



Dunnett's Swimming Hole, West Don R. west of Bayview Ave Bridge, 1900  
TPL

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## Fall Live-Stream Programmes

*Registration information and lecture details on back page*

**Wednesday, 29 September 7:30 p.m.**

**WONSCONTEONACH:**

**INDIGENOUS BEGINNINGS OF THE DON RIVER VALLEY**

Explore the Indigenous history of the Don with **Fred Martin**, an Anishinaabe and Indigenous Knowledge Keeper.

**REGISTER AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER**

Email [membership@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org) and we will send you an invitation with details. You can join us on Zoom by internet or phone.



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

**THE MISSING MILLIONAIRE:**

**THE TRUE STORY OF AMBROSE SMALL AND THE CITY OBSESSED WITH FINDING HIM**

Author **Katie Daubs** tells the gripping story of the disappearance Ambrose Small.

**REGISTER AFTER 1 OCTOBER**

**Wednesday, 24 November, 7:30 p.m.**

**TORONTO'S LOST VILLAGES**

Author and popular speaker **Ron Brown** brings to life the stories of the many small communities that once dotted our region

**REGISTER AFTER 1 NOVEMBER**



PHONE 461-4706

# ELECTRIC FANS

Prices From \$8.50 to \$58.50

**Aikenhead Hardware Limited**

17-21 TEMPERANCE ST.

Toronto Star, 24 June, 1921

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.

## From the Editor

One thing has been clear as we walk in our neighbourhoods: development does not stop for a pandemic. Construction may have slowed, but hoarding appears overnight, and suddenly there's a rubbly building site.

The year started badly for heritage when the Provincial Government moved in to raze the Dominion Foundry buildings on Eastern Ave.. They chose to ignore not only Toronto municipal legislation and planning, but their own laws. It makes one wonder about *Bill 108, More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019* - more choice for whom? The act effectively reduces the right of municipalities to make their own decisions about such things as heritage or parkland.

Recently there was another sneaky demolition of a heritage building without a permit. On the Victoria Day weekend, Hoggs Hollow residents witnessed the destruction of the converted historic stable block at 19 Plymbridge Cresc., built in 1912 on the Boulton estate. It was included on the City's Heritage Register in March, the first step towards Heritage Designation. Interviewed in the *Star*, owner Mohammad Kassirian of Shima Homes said that he'd applied for a demolition permit, hadn't been issued one, so just went ahead. One of the reasons the permit was denied was because the planned replacement is double what zoning permits. According to Shima's website, they operate in Rosedale, Moore Park, Lawrence Park, Hoggs Hollow, Bedford Park and Old Mill.



Contempt for due process is also evident in Devron Developments decision to leapfrog over Toronto City planning procedures for approval of their condo plans for 1140 Yonge. They are heading straight to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT- the Provincial Government's replacement for the OMB). This means that there will be no more community consultation.

The proposed building will incorporate the façade of the 1930 Pierce-Arrow Automobile Showroom, at Marlborough. This property was listed on the City's Heritage Register in 1978, and has had many uses since its heyday. Most recently, it was a Staples store.

North Toronto is a desirable area for residences, businesses and developers. The Yonge Street Corridor and residential communities are in developers' sights. Improvement can bring new life to an area, but it does not need to be at the expense of our built heritage. We need to monitor our neighbourhoods. If you notice concerning heritage issues, please contact [info@northtorontohistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@northtorontohistoricalsociety.com).

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## North Toronto's First School & Orange Hall

There's a lot of development at Yonge & Eglinton. A real estate ad says there is "the unique opportunity to



purchase almost half an acre in the heart of the City." It's an odd shaped property between Castlefield and St. Clements, from Duplex to the lane behind the Yonge St. buildings, and is priced at \$10.8 million. One ad says that this is vacant land; another says there's a "One (1) Single-Storey Building."

Neither mentions that this is one of the oldest surviving buildings in North Toronto. Built in 1851 as School Section No.2 (S.S.2), it replaced an earlier log school. It is the rear portion of the building (*see photo*) that is the original 1850s one-room school, attended by local children until 1887, when a new school was built on Erskine Ave. It was used by Anglican and Presbyterian Churches before being purchased in 1909 by the Orange Lodge, who added the porch and used it as the Eglinton Orange Hall until recently. It was the location of the founding meeting of the North Toronto Historical Society in 1975. It was listed on the City's Heritage Register in 2016, but is not designated.

*Heritage Watch continues on page 3*

### 60 Roselawn Avenue

Hook's Candy Factory at 60 Roselawn (corner of Duplex) has been sold, along with its Roselawn neighbour.



Built in 1891, this was the home of Harry Hook and his family from the 1920s to the 1960s. The Harry Hook Co., ("makers of Old English Style Molasses Mints") operated in a building behind the house. In 1969 North Yonge Upholstering opened on the property. There have been many alterations, and it is not on the Heritage Register. The plan is to replace it with six houses which will face Duplex.

For over a century, it has been known that a Wendat settlement extended from modern Bathurst St. to Duplex, between Eglinton and Castlefield. This property presents a great opportunity for an archaeological assessment, using modern methods, to learn about the first people on the land.

### 35 St. Edmunds Drive

Architect William Breden Galbraith featured this Tudor Revival house in his series of articles in *Saturday Night*, and later included it in his book *A Canadian Home Plan Book* (1930). The property is an important remnant of the early land development of the neighbourhood.



The house at the northeast corner of St Edmunds Dr. and Lympstone Ave. is within the proposed Lawrence Park West Heritage Conservation District. A designation recommendation is now before City Council. It has recently been sold.

#### **Community Preservation Panels: Volunteers needed!**

The City of Toronto's Heritage Planning team needs volunteers to participate on its Community Preservation Panels. Apply before 21 July, 2021.

<https://tinyurl.com/5brtwutn>

**Be the change you want to see!**

### 31 Bedford Park Avenue

Houle House was built ca. 1885. It was named after Albert Houle, a florist who bought it in 1907 and lived in the house until 1922.



It has been on the City's Heritage Register since 1980, and Alex Grenzabach is nominating it for designation.

### 2 Valleyanna Drive

Facing Bayview, this was originally the gatehouse of Dr. Herbert Bruce's 100-acre Annandale estate. It was designed in 1920-21 by architect Eden Smith.

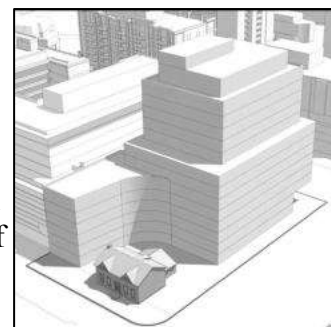


Extensive renovations to the estate house were commissioned by Alfred Rogers, the next owner, and the name was changed to Uplands. In the later 1950s, Uplands was demolished and Valleyanna Drive was created on the former estate. The gatehouse was converted to a private residence. It is the only reminder visible from Bayview Avenue of the estates on the east side of Bayview between Blythwood and Lawrence.

A designation recommendation is now before City Council. The property is to be developed, but with the agreement that this heritage building will be conserved and restored.

### **Compromise is possible**

An 1855 farmhouse is to be incorporated into a new development on Sheppard Ave. East. Thomas Clark purchased his farm in the 1840s, and his house still stands at 9 Barberrry Place. It is designated, and will be moved to a more prominent position at the southeast corner of Sheppard and Barberrry (near Bayview Village).



## Spring Lecture Series

APRIL: **Marta O'Brien**

### *College Street*

Today, College Street extends from Yonge Street to Lansdowne Avenue. Marta introduced her presentation by describing the confusion of locating College Street on historic maps of Toronto. For instance, the 1842 Cane map shows a very short College Street just south of Spadina Circle, an elegant neighbourhood of fine mansions. On the same alignment, but not connected, an unnamed road connects the university grounds to Yonge Street. The same map shows College Avenue running south from the planned university.

At the corner of Yonge and the future College Street stood Wykeham Lodge, the Regency mansion of Sir James Buchanan Macaulay. His estate stretched from Yonge to Bay Street. The house was built in 1844, and sold in 1869 to Bishop Strachan School (BSS). Extended and renovated, it was used until 1915 when BSS moved to Forest Hill. After WW1 it became a convalescent home for veterans. It was demolished in 1928 and replaced by the Eatons College Street store, which is now College Park.



Wykeham Lodge, painted by Owen Staples TPL

West of Spadina, St. Stephen's Church on Bellevue Ave was built in 1858 by Thomas Fuller on land donated by the Denison family. The Gothic Revival building was gutted by fire in 1865, and rebuilt by the firm of Gundry & Langley.

At the northwest corner of College and St. George, wholesale grocer Frederick Perkins built "Parkhurst" in Italian villa style. It was demolished for the Toronto Central Library, which opened in 1909 (Wickson & Gregg, with A.H. Chapman). In 1977 the new Reference Library on Yonge Street opened, designed by Raymond Moriyama. When the St. George building was renovated, the architects included Chapman's son, Howard. It is now the university student centre and bookstore.

In the 1880s increasing population led to a building boom. College St. was the northern boundary, and University Avenue the western of St. John's Ward, originally a municipal district. It had become a densely packed neighbourhood, home to successive waves of immigrants and known simply as The Ward. Its boundaries expanded and as people became successful, they moved west.

Evidence of this development beyond Spadina can be found in the range of artisans' residences still standing at 115-1123 College. Commercial buildings with flats above can be seen at 822-826 College (C.R. Harris Building, 1891) and 462-468 College west of Bathurst (Empire Block, 1908). Banks were built on corners.

Churches of all denominations served College Street neighbourhoods. At Bathurst, a huge Presbyterian church was built which seated 1200 (1884-85, Smith & Gemmell). Like so many large churches, its upkeep became too expensive for the now smaller congregation. The tower has been preserved, and incorporated into a nine-storey condo. The church still functions there.

College Street Baptist Church was built at Palmerston in 1888-89 by Langley & Burke. In 1970 it was sold to the Portuguese Seventh Day Adventist Congregation. The building has been restored on the outside, but is now converted to four townhouses.

In 1889-91 a hospital specifically for youngsters was built by Darling & Curry. The Victoria Hospital for Sick Children was designed on an E-shaped plan to maximise airflow and light. In 1951, the hospital moved to University Avenue. The

*College Street continues on page 5*



**Victoria Hospital for Sick Children (1889-91 Darling & Curry)**  
*Photo: Marta O'Brien*

College St. building now houses Canadian Blood Services, which serves 60 Canadian hospitals.

There are various lodge buildings along College. The Oddfellows Hall still stands at Yonge St. It was built in 1891-92 by Dick & Wickson. Further along, at 491 College, the Freemasons' Hall (1910 Edwards & Saunders) was used by six different lodges who shared the hall. In 1965 it became Latvia House. The façade still stands as part of an LCBO outlet. At 394 Euclid an Orange Hall was built in 1912. In 1998 it was refurbished as the "Movie House Lofts" with retail below.



**Oddfellows Hall (1891-92 Dick & Wickson)**  
*Photo: Marta O'Brien*

At 149 College, the Toronto Athletic Club was designed by E.J. Lennox and built 1891-94. It closed after very few years, and had many occupants. It is now the home of UofT's Rotman School of Management's executive programmes. At 931 College at Dovercourt the West End Y (built

1912) continues to thrive, and has recently had a major renovation.

Relative newcomers to College St. are the postmodern Toronto Police Service Headquarters (1987-88 Shore Tilbe Irwin and Partners) and the Lillian Smith Library (1994 Philip H. Carter).

It was nice to get downtown, if only virtually, after our long exile!

**MARTA'S CITYWALKS** citywalks.ca  
Marta is available for architectural walks with small groups—a safe way to learn more about built heritage with a knowledgeable guide.

## ***Congratulations, Marta!***

In June, Marta O'Brien was elected as an Honorary Member of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA). Marta was nominated by the Toronto Society of Architects, with



supporting letters from four architects who recognised her decades of work as an architectural historian, spreading the word through teaching, tours, and talks. She joins such luminaries as William Dendy and Rollo Myers.

A well deserved honour, Marta!



**TOO HOT TO GO OUT?  
Take a virtual walk along College Street.**  
*ACO (Architectural Conservancy of Ontario)*  
<https://tinyurl.com/58c5u8dh>  
*Historical Walking Tour of Kensington Market & College Street* by Barbara Myrvold (TPL 1993) can be downloaded.  
<https://tinyurl.com/3tudtkea>  
*College Street Urban Design Guidelines, City of Toronto, 2017: College & Bathurst to McCaul*  
<https://tinyurl.com/25fuuvbc>

**MAY: Arlene Chan**

## ***Jean Lumb: a Woman of Many Firsts***

This Zoom meeting had a record attendance of over 90, and was a family reunion of sorts. Friends and relatives of Arlene from as far afield as California, Malaysia and Singapore joined us.

Jean Lumb's parents (Arlene's grandparents) emigrated to Canada from the southern Chinese province of Guangdong. This was the place of origin of most early waves of Chinese immigrants to North America. They were pushed by food shortages, government corruption and high taxes and attracted first by the promise of gold in the United States in the 1840s, and in Canada in the 1850s. In the 1880s, the Canadian government encouraged Chinese men to work on the transcontinental CPR railway. As soon as the track was completed in 1885, they were neither needed nor welcome. The Canadian *Chinese Immigration Act* imposed a \$50 head tax, which increased until it reached \$500 in 1903. It was feared that surplus Chinese labour would reduce the wages of "Canadians." Chinese men could not afford to bring their families from China, nor to buy a return ticket for themselves. Further restrictions, such as the exclusion of Chinese from all Public Works projects, made it difficult to find work.

In 1899 Jean Lumb's father arrived in Canada to work as a farm labourer. He was unusually fortunate that, in 1907, his wife and son could join him. They lived in Nanaimo, where he worked in a coal mine. Jean was born in 1919, one of the eleven children born in BC.

Jean attended a segregated school whose pupils were of Chinese, Japanese and Indigenous backgrounds. This was when Jean realised that there was a "circle" that she and her family and friends were being excluded from. After Grade 6 when she was 12, she needed to work to contribute to the family income. This was during the Depression, and her father had a dream of getting her brother a good education.

At 16 Jean moved to Ontario to join a married sister who ran a store. They lived on Elizabeth Street in The Ward. At the time, there were only 14 Chinese families in Toronto. Although the Chinese population was 2,000 it was a bachelor society:

restrictions of the 1923 Chinese Immigration Law made it nearly impossible for Chinese family members to get into Canada. It has been estimated that there were 18 men to each woman. Not only that: all Chinese regardless of birthplace had to get an identity card within a year. This legislation was not repealed until 1947.



**Photograph of Jean and her family taken in Toronto, 1939. Jean is second from the left, standing. TPL**

Jean was ambitious and independent. She borrowed \$200 and opened her own store, assisted by her cousin. Soon, she could afford to bring some of her family from BC. With the help of a matchmaker, Jean met Doyle Lumb, a good-looking man who owned a fruit store. They were married in 1939, and Jean (born in Canada) immediately lost her Canadian citizenship because she married a Chinese national. A woman was automatically the same nationality as her husband. Our speaker, Arlene, is one of Jean and Doyle's six children.

Despite their treatment, Chinese Canadians were active during the Second World War, enlisting and fighting in Europe and raising funds on the Home Front. There were celebrations in Chinatown on V-J Day, including a parade on Elizabeth Street.

In 1947, the Exclusion Act was repealed. At last people of Chinese heritage had the right to vote, to

*Jean Lumb continues on page 7*

*Jean Lumb continued from page 6*

run for public office and enter the professions. But it was still difficult to bring families from China. Having grown up in a large close-knit family, Jean keenly felt the importance of family reunification. In 1957, MP Roland Michener suggested that she join a delegation of Chinese residents heading to Ottawa to discuss changing discriminatory immigration policies with Prime Minister Diefenbaker. Jean was the only woman in the delegation, and was invited to sit beside Diefenbaker. As a result of this meeting immigration regulations were revised, although it was not until 1967 that all restrictions based on race and nationality were removed.

In the 1960s, two-thirds of old Chinatown was expropriated and demolished for “urban renewal” and the construction of New City Hall, without any community consultation. Jean spearheaded the Save Chinatown Committee, explaining the importance of keeping the remaining neighbourhood. They were very persuasive, and in 1969 the City (Mayor David Crombie) adopted *The Plan for the Preservation of Chinatown*.

For decades, the Ward and Chinatown were perceived as an area of high crime and low morals, to be avoided at all costs. This, in part, had led to the Chinatown demolition. Jean became an ambassador for her neighbourhood, introducing non-Chinese Canadians to Chinese culture. When she and Doyle opened the Kwong Chow Restaurant on Elizabeth Street in 1959, it quickly attracted lunchtime patrons—staff and politicians from City Hall. Soon the area’s negative reputation began to fade. To further expose people to Chinese culture, Jean established the Chinese Community Dancers of Ontario in 1959. They performed across Canada.

In 1976 Jean became the first Chinese-Canadian and first restaurateur ever to receive the Order of

Canada. In 1995 Jean was appointed a Citizenship Judge—a significant position for a woman who had been stripped of her citizenship when she married.

In 2006 the Jean Lumb Foundation was established. It provides awards and scholarships to high school students of Chinese heritage. Throughout her life, Jean was propelled by cultural pride and a conviction that Chinese people should be *inside* the circle.

Jean Lumb’s legacy was summed up by former Mayor David Crombie, who attended the meeting. He had known Jean well, and remembered that no matter how upset or angry Jean might be about an issue, she was always “a woman of grace,” never a victim. She was determined to achieve her goals and had “an intuitive sense of strategy.” David emphasised that Jean Lumb’s interest in local communities made her an advocate for all of us.



**City hall looms over Chinatown - the one-third that remains; Mrs. Jean Lumb is member of Chinese redevelopment committee trying to save community 7 March, 1967**

*Toronto Star Archives, TPL*

**MORE ABOUT JEAN LUMB**

***Loving Spoonfuls*** <https://tinyurl.com/y36uw4cu>  
Jean Lumb shares her cooking and traditions with actor David Gale.

***Under the Willow Tree: Pioneer Chinese Women in Canada*** <https://tinyurl.com/mvvauyj2>  
NFB film tells the stories of the first Chinese women to come to Canada and of subsequent generations of Chinese Canadian women, including Jean Lumb.

# Meet the Neighbours: North Toronto in 1921

by Hilary J. Dawson

*The Canadian census records information about every resident and their whereabouts on a given night. In 1921, it was 1 June. We get a snapshot of all households in North Toronto and can answer questions like, "Where were they from?" What did they do?"*

The 1921 Census records 16 Chinese men living in North Toronto. They ranged in age from 14 to 42. Only four were married: their wives probably remained in China as a result of the many impediments preventing their reuniting. The 1885 Chinese Immigration Act restricted entry to Canada from China, and imposed a Head Tax. By 1903 the Head Tax had increased to an exorbitant \$500, and few men could afford to bring their families to join them. There was no consolation when it was abolished in 1923, because the new Chinese Exclusion Act essentially banned all Chinese immigration.

Most of the men listed in 1921 owned or worked in laundries in North Toronto, all on Yonge Street. The men's names are hard to read on the handwritten census, and may have been incorrectly recorded by western enumerators. The 1921 Directory locates the Chinese laundries, but does not name the proprietors. These businesses could be found between Hillside and Soudan; Lee Chung between Broadway and Erskine; Fred Pong between Keewatin and Sherwood; Lee Chung between Sherwood and Sheldrake.

Not all of North Toronto's Chinese residents were in the laundry business. One young man, James Young, worked as a servant for a household at 30 Lytton Boulevard. He was 26, had arrived in Canada in 1902, and was described as "Mohamedan."

John Kam was not in the laundry business: he repaired shoes. His shop at 2460 Yonge Street was near the corner of Roselawn Avenue. The photo (*next column*) was taken on 22 November, 1921. On the corner is Charles Dowson, tobacconist; next



2460 Yonge Street, 22 Nov. 1921

CTA

is Edgar W. House's cycle and motorcycle store. On the window of the small clapboard building at the end is written "John Kam, Boot & Shoe Repairer."

John Kam had come to Canada in 1911, when he was about ten years old. He was naturalised in 1915. In 1921, two teenage boys were living with him in the tiny house: his cousin Lock Chiu was 17; and 14 year old John Joe. The lads were described in the census as "students."

The census answers some questions, but raises more. Who did John Kam come to Canada with? What school did Lock Chiu and John Joe attend, and how were they treated there?

## MORE ABOUT CHINESE CANADIAN HISTORY

**Arlene Chan** has written several books, including:  
- *The Chinese in Toronto from 1878: From Outside to Inside the Circle*. (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2011.)  
- *Spirit of the dragon: Jean Lumb, a Proud Chinese Canadian*. (Umbrella Press, 1997.)  
See <https://www.arlenechan.ca>

**Toronto Museums** <https://tinyurl.com/s87j2e7s>  
- *Hungry for Comfort: Chinese Food, Diversity & Delights*

**Library & Archives Canada**  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdt4vypn>  
- *Early Chinese Canadians, 1858-1947*

**CBC Archive** <https://tinyurl.com/dp84c977>  
- *Chinese Immigration to Canada: A Tale of Perseverance*

<http://countercultures.net/design/>  
- *Exploring the Chinese Shopkeeping Diaspora*

*Neighbours continues on page 9*



*Danforth* continued from page 9

store. Neighbourhood women would often stop by just to chat with my mother. Socializing was usually local. My dad had a boyhood friend who had a cycle shop on Gerrard Street, almost directly south of us. Now and again, my dad and I would walk down for a visit.



**My father Fred outside Singer Furniture**

Our store was open five days a week, closed Wednesday and open late on Friday. My parents both worked in the store and I helped out. My father would have liked to have gone to synagogue on Saturdays, but that was the busiest shopping day of the week. Wednesdays were used for personal errands or to see vendors who had offices downtown. When I was younger, my parents would occasionally take me along downtown on Wednesdays, and I would miss a day of school. While I always enjoyed school, these trips were fun, and included lunch at Muirhead's.

My father went out of town to see furniture manufacturers, often taking me along to towns like Meaford, Chesley, Stratford and Paris. We never had a car, so we went by train. I must have been well behaved, and I don't recall anyone thinking it was strange for me to be there.

Business visits to Meaford could be combined with a summer holiday on Georgian Bay for Ruth, my dad and me, while my mother remained behind to look after the store. Ruth wrote a poem for a school

assignment – “My little brother Leslie /Likes to go to Chesley/ He travels first class on the CNR / And always takes first seat in the car”.

To shop for kosher groceries, my father and I would take the streetcar to Kensington market. The area had stores with live fish in tanks and chickens in cages. My father had a suitcase to carry the food home. We didn't buy bread because Perlmutter Bakery delivered. Mr. Perlmutter would bring bagels and bread right upstairs, then he would sit down for tea and he'd use our phone.

Both parents kept kosher at home, but my mother was not quite as stringent and would eat out. When my father took the family out for dinner it was usually to the Quality Kosher Restaurant on Spadina at College.

My father had a barrel in the cellar and I would help him make wine. The recipe was simple – grapes, sugar, and water. Miraculously, something resembling sweet red wine, which was the only kind we knew, resulted a few months later in time for Passover. Some of it was given to friends and neighbours.

The lane behind the stores was our playground .It drew other kids who lived over stores, and from houses on Strathmore Blvd which backed onto the lane. We used the lane for all kinds of games, but it was especially suited for street hockey. Things were generally more laissez faire then, and we played with firecrackers, pea-shooters, bb guns and a game that involved throwing a knife into the ground. Occasionally, we played on train tracks south of the Danforth, and if that wasn't dangerous enough, we left pennies on the tracks, to be flattened by oncoming trains. Somehow we all survived.

We'll return to Singer Furniture on the Danforth in a future Newsletter.

??? ??? ??? ??? ???

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

What business did brothers **William & Phillip Ellis**, and **Harry & James Ryrie** follow?

**Answer:** They were jewellers. At one time both businesses partnered with Birks.

*Toronto Memories:*  
*Jamface*  
 by Frederick Keenan

When my father was ten years old, his family, like many poor Irish, lived in Cabbagetown. At that time, families actually did grow cabbages in their front yards.

Cabbagetown was patrolled on a bicycle by an Anglo-Irish policeman who had a bright red face. Dad and his friends called him "Jamface", and were constantly on the lookout for him. In those days, and especially in neighbourhoods like his, a policeman could simply smack any kid who was up to something, or was even just thinking of getting up to something.

Dad lived close to the stables of the Christie Brown bakeries. Their ovens were fired by coal delivered by horse-drawn wagons. Occasionally coal would fall off the backs of the wagons, and the neighbourhood boys were there to scoop it up and take it home. They had to be quick, though, because Jamface was often lurking nearby to try to catch any boys picking up coal.

They lived not far from the Don River and, even though it was appallingly polluted at that time, the boys used to swim in it. The trick, said Dad, was to keep your mouth closed and to watch out for the "floaters". They had no bathing suits, of course, and swam in the nude. Presumably this was against the law then in Toronto the Good, and Jamface arrested several of the boys.

When they appeared in court, now fully clothed, the judge was sympathetic but asked the boys why they hadn't covered themselves with their handkerchiefs. "Handkerchiefs?" asked the boys. They looked at each other, and then back up at the judge.

The charges were dropped.

*North Toronto Memories* is an occasional series written by *you*, our members. Thanks to Les Singer and Frederick Keenan for sharing their Toronto stories in this edition. Please email your memories to [newsletter@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org), or mail to 283 Deloraine Avenue, Toronto M5M 2B2.



Police officer and boys on road, 1910-1930 CTA

*60 Years Ago*

Items from the North Toronto Herald, 1961 contributed by Alex. Grenzbach. The Herald is available at Northern District Library.

**Mount Pleasant Launderette**  
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**\$29.77**

## Fall Programme Details

### TO REGISTER

Email [membership@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org) and we will send you an invitation with details of how to join the online meeting. You can join us on Zoom by internet or phone.

Wednesday, 29 September 7:30 p.m.

Register after 1 Sept.

### WONSCONTEONACH: INDIGENOUS BEGINNINGS OF THE DON RIVER VALLEY

The Don River, the surrounding Valley and its many streams and trails have played a vital role in the development of Toronto and its historic neighbourhoods. We will explore the Indigenous history of the Don with **Fred Martin**, an Anishinaabe and Indigenous Knowledge Keeper. Fred has devoted his life to the pursuit of traditional ceremonies, storytelling, and an understanding of the historical record of First Nations peoples in Canada.

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

Register after 1 Oct.

### THE MISSING MILLIONAIRE: THE TRUE STORY OF AMBROSE SMALL AND THE CITY OBSESSED WITH FINDING HIM

In December 1919, Ambrose Small, the mercurial owner of the Grand Opera House in Toronto, sold his network of Ontario theatres, deposited a million-dollar cheque in his bank account, and was never seen again. As weeks turned to years, the disappearance became the most "extraordinary unsolved mystery" of its time. In *The Missing Millionaire*, author **Katie Daubs** tells the gripping story of the Small mystery.

### 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 [alex@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:alex@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org) and I will add you to the distribution list. *We will not give out your email address.*

Alex. Grenzebach

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

Register after 1 Nov.

### TORONTO'S LOST VILLAGES

Over more than two centuries, Toronto has ballooned from a muddy collection of huts on a swampy waterfront to Canada's largest and most diverse city. Amid this urban agglomeration are the remains of many small communities that once dotted the region. Author and popular speaker **Ron Brown** brings their stories back to life.

### Recording Secretary Needed

The NTHS Executive desperately needs a volunteer to record the Minutes of executive meetings. We have between 3 and 5 meetings a year. If you can help, please contact [info@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org)



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

Submissions for the next *Newsletter* by 23 August to [newsletter@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org) 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)

### 2021 Executive (\*Directors)

<i>President &amp; Programmes:</i>	*Lynda Moon	<i>Past President:</i>	John Hutchinson
<i>Membership Co-ordinator:</i>	*Brian Dunfield, 416-484-9304	<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	*Hilary Dawson
<i>Secretary:</i>		<i>Plaques:</i>	
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bill Dawson	<i>Research:</i>	Hilary Dawson
<i>Publicity:</i>			
<i>Members-at-large:</i>	Janet Dunfield, *Alex Grenzebach, Ken Pon, Liz Warrener, *John Warrener		

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

[membership@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@northtorontohistoricalsociety.org)