

www.yorkpioneers.org



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Special points of interest:

- The roof work at Scadding Cabin is completed!
- The Annual Dinner was a huge success!
- Lots of events at the Scadding Cabin during the CNE!

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Completion of Restoration Work at Scadding Cabin

Anyone who happened to walk past Scadding Cabin this summer might have noticed some construction being done on it and wondered what was happening. The roof of the cabin was in need of repair and work needed to be done on the chimney. The work was finished mid-August, in plenty of time to show off the newly repaired roof during the CNE. During the course of the work, though, it was decided not to replace the chimney. This was recommended by E.R.A. Architects because the initial proposal to replace the chimney with a more historically accurate chimney was too heavy a load for the roof to support without further structural modifications inside. E.R.A. noted earlier photos of the cabin where there was no chimney. This, along with the choice to not further modify the cabin was what ultimately led to their final recommendation.

See page 3 for more photos, including the completed work!



Work in Progress



More Work in Progress

Photos: Kristine Janzen

Brief Notes

Welcome to New Members!

- David Doherty
- Gary Kurht
- Cara Culkin

A warm welcome and we look forward to meeting you.

Canada Day Celebrations!

Membership Committee members, Barry and Doreen Mapes, participated in the Canada Day celebrations taking place at Wells Hill Park. The York Pioneers booth was a great success, and introduced new people to the organization. We have been invited back for next year. Thanks for a great job!

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

Popular events a highlight at the Scadding Cabin during the CNE

-David Raymont

Talk of Laura Secord, veterans of the War of 1812, and the sale of Toronto lands by the New Credit Nation brought visitors to the Scadding Cabin during this year's CNE.

On August 20, Caroline McCormick, president of the Friends of Laura Secord and a direct descendant, came to the cabin to tell how she rallied neighbours in Niagara Region to build a walking trail that follows the route her famous ancestor took over 200 years ago to warn of an American attack.

The evening included a reading of a scene from the 1870's play Laura Secord performed by Pam Hewitt, of the Old Town Toronto Players. The play was written by Sara Anne Curzon, a 19th century historian and feminist who was a honorary member of the York Pioneer and Historical Society.

The following evening, David Raymont read excerpts from reminiscences of former York Pioneers recalling the War of 1812 – including the Rev. James Richardson, George Jarvis and the Rev. John Carroll. Raymont commented that the reminiscences of these veterans differ little from those of veterans of more recent conflicts.

Margaret Sault, director of research, lands and membership for the New Credit First Nation, visited the cabin on the 22nd and spoke about the challenges she faced negotiating a fair adjustment to the 1805 land treaty, Toronto Purchase, which includes Toronto and its northern suburbs.

In 1984, the Supreme Court of Canada said that it was the federal government's responsibility to ensure that First Nations had a clear understanding of the consequences of land treaties

and that the Nations received a reasonable price for surrendered land.

In 1805, the New Credit First Nation was given 10 shillings for the land. At the time, members of the Nation followed the surveyor and disputed the amount of land being recorded as part of the settlement. The Treaty was necessary because the Town of York was growing and an earlier agreement between the Nation and the Crown had not been properly negotiated.

The renegotiation of the Toronto Purchase took eight years to complete. The new settlement resulted in the Credit Nation receiving a cash award estimated to equal the value of the land and buildings on the territory in 1805 – not the billions of dollars the Greater Toronto Area would fetch today. The 1805 value of Scadding Cabin was included in the estimate that made up the final settlement.



John Marshall, Roksana Podolska, Caroline McCormick, Stephanie Lem and Pam Hewitt welcomed visitors to Scadding Cabin to celebrate Laura Secord.



Margaret Sault, Kayoko Smith, John Marshall, former New Credit Chief Carolyn King, and David Raymont at Scadding Cabin to discuss the Toronto purchase. Thanks to Doug and Nancy Small who staffed the cabin that evening.

Photos: David Raymont & Doug Snail

Simcoe Day at Fort York

On August 6th David Raymont, John Marshall, and Ken Carter attended the Simcoe Day Festivities at Fort York as representatives of the York Pioneer and Historical Society. They had a model of Scadding cabin and encouraged people to join the York Pioneers.



Photos: Ken Carter

The Annual York Pioneer & Historical Society Dinner—2013 Edition

On Tuesday, June 25th members of the York Pioneer & Historical Society, and their guests, convened at the MacLean House on the Sunnybrook estate for the annual dinner and reception.

Many people attended and a wonderful time was had by all.

Honorary Life Memberships were presented to Brooke Jarvis, Diane Reid, and Janet Watt by Ken Carter



Honorary Life Member **Brooke Jarvis**



Honorary Life Member **Diane Reid**



Honorary Life Member **Janet Watt**

Photos of the Scadding Cabin Restoration Work



The completed brand new roof.



An interior view of the finished work.

Photos:Kristine Janzen



The YPHS Congratulate the 2013 Winners of the York Pioneers' Award

President Ken Carter and Corresponding Secretary Pat Robertson, presented the 2013 York Pioneers' Award to Hannah Voorneveld and Rudainan Zahdi, Grade 5 students at Broadacres Jr. School on Tuesday, June 25. A warm welcome and we look forward to meeting you.

The York Pioneer and Historical Society wishes to present an award known as The York Pioneers' Award to a student who has completed a project based on an historic theme for an Ontario Heritage Fair. The subject of the activity should concern a person, place, occasion or object within the original boundaries of York Township: from Hwy 50 in the west, to the Township of Georgina in the north, and to the eastern edges of the Townships of Markham, Whitchurch - Stouffville and East Gwillimbury.



President Ken Carter and Corresponding Secretary Pat Robertson, presented the 2013 York Pioneers History Award to Hannah Voorneveld and Rudainan Zahdi, Grade 5 students at Broadacres Jr. School on Tuesday, June 25, 2013

York Pioneers take on Napoleon

In addition to being an active York Pioneer, David Markham is president of the International Napoleonic Society. (<http://www.napoleonicsociety.com/>) When he decided that the Society's 11th international congress should take place in Toronto, colleagues from the York Pioneers, including his wife Edna, came forward to lend a hand.

Richard Feltoe, a War of 1812 historian

and re-enactor, not only made a presentation to the congress but also organized and guided a bus trip to Fort Erie, the Chippewa battle site, the Lundy's Lane battle site, the Brock Monument at Queenston Heights and the Laura Secord home in Queenston.

Congress participants also enjoyed a guided tour of Fort York.

David Raymont presented a paper on Napoleon's influence on the War of 1812 and how the York Pioneer and Historical Society became a popular venue for veterans of the War to meet and reminisce.



York Pioneers David Markham (left), Richard Feltoe (second from left) & Edna Markham (fifth from left) played a leading role in the 11th International Napoleonic Society Congress, held in Toronto, July 29 to August 2. The group is gathered in front of the Brock Monument at Queenston Heights.

Upcoming Events

Rebellion

Remembrances

presented by The Richmond Hill Historical Society and The Ontario Historical Society

- When: Saturday, November 2nd, 2013; 9:00AM to 4:00PM
- Where: Historic Chapel of St. Mary's Anglican Church (10030 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON
- Cost: \$50
- Four speakers will discuss the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837/1838.
- Further details and registration forms available at www.rhhs.ca. For inquiries please call Andrea Kulesh @905-884-2789

Heritage Toronto Awards and William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture

presented by Heritage Toronto

- When: Tuesday, October 15th, 2013; Nominees Reception at 6:00PM, Lecture at 7:30PM
- Where: Koerner Hall in the Royal Conservatory of Music
- The William Kilbourn Lecturer will be Gail Dexter Lord, co-Founder and co-President of Lord Cultural Resources
- For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.heritagetoronto.org or call the Royal Conservatory box office at (416) 408-0208.

Descendants Day Celebration at the Sharon Temple

-Andrew Marshall

On August 10th Ken Carter and Andrew Marshall both attended the Descendants Day Celebration at the Sharon Temple.

There was plenty of food available to the progeny of David Willson and followers, as well as for an interested public.

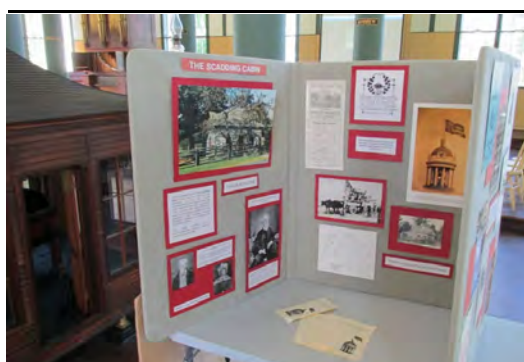
It was a beautiful day, and a brief Sharon Temple Management Board meeting was held in the Temple after the festivities to welcome new board members.

All of the attractions on the site were open, including the historic Doan House at the north end of the grounds, which is beautifully restored to period perfection inside, rather like a larger edition of the Scadding Cabin.

Thanks to the STMS for inviting us to the event.



A view of the West side of the Temple



The YPHS Display that was at Descendants Day

Photos: Andrew Marshall

Obituaries

It is with deepest regret that we inform you of the passing of two members of the YPHS:

Dr. Edwin J. Hunt

Honorary Life Member Dr. Edwin J. Hunt died on June 25, 2013 at the age of 85. Ed was Chair of the Sharon Temple Committee from 1975 to 1988, and the founding Chair of Music at Sharon, the highly successful concert series presented at Sharon Temple from 1981 to 1990. Music at Sharon concerts were broadcast on CBC Radio, raising awareness of the Temple across Canada. The series culminated with the opera *Serinetta*, by Harry Somers and James Reaney, which was commissioned by the YPHS.

A respected chiropractor in Newmarket, Ed was a man of many interests, including beekeeping and gardening. He established the gardens at Sharon Hope United Church, a modern building inspired by the design of Sharon Temple. A tribute to Ed, by Jeanine Avigdor, appeared in the 1988 *York Pioneer*.

Mollie Christie

Former Board member Mollie Christie died on July 9, 2013. Although not a member since 2003, Mollie was active in the YPHS for many years, and served as Chair of the Social Committee from 1986 to 1990. She wrote an article "The House of Industry – Laughlen Lodge, 1848-1998" for the 1998 *York Pioneer*.

Mollie was a graduate of Victoria College in 1934, and completed a master's degree in social work in 1936. She was the Founding Executive Director, Community Information Centre of Metropolitan Toronto (now Community Information Toronto). In 1999 she received a University of Toronto Arbor Award for Volunteerism.

Help Needed

NEWSLETTER: If you have suggestions for anything that you would like to be included in the next edition of *The Update* or if you have content that you would like to contribute please feel free to contact me at yphsupdate@gmail.com

—Matthew Singleton, Editor

Email addresses needed: Please help the York Pioneer and Historical Society cut down on costs and be kind to the environment.

Provide us with your email address so that you can receive correspondence, including the Update, electronically and in full colour! You can let us know by emailing us at:
yorkpioneers@gmail.com

Future York Pioneer & Historical Society Events:

The fall bus tour will not be happening this year but rest assured that the board of the York Pioneer & Historical Society is planning some great events including a possible bus trip to the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lundy's Lane next fall. Let us know if a trip like this would interest you and stay tuned for more details.



From the Archives

-John Marshall

Members outside the Toronto area may not be aware that the silver maple tree that inspired Alexander Muir to write *The Maple Leaf Forever* was destroyed in a storm on Friday, July 19. The tree was situated on Laing Street in Leslieville, near Muir's home and the public school where he served as principal. Muir was walking down the street in the fall of 1867 when a leaf from the tree stuck to the sleeve of a friend's coat, prompting him to write the famous patriotic song. Although some historians doubt the story, the Orange Order erected a plaque next to the tree in the 1950s.

Muir was a long-time Life Member of the York Pioneer and Historical Society. The Society has two Muir artifacts

in its collection, a school bell and a gavel. The inscriptions are as follows:

THIS GAVEL WAS MADE FROM THE BRANCH OF A TREE UNDER WHICH ALEXANDER MUIR WROTE THE NATIONAL SONG "THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER". THE TREE IS SITUATED ON LAING ST. FACING NO. 52, TORONTO, ONT.

1937

RIVERDALE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

C.R. WILLIAMS, PRES.

THIS BELL WAS USED BY THE LATE ALEXANDER MUIR, THE AUTHOR OF CANADA'S MOST POPULAR SONG THE MAPLE

LEAF FOREVER. MR. MUIR WAS PRINCIPAL OF SHIRLEY ST. PUBLIC SCHOOL, TORONTO

PRESENTED TO THE YORK PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY A.W. NIXON, THEN A PUPIL OF THE SAID SCHOOL, NOW A RESIDENT OF DETROIT, MICH. U.S.A.



Alexander Muir (1830-1906)



The school bell and the Gavel.