

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NEW EXHIBITION AT TORONTO PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

#### **Early Typewriters: Gateway to the Information Age**

Can you imagine typing without being able to see the paper? Or typing one character at a time by sliding a bar back and forth? *Early Typewriters: Gateway to the Information Age* presents the early history of typewriters. Over 40 machines from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are featured in this exhibition. Today's keyboards provide an essential entry point for global communication and help define the personal and business technology of our "information age." The original keyboards – typewriters - have largely been ignored as cultural artifacts but their impact on life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was considerable. Along with other machines of communication, the typewriter helped create the modern world.

This exhibition not only shows important early means of communication but also reveals the passion of one collector. All of the machines are from the collection of Martin Howard. He became hooked on early typewriters in 1989 after spotting an early 1880s machine in a junk shop. Since then, he has amassed the most important collection of its kind in Canada.

*Early Typewriters: Gateway to the Information Age* was originally organized by the Royal Ontario Museum, in cooperation with Martin Howard. It has been modified by Martin Howard for exhibition at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

The show is on display until November 16 in Malton Airport Gallery, Terminal 1, Toronto Pearson International Airport.

#### Background:

Launched in April 2004, the GTAA Art and Exhibitions Program offers a wide variety of engaging exhibits, with many developed in partnership with museums, galleries and cultural and heritage institution on Ontario and Canada. The GTAA works to promote the Greater Toronto Area's reputation as an important cultural destination.

The GTAA is the non-share, not-for profit authority that operates Toronto Pearson. All revenue generated by the GTAA is reinvested back into the airport. In 2006, 31 million passengers traveled through Toronto Pearson.

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