



# THE UPDATE

THE YORK PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[www.yorkpioneers.org](http://www.yorkpioneers.org)

P.O. Box 45026, 2482 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4P 3E3

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PUBLICATION LAUNCH

2011 York Pioneer  
Sunday May 1, 2011  
2 - 4 p.m.

Enjoy an easy (and customized just for us) walking tour of the former Riverdale Zoo (now the Farm), a visit to the Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum and a peek inside the 1867 Daniel Lamb House.

RSVP required by 26 April.  
More details on the enclosed sheet.

Tour begins at the gates below:



### DOORS OPEN TORONTO

May 28 & 29, 2011

A city-wide celebration of Toronto's architectural heritage. Visit buildings of architectural and/or historic significance, many of which are not normally open to the public. More information: 416-338-0338 or [www.toronto.ca/doorsopen/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/doorsopen/index.htm) YPHS volunteers will welcome visitors to Scadding Cabin.



### YPHS ANNUAL DINNER

Wednesday June 8, 2011  
6:30-9:30 p.m.

Historic Miller Tavern  
3885 Yonge Street (York Mills Subway)

**Guest Speaker:** Darryl Withrow; teacher, Pickering Museum volunteer, member of the Woodwrights' Guild, co-author of From Hands Now Striving to be Free -- and a York Pioneer!

Enjoy four dinner choices, a glass of wine, a silent auction and the company of your fellow Pioneers. Seating limited; book early.

**Deadline** for cheques in our mailbox is May 19 (mail to address at top of page)

**Cost:** \$72/person

Questions? [audrey.fox@mac.com](mailto:audrey.fox@mac.com) or (416) 656-0812 More details on enclosed sheet.



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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## 2011 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Our Annual General Meeting was held 30 January at the Tollkeeper's Cottage. There was a full house for the short business meeting, Kristine Janzen's presentation on the Dufferin extension's possible impact on the Scadding Cabin and Fort Rouillé sites, and refreshments. The 2011 board is:

**Honorary Presidents:** Jeanine Avigdor, Rev. L.D. Burns

### Officers

Past President: Elaine Robertson

President: Audrey Fox

Vice-President Vacant

Treasurers: Ken Carter & Patricia Robertson

Corresponding Secretary: Patricia Robertson

Recording Secretary: Margaret Porter

Archivist: John Marshall

### Committee Chairs

Editorial: Audrey Fox

Eversley Church: Andrew Marshall

Membership: Diane Reid

Programme: Diane Reid

Publicity/Newsletter : Dana King

Scadding Cabin: Edna Rigby & Kayoko Smith

Rep. on Board Sharon Temple Museum Society: David Raymont

Members at Large: Fred Cane, Norie Jacobs

### Appointments

Honorary Counsel James McCutcheon, Q.C.

Auditor Philip Creighton, F. C. A.

Canadian National Exhibition Edna Rigby

*Your board accomplished a lot in 2010. Here is a sampling: **We held meetings** (of the board as well as of editorial, membership, by-laws, nominating & programme committees). **We hosted events** - the launch of the 2010 York Pioneer, our annual dinner and bus tour; all required many hours of behind-the-scenes organization. **We lobbied** to save Ontario's inactive cemeteries; we gave input on the state of heritage in Toronto; we worked many hours with Kristine Janzen to better understand how the Dufferin extension might affect the Cabin and Fort Rouille.*

*We mailed the York Pioneer and several more copies of From Hands Now Striving to be Free; **Eversley Church** was cared for and given a thorough cleaning; and **Scadding Cabin** was opened and cleaned, staffed and closed in the fall; a new sign & repaired roof were arranged and lectures were held in the garden during the CNE.*

*I thank all the board members for their many, many hours of work on behalf of the Society; and I urge more members to give us a hand. ~ a.f.*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome new members:

- Jane Beecroft of The Tollkeeper's Cottage
- Don Hutchinson, JD Strachan Ltd , King
- Frank Purkis
- Eleanor Thomson of Newmarket
- Jeanette & Geoff Clark

And we are pleased that Katharine Williams, a 25-year Annual Member , has become a Life member.

## MEMBERS' NOTES

**Paul Litt** has begun his third year as President of the Toronto Historical Society. The YPHS is an affiliate of the THS.

**Audrey Fox** participated in the filming of a Rogers' TV "Structures" episode about Christie Street that included a segment on her neighbourhood, Bracondale Hill.

Devon, **Cindy Ewins'** daughter, is a page in the Ontario Legislature this spring. Congratulations, Devon!

**Dorothy Duncan** was featured in a Toronto Star interview on 5 Feb'11; in which she discussed the origins of traditional celebrations and holy days.

**Kevin Plummer** is a contributor to the Torontoist website. His wonderful article about our society is here:

[http://torontoist.com/2010/08/historicist\\_building\\_a\\_history.php](http://torontoist.com/2010/08/historicist_building_a_history.php)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Be sure to renew before the York Pioneer launch on May 1st to receive your 2011 issue.

\$20 Single

\$25 Family or Corporate

\$200 Single, Lifetime.

You can now renew your subscription by **PayPal**. Please visit our website for details.

Or, mail your cheque to:

YPHS mailbox: P.O. Box 45026, 2482 Yonge Street, Toronto M4P 3E3

**Thank you for your support!**

## EXTENDED HOURS AT THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

When the Archives of Ontario moved from its old location on Grosvenor St. to its new digs at York University, it didn't change just its address but also the hours for which it was open to the public. Thanks in large part to a letter (email) writing campaign by interested members of the York Pioneers, the Ontario Genealogical Society and others, the Archives extended its hours to be more accessible to working and out-of-town patrons. The Archives of Ontario will be extending its hours of

operation. Effective Tuesday, February 8, 2011, we will offer extended hours of service on Tuesdays and Thursdays to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Services available during these hours will include registration, assistance from reference archivists, access to self-service microfilm, microfiche and finding aids, viewing of previously ordered materials, and access to the exhibit gallery. Requests for certifications, reproductions and copyright that are placed during extended hours will be sent for processing on the next business day.

## PROTECTING INACTIVE CEMETERIES

On November 2, 2010, Mr Jim Brownell, MPP (Stormont, Dundas, South Glengarry) rose in the Ontario Legislative Assembly and introduced Bill 126, An Act to Protect Ontario's Inactive Cemeteries. The Bill prohibits the relocation of inactive cemeteries despite anything to the contrary in another Act or regulation dealing with cemeteries. And, again, on March 2, 2011, Mr. Brownell spoke in the Legislature, armed with a petition signed by

most members of the YPHS board.

To join the petition campaign:

The addresses for letters are on the OGS Website. [www.ogs.on.ca](http://www.ogs.on.ca) We ask for a copy only for our records. Letters can be e-mailed too.

If you would like petitions for your members, friends etc. to circulate I will send a copy for you to download and photocopy.

Please thank the York Pioneers for all their support.

~ Marjorie Stuart

## Dufferin Street Extension

There was some concern over reports that Dufferin St., at the CNE, was to be extended to Lakeshore Blvd and that this extension would impose upon the location of Scadding Cabin. Audrey Fox relayed the concerns of the Board to Maogosha Pyjor, the Senior. Public Consultation Coordinator for the City of Toronto responded:

*This Environmental Assessment Study is only about replacing the Dufferin Street bridges over the Gardiner Expressway and the Metrolinx/GO Transit rail corridor.*

*Please note that the Dufferin Street Bridges Environmental Assessment Study does include extending Dufferin Street to the Lakeshore. Should that be contemplated in the future, it would be the subject of another study, one which the YPHS would definitely be a part of as a stakeholder especially given that the area is extraordinarily sensitive from an archeological perspective.*

*The Dufferin Street Bridges EA will not impact on Scadding Cabin or the site of Fort Rouillé.*

*There is a City of Toronto staff person, Mary MacDonald - Acting Manager, from Heritage Preservation Services who is a member of the Dufferin Street Bridges Technical Advisory Committee and would not be supportive of Dufferin Street extending down to the Lakeshore in the manner currently contemplated in the Official Plan.*

For the short term, this is good news for Scadding Cabin. Long term, the Cabin is not protected.

On March 25, Pat Robertson and I attended Kristine Janzen's presentation of her research at the University of Toronto. We will have more to share with you in coming months. For now, we must remain vigilant and begin the process of securing a heritage easement on the Cabin and surrounding property. Kristine has helped us enormously with her dozens of hours of research and interviews; thanks to her diligence, the spade work has been completed.

We must now cooperate with other groups (especially la Société d'histoire de Toronto) to work for the easement.

We hope to have further news in the summer Update.

~ Audrey Fox

## **Feasting and Fasting : Canada's Heritage Celebrations**

**by Dorothy Duncan** Dundurn Press: 2010.

Reviewed by Jeanine Avigdor

Who knew that our May celebration of mothers can be traced back to pre-history, or that 800 years ago, people believed that birds chose their mates on February 14? These are only two of the details that Dorothy Duncan includes in her history of Canadian celebrations. We are taken through a year's worth of events, from New Year's Day to Scottish Hogmanay; and for each event, we are given its origins, traditions, and the associated food. We learn that shared work such as apple-paring or corn-husking "bees" were excuses for food and fun, and that in 1578, Martin Frobisher held the first Thanksgiving dinner. The chapter heading "Gung hei fat choy" ["May you have good fortune and riches."] introduces us not just to Chinese New Year, but also to a history of the Chinese communities in Canada. Oh, the food that is the highlight of the celebration, from the game-heavy feasts of the fur-traders to the delicacies of a Dominion Day "pic-nic" box, to a Thanksgiving menu from each province! There are also 32 recipes for nostalgic cooks to try, such as Funeral Pie, Aunt Dolly's Chopped Herring and Poor Man's Cake. Un-stated throughout Feasting and Fasting, but understood, is that events which bring us together to share food, also unite us as family, community and nation. That, too, is worth celebrating.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

You have, yet again, elected a hard-working board to look after the Society's affairs. Unless you have served on a non-profit board, you might not know how many hours are volunteered behind the scenes. In the case of the YPHS, collectively we give well over 2,000 hours annually to the society. Advocacy, publicity, docent hours at the Cabin, The Update, board and committee meetings, e-mail communication, event planning and production of *The York Pioneer* - we are a busy group. I sincerely thank all the board members for their years of service; and I am very pleased to welcome one new board member, Dana King. Dana is the chair of the publicity committee, a job that includes producing this newsletter and working on the website with our webmaster. Dana brings research and writing skills to the job; she is the owner of Every House Tells a Story, a house history research business. Welcome, Dana!

\*\*\* I am very pleased that the Sharon Temple website now credits the YPHS for its crucial role in saving the site. Go to [www.sharontemple.ca](http://www.sharontemple.ca) and click on "history of the museum" to see the great write-up by Curator John McIntyre. Thank you, John! ~ Audrey Fox

## **LONG-STANDING MEMBERS**

~ Text & Photo by Paul Litt

**Jean McFall** is a long-time member of the YPHS Board. Her late husband A.D. McFall was twice president of the York Pioneers; together they were tireless volunteers at the Sharon Temple during the time when the Doan House was moved to the temple grounds. Jean served as Archivist and wrote a number of articles for the York Pioneer. **Betty Shipley** and her late husband Harry both served on the Board of Directors. For several years they coordinated the volunteers at Scadding Cabin and their engaging personalities captivated hundreds of visitors to the cabin during the CNE. **Janet Watt** served in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS or Wrens) during World War II. Some years later she joined the YPHS where she quickly became an integral part of the Committee of Management (now known as the Board of Directors). She became the second female president of the YPHS in the 1970s.



*Left to right: Jean, Betty & Janet in Paul's yard, Sumach Street, August 2005*

## **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

As newsletter editor, I would be most grateful to receive your ideas for submissions to *The Update*. Submissions needn't be fully developed and written. Just the idea itself would be welcomed.

Let me know what you would like to see included in *The Update*. What kinds of features are of most interest to you? *The Update* is published three times a year: March, July and December.

Please email me at [dana@househistory.ca](mailto:dana@househistory.ca) and put *Newsletter* in the subject line.

Some regular features might include:

- Book and/or movie reviews that are of interest to our membership
- News articles with a local history theme
- News and events of other Historical Societies
- Stories and/or photos from our members about their experiences growing up in York/Toronto