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The Update

Newsletter of *The York Pioneer and Historical Society*

ANNUAL BOOK LAUNCH

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On Sunday April 18, YPHS held the book launch for its 105 publication at the historic Wychwood Car barns. The highlights of the day seem almost too numerous to count. The afternoon began in the sundrenched classroom in Barn 4, where all were welcomed by former president Elaine Robertson. Current president Audrey Fox then addressed the 55+ attendees, noting guests of honour, including many authors, descendents of subjects of articles, some of whom drove hours in order attend.

Attendees were treated to a talk about the re-inventing of the Wychwood Car barns by local resident, Roscoe Handford, who was active in saving the barns from being

demolished. The curious were given a tour of the greenhouse (which provides food for a local food bank, and teaches children about sustainable food sources), outer yards (which host a



year round Farmer's Market), and the other barns, including the historical Barn 1, built in 1916.

The afternoon continued with tasty refreshments provided by members. We sold several copies of the maga-

zine, as well as signed up a couple new members! There was even caricature artist Sue Welland who set up in the sunshine to draw attendees, and donated all the profits to YPHS- a generous and wonderful idea.

Submissions for 2011 York Pioneer

The editorial committee met in early June. The deadline for articles to be considered for publication in the 2011 volume of *The York Pioneer* is Friday, Sept. 10, 2010. For this first deadline, draft versions are acceptable. Please send submissions to audrey.fox@mac.com or call (416) 656-0812 for more

MEMBERS DINNER

More than 30 YPHS members and friends enjoyed a delicious dinner, a convivial time, a silent auction and an engaging lecture, at Victoria College, UofT, on May 26. Although the lovely Alumni Hall, where we dined, has a seating capacity for 135, our small group filled it with laughter and chatter. If the noise level can be used to measure the enjoyment level, everyone had fun!

Several of our fashionable female members made statements with their chapeaus (take a bow, Norrie Jacobs, Diane Reid and Edna Rigby); a table filled with books of historical interest raised about \$60 for our coffers (thanks especially, but not only, to David Raymond); the paparazzi (thank you, Ken Carter) recorded the entire evening; and printed souvenir programs setting.

And saving the best for last: our very entertaining speaker was writer, actor and comedian Neil Ross, VP of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society. Guests were unanimous in their praise for his enlightening talk about "The Junction" and the wonderful accompanying photos. Please join us at next year's dinner for fun and fellowship!

Y P H S I N T H E N E W S

-25 year member, **Katharine Williams**, was recently awarded a 5-year lapel pin at an Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony, in recognition of her commitment and dedication as a volunteer in Ontario. Katharine has contributed to *The York Pioneer* as well as *The Update*. YPHS congratulates her and hopes That she will continue her wonderful work in local history.

-This past **Doors Open Toronto**, YPHS opened the doors of Scadding Cabin on the Exhibition Grounds to a curious and ample public. Volunteers of the Cabin spent the weekend guiding throngs of people,

and told the history of the cabin. The cabin has recently received a new sign, thanks to the generosity of Exhibition Place.



-Andrew Marshall reports that the windows of **Eversley Church** have been glazed (puttied) and are being painted as we go to press. Andrew would very much like to hear from anyone with ideas of how the church might be used. Contact him through Audrey at (416) 656-0812 or aurey.fox@mac.com.

T H I S S U M M E R I N T O R O N T O

*Lace up your Walking Shoes!****“History of Music in Toronto”
Walk***

***Saturday, July 20 - 10:00 a.m. to
11:30 a.m.***

This unique tour celebrates the 200-year history and music history of Old Town Toronto. Tickets can be purchased by making reservations at: (647) 393.8687, or at:

bruce.bell2@sympatico.ca. Pr in person at the souvenir shop at St. Lawrence Market, 91 Front Street East. \$12.00 per person.

Discovery Walks - A Series of Self-Guided Walks

These 11 different walks explore some of Toronto’s most scenic neighbourhoods and outstanding natural, historic and cultural attractions. Brochures are available online at www.toronto.ca/parks, at civic centres or by calling Access Toronto at (416) 338.0338

ROMwalks

Volunteers lead free walking tours through Toronto’s neighbourhoods. This year, 40 walks in 12 neighbourhoods are offered. No advance notice needed. For more information, telephone the Royal Ontario Museum at (416) 586.8097 or click on www.rom.on.ca. Also see the site for added tours of St. James’ Cemetery on Sunday, September 26 at 2:00 pm and Queen’s Park Circle on Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 pm, at \$10 per person

Heritage Toronto Walks

Free neighbourhood walking tours offered by Heritage Toronto, until early October. Over 8,000 sites and structures on Toronto’s inventory of heritage properties! No reservations required. For further details, telephone (416) 338.3886 or www.heritagetoronto.org

And don’t forget to visit all the local museums in an around the Greater Toronto Area, who all host fantastic summer events!

A N T I Q U E S A N D
T E A

Date: Saturday August 7, 2010

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Place: 344 Albany Avenue (Bathurst & Davenport) **Cost:** donation to the YPHS

RSVP: Diane Reid (416) 483-0907 Space is very limited; book soon.

Board member Norie Jacobs hosts this YPHS fund-raiser. Norie will tell you about the Davenport Escarpment and the history of the Bathurst/Davenport area, give a tour of her antique-filled home and serve tea and sweets on her lovely deck.

A T T H E C N E

The York Pioneer and Historical Society will have a booth at the CNE for two days, displaying information about the YPHS. This is a great opportunity to showcase our society to hundreds (thousands!) of CNE visitors. Stop by the booth for info or to say “Hello”!

Interested in joining the YPHS?
Membership fees:
Annual: \$20.00
Family: \$25.00
Corporate: \$25.00
Life: \$200.00
Membership includes our annual journal *The York Pioneer*

Next YPHS Board Meeting:
Sunday 12 Sept., 2010 at 2:00pm
Please contact any board member with issues, concerns or queries.
Audrey Fox (President)
(416) 656-0812
audrey.fox@mac.com

The York Pioneer and Historical Society
P.O. Box 45026, 2482 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 3E3

We welcome two new LifeMembers, Emiko Sumi and Micki Allen and two new annual members, Alwyn Robertson and Kevin Plummer.

FROM THE EDITOR

This is my first attempt at writing The Update, and I hope it suits everyone well! It's been an pleasure so far being on the board of directors of the YPHS.

If you have anything you'd like included in our next edition of The Update, please feel free to email me at amcknigh@yorku.ca or call Audrey at (416) 656-0812

Thank you to all our contributors this month, especially Katharine Williams, for the Toronto Trivia tid-bits, Ken Carter for the photo on pg.1, John Marshall, Norie Jacobs and Audrey Fox.

-Alanna McKnight

TORONTO FACTS

On January 1, 1859 the City of Toronto began to lease Queen's Park from the University of Toronto for 5 shillings per year. The lease was drawn up with a termination date of 2858. (fast approaching!)

The Town of York boasted some 30 buildings, a few of which are still standing today, (Campbell House, Osgoode Hall and Fort York).

An early regulation stated that "persons allowing their pigs to run about Town are liable to a fine of 10 shillings."

P A S S I N G S

We are sad to announce the passing of two of our Life Members.

Gladys Grace Holder passed on the 9th of April, 2010 in her 84th year. Retired from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario in 1991, she was employed at the Canadian Medical Association Journal until it moved to Ottawa. She previously worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for over 15 years. If desired, donations may be made to St. John's or the charity of your choice. Condolences and memories may be forwarded through www.humphreymiles.com

Ralph Magel Magel, Ralph: Life Member Ralph Magel died June 11, 2010, in Newmarket, in his 76th year.

Ralph was a retired high school teacher with many interests, especially history.

A long-time YPHS board member, Ralph worked tirelessly in connection with Eversley Church.

Representatives of the YPHS attended his memorial service on June 16..

Planning a road trip adventure this summer? Be sure to check out what other Historical Societies in the GTA have got going on!

King Township Historical Society: www.kingtowshiphistoricalsociety.ca

The Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill:
www.thornhillhistoric.org

Scarborough Historical Society: www.scarboroughhistorical.ca

The Richmond Hill Historical Society: www.richmondhillhistory.org



S H A R O N T E M P L E

There's lot of great events this summer at our affiliate property the Sharon Temple!

July 22 - Fresh Voices (Live Music featuring young local performers)

August 1 - Harvest Festival

August 14 - Descendents' Day (We are inviting all the descendents of the Children of Peace)

September 3 - Illumination

For more information, visit them online at sharontemple.ca, or call or email at

Phone: 905.478.2389

Email: info@sharontemple.ca

JEANINE AVIGDOR RETIRES FROM BOARD

Jeanine Avigdor is retiring from the Board of Directors after 28 years of distinguished service. First elected in 1982, Jeanine has served as Corresponding Secretary, President, Chair of the Scadding Cabin Committee, and Editor of the York Pioneer. As President in 1986 and 1987, Jeanine oversaw major restoration work at Scadding Cabin. She has always been an interpreter at the Cabin, and she made a number of the costumes worn by other volunteers. In addition she wrote the Scadding Cabin booklet, which continues to be a bestseller at the site.

During her 19 year term as Editor of the York Pioneer, Jeanine introduced many new features to our annual journal, including more photographs, photo credits, an illustrated title page, and a more varied layout. She wrote several articles over the years, and edited the index published in 2003.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Society, she was elected an Honorary President in 2004. Thank you, Jeanine, for all of your hardwork and dedication. Best wishes for the future!

Jeanine Avigdor, former Board member



SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL BUS TRIP!

The annual YPHS bus trip is **Saturday, 18 September, 2010**. The full day excursion to points east of Toronto includes:

(1) Parkwood Estate and Gardens, a National Historic Site, where you will tour the grand McLaughlin home as well as enjoy a tea and scone break in the lovely gardens. (Auto baron R. Samuel McLaughlin was the founder of General Motors of Canada; his family lived at Parkwood from 1917 to 1972.)

(2) The Oshawa Community Museum depicts the history of Oshawa's early settlers. We will visit three homes standing on their original foundations, see two Rebellion Boxes that did not make it into the 2009 inventory and visit a house owned by one of our society's very early members.

(3) Pickering Museum Village, a pioneer village of 13 buildings from the 1830s. Plans not yet finalized for lunch and/or a visit.

(4) Scarborough Historical Museum and Thomson Memorial Park, land donated by David and Mary Thomson to commemorate the area's first settlers. Plans not finalized as we went to press but we are hoping a

local historian will join us.

Bus Pick-up: there will be three or four pick-up points (beginning in the west end at Montgomery's Inn); all are easily reached by TTC and/or have parking if you drive.

Cost: \$69 for members, \$72 for non-members. This includes bus transportation, all museum admissions, morning tea at Parkwood and lunch in Pickering.

Deadline: cheques in society's mailbox by Friday, Sept. 3. We must have 35 participants to break even. If we don't reach that number, the bus trip will be cancelled. Everyone will be notified and your cheques destroyed.

To reserve your seat on the bus, please contact Diane Reid at (416) 483-0907 or e-mail her at: dreid@couttscrane.com

Scenic Parkwood Estates

TORONTO FACTS

York was often called "Little York" to distinguish it from New York City.

Some residents derisively called the city "Toronto the Good", referring to its reputation as being a bastion of Victorian morality.

In 1934, the centennial of incorporation, Torontonians took pride in calling their home "The Queen City". City revenue in 1934 was over \$35 million, collected from a population that had risen to approximately 700,000.

