



NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

North Toronto Town Hall

VOL. 44 NO. 1

SPRING 2020

25 MARCH NTHS PROGRAMME CANCELLED

To support City and community efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Toronto Public Library has closed all of its branches to the public.

Branches are scheduled to reopen on 6 April.

Check the Toronto Public Library website to see if our April meeting will go ahead.



Skiing spill at Humber Golf Course, 1926. CTA

Spring Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



Wednesday, 29 April, 7:30 p.m.
COLLEGE STREET

There's a wide variety of building types and architectural styles on this long east-west street that passes through several neighbourhoods. Learn about the many churches, schools, commercial buildings, and academic structures between Yonge Street and Lansdowne Avenue. Architectural historian **Marta O'Brien** will cover these plus several remarkable University of Toronto buildings.

Wednesday, 27 May, 7:30 p.m.

JEAN LUMB: A WOMAN OF MANY FIRSTS

Jean Lumb, C.M., was the first restaurateur and first Chinese Canadian woman invested into the Order of Canada. She and her husband owned Kwong Chow Restaurant that introduced Chinese food to the who's who of Toronto. A trailblazer and community spokesperson whose legacy lives on today, Jean played a pivotal role in changing immigration laws that separated families and in saving Chinatowns in Toronto and across Canada. Her daughter, author **Arlene Chan** will tell Jean's remarkable story.

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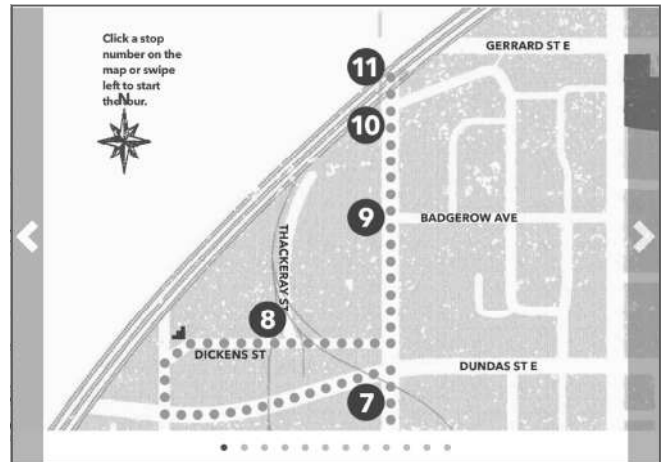
The Society meets at the Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard (one block north of Eglinton, just west of Yonge) at 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month from September to November & January to May. Programmes are free and are open to the public. Our co-sponsor is the Northern District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

Heritage News

Congratulations Heritage Toronto!

Heritage Toronto is a 2020 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award winner. The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards celebrate individuals, groups and communities for their exceptional contributions to heritage conservation – cultural and natural, tangible and intangible.

The award was for **Community Leadership** as a result of the Dundas + Carlaw project. In 2018, the first phase of this project resulted in the launch of the Dundas + Carlaw Heritage Plaque District. Comprising ten plaques and a self-guided tour, this Leslieville area is the first in Toronto to be comprehensively interpreted by HT's Plaques program. The project collected dozens of firsthand accounts from the public: from couples who met while working at Wrigley, Colgate-Palmolive, or Reliable Toy; to entire families who were employed in the neighbourhood.



Dundas + Carlaw: Made in Toronto

The self-guided tour is available online: <https://exploredundascarlaw.heritagetoronto.org> Unfortunately for we old fuddy-duddies, it is mainly available as a digital tour. Paper copies were distributed to libraries and community centres in the neighbourhood, so you may still find a copy when libraries reopen.

Winter Lecture Series

JANUARY: **Scott Burk**
Lost Golf Courses of Toronto

Toronto is built on golf courses. Scott Burk has discovered nearly thirty that existed in the Toronto area before 1919. The golf craze came, of course, with the floods of Scottish immigrants to Canada over the decades. In his research, Scott has found that many founders of Toronto golf clubs were also Masons, and many were prominent Anglicans.

The first documented golf game in Canada was played in the Montreal area in 1826 over Christmas and the New Year. According to the Montreal *Herald* advertisement, for those who didn't have them, clubs would be provided.

The first golf course in Toronto was founded by Scottish-born Lamond Smith in East Toronto. From informal games with friends sprang The Toronto Golf Club, in 1876. By 1912 the club had moved to Port Credit.

There is a pattern of golf courses moving location with improvements in transportation, and the

resulting increase in land values. Sometimes the owner of the land decided to subdivide and develop his under-utilized property, or members saw the opportunity to make a tidy profit by selling club-owned land and moving to a new site.

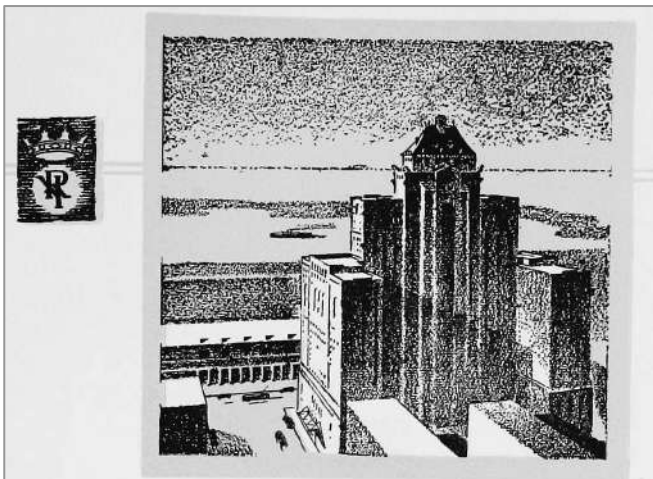


Rosedale Golf Club, 1926, Frederic Waistell Jopling
TPL

The Rosedale Golf Club began in 1893 in Moore Park. It moved to Rosedale Field, which later became the playing field of St. Andrew's College. In 1909 it moved to its current site in the Teddington-Mount Pleasant area.

Golf continues on page 3

A little course that grew was that laid out by Albert Austin on vacant land around Spadina House. Originally it was for his family and friends, but grew into the Spadina Golf Club, whose course ran between St. Clair and Eglinton. As land developers moved into the area, in 1903 this club moved to the Humber. It is now the Lambton Golf & Country Club, and the oldest on its original property. This was the first club in Canada to allow women to play.



The Royal York Golf Club

IN the beautiful Humber Valley, 20 minutes by the lakeside drive from the hotel, is the Royal York Golf Course. Famous golf and landscape architects *are developing* this splendid setting into a magnificent 18-hole championship course, where a club house *is being erected* primarily for the pleasure of hotel guests. Saddle horses for cross-country riding are available here.

Royal York Hotel brochure, 1929

TPL

The Royal York Hotel developed a golf course for the use of guests. It was the idea of Etobicoke developer Home Smith, and opened in 1930. It still exists as St. George's Golf & Country Club on Islington Avenue.

There was a short-lived golf course in North Toronto on the south side of Lawrence Avenue west of Yonge. When residential development reached the area, the property was subdivided and the golf course disappeared under family homes.

The University of Toronto had its own golf course, until additional buildings literally got in the way. Upper Canada College (Avenue Road & Lonsdale) had a course on the old Baldwin Estate grounds.



University of Toronto Monthly, Dec. 1923

UTA

A. The first hole was at the corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road. This course was terminated by the building of the School of Household Science.

1-10. A ten-hole course was then laid out between Bloor St. and Hoskin Avenue.



Miss Muriel Dick near Peel cottage [Swansea] playing golf, 1895-1900

AO

MORE ABOUT TORONTO GOLF COURSES

Scott Burk & Joan Doucette, *Toronto's Lost Golf Courses: How the Game of Golf Shaped the City of Toronto. Volume 1: 1869-1919.* (Toronto: Barlow Book Publishing, 2019)

FEBRUARY: Hilary Dawson

Joshua Glover: the Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary Man



Montgomery Ledger Book, LB 51-53 TRL
On 19 April, 1854, “Joshua Glover the Negro” borrowed 15 shillings from Thomas and William Montgomery in Islington, Etobicoke.

On 19th April, 1854, a travel-worn Black man trudged into Montgomery’s Inn, on Dundas Street in Etobicoke. He was hungry and homeless. Thomas and William Montgomery lent him fifteen shillings, and recorded the loan in their account book. They gave him work, and found somewhere for him to live. The Black stranger was Joshua Glover, who had been born into American slavery. His quest for freedom moved the United States one step closer to Civil War.

Two years before, Joshua had escaped slavery in Missouri and settled in the free state of Wisconsin. Joshua’s liberty was short-lived, however, when his former owner tracked him down and captured him. Joshua was imprisoned in Milwaukee, while the slaveholder procured the legal papers to take his “property” back to Missouri. The U.S. Fugitive Slave Law of 1851 made it easy: he just had to swear to a judge that Joshua was his property, then they could all return to business as usual.

Thousands of enraged Wisconsin citizens gathered in Milwaukee’s Courthouse Square, right in front of the jail. There were impassioned speeches: some urged patience and taking the legal route to secure Joshua’s release, while others wanted immediate action. In the end, the jail door was broken down and Joshua was whisked away.

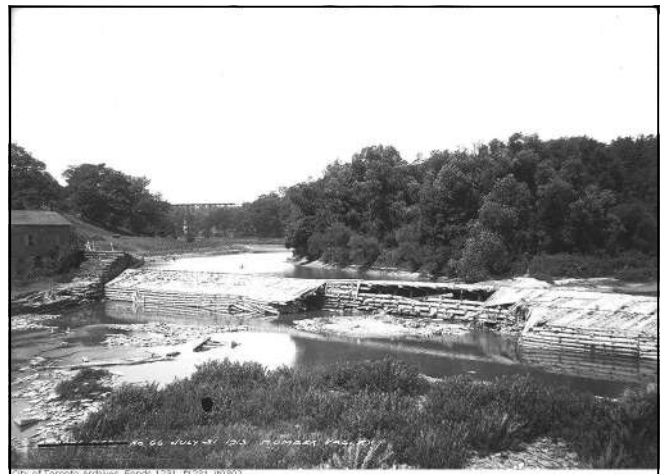
Several men were accused of aiding the escape of a “fugitive from labour.” In particular, newspaper editor Sherman Booth was found guilty by the federal Supreme Court of abetting the rescue. He appealed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, who dismissed the charges. Of course, the federal verdict stood. But this infringement of states’ rights—bolstering the rights of a slaveholder in a free state—polarized opinions across the nation. It brought the country a little closer to Civil War.

This story is well known in Wisconsin, where school children learn about “The Glover Incident” and are proud their state’s role in it. But nobody knew what had happened to Joshua Glover.

For years, African American historian Ruby West Jackson of Madison, WI, had been trying to discover Joshua’s fate. She enlisted the help of her friend Dr. Walter T. McDonald of Racine, WI. When Mac’s search of the online 1871 Ontario Census uncovered an “African” Joshua Glover living in Etobicoke, he contacted the Richview Library who suggested he get in touch with me. At the time I was working at Montgomery’s Inn.

That was in 1997. There followed ten exciting years of discovering documents and pooling research in two countries, in cities 1,000 km apart. We did indeed find the answer to the question, “What happened to Joshua Glover?”

For almost a month, Joshua was concealed in attics, cellars and barns around the Wisconsin countryside. Finally, he was smuggled aboard a ship in Racine, Wisconsin, and sailed for the security of Canada West. Joshua found his way to Islington, and lived the rest of his life in Lambton Mills, in a house rented from the Montgomery family.



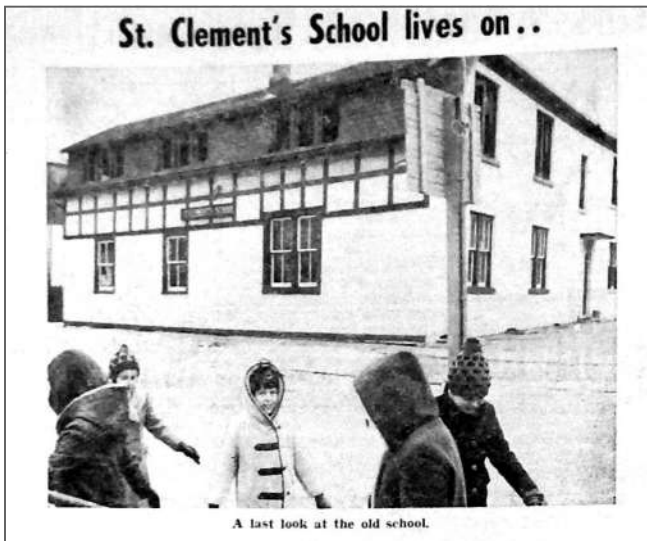
Howland and Elliott dam, Lambton Mills, Humber Valley, 1913. CTA
Joshua Glover’s neighbourhood. He lived on the west (left) side of the Humber, north of the bridge in the distance.

MORE ABOUT JOSHUA GLOVER

Ruby West Jackson & Walter T. McDonald, *Finding Freedom: the Untold Story of Joshua Glover, Runaway Slave*. (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2007.)

50 Years Ago

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



After recovery from a financial crisis in 1966, St. Clement's School planned to open its new \$278,000 building in the fall of 1970. The old school had been demolished and the senior students were temporarily accommodated in Eglinton Baptist Church.



It's not water and coal this lady needs to live beyond September, 1971. It's money. She is the Canadian National Railway's No. 6218, the last steam-age gal of Canadian train-travel history. CN will keep her on the rails for another two years—but after that she'll need private backing to stay alive.



The Royal Family might like to add this one to the regal album. Taken in Ottawa recently, it shows how much Princess Anne looks like her mother—Queen Elizabeth. They were in Canada for one night before embarking on a nine-week tour retracing Captain James Cook's voyage across the Pacific 200 years ago.

The TTC awarded a contract for 76 subway cars to Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd. for \$11,781,787. The new cars were needed for the Yonge subway extension.

Not a fan of Pierre Trudeau, former Liberal Cabinet Minister Judy LaMarsh "said the PM needs a heart to go with his brain while branding the Government as gutless."

In an editorial, a writer took the USA military to task – "To use Vietnam as a military testing ground is horrendous, and to boast about it is utterly despicable."

50 Years Ago continues on page 7

Maxi look

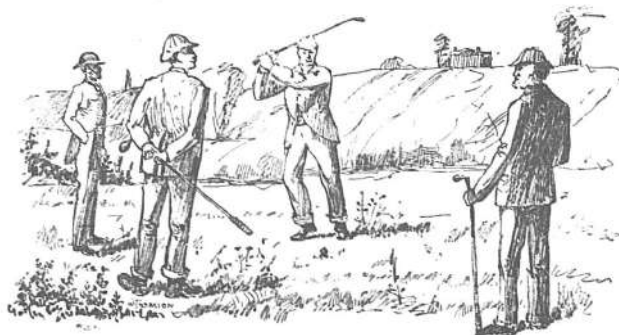


Dutch fashion designer Dick Holthaus of Amsterdam has included these two outfits in his summer collection. Modelled on the left is a red linen coat with matching jupe culotte and brown silk jersey blouse. On the right is a checked woolen jacket and jupe culotte. Matching Spanish broadbrims top the ensembles.

Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau's proposal to win the 1976 Olympics included spending \$120,000,000. A storm of protest was anticipated!

In an unsigned article, an anonymous writer attacked the Ontario Liberal and NDP endorsement of the principle of extending public support to Roman Catholic schools to Grade 13. The article concluded, "All that is needed is one school system. Those who dissent should be willing to take on the financial responsibility as well as the moral responsibility for educating their own children."

The Game of Golf: Another Scotch Athletic Exercise Becomes Popular



THE FIRST STROKE.

Globe, 17 May, 1890

The One Dish That Agrees With The Aged



Kellogg's
CORN FLAKES
Get the Original

The Canadian Courier, 15 August, 1914

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

