



NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY *NEWSLETTER*

North Toronto Town Hall

VOL. 38 NO. 2

SUMMER 2014



Paul Dodington starting his Model T see p. 3

Fall Programme

Mark your calendars...

Wednesday, 24 September, 7:30 p.m.
**RECOLLECTIONS OF THE HURON-SUSSEX
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Nancy Williams and Marie Scott-Baron invited their neighbours to write about life in Huron-Sussex, next to the University of Toronto, which survived development threats in the 1960s. Designer **Anne Vellone** took 150 photos of the area's glorious architectural heritage for *Recollections of a Neighbourhood: Huron-Sussex from UTS to Stop Spadina*. She and publisher **John Parry** will talk about how the volume emerged and read excerpts from its recollections of the "community that almost wasn't."

Wednesday, 29 October, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 26 November, 7:30 p.m.
To be announced...



In this issue -

Fall Programme	1
Heritage News	2
100 Years Young on Albertus 3	
<i>Spring Lecture Series:</i>	
Who Really was Etienne Brûlé?	4
50 Years Ago	6
Heritage Calendar	8



Architect Forsey Page (standing right) and his family at their home, 12 Weybourne Crescent. This is one of the first houses that he built in Lawrence Park. The Page family lived here from 1911 to 1927.

Fall Walk

**LAWRENCE PARK: THE HERITAGE OF TORONTO'S
GARDEN SUBURB**

Sunday, 28 September, 2:00 p.m.

Meet at the McDougall Plaque, southeast corner of Yonge and Lawrence near St. Edmunds Drive.

Our fall walk will take us through the delightful "garden suburb" of Lawrence Park, still set apart from Yonge Street by a ravine and park. We will highlight century homes, and the architects who designed them: like Forsey Page, who designed at least six houses in Lawrence Park, two of them for his own family.

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.

New Life on Market Street

A project initiated by heritage preservation developer Paul Oberman (Woodcliffe Landmark Properties) opened in June. Mr. Oberman purchased rundown buildings on the west side of Market Street, opposite St. Lawrence Market, to save them from demolition. After his untimely death in a plane crash in 2011, his wife, Eve Lewis, completed the project. The refurbished 1850s buildings are now restaurants.



Paul Oberman was not only a believer in saving and revitalizing heritage properties: he invested his money and talents in making it so. Among the many restorations to his credit are the Gooderham (Flatiron) Building at 49 Wellington Street East, and the Summerhill LCBO (originally North Toronto CPR Station). In his honour, Market Street now sports a new sign: Paul Oberman Way.

<http://tastesofmarketstreet.com/>



Neglected buildings on Market Street, 2011



Refurbished and re-opened, 2014

Spacing to Open Retail Space

In the fall, you will be able to purchase *Spacing's* urban paraphernalia, including the Town of North Toronto button (below left), from their new outlet at 401 Richmond Street West.

<http://spacingstore.ca/collections/>



Some of *Spacing's* famous \$2 buttons

401 Richmond W. was built about 1900 for the Macdonald Manufacturing Co., makers of “the finest lithography on tinware in Canada.” In 1944 the company was purchased by Continental Can, who sold the property in 1967. The usual story of neglect could have ended the usual way for the building, had it not been for the foresight of the Zeidler family who bought it in 1994. Under the direction of Margaret Zeidler, it has become a vibrant centre for arts organisations, musicians, designers and artists.

<http://www.401richmond.net/>



Gift for the troops, 1914

The children of Brantford, Ontario, presented chocolate boxes like this one to soldiers and sailors in 1914. Tin produced by the Macdonald Manufacturing Co. for Cowan Chocolate: both companies were located in Toronto.

100 Years Young on Albertus

by Alex Grenzebach

On June 14, as part of an Albertus Avenue street fair, NTHS member Paul Dodington celebrated the 100th anniversary of his family home at 185 Albertus Avenue as well as the 100th anniversary of his 1914 brass-radiator model T Ford. Paul set up a photographic display on the front lawn, gave house tours and offered rides in the Ford.



185 Albertus Avenue

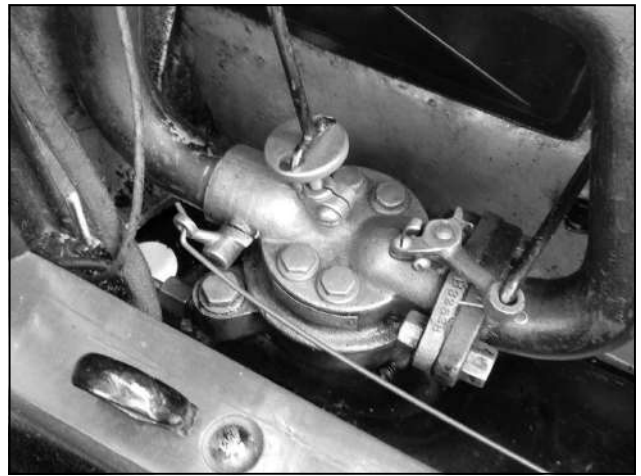
Left—Lizzie Dodington on the porch ca. 1917.

Right—Paul Dodington and neighbours, June 2014.

Paul's grandfather Edward Dodington, a retired cabinet maker from Rosedale, moved to the new \$2,400 house in March 1914, with his wife Lizzie. The house is now occupied by Paul's daughter Amy, the fourth generation of Dodingtons to live there. Paul is proud that the house still has original features like its bathtub with "feet." Also, the original 1914 Heintzman piano is still in use in the



The Dodington brothers Paul (18), Ross (15) preparing to dismantle the car - Oct. 1957



Carburetor of Paul's Ford Touring Car (Model T)

living room. A huge Norway spruce on the front lawn commemorates the death of Edward in the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918.

In 1957, 18-year-old Paul Dodington purchased a derelict 43-year-old model T Ford for \$250. He then spent the next six years restoring it to mint condition. The winner of the "best car in show" award at the C.N.E. in 1966, it has been featured on TV shows and in movies. People were amazed at the simplicity of the car – no electric starter, no fuel pump, no water pump. The headlights are acetylene and there is an acetylene generator on a running board. A short ride along Albertus was the highlight of my day – and my first ride in a model T.

Paul has lived in Muskoka for a number of years where he is the acknowledged expert on the Dippy (Disappearing Propeller) boat which was built in Port Carling.



Paul Dodington wins best car in show at C.N.E. August 1966 (285 competitors)

Spring Lecture Series

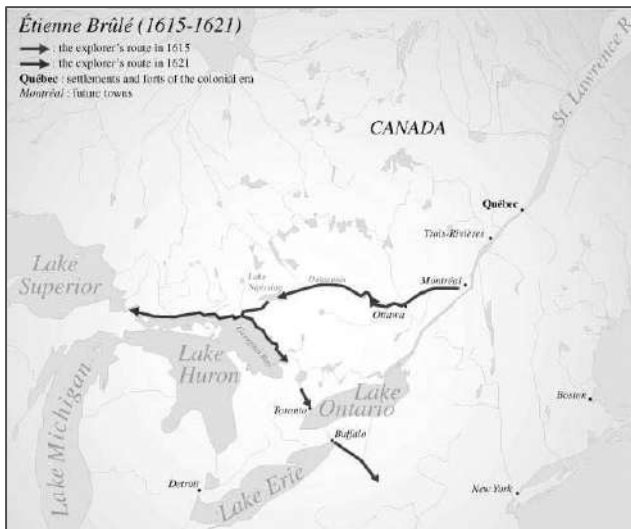
APRIL: Christian Bode

Who Really was Étienne Brûlé ?

Étienne Brûlé (c1592-1633) was the first European explorer to travel and live in what is today Ontario. From a few comments written by contemporaries, he has become a man of myth but not substance. Christian Bode, Vice-president of La Société d'histoire de Toronto, brought together new research to give a more accurate picture of this adventurous young man: a self-made man who took the first step to putting Ontario's economy on the world stage.

Few contemporary sources refer to Étienne Brûlé, and he left no records himself. Church records in Champigny-sur-Marne (near Paris) document his parents' marriage, and the baptism of his siblings, but not of Étienne himself. The church records reveal that he became a godfather, and was married in the same church. His parents were fairly wealthy farmers, growing grapes and producing wine for the Paris market.

In 1608, Brûlé enlisted with Samuel de Champlain for a voyage to New France. His age was somewhere between 16 and 22. At this time, the location that would become Quebec City was a summer trading post used by Basques, Scots, English, French and First Nations. Champlain



Through the wilderness on foot and by canoe. See the Virtual Museum of New France exhibit:

The Explorers: Étienne Brûlé

<http://www.historymuseum.ca/virtual-museum-of-new-france/the-explorers/etienne-brule-1615-1621/>



Étienne Brûlé plaque in front of Old Mill Inn,
45 Old Mill Road.

Alan Brown

built the first permanent settlement there, the Habitation. Young Brûlé was one of the few men who survived that first brutal winter.

Furs were big business, and Champlain realised that he had to make alliances with First Nations groups in order to secure a reliable supply at a reasonable price. Brûlé showed courage when, alongside the Huron (or Wendat), the French overcame the Iroquois. Champlain sent Brûlé to cement an alliance with the Algonquians (allies of the Huron). This involved a long journey along the Ottawa River, and down to Midland for the winter. The following year, Brûlé, clad in Wendat dress, returned to Champlain with two hundred warriors.

In 1612, Champlain produced a map of (now) Ontario. As he did not travel there himself until 1615, the information must have been gathered from First Nations people, and Brûlé. When Champlain arrived in the Kingston area to secure alliances, he sent Brûlé south to the Carolinas to extend his trading network to native groups there.

Champlain's actions suggest that he trusted this young man, who was quick to learn native ways

and languages, and was successful in his missions. Brûlé was responsible for most of the fur trade to France, a very lucrative enterprise. This does not lend any credence to the myth that Brûlé was undisciplined and “not very bright.”

The change in Brûlé’s reputation seems to have coincided with the arrival of missionaries from France. They were appalled by his adoption of Native ways and morality, and wanted him to be sent back to France. Brûlé did in fact return to France early in the 1620s, accompanied by a young Huron warrior. When they returned to New France in 1628, they were captured by the English Kirke brothers, who had taken Quebec. Brûlé continued to trade with the First Nations, but now on behalf of the English. When he returned to Midland, Brûlé was killed by the Huron.

In later years, Champlain criticised Brûlé’s lack of religious observance (such as eating meat on Fridays and Saturdays), and his treasonable action in working for the English. Jean de Brébeuf, Jesuit founder of the Huron Mission, said that Brûlé died well, but lived badly. He, too, talked of Brûlé’s fraternising with the English, and eating meat on Fridays. Both condemned him for drinking and womanizing, but in our speaker’s opinion, that makes him just a “normal guy.”

Étienne Brûlé was the archetype of the voyageur, adopting the lifestyle of the First Nations people, particularly the Hurons. He was an invaluable interpreter, a daring explorer, and an astute trader. Christian Bode’s lively presentation ably portrayed this remarkable and colourful personality.

Expedition 2015: the 400th Anniversary

In September 2015, Etienne Brûlé and twelve companions will recreate their 1615 journey from Orillia to Humber Bay. They will travel 35 kilometres by canoe, on Lake Simcoe from Orillia to the mouth of the Holland river; then 75 kilometres on foot, over two days. The final stretch will be along *Le sentier partagé / The Shared Path* to the mouth of the Humber.

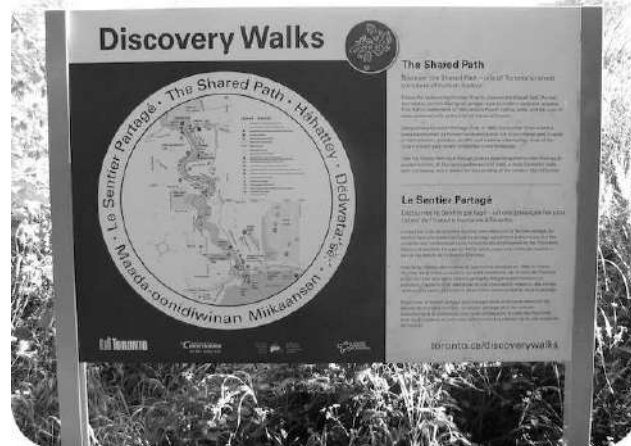
<http://www.sht.ca/english.html>

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS to Alan Brown for ten years of making plaques available online.
torontoplaques.com ontarioplaques.com



LA SOCIÉTÉ D’HISTOIRE DE TORONTO
<http://www.sht.ca/english.html>

SHT tells the French history of Toronto, and Toronto’s history in French. Each year the Société presents 8 lectures, and 10 French tours. Special projects include *The Shared Path* and the 2015 Expedition. (See elsewhere on this page.)



Alan Brown: torontoplaques.com

Discover The Shared Path

The Shared Path is a Discovery Walk along the banks of the Humber River, between Humber Bay and Dundas Street West. Initiated by la Société d’histoire de Toronto, it is the result of a partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Toronto, in collaboration with First Nations groups and local historians.

Interpretative story panels are bilingual (English/French), with some key words in Seneca, Ojibway and Huron-Wendat illustrating in a small way the diversity among First Nations languages. They are located near sites of occupation or where the stories actually happened. There are approximately 15 km of trails.

Alan Brown’s site, Toronto’s Historical Plaques, has a map of the route, pictures of the plaques, and photographs of the locations:

http://torontoplaques.com/Pages/Discovery_Walks.html

MAY: **Marta O’Brien**

Yorkville: Counter-Culture to Haute Couture

Will appear in the next Newsletter...

50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1964, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.



The Bedford Park Homeowners' Association made "it abundantly clear that the purpose of this association is to oppose the development of apartment buildings in this area." The Lawrence Park Ratepayers' Association also "stressed its own vigorous opposition to a change in the zoning."

Metropolitan Toronto Parks Commissioner Thompson invited "all those with an interest in nature lore" to participate in a series of nature walks to be held in several Metro Toronto Parks, including the Wilket Creek-Serena Gundy complex.

SPECIAL TREAT
— ON —
MOTHER'S DAY
DELICIOUS
CHINESE FOOD
Served in our newly decorated
Dining Room
— Also —
FREE DELIVERY
HOT TO YOUR DOOR
BLUEBIRD
Restaurant
HU. 7-1068
2579 YONGE STREET

MR. NORMAN DRIELS
is pleased to announce
the recently renovated
LE GOURMET RESTAURANT and TAVERN
3479 Yonge Street (at the loop)
is open for your dining pleasure
from 12 noon till 1 a.m.
featuring diversified and specialized
French and American cuisine
AFTERNOON TEAS
LIGHT SNACKS AFTER 10 P.M.
FULLY LICENSED
TE HU. 9-8845 FOR RESERVATIONS

Prepare For This Great Event!
May 12, 13, 14, 15
Mail Orders (Below) Accepted

COLUMBIA FESTIVALS presents

VIEDAS
FAMOUS
WHITE
STALLIONS

The
Lipizzaner
Horses
of the
SPANISH
RIDING
SCHOOL

*In Philadelphia and New York, there has been a rush for tickets, indicating sell-outs for the famed Spanish-bred horses. The occasion is the same for Toronto. Act now for best seats!

\$5.00 seats for Friday (15th) all sold out.

8:30
Each Night

Total Tickets
@ 5.00
@ 4.00
@ 3.00

Total Cash Enclosed
DATE DESIRED:
1st Choice
2nd Choice

SEND TICKETS TO:
Name (please print)
Address
City

Office Use Only

No. of Tickets	Sec. or Box	Row	Seat Nos.	Date Mailed

Make all cheques or money orders payable to Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, and enclose self-addressed envelope.

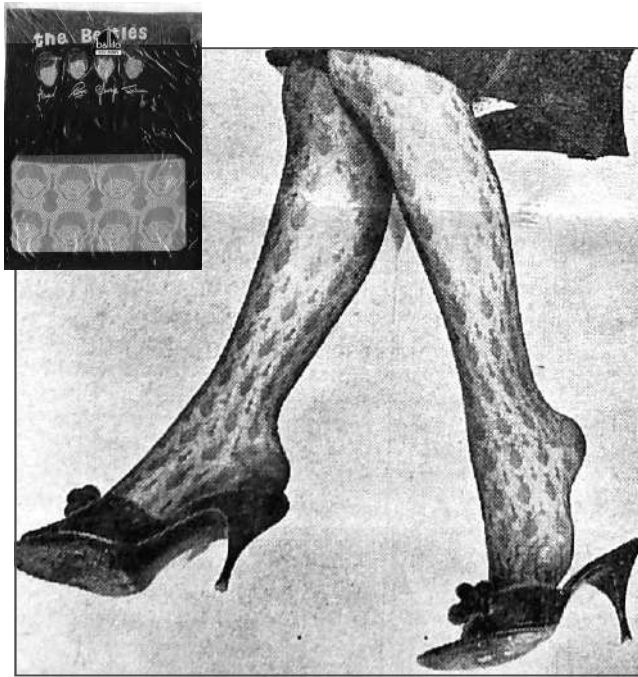
MAPLE LEAF GARDENS

Eglinton Public School at Eglinton and Mt. Pleasant celebrated its 50th anniversary. The original four room school was "finished in quarter oak with doors inlaid with holly and ebony." In 1914, "so great was the confusion between an 'Eglinton' school on Erskine Avenue and a 'John Fisher' school on Eglinton Avenue that it was decided to exchange names." The name plate, the portrait of Mr. John Fisher (a former mayor of the Town of North Toronto) and the "minutes and records of the Board of Education were transferred to the school building on Erskine."



"The books have changed, but the lessons still have to be done," Mrs. Herbert Clark tells her son and daughter, Stan Clarke and Mrs. Ian Hay, as they hold the textbooks now used in Eglinton Public School. Mrs. Clark attended the school when it first opened; her son and daughter were also pupils there.

Stan Clarke was a music teacher at North Toronto CI when Alex was there.



Beatles, Beatles Everywhere! It seems no matter where you look in Canada today you can't escape seeing evidence of the Beatlemania which has gripped the nation. There are Beatles on records, Beatles on sweaters, Beatles on wallpaper – and now, they're even selling beatle-print nylon stockings.

Senator David Croll, Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, spoke to a group at Baycrest Hospital on "The Problem of Aging." There were plans to build an apartment block for the aging on the premises.



Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board Commissioner Eli Comay told the Board that rush-hour traffic on Avenue Road, Yonge St. and Mt. Pleasant Road is "approaching the point of serious congestion and redevelopment in North Toronto may force costly improvements in the road system."

The City Planning Board was "flooded with protests against plans for a 88-town-house and 160-apartment development on Sheldrake Boulevard."

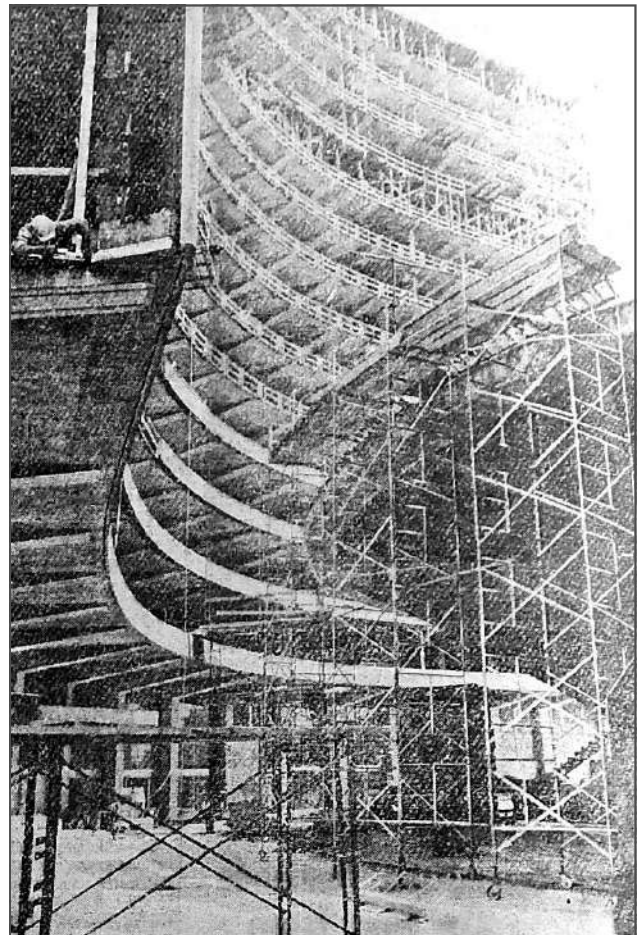
York University held an open house at "its virtually completed campus at Bayview and Lawrence."

Do you remember *Sid White's Garage* and *Madeleine's Hats*? Did you grow up in North Toronto? Contribute your recollections to *North Toronto Memories*, an occasional series written by you, our members.

How did you spend your summers? Did you have a summer job? When did you get your first bike? Your first car?

Please email your memories to dawsonbh@rogers.com, or mail to 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto M5M 2B2.

Six survivors of "Canada's worst shipping disaster gathered for a quiet ceremony" in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery to mark the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland*.



Most of the exterior work on the new City Hall was expected to be completed by the end of the year. Concrete had reached the 17th floor of the 20-storey west tower.

Heritage Calendar

Doors Open Ontario

<http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/>

This year's theme: **Remembering the First World War: Ontario in Transition**

Ontario communities will showcase the people, places and events that helped shape Ontario before, during and after the Great War.

See website for locations and dates.

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 and I will add you to the distribution list. *We will not give out your email address.*

Alex. Grenzebach

Walks

Heritage Toronto

<http://heritagetoronto.org/tours/>
416-338-1338

Guided walks, bike and bus tours continue to Oct. 2014. Brochure available.

ROMwalks

Brochure: http://www.rom.on.ca/sites/default/files/imce/romwalks_2014_rev.pdf
416-586-8097

Citywalks with architectural historian Marta O'Brien

<http://www.citywalks.ca/index.html>
416 699-9838

Lost Rivers

<http://www.lostrivers.ca/WalkSchd.htm>

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



Submissions for the next *Newsletter* by 20 July to dawsonbh@rogers.com or call 416-481-6622.

Exhibits

Royal Ontario Museum

<http://www.rom.on.ca/en/exhibitions-galleries/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions>

Charles Trick Currelly

Opens 16 August, 2014

Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada, First Peoples, Level 1

In his youth, Charles Trick Currelly (ROM's first Director of Archaeology), was a clergyman, travelling to Central Manitoba as part of the Methodist ministry. This biographical exhibition showcases the moccasins, leggings, buckskin jackets, snowshoes, guncase, and capote he wore during this period of his life.

Passenger Pigeons

Opens 30 August, 2014

Gallery of Birds, Level 2

A thought-provoking exploration of the extinction of a species at the time of the ROM's inception. The Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), one of the most abundant species in the world in the 19th century, yet became extinct in only 100 years. The Passenger Pigeon story creates discussion around conservation and the future of our planet, as other species teeter on the brink of extinction.



The Japan Foundation

<http://jftor.org/event/seiji-ozawa-photography-exhibition/>

131 Bloor Street West, 2nd floor of The Colonnade, Toronto, ON M5S 1R1 Canada

Phone: 416-966-1600

Seiji Ozawa in Toronto: A Photography Exhibition of a Young Maestro

To 31 July, 2014

A portrait of the TSO's music director from 1965 to 1969.

Queens Quay Terminal, 207 Queens Quay West

www.waterfrontbia.com

Toronto on the Water

To 1 September, 2014

Images of the Trillium; the start of the Marathon swim competition at the CNE; the construction of the Gardiner Expressway and more.

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

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

2014 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, *Brian Dunfield, Ken Pon

Past President: John Hutchinson

Publicity:

Secretary:

Research: Hilary Dawson

Walks: