



EAST YORK INKLINGS

Newsletter of the East York Historical Society

Volume 10 Issue 4 – September 2014

President's Message...

I trust this message finds you all in good health. The summer months seem to have come and almost gone and already autumn has begun to touch some of our trees, giving us all a hint that the summer of 2014 is quickly nearing an end.

Our September 30, 2014 meeting will take a moment of silence in memory of 7 year old Georgia Grace Walsh (November 14, 2007- July 16, 2014), who accidentally lost her life July 16, 2014 in Leaside. Please look out for our children's safety in every place.



I look forward to seeing many of our members and visitors in attendance on our evening meeting of September 30, 2014.

The East York Historical Society is continuously growing and could be doing so even more as according to SPAR (Stratified Population At Risk), East York's 2011 population census was estimated to have been 115, 365—meaning that there are hundreds and indeed thousands who need to know about and become members of the East York Historical Society so that we can continue to preserve the rich history of East York. Welcome to all new members.

Please be reminded to wear your name tags during the meetings so that we can get better acquainted with you.

The President's membership spotlight for the month of September 2014 will be John S. Ridout, Martin Rainbow, Margaret McRae, Jane Pitfield and Pancheta (Pat) Barnett. See information on the following pages of EYHS presidents from 1980 onwards.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving & enjoy the carrot cake recipe from Board Director Kay Horiszny!

Sincerely,

Pancheta (Pat) Barnett
416-801-6274
Email: eyhs@eastyork.org
Website: www.eastyork.org/eyhs.html

Join us at our Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Refreshments at 7:00pm

Meeting starts at 7:30pm

The History of Toronto

East General Hospital

**Presenter: Irene Address from
Toronto East General Hospital**

Wednesday October 15, 2014

Meeting starts at 2:00pm

**Long time East York resident Joyce Crook
will lead off by bringing and telling us
about some of her family treasures.**

**Everyone is invited to join us and bring
them and if so inclined tell us about your
own family treasures**

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Meeting starts at 2:00pm

**East York's George Shields, Member of the
Order of Canada and founder of the East
York Barbershoppers, will tell us how
Harmony Hall Seniors Centre on Gower
Street came to be and about the great mud
slide on Notley Place when a house on that
street slid into the valley**

**East York Historical Society meetings are co-
sponsored by the Toronto Public Library, and
take place in the John S. Ridout Auditorium at
the S. Walter Stewart Library Branch, located
at 170 Memorial Park Avenue on the corner of
Memorial Park and Durant Ave.**

**Evening Meetings take place on the last
Tuesday of January, March, May, September
and November. Afternoon Discussions take
place on Wednesdays in February, March,
April, October and November**

**TORONTO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



Celebrating the opening of Willis Blair Parkette

This past summer, the City of Toronto officially opened Willis Blair Parkette, which is located on O'Connor Drive, just south of Sunrise Avenue. Above, members of the Blair family join former East York Mayor's Hon. Alan Redway, Dave Johnson, Michael Prue and former Toronto Deputy Mayor Case Ootes and Councillor Davis.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MEMBERS

The EYHS is planning two more sales of goods in the coming year. We have permission to reprint the Topham poster which was created by George Brown Middle School but hadn't collected the names of the people who enquired about it so this winter we will promote it and will order when we have sufficient interest. I hope to have a projected price in the November newsletter.

We also may order more East York flags. We have about 8 expressions of interest and will likely re-order when we get fifteen. I'm not sure yet whether we will order the 3 foot by 6 foot or the 27 X 54 inch. The smaller one is better for East York bungalows. If you want to order a flag you can let us know your size preference. We should also have prices published in the November newsletter.



Congratulations to Mr. Patrick Rocca who was recently honored with The Paul Harris Fellow award the highest award to be bestowed through the Rotary Club.

Kay's Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting recipe.

CAKE

- 2 cups all-purpose flour (sifted)
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup cooking oil (I use Crisco oil)
- 4 cups grated raw carrots (8 medium carrots)



Thoroughly stir together flour, sugar, soda, salt and cinnamon. In large mixer bowl, beat eggs till frothy, slowly beat in oil. Gradually add flour mixture, beating till smooth. Mix in carrots. Pour into three greased and floured 8-inch round cake pans. Bake in 350 degree f. oven for 25 to 30 minutes; cool then remove from pans. Cool completely on racks. Fill and frost with cream cheese frosting.

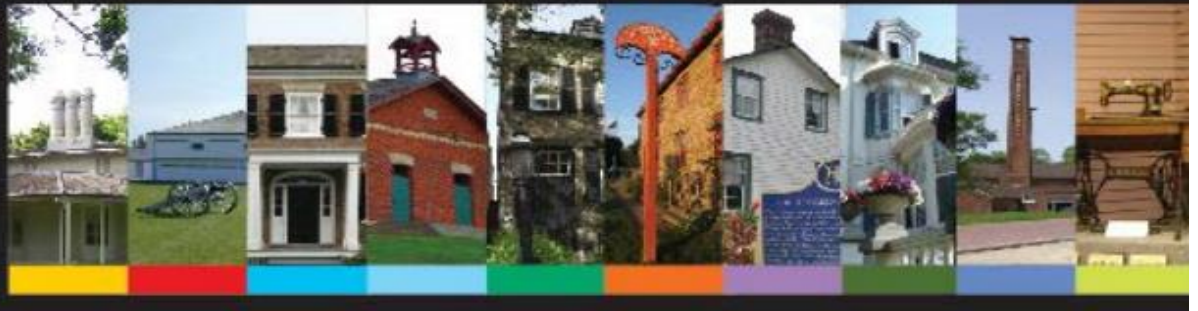
FROSTING

In a small mixer bowl blend 4 tablespoons softened butter and one 8 oz. (250 g) package softened cream cheese. Gradually add 3 cups sifted icing sugar, beating till smooth and creamy. Stir in 2 teaspoons maple flavoring.

Instead of maple flavoring you can substitute almond flavoring. The icing will be sweeter if more icing sugar is added.

This cake freezes well, as does the icing. The icing should be frozen in a separate container.

CITY OF TORONTO HISTORIC SITES



TORONTO'S GREAT WAR ATTIC

Share Stories & Heirlooms from the First World War

Todmorden Mills – Sunday, October 5th at 1:30pm

City of Toronto's Museums & Heritage Services, in partnership with Historica Canada, York University and the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, is commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the First World War with Toronto's Great War Attic - a series of Pop-Up Museum-style events that will take place across the city.

Toronto's Great War Attic will document stories and images of heirlooms from residents of Toronto whose families were profoundly affected by the First World War in countries all over the world. Toronto's Great War Attic collection will be included in a special section of the Canadian Encyclopedia website —creating a legacy for generations to come.

Contribute in two ways:

In Person – by attending our upcoming session at Todmorden Mills on Sunday, October 5th at 1:30pm. Experts from the City of Toronto and York University will welcome you and be available to gather your stories and photograph your heirlooms. In addition, they will answer questions and provide insights about your item. Your stories and pictures will be saved and uploaded to the website.

Online – by sharing your stories and photos on social media and the Canadian Encyclopedia website. Please visit toronto.ca/ww1 for details.



EAST YORK... Then and Now!

We encourage our members and supporters to visit and LIKE a great facebook page: **EAST YORK... Then and Now**. This site features some great photos of our community that date back decades. Feel free to get in touch with them if you have any that you would like to share. You can visit the page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/East-York-Then-and-Now/340651007038?fref=ts>

Above: Hollinger bus in the Erindale loop at Broadview/Danforth in 1954



Lower: Broadview Avenue looking north from Danforth Avenue in 1908

SAVE THESE DATES...

BECAUSE THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLANNING AHEAD

**Our Tuesday evening meetings, which start at 7pm.
Refreshments are always served.**

September 30, 2014
History of Toronto East General Hospital
Presenter: Irene Andress

March 31, 2015
Bob Rumball Centre of the Deaf...How it all started
Presenter Derek Rumball

November 25, 2014
The Salvation Army, its History & Local Contents...
Presenters Col. John Carew & Capt. Rick Zelinsky.

May 26, 2015
The Barbershoppers of East York.
Presenter: Mr. Greg Shields and the performers

January 27, 2015
Black History Month ...Presenter: Karen Carter
Executive Director of Heritage Toronto. Do You Know
About The Boys?...Karen Fraser-Women Like Me

September 29, 2015
TBA

November 24, 2015
TBD

**Our Wednesday afternoon show and tell discussion meetings start at 2 pm.
Refreshments are always served.**

**(The Hon Alan Redway Vice President of the East York Historical Society,
has taken on the lead on these meetings. Thank you, Alan.)**

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lead off by bringing and telling us about some of
her family treasures. Everyone is invited to join
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Seniors Centre on Gower Street came to be and
about the great mud slide on Notley Place when a
house on that street slid into the valley

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM 54 DIVISION AND THE COMMUNITY POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE

**Community BBQ
Thursday, October 2, 2014
O'Connor Public School, 1665 O'Connor Drive
3:15pm to 6:00pm**

**Town Hall Meeting with Chief William Blair
Monday, November 10, 2014
Estonia House, 958 Broadview Avenue
6:30pm to 8:30pm**

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS!

Leigh Davidson
Karen Bell
Susan Wells & Stacey Shannon
Catherine Andrews
Anita Millar
Gillian Mandel
Jane Brooks
Arthur Potts, MPP

**Congratulations to Scotland on their YES to remain in the UK.
The EYHS wish you all the very best in your future endeavors!**



60th anniversary of Marilyn Bell's swim

BY MIKE FILEY, Toronto Sun
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 2014

In this photo, which appeared in numerous newspapers around the world, a weary 16-year-old Toronto schoolgirl Marilyn Bell reaches out and touches the breakwall opposite the Boulevard Club completing her historic 20 hour, 57 minute, 40 mile crossing of Lake Ontario. This iconic Toronto Telegram photo is from the Toronto Sun Archives.

TORONTO - Here we are, almost one week after the closing of another edition of the good, old Canadian National Exhibition described in the brochures as the 136th annual (or is it actually the 131st, see my August 17 column for the real figure).

Unlike in modern times the fair in its earliest years always ended on a Saturday well into the month of September the latest being Saturday the 22nd in both 1883 and 1884. For various reasons including the farmers' desire to get back home to tend to their crops and the increasing inability to get students to stay on once school had started it was finally decided to make the last day of the CNE coincide with Labour Day, the first Monday in the month. That practice was first put in place for the 1961 fair and remains in effect to this day.

Thus the reason why one of the most exciting events to have ever taken place at the CNE (let me rephrase that, THE most exciting event to ever happen at the CNE) took place on a date that many of today's fair-goers would think happened after The Ex had closed.

The date of that special event was Sept. 9, 1954. The actual dates of that year's CNE, one that boasted the slogan "Canada On The March", were Aug. 27 through Sept. 11, a total of 14 days, but in a still staid Toronto, never on a Sunday. Given these facts it follows that the event I'm about to describe happened near the final days of the fair.

It all began earlier in the year when CNE officials announced that a feature of that year's Exhibition would be an attempt by American marathon swimmer Florence Chadwick to cross the cold waters of Lake Ontario from a yet to be determined departure point on the south side of the lake to the Exhibition Grounds. Chadwick would be paid \$10,000 on the successful completion of the swim. It seemed a sure thing since the American held a total of 10 world swimming records. Officials were sure thousands would come to the Ex just to see the swimmer complete the heretofore illusive Lake Ontario crossing. All extra admissions (at 50¢ for each adult) would be gladly added to the CNE's bottom line.

A contract was subsequently signed confirming the American would be the only one entitled to the prize

money. No others were to be recognized or recognized as participants. Chadwick or no one.

When Chadwick decided to commence her attempt, it was after 11 p.m. on Sept. 8. Meanwhile, two Canadian women swimmers were "lurking" in the nearby woods. One was the well-known local swimmer Winnie Roach, the other a virtually unknown Toronto schoolgirl, Marilyn Bell.

Interestingly, the youngster had taken part in several CNE-sponsored waterfront swims as far back as 1949. Chadwick was in the water only a few minutes when the two Canadians, unbeknownst to anyone associated with the Chadwick attempt, entered the lake.

The water was cold, the night pitch black and it wasn't long before Miss Roach was forced to give up her attempt. And after just five hours in the water, and having covered 18 of the anticipated 32 miles, Chadwick ended her effort. She vowed to never try again. It just couldn't be done. (At the time it was a little known fact that Chadwick had already received \$2500 towards her expenses.)

And that left just one, the young lady who almost no one had even heard of. It was just Marilyn, her coach Gus Ryder and her good friend Joan Cook who swam the last short distance with the youngster. Then, as all of Canada took a deep breath, Marilyn Bell touched the Boulevard Club's breakwall exactly 60 years ago this coming Tuesday evening, at 8:04 p.m. to be precise. She had done it. It had taken nearly 21 hours but Marilyn had conquered what was now her lake.

CNE officials were shamed into recognizing what one of their own had accomplished. Over the next two years Marilyn went on to conquer two more ominous bodies of water, the English Channel and Juan de Fuca Strait both while completing her university studies.

A few years later Marilyn married Joe Dilascio who she had first met while participating in an Atlantic City swimming competition. Time passed and the couple had four children. Marilyn now lives in upper New York State near one of her daughters.



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

East York Historical Society Presidents from 1980 onwards



Photo courtesy of Lynn Ridout Photo courtesy of Facebook Photo courtesy of Google Images Photo courtesy of Google Images Photo courtesy of P.Barnett Collection Leaside 100

John S. Ridout 1980-2003 President of EYHS	Martin Rainbow 2003-2009 President of EYHS	Margaret McRae 2009-2011 President of EYHS	Jane Pitfield 2011-2013 President of EYHS	Pancheta (Pat) Barnett 2013- President of EYHS
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INTERESTED IN THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CONTACT US:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pancheta Barnett, President	Alan Redway, Vice President	Val Dodge, Treasurer
Justin Van Dette, Secretary	Jane Pitfield, Past President	Margaret McRae, Director
Kay Horiszny, Director	Christopher Salmond, Director	John Michailidis, Director

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/WRITER: Justin Van Dette, Secretary, East York Historical Society

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 2014 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!