



**DECEMBER 2010-FEBRUARY 2011**  
**1960-2011 - 51<sup>st</sup> Year**

**From the President**

We are almost at the end of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year – and members may recall that at this time last year, I was very bleak about the future of the Society. We are ending this year stronger but still a work in progress. The Nominating Committee has begun its annual task. I urge you to come forward and speak to Edith Geduld or phone or email (see below).

**In Memoriam:** at recent meetings I have sadly reported that we have lost several of our members: Our Honourary President, **Elizabeth (Betsy) Fee** – I served on the North York Historical Board with her many years ago. She was once asked how come the title to which she replied that she probably wasn't paying attention at a meeting! **Dorothy Milne** spent many hours working on our archives in the Ontario Historical Society's offices allowing us use their copier. **Betty Crossley** (with Gunild Spiess) visited Edith and myself one morning and convinced us, and then City of North York Council, to celebrate 200 Years Yonge. The NYHS was stronger because of them – we recognize and remember their contribution and will miss them.

**New location and new date** for next year: our general meetings will be held in Meeting Room #1 in the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The Society has entered into a partnership with the NYCL (Canadiana Room) and our programs will be listed in their *What's On* publication.

**Fund Raising:** Members will have noted that the Miller Tavern did not host an event for us this year - previously the admissions were all donated to the NYHS to cover the occupancy costs (real estate taxes and utilities for the Heritage Resource Centre). A Fund Raising Committee has been struck to address these costs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our thanks for your support this year and all the best over the holiday season. See you in 2011 – our 51<sup>st</sup> year.

Geoff Geduld  
416-222-3485  
northyorkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com  
www.nyhs.ca

Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and  
THE MODERN CAN BE HERITAGE TOO**

Ellen Kowalchuk, Cultural Heritage Specialist, Ontario Realty Corporation. ORC's value-based approach to the evaluation and conservation of heritage places and the challenges of identifying and protecting modern heritage properties.

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.

**ROSEDALE: MANSIONS AND MORE**

Marta O'Brien, Architectural Historian  
an illustrated talk on the history and diverse architecture of Toronto's best-known residential neighbourhoods, Rosedale comprises two large Heritage Conservation Districts.

**LOCATION**

North York Central Library  
5120 Yonge Street  
Meeting Room #1  
(west side of atrium)  
use elevator outside  
library

**Parking:** Enter from  
Park Home Avenue  
east of Novotel

TTC: North York Centre  
Subway Station

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.  
Willowdale United Church, 349 Kenneth Avenue,  
North York

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Geoff Geduld called the meeting to order and welcomed those present to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM of the North York Historical Society. The Society was established in the Borough of North York in 1960. Some achievements of 2009 included improvement to the paving around the C. W. Jefferys' statue and the unveiling of our first plaque to honour the York Mills Presbyterian Church. He thanked David Zimmer, M.P.P., Willowdale for his assistance at the plaque unveiling at the Miller Tavern.

G. Geduld drew attention to the Dec-Jan newsletter and noted his disappointment in the members' response to the plea for volunteers for the Board and Committees. Councillor David Shiner asked if he could circulate the item to his constituents. A number of people responded and some are in attendance tonight and are most welcome. Members were reminded that only fully paid up members of the society are eligible to vote this evening.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 2009 AGM** were provided in the Dec-Jan newsletter. Motion to accept moved by Donald Booth and seconded by Bill Aird. Approved.

**3. REPORTS:** The following reports were included in the Dec-Jan newsletter: Plaquing and Archives Committees (G. Bonnetta); President's Annual Report (G. Geduld); NYCPP (E. Geduld), GH/ZSMMB (J. Laraway); Programs (T. den Boef). Adoption moved by P. Potter, seconded by S. Bennett. Approved.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT:** The position was vacant in 2009. G. & E. Geduld took responsibility. 2009 report was distributed, presented and discussed by E. Geduld. Motion to adopt was moved by E. Geduld and seconded by Penolope Potter. Approved

**5. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Edith Geduld, chair (a past President), John Laraway (Director) Margaret Cameron (Member-at-Large). E. Geduld noted that J. Laraway is the NYHS appointee to the GH/ZSMMB until November 2010, and then presented the slate:

President:	Geoffrey Geduld
Past President:	Donald Booth
Vice President:	VACANT
Treasurer:	VACANT
Secretary:	Ruth Kingma
Directors:	Glenn Bonnetta, Teresa den Boef, Linda Gargaro, John Laraway, and one VACANCY

E. Geduld called for nominations from the floor: two were presented – Chandor Gauthier for Treasurer and Valluvan Alagirisamy for Director. Nominations were then closed. Adoption for the slate was moved by Bob McQuillan and seconded by Eleanor Pyke. Approved. Shirley Bennett volunteered to be the Member-at-Large on this committee for 2010.

**6. G. Geduld** assumed the chair and welcomed the members of the Board for 2010. He asked for a volunteer for Auditor for 2009/2010; there were no volunteers. He noted that various committees were listed on the Agenda and that there are vacancies. Interested volunteers can come forward after the meeting. G. Geduld extended the Society's thanks to retiring Board member, Miriam Jackson, for all her work on the Board. She will remain on two committees and join the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. He noted that the Ontario Historical Society invites members to their Heritage Day celebration on February 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. at 34 Parkview Avenue.

**7. SLAVERY IN THE TOWN OF YORK:**

Presentation by Hilary J. Dawson  
Genealogist and Historical Researcher.

Adjournment

*Ruth Kingma, edited*

## IN MEMORIAM

### **ELIZABETH (BETSY) FEE, 1912-2010**

On October 5, 2010, Betsy Fee died at the age of 98 and was laid to rest in St. John's, York Mills Churchyard on October 8<sup>th</sup> beside her parents, her husband and her daughter. Betsy was likely the most-enduring member of St. John's...98 years!

She was born in 1912 in the house in which she died, and in which she lived most of her life, beside the church path on Yonge Street. Her parents were Callie and Charles W. Jefferys, who moved to the house in York Mills, a former Presbyterian manse, in 1910, after having spent two summer vacations at the York Mills Hotel, now The Miller. There was scope for Mr. Jefferys, a prominent Canadian artist, to draw and paint in the rural village of York Mills, close to the Don River.

Betsy and her sisters grew up in the village. She spoke of her childhood watching the brides being driven up the church "road" past their garden on summer days, of the excitement in the village when the Prince of Wales attended a dance at "Strathrobyn", the home of Col. F.B. Robins in Armour Heights (now the Officers' Mess of the Canadian Forces Staff Training College), and the attending excitement about a local girl who "danced with the Prince of Wales".

Betsy attended the local school in York Mills, and as there was no local high school, she took the radial car north on Yonge Street to school in Richmond Hill. After her marriage in to Dr. Alex Fee, they lived in several places while he was completing his specialist studies in Ear, Nose and Throat medicine, and then following her mother's death, they returned to the house in York Mills to care for her father. There, her three daughters, Barbara, Judy and Nancy were raised.

Inspired by her father's interest and work in Canadian history, Betsy became a founding member of the North York Historical Society in 1960. At the time of her death she was its Honorary President. When the North York Historical Board was formed, Betsy was vital member of that management board.

At St. John's, she worked tirelessly for many years with M. Audrey Graham on establishing the Archives of St. John's, York Mills Church, collecting, cataloguing and preserving materials pertaining to the church, and facilitating the publication in 1966 of Audrey's book, *150 Years At St. John's, York Mills*.

Until the end of her life, Betsy retained her life-long interest in history, and shared many delightful stories of her near-century-long life in York Mills, leaving a unique legacy for those who follow. She will be remembered with deep affection and gratitude by many who share her interest in a remembrance of things past.

*Penelope Potter edited*

### **BETTY CROSSLEY 1925-2010**

Died peacefully at home after a short illness on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. A long time member of the North York Historical Society and archivist for the Willowdale United Church. She, together with Gunild Spiess, was a driving force in the celebration of 200 Years Yonge Street.

### **DOROTHY MILNE 1929-2010**

Died in hospital after a long illness on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Long time member of the North York Historical Society. Researcher for *Pioneering in North York* by Patricia W. Hart. She was also part of the group who spearheaded the preservation and restoration of the Gibson House Museum and worked many hours coordinating the Society's scrapbooks (now in the Heritage Resource Centre, NYHS).



Elizabeth (Betsy) Fee



Betty Louise Crossley



Dorothy Heather Milne

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

My thanks to the Board of Directors, Appointees (Museum Board, Preservation Panel and Toronto Historical Association), all the Committee Chairs and the volunteers for their support and help this year. Some committee reports are included in this newsletter, my thanks also to: Phone: (Miriam Jackson/Marion Simpson), Newsletter (Edith Geduld/Linda Gargaro), Program (Teresa den Boef), Social (Jean Hill and volunteers), Sunshine (Lillian Methven), 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Edith Geduld, Penny Potter, Jane Saunders) and to the *Exploring Rural Willow Dale* walk leader (Mary Ann Cross).

Special thanks to our new Treasurer (Chandor Gauthier), Director (Valluvan (Vall) Alagirisamy and Webmaster (Bill Aird).

This year we deputed to the North York Community Council and met with councillors.

Attended meetings: Gibson Square development, Milne House adaptive re-use, museum board stakeholder, neighbourhood/ratepayers associations, Etobicoke Round Table, Mayoral Candidates consultation and debate, Black Creek Pioneer Village development proposal, *North York Modernist Architecture Forum, Building Storeys* exhibit.

Participated in events: "living author" at the library, *Shops at Don Mills* vintage, MPP's outreach and supported petition for Private Members Bill for protection of inactive cemeteries.  
*Geoff Geduld*

## **NORTH YORK MINUTE 2010**

Some of the "minutes" I heard, read, saw or wondered about this year were:

- the Oakdale Golf and Country Club
- history of how the Bridle Path got its name
- the history of street names (Bathurst, Finch, Yonge)
- the story of John McCrae

It was a lot of fun and I hope to continue in 2011. Most "minutes" have been research based but what I really enjoy is speaking with you before and after our meetings. You have shared memories of North York and more. I hope you will continue to share stories and to inspire

others to do. Do speak with me before or after the meetings or email  
northyorkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com  
*Linda Gargaro (edited)*

## **PLAQUING COMMITTEE REEPORT 2010**

The plaque commemorating R. F. Hicks, the first reeve of North York Township and a prominent dairy farmer, will be unveiled at the Northview Heights Secondary School on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Installation in the R.F. Hicks Park off Finch Avenue, west of Bathurst Street, will take place in 2011. My thanks to Doug Wardle, Edith Geduld, Jeanne Hopkins and Bob and Betty McQuillan for their assistance. This is a NYHS project in partnership with Heritage Toronto. Acknowledgement to the Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreational for their contribution in the replanting at the site. Special thanks to Gary Miedema, Chief Historian & Associate Director, Heritage Toronto for his input and assistance during the production process.

Future plaque projects (i) Bales House in Earl Bales Park for which we will be seeking co-funding (ii) Jacob Cummer recommended by Gunild Spiess.  
*Glenn Bonnetta (edited)*

## **ARCHIVES (HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTRE) REPORT 2010**

This year donations were received from Alan Westwood, Bob and Betty McQuillan, John Laraway and Geoff and Edith Geduld.

My thanks to the volunteers – Sheryl Adelkind, John Blewett, Miriam Jackson, John Laraway and Maggie Trott. Their help is much appreciated.  
*Glenn Bonnetta (edited)*

## **NORTH YORK COMMUNITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

Grant application to Government of Canada (New Horizons for Seniors Program) has been approved. The Society, in partnership with the North York Seniors Centre, will be trained to record and transcribe individual memories and untold stories, which will be available to the heritage community, educational facilities, cultural organizations, etc.  
*Oral History Project Committee: Linda Gargaro (chair), Brian Sims, Doug Wardle, Valluvan (Vall) Alagirisamy.*

**GIBSON HOUSE/ZION SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Maintenance and repairs continued this year; the radiant heating ceiling has been completely replaced. Water coming through the brick wall and freezing like icicles on exterior surfaces has been solved with better interior climate control. A new heating and air conditioning system has been installed. The addition developed a leak in the roof and a new roof has been installed.

One day the historic kitchen chimney sent out too many sparks resulting in a chimney and roof fire, which was handled quickly by the Fire Department.

Development construction previously reported has begun. Access by car and foot has been amended.

Attendance at both locations has been steady and there are very few openings for other classes.

There have been discussions about the structure of the museum management boards for all the City of Toronto museum sites. At this time nothing has been finalized.

For events and programs at the GHM – see below.

*John Laraway, edited*

**Winter Weekends at Gibson House Museum**

Sun. Jan. 23: **Gibson House Neighbourhood Social**. Bring your family and friends for a cosy afternoon of music, games, crafts and tasty treats. Free admission. 2.00-6.00 p.m.

Sundays - Jan. 30/Feb. 20: **Keeping House.... when it is Cold Outside**. Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and learn about the “winter-work” of a busy farmhouse with demonstrations of hearth-cooking and handcrafts.

Mon. Feb.21: **Family Day Discovery Drop-in**. More homemade treats, hand-on-activities and crafts for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Both above are regular admission. Noon to 4.30 p.m.  
www.toronto.ca/museum-events

**HERITAGE TORONTO AWARD Community Heritage**

North York Community Council Area  
(Nominated by the North York Historical Society)

The Leaside Property Owners’ Association, together with the Kelvingrove-Glen Leven Tenants Association and the City of Toronto, for their efforts to preserve the Talbot Apartments, an architecturally and historically significant group of garden apartments on Bayview Avenue that were threatened with demolition in 2007. By 2010, the 1930s Georgian Revival-style buildings had been designated\* and appeals to the OMB dismissed.

\*The North York Community Preservation Panel spearheaded efforts to designate this property.

**IN MEMORIAM 2010**

Ruth Edwards, until recently a long time member

Gordon Johnson, following a stroke and short illness

**NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Membership 2011**

Name (print).....Telephone.....

Address.....

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

Family \$25.00..... Individual \$15.000 ..... Senior \$10.00 ..... Student .....

Donation: Heritage Resource Centre ..... Plaquing Program.....

In memory of.....

Please make cheque payable to the North York Historical Society  
P.O.Box 45045, 5845 Yonge Street, Willowdale, ON M2M 4K3

**PROGRAMS 2009**

February 10<sup>th</sup> **Annual General Meeting & SLAVERY IN THE TOWN OF YORK**, Hilary J. Dawson, Genealogist & Historical Researcher

March 10<sup>th</sup> **NORTH YORK CULTURAL LANDSCAPES**, Leo deSorcy, Urban Designer & Helene Iardas, Landscape Architect & Urban Planner

April 14<sup>th</sup> **BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE AT 50**, Marty Brent, B.A., M.A., Manager, BCPV

May 12<sup>th</sup> **MODERNIST DON MILLS; Heritage Toronto's newest iTour**, Dave LeBlanc, Columnist, Globe & Mail & Gary Miedema, Chief Historian, Heritage Toronto

June 13<sup>th</sup> **NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** at the Gibson House Museum

September 8<sup>th</sup> **MILLING ABOUT ONTARIO; local water-powered grist mills**, John Warburton U.E., historian

October 13<sup>th</sup> **AN**

**EXPLORATION OF DOWNSVIEW PARK'S HERITAGE**, Kathryn McLeod, M.A. research & historian

November 10<sup>th</sup> **YORK UNIVERSITY IN NORTH YORK: THE EARLY YEARS**, Michiel Horn, Ph.D., York University Historian

December 8<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** *Teresa den Boef*

**NORTH YORK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PANEL**

Mary Ann Cross, Ruth Kingma, Linda Gargaro, Edith Geduld

The panel, with partners Heritage Toronto and E.R.A. Architects, hosted the second *North York's Modernist Architecture Revisited* in November.

Street naming is a continuing responsibility (our thanks to NYHS members for their research contributions: Louis & Donalda Badone and Jeanne Hopkins).

Open files include Mazo de la Roche(Zoroastrian Temple), Milne House – adaptive reuse, Oak tree (Don Mills/Lawrence), Lawrence Park listing project, Heritage Conservation District policy and more. *Edith Geduld*

**DONATIONS 2010**

**Heritage Resource Centre:** Sheryl Adelkind, Louis & Donalda Badone, Marty Brent, Betty & Kel Crossley, Isabel Davey, Clifton Foo, Andrew Gledhill, Lillian Methven, Penny Potter

**In memory of Elizabeth Fee:** C. & J. Baines, Penny Potter, Geoff & Edith Geduld

**In memory of Betty Crossley:** Geoff & Edith Geduld

**In memory of Dorothy Milne:** Geoff & Edith Geduld

**NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY – PROXY**

**Solicited by the Board of Directors of the Society for the February 16, 2011**

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 16, 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

The proxy holder is here instructed for: (strike out option not desired):

- 1. The election of persons nominated as Officers and Directors of the Society for the year 2011.
- 2. The appointment of auditor named by the Board of Directors of Nominating Committee.

And hereby revoke any proxy previously given.

Name of member.....Date.....

Signature.....