

May the year on which
you are entering
Your sweetest joys renew,
And may its opening morning
Bring a herald of peace to you

The "Allied for Right" Victory Greeting Card, sent from Office of Hon. Superintendent (Gertrude Van Kouhngnet), Soldiers' Comforts, 71 King Street West, Toronto. 1918

TRL

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Winter Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



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

MEMORIES OF THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

Heather Gardiner, archivist at Women's College Hospital (WCH) will tell the story of the Women's College Hospital School of Nursing, which operated from 1915-1975. At this time nursing education in Canada was through hospital-based programmes. Heather's presentation will feature historical photographs, memorabilia and artifacts from the WCH archives' collection.

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

BLACK SETTLEMENTS, AFRICAN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES

Channon Oyeniran (Ontario Black History Society) will give an illustrated talk about the movement and settlement of diverse Black populations to and within Canada in the twentieth century. Emphasis will be given to Toronto and the surrounding area. Channon will also look at the establishment of the schools, churches and other institutions which were crucial to the Black Canadian community's survival and advancement.

NOTE: A brief Annual General Meeting will precede this programme.

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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP: BUILDING THE CITY OF CHURCHES

Toronto was known for many years as the City of Churches. The steeples were the City's tallest structures until the twentieth century, and many of the churches became landmarks. Through this talk architectural historian Marta O'Brien will share images of worship spaces past and present.



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 2019, as the North Toronto Historical Society enters its 44th 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 2018 – Hilary Dawson, newsletter editor; Bill Dawson, treasurer; Brian Dunfield membership co-ordinator; Flo Morson, secretary; and Doug Campbell, Janet Dunfield, Alex Grenzebach, Ken Pon, and Liz and John Warrener, members-at-large. Special thanks to Janet Dunfield who helped out with refreshments at our meetings, to Liz and John Warrener for sale of Society publications and to Alex Grenzebach who emailed the NTHS Updater. Alan Barry, Branch Head of Northern District Library and librarians Bonnie Ing and Jennifer Barratt 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.

2018 featured many successful programmes with topics ranging from “The Don Station” to “Exploring the Arts and Crafts Movement.” Archival sources at the Toronto Reference Library and the Archives of Ontario were used by speakers to bring to life the personal stories of Marjorie Pickthall, poet, and of Harry Mason a Canadian soldier fighting in the First World War and his sweetheart Sadie Arbuckle. NTHS member and architectural historian Marta O'Brien, who has given many presentations to us over the years, spoke on King Street West.

Our annual Fall walk “Davisville Village” was done in co-operation with the South Eglinton Ratepayers' and Residents Association. Special thanks to Sharon Mourer and Amy Isaac of SERRA for making this a very interesting walk. It also highlighted the need to be vigilant about local heritage.

Looking forward to seeing you at our programmes in 2019,

*Lynda Moon, President*

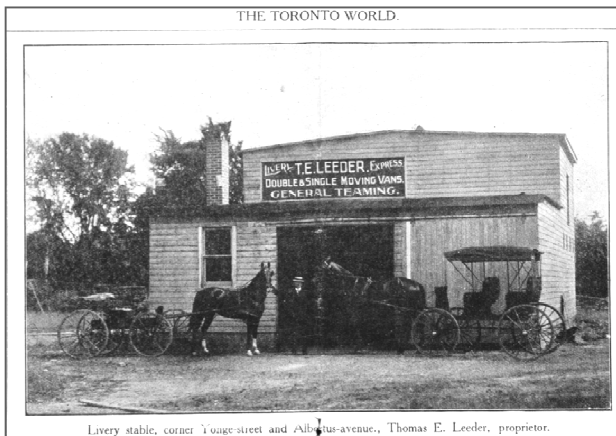
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### Heritage News

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#### North Toronto Online!

In 1907 the *Toronto World* featured an extensive article about the Town of North Toronto: “Toronto’s Healthiest and Most Beautiful Suburb.” This has recently been digitized by TPL and is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/y7mn7eyn>.



#### The Friars Music Museum

Built in 1918 for the first *Child's Restaurant* in Canada, in 1973 it became *The Friars Tavern*; then it was



the first *Hard Rock Café* in North America. Now this historic building at 279 Yonge Street on Dundas Square is a Shoppers Drug Mart. But all is not lost, music mavens and heritage hounds: on the second floor you will find a tribute to the Yonge Street music scene, with instruments, playbills and videos telling the stories of the performers and fans who made this *the* cool place to be. The Friars Music Museum is a collaboration between the Downtown Yonge BIA and Shoppers Drug Mart.

**ADMISSION:** Free

**INFO:** <https://tinyurl.com/y8w9op9m>

## FALL WALK

### *Davisville Village*

This exploration of the east end of Davisville Village was presented jointly by the North Toronto Historical Society (NTHS) and the South Eglinton Ratepayers' and Residents' Association (SERRA). Special thanks go to Lynda Moon (NTHS) and walk leaders Sharon Mourer and Amy Isaac (SERRA), who told us about the heritage gems in eastern Davisville.

Davisville was one of the three communities (with Eglinton and Bedford Park) which became the Town of North Toronto in 1890. By 1869 Davisville was large enough to warrant a post office. The first postmaster was John Davis, owner of the Davis Pottery Works. After his death in 1891, his son Joseph S. Davis became postmaster, and the post office moved to the store still standing at Davisville and Yonge.

In 1840, John Davis had come from Staffordshire, a pottery region in England. He built his pottery on Yonge Street where Millwood Road is now. Clay was dug from a pit to the east, and the much-used track would eventually become Millwood Road. In 1910, the pottery was moved to larger premises at 377 Merton Street east of Mount Pleasant (closer to clay deposits), and later to 601 Merton. This last site has been the Pottery Playground since 1976.

Settlement of Davisville first occurred along Yonge Street, then east along Davisville Avenue, Balliol and Merton Streets. The area is bounded to the south by Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and to the north by the Glebe (undeveloped clergy reserve). The early settlers along this strip were farmers, or those involved in associated trades like blacksmithing.

The growth of the Davisville area is closely linked to improvements in transportation. The promise of the Belt Line (opened 1892) encouraged land speculation in North Toronto, and commercial and residential development on Merton Street. However, the line's success was short-lived and it closed in 1894. Dominion Coal was the last company to use it.

In the 1920s streetcars allowed people to work in the city and live in the suburbs. The effect of the subway in the 1960s can be seen in the tremendous

number of buildings from that decade still standing in the Davisville area. What architectural innovations will result from the opening of the Eglinton Crosstown?



**505 Balliol:** built in the 1880s, this is one of the oldest houses surviving on Balliol. The first owner was gardener Stephen Page. His son John S. Page took over the property by 1909. John worked for the Davis store on Yonge Street. It was a long walk from east of Mount Pleasant to do the weekly shopping, so in 1924, Page opened a store in his own house. It was very popular, particularly with local children! It operated until 1951.

In February 2018, 505 Balliol received heritage designation. It was sold recently, and the new owner hopes to develop the property and is appealing the designation before the Provincial Conservation Review Board.

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### **Who's Who in Mount Pleasant Cemetery?**

by Doug Campbell

*From time to time we will have 3 or 4 names of people interred in the cemetery who have one or two things in common, for instance a position or a business.*

What office did these 3 men hold?  
For a bonus, what was their profession?

**Oliver Mowat**  
**William Mortimer Clark**  
**Keillor MacKay**

*The answer is on page 6*

## Fall Lecture Series

SEPTEMBER: Carl Benn

### *Exploring the Arts & Crafts Movement*

Carl Benn described the development of the Arts & Crafts Movement in Britain from its roots in the ideals of the mid-19th century Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood to its influence on architecture and design in Toronto in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Proponents of the Arts & Crafts Movement hoped to bring about both social and aesthetic change. They saw industrialisation as responsible for appalling working conditions, child labour and the increasing filth and squalor evident in cities. They abhorred the mass-production of inferior, ugly objects. Designer William Morris and his colleagues viewed the past as a more wholesome time, when the honest country craftsman produced individual objects with care and simplicity. The idealised designs of these imaginary rustic artisans were based on inspiration in nature and traditional forms – a far cry from Victorian over-decorated clutter. “Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful,” was Morris’s principle.

In 1861, William Morris established Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. (known as “The Firm”) with partners whose skills ranged from fine art to engineering. The Firm designed houses as a whole, including wall-coverings, fabrics and furniture. Furnishings were made in workshops, not factories. The style became popular, but the products were too expensive for most people. Soon mass-produced imitations were available.

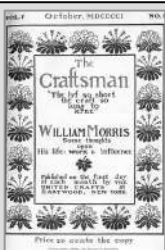
#### MORE ABOUT ARTS & CRAFTS

*The Craftsman*, issues 1901-1916  
<https://tinyurl.com/6hfgnev>

William Morris Society of Canada  
<http://www.wmsc.ca>

*Eden Smith - Toronto's Arts & Crafts Architect*, by W. Douglas Brown (2003)  
<http://www.artsandcraftstoronto.com/the-book/>

Eden Smith buildings listed on *Archindont*  
<https://tinyurl.com/y8u7jqy6>



Arts & Crafts style crossed the Atlantic directly to Canada, but also by way of the United States. American architect and furniture designer Gustav Stickley published his own and others’ plans (including William Morris) in *The Craftsman* magazine, which had a wide circulation.

In 1892, English-born architect Eden Smith introduced Toronto to the principles of Arts & Crafts designs with plans for the church of St. Thomas (which he attended) on Huron Street. In the 1910s he won the contract to design three Toronto libraries (Wychwood, High Park and Beaches). His ideas matched Chief Librarian George Locke’s statement that a library should not have extraneous decorations, but simply “let the people come and talk about books in an atmosphere of social happiness.”

Smith adapted his plans to suit the Canadian climate, with foundations that were deep enough to withstand freezing, winter heating and adequate ventilation in summer. The style suited the ambience of “garden suburbs” like Lawrence Park. In 1906 Smith built his own house in Wychwood Park, and designed many others. Following the tenets of Arts & Crafts, Smith’s plans included interiors, and sometimes furniture.



**The Lindens, Riverdale Courts, Bain Ave, Toronto**  
<https://chuckmantorontonostalgia.wordpress.com>

Eden Smith did not just work on up-market residences. In 1913 he designed Spruce Court and Riverdale Courts for the Ontario Housing Company, the city’s first public housing projects.

While the Arts & Crafts style went out of fashion in Britain after the First World War, in Canada it continued to influence architecture and design into the 1940s.

***Focus on North Toronto***

In October we had the opportunity to watch three North Toronto segments from the Rogers TV local history and architecture series *Structures*.

***The Eglinton Grand*** (2004)

The glamorous Eglinton Theatre opened in 1936 as Famous Players' flagship movie theatre. The following year the firm of Kaplan and Sprachman won the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada Bronze Medal for its art deco design. This was the most modern theatre in the city when it opened. It continued as a leader in the Canadian movie business when it presented the Canadian premiere of *The Sound of Music* in 1965.

The theatre's merit was acknowledged when it was listed as a heritage site by the City of Toronto in 1983; then designated as a heritage property in 2004. Sadly, its movie showing life ended when it closed in 2002. However the "Save the Eglinton Theatre" committee attracted attention and commercial interest to the beautiful building, and after modernisation and refurbishment it opened as the Eglinton Grand special events venue in 2004.

In November 2016, the federal government recognised the former Eglinton Theatre as a national historic site, and the work done by Kaplan & Sprachman Architects as a national historic event.

***Blythwood Road*** (2004)

First called Victoria Avenue, it was opened in part in the 1850s, and by the 1860s reached Bayview. When North Toronto amalgamated with the City of Toronto in 1912, the name was changed to Blythwood Road.

Building in the area began slowly, but development accelerated after 1886, when the streetcar line up Yonge Street made this a very accessible suburban street. The neighbourhood has a country feel thanks to the mixture of architectural styles and the Blythwood Ravine.

**WATCH STRUCTURES AT HOME!****Available on DVD to borrow from your TPL:**

- Structures. The Eglinton Grand, Show #7, 2004
- Structures. Blythwood Road, Show #3, 2004
- Structures. Bedford Park, Show #2, 2007



**56 Blythwood Road, an Arts & Crafts house built in 1914 by contractor Herbert Elgie.**

In 2003 an application for the demolition of 56 Blythwood brought residents together. They were not only distressed by the possible loss of the house, but also that the developer planned to build three houses in its place. Spearheaded by Glenda Henniger and Eric Melis, a committee assisted ERA Architects in producing a report on the viability of the street as a Heritage Conservation District. By the end of 2003, Blythwood Road from just east of Yonge Street to Sherwood Park had been made a Heritage Conservation District.

***Bedford Park Neighbourhood*** (2007)

At first, Yonge Street had only a few scattered farms, but as the thoroughfare became busier hotels were built. About 1840, the Durham Ox was opened on the west side at Woburn, and in the 1870s the Bedford Park Hotel at Fairlawn. It seems that this hotel gave rise to the community's name.

At the turn of the 20th century there was a building boom, and the increasing population required the services of schools, churches and parks, as well as shops. Sloan's Shoes (3455 Yonge) was established in 1952 by the grandfather of the current owner; Sam Corallo (now at 3195 Yonge) opened a barber shop in Bedford Park in 1958 and is still cutting hair.

It was delightful to see local luminaries like Alex Grenzebach, and the late Glenda Henniger, Don Ritchie and Warren Davis talking about the communities they love. Special thanks is due to Lynda Moon for putting this programme together.

MARCH: Jay Young

*Dear Sadie:  
Loves, Lives, and Remembrance from  
Ontario's First World War*

The Archives of Ontario does not hold military records from World War 1, so it developed a commemorative exhibit from private papers in its collection. *Dear Sadie* tells the stories of how the war affected four Ontario individuals.

**Harry Mason and Sadie Arbuckle**

Harry Mason and his partner John Wulff were ambitious young men who headed west to open a store in Compeer, Alberta. Wulff corresponded with a Toronto friend, Sadie Arbuckle. Sometimes Sadie sent a card to Harry, and so their correspondence began. There was a marked contrast between their two lives, one in the wilds of the West, the other in an office in a bustling city.

In July 1915, Harry enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was sent to Ontario for training with the 80th Battalion in Napanee. He was able to spend his first leave in Toronto, and finally met Sadie.



In February, 1916, Harry was sent to England. Their letters show the sadness of parting, but Harry had a keen sense of duty, and felt that all young men should enlist. By August he had been deployed to France, and then Belgium. His company's main job was construction, including the digging and fortification of trenches. In his letters, Harry shared his horror and grief at losing men he commanded.

In Toronto, Sadie did her bit for the war effort by fund-raising and promoting enlistment efforts. She contemplated training as a nurse.

Harry was accepted into the Royal Flying Corps in January 1917, and trained as a gunner. Harry's last letter, written in April 1917, expresses how disillusioned he had become; "what's the use Sadie of all this horrible slaughter, surely it has gone far enough now for the world to learn its futility."

On 28 April, 1917, Harry and his pilot were shot down over Arras, France. Sadie was notified by Harry's sister Ruby. The Mason family returned the letters that Sadie had sent to Harry. which is how AO has both sides of this poignant correspondence.

**MORE ABOUT LOVES, LIVES, AND REMEMBRANCE  
Online exhibits by the Archives of Ontario**

- Harry Mason & Sadie Arbuckle  
<https://tinyurl.com/myk8gru>
- Dr. L. Bruce Robertson  
<https://tinyurl.com/ybjt8vm9>
- Private John Mould  
<https://tinyurl.com/yd44bars>

**Dr. L. Bruce Robertson**

Bruce Robertson was a physician at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. He was at the forefront of the development of blood transfusion, and performed the first such procedure at the hospital.



In 1914, he enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps and served as a field surgeon, using the new technique of blood transfusion to save many lives. He took a personal interest in his patients, encouraging them to write to him so that he could see their progress.

Dr. Robertson returned safely to Canada in 1918, but died of pneumonia in 1923, at the age of 37.

**Private John F. Mould**

John Mould was from St. Catharines. A veteran of the Boer War, he enlisted again at the end of 1914. He served as regimental cook. He was stationed in France, and his diary records the many major conflicts at which he was present.



In 1936, John, with his wife and daughter, joined the "Vimy Pilgrimage" to attend the unveiling of the Vimy Memorial in France.

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**Who's Who in Mount Pleasant Cemetery?**

What office did these 3 men hold: Oliver Mowat, William Mortimer Clark, Keillor MacKay?  
What was their profession?

**Answer:**

They were Lieutenant Governors of Ontario. They were all lawyers.

## 50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1968, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.

North Toronto public schools “lead the way in the reduction of strapping in Toronto schools” according to a B of E report. The total number of strappings fell from 6,352 in 1928 to 2,155. No North Toronto school reported more than 10 strappings in 1967 and most had none, including Blythwood and John Ross Robertson.



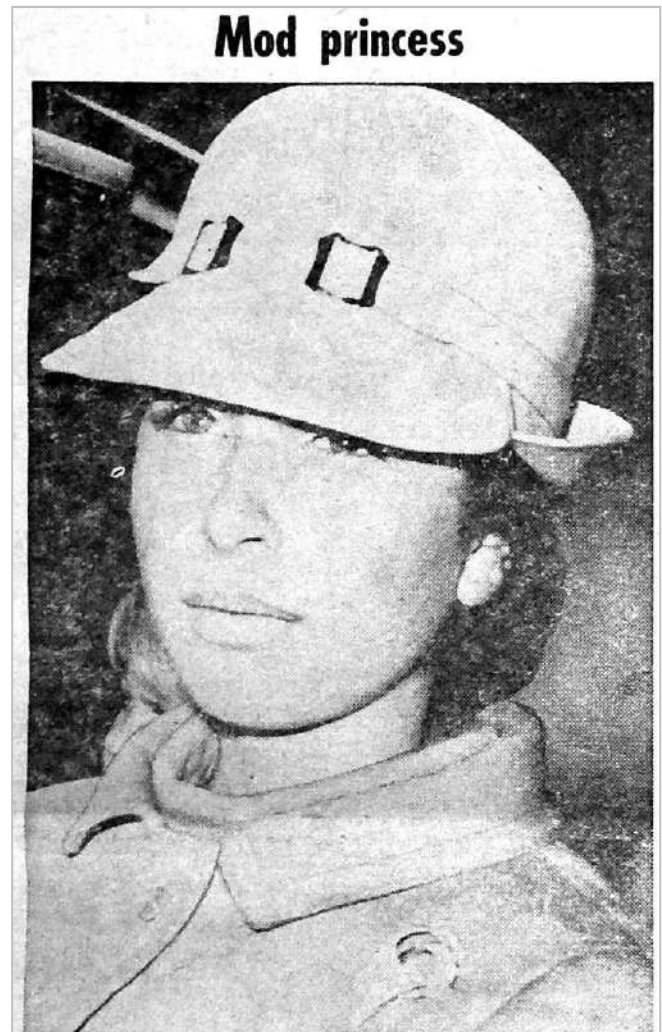
George H. Locke library marked its 20th anniversary on Jan 5, 1969. It circulated the most books of any branch in the Toronto system and “is fast becoming too small for the demands being made upon it.” A former NTHS member, Miss Helen McNeil, was the head librarian and administered a staff of 19, 10 of whom were graduate librarians.

Although a 10-year survey of doctors showed a reduction of 50% in doctor-smokers (from 52% to 24%), the executive director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada said, “it is astonishing that many practitioners still prescribe ‘through a haze of smoke’ even when dealing with malignancies caused by the habit.”

The Toronto Planning Board endorsed a report recommending the opening of two new streets on the north side of Sheldrake Boulevard, just east of Yonge. This would allow a subdivision consisting of 40 single family dwellings on the property owned by the Imperial Order Daughters Of The Empire (IODE) and which had been the site of a sanitarium. Previous proposals for the site included high rise apartments and a pediatric hospital.



Traffic Commissioner Samuel Cass stated that Metro Toronto “may have to spend \$136 million to complete the Spadina Expressway by 1975.” Then Jane Jacobs and others took up the anti-expressway fight!



No, it isn't a leading fashion model...it's Princess Anne, 18-year-old daughter of Queen Elizabeth. The Princess is often seen walking the London streets these days as she is studying languages at home. This Robin Hood-style hat is just one of many mod creations Princess Anne wears.

# Heritage Calendar

**Gibson House**, 5172 Yonge St

## *The Fairer Vote*

A celebration of the 100th anniversary of Canadian women being entitled to vote in federal elections.

**DATES:** to 10 Feb, 2019

**INFO:** 416-395-7432

[www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

**City of Toronto Archives**, 255 Spadina Road  
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2V3

## *Wide Open World: A Celebration of the Suburbs in Toronto*

Features the work of official city photographers, freelancers and amateurs, as they documented people raising families, building communities in the wide open world known as the suburbs.

**DATES:** to 27 Apr, 2019

**INFO:** 416-397-5000

<https://tinyurl.com/yagbhjny>

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

## *Toronto Through the Eyes of Women Artists*

Includes the works of Doris McCarthy, Marion Long and Paraskeva Clark.

**DATES:** to 27 Apr, 2019

**ADMISSION:** \$5.00 - \$8.00

**INFO:** (416) 392-7604

<https://tinyurl.com/ybkjs9fr>

### 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**

## East York Historical Society

S. Walter Stewart Library  
170 Memorial Park Ave. & Durant Ave.

## *Celebrating Portia White... 50 years on*

Sheila White tells the story of her aunt's success on world stages in the 1940s. Featuring music by the Don Heights Singers and the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble.

**DATE:** Tues. 29 Jan, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

**ADMISSION:** Free



## Toronto Postcard Club: 38th Annual Show

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

Come to our Show! There are sure to be some century old postcards about your subject in the 1,000s offered for sale.

**DATE:** Sun. 24 Feb, 2019, 10:00-5:00

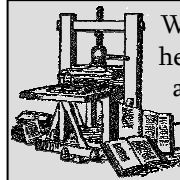
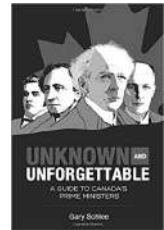
**ADMISSION:** \$5

**INFO:** [torontopostcardclub.com](http://torontopostcardclub.com)

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• **Congratulations** to NTHS member **Gary Schlee**  
• on the publication of his book *Unknown and*  
• *Unforgettable: A Guide to Canada's Prime*  
• *Ministers* (Toronto: Shovelan Publishing, 2018)

• Unlike their official biographies,  
• Schlee's bite-sized profiles, bullets,  
• genealogies and timelines give us –  
• whether historians or casual readers –  
• uncluttered, uncensored and  
• understandable sketches of what one  
• PM described as “the toughest job in  
• the land.” - Ted Barris, author.

• <https://canadianprimeministers.wordpress.com>  
• .....



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

**Submissions for the next Newsletter by 5 April 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.

283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5M 2B2

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

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

### 2018 Executive (\*Directors)

*President & Programmes:* \*Lynda Moon

*Membership Co-ordinator:* \*Brian Dunfield, 416-484-9304

*Secretary:* Flo Morson

*Treasurer:* Bill Dawson

*Publicity:*

*Members-at-large:* Janet Dunfield, \*Alex Grenzebach, Ken Pon, Liz Warrenner, John Warrenner

*Past President:* John Hutchinson

*Newsletter Editor:* \*Hilary Dawson

*Plaques:* \*Doug Campbell

*Research:* Hilary Dawson