

Snowball fight in Rosedale Ravine, 1912. CTA

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W. R. TOMLINSON
 Decorator, Etc.
 EGLINTON

Spring Programme

Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.



Wednesday, 24 April, 7:30 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMMIGRATION:

The Italian-Canadian Experience in Toronto

The Toronto area is home to one of the largest Italian communities in the world. In this illustrated lecture, **Vincenzo Pietropaolo** will focus on the role of photography in recording the city's Italian immigrant history with archival photographs from the 1900s through post-World War II. He will also include images from own extensive documentation of the Italian immigrant experience with works from two of his books, *Not Paved With Gold* (2006), and *Ritual* (2016).

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

SPADINA HOUSE AND GUSTAV HAHN

An illustrated talk on the history of Spadina House built in 1866 by James Austin. The decorative work of muralist and designer Gustav Hahn will be highlighted. Presented by **James A.S. Thompson**, an Austin family descendant. In 2000 James Thompson published a revised edition of *Spadina: A Story of Old Toronto*, written by his late father, Austin Seton Thompson.



Hodgson Public School, Davisville Ave., 1929

TRL

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.

City of Toronto: State of Heritage Report 2019

Heritage Toronto's latest report, *Changing the Narrative*, is available to download at <http://tinyurl.com/y523juuo>

Architecture Watchdog

The Ontario Association of Architects has created a "Government Relations Portal" to monitor and react to government actions. <https://www.oaa.on.ca/government-initiatives>

Ontario Place

There was great anxiety in the heritage sector when the new Provincial Government removed OP's Statement of Cultural Heritage Value from the government website. The page is preserved on the WayBack Machine: <http://tinyurl.com/y5pg893f>

In response, Catherine Naismith and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (Toronto Branch), produced a ten minute video on the history of Ontario Place. <http://tinyurl.com/y4ufgz9l>

The Government's vague description of a revitalized Ontario Place specifies that there will be no land sales, no reduction in park area, and no residential: "The government's vision for the Ontario Place site is a world-class year-round destination that will attract local, provincial and international visitors – with potential landmarks such as sports and entertainment attractions, and retail." <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-place>

Why not join the Toronto branch of ACO?

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) was founded in 1933 by U of T Professor Eric Arthur to help communities preserve buildings of architectural merit, as well as places of natural beauty and interest. ACO members receive both the "Acorn" magazine and web-based "Acorn in a Nutshell," as well as Toronto's own e-newsletter. Membership: <https://acotoronto.ca/join.php>

What about *my* house?

Familysearch is digitizing *Land Records of the City of Toronto and Surrounding Areas, 1797-1926*. North Toronto, 1800-1912, is already online. Not indexed, but it saves a trip to the Registrar's Office, and you can sit in your pajamas to search! <http://tinyurl.com/yyuclzo7>

JANUARY: Heather Gardiner

Memories of the Women's College Hospital School of Nursing

The archives at Women's College Hospital (WCH) exists thanks to the dedication of Miss Margaret Robins, a 1947 graduate of the WCH School of Nursing. Miss Robins worked in various capacities at WCH, retiring in 1992. Proud of her school and hospital, she collected and organised documents and memorabilia to create the collection named in her honour, The Miss Margaret Robins Archives of Women's College Hospital. Miss Robins retired as volunteer archivist in 2004, leaving the archives in the capable hands of Heather Gardiner.

Heather told the story of the Women's College Hospital School of Nursing, illustrated with photos, documents and artefacts from the collection. Early nursing schools in English Canada combined the principles of Florence Nightingale with hospital-based learning. The first such school was established in 1874 at the General & Marine Hospital in St. Catharines. WCH Nursing School had a fairly spontaneous beginning, when a patient in the hospital was so impressed by her care that she asked to stay to be trained herself. So in 1915 Sarah Jane Glenn became the first student nurse at WCH. When she graduated in 1917, a ceremony was held in the garden of the three-storey house the hospital occupied at 125 Rusholme Road. She received a certificate and a pin. The next class had two graduates, and so the Nursing School grew.

The school invited applications from "women of superior education and culture," and good moral character, aged 18 to 30. An applicant was more likely to be successful if her mother accompanied her to the interview. The "Welcome Letter" to successful candidates instructed them to bring sufficient rail fare to return home in the event that they were not selected to continue. Educational prerequisites changed over the years. In the 1920s, candidates had to have completed at least one year of high school; by the 1960s a secondary school diploma and a course in science were required. No fees were charged for tuition, accommodation or meals, but students had to pay for their uniforms.

Nursing continues on page 3

Nursing continued from page 2

A second-year mentor was assigned as a “Big Sister” to each new “Little Sister.” New students spent three months as Probationers (Probies), receiving classroom instruction in hygiene, nutrition and basic nursing techniques. They were then evaluated on their suitability for further training. The capping ceremony, when a Probie became a nurse-in-training, culminated in the Big Sister pinning the cap on the Little sister. In 1925, fifteen of 100 applicants were accepted. Of these, twelve went on to the capping ceremony.

Initially, training took three years. Students spent nine hours a day on duty in wards. They followed an apprenticeship style of instruction, mentored by senior nurses as they worked with patients. They also had daily classes and study. They were allowed one afternoon of personal time per week. In 1955 ward hours were reduced from 48 to 44 per week.

Students practised on each other, but in 1950 Mrs. Chase arrived at the nursing school. “She” was a mannequin used for practising bathing, dressings and other techniques. Mrs. Chase was a common training feature at most hospitals in Canada.

Nurses were required to live in residence, close to the hospital. There was no custom-designed residence until Burton Hall on Grosvenor Street opened in 1955. Until then, students shared rooms in converted houses. There were rigorous rules: a 1920s Rule Book stipulated that by 6:40 a.m. each nurse was to be ready for roll call in the dining-room, having left her room dusted and tidy, and her bed made. Miscreants lost their precious time off.

After a gruelling three years, graduation was a time of great celebration, with picnics, tea parties with mothers, father and daughter dances. Graduates were presented with a corsage, then paraded across Queen’s Park to the ceremony in Convocation Hall. The coveted black band of the fully fledged nurse was added to her cap.

For many girls, nursing school was their first time away from home, and their first experience of city life. Nursing training was intense, and the other women in residence became a substitute family. They shared triumphs and frustrations, and enjoyed relaxation and fun together. The experience developed lifelong friendships.

Over the years, responsibility for nurses’ education had been moving away from the nursing schools. In September 1973 the Ontario Government closed all hospital-based nursing schools. Women’s College Hospital training moved to Ryerson, as did Wellesley and the Hospital for Sick Children.

The last WCH trainees graduated in 1975.



Agnes Chan, the first Chinese Canadian student to graduate from the Women’s College Hospital School of Nursing, 1923. *The Miss Margaret Robins Archives WCH*
Agnes was awarded prizes for highest standing in theory and obstetrical nursing.

**MORE ABOUT WOMEN’S COLLEGE HOSPITAL
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Virtual Exhibit:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxmxu4ds>

Miss Margaret Robins Archives of WCH:

<https://tinyurl.com/y39clcnh>

FEBRUARY: Channon Oyeniran
Black Settlements,
African Canadian Communities

Black communities grew up in settlements across Canada through the 19th century and into the 20th. Channon Oyeniran described communities from Halifax to Vancouver, many of which still thrive. She talked about the importance of churches, schools and other institutions to their development and success, and mentioned some of the notable people associated with them.

Channon talked about four centres of black settlement in southern Ontario.

Chatham: Early in the 1800s five black families settled along McGregor’s Creek. This small group became a magnet for Blacks fleeing the US, and by the 1850s one third of Chatham’s population was of African descent.

Elgin Settlement at Buxton, near Chatham: This settlement was established in 1849 by Rev. William King, a Presbyterian minister who inherited slaves when first his father-in-law and then his wife died. He acquired land near Chatham and brought his former slaves from Louisiana to live self-sufficient lives in freedom. The Elgin Settlement attracted more freedom-seekers. Many descendants of these settlers still live and farm around North Buxton.



At Buxton Homecoming 2018 a sculpture was unveiled outside the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum. Created by chainsaw carver Robbin Wenzoski, it honours the Rev. William King and the freedom-seekers who founded the community, represented by Eliza and her son Solomon. Photo: Hilary Dawson

Canada Post stamps commemorating the African Canadian communities of Africville and Hogan’s Alley (2014). This year’s stamp is of Albert Jackson, Toronto, the first Black letter carrier in Canada.



Otterville, Oxford County: Otterville was founded by Quakers, whose opposition to slavery and encouragement attracted many freedom-seekers. From 1829, the Otterville area developed an active Black community: the Otterville American Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was built in 1856, and a British Methodist Episcopal (BME) Church was established in nearby Ingersoll in 1858.

Toronto: By the 1830s there were 50 Black families in the Town of York. Many of these people had their own businesses. Thornton Blackburn, for instance, ran the first cab company in the city. St. Lawrence Hall was an important location for anti-slavery and abolitionist meetings.

There were Black settlements beyond Ontario.

Amber Valley, Alberta: In 1909, 160 Black farmers from Texas and Oklahoma migrated north to Amber Valley, 160 km north of Edmonton. They were attracted by the government offer of land to homestead and a desire to flee the humiliating Jim Crow restrictions of the southern US.

Africville, Halifax, NS: The Halifax area was home to African Canadians from the mid 1700s. A Black community grew up in Africville, and Seaview African United Baptist Church was built in 1849. In the 1960s, the city of Halifax decided it wanted the area for a park: the residents and their belongings were moved out in garbage trucks, and the buildings were demolished. In 2010, the Mayor of Halifax formally apologised for this injustice.

Little Burgundy, Montreal, Quebec: This thriving Black, English-speaking, working-class community developed in the late 1800’s. Close to railway stations, it was home to many sleeping car porters and cooks.

Black Settlements continues on page 5

Black Settlements continued from page 4

Hogan's Alley, Vancouver: Close to the Railway station, it was a convenient location for work, and an active Black community developed, centred on the AME Fountain Chapel. Nora Hendrix, grandmother of musician Jimi Hendrix, lived here. It was a racially mixed area, with Italian and Chinese residents. In the 1960s the area was leveled to make room for a viaduct.

Some of these early communities disappeared as a result of changing economic and employment prospects, and others were erased by ignorance and prejudice. Yet descendants of these first settlers still contribute to our country. As Harriet Tubman said, "We're rooted here and they can't pull us up."

MORE ABOUT BLACK COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

Ontario

Chatham

Chatham Kent Black Historical Society
<https://ckbhs.org>

Elgin Settlement, Buxton

Participate in Buxton's Homecoming, every Labour Day Weekend. Details will appear here:
<http://tinyurl.com/y5eogxca>

Otterville, Oxford Co.

Visit Heather Rennalls' website
<http://tinyurl.com/y3kxmh6d>

Toronto

Freedom City Virtual Exhibit
<http://tinyurl.com/ltnk4dy>

Alberta

Amber Valley

Video—*Secret Alberta: The Former Life of Amber Valley*. Winner of the 2018 Canadian Screen Award for Excellence in Digital Storytelling
<http://tinyurl.com/y2qd7lue>

Nova Scotia

Africville, Halifax

CBC Radio documentary <http://tinyurl.com/yywjr6gc>

Quebec

Little Burgundy, Montreal

CBC Ideas: *On the Move: Montreal's Little Burgundy*
<http://tinyurl.com/y5jtlej6>

British Columbia

Hogan's Alley, Vancouver

Video—*Secret Vancouver: Return to Hogan's Alley*
<http://tinyurl.com/zn7vbns>

Black History Month: Hogan's Alley Society update
11 February, 2019

<http://tinyurl.com/y2wwa85o>

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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 business were these 3 men engaged in?

Knowlton Nash

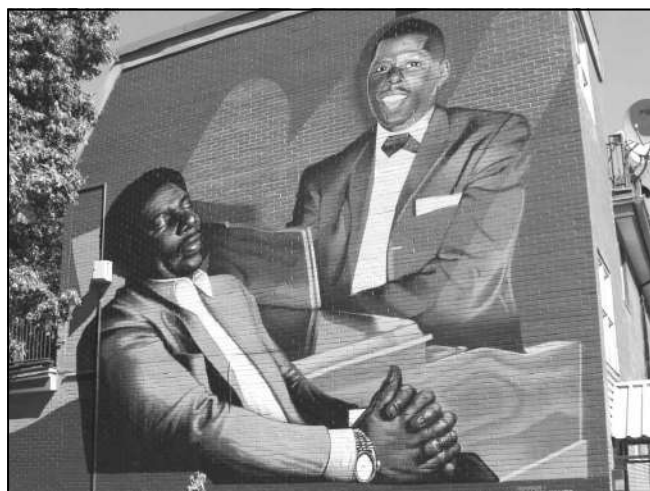
Norman Depoe

Larry Zolf

The answer is on page 8



Murals in Little Burgundy, Montreal, pay homage to two of the community's musical sons: Oscar Peterson and Oliver Jones



MARCH: Marta O'Brien

*Houses of Worship:
Building the City of Churches*

Will appear in the next Newsletter...

50 Years Ago

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



For all of them, it's their first Easter



In its first two months of operation (from Nov. 2, 1968), "Toronto's newest landmark," the McLaughlin Planetarium, attracted an estimated 78,000 visitors. Admission was \$1 for adults.

Toronto International Airport was the busiest airport in Canada in 1968. The federal government "has decided to open up Toronto International Airport to European airlines that now fly into Montreal."

Canada Pension Plan pensions became payable at age 66 on January 1, 1969. The age of eligibility was being reduced by one year every year until 1970.

<p>For Easter...</p> <p>GIVE AN UNUSUAL GIFT</p> <p>CANADIAN JEWELLERY MEXICAN LEATHER HANDBAGS JEWELLERY & GIFTWARE</p> <p><i>Hedy Hill</i></p> <p>2581 YONGE STREET (JUST NORTH OF POWER STORE) 487-7444</p>	<p>Spring Fashions in Jewellery at</p> <p><i>Ostrandere</i> JEWELLERS</p> <p>2485 YONGE STREET (at Castlefield) 485-0375</p> <p>• OPEN FRIDAYS TILL NINE •</p>
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The Canadian Heart Foundation reported that "diseases of the heart and circulation continue to be our number one killer, accounting for more deaths than all other causes combined." Artificial heart valves, synthetic artery grafts and implanted pacemakers are "increasingly successful."

Northern Secondary School's senior team took first place in a city-wide typing contest with a net 65 words per minute. The junior team placed second.

The new location of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, the only such college in Canada, opened on March 8, 1969 at 1900 Bayview Avenue, north of Eglinton. The college had an enrolment of 200, including 12 women and students from 15 countries.

An advertisement for the 22nd Annual Canadian National Sportsmen's Show. The headline reads "Get on the trail to the Sportsmen's Show". Below this, it says "This year's big, exciting show includes:" followed by a list of activities: "T.V.'s Gentle Ben, Outdoors Film Festival, International Motor Show, Indoor Retriever Trials, Moon River Fashion Show, Sports Displays and Demonstrations, Canada's Largest Dog Show." The event details are: "22nd Annual Canadian National Sportsmen's Show, Exhibition Park, Toronto, Every day March 14 - 23. Noon - 11 p.m. Weekdays, 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sundays. Street cars right to the door. Hourly service on the GO train. Entire proceeds in aid of conservation." A large black and white photograph of a bear's head is on the right side of the ad.

Gentle Ben, the "most popular star of animal land," was the feature attraction at the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show. His television series was seen on four channels in Toronto.

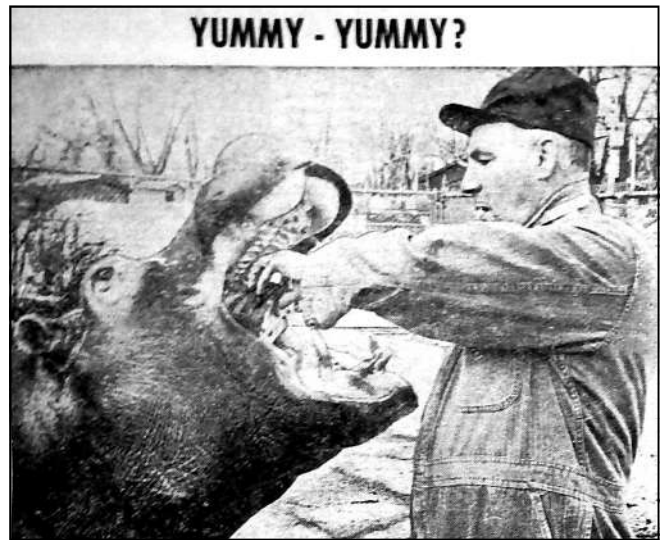
22-year-old Peter Rood Jr., of Rood's Pastry Shop at 2620 Yonge, won first prize at the Ontario Restaurant Association's show held at the Royal York. His entry was a three-tier wedding cake "with pink flower clusters."

From a special study made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, it was reported that “women in Canada earn about half as much as men on the average.” The survey found “disproportionately more women than men at lower-salary jobs in the managerial and professional levels.”

According to the Toronto Real Estate Board, 15,570 properties sold for \$430 million in 1968, an increase of 17% over 1967.



Thursday, Feb. 6th, was North Toronto Collegiate’s formal dance at Casa Loma and Sue Warren was chosen “At Home Queen” of 1969. Sue’s two princesses are Mary Lynn Scott and Bea King. The Stych In Time group provided the musical atmosphere. Theme was A Midwinter’s Night Dream. photo: Poul Nielsen



It takes a lot of food to feed this big fellow at Toronto’s Riverdale Zoo. Attendant George Pyne drops a few slices of bread into the hippo’s mouth. Actually the zoo’s two hippos are quite tame and whenever George drops around to see them, they follow him around like lambs. Well, almost.

From a random survey of a number of residents, it was concluded that the “Leaside-East York marriage” was a happy one. The Borough of East York was created on January 1, 1967 from the former Town of Leaside and the former Township of East York. Former East York Reeve, Miss True Davidson, became the Borough’s first Mayor and had “by the sheer force of her personality, been a major factor in creating the beginnings of a feeling of borough unity.”

Karl Hairstylist
 SPECIAL SALE OF
WIGS AND HAIRPIECES
10% OFF
 DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH ONLY
 OPEN EVENINGS, MON., WED., FRI.
SHAMPOO & SET \$2.50
 (LONG HAIR EXTRA)
 TELEPHONE 481-7641
 3283 YONGE ST. (JUST SOUTH OF PARK THEATRE)

Heritage Calendar



**Jane's Walk Festival,
3-5 May, 2019**

Dozens of citizen-led walks inspired by Jane Jacobs.
TORONTO WALKS: <http://tinyurl.com/y9vk4wg7>

**Milton Historical Society,
Weds. 8 May, 2019 7:30-9:00**

Making a Heritage House a Home
<http://tinyurl.com/y5yb3x9k>

Do you live in a heritage home? Mandy Sedgwick and Mirella Marshall of Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes discuss ways to make affordable changes while still respecting the heritage attributes of the home.

LOCATION: 16 James St., Milton, Carriage Room
INFO: \$15.00

Doors Open

Explore Toronto's Buildings, 25-26 May, 2019
<http://tinyurl.com/ybhbnt17>

This year's anniversary theme is "20 Something," celebrating the first 20 years of Doors Open Toronto while looking forward to the next 20 years. Full schedule of activities available on 1 May, 2019.

**Ontario Heritage Conference,
30 May-1 June, 2019**

<http://www.ontarioheritageconference.ca>

The conference theme is heritage economics and features an exciting program focused on how the agricultural, marine, industrial and tourist economies have shaped the built and natural heritage of these communities.

LOCATION: Municipalities of Bluewater and Goderich
INFO: ginetteguy@communityheritageontario.ca

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Who's Who in Mount Pleasant Cemetery?

What business were these 3 men engaged in: Knowlton Nash, Norman Depoe & Larry Zolf?

Answer:

All 3 worked for the CBC.

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



Archives of Ontario

<https://tinyurl.com/ybyta9ne>

Humans aren't the only ones documented in our collections. Other species are also important to Ontario's history! ANIMALIA explores humans' changing relationships with other animals and how these species have left their mark on Ontario's history.

LOCATION: conveniently located at the York University Station stop on subway Line 1 Yonge-University.

ONLINE EXHIBIT: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ky956g>

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



**Submissions for the next Newsletter by
15 June 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.

% 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5M 2B2

www.northtorontohistoricalsociety.org

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

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