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Request for recognition of event of municipal significance

From: Mackenzie House, City of Toronto, Museums & Heritage Services

Statement of Significance

Mackenzie House requests that the program Dinner With Mackenzie be listed as an Event of Municipal Significance.

Historical Significance

Mackenzie House is the restored home of William Lyon Mackenzie, Toronto's first Mayor, a radical journalist and publisher, and leader of the Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada. The house, at 82 Bond Street, was given to Mackenzie by friends and supporters, when he retired from public life, in recognition of his many years of serving the community. Mackenzie lived in this Greek Revival townhouse with his wife, Isabel (Baxter) Mackenzie from 1858 until his death in 1861.

The house was saved from demolition and restored to the mid-Victorian time period by public donation in the 1930s and 40s. It was opened as a museum in 1950 and run on private funds until it was gifted to the City of Toronto in 1960. It has been run by the City since that time. William Lyon Mackenzie was named as a National Historic Person of Canada in 1949.

Name of the Event

Dinner With Mackenzie

Exact Address or Location of the Event

Mackenzie House
82 Bond Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1X2

The Purpose of the Event

Mackenzie House interprets the life of William Lyon Mackenzie and his family as well as the development of urban, Victorian Toronto. The Dinner With Mackenzie event will help Mackenzie House meet its interpretive goals and increase attendance and awareness of the museum.

The event will take place on four evenings and includes period music and food, as well as an interactive theatre component which will allow participants to interact with actors playing Mackenzie and his wife, Isabel.

Dinner With Mackenzie serves to allow participants an immersive, historic experience with an important and controversial historic figure. A demonstration in the recreated 1850s print shop will be offered to tell the story of how Mackenzie and others, such as sometimes rival George Brown, utilized the medium of the printed word to educate and to spread their political views to the general population.

A glass of wine will be served with dinner and will be part of the price of the Dinner Theatre ticket.

The Date and Time of the Event

Wednesday, January 31, Thursday February 1, Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3, 2018

Start Time: 7 p.m

End Time: 10 p.m.

Contact:

Nancy Reynolds

Curator

Mackenzie House

Museum and Heritage Services

Economic Development and Culture

City of Toronto

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