



The Update

Newsletter of *The York Pioneer and Historical Society*



YPHS ANNUAL DINNER

Wed. May 26 2010
Alumni Hall, Rm 112

Victoria University, 140
Charles St. West

6-7 pm Meet & Greet
(and an opportunity to explore the grand building),
cash bar and silent auction

7:00 Dinner

Alumni Hall, left, is just south of Charles, just east of Queens Park & Museum subway stop. Look for sandwich boards directing you into the quadrangle to enter thru' east door, or thru' the west door facing across the street to the subway stop.) **Below left:** detail of lobby staircase

sporting Victorian period colours, Alumni Hall

Speaker: learn about 'The Junction' from directors of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society, a large & active historical group formed in 1980. Talk accompanied by slide show.

Cost: \$60 for YPHS member; \$65 for a non-member

RSVP as soon as possible to Diane Reid at (416) 483-0907 or dreid@coutts-scane.com. (Choose: salmon or chicken) Deadline: Cheques in YPHS mailbox by Friday, May 14; Box 45026, 2482 Yonge St Toronto, ON M4P 3E3

Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

PUBLICATION LAUNCH

2010 York Pioneer

Sunday 18 April 2010 2-4 p.m.

Wychwood Car barns, 601

Christie Street, Barn 4 (Green Barn); a short block south of St. Clair, west of Bathurst. Nearest subway: St. Clair West - then streetcar west to Christie. **Meet and greet** authors, editors, photographers, fellow Pioneers and descendants of families featured in the 2010 volume; **learn the history** of the Wychwood Car barns and **enjoy a short guided tour** of the site; **sit for a caricature** by YPHS member Sue Welland (see p. 3); **pick up your 2010 York Pioneer; savour tea and treats.**

RSVP to Diane Reid
(416) 483-0907 or e-mail
audrey.fox@mac.com

2 p m Meet & mingle

2:15: launch of the
2010 York Pioneer,
Volume 105; meet authors

2:55: YPHS group photo

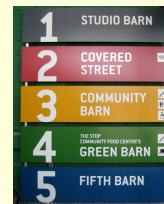
3 :00: Learn how the Wychwood Car barns became a cultural hub of the neighbourhood; take a short guided tour of the Barns and surrounding park with area resident Roscoe Handford

In This Issue

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New board member **Andrew Marshall** snapped these photos of Eversley Church on a gorgeous November ('09) day; Andrew chairs the church committee. He has swept out the interior, encouraging a squirrel family to find new accommodations, and made temporary repairs to some windows. In the spring, Strachan Construction of King City will repair some interior cracks and several windows.

LOOKING BACK 90 YEARS On Feb 3, 1920, the secretary of the YPHS presented his report at the Annual General Meeting. Here are some excerpts:

The year 1918 will I believe ever be remembered as one of the greatest periods in the existence of our Society, largely because of three things: (1) There was a larger increase of new members than in any previous year; (2) the Temple of the Children of Peace and grounds at Sharon were purchased and opened to the public; (3) women were for the first time admitted to full membership. Against such a brilliant background the year just closed necessarily must appear a bit dull and sombre ...

During 1919 we broke no membership records, we made no remarkable advance, we developed no startling plans. But in spite of this it was a good year a year of harmony, well-sustained interest, constant accessions to our ranks (some 106 new members were received), interesting and instructive public meetings.

Possibly the most important event was that on April 17th we celebrated our 50th birthday ... The day was commemorated in a fitting way. We held a public meeting in this auditorium for which invitations were sent to all members and numerous friends. A splendid gathering resulted, and an evening of great delight was enjoyed by all present.

In connection with the great National Exhibition, the old log cabin, with all its quaint and interesting contents, was once more opened to the public, and the usual tent privileges provided. ... it was estimated that at least 120,000 persons availed themselves of the privilege provided by our Society of seeing the old log home of Gov. Simcoe and its many historical relics. This has become one of the permanent institutions of the Exhibition.

May the year 1920 prove to be a banner year in the history of the York Pioneer and Historical Society.

Yours sincerely, N. F. Caswell

Kingston Penitentiary - 175th Anniversary - 1835-2010

Inmate # 1 was Matthew Tavender of the Home District. He was convicted of Grand Larceny and sentenced on 18 April, 1835 to 3 years; discharged 18 April, 1838. The prison museum is located at the birthplace of the Correctional Service of Canada in Kingston Ontario, the museum is housed within the former Warden's residence of Canada's oldest penitentiary.

www.penitentiarymuseum.ca/museum/museum_home.htm

DOORS OPEN TORONTO May 29 & 30, 2010

A city-wide celebration of Toronto's architectural heritage. Visit buildings of architectural and/or historic significance, many which are not normally open to the public. More information: 416-338-0338 or

www.toronto.ca/doorsopen/index.htm YPHS volunteers will welcome visitors to Scadding Cabin.

Websites Focus on War of 1812

Preparations have begun to mark the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Interesting sites for more information at: www.visit1812.com/history/ and www.discover1812.com

YPHS Board 2010

Past President: Elaine Robertson

President: Audrey Fox

V-P: Vacant

Treasurer: Patricia Robertson

Corresponding Sect'y: Elaine Robertson

Recording Secretary: Margaret Porter

Archivist: John Marshall

Committee Chairs

Editorial: Jeanine Avigdor & Audrey Fox

Eversley Church: Andrew Marshall

Membership: Diane Reid

Programme: Diane Reid & David Raymont

Publicity/Update: Alanna McKnight

Scadding Cabin: Edna Rigby

Sharon Temple Museum Board: Fred Cane



Members at Large: Ken Carter, Norie Jacobs, Kayoko Smith, Ralph Magel

Honorary Counsel: James McCutcheon

Left: Elaine Robertson pins incoming president Audrey Fox *Photo: Paul Litt.*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please renew before or during the *York Pioneer* launch (18 April) to receive your 2010 issue. Dues: \$18 Single, \$21 Family or \$200 Single Life. YPHS mailbox: P.O. Box 45026, 2482 Yonge Street, Toronto M4P 3E3 **Thank you support!**

May 26 Dinner: Thank you Katharine Williams for suggesting speakers, and Jeanine Avigdor for the venue idea.

New Update Editor

I'm very pleased that a new board member, Alanna McKnight has taken on the editorship of *The Update* beginning with the next issue (June/July).

I thank all the contributors and photographers who submitted items to me over the last four years -- please keep up the good work for Alanna! Contact her at (416) 316- 7500 or by e-mail at amcknigh@yorku.ca

- Audrey Fox

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members Wes & Blanche Mitchell, Sue Welland and King Township Historical Society.

FUND RAISER AT YP LAUNCH

Talented artist (and new member) Sue Welland will draw a caricature of you for a mere \$10, with all funds to the coffers of the YPHS. Please come to the launch on April 18 with plans to be immortalized.

Left: one of Sue's drawings



SOLD: almost 535 copies

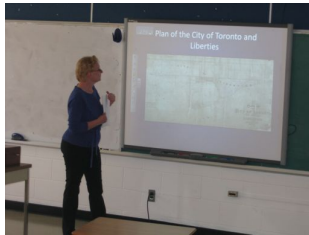
The second print run of 100 copies of *From Hands Now Striving To Be Free*, published by the YPHS last April, is sold out; we have a few left of the third run of 35 copies. Contact us through our website if you would like one of the last copies.

www.yorkpioneers.org

Toronto Historical Association

We remain a member of the THA, an umbrella organization representing volunteer heritage groups in Toronto. Learn more at their website:

www.torontohistoricalassociation.org/

PIONEERS IN THE NEWS

Left: *Norie Jacobs at Crestwood*

YPHS board member, **Norie Jacobs**, was recently invited to speak at Crestwood Preparatory College about life

in Toronto in 1834. Crestwood teacher, Chris Jull, wanted Norie's lecture to serve as an introduction to his theme course of "Reading Toronto"; a course in which all of the texts were written by Toronto authors. Norie covered all salient topics as well as some of her specific interests in local furniture making, early Toronto firefighting methods and health and welfare issues including the cholera epidemics of 1832 and 1834. Norie ended her successful presentation by displaying examples from her extensive collection of antique wooden boxes.

Heritage advocate and YPHS member

Stephen Otto was featured in a laudatory profile in *The Toronto Star*, March 21. The article noted, in part, that, "Otto's special effectiveness comes from the informal but influential network he has assembled over ... the last four decades".



Above: Several YPHS members wore period costumes to *The 1812 Great Canadian Victory Party* held at St. Lawrence Hall, Nov 6 & 7, 2009. Learn much more about old Toronto & view maps and photos: www.oldtorontoronto1793.com/

Calendar 2010

April 18 York Pioneer Launch

May 26 Annual Dinner

May 29 & 30: Doors Open Toronto



Above: *YPHS President Elaine Robertson, Toronto Mayor David Miller, Audrey Fox and Jeanine Avigdor, co-editors of *The York Pioneer* and *From Hands Now Striving to be Free*; 20 Nov, 2009 at City Hall. Mayor Miller was presented with a copy of each of our 2009 publications. Elaine also requested that Mayor Miller become the honorary patron of our society; this was granted in December.*

King Township Documentary Feb 20:

at least a dozen YPHS members came from all corners of Toronto to attend the premiere of this film. **Elaine Robertson** was instrumental in having it produced, and **Andrew Marshall** narrated.

*Congratulations to **Randall Reid**, a long-time supporter and advocate of heritage matters in Etobicoke and beyond, as well as a friend and respected colleague to many in the heritage community. Randall received a Special Recognition Award from Heritage Mississauga on February 18.*

The YPHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture.