



EAST YORK INKLINGS

Newsletter of the East York Historical Society

Volume 12 Issue 2 – March 2016

Friends, supporters and members,

I am looking forward to the spring season and patio weather now that we have come through what may be the worst of the cold temperatures. Today (March 9, 2016) as I prepare the President's Message it is 17 degrees Celsius so warm that folks are wearing shorts.

Family Day, Black History Month, Chinese New Year of the Monkey, Women's International Day and St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with delicious foods and colourful entertainments. Congratulations!!!

At our January 26 meeting of the East York Historical Society, we celebrated Black History Month with outstanding presenters. The event included: Spider Jones (Canadian Fighter, Sport Newscaster, Author, Award Winner.) who spoke of his upbringing, struggles and successes; Canadian Solo Singer Brooke Pastuch sang Etta James' "At Last" & "Amazing Grace"; Canadian Ron Manfield on Piano... "Louis Armstrong's Classic, What A "Wonderful World" & "All for Julie"; Canadian Elizabeth Muir-Riverdale...East of

the Don, included lives of Mary Ann Shadd, Peyton Hubbard & John Graves Simcoe...

We had a good turnout considering the cold temperature. See Toronto Observer - February issue on "East York Historical Society. Celebrating Black History Month with Songs & Stories..."

Information on our March Meeting: See page 2.

Reminder to all our members (and to those thinking about becoming new members and donors) to send in membership payments to our EYHS Treasurer Mr. Val Dodge at the address listed on the back page. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you for your continued support. Your ongoing & valued support (membership/attending meetings & input) is very important in helping with the life of the East York Historical Society.

... continued on page 2



Thanks to the support of our members, the East York Historical Society, we have had large turnouts at our meetings.

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING...

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

Refreshments at 7:00pm ~

Meeting Starts at 7:30pm

John S. Ridout Auditorium at the
S. Walter Stewart Library

170 Memorial Park Avenue

Topic: **Governing Toronto: Bringing Back the City that Works**
Presented by The Honourable Alan Redway,
Vice President of the East York Historical Society

Our Meetings are Co-sponsored By



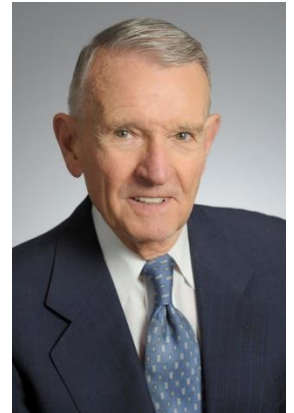


A great turnout was on hand at our February 24th afternoon meeting of the East York Historical Society to hear Jason Ramsay-Brown talk about his book on Toronto's Ravines and Urban Forests.

Please join us at our next afternoon meeting at 2pm on Wednesday, April 27th as we welcome Bill Lewis who will continue his talk with us about growing up in East York in the 1930's and 40's.

INTRODUCING OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR NEXT MEETING – THE HON. ALAN REDWAY

Alan Redway is a retired lawyer, born in Toronto, with a degree in Commerce and Finance from the University of Toronto and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. He served for 10 years in municipal government, six years of them as Mayor of East York and as a member of Metropolitan Toronto Council and Executive Committee. Later he was elected to the parliament of Canada where he served for almost another 10 years as a federal MP part of that time as Minister of State (Housing). He is the author of a recent book, "Governing Toronto: Bringing back the city that worked" and the current Vice President of the East York Historical Society.



We will also be welcoming Olivia Walsh to our March meeting. Olivia was one of two winners who won the 2016 Agnes Macphail Speaking Contest

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Name tags: Please wear them at the meeting so we all can be better acquainted with each other.

I attended Museum Intersections Festival Launch, Sunday, 6th march, 2016 at 362 Richmond St. W.

Please continue to look out for our elderly and children's safety in every place including pedestrian crosswalks.

See you all on the evening of Tuesday March 29, 2016 at the East York Historical Society Meeting. On behalf of the EYHS executive Board of Directors, Happy Easter!

Sincerely,

Pancheta (Pat) Barnett
President of the East York Historical Society
eyhs@eastyork.org

Our members of the East York Historical Society

Lifetime Members:

Scott Burns
Joseph Cooper
Eleanor Darke
Peter Edwards
Kathleen Horiszny
Katherine Kirzati
John Laraway
Kenneth Menagh
John Michailidis
B. Jane & Robert Moore
Martin Rainbow
Alan Redway
Joan & Lynn Ridout
Pam Sellers
Don Uttley

2016 Members:

Diane Bennett-Jones &
Christopher Jones
Pancheta Barnett & Rhonda
Bill & Cathy Betsworth
Duncan Boyce
Diane Brockman
Jane Brooks
Robert & Ruth Broughton
Lynne Brown
Ron Brown

Jay & Pat Burford
John Carter
Ron, Wanda, and Erica
Chamberlain
Marilyn & Fred Clark
Joyce Crook
Leigh Davidson
Paula Davies & Steve Smith
Janet Davis
Irene Derzay
Val Dodge & Risa Gluskin
Susan & Mike Dolbey
Tessa Edward
Connie & Glenn Fenton
Mary Fragedakis
Ed Freeman
Louise Freyburger & David Bridge
Joanne Green
Jeanne Hopkins
Rita Hoppe
Bruce Horner & Donna Glazier
Aarne & Helen Juhola
Maggie Kambanis
Geoffrey Kettel
Doug Kozak & Helmi Paradowski
Lorna Krawchuk
Ted Lea
Sandra Lewis

Jim Lister
Lawrence Main
Steve Mastoras & Family
George Matthew
Margaret McRae
Melanie Milanich
Nancy Moffat
Glen Moorhouse CEO
June Murdoch & Joan Tilt
Mariko Ngyuen & Zahra Dhanani
Jane & Barry Penhale
Michael Prue
Patrick Rocca
Peter & Lucy Ronaldson
Raija Rosenthal
Christopher Salmond
Irene Sanderson & Family
George & Sophie Starfas
Grace Tanaka
Ken Thompson
Justin Van Dette
Sonia Van Heerden
Linda Vranic
Bill Weldon
Manfred Wewers & Mary Lang
Ian Wheal
Carl Wilcox & Laurel Nicol

SAVE THESE DATES

**THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLANNING AHEAD
REFRESHMENTS ARE ALWAYS SERVED**

Wednesday, April 27th @ 2pm
Bill Lewis on growing up in East York
during the 1930's and 1940's

Tuesday, May 31, 2016 @ 7pm
Arthur Bousfield: Chairman of CRHT & ESU... East York
and the Commonwealth

September 27, 2016 @ 7pm
Louise Beaulieu-Steiner: Canadian Federation of
University Women (Leaside/East York)

Wednesday, October 26th @ 2pm
Ed Freeman: Railways

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 –
Annual General Meeting
Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club

- History That Actually Gets Read -

Biographies Beyond Academia

Jointly sponsored by the Dictionary of Canadian Biography and the Department of History at the University of Toronto

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Victoria Chapel, Victoria College, VC213
91 Charles Street West

EACH TALK WILL BE 45 MINUTES LONG, FOLLOWED BY A 15-MINUTE Q&A SESSION

9:30 Opening Remarks

Nicholas Terpstra, Chair,
Department of History,
University of Toronto

9:45 The 2016 Donald Creighton Lecture

Donald Wright, "His Macdonald,
My Creighton, Biography and the
Writing of History"
Writing of History"

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Christopher Dummitt

"Weird Willie Mackenzie King,
C P Stacey and the Irreverent
Politics of 1970s Canada"

12:15 Lunch

(make own arrangements)

1:45 Stevie Cameron

"The Prime Minister and the
Serial Killer"

2:45 Coffee break

3:15 Ross King

"The Art of History
Writing Creative Non-Fiction"

4:15 Closing Comments

David A. Wilson, General Editor,
Dictionary of Canadian Biography

TAKE PART IN THE MARKET GALLERY:

**Tunnel Vision: The Story of
Toronto's Subway...an exhibition
of photographs, maps plans &
artifacts-**

**February 13 - June 11, 2016...
for further information:
416-392-7604**

*Welcome to our
new members...*

Ron Brown
Sandra Lewis
Robert Oliphant
Jason Ramsay-Brown & Family

PRESENTERS

Donald Wright is the author of *Donald Creighton: A Life in History* (2015). He lives in Fredericton where he teaches history and political science at the University of New Brunswick.

Christopher Dummitt is Associate Professor in Canadian History in Trent University's School for the Study of Canada, and is the author of a forthcoming book on the exposé of the William Lyon Mackenzie King diaries.

Stevie Cameron has written several books about Ottawa politics, and was appointed to the Order of Canada for her investigative journalism and her work with the homeless in Toronto.

Ross King is a prize-winning author who has written seven books on Italian, French, and Canadian art and history, and has published two historical novels.



450 Pape Avenue is a 130-year-old building listed for just \$1. / Century 21].

That's right, in a city where the average price of a home in February was \$589,000 according to the [Canadian Real Estate Association](#); this 25,000-square foot heritage property is listed for \$1.

Flashback Moment...

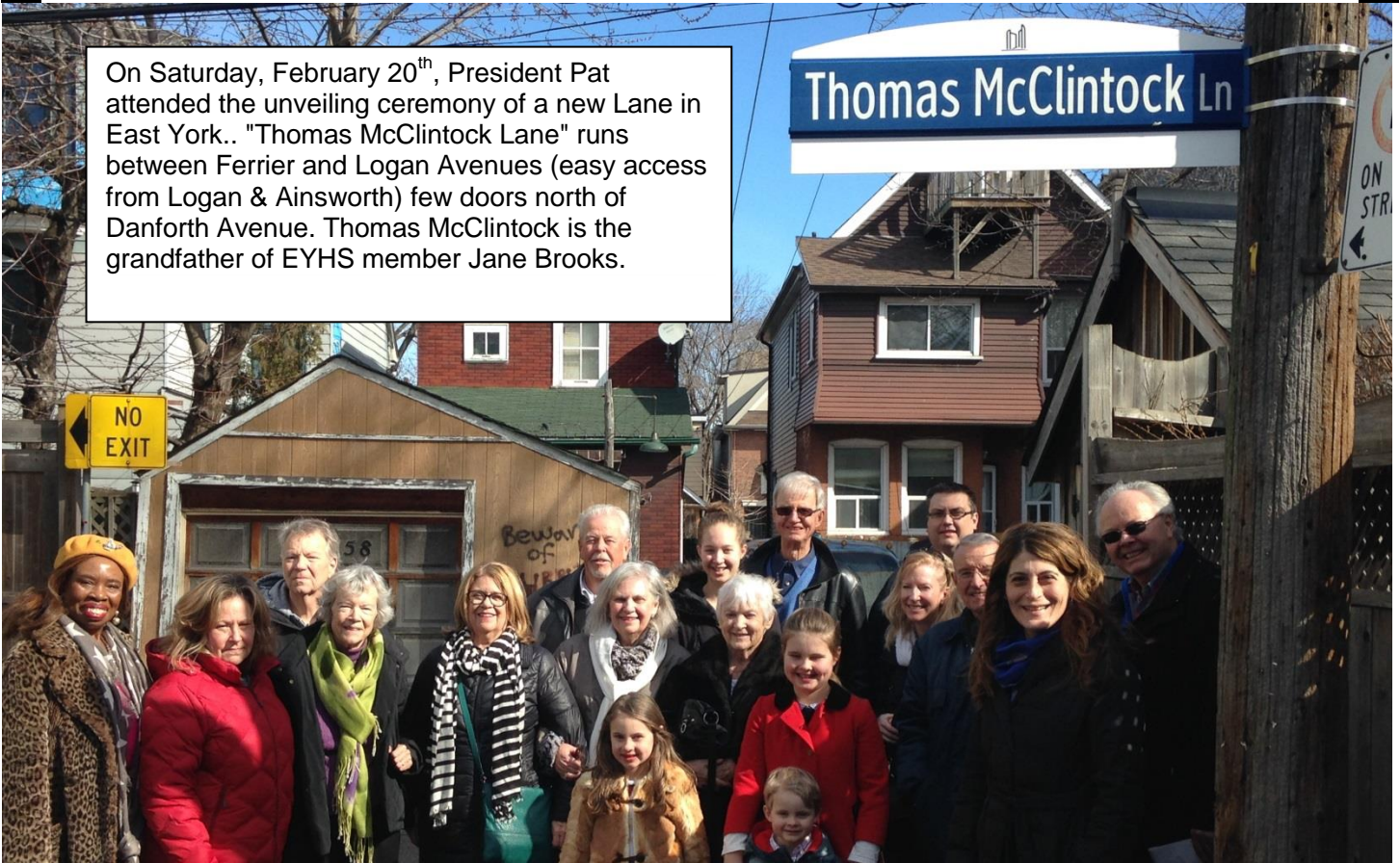
Taken at Danforth and Pape looking east-July 1913. 3 houses, a few buildings and nothing but land.



Follow us on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/144715709718>

On Saturday, February 20th, President Pat attended the unveiling ceremony of a new Lane in East York.. "Thomas McClintock Lane" runs between Ferrier and Logan Avenues (easy access from Logan & Ainsworth) few doors north of Danforth Avenue. Thomas McClintock is the grandfather of EYHS member Jane Brooks.



The East York Historical Society would like to extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of U.S First Lady Nancy Reagan

July 5, 1921 to March 6, 2016 - 94 years of age.

Her favourite line was **"Just say NO to drugs"**

MORE CONDOLENCES: Frank Sinatra's son: Francis Wayne Sinatra...American Jan. 10, 1944-March 16, 2016 (@ aged 72).



CORRECTIONS:

January 2016 edition of The Inkling: continued story from our November article (in January 2016) about Seaman Alfred Joseph Cockburn 1919-2011 "Bell Triggers War"...At the suggestion of Staff Advisor Edith Vigars, last year's student council sponsored construction by Leaside student of a proper... viewing stand and glass case for the library.

Natalie Cole: Feb. 6, 1950 to Dec. 31, 2015

Paul Herzberg, Ph.D., born - 1936 passed away Dec. 2, 2015 @ aged 79.

EAST YORK REFLECTIONS:

Billy McKay and the Garron family contribute to East York's hub at the intersection of Coxwell and Mortimer

East York Mirror, By John Michailidis – February 23, 2016

East York is blessed with a hub of community-minded institutions at the intersection of Coxwell and Mortimer avenues. For many decades, the four corners have played a major role in the life of many East Yorkers. It may be said the hub is the heart of East York.

Renaming of Toronto East General...

At the southeast corner is Toronto East General Hospital, a mainstay of providing health services to East Yorkers and east enders for close to 90 years.

Kitty-corner from the hospital is the East York Civic Centre and the East York cenotaph. For 50 years or so, it was the home of East York's municipal government. East Yorkers gathered at the civic centre at the True Davidson Council Chambers to have their say at council meetings. East York volunteer organizations still meet at the civic centre to plan their activities so they can continue to serve the community.

Many East Yorkers served our nation in the world wars and many veterans decided to make East York their home after serving. Many did not return or returned with physical and emotional wounds. It should be no surprise the cenotaph and surrounding parkland are considered sacred ground to East Yorkers.

Another pillar of the hub is R.H. McGregor public school. The school has served the education needs of young East Yorkers since the late 1920s. The school shares its space with the administration building of the former East York board of education. The administration building of the former board is now part of the Toronto East Health Network.

The bungalow at the northeast corner, now a medical office, was East York's first library. The bungalow served the library needs of East Yorkers until 1960 when the iconic S. Walter Stewart Library opened.

Recently, the hub received a big boost from the Garron family with their donation of \$50 million to the Toronto East General Hospital. The donation will help pay for state-of-the-art hospital equipment and research to improve patient care. Because of the Garron family

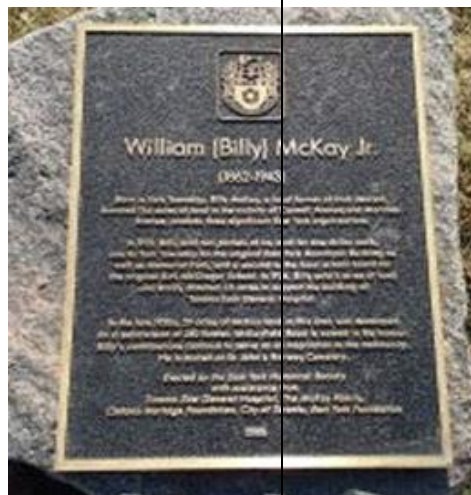
donation, the hospital will be better able to attract talented world-class medical professionals to our community. The hospital building at the southeast corner is now named the Michael Garron Hospital, in honour of Michael Garron who was born at the hospital in 1962. Michael died in 1975 of soft tissue cancer. East Yorkers are grateful to the Garron family for their community-minded generosity.

The future prosperity of the hub is well secured thanks to the Garron family. The roots of the hub were partly put in place by the generosity of Billy McKay (1862-1943) an East York farmer. Around 1891, Billy purchased farmland in the area that is now the hub. In 1921, after years of raising pigs, keeping horses and market gardening, Billy donated land that would become R. H. McGregor School and the hospital's medical building. In the same year he donated land to York Township that would become the home of the East York Civic Centre and the East York Cenotaph.

In 1924, Billy sold five acres of land and donated an acre and a half to the City of Toronto for the development of a hospital, today proudly named the Michael Garron Hospital.

Billy built for himself a beautiful red brick house near the hospital. In time the house became a nurse's residence for the hospital. In the early 1960s, the hospital replaced the house with a larger nurse's residence. In all, Billy donated close to 12 acres of land in the area of the hub. It may be suggested that Billy's contribution of land helped to sway the province to create the Township of East York in 1924.

In 2005, the East York Historical Society, the Toronto East General Hospital and the McKay family recognized the contribution of Billy McKay by placing a plaque in his honour on the grounds of the East York Civic Centre.



Billy McKay plaque at the grounds of the East York Civic Centre.

John Michailidis is a longtime East Yorker and member of the East York Historical Society. The society is dedicated to increasing awareness of East York's rich history. The society meets five evenings a year at S. Walter Stewart Library. Please join us. John's passion is sharing stories about East York. For more information or to contact John, visit eastyork.org

Congratulations

...to East York Historical Society member Mr. Patrick Rocca who is this year's recipient of the 2016 Agnes Macphail Award. Please join us for a special recognition reception on Thursday, March 24, 2016. The event will commence at 7:00pm at the East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Avenue in the True Davidson Council Chambers. Proudly nominated by Pancheta (Pat) Barnett.

And to... long time East York resident Susan Hughes who was recognized by the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). The AIA selected the City of Toronto's Heritage Preservation Team, along with its archaeological, as the 2016 recipients of the Conservation and Heritage Management Award. The prestigious citation is one of a number of awards that the Institute presents each year to archaeologists, educators, museums, and other individuals and organizations whose work has had a positive impact on the field of archaeology and heritage management.

50 Fun, Weird And Interesting Facts About Toronto

1. Toronto is Canada's largest city with a population now of almost 5.6 million. The Greater Toronto area boasts 6,054,191 residents.
2. Over 30% of Toronto residents speak a language other than English and French. Just ride the subways and that fact will hit home. Dual language street signs can be found in Little Italy, Little Portugal and Chinatown.
3. Toronto is the 4th largest city in North America. Larger cities include Mexico City, New York City, Los Angeles
4. The city of Toronto started off as York, the capital of Upper Canada in 1793. York was incorporated and renamed Toronto in 1834.
5. Toronto is the world's fourth most livable city.
6. Toronto has more than 8000 restaurants. And some restaurants are now encouraging a 20% tip.
7. The St. Lawrence Market is one of Canada's great markets. The selection of food is outstanding. Runner up in my books is Kensington Market
8. Toronto has 301 days of measurable sunshine. December has the fewest days – only 19, while July and August have on average 30 days.
9. On the summer solstice the sun rises at 5:37 am and sets at 9:03 pm. On the winter solstice the sun rises at 7:50 am and sets at 4:45 pm.
10. The coldest temperature ever recorded in Toronto was -31.3C (-24.3F) on January 4, 1981. The windchill on that day was -44.7C (-48.5F), the coldest ever.
11. The highest temperatures ever recorded were 41C (105F) from July 7-9 in 1936.
12. Toronto had to deal with two major snowstorms two weeks apart in January 1999. The first dumped 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) and the second dumped 118 centimeters (46.5 inches).

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER



PESTS?



PETS

ABOUT THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The East York Historical Society was formed in 1980 and incorporated in 1981 as a non-profit corporation affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society to bring together people interested in the diverse heritage of East York, to research, retain, preserve and present historical data pertaining to the region.

Meetings of the East York Historical Society are generally held on the last Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November at the S. Walter Stewart Library (northwest corner of Memorial Park and Durant Avenues) at 7:00pm and include an illustrated presentation on a subject of historical interest. Our meetings are co-sponsored by the Toronto Public Library.



East York Historical Society Board of Directors – 2015:

Front row: Hon. Alan Redway, Pat Barnett, Kay Horiszny

Second row: Christopher Salmond, Margaret McRae, Justin Van Dette, John Michailidis.

Bottom right: Val Dodge, Ron Chamberlain

INTERESTED IN THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CONTACT US:

Pancheta (Pat) Barnett

President, East York Historical Society

E-Mail: eyhs@eastyork.org - Web: www.eastyork.org/eyhs.html

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Justin Van Dette, Secretary

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Alan Redway, Vice President

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Visit our new facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/144715709718>

HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF EAST YORK BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help strengthen the History of East York by becoming a member of the East York Historical Society. Provide us with your ideas and know more about the great community that we live in. Your membership helps us to keep you informed and organize events that educate the residents of East York.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-Mail: _____

New members and guests are always welcome. The fees for 2015 are:

Single - \$15

Family - \$20

Student - \$7

Organization - \$50

Bring cash to our next meeting or mail us a cheque payable to the "East York Historical Society" to:
East York Historical Society, 107 Cambridge Avenue, Toronto, ON, M4K 2L7

[] YES!!! Please add me to your e-mail distribution list – help save a tree!