

TIMELINE OF NORTH YORK

YEAR	POPULATION	HISTORICAL EVENTS	SOURCE
1796		Yonge Street opened York Mills established as a transfer point for Northwest Company boats. Boats went up the Don River to York Mills then were hauled on wheels to Holland Landing.	2 2
1801		Samuel Heron built a mill at York Mills but went bankrupt 2 years later	2
1804		Andrew McGlashan emigrated from Scotland and built a log cabin east of Bayview Avenue and north of York Mills Road	2
1815		Andrew McGlashan sold the south half of his property to William Harrison and moved to Hogg's Hollow where he built North York's first Tannery of mud bricks.	2
1816		St. John's Anglican Church, the first in North York was opened in a small log building.	2
1817		Thomas Arnold, Township assessor, erected a sawmill on the west side of Yonge Street in Hogg's Hollow. He later built a 3-storey flour mill on the east side of Yonge.	2
1824		James Hogg bought the Arnold Mills and more land on the Don River and built a distillery. He called his property York Mills.	2
1827		The Toronto Cricket Club was founded.	2

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1836		A post office was opened at York Mills	2
		A little wooden Scottish Presbyterian Church was built in Hogg's Hollow near Ivor Road and Donino Avenue.	2
1837		Cornelius Van Nostrand set up a large grist and sawmill in the valley	2
1838		John Armour bought land on the west side of Yonge from James Hogg.	2
1840		Cornelius Van Nostrand converted his mill to steam power. He shipped high quality flour to Great Britain until 1846 when the Corn Laws were repealed.	2
1844		Andrew McGlashan Sr died and Andrew II took over the business and sold the family home to William Goodwin. The house became known as the William Goodwin House.	2
1846		Great Britain repealed the Corn Laws	2
1847		The second school in the Hogg's Hollow area was built on the north-west corner of Yonge and John Streets (now known as Carson Cr.)	2
1856		The present Miller Tavern was built after fire destroyed the original tavern. Over the years, it has been known as Hogg's Inn, Birrell's Hotel, Carson's Inn, the York Mills Hotel and The Jolly Miller.	2

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1859		The York Mills Presbyterian Church built in 1836 was torn down, piece by piece, and rebuilt on 2 acres of land on the west side of Yonge opposite Mill Street. A burial ground was laid out on the top of the hill.	2
1860		The McGlashan Tannery prospered until it was shut down in 1860 Robert Gray, York Mills carpenter, built the first of many Millworkers Cottages on John Street.	2 2
1872		William Goodwin died but family members continued to live in the house until ca 1908.	2
1874		A second room was added to the school in Hogg's Hollow built in 1847.	2
1876		Andrew Bathgate bought the McGlashan House. After Andrew was shot in a hunting accident his wife Agnes and son James lived in the house.	2
1885		The York Mills Presbyterian congregation joined Barron's Church and the York Mills church and cemetery fell into disuse.	2
1890		The York Mills Presbyterian Church burned down.	2
1893		A modern schoolhouse was built on the south side of York Mills Road just east of Yonge Street	2
1895		Mills built by Cornelius Van Nostrand were destroyed by fire	2

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1908		John Squire, a caretaker at St. John's Anglican Church bought the William Goodwin House and lived there until his death in 1931.	2
1910		Frederick Burton Robins bought land from John Armour hoping to develop a subdivision of 500 lots.	2
1911		Mulholland, Wood and Armour farms were purchased by British developers	2
1913		First Provincial Plouging Match held at Sunnybrook Farm - later became International Plouging Match	1
1914		Strathrobyn was built by Frederick Burton Robins on land purchased from John Armour.	2
		The outbreak of WW1 put an end to the dreams of developers in the York Mills area.	2
1915		WW1	
1916		WW1	
1917		North York's first airfield was opened at Armour Heights in 1917 as an air force training school for pilots from Canada and Great Britain.	2
		WW1	
1918		WW1	

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1919		WW1	
1922		Charles W. Jefferys purchased the house in York Mills he had been renting as a summer retreat.	2
		North York secession from York Township	1
		James Bathgate became the Borough of North York's first treasurer and served until 1931.	2
1923	6303	Frederick Burton Robins sold 37 lots in the Armour Heights and Ridley Park developments on the opening day of the sale in April	2
		Roy Risebrough became chief constable.	1
		The Municipal Office Building was built.	1
		Fire destroyed most of the Township records	1
		The Armour Heights Subdivision was laid on on the land formerly occupied by the Armour Heights Airfield.	2
		First firechief appointed (volunteer).	1
1924	7187	Small grant for Don Mills Library (1920's-30's)	1
1925	8375	Barker Airfield opened	1
		The school built in 1893 burned.	2

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1926	8800	Canadian Legion BESL organized	1
		The Enterprise weekly newspaper founded	1
		Baron Renfrew School opened. It was a school to serve the Hogg's Hollow area. It was named for Edward, Prince of Wales who adopted the title Baron Renfrew while touring Canada in 1919. After King Edward abdicated the school was again known as York Mills School.	2
		North York Township outdoor market opened at city limits on Yonge Street on June 19.	2
		The Toronto Cricket Club moved into new facilities at Armour Heights.	2
1927	9006	More classrooms were added to York Mills (Baron Renfrew) School.	2
1928	9510	De Havilland Aircraft of Canada plant opened	1
		Sunnybrook farm deeded to City of Toronto as a park	1
		Township School Area established with joint board for schools in York Mills-Willowdale-Newtonbrook	1
		North York's first high school was established	1
		Loretto Abbey in Armour Heights was built after outgrowing several locations around the city.	2
1929	10332	Yonge Boulevard bridge was officially opened on January 5 creating a high demand for property in the York Mills area	2
		First Hoggs Hollow Bridge and Bayview Avenue bridge completed Depression	1
1930	11006	Depression Earl Haig High School opened with 300 pupils	1

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1931	12263	Depression The O'Keefe Windmill was built on the west side of Yonge in the Hogg's Holow area.	2
		North York Township outdoor market moved to old car barns just north of city limits	1
1932	13236	Depression	
1933	13964	Depression North York defaulted on bonds	1
1934	14295	Depression International Plouging Match held at Maryvale Farm (north of Lawrence on west side of Victoria Park)	1
1935	14600	Depression North York and many other municipalities put under Provincial Government supervision North York's first swimming pool opened behind the Jolly Miller Tavern on the banks of the Don.	1 2
1936	15464	Depression	
1937	16006	Depression North York paid off defaulted bonds and accrued interest by floating a new issue	1

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1938	16912	Depression North York did not seize either homes or farms for non-payment of taxes but did seize lots owned by speculators	1
1939	18205	Sheppard Ave closed between Dufferin and Keele to expand De Havilland Gladys Allison first attempt to set up bookmobile service dropped because of a gasoline shortage WW2	1 1
1940	20382	WW2	
1941	21962	North York was released from Provincial Government supervision WW2	1
1942	22953	Fire Department became a fulltime professional organization St Edward's Roman Catholic Church became a parish WW2	1 1
1943	24528	WW2	
1944	25100	R E Edwards purchased site of the first Alexander Milne woolen mill and began to build Edwards Gardens WW2	1

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1945	26432	More classrooms were added to York Mills (Baron Renfrew) School.	2
		WW2	
		Lions Club formed	1
		Gladys Allison arranged for travelling books to be loaned from Willowdale United Church	1
		Strathrobyn was purchased by the Royal Canadian Air Force to be used as a staff training college.	2
		Central Community Council established to coordinate activities of Ratepayers Assocs and other district orgs-later merged with Southern Community Council in Weston area to form North York Community Council	1
1946	30114	Sunnybrook purchased by Dept of Veterans' Affairs	1
		First summer playgrounds opened	1
		Sunnybrook Veterans' Hospital opened for armed forces	1
1947	33162	Builders had to provide gravel roads in new subdivisions	1
1949	45783	Water shortages begin	1
1950	62646	Recreation Commission established	1
		Memorial Community Hall opened (included one room for a library)	1
1951	80771	The Barrie Hwy (later 400) finished	1
		North York Kiwanis formed	1

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1952	96717		
		Rotary Club formed	1
		Farmers moved outdoor market to Yonge-Finch as York Farmers Marketing Ltd	1
		Section of Hwy 401 west of Yonge was completed	1
1953	110311		
		York Farmers Marketing Ltd moved to Thornhill	1
		First shopping plaza opened at Lawrence Plaza (corner of Bathurst)-2000 parking spaces - Loblaws - 2 restaurants - 2 banks - 31 retail stores	1
		245 apartments built	1
		Airfield at De Havilland plant (Downsview Airfield) housed RCAF depot for Eastern Canada	1
		Gladys Allison headed Library Planning commission	1
1954	130766		
		Formation of Metropolitan Toronto	1
		Dalziel Pennsylvania German bank barn from 1809 opened as museum (later part of Black Creek Pioneer Village)	1
		Hurricane Hazel	1
		Baycrest opened	1
		First amalgamated Board of Education set up	1
		Director of Recreation and Director of Parks set up	1
		The swimming pool built in 1935 was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel.	2

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1955	148258	More classrooms were added to York Mills (Baron Renfrew) School.	2
		The York Mills Presbyterian Church cemetery was closed and the land was expropriated for the widening of Yonge Street.	2
		Edwards Gardens sold to City of Toronto as a park	1
		The Charles W. Jefferys' House was moved to allow for the widening of Yonge Street.	2
		Public Library Board appointed	1
		First suburban Dept Store (Henry Morgan & Co) opened at Lawrence Plaza	1
1956	165544	Widening of Yonge Street was completed	1
		Edwards Gardens opened to the public	1
1957	182942	All 13 municipal police forces were combined into Metropolitan Force	1
		Roy Risebrough retired as chief constable	1
		The Mirror newspaper opened in Don Mills	1
		Parks and Recreation merged	1
		Building height restriction lifted (was 35 ft)	1
		Metropolitan Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority formed by merger	1
1958	200185	Bodies from the York Mills Presbyterian cemetery were re-interred in York Cemetery or Forest Lawn Mausoleum when the rest of the church property was sold for development.	2
		Water shortages finally end	1
1959	228374	Section of Hwy 401 to Bayview completed	1
		First permanent Library building opened (Gladys Allison Building)	1
		The News newspaper opened in Downsview-Weston	1

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1960	247764		
		Black Creek Pioneer Village Opened	1
		North York Historical Society formed	1
		Don Mills completed	1
		York University formed	1
1961	260319		
		York Univ moved to Glendon Hall	1
		Charles W. Jefferys' died.	2
1963	303577		
		Section of DVP opened	1
		Sheppard Ave widened for second time and its new high bridge over the valley west of Yonge completed	1
		Expansion of Hwy 401 to 12 lanes was begun	1
		Japanese Cultural Centre opened in Don Mills	1
1964	331113		
		Yorkdale Shopping Centre opened (indoor mall - 120 stores)	1
		Northern Dancer won the Kentucky Derby - Preakness and Queen's Plate	1
		Yorkdale News newspaper began	1
1965	359721		
		York University main campus was opened	1
		Section of Spadina Expressway (401 to Lawrence) was opened	1
1966	382792		
		Sunnybrook Veterans' Hospital opened to the public	1
1967	411517		
		North York became a borough	1

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1968	425016		
		Comfort Lodge opened	1
		Ontario Science Centre opened (architect Raymond Moriyama)	1
1969			
		The Enterprise newspaper closed	1
1973			
		Mel Lastman elected Mayor	
		York Mills subway station opened	
1974			
		Sheppard and Finch Subway stations opened	
1979			
		North York incorporated as a city	
1980			
		Arthur Tunnell, publisher of "Who's Who in Canada" died after living in the William Goodwin House for almost 40 years.	2
1981			
		Yonge Street was to be widened and the William Goodwin House was threatened with demolition. Just 10 hours before it was to be demolished the Ontario Field Naturalists bought it for \$1 and had it moved to their property on Leslie Street, beside the 401. It is recognized as the oldest existing house in North York.	2
1982			
		York Mills (Baron Renfrew) School was closed and eventually occupied by the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board.	2
1986			
		The Millworkers Cottages were moved to a site on Yonge Street and were transformed into The Auberge du Pommier Restaurant.	2

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1987		North York Centre subway station opened The Auberge du Pommier Restaurant opened.	2
1998		North York amalgamated into Toronto	
2002		Yonge-Sheppard subway line opened	
2005		Don Mills subway station opened	
2008		Propane facility explosion	

1:- Pioneering in NORTH YORK - A History of the Borough, by Patricia W. Hart, Published by General Publishing Co Ltd
2:- YORK MILLS HEIGHTS - Looking Back, by York Mills Heights Association 1998