



North Toronto Town Hall

NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY *NEWSLETTER*

VOL. 33 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2009

Welcome to a new series of local history programmes!



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

FIGHTING WORDS: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOSEPH ATKINSON

Between 1899 and 1948, under publisher Joseph E. Atkinson, the *Toronto Star* ran a series of crusades that would help change the face of Toronto. "Humanity above all" were Atkinson's watchwords. Retired *Star* news editor **Michael Pieri** will present a programme which includes the screening of a short DVD documentary "Fighting Words: The Social Crusades of Joseph E. Atkinson."

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

THE LAKE ERIE SHORE: ONTARIO'S FORGOTTEN SOUTH COAST

Ron Brown, author, geographer and travel writer will give an illustrated talk on the Lake Erie shoreline which has born witness to some of Ontario's earliest history. His new book *The Lake Erie Shore* (Dundurn 2009) will be available for purchase.

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

151 YEARS OF UNION STATION

Toronto's Union Station is one of the city's most beloved heritage buildings and architectural treasures. **Derek Boles**, a founding member of the Toronto Railway Historical Association, will give an illustrated talk about Toronto's stations, and Union Station in particular. His book *Toronto's Railway Heritage* is to be released soon by Arcadia Publishing.



Join us at 7:10 for refreshments before the programme.

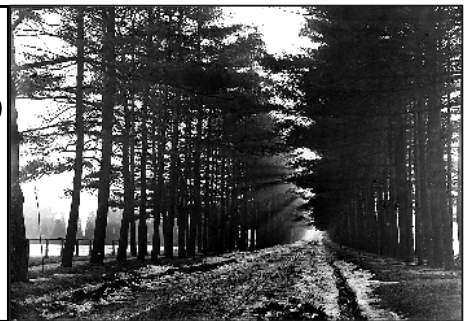


Fall Walk: Glengrove and Blythwood

Sunday, 4 October, 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Meeting place: North-west corner of Glengrove Ave. W. and Yonge St. (near Glenview Presbyterian Church)

Photo: Glengrove Avenue West, looking west from Yonge Street, 1906 CTA



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 Districts Work!

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, aided by various heritage groups and the University of Waterloo's Heritage Resources Centre, conducted a study that examined the long-term effects of designation on thirty-one pre-1992 Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs). Wychwood Park (an HCD since 1985) was the Toronto "representative."

The study concluded that, generally, goals set for individual HCDs have been met, and residents are overwhelmingly satisfied with living in an HCD. Real estate values rise more consistently in HCDs, and owners have not found it difficult to make appropriate alterations to their properties.

Among the report's recommendations:

- Governments should better inform residents, the real estate industry and the general public about the benefits of HCDs.
- Municipalities should recognize that there is strong support among residents for such districts and expand their use. HCDs are successful planning initiatives.

The reports for each district studied, and the summary report, *Heritage Districts Work!* are available free online in .pdf format at www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/research/hrc/projects You can also order printed reports from the University of Waterloo's Heritage Resources Centre at the same website.

The study was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



Wychwood Park, 1922
James Collection, City of Toronto Archives

Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950

Toronto architect Robert Hill (with help from many, many colleagues) has compiled "the largest and most important body of research on Canadian architecture ever undertaken," according to architect Catherine Nasmith (editor of *Built Heritage News*, at www.builtheritagenews.ca/).

The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950 is free, and available online at <http://www.dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org>



Ladies' Egg and Spoon Race, Centre Island, 1909
James Collection, CTA

Toronto Island Narratives, Past and Present

Report by Alex. Grenzebach

I recently attended the opening of this eclectic exhibit at the Market Gallery. Our member Albert Fulton, who died tragically last year, had suggested such an exhibit to the Gallery staff and it is a fitting tribute to a man who contributed so much to Island life. Also a resident of Wychwood Park, Albert created and maintained archives for both the Island and Wychwood Park. The public was welcome to view these collections – Wednesday evenings at his home in Wychwood Park and Sunday afternoons at his residence on Algonquin Island. The Wychwood Park collection has been transferred to the City Archives, but some of the Island material will remain at his widow Emily's home on the Island. Emily has become a year-round Islander.

EXHIBIT INFO: see p. 8

50 Years Ago

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



Two Boys, Two Girls, Head NTCI Upper School Exams

The *Herald* published the Grade 13 results of all students in the local high schools. At North Toronto, Alfred Aho was an outstanding student who also played his violin at the first desk in the Senior Orchestra. He later studied Engineering Physics at U of T and went on to Bell Labs in New Jersey.

Controller Newman reported on the Metro Parks Committee's annual trip to the island "to examine the progress being made in turning our island into a great 560-acre park." The previous year, the level of the ground on Centre Island had been raised three feet and the "unattractive marshy quality" had disappeared. The redevelopment program was scheduled for completion by 1968.



Controller Jean Newman was a talented amateur artist. An exhibit of her paintings was featured at the Grenadier Restaurant in High Park which was celebrating its first anniversary.

Controller Newman reported that some Bridle Path residents were protesting against public parking on the "beautiful turf" on the western boundary of Edwards Gardens. This was necessitated by the fencing off of the privately-owned area formerly used for parking on the east side. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists opened their headquarters in "the beautiful old house which has been loaned to the Garden Club of Toronto" for "the establishment of the Civic Garden Centre."

10 Years of Progress

with
Premier FROST



These last ten years, beyond all comparison, have witnessed the greatest development in the history of our province. In these ten years, Ontario's advances in the development of resources, business expansion and human betterment have been unsurpassed anywhere.

The dynamic economic creed of the Government of Premier Leslie Frost has been—and continues to be—MORE PEOPLE, MORE INDUSTRY, MORE JOBS, MORE WAGES, MORE OPPORTUNITY, and from these MORE PRODUCTIVITY AND REVENUE TO DO THE JOB.

Great as Ontario's progress has been, under wise and sound Progressive Conservative policies, even greater progress lies ahead.

50 Years Ago continues on page 4

A Salty Look At Love...
As The Sea Sees It!

WAVY... WITTY and WONDERFUL!
**KENNETH MORE
BETSY DRAKE**

YOU'LL BE HELPLESS WITH LAUGHTER IN
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PATRICK BARR • MAUREEN CONNELL
A LION INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTED BY THE RANK ORGANIZATION
NOW PLAYING . . .
ODEON HYLAND THEATRE
YONGE at ST. CLAIR



The *Herald* reported that "Bill Underwood's DEFENDO course is teaching the ladies how to make tortured monkeys of aggressive males."

The *Herald* reported that "the outdoor musical program held in City of Toronto parks is being greatly expanded and varied this year under the direction of Dr. Leslie R. Bell who is well known to all music lovers."

EAST AND WEST DRAW NEARER

Year	Route	Flight Time
1953	TORONTO — LONDON	11 HOURS 55 MINUTES
	MONTREAL — PARIS	11 HOURS 20 MINUTES
	VANCOUVER — MONTREAL	8 HOURS 25 MINUTES
1939	TORONTO — LONDON	17 HOURS
	MONTREAL — PARIS	17 HOURS
	VANCOUVER — MONTREAL	17 HOURS
1960	TORONTO — LONDON	7 HOURS 15 MINUTES
	MONTREAL — PARIS	7 HOURS
	VANCOUVER — MONTREAL	5 HOURS

Trans-Canada Air Lines announced that it would take delivery in early 1960 of the first of six 127-passenger, 550-mile-an-hour Douglas DC-8 Jetliners. Present flying times would be cut by more than one-third.

POINT
YOUR WAY
TO SAFETY

BEFORE YOU
ENTER A
CROSSWALK

Pedestrian Safety Week emphasized the rules governing the recently-introduced crosswalks.

Mr. Alex Thompson, Q.C.

Official Agent—

MR. JOHN C. MEDCOFF
241 Blythwood Road

In the June 11 provincial election, Dr. W. J. Dunlop, the Progressive Conservative Minister of Education, retained his seat in Eglinton Riding. John Medcoff, one of our members, served as the official agent for Alex. Thompson, the local candidate for the Liberals under John Wintermeyer.

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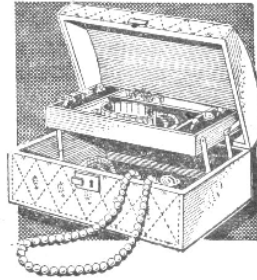
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— of the —

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At Harry's Barber Shop on Avenue Road, in addition to having a hair cut, you could buy fresh cigars, ice cream, magazines, milk and bread.

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(Where The Trolley Buses Loop)

PHONE HU. 5-7641



Hogg's Hollow footbridge

Chuckman's Other Collection (Toronto Postcards) Vol 03
<http://chuckmanothercollectionvolume3.blogspot.com/>

100 Years Ago

Toronto Star, October 1909



LOOKING IT OVER

PICK YOUR BEDFORD PARK LOT
On SATURDAY or MONDAY

Those who received entrance in our recent Guessing Contest are urged to make a selection of their lots on Saturday or Monday. The holiday affords a splendid opportunity to carefully look over the ground. We will have a man at the Park on Saturday afternoon and all day Monday to show you this great residential suburb.

Remember, that the coupons may be redeemed only until the 27th of November, and as lots are being sold every day to investors and home-seekers, you should make your selection now.

Persons looking for a desirable home site, within easy distance of the centre of the city, enjoying low taxes and all modern advantages, will find Bedford Park the most ideal of all suburban properties now offered for sale. Lots are sold on easy terms—50% down and the balance in monthly instalments of \$2 or more, as you prefer. We'll make the terms to suit. Come out to Bedford Park to-morrow or Monday and see the lots for yourself. Take a Metropolitan car from head of Yonge street to Stop 24, and you are at the Park. Booklet and full information at our office.

BAILY & CO.
Real Estate Brokers 50 Victoria St.



GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM

HUNTING TRIPS

—AT—
SINGLE FARE
SEE GRAND TRUNK AGENTS.
SINGLE FARE
FOR

Thanksgiving Day

Good going Oct. 22, 23, 24, 25.
Return limit Oct. 27.

COBALT SPECIAL

Leaves Toronto 10.20 p.m.
Commencing Monday, October 25,
Parlor-Library-Cafe Car will be attached at North Bay, serving breakfast, and returning to North Bay will serve evening dinner.
Full information at City Ticket Office, north-west corner King and Yonge streets. Phone Main 4209.

Inside History

There's no better way to get a feeling for the past than by reading old diaries and letters. Opinions on the government move from Niagara to the Town of York, the quality of fare in an early tavern, how individuals spent their days — all can add an extra dimension to our view of history.

In 1803, Lord Selkirk observed that

The Seat of Govt. was removed to York in a slap dash manner – Genl. Simcoe... would not hold his Parliament under the Guns of an American Fortress – he had an aversion at Kingston, partly because Lord Dorcstr approved of it, but principally because all the lands were taken up around it – York had the advantage of being able to afford lots for all his friends round it, & accordingly the lands for some miles distant are all in the hands of Officers of Govt. etc.etc - & remain generally unimproved. – The Officers of Govt. were obliged to remove from comfortable houses at Niagara into an absolute wood where people were sometimes losing themselves between one hut & another – Genl. S. was careless of personal accomodation himself.

Lord Selkirk's diary, 1803-1804 : a journal of his travels in British North America and the Northeastern United States was published by the *Champlain Society* in 1958, and is available at **Toronto Public Library**.

The *Champlain Society* has done a great service by reprinting important volumes relating to early Canada, exploration and the fur trade. (Edith Firth's invaluable two volume The Town of York: documents of early Toronto is among them.) *Champlain Society* publications are also available online at <<http://www.champlainsociety.ca/>> Click on "Digital Collections."

More online reading is available at *Early Canadiana Online*. This is a subscription website, but can be accessed free by holders of a Toronto library card. Go to the TPL homepage and select "Find Articles in Magazines, Newspapers & more." Click "Search by Subject" beneath the search box. Click "Search by Database" and whiz down the list to select "Early Canadiana Online." At some point you'll be asked to type in your library number, and PIN (last four digits of your phone no.)

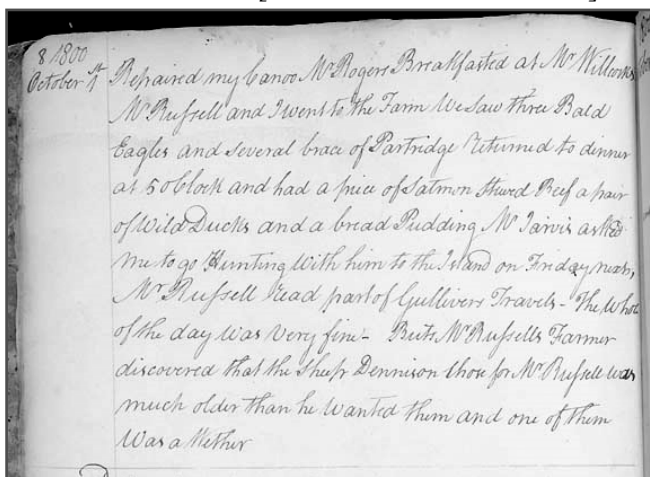
Inside History continues on page 7

Sir George Head was unimpressed by 1820s York: On arriving at York, I was disappointed at the first sight of the capital of Upper Canada, which...was extremely straggling and irregular; and the inn was not by any means prepossessing. I was shewn into a cold and dirty room, without any appearance of comfort, or even the cheering abundance of fire-wood I had been used lately everywhere to meet with. [This was in February.] They gave me a dry, black, and tasteless beef-steak for breakfast, which I finished as soon as I could, in my eagerness to get out of a disagreeable apartment, and make myself warm by exercise.

Forest scenes and incidents in the wilds of North America being a diary of a winter's route from Halifax to the Canadas, and during four months' residence in the woods on the borders of Lakes Huron and Simcoe, Sir George Head (London: J. Murray, 1829) ECO

Champlain Society and ECO material is all printed. For a more close-and-personal read, Archives Canada has digitised several 18th to 20th century handwritten diaries, available online at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/immigrants/021017-110.05-e.php>

On 1st October 1800, Joseph Willcocks recorded: Repaired my Canoo...M^r Russell and I went to the Farm We Saw three Bald Eagles and several brace of Partridge Returned to dinner at 5 oClock and had a piece of Salmon Stewed Beef a pair of Wild Ducks and a bread Pudding Mr Jarvis asked me to go Hunting with him to the Island on Friday next, Mr Russell read part of Gullivers Travels. [collectionscanada online]



Diary of Joseph Willcocks, 1800-1803
Library & Archives Canada

Heritage Calendar



Heritage Toronto Walks continue to Oct 4.
<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/walk>

Editor's picks:

Before Kensington: St. John's Ward 1900 - 1918
26 Sep 2009, 1:30-3:00pm

MEET: NE corner of College St and University Ave
FINISH: North side of Old City Hall (Bay and Albert Streets)

LEADER: Paul Noble

Toronto's downtown hospitals and City Hall occupy the site of a forgotten neighbourhood, a foothold for Jewish, Italian and Chinese immigrants in late-Victorian Toronto. The "Ward" also had fascinating connections with notables like artist Lawren Harris and future Prime Minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King.

Murdoch's Toronto: Fact Into Fiction
27 Sep 2009, 1:30-3:00pm

MEET: Jarvis Street Baptist Church, NE corner of Jarvis and Gerrard Streets

FINISH: Dominion Brewery, Queen St E and Sumach St
LEADER: Maureen Jennings

Follow in the footsteps of detective William Murdoch, hero of Maureen Jennings' historical mystery series. This walk will take you into the world of 1890s Toronto.

North Toronto Historical Society Fall Walk
Sun 4 Oct, 2:00 p.m.

MEET: North-west corner of Blythwood Rd. and Yonge St. (near Glenview Presbyterian Church)

Discover the history of the Glengrove area, and visit the Blythwood Heritage District.

Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA)



The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes
Sun 20 Sep 2009, 1-5pm

TICKETS: \$30, Ticketmaster, www.ticketmaster.ca 416-872-1111, or through these outlets: Mi Casa, 238 Carlton St., 416-929-1913; Sheridan Nurseries, 2827 Yonge St., 416-481-6429; St. Jamestown Steak and Chops, 516 Parliament St., 416-925-7665; Old Cabbagetown BIA, 237 Carleton Street, 416-921-0857

INFO: <http://www.cabbagetownpa.ca/>

This tour may have passed by the time you read this. Take advantage of a new service offered by the CPA:

Cabbagetown Tours on Demand

Private tours of Cabbagetown: \$10 per person to a maximum of \$100 for a group of upto 15 people. **EMAIL** the CPA with your request and they will get in touch with you: cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca

Proceeds support the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) in its efforts to protect the architectural integrity and historic character of an area *The New York Times* calls "Toronto's best-preserved Victorian neighbourhood."

Heritage Calendar

Heritage Calendar continued from page 7

The 2009 Heritage Toronto Awards and "The Great Toronto Roast"



The Carlu, 444 Yonge Street, 7th Floor

Tuesday, 13 Oct 2009, doors open 6:30 pm, programme 7:15 pm

Pre-event Mayor's Reception at 6 pm: tickets \$100, includes ticket to Awards and "Roast," complimentary food & bar.

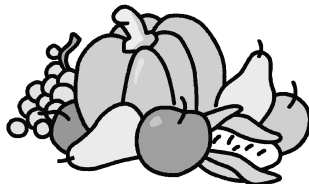
Tickets \$30; Heritage Toronto members, and groups of 10 \$25: includes informal reception following program, cash bar.

TICKETS: 416-338-1338 or info@heritagetoronto.org

INFO: <http://www.heritagetoronto.org/>

The Heritage Toronto Awards celebrate outstanding contributions in the promotion and conservation of Toronto's history and heritage landmarks. CBC Radio's Mary Ito will be this year's host.

In a departure from the usual William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture, enjoy "The Great Toronto Roast", Heritage Toronto's birthday party for Toronto's 175th year. Hosted by Soupepper Theatre founder and actor Albert Schultz, the Roast will offer an array of guests who all have one thing in common – a love for their city. Special guests will include former Mayor David Crombie, dub poet and actor d'bi young, poet and writer Dennis Lee, journalist and author Jan Wong, Valerie Rosedale (aka Don Harron) and many more.



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

Submissions for the next Newsletter by 1st December to dawsonbh@rogers.com or call 416-481-6622.



Market Gallery, South St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front St. E.

INFO: 416-392-7604

www.gvanv.com/stlawrencemarket/gallery/ex2009.html

Toronto Island Narratives, Past and Present

Extended to November 7, 2009, Wed-Fri, 10-4; Sat 9-4

The exhibit features the works of a number of Island artists as well as archival photographs, maps and other memorabilia.

More page 2.

Law Society of Upper Canada

Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto

Exhibition Hall, Mezzanine Level

INFO: 416-947-3315

Lawn and Border: The Grounds at Osgoode Hall

To 12 February 2010, Mon-Fri 9-5



In 1828, The Law Society of Upper Canada purchased six acres of land at the edge of the Town of York.

Today, the grounds are a green oasis in the downtown core. The oldest continuously used institutional property in Toronto, the site occupies a significant place in the heritage of the city. Discover how the grounds have evolved, meet the people who have shaped them, and learn about the events that took place within the fence.

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse, 106 Trinity Street

(near King and Parliament)



Toronto's Architectural Legacy: William Thomas and John Lyle

Thurs 24 Sep 2009, 7pm: William Thomas, Architect. Glenn McArthur

Thurs 8 Oct 2009, 7pm: A Progressive Traditionalist: John M. Lyle, Architect. Glenn McArthur

Sat 17 Oct 2009, 1pm: The Buildings of Thomas and Lyle: Walking Tour with architectural historian (NTHS member) Marta O'Brien

Tickets \$15 (\$12 for members) for each event; \$40 for series (\$33 members)

INFO & TICKETS 416-863-0010 or

Linda.McLean@heritagetrust.ca

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

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

2009 Executive (*Directors)

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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

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