



Speed skaters of Old Orchard skating club, c.1925  
*City of Toronto Archives*

***In this issue -***

Winter Programme	1
President's Message	2
North Toronto 100 Yrs Ago	2
<i>Fall Lecture Series:</i>	
Unbuilt Toronto	4
Detectives and Criminals	5
Rebellion of 1837	7
Heritage Calendar	8



Winter 1911-12 was extraordinarily cold. By mid-January, Toronto harbour had frozen solid. By February, it was possible to skate from Toronto to Hamilton.

## Winter Programme

Wednesday, 30 January, 7:30 p.m.

### NORTH TORONTO 1912: THEN AND NOW

The Town of North Toronto was annexed by the City of Toronto in December 1912. **David Crombie**, former mayor and long-time resident of North Toronto, will give his observations on how the city and the area have changed over time.

Wednesday, 27 February, 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. This programme is in recognition of Black History Month.

**NOTE:** A brief Annual General Meeting will precede this programme.

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

### ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY OF FOREST HILL

An independent village until 1967, affluent Forest Hill has retained much of its distinctive character as a place apart from the larger city. The grand houses are remarkable examples of traditional Period Revival architecture – with a few surprises. Apartment buildings from the 1930s and prestigious private schools are included in this illustrated talk by architectural historian **Marta O'Brien**.

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

### CANADA CYCLE & MOTOR: THE CCM STORY

With author **John McKenty**.

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

### HERITAGE TREES: PRESERVING OUR NATURAL ROOTS

With **Edith George**, advisor to the Ontario Urban Forest Council.

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 2013, as the North Toronto Historical Society enters its 38th 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. We are happy to welcome new members and ideas.

I would like to thank our executive for their contributions during 2012 – 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 Karen Pearce 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 February 2012 of Don Ritchie, life-long resident of North Toronto, a member of our executive and the author of the book *North Toronto*. He will be greatly missed.

2012 was 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. There were rallies to save Postal Station K and efforts made to preserve houses in Lawrence Park.

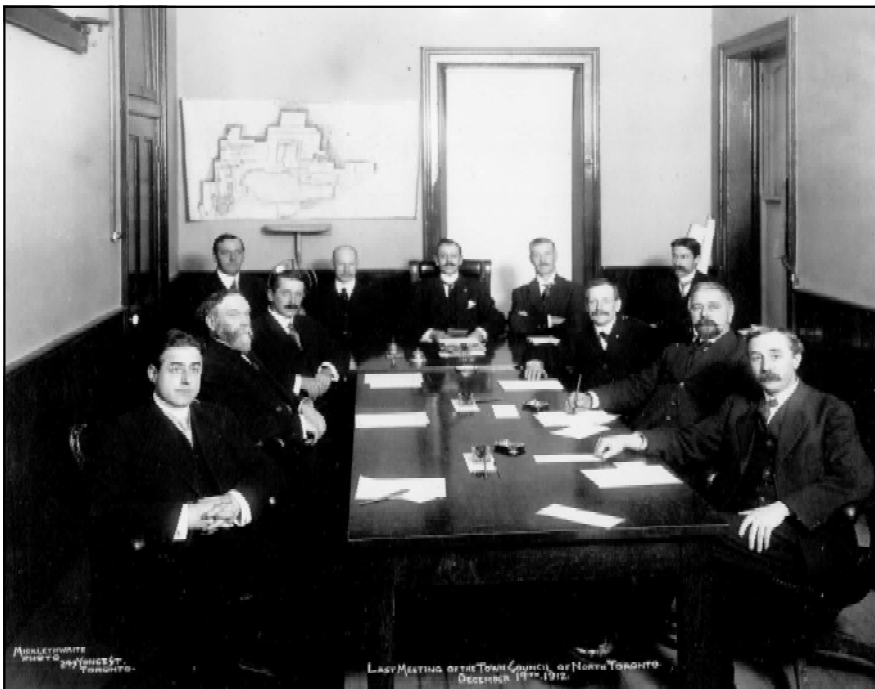
Looking forward to seeing you at our programmes at Northern District Library in 2013.

*Lynda Moon, President*

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## *North Toronto 100 Years Ago*

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On December 15, 1912, the Town of North Toronto, which had been a separate municipality since 1890, was annexed to the City of Toronto. We are grateful to Rhona Kerr, granddaughter of Alonzo J. Brown, the last mayor of the Town of North Toronto, for providing a photograph of the final meeting of the Town Council on December 14, 1912. At midnight Mayor Brown, who is featured in the center of the photograph, handed over the key to the North Toronto council chamber to Horatio Hocken, mayor of the City of Toronto.

Lynda Moon

*100 Years Ago continues on page 3*

THE INVITATION



Miss North Toronto being lured from a dock, inscribed "double railway fares," into Toronto's canoe. *Toronto World*, 5 June 1912

Excerpts from *The Globe*, 16 December 1912

**GREAT ER TORONTO**

To-day Toronto's boundaries are extended to include North Toronto and Moore Park. The former joined the city at midnight Saturday, and the latter at midnight Sunday.

The population of the city is increased, according to the police census, from 425,407 to 432,262.

Its acreage is increased from 17,920 to 24,276.

Its area is increased from 28 square miles to a little more than 38.

"I am an apostle of rapid transit for Toronto," said the Mayor [Hocken, Toronto]. "I favor an underground railway to St. Clair avenue. If I had my way, they would be digging out the subway today. If I am Mayor for any length of time I shall devote my energies to it. It will remove congestion from the downtown district. I am an absolute opponent of the doctrine of concentration. The idea for every man is to have

**SING AULD LANG SYNE  
AS TOWN'S DAYS END**

**Officials of City and North  
Toronto Join in Celebrat-  
ing Annexation**

**GOLDEN KEY HANDED  
TO MAYOR HOCKEN**

**Band Leads Singing of Old  
Song as Midnight  
Strikes**

The North Toronto Citizens' Band struck up the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," and Mayor Hocken and Mayor Brown, sitting side by side at the banquet table in the old Eglinton Town Hall, the Councillors and ex-Councillors, members of the civic boards of the town that was passing away, and representatives from the City Council and municipal boards rose to their feet, and, joining hands, sang with a strange blending of hope and pathos in their voices, the familiar words of the tender old song. No one there was but felt some note of regret at the loss of identity of North Toronto, and none was there but felt also the hope and confidence that the merging of the town and city meant greater and better things for the larger city that the union made possible.

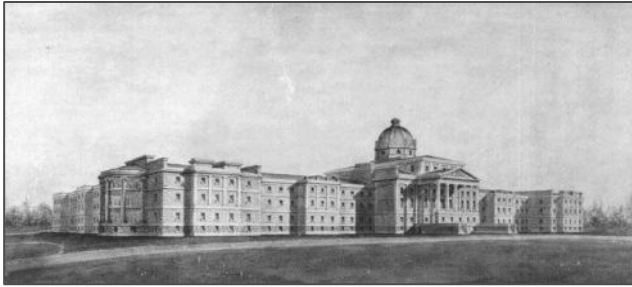
his own house and his own lot. The subway will provide against the increase of tenement houses...it will not be long before the subway will have to run through North Toronto. I was approached today by parties wishing to erect a twenty-story building on Yonge street...An underground system from the Union Station to St. Clair avenue is the only solution of the transportation problem unless all lines can be brought under one head.

## Fall Lecture Series

SEPTEMBER: Mark Osbaldeston

### *Unbuilt Toronto: More of the City That Might Have Been*

Mark Osbaldeston has continued his search for grand, unusual, and sometimes misguided, plans for our city that remain mostly unfulfilled.



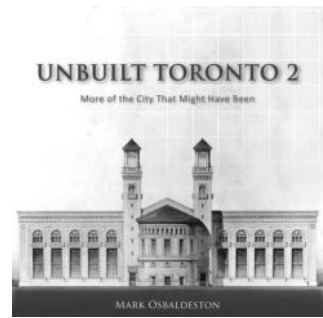
John Howard's 1834 design for King Street at Church. This grand public edifice would house a guildhall, post office, library and other public facilities, between the jail and the courthouse. Only the last two were built.

*Unbuilt Toronto 2: More of the City That Might Have Been,*  
Mark Osbaldeston  
Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2011

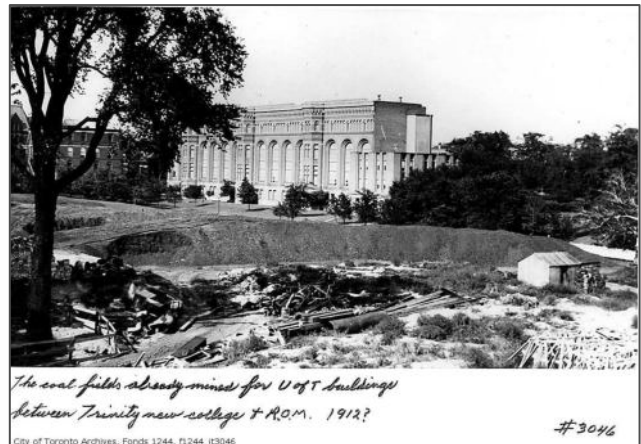


### Royal Ontario Museum

The cover of Mark's latest book shows a 1910 rendering of the proposed ROM. It was to be located at College Street, and would be part of a cultural hub. In 1908, Charles Currelly had met the architect of the Victoria & Albert Museum, and was impressed with the V & A's recent addition: rectangular in plan, enclosing a courtyard with sixty-foot wide galleries.



In reality, a more modest museum was built along Philosopher's Walk, with additions to be added in stages.



Site of new University of Toronto buildings between Trinity College and Royal Ontario Museum, c.1912

CTA

### Toronto Reference Library

In 1973, architect Raymond Moriyama's vision for a new reference library was a stunning crystal cube. However, this initial design met opposition from local residents (who felt it overwhelmed the neighbourhood) and librarians (who were concerned about high light levels). It was rejected by council.

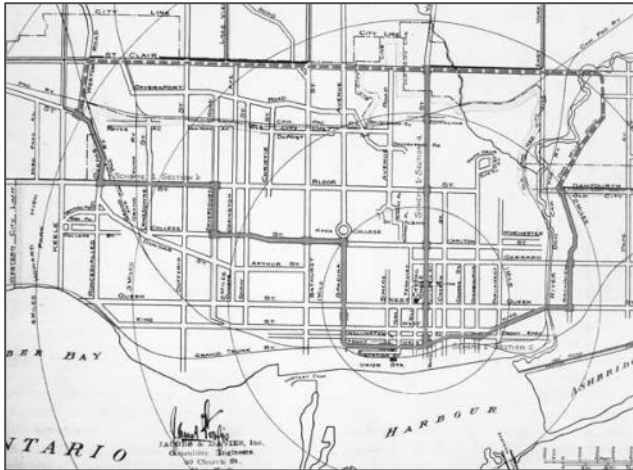
The building we know was designed in consultation with local ratepayers. The brick blended with the neighbourhood's Victorian buildings, and it stepped back to reduce its mass. It opened in 1977 as the Metro Reference Library.

Recent renovations to the library have added a cube-shaped portico, disguising the original building's unique shape, and making it look like any other library entrance.



### Subway 1910

Toronto hired New York engineers Jacobs and Davies to produce a transportation plan for Toronto. Three subway lines were planned: a central line up Yonge to St. Clair; west, stepping up to Dundas and Keele; east along King and north to Broadview and Danforth. The next stage would see a St. Clair line built to complete the circuit.



In 1915, however, Commissioner of Works R.C. Harris concluded that a subway system was unnecessary, and that radial railways would better serve the city.



Alderman S. Morley Wickett was an enthusiastic supporter of the subway scheme. Wickett believed the transportation solution was tubes down Yonge Street, linking with the Danforth, and Gerrard street, “so have the whole city system emptying into the centre.” If an agreement could be made with the Metropolitan Railway, “we could have civic cars running to the limits of the city and giving a one-fare service to North Toronto. The tube is the only way in which it is possible to bring this street railway chaos and confusion into a useful and adequate system.”

The cost? \$13,000,000.

### OCTOBER: Bill Gladstone

## Police Detectives and Criminals in Turn-of-the-Century Toronto

Bill Gladstone’s entertaining presentation described the world of crime and detection in late Victorian and Edwardian Toronto. He read from contemporary newspapers and detectives’ memoirs to give a wonderful flavour of the time.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, many police were taking a more scientific approach to solving crimes. A popular detection technique was that of Alphonse Bertillon. He recorded physical measurements (anthropometrics) and identifying features (birth marks, tattoos, etc.) as an aid to identifying criminals by comparing their statistics. His success in Paris led to widespread adoption of his system by police in Europe and North America. However, it was possible for two individuals to have identical statistics, and anthropometry was eventually supplanted by fingerprinting. Bertillon extended his recording and comparison of physical features to photographs. The mug shot is his lasting contribution to police detection.

In 1897, Inspector William Stark brought the Bertillon System to Toronto. By 1914, Inspector Hugh Duncan was Toronto’s police expert on analysing Bertillon measurements, mug shots, and fingerprints.

One of Toronto’s earliest detectives was John Wilson Murray. He worked as a railway detective, but in the 1870s was hired by the province of Ontario to investigate counterfeiting schemes. Bill treated us to readings from Murray’s own *Memoirs of a Great Detective*. The tales are “gripping,” if not factually accurate, and reminiscent of Arthur Conan Doyle.



Detective Murray

Murray’s most famous case was “The Birchall Affair.” When a body was found in the bush outside Woodstock, Murray circulated photographs of the victim in the hope of learning his identity. He examined the crime scene minutely for clues.

*Detectives continues on page 6*

*Detectives* continued from page 5

Eventually, he identified the victim (an Oxford university student), and tracked down the perpetrator: Reginald Birchall. Birchall had advertised in England for a young man to be a business partner on his farm in Canada. After murdering Birchall, he intended to extort money from his family, ostensibly for the purchase of a farm. He had already contacted other men in England, planning to continue his bloodthirsty scheme. The case attracted international attention. Birchall was found guilty, and hanged in November, 1894.

An unsolved case was “The Parkdale Mystery.”



When young Frank Westwood was shot on 6 Oct 1894 as he opened the door of his family’s Jameson Street house, he swore that he did not know the gunman. Sadly, Frank died of his injuries. When police did not seem to be making progress with the



John James McIntosh, North Toronto’s Chief of Police, mounted on Victor. South side of North Toronto Town Hall (n.w. corner Montgomery) looking across Yonge to Broadway, spring 1911. TPL

case, the *Toronto World* newspaper sought the help of visiting author Arthur Conan Doyle. (Conan Doyle declined.)

Suspicion fell on Clara Ford, a young woman of colour, who at one point said that she had, indeed, shot Westwood for making racist comments. Later she retracted her confession. At the end of the trial, Clara Ford was acquitted, and the case remained unsolved.

In 1895, it was believed that Chicago’s “World’s Fair Killer,” Dr. H.H. Holmes, was hiding out in Toronto with the young daughters of his murder victim. Toronto Detective Alfred Cuddy found the bodies of the two girls, and aided the tracking and eventual capture of Holmes. (The story of Dr. H.H. Holmes is told in *The Devil in the White City*, by Erik Larson.)

This summary cannot do justice to Bill’s stories of turn-of-the-century detectives. For more, visit his website: <http://www.billgladstone.ca/>



### MORE ABOUT CRIME & DETECTION IN TORONTO

Bill Gladstone’s website:  
<http://www.billgladstone.ca/>

Books online at *Internet Archive* <[archive.org](http://archive.org)>

- ◇ *Memoirs of a Great Detective: Incidents in the Life of John Wilson Murray.* J.W. Murray, 1904
- ◇ *Recollections of a Police Magistrate.* George T. Denison, c.1920
- ◇ *Of Toronto the Good: a Social Study. The Queen City of Canada as it is.* C.S. Clark, 1898
- ◇ *The Whirlpool: Scenes from the Toronto Police Court.* H.M. Wodson, 1917

Toronto Police Museum, 40 College Street  
<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/museum/>

*Arresting Images: Mug Shots From the OPP Museum*  
<http://www.opp.ca/museum/en/exhibitions/travelling.php>

*Crime and Punishment in Canada*, Peter Vronsky  
<http://www.russianbooks.org/crime/cph3.htm>



NOVEMBER: Ron Stagg

## ***The Toronto Rebellion of 1837 and North Toronto: Not Just Montgomery's Tavern***

Social historian Dr. Ron Stagg provided an informative talk on the political and social situation in Upper Canada before and at the time of the 1837 Rebellion. While this small armed revolt was ineffective militarily, it did result in a change to more representative government.

In Upper Canada in the 1830s, political power and decision-making were concentrated in the hands of the lieutenant-governor. He appointed an Executive Council, and they were advised by an elected Legislative Assembly with limited powers. The Executive Council was dominated by a small group of wealthy Anglicans who became known as the "Family Compact." They represented the Tory party, strongly opposed to American-style republicanism in Upper Canada.

Through the urging of people like Rev. John Strachan, the Anglican Church was made the official state religion in Upper Canada, benefitting from the revenues of one seventh of all of the land in Upper Canada—the clergy reserves. This was unpopular with non-Anglicans, as many believed that this funding could have been used for province-wide improvements.

Moderate reformers such as Robert Baldwin and Marshall Bidwell wanted to strengthen the elected Legislative Assembly, and limit the power of the lieutenant-governor. More extreme reformers, such as William Lyon Mackenzie, promoted the overthrow of British colonial rule and the adoption of a US-style republic. But for most people, desire for change concerned local issues like improving roads and schools.

In the election of 1836, newly-appointed Lt-Gov. Francis Bond Head participated extensively in the election, supporting the Tories. Reformers believed this was unfair, and resigned from the assembly *en masse*. In 1837, the British government passed laws allowing the lieutenant-governor to spend taxes without the agreement of the Legislative Assembly. This further fanned the flames of revolt.

More extreme rebels started making plans, forming militias and practising military drills. Both Jesse

Lloyd in Lloydtown and William Gibson in North York supported these activities and their farms became centres for the rebel cause.

Some of the extremists, like Mackenzie and Samuel Lount, exaggerated the extent of their support in an effort to sway more moderate Reformers like John Rolf. Mackenzie talked of "thousands of people" eager to take part in the revolt, made misleading statements about the support in Lower Canada, and promised non-violence.

On Saturday, December 2, 1837, the call went out for supporters to assemble at Montgomery's Tavern on Yonge Street on Thursday, December 7. The message was too late to allow many people to participate. The promised weapons and food never materialised, and there was general disorganisation following the call.

Poor communication led to confusion, and Mackenzie decided to accelerate his plan and move on the Town of York on Tuesday, December 5, two days before the originally-intended date. Gibson and Lount tried to dissuade him from this course, but Mackenzie insisted they proceed.



**The March on Toronto, 5 December 1837**  
C.W. Jefferys, *Portrait Gallery of Canadian History*

About 800 people had assembled at Montgomery's Tavern, and began the march down Yonge Street. Lt-Gov. Bond Head only had about 250 soldiers available for the defence of the town. At Yonge and Carlton a small number of sheriff's men met the rebels and fired into the advancing crowd. The first row of rebels, who were the best trained, returned fire and, as in their drills, knelt to reload to allow

***Rebellion continues on page 8***

## Heritage Calendar

*Rebellion continued from page 7*

the row behind to fire. Rebels in the rear, hearing gun fire and seeing the whole front row drop from sight, feared the worst and turned and ran. If they had carried on there was strong possibility that they would have been successful.

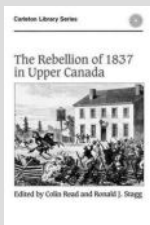
By Thursday, Bond Head had assembled 2000 troops in York, and sent half of these to Montgomery's Tavern. At this point only about 400 rebels remained at Montgomery's Tavern. They were routed by the troops, and the tavern was burned to the ground. Mackenzie and some of the other rebels fled to the US, but many were captured and tried for treason.

Britain sent Lord Durham to examine the causes of the uprising. Assisted by reformer Robert Baldwin, Lord Durham's Report of 1839 recommended ending the "monopoly of power" held by the lieutenant-governor and his Executive Council. Their future decisions should have the support of the majority of the Legislative Assembly. This idea of responsible government would become the basis of our government today.

Bill Dawson

***The Rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada***, by Colin Read and Ronald J. Stagg (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1985)

***The Firebrand: William Lyon Mackenzie and the Rebellion in Upper Canada***, by William Kilbourn & Ronald Stagg (Toronto: Dundurn, 2008)



### **Toronto's Neighbourhood Architecture**

University of Toronto Continuing Studies Building  
Thursdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Mar. 7-Apr. 25, 2013 (8 sessions) with **Marta O'Brien**

Toronto has often been described as a "City of Neighbourhoods." Some began as independent villages or towns, while others were suburbs before joining the City. Join architectural historian Marta O'Brien to explore the architecture and history of approximately a dozen of our neighbourhoods. Who lived there and why? What form did their houses and businesses take? What remains today of the original settlements? Examples will include Yorkville, the Beach, and the Junction. One class is a walking tour. (Non-credit course; no assignments or tests.)

**LOCATION:** University of Toronto Continuing Studies Building, 158 St. George just south of Bloor

**FEE:** \$290

**COURSE CODE:** SCS 2438-003

University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies:  
[www.learn.utoronto.ca](http://www.learn.utoronto.ca); phone 416-978-2400

### **Bus Tour: Discover Black History in Toronto**

February 9, 2013

As part of Black History Month, Heritage Toronto is partnering with the Ontario Black History Society to offer a special tour that will explore where people of African descent lived, worked and made significant contributions to the City of Toronto.

**TICKETS:** \$40

**INFO & RESERVATIONS:** [rostep@toronto.ca](mailto:rostep@toronto.ca)  
416-338-1339

**LOCATION:** Starts and ends at 10 Adelaide Street East

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](mailto: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](http://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:* Doug Campbell, Ken Pon

*Past President:* John Hutchinson

*Publicity:*

*Secretary:* \*Donald Duncan

*Research:* Hilary Dawson

*Walks:* \*Bill Ramsay