



NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September - November 2019

1960 - 2019 - 59th Year

www.nyhs.ca

info@nyhs.ca

From the President:

Summer is almost over and North York Historical Society is starting our fall program of speakers on September 18, 2019. Our June outing this year was a picnic lunch at Earl Bales Park on June 29, 2019 organized by Bill Aird. As it was a very hot day we were fortunate to be inside the park building. Later we walked a short distance to the John Bales house where I gave a short talk about the house and the history of the Bales family in North York.

On July 20 I was pleased to attend the unveiling of the historic plaque honouring the O'Sullivan Hotel. The unveiling was part of an event organized by Councillor Shelley Carroll at Oriole Community Centre on Don Mills Road. The plaque will eventually be installed near where the hotel stood at Victoria Park Ave. and Old Sheppard Ave.

I hope that everyone will attend the Gibson House Fall Festival on Saturday September 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Glenn Bonnetta

Wednesday September 18, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *One Loyalist Descendant and Her Connection to Five American Historical Sites - And a Coin!*

Speaker: Sandra McNamara Genealogist, Researcher

Wednesday October 16, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.

Topic: *DOUBLE THREAT: Canadian Jews, the Military and World War II*

Speaker: Ellin Bessner, Author/Journalist

Wednesday November 20, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.

Topic: *The 1934 Kidnapping of Ontario Beer Tycoon John Labatt*

Speaker: Susan Goldenberg, Author and Local Historian

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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Earl Bales House

In June 2019, the North York Historical Society had its annual June outing and this year we had a picnic lunch at Earl Bales Park and Glenn Bonnetta, our President spoke to us about the Earl Bales House (see below).



Bales House, south-east view

Provenance

Toronto Public Library. North York Central Library. Canadiana Department. Gift of North York Historical Society.

This one-and-a-half-storey log house is one of Toronto's oldest buildings still standing on its original site. The house features a steeply pitched gable roof, a stuccoed exterior, and a symmetrical design typical of the vernacular Georgian style. Significant interior elements include a panelled storage wall in the south bedroom of the second floor and an original fireplace.

The builder of the house, John Bales, immigrated from England in 1819. In 1824, John and his wife, Elizabeth, purchased 60 acres (24 hectares) of land on the southeast corner of Bathurst Street and Sheppard Avenue. They developed their property to include this house, a barn, and eventually, a large orchard. Around 1940, the family added a cool room for food storage (since demolished) and a kitchen wing.

The house was sold by the Bales family in 1887. By 1922, the property was owned by the York Downs Golf and Country Club and the John Bales house became the home of the club's greens keeper. In 1975, the land surrounding the house became Earl Bales Park, named after a great-grandson of John and Elizabeth.

(2014 Heritage Plaque)

O'Sullivan Hotel Plaque Unveiling

On Saturday July 20, 2019, the North York Historical Society was proud to join Councillor Shelley Carroll and Heritage Toronto to unveil a new historical plaque for O'Sullivan's Hotel.



O'Sullivan's Hotel, a prominent business for almost 100 years, was located near the northwest corner of present-day Sheppard and Victoria Park Avenues. Early in the 19th century, European farmers settled here on land that had been occupied and used by Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe First Nations. Ann and Patrick O'Sullivan opened the two-storey hotel in 1860, the year they were married. The hotel included a dining room, a bar, and a shed for horse-drawn wagons. Patrick died in 1861, and Ann and their son, Michael, continued the business for several decades. In 1892, Michael O'Sullivan opened a post office in the hotel and the surrounding farming community became known as O'Sullivan's Corners. As the 20th century unfolded, O'Sullivan's Corners became a popular destination for motorists and outdoor enthusiasts because it was located at the intersection of several paved roads. In 1948, the Northeast Drive-In Theatre opened near here on land owned by the O'Sullivan family. The area became increasingly developed, and the hotel was demolished circa 1954, shortly before construction of Highway 401 to the south.

TIME PERIOD
CREDIT LINE

1835-1899, 1900-1953
Heritage Toronto

At the Gibson House Museum

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

Fall Festival

Saturday September 21, 2019 – 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There will be heritage demonstrations, hands-on activities and garden tours.

Other Museum Events

Mackenzie House – 82 Bond Street

September 21, 2019, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm AND September 26, 2019, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Getting Ready for Winter: Canning and Preserving Workshop - - Cost: \$35

Online: mackenziehouse.streamintickets.com Email: machouse@toronto.ca Phone: (416) 392-6915

RAW History Thursdays: "True Crime" at Mackenzie House!

October 3, 2019, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm OR October 10, 2019, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm OR October 17, 2019, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Fans of Murdoch Mysteries and true crime Victorian-style in Toronto will enjoy this interactive tour. See how newspapers covered 19th-century crime stories, become a detective and solve a Gothic crime scene in Mackenzie House's historic parlour, and immerse yourself in some of the City's most notorious true crime stories

Montgomery's Inn- 4709 Dundas St W, Etobicoke

October 18, 2019 - October 20, 2019 - Master and Commander: A weekend in Nelson's Navy- Cost: \$50 - \$200

Ahoy mateys! For lovers of epic tales of life on the high seas, this event cannot be matched! Led by historical researcher, choreographer and event organizer, Karen Millyard, participants will spend the weekend immersed in the world of the Royal Navy of 200 years ago. Website: danceweavers.ca Email: danceweavers@gmail.com
Phone: (416) 578-1031

October 24-27, 2019 - Shades of Old Islington- Cost: \$25

If you enjoy ghostly tales told by candlelight, come to Montgomery's Inn where you will discover the perfect atmosphere for hair-raising stories connected to the history of the Inn. Learn about 19th-mourning and funeral traditions in the Inn's specially decorated Sitting Room. Follow your guide by lantern to the Islington Burying Grounds, the final resting place of Thomas Montgomery and his family for more chilling tales. Enjoy some home baked Halloween treats, made by Inn volunteers. Online: montgomerysinn.streamintickets.com Email: montinn@toronto.ca
Phone: (416) 394-8113

Fort York National Historic Site - 250 Fort York Blvd

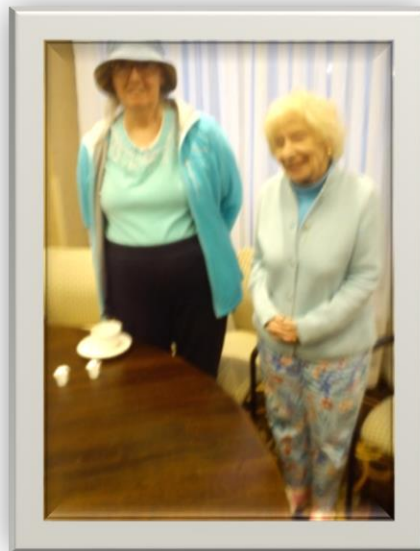
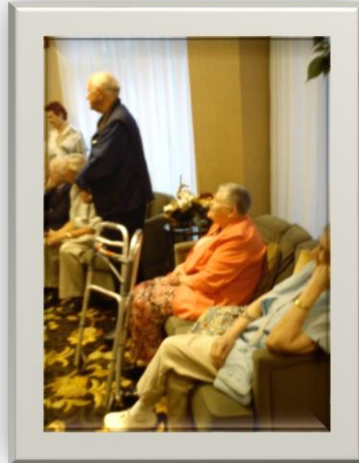
October 19, 2019 Canada's Table: A Celebration of Our Cookbooks - Cost: \$125 plus HST

Fort York National Historic Site celebrates the history, influence and importance of cookbooks and great Canadian authors both past and present with a full day of panel discussions, demonstrations, and workshops. Price includes morning refreshments, Long Table Lunch, and a one hour workshop. Each workshop participant will receive a signed copy of their workshop leader's cookbook. Website: www.toronto.ca Email: fortyork@toronto.ca Phone: (416) 392-7500

October 28, 29, 30, 31, 2019, 7:30 pm – Fort York After Dark: Lantern Tours - Cost: \$13.27

Hear chilling tales on a lantern tour of Fort York and its historic surroundings. Learn about a haunted lighthouse, the bloody Battle of York, and other eerie stories as you explore a nearby military cemetery. Tour the grounds and buildings of Fort York at night and hear creepy, strange, and unusual stories from site staff. Guests will learn about the Fort's history and many of its paranormal mysteries. Website: www.toronto.ca Email: fortyork@toronto.ca Phone: (416) 392-6907

The North York Historical Society Members share their memories and good-byes to Edith and Geoff Geduld who have been long-time members. They have had many roles throughout the organization and made many important contributions. We wish them well in Ottawa. On the next page you will read beautiful tributes by Geoff Kettel and Marianne Cross of the North York Community Preservation Panel.



Mary Ann Cross' Speech at Goodbye Party for Edith and Geoff Geduld

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

1 Canterbury Place 7:30 pm

It is my great pleasure to speak about Edith and Geoff Geduld. I first met Edith and Geoff back around the year 2000, when they were involved in saving Dempsey Store for historical and community use. It was because of them that I became involved with the Friends of Dempsey Store, deputing at the North York Community Council for the first time, and being part of the OMB Hearing.

Ever one to seize an opportunity, before I knew it Edith had told me about the North York Historical Society and the North York Community Preservation Panel, organizations that I joined shortly thereafter, am still involved with and feel have as great a role to play in preserving and highlighting heritage in the community now as they had then.

Over the years, even when Edith was off the Panel, she's been a wonderful sounding board and source of advice for historical issues, even including conversations this past week. More than that, I feel lucky that we've become friends. I will miss Edith and Geoff, especially Edith.

I want to personally wish them both all the best in this wonderful new phase of their lives close to Margo, Jenn and Phil, and their grandchildren in Ottawa.

I also want to extend the best wishes of the North York Community Preservation Panel by reading a letter that Geoff Kettel, Chair, and I wrote to Glenn, President of the North York Historical Society.

North York Community Preservation Panel

June 4, 2019

Glenn Bonnetta
President
North York Historical Society
5576 Yonge Street, P.O. Box 10042
Willowdale, ON M2M 4C3

Dear Glenn,

This is to recognize and extend our appreciation for the considerable contributions of Edith Geduld and Geoff Geduld over so many years, and we wish them all the best as they embark on their move to Ottawa.

Edith and Geoff have for over 37 years worked for the preservation and conservation of built and cultural heritage through their outstanding leadership within municipal and independent heritage organizations in North York, and Toronto. Edith and Geoff are modest and unassuming, yet enormously respected: North York's Historical Duo! They may yet assume a similar role in Ottawa.

Shortly after moving to Willowdale in 1978, Edith attended a meeting at Gibson House after reading a community newspaper advertisement looking for North York Historical Society volunteers and the rest, she said, was history.

Edith and Geoff have been involved in virtually all, and instrumental in many of the efforts to preserve significant heritage structures in North York, such as the Gibson House Museum, Milne House, the Jolly Miller Tavern, the North York Hydro Building, the Mazo de la Roche House, the John Mackenzie House, Green Meadows (the McDougald Estate), the Elihu Pease House, and the Senator Frank O'Connor House.

Their efforts pre-amalgamation were mainly directed through the North York Historical Society and acting as representatives on the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and the Museums Board. Edith was a member of LACAC and then as it transformed, chaired the North York Community Preservation Panel, and was a member of the Toronto Preservation Board from 2002 to 2009. Geoff served with the North York

Historical Society, including terms as Chair and on the Toronto Historical Museums Management Board in that time period.

Edith and Geoff both served as directors of the Toronto Historical Association, and worked in close partnership with the Ontario Historical Society, where Geoff served as a Director on their board. After much work on the board of the Ontario Heritage Connection Society, a community-based on-line information resource for heritage news and information matters in Ontario, they ensured that the electronic assets of the Ontario Heritage Connection were legally transferred to the Ontario Historical Society.

On February 19, 2010, Edith and Geoff were each awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement for 2009, which recognized their outstanding contributions to the preservation, protection and promotion of Ontario's heritage.

On June 10, 2017, Edith and Geoff were awarded the Ontario Historical Society's Cruikshank Medal, which is presented on rare occasions to individuals who have performed with distinction on behalf of the Society. That year they were also presented with 35-year Ontario Volunteer Service Awards for service in the North York Historical Society.

Their achievements relating to the cause of North York's history and built heritage are due to their strong research, communications and networking skills, their professionalism, and above all to their diligence and perseverance in pursuing their vision of "retaining the past as an inspiration to the present and the future". And I personally am very grateful for the advice and information freely offered by Edith on so many North York heritage issues.

We fully appreciate that Edith and Geoff want to be close to their children in Ottawa and we reluctantly release them for this reason! We wish them the very best of health, good friends and family in Ottawa.

Best wishes from the whole Panel,

Geoff Kettel

Geoff Kettel
Chair

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2019 Board of Directors, Representatives & Committees

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info@nyhs.ca

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NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership 2019 – 59th Year

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

Donation: \$.....

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Please make cheque payable to the North York Historical Society, 5576 Yonge Street,
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