



NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

North Toronto Town Hall

VOL. 40 NO. 3

FALL 2016



First Labour Day in Toronto, Yonge St north of Shuter, 1894 CTA

In this issue -

Fall Programme	1
Fall Walk	1
Heritage News	2
Empress of Ireland	3
North Toronto Memories:	
<i>The Chimes</i>	4
50 Years Ago	6
Heritage Calendar	7



Salvation Army buries victims of Empress of Ireland sinking, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 1914 CTA

Fall Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



Wednesday, 28 September, 7:30 p.m.

NOTE PROGRAMME CHANGE -

ARCHITECT FRANK DARLING & PARTNERS: GRAND DESIGNS

Darling's best known buildings include the Bank of Montreal (now the Hockey Hall of Fame), the original wing of the Royal Ontario Museum, and the North Toronto CPR station (now the Summerhill Liquor Store). Join architectural historian **Marta O'Brien** to learn about the work of this prolific Toronto architect and his partners.

Wednesday, 26 October, 7:30 p.m.

SONGS OF YESTERYEAR: LIVE PERFORMANCE AND GRAMOPHONE RECORDINGS OF PARLOUR SONGS FROM THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES.

North Toronto lyric soprano **Amy Dodington** performs these simple treasures with pianist **Doreen Uren Simmons**. This evening Amy and Doreen will be joined by Amy's father, **Paul Dodington** (local historian and record collector) with one of his gramophones, to present songs and singers, some with ties to North Toronto.

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

EXPLORING THE INDIGENOUS HISTORY OF TORONTO

Toronto stands on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat Nations, and the Metis Nation of Ontario. Join **Brian MacLean** of *First Story Toronto* as he presents the history of the indigenous presence in the Toronto area, including a Huron-Wendat site in the Eglinton area, and learn about *First Story's* interactive app.

Fall Walk

MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY

Saturday, 1 October, 2:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Meeting place: Cemetery entrance (Yonge St. east side north of St. Clair)

We will explore the western part of the cemetery with emphasis on the early history of North Toronto.

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.

Hockey History Threatened?

In October, a recommendation for the designation of Conn Smythe's former home will go before Council.

The Arts and Crafts style house at 68 Baby Point Rd. was built in 1927 for Conn Smythe, founder and co-owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs. . lived here until his death in 1980. It sold this summer for \$2.7million.

Like Lawrence Park, Baby Point, was an early planned suburb. It was part of the Humber Valley Surveys, initiated by the developer Robert Home Smith. The similarity to Lawrence Park extends to the current epidemic of demolition of historically and architecturally important houses in Baby Point.

The process is underway to have Baby Point declared a Heritage Conservation District.



Publication Launched in North Toronto

On 12 May, 2016, NTHS member Jane Somerville graciously hosted the launch of *The York Pioneer* at her home at 24 Dinnick Crescent in Lawrence Park. This was Volume 111 of the annual publication of The York Pioneer & Historical Society and it contains an article on Lawrence Park by Alex. Grenzebach, NTHS director and a member of the Lawrence Park Heritage Committee.



New Life for the Great Hall

On 21st September, Heritage Toronto unveiled two plaques at the iconic building on the northwest corner of Queen Street West and Dovercourt Road.

The Great Hall was built in 1889 and used by the YMCA. In 1912, it became the headquarters of the Royal Templars of Temperance. Next it housed the Polish National Union, and most recently was a performing arts space.

One plaque recognises this historically significant building. Another celebrates a patron of that early YMCA: indigenous athlete Tom Longboat, who won the Boston Marathon in 1907.

The building's future is assured, thanks to the commitment of developer Steve Metliski, owner of Triangle Development. A new Canadian from Belarus, he was appalled when he discovered how many of Toronto's great buildings had been sacrificed to development. He is overseeing the careful restoration of the Great Hall.

Countdown to Canada 150 Begins!

In August, at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Heritage Minister Melanie Joly marked the beginning of the official countdown to Canada's sesquicentennial.

FOLLOW THE COUNTDOWN:
<http://canada.pch.gc.ca/>



CANADA 150



Left: some of the flag designs submitted for 1967.

MORE AT:

<http://tinyurl.com/gwj496l>

Every Man Remembered
The Royal Regiment of Canada
Dieppe: Blue Beach

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



This is a not-for-profit research project to honour the soldiers of The Royal Regiment of Canada, who participated in the Dieppe Raid on August 19, 1942.

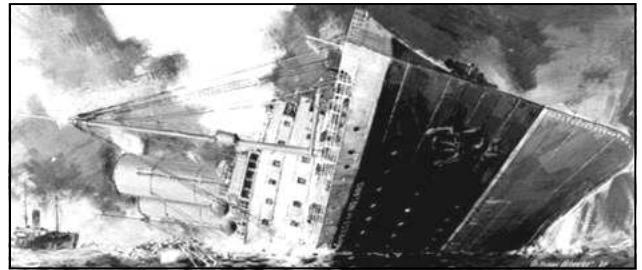
Please help us find families of these soldiers so that we can locate photos and information for a memorial book to be completed for the 75th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid in 2017. Also hoping to identify soldiers in the photos on the website.

Website: Dieppebluebeach.ca



Unidentified members of The Royal Regiment of Canada, Dieppe, 1942

The Empress of Ireland

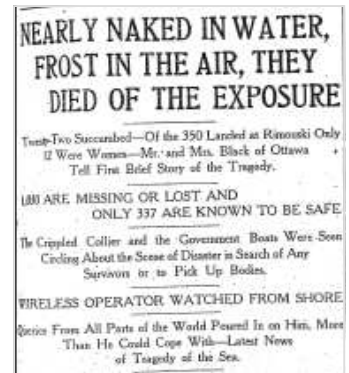


On 29 May, 1914, the *SS Empress of Ireland* was sailing down the St. Lawrence, bound for England. In the fog, it was hit by a Norwegian ship carrying coal, and sank. In the icy waters of the river, 1,012 people died.

Among those lost were 167 members of the Canadian Salvation Army, bound for a conference in London. Only nine members of the Canadian Staff Band survived.



Toronto Star, 29 May, 1914



The Empress of Ireland memorial will be one of the stops on the NTHS Fall Walk on Saturday, 1 October.

See front page for details

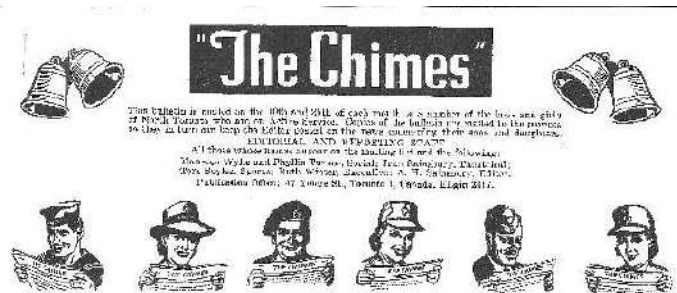
North Toronto Memories. World War 2: on the Home Front and Overseas

When WREN Miriam Loheed was posted to HMCS Stadacona in Halifax during World War 2, a regular treat was receiving *The Chimes*, a bi-monthly newsletter giving news of North Toronto doings, and updates on local servicemen and women posted overseas.

The idea of *The Chimes* came from Arthur H. and Jean Sainsbury as they sent news to their sons Van (RCAF) and George (Navy), and shared the lads' letters home with their friends and neighbours. (The Sainsburys lived at 106 Lytton Blvd.) The newsletter was "Published on the 10th and 25th of each month" and sent to "the boys and girls of North Toronto who are on Active Service." It evolved into news from home and overseas, and social gossip, lovingly typed by the Sainsbury family. It featured "departments" by Maureen Wylie (Social), Phyllis Turner (Social), Jean Sainsbury (Theatrical), Tom Boyles (Sports), Ruth Winter (Executive), A.H. Sainsbury "Everything else." By 1944, *The Chimes* had a printed masthead.

Miriam Loheed was from Forest Hill, but her good friend John Nixon (RCAF) was a North Toronto boy (8 Ansley Ave.), and had her added to the mailing list. Later, Miriam and John were married.

Thanks to Miriam Nixon's generosity, excerpts from *The Chimes* will appear from time to time in the NTHS Newsletter.



Issue No. 4, July 10, 1943.

Item No. 1 in this issue consists of seven short but welcome words: "All well and safe, love, keep smiling - Van." That cable received on June 26th indicated P/O

Van Sainsbury and his pals had made the crossing to the old country safely. May 28th was the date of the last letter we received from Van from Halifax and very nearly a month elapsed before the cable was received telling of his safe arrival. I mention this in order that parents will realize that in many cases it may be 3-4 or 5 weeks from the time their sons leave Halifax until they receive a cable telling of their arrival overseas.

Issue No. 5, July 25, 1943.

One of the most interesting letters received this week was from Ron Carter [2 Manor Rd. E] -- it seems to me we have known Ron since he was knee high to a grasshopper and pleased indeed were we to have him to Sunday dinner just a few days before he went overseas some two years ago. Ron trained at the RCAF in Western Canada, went overseas in March, 1941, and then to Egypt and Lybia [sic] during which period he spent some time aboard an aircraft carrier, then returned to England as an instructor and then posted to a Lancaster squadron. Ron is looking forward with keen interest to the arrival of the various boys from North Toronto and I think every effort should be made by them to try and arrange an evening together.

Issue No. 9, September 25, 1943.

[Letter from Tom Oliphant of 78 Rosehill Ave.] "Was much surprised and pleased when I arrived here in England. I was prepared for a country of relics but instead I found England has gone quite modern and fitted it in quite well with the majesty of the remains of the past. I am

The Chimes continues on page 5

The Chimes continued from page 4

living in a barracks in a town that was a summer resort in peace time and is still to a small degree. [Censorship prevented identifying locations in correspondence.] There are some modernistic houses in this town that would make the ones we have in Toronto look sick."

"Department des Femmes"

All the jive fiends will be interested to know that the one and only Duke Ellington is coming to Mutual Arena next Monday, September 27th.

[At the Royal York] Saw June McKeackren and Brad Heintzman, a very steady couple lately - don't be surprised if you hear of an engagement any day. Also dancing were the newly married couple, Kay Gooderham and Norm Donaldson. Dick Howard and Dodie Livingston were stepping out and Bill Watson was in town for the weekend. Allison Foster was dancing with Rod Turner. Sue Oliver, Phyllis Cork and Frances Weeks were some of the other girls, most of the boys were strangers to me.

At the Uptown "Phantom of the Opera" is holding sway for the fourth week, while at the Eglinton "Meet Mr. London" has had a three week premiere showing.

Roy Eldridge "the wizard of the trumpet" and his orchestra are featured at the Kingsway for one week. You hep-cats will probably recognize him as formerly with Gene Krupa's orchestra (so billed).

North Toronto Memories.

Share your own stories of growing up in North Toronto. Email your memories to dawsonbh@rogers.com, or mail to 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto M5M 2B2.

Arthur Van Rensselaer Sainsbury was one of the sons for whom Arthur and Jean Sainsbury started their North Toronto newsletter, *The Chimes*. Van was a graduate of Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto. He joined the RCAF in 1942.

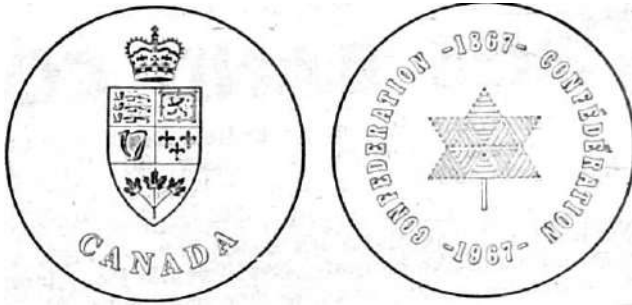


403 Squadron, early summer 1944.

Whether they came from North Toronto or not, members of Van's squadron will have been glad to read news from home in *The Chimes*.

50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1966, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.



John Fisher, Canada's Centennial Commissioner, announced the two winners of the limited competition for the Centennial Medallion. It was planned to distribute more than 5,500,000 Medallions to all Canadian school children on June 1, 1967 as reminders of Centennial Year..

Marlin and Perky, "a pair of hippopotamuses or hippopotami, have been taking over the limelight at the Riverdale Zoo during the past few weeks."

The Ontario Highway Safety Act was changed to require a motorist approaching a school bus *from the front* to stop while the red lights are flashing.



Mrs. Kate Burgess, a 79-year-old widow living at 252 Hillside Ave. rejected Greenwin Construction Company's offer of \$40,000 and the "right to live in her house, rent-free, for life." She and her husband had "built the house together 56 years ago, living in a backyard shed during construction." As a result, the City refused the rezoning application, thus blocking the proposed apartment and town house complex.

The TTC unveiled yet another plan for the Yonge subway extension from Eglinton to Sheppard. The new proposal "would put the line under Yonge from Eglinton to Hogg's Hollow where it would shift east and run underneath the Don River". It was believed that the Jolly Miller would be "earmarked for demolition". There had been much opposition to a previous plan for a high-level bridge in Hogg's Hollow in addition to the demolition of 270 dwellings west of Yonge.



One of a series of TTC streetcar notices in the city archives posted by Chris Bateman at blogto.com

Ralph Day, TTC chairman, announced "We'll be going to five tickets for a dollar on Jan. 1, 1967." This would be an increase from six tickets for a dollar.



The new, five-passenger, front wheel drive Cadillac Eldorado, while in the Cadillac tradition, has its own exclusive design. It features crisp, tailored lines, long hood, distinctive roof, and short rear deck. This new, personal, luxury car offers a youthful yet dignified appearance, with roof design reminiscent of a formal opera coupe and full-wheel openings that give it a sporty appearance... The Cadillac dimensions are unchanged but a new silhouette gives the car a longer appearance and a powerful horizontal design line, sweeping the entire length of the car, emphasizes length and provides a sculptured look.

50 Years Ago continues on page 7

Broadway Music Shoppe
 Over 29 Years at this Location
 INSTRUCTION - MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - RECORDS
 SHEET MUSIC - ACCESSORIES - REPAIRS
 2375 YONGE STREET 483-6285

Patricia White Shoppe
 FASHIONS OF DISTINCTION
 2526 YONGE STREET (at St. Clement's)
 HU 8-6113

CITY-WIDE and SUBURBAN DELIVERY
STAN MUSTON, Florist
 2592 Yonge Street HU 3-1155

SAM'S SPORT SHOP
 692 MT. PLEASANT ROAD (at Soudan)
 PHONE 483-7919
HUNTING SEASON'S HERE
 SPECIAL 12-GAUGE SHOTGUN SHELLS
 22 LONG RIFLE AMMUNITION
 We Have Hunting Licenses
 Sole dealers for REMINGTON, WINCHESTER, FRANKLIN
 BROWNING and others
 box 52 75
 box 85c

You too will prefer walking...
 IF YOU WEAR

 THE SHOE WITH THE
 HAND-MOULDED SOLE
 \$18.95
 Susanne
 Shoe Salon
 2506 Yonge Street HU 9-3290
 (in the Capitol Theatre Building)

Heritage Calendar

100th Birthday Bash at High Park Library

High Park Branch Library is one of three built in Toronto in 1916 with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Architects were Eden Smith & Sons, and the project was supervised by Chief Librarian George Locke, an admirer of the sturdy academic style of British grammar school architecture. High Park was opened on 31 Oct 1916.

A day of celebration is planned for Saturday, 1st October, 2016:

11 am to 12:30 pm, take fun selfies at the Photo Booth.

1:00 pm, a Heritage Toronto plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the branch.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm, join architect and social historian Alec Keefer on the Heritage Toronto community walk "A Veritable Treasure Trove: The High Park Neighbourhood." (Starts at the library; ends at Park Side Drive & High Park Gardens.)

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, open house and refreshments at the library.

WHERE: High Park Branch TPL
 228 Roncesvalles Ave.

WHEN: Saturday, 1st October, 2016, 11-4:30

INFO: High Park TPL 416-393-7671

Heritage Toronto

<http://heritagetoronto.org/>

416-338-1338

MORE See NTHS *Newsletter* Vol.39 No.4 (Winter 2015), for more about the TPL's 1916 libraries.



The brilliantly colored pareau prints in sport shirts and swimwear and the denim bell-bottom pants are two of the biggest summer trends.



Calendar continues on page 8

Heritage Calendar

Calendar continued from page 7

Market Gallery

2nd floor South St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front Street East

When the Beatles Rocked Toronto

It was 50 years ago this summer when the Beatles played Toronto for the last time. This exhibit curated by City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services, looks at the city in the early-to-mid sixties during a time of profound change punctuated by the Beatles' tours in 1964, 1965 and 66.

DATES: To 12 Nov. 2016

ADMISSION: Timed Ticket Sales

INFO: 416-392-7604

<http://tinyurl.com/jpgtxn3>

MORE: toronto.ca/beatles50



The Beatles at Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto
Telegram 17 Aug. 1965 York University Archives

New NTHS mailing address!
283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto,
M5M 2B2



Please use this address for all membership renewals, correspondence and newsletter submissions.

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

Heritage Toronto Awards and Kilbourn Lecture

This year's celebration will be hosted by Mary Ito.

The recipient of the **2016 Special Achievement Award** is Carolyn King, the first woman elected as chief of the Mississaugas. Ms King has worked tirelessly to preserve the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nations' community and to celebrate and share First Nation heritage in the greater Toronto area.

The **William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture** speaker is Dr. Steven High, Professor of History at Concordia University. His talk, "The Deindustrialization of our Sense: A Multi-Sensory Approach to Intangible Heritage," will address the impact of deindustrialization on the urban heritage experience.

DATE: Monday, 17 October, 2016.

General Programme starts at 7:30 pm. *See website for details.*

LOCATION: Isabel Bader Theatre, Victoria College

TICKETS: start at \$35

INFO: <http://tinyurl.com/pvzejzd>

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



Submissions for the next Newsletter by 1 Dec to 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.

NOTE NEW ADDRESS % 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5N 2B2

www.northtorontohistoricalsociety.org

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

2016 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: Flo Morson

Research: Hilary Dawson

Walks: