



Seekers of Gold Hidden in Western Grasses. *Globe*, 14 Aug. 1923
Young men at Union Station heading for harvest crews on the Prairies. *TRL*

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

Fall Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



Wednesday, 27 September, 7:30 p.m.

TORONTO'S MOVIE THEATRES OF YESTERYEAR

Relive the memories of Toronto's old movie theatres during the golden age of the silver screen in a nostalgic trip into the past with **Doug Taylor**, author of *Toronto Theatres and the Golden Age of the Silver Screen* and *Toronto's Local Movie Theatres of Yesteryear*.

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

ARCHITECTS CUMBERLAND & STORM: LANDMARK MASTERS

Fred Cumberland and William Storm formed the most successful architecture firm in Victorian Toronto. Their works included University College, St. James Cathedral, and much of Osgoode Hall. Architectural historian **Marta O'Brien** will discuss this partnership through their iconic buildings.

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

NEWSGIRLS:

GUTSY PIONEERS IN CANADA'S NEWSROOMS

Donna Jean Mckinnon, a former reporter for the Toronto Star, will speak about her new book, *Newsgirls: Gutsy Pioneers in Canada's Newsrooms*, an account of ten ground-breaking girl reporters who carved out their careers in pre-feminist times (1930-1960). Copies of the book will be for sale at \$20.

Fall Walk

A JOURNEY THROUGH PRE-CONFEDERATION NORTH TORONTO

Sunday, 1 October, 2:00-3.45 p.m. (rain or shine)

MEET NW corner Lytton Blvd. and Yonge St. (Snider Parkette)

END at McDougall plaque southeast corner of Lawrence & Yonge (Locke Library)

Discover the rural past in a walking tour with the North Toronto Historical Society. Learn about early farms and estates like Glengrove and Kingsland, and the families of the area including the McDougalls, Sniders and Lawrences.



**William
McDougall**

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.

IN MEMORIAM

William “Bill” Aldrich Ramsay 1932 - 2017

I'm sorry to report that Bill Ramsay died on Saturday, September 2 in his 86th year after a brief illness. Bill was the second president of the NTHS and for many years he was our walk co-ordinator and also a director. He was a founding member of the NTHS in the mid-1970s and I first met him in 1978. Bill was raised in Leaside and graduated from Leaside Collegiate before attending Ryerson where he received a Printing and Management Diploma in 1952. He was a long-time employee of both Howarth and Smith Ltd. and Sears Canada. Bill's skills in catalogue layout proved invaluable in the production of our walk booklets in the days before computerized text processing. On one occasion, he used an X-Acto knife to do last-minute editing before going to print! We were grateful to be able to use 129 Blythwood Road as the Society's mailing address until recently when Barbara and Bill moved to a retirement residence.



Bill's roots in North Toronto were deep – his great-grandfather James came from Scotland as a young boy and in partnership with John Fisher, the first mayor of the Town of North Toronto, he built many houses and public buildings in the area including his own home, now 129 Blythwood Road, in 1885. Bill loved history and “old things” which he displayed in his home. He also inherited the family's papers and he often would amaze us with memorabilia such as early photographs and plans for local buildings from the 1800s. After over 130 years in the Ramsay family, 129 Blythwood has been sold to a couple with young children who will undoubtedly enjoy playing in the barn. Fortunately, any changes to the house will have to conform to the guidelines of the Blythwood Road Heritage Conservation District.

I visited Bill for the last time several months ago. Although frail, he retained his quiet sense of humour and we enjoyed several good jokes.

The NTHS expresses its sympathy to Barbara Ramsay, daughters Heather and Elaine and to other family members.

It is surely the end of an era!

Alex. Grenzebach



The Ramsay house at 129 Blythwood Avenue was built in 1885 by the firm of Fisher & Ramsay.



A Glimpse of Davisville in 1917

Edward Martin was not quite 14 when the First World War broke out. He lived with his grandparents at 18 Keewatin Avenue, along with his father, his younger brother and aunt. His father and grandfather were builders.



By 1917 Edward had joined the 12th York Rangers, but was still too young to serve overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). Instead, he found a useful wartime purpose as an orderly at the new Davisville Military Orthopaedic Hospital.

Wounded servicemen were returning to Canada in shockingly large numbers. Some still required medical care, and most needed a long period of convalescence. Men missing limbs faced an uncertain future: unable to perform their former occupations, they feared the indignity of having to sell pencils on the street to earn a living – little more respectable than begging.

In 1917, the Salvation Army offered their brand new college on Davisville Avenue to the Military Hospitals Commission (MHC), whose task was to procure space for the care of injured veterans. The building was dedicated by the Salvation Army on 5 March, 1917, then handed over to the MHC for the duration of the war and until eighteen months after its conclusion. (The site, still owned by the Salvation Army, is now the Meighen Retirement Residence and Health Centre.) The first patients arrived at the Orthopaedic Military Hospital on 25 March, 1917.

The new hospital particularly focussed on the rehabilitation, retraining and ultimately reintegration of amputees. Vocational training offered such skills as shoe repair, basic carpentry and drafting. Most importantly, artificial limbs were produced on site,

fabricated from willow, which was the lightest and most durable wood, and the moving parts used springs that were state-of-the-art for the time. Located on the north side of Davisville Avenue between Yonge and Mount Pleasant, the Orthopaedic Hospital was near the centre of the village of Davisville.

British born artist Stanley Francis Turner captured a sunny day at Yonge and Davisville in his painting “A War Record.” (*below*) The sign for Davisville Avenue is on the side of the Davis store and post office, and on the wall has been scrawled “Wizz-Bang Corner,” soldiers’ slang for small field artillery shells. The building in the foreground is the Davisville Hotel, at this time a boarding house run by May Hart. Its verandah facing both Yonge and Davisville provided a shady or sheltered spot for veterans to watch the world go by. There is an element of propaganda in this portrayal of cheerful amputee servicemen. In 1917, when a Europe-bound battalion marched down Yonge Street, the new recruits’ enthusiastic cheers were for the most part greeted with chilly silence here.

War-wounded continued to arrive in huge numbers, and by 1919 a larger rehabilitation facility was opened in an old cash register factory on Christie Street. This became the primary Toronto Military Orthopaedic Hospital, but the Davisville hospital continued until the end of the war.



A War Record by Stanley Francis Turner

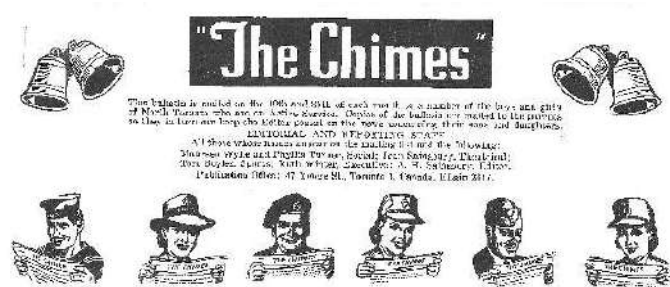
See the painting in detail at <http://www.warmuseum.ca/collections/artifact/1016125/>

North Toronto Memories.

World War 2: on the Home Front and 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 evolved, with several writers contributing to "Departments" covering different interests – sports, movies, gossip, engagements, etc. Each issue was typed onto a stencil and duplicated at Gestetner Co., collated by hand and mailed to "the boys and girls of North Toronto who are on Active Service" and their parents.

The first instalment of excerpts from *The Chimes* was printed in the Fall 2016 NTHS Newsletter.



Issue No. 16, January 10, 1944.

DEAR BOYS, [*Sainsbury never addressed the "Girls" on the mailing list*]

I don't want you to think your Editor is one of those goofs that's always spouting off about the weather but really what they've been giving us these last few weeks would throw anyone for a loop. This is being written Wednesday evening, January 5th and I've just come in from playing twelve holes of golf.

First place in our overseas letters this issue goes to Stuart Sheils [*99 Wanless Cres*] who writes as follows:

Somewhere in North Africa.

Hi Gang:

I've just got a few minutes to spare before it's time for chow so if this letter is a little short you'll know it's because I'm off for my rations. The weather is super here and as I'm scrawling this I'm stripped to the

waist lying outside the tent soaking up the sun – Merry Christmas! The countryside is covered with fruit of different varieties and we can saunter down any road and get our fill of lemons, oranges, dates, figs, etc. I never thought I'd get sick of oranges but that time has finally come. I can hear the rattle of mess tins so that's the call to arms. Keep smiling gang and remember me to the North Toronto Bunch – Yeah Northern!

Thanks for your letter Stuart, and may I report, in case you haven't already heard it, that your Dad was honoured by our Government with the order of – CMG [*Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George*] – for contributing outstanding services to Canada's war efforts. Our congratulations to King Sheils. [*George Kingsley Sheils, Deputy Minister of Munitions and Supply*]

[*From Sub Lt. G. V. Sainsbury, Yarmouth, England; 106 Lytton Blvd*]

You would think coming from Canada I'd be more or less used to the [cold] but this place beats me. It's such a damp cold – and not only is it cold outside but we'll be sitting inside somewhere with the temperature about 50° and I'll be sneaking looks around to see if anyone has started to turn blue and wondering if I would be too conspicuous if I got up and slipped into my greatcoat, when suddenly some character will get up and say "Jove but it's stuffy in here" and they'll start throwing open all the windows. Were it not for the constant nips of Haig & Haig Dimple Bottle they keep throwing at you, I'm afraid rigor mortis would have set in long ago.

"Gossip and Gabble," By Maureen Wylie [*143 Rose Park Drive*]

Wren Miriam Loheed [*1370 Avenue Rd*] and P/O John Nixon [*8 Ansley St*] became engaged at Christmas time via mail. Congratulations kids!

The Chimes continues on page 5

Issue No. 18, February 10, 1944.

"Ding Dong Ditties," By Phyllis Turner [147A Keewatin Ave]

Vanity Fair at the King Edward is the newest spot in town for dancing. It is up on the second floor and is quite a little bit of New York. There are crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling with blue lights. Pillars surround the floor and the decorations are pink. The tables are in tiers about the dance floor on three sides with Norman Harris and the orchestra on the other. There is even a floor show - these Saturday afternoon tea dances are very popular.



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.

North Toronto Heist Foiled!

It was just an ordinary Tuesday afternoon at the Toronto-Dominion Bank at Eglinton W. and Heddington Ave. on 29 November, 1960. Then the dignified banking atmosphere was shattered when the side door burst open. Two hooded men brandishing guns rushed in.

"They were yelling like cattlemen," bank manager W.R. Butcher told the *Star*. As they herded staff and customers away from the door, the robbers did not notice a teller fall to the floor and trip the alarm. As they grabbed money from the tills, they continued to shout. "Their wild yelling must have been heard outside," said the manager.

Sure enough, a passerby heard the disturbance and called for help. A driver at the stoplight saw the masked men through the bank window, looked for the getaway car and spotted it in the adjacent laneway. He promptly blocked the exit with his van. The escaping robbers panicked and ran to a nearby parking lot. Their attempt to commandeer a vehicle failed when the driver got out - having pocketed his keys. At the corner of Roselawn and Shields, they grabbed another car, but when it stalled they continued on foot and were soon captured by police.

READ THE STORY IN THE *STAR*

Toronto Star 30 November, 1960

The *Star* and the *Globe* are accessible through the Toronto Public Library website.



Obstructed getaway car. Photo: *Toronto Telegram*

50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1967, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.

C.N.E. GRANDSTAND '67
Two Great Canadian Spectaculars!
 FIRST WEEK: AUGUST 15 - AUGUST 26
 JACK ARTHUR presents "THIS CANADA", starring



LORNE GREENE—U.S. critics were captivated by the Canadian-born performer's recent outstanding, versatile performance in Las Vegas.
ART LINKLETTER—much beloved Canadian-born Radio-TV personality, and author of numerous books.
PERCY FAITH—World-famous Toronto-born composer, conductor, and arranger, winner of over 15 world music awards.

OTHER FEATURES: RCMP MUSICAL RIDE, MARY LOU COLLINS, FIVE BELLES, LYNN CHRISTIE, and VIOLET MURRAY, MIDGE ARTHUR'S world-famous CANADETTES, HOWARD CABLE and the 60-piece C.N.E. ORCHESTRA.

SHOWTIME: 8.30 P.M. Rain or Shine. There are over 10,000 covered seats.
Prices: \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50
 All advanced ticket prices include admission to grounds any time on day of performance.
 Tickets for Monday, August 21 "THIS CANADA" show are obtainable through DOMINION STORES.
 TICKETS ON SALE AT C.N.E. BOX OFFICE, at Box Office in front of the OLD CITY HALL, and at TICKET AGENTS.

SECOND WEEK: AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 4.
THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES MILITARY TATTOO
 SHOWTIME: 8.30 P.M. Prices: same as for "This Canada".

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

The C.N.E. is not open Sundays, but special Centennial events will be held on these days.



This is the question which is being mouthed across the country as the strife between Ottawa and Quebec heightens to a new pitch. Federally the two nations status theory has been rejected, but Quebec sources say the issue will continually be put forth to Parliament. It is also suspected Quebec will look to France for cultural and economic aspirations.

It was reported that "Wiry little Kate Burgess, 79, the widow at war with City Hall, is back at her Hillsdale Ave. home, ready to continue the fight." The OMB rejected City Hall's bid to change the zoning for a development project on her street. When informed that Mayor Dennison was appealing the OMB decision, she stated "I'd like to boil his head in fat."

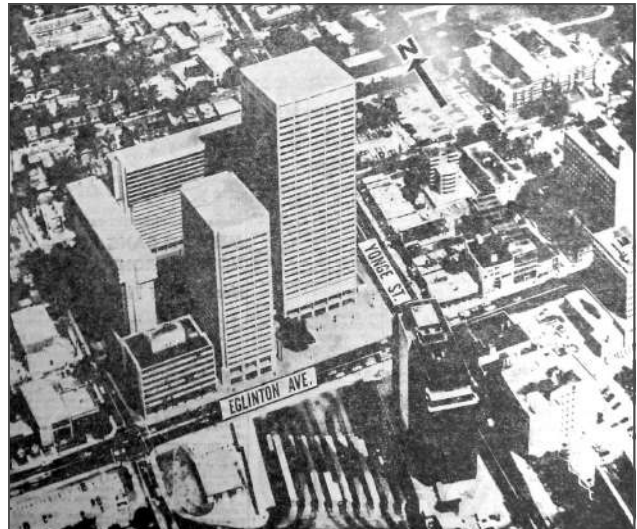
The Ontario Department of Highways reminded motorists about changes to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. For example, a "used motor vehicle must be certified as mechanically fit by any dealer who sells it for use on the highway" and when "an aircraft makes an emergency landing on a highway, the pilot must have it removed within a reasonable time."



FOR SAFE FALL DRIVING DURING CENTENNIAL YEAR LET US CHECK YOUR CAR NOW!
 • Tune-ups
 • Brakes, Shocks, Etc.
WALTER ROBERTSON 
 ATLAS TIRES and BATTERIES
 Licensed Mechanic
 YONGE STREET (at Briar Hill)
 Hudson 5-1465

BACK-TO-SCHOOL
 With
Mary's Children's Shoppe
 2514 YONGE STREET
 (Capitol Theatre Block)
 HU 8-2741
 BOYS AND GIRLS
 INFANTS TO 12 YEARS

SPECIAL PURCHASE OF
REVEREWARE COOKWARE
 COPPER BOTTOM
 STAINLESS STEEL
 TREMENDOUS DISCOUNTS
 WHILE STOCK LASTS
 SALE PRICED
 FROM \$6.95 TO \$15.95
JIM STANTON HARDWARE
 2600 YONGE ST. — 483-3574



The Yonge-Eglinton Centre is superimposed on an aerial picture in this photo montage.

The Confederation Train visited Toronto starting July 29. "From the Ice Age to our Centennial year, the six coaches of the train offer a unique and dramatic re-creation of Canada's past." It was also predicted that tourists will "break all records in Canada this year."

The development company Promenade Swiss Corp. proposed a 45-storey skyscraper as the second phase of the Canada Square development on the south-west corner of Yonge and Eglinton. This tower would look down on the proposed Yonge-Eglinton Centre on the north-west corner.

Heritage Calendar



Out and About with Heritage Toronto

GENERAL INFO: <http://tinyurl.com/yal64q48>

Downtown George Brown

Explore the life of George Brown, a Father of Confederation and the founder of *The Globe and Mail*. Learn about this complicated figure, an abolitionist, anti-union politician, and newspaper owner murdered by a disgruntled employee; and his impacts on our city and nation. This tour will highlight sites associated with Brown, including an interior visit of his residence, George Brown House, presented in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

DATE: Sun. 1 October, 2017, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
START: St. Lawrence Hall (157 King Street East)
END: George Brown House (186 Beverly Street)
COST: \$10 donation suggested

Eastern Sound Studio Plaque Presentation

Join Heritage Toronto and Four Seasons Hotel Toronto to celebrate the history of Eastern Sound Studio. Founded in 1959, Eastern Sound was a renowned Yorkville recording studio that attracted many prominent Canadian as well as international musicians and producers at a time when the neighbourhood was at the heart of Toronto's counter-culture movement.

DATE: Tues. 3 October, 2017, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
PLACE: 60 Yorkville Avenue

Ali on Ossington Plaque Presentation

Join Heritage Toronto and the Ossington Community Association for the presentation of a plaque commemorating the 29 March, 1966 Muhammad Ali vs. George Chuvalo fight.

While in Toronto, Ali trained at boxing promoter Earl "Sully" Sullivan's Toronto Athletic Club, at 109 Ossington Avenue, above a garage. Fans paid between \$1 and \$5 to watch Ali spar. He used the proceeds to support neighbourhood children. Chuvalo trained nearby at Lansdowne Athletic Club.

We will celebrate at the Lower Ossington Theatre, across the street from the gym where Muhammad Ali trained in March 1966. Casual refreshments to follow (cash bar). Please note that the venue is not fully accessible (20 stairs)

DATE: Thurs 12 October, 2017, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Lower Ossington Theatre, 100 Ossington Ave
TICKETS REQUIRED

Toronto's Great Architectural Heritage Bus Tour

Hosted by Heritage Toronto with our friends from ERA Architects and other special guests. This tour is part of the Heritage Primer Series, supported by Aird & Berlis LLP.

Discover Toronto's gems of heritage architecture, conservation, and craftsmanship! Hop on a bus for a day of exploring the city with 50 fellow heritage enthusiasts to visit a curated selection of past Heritage Toronto Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship Award recipients. You'll be inspired by the beauty which has been conserved and speak with heritage architects, craftspersons, and the builders who are ensuring Toronto's heritage is part of our future.

DATE: Sun. 5 November, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
START: 10-12 Market Street
END: Distillery District
TICKETS: \$56 - \$80
INFO: <http://tinyurl.com/ya84jcrv>

Exhibits

Mackenzie House, 82 Bond Street

Eaton's Goes to War: Family, Memory & Meaning
The First World War transformed Canada. During that war, 3,327 Eaton's employees enlisted to fight. Each time one of them was shipped overseas, a photo was displayed prominently in the Toronto store just steps from Mackenzie House. 2,000 of these portraits survived and have become part of the T. Eaton Company records at the Archives of Ontario. In commemoration of Canada's 150th birthday, Mackenzie House staff have been actively searching out accounts of the lives of these men and urging the public to come forward to share their stories of the soldiers with us. Who were these men and their families? Come to our exhibit and find out.

DATES: 21 Sept. to 31 Dec. 2017
INFO: (416) 392-6915

<http://www.toronto.ca/mackenziehouse>
machouse@toronto.ca

Locke Library, Yonge & Lawrence

William McDougall

Photographic display to complement 1 October walk (p.1) and 19 October lecture (p.8.).

DATES: Sept-Oct

Calendar continues on page 8

Lectures



WILLIAM McDUGALL: DREAMS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS OF A CONFEDERATION-ERA TORONTO POLITICIAN

While lesser-known than many of his Confederation contemporaries, such as John A. Macdonald and George Brown, the enigmatic William McDougall remains one of the most significant and controversial figures in the history of modern Canada. A lawyer, journalist, and political Reformer in the Toronto of the mid-19th century, McDougall's contributions to the Confederation project were instrumental in determining the westward trajectory of the early Dominion, and continue to reverberate throughout the nation today.

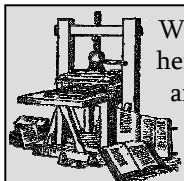
Through an exploration of McDougall's early days on his family's Yonge Street farm, to his meteoric political rise as mouth-piece of the Clear Grit Reform movement in the 1850s and beyond, Governor-General's Award-winning author (*1867: How the Fathers Made a Deal*) and historian **Christopher Moore** will lead us on a journey through Confederation-era Toronto, exploring the experiences which shaped both the personality and the policies of this very important figures in our national story.

DATE: Thursday, 19 October, 7.00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chamber, North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street, North York.

TICKETS: free - registration required
<http://tinyurl.com/yb6pg4yg>

Presented by North York Historical Society, Dictionary of Canadian Biography, North Toronto Historical Society and the City of Toronto.



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.



Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation
106 Trinity Street

VALUES AND VISIONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLING:

A Sesquicentennial Series

Four innovative presentations on changing understandings in public schooling

Refreshments each evening at 6:30 p.m.

What is Schooling for?

DATE: Tues. 14 November, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Designs for Learning: If these Walls could speak....

DATE: Tues. 28 November, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

From Segregation to Integration? How Equitable is Contemporary Schooling?

DATE: Tues. 16 January, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Why the Arts Matter

DATE: Tues 30 January, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

TICKETS: free - registration required
etsfspeakerseries@gmail.com

INFO: enochturnerschoolhouse.ca



The Heritage Toronto Awards showcase extraordinary contributions to the conservation and promotion of Toronto's heritage made by individuals, groups and organizations. This year, regardless of the type of ticket you purchase, all attendees will have access to the full program—from the Mayor's Reception to the end of the evening!

DATE: Monday, 23 October, 5:30-10:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Carlu, "Eaton's Seventh Floor"
444 Yonge St. at College

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

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

2017 Executive (*Directors)

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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

Plaques: Doug Campbell