



NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April – June 2019

1960 – 2019 – 59th Year

www.nyhs.ca

info@nyhs.ca

From the President

At long last spring seems to have arrived after a long and hard winter.

Constitution 2019: the draft was circulated and was passed at the February 20th Annual General Meeting.

2018 Board & Committees: My thanks to both. Edith Geduld is not returning - she and Geoff will be moving to Ottawa and we wish them all the best.

2019 Board & Committees: The updated Constitution has removed the role of Past President as an "Officer", enabling Bill Aird to serve as Vice President. He will also take on the task of booking Programs and Linda Gargaro will take on the Newsletter. We welcome two new directors: Sheryl Adelkind (a long time member and a Gibson House Volunteer, also a member of the Archives Committee) and Anne McIlroy.

O'Connor House update: The OCH organization is disbanding and the NYHS will be dealing directly with the Toronto Catholic School Board in order to access our files and archival materials.

Glenn Bonnetta

Wednesday April 17, 2019

Topic: TALES OF TORONTO TRANSIT

Speaker: Trevor Parkins-Sciberras and David Reigate, Transit historians

Wednesday May 15, 2019

Topic: A WARNING TO THE FAINT OF HEART

Tales from the Early Surveying of Ontario

Speaker: Charlie Wilkins, Author/Journalist

Meeting Room: Toronto Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street Room 2/3. There is an elevator outside the library on the south side of the building.

Meetings are co-sponsored by the North York Historical Society and the North York Central Library

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 Tourism, Culture & Sport

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LONGEST LASTING LOG CABIN

The longest lasting log cabin in North York existed for an amazing 141 years. Built in 1815 on the west side of Victoria Park Avenue and Parkwoods Drive, a quarter mile south of York Mills Road, the cabin, which had two front windows, survived until 1956 when it was demolished to make way for new modern houses. The cabin was known as the Coulson cabin after the three generations of pioneers of that name who called the cabin their home-sweet-home. The founding father was John Coulson, who acquired the log cabin along with 147 acres in 1851. He died in 1892. The Coulsons raised sheep and took the fleece to a woolen mill at the Don River and Lawrence Avenue East. The Don Valley Conservation Authority intended to move the cabin to Edwards Gardens and refurbish it in pioneer style but the timbers were in too poor condition to allow this and the cost of restoration was regarded as prohibitive. This was the last authentic log cabin in North York with the exception of a couple which were covered with modern siding materials and the log houses at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

(Research and written by Susan Goldenberg, Director NYHS – edited)



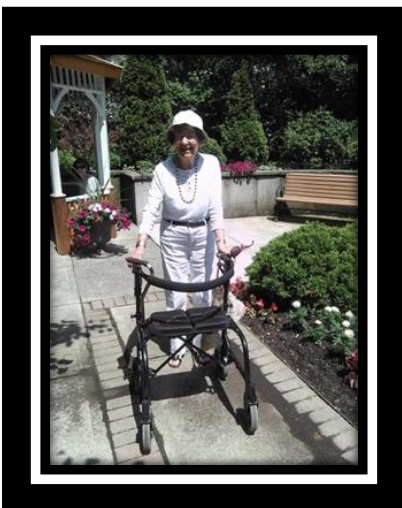
Coulson Cabin, west side Victoria Park Ave. opposite Ellesmere Ave. Toronto, Ont.

Chirside, Ted

Picture, 1955, English

Branch - Toronto Reference Library (Baldwin Collection)

IN MEMORIAM



Elizabeth (Betty) Minaker -- Long time member
and Gibson House Volunteer.
March 30, 1917-March 1, 2019
Our condolences to her many friends.



Marilyn Anne Dyke – member.
August 23, 1936-March 22, 2019
Our condolences to her family and friends.

GOLDEN LION HOTEL PLAQUE UNVEILING

Please join Councillor John Filion (Willowdale Ward ##), Heritage Toronto and the North York Historical Society for the unveiling of the plaque at the North York Central Library, on Saturday May 4th at 12.30 p.m.

The Golden Lion Hotel was a landmark on Yonge Street at Sheppard Avenue for over a century. A popular way station and social centre in its time, the Golden Lion Hotel played an important role in the 1837 Rebellion. Rebels rallied there before heading south and later William Lion MacKenzie and others took refuge after their defeat.

The presentation will be followed by Jane's Walk *Farmers, Rebels and a Princess: People of Willowdale* led by Meredyth Schofield and Sam Sharp, Historical Interpreters at the Gibson House Museum. Walk departs at 1.00 p.m. and will end around 2.30 p.m. at the Gibson House Museum, 5172 Yonge Street (accessed from north side of Park Home Avenue between Yonge and Beecroft).

INFLUENZA 1919

Harold James McQuillan, son of George and Fannie McQuillan of Toronto, was a young Canadian soldier who joined the 48ⁿ Highlanders at Toronto in January 1916. As a teenager, he was first assigned to the battalion bugle band. He later went overseas with the 134ⁿ Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was wounded at the disastrous Battle of the Somme, but recovered, and after return to civilian life was a student in the Pass Arts program at University College at the University of Toronto for the 1919-1920 academic year. He was stricken with Influenza and was unable to complete the studies and exams, but was granted an Aegrotat Certificate so that he could continue in the second year of the program. Many years later when he was almost past the age limit, Harold joined The RCAF in 1943 and served overseas.



Harold J. McQuillan, 48ⁿ Highlanders,
Toronto, January 1916



Harold J. McQuillan, RCAF,
November 1943

From one of our long-time members:

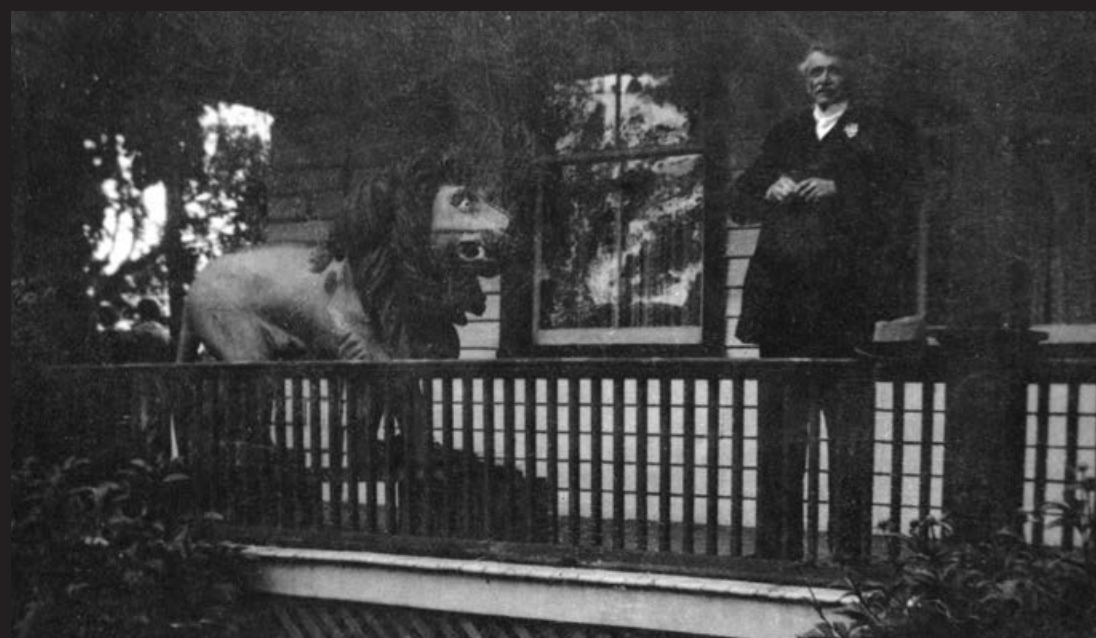
(This contribution is from one of our long-time North York Historical Society members, Robert (Bob) McQuillan whose father was stricken by influenza. Bob went to "The Last Great Plague: The Story of the Spanish Flu – An Exhibit in the Cathedral at The Cathedral Church of St. James" and gave us his take on that time regarding his father).



GOLDEN LION HOTEL



The Golden Lion Hotel, circa 1905, when it was owned and operated by the Thompson family.
Toronto Public Library



Reverend Thomas W. Pickett on the building's verandah photographed in 1920. Throughout the building's history, the golden lion was placed alternately on the building's main floor verandah and the second-floor balcony.
Toronto Public Library

For more than a century, the Golden Lion Hotel was a Yonge Street landmark in Lansing. The community developed in the 1790s when European settlers began farming in the area. The land had been occupied and used by Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe First Nations and was included in the 1805 Toronto Purchase treaty between the British Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

Built at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Sheppard Avenue in the mid-1820s by Thomas Sheppard, the Golden Lion Hotel was a spacious, two-storey frame building that could accommodate up to 20 guests. A life-sized, gold-painted wooden lion, carved by Thomas' brother, Paul, decorated the building.

The hotel was a popular social centre where dances and political meetings were held. It served as a meeting place during the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion when insurgents marched south on Yonge Street demanding the establishment of responsible government. William Lyon Mackenzie, the leader of the rebellion, exchanged his horse here before fleeing to the United States.

The Sheppard family sold the hotel in 1870. In the early 20th century, Reverend Thomas Webster Pickett converted it to a residence with a meeting room for a Methodist Sunday school. The building later served as the first offices of the Township of North York before being demolished in 1933.



The golden lion was conserved after the demolition of the building and is now on display at the North York Central Library. Carved in oak with a mane made of putty, this is the second golden lion sculpted by Paul Sheppard. The first one, carved out of a pine stump, was stolen around 1833.
Toronto Public Library

At the Gibson House Museum

5172 Yonge Street (entrance off Park Home Avenue, west of Yonge Street) 416-395-7432

Beyond Catharine Parr Traill: A Tea & Talk with Fiona Lucas

April 28, 2019 at 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Cost: \$30.00

Join culinary historian Fiona Lucas as she brings new life to Catharine Parr Trail's fascinating book, "The Emigrant's Guide," the original how-to for new Canadians. Explore the updated edition of Parr's 160-year-old work, with Lucas unveiling a wealth of information on historical food ways and culinary exploration.

After the discussion, enjoy refreshments made using the book's recipes and tour Gibson House Museum.

Other Museum Events

Montgomery's Inn

Thursday, April 25: Thirsty Thursday, 7 to 10 p.m. Montgomery's Inn presents Thirsty Thursday tavern night with beer, wine or a Thomas Montgomery specialty in the restored 1847 barroom, along with Irish stew, fresh-baked bread and live traditional music. Admission: Free. Cash bar; \$5 for a bowl of stew while supplies last. 416-394-8113.

Sunday, May 20: Victoria Day Tea & Tour, 1 to 4 p.m. Montgomery's Inn celebrates Victoria Day with an afternoon tea fit for a Queen. Price includes a complimentary guided tour of the museum. All ages are welcome. First come, first served. Admission: \$7.

Fort York

Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28: *Battle of York Weekend*, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: A family event at Fort York National Historic Site to honour the 206th anniversary of the Battle of York, which was fought on April 27, 1813. Activities include musket-firing demonstrations, Georgian cooking in the Officers' Quarters kitchen, site tours and period animation. Admission: \$6 to \$14.

Mackenzie House – 82 Bond Street – Cost - \$35.00

Historic Baking Workshop

April 27, 2019 Victorian Toronto preached moderation and self-restraint especially when consuming alcohol. Explore the eating and drinking traditions associated with this Temperance movement. Bake historic Victorian recipes including Victoria Sandwiches and cakes in our 1860s wood stove. Enjoy Victorian mocktails and listen to live Temperance songs and experience a recreated Temperance pledge-signing ceremony. Event Time(s): 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

CELEBRATING THE ART AND LIFE OF ADRIENNE ALISON

at Artscape Wychwood Barns, 601 Christie on Saturday, June 8th from 4.00 to 8.00 p.m.
more information to come .

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2019 Board of Directors, Representatives & Committees

www.nyhs.ca

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Financial Reviewer	Wesley Lee		

Representatives

North York Community Preservation Panel
Toronto Historical Association

Linda Gargaro
Glenn Bonnetta

Committees (Chair)

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Membership	Susan Goldenberg
Nomination	Bill Aird
ewsletter	Linda Gargaro
Phone	Vacant
Plaquing	Glenn Bonnetta
Programs	Bill Aird
School Outreach	Bill Aird, Glenn Bonnetta, Susan Goldenberg, Kathy Shorney, Marla Weingarten
Street Naming	Mary Ann Cross
Sunshine	Katharine Shorney
Webmaster	Sarah McCabe

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership 2019 – 59th Year

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

Address.....

Email address..... May we email newsletter to you?.....

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

Donation: \$.....

Dedicated Funds: General.....Plaquing.....Miriam Jackson Memorial.....

Please make cheque payable to the North York Historical Society, 5576 Yonge Street,
POB 10042, Willowdale, ON M2N 0B6