

**ITEM                    50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONUMENT TO THE  
CANADIAN EXILES**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

On 18 May this year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the unveiling of a monument to the Canadian exiles who were imprisoned in Longbottom Stockade.

The name City of Canada Bay honours this important historical link between Australia and Canada.

The monument was unveiled by Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, on 18 May 1970, to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the landing of the Canadian exiles in Australia and sacrifices made by many Canadians and Australians in the evolution of self-governing, equal and free nations within the Commonwealth of Nations.

The events of the lower Canada Rebellion of 1837 to 1838 saw 58 French Canadian rebels deported to Australia. These convicts broke stone for the construction of Parramatta Road and collected oyster shells for making lime. In 1840, all the Canadian exiles received pardons and returned to Canada with the exception of two who passed away and one, Joseph Marceau, who settled in Dapto.

Initially in Cabarita Park, the monument was moved to Bayview Park in 1984 to mark the site where, in 1840, the 58 French Canadians were discharged after their journey from Canada.

I have been approached by an independent documentary film producer and decedent of Joseph Mearceau who is seeking support to present the first feature length documentary about the convict history of the City of Canada Bay. This documentary, *Canada Bay: Revisited*, tells the relatively unknown and untold story of the Canadian Patriots.

The documentary addresses the six month journey that the patriots endured – commencing in Montreal and concluding here. It explores the challenges they overcame on arrival, their arduous time at the Longbottom Stockade where they lived as political prisoners, and their eventual adjustment to the colony.

Deke Richards, the film's producer, is a passionate advocate for this piece of our history and in 2017 Council worked with Deke to recognise the historical link between Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville, Quebec and the City of Canada Bay. He presented the initial concept for this documentary to an audience at Concord Library in 2014.

I propose that we mark the 50th anniversary of the unveiling of the monument to the Canadian exiles with a pop-up cinema in Bayview Park, adjacent to the monument, where our community can revel in our shared history and enjoy this new documentary film.

The pop-up cinema event can also be accompanied by a short ceremony to recognise these important historical links to our friends in Canada.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council mark the 50th anniversary of the unveiling of the monument to the Canadian exiles with a pop-up cinema event in Bayview Park.

THAT Council note the event cost of \$5,000 to be diverted from an allocation within the Majors Bay Road Place Plan for the launch of the Jellico Street Piazza which will not occur until the next financial year.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**ATTACHMENT 3**