



## Fall Programme

Mark your calendars... 

*Wednesday, 30 September, 7:30 p.m.*

*Wednesday, 28 October, 7:30 p.m.*

*Wednesday, 25 November, 7:30 p.m.*



## Fall Walk

*Sunday, 4 October, 2:00 p.m.*

Look for more information in the next *Newsletter*.



**Women and children at Camp Winnebago, 1950s.** This was a Jewish summer camp near Parry Sound.

*Alexander Studio fonds, City of Toronto Archives*



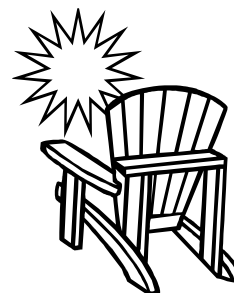
*Tor. Swim Club, Bayfront 1912? See #1570 #2176*  
City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, 1245, 12176

**Toronto Swimming Club, 1912** James Collection, CTA

## *Have a wonderful summer!*

We look forward to seeing you in September, for a new series of local history presentations.

Be sure to mark your calendar now, so you don't miss a single programme.



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.

### HT *iTours*

Heritage Toronto has released the first in a series of downloadable tours named *iTours* supported by the RBC Foundation. *iTours* are visual and audio tours that are a convenient way to explore Toronto's heritage at one's own pace. The first visits the Spadina Avenue neighbourhood, and includes comments by Councillor Adam Vaughan and writer Rick Salutin. Spadina has been home to wave after wave of immigrants—Jewish, Caribbean, Chinese, Vietnamese and more.

Future *iTours* will include a bicycle tour of the Toronto Islands, Don Mills and Islington Village.

*iTours* are available for viewing and downloading to MP3 devices on Heritage Toronto's website. The web page includes a link to a video with historic photos and an audio you can enjoy online or download.

Website: [www.heritagetoronto.org](http://www.heritagetoronto.org)

### Heritage Conservation District Study

The University of Waterloo and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) are anxious to contact local property-owner representatives of all of Ontario's 93 Heritage Conservation Districts, with the aim of bringing all members of the Heritage Conservation District Movement into contact with one another and with ACO.

See *Ontario Heritage Connection* online for more information:

[http://www.ontarioheritageconnection.org/live/main.php?page=news.200905\\_f.html](http://www.ontarioheritageconnection.org/live/main.php?page=news.200905_f.html)

Contact: Richard Longley, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District, 68 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5S 2L7  
T: 416-961-2766 Email: [longley\\_fovea@sympatico.ca](mailto:longley_fovea@sympatico.ca)

## 50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1959, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.

On July 11, Mayor Nathan Phillips officially opened the new Eglinton Park Swimming Pool. It was the fourth of its kind in the city.

### Industrial Heritage Conference

Sponsored by Parks Canada and the City of Hamilton, ***Industrial Strength: Conserving Canada's Industrial Heritage*** is planned for 21-24 October, 2009, in Hamilton. Conference themes:

Brownsite to Heritage Site;  
The Challenge of Preserving Industrial Heritage as Historic Sites and Museums;  
Adaptive Use of Industrial Heritage;  
Strengthening Community Identity and Engagement  
Industrial Landscapes and Districts

Information: [www.industrialstrengthconference.ca/](http://www.industrialstrengthconference.ca/)

Contact: [industrial.strength@hamilton.ca](mailto:industrial.strength@hamilton.ca)

### Buildings, Heritage & Environment

2009 Heritage Canada Foundation's Conference, with the Ontario Heritage Trust and the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, will be held in Toronto 24-26 September, 2009 at The Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

***The Heritage Imperative: Old Buildings in an Age of Environmental Crisis***, will look at climate change, green building, and economic renewal. This is an essential event for advocates, architects, municipal planners, developers, public policy makers, elected officials and property owners. Delegates will learn how the rehabilitation and re-use of older buildings and existing neighbourhoods can help save the planet – and how the green movement and architectural conservation will become more integrated in the process.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Thomas Homer-Dixon, Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo.

Information: <http://www.heritagecanada.org/eng/conference.html>



*50 Years Ago continues on page 3*

NORTH TORONTO  
**HERALD**  
 TORONTO, ONT. FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1959 12 PAGES

  
**ROYAL VISIT**

**NORTH TORONTO  
 WELCOMES HER MAJESTY  
 AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

  
 QUEEN ELIZABETH II

  
 DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Royal Party will proceed up Yonge Street from Davisville to Blythwood at approx. 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 30th, enroute to Sunnybrook Hospital.



On June 30, Queen Elizabeth was scheduled to make a ten-minute stop at the Salvation Army's *Isabel and Arthur Meighen Home* at 100 Davisville Ave. She would then proceed up Yonge St. and along Blythwood Rd. to Sunnybrook Hospital and the C.N.I.B. The Queen had come to Canada for the official opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

**Girl Guides Form Honor Guard For Queen**



When a fire closed the Lawrence Park Pharmacy near Yonge and Lawrence, Frederick Wilson of Wilson's Pharmacy at Yonge and Woburn offered the use of his store. Richard Isaacson, son of the pharmacist Wilfred Isaacson and a recent graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, said "it made one remember that people are not cold and blind". The Isaacsons lived on St. Leonard's Ave. in Lawrence Park and were one of very few Jewish families in the area.

*Discover how much fun*  
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Ontario Department of Travel & Publicity, Hon. Bryan L. Colwell, M.P.

**KNOW ONTARIO BETTER**

An advertisement from the Ontario Department of Travel & Publicity stated that "Central Ontario" is a land of gay resorts and sparkling lakes." How English usage has changed in 50 years!

The Children's Department of the CBC announced that "Howdy Doody will shortly leave the Canadian airwaves".

## Spring Lecture Series

### APRIL Toronto's Foreign Quarter: the Jews and Other Immigrants of St. John's Ward After 1900, Bill Gladstone.

From the 1850s, St. John's Ward (the area bounded by Queen, Yonge, College and University) was a haven for indigent immigrants. York Street headed north from the docks, and was lined with rooming houses to accommodate new arrivals who needed cheap shelter. North of Queen Street, little houses with flimsy lean-to additions were crammed together. Larger houses were divided into one room flats for families, or barrack rooms for single men working for families still in Europe. By the 1920s, "The Ward" had become synonymous with "slum" in Toronto.



Courtyard in the Ward, 1913

CTA

Author and journalist Bill Gladstone transported us to that colourful area, which at the turn of the twentieth century had become predominantly Jewish. Thanks to photographs commissioned in 1917 by the Medical Officer of Health and other City departments [see *May meeting summary p. 6*], and newspaper coverage of the area, he gave us a feeling for the community life that hummed beneath the shabby exteriors.

#### Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada

<http://www.jgstoronto.ca/>

Online samples of the quarterly newsletter *Shem Tov*. Fascinating articles include "Toronto's First Synagogues" and "Early Jewish Doctors in Toronto," as well as useful genealogy content.

There was a steady stream of Jewish refugees fleeing the Russian and European pogroms of the 1880s. Then, between 1901 and 1911, the Jewish population of Toronto jumped from 3,000 to 13,000. Although there were many Italian and Chinese immigrants, two thirds of Ward residents were Jewish. *Der Yidisher Zhurnal* ("The Hebrew Journal") the main Yiddish newspaper, was established in 1912.

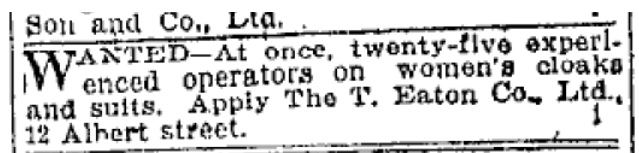


Agnes Street Restaurant

CTA

Often it was the men who came first, looking for work and accommodation for their families. Entrepreneurs provided kosher restaurants for these hungry workers. The United Bakers Dairy Restaurant was started by A. Lodovskiy at Agnes and Terauley, then he followed the Jewish "migration," opening restaurants on Spadina and at Dundas West. The restaurant continues today at the Lawrence Plaza, at Lawrence and Bathurst.

People did what work they could find, often developing a humble job into a profession. For instance, Samuel Lichtman started on the streets as a newsboy, and eventually owned a number of newspaper stands. Tailoring was a popular occupation, and the T. Eaton Company (whose factory was in the Ward) at one time employed 1200 Jewish tailors.



Toronto Star 1 Oct 1903

*The Ward continues on page 5*

There were Jewish professionals, too. Samuel Lavine was the first Jewish medical graduate to practise in Toronto: he graduated from Trinity College in 1899. Magistrate Jacob Cohen spoke Yiddish.



McCaul Street Synagogue

CTA

Existing buildings were purchased and refurbished to serve Jewish community needs. In 1904 the McCaul Street Methodist Church became the McCaul Street Synagogue; in 1909 the Agnes Street Methodist Church was transformed into a Yiddish theatre (the *Lyric*, then *The People's Theatre*), featuring companies from New York City.

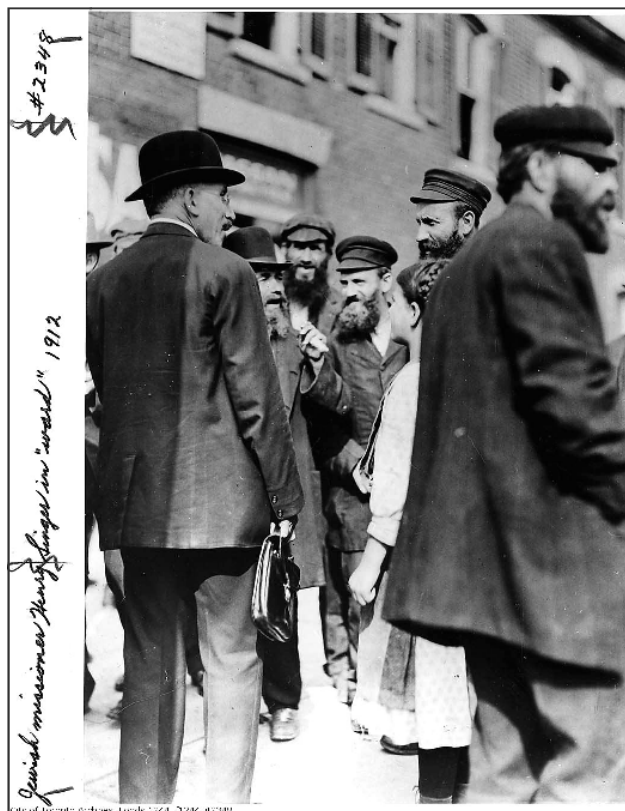
The Jewish community was politically aware and very vocal. There were regular outdoor speakers on topics from socialism to Zionism. Occasionally tempers would flare, and there were arrests at one such gathering.

**One Hundred Years in Canada: the Rubinoff-Naftolin Family Tree**

Bill Gladstone. Now & Then Books, 2008

For sample spreads: <http://rubnaft.com/>  
To order email: [rubnaft@sympatico.ca](mailto:rubnaft@sympatico.ca)  
\$40, including tax, plus shipping if required.

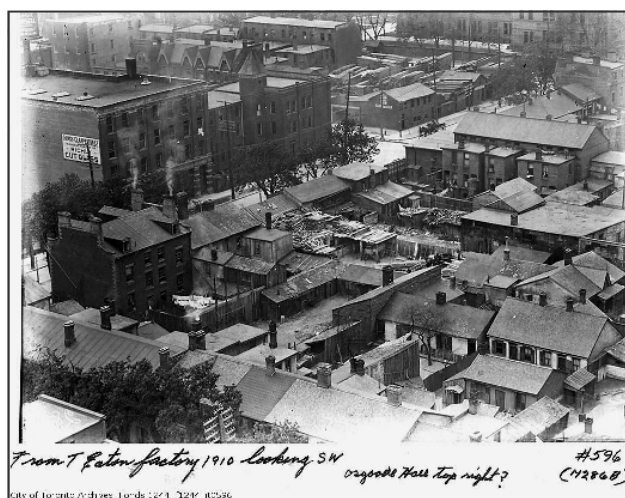
Not just a family history, this book is also a history of the Toronto Jewish community, with photos of the city's early Jewish landmarks



Meeting in the Ward, 1912

CTA

Jewish groups were instrumental in the founding of labour unions, such as the Cloak Makers Union. In 1912, garment workers at Eatons went on strike for shorter hours, improved working conditions, and better wages. After eighteen weeks, the company brought in British workers. The resourceful unemployed garment workers set up their own companies at various locations on Spadina. This push from Eatons together with increasingly squalid living conditions in the Ward, moved the Jewish community west to Kensington.



View of the Ward from Eatons factory, 1910

CTA

**MAY Toronto's Visual Legacy: Official City Photography from 1856 to the Present,**  
 by Steve MacKinnon, Karen Teeple, and Michele Dale.

The City of Toronto Archives celebrated the city's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the publication of a collection of the best official photographs in *Toronto's Visual Legacy: Official City Photography from 1856 to the Present*. The authors showed us some of the highlights of 150 years of official photography.

The earliest known photographs of Toronto come with an interesting story. They are a series of panoramic shots taken from the roof of the Rossin House Hotel (southeast corner of King and York) by the firm of Armstrong, Beere & Hime in 1856-57. The photos were for Toronto's bid to become the capital of Canada. With the awarding of that position to Ottawa, the bids faded into government limbo in London. In 1979, a Canadian researcher "rediscovered" these wonderful pictures, and copies were given to Toronto as a sesquicentennial gift.



**Toronto looking northeast from the Rossin House Hotel.**  
*Armstrong, Beere & Hime, CTA*

From 1891, photographer F.W. Micklethwaite was commissioned on an *ad hoc* basis to record municipal achievements. In 1894, Josiah Bruce was hired to document public work projects. City Engineer Charles H. Rust was an amateur photographer, and included pictures in his reports. A darkroom was included in the new (Old) City Hall for the use of the staff photographers. Arthur F. Rust (brother of the City Engineer) was hired as



**Water main repairs in 1895 meant that some areas were without water for six weeks, and water was delivered to neighbourhoods by wagon.**

*Arthur F. Rust, CTA*



**First public lavatory, corner of Adelaide and Toronto Streets, 1897.**

*Josiah Bruce, CTA*



**Great Fire, 1904.**

*Arthur F. Rust, CTA*

photographer. Mostly, it was infrastructure that was recorded—engineering projects such as bridges, roads and sewers.

*Toronto's Legacy continues on page 7*



Baby clinic, Woman's Dispensary, Seaton St., 1914.  
Arthur S. Goss, CTA



Bloor Street Viaduct, 1915. Arthur S. Goss, CTA

In 1911, Alfred S. Goss was appointed Official Photographer with the Photography and Blueprinting Section of the Works Department. As well as recording municipal structures, Goss produced photographs for the reports of Dr. Charles Hastings, Medical Officer of Health. [See summary of April's talk, p. 4.]

By the 1950s, there was no official city photographer, and record shots were more often of civic events. In 1982, the position of City Photographer was reinstated with the appointment of Peter Goodwin.. Today, there are two photographers and one videographer on city staff, and the emphasis is more on cultural events.



**Toronto's Visual Legacy: Official City Photography from 1856 to the Present**, Steve MacKinnon, Karen Teeple, Michele Dale

Toronto: James Lorimer & Company Ltd., 2009



Michael Redhill's Toronto novel **Consolation** (Doubleday Canada, 2006) was inspired by the Armstrong, Beere & Hime panoramic photographs.

Heritage Toronto has produced an audio tour of Toronto read by Michael Redhill, and including passages from **Consolation**.  
Download at: [www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/walk/audio](http://www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/walk/audio).

**LitCity: Toronto Stories, Toronto Settings. Toronto authors meet architecture, books meet buildings, pages meet places...**

The official celebration ran from March to May, but you can still **Get Reading** with the Market Gallery's book list:

[http://www.toronto.ca/litcity/book\\_list.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/litcity/book_list.htm)



**Email Addresses Requested!**

We are planning to email reminders of upcoming meetings and heritage events, and send an electronic newsletter, if you like. We will not give out your email address.

If this interests you, just email me at [alexg@alumni.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:alexg@alumni.uwaterloo.ca) and I will add you to the distribution list. Thank you. **Alex. Grenzebach**

# Heritage Calendar



## Arresting Images: Mug shots from The OPP Museum Travelling Exhibit

Late 19th and early 20th century mug shots are windows into the criminal world. Pictures of pickpockets, confidence men, escaped fugitives, murderers and horse thieves, and insights into attitudes to the criminal mind and physiology. Organized by the **OPP Museum**, Orillia, in commemoration of the OPP's 100th anniversary.

**Preview online** [www.opp.ca/Community/Museum/](http://www.opp.ca/Community/Museum/)

**To 12 July, 2009**

**Art Gallery, Peel Regional Heritage Complex, 9**  
Wellington St. E., Brampton  
Phone: 905-791-4055  
[www.peelregion.ca/heritage/art-gallery/](http://www.peelregion.ca/heritage/art-gallery/)

**19 July to 14 September, 2009**

**Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Highway 26, Minesing**  
(Barrie)  
Phone: 705-728-3721  
[www.county.simcoe.on.ca/cultureinformation/museum](http://www.county.simcoe.on.ca/cultureinformation/museum)

## Joseph Brant Day Festival

**50 North Shore Blvd., La Salle Park, Burlington**  
**3 August, 2009, 10 am to 5 pm**

Celebrate summer in Burlington and the area's most famous original settler—Joseph Brant Thayendanegea! Historic re-enactments, demonstrations, games, hands-on crafts, a splash park for kids and one of a kind exhibitor and artisan booths.

Phone: 905-332-9888  
[www.museumsofburlington.com/](http://www.museumsofburlington.com/)

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

**Submissions for the next Newsletter by**  
**31st August to [dawsonbh@rogers.com](mailto:dawsonbh@rogers.com) or**  
**call 416-481-6622.**



## Citywalks

Exploring some of Toronto's most distinctive neighbourhoods and districts with a knowledgeable guide.  
e-mail: [marta@citywalks.ca](mailto:marta@citywalks.ca)  
phone: 416-699-9838 (9:00 am to 9:00 pm )  
<http://www.citywalks.ca/>

## Lost River Walks

**Toronto Green Community & Toronto Field Naturalists**  
416-282-8265 or 416-282-0453  
<http://www.lostrivers.ca/WalkSchd.htm>

Downloadable walks at TGC's new **Thirsty City** site  
<http://www.thirstycitywalks.ca/walks>

## Heritage Toronto Walks

**NOTE: NO HT WALKS DURING STRIKE**

Information: 416-338-3886. The Info Line message is generally changed weekly and includes full descriptions of the walks coming up that weekend.  
<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/walk>

**City strike cancellations and closures include Heritage Toronto Walks, Toronto City Archives, city museums and galleries. Most libraries are open. Check before you go!**

## Historic Fort York, 100 Garrison Road

416-392-6907  
<http://www.fortyork.ca/events.htm>

## Simcoe Day

*Mon. 3 Aug, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*  
Free admission

The Fort George guard joins us for this great day. Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable David C. Onley, will inspect the troops at 1:00 p.m. This will be followed by tactical demonstrations (2:30 p.m.), a ceremonial cannon firing (3:30 p.m.) and a flag lowering ceremony (4:30 p.m.).

## North Toronto Historical Society

An affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society, and a non-profit charitable organization.

% 129 Blythwood Road, Toronto, Ontario M4N 1A5

[www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/8809](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/8809)

*Annual Memberships:* Seniors & Students \$5, Adults \$7, Families \$10

### 2009 Executive (\*Directors)

*President & Programmes:* \*Lynda Moon

*Membership Co-ordinator:* \*Alex Grenzebach, 416-483-8475

*Newsletter Editor:* \*Hilary Dawson

*Treasurer:* Bill Dawson

*Members-at-large:* Don Ritchie, Doug Campbell, Ken Pon

*Past President:* John Hutchinson

*Publicity:* \*Joan Sampson, 416-488-0939

*Secretary:* Donald Duncan

*Research:* Hilary Dawson

*Walks:* \*Bill Ramsay