



North Toronto Town Hall

NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY *NEWSLETTER*

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MARCH 2010



Spring Programme



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

PARKDALE: THE "FLOWERY" SUBURB

The former village of Parkdale began as an attractive alternative to downtown living. Over the past century, the area has faced challenges and emerged as a neighbourhood that's home to people of all ages and circumstances. Architectural historian **Marta O'Brien** will illustrate Parkdale's story through its architecture.

Wednesday, 26 May, 7:30 p.m.

MEMORIES OF NORTH TORONTO

An evening of local reminiscences, with recollections of some long-time area residents and excerpts from taped oral history interviews. Bring your own North Toronto memories! Moderated by **Lynda Moon**, President, North Toronto Historical Society.

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



City of Toronto Archives, Series 71, s0071 it2078

Victorian houses in Parkdale, at 1, 3, and 5 Sunnyside Avenue. Demolished for the expansion of the Roncesvalles carhouse in the 1930s

Photographer Alfred Pearson, 1923.
City of Toronto Archives.

2078. 1, 3 & 5 Sunnyside Ave.

May 1/23.

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.

Summerhill May Become HCD

The Summerhill Residents Association has applied to Heritage Toronto for a Heritage Conservation District Study. They are hoping that by having their neighbourhood declared a Heritage Conservation District (HCD), its heritage character will be maintained. Research for the Study is being conducted by area residents, with the assistance of a heritage professional, and guidance by city staff.

King Edward Hotel Surprise

The new owner of the King Eddie is renovating – carefully. Features of the 1903 building’s past glory are emerging from decades-old layers of redecorating and alterations. For instance, a false ceiling protected the painted leather wall-covering of the old hotel’s Gentleman’s Club. (Latterly the space had been used as a kitchen.) The Crystal Ballroom, built in 1923, is exactly as it was left in 1978, when it proved too expensive to bring it up to new fire codes. Part of an ornate staircase was found behind a closet. It will be interesting to see how owner Gil Blutrigh incorporates these historic treasures into his five-star hotel and luxury condominiums.

War of 1812 - Call for Papers

The editors of Ontario History (journal of the Ontario Historical Society) would like to hear from scholars interested in contributing articles to a special edition of the journal on the subject of *Ontario and The War of 1812*. The edition, not unexpectedly, will come out in 2012.



Expressions of interest and an abstract of the proposed article can be sent before 31 May, 2010 either to the guest editor Clare Dale clare_dale@carleton.ca or to Thorold Tronrud, general editor, foxlort@tbaytel.net. Info: <http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/>

Annual General Meeting

of the North Toronto Historical Society was held on 24 February, 2010.

Directors elected: Hilary Dawson, Alex Grenzebach, Lynda Moon, Bill Ramsay, Joan Sampson.

(See back page for contact information.)

Call for Nominations

The Heritage Toronto Awards celebrate outstanding contributions in the promotion and conservation of Toronto's history and heritage landmarks. Heritage Toronto asks you to consider some of the more significant achievements during 2009, and invites you to submit a nomination for the 36th Annual Heritage Toronto Awards. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, June 1, 2010. Categories are:

- William Greer Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship
- Book - for a non-fiction book about Toronto's archaeological, built, cultural and/or natural heritage and history, published in 2009.
- Media - for a production about Toronto's archaeological, built, cultural or natural heritage and history.
- Community Heritage Award (organisation)

See heritagetoronto.org for more info and nomination forms.

TSA Seeks Volunteer Tour Guides

Toronto Society of Architects (TSA) is looking for Volunteer Tour Guides for its new Guided Architecture Walking Tours, to be launched at Doors Open (*see back page*). Full details <http://www.builtheritageneeds.ca/news.cfm> Info or to apply to become a Volunteer Tour Guide please contact, Margo Welch, TSA Executive Director at: margo@torontosocietyofarchitects.ca

50 Years Ago

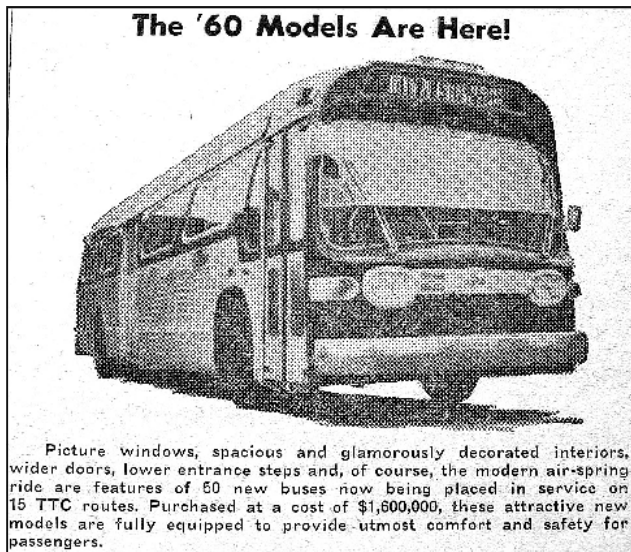
Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1960, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.



A planning meeting was held in January regarding the formation of the North York Historical Society. Happy 50th, NYHS!

A by-law was passed to enable the creation of a Historical Board “which will advise City Council on all matters of a historical nature within the municipality and will also be authorized to restore and maintain such buildings as from time to time are placed under its control by the City.”

50 Years Ago continues on page 3



According to Metro Chairman Fred Gardiner, work on the Spadina Road extension and the subway may start in 1961. York Township protested the proposed extension of Spadina Road through Cedarvale Park.



Champion hairdresser of Canada, 1960: Doris Anderson Paul of *Mr. Paul Beauty Salon*, Yonge St. near Lawrence.

It was announced that two 13-storey apartment buildings would be erected in the area east of Yonge and south of Eglinton. The OMB approved the zoning change required to permit higher construction. Realtor Harvey Keith believed the development would “help establish a pattern of high-rise apartments and commercial development in the area.” How true!



Veronica Albon, 15, North York, is the first girl to invade the industrial arts course at Bathurst Heights collegiate. She is the lone girl among 18 boys in the architectural drafting course. High praise comes to Veronica from her instructor, who says her work is remarkable and she shows great promise. Veronica is shown above with some of the tools she must know how to use.



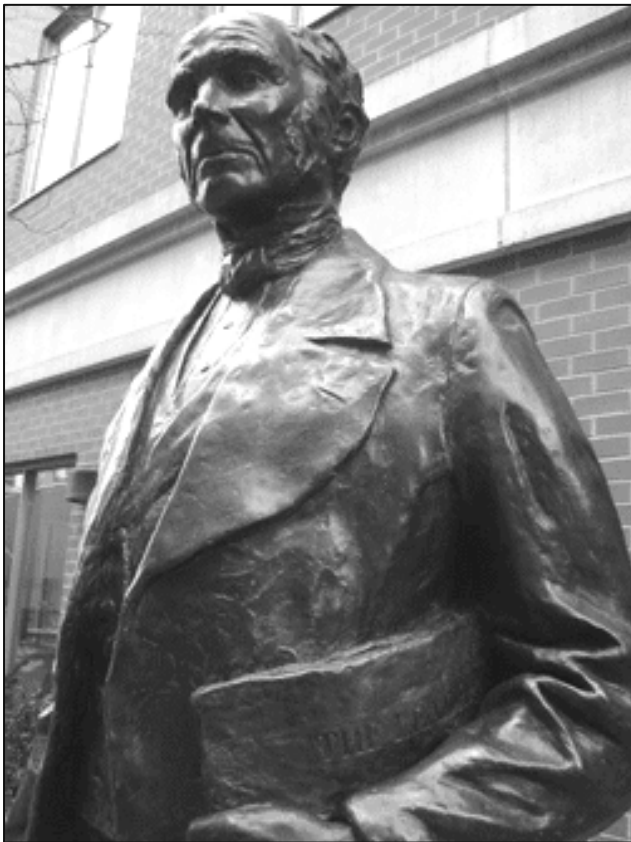
James Beaty of Toronto & Glengrove

A statue has recently been erected of an influential nineteenth century businessman with a North Toronto connection.



In the 1850s, James Beaty acquired a summer retreat north of Toronto, on the west side of Yonge Street. He named this farm Glengrove. He was an Irish immigrant who opened a leather store in the Town of York. In 1852, he established the *Leader*

newspaper (at 167 King Street East), which published until 1878. He was on the boards of the Grand Trunk Railway, the General Hospital, and the “Asylum”. He was interested in politics, and became a Tory MP.



Statue of businessman, politician, and newspaper publisher James Beaty, by Toronto sculptor Adrienne Alison. Located in the courtyard of King George Square at 160 King Street East, opposite the old *Leader* office.

Winter Lecture Series

JANUARY The History of Chinatown in Toronto



Writer Arlene Chan grew up in Chinatown, helping in her parents’ restaurant (*Kwongchow* on Elizabeth Street) from the age of nine. When two-thirds of old Chinatown was expropriated for urban renewal and New City Hall, Arlene’s mother, Jean Lumb, spearheaded the Save Chinatown Committee. The group stopped the demolition of the remaining Chinese neighbourhood. For this and her other community services, Jean

Lumb became the first Chinese-Canadian woman and the first Canadian restaurateur to be awarded the Order of Canada, presented in 1976.

Arlene went on to describe the history of the Chinese in Canada. Until 1884, they had free entry to the country. The first Chinese immigrants were propelled by hunger, unemployment and political unrest in China, and lured by the Fraser River Gold Rush, in 1858. Most of these early arrivals came from the province of Guandong, and spoke Taisanese, a dialect related to Cantonese. They settled in the West.

The Canadian government encouraged more Chinese to come as labourers for the CPR, when the trans-national railway was constructed in the 1880s. Men were hired in China, and packed onto ships where a diet of rice and tea caused many deaths from malnutrition on the month-long voyage. In the railway work camps, the Chinese were forced to live together, and were given the most dangerous construction tasks.

With the completion of the railway across Canada, Chinese labour was seen as unnecessary. Worse, it was believed that the Chinese were undermining the employment opportunities of “Canadians” by accepting low wages. From 1885, entry was restricted, and a head tax was imposed on all Chinese residents. In 1885 this was \$50; by 1903 it

Chinatown continues on page 5



Memorial to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada, located near Toronto's Rogers Centre.

*Photo: Toronto Railway Historical Society
<http://www.trha.ca/>*

had increased to \$500 per person. In BC, restrictions were imposed on where the Chinese could work and live. In 1907 Vancouver, white resentment erupted in an anti-Asian race riot. With mounting hostility in the west, many Chinese moved east.

The earliest record of a Chinese person living in Toronto is the 1878 Street Directory, which records Sam Ching's hand laundry business at 9 Adelaide Street East. Willingness to work long hours for little pay meant that many Chinese went into the laundry business when other career opportunities were barred to them.

By 1910 two Chinese business areas were developing in Toronto: one on Queen Street East and the other at York Street. Soon, the York/Elizabeth Street district was expanding north to Dundas Street.

Canadian hostility to the Chinese culminated in the passing in 1923 of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Until its repeal in 1947, only about 50 Chinese men were admitted to Canada. All Chinese had to register,

even those born in here. About a dozen Chinese families lived in Toronto, but it was primarily a bachelor society, as women and children were now excluded. By 1930 about 100 women lived in the Chinese community of about 1240.

The 1967 Points System stopped exclusion on racial grounds, and allowed Chinese people to apply as immigrants on the same basis as other groups. China is now the largest source for Canadian immigrants.

Spirit of the dragon: Jean Lumb, a Proud Chinese Canadian. Arlene Chan
Toronto: Umbrella Press, 1997.

The Jean Lumb Foundation

is a Canadian, not-for-profit organization that was incorporated in 2006 and established as a charitable foundation in 2008. Its purpose is to advance education by providing scholarships to high school students of Chinese heritage.



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

MORE about Canadian Chinese History

CBC documentary: *Chinese Immigration to Canada: A Tale of Perseverance*
<http://archives.cbc.ca/society/immigration/topics/1433/>

Library & Archives Canada: *The Early Chinese Canadians 1858–1947*
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/chinese-canadians/>

Local Chinese History at the City of Toronto Archives
<http://www.toronto.ca/archives/chinesehistory.htm>



**FEBRUARY From Here to Quebec City:
One Man's Tantalizing Trek
Through Multiculturalism**

Our February speaker, writer and broadcaster Robert Payne, is the fifth generation of his family to live in Canada. His parents and grandparents were born in New Brunswick, and may be descendants of Black Loyalists. However, when Robert was growing up his family never talked about their origins before arriving in New Brunswick. Luckily for us, Robert was happy to share his memories of growing up in Quebec in the 1940s and '50s.

Robert's father worked for the CNR, and was transferred from Fredericton to Montreal, where Robert was born. Two years later, the family moved to Quebec City. There, they lived in the working class neighbourhood of St. Sauveur, sharing a house with a French Canadian family. Young Robert was the only Black child in the area, and the only Protestant. At home, he spoke English, but with his playmates he spoke French.

When the Payne family moved to a duplex in St. Francois d'Assis, Robert attended an English school. He found the children there less friendly and accepting than his French friends, and settled racial incidents with his fists. Robert seemed to be cut out to be a Phys Ed teacher, so enrolled at Laval. But a part-time job with a local radio station began his love affair with broadcasting.

Robert's career took him to radio stations in Ottawa, Niagara Falls, London and, finally, Toronto. (Where he worked at CHUM, CKEY and CBL) He worked in various capacities: newscaster, reporter, or DJ, but drew the line at painting (an order he declined at his first – brief – job). For much of this time, he was the only Black person in the radio station. Among the many people he has interviewed are Keith Richards and Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, and entertainer James Brown.

Robert described himself as a "rink rat" who haunted the arena in Quebec City. He was a big fan of the Quebec Aces, and in particular the all-black line of Herb and Ossie Carnegie and Manny McIntyre. Herb Carnegie boarded with the Payne family while playing with the Aces. Years later,

when Robert was at CKEY in Toronto, he got a call from Herb, who wanted assistance with writing his autobiography. Their book, *A Fly in a Pail of Milk*, was published in 2000.

Today, the increasing number of radio stations means that advertising dollars are stretched. In addition, the internet allows individuals immediate access to news when they want it. In Robert's opinion, the future of radio does not look promising. He has embraced the new medium, teaching media-related topics from traditional broadcasting to computer and internet, both in college classrooms and online.



A Fly in a Pail of Milk: The Herb Carnegie Story,
Herb Carnegie &
Robert Payne.
Toronto: Mosaic
Press, 2000

Congratulations, cousin!

New Brunswicker Willie O'Ree, the first Black player in NHL history, was invested with the Order of Canada earlier this year. He is a relative of February's speaker, Robert Payne.



**Willie O'Ree & Her Excellency the Right
Honourable Michaëlle Jean.**

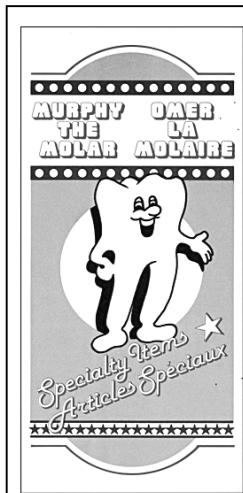
Photo: Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall



MARCH **Lights, Camera, Archives: a Clip of Ontario's Past.**

Stewart Boden, Outreach Co-ordinator for the Archives of Ontario, gave a most entertaining presentation using clips from movies made by the Ontario government. The moving image was used to promote health, tourism, road safety, and provincial nationalism. (The iconic film *A Place to Stand*, produced for Expo 67, won the Oscar for best live action short.)

The earliest film in the collection was produced by the Board of Health in 1922. It addressed the “girl problem” – the hundreds of country girls who moved to cities to find work in factories. *Her Own Fault* is a cautionary tale, illustrated by the contrasting life styles of two Toronto factory girls. Eileen sleeps with the window open and jumps joyfully from bed when the alarm rings. Marnie is a “fast” girl, who dances into the night, sleeps in a stuffy room, and is habitually late for work. Eileen, of course, is promoted. Poor, wan, coughing Marnie is confined to a hospital bed as the credits roll.



Mascot Molar

By the 1970s, the Ministry of Health was pitching its messages at children. One TV hero was Murphy the Molar, promoter of good oral hygiene.

Murphy and other public health clips can be found in the online exhibit *Medical Records at the Archives of Ontario*.

In 1958, the Department of Food & Agriculture, together with the Macdonald Institute in Guelph, produced a series of instructional films on domestic subjects: “How to carve a turkey”, “How to Barbeque a Chicken”, and the ironing spectacular “5 Minutes Per Shirt”. These gems are available to view on YouTube: search <Archives of Ontario>

The largest government group in the Sound & Moving Image (SMI) Collection is recordings of

legislative debates. The largest private collection is from TV station CFPL-TV, London, which donated all its newsreels from 1953-74.

The Archives of Ontario's elegant new facility at York University now gives researchers easier access to all collections within the archives extensive holdings. This includes the SMI Collection, which is being transferred to DVDs for use in the Reading Room.

MORE Moving Images

www.archives.gov.on.ca

Archives of Ontario online exhibits include over 100 audio and movie clips. The bottom of the introductory page of each topic mentions any SMI components. Examples are *Ontario Government* (e.g. education and public health) and *Eaton's Toys*.



MORE about the SMI Collection

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/about/preservation/smi.aspx>

Online Photographs:

A view from the beautiful Burroughes building.

Jonathan Castellino has taken photographs inside and from the roof of 639 Queen St. West.

Originally the F.C. Burroughes Department store, the seven-storey building was built in 1907.

<http://www.blogto.com/city/2010/03/>

[a_view_from_the_beautiful_burroughes_building/](http://www.blogto.com/city/2010/03/a_view_from_the_beautiful_burroughes_building/)



Heritage Calendar

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse,
106 Trinity Street
(near King and Parliament)



Toronto's Architectural Legacy: William Thomas and John Lyle

Tues 4 May 2010, 7pm: William Thomas, Architect .

Glenn McArthur

*Tues 11 May 2010, 7pm: A Progressive Traditionalist:
John M. Lyle, Architect.* Glenn McArthur

*Sun 16 May, 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

Get Out! Take a walk...

Lost River Walks

<http://www.lostrivers.ca/WalkSchd.htm>
416-781-7663



ROMwalks

http://www.rom.on.ca/programs/rom_travel/
416-586-8000

Citywalks with Marta O'Brien

<http://www.citywalks.ca/>
416-699-9838

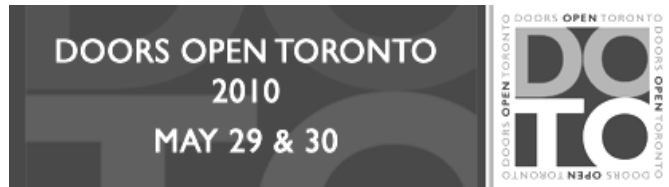
Heritage Toronto

<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/walk>
416-338-0684

The schedule and descriptions of the 2010 walking tour program will be available in mid-April.

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

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



This is the 11th year for this celebration of Toronto's architecturally, historically, culturally and socially significant buildings. This year, Doors Open Toronto is going back to its roots: architecture is the theme and central focus in 2010. Access to the buildings is free.

Two new programs add the expertise of architects as on-site hosts at some locations: *Ask an Architect @ their Building* and *Ask an Architect @ their Office*.

The Toronto Society of Architects will launch two Guided Architecture Walking Tours on the Doors Open Toronto weekend. Following the launch, paid tours will be offered weekly from June through September.
<http://www.torontosocietyofarchitects.ca/>

The complete "Buildings to Visit" information will be available from 1 May, 2010 at www.toronto.ca/doorsopen (416-338-0338), and the official Program Guide will be published in the *Toronto Star* on 27 May 2010.

Old Home Expo

Presented by *Edifice Old Home Magazine*
www.OldHomeExpo.com

St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre
1280 Dundas Street West (Hwy #5) Oakville, ON
1 & 2 May 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Workshops (free with paid admission) include: How to Best Plan Your Restoration/Renovation; Repairing Rot on Wood Windows; Adding-On To a Heritage Home; Best Practice to Repair Cracked Plaster; and a host of other topics of interest to the heritage home owner.

Exhibitors include restoration professionals, artisans and craftsmen, architectural millwork, custom designed furniture, and traditional home products from the top of the chimney to the bottom of the foundation.

Cost: \$10.00 with online coupon

INFO Nena at 519-752-9801 or
oldhomeexpo@edificemagazine.com

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.northtorontohistoricalsociety.org

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

2009 Executive (*Directors)

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

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Publicity: *Joan Sampson, 416-488-0939

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