



NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY *NEWSLETTER*

North Toronto Town Hall

VOL. 40 NO. 4

WINTER 2016



A Ladies Hockey Team, Toronto
Postcard c.1909, TPL

Winter Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



Wednesday, 25 January, 7:30 p.m.

HUMBER: THE HISTORY OF A RIVER

An illustrated talk about the Humber River; its history and its role in the history of Toronto and Canada. Speaker **Madeleine McDowell** is an artist, educator and environmental advocate with a passion for history as an unfolding story.

Wednesday, 22 February, 7:30 p.m.

FINDING 19th CENTURY BLACK HISTORY IN TORONTO

In 1799 the little Town of York's Black population numbered 25. By the time of the U.S. Civil War, there were 2,000 or more Blacks living in Toronto. Their businesses included Toronto's first cab company, a blacksmith's shop, barber shops, grocery stores and a hotel. Historian **Hilary Dawson** will look at the families of African descent who lived in the Toronto area in the 19th century, the communities they lived in and the challenges they faced.

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

RECONSTRUCTING A LOST WORLD FROM A PHOTOGRAPH: AGNES AND TERAULEY CA 1910

Standing in an upper window of a T.Eaton Co. warehouse in Toronto about 1910, photographer William James snapped a marvellous photograph of the northern "Ward" district, showing the Agnes-Terauley intersection (now Bay and Dundas). Buildings visible in this cluttered streetscape include churches, schools, a synagogue, police station, hospital, Yiddish theatre, the city poorhouse, a three-story apartment block and many private homes. Writer-publisher-genealogist **Bill Gladstone** discusses and provides alternative photographs of many of these buildings and ties them to personalities, issues and events of the era.

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

A CULINARY TOUR OF CHINATOWN, IN WORDS & IMAGES presented by master chef **Leo Chan**.

In this issue -

Winter Programme	1
President's Message	2
Heritage News	2
Ontario Sesquicentennial	3
<i>Fall Events:</i>	
Fall Walk	3
Frank Darling & Partners	4
Songs of Yesteryear	5
Indigenous History of Toronto	7
Heritage Calendar	8



**Eglinton Theatre
National Historic Site**

See page 2

A brief Annual General Meeting will precede our February meeting.

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.

President's Message

Best wishes for 2017, as the North Toronto Historical Society enters its 42nd year.

Our annual general meeting will be held at the beginning of the monthly programme in February. If you are interested in taking a more active role in the Society, please contact a member of our executive committee. We would be happy to welcome new members and ideas.

I would like to thank our executive for their contributions during 2016 – Hilary Dawson, newsletter editor; Bill Dawson, treasurer; Alex Grenzebach, membership co-ordinator; Doug Campbell; Brian Dunfield; Flo Morson; and Marta O'Brien, and Ken Pon, members-at-large. Special thanks to Janet and Brian Dunfield and Elizabeth and John Warrener, who helped out with refreshments at our meetings. Alan Barry, Branch Head of Northern District Library and librarian Zorana Basta facilitated the arrangements for our meetings and booked the equipment used by speakers. Thanks also to members who contributed to the work of the Society through their financial donations.

2016 featured many successful programmes including two presentations by Marta O'Brien who filled in at short notice when the speaker for the September program cancelled. One of the highlights of the year was "Songs of Yesteryear" a lovely evening of parlour music with soprano Amy Dodington, pianist Doreen Uren Simmons, and Paul Dodington, record collector and long-time NTHS member. Our annual Fall walk "Mount Pleasant Cemetery" with a focus on the early history of North Toronto, was attended by a small but enthusiastic group of people.

Looking forward to seeing you at our programmes in 2017, Canada's sesquicentennial year,

Lynda Moon, President

Heritage News

North Toronto National Historic Site

In November 2016, Parks Canada and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognized the former Eglinton Theatre (now the Eglinton Grand) as a national historic site, and the work done by Kaplan & Sprachman Architects as a national historic event. The Eglinton was first listed as a heritage site by the City of Toronto in 1983, and officially designated as a heritage property in 2004.

The Eglinton Theatre opened in 1936 as Famous Players' flagship movie theatre. Its realisation of the art deco style won Kaplan and Sprachman the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada Bronze Medal the following year. Other Toronto designs by the firm are the Anshei Minsk Synagogue in Kensington Market (1930); and the Bloor Street Y (1953), now the Miles Nadal JCC. However, they were best known for their movie theatres, and designed over 300 across Canada.

(See photo on front page.)

New Head of Heritage Toronto

Heritage Toronto is pleased to announce the appointment of **Allison Bain** as the organization's new Executive Director. Allison's previous positions have been with YWCA Toronto and TIFF. She was named by Canadian Parliament as a "Woman Who Makes a Difference."

North Toronto Heritage Listings

Thanks to the efforts of Lynda Moon and Alex Grenzebach, the Orange Hall (north of Castlefield, behind the Yonge Street Stores) and the Capitol Theatre (corner of Castlefield and Yonge) have been listed on the City's Inventory of Heritage properties. The Orange Hall began its life in 1851 as Eglinton School, which closed in 1887. The building was used by various churches until its purchase by the Eglinton Orange Lodge in 1909. The Capitol Theatre opened in 1918, presenting vaudeville shows and silent movies.

Anniversaries 2017

Happy Sesquicentennial, Ontario!



ONTARIO
150

The anniversary of Confederation also means celebrating the creation of the Province of Ontario. **Family Ties: Ontario Turns 150** is an exhibit at the **Archives of Ontario** which looks at four Ontario families and how their lives intersected with the historical events of their time. Open during Archives hours; admission free; runs to May 2018. **INFO:** <http://tinyurl.com/jbtlk7s>

Fall Events

FALL WALK

Mount Pleasant Cemetery

Despite the damp and gloomy weather, twenty or so hardy souls participated in our October Fall Walk in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The walk was led by NTHS President Lynda Moon, Doug Campbell, Bill Dawson, Alex Grenzebach and Brian Dunfield.

The tour looked mostly at monuments of particular North Toronto interest, like the Davis family (founders of the village of Davisville), William Snider (who around 1828 built the brick Regency cottage now known as 744 Duplex Avenue), jeweller Ambrose Kent, and World War 1 flying ace William Barker.



Lynda Moon at the Empress of Ireland Memorial. For more about the tragedy of the Empress of Ireland shipwreck, see *Fall 2016 Newsletter*.



John Warrener unexpectedly found himself beside the monument to his great-grandparents. His great-grandfather John Milne Buchan was Principal of Upper Canada College from 1881 to his death in 1885. Pictured is the inscription to John's great-grandmother, Helen Lesslie Thornton Buchan, who died in 1927.



Brian Dunfield's great-grandfather was Toronto Mayor Sam McBride (1866-1936). McBride grew up in the Ward, and entered politics as an alderman in 1905. He was Mayor of Toronto from 1928-29, and again in 1936. **Top Mayor Samuel McBride in his office, 1936.** CTA

SEPTEMBER: **Marta O'Brien**

***Frank Darling & Partners: Grand Designs
by Marta O'Brien***

In September, I spoke about the work of architect Frank Darling and his various partners. If you've ever admired a stone bank building with classical columns, or a dignified University of Toronto building, you may have been looking at his work.

Darling was born in Scarborough in 1850. He attended Upper Canada College and Trinity College School in Weston. At age 16 Darling became a pupil of well-known architect Henry Langley. Four years later he expanded his architectural education in England with architects working in the Gothic Revival style, and was influenced by other young designers working to adapt historical forms to new buildings.

In 1873, Darling returned to Toronto and formed a brief partnership with Henry Macdougall. Darling's early commissions included the Convocation Hall of Trinity College on Queen St. W. and St. Luke's Anglican Church on Bay St. (both demolished). A major building was the grand Toronto Home for Incurables long-term care facility in Parkdale. This advanced facility overlooked Lake Ontario and eventually became the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.



Trinity College

Photo: Marta O'Brien

Darling formed a more lasting and productive partnership with Samuel Curry in 1880. By then Darling was the official architect of Trinity College and the new partners designed its Chapel and West Wing. In the mid 1880s, Darling & Curry designed a Toronto landmark: the Bank of Montreal at Front & Yonge streets, now the Hockey Hall of Fame. With its intricate stone carvings and interior stained glass dome, this bank represented Canada's wealthiest bank in our growing city.

His peers recognized Darling's accomplishments. At just 36, he was admitted to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. He was a founding member of the Ontario Architects' Association and was its president in 1895.



The Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

Photo: Marta O'Brien

As a member of the Toronto Club, he was asked to design their purpose-built clubhouse. Darling used red brick and terra cotta -- with just a little stone -- to save money. The handsome 1889 building is still at Wellington and York streets. Darling & Curry designed two buildings for the care of sick children. The Victoria Hospital for Sick Children (now Canadian Blood Services) was the first children's hospital in North America. The angel-flanked nameplate is still above the main entrance. During the summers, patients who could be moved were transferred to the Lakeside Home for Little Children on the Island. Darling & Curry gave this building the form of a shingle-clad resort hotel.

John Andrew Pearson worked on the Victoria Hospital project and became Darling's final partner in 1892. Darling & Pearson designed dozens of bank branches for the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Metropolitan, Sterling, Dominion, and Union banks. Most were grand stone and brick structures with familiar elements from classical architecture (including grand columns, triangular pediments, and multi-layered mouldings). You've probably seen the former Commerce branch on Yonge St. across from the Eaton Centre. Built in 1905, it's been empty for decades but is now being restored as the base of the Massey Tower condo.

Darling & Partners continues on page 5

Darling & Partners continued from page 4

One of the architects' most innovative structures was the Parkdale Curling Club in 1898. Steel beams were used to span the vast ice rink. The building later served as a roller rink and dance hall before conversion into the Masaryk-Cowan Community Recreation Centre.

Darling & Pearson designed a few houses: most were quite grand. One was the home of Sir Joseph Flavelle, now part of U of T's Faculty of Law. Its tall two-storey classical portico announced the wealth and status of its owner.

U of T has over half a dozen Darling & Pearson buildings still in use. Convocation Hall has been a campus landmark since 1907. It's used for special events and is the largest lecture hall on campus. The adjacent Simcoe Hall houses administrative offices for the university, and the Electrical (now Rosebrugh) Building has classrooms and offices. The architects designed Trinity College in the Gothic Revival style used for the original college on Queen St. W. There are two grand Tudor-like halls in the main wing along Hoskin Ave.

Darling & Pearson used white-glazed terra cotta on several of their buildings: the 1908 offices for Canadian General Electric at King & Simcoe, and the former Metropolitan Bank (1913) at College & Bathurst are two examples. Another is the original Dominion Bank head office on the southwest corner of King and Yonge. It has a granite base and white glazed terra cotta shaft and top storeys. By using classical elements in a new and modern way, the architects had designed a quintessential Beaux Arts style skyscraper.

In the 1910s, Darling & Pearson designed more buildings that have become landmarks. The original Royal Ontario Museum extends south from Bloor St. along Philosopher's Walk. Canadian Pacific Railway's North Toronto Station (now known as the "Summerhill Liquor Store") has a clock tower modelled on that of St. Mark's in Venice. The station's lovely tall windows and plaster detailing were revealed when the building was restored in 2003. When you enter the AGO and stand inside Walker Court, you're in the building designed by Darling & Pearson in 1916-18 as an addition to The Grange historic house (the Gallery's first home). In

the Toronto General Hospital on College St., Darling demonstrated his skilled handling of complex projects that succeeded aesthetically and functionally.

In 1915, Darling became the first Canadian to win the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects gold medal. He received honorary doctorates from U of T and Dalhousie University (where he had designed several buildings). Darling must have had a busy life outside work: his affiliations included the Toronto Hockey Club, Toronto Golf Club, Ontario Jockey Club, Toronto Cricket Club, and York County Hunt Club. He was described as a genial and pleasant person with a good sense of humour. A lifelong bachelor, he was loyal to family and friends. Darling died in 1923 after months of poor health due to heart trouble.

Using a variety of architectural elements in many types of buildings, Frank Darling made valuable contributions to Toronto's built form.

OCTOBER: Amy Dodington, Doreen Uren Stevens, Paul Dodington

Songs of Yesteryear: Parlour Songs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries

What a treat was in store for those who came to this unusual local history evening! Lyric soprano Amy Dodington and her accompanist Doreen Uren Simmons (playing Northern District's beautiful Steinway piano) shared their passion for the songs middle-class Edwardian families sang at home. Her father, NTHS member Paul Dodington, played some examples from his record collection on one of his antique gramophones.

This is the music Amy was born to perform—almost literally! Her parents, Nora and Paul, were inveterate collectors of turn-of-the-century things long before these became fashionably “vintage.” Growing up surrounded by phonographs, wax cylinders, and sheet music, and driving around in her father's 1914 Model T Ford, how could the little girl avoid having the love of past times seep into her veins?

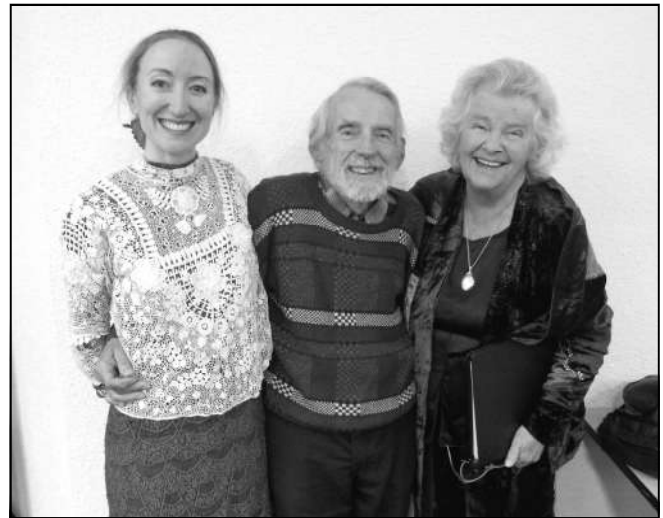
Wearing her great-grandmother's dress, Amy took us back to a time when music was to be shared, not injected into the ears by a digital device, and

Yesteryear continues on page 6

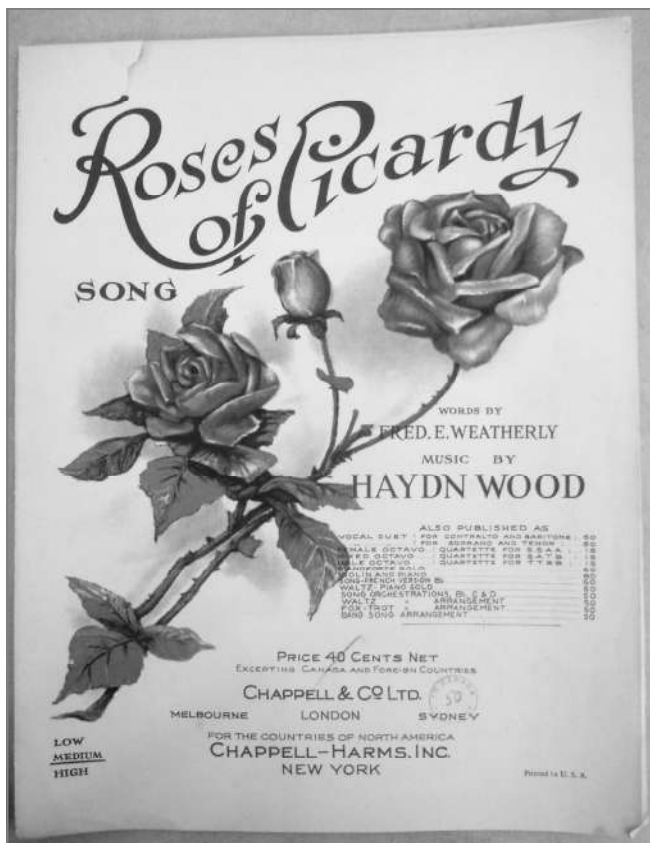
Yesteryear continued from page 5

entertainment was a family affair. There were about a hundred people in our usual meeting room, yet Amy brought an intimacy to her performance which transported us to a gathering of family and friends around the piano in a North Toronto parlour. There is a beautiful clarity to her voice and honesty to her interpretation which brought these songs to life.

Amy's selections dated from 1884 ("Love's Old Sweet Song" by James Molloy and G. Clifton Bingham) to 1927 ("Come to the Fair" by Easthope Martin and Helen Taylor). The turn-of-the-century songs tended to the sentimental or cosy. As the horrors of the First World War became real, new songs expressed a nostalgic yearning for that peace.



**Amy Dodington, Paul Dodington
and Doreen Uren Simmons**



***Roses of Picardy*, by Haydn Wood and Fred E. Weatherly, 1919. From the Dodington collection.**

A couple of Amy's songs had Ontario roots. "My Ain Folk" (1904) is still a favourite with Scots around the world, but the tune was composed by Guelph-born Laura Lemon, who was pursuing her music career in Britain; the lyrics are by Englishman Wilfrid Mills. The very moving "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise" (1919) is the

work of Toronto concert pianist Ernest Seitz with lyricist Eugene Lockhart.

Paul Dodington played samples from his vast collection on his 1906 Victor Talking Machine. (This gramophone, he noted, is very like the one on the TV show "Downton Abbey.") He played issues of songs which were produced only in Canada, such as Ernest Seitz extemporizing on his own melody for "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise." A 1920 recording of "In Flanders Fields" was made in Montreal to be on sale by Armistice Day (11 November 1920). It would have been available in such Toronto stores as Heintzman's. A particular favourite is Frank Oldfield, who came to Toronto from England in 1911. In his heyday between 1910s-1930s, Paul believes he was one of the best baritones of his time.

This was a programme which truly brought "Songs of Yesteryear" to life.

VISIT AMY DODINGTON'S WEBSITE:

<http://amydodington.com/amy-dodington-soprano.php>



Ernest Seitz was living at the Bradgate Arms when he composed "Sunrise." In 1984 "Sunrise Park" was dedicated: Foxbar Rd., Avenue & St. Clair W.

Photo: Alan L. Brown

NOVEMBER: **Brian MacLean**

Exploring the Indigenous History of Toronto

Brian MacLean's interest in indigenous history came as the result of a chance find in a book in a waiting room. The book was Don Ritchie's *North Toronto* (Toronto: Boston Mills/Stoddart, 1992). In it is an artist's impression of a Quandat [Wendat] Indian Village near Avenue Road and Roselawn which astonished him: he was unaware that there had been First Nations occupation in his own neighbourhood.

Determined to trace more local sites, Brian discovered that there has been continuity of indigenous people in the Toronto area from long before European settlement right up to the present day. There was aboriginal occupation along most major rivers in Ontario, but communities moved as a result of natural disasters, conquest by other indigenous groups, and European incursions. In the GTA there were both seasonal and permanent settlements on the Toronto Islands (formerly a peninsula), and along the Credit, Humber, Don and Rouge Rivers. Archaeological investigation suggests that there was indigenous use of the Rouge from at least 12,000 B.C.

What Europeans arriving in the 1790s described as trackless wilderness and virgin forest, was in fact a century or more of regrowth on what had once been cleared land.

Without the assistance of the indigenous population, many of the European explorers, traders, missionaries and settlers would have perished. For the most part, First Nations people were hospitable to the newcomers, learning their language and customs. Some early officials, like Sir William Johnson, tried to understand their ways, but subsequent government documents disregarded indigenous customs.

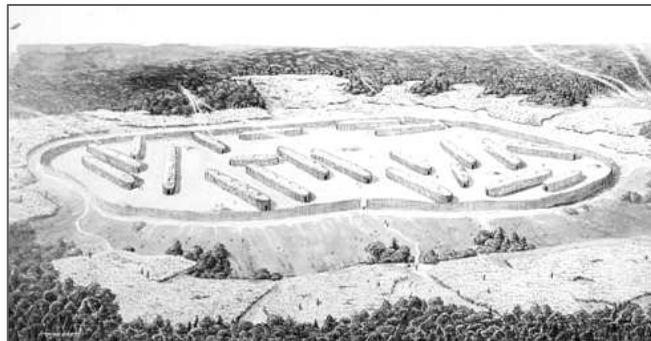
MORE ABOUT *INDIGENOUS TORONTO*:

First Story Toronto:

<https://firststoryblog.wordpress.com/>
Download the app for information about sites around the city that are important to Indigenous culture in the past and today.

Toronto plaques commemorating First Nations:

<http://torontoplaques.com/Subjects/First.html>



***Quandat [Wendat] Indian Village* by artist Ivan Kocsis, under the direction of ROM curator Dr. Mima Kapches**

Above: This is the picture that started Brian MacLean's journey. First Nations presence in the village of Eglinton was brought to the attention of archaeologist David Boyle by farmer William Jackes in 1887. This is often referred to as "the Jackes Site."

The artist looks west. In the future, Eglinton [Pears] Park will be in the foreground. The clay deposits used to make the pottery found by Jackes on his farm will be used five centuries later to make bricks.

Avenue Road will run through the middle of the village from left to right. From front to back through the left will be Roselawn Ave.; St. Clements Ave. will run front to back to the right.

Each longhouse would have several family hearths, and might house 40 people. In the cleared area around the village, the Wendat grew "the three sisters": corn, beans and squash.



Reproduction of 1764 Treaty of Niagara Covenant Chain Wampum Belt

Agreements between indigenous groups were formalised by the exchange of wampum belts. The wampum given at the signing of the Treaty of Niagara in 1764 symbolized the promise of mutual help between equals: First Nations and the British Crown, represented by Sir William Johnson.

In 1787, the Toronto "Purchase" was so named by the British, who came from a background of free and clear land ownership. To First Nations, humans are the caretakers of the land. They did not expect the 1787 indenture to result in their exclusion from their traditional hunting grounds.

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



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

Heritage Calendar

Heritage Toronto

Understanding Toronto Through Archaeology: A Public Symposium at St. Lawrence Hall 157 King St. E.

A full day of presentations and discussion about how archaeological research enhances our understanding of the city's past and what is being done to manage these valuable resources.

DATE: Saturday, 11 February, 2017, 9:00-3:30

ADMISSION: \$10-\$20

INFO: <http://tinyurl.com/jv9drt7>

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

Unearthing Toronto's Oldest Marketplace: The Archaeology of the North St. Lawrence Market

DATE: To 18 March, 2017

INFO: 416-392-7604

<http://tinyurl.com/odh2xeo>

St. James Cathedral, King Street East
In the church itself, east aisle

Diversity of Toronto: A Black Canadian Journey

Profiles of parishioners of African descent and their neighbours, from the earliest days of St. James church in the Town of York to the present day.

DATE: Opening Service Sunday, 5 Feb. 2017, 11:00a.m.
Open daily 9-5 until Saturday 25 February, 2017

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Nancy Mallett 416-364-7865 x 233
archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca

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



The Jackes Site Plaque

Photo: Alan L. Brown

1986 plaque on Allenby School, 391 St. Clements Ave.

See page 7

Toronto Postcard Club: 36th Annual Show

Japanese Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court (Don Mills & Wynford Dr)

The Toronto Postcard Club is pleased to present its 35th annual show. There are likely to be some century old postcards about your subject in the thousands offered for sale. If you like historical images, this show is for you!

DATE: Sunday, 26 February, 2017, 10:00-5:00

ADMISSION: \$5

INFO: torontopostcardclub.com

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



**Submissions for the next Newsletter by
15 Mar. 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 M5M 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: