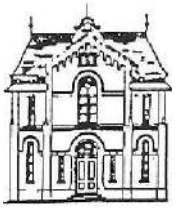

North Toronto Town Hall

NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 43 NO. 4 WINTER 2019

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Bedford Park: Yonge St. looking north to Ranleigh Ave., 1915 *TPL*

Winter Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.

Wednesday, 29 January, 7:30 p.m.
LOST GOLF COURSES OF TORONTO

Nearly 30 golf courses were established in the Toronto area between 1869 and 1919. They literally shaped the city. In fact, if you live in Toronto today, there is a very real possibility that your home is on a former golf course - or is a par five away from one. Join us for an illustrated talk by **Scott Burk**, author of *Toronto's Lost Golf Courses: How the Game of Golf Shaped the City of Toronto. Volume 1: 1869-1919.*

Wednesday, 26 February, 7:30 p.m.
JOSHUA GLOVER:
THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF AN ORDINARY MAN.

Joshua Glover was an ordinary man whose extraordinary adventures in his search for freedom moved the United States one step closer to Civil War. In this illustrated presentation, historian **Hilary Dawson** will take you on a journey that starts in slavery in Missouri, and travels the Underground Railroad from Wisconsin to Etobicoke.

NOTE: *A brief Annual General Meeting will precede this programme.*

Wednesday, 25 March, 7:30 p.m.
THE MISSING MILLIONAIRE:
THE TRUE STORY OF AMBROSE SMALL AND THE CITY OBSESSED WITH FINDING HIM

In December 1919, Ambrose Small, the mercurial owner of the Grand Opera House in Toronto, sold his network of Ontario theatres, deposited a million-dollar cheque in his bank account, and was never seen again. As weeks turned to years, the disappearance became the most "extraordinary unsolved mystery" of its time. In *The Missing Millionaire*, author **Katie Daubs** tells the story of the Small mystery, weaving together a gripping narrative with the social and cultural history of a city undergoing immense change.

The Society meets at the Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard (one block north of Eglinton, just west of Yonge) at 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month from September to November & January to May. Programmes are free and are open to the public. Our co-sponsor is the Northern District Branch of the Toronto Public Library.

President's Message

Best wishes for 2020, as the North Toronto Historical Society enters its 45th year.

Our annual general meeting will be held at the beginning of the monthly programme in February. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the Society, please contact a member of our executive committee. We would be happy to welcome new members and ideas.

I would like to thank our executive for their contributions during 2019 – Hilary Dawson, newsletter editor; Bill Dawson, treasurer; Brian Dunfield membership co-ordinator; Flo Morson, secretary; and Doug Campbell, Janet Dunfield, Alex Grenzebach, Ken Pon, and Liz and John Warrener, members-at-large. Special thanks to Janet Dunfield who helped out with refreshments at our meetings, to Liz and John Warrener for sale of Society publications and to Alex Grenzebach who emailed the NTHS Updater and contributed the "50 Years Ago" feature to our newsletter. Alan Barry, Branch Head of Northern District Library and librarians Juan Li and Jennifer Barratt facilitated the arrangements for our meetings and booked the equipment used by speakers. Thanks also to members who contributed to the work of the Society through their financial donations.

2019 featured many successful programmes with topics ranging from "Memories of Women's College Hospital School of Nursing" to "The Italian-Canadian Experience in Toronto." Ken Greenberg spoke to the modern era in "Toronto Reborn" and Barbara Myrvold focussed on historical photos on the Toronto Public Library digital archive. Special thanks to NTHS members Ed Freeman and Marta O'Brien who also gave talks to us.

Our annual Fall walk "Bedford Park" featured local landmarks on Yonge Street as well as hidden treasures on Roslin and Bedford Park Avenues. We appreciated St. Leonard's Anglican Church giving us access to their sanctuary to see the stained glass windows.

Concern over heritage buildings in North Toronto continues, but there have been some success stories in Lawrence Park in original homes that have been purchased and restored, including 35 and 37 St. Edmund's Drive.

Looking forward to seeing you at our programmes in 2020.

Lynda Moon, President

Anniversaries

350 Incorporated on 2 May 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company is the oldest company in North America.

The red and white HBC flag used 1682-1707

100 The Royal Northwest Mounted Police and the Dominion Police were amalgamated to form the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on 1 February 1920.

"What a Year 1920 was for the Force!" article by Rick Hall: https://tinyurl.com/vkhulxn

Who's Who in Mount Pleasant Cemetery?

by Doug Campbell

From time to time we will have 3 or 4 names of people interred in the cemetery who have one or two things in common, for instance a position or a business.

What do these men have in common?

Edward R. Wood
Frank Wood
John S. McLean
J.J. Vaughan
Dr. Herbert Bruce

The answer is on page 8

Ardith One: Canadian Pottery & Crafts, 1971-2019

by Lynda Moon

On Saturday June 8, 2019 Ardith One opened its doors to the public for the last time. This store, operated by Bev and Bill Don for decades had become a landmark in the Bedford Park area, serving several generations of customers and craftspeople. Following the closure this notice was posted on the door of the store at 3311 Yonge St. and on the business website:

We've retired!
48 years in business
100s of potters and craftspeople
48,000 gifts...boxed and wrapped
20 plus staff
1,000s of the best customers
It was time to close the store and move on
to the next phase of our lives.
We had the best time and wish to thank all our faithful customers who
supported us all these years.
Bev and Bill

We've retired!

48 years in business; 100s of potters and craftspeople; 48,000 gifts...boxed and wrapped; 20 plus staff; 1,000s of the best customers.

It was time to close the store and move on to the next phase of our lives.

We had the best time and wish to thank all our faithful customers who supported us all these years. *Bev and Bill*

I took a photo of Bill Don in front of the store which appeared in our NTHS Summer newsletter and later interviewed Bev for this article. We also featured the store in our Fall walk.

Bev and Bill Don founded Ardith One in 1971 when they were a young couple with a vision and love of Canadian pottery. (Ardith is Bev's middle name and this was their first business venture.) In the beginning they kept their other jobs and operated on a part-time basis in rented premises in Rosedale. Then in 1976, they purchased the property on Yonge St. just south of Fairlawn. Until 1989 they lived in the two-storey apartment above the store and raised their son there. For a short

period in the mid-1980s they also operated a store in the Beaches area.

What made their business so special was the focus on Canadian potters from across the country and the later inclusion of Canadian craftspeople in such fields as weaving, wood carving and glass. They provided important support and exposure to many of these artists.

For the customers, there was a wide variety to choose from – small items such as mugs to place settings for wedding gifts. There was the personal touch including many stories shared, soothing music, gift wrapping, height marks of children on the wall and the not to be forgotten pet cat Bernie. Bev and Ben also educated us about handcrafted Canadian pottery, glazes etc. and the various ways in which the pottery could be used.

Bev remarked to me that they have noticed many changes in the area over the years. There are fewer independent small businesses now and more chains. The movie theatres – Fairlawn and Park - are long gone. However, Bedford Park has retained its low-rise village feel. Bev and Bill are happy to continue to live in their home in the community.

Thanks, Bev and Bill and Best Wishes for your Retirement!

Receive the *NTHS UPDATER* by email!

Would you like us to remind you of upcoming meetings and heritage events with an electronic newsletter?

Email me at **alexg@alumni.uwaterloo.ca** and I will add you to the distribution list. *We will not give out your email address.*

Alex. Grenzebach

Fall Events

FALL WALK

Bedford Park

Our 2019 historic walk explored the southern portion of the community of Bedford Park, along Yonge Street between Fairlawn Avenue and Lawrence Avenue. Although it's hard to imagine now, this was primarily an agricultural area well into the twentieth century.

Travellers on Yonge Street and local farmers needed a hostelry. The first in this area was the Durham Ox, built about 1840 by James Nightingale near today's Bedford Park Avenue. By 1859 it had burnt down. In 1873, at what is now Fairlawn Avenue, Charles McBride built his Bedford Park Hotel using building material salvaged from the old Finch's Hotel at Yonge and Finch. It is believed that the hotel name was used to identify the surrounding community as it grew.

The first Atkinson store at Lawrence and Yonge, 1894. Notice how the land drops away behind the building. *TPL*

In the 1880s, John Atkinson established a general store in a white frame building at the northwest corner of Yonge Street and (now) Lawrence Avenue. Not only did the Atkinsons sell groceries, hardware, drygoods and feed, but they bought local produce to sell as far afield as Davisville. In 1898, the Atkinson family moved their business up to the brick building which still stands at the corner of (now) Bedford Park Avenue It was built in 1891 for Philip Ellis, who had been granted a post office. The Atkinson family continued to run this business at 3162 Yonge until 1959. This is the oldest commercial building standing in Bedford Park.

MORE ABOUT BEDFORD PARK

Bedford Park: Story of a Community, Gary Schlee's blog: https://bedfordpark.wordpress.com

Village of Bedford Park walk booklet is available for sale at NTHS monthly meetings. There are reference copies at the Locke and at Northern District Library.

The extension of the Metropolitan Street Railway to the top of Hogg's Hollow in the 1890s opened the area to development: it was now possible to live outside the city and commute to work downtown. The Ellis brothers (successful Toronto wholesale jewellers) had purchased a large farm which ran between Woburn and Bedford Park Avenues and stretched west to Bathurst. They had an ambitious plan to build their own little factory town there. The Township Council opposed the factory, but the Ellis brothers' Bedford Park Company went ahead with building frame cottages on Woburn and Bedford Park Avenues. On the east side of Yonge, subdivision plans had been approved for Snowdon, Roslin and Bocastle as early as 1889, but construction did not begin until after 1910.

Even with the addition of low-rise buildings like the Art Deco Du Maurier and Pall Mall Apartments in the 1930s and '40s, and Joseph Brown Manor in 1990, the Bedford Park community retains the feeling of a village.

Thanks to walk leaders Lynda Moon, Bill Dawson, Brian Dunfield and Hilary Dawson.

***Toronto Star* 28 April 1933**

Established by Herbert Stainton in the 1920s, Stainton's Hardware Store at 3231 Yonge served the community for decades. More recently it operated as Davis Hardware, owned by Norm Davis.

This is just one of the long-lived and family-run businesses in the neighbourhood. Bedford Park Cleaners (now at 3181 Yonge) was established in 1910. Hudson Shoe Repair (now on Roslin) has been in business since 1935. The Friendly Butcher at 3269 Yonge St has done business in the area for 22 years—as a teenager, Ken MacDonald, the co-owner worked at Cowieson's Butchers.

SEPTEMBER: Ken Greenberg
Toronto Re-born

Toronto is growing at a remarkable rate, and this increase in population brings many challenges. There is more and more pressure on roads, transit and public space; there are social concerns about affordable housing, the income divide and unequal opportunities.

Urban designer Ken Greenberg looked at planning innovations in Toronto since 1970 to illustrate the positive effects of creative thinking and risk-taking by decision-makers, and the importance of community engagement in the planning process.

The first of a dozen Toronto revitalisation projects Ken showed was the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, bounded by Yonge, Front and Parliament Streets. For decades, this was an industrial area separated from Lake Ontario by the railway lands. By the mid 20th century, most industries had moved out, leaving abandoned and derelict buildings. In the 1970s, Mayor David Crombie led a team determined to bring people back to the downtown core. The plan included mixed-income residential buildings, schools and green space – all built to a human scale. This was radical thinking at a time when North American cities were seeing people leave for the suburbs. The St. Lawrence community scheme has been an outstanding success.

Community feeling: The St. Lawrence neighborhood; a T-shape wedged from the lakeshore up to The Esplanade and Front St. and flanked by Yonge and Parliament Sts. may be Toronto's last bold experiment in urban living. Residents say it's like living in a village.

1984, Toronto Star Archives, TPL

READ KEN GREENBERG

Walking Home. The life and Lessons of a City Builder (Toronto: Random House, 2011)

Toronto Reborn: Design Successes and Challenges (Toronto: Dundurn, 2019)

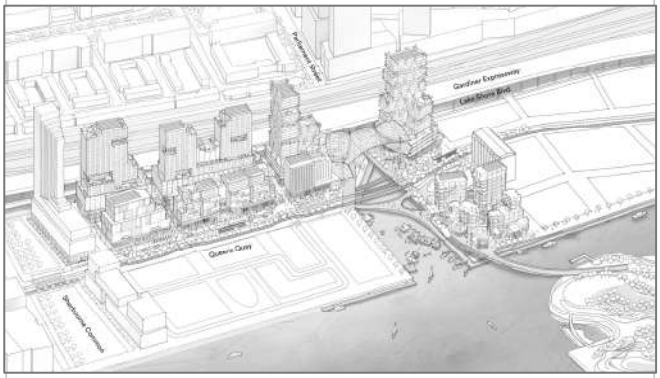
Another project that changed the way Toronto thought of itself is The Kings. Historically, zoning strictly separated industrial, commercial and residential areas. Under Mayor Barbara Hall in the 1990s, the former industrial areas at King & Parliament and King & Bathurst were rezoned to allow mixed-use. Fifty thousand new housing units were built, and thousands of jobs were created as new tech companies moved into the areas.

In 2017, the King Street Transit Pilot study restricted auto access to King Street between Bathurst and Jarvis. As was hoped, transit efficiency was vastly improved. There were no dire consequences for King Street merchants, as they feared. The project was so popular with the general public that it has now been made permanent.

Ken gave many other examples of creative approaches to urban planning problem-solving. He is optimistic about Toronto's future, because the city has such great human capital.

Sidewalk Labs on Quayside

A future ambitious project is to revitalise the brownfields on the eastern waterfront. Under the direction of Waterfront Toronto, Sidewalk Labs proposes an innovative approach to mixed housing, transit, employment opportunities and leading-edge communications.



Read Sidewalk Labs proposal:
https://tinyurl.com/w4cy73j

OCTOBER: **Ed Freeman**

Toronto's Watery History

by Bill Dawson

Ed Freeman, geologist and historian extraordinaire, provided an interesting talk on Toronto's water - water being essential to life and the most consumed product in the world.

Ed began with an overview of the 500 million years of geology that have created the land forms and water resources we have today in the Toronto area. The layers of material deposited in the Cambrian and Paleozoic eras result in stratified layers of material including limestone, sand and clay that are hundreds of metres thick. These have been more recently overlaid with mixed glacial deposits from four glacial events.

Ed described sequential episodes of flooding, land up-lift and erosion that created channels in the underlying debris. The Laurentian River System was an ancient river flowing from what is now the upper Great Lakes area through Georgian Bay and down to the south east into the Toronto area. It cut 100m deep channels in the bedrock in what are now the Humber River and Don River valleys. Subsequent glacial deposits and the original Lake Iroquois created the significant drop in elevation that occurs to the north of Davenport Road. There is other evidence of glaciation in Toronto, notably the drumlin at Roselawn and Avenue Rd which is the highest point in North Toronto and was, for many years, the site of the North Toronto water tower.

These land forms provided abundant water for human habitation. However, public sanitation was poor in the early settlement of York with outdoor privies draining into local streams and people disposing of their garbage and refuse by taking it on to the ice on the lake during the winter. These practices contaminated local streams and the nearby lake water and cholera soon followed with epidemics in 1832 and 1834 which killed 1 in 10 residents of the Town of York. Frequent, although less severe, cholera outbreaks continued to occur until 1871.

In 1843 Albert Furniss, a Montreal merchant, began providing water commercially from a water intake in the harbour but it wasn't until 1872 that the City took over Furniss's operation and created the Toronto Water Works Commission. Finally, in 1877, an intake was extended out beyond the Toronto Islands and a sand filtration system put in place to improve the water quality.

Sherwood Park Pumping Station, 1907 *TPL*
In the 1890s, a well drilled in search of oil found natural gas in (now) Sherwood Park. It powered the Sherwood Park Pumping Station for several years.

In August 1893 the Toronto Ferry Company, while building a dock, drove piles through the intake pipe from the lake. Sewage from Toronto Harbour was pumped into the City's water supply for 24 hours before it was discovered. Typhoid fever ensued.

The City progressively improved and expanded the water treatment system with new intake and/or filtration plants on Toronto Island in 1912, New Toronto in 1915 (replaced by R. L. Clark in 1941), Scarborough in 1921 (replaced by F. J. Horgan in 1980) and R. C. Harris in 1941. Treated water is now distributed throughout the City through a network of 10 reservoirs and 17 pumping station.

The City has, and is continuing to undertake, a number of major water initiatives such as The Deep Lake Cooling Program and currently the massive Don Valley and Central Waterfront Stormwater management program to intercept and treat sewage and storm runoff. These projects will result in a major improvement in water quality on the Toronto waterfront.

MORE ABOUT TORONTO'S WATER

Don River and Central Waterfront: Stormwater Management projects: https://tinyurl.com/t5shc7c

HTO: Toronto's Water from Lake Iroquois to Lost Rivers to Low-flow Toilets, ed. Christina Palassio & Wayne Reeves, with a chapter by Ed Freeman. (Toronto: (uTopia) Coach House Books, 2008

NOVEMBER: **Barbara Myrvold**

North Toronto in Pictures...45 Years Later

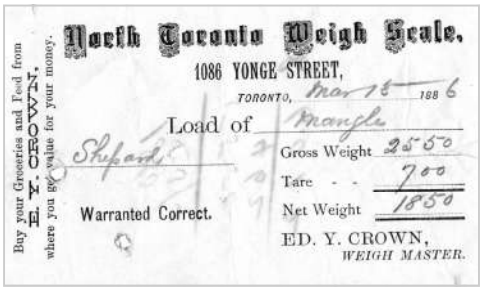
Barbara Myrvold and Lynda Moon worked together at Locke Library, at Yonge and Lawrence. They shared a passion for local history, and developed an exhibit to celebrate Locke's 25th Anniversary in 1974, followed by the publication of *North Toronto in Pictures, 1889-1912*.

They gathered information about North Toronto from various sources, including residents like Bill Ramsay and Don Ritchie, who have left their own legacy of historic documents and photographs. In 1981, student Peter Scott was hired to photograph North Toronto architecture.

In 2001 TPL launched *Historicity: Toronto Then and Now*, a digitisation project which made many photographs and maps available online. Today's Digital Archive on the TPL website now provides access to a wealth of material on North Toronto, including the photo archives of the *Toronto Star*. A wonderful recent addition is a feature on North Toronto in the *Toronto World* of September, 1907.

Barbara mentioned other repositories which hold North Toronto material. The Wilfrid S. Dinnick family fonds (F175) is at the Archives of Ontario: many of the photographs have been scanned and can be found by searching AO's Visual Database. The City of Toronto Archives, too, includes North Toronto images, many in the TTC collection.

Images of North Toronto are much easier to find than they were forty-five years ago!


North Toronto Weigh Scale.
1086 YONGE STREET,
TORONTO, Mar 18 1886
Load of Mangle
Shepard
Gross Weight 2550
Tare 700
Warranted Correct.
Net Weight 1850
ED. Y. CROWN,
WEIGH MASTER.
Buy your Groceries and Feed from E. Y. CROWN, where you get value for your money.

FINDING PICTURES OF NORTH TORONTO

https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

Find <eBooks & Online Content> on the menu bar. Select <Digital Archive>

A search on <"North Toronto"> produced 706 hits, which included books, images, maps and ephemera dating from the 1850s to 2013.

50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald*, 1970, contributed by* **Alex. Grenzebach**. *The* Herald *is available at Northern District Library.*

In 1969: - Tiny Tim got married; - Dwight Eisenhower died; - Richard Nixon "officially took office"; - Ho Chi Minh died.

On January 1, 1970, the provincial government took on the responsibility for property reassessment at market value. The use of the system by municipalities was initially voluntary and it was not until the late 1990s that the current system was put in place by the Harris government.

In a New Year's message, the Hon. Thomas L. Wells (Ontario Minister of Health) noted the "growing tendency toward specialization in medicine" and that "we seem to have lost the family doctor."

Henry Charles (Big Harry) Judges retired as Chief Caretaker at Northern Secondary School after 49 years of employment with the Board of Education. He was a Mason and an Orangeman.

***50 Years Ago** continues on page 8*

50 Years Ago *continued from page 7*

Who's Who in Mount Pleasant Cemetery?

What did these men have in common: Edward R. Wood, Frank Wood, John S. McLean, J.J. Vaughan & Dr. Herbert Bruce ?

Answer:
They all owned estates on Bayview Avenue.

The Frank P. Wood Estate, east side of Bayview north of Lawrence. When this photo was taken in 1969 it was being used by Crescent School.
Toronto Star Archives, TPL

Listerine became available in "a new, shatterproof plastic bottle – marking the first time a mouth wash has been so packed."

We welcome contributions from members: heritage events and achievements, brief articles and photographs of local history interest.

Submissions for the next *Newsletter* by 3 April to dawsonbh@rogers.com or call 416-481-6622.

Heritage Calendar

Heritage Week 17-23 February, 2020
Check Ontario Heritage Trust website for events:
https://tinyurl.com/yeoawrfj

Toronto Postcard Club: 39th Annual Show
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court (Don Mills & Wynford Dr)

Come to our Show! There are sure to be some century old postcards about your subject in the 1,000s offered for sale.

DATE: Sun. 23 Feb, 2020, 10:00-5:00
ADMISSION: $5
INFO: torontopostcardclub.com

Toronto Vintage Clothing Show
Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place

The Toronto Vintage Clothing Show is Canada's largest sale of vintage clothing features clothing from the 1920's - 1980's plus accessories, handbags, jewelry, and designer vintage.

DATE: Sat 7 March, 2020, 10-6:00; Sun 8 March, 10-5
ADMISSION: $12
INFO: www.torontovintageclothingshow.ca

North Toronto Historical Society

An affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society, and a non-profit charitable organization.
℅ 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5M 2B2
www.northtorontohistoricalsociety.org
Annual Memberships: Seniors & Students $5, Adults $7, Families $10

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