



THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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Return of The EX!! Calling All Volunteers!

Dates: Friday, August 19th to
 Monday, September 5th, 2022
 Time: 12:00pm to 7:00pm Daily!
 Location: Scadding Cabin

After a two year hiatus, the Canadian National Exhibition makes its post-COVID-19 return this summer, and the Scadding Cabin is actively scheduling volunteers for daily events just as we have since our debut at the very first Toronto Industrial Exhibition in 1879.

York Pioneers' VP Beth Alaksa shares her summer highlights and warm memories of volunteering at the Scadding Cabin. Read her account on Page 4 and then reach out to Kayoko Smith at kayto.ca@live.ca to schedule your memories this summer!



Above: The CNE's Prince's Gates Stands with Ukraine, May 2022. Photo: Brent Cunningham.



Above: The Scadding Cabin, Doors Open Toronto, May 2022. Photo: Brent Cunningham

NOTICE TO VOLUNTEERS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers are encouraged to check in advance and agree to abide by YPHS safety protocols such as masking requirements before representing the YPHS as a volunteer.

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DOORS OPEN TORONTO 2022



Above: Volunteers Brent Cunningham and Kayoko Smith pose with visitors to the Cabin. *Photo:* David Raymont.

Pent-up demand was evident before the doors even opened on Doors Open 2022 with visitors gathering around the Scadding Cabin as the first volunteers arrived to prepare for the grand reopening. It seems that after two years of lockdowns, a strong desire persisted among Torontonians to get out and explore the community on what turned out to be a beautiful spring weekend.

In keeping with public health and safety recommendations, York Pioneers' volunteers limited admission into the Cabin to no more than 10 visitors at a time. This only seemed to feed into the interest as the curious formed long queues outside of the Cabin.



Above: Visitors assembly outside the Scadding Cabin. *Photo:* Gerry Lee

Doors Open 2022 also marked the unveiling of the 1805 Toronto Purchase scanned copy donated by Library and Archives Canada as discussed in the May 2022 edition of The Update as our newest permanent exhibit.

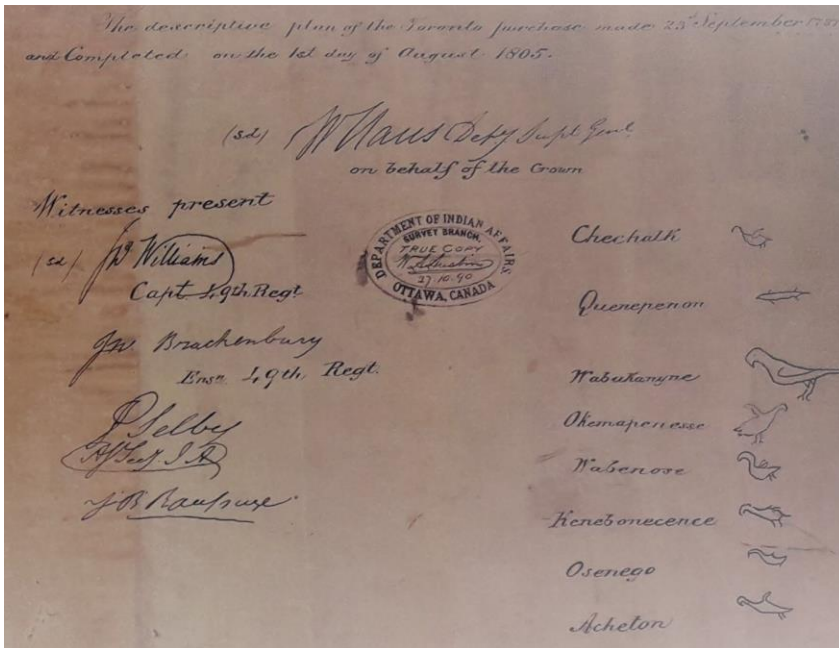
In the end, 468 visitors passed through the Cabin over the weekend. Unsolicited donations were up over 425% from 2019 when the Cabin last participated in Doors Open pre-pandemic.

But the York Pioneers were not alone in celebrating Toronto's history for Doors Open 2022. A short distance away, La Société d'histoire de Toronto had set-up their display at the Fort Rouillé obelisk; a reminder dear readers of our connection to this plot of land: the original York Pioneers specifically chose to relocate John Scadding's Cabin to its present location in 1879 *because of* its proximity to Fort Rouillé (also called "Fort Toronto" in early Nouvelle-France maps) built on this site in 1750 and dismantled in 1759 during the Seven Years War. Visitors were treated to live French musical performances reflecting the 1750s era.

For more info on La Société, see www.sht.ca



Above: La Société d'histoire de Toronto at Fort Rouillé. *Photo:* Brent Cunningham.



Top row: Visitors gather outside the Cabin as Diane Reid entertains and educates inside and out. **Photos:** Gerry Lee.

Middle row: La Société d'histoire de Toronto volunteers visit the Scadding Cabin and York Pioneers volunteers visit the Fort Rouillé display. **Photos:** Brent Cunningham and David Raymont.

Bottom row: The unveiling of the 1805 Toronto Purchase; digitized by Library and Archives Canada. **Photo:** David Raymont.

VOLUNTEERING AT SCADDING'S CABIN

By Beth Alaksa

"We come every year!"

"I run past every day, but it has never been open."

"I didn't even know it existed!"

These are some of the regular responses to the "Welcome to Scadding Cabin, is this your first visit?" question. The one common element with all the answers is the smile accompanying the response. There is something enchanting about entering the Cabin. It might be being able to step back in history or remembering a childhood memory of coming to the CNE, whatever it is we're glad people come and enjoy their visit.

I've volunteered at the Cabin for three summers before COVID-19 and also for the CNE Ghost walks in 2021 and Doors Open this year. Each time, I too, smile as I enter the Cabin and am enchanted all over again. For me it is the step back in history. I was born and raised in Toronto, but I don't remember visiting the Cabin in my childhood, even though we did go to the CNE every year. As an adult I became interested in Toronto history and for me, the Cabin is a tangible piece of that history; somewhere I can immerse myself in it and make Toronto of the past seem real.

It is also a great meeting place of like-minded people. Many visitors take a quick look around and ask a couple of questions then smile, nod, say 'thank you' and leave. Others don't engage at all, but there is a good number of people who stop, take it in for a minute and share a story or ask questions that end up in a great discussion with one or two of the volunteers. It is those people and those interactions that make being a volunteer so rewarding. The chance to share an interest or passion with like-minded people one would most likely never meet otherwise. If you're like me, my friends and family kid me about my passion for the Simcoes and the Cabin, but at the Cabin, there are always people who understand and have that passion also.

We are all very pleased that the CNE will be back for 2022 and that we will be able to once again welcome visitors to the Cabin! We need your help to share the Cabin with repeat visitors or first timers. Whether it is for one shift or several days join us a volunteer and share your passion for Toronto history and meet like-minded people. The visitors will definitely thank you and you, too, will leave the Cabin with a smile on your face.

KEEPING JOHN SCADDING’S CABIN

By David Raymont

You can help volunteers maintaining Toronto’s oldest house, the Scadding Cabin, as it opens again to greet visitors following COVID restrictions.

During this year’s Doors Open, Brent Cunningham wanted to bring in logs to add to the appearance of the fireplace. But there were no andirons, metal bars that supports the ends of logs in a wood fire.

So please search your attic, basement or garage, and if you have a pair of simple andirons, and a fire bellows, that are appropriate to the late 1700s or early 1800s, and can donate them to the cabin, contact Kayoko Smith through the York Pioneers gmail address – yorkpioneers@gmail.com

Kayoko is also interested in increasing the supply of period-appropriate tableware for the cabin. Contact her if you have something to donate.

In addition, major work needs to be done to the west wall of the cabin. The base log that runs along the floor has serious rot and needs to be replaced. Volunteers are now determining the cost of locating a squared log to fit the space and the work required to make the switch.

You can help with this necessary repair by making a donation to the York Pioneers. You can send your donation through the Pioneers’ webpage at www.yorkpioneers.com.



<p>Coat and Vest Buttons, Shaving Boxes. Snuff Tooth Brushes, Hair Scrubbing Brushes, Shoe and Cloth do. Broom Heads, Oval Looking Glasses, Pins and White Napel Needles, Razors, Knives & Forks Pen and Pocket Knives, Scissors, Britania Metal, Table and Tea Spoons, Cotton Cards, Wool do. Cotton Wool,</p>	<p>Tobacco, Candies, Soap & Starch, Oat Meal, Scotch Barley, Cod Fish, Earthen Ware & China consisting of Yellow Brown, Orange, Red Pattern, Flower work, Spring Pattern, Star and lace border En- amel'd Tea Ware, Plain, lined, handled & fluted, with and with- out Coffees, &c. Red and leaf China, with Coffees, &c. &c. Gilt Enamel'd ditto complete,</p>	<p>All of which than can be pu- by Mr. Drea- in England fo Most kinds payment, and Hot and Pear will be kept o</p> <p>York, 9th A N B All we requested t wise their fev red in the ha</p> <hr/> <p>THE in a cl begs I Public general file at his form The low term chaired, enabl prices. Coun batter, or payr The followi viz. Woollens Calicoes,</p>
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**Together with an Assortment of
Glass Ware, and a variety of Ar-
ticles not here mentioned. All
of which will be sold very low for
Cash or Produce.**

RIDOUT & MERCER.
York, 27th Nov 1810

Left: Period-appropriate tableware. Right: Rideout & Mercer, York 27th Nov 1810.
Photos: David Raymont.

REPAIRS TO THE CABIN AN ONGOING ISSUE

It should be no surprise that a building built in 1794 needs constant maintenance. Since moving the cabin from the east bank of the Don River to the Exhibition grounds, the York Pioneers have been providing the building with necessary care.

The roof has been reshingled several times – most recently in 2013 with period-appropriate red cedar shingles thanks to advice from ERA, a leading restoration architectural firm, and the work of restoration contractors Heather & Little. This important work added better ventilation to the roof as well as improved drainage, an ice shield and flashing.

In 1959, the cabin was raised off of the ground and placed on a concrete foundation to counteract dampness.



Above: Scadding Cabin repairs. Photo: David Raymont.

But that work did not stop the need for major work to the wall on the southeast side of the building, thanks to wood rot and the work of carpenter ants. Logs were replaced in 1985 and you can see the metal tags fastened to the new logs that were put in place at the time.

To find the oldest logs in the cabin, look up under the roof line, and on the north end of the building. There you can see old, dried squared white pine that has witnessed much of the history of the city.

Like any home, the work of maintaining the cabin is never-ending and like any proud homeowner, York Pioneer volunteers are up to the job!

OTHER HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

Perhaps proud homeowner, while performing your own spring cleaning activities, you may have come across past collections of our publications such as The York Pioneer, historical membership certificates, or any artifacts associated with early Toronto history that you believe may be of interest to our museum?

If so, we the York Pioneers would love to hear from you. Please send us an email at yorkpioneers@gmail.com and we will be in touch with you shortly!

In Memoriam

Ralph Berrin joined the York Pioneer and Historical Society as a Life Member at age 18 in 1952, making him our longest-standing member in recent years. He died on December 15, 2020 in his 87th year.

Ralph served on the Board of Directors as Chairman of the Membership Committee in 1966-1967, and as a Member-at-Large in 1968 and 1971-1973. He also wrote for The York Pioneer. Two of his articles were reprinted in the 2020 commemorative issue.

A pharmacist in his working life, Ralph's life-long interest in history saw him involved in other organizations, including the Beth Tzedec Museum.

<https://www.benjaminparkmemorialchapel.ca/ServiceDetails.aspx?snum=137125&fg=0&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>



Left: Fred Robbins presents Ralph Berrin his 66th year anniversary certificate, June 2019, Right: Life Members: Ralph Berrin, Gerry Lee, and Nancy Conn, Gibson House, June 2016. Photos: Audrey Fox.

Edna Rigby

We are sorry to report that Honorary Life Member and long-time Scadding Cabin docent **Edna Rigby** died earlier this year.

A volunteer at the cabin beginning in 1986, Edna joined the Board of Directors in 1993 and became Chair of the Scadding Cabin Committee in 1993, continuing in that role until 2012. In addition to chairing the committee, Edna served as the Society's representative to the Canadian National Exhibition Association, and she was the full-time docent during the CNE from 1993 to 2009. From 2010 to 2014 she was there for four days each year. In scheduling volunteers Edna found many new people, sometimes recruiting her own friends, several of whom became YPHS members.

Edna also volunteered at the Grange, and when that site closed as a house museum in 2009, she arranged for the donation of several Grange costumes for use at the cabin.



Left: Edna volunteering at the Scadding Cabin, Summer 1992. Photo: Les M. Payne. Right: Kayoko Smith and John Marshall present Edna with her Honorary Lifetime Membership certificate, 2016. Photo: David Raymont.

Doris Willoughby

With regret we announce the passing of Honorary Life Member **Doris Willoughby** (nee Hollinshead) on May 26 in her 99th year. Born in Kinghorn, Doris lived most of her life in King Township. She was a founder of the King Township Historical Society, a member of the Sharon Burying Ground Association, and was also involved with local Women's Institutes and the Presbyterian Church.

In the mid-1970s Doris and her husband Bill (d. 1999) became involved with Eversley Church, then owned by the YPHS, and for many years looked after arrangements for all of the weddings and Christenings that took place there. In 1998 they were presented with Honorary Life Memberships in recognition of this outstanding contribution.

We extend condolences to her son, Past President Paul Willoughby, his wife Cathy, and other members of the family.



Above: Doris, undated photo.

ST. RITA'S RC CHURCH 100th ANNIVERSARY

At 10:30AM on Sunday, July 17, a service was held at St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake Anglican Church on Cibola Avenue on Centre Island. However this was not any normal Sunday service at St. Andrew's: it was in fact a celebration of the 100th anniversary of St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church that served the Island's Roman Catholic community in this same vicinity since July 1922.

The intertwined history of St. Rita's and St. Andrew's is a long and interesting one, as rendered in Mary Frances Mallon's article 'A Tale of Two Churches: St. Andrew's and St. Rita's, Centre Island, Toronto' in *The York Pioneer*, Vol. 85, (1990). And while St. Rita's building may be long gone, their parishioners and those of St. Andrew's, cognizant of their shared history on this plot of land, again united to celebrate St. Rita's 100th anniversary.

It was on Sunday, July 16, 1922 that His Grace Archbishop Neil McNeil dedicated St. Rita's to serve the Centre Island faithful who until that time, took the ferry across the bay followed by the street cars up Yonge Street to St. Michael's Cathedral. Aided by a large contribution from the O'Keefe estate, St. Rita's was founded to simplify the spiritual needs of the tranquil islanders. Alas, the turmoil of the Metro Councils of the 1950s and 1960s that fostered acquisitions and demolitions of properties across the City did not spare Centre Island, and by the 1970s had taken their toll on St. Rita's old building specifically. Metro insisted on moving both sanctuaries in the 1960's. Ten years later Metro demolished St. Rita's and closed St. Andrew's for structural improvements. Rev. David Mulholland, undaunted by Metro, united all neighbours for continued worship. Both congregations celebrated a Re-Dedication in June 1984, Anglicans held services at 10AM and Catholics at 11.30AM each Sunday. Today, parkland – not even a memorial plaque – is all that remains of this interesting but mostly forgotten period of Centre Island's history.

The York Pioneers commend the St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake community for their leadership in keeping this little known tidbit of Toronto's history alive!



Above: St. Rita's, 1922-1983. 1884 architect of St Andrew's was Col. Arthur Denison, son of YPHS 1st President. **Photo:** Courtesy of St. Andrews-by-the-Lake.

CNE CALENDAR 2022 - SCADDING CABIN

As always, the York Pioneers welcome volunteers and members to join us at the Scadding Cabin during the CNE. See below for the list of special events:

Sat., Aug. 20	1805 Toronto Purchase Talk	2:00PM-3:00PM
Sun., Aug. 21	Elizabeth Simcoe Talks	12:00PM-4:00PM
Mon., Aug. 22	Scadding Cabin Timeline Talk	12:00PM-1:00PM; 1:30PM-2:30PM; 3:00PM-4:00PM
Tue., Aug. 23	1805 Toronto Purchase Talk	2:00PM-3:00PM
Tue., Aug. 23	Carpenter Tools Talk	12:00PM-1:30PM; 3:00PM-4:30PM
Wed., Aug. 24	Spinning Demonstration	12:00PM-1:30PM
Thu., Aug. 25	Butterfly Tagging	1:00PM-5:00PM
Fri., Aug. 26	Governor & Mrs. Simcoe Visit	2:00PM-4:00PM
Sat., Aug. 27	Butterfly Tagging	1:00PM-5:00PM
Sun., Aug. 28	Scadding Cabin Timeline Talk	12:00PM-1:00PM; 1:30PM-2:30PM; 3:00PM-4:00PM
Mon., Aug 29	Scadding Cabin Timeline Talk	12:00PM-1:00PM; 1:30PM-2:30PM; 3:00PM-4:00PM
Tue., Aug. 30	Farm Implements Talk	12:00PM-1:30PM; 3:00PM-4:30PM
Wed., Aug. 31	Spinning Demonstration	12:00PM-1:30PM
Thu., Sept. 1	Butterfly Tagging	1:00PM-5:00PM
Fri., Sept. 2	Governor & Mrs. Simcoe Visit	2:00PM-4:00PM

Welcome New Member!

Norm Holman

Renewal as a Life Member!

Kathy Macpherson

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

