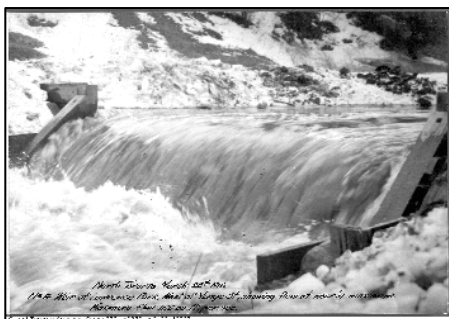




Road repairs on Yonge Street at Eglinton. City of Toronto Archives

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North Toronto, Weir #4 at Lawrence Park, west of Yonge Street, 28 March, 1916 CTA

Spring Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



Wednesday 25 April, 7:30 p.m.

HAIL! NORTH TORONTO: CELEBRATING A CENTURY



North Toronto High School (as it was originally known) was founded in 1910 in the Town Hall at Yonge Street and Montgomery Avenue. In 1912, the North Toronto Collegiate Institute (NTCI) building was completed and students moved to the new school.

In the fall of 2010, a brand new building opened to serve new generations of students. Mike Filey (NTCI grad) will lead a panel (Carole Whelan, Nancy McFadden, Ron Wakelin) to present an illustrated history of 100 years of NTCI.

Wednesday 30 May, 7:30 p.m.

SWEET AND SOUR: THE EVOLUTION OF CHINESE FOOD IN TORONTO

Take a culinary journey starting from the early years of Toronto's first Chinese restaurant in 1901 and culminating in the diverse Chinese cuisines and eateries of today. Presenter Arlene Chan, who grew up in Chinatown and worked there at her parents' restaurant, is the author of The Chinese in Toronto from 1878.

Annual General Meeting

of the North Toronto Historical Society was held on 22 February, 2012. Directors elected: Hilary Dawson, Alex Grenzebach, Lynda Moon, Bill Ramsay, Donald Duncan.

(See back page for contact information.)

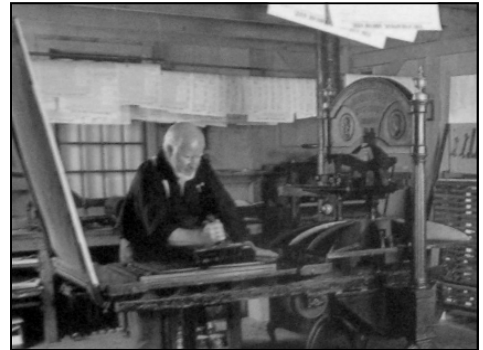
The Society meets at the Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard (one block north of Eglinton, just west of Yonge) at 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month from September to November & January to May. Programmes are free and are open to the public. Our co-sponsor is the Northern District Branch of the Toronto Public Library.

Donald Hetherington Ritchie 1918 – 2012



Our longtime member Don Ritchie died on January 18, just short of his 94th birthday. Born in 1918, Don was a lifelong resident of North Toronto, having lived all his life at 164 Sheldrake Boulevard. He attended John Ross Robertson Public School and later North Toronto Collegiate Institute. During WWII, he served an officer with the Royal Canadian Navy. Later, he worked as an editor and executive for Gage Publishing. In “retirement”, he ran the printing press at Mackenzie House on Bond Street for many years.

Don joined the North Toronto Historical Society in the 1980s and became involved in a number of activities, including editing the newsletter and speaking at programmes. I can recall tramping around with Don in the Don Valley searching for an old swimming hole and also accompanying him on oral history interviews. When I was president of the Society in the 1980s, the writing of a book on the history of North Toronto became a recurring item on our executive's agenda, but little progress was made. Don solved the problem by volunteering as the author, and the resulting book, *North Toronto* (Stoddart Publishing, 1992), won the Toronto Historical Board's Award of Merit in 1993 and was so well received that it went into several printings. Don generously donated a large part of his earnings to the NTHS.

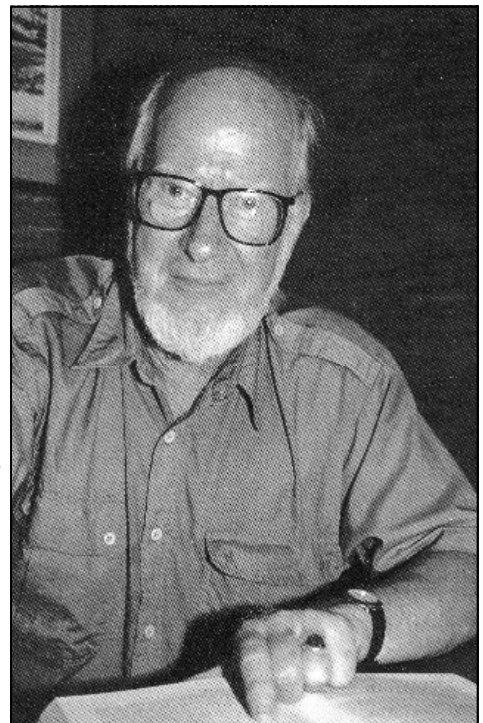


Besides having literary talent, Don enjoyed painting and photography. In 1967, he celebrated Canada's centennial by taking 3,500 photographs of downtown Toronto sites, all keyed to maps. He repeated the same pictures in 1977 and 1987. This project won him the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. The D. H. Ritchie Collection is housed in the Baldwin Room at the Toronto Reference Library.

Although he did not attend our meetings in recent years, Don retained his interest in local history and the activities of the NTHS. I often delivered his newsletter personally and always enjoyed my visits. One of my last memories of Don was of finding him working in his beloved garden on one of the hottest days of last summer. He was his usual cheerful self and tried to reassure me that he was being careful. With his sense of humour, his wide range of interests and his creative and inquisitive mind, Don was a delightfully unique character and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. I will also miss his



home at 164 Sheldrake which is slated for demolition by the new owner. It was built in 1906, purchased by Don's father in 1918 and then extensively renovated in the 1950s. I will always remember the Christmas messages cut from styrofoam blocks which Don used to put up on the front of the house.



We extend our sympathy to all members of the Ritchie family.

Alex. Grenzebach.

Winter Lecture Series

JANUARY: Carl Benn

1812: The Big Picture

This year marks the bicentennial of the start of the War of 1812. Historian Carl Benn presented an excellent overview of the causes, events and outcomes of the war we will be commemorating for the next three years. With much of Europe consumed by hostilities (Britain's fight against Napoleon's advance was in its tenth year), the North American conflict seems a minor sidebar. Yet its outcome has had a lasting effect on Canadian history.

The causes of the war are complex. Among hawkish American politicians, like Jefferson and Madison, there was a desire to complete the unfinished business of the American Revolution by expelling Britain from North America altogether. An irritant to the Americans was Britain's interference with French trade, which adversely affected American commerce. British searches of neutral ships to retrieve Royal Navy deserters was seen as an imposition on American vessels, particularly when US sailors were seized and impressed. In addition, the US blamed Britain for the creation of native confederacies, which mobilised to prevent American expansion into the Old Northwest. In fact, the Shawnee Confederacy and similar native alliances were organised by First Nations themselves, with little British influence.

By 1812, the war in Europe was not going well for Britain. It was anticipated that Napoleon's Russian campaign would succeed. To the United States, this seemed an opportune time to make a move on Canada, while British military strength was concentrated in Europe. War was declared in June, 1812. Most confrontations occurred along the Great Lakes border, which (unlike the norm for war) was also the line of communications and supplies.

There were seven major US invasions of Canada, and by 1813, the Americans controlled Lake Erie and had broken the British supply line to the Detroit area. In the upper Mississippi area, Native and British troops were successful. On the whole, Canadian troops were fewer but more competent



than the American, as seen in the successes at Queenston Heights and Crysler's Farm.

There were twenty-six ocean naval encounters between the US and the Royal Navy, with thirteen victories on each side. Both sides licensed privateers, legitimising what was little more than piracy. The Americans had assumed that they would be supported by the navy of the French Republic, but that only happened once. As the Peninsular War ended, the Royal Navy could release more vessels for the North American conflict, and soon the entire US coast was blockaded, with tremendous damage to the coastal economy, and a financial crisis in the maritime states due to the lack of custom duties.

After Napoleon's surrender in April 1814, Britain sent more troops to secure Canada. The strategy was to deflect American troops from Canada by staging a series of small coastal raids to the south, and also in the Gulf area. There was no serious attempt to end the War until the Treaty of Ghent, at the end of 1814. Peace was not declared until February 1815.

There was never any threat to US sovereignty: if Britain had ever had that goal, more troops would have been deployed to North America more quickly. However, Britain fought a successful defensive war, and Canada was not taken by the United States. A small war it may have been, but if things had ended differently, world history would be very different.

MARCH: Wayne Kelly

African Canadians in the War of 1812

We regret that this programme had to be cancelled as the library was closed due to labour negotiations. The presentation will be rescheduled to a future date.

FEBRUARY: Sarah Gray

Toronto's Financial District: the Old, the New, the Repaired.

This interesting presentation looked at the rehabilitation of twentieth century buildings, most of which were brand new during the lives of the audience. Engineer Sarah Gray works for Halsall Associates, a firm which specialises in the repair of heritage and contemporary structures. She showed us a number of projects her firm has worked on.

Brookfield Place (formerly BCE Place, 161 & 181 Bay Street) incorporates heritage facades within the 1990s structure. A heritage easement requires the owner to care for the historic structures, and they employ Halsall to review the state of repair of both the old and new parts of their building. Halsall had to devise a safe platform to clean the glass and paint the steel of the soaring Galleria.

Commerce Court was the tallest building in the British Commonwealth when it opened in 1931 (a distinction it kept into the 1960s). The North Tower was constructed of steel frame covered with limestone. The spaces were filled with brick. By the 1990s, the limestone facing was deteriorating, cracking, and in some places, falling off. Investigation showed that water seepage had caused the steel to rust, and its expansion had caused the facing stone to crack. Engineers stabilised the steel with epoxy paint, pinned cracked stones, and incorporated “slip joints” in places where the natural movement of such a tall building was causing structural damage.



Commerce Court under construction

The West Tower, built in the 1970s, had stainless steel cladding. Over the decades it had become grimy. The solution: “Bar Keepers Friend”! [Available at Cayne’s, Crate & Barrel, Home Outfitters and other fine stores.]

First Canadian Place (BMO), was built in the 1970s, and is still the tallest building in Canada. The curtain wall of thin Carrera marble had become discoloured over the years, and the panels were bowing in an unattractive and potentially dangerous way. The decision was made to replace the marble with sheets of white glass, and contrast the recessed corners of the tower with bronze glass.



First Canadian Place. Note the discoloured marble below the three-tier scaffolding, and the newly installed white glass above.

These are just some of the projects Sarah told us about. It was interesting to have an engineer’s view of some of Toronto’s iconic architecture, and to discover that it is not necessarily the oldest buildings that pose the greatest restoration challenges.

50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1962 contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.

P is for **PRINTING**

Speeding office operations, boosting sales volume, let us show you the many ways printing can serve you.

- Sales Literature
- Business Forms
- Letterheads
- Wedding Invitations

Let us quote on your next printing job!



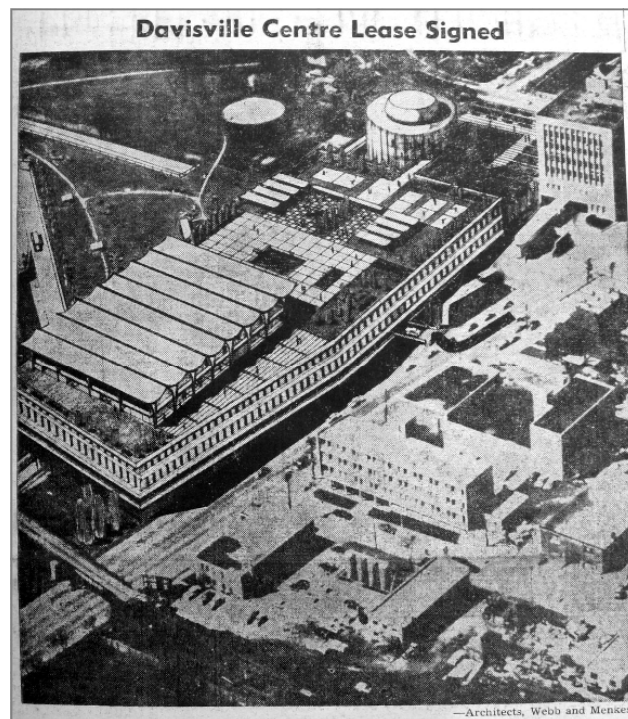
North Toronto Herald Printers LIMITED

2411 YONGE STREET HU. 3-4373

"IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU"

The use of overhead projectors was a new concept in schools. It was reported that "Bathurst Collegiate has just bought an overhead projector for \$400."

In the January provincial by-election in Eglinton riding, Mrs Jean Newman ran as the Liberal candidate and finished only 38 votes behind the Progressive Conservative candidate Leonard M. Reilly. Mrs Newman had previously served as school trustee, alderman and city controller before her defeat by Nathan Phillips in the mayoralty race the previous year. She was a long-time resident of Lawrence Park and as young boy I always found her to be a willing purchaser of tickets to Community Night at Bedford Park school. She was a remarkable woman and we need more politicians of her caliber. Her opinions on the present situation at City Hall would be most interesting!

A \$12,000,000 shopping centre, department store and office building complex was proposed for the TTC Davisville yards and trackage south-west of Yonge and Chaplin Crescent. It was reported that the air rights had been leased for 100 years. Construction was to begin on or before March 15th. Obviously, this project never went ahead. Does anyone know why not?

50 Years Ago continues on page 6

Announcing
"The Car That Swims"
AMPHICAR



The completely new type of goes-anywhere automobile brings you exciting possibilities for fun and convenience. \$3695.00, Less Trade-in.

We cordially invite you and your friends to drop in at your leisure to meet your new Amphicar dealer.

SEE: The Amphicar . . . the absolutely unique automotive achievement, after 10 years' research and development. The only precision-performing, superbly-styled sports car sensation of a lifetime that takes you cruising over water with the simple flick of a switch!

Set a date for a cruise in an Amphicar . . . wet or dry.

AMPHI MOTORS LTD.
1747-51 ST. CLAIR AVE. WEST
Telephone 766-2394/5

On the opening day of the Sportsmen's Show, the "Outdoors Girl of Canada" was to be selected and crowned. The selection criteria were not mentioned!

The North York Public Library charged 5 cents a day for monaural LPs and 10 cents a day for Stereo LPs. For damaged records, 50 cents was charged for a scratch up to one inch and \$1.00 for scratches up to two inches. For more serious damage, the borrower would have to pay the replacement cost of the record.



On the editorial page, the Herald complained that the inventors of the transistor radio "never meant it to serve as a perpetual and portable musical instrument to be carried along the streets by teenagers; to make the hours hideous in buses, trams, trains, and hospital corridors."

The Amphicar - "The Car That Swims" - was advertised at the rather high price of \$3,695. Unfortunately, the Amphicar was neither a particularly good car, nor boat. A few years ago, I spotted one in the Armour Heights area. For more information, see www.amphicars.com

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

Thanks to **Mary Willan Mason** for sharing this story of Depression era Lawrence Park.

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

My sister-in-law was brought up on Dawlish. Her family name was Adams. She married my brother Patrick in 1935.

I remember that the neighbourhood was agog with the latest gossip. Seems a neighbour of the Adams was going to a community meeting one night, and all the neighbours were going according to the word at the local coffee clatch. One wife decided at the last minute to stay home and finish the ironing! (How thirties is that?) So she was busy in the kitchen, door unlocked of course! This IS the thirties. Door handle twisted to her horror and a hand came around to open the door silently. She panicked and whammed the hand with her hot iron (weapon in hand! Wow!) There was a masculine howl of pain and she locked the door and finished the ironing.

Next door neighbour had a very bandaged hand next day! The Great Depression in Lawrence Park! No one was immune! Even people in large brick houses were hungry!

Heritage Walks



Settling in the City – Walking Tours of Downtown Toronto’s Corktown Neighbourhood

START: Enoch Turner Schoolhouse, 106 Trinity St
11 a.m., first Saturday of every month; last tour scheduled for October 6.

Join us at Enoch Turner Schoolhouse as we uncover the story behind Corktown, one of Toronto’s historic downtown neighbourhoods. The Trust is once again offering *Settling in the City*, a series of guided walking tours that explores the homes, factories, places of worship, businesses and sites that made Corktown the centre of life for many 19th century immigrants.

TICKETS: \$10 for adults and \$8 for students, seniors and Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation members.

Reservations: 416-327-6997
enocturner@heritagetrust.on.ca

Toronto Island House Tour

10 June, 2012, 12:00 noon to 4:00

INFO: 416-203-0902
granniesinspirit@gmail.com

LOCATION: Wards Island

The Toronto Island Grannies in Spirit will host a tour of distinctive homes and community buildings in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The tour features a selection of historic, renovated, original and new homes. Visitors will meet Island residents, find out about Island life, and gain insight into one of Canada’s most historic — and unique — communities.

TICKETS: \$45 (\$15 for children 13 and under)

NOTE: *This does not include ferry ticket.*

416-203-0902

<http://torontoislandhousetour2012.eventbrite.com/>

Grannies in Spirit is one of over 240 grandmother groups across Canada in the Grandmothers Campaign. All proceeds from this event will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to fund grass roots projects in Africa that support grandmothers who are raising their orphaned grandchildren.

Jane’s Walks

5-6 May, 2012

INFO: janeswalk.net/cities/list/category/toronto

Or check your holiday destination to see if you can catch one there!

Fort York and 200 years of Development

Fort York Historic District Walking Tours in association with Jane’s Walks

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

Sun. 6 May, 1 – 2:30 pm

Explore the history and evolution of Fort York, the Garrison Common, and the nearby Lake Ontario shoreline from the early British colonial era to the present day. The tour highlights the Battle of York, the fortification and development of the harbour, and the eventual industrial, recreational, and residential growth of this vital area.

FREE admission to Fort York following tour.

Heritage Toronto Walks

INFO: 416-338-3886

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

Aggie’s Wildflowers

12 May, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

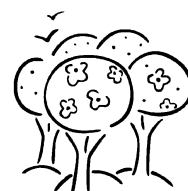
START: Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St, east side of Humber River just south of Dundas St W

New to the HT roster, but a regular spring event, is historian, artist and botanist Madeleine McDowell’s charming and knowledgeable introduction to the Lambton Mills world of artist Agnes Dunbar Moodie, daughter of pioneer writer Susanna Moodie.

ROMwalks

INFO: 416.586.8097

http://www.rom.on.ca/programs/rom_travel/



Heritage Calendar



In commemoration of the War of 1812 bicentennial, this year's Doors Open Toronto theme is **200 Years of Building the Urban City**. More than 135 architecturally, historically, culturally and socially significant buildings will highlight their city builders.

Admission is FREE.

The 2012 building roster will be announced at the end of April.

<http://www.toronto.ca/doorsopen/>

We Stand on Guard for Thee: African Canadians in the War of 1812

Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, in cooperation with the History Department, Brock University; Central Ontario Network for Black History; and St. Catharines Museum

Thurs. 10 May, 2012, 6:30pm - Fri. May 11, 2012, 4:00pm

LOCATION: Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

REGISTRATION: \$110 includes conference, overnight accommodation and meals

INFO: http://harriet.tubman1.yorku.ca/events/workshop_may_10_11_2012_we_stand_on_guard_for_thee_african_canadians_in_the_war_of_1812

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.

Finding the Fallen: The Battle of York Remembered

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

To 8 Sept. 2012

INFO: 416-392-7604

http://www.toronto.ca/culture/the_market_gallery.htm

On April 27, 1813, Toronto (then the Town of York) was captured and burned by invading American forces. This poignant and original commemorative exhibit identifies the individual British, First Nations, Canadian and American combatants who died and brings their sacrifices to life. Featuring artifacts, custom-designed maps, first-person accounts and a newly commissioned Book of Remembrance that alphabetically lists the names of all of the fallen identified to date.

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

Toronto Bicentennial Commemoration Events

INFO: <http://wx.toronto.ca/festevents.nsf/war1812?openform>

Women in the War of 1812, Susan Spencer

Town of York Historical Society

Mon. 7 May, 2012, 7:00

LOCATION: The Meeting House at Riverdale Farm, 201 Winchester Street. (Carlton and Parliament)

INFO: 416-865-1833

tfpo@total.net

ADMISSION: \$10, free for members

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

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President & Programmes: *Lynda Moon

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

Newsletter Editor: *Hilary Dawson

Treasurer: Bill Dawson

Members-at-large: Doug Campbell, Ken Pon

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Publicity:

Secretary: Donald Duncan

Research: Hilary Dawson

Walks: *Bill Ramsay