased to promote the Ontario Historical Society's *Ontario History Journal Digital Archive*. The OHS has digitized over 120 years of journals, and over 2000 articles and book reviews into the largest collection of resources about Ontario's history online:

<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/back-issues/>

The OHS have been loyal and faithful partners of the YPHS, sharing a common heritage through the efforts of Rev. Henry Scadding, and the YPHS are delighted to promote this fascinating repository. The YPHS encourages all of our members to stay home, stay safe, and feed our love of history productively through regular visits the OHS Ontario History Journal!



Above: Scadding Cabin plaque at the CNE.
Photo: Brent Cunningham

NOTICE TO VOLUNTEERS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers are advised that due to State of Emergency measures taken by the Province of Ontario, all volunteer events continue to be impacted. See Page 2.

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REPORT FROM THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year during the pandemic, we held a Special Board Meeting to implement a virtual procedure for the AGM including distribution of all important documents to members. The ballot format was selected and proved to work very well, with over 40% of members responding; this despite all events and programs being on-hold for 2 years. Thanks to Cindy and her team of volunteers for doing the mailing. Angus and Cindy did the hard work of tabulating the results and tracking the scoring.

In brief: 83 of 203 ballots were returned by the specified deadline. No returned ballots were spoiled. The votes:

1. To approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM:
 - 80 in favour, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions
2. To accept the slate of nominated candidates
 - 82 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
3. To appoint Barry as rep on CNE Association
 - 81 in favour, 1 opposed, 1 abstention
4. To approve the financial statements
 - 82 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
5. To approve and confirm all activities by the Board during the year (statement of responsibility)
 - 83 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
6. To approve appointment of accountants for this year
 - 83 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions



Above: President Fred Robbins convening the 2020 AGM. *Photo:* Brent Cunningham

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Regrettably at the time of publication, the State of Emergency safety measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in effect.

Consequently, we regret that *Jane's Walk* and *Doors Open Toronto* are impacted and will not take place in-person this year.

On May 14th, the City of Toronto confirmed that the *CNE* will be cancelled for the second year in a row, while the impact on the *Ghost Walk* remains to be determined at the time this publication went to print. The YPHS will endeavour to keep all members up-to-date on these and other events ahead of the August publication of The Update.

The YPHS values the health & safety of all of our volunteers and members and will always respect and follow the directives of public health authorities. While it is impossible to forecast what the state of the pandemic will be in the coming months, volunteers are also encouraged to listen to the advice of public authorities, exercise their best judgment, and to reach out to the YPHS as the dates for summer events approach.

YORK PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY - TREASURER'S REPORT 2020 RESPONSE TO FOUR AGM QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

First Question:

In what vehicles are the short term investments? Why? What is the interest rate?

Response: The short term investments are TD Bank GIC's at various low rates, like 0.2%. The Board placed the money in short term investments as a way of avoiding the risk of losing the proceeds from the sale of Eversley Church. This strategy protects the original capital but does not maintain the purchasing power of the proceeds from sale of the Church and does not provide significant income.

Second Question:

I am disturbed that approximately \$300,000 has not been invested to earn a decent rate of return. Eversley Church was sold 9 years ago; assuming it took 3 years to decide how to allocate the money ... that means conservatively, we have "lost" 6 years of earnings at a conservative 6% = \$108,000.

That is a "loss" of \$1,500 per month - more than enough to pay for storage etc.

My question: WHEN will the Board choose an investment advisor and invest the \$300k to give the Society an income?

Response: Bravo! I agree wholeheartedly! During 2020 the Board moved cautiously by creating an investment policy and an Investment Committee has been struck to oversee investment of the \$300k. I hope that the Investment Committee will soon identify an appropriate investment advisor and ensure that the \$300k is safely invested.

Third Question:

RE note 4, what are the internal restrictions?

Response: Internal restrictions are funds designated by the Board for particular purposes. The Board has identified seven different purposes for which funds will be spent, as outlined in note 4. The Board could change these designations at any time, but will likely continue use these designations. Externally restricted funds are gifts to the Society which have been designated for a particular purpose by the donor.

LIGHT, CAMERA, CABIN!

By David Raymont

For a week in mid-December 2020, Scadding Cabin was in Hollywood's spotlight as the crew for the forth-coming action-comedy *The Man From Toronto* shot a scene on the cabin's grounds.

Volunteers from the York Pioneers, including Fred Robbins, Kayoko Smith, David Raymont and Lionel Collier, were on hand to advise the movie's location staff as they turned the open lawns around the cabin into a make-believe forest by placing pine and cedar trees on stands to create the illusion of a wilderness.



Fred was on hand on the day of the shooting of a brief scene where two supporting actors left the cabin to answer a cell phone call. The York Pioneer and Historical Society received an honorarium for the shoot.

The Man From Toronto stars Woody Harrelson, Kevin Hart and Kaley Cuoco and is directed by Patrick Hughes. Filming took place at Exhibition Place, as well as in Milton and Heart Lake, where a log cabin was built and then exploded as part of the action. The film is expected to be in theatres mid-January 2022.

The shoot at Scadding Cabin came about at the suggestion of Exhibition Place staff. Much of the filming for the movie took place in studios created in the Enercare Centre. Throughout the shoot, strict COVID-19 protocols were followed to protect everyone involved with the project.

HOW SCADDING CABIN HELPED RENEGOTIATE A LAND TREATY

By David Raymont

During the 2013 CNE, Margaret Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit came to Scadding Cabin to talk about how the First Nation successfully challenged the 1805 Toronto Purchase Land Treaty. This is the Treaty that deals with the land now occupied by Toronto, Vaughan, King Township and sections of Aurora and Richmond Hill.

It was a special moment to listen to Sault explain the significance of the Treaty while sitting beside Scadding Cabin, and to learn of the role the cabin played in resolving the Mississaugas claims with the Government of Canada.

Like anything involving land transfer and law, this takes a little explaining.

In the decades since the signing of the 1805 Treaty, the Mississauga First Nation said that settlers had taken more land than had been discussed in the agreement. For example, there was no reference in the Treaty to a transfer of the Toronto Islands to settlers.

In addition, the day after the Treaty was signed, the First Nation was given a one-time award of ten shillings, about \$27, as a symbol of good faith. Even in 1805, the value of the transfer far exceeded the sum of this small fee.



Photo: David Raymont



Above: From the left, Margaret Sault, John Marshall, Kayoko Smith, former Mississauga Chief Carolyn King, and David Raymont at Scadding Cabin, August 22, 2013.

In 1986, the Nation filed a claim against the Government of Canada concerning the manner in which the Toronto Purchase had been put in action. Twenty-four years later, in 2010, leaders of the Mississaugas and the Government came to an agreement.

The Federal government offered the Mississaugas \$145 million to settle claims about two treaties -- the Toronto Purchase, and a 1797 agreement concerning the transfer of land now occupied by the City of Burlington.

This is when Margaret Sault took the lead. As the First Nation's Director of Lands, Research and Membership, she had to demonstrate that there was support for the settlement among verified members of the Nation. This she did, although the Federal government had set a demanding schedule for proof of acceptance.

How did the Government of Canada decide to offer a settlement of \$145 million? Rather than reflect the rising value of the land covered by the Treaty over the past centuries, Federal staff decided to make a rough calculation of the cost in 2010 dollars of the buildings, roads and other improvements that existed historically on the land in 1805.

Margaret Sault confirmed that an estimate of the value of Scadding Cabin was included in the Federal government's calculation.

York Pioneers know Scadding Cabin to be oldest known building in Toronto and a much-loved local museum.

Thanks to Margaret Sault, we now know that the cabin helped contribute to the settlement of Canada's most significant land claim.

LUNCH AT SCADDING CABIN

By Barry Mapes

On July 23rd, 2020, I learned that there are ways to pass along history without the building having to be opened. As usual when I'm in the area, I like to have my lunch down at the Cabin, enjoying the peace and quiet that it provides. As I pulled up I noticed a mother and her two children having a picnic under the tree at the Fort opposite the Cabin. I was able to catch snippets of their conversation which appeared to focus on Scadding and also the food. The mother's responses were typically based on what she had read from the plaques. When I finished my lunch I wandered over to the family and introduced myself as a member and volunteer of the YPHS and asked if they would like to hear about the Cabin and surrounding area and how it relates to Fort York.



*Above: The Fort Rouille Obelisque with the Scadding Cabin in the distance, August 2016
Photo: Brent Cunningham*

I began with Fort Rouille and how it had been built by the French as a fur trading post and also the help protect the lake trade route. When asked what happened to it they were told that the French destroyed it to keep it from falling into the hands of the British during one of their many wars. After answering a few questions I moved onto the Cabin and that it had been built for Scadding by Governor Simcoe in order to entice Scadding to move to Upper Canada as his aid. One fact the children loved was that Scadding lived in a house while the Simcoes lived in a series of tents. I explained the Cabin had been built along the Don River and in 1879 the YPHS became its new owner and moved it to its present site. They had it ready to open to the public in time for the first CNE.

The family was eager to hear about the War of 1812 involvement. I happily told them of the American landing at what is now Sunnyside Park on April 23rd 1813, the running musket battle east to Fort York and how the militia and their First Nations allies held up the American advance for over an hour by taking cover in the ruins of the old French fort. By this time, it had been over an hour of storytelling and I needed to go back to work. But before saying goodbye, I invited them to come back to the Cabin in 2021 (pandemic-willing) either for Doors Open or during the CNE so they could see the inside.



*Above: The Scadding Cabin dutifully welcomes curious visitors a peek inside its walls, September 2016
Photo: Brent Cunningham*

IN MEMORY OF ELEANOR JACKSON (NÉE LEAVENS)**1930-2020**

The York Pioneers wish to extend our sincere condolences to the family of long-time member Eleanor Jackson.



Eleanor started as an annual member in 1987 with the York Pioneer and Historical Society. She was born in Bolton where her father published “The Bolton Enterprise” and also had a printing business. It was once the printer/publisher of the York Pioneer (YP). She and her late husband Del lived in Leaside. They had a son and a daughter.

Eleanor served on the Board in 2003 and 2004 as a member at large. She decided to take on a Life membership in 2010. She passed away at 90 years of age, on Nov. 3, 2020 in Ottawa. She had been a member for 33 years.

Eleanor’s obituary can be found courtesy of the Globe & Mail at the following link:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theglobeandmail/obituary.aspx?n=eleanor-margaret-jackson&pid=197061420&fhid=5973>

THE FOUNDING YEAR OF THE YORK PIONEER ASSOCIATION 1869

List of First members

The campaign went out to have members join this new found society to gather and retain the early history of "York". One may say it was a history club. Upon closer view the names may jump off the page and also remind us of the dedication and enthusiasm these "Founding Fathers" had to involve their friends and associates.

1. Alex Hamilton	April 17, 1869	29. Rev. Saltern Givins	June 3, 1869
2. Richard Oates	April 17, 1869	30. Robert Hornby	June 3, 1869
3. Chas. Statesbury	April 17, 1869	31. G. Morris, Sr.	June 3, 1869
4. Thomas Armstrong	May 1, 1869	32. John Playter	June 3, 1869
5. Thomas Metcalf	May 1, 1869	33. James Stitt	June 3, 1869
6. W. B. Phipps	May 1, 1869	34. J. G. Worts	June 3, 1869
7. James Severs	May 1, 1869	35. T. G. Wallis	June 4, 1869
8. James Acheson	May 8, 1869	36. Robert Petch	June 4, 1869
9. T. J. Preston	May 8, 1869	37. Daniel O. Brooke	June 21, 1869
10. Col. R. L. Denison	May 15, 1869	38. J. W. Drummond	June 21, 1869
11. Col. G. T. Denison	May 15, 1869	39. Sir William P. Howland	June 21, 1869
12. John Harper	May 15, 1869	40. John George Howard	June 21, 1869
13. Allan MacDonnell	May 15, 1869	41. John Wallis	June 21, 1869
14. Samuel Rogers	May 15, 1869	42. James Ashfield	July 19, 1869
15. Rev. Henry Scadding	May 15, 1869	43. James Beatty	July 19, 1869
16. Henry Sproatt	May 15, 1869	44. George Crawford	July 19, 1869
17. J. T. Smith	May 15, 1869	45. James Farrell	July 19, 1869
18. Thomas Storm	May 15, 1869	46. James Gedo	July 19, 1869
19. Philip Armstrong	May 22, 1869	47. Stephen Heward	July 19, 1869
20. John Carr	May 22, 1869	48. William Steer	July 19, 1869
21. Alf. De Grassi	May 22, 1869	49. John Shanklin	July 19, 1869
22. William Henderson	May 22, 1869	50. Robert James	May 29, 1869
23. George Bostwick	May 31, 1869	51. John Bright	Aug. 16, 1869
24. Thomas D. Harris	May 31, 1869	52. John Doel, Sr.	Aug. 16, 1869
25. George B. Holland	May 31, 1869	53. William B. Heward	Aug. 16, 1869
26. William J. Coates	June 3, 1869	54. G. Henderson	Aug. 16, 1869
27. C. W. Cooper	June 3, 1869	55. James Meyers	Aug. 16, 1869
28. Sir William Gooderham	June 3, 1869		

This represents the first year of membership from April to August, as members continued to sign up. Maybe you know a small story about one of ours. You may even be related as some members are. It was said to me this past week, "We are a Historical Society and the members are the history." Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook to learn more about Members.

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.

In 2021, the membership structure is as follows:

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

Individuals taking out a 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
260 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON
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Thank you!

2021 Board Members

Officers

Past President: David Raymont

President: Fred Robbins

Vice President: Michael Nettleton

Treasurer: Lionel Collier

Recording Secretary: Gerry Lee

Corresponding Secretary [Social media]: Melissa Vella

Archivist: Jennifer Gray

Committee Chairs

Editorial: Fred Robbins

Membership: Angus D. Palmer

Programme: Beth Alaksa

Publicity/Newsletter: Brent Cunningham

Scadding Cabin: Kayoko Smith

Representative on the Board of Sharon Temple: Fred Robbins

Canadian National Exhibition: Barry Mapes

Members at Large

Sarah Gossip

Cindy Ewins

George Duncan

Stefanie Lem

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