

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

December 2015-February 2016

1960-2015 – 56th Year

www.nyhs.ca

From the President

It's been quite the year – in February we celebrated the donation of our history collection to the Canadiana Department, North York Central Library. Then in June the Society won the Ontario Historical Society's *Scadding Award of Excellence*, and recently we were recognized as an *Urban Hero*, in the Arts & Culture category, by the *North York Mirror*.

Many thanks to members of the board, committees, members and our partners, the Canadiana Department. In October, came the news that the North York Central Library will begin major renovations in 2016, lasting several years. Of major interest was the information that the Canadiana Department will be closing. Their North York History Collection, which now includes the NYHS collection, will be located in the proposed North York History Room on the 5th floor.

Our Nominations Committee (Bill Aird, Past President); Edith Geduld, Board Representative and Robert (Bob) McQuillan, Member-at-large) need your help to fill board vacancies for 2016, as well as help on some of the committees. Do please come forward – we need you!

Season's greetings and all the best for the coming year.

Glenn Bonnetta

Wednesday February 17, 2016 p.m. in the Auditorium

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 7.00 p.m.

BLACK HISTORY EXPERIENCE THROUGH TELEVISION at 7.30 p.m.

Nikki Clarke, author, local TV personality, producer and entrepreneur.

Wednesday March 16, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Meeting Room #1

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Adrienne Alison, sculptor and painter

Canadians have faced incredible challenges and succeeded where others have failed. Fascinating and little known history brought to life through sculpture.

Meeting Location: the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, (west side of atrium) use elevator outside library.

Meeting is co-sponsored by the North York Historical Society and the Canadiana Dept., North York Central Library

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NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 18, 2015

North York Central Library, Meeting Room #1, at 7.00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The President, Bill Aird, called the meeting to order, and welcomed members to the North York Historical Society's 55th Annual General Meeting. He drew members' attention to the Annual Reports which appeared in the Society's November 2014-January 2015 Newsletter, and noted that the past year has been busy and successful. On February 6th 2015 the Society and the Toronto Public Library celebrated the donation of the Society's History collection to the North York Central Library's Canadiana department - thanks were extended to all involved. A *Memorandum of Understanding* was signed with the library to identify our ongoing cooperative relationship. Two motions were adopted at the February 4, 2015 Board meeting: 1. Members will be presented with a name tag on joining, and will be expected to be responsible for bringing this to meetings. 2. Refreshments will no longer be provided at monthly general meetings. The President thanked the 2014 Board of Directors and Committee members. He noted that his health had not been too good in recent months, so that he had not been as active as he would have liked to have been. He expressed thanks to those on the Board who had offered support, and noted that he looks forward to serving as Past President.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM: from November 2014-January 2015 Newsletter: Approved by the membership. (Betty McQuillan, Marion Simpson)

3. REPORTS: Included in the Newsletter are reports from the President, the North York Community Preservation Panel, and the following Committees: Archives, Heritage Resource Centre, Plaquing and Programs. Approved by the Membership. (Marion Simpson, Linda Gargaro)

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: The Statement of Financial Position as of December 31st 2014 was presented to the Membership by Edward Macdonell. The Statement has been audited by Wesley Lee, who has agreed to be financial reviewer for the current year. Approved. (E.M., G. Geduld)

5. NOMINATING COMMITTEE and BOARD ELECTIONS: The President handed the Chair to Geoff Geduld, Past President, and Chair of the Nominating Committee. Other members are Edith Geduld (Board Representative) and Robert McQuillan (Member at Large). The Proposed slate of Officers and Directors for 2015 were listed on the Agenda: President, Glenn Bonnetta; Past President, Bill Aird; Vice President, Vacant; Treasurer, Edward Macdonell; Secretary, Ruth Kingma; Directors (5) Linda Gargaro, Edith Geduld, Susan Goldenberg, Sarah McCabe, 1 vacancy. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations approved (Christine Ferguson, Douglas Wardle) G. Geduld handed the Chair to new President Glenn Bonnetta.

Glenn Bonnetta extended his thanks to G. Geduld and to B. Aird. He announced that this evening marks a special occasion in the history of the Society - Douglas Wardle, long time active member and 91 year resident of North York, is moving north to Bracebridge. Doug Wardle was presented with a certificate of recognition to mark the Society's appreciation for his years of service in identifying, preserving and promoting the local history of Newtonbrook and surrounding areas. The business section of the meeting was concluded. Speaker John Cooper was introduced.

ARCHIVES/HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTRE

North York Historical Society (NYHS) and the Toronto Public Library signed an agreement on February 6, 2015, to add the NYHS archives to the collection of the Canadiana Department, North York Central Library. A special event was held to recognize this significant donation.

Volunteers continue indexing the NYHS scrapbooks, at a temporary location, and we hope this will be completed in 2016. Among donations and enquiries received this year:

Louis Badone (1924-2012), a long-time member, papers are currently being sorted.

A new NYHS member has provided pictures of the book launch of *Pioneering in North York: a History of the Borough*, Patricia W. Hart, taken when he was a photographer for *The Enterprise* newspaper.

A member of the Humberstone family enquired about the possible donation of papers and artifacts. We suggested that they contact the City of Toronto Archives and/or the Archives of Ontario as they would be better able to deal with such an important donation.

A relative in England of John Coulson, a North York settler, informed us about letters sent to his parents. Scanned copies were emailed to NYHS and the Canadiana Dept., North York Central Library. Interesting information was also provided about the Coulson family.

The wife of a descendant of Eliza Wincup, who is buried in the Willowdale Cemetery, enquired about her grave. She and her husband were visiting Toronto from Maryland for the first time. We provided instructions on how to locate the cemetery and suggested that they visit other historic sites in the area. It was discovered that Eliza Wincup's daughter had married into the Shepard family, so information about the Shepards was provided and we put them in touch with a Shepard descendant.

Glenn Bonnetta (Chair), Bill Aird, Susan Goldenberg, John Laraway, Sheryl Adelkind and Sarah McCabe.

PLAQUING COMMITTEE REPORT

Cummer Family Plaque: installed near intersection of Doris & McKee Avenues (on the west side of Doris) on May 14th, followed by a Tea Reception at the John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue. Several members of the Cummer family attended.

John Bales House Plaque unveiling took place at Dublin Heights Elementary & Middle School on April 8th. The installation will take place in 2016.

Newtonbrook & Lansing Plaques (replacement of the 200 Years Yonge plaques). Both have been unveiled. Installation permits still pending.

Golden Lion Plaque application has been submitted to Heritage Toronto.

O'Sullivan Hotel, research and application will be submitted shortly.

Edith Geduld

NORTH YORK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PANEL

These designated properties are all development sites: 127 Finch Avenue West (Arthur Edward Waine House), 9 Barberry Place (Thomas Clark House) and 1299 Don Mills Road (George Gray House). 90 Burndale Avenue (Joseph Shepard House), designated is undergoing major renovations. All are being monitored by the panel. 2 Buchan Court (Wynyates) listed property owned by the North York General Hospital, to undergo major Renovations.

Edith Geduld

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

Below are additional events, lectures, etc., that we attended, participated in, supported, etc., that are not covered in other annual reports:

Attended

Funerals: Jack Cameron January 2 and Kel Crossley April 11th
Heritage Day at the John McKenzie House, Ontario Historical Society, February 16th
9 Barberrry Place (Thomas Clark House), met with local Councillor, planner, etc. March 3
Myseum of Toronto pre-launch luncheon & official launch, May 8th & 11th
Rameses Shrine demolition/development, OMB hearing. May 5th
1299 Don Mills Rd (George Gray House), deputed at NYCC supporting designation, June 16th
Ann O'Reilly Street naming June 19th
Ontario Historical Society AGM & *Scadding Award of Excellence* at Ismaili Centre, June 20th
Zion Schoolhouse art display, September 12th
Clans Mosaic unveiling at Todmorden Mills Sep 27th
172 Finch Ave W (Arthur Edward Waive House) public meeting re: development.
Carrying Place at Old Mill, Etobicoke Historical Society, September 26th
North York Central Library renovations & Canadiana Dept., closing, Oct. 8th & 20th
Community Connect re: NY Cultural Hotspot 2016" Oct 9th
Heritage Toronto Awards at Koerner Hall Oct. 13th
Stanley Green Art public consultation, October 24th
Urban Hero Award (Arts & Culture Category), *North York Mirror*, Nov. 19th
Ontario's First Cultural Strategy at Toronto Reference Library, November. 23rd
Meetings at Gibson House, Toronto Historical Association, continued negotiations with the O'Connor House board re: possible space for NYHS.
Stanley Green Art public consultation, October 24th

Participated in

Open House, Lansing Retirement Residence, Open House, display March 29th
Doors Open at Gibson House, May 23rd
Gibson House Museum/Gibson Park & Rose Garden re-official opening, May 30th
David Zimmer MPP Willowdale BBQ, display & staff, August 23rd
Farmers' Market, Mel Lastman Square, September 10th
Gibson House Fall Festival, display, September 26th

Supported

Provided support letters on heritage street naming for the North York Community Preservation Panel, OHS petition for mandatory Gr. 12 course in Canadian History

Reports/Applications

Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) Ontario
Volunteer Service Awards (VSO) Ontario
Charitable Report, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Board of Directors: The constitution of the NYHS calls for the nomination and election of officers and directors at the Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, February 17, 2016. As this newsletter is being finalized, we will have 3 vacancies on the board. Do please get in touch with any of us if would like some more information. We need your input and help.

Committees: These are not formal nominations, under our constitution, and do not require attendance at formal board meetings. If you would like more information – do please contact any of us. We need your help on these as well.

Chair: Bill Aird, Past President; Edith Geduld, Board Representative, Robert (Bob) McQuillan, Member at Large.

ARTHUR EDWARD WAINE HOUSE

172 Finch Avenue West

Designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

As adopted by City of Toronto Council, April 23 and 24, 2007

By-Law 1597-2012

At the Toronto Preservation Board meeting, prior to the City of Toronto Council meeting, Ron Waine (a grandson of Arthur Edward Waine) spoke in support of the North York Community Preservation Panel's request to preserve this property, constructed by his Grandfather. The house remained in the Waine family through the years and may be the oldest surviving house form building on Finch Avenue West.

He told the TPB of the house location, approximately one kilometer west of Yonge Street, built in the early 1920s by Arthur Edward Waine, born in 1891 in Launton, a small village on the eastern outskirts of Bicester, Oxfordshire, England.

His Father, Arthur Fred Waine, was born in 1920, on Holmes Avenue, and was raised on the Finch Avenue property. He wrote about his early life in *MY EARLY DAYS*, available in the Canadiana Department, North York Central Library. It is part of their reference stacks collection and can be brought out for use on the 6th floor only.

Below are some stories from the book:

Finch Avenue was a gravel road with grass growing in the centre. Arthur Fred and his sister, Dorothy, would run out to the road if they heard a car coming to see who it was. His Father had a team of horses, used with two wagons, and a sleigh in the winter. He would haul gravel from the West Don River and spread it on the surface of Finch Avenue. In the winter, he would load the wagon with hay, and then with a team of horses, leave early in the morning for the market at Front Street East, and sell the hay.

Johnny Cooper owned a farm on both the north and south sides of Finch. It was always exciting for the boys to see one of Johnny's threshing machines and steam engines.

Municipal elections were held every New Year's Day. Arthur Fred worked very hard to support Robert F. Hicks (1866-1942), the first reeve of North York Township in 1922. (Mr. Hicks is commemorated in a park named after him with a plaque that was unveiled at Northview Heights Secondary School in December, 2010.)

Arthur Fred and his sister would pick and sell watercress from the waters of the West Don River. One day, they went into Mr. Albehart's barber shop, on the north side of Eglerslie Avenue, just west of the Police Station. He was shaving a man in the chair, who asked what they were selling. He pulled the towel from his face and said, "Do you have a license to sell the watercress?" Recognizing that it was Roy Risebrough, Chief of Police, they thought they were breaking the law. They were too young to know that the Chief was just joking with them!

An old local newspaper article, *Gardener grows prize winners*, reports that Arthur Edward had won the Eaton's and the George Mitchell M.P. trophy for Horticultural Society exhibits. A quote from the article states "He once won the highest award for the best show of flowers in Ontario... All prize winning vegetables and flowers are grown from his own seed."

Current status of the property: the house remained structurally unaltered from its original form and is now part of a development site.

IN MEMORIAM

Audrey Jessie Wallace

1912-2013

Long-time member of the NYHS and a Gibson House Volunteer

Our condolences to her husband
Doug (a past president) and her family.
Our sincere apologies for the belated notice.



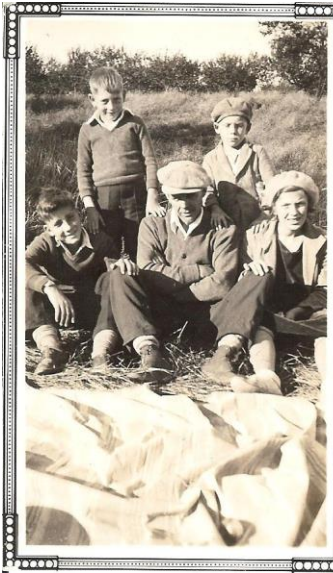
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Edith Mary & Arthur



A.E. Waine and house



Arthur Edward & Children



Audrey & Arthur Fred Waine

PROGRAM REPORT: February-December 2015

February 18, 2015 **Annual General Meeting & SEASON OF RAGE: RACIAL CONFLICT IN A SMALL TOWN, John Cooper, author**
 March 18, 2015 **HISTORY OF THE PHONOGRAPH AND RECORDED SOUND, Mike Bryan & Keith Wright, Canadian Antique Phonograph Society**
 April 15, 2015 **LOST BREWERIES OF TORONTO, Jordan St. John, author & columnist**
 May 20, 2015 **RHUBARB REVELRY at the Gibson House Museum, Dorie Billich, Curator and Maggie Newell, Program Officer**
 June 6, 2015 **WALKING TOUR OF THE SANOFII PASTEUR CONNAUGHT CAMPUS**
 September 16, 2015 **ETOBICOKE: THEN AND NOW, Denise Harris, Chair, Etobicoke-York Community Preservation Panel & Past President, Etobicoke Historical Society**
 October 21, 2015 **A TALE OF TWO SISTERS: THE HISTORY OF THE ATLANTIC EMPRESSES, Ian Kinder, author**
 November 18, 2015 **SECOND TO NONE: THE FIGHTING 58TH BATTALION OF THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Kevin R. Shackleton, author**
 December 6, 2015 **SEASONAL GATHERING at the Gibson House Museum**
 Meetings are co-sponsored by the North York Historical Society and the North York Central Library
 Linda Gargaro, Director of Programs

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY – PROXY

Solicited by the Board of Directors of the Society for February 17, 2016

The undersigned paid up member of the North York Historical Society hereby appoints Ruth Kingma, Secretary, as proxy holder, with full power of substitution to attend, vote and act on behalf of the undersigned at the Annual General Meeting of members of the Society to be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

The proxy holder is here instructed:

1. The election of persons nominated as Officers and Directors of the Society for the year 2016.
 2. The appointment of a financial reviewer named by the Board of Directors or Nominating Committee.
- And hereby revoke any proxy given previously.

Name.....Date.....

Signature.....

WINTER AT THE GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

gibsonhouse@toronto.ca 416-395-7432 5172 Yonge Street (at Park Home Avenue)

DAVID GIBSON: DEMOCRACY IN GOVERNMENT, until December 31, 2015

Inspired by the recent Magna Carta exhibition at Fort York, this exhibit tells the story of how rebels like David Gibson, desperate to introduce democratic reforms, took part in the Upper Canadian Rebellion in 1837. Though they failed, the rebels did instigate changes in our government that led to Confederation 1837. Included with regular admission.

Hogmanay Dinner on Monday & Tuesday, December 28th & 29th at 6.30 p.m.

Share a traditional Scottish dinner, be lulled by the fire and moved by the music. Storytelling and drama take you to a New Year of another time. Pre-register. \$55.00 + tax.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Thursdays Social Nights: Pay-What-You-Wish from 5 to 8.00 p.m.

Visit the museum and take a self-guided tour through the historic house. Relax in the historic kitchen with a cup of tea and learn about the Gibson family and history of North York. All ages welcome (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Board Games Night – for all ages

As part of the Pay-What-You-Wish Socials, the last Thursday of the month (except December) is Board Games Night. Check facebook.com/gibsonmuseum for featured games of the month.

Community Quilt Group Get-Togethers also on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tea and Tours on Sunday from 1 to 4.30 p.m. There's a seat for you at the harvest table in the historic kitchen throughout the year. Relax and have a chat over tea and homemade cookies. Enjoy a tour of the lovely 1850s farmhouse. Included with regular admission.

Regular Admission: Adults \$6.19; Seniors & Youth \$3.54 Children (2-12 years) \$2.65 + tax

HELP PLEASE: Gibson House Museum is looking for donations of cotton, poly-cotton fabric or clean bed sheets. Their volunteer weavers will use this fabric to tear into long strips and weave on our 4-harness loom to create and reproduction rugs for sale in the Gift Shop.

Donations can be dropped off during public hours (Wed-Sun 1/5pm, or call 416-395-7432 or for pick up email nyhs@bell.net)

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership 2016

Name(print).....Phone.....

Address.....
.....

Email: Newsletter by email: Yes.... No....

Family: \$25.00.....Individual \$15.00.....Senior \$10.00.....Student \$5.00.....Institutional \$20.00.....

Donation: General \$.....Plaquing Program \$.....Miriam Jackson Memorial Fund \$.....

North York Historical Society, Post Office Box 45045, 5845 Yonge Street, Willowdale, ON M2M 4K3