



North Toronto Town Hall

NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 36 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2012



Women at Ontario Jockey Club, 1912 City of Toronto Archives

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Fall Walk

IMPORTANT! The NTHS walk originally scheduled for 30 September has been postponed to the spring.

See Heritage Calendar (p.8) for these North Toronto Walks:

LAWRENCE PARK: ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER

A Heritage Toronto walk led by Marta O'Brien, 23 Sept. 1:30pm

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF NORTH TORONTO

With Lynda Moon, President of NTHS, 13 Oct. 10:30am

Fall Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



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

UNBUILT TORONTO:

MORE OF THE CITY THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Discover more of Toronto's most fascinating planning, transit and architectural "what-if's" as **Mark Osbaldeston** presents an illustrated talk on his new book *Unbuilt Toronto 2: More of the City That Might Have Been*. Learn about the early plans for the Royal Ontario Museum; a magnetically levitated light rail transit system that the provincial government actually started to build in the 1970s; and how Toronto would look today if it had hosted the Olympics in 1996. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

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

POLICE DETECTIVES AND CRIMINALS IN TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TORONTO

Toronto writer **Bill Gladstone** presents an illustrated talk on some of Toronto's notable police detectives in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and some of the most notorious criminals they brought to justice. Bill's talk is based on stories retrieved from the city's daily newspapers of more than a century ago. Bill Gladstone is a noted Toronto author, journalist, genealogist and publisher.

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

THE TORONTO REBELLION OF 1837 AND NORTH TORONTO: NOT JUST MONTGOMERY'S TAVERN

While the first and last acts of the 1837 uprising near Toronto played out at Montgomery's Tavern, the area from roughly present-day Bloor Street to the 401 was the centre of much of the action in December of that year. In this illustrated talk, **Ron Stagg**, professor of History at Ryerson University, will put the rebellion in the context of the issues of the day. His overview of the events of the uprising will emphasis the area roughly encompassing North Toronto. This year marks the 175th anniversary of the rebellion.

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.

City of Toronto Official Plan and Heritage

Sometimes it doesn't seem so, but heritage preservation is embedded in the City's Official Plan. A revised Heritage Plan is being developed.

If you missed the Heritage Open House on 10 Sept, you can access the exhibits and presentation at <http://www.toronto.ca/opreview/events.htm#openhouse>

A review of the Official Plan Heritage Policies by E.R.A. Architects Inc. is online at http://www.era.on.ca/pdf/ERA_OP_heritage_policy_comments.pdf

From Draft policies, City of Toronto Official Plan:

Our heritage buildings, districts and landscapes create a unique sense of place and a rooted sense of local identity and continuity for Torontonians. Heritage conservation is also a wise investment for a municipality. Heritage restoration work sets off much higher job and investment economic multipliers than new construction and heritage sites are a draw for tourism and the film industry. Heritage conservation not only makes our neighbourhoods even more attractive, it also increases their desirability and value.

In the past, many of our architectural gems and historical landmarks were lost. The Plan focuses on conserving Toronto's remaining irreplaceable heritage resources, including our heritage landscapes, historic cemeteries and buried archaeological sites.

Postal Station K at Risk

Yonge Street north of Eglinton is again the focus of rebellious residents. Postal Station K has been put on the market by Canada Post, and the fate of the 1936 art deco building and the public space in front of it is unknown. Local predictions are that a tall condominium development will erase the building and gobble up one of the few open areas on Yonge Street.

Designed by Toronto architect Murray Brown, and embellished by sculptor Fred Winkler, the building is one of very few to bear the insignia of King Edward VIII, who abdicated in 1936.

The site has a long and interesting history. Read Lynda Moon's history of this busy North Toronto corner on *page 3*.



C.W. Jeffery's iconic portrayal of the rebels' march down Yonge Street in December, 1837

MPP Michael Colle is spearheading a movement to save the building. A petition can be printed out on his website.
<http://www.mikecolle.com/>



City of Toronto Archives | Series 214, Item 200

Queen City: Her Majesty in Toronto

A new online exhibit by the City of Toronto Archives
<http://www.toronto.ca/archives/diamond-jubilee.htm>

The most widely travelled Commonwealth monarch, Queen Elizabeth II has made 22 official visits to Canada and seven to Toronto. Her first was in 1951 as Princess Elizabeth, and the most recent was in 2010.

Pictured left: TTC advertising card commemorating the visit of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip in 1951

A History of the Southwest Corner of Yonge Street and Montgomery Avenue

Lynda Moon

Montgomery's Tavern 1833-1837

John Montgomery was born in Gagetown, New Brunswick in 1784 and moved to York with his parents in 1798. His tavern became

“the headquarters of William Lyon Mackenzie, leader of the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 and the scene of a brief skirmish in which on 7 December 1837 the rebels were overcome by a force of militia commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel James FitzGibbon. Though unsuccessful in its primary objective, the uprising by forcing the issue of unrequited grievances against the dominant “Family Compact”, contributed significantly to the legislative union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841 and to the establishment in Canada of responsible government.”

(Wording from the 1925 plaque of Government of Canada. Historic Sites and Monuments Board.)

The tavern was burned to the ground by the militia following the “Battle of Montgomery’s Farm” and John Montgomery was taken in chains to Fort Henry at Kingston. He escaped to Rochester but returned to rebuild his tavern when he was pardoned in 1843.

Prospect House 1858-1881

The new tavern was sold to Charles McBride of Willowdale who re-opened it in 1858 as the Prospect House. The York Township Council and the York Masonic Lodge held their meetings there. A fire in 1881 destroyed the building.

Oulcott's Hotel 1883-1936

John Oulcott bought the site after the fire and built the Oulcott Hotel, a three-storey brick building with extensive driving sheds and stables. He opened it in 1883 and ran it for twenty-nine years. It became a temperance house when the “local option” was passed in North Toronto in 1908. In 1890 North Toronto was incorporated as a town. After annexation to the City of Toronto in December 1912, the hotel building became a Post Office. This marked the first step to door-to-door delivery in the North Toronto area.

Postal Station K 1936-

After the demolition of Oulcott’s Hotel in 1936, the new Postal Station K was constructed on the site. The Dominion Public Building designed by Murray Brown is a fine example of art deco, using fossilized limestone with four bas reliefs representing modes of mail transportation at the time – seaplane, locomotive, ship and panel truck. The renowned sculptor Fred Winkler was chosen to design the bas reliefs and the columns at the main entrance. The stylized lion and unicorn on either side of the entrance doors are also of interest because each one sits on a column carved from a single piece of limestone.

The building is one of the few in the Commonwealth to display the insignia of King Edward VIII who was never crowned and abdicated the throne in December 1936.

The building was listed in its inventory by the City of Toronto in 1974 for architectural reasons.



Murray Brown, Architect (1884-1958)

Murray Brown studied architecture in his native Scotland and at the Royal Academy of Architecture in London, England before arriving in Toronto at the age of 30 in 1914. He worked as an architectural draughtsman for Charles S. Cobb and then set up his own practice in 1921. Brown was the architect for a number of award-winning residences and public buildings as well as theatres such as the *Belsize* on Mount Pleasant and the *Capitol* in Port Hope. He served as president of the Ontario Association of Architects, 1935-36.

100 Years Ago

Swat That Fly!

The summer of 1912 saw the amazing “Swat the Fly” competition initiated by Toronto’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr Charles Hastings, and sponsored by the *Toronto Star*. The contest was open to children under sixteen who lived in Toronto and the suburbs. \$200 in prizes would be divided among the boys and girls who killed the most flies. The first prize was an enormous \$50 (the cost of a second class ticket on the *Titanic*; in 1912 a coffee was 5c, and a child’s ticket on the Toronto Civic Railway was 1c). From a public health point of view, the purpose was to educate the public about the connection between filth, flies and disease.

The contest began on 8 July and closed on 19 August. Flies were counted at Dr. Hastings’ office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between four and five o’clock. By Friday 19 July, Beatrice White had a comfortable lead with 51,760 flies slaughtered (323½ ounces), but the headline declared that “Francis Maines, a New Contestant, Proves to be Considerable of a Dark Horse and Is Coming Strong.” Beatrice had a very successful weekend, because Tuesday’s story gave her total as 72,560. “It seems strange,” the paper reported the following day, “that the girls are beating the boys.”

The winners were announced in the paper on 20 August, under the banner “The Fly is the Enemy of You and Your Children; He is the Living Evidence of Dirt. That is the Lesson We Hope to Teach.” Beatrice White was the winner, with an outstanding 543,360 flies killed.

At 5 o’clock on the big day, Tuesday 20 August, there was a formal presentation by Dr. Hastings in the courtyard of (now “Old”) City Hall. It was reported in the *Star*.

...in a large number of instances the parents of the proud youngsters appeared to share the fun, and it is safe to say that no prize-winner

in the throng was unaccompanied by admiring friends of his or her own age... Fly swatting is more than fun, however, it is hard work when carried on all summer the way these youngsters did it, and they were entitled to all the praise they got. For it is recognized now that the fly carries disease, and causes typhoid epidemics.”

Dr. Hastings made a speech about the dangers of garbage, flies and disease. Then the awards got underway.



Champion fly swatter Beatrice White “in her trapping grounds” in August 1912 CTA

“Beatrice White,” was the first name called, and Beatrice, blushing, but smiling, stepped forth.

“Beatrice,” said Dr. Hastings, “you have done splendid work. You have surprised me, and you have surprised everybody. Here is \$50 – the first prize. I congratulate you.”

Beatrice smiled, blushed some more, and retired to her father and mother by the wall of City Hall.

“Swat the Fly” was one of the many projects of Dr. Charles Hastings, who used innovative techniques to bring public health issues to the attention of both politicians and residents of Toronto.

**CASH PRIZES AWARDED TO SIXTY-SIX
FAITHFUL SWATTERS THIS AFTERNOON**

100Years Ago continues on page 5

CATS, GOATS, AND MICE ONLY ONES TO ESCAPE A TAX

**Dr. Hastings' Proposed New
Legislation Is of Very
Sweeping Character.**

**A DOLLAR A HEAD,
THE AMOUNT TO BE**

**Cows, Horses, Hens, Et Al, are
All Included in the
New Measure.**

MUST HAVE PERMISSION

**If Your Neighbors Object Your
Chances of Keeping Hens
are Very Slim.**

Toronto Star, 16 May, 1912

Another of Dr. Hastings' ideas was a by-law requiring a \$1 permit for domestic animals or fowl kept in "congested districts."

"There's a revenue in this big enough to provide sanitary inspection for the city," Dr. Hastings said. Omitted from the list were cats, rabbits, white rats, white mice and goats (but kids needed a permit). All other creatures, including horses, required the \$1 permit. And roosters were banned, "unless the owner can secure the consent of half the people in the block to keeping the bird."

The people of North Toronto are asked in effect to give up control of Yonge street for all time to the Metropolitan Railway, for that is really what the double-tracking agreement means. What natural right have the men of the present generation to limit the rights of children unborn?

Globe & Mail, 4 July, 1912

RAILWAYS ARE AGAIN HOLDING UP TRAFFIC

**ACTING MAYOR THREATENS TO
ARREST CONDUCTORS FOR
BLOCKING YONGE ST.**

The railways are blocking the tracks at the foot of Yonge street, con- tracks at the foot of Yonge street; con- go by the Dominion Railway Board, and Acting Mayor Church threatens to have the conductors and engineers of some of the trains arrested if the nuisance continues. He states that the Railway Board's order prohibits shunting between 1 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon during the navigation season and compels the trains to make stops at Yonge street at other hours of the day. He says the tracks were blocked last Saturday when many people were interfered with in going to and from the boats.

The Board of Control yesterday ac- cused in his suggestion that the po- lice should be notified. There is a penalty of \$20 and costs attaching to the offence.

Globe & Mail, 10 July, 1912

**City of Toronto Archives online exhibit:
*An Infectious Idea: 125 Years of Public Health
in Toronto***
[http://www.toronto.ca/archives/public-health/
index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/archives/public-health/index.htm)

50 Years Ago

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

In the June 1962 federal election, Progressive Conservative Donald Fleming was re-elected, beating Liberal Mitchel Sharp by over 700 votes. However, the Progressive Conservatives, under the leadership of John Diefenbaker, were reduced to a minority from their record majority achieved in 1958.

EGLINTON RIDING

VOTE TO RE-ELECT

FLEMING

THE HONOURABLE DONALD M. FLEMING
CANADA'S MINISTER OF FINANCE

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

- Born Easter, Ontario, 1905, of Irish, Scottish, French and English ancestry.
- B.A. (H. R.) University of Toronto, graduated 1929, with Governor-General's Gold Medal for General Proficiency, and Brevet Gold Medal for Political Science, and other scholarships.
- Editor, Blue Star Street United Church, and former General Superintendent of Sunday School.
- President, North Toronto Y.M.C.A. 1944-9.
- President, Upper Canada Bible Society, 1945-7.
- Member of Senate of University of Toronto, 1942-9.
- Member, Board of Trustees of Toronto General Hospital, 1929-44.



- Elected M.P. for Eglinton 1949, 1953, 1957, 1958.
- 1929 — Decorated by King Paul of Greece with Greek Red Cross Medal.
- 1927, June 21 — named in a Minister of Finance and Finance Conference.

- Service Internationally
- 1927 — Elected a Governor of International Bank.
- Governor of International Monetary Fund since 1957.
- First Chairman of the Ministerial Council of Operations for Economic Co-operation and Development, composed of 18 countries of Western Europe, U.S.A. and Canada, Ottawa, 1961.
- Chairman of Conservative Finance Ministers' Conference, Main Theme: Quebec September, 1957. Chairman of the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference, Quebec, September, 1956.
- Chairman United States-Canada meeting at Catering Job Trade and Economic Conference, Ottawa, 1959 and 1962.

Pictured above are the Honourable Donald M. and Mrs. Fleming, with daughter Mary (Mrs. Donald Wilson).

Are You On The Voters' List? — For Information Contact
Headquarters — 2519 Yonge Street — HU. 1-7246
COURTS OF REVISION CLOSE JUNE 2nd

IN EGLINTON — JUNE 18 — RE-ELECT...

FLEMING | x

Controller Don Summerville stated that the Metro level of government must control traffic signals in all 13 Metro Toronto municipalities if traffic bottlenecks are to be eliminated.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario organized its third annual tour of homes "of outstanding interest" in Toronto. The six homes were on Cluny Drive, Highland Avenue, Oriole Parkway and Ardwood Gate.



There's no let up in the building that has been going on in the Eglinton-Yonge area ever since the Yonge subway was built.

Latest addition to the many fine commercial and office buildings already in the district is the 17-storey office building shown above which is now under construction over Eglinton subway station. It is scheduled for completion in March 1963.

Buildings like this one, and the dozens of others along the subway route, benefit the entire Metro area by adding millions of dollars to the assessment rolls. This tremendous progress is an indication of what's to come in a few years along the new Bloor-Danforth subway route.

VARSITY STADIUM


INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL


CANADIAN FOOTBALL AT ITS BEST!

VARSITY BLUES
1962 HOME GAMES

SAT., OCT. 20—2 P.M.
WESTERN MUSTANGS

SAT., NOV. 3—2 P.M.
McGILL REDMEN





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BOX OFFICE, GATE #3, CORNER BLOOR & DEVONSHIRE PLACE (WA. 3-9545)

50 Years Ago continues on page 7

Lon Rosen topped the Grade XIII results at North Toronto CI with an average of 95% - and this was in the days before "grade inflation"! Lon also had time to play the cello in the senior orchestra.

SAVE... on new 1962 VOLKSWAGENS

--- at ---

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HURRY . . .
 We have a number of these cars in stock. They were imported prior to the recently announced 10% tariff surcharge.



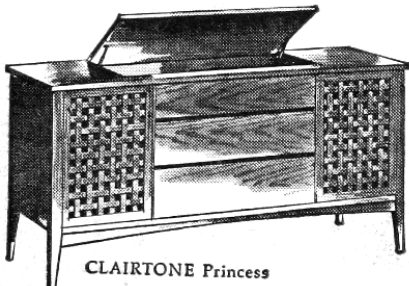
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CLAIRTONE WITH FM STEREO RADIO



CLAIRTONE Princess

A special dinner and re-dedication ceremony was held to mark the 25th anniversary of Casa Loma's operation by the Kiwanis Club of West Toronto. The arrangement with the Kiwanis Club was terminated in 2011 and the castle is currently managed by the Casa Loma Corporation which is wholly owned by the City.

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

<http://www.stlawrencemarket.com/gallery/>

The Water Czar: R.C. Harris Works for Toronto, 1912-45

To 2 March 2013



Marking the 100th anniversary of Roland Caldwell Harris's appointment as the Commissioner of Works for the City of Toronto.

Alex. Grenzebach reports that there are a number of photographs related to North Toronto. One of these illustrates the construction of the "globe" on the water tower, formerly on Roselawn Avenue just west of Avenue Road. The construction of the North Toronto Sewage Treatment Plant (in the Don Valley) is also featured.

INFO: 416-392-7604

City of Toronto Archives, 255 Spadina Road

<http://www.toronto.ca/archives/index.htm>

Picturing Immigrants in the Ward

To May 2013



Featuring historical photographs of the Ward, this new exhibition looks at how photography shaped ideas about Central and Eastern European immigrants in early 20th-century Toronto. By juxtaposing the historical photographs with new work by contemporary photographer Susan Dobson, the exhibition also reflects on how the Ward district has changed over the course of a century.

INFO: 416-397-5000 archives@toronto.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

Heritage Calendar

Walks in North Toronto

Lawrence Park: One Hundred Years Later
Sun 23 Sept 1:30 pm with **Marta O'Brien**.

Now 100 years old, Lawrence Park was designed as a "Garden Suburb" modelled on those in England -- a retreat from the workaday world of the city. Hear about the area's architecture and history as we visit a number of the original houses.

MEET: SE corner of Yonge St and St Edmund's Dr (1st traffic light S of Lawrence Ave)

INFO: Heritage Toronto

<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/walk>
416 338-3886

Discover the History of North Toronto
Sat 13 October 10:30 am with **Lynda Moon**

Discover a 19th century schoolhouse, the Snider homestead, the site of Montgomery's Tavern and how "Castlefield" got its name. Learn about the history of the Town of North Toronto which was annexed to the city of Toronto in 1912. The walk will cover the area from Montgomery Ave. north to Lytton Blvd. and return to the starting place at about 12 noon.

MEET: entrance to Northern District Library

INFO: Northern District Library 416-393-7619



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



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



Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

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

An Evening with Charles Dickens

Weds 3 Oct 6:30 pm

A dramatic solo presentation of funny, harrowing and eccentric school scenes created from Dickens' works by acclaimed Dickensian performer John D. Huston. Live performance of Dickens' musical favourites. Dickens-themed reception by Executive Chef Murray Hall. Books on and by Dickens for sale by Ben McNally books. Hosted by Mary Ito of CBC Radio's "Fresh Air."

Event is presented by the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation and the Dickens Fellowship of Toronto. Proceeds will go towards Schoolhouse educational programs, and the Holland Bloorview Kids' Rehabilitation Hospital.

TICKETS: \$25 for the public, and \$22 for members of the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation. Cash bar

INFO & RESERVATIONS:

Anne Carty at amcarty@enochturnerschoolhouse.ca

Alison Little at 416-327-6997.



King Township Museum

<http://www.king.ca/Visitors/HistoryandHeritage/History/KingTownshipMuseum/>

Rebel Tour – Heritage Bus Tour

Sun 4 Nov 11am-5 pm



Join the King Township Museum as we follow the Route of the Rebels from Lloydtown to Toronto. This program is to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the Rebellion of Upper Canada. Stops include the Lloydtown Rebel Statue, Gibson House and Mackenzie House Museums, and site of the execution of Lount and Matthews, and storyteller Bruce Bell.

TICKETS: \$45/ person. Transportation to and from Toronto, lunch and entrance fees included.

MEET: arena parking lot

INFO: 905-833-5321 or kingmuseum@king.ca

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

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Research: Hilary Dawson

Walks: *Bill Ramsay