



# THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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## Notice of Annual Meeting of York Pioneers

### Guest Speaker: Maureen Jennings

Mark the date for Sunday, January 25, 2015, for the annual meeting of the York Pioneers at the John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue, headquarters of the Ontario Historical Society. The meeting will run from 2 to 4 pm.

After a short business meeting, mystery writer Maureen Jennings will join us to talk about how historical events have influenced her writing, and the success of the books and TV series based on her 19<sup>th</sup> century Toronto detective, William Murdoch.

To prepare for the annual meeting, your Board appointed a nominating committee of five people – three directors: Audrey Fox, David Raymont and Kayoko Smith; and two people from the general membership: Guylaine Petrin and Diane Reid – to propose names for the 2015 executive, which can be found, along with an appreciation of those retiring from the executive, on page 2.

## Mr. Scadding's Fall Harvest



Anke and Emma (and a helpful passerby) pick apples at Scadding Cabin. *Photo: John Marshall*

Once again Board member Kayoko Smith arranged to donate the Scadding Cabin apples to Not Far From the Tree, a group which picks fruit and gives it to food banks and other charities. On September 13 she and John Marshall arrived at the cabin to meet Not Far From the Tree volunteers Anke Heiser and Emma Lewzey. The group picked for about two hours, resulting in a total of 96 pounds.

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AGM – 2pm, Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Ave.

The nominating committee presents the following slate for approval at the Annual General Meeting:

<i>Past President:</i>	Audrey Fox	<i>Corresponding Secretary:</i>	Nick Burton
<i>President:</i>	David Raymont	<i>Recording Secretary:</i>	Robert Horwood
<i>Vice President:</i>	vacant	<i>Archivist:</i>	John Marshall
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Cindy Ewins	<i>Rep. to the CNE:</i>	Edna Rigby

#### Committee Chairs

<i>Editorial:</i>	Audrey Fox	<i>Publicity:</i>	Wesley Ferris
<i>Membership:</i>	Stephanie Lever	<i>Scadding Cabin:</i>	Kayoko Smith
<i>Program:</i>	Micki Allen	<i>Sharon Temple:</i>	Andrew Marshall
<i>Members at Large:</i>	Fred Robbins, Teresa Casas, Elaine Maloney		

The selection of names for the 2015 executive does not rule out other choices. York Pioneers welcome additional nominations to the executive board from all members, prior to and at the annual meeting. This is our association and it is up to all of us to help ensure it is well run.

If you have a question about nominations to the executive committee, or would like to learn more about serving on the executive board, please contact David Raymont through [yorkpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com) or [raymonts@sympatico.ca](mailto:raymonts@sympatico.ca)

York Pioneers salute the dedication and effort of those people who are leaving the board:

Patricia Robertson, who most recently served as corresponding secretary, is a former president and long-serving treasurer of the Society. She has a deep knowledge of the Society and its membership that has been of great use to the executive.

As treasurer, Ken Carter brought the York Pioneer's bookkeeping into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which has provided the board with a better means to plan and budget. As president, he developed a maintenance schedule for Scadding Cabin.

Kristine Janzen made a significant contribution to the repair and maintenance of the Scadding Cabin. Her research provided York Pioneers with new insight into our relationship with Exhibition Place and the Canadian National Exhibition.

As editor of the *Update*, Matthew Singleton provided entertaining accounts of Pioneer activities.

Wendy Smith started a discussion on updating the Society's by-laws (including adding a conflict of interest code) which will be continued by the executive board in 2015.

We thank each of these individuals for their contribution to the success of the York Pioneers in 2014 and welcome those who have chosen to put their names forward to serve on the executive.

## York Pioneers and the Heritage Toronto Awards

York Pioneers were well-represented at the 40th Annual Heritage Toronto Awards held on Tuesday October 21st, 2014 at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Almost twenty members of the Society were present at the Awards, and several received recognition for their work. York Pioneer and board member Wendy Smith won the Award of Excellence in the Media category for the Toronto Park Lot Project (<http://parklotproject.com>) and Life Member and frequent *York Pioneer* contributor Chris Raible was awarded an Honourable Mention in the Short Publication category for his article *Mackenzie Wrote Here?*, which appeared in the 2013 edition of the journal. As publisher of the article, the YPHS shared the award and received a certificate which is now in our archives.

In addition, York Pioneer Rolande Smith accepted the Community Heritage Award on behalf of La Société d'histoire de Toronto and York Pioneer Tony Wagner accepted the Award of Merit in the Architectural Conservation and Craftmanship category on behalf of the O'Connor Estate Buildings. Further details on the awards to Wendy Smith and Chris Raible can be found on page 4. Congratulations to all of the winners!



Award winners Chris Raible, left, and Wendy Smith, right, with *York Pioneer* editor Audrey Fox.



Heritage Toronto board member and former York Pioneer president Paul Litt, left, with award winner Chris Raible.

Save the Date – Launch of the 2015 *York Pioneer*  
Saturday May 9th – Details to Come

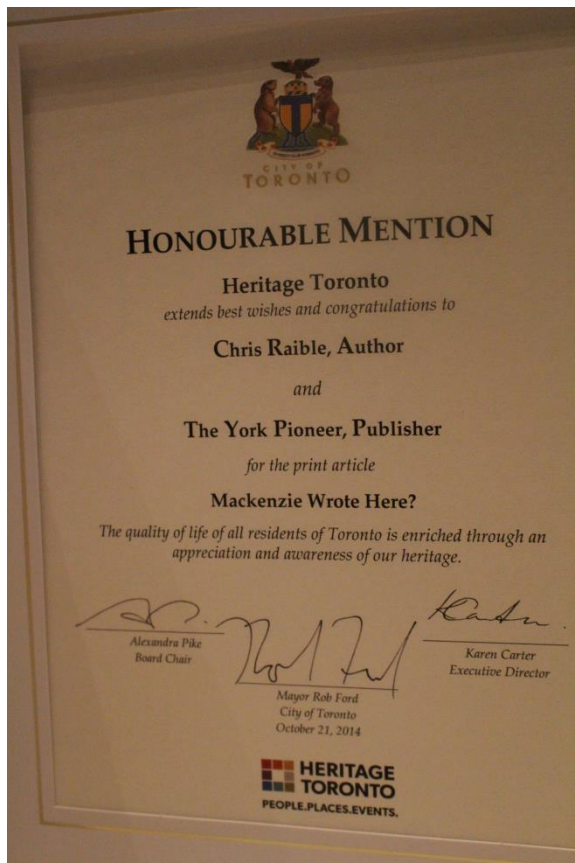
# Heritage Toronto Award Winners

Wendy Smith - Award of Excellence - Media Category  
The Toronto Park Lot Project (<http://parklotproject.com>)

The Toronto Park Lot Project, a free interactive map, was made available on the internet to the public in 2012. The project began as a personal research tool to help the author visualize the locations of the 32 park lots, the narrow 100-acre lots surveyed (between today's Queen and Bloor Streets) in 1793 and later granted to Toronto luminaries such as William Osgoode, Peter Russell, George Playter, and several Queen's Rangers officers. Since then several layers have been added to the map showing the original marshy landscape and waterways around Toronto Bay, the 1805 'Toronto Purchase' treaty between the Crown and the Mississauga First Nation, the house lots in the Town of York, and the 200-acre farm lots in the surrounding Township of York. More than 400 clickable markers open to display information about the landscape and waterways, aboriginal trails, and biographies of the original lot grantees.

The Jury applauded the Toronto Park Lot Project's scholarly attention to detail and its engaging presence. The website was praised as an excellent tool for promoting a greater understanding of Toronto's heritage.

Chris Raible - Honourable Mention - Short Publication Category  
*Mackenzie Wrote Here?* - Published in *The York Pioneer*, 2013



Certificate awarded to the *York Pioneer* for the article by Chris Raible. Photo: Audrey Fox

In this article, Chris Raible weaves a story around an old wooden desk in the collection of the City of Toronto's Museum Services, purported to have been used by William Lyon Mackenzie, Toronto's first mayor and leader of the 1837 Rebellion, during his time at the Third Parliament Buildings on Front Street.

The author explores the history of the desk and its journey from legislative furniture to historical artifact, analyzing records from catalogue cards to graffiti on the desk itself. In the process, he reveals the challenges of proving the provenance of the desk.

Source: *Heritage Toronto*



A 40<sup>th</sup>-anniversary cake enjoyed by all.

## A Quiz About York Pioneers

*Credit: John Marshall & David Raymont*

The following quiz was distributed at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Society's board. How many can you get right?

- When was the York Pioneer and Historical Society created?
  - 1857
  - 1879
  - 1869
- What was the name of John Scadding's wife?
  - Martha
  - Melicent
  - Winnifred
- Which of the following women was a member of the York Pioneers and also wrote poetry?
  - Lucy Maud Montgomery
  - Sarah Anne Curzon
  - Mary Agnes Fitzgibbon
- Which York Pioneer was a Father of Confederation?
  - Sir Francis Hincks
  - William Pearce Howland
  - William Peyton Hubbard
- In 1888 the York Pioneers and the Peel County Historical Society co-founded which organization?
  - The Women's Canadian Historical Society
  - The Fenian Raids Veterans of '66 Association
  - The Ontario Historical Society

*Answers on page 8.*

## The Bassingthwaighte Collection

In 1991 Merle Bassingthwaighte gave the YPHS her collection of Victorian and Edwardian clothing. Some of the pieces were displayed at the MacDonald House in Thornhill in 2002, but otherwise we have not made use of these items. The Board has therefore decided to donate the collection to the Fashion History Museum in Cambridge, Ontario, which will be able to display some of the items and provide proper storage. The Museum, a registered charity, was founded in 2004. Its collection consists of nearly 10,000 articles of clothing dating from the 1660s to the present. The Museum has presented travelling exhibitions and is planning to open galleries in the spring of 2015.

The donation was arranged by Audrey Fox, who has been storing the collection since 2010. Prior to that it was stored by Jeanine Avigdor, who worked many hours to sort and catalogue the clothing when it was first acquired.

To learn more about the Fashion History Museum go to [www.fashionhistorymuseum.com](http://www.fashionhistorymuseum.com).



'No, I think the sleeve goes this way.' John Marshall and Pat Robertson attempt to solve the puzzle of a double-layered lace blouse. *Photo: Audrey Fox*

## The Eversley Funds

The funds raised by the sale of Eversley Church in June 2012 were once again a topic of discussion at the October 16th meeting of the YPHS Board. After receiving feedback, it was unanimously agreed to disperse the funds on the basis of the proposal developed by the Eversley Fund subcommittee and submitted to the membership in the September newsletter. Overall, \$150 000 is to be spent on projects and \$250 000 is to be saved for future use, as outlined in the table below.



*Photo: Andrew Kennedy Marshall*

Project	Amount	Timeframe	Notes
Scadding Cabin	\$100 000	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For larger Scadding Cabin repairs and upkeep, as opposed to normal maintenance and smaller items.</li> <li>2013 roof repairs paid retroactively from this fund.</li> </ul>
Lady Eaton Fund	\$150 000	Perpetuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The principal will remain untouched while income will contribute to general operating funds.</li> <li>Named for Lady Eaton, who donated Eversley Church to YPHS</li> </ul>
Sharon Temple Doan House Restoration	\$50 000	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligns with long association of YPHS and its members with Sharon Temple.</li> </ul>
Sharon Burying Ground Association	\$25 000	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be used for gate restoration and property survey, with the balance for stone repairs.</li> <li>A permanent marker of recognition for the YPHS contribution will be erected.</li> </ul>
Commemorative Events/Items	\$25 000	By End of 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use to be determined by the Board over the next three years, including possibly the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation.</li> <li>Some may also be set aside for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of YPHS in 2019.</li> </ul>
Digitizing our History	\$25 000	By End of 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digitizing of the <i>York Pioneer</i> magazines, the archives, and Scadding Cabin artifacts.</li> </ul>
Outreach Projects	\$25 000	By End of 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use to be determined by the Board over the next 3 years, possibly including an improved web presence, including interactions on social media, high quality video regarding Scadding Cabin, and display space.</li> </ul>
Total	\$400 000		

## From the Archives

By John Marshall

As of the first of December Toronto has a new mayor. This prompted a question from a YPHS member who knew that one early mayor was a York Pioneer, and wondered if there were others.

Indeed, there were several:

Hon. John Beverley Robinson (Mayor, 1856-7)

Joined the YPHS in 1874

David Breakenridge Read (1858)

Joined in 1883

William Barclay McMurrich (1881-2)

Joined in 1884

John Shaw (1897-9)

Joined in 1884

Horatio C. Hocken (1912-14)

Joined in 1913

Thomas Langton Church (1915-21)

Joined in 1915

W. W. Hiltz (1924)

Joined in 1922

Sam McBride (1928-9, 1936)

Joined in 1915

Robert Hood Saunders (1945-8)

Joined in 1940

Leslie Howard Saunders (1954)

Given Honorary Life Membership, 1956



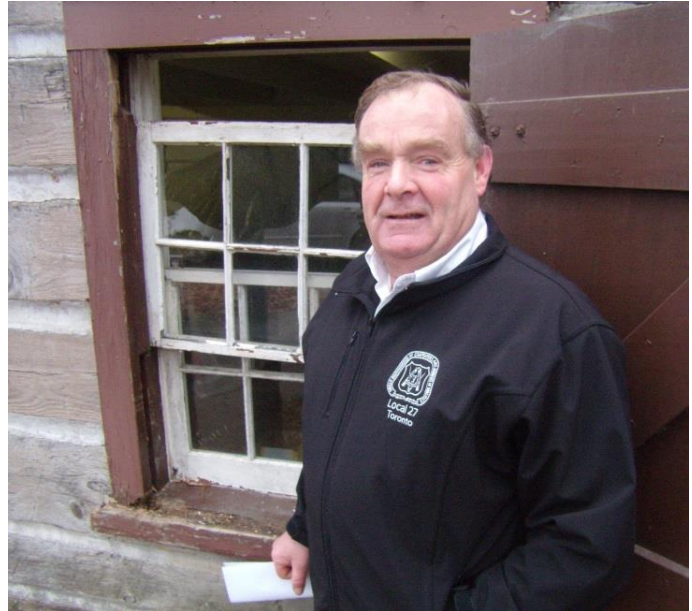
The Hon. John Beverley Robinson, first Mayor of Toronto to be a member of the YPHS. *Source: D. B. Read, The Lieutenant-Governors of Upper Canada and Ontario (Toronto., 1900)*

Beginning in 1951, the Mayor of Toronto was automatically given the title of Honorary President of the YPHS, a practice which continued into the 1990s. It was eventually decided that we should ask the Mayor before bestowing an honorary position. Some mayors, most recently David Miller, accepted the offer, while others have not responded to our invitation.

## In Memoriam

*Ron MacFeeters*

Passed away on Dec. 7th, two days before his 100th birthday. In addition to being a longtime YPHS member, Ron was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Toronto for nearly seventy years, a member of the board of the Royal Ontario Museum and a member of Deer Park United Church. A lifelong resident of Toronto, who always lived within two miles of St. Clair and Yonge, he was a graduate of Victoria College U of T class of 1936 and during the Second World War served as a Lieutenant in the Signal Corps. After the war he spent several decades working at the family business - MacFeeters Creamery on Jarvis Street - before retirement. He is survived by two daughters and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Condolences and memories may be forwarded through [www.humphreymilesnewbigging.com](http://www.humphreymilesnewbigging.com).



As part of the York Pioneer's maintenance plan for Scadding Cabin, Exhibition Place carpenter Pat O'Loughlin looks at weather damage on one of the windows to prepare an estimate for repairs. In 2012, the York Pioneers hired ERA, an architectural firm specializing in architectural preservation, to provide a guide for the maintenance of the cabin. *Photo: David Raymont.*

## Your Society Needs You

*Vice-President:* Please consider volunteering to serve as YPHS Vice-President on the 2015 executive. For information on the position, please contact the current Vice-President, David Raymont, at (416) 656-2954.

*Committees:* Please join a committee and spend a few hours each year contributing to the success of YPHS. A list of committees is given on page 4, and any Board member can be contacted for more specific information. We welcome all volunteers for any length of time you can give, and have a wide range of opportunities.

*Reviewing Accountant:* Our longtime reviewing accountant has retired and the Society needs someone to fill this vital role. This is a paid position.

## 2015 York Pioneer

The Editorial Committee has received a number of submissions for publication in the *York Pioneer*, and the 2015 edition is now full. However, articles are still welcome for future editions.

Answers to the quiz on page 5:

1 - c   2 - b   3 - b   4 - b   5 - c

The YPHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.