



Winter in Lawrence Park, February 1926. *City of Toronto Archives*

Winter Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



Wednesday 25 January, 7:30 p.m.
1812: THE BIG PICTURE

The War of 1812, which engulfed the United States, Great Britain, her Canadian colonies, and a number of First Nations, was a dramatic and formative event in North American history. In this illustrated presentation, **Carl Benn** explores the war's major themes, from its complex origins, through its confused campaigns, to its misunderstood conclusions. Dr. Benn, Chair of the Department of History, Ryerson University, was formerly Chief Curator of the City of Toronto's Museums and Heritage Services. He has written extensively on the War of 1812.

***Wednesday 22 February, 7:30 p.m.**
TORONTO'S FINANCIAL DISTRICT:
The Old, The New, The Repaired

Come and hear about the repairs that have been made to many of downtown Toronto's iconic towers over the years. This illustrated talk will be presented by **Sarah Gray**, an engineer with Halsall Associates who specializes in the repair of heritage and contemporary structures.

A brief Annual General Meeting will precede the Feb. programme.

***NOTE:** this is the **4th**, not the last Wednesday in February.

Wednesday 22 March, 7:30 p.m.
AFRICAN CANADIANS IN THE WAR OF 1812

An illustrated talk presented by **Wayne Kelly**, Manager, Public Education and Community Development, Ontario Heritage Trust.



Glengrove Avenue, c. 1904 *CTA*

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>In this issue -</i> | |
| Winter Programme | 1 |
| President's Message | 2 |
| Heritage News | 2 |
| 2012 Anniversaries | 3 |
| Fall Walk | 4 |
| <i>Fall Lecture Series:</i> | |
| Toronto's Chinatowns | 5 |
| Well-Tempered Listener | 6 |
| Toronto in 1834 | 7 |
| Heritage Calendar | 8 |

North Toronto Memories is an occasional series, written by *you*, our members.
Please email your memories to dawsonbh@rogers.com, or mail to 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto M5M 2B2

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.

President's Message

Best wishes for 2012, as the North Toronto Historical Society enters its 37th year.

Our annual general meeting will be held at the beginning of the monthly programme in February. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the Society, please contact a member of our executive committee. (Contact information on back page.) We would be happy to welcome new members and ideas.

I would like to thank our executive for their contributions during 2011 – Hilary Dawson, newsletter editor; Bill Dawson, treasurer; Alex Grenzebach, membership co-ordinator; Donald Duncan, secretary; and Marta O'Brien, Doug Campbell and Ken Pon, members-at-large who contributed to programmes, the annual walk and sale of publications. Special thanks to Janet and Brian Dunfield, and Elizabeth and John Warrener, who helped out with refreshments at our meetings. Librarian Valentina Ciric represented Northern District Library and facilitated the arrangements for equipment used by our guest speakers. Thanks also to members who contributed to the work of the Society through their financial donations.

We were saddened by the death in March 2011 of Joan Sampson, a long-time member of our Board of Directors, who served as our publicity co-ordinator.

Our annual Fall walk on October 2 featured the Bedford Park/Teddington area and, although the turnout was small because of the inclement weather, the response of the participants was very enthusiastic.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our programmes in 2012. It will be a year of many anniversaries - including the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, the 175th of the Rebellion of 1837 and the 100th of North Toronto Collegiate, the Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club and the annexation of the Town of North Toronto to the City of Toronto.

Lynda Moon, President

Heritage News

Locke Library Plaque

The Heritage Toronto Plaque commemorating the Locke Library has been installed in front of the library.

2011 North York Modernist Architecture Forum

The video from the November event is now available from the Heritage Toronto web site: <http://www.heritagetoronto.org/news/story/2011/10/12/2011-north-york-modernist-architecture-forum>

New Book!

Congratulations to Arlene Chan on the publication of her book, *The Chinese in Toronto from 1878*. (Dundurn, 2011)

50 Years Ago will return in the next issue.

Heritage at Risk

It was a bad Fall for heritage in Toronto: the "eviction" of the Canadian Air & Space Museum from Downsview Park; the rumoured closure of four Toronto museums, snatched from the brink for the 2012 budget year at least.

It all comes down to money, we're told. Well, they're *your* tax dollars: how do you want the politicians to spend *your* compulsory contribution to the municipal/provincial/federal coffers? Is heritage an unnecessary frill? Are heritage policies and funding, historic places and museums important to you? Tell your elected representative. Give the politicians the information to make the *right* decisions.

CONTACT INFO

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/MembersOfParliament/>
<http://www.ontla.on.ca/>
<http://app.toronto.ca/wards/>

Anniversaries & Celebrations in 2012

- 100 Annexation of the Town of North Toronto
- 100 North Toronto Collegiate
- 100 Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club
- 100 Sinking of the *Titanic*
- 175 Rebellions of 1837
- 200 War of 1812
- 200 Birth of Charles Dickens

1912: Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club & Lawrence Park Tennis Club

The clubs were established in 1912, in connection with Lawrence Park Estates. Wilfrid Servington Dinnick was the first president of the Bowling Club. The clubs have operated continuously in the ravine east of Yonge Street, south of Lawrence.



Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club

AO

1912: Sinking of the *Titanic*



Lifeboat No. 6

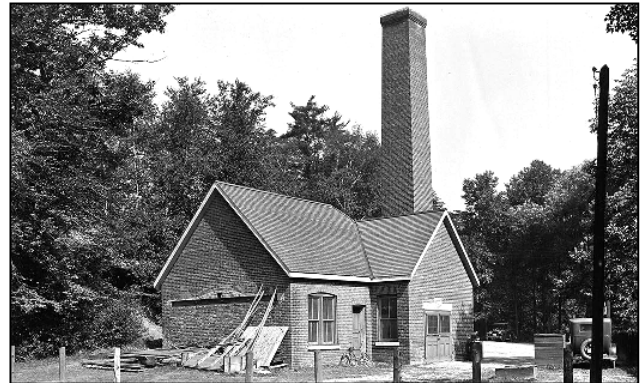
Arthur G. Peuchen assisted with the rowing of Lifeboat No. 6. He died in Toronto in 1929 and is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

TITANIC RESOURCES:
www.titanicinquiry.org/
Encyclopedia Titanica
www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/

1912: Annexation of North Toronto

The Town of North Toronto was incorporated in 1890, amalgamating the villages of Davisville, Eglinton, and Bedford Park in 1892. Much of the area was still farmland, but subdivision of property and building by such entrepreneurs as Wilfrid Servington Dinnick (Lawrence Park) and John Sheldrake Stibbard soon made North Toronto a desirable commuter suburb.

The municipality could not keep pace with the growing population's need for services. On 15 December, 1912, North Toronto residents voted in favour of annexation to the City of Toronto.



North Toronto Pumping Station

In 1902, The Town of North Toronto acquired part of what is now Sherwood Park for a new waterworks, with a steam powered pumphouse. After annexation, the watermains were linked up to the High Level Pumping Station on Poplar Plains Road, and the Sherwood Park pumping station was no longer needed.

1912: North Toronto Collegiate Institute

The North Toronto High School held its first classes in 1910, in the North Toronto Town Hall at Yonge and Montgomery. In 1912 the school moved to the brand new North Toronto Collegiate Institute building on Broadway Avenue.



Over the years, various additions to the old school were constructed to accommodate increasing student numbers. In 2010, a modern building replaced the old one.

North Toronto Collegiate Institute will celebrate its Centennial on May 10-12, 2012.
<http://nt100th.ntci.on.ca/>

Fall Events

Fall Walk

Bedford Park/Teddington Park

Ten or so stalwart souls braved a soggy October afternoon to discover the Bedford Park area, east of Yonge Street. We started at Wanless Avenue, and meandered up to the old City Limits and “Glen Echo Loop.”

The community of Bedford Park grew up along Yonge Street, north of the current Lawrence Avenue. This was primarily an agricultural area, with a few businesses on Yonge Street serving travellers and local farmers. One of the local hostelries was the *Bedford Park Hotel*, on Yonge Street, south of what is now Fairlawn Avenue.

In 1890, Toronto’s Metropolitan Street Railway was extended up Yonge Street. The area now appealed to people whose primary occupation was not farming, as they could commute into Toronto, and residential streets developed. In 1892, Bedford Park joined the villages of Davisville and Eglinton, which had incorporated in 1890 as the Town of North Toronto.

In 1909, the Rosedale Golf Club moved north, from its former location in Rosedale. This gave added cachet to the area, and about the time of North Toronto’s annexation to the City of Toronto in 1912, businessmen Robert Dack and Nicholas Garland registered plans for choice properties to be built to the north of Bedford Park. The elegant subdivision of Teddington Park developed. The contrast between the modest family houses on Roslin Avenue, and the multimillion-dollar mansions on Teddington was very clear.

Walk leaders were Bill Dawson, Hilary Dawson, Alex Grenzebach and Lynda Moon.



Roslin Avenue



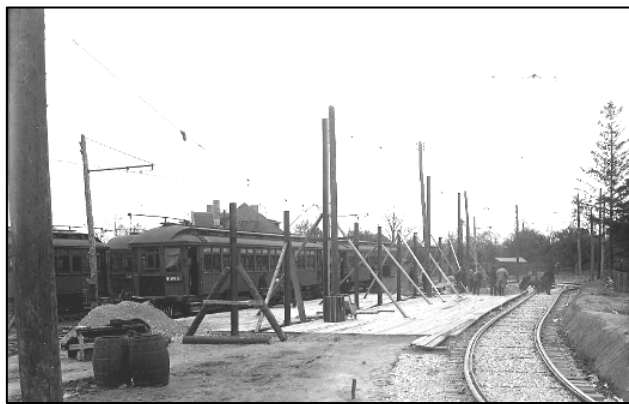
Firehall (later, No. 131), Wanless Ave and Yonge St, November 15, 1930
City of Toronto Archives



174 Teddington Park Avenue, built 1931

Designed by architect John Lyle (Union Station, Royal Alexandra Theatre) for industrialist Frederick W. Cowan. Past owners include Col. Eric Phillips (Argos Corporation) and Steve Stavro (Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment).

Sneak a peek: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/48576817/174-Teddington-Brochure-1>



Yonge and Glen Echo, looking east, October 25, 1922
CTA

SEPTEMBER: **Harvey Low**

***Toronto's Chinatowns 1850-2011:
A Historic and Demographic Overview***

The history of the Chinese in Canada dates back to the Gold Rush of 1858. A population boom and famine in China propelled young men to seek their fortune on “Gold Mountain,” across the Pacific. In the 1880s, the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway attracted more Chinese workers. However, when the CPR was completed, the Canadian government restricted further immigration with the *Chinese Immigration Act* of 1885, and imposed a Head Tax (landing fee). In 1923, the *Chinese Exclusion Act* prohibited all immigration from China. It was repealed in 1947.

In Toronto, the first recorded Chinese businesses were laundries: Sam Ching’s at 9 Adelaide Street East, and Wo Kee’s at 385 Yonge Street, listed in the 1878 directory. The early Chinese community in Toronto was very insular, the residents supporting and protecting each other from outside hostility. The first Chinatowns were homogenous, without the variety of Chinese dialects and places of origin of today’s Chinese communities.

Toronto’s Chinatowns

- * York Street had a Chinese population from the mid 1800s. It was close to the wharves and railway station, so was convenient for workers. However, by 1900, Canadian immigration laws and restrictive city ordinances pushed Chinese businesses and residents north.
- * Dundas-Elizabeth, the “original” Chinatown, grew from the late 1800s. Much of St. John’s Ward (between University Avenue and Bay Street, Queen and College) succumbed to urban renewal in the 1950s, as substandard housing was demolished. “New City Hall” opened in 1965. Few of the original businesses survived, and most moved west to Spadina.
- * Dundas-Spadina continued the older Chinatown.
- * Broadview-Gerrard - “Chinatown East” - developed as a result of 1970s changes to immigration regulations.

At the same time, suburban Chinatowns sprang up on arterial roads.

- * Agincourt, “Scarborough Chinatown.”



Yonge Street—west side between Albertus and Craighurst.

Top: 1935 (*City of Toronto Archives*) Harvey and Jeff Low’s grandfather ran the laundry located between the bicycle store (Watson’s, then Hopkins’) and the barber shop (Fred Lill).

Bottom: Jeff Low’s photograph of the scene today.

Jeff (aka Mustapha) has a series of *Then And Now* photos at urbantoronto.ca

- * Mississauga, “Chinatown West.”

Immigration policies in the 1990s encouraged Asian investment:

- * Richmond Hill-Markham “Chinatown North” from 1980s, established by immigrants from both Hong Kong and mainland China

Today, immigrants from China form the greatest proportion of newcomers to the Toronto area. There are equal numbers of men and women (unlike the 19th century “bachelor” society), and communities are not as inward-looking as in the past. Today’s Chinese immigrants often settle in suburban neighbourhoods, with newcomers from other parts of the world.

MORE ABOUT CHINESE CANADIAN HISTORY


Harvey Low, *Chinese-Canadians: A Changing Ethnic Community – Implications for Service Planning*. www.toronto.ca/demographics/pdf/metropolis_chinatowns.pdf

Library & Archives Canada: *The Early Chinese Canadians 1858-1947*. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/chinese-canadians/index-e.html

OCTOBER: Mary Willan Mason
The Well-Tempered Listener

Mary Willan Mason, daughter of composer Healey Willan and pianist Gladys “Nell” Hall, grew up in the Deer Park area in the 1920s and ’30s. The Willans lived at 139 Inglewood Drive, near Yonge and St. Clair. Mary had three older brothers, and “a father and a mother who thought, slept, produced and performed music through the ‘Jazz Age’ of the 1920s, the Great Depression, the Second World War, and beyond.”

HEALEY WILLAN SOCIETY



FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE MUSICAL LEGACY OF
HEALEY WILLAN

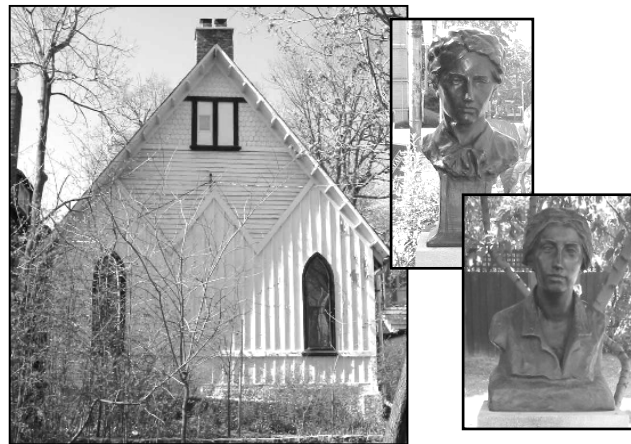
The Healey Willan Society is online at:
canons-regular.org/go/healeywillansociety/

All-too-predictable questions to the Willan children were, “Are you musical, dear? What do you play?” Inspired by her parents’ discussions of J.S. Bach’s *The Well-Tempered Clavichord*, four-year-old Mary responded, “I’m the well-tempered listener.” This produced such a reaction that it became her standard answer, and is the title of her recent memoir.

At concerts in Toronto and at home on Inglewood Drive, Mary chatted with such world-renowned musicians as Francis Poulenc, “Uncle Leo” Stokowski, Fritz Kreisler and Percy Grainger. Her parents’ interests extended beyond music, and friends included artist Franz Johnston and theatre director Dora Mavor Moore (for whose productions Nell Willan provided the music).

There were interesting quirky neighbours, too, like sculptors Frances Loring and Florence Wyle. “The Girls” (as they were known) lived at 110 Glenrose Avenue, where the redundant Sunday

BY MARY WILLAN MASON
The Well Tempered Listener: Growing Up With Musical Parents. Toronto: Words Indeed Publishing Inc., 2010
The Consummate Canadian: A Biography of Samuel Weir Q.C. Toronto: Dundurn, 1999



The Girls’ studio at 110 Glenrose Ave. Sculptures of Wyle by Loring (top) and Loring by Wyle are in the small park named for them on the northeast corner of Mount Pleasant Road and St. Clair Avenue East.

School building of Christ Church, Deer Park provided wonderful interior space for their work.

Other important characters in Mary’s life were Pete, Nicky, Tippy, Chloe and Trixie, the succession of family dogs. Pete used to “ride the rails” alone: he would walk over to Yonge Street, hop on the cow catcher contraption at the front of the streetcar, ride downtown and back, jump off after Heath Street and trot home.

A born performer, little Mary was taught by her brothers to recite the alphabet backwards – which she would do at speed for 10c, until adults put a stop to this enterprise. Another forbidden pleasure was climbing on the back of the ice-wagon to swipe a piece of ice to suck.

Mary’s lively presentation gave a very real sense of what life was like in Deer Park at a time when children and dogs could roam unsupervised.



T. & Y.R.R. Car No. 45, Yonge Street and Sheldrake Boulevard, 1920
 CTA

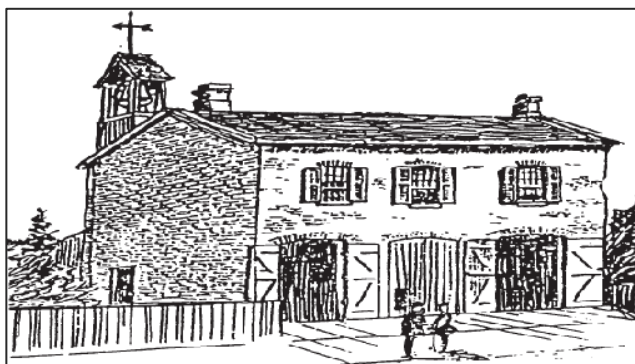
NOVEMBER: Norie Jacobs
Toronto in 1834

In November, we were treated to a visitor from the past. Beautifully dressed in an 1830s gown and bonnet, Norie Jacobs had travelled through the decades to tell us what life was like when the Town of York was incorporated as the City of Toronto.

The site for the town had been selected by Lieutenant Governor Simcoe because it was easily defensible. The original plan for the little town was surveyed around ten blocks, from Palace Street (now Front Street) in the south, north to Duke Street (now Adelaide), between George Street to the west and Berkeley to the east.

While Mrs. Simcoe's descriptions of the infant settlement are optimistic, the reality was much harsher. There were no engineered roads, and no proper drainage or sanitation. Animals wandered at will. In wet weather, the roadways were worse than just muddy.

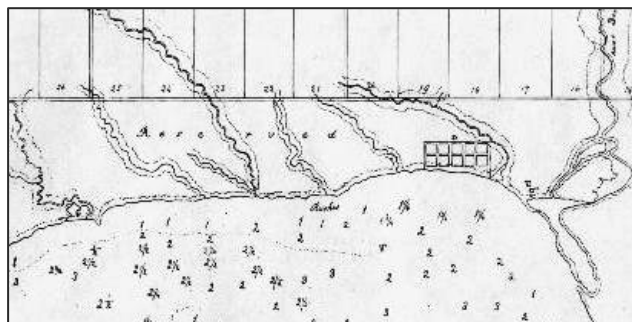
When war between Britain and the United States broke out in 1812, York's location proved to be more vulnerable than anticipated. In April 1813, American troops invaded, and looted and burned the town.



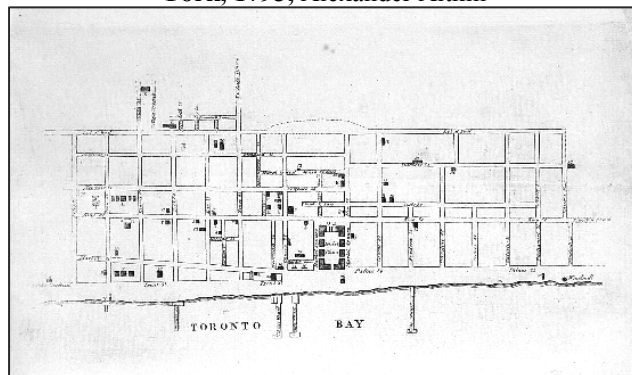
First Engine House

With so many of the early buildings made of wood, fire was a constant threat in York. Anyone who discovered a fire was to ring the bell of St. James. Each house had to be provided with buckets of water. When there was a fire, bucket brigades supplied the water to throw on the flames. Then, carters were obliged to supply water for fires.

The first engine house (fire station) was built in 1826 on Church Street near Newgate (Adelaide East), for the volunteer York Fire Company. In 1831, the first Hook & Ladder Company was established.



York, 1793, Alexander Aitkin



Toronto, 1834, Alpheus Todd

After the war, Britain encouraged immigration and settlement in York to secure its position. Most residents had a British background, and it was expected that those were the traditions to be followed in the community. Growth was rapid, with the population increasing from 720 in 1816 to over 9,000 by 1834. The Bank of Upper Canada received its charter in 1821, to serve merchants and the growing middle class. At the same time, the number of urban poor was increasing, and various charitable organizations were established. The York General Hospital was built in 1820. (In those days, a hospital was for those too poor to pay a physician to visit them at home.)

Meanwhile, nothing had been done to improve sanitation. In 1832, York suffered a devastating cholera epidemic. It abated, but only to return with a vengeance in 1834. Three of the first bylaws of the new City of Toronto addressed public health concerns: regulations regarding garbage disposal, the establishment of a Board of Health, and the construction of proper sewers.

MORE ABOUT THE TOWN OF YORK

Town of York Historical Society
<http://www.townofyork.com/>

The Founding of York and the Establishment of the City 1791-1839. TPL online exhibit.
<http://ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/TPM/frame2.html>

Heritage Calendar

From the Ashes of War, the Birth of a Nation

Fort York in partnership with Senior College of the University of Toronto

Fort York National Historic Site, 250 Fort York Boulevard

INFO: fortyork@toronto.ca

<http://www.fortyork.ca/events.htm>

Wed. 8 February, 2012, 9 am to 5 pm

Historian Carl Benn will open the day with an overview of the war, followed by presentations by lectures, food, music, and costume inspired by the War of 1812, the battle at York, the participation of women, and the contribution of Aboriginal peoples.

TICKETS: \$35, online at www.uoftix.ca.

Meet Me at the Market

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

INFO: 416-392-7604

www.toronto.ca/culture/the_market_gallery.htm

Continues to **15 October, 2012**

Photographs, maps, art and artefacts highlighting the history of the St. Lawrence Market and neighbourhood.

Heritage Food Celebrations, Then and Now

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

INFO: 416-327-6227

amcarty@enochturnerschoolhouse.ca
www.enochturnerschoolhouse.ca

Thurs 16 February, 2012, 7 p.m.

Dorothy Duncan will speak about her third book, *Feasting and Fasting: Canadian Heritage Celebrations*. Also Chef Owen Steinberg from the Chef School at George Brown College will talk about the culinary traditions that influence him now.

TICKETS: \$12 general, \$10 for Members

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



Submissions for the next Newsletter by 15 Mar. to dawsonbh@rogers.com or call 416-481-6622.

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

Boz Reading Group

Northern District Library

INFO: 416-923-2035

7 Feb, 7 Mar, 7 pm

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth Charles Dickens.

"Do it Yourself" Walks from Heritage Toronto

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

iTour of Islington Village, Etobicoke

Joins iTours of Spadina Avenue, Don Mills and the Island.

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

1834: Beating the Bounds

Follow the boundaries of 1834 Toronto, and see buildings from the period that are still standing today. (*See photo below.*) Printable map and brochure:

http://wx.toronto.ca/inter/trans/towalktours.nsf/Toronto_Walking_Tour-Beat_Bounds_map.pdf



Daniel Brook Building, 1833

Built for Daniel Brooke and John Murchison. Survived the fire of 1849, and still stands at Jarvis and King.

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

2011 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:

Secretary: Donald Duncan

Research: Hilary Dawson

Walks: *Bill Ramsay