



Garden at the home of Alex Gillies,
Brookdale Avenue, 1937.
City of Toronto Archives

Have a wonderful summer!

We look forward to seeing you in September for a new series of local history presentations.

Fall Programme

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

**UNBUILT TORONTO: MORE OF THE CITY THAT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN**
Mark Osbaldeston

Wednesday, 31 October, 7:30 p.m.

**POLICE DETECTIVES AND CRIMINALS IN
TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TORONTO**
Bill Gladstone

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

THE REBELLION OF 1837
Ron Stagg

Details to follow...

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Home of Mr. Irwin, Lawrence Park.
City of Toronto Archives



Save the date...

Fall Walk

Sunday, 30 September, 2:00 p.m.

More information in the next Newsletter...

Spring Lecture Series

APRIL: Mike Filey, Nancy Baines, Ron Wakelin, Nancy McFadden
Hail! North Toronto: Celebrating a Century

An illustrious panel of alumni presented an illustrated history of the school first known as Broadway Avenue High School, and now celebrating one hundred years of teaching and learning in North Toronto.

Mike Filey and Nancy Baines reviewed the history of their alma mater. The first principal of this first high school in the Town of North Toronto was George Reed. In 1910, a handful of students attended classes on the upper floor of the North Toronto Town Hall. [See picture on *Newsletter* masthead.] Property for a school building was acquired on the east side of Yonge Street, and by the time the new Broadway Avenue High School opened in 1912, North Toronto had been annexed to the City of Toronto.

The new two-storey building faced north onto Broadway Avenue. It was Gothic in style, and its main entrance was flanked by two bay windows. Principal Reed wanted to emphasise the academic character of the school, and it was renamed North Toronto Collegiate Institute (NTCI). By the 1920s, extra-curricular activities (primarily sports) were available for a supplementary fee of \$1 for boys, and 60c for girls. Over the years, a literary and dramatic society was formed, a camera club (led by teacher Fred Farmer) and the school year book, the *Howler*, was established. The Girls' Club promoted picnics, dances and hikes.



As Toronto's northern suburb grew through the 1920s, so did enrolment at NTCI. The wing added in 1921 was the first of many additions to the building. The 1920s brought change and innovation. Electricity was installed in houses, automobiles became more common, the Victrola brought popular music into the home, and the Capitol Theatre "persuaded" some to skip school to see the latest movies.

The Depression brought hardships to all, including the demise of the *Howler* in 1934. However, a new sports field was opened by Premier George Henry, whose son attended NTCI. In the mid-1930s, there was an antiwar sentiment in the community, and NTCI's Cadets was disbanded. At the same time, a small orchestra and a glee club were established.

The North Toronto neighbourhood had continued to expand, and in 1936, Lawrence Park Collegiate was built to take the overflow of students from NTCI.

During World War 2, NTCI's principal was former army Colonel F.H. Wood. He took his military career very seriously, reinstated the Cadet Corps, and instituted daily drills on the school field that every student had to attend. A thousand NTCI alumni and teachers served in the war, and about 100 lost their lives. The War Services Club sent letters and packages to overseas alumni. Mike read a letter from an overseas alumnus who would become a great Canadian actor: Bill Hutt.

After the war, the growing school population prompted more additions to the school building. This was when the excellent music programme was established, by teacher Jack Dow.

Ron Wakelin and Nancy McFadden saw the 1960s as a transition "from Conformity to Rebellion." Early in the '60s, popular activities were Cadets, drills, and a special award to the girl with the best posture; white gloves were required for dances. By the end of the decade, girls "rejected pearls and brought in love beads."

Hail! North Toronto: Celebrating a Century, NTCI's limited edition anniversary book, has hundreds of photos and personal anecdotes. It was launched at the school Open House on 12 May, and is still available at:
<http://ntci100th.eventbrite.ca/>

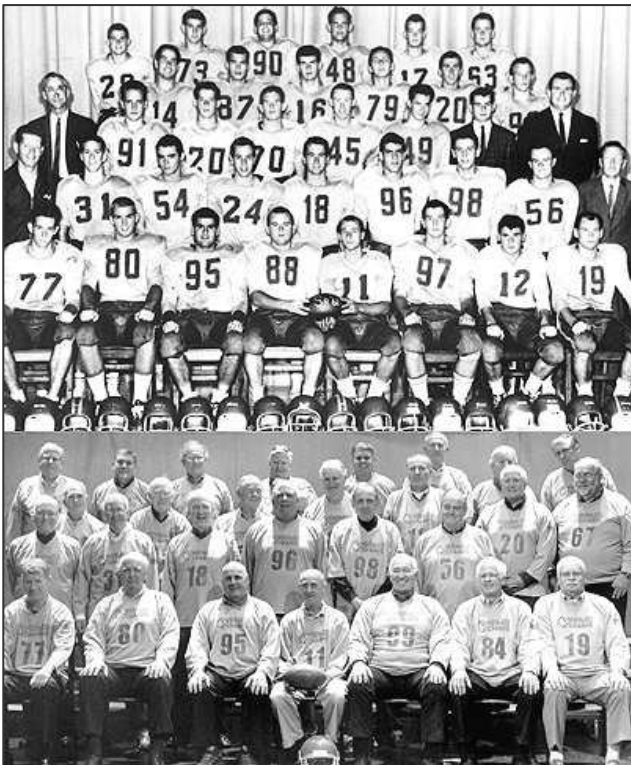
Hail! North Toronto continues on page 3

Hail! North Toronto continued from page 2

The Hall-Dennis report of 1968 changed the curriculum, viewing school as “a place of personal growth” where students could reach their potential as individuals. There were to be no more straight rows in classrooms, and students were permitted “spares” for independent study. There were field trips, and geography and drama became credit courses.

The 1970s saw the dawn of new technology - that is, computers – and gender equality. Enrolment was declining, so Toronto parents were allowed to select “out of district” schools. Curriculum changes included the addition of business. There was also a special education stream at NTCI. A new award-winning school paper – *Graffiti* – was started. [Graffiti won best volunteer newspaper at the 2012, 17th annual *Toronto Star* High School Newspaper Awards.]

North Toronto Collegiate students have a history of giving back to the community. It started in the



Top: 1962 City Championship winners NTCI Norseman football team
Below: 2012 team reunion

From My Toronto Today online article by Paula Sanderson 25 June 2012

<http://www.mytorontotoday.ca/2012/06/ntci-boys-of-62-relive-their-championship-season/>



TV personality Rick Mercer is presented with a “Giant Cheque” for *Spread the Net* by students and staff of NTCI.

1920s with the Girls’ Club, and later with the War Services Club. Today, student volunteer SAINTS (Student Assistance In North Toronto For Seniors) assist local seniors, as they have for 35 years. The school’s annual fashion show has raised tens of thousands of dollars. This past winter, it raised \$51,900 for *Spread the Net*.

The old school building had been added to so frequently over the decades that it had ceased to be functional. The building was demolished, and in 2010 a brand new school opened at the old Broadway location. Architecturally, it is very different from that school that opened 100 years ago. Yet the school spirit remains the same.



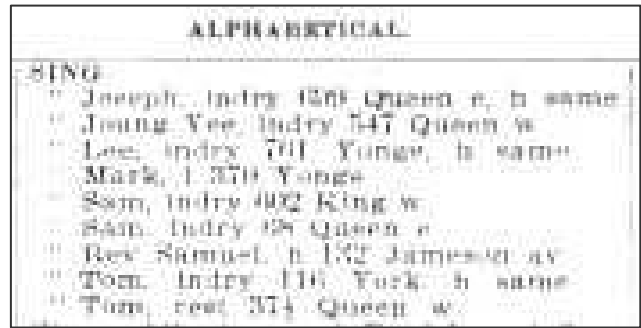
A school for the 21st century: the new North Toronto Collegiate Institute

MARCH: Arlene & Leo Chan
Sweet and Sour: the Evolution of Chinese Food in Toronto

China is an enormous country with many regional cuisines, but the Chinese food that is most familiar to Canadians is Cantonese. This is because the earliest Chinese immigrants to Canada came from the province of Guangdong in the south.

With the completion of the trans-national CPR line in 1884, many laid-off Chinese labourers moved east. In Toronto, these newcomers settled around Elizabeth Street and Queen Street in a community that was both supportive and protective. Canadian hostility to Chinese immigration resulted in the passing of federal restrictions on entry and the imposition of a head tax; in 1923, the Chinese Exclusion Act almost entirely stopped further Chinese immigration.

The work that was easiest to find was that which was unattractive to Europeans: laundries and restaurants, both of which had long hours and were low-paying. Nonetheless, several long-running Chinese family businesses were established in these early years. Sing Tom opened Toronto's first Chinese restaurant in 1901, at the corner of Queen Street West and Yonge (a location that would be taken over by the Simpsons department store). This was a little outside the Chinatown area, but was the first of many Chinese-owned Western-style cafés. Other restaurants catered primarily to Chinese clientele.



1901 Toronto City Directory
 Entries under “Sing” list six laundries and one restaurant

Chop suey became very popular in North America, and many restaurant names reflected this, like the International Chop Suey House, originally at 62 Elizabeth Street. The low-priced Chinese restaurants found a ready market with Jewish actors who performed in the old theatre district. Actor Edward G. Robinson asserted that 12½ Elizabeth Street was the best place to eat in Toronto.



Lunch counter at 301 Yonge St, 1922 CTA
 This style of soda counter and tables was common from BC to eastern Canada.

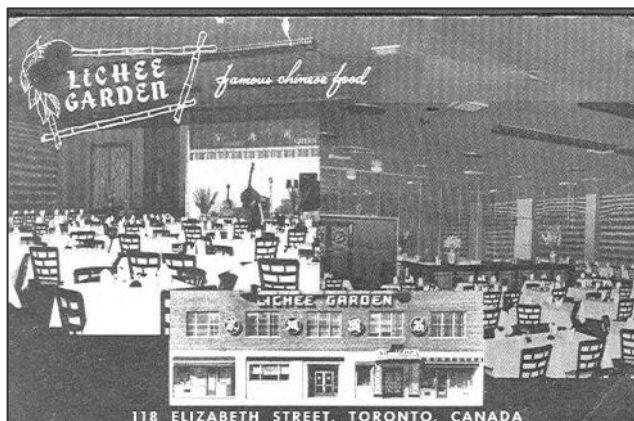


98-88 Elizabeth St, 1937 CTA

Sweet and Sour continues on page 5

Sweet and Sour continued from page 4

After World War 2, there were tremendous changes in Toronto's Chinese community. The Exclusion Act was repealed in 1947, allowing Chinese women to join the hitherto mostly male Chinese population. In the 1950s, most of the original Chinatown was expropriated by the City of Toronto and razed in the name of urban renewal.



Lichee Garden, 1952

from John Chuckman's great postcard site:
<http://chuckmantorontonostalgia.wordpress.com/>

This was the period when the "The Big Four" restaurants were established:

- *Nanking* at 75-77 Elizabeth St., operated by the Lee family;
- 1948 *Lichee Garden* at 118 Elizabeth St., which had a doorman, tablecloths, and a dance band;
- 1957 *Sai Woo* on the second floor of 123 Dundas St. W., owned by Bill Wen and in operation until 2000 (originally this was a Chinese-only restaurant);
- 1959 *Kwongchow Chop Suey House* at 126 Elizabeth St., owned by the Lumb family (Arlene's parents).

The *Sai Woo* and the *Kwongchow* were first to put dim sum on Toronto menus.

There were also many smaller restaurants. Menus developed Canadianised versions of traditional Chinese dishes, and added combination choices. As trends changed, "Polynesian" restaurants appeared – also run by Chinese entrepreneurs.

Post war years saw the increase in fast food chains. (The first McDonalds opened in Toronto in 1967.) Chinese businesses adapted to the new trends, for instance Manchu Wok, Ho-Lee-Chow, and all-you-can-eat buffets.

After US President Nixon's highly publicised visit to China in 1972, nine-course Chinese meals became popular. The *Sai Woo* was the first in Toronto to offer these. This glimpse of China via the news led to a demand for authentic Chinese dishes. With immigrants coming to Toronto from every part of Asia, a whole variety of cuisines is now available.

Arlene's husband, Leo Chan, is a Master Chef and instructor in Asian Cuisine at Humber College. He gave us a quick "cook's tour" of Chinese food, which is as varied and regional as the many dialects of China.

- In the north (around Beijing, Mongolia), flavours are not so strong. Noodle dishes are popular, as are dumplings. Peking duck, of course, is one of the regional dishes known in the West.
- In the east (Shanghai and beyond) ingredients include fresh vegetables and seafood. Indeed, this area is known as "the land of fish and rice." Shanghai's famous delicacy is the Lion's Head Meatball, and dishes from this area often have imaginative names.
- Food in the west of China (Sichuan, Hunan and neighbouring provinces) tends to be spicy. That in Hunan is the spiciest.
- The southern area (Hong Kong, Guangdong) could be said to be where Asian fusion food originated, as centuries of seafaring Portuguese and other Europeans, and the Japanese, left tasty legacies.

Leo and Arlene treated us to delicious Chinese cookies and pastries with our refreshments, for which they deserve special thanks.

MORE about Toronto's Chinese History

Arlene Chan, *The Chinese in Toronto from 1878. From Outside to Inside the Circle*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2011

Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter

<http://www.ccnctoronto.ca/?q=node/23>

My Chinatown (Seniors Reflections on Chinese Canadian History 2009) has interesting articles about Toronto's Chinatowns.

The Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club Celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2012

by George Dominy, President

The Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club began as a private club for the residents of Lawrence Park Estates in the spring of 1912. It is situated in the beautiful Alexander Muir Gardens Ravine east of Yonge Street, two blocks south of Lawrence Avenue.

Lawn bowling was the main attraction (for men only); tennis was an ancillary activity for the women, family and friends of the bowlers while the men bowled. A ladies' section was formed later, with ladies bowling on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They were invited to bowl with the men on Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Civic Day and Labour Day.

The club came under the jurisdiction of the City of Toronto Parks and Recreation Department in 1923. The tennis group formed a separate club in 1933. The original clubhouse, which was opened by the Bishop of Toronto, was built in 1912. It was a small two storey structure. The upper floor was for the ladies, the ground floor was for the men. The building served the Lawn Bowling and Tennis clubs until the present Bowling Clubhouse was built in 1951. The Tennis Clubhouse was built in 1953.

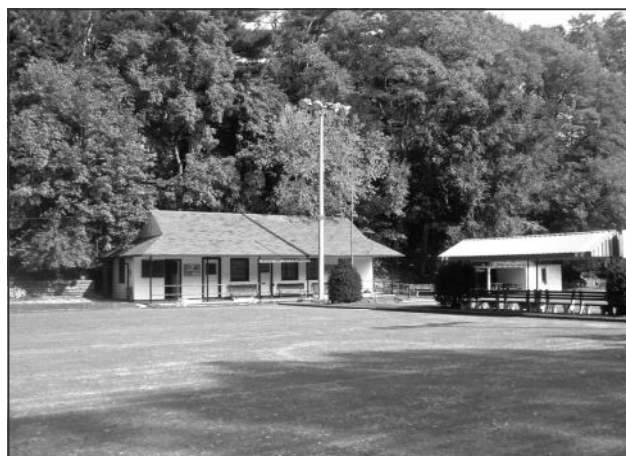
During the fifties and sixties membership flourished and reached a peak in 1965, with 278 members and a waiting list of 25. Numbers started to drop off in the 1970s. In the early 1980s, the members numbered some 194, by the mid-nineties it was down to 78 with 24 associate members. Today membership, including croquet players, is around 55 with 10 associate members.

In 1987, the club constitution was changed to create a joint club for men and women, with women serving on the executive. The first female president was appointed in 1988. Quite a change, as until the late 1970s women were allowed to join only if they were spouses or widows of male members. Croquet was introduced in 2000 as a means of encouraging greater membership. Since 2006, the Granite Club has been bowling at Lawrence Park as their green was taken over for construction purposes and has not yet been rebuilt.



Over the years, the club has held a number of open tournaments and hosted the District 12 Shield on several occasions. The club has entertained visiting teams from Britain and the Channel Islands. More recently, with the reduced numbers, only a limited number of events with guests invited from other clubs have been held. In-house club competitions in lawn bowling and croquet take place annually. Social activities are an important facet of the club. Each year a number of events are held at the club including theme dinners, a strawberry festival, a pancake brunch put on by the croquet section, and a corn roast which has been held every year starting in 1987. There is usually a barbecue on Saturday between the morning and afternoon draws.

The club's 100th anniversary was celebrated in June.



MORE about LP Lawn Bowling & Croquet Club:

<http://www.lawrenceparklawnbowling.com/>

North Toronto Memories. More in an occasional series written by *you*, our members. This edition features the late Don Ritchie's memories of NTCI, and 200-year-old Charles Dickens' account of his Toronto trip in 1842. Please email your memories of summer vacations, back-to-school, or other aspects of life in North Toronto, to dawsonbh@rogers.com, or mail to 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto M5M 2B2.

Don Ritchie's Memories of North Toronto Collegiate

Reprinted from NTHS Newsletter, June 2002

Don Ritchie began his high school education at North Toronto 72 years ago. He recalled the "terrible day" in 1935 when Northern Vocational (as Northern Secondary was called) defeated NTCI. Northern students paraded down Broadway—accompanied by a band—to give North Toronto a hard time. Don was in Chemistry class when the fuss began. There was such a mêlée that the police had to be called. Don's friend Andy put his foot through the Northern band's bass drum.

Don also remembered that the principal, Colonel Wood, ruled with an iron hand. One mischievous boy was summoned to his office for misbehaving. As he stood being lectured with his hands behind his back, he secreted the key from the office door and locked the principal inside as he left. Don added that those heady days included fist fights between students and teachers after school!

CELEBRATE RUGBY VICTORY

Northern Vocational Pupils Invade North Toronto Collegiate

Marching into a defeated camp this morning, about 1,000 pupils from Northern Vocational school paraded into the grounds of North Toronto collegiate to celebrate their 10-4 football victory over the collegiate team yesterday. It is reported that as one man, at a change of period, Northern Vocational's pupils got up, formed a parade, and marched down on the collegiate. Rumors have it that North Toronto will muster its inhabitants and move in on Northern Vocational this afternoon as an answer to this morning's gesture.

Toronto Star, 15 November, 1935

Memories of Toronto, 1842

by Charles Dickens

The country round this town being very flat, is bare of scenic interest; but the town itself is full of life and motion, bustle, business, and improvement. The streets are well paved, and lighted with gas; the houses are large and good; the shops excellent. Many of them have a display of goods in their windows, such as may be seen in thriving county towns in England; and there are some which would do no discredit to the metropolis itself. There is a good stone prison here; and there are, besides, a handsome church, a court-house, public offices, many commodious private residences, and a government observatory for noting and recording the magnetic variations. In the College of Upper Canada, which is one of the public establishments of the city, a sound education in every department of polite learning can be had, at a very moderate expense: the annual charge for the instruction of each pupil, not exceeding nine pounds sterling. It has pretty good endowments in the way of land, and is a valuable and useful institution.

The town is well adapted for wholesome exercise at all seasons, for the footways in the thoroughfares which lie beyond the principal street, are planked like floors, and kept in very good and clean repair.

NORTH TORONTO HEALTHFUL.

But Davisville Resident Objects to Neighboring Cows.

North Toronto, July 19.—At last night's meeting of the North Toronto Board of Health, Dr. Jeffs, M. H. O., reported that only three cases of contagious disease had developed during the past month, two of these being scarlet fever, and the other diphtheria.

A letter was received from a Davisville resident complaining of the number of cows stabled in his neighborhood.

Toronto Star, 19 July, 1912

Out & About

War of 1812 across Ontario

<http://war1812celebrations.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca/>

War of 1812-14 Bicentennial (OHS)

<http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/1812>

Ontario Historical Society listings of events, educational resources, and heritage sites.

Niagara 1812

<http://discover1812.com/>

Ideas for driving tours.

Niagara-on-the-Lake 1812

<http://www.1812niagaraonthelake.ca/>

Bruce/Grey/Simcoe 1812

<http://www.brucegreysimcoe.com/war-of-1812/Home>



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Telephone Main 5753

Toronto Star, 18 May, 1912

Heritage Toronto

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

416 338-3886

New walks include *St. James' Cemetery*, 21 July;

1837 Gravesites, 11 Aug; and others.



Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

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

Corktown Walking Tours

First Saturday of the month until October 6th, 2012.

Doors open at 10:45 am, tour departs at 11 am.

Tickets \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, seniors, and ETS Foundation Members.

416-327-6997 or Alison.Little@heritagetrust.on.ca

Citywalks with architectural historian Marta O'Brien

<http://www.citywalks.ca/index.html>

416 699-9838

Lost River Walks

<http://www.lostrivers.ca/WalkSchd.htm>

Thirsty City

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

Printable walk guides

Toronto Laneways

http://www.gaemeparry.com/Site/Toronto_Laneways.html

Toronto_Laneways.html

Take your bike for a guided tour of

Toronto's alleys and laneways.



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

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



Submissions for the next Newsletter by

20 Sept. to dawsonbh@rogers.com or call 416-481-6622.

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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