



# NORTH TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

North Toronto Town Hall

VOL. 43 NO. 2

SUMMER 2019



Three children waiting for Dad, c.1919 CTA



*Mark your calendars...*

## Fall Programme

*Join us at 7:10 for refreshments.*



**Wednesday, 25 September, 7:30 p.m.**

*To be announced...*

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

### TORONTO'S WATERY HISTORY

**Ed Freeman**, retired geologist, will provide an illustrated talk on how water has formed the site of Toronto and created the landforms of the city. He will explain where our water comes from, how it is distributed, and where it goes after it is used.

**Wednesday, 27 November, 7:30 p.m.**

### NORTH TORONTO IN PICTURES... 45 YEARS LATER. IMAGES OF NORTH TORONTO ON TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY'S DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Presented by **Barbara Myrvold**, Local History Senior Services Specialist with Toronto Public Library.

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One of the series of great dinners given to returned soldiers at the Toronto Armories, together with a show, a boxing contest, etc. Sir John Eaton contributed the lavish decorations. March, 1919 TPL

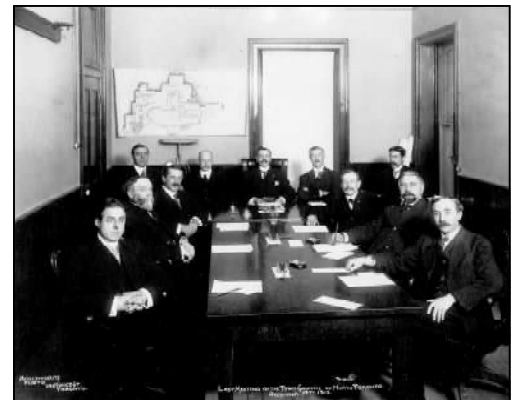
*Mark your calendars...*

## Fall Walk

*Location to be announced...*

**Sunday, 6 October,  
2:00-3.45 p.m.**

Explore the fascinating past and built heritage of the Town of North Toronto.



**Last meeting of the Town Council of North Toronto, December 14th, 1912.**  
Photo courtesy family of Alonzo Brown (centre), last Mayor of North Toronto.

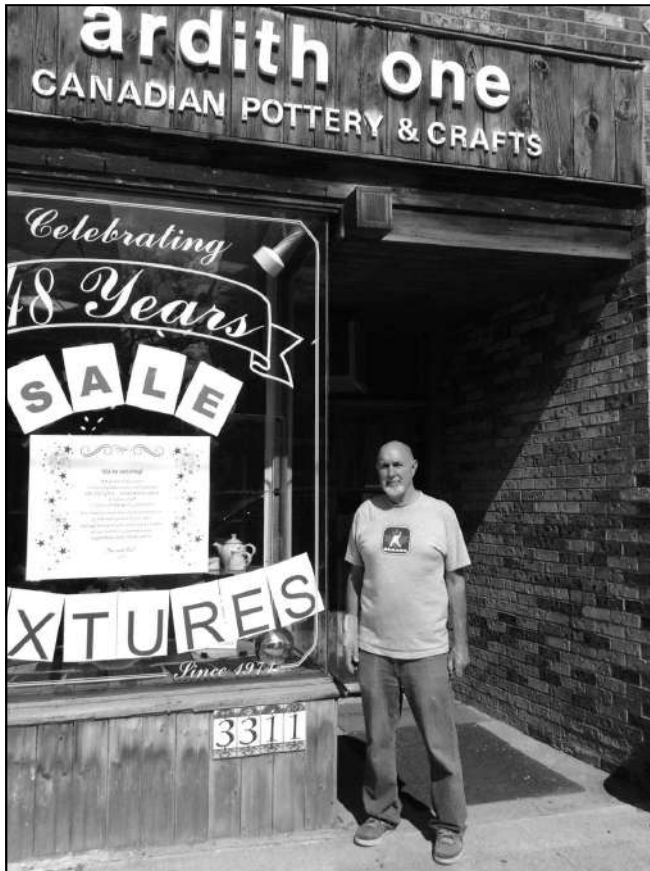
The Society meets at the Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard (one block north of Eglinton, just west of Yonge) at 7:30 pm on the last Wednesday of each month from September to November & January to May. Programmes are free and are open to the public. Our co-sponsor is the Northern District Branch of the Toronto Public Library.

## Heritage News

### Ardith One: Forty-Eight Great Years

The pottery store which has been a feature of the Bedford Park stretch of Yonge Street has closed after nearly half a century.

*More about Bill & Bev Don in the next Newsletter.*



Bill Don outside the store he and Bev have run for 48 years.

*Photo: Lynda Moon*

### Ontario Place: Heritage at Risk?

The President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario voiced disappointment at the Provincial Government's *Request for Proposals* for the development of Ontario Place, announced in May. There are no requirements for preserving heritage features like the original Ontario Place buildings, and Trillium Park. Trillium Park is of significance to indigenous peoples and was designed by architect Eb Zeidler and landscape architect Michael Hough.

The province's *Statement of Cultural Heritage Value* for Ontario Place has been removed from the Ontario government website, but is available at TOBuilt on the ACO Toronto website: [acotoronto.ca: https://acotoronto.ca/show\\_building.php?BuildingID=6707](https://acotoronto.ca/show_building.php?BuildingID=6707) in Sources.

Full story:

[https://www.acotoronto.ca/news\\_new.php](https://www.acotoronto.ca/news_new.php)



This huge Anishnaabe moccasin chiseled into granite is a feature of Trillium Park at Ontario Place.

### Picture Postcards Online

The Newberry Library has launched a digital archive of over 26,000 high-quality images of picture postcards produced by pioneering British company Raphael Tuck & Sons during the first half of the 20th century. Includes some Canadian images.

<https://tinyurl.com/y2c7h9es>



*Toronto, The Wharf*, one of the postcards now online at the Newberry Library - see story left

## 150th Anniversary of Miss Rye's Home Children

On 20 June 1869, three little children disembarked from the SS *Austrian* in Quebec under the care of Matron Mary Hagan. They were the first of the little immigrants who would become known as "British Home Children." Five-year-old Mary Kneeves, baby Herbert Radley and ten-year-old Ellen Fallon were travelling with a contingent of ninety young women who had been recruited by Miss Rye as domestics.

For ten years Miss Rye had been finding situations in Australia and New Zealand for single English gentlewomen, and in Canada for female servants. Reformer Lord Shaftesbury had suggested to her that a similar programme was need for abandoned and orphaned children: Mary, Herbert and Ellen were in the vanguard.

Mary Kneeves was an orphan, who was to be adopted by an aunt in Toronto. Herbert Radley was a four-month-old orphan who did not reach his first birthday, dying in March 1870. Miss Rye found ten-year-old Ellen Fallon at the notorious St. Pancras Workhouse in London (an institution primarily for indigent adults). Ellen had "no father" and had been abandoned by her mother. An 1856 doctor's report on conditions at the St. Pancras Workhouse said that one room had nearly ninety children from 7 to 16 years of age, and would have been barely tolerable for only half that number. Sickness was rampant. An 1868 inquest into a child who died from a fall described similar conditions. Ellen had lived there for three years.

In Canada, Ellen was to be adopted by a Mrs. Dobbin of Peterborough. Adopted she may have been, but she wasn't considered a member of the family: William and Eliza Dobbin recorded her in the 1871 Census as a servant. Some years later a cynical "Home Child" said, "doption [*sic*], sir, is when folks get a girl to work without wages."



First group of children at 'Western Home' also H. Paffard, Dr. McMurray, R.N. Ball, Miss Rye, Dr. Morson, etc.  
Niagara Historical Society

Miss Rye acquired the old Courthouse and Jail in Niagara-on-the-Lake and refurbished it for use as a receiving home for her girls. When "Our Western Home" officially opened on 1 December, 1869 it already had its first residents, seventy-six English girls from orphanages and workhouses who had arrived a few weeks earlier.

By 1875 Maria Rye had brought more than a thousand girls to Canada, and all but 200 were pauper wards of the British state.

### MORE ABOUT HOME CHILDREN

**Library & Archives Canada** [www.bac-lac.gc.ca](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)  
Passenger lists are searchable.  
Images can be found on **ancestry.com**, available on computers at all TPL branches.

**LAC Home Children, 1869-1932**  
<https://tinyurl.com/yck9yvvq>

**British Home Children in Canada**  
<https://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com>

**British Home Child Registry**  
<http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com>

19	225	Dobbin	William	M	54	—	Ireland	Universalist	Irish	Carpenter
		"	Eliza	F	40	—	England	W. Meth	English	—
		"	Leonard	M	24	—	"	"	Irish	Carpenter
		"	Frank	M	21	—	"	"	"	Printer
		Fallon	Ellen	F	13	—	England	Ch. of Eng. W.	English	Servant

1871 Census of Canada, Province of Ontario, East Peterborough, Village of Ashburnham, p. 60 Lines 4-8 William Dobbin Household

## Spring Lecture Series

APRIL: Vincenzo Pietropaolo

### *Photography and Immigration: The Italian-Canadian Experience in Toronto*

Vincenzo Pietropaolo's photo-documentary career began in the 1970s, when he started recording his own Italian-Canadian community in Toronto. But photos may have been one of the factors that encouraged his family to emigrate.

The increasing availability of photography in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century fuelled the dreams of Europeans struggling to subsist. Photo portraits sent from "America" by successful relatives (perhaps dressed in clothes supplied by the studio) gave substance to the idea of a better life in North America. Preparing for the journey, the passport photo might be the only likeness of themselves that they had seen.

Vincenzo is an Italian immigrant himself, arriving at Pier 21, Halifax, with his family in 1959. They travelled by train to Toronto. One of the first things the Pietropaolo family did in their new city, was to visit a photography studio on Dundas Street, where they had their first family portrait taken.

Vincenzo's father found work in construction. Vincenzo has early memories of the "quiet pride" with which his father would show him around Toronto, pointing out the projects he had worked on as his contribution to building their new country.

In the 1970s, Vincenzo began to document his Little Italy community. From this collection of images came his 2006 book, *Not Paved With Gold*.



Workers in a sock factory in Toronto's garment district. From *Not Paved with Gold*.

©Vincenzo Pietropaolo



Community meeting with government officials from *Not Paved with Gold*. ©Vincenzo Pietropaolo

One of the events that Vincenzo has photographed regularly is the Good Friday Procession. Central to Little Italy's sense of community, everyone participates in this annual act of devotion. Its fame has spread, and in 1996 residents of a village in Italy brought the statue of their own saint so they could march, too. Over the decades, the procession has drawn crowds of onlookers, which has somewhat changed its character. Vincenzo's book *Ritual* documents 50 years of processions.

Vincenzo noticed other groups that might not leave a trace in the historic record, and has recorded Mexican seasonal workers and others.

Photography can be a tool for social commentary and change. He has recorded working conditions in factories, labour marches, and picket lines. His images tell a story, and capture yearning and resignation, devotion and exhaustion, joy and sorrow.

Vincenzo Pietropaolo shows that indeed a picture can be worth a thousand words.

#### MORE ABOUT VINCENZO PIETROPAOLO

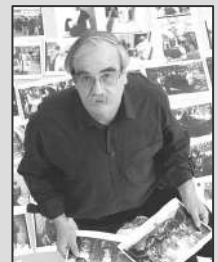
<http://vincepietropaolo.com>

<http://povmagazine.com/articles/view/canadas-documentary-photography-scene>

#### Two of Vincenzo's many books:

*Not Paved With Gold: Italian-Canadian Immigrants in the 1970s* (Between the Lines, 2006)

*Ritual* (Black Dog Publishing, 2017)



**MAY: James A.S. Thompson**  
***Spadina House & Gustav Hahn***

James A.S. Thompson is a descendant of James Austin, who built Spadina House in 1866. Austin purchased the property from the Baldwin family, who had acquired the 80-acre estate on Davenport Hill in 1818. Austin's new mansion replaced the Baldwins' but retained some of its features: the name ("Spadina" is Ojibway for "a rise of land"), the front door (which became the Austin back door), and some of the hardware.

Albert William Austin and his wife Mary retired to Spadina in the 1890s. They decorated in the new fashion, in contrast with the stuffy Victorian style of the earlier Austins. William hired architect William Crerar Vaux Chadwick to add a Billiard Room, and interior designer Gustav Hahn to complete it.



Designed for gentlemen's gatherings, the Billiard Room has a very masculine look. Sporting pictures hang on the walls and above the picture rail a frieze runs around the room. Clusters of stylized fruit trees reflect the rural surroundings of Spadina, and the estate's old apple orchard. Outlines of the trees, fruit and flying birds were applied in string on canvas, then covered with gesso before painting. The artist did not sign the work, and the creator remained something of a mystery.

**MORE ABOUT SPADINA**

*Spadina: A Story of Old Toronto*  
Austin Seton Thompson ed. James Austin  
Seton Thompson (Toronto: Stoddart/  
Boston Mills Press, 2000)



That Gustav Hahn had been retained as designer for the room made him the obvious candidate. He produced other works in Art Nouveau style, and went on to be known as a muralist. In 1984, his daughter Sylvia Hahn thought the Billiard Room frieze most definitely looked like a work by her father. Then in 2013, the family shared a sketch by Gustave which was clearly an early working of the Billiard Room tree motif.

Mystery solved!

**MORE WORKS BY GUSTAV HAHN**



In 1912, acoustic barriers were installed in Queen's Park after years of complaints from members of the provincial legislature about noise. Concealed, and soon forgotten was Gustav Hahn's beautiful Art Nouveau ceiling, painted in 1893. Since 1994, more of Hahn's work has been uncovered at QP.



Hahn painted the ceiling in "Holwood," now Flavelle House, which houses the U of T Law Library.

## 50 Years Ago

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1969, contributed by Alex. Grenzebach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.



Wearing matching outfits at their "Unisex Wedding," Mark Bryan, a theatre art teacher and his bride Joan Mitham, an actress, arrived at the church recently to tie the knot. The couple, wearing dove-grey lace bell-bottom pants and matching lace tunics, are undoubtedly setting a new trend in wedding fashions.

A survey revealed that demand was growing for night shopping. With women making up one third of the labour force and with one third of married women working, the "nine-to-six traditional hours for retailing outlets are therefore not convenient for a large percentage of housewives to shop."



Under the new Canada Water Act, the "courts will be empowered to levy stiff fines on anyone fouling the country's waters."

Because of the construction of the Yonge-Eglinton Centre, the Dominion store at Yonge and Eglinton was forced to move to temporary quarters up the street at Orchard View Boulevard. The opening in the new location was accompanied by various promotions such as free nylons with a purchase of \$7 or more, free roses for the ladies and a chance to win a colour TV.

At a "seat belt seminar" called by the Ontario Department of Transport, an American professor of anatomy bluntly stated that "in general, anyone who doesn't wear a seat belt is stupid."

Federal Health Minister John Munro (nicknamed The Honourable Two-Pack) was having difficulty quitting smoking in spite of sponsoring anti-smoking commercials. His predecessors Allan MacEachen and Judy LaMarsh had "both stopped smoking to set the nation a good example."

*"Where The Whole Family Likes To Bowl"*

**16 ALLEYS** **BOWLENDROME** **16 ALLEYS**

**5** *1969-1970 Season*  
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WE OFFER YOU: ● Fair prices, plus rebate ● Central Location  
● Excellent Transportation ● Restaurant on premises  
● Parking after 5:00 p.m.

**LEAGUE TIME AVAILABLE**

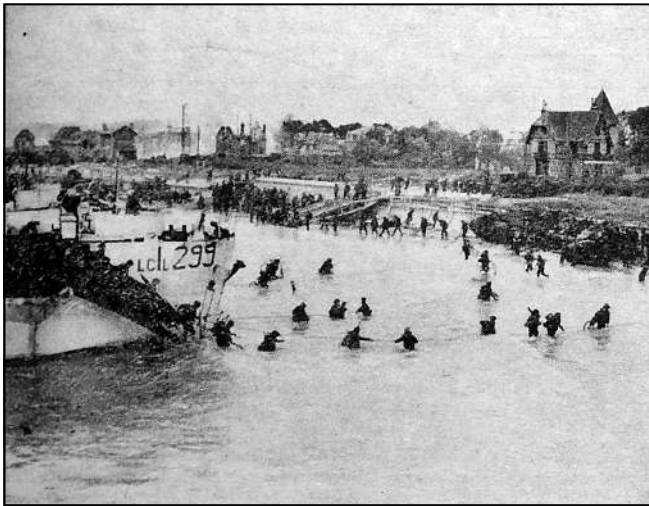
<b>LADIES LEAGUE</b>	WEDNESDAY 1:30 P.M. FRIDAY 1:30 P.M.
<b>OFFICE LEAGUES</b>	MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, 5:30 P.M.
<b>SOCIAL LEAGUES</b>	SATURDAYS 1:30 & 7:00 P.M. SUNDAYS 1:30 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAYS 7:00 P.M.

**CONTACT: BILL STEELE**      **2411 YONGE STREET**  
Bus. 483-4377      2 Blocks North of Eglinton

Meals-on-wheels was inaugurated to provide hot meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The meals cost 75 cents and were prepared by Sunnybrook Hospital and "divided into individual servings in the Leaside United Church."

*50 Years Ago continues on page 7*

Mayor William Dennison and Dr. G. Ross Lord (Chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto & Region Conservation Authority) were guests at a general meeting of the South Eglinton Ratepayers' Association. Topics included the Authority's flood control program and the proposed apartment-hotel at the corner of Soudan and Mt. Pleasant. Annual memberships cost \$3 for families and \$2 for individuals.



Infantrymen of 3rd Canadian Division land at Bernieres Sur Mer on the morning of June 6th, 1944.  
PHOTO: Lt. "Gib" Milne

Toronto Dominion was paying 6.25% on Premium Savings Accounts.

It was reported that high beef prices were the result of demand exceeding supply. "\$1.79 T-Bone Here To Stay" exclaimed the headline.

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Canadian legs were the first on the moon. The legs of the Lunar Excursion Module were manufactured by a Montreal company.

**History in our time**

HERE MEN FROM THE PLANET EARTH  
FIRST SET FOOT UPON THE MOON  
JULY 1969, A. D.

WE CAME IN PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND

NEIL A. ARMSTRONG  
ASTRONAUT

MICHAEL COLLINS  
ASTRONAUT

EDWIN E. ALDRIN, JR.  
ASTRONAUT

RICHARD NIXON  
PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Millions of people throughout the world watched via television satellite as man took his first step on another celestial body—the Moon. The crew of Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins left behind them this plaque commemorating the mission. It was fastened between the third and fourth rungs of the lunar module's descent stage, left behind when the astronauts took off for their return to earth.

# Heritage Calendar



Take in **Doors Open** as you travel the province. Various places and dates—some as late as October.

<https://tinyurl.com/y5c24dg5>

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

## **Toronto LGBTQ2+ Trailblazers.**

On loan from The ArQuives, this exhibit features 20 portraits of Torontonians who have made contributions through their work in art, activism, and more.

**DATES:** to 30 Aug. 2019

**INFO:** 416-397-5000

<https://tinyurl.com/yagbhjny>

## **Walks**



### **City of Toronto**

#### **Self-Guided Walking Tours Database.**

Search for self-guided walking tours across the City. After locating a desired walking tour, you can download and print the map and walk details. Some audio tours.

**INFO:** <https://tinyurl.com/y831x7eu>

### **High Park Nature**

Walking Tours are volunteer-led with the support of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation: leaders are volunteer scientists, historians, and local naturalists.

**DATES:** 1st & 3rd Sun of month, Including holidays.  
10:30-12 noon

**MEET:** at the benches, across the road from the south side of Grenadier Restaurant in the middle of High Park.

**INFO:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2h3zm8j>

### **Heritage Toronto**

**INFO:** <https://www.heritagetoronto.org>

**TOUR BROCHURE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2qemxfa>

### **ROMWalks**

**TOUR BROCHURE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y8pje8re>

### **Ontario Jewish Archives** **Stories of Spadina**

**DATES:** Sunday, August 18

Sunday, September 15

11:00-1:00p.m., rain or shine

**INFO:** \$15 per person; \$12 for students and seniors.  
416-635-5391

<https://tinyurl.com/y8sx9zdn>

### **Toronto Field Naturalists**

Walks happen year round, all days of the week, in all areas of the city, and cater to a wide range of comfort and fitness levels. A variety of themes are represented: nature & ecology, birding, history, geology, and many others. Members are always welcome to bring guests!

**INFO:** <https://torontofieldnaturalists.org/walks/>

### **CNE Heritage Walking Tour**

A 60 minute walking tour celebrating the CNE's history from 1879 to present day. Highlights key events in the CNE's vast history and explores some of our building's history and public art.

**DATES:** Aug. 19-23; Aug. 26-Aug. 30.  
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**MEET:** All tours depart from the Princes' Gates (meet at the CNE Walking Tours sign)  
Tour ends at the Press Building

*Tour will be cancelled in inclement weather.*

**INFO:** <https://tinyurl.com/y3hn3qmr>

### **Citywalks** with architectural historian Marta O'Brien

**INFO:** 416 699-9838

<http://www.citywalks.ca/index.html>

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



**Submissions for the next Newsletter by 3 Sept. 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

### **2019 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