



# NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

North Toronto Town Hall

VOL. 37 NO. 3

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Hoggs Hollow, 1908

CTA

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174 Teddington Park Ave.  
"The Castle."

## Fall Programme

*Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.*



**Wednesday, 25 September, 7:30 p.m.**

### HOME LIFE DURING WORLD WAR II IN TORONTO

In 1940 the Williamson family welcomed two English war guests into their North Toronto home. With photos and illustrations, **Mary Williamson** will draw from the weekly letters to the boys' family written by her mother and published as *Just a Larger Family* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2011). Marie's letters detail holiday celebrations, church and school, food shortages and rationing, air raid precautions, and an endless variety of games and sports. Copies of her book will be available for purchase.

**Wednesday, 30 October, 7:30 p.m.**

### OF BREAD WAGONS AND STREET CARS

The experience of childhood in North Toronto has changed since the 1940s and 1950s. **Bruce Lumsden** will share photos and read some popular pieces about his childhood. **Jon Tobin** will present his paintings of Toronto street scenes. Copies of the chapbook, *Toronto, Toronto*, (Stonegarden Studios, 2012) including both their works will be available for purchase. [www.stonegardenstudios.ca](http://www.stonegardenstudios.ca)

**Wednesday, 27 November, 7:30 p.m.**

### ART DECO ARCHITECTURE ACROSS CANADA

In this illustrated talk, architectural historian and author **Tim Morawetz** will introduce the Art Deco style of architecture, then discuss the dynamic and dramatic styling of several dozen Art Deco buildings located from coast to coast in Canada.

## Fall Walk

Sunday, 20 October  
2:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

## THE TOP OF NORTH TORONTO

Meet in front of Fairlawn Avenue United Church,  
28 Fairlawn Avenue (5 blocks north of Yonge/Lawrence subway  
station, west side of Yonge St.)

The walk will feature a worker's house from Alfred St. Germain's day, still standing on the laneway behind the Yonge Street stores. Further north, we will look at houses in the elegant Teddington Park area, including "The Castle" designed by architect John Lyle and once the residence of former Maple Leafs owner Steve Stavro.

The Society meets at the Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard (one block north of Eglinton, just west of Yonge) at 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month from September to November & January to May. Programmes are free and are open to the public. Our co-sponsor is the Northern District Branch of the Toronto Public Library.

### Heritage Toronto Awards and William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture

The annual Heritage Toronto Awards and William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture will be at Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory of Music, on Tuesday, 15 October, 2013. The host will be Mary Ito.

This year's William Kilbourn Lecturer will be Gail Dexter Lord, co-Founder and co-President of Lord Cultural Resources, a Toronto-based cultural planning firm which has advised governments, museums, and other organisations around the world on innovative approaches to culture and heritage.

Following the lecture, the Heritage Toronto Awards recognize individuals and community organisations, as well as industry professionals and associations, for exceptional contributions in the heritage field.

Tickets start at \$15: <http://bit.ly/1d58q1h>

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### New Historical Society

The Kensington Market Historical Society held its inaugural meeting in March. Information about the society can be found at <http://www.kmhs.ca/>

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### New Museum

The Fashion History Museum opened this summer in Cambridge, Ontario. This is the realisation of a dream for fanatical fashion-collectors Kenn Norman and Jonathan Walford, who before this had no permanent exhibit space for their extensive collection.

The museum opens with three exhibits: 'Paisley and Plaid: Recurring Patterns in Fashion', 'Fashion for the Future: Acquisitions from the new millennium', and 'It's in the Bag: An Anthology of purse styles and materials'.

The Fashion History Museum is open every day, and admission is *free!*

64 Grand Avenue South, Southworks, Cambridge,  
(Unit 161 on the mall's map)

519 620-0009

[www.fashionhistorymuseum.com](http://www.fashionhistorymuseum.com)

[info@fashionhistorymuseum.com](mailto:info@fashionhistorymuseum.com)

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### Rollo Myers to Receive Special Achievement Award

At the Heritage Toronto Awards on 15 October, 2013, Rollo Myers will receive the much-deserved Special Achievement Award. Rollo is an active heritage advocate, and a



dedicated community builder. He was a founder of Citizens for the Old Town, and Friends of Fort York. He walks the talk: Rollo has renovated four rundown houses in Cabbagetown and spearheaded the creation of Heritage Conservation Areas to protect the Victorian character of the neighbourhood.

Rollo also devoted many years to pinpointing the location of the First Parliament Buildings, and encouraging their archaeological investigation. Thanks in great measure to Rollo, the Ontario Heritage Trust is able to share this story at the First Parliament Interpretive Centre.

Rollo Myers was appointed to the Toronto Historical Board, the Heritage Canada Foundation, and is currently Manager of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. The heritage community owes Rollo a tremendous debt of gratitude. He is truly deserving of this award for his many achievements.

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“Waist Management.” *Fashion History Museum*

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## Anniversaries

### Elgin & Winter Garden Theatres at 100

Celebrations begin on Monday, 7 October, with a lavish Chandelier Gala featuring a “major gifts” Gatsby Dinner in the Winter Garden Theatre, and a Speakeasy Cocktail Supper in the cascading lobbies. The Gala evening concludes in the Elgin Theatre, celebrating a century of entertainment from vaudeville to musical theatre.

From Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 October, free guided tours will be offered. Visit the original and new lobbies, both theatres, and see samples from the world’s largest collection of vaudeville scenery. A backstage exhibit housing the Winter Garden’s original Simplex Silent Film Projector and a dressing room containing artifacts from the time period are on view.



The theatres were constructed in 1913 by American theatre impresario Marcus Loew. Loew’s Yonge Street Theatre (renamed the Elgin Theatre in 1978) and Winter Garden were the Canadian flagship for his chain of vaudeville theatres. Designed by Thomas Lamb, this was the only double-decker theatre built in Canada, and today is the last of its kind in the world. The theatres played host to such greats as George Burns and Gracie Allen, Sophie Tucker, Milton Berle and Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and also showed silent moving pictures. With the decline of vaudeville, the Winter Garden closed in 1928. It remained closed for more than half a century, becoming a time capsule of a bygone era. The Elgin continued as a movie house, gradually slipping into disrepair with the passing of each decade. In 1981, the Ontario Heritage Trust purchased the complex, and restored the theatres to their former glory.

(See *Heritage Calendar* for specific information about events.)



McDonald Stamping Works (built 1890), Islington Avenue, New Toronto

### New Toronto Celebrates 100 years!

New Toronto was the brainchild of five industrialists who formed the Mimico Real Estate & Security Company in 1889, and purchased land in south Etobicoke the following year. The property was surveyed for residential subdivisions and industrial development. The Toronto & Mimico Electric Railway was constructed, reaching the Etobicoke Creek by 1895. By 1913, New Toronto could be incorporated as a village. The first council met at the School Hall (present day LAMP building) on 12 January, 1913. The population had increased to 5,000 by 1920, when New Toronto was incorporated as a town.

Many industries left New Toronto in the 1980s, factories closed and many were demolished, leaving industrial land vacant. Now, such enterprises as the new Toronto Police College are bringing new life to New Toronto.

(See *Heritage Calendar* for details of celebrations.)

#### MORE ABOUT NEW TORONTO

The New Toronto Historical Society [www.newtorontohistorical.com/](http://www.newtorontohistorical.com/) has some wonderful digitised resources on its website:

- Commemorative booklets from the New Toronto celebrations of 1937, 1951, and 1963.
- Company newsletters of Goodyear Canada, Anaconda Brass, Campbell’s Soup and Continental Can.



New Toronto Pumper No. 3, 1955

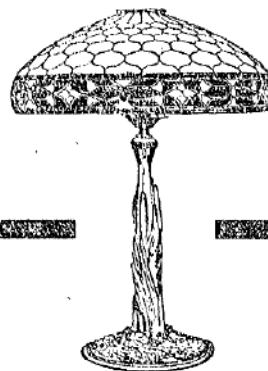
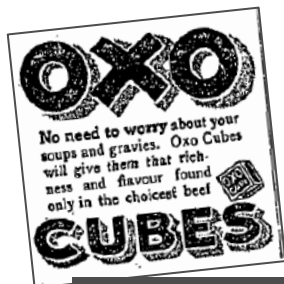
TPL

North Toronto's population had grown beyond the town's ability to provide adequate services, hence its annexation to Toronto in December, 1912. At a North Toronto town meeting reported in the *Toronto World* on 25 November, 1912, local politicians expressed their hopes (or demands?) for local improvements that Toronto could supply. First and foremost was better and cheaper street car service. For many years North Toronto had been served by the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, which had a monopoly on the single-track Yonge Street route. North Toronto riders travelling into Toronto had to pay two fares: one on the Metropolitan and a second when they changed to the Toronto Street Railway to complete their journey downtown. The only way to improve service, it was thought, was to open Duplex Avenue, parallel to Yonge, and run a separate civic car line on it. Other issues on the North Toronto "wish list" were the paving of Yonge Street, connection to the Toronto waterworks and twice-weekly garbage collection. According to one speaker, North Toronto's sewer system was superior to Toronto's and should be left alone.

**SCARLET FEVER IN SCHOOL.**

Sixty-two cases of scarlet fever have been reported from Erskine Avenue School, North Toronto. The reasons given for the spread are that there are no sewer connections with the school, and that quarantine regulations have not been rigidly applied in the matter of preventing affected children playing with those not affected.

*The Globe*, 28 Nov 1913



**Portable Gas Lamps**

Portable Lights afford probably the best opportunity for effective, decorative lighting. There is nothing money can purchase that will make such a vast difference to a room. It is astonishing what improvement can be effected by the installation of a light such as the one illustrated. The intensity of gas light calls for a full display of the colors and the design of the lamp. They shed an ideal light, and at the same time give that unobtainable impression of fitness and taste. Our display of these lights includes a number of Art Glass Effects that are strikingly beautiful, and sure to please your sense of the artistic. They run from \$1.50 up. Every fixture is efficient, and will give many years of service.

**The Consumers' Gas Company**  
12-14 Adelaide St. West Telephone Main 1933

**MILES OF SEWERS  
TO COST MILLIONS**

On 3 October, 1913, *The Globe* bemoaned the inadequacy of the sewer system in the newly annexed areas north of the city. In particular, the population of North Toronto had grown at a "phenomenal" rate, as well as personal sewer demands increasing from thirty gallons per person per day to ninety. It was also noted that "some of the sewers laid in North Toronto two years ago run up-hill,"

Ninety miles of sewers were planned for North Toronto, Moore Park and Cedarvale. The North Toronto section was estimated at \$2 to \$3 million, "one of the biggest public works ever undertaken by the city of Toronto."

"The waste matter is to be carried down the Don valley and emptied into Ashbridge's Bay."

# STORMY MEETING IN NORTH TORONTO

**Chairman Refused to Put Motion; Disorder Threatened**

**MAJORITY HAD THEIR WAY**

**Ratepayers Withdraw Approval of Making Duplex Avenue—Think Expenditure is Unjustified Till Yonge Widening is Settled.**

# Extension of Duplex Avenue Needed, Says Mr. Donnelly

*The Globe* of 10 November, 1913, covered a heated meeting of the North Toronto Ratepayers' Association. Members opposed the opening of Duplex Avenue, and demanded that Yonge Street be widened and the privately-owned Metropolitan Street Railway purchased by the city. The association's president, Mr. Donnelly, so strongly disagreed that he refused to put the motion, and left the chair. Mr. J.W. Brownlow was voted in as interim chair, and the motion passed.

In an interview printed in *The Globe* of 21 November, E.V. Donnelly explained his position. He felt that the Duplex project was being stalled by landowners who feared a rise in their taxes, but it was essential to the growth of the city to have a road paralleling Yonge Street.

"The fact is," he said, "That the street is now opened and paid for to within a short distance of Eglinton avenue, and that many building permits have been applied for in the right-of-way from there north, and the Council are determined to open the street while there is yet time to do it at a reasonable cost."

As city staff had recommended the plan, and City Council had already unanimously approved of it at least twice, Mr. Donnelly was very frustrated to see a few ratepayers "throwing rocks in the wheels of progress."

## JOKES FOR THE CONTROLLERS.

### North Toronto Wants Tickets at St. Clair Avenue Prices.

Mr. Robert McGarrie proposes that the city put the residents of North Toronto on a par with those on St. Clair avenue in the matter of cheap transportation. He would have the city buy Metropolitan Railway tickets at current rates and sell them to North Toronto passengers at the same price a St. Clair avenue civic line tickets.

The Board laughed.

*Toronto Star*, 16 Oct. 1913

OPENS MONDAY, DEC. 15th, 8 p.m.

**Loew's YONGE ST. THEATRE**  
Opp. Eaton's

**QUALITY VAUDEVILLE  
and Select Photo-Plays**

Continuous from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

SCALE OF PRICES:

9 a.m. to 12	12 to 5 p.m.	5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
ALL SEATS 10c	10c and 15c BOX SEATS 25c	10c, 15c, 25c BOX SEATS 60c

Box Seats reserved only

## 50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1963, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.

401 interchanges were to be assigned numbers – from 1 just east of Windsor to 128 for a yet-to-be-built interchange near the Quebec border.

Under a headline “North Toronto Apartments Go Sky High!” various new buildings in the Yonge-Eglinton area were mentioned – including the “Acadian”, “Belvedere” and the “100” on Roehampton, the “Gaylord” and “Manhattan Towers” on Broadway, the “Americana” on Erskine and the “Holly Towers” and “Dunfield Towers” south of Eglinton.



In the September 25 provincial election the Conservatives swept three local ridings, with Leonard Reilly retaining his seat in Eglinton. Poor Jean Newman, former member of the Board of Control and mayoral candidate, ran as a Liberal and lost to Reilly by over 6,000 votes, a much worse showing than in the previous election when she lost by only 60+ votes.

200 homes were wrecked for the widening of 401 to 12 lanes in spite of protests that the homes could have been moved and restored.

In a brief presented to The Hon. William Davis, Ontario Minister of Education, it was pointed out that because of a “lack of skill in reading, it has become necessary to introduce remedial reading at any time between Grades II and X” and that “business executives and well-trained secretaries realize that the products of today's educational system are unable to spell.”



**JIMMIE PROUSE BEGINS HIS EDUCATION**  
A local youngster, Jimmie Prouse, five, began his academic education Tuesday and had the doubts of most first-day pupils. Giving him some consoling words, however, was his big brother Wayne. In a way, Wayne too was off to school for the first time—to teach at Jessie Ketchum public school on Davenport Road. Young Jimmie was among 360,000 Metro students who went back to school this week though 20 new schools are not ready and 500 portable classrooms are now in use. But Jimmie Prouse found ample room at John Fisher public school on Erskine Avenue.

**Receive the *NTHS UPDATER* by email!**

Would you like us to remind you of upcoming meetings and heritage events with an electronic newsletter?

Email me at [alexg@alumni.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:alexg@alumni.uwaterloo.ca) and I will add you to the distribution list. *We will not give out your email address.*

**Alex. Grenzebach**

Braemar Motors on Yonge north of Eglinton advertised 1964 Ford Anglias starting at \$1691 including a padded dash and windshield washers.

A group of “wealthy Bayview area ratepayers” opposed “any form of multiple-dwelling construction near their estates” just north of the Bayview bridge.

Two glass windows from the Foundation Building at Yonge and Eglinton “plummeted from the 10th floor and shattered on the Yonge Street sidewalk”. So falling glass is not a new problem!

**Fall Opening**  
 SPECIAL EDITION

Over 1,000  
 New Fall Hats

The accent is on casual elegance.

Radiant jewel-tone colors, luxurious fur felts highlight the new soft, wide, handsome silhouettes at Madeleine's.

Our "occasion" chapeaux are fashioned in iridescent coque, chic marabeu feathers plus opulent materials.

Choose your "first" Fall hat from a charming collection of styles — the cavalier, rajah turban, tailored fedora, cloche, pixie, bubble toque.

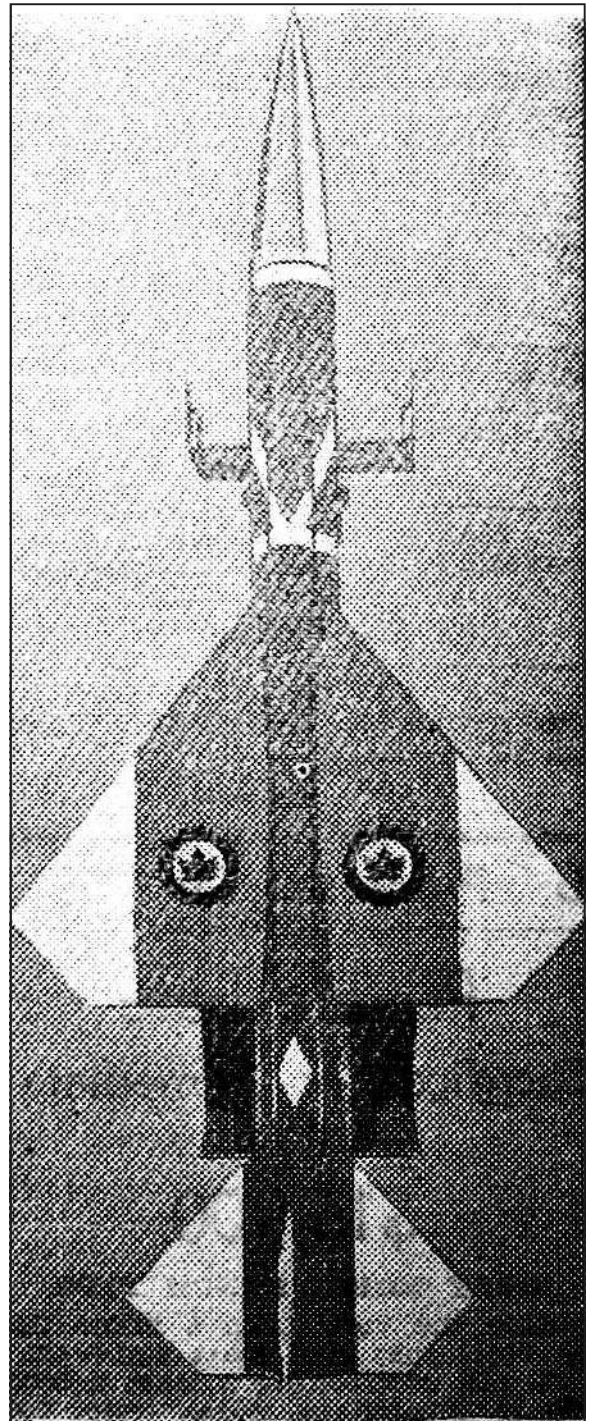
**Madeleine**  
 Millinery & Accessories

3319 YONGE STREET  
 (at Fairlawn)

2 bus stops below city limits  
 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri. to 8 p.m.

**Look Inside For These Special Features ...**

- Election News
- Investment Advice
- Educational Facilities
- 1964 Auto News
- Do-It-Yourself Supplies
- Ladies' Fall Fashions
- Men's Fall Fashions
- Fall Hair Styling
- Fall Garden Needs
- Winterizing Supplies
- Fuel Supplies
- Household Services
- Dance & Music School Registration
- Church News



A SECOND LOOK. Canadian Defense Minister Paul Hellyer has taken a second look at the Bomarc ground-to-air interceptor missile, shown here, and decided it is a better weapon than he previously thought. He told Parliament that with the improvements, including addition of nuclear tips, the Bomarc would be an effective weapon against attacking bombers.

# Heritage Calendar

## Celebrating...

**Elgin & Winter Garden 100** (See *Heritage News* p.3.)  
189 Yonge Street  
<http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/EWG100>



**Chandelier Gala**  
7 October, 2013, 6 p.m. dinner and cocktail party; 8 pm performance  
Tickets \$95 to \$250 and larger donations.  
Lena Polyvyannaya 416-314-2871  
[lena.polyvyannaya@heritagetrust.on.ca](mailto:lena.polyvyannaya@heritagetrust.on.ca)

**Free Theatre Tours**  
10-12 October, 1½ hours  
Dates and times:  
Thursday, 10 October, 2013 at 5 pm  
Friday, 11 October, 2013 at 5 pm  
Saturday, 12 October, 2013 at 11 am  
No reservations required.

**New Toronto at 100 Years**  
New Toronto Historical Society (See *Heritage News* p.3.)

**Celebratory Tea**  
St. Margaret's Church, 156 Sixth Street, Toronto  
Saturday, 5 October, 1:00-5:00 pm  
Tickets \$15  
New Toronto Historical Society:  
[www.newtorontohistorical.com/](http://www.newtorontohistorical.com/)  
1903 - 1515 Lakeshore Rd. E. Mississauga ON, L5E 3E3

**Historic Walk of New Toronto** with Michael Harrison  
5 October, 1:00-3:00 pm  
Start and finish at St. Margaret's Church, 156 6<sup>th</sup> Street

**Heritage Toronto Awards and William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture** (See *Heritage News* p.2.)  
Koerner Hall, The Royal Conservatory of Music, on  
Tuesday, 15 October, 2013.  
Tickets start at \$15: <http://bit.ly/1d58q1h>

## Walking...



**Lost River Walks**  
<http://www.lostrivers.ca/WalkSchd.htm>

**Garrison Creek Park Crawl**  
in affiliation with David Suzuki Foundation's Homegrown National Park Rangers:  
<http://tinyurl.com/m8c8ajp>  
Sunday, 29 September, 2013 (Rain or shine)  
Culinary crawl, alleyway and canoe plantings and more.  
11:00am — Christie Pits Park kick-off  
1:00pm — Crawl to Bickford Park  
2:00pm — Parade to Fred Hamilton Park  
3:00pm — Final parade to Trinity Bellwoods Park  
Each parks will host food booths, entertainment and eco-activities. Participants will be led from one park to the next by parade marshals and musical acts, including Lemon Bucket Orchestra and Choir!Choir!Choir!  
Each food ticket will allow you to sample a delicious, homegrown specialty from local restaurants and chefs like Jamie Kennedy, Pizza Libretto, Crush Wine Bar. Food tickets are limited: 5 for \$20 or \$5 each at the event. Earlybird food tickets: 6 for \$20

*All proceeds support the David Suzuki Foundation's Homegrown National Park Project. The event is rain or shine.*

**Follow the Fish! Salmon Run on Highland Creek.**  
Sunday 29 September, 2013, 1 pm

**Transformation of Riverdale Park - Railways and City-building.**  
Saturday, 5 October, 2013, 2 pm

**Walk the Green Line.** [greenlinetoronto.ca](http://greenlinetoronto.ca)  
Sunday, 21 October, 2013, 2 pm

**Great Lakes Commons.** [greatlakescommonsmap.org](http://greatlakescommonsmap.org)  
Sunday, 27 October, 2013, 2 pm

We welcome contributions from members: heritage events and achievements, brief articles and photographs of local history interest.



**Submissions for the next Newsletter by 15 Dec to [dawsonbh@rogers.com](mailto:dawsonbh@rogers.com) or call 416-481-6622.**

## North Toronto Historical Society

An affiliate of the Ontario Historical Society, and a non-profit charitable organization.

% 129 Blythwood Road, Toronto, Ontario M4N 1A5

[www.northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.northtorontohistoricalsociety.org)

*Annual Memberships:* Seniors & Students \$5, Adults \$7, Families \$10

### 2013 Executive (\*Directors)

*President & Programmes:* \*Lynda Moon

*Membership Co-ordinator:* \*Alex Grenzebach, 416-483-8475

*Newsletter Editor:* \*Hilary Dawson

*Treasurer:* Bill Dawson

*Members-at-large:* \*Doug Campbell, Ken Pon

*Past President:* John Hutchinson

*Publicity:*

*Secretary:*

*Research:* Hilary Dawson

*Walks:* \*Bill Ramsay