



North Toronto Town Hall

NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 34 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2010



Welcome to a new series of local history programmes!

NOTE: During closure of the main floor of Northern District Library for renovation, the second floor meeting room will be accessible by elevator or stairs from the front lobby of the building.

Wednesday, 29 September, 7:30 p.m.

FROM QUEENSTON TO KINGSTON: THE HIDDEN HERITAGE OF ONTARIO'S SHORELINE

Author, geographer and travel writer **Ron Brown** presents an illustrated talk based on his new book. Travel the shoreline of Lake Ontario to discover ghost ports, forgotten coves, old forts and historic lighthouses.

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

THE TRILLIUM AND TORONTO ISLAND

Popular local historian and author **Mike Filey** traces the remarkable history of the *Trillium*, the steam ferry which marked its 100th anniversary in June of this year. Copies of Filey's book, reissued in a special centenary edition, will be available for purchase.

Wednesday, 24 November, 7:30 p.m.

REMEMBERING TORONTO: A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW WE HAVE MARKED OUR PAST

An illustrated talk presented by historian **Gary Miedema**. From gravestones to public monuments to commemorative plaques, Torontonians have long tried to remember their past. Their efforts can tell us a great deal about how Torontonians have understood themselves, and how that understanding has changed. An historian of symbolism and identity in public life, Dr. Miedema has also been responsible for the revival of Heritage Toronto's Plaques and Markers Program since 2005.

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



Fall Walk

Sunday, 3 October, 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

NORTH TORONTO'S TOWN CENTRE

Meet in the parkette on the north-west corner of Yonge St. & St. Clements Ave. We will go north to Alexandra Blvd, then south, finishing at Yonge St. & Montgomery Ave. looking at sites significant to the Town of North Toronto.

Where is the Eglinton Orange Hall?



Lodge purchased the property.

Built in 1850 as a school, this is one of the oldest buildings still standing in North Toronto. Later, after the school moved to larger premises, the Orange

Join us on 3 October to find out.

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

79 Dawlish Avenue – A Heritage Success Story

Alex. Grenzebach

I'm happy to report that the owner of 79 Dawlish has engaged E.R.A. Architects to devise a plan which will retain the front and sides of the existing house (thus preserving the streetscape) and include a large addition to the rear. The garage will be rebuilt and doors similar to the original ones are to be installed.

It is sad to note, that if "correct" heritage listing procedures had been followed, 79 would be demolished. With a two-year backlog for adding properties to the Heritage Inventory, we did our own research and Councillor Jenkins brought the request for listing to Council without the active support of Heritage Preservation Services at City Hall. Thanks to all who helped in this battle.

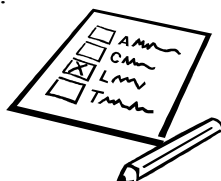
On a not-so-happy note, the two houses immediately to the east are to be demolished. Also, 61 Glengowan Road, featured on page 43 of *Historical Walking Tour of Lawrence Park* will likely be demolished. This is one of a group of three houses on Glengowan designed by W. Breden Galbraith.

Municipal Elections

Alex. Grenzebach

On August 30 at St. Lawrence Hall, six mayoral candidates debated heritage issues before a standing-room-only audience. In general, their grasp of heritage issues was tenuous although several of them seemed to convey a genuine passion for the subject. Education of our decision-makers should be a matter of high priority!

The heritage community is attempting to increase the profile of heritage on the political agenda and you can help by attending political meetings and asking candidates about their views on heritage matters such as lack of staff resources, city funding for conservation and the unacceptably long wait for listing a property.



North Toronto Genealogy Resource

New from Toronto Branch Ontario Genealogical Society, in the *Places of Worship Vital Statistics* series **Davisville and Eglinton Communities**

Toronto United Churches (formerly Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian), includes index to Baptisms 1834-1925, Marriages 1837 – 1925, Burials 1836-1925, and bibliographical references to records of Glebe Road United, Eglinton St. George's United, Eglinton United, Fairlawn Heights United, Rosedale United, and Deer Park United Churches.

\$30 + postage & handling

Mail orders must be accompanied by a cheque or money order payable to "OGS, Toronto Branch."

Places of Worship Committee, OGS Toronto Branch, Box 518, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2G9

www.torontofamilyhistory.org

New Neighbourhood Sculpture

Italian sculptor Sergio Furnari has installed life-size "workmen" on the billboards above 3442 Yonge Street, at the end of Deloraine. They were inspired by Charles Ebberts' 1932 photograph (inset), *Lunch Atop a Skyscraper*.



50 Years Ago

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

The Lawrence Park Bayview Property Owners' Association opposed the rezoning required to allow the Salvation Army to build a training centre on Bayview north of Blythwood. I recall my father reporting this opposition after attending a meeting of the Association. The Salvation Army property is now a condominium project – the wheel has turned full circle.

Controller Jean Newman suggested that Chorley Park, the former residence of the lieutenant-governor, should be fixed up and used as a civic historical museum. Fifty years later we are still discussing the need for a civic museum.

Because of the damage to the surrounding plants, the parks department erected a screen at the "wishing well" in Edwards Gardens "making the removal of the coins by young frogmen impossible."

Controller Jean Newman suggested at Board of Control that "we get a price on flood-lighting the beautiful clock tower atop St. Lawrence Hall." She noted that this "would focus people's attention on one of our early and beautiful points of interest."

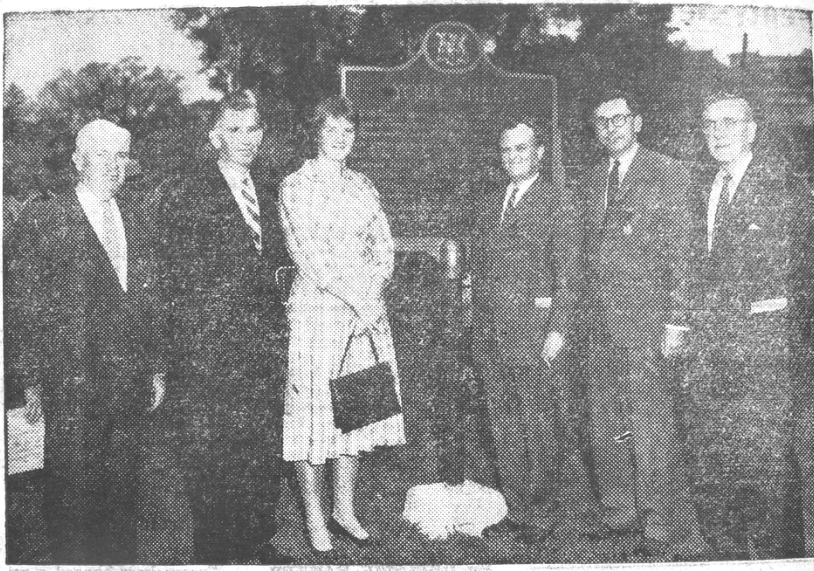
Sets Channel Record



Helge Jensen, 21-year-old Toronto, Ont., swimmer has set a record of 10 hours, 23 minutes for a swim across the English channel. Jensen gave up a previous attempt on Aug. 3 after setting out from Cap Gris Nez, France. His time for the swim is said to be a record for either direction.

Harry and Jack Miller were doing a complete face-lifting of their Mt. Pleasant-Manor Rd. shoe store which had been established in 1926.

Plaque Commemorates York Mills



A plaque commemorating the history of York Mills was unveiled in York Mills Park by Dalton Mercer, a descendant of the first known settler in the area. The ceremony was sponsored by the York Pioneers and Prof. J. M. S. Careless spoke on behalf of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board.

The Suffragette, the Beekeeper & the Artist: Three Sisters on Blythwood Road

The house at 154 Blythwood Road was designed in 1919 by architect Charles M. Willmot for three remarkable women. Constance, Elizabeth and Marian were daughters of Henry John and Charlotte Boulton. The illustrious Boulton family included Upper Canada's second Solicitor General, the builder of The Grange, and a Toronto mayor.



The sisters were of “mature” years when they moved out of Toronto and into their “artistic family home,” as a 1922 newspaper article described it. On Blythwood, they had the best of both worlds – country life with easy access to Toronto’s social and political activities. The women were bridge players, members of the Toronto Hunt Club, the Women’s Musical Club, and the IODE.

The youngest sister, Marion, was the artistic one. She had studied music and art, and was described as “a tireless dancer, rider and skater.” She was a keen golfer, and a member of the Toronto Golf Club.

Miss Elizabeth, the middle one, seems to have been the driving force behind the horticultural enterprise on Blythwood. A 1922 newspaper article describes the “closely cropped lawn and well trimmed shrubs” in front; and behind the house, the 68 x 400 foot deep lot running back “to a deep glen, in which a picturesque stream twists and turns.” Here, the sisters had a surprisingly productive area fenced to accommodate seventy hens to the west, vegetable and fruit to the east, and fifteen hives of bees to the north. Miss Elizabeth said she went into this

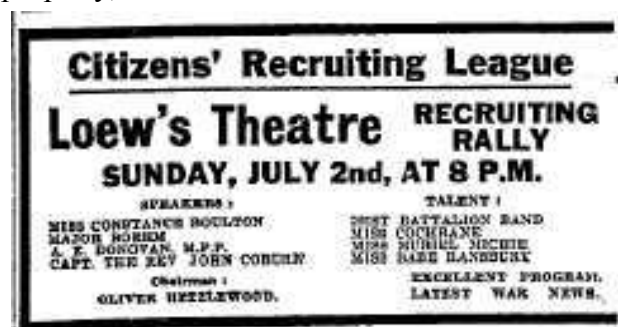
venture “haphazard” learning as she went – but she did go to Guelph to study small fruit culture. She also joined the Georgetown Beekeepers Association. The journalist described Miss Elizabeth’s dress: a long tunic of grey homespun over knee breeches.

With a keen eye to business, the sisters installed electric lighting and heat in their henhouse. Most of the year, eggs went for 40c a dozen. By extending the laying season, the Boultons secured \$1 to \$1.50 a dozen in the winter. In December and January, their hens could produce 2,000 eggs in their cosy winter quarters!

The eldest sister, Miss Constance Boulton, showed her independence when, in her twenties, she bicycled through Europe. Politically, she was outspoken and energetic – examples could fill volumes. She promoted women’s suffrage, supported conscription during World War 1, opposed free trade, favoured temperance, and was an advocate for North Toronto secession!

In January 1912, Constance (vice-president of the Local Council of Women) declared that as women had led the campaign to build the new water filtration plant, they “were surely capable of exercising the franchise, and should not be excluded from it.” She was described as “one of the most brilliant public speakers among the women of Canada,” and by 1920 had been nominated twice to run for parliament. She declined, but served as a school trustee for many years. In 1939, John Wanless was asked what he thought of women officials. He replied that women like Miss Constance Boulton, “have put the city under obligation. I only wish there were more of them.”

To the Misses Boulton, Blythwood was not a sleepy suburb, but a feminist stronghold, a productive property, and an artistic haven.



Globe, 1 July 1916

North Toronto Memories. More in an occasional series written by *you*, our members.

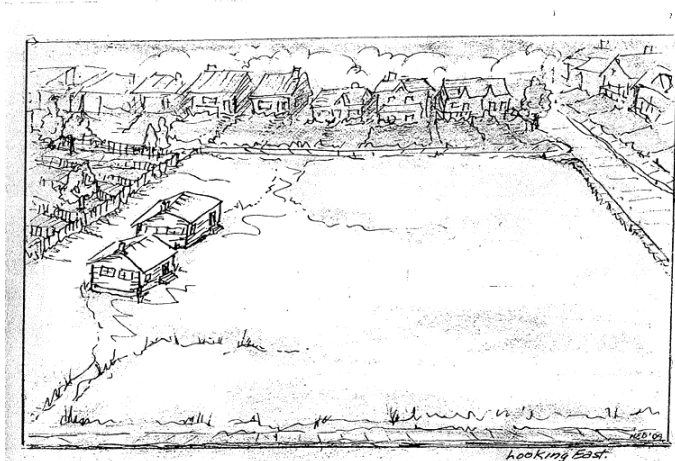
Thanks to members **Julian Bernard** of Guelph and **Helen Devereux** of Toronto for sharing their stories in this edition.

Please email your memories to dawsonbh@rogers.com, or mail to 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto M5M 2B2.

From the memoir

The Don Valley Years 1920-1940 *by Helen Devereux*

SKETCH No. 2
MAURICE CODY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 1926

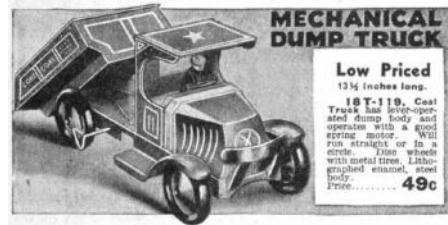


**Maurice Cody School
September 1926**

I was enrolled here in September of 1926 at 4 years of age. I attended for two years and then we moved.

Maurice Cody was brand new at the time. It was housed in two temporary portables, each with several grades. I was in the far portable. When I returned to Maurice Cody School about three years later a big, new school building had been built on the other (southern) part of the lot. The portables had disappeared.

A number of years later, an extension facing on Belsize Drive had been added. Belsize Dr. is on the right; Cleveland St. in the foreground. Cheston Road is in the east background.



North Toronto Memories *by Julian Bernard*

Although it was not quite my first home, my three earliest, distinct childhood memories are of traumatic events at 842 Duplex Avenue, immediately north of Glengrove, our home from 1932 to 1934. The first, a tumble down the cellar stairs, resulted in a broken arm the scar from which was apparent for many years. The second memory, equally traumatic, was driving my new truck, a very special gift that Christmas morning in 1933, around the wide railing of the front porch and watching in dismay as it snapped in two when it fell to the ground below. My parents, who could ill afford that gift, were equally dismayed. And the third was the hair-raising effect when I popped a spoonful of father's freshly mixed Keen's mustard into my mouth after being warned repeatedly to leave it alone. The howl of pain from the dining room brought my parents running from the kitchen.

Perhaps it was just as well that, in the summer of 1934, just as I turned five, we left Duplex and moved to 656 Oriole Parkway, very close to the highest point on that street. The move was made in the summer so that I could enter school that fall. Early in September mother walked me up to Allenby School to be enrolled in kindergarten. Bert Kerruish, the principal, took one look at me and my age and pronounced that "he's too young for kindergarten, take him home for a year." And so it was that, one year later, I was again taken to Allenby where the same Bert Kerruish pronounced that I was "too old for kindergarten, we'll put him in Junior First" as Grade 1 was called in those days. Even at that tender age, the logic of those decisions was cause for some wonderment. For reasons I never understood I also missed Grade 3 so actually had only seven years at Allenby which may explain why I can still remember the names of my teachers: Stone, Woodruff, Sutherland (two years), Laughlin, Howson and Storey, the last two both men.

Memories continues on page 6

Memories continued from page 5

The quiet end of Oriole Parkway, north of Eglinton, was a good place to grow up. Pears Park, with its baseball diamond and wonderful tobogganing hill was across the road. Other than a few trees and one gigantic boulder near the top of the hill, there were no obstacles in the form of buildings, fences or parking lots at the bottom of the hill as there are now. In summer a good run on my coaster wagon from the high point of Oriole Parkway could take me down that street and east on Eglinton almost to Edith Drive before coming to a halt. Our house was heated by a coal burning furnace from which my father was constantly removing clinkers, a job my younger brother and I inherited as we grew older. Hot water came from a gas-fired jacket heater which had to be lit with a match; there was no thermostatic control which meant that the entire family lived in fear that we would all forget one day to turn off the contraption and that the result would be a mighty explosion. It was replaced by an automatic heater as soon as one became available in the late 1940s.



The four corners of our street and Eglinton were occupied by four service stations: *Imperial* with its three stars, *B-A*, *Cities Service* and *White Rose*. In those early years garbage was collected in trucks with very visible chain drives and solid rubber tires, relics, so I was told, of the First World War. Milk and bread arrived in horse-drawn wagons bearing names such as *Acme Farmers' Dairy*, *Silverwood Dairy*, *Canada Bread*, *Barker-Bredin* and, occasionally, a tiny *Ocean Blend* tea wagon would be seen. Ice, in 25 or 50 pound blocks, arrived in trucks belonging to *Lake Simcoe Ice* and *Belle Ewart* - both afforded opportunities to climb on the back to retrieve chunks of chewable ice from the slime which lay on the wooden truck bed. The popcorn man, with his pushcart and tiny whistle and what must have been real butter, was a welcome visitor.

As I grew a bit older and, presumably, more responsible, I was allowed to wander further west along Eglinton to Avenue Road where, around 1936, I watched the *Canadian Bank of Commerce* (long before the *CBC* absorbed the *Imperial*) building rising in the vacant lot on the north-east corner and, a bit beyond Avenue Road, the empty spaces gradually fill in with stores and the *Eglinton Theatre*, while new houses sprouted on the partially built streets to the north. Notwithstanding the proximity of the *Eglinton*, my early memories of Saturday matinées were at the *Capitol* and the *Circle* on Yonge. Perhaps the more refined *Eglinton* did not bother with 10¢ westerns. *The Eglinton Hunt Club* on Avenue Road was a place of mystery and fascination designed to tempt small boys to explore and taunt Captain Paton whose bark was worse than his bite. Elwood, along the south edge of the *Hunt Club*, was a dirt road, a quagmire when it rained, with several hillocks into which our "forts" could be excavated. And, somewhere along the way, with one or two friends and thanks to Murray Niren, the pharmacist, we learned to play chess behind the dispensary of the *Eglinton Pharmacy*.

My secondary school years, which began in 1942 at Northern Vocational School, are best forgotten. In the 1950s I struck out on my own but my parents remained at 656 until 1980, by then their home for 46 years. For me, those early childhood years were the best part of growing up.

Modernist Architecture in North York

On **Tuesday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in the North York Council Chamber**, the North York Community Preservation Panel and several partners will hold a forum on modernist architecture in North York. This will be based on a report which was prepared by the North York Planning Department in 1997 and was reprinted by E.R.A. Architects for last year's forum. Goals of this forum include encouraging recognition of the importance of modernist buildings and recommending them for listing on the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Refreshments will be available from 6:30 p.m.

WWW: Worth While Website

Peter Broughton

I've just spent a fascinating hour or so browsing through some old publications of Toronto, and thought NTHS members might enjoy doing the same.

The *Internet Archive* website may be well known to some readers as it is the repository for thousands of scanned books (as well as music and movies). Until today, though, I had never tried searching "Toronto" in the text section.

The very first hit I got was a great little publication about the Belt Line Railway with some super sketches. A little further down, I came upon a 1914 book entitled "Tremendous Toronto" by W. S. Dinnick of the Dovercourt Land Company. It includes a couple of photos of Lawrence Park houses and gardens which I had never seen before. No doubt there are many other treats in store at www.archive.org

TREMENDOUS · TORONTO



RESIDENCES IN LAWRENCE PARK.

Tremendous Toronto, by W.S. Dinnick, President of Dovercourt Land Building & Savings Company Ltd, 1914, online at archive.org

Built Heritage Resources Database

The Heritage Resources Centre (HRC) at the University of Waterloo is developing the online *Canadian Built Heritage Research Inventory*.

This database will provide primarily Canadian sources for built heritage research: books, articles, reports, dissertations, etc. The site is searchable, interactive and flexible. The HRC welcomes contributions from the public.

<http://fesdevtest.uwaterloo.ca/hrcresearch/index.php>

Heritage Calendar

The 2010 Heritage Toronto Awards and William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture

Koerner Hall, Royal Conservatory of Music
273 Bloor Street West



Tuesday, 5 October, 2010

Mayor's Reception 6:00pm, Programme 7:30pm
Tickets \$27 + HST; Mayor's Reception - \$100 + HST

The annual Heritage Toronto Awards celebrate the contributions of all segments of the community that work to promote and conserve Toronto's history and heritage landmarks.

Hosted by CBC Radio's **Mary Ito**.

The 2010 Heritage Toronto Special Achievement Award will be presented to long-time heritage advocate **Madeleine McDowell**.

This year, the **William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture** will be given by **Peter Oundjian**, Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) Music Director. *"Notes" on Toronto: music's role in creating our city's soundscape.*

See the HT website for a list of the nominees for the various awards in the categories of Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship, Books, Media, Community Heritage.

TICKETS: 416-408-0208

Online www.rcmusic.ca

RCM Box Office:

Monday to Friday: 10:00am to 6:00pm

Saturdays: 12:00pm to 6:00pm

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

Heritage Toronto Walks *continue to Oct 2*



But after that, you can "do it yourself" until the guided walks start again in the spring. Three iTours (Don Mills, Toronto Island, Spadina) allow you to do your own tour by car or on

foot using an iPod or similar MP3 device.

<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/itours>

Door Open Ontario

April to the end of October

2-3 October, 2010, visit heritage sites in Gananoque, Port Stanley-Sparta, St. Thomas, and Vaughan.

16-17 October, Kincardine, Niagara (Ontario) and Niagara (Western New York).

23-24 October, Huron County.

INFO: <http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/>



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Heritage Calendar

Heritage Calendar continued from page 7

The Toronto Public Library Presents: Programs for the constantly curious...

Organized by TPL with the assistance of Dr. Lisa Rumieli, McMaster University

History Matters

Connect with Toronto historians at these lively lectures showcasing current research on Toronto's past and discover some of the surprising ways history matters to everyone in our city today.

I'll Drink to That: Booze in Hogtown, Craig Heron

Tues. Sept. 28, 7 pm
Annette Street Branch
145 Annette St. 416-393-7692

A Public Technology: The Building of Toronto's

Yonge Street Subway, Jay Young

Thurs. Oct. 14, 7 pm
Beaches Branch
2161 Queen St. E. 416-393-7703

Isolating Undesirables: Prisons, Pollution and Homelessness in Toronto's Don River Valley, 1860-1932, Jennifer Bonnell

Thurs. Oct. 14, 7 pm
Bendale Branch
1515 Danforth Rd. 416-396-8910

Keeping the City Clean: Portuguese Women in Toronto's Cleaning Industry, 1970-1990, Susana Miranda

Thurs. Oct. 21, 7 pm
Bloor/Gladstone Branch
1101 Bloor St. W. 416-393-7674

Locating Parkdale's Mad History: Back Wards to Back Streets, 1980-2010, Megan Davies and David Reville

Thurs. Nov. 4, 7 pm
Parkdale Branch
1303 Queen St. W. 416-393-7686

INFO: <http://activehistory.ca/>

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.



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



Harvest Home

Thurs 14 Oct 2010, 6-9 p.m.

Celebrate the season at Toronto's first free school. Experience an authentic lesson in the original classroom, and enjoy seasonal food tastings and local brews. Music by vocalist Shannon Butcher, and students from the Dixon Hall Music School.

\$55 ticket includes a drink and food tastings. Proceeds (and donations) enable the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation to continue its work.

INFO & TICKETS: 416-863-0010
www.enochturnerschoolhouse.ca

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

Evergreen Brick Works

550 Bayview Avenue (south of Pottery Road)
Free shuttle bus from Broadview Station

Grand Opening

25-26 September, 2010, free

The revitalized 1889 Don Valley Brick Works now features forests, ravines and wetlands, as well as a variety of activities in the site's historical buildings, and a weekly market. Town and country intertwine!

The Grand Opening will have music, fantastic food, exciting exhibits, wonderful workshops, terrific tours and plenty of family fun.

INFO: <http://ebw.evergreen.ca/whats-on/grand-opening/>



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

2010 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