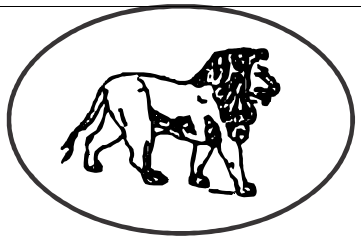

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2012-JANUARY 2013

Founded 1960

www.nyhs.ca

From the President

It's getting close to the end of my first year as President and I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, appointees to the North York Community Preservation Panel, Committee Chairs and volunteers for their support.

This issue includes annual reports: AGM Minutes, Archives, HRC, NY Minute, NYCPP, Oral History Project, Plaquing, Programs, Webmaster and President's. Also membership and proxy forms.

As I said in my opening remarks at the 2012 AGM, we need your help to keep this Society going. There will be board and committee vacancies for 2013, and I urge you to come forward and join us. Geoff Geduld is the Chair of this year's Nominating Committee.

Heritage Resource Centre: in last Newsletter, I provided information as to the reason why we were in discussion with the North York Central Library's Canadiana Department. On November 15th, our collection of historical material was moved from the Miller Tavern to a secure location in the library. The Archives Committee Report, on page 4, provides details of the current status of our negotiations with the library and also our Collection.

We continue to seek space to receive, sort and catalogue new heritage material as it becomes available. In the mean time we will be renting space in a storage facility.

The atmosphere regarding heritage properties continues to be dominated by bean-counter politics. We need to be ready to defend our museums, libraries and historic buildings. Go and visit our museums and participate in their programs. Gibson House Museum's events are on page 8.

Seasons Greetings
Bill Aird

Wednesday, December 12th, 7.00 p.m.
SEASONAL GATHERING AT THE GIBSON HOUSE
Special presentation, seasonal music (sing-a-long), refreshments and dancing.
Gibson House Museum, 5120 Yonge Street, (at Park Home Avenue), North York.
Pre-registration required. Fee $5.00 Email: nyhs@bell.net or 416-222-3485

Wednesday, February 20th at 7.30 p.m.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, and ***RETHINKING BLACK IDENTITY AND BLACK SPACES;*** Rosemary Sadlier, President, Ontario Black History Society and author.
Black History and Black women express myriad connections across local, regional and international boundaries.

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

Meetings is co-sponsored by the North York Historical Society and the North York Central Library, Canadiana Department

Contents: Annual Reports: pages 2-7
Membership & Proxy Forms: pages 7 & 8

The North York Historical Society is an affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society and a non-profit organization sponsored in part by the Ministry of Culture.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 15, 2012, at the North York Central Library, Meeting Room 1.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Geoff Geduld, President, called the meeting to order, and welcomed members, new members and visitors to the 52nd AGM. He extended thanks to the 2011 Board of Directors, the North York Community Preservation Panel appointees, Committee chairs and their supporters.

Board: Bill Aird, Valluvan (Vall) Alagirisamy, Glenn Bonnettta, Donald Booth, Teresa den Boef, Chandor Gauthier, Ruth Kingma, Linda Gargaro and John Laraway. As J. Laraway is stepping down, he thanked him (in absentia) for his years of service on the Board.
Committees: Sheryl Adelkind, B. Aird, Edith Geduld, Jean Hill, Miriam Jackson, Ann McIlroy, Lillian Methven, Brian Simms, Marion Simpson, Maggie Trott and Doug Wardle.
Oral History Project: Special thanks to members, the North York Seniors' Centre and our friends who have been interviewed as part of this project.
Website: A very special thanks to B. Aird for founding and maintaining our website.
Miller Offices: He noted that, while our premises at the Miller Tavern remain rent free, the occupancy costs (real estate taxes and utilities) in 2011 $6,000, is an unsustainable expense. The Archives Committee has been meeting to discuss possible alternatives.

2. NORTH YORK MINUTE: As the War of 1812 Anniversary events are unfolding this year, Andrew Lowe of the Canadiana Department, NYCL presented an overview of displays and resources in the department.

3: MINUTES: AGM Minutes, Feb 16, 2010, were in the Nov 2011/Jan 2012 Newsletter.

4: REPORTS: The following reports were also included in the Newsletter: President's Report, North York Community Preservation Panel, Archives (Heritage Resource Centre), North York Minute, North York Oral History Project, Plaquing and Programs.

Motion to accept the AGM 2011 Minutes and the above reports was moved by D. Booth, Seconded by L.Methven. Approved.

5: TREASURER'S REPORT: 2011 Financial Report was distributed (on the reverse of the Agenda). C. Gauthier was unable to be present, E. Geduld was available to answer questions. Motion to accept moved by E Geduld, seconded by B. Aird. Approved.

6: NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:
E. Geduld assumed the chair. Committee: E. Geduld (a former past president), D. Booth (past president), Robert McQuillan (member at large).
She noted that, while there are no longer appointees to the Municipal Heritage Committee (North York Preservation Panel), the Society encourages members to apply. Mary Ann Cross, L. Gargaro, E. Geduld and R. Kingma continue to serve although their mandate ended at the 2010 Municipal election. No interviews for the new panel have yet been undertaken. The City's Museum Management Boards have been disbanded.

7. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-13: List of nominations was on the Agenda. Elections will be held for the Board only. Committee Chairs were listed as follows: G. Bonnetta-Archives & Plaquing, E. Geduld-Newsletter & Flyer, G. Geduld-Nominating Committee & Name Tags, L. Gargaro-North York Minute & Oral History Project, A. McIlroy-Telephone, J. Hill-Social Convenor, L. Methven-Sunshine, B. Aird-Webmaster.

Vacancies: Memberhip and Meeting set up and take down.

E.Geduld called for Board nominations from the floor. C. Gauthier's name was put forward for the position of Treasurer (listed as vacant) Nominated by Anne McIlroy, seconded by Donald Booth. Election candidates were as follows:

Past President:	Geoff Geduld
President:	Bill Aird
Vice President:	Glenn Bonnetta
Treasurer	Chandor Gauthier
Secretary	Ruth Kingma
Directors (5)	Valluvan Alagirisamy, Teresa denBoef, Linda Gargaro, Brian Simms, Vacancy (1).

Appointments were moved by Jean Hill, seconded by Betty McQuillan. Approved.

8. NEW PRESIDENT, Bill Aird, assumed the Chair. He addressed the meeting thanking
.....continued on page 3

AGM 2012 Minutes, continued

Geoff Geduld for all his hard work as President, and Edith Geduld for her support.

He noted that NYHS can make a difference this year with respect to current concerns, such as the threat of cutbacks in public services, and to City Museums (Gibson House and Historic Zion Schoolhouse). Volunteers are urgently needed to support the work of the Society.

PRESENTATION: ***You are Here: Provincial Plaques and the War of 1812*** Speaker: Sam Wesley, Ontario Heritage Trust.

Ruth Kingma, Secretary. (edited)

NORTH YORK MINUTE REPORT

Once again the subjects were varied. One was really topical about the war of 1812 in North York, and we icluded it in the last newsletter (Madame Marguerite Vallière's inn). Many thanks to Andrew Lowe, Canadiana Department, NYCL, who made a couple of presentations: 1812 information and exhibits and the Canadiana's new acquisitions. This month will be a remembrance poem brought to us by Bill Aird.

If anyone has an idea for a "Minute" please, either talk to me at a meeting, or email at nyhs@bell.net.
Linda Gargaro

NORTH YORK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT REPORT

In the December 2010-February 2011 Newsletter, we reported the Federal Government Grant (New Horizons for Seniors Program, Ontario) had been approved. Since then, with help and support of Society members, their friends, the North York Seniors' Centre, the professional input from Professor Marion Coomey, Ryerson University, and, of course, the transcribers, we have completed 40 interviews (CDs and transcriptions). There was a celebratory recognition gathering during the summer. A few transcriptions remain to be completed and then this phase of the project is over. The Committee has been discussing future plans in our next newsletter.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved, do please talk to me at meetings or email at nyhs@bell.net

On behalf of the OHP Committee, my thanks for the input and support; much appreciated by us all.
Linda Gargara, Chair. Committee: Vall Alagirisamy, Glenn Bonnetta, Edith & Geoff Geduld, Brian Simms and Bill Aird (ex officio).

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Ever wonder about how streets in North York got their name? In the case of six of the streets, they were named after the children of members of a real estate company, that in 1912, was planning the earliest and largest subdivision in the area.

The subdivision was developed by the real estate firm Wright's Ltd., and six of the north-south streets were named after Wright's officers' children: Doris, Kenneth, Dudley, Lillian, Wilfred and Estelle. All told the subdivsion had fifteen streets. The total property extended west-east between Yonge and Bayview and north-south from Parkview to Hollywood. Gates were erected at Hillcrest Boulevard in 1912 as the entrance to the community.

Three large farms were bought and subdivided for the project. This purchase included part of a one-hundred acre farm, bought for $40,000 with $300 down and $5,000 payable in three months. Yonge Street lots sold for $7.50 per foot, and enough were sold to make the payment. Today, according to Royal LePage Realty, land in the Yonge Street-Empress Avenue district – in the middle of the Wright's subdivision – is worth $350 per square foot. The Toronto Real Estate Board says the average price of a Toronto house is $500,000.

Between 1912, and the outbreak of World War I two years later, many lots were built upon, some sewer and watermains were installed and 2,500 maple and elm trees were planted.

Unfortunately, the project failed, caused by the size being larger than demand and by intervention of World War I curbing real estate investment. Wright's went broke. The trees fortunately survived. "They leave us with some of the finest ready-made shade in this area." the *Enterprise* newspaper wrote in 1963.

Susan Goldenberg (NYHS member)

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

In the July-September 2012 Newsletter, there is a report of the Committee's activities this year. The main focus of discussions has been the future of the Heritage Resource Centre, given the fact that current costs related to the sub-lease at the Miller premises are unsustainable.

Two years after the Society was founded the NYHS Archives were established. In the past fifty years, we have collected more than 250 books, over 150 maps and posters, 6,000 plus pages of Scrapbook material, including 1,400 photographs, three large filing cabinet drawers of vertical files of clippings, pictures, several other collections of material based on families and organizations that have existed in North York. This material was originally collected and stored in members' basements and closets. When we got the space at the Miller Tavern, it was all consolidated, sorted and catalogued under the supervision of Glenn Bonnetta.*

The primary desire is to see the materials of the NYHS readily available to the widest possible use by the community. With this aim in mind, the Committee started discussions with the North York Central Library's Canadiana Department - a department which has as one of its goals the collection of materials related to the history of North York.

At a Special Membership Meeting of the Society on September 19th, the Committee was authorized to finalize the negotiations with appropriate agencies to transfer the collection in accordance with an agreement. There has been significant progress in discussions which it is hoped will lead to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Library's Canadiana Department, with respect to the housing and use of the Archives Collection. On November 15th, the bulk of the collection was moved to a secure location within the Library. While negotiations are still underway, it is hoped that, by the time of the Society's Annual General Meeting, a final agreement will have been reached.

A commitment has been made by the Society to vacate the Miller premises by December 31st. Space is still required to house the Society's business records, display materials, selected furniture and equipment. Discussions with Provincial and Municipal officials, School Trustees and members of the Heritage Community are ongoing. In the interim, space will be rented in a local storage facility.
Archives Committee: *Ruth Kingma (chair), Glenn Bonnetta, Edith & Geoff Geduld, John Laraway and Bill Aird (ex officio).*
*Please also see the Heritage Resource Centre Report.

HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTRE REPORT

For information on the NYHS Collection, please see both the President's message on page 1 and the Archives Committee Report.

While all these plans and changes have been going on, "The Monday Group of Volunteers" have continued to meet and work on unsorted materials. Now that the Collection has been moved to the North York Central Library, and very soon the furniture will be removed from the offices at the Miller Tavern, the "group" have begun a new project to index the NYHS Scrapbooks under the direction of Bill Aird.

There were some interesting requests for information this year, including one about David Birrell, who owned the Jolly Miller (now the Miller Tavern) for many years, from a relative in Scotland. We also worked closely with Alliance Française on the *A North York Childhood, circa 1902* exhibit.
Glenn Bonnetta edited
Volunteers: Sheryl Adelkind, Miriam Jackson, Susan Goldenberg & John Laraway

Douglas & Reta Wardle at the Volunteer Service Award Ceremony, for over 30 years of service.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Items below are in addition to the ones listed on Page 1and the annual reports included in this newsletter.

My thanks also to Edith Geduld (Newsletter); Ann McIlroy (Phone) - Miriam Jackson, Marion Simpson; Mary Ann Cross (NYCL 25th Anniversary Heritage Walk Booklet); Jean Hill (Social); M. A. Cross, Jeanne Hopkins, Ann Rowan (Street Naming); Lillian Methven (Sunshine).

This year we met and consulted with Councillors John Filion (Ward 23) and Jaye Robinson (Ward 25) with regard to the future of the Heritage Resource Centre.

Co-hosted and partnered
War of 1812: Bicentennial Talks with Heritage Toronto, Toronto Public Library, ROM & other local historical societies.
Alliance Française's *A North York Childhood, circa 1902* exhibit.
North York Central Library's 25th Anniversary Walk & Booklet.

Attended
Official Plan Review Town Hall Meetings.
Committee Museums threatened closure meetings and press conference.
National Ethnic Press & Media Council of Canada Annual Event.
Toronto Historical Association "Brain Storming" Session & AGM.
Economic Development Committee on Canadian Air & Space Museum/Downsview site.
Agnes McPhail House plaque unveiling.
Louis Badone memorial service and Herb Carnegie – funeral home.
Ontario Historical Society's AGM, Waterloo.

Participated in the
Heritage Advisory Committee.
Gibson House Museum & Historic Zion Schoolhouse Open House events.
Heritage Diversity Symposiums at Heritage Toronto, St. Lawrence Hall.
Downsview Library 50th Anniversarycelebration.

Outreach
Earl Haig Community Information Fair.
Cheung Leung M.P., Willowdale and David Zimmer M.P.P., Willowdale: Community BBQs

Supported
Heritage Toronto – 1812 grant application.
Green Meadows, 18 Angus Court (Angus McDougald estate) – heritage grant.
19 St. Leonard's Ave., 102 Wanless Ave., 105 Golfdale Rd at North York Community Council.

Awards
Edith & Geoff Geduld received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Bill Aird, President

NORTH YORK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PANEL

As reported in 2011, interviews for the new panel following the November, 2010 Municipal Election have still not taken place. Consulted with Councillors John Filion & Jaye Robinson.

Agnes McPhail House, 72 Millwood Road/2 Donegal Drive was designated.

Wynyates/Colonel Phillips Estate, 2 Buchan Court: continued neglect.

Continued difficulty adding properties to the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Official Plan Review: draft heritage policy input.
Heritage Advisory Committee: E. Geduld appointee.

2384 Yonge Street (Postal Station K) has been sold. Will support designation

Partnered and supported North York Central Library's 25th Anniversary Walk and Booklet.

Continued recommending heritage street names.
NYHS Panel members: Mary Ann Cross, Linda Gargaro, Edith Geduld, Ruth Kingma

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WEBMASTER REPORT

www.nyhs.ca

Our web page features program information, newsletters, archived articles, and more. There are now between 400 and 650 visits to the site each month.

Enquiries for information are beginning to come in regularly. Suggestions for content or improved presentations are welcome.
Bill Aird

PROGRAMS 2012

(NOTE: See Page 1 for February 20, 2013 program information.)

February: **Annual General Meeting** & ***YOU ARE HERE: Provincial Plaques and the War of 1812***
Sam Wesley, Ontario Heritage Trust

March: cancelled due to library strike.

April: ***UNBUILT TORONTO 2: more of the city that might have been***
Mark Oldbaldeston, author

May: ***OVER ANY DISTANCE IMAGINABLE: the Royal Mail from York***, Kate McAuley, Assistant Curator, Toronto First Post Office

June: **VISIT TO THE ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, QUEEN'S PARK**

September: ***TORN APART: the internment diary of Mary Kobayashi***
Susan Aihoshi, author

October: ***CANADA CYCLE & MOTOR: the CCM story***, John McKentry, author

November: ***FIRST IN, LAST OUT: Royal Canadian Air Force, Women's Division and Nursing Sisters in World War II***
Glad Bryce, author

December: **SEASONAL VISIT TO THE GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM**
Teresa den Boef

A NORTH YORK CHILDHOOD CIRCA 1902 - exhibit

North York in 1902 is at the crossroads of two changing worlds: urban Canada and rural Canada. These changes are shown through the eyes of a child who see his habits evolving, his comfort increasing and his landmarks transforming.

Using pictures and original artifacts, come and discover the daily life of last century's children in North York.

Campus of the Alliance Française of North York, 95 Sheppard Avenue West,
416-221-4684
plantiveau@alliance-francaise.ca
www.alliance-francaise.ca
Guided tours by appointment.

North York Oral History Project gathering at the John McKenzie House, Ontario Historical Society, on June 15, 2012.

EVERGREEN BRICK WORKS Guided tours every Sat & Sun 1.30-2.30 p.m. Learn the story of the Brickworks – a revitalized former industrial site. Suggested donation $5.00. Location: 550 Bayview Avenue.
www.ebw.evergreen.ca

BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE annual ***Christmas by Lamplight*** event on the evenings of December 8, 15, & 22. Step into a Victorian Christmas. Location: 1000 Murray Ross Parkway. 416-736-1733
www.christmasbylamplight.ca
www.christmasbylamplight.ca/location.shtml

Linda Gargaro, Chair, North York Oral History Project Committee, at the June 15th gathering.

GETTING MARRIED

It was easy to fall in love in the west end community of Kaiserville, in North York near Jane Street, in the early 1800s, but it was not easy to get married because there were no churches nor permanent preachers.

"There was a thriving blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, a wagon-maker's shop, a store, a saw mill and a number of dwelling houses but no church," Peter Kaiser, a descendant of the Peter Kaiser who founded Kaiserville, wrote in a history of the district. "A considerable population grew up in the neighbourhood, without a church, without a preacher, without a chance to solomize (sic) the ceremonies of baptism or marriage except at times when the itinerant preacher happened along. The marriage difficulty seemed to be one of real importance because all girls over 21 were regarded as 'old maids' and boys beyond 25 were considered to be 'social discards'.

"At Richmond Hill ten miles away, a Scotch (sic) Presbyterian missionary, Rev. Mr. Jenkins, settled in 1819 where he established a real Gretna Green, and relieved the situation." Gretna Green, located in south Scotland, is one of the world's most popular wedding destinations.

For twenty-five years the young people, Kaiser wrote, "flocked thither in pairs, quartettes and sextettes and were generally married before the party returned." In this era money was "scarcely known" and the minister was paid in produce ranging from pumpkins to a pail of sausage.

The church-less situation could not go on forever. "The natural growth of population and the pressing requirements of society demanded the existence of a permanent church," Kaiser continued. The community decided to develop a branch of the Evangelican Association headquartered in Pennsylvania. The association already had established itself in Markham and Waterloo, and their preachers had come to Kaiserville throughout the years. In 1850, the community agreed to build a church next to the schoolhouse. Later, from 1870 to 1885 the church was under the ministrations of members of the Episcopal Methodist Church of Canada.

The union of 1884 between the Wesleyan and the Episcopal Methodists ended Kaiserville's church affiliation with any organized denomination, but the Sunday school continued for many years afterwards.

Susan Goldenberg (NYHS member)

PLAQUING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jacob Cummer 1767-1841 Application submitted to Heritage Toronto. Approval subject to location and funding.

John Bales House in Earl Bales Park. Application submitted to Heritage Toronto. Approval subject to funding.

200 Years Yonge Plaques (replacements)
Willowdale: now installed in the Pioneer Cemetery at Church & Yonge.
Lansing and Newtonbrook: in production. Unveiling in 2013.
Glenn Bonnetta

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY – PROXY

Solicited by the Board of Directors of the Society for February 20, 2013

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 20, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

The proxy holder is here instructed for:

1. The election of persons nominated as Officers and Directors of the Society for the year 2013.
2. The appointment of an auditor named by the Board of Directors or Nominating Committee.

And hereby revoke any proxy previously given.

Name of member: _____Date_____

Signature_____

EVENTS AT THE GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

5172 Yonge Street, (at Park Home Avenue), North York
416-395-7432 www.toronto.ca/museums

All events listed below require pre-registration and pre-payment.

ST. ANDREWS DINNER & STORYTELLING

Saturday, November 24th from 7.00 to 9.30 p.m.
Join Dianne Chandler as she fills the parlour with Celtic tales of magic and myth. Share a hearty meal of national dishes of Scotland and Canada including Haggis. $40.00 + HST.

AFTERMATH: THE ROOTS OF THE UPPER REBELLION OF 1837

Saturday, December 1st at 7.00 p.m.
Parlour talk with Wayne Reeves, Chief Curator, City of Toronto. 25 years after the War of 1812 the Upper Canada Rebellion had its uprising. What did these two key events in Canadian history have in common? He will explore how the hardening of attitudes toward anything American during 1812 led to crisis a quarter-century later. $8.00 + HST.

REBEL EVENING: A STORYTELLING EXPERIENCE

Saturday, December 8th from 7.00 to 9.30 p.m.
Currents of discontent and rebellion are sweeping through the concession roads, farms and inns of Upper Canada. Join rebel leader David Gibson, recreated by master story teller Bruce Carmody, as he expounds on the ideas and issues fueling the reformers. A farmhouse supper will be served. $40.00 + HST.

REBELLIOUS WOMEN: TEASPOONS RAISED

Sunday, December 9th from 1.00 to 3.00 p.m.
Discover history through the perspective of three women whose lives were touched by the events of the 1837 Rebellion. Join Adrianna Prosser as she portrays Mrs. Gibson, and her guests, Mrs. Cummer and Mrs. Sheppard, as they gather for tea in 1851. Includes a Scottish tea in the historic rooms of the Gibson farmhouse. $27.50 + HST.

HOGMANAY DINNER

Saturday & Sunday, December 29th & 30th at 7.00 p.m.
Share a scruptious dinner with familiar and new friends. Be lulled by the fire, moved by the music. Take an imagined journey through story and drama to a New Year of another time. As the evening closes, come together with the staff to welcome our First Footer. $44.25 +HST.

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership 2013

Name(print)_____Phone_____

Address_____

_____

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

Family: $25.00.... Individual $15.00.... Senior $10.00.... Student $5.00 ….

Donation: General …..... Plaquing Program..... Jacob Cummer Plaque.....

The North York Historical Society
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