



The Update

Newsletter of *The York Pioneer and Historical Society*



Above: Authors and editors at the launch of our two publications, the 2009 York Pioneer magazine and From Hands Now Striving to be Free, John McKenzie House, April 26. Left to right: Darryl Withrow, Kali Petropoulos, Alanna McKnight, Jeanine Avigdor, Norie Jacobs, Audrey Fox and Chris Raible. More on p.2

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YPHS ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Saturday Oct 17, 2009

Please join us for another fabulous bus trip. Enjoy an outing with fellow history buffs as we travel to Niagara Falls, Queenston and Fort Erie. The day's itinerary includes visits to historic houses, tea with 'Queen Charlotte' and lunch in an Edwardian home. Cost is \$60 for members; \$65 for guests (non-members). **RSVP to Diane Reid at (416) 483-0907 by Oct 12.**

Pick up times and locations:

9:00 am at Pleasant Blvd., one block south of St. Clair and Yonge, on the east side

9:15: Davenport & Christie. Call Audrey for details re. pick up in this area. (416) 656-0812

9:30 am Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street West

NOTE: Your cheque must be in the YPHS mailbox no later than Oct 12 to hold your spot on the bus. We have a large coach that holds more than 40 (washroom on board!) Please join us for a great outing.

Mail cheques, made out to The York Pioneer and Historical Society, to: P.O. Box 45026, 2482 Yonge Street, Toronto M4P 3E3



Launch of our publications ... cont'd
from front

Left: attendees listen to opening remarks by President Elaine Robertson. **Right:** at our launch, the youngest descendant of a box carver.



The launch of our two publications was a great

success; John McKenzie House was a lovely venue and we had a great turnout, including several descendants of the prisoners who carved the little boxes. Twelve new members joined the YPHS on launch day, and three members renewed. We sold 17 copies of *From Hands Now Striving to be Free* and four copies of the 2009 *York Pioneer*; we also sold \$50 worth of back issues of *The York Pioneer* and several Cabin pins. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful tea prepared by several board members.

Sales of *From Hands ...* are going well; our first print run was 400 copies. Of those, approximately 200 were given to members, authors and subscribers; the other 200 have been sold. A second print run of 100 has been delivered and we are confident we will sell those as well.

Board Member Invited to Office of Lieutenant Governor

Board member Norie Jacobs, accompanied by colleagues Dan Reid and Denise Jacques, visited the office of Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable David C. Onley. In May, the three toured His Honour's offices at Queen's Park to view a collection of antiques; the Lieutenant Governor's office has taken a keen interest in the restoration and repatriation of antique furniture from prior Government Houses. Norie was delighted to contribute her knowledge of antiques and to assist His Honour's office in any way possible to further this endeavour.

On behalf of our society, Norie left a package for His Honour containing both of our 2009 publications, a note on behalf of our board and membership and a Scadding Cabin pin. Our society has received a warm thank you note from His Honours which reads, in part, referring to the publications, "I will read them with great interest."

WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR This is your newsletter - photos and submissions welcomed! Contact audrey.fox@mac.com or tel. (416) 656-0812. We desperately need a newsletter editor; it is not an onerous job; only 3-4 issues a year; lots of help & backup from current newsletter team! *Thank you to John Marshall, Nori Jacobs & Leo Fox for proofing this issue.*

THE YPHS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE.

ANNUAL DINNER AT ARTS & LETTERS CLUB, MAY 19'09



Left to right: President Elaine Robertson welcomes diners; Programme co-chair Diane Reid introduces speaker Karolyn Smardz Frost; Karolyn signing copies of her "I've Got a Home in Glory Land"; dinner guests Leo Fox and James McCutcheon. Photos: Ralph Magel & Diane Reid

About 30 YPHS members and guests enjoyed our annual dinner at The Arts and Letters Club. Our speaker, award-winning author and YPHS member Karolyn Smardz Frost enthralled her audience with the story of the Blackburns.

Because our turnout was not as high as some years, we ran a deficit - but two donors made up the shortfall. In addition, the silent auction brought in nearly \$150. Thank you to everyone who donated and purchased items, but David Raymont deserves a special "thanks" for donating so many art works.

SCADDING CABIN REPORT

Our May 2 board meeting was held at Scadding Cabin; before the meeting, board members dusted, cleaned, unpacked artifacts and weeded and tidied the garden beds.

During Doors Open 2009 in May, 750 people visited the cabin and donated \$110.75. Our archivist John Marshall prepared a special display in keeping with this year's literature theme. During the CHIN picnic in late June/early July, another 451 visited the cabin (donations totalled \$22.16).

Chair of the Cabin committee, Edna Rigby, received a donation of six costumes from the AGO's Grange. With a few minor repairs, these will be suitable for our volunteers.

Volunteers ... always needed for a four-hour shift during the CNE! Call Edna at (416) 494-0503.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome eighteen new members (bringing out membership to 180):

Life Members Kali Petropoulos and Damien Fox; Family Membership, Simcha Ben Abraham and Annual Members

Annual Memberships: Micki Allen, Virginia Aitkens, Mary Green, Susan Hughes, Alanna McKnight, Margaret Newell, Richard Spears, Stephen Sword, Bruce Wilson, Darryl Withrow, Shelagh Rounthwaite, Owen Robinson, Wayne Plunkett, Gordon Thompson and Joan Atkinson

Don't Forget to Check YPHS Website

Don't forget to check our new & improved website every once in awhile; now that we have a webmaster, upcoming events and new photos are added to the site periodically.

You will find updated information about past and upcoming events, thanks to our webmaster Owen Robinson.

www.yorkpioneers.org

Next Board Meeting: Sept 20, 2009

Any queries or concerns? Contact any board member before the 20th.

TEA & ANTIQUES

Above: tea & treats in Norie's lovely yard



Left: YPHS board members Diane Reid, David Raymond, Edna Rigby and Norie Jacobs worked at the Tea and Antiques event at Norie's home

Photos: Michael Wang, Youth Volunteer

On July 18th, board member Norie Jacobs hosted a special event for YPHS members. After the board members pictured above served tea, cold drinks, pastries, cookies and fruit, Norie gave a presentation on the history of the Bathurst/Davenport area where she lives, and showed over 100 photos from the Toronto Archives. She also conducted a tour of her three-storey home filled with antiques and collectibles acquired over 30 years. All who attended declared the afternoon a great success!

A second session, including another delicious tea served by board members, will be held on Sunday, September 27, 2009. For reservations call Diane Reid at (416) 483-0907. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. Space limited to the first 12!

A special thank you to Norie, a new and very enthusiastic board member, for opening her home and conducting the tours.

Calendar 2009

Aug 21-Sept 7 Scadding Cabin open, CNE

Sept 20 YPHS Board Meeting

Sept 27 Tea & Antiques (details at left)

Oct 17 YPHS Bus Trip (details, front page)

In Memoriam

HAINES, Ila: passed away in March 2009. A descendant of a Temple family, Ila was chair of the Sharon Temple volunteers for many years, during YPHS ownership, and was made an Honorary Life Member for her contribution.

SYKES, Catherine - May 2, 1921 - May 11, 2009. She and her husband Gordon joined the Society in 1985; both were Scadding Volunteers until 2002, when they moved to Ancaster. Gordon hooked the round depiction of the cabin that hangs over the settle.

TANCOCK, Elizabeth A. (nee Edwards) Born February 22, 1911, died May 28, 2009. 'Betty' swam for Canada in the Xth Olympic Games held in Los Angeles in 1932. She was a YPHS member from 1968 until her death, recording secretary from 1982 to 1990 and the author of 11 articles published 1977-1992 in *The York Pioneer*. You can learn more about the very accomplished Betty by looking online for the *Globe and Mail* article by Sandra Martin.

KURTIN, Margaret Jean (Peggy), née Carscadden. Born October 7, 1932, died July 13, 2009. Peggy was extremely active in the heritage community and provided much of the research that led to the Heritage Designation for Cabagetown. She joined the YPHS in recent years.