



NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January - March 2020

1960 - 2020 - 60th Year

www.nyhs.ca

info@nyhs.ca

From the President:

Another year has passed far too quickly. The big news in 2019 is that our Golden Lion statue has finally received conservation work, courtesy of conservator Susan Maltby, and he looks like a new man. The Toronto Public Library very generously covered the cost.

The Society continues to maintain space at the Frank O'Connor House. We now rent directly from the Toronto District Catholic School Board due the unfortunate termination of the Friends of O'Connor House group. The ongoing problems due to leaking and mold at O'Connor House appear to have been resolved.

We received an exciting donation in 2019. Mrs. Carol Bowden, who spent her childhood living in the Joseph Shepard house, donated a framed drawing of the house, circa 1940, along with another framed drawing of the Dempsey Store, to the Society. We are delighted with this donation.

Our June outing this year was a picnic lunch at Earl Bales Park, arranged by Bill Aird. It was a very hot day, but luckily we were inside. The lunch was delicious and the company enjoyable. Afterwards we walked over to the historic Bales house in the park and I gave a brief presentation about the Bales family.

Glenn Bonnetta

Wednesday February 19, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *History of Education in North York*

Speaker: Bill Aird, Vice President of the North York Historical Society

Wednesday March 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Topic: *Amazing Canadian Women in History*

Speaker: Lianne Harris, B.A., B.F.A(Ed), T.E.S.L

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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Annual Committee Reports:

Plaquing:

The plaques for the Dempsey Store, the Golden Lion Hotel and the O' Sullivan Hotel have all been completed. The Golden Lion plaque was unveiled on May 4 at the North York Centre. The O' Sullivan plaque was unveiled at Councillor Shelley Carroll's summer event on July 20. The date for the unveiling of the Dempsey Store plaque has not yet been scheduled. So far none have them have been installed. I am happy to report that the proposed plaque for the George S. Henry house has also been approved.

(Glenn Bonnetta, President and Archives Committee (in his own words))

Archives:

The North York Historical Society Archives Committee is one of your most active committees. I have included comments from Glenn Bonnetta (Current President) and Bill Aird (Past President) on their views of the Archives Committee comings and goings:

I can report that I am still working on sorting the Dorothy Milne collection, which is temporarily at O'Connor House, and am making progress. NYHS was offered a collection of planning surveys by the Weston Historical Society. I went to their office and selected those that were relevant to North York. In 2019 there were questions from the public about John Perkins Bull, the George Jackson house, where to access copies of the Enterprise newspaper, Green Meadows estate, the reason for the names of Bogert Ave. and Frizzel Rd. (in the Sheppard/Yonge area, I was able to find who Frizzel Rd. was likely named for and Jeanne Hopkins provided info about Bogert) and Louis Rapp, who owned the Jolly Miller in the 1950s (from a family member).

(Glenn Bonnetta, President and Archives Committee -in his own words)

The Archives Committee continues to be a very active working committee of the NYHS.

During 2019 Glenn, Sheryl, Anne and Bill met weekly, either at 1 Canterbury Place or O'Connor House to work on projects for the archives. In 2019 the editing of the transcripts for the Oral History Project was completed and the transcripts along with the original audio files will be made available soon. Some work was done on various material currently stored at O'Connor House to sort and catalogue it for future donation. A project was also started to catalogue and digitize the photo collection currently available to NYHS and scattered in various locations. These photos include material of early North York history as well as photos of meetings and exhibits done by the NYHS.

There is also a group of photos on the current condition of main streets and intersections in North York. Once the current collection of photos is catalogued it is the intention of the archives committee to ask for any material that may still be in the hands of the public, to add to the collection and to continue the work to record North York in its current condition. People often say they don't recognize the area because it has changed so much. It is more than likely that the same will be said 50 years down the road

(Bill Aird, Vice-President, Past President, Archives Committee and Board Member - in his own words)

Webmaster:

We hope you are enjoying the new NYHS website (<https://nyhs.ca>), launched in May 2018.

Over the course of 2019, the site had over 5,400 unique viewers, 77% from Canada, 19% from USA, 1% from UK, and 3% from elsewhere. The website had a monthly average of between 300 and 700 users. Our "History" page has (unsurprisingly!) been the most popular, as it now features almost 40 illustrated articles on North York local history, the majority by NYHS director Susan Goldenberg.

Please visit regularly to check out our upcoming meetings and events calendar, recent news items, and North York local history resources. What else would you like to see? Please let us know what you think at info@nyhs.ca.

(Sarah McCabe, Webmaster - in her own words)

North York Community Preservation Panel (NYCPP) Update:
(January 26, 2020) - written by Geoff Kettel - NYCPP past member - in his own words)

Yonge Street North Planning Study (YSNPS)

The Yonge Street North Planning Study (YSNPS) (from Finch Avenue to Steeles Avenue and Willowdale Avenue to Hilda Avenue/Talbot Road) dating back to 2014 has recently been revived due to the need to plan for the expected infrastructure investment and development pressures associated with the TTC's Line 1 subway extension to York Region. The YSNPS will develop a long-term vision for the area and manage and guide the expected growth through the development of a Secondary Plan.



Yonge Street North Planning Study

The Study to date has not included Heritage Preservation but it's not too late to suggest properties and landscape that are of cultural heritage significance. The North York Community Preservation Panel encourages residents to contact the planner, Guy Matthew at Guy.Matthew@toronto.ca or 416 395-7102, as well as the Panel itself and the NYHS.

Are you interested to get involved in heritage preservation?

If so, the North York Community Preservation Panel (NYCPP) will soon be looking for new members. The NYCPP is the heritage preservation advisory committee for North York, and members are appointed by City Council for the term of Council, for a maximum of two terms. Please watch for the City's notice of the vacancies or if you wish to learn more about what's involved please contact Geoff Kettel at gkettel@gmail.com.

Outreach:

Below is information regarding two of our board members who have assembled amazing presentations. The first paragraph description is written by Marla Weingarten, Board Member and Secretary AND the second is written by Bill Aird, Vice-President, Past President and Archives Committee.

The NYHS Outreach Committee took the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada presentation to seniors residences for their enjoyment and learning. This presentation shares the stories of the people and events that took place right in the residents' own neighborhood. The information and images reflect on North Yorkers involved on both sides of the rebellion, where they lived and what their lives were like, and how these people were important to the development of North York. In addition to the people, our presentation calls attention to the buildings that have survived from so long ago, right here in North York. Many of us walk past these historical sites without knowledge or understanding of their significance to the past.

(Marla Weingarten, Secretary)

If you would like to invite Marla to speak at your meeting/retirement residence or other association, Please contact her by email or in person, at one of our program meetings.

Early History of North York

From the earliest times in the area, to the arrival of Europeans, the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists, the War of 1812, the 1837 rebellion, the creation of Canada and the growth of Toronto as an industrial centre.

Memories of North York

From WWI, to the beginning of North York as a region separate from York County, the Great Depression, WWII and the change of North York from a rural farming area to the current urban giant. Lots of pictures to spark memories that people might have of the history of the area.

The History of Education in North York

Beginning with a discussion of pre-European education, to the earliest schools set up by settlers and the development of the infrastructure of the school system. This talk includes examination of the contributions of two North York residents to the content of education which continues to affect and improve the knowledge of students in North York and far beyond its boundaries.

Bill Aird, Vice-President, Past President and Archives Committee

If you would like to invite Bill to speak at your meeting/retirement residence or other association, Please contact him by email or in person at one of our program meetings

Programs - February - December 2019:

February 2019	Annual General Meeting (followed by speaker Sheila White) Portia White: Canada's Original Superstar
March 2019	East York 1924-1997 -Toronto's Garden of Eden , Alan Redway, author, retired politician/lawyer
April 2019	Tales of Toronto Transit , Trevor Parkins-Sciberras and David Reigate, Transit historians
May 2019	A WARNING TO THE FAINT OF HEART: Tales from the Early Surveying of Ontario Charlie Wilkins, Author/Journalist
June 2019	Picnic in Earl Bales Park - (members-only outing)
September 2019	One Loyalist Descendant and Her Connection to Five American Historical Sites - And a Coin! Sandra McNamara, Genealogist, Researcher
October 2019	Double Threat: Canadian Jews, the Military and World War II , Ellin Bessner, Author/Journalist
November 2019	The 1837 Rebellion: The Effects on the Communities of North York Marla Weingarten, Board Member of the North York Historical Society
December 2019	Seasonal Gathering - John Mackenzie House (members only)

At the Gibson House Museum

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

Friday January 31, 2020 – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. OR Friday February 7, 2020 – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00

David Gibson's Favourites: A Farmhouse Supper

Join historic cook and interpreter Sheena Westcott Sykes for a heartwarming evening making roast beef, seasonal Ontario vegetables and apple pie – hearty recipes inspired by the favourite foods of David Gibson, original owner of Gibson House.

Friday February 21, 2020 - 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Cost: \$15.00

Rebel House: A Spoken Word and Food Experience

Join spoken word artist extraordinaire Patrick de Belen and performers from Up From The Roots and BAM! Toronto Youth Poetry Slam for an unforgettable evening of performances in the candlelit rooms of Gibson House. Watch rap, spoken word and classical music performances in the parlours, enjoy a catered evening buffet in the kitchen and dining room and see a live painting demo.

Other Museum Events

Montgomery's Inn

Saturday February 8, 2020 - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Cost: \$35 (Price is +HST)

Historic Tavern Meal:

Discover the fascinating history of an 1840's Toronto tavern while enjoying a typical 19th- century tavern meal in a unique historic setting.

Saturday February 22, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sunday February 23, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$25 (plus HST)

Finding Freedom: The Joshua Glover story

Enjoy a riveting performance about the extraordinary life of Joshua Glover, an American slave who escaped with the help of the Underground Railroad, and found freedom in Upper Canada and Montgomery's Inn where he lived and worked.

Spadina House - 285 Spadina Rd:

February 1, 2020 - March 1, 2020 (Every Saturday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm/Every Sunday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

Tour times 12:15, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:00 p.m. (not including Family Day)

Cost: \$6.00 - \$10.00

Meet Mrs. Pipkin

Learn about Mrs. Pipkin, who escaped slavery in 1850s Maryland and later worked as a laundress in the 1870s for financier James Austin at his Spadina mansion, often called Toronto's "Downtown Abbey." As part of the Spadina Museum tour, you'll follow her journey to freedom and learn about the use of Freedom Quilts to help slaves escaping to Canada by the Underground Railroad, a secret network of abolitionists.

Thursday February 6, 2020

Cost: \$95

The Austins Entertain

Experience the glitz and glam of the 1920s at Spadina Museum as a guest at an exclusive party inspired by the Jazz Age!

More information on the Gibson House and other Toronto History Museums events can be found on the following website: <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/>

Other North York Historical Society News

A former speaker of the North York Historical Society, Kathryn Matheson, informed me that William Perkins Bull was posthumously inducted into the Brampton Arts Walk of Fame. Here is the link if you would like to read more about him. He was born in Downsview Ontario in 1870. He was a Financier, philanthropist and historian.

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/Arts-Culture-Tourism/CulturalSrvs/Pages/Inductee.aspx?Title=William%20Perkins%20Bull>



Lot 8, Con. 4 West. Rustic Rd. - 450. John Perkins Bull House, "Downsview House," at 450 Bull Road. In 1830 Bartholomew Bull bought Lot 8 to give to his son, John Perkins Bull, when he turned 21. In 1842 John Perkins Bull began clearing the land and built a small cabin. By 1844 the present house was built and, after marrying Caroline Amelia Carpenter, Bull opened his home to the Wesleyan Methodist community for religious services. Both the house and farm became known as "Downs View," eventually giving name to the whole community. John Perkins Bull was a justice of the peace (nicknamed "Squire Bull"), holding court from his home, and later a courtroom built off of the house. The house was a nursing home in 1964 when the photo was taken, and still exists as North Park Nursing Home. William Perkins Bull (1870-1948), a descendant of John born at Downsview, among many achievements wrote the best early local history of the area, "From Oxford to Ontario".

Provenance

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

Requests for additions to our Newsletter

My name is Linda Gargaro and I am the new Newsletter Editor for the North York Historical Society.

I am looking to revamp the newsletter a little bit with more contributions from our members:

- We encourage you to send us pictures/photos of North York – places, people, events from 1960 and earlier. We will return the photos/pictures to you. We just ask that you give us permission to put them in our newsletter and/or website.

- We are also looking to add stories, memories, personal anecdotes about you and/or your family with an emphasis of North York of up to 100-150 words. Let me give you an example. In the April-June 2019 issue of the North York Historical Society Newsletter, one of our amazing long-time members, Robert (Bob) McQuillan wrote us a memory about his father who 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.

North York Historical Society - Proxy

Solicited by the Board of Directors of the Society for Wednesday February 19, 2020

The undersigned paid up member of the North York Historical Society hereby appoints Marla Weingarten, 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 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The proxy holder is here instructed:

1. The election of persons nominated as Officers and Directors of the Society, for the year 2020
 2. The appointment of a financial reviewer named by the Board of Directors or Nominating Committee
- And hereby revoke any proxy given previously,

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership 2019 - 60th 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