



# EAST YORK INKLINGS

*Newsletter of the East York Historical Society*

**Volume 11 Issue 4 –September 2015**



## *President's Message...*

Friends and Supporters,

I hope this President's Message find you all in good spirits. We have endured record breaking weather temperatures so hot and humid. Wheewwww!! Autumn we welcome you!!

The month of July was said to be the hottest, which has continued right into September. A lot of fluid intake and staying cool as possible was my only option.

The East York Historical Society since its last meeting kept busy ensuring the upkeep of the Society by replying to requests from neighbours and friends in the community & attending local events, keeping in touch with new and renewed members.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the East York Historical Society we can only keep growing because of you. Our Board of Directors continue to remain faithful to be of service to you including bringing you interesting & knowledgeable presenters for the afternoon & evening meetings.

Our May 26, 2015 meeting was well attended. We were entertained by the East York Barbershoppers Quartet and President & Lead Greg Shields gave a brief talk about the history, of the Barbershoppers, their 65<sup>th</sup> year of supporting our Community with entertainment, education & outreach performance...Harmony Hall for Seniors which has been in service since 1967 followed by many interesting Q&A.

A MAJOR MILESTONE September 9, 2015:  
Congratulations from the East York Historical Society to our Queen Elizabeth 11 (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born April 21, 1926) Accession on February 6, 1952...63 years and 7 month the longest-reigning monarch in UK's history since great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

EYHS next scheduled evening meeting resumes on Tuesday, 29th September, 2015. I look forward to seeing our members new and renewed along with visitors and other supporters of the EYHS in attendance.

The President's Spotlight for the month of September is the late member Maureen (Theresa) Lindsay.

CORRECTION to the May 26 President's Spotlight on Fred & Marilyn Clark. Should read...at the Masonic Temple Yonge & Davenport.

"LRT...The McDonalds at 1787 Bayview Avenue Store#4648 (at the corners of Eglinton E. & Bayview S. will close its doors as of September 24, 2015" as informed by front counter crew clerk on duty September 9, 2015.

Please be reminded to pick up & wear your name tags (they are in alphabetical order on the tag table) so that we can all get better acquainted with each other.

The Suggestion Box is available now for your input.

Laying of a wreath on REMEMBRANCE DAY Wednesday, November 11, 2015. The EYHS will participate in this year's Remembrance Day Event. Everyone is invited to attend... 'Lest We Forget' WW 1 & 2. The ceremony will be held at the East York Civic Centre Cenotaph.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, Happy Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 12, 2015. Enjoy!!! Please look out for our children's safety in every place. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Pancheta (Pat) Barnett  
E-mail: eyhs@eastyork.org

## **JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING...**

**Tuesday, September 29, 2015**

**Refreshments at 7:00pm ~ Meeting Starts at 7:30pm**

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

**170 Memorial Park Avenue**

**Topic: The Fascinating and Unknown Story of the controversial Walter Knox, Track & Field star from Orillia**

**Presented by David Town**

Our meetings are co-sponsored by



## EAST YORK REFLECTIONS: Flying saucer-shaped S. Walter Stewart library and Pylon sculpture by Gerald Gladstone are landmarks in East York

East York Mirror By John Michailidis

Opened in October 1960 at the intersection of Durant Avenue and Memorial Park Avenue, the S. Walter Stewart Library was an innovation in library design with its circular shape, having a circumference of 120 feet. Named in honour of S. Walter Stewart, the pioneer of promoting library services in East York. He served on the East York Library Board from 1946 until his death in 1969. In appreciation of naming the new library in his honour, S. Walter Stewart donated nine paintings to the library by his friend A.Y. Jackson, a member of the Group of Seven.



Designed by East Yorker Harold Witmer of the architect firm Parrott, Tambling and Witmer, construction of the 24,000-square-foot flying-saucer shaped library cost \$300,000. Furniture was provided by the T. Eaton Company. The Kiwanis Club of East York donated the furnishings for the boys and girls rooms. The library could hold more than 100,000 books and the auditorium seated 200. In 1995, the auditorium was named the John S. Ridout Auditorium in recognition of Ridout's many years of service on the East York Library Board and for his tireless support of promoting the history of East York.

Inside the main doors of the library the floor was adorned with a ceramic rendering of the East York Library Board logo, the red cardinal. In 1950, renowned Canadian illustrator Thoreau MacDonald designed the red cardinal logo for the library board. The red cardinal was chosen because of its abundance in the valleys of the Don River. Today the same ceramic red cardinal logo is proudly displayed on the wall of the renovated library.

If the flying saucer-shaped library was not enough to drive East Yorkers to outer space, just outside the doors of the library stood an odd-shaped structure.

Reporting on the opening of the library Nov. 18, 1960, a Toronto Star headline read a "Weird Pylon Triples Library Circulation." That weird pylon was the work of avant-garde Toronto sculptor Gerald Gladstone. The Pylon consists of two 35-foot tall concrete curved columns weighing 105 tons. Curiously, the curved columns

resemble the shape of the City of Toronto's new city hall not yet built in 1960. At the bottom of the pylon was a reflecting pond with lights and on the top within the two concrete columns was peculiar shaped pieces of bronze.

Today the reflecting pond is filled in with cement and the two concrete columns are showing signs of age.

Reporting about the Pylon, the Toronto Star quoted East Yorkers who referred to the odd structure as "a monstrosity" and "a mess of tin cans and bed springs."

East York Reeve Jack Allen defended the Pylon saying "its out-of-this-world and exactly what was wanted." Reeve Allen pointed out library book circulation increased 189 per cent since the new library opened. So curious were people to catch a glimpse of the flying saucer shaped library and Gerald Gladstone's Pylon that police had to control traffic on the usually sleepy streets of Durant and Memorial Park.

In a Nov. 18, 1960 Toronto Telegram article Gerald Gladstone described his Pylon as showing the relationship between man and the undiscovered galaxy. The concrete represents the space that the galaxy hangs on, the bronze pieces are the galaxy and the water and lights represent the energy within the galaxy.

East York is fortunate to have a Gladstone sculpture. Other Gladstone sculptures are at the Ontario government Mowet Block building at Bay and Wellesley and the Yorkdale Shopping Centre. He was the only artist to receive three commissions for Expo 67 in Montreal. His international installations include a memorial to Martin Luther King Jr. in Los Angeles and a fountain and sculpture titled Galaxy in Canberra, Australia. In the 1950s and '60s he showed at the cutting-edge Avrom Isaacs Gallery in Toronto. Gladstone died in 2005 at the age of 76.

The S. Walter Stewart Library underwent major renovations, which were completed in 2008. Unfortunately, Gladstone's Pylon was not part of the renovations. Both the flying saucer-shaped library and Pylon sculpture remain landmarks in East York, or perhaps Gladstone's Pylon may be considered a skymark.

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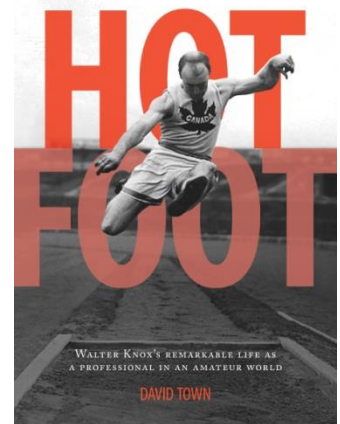
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## **Presenting our September 29<sup>th</sup> speaker ~ David Town**

Author: *Hot Foot, Walter Knox's Remarkable Life as a Professional in an Amateur World*

David is a chiropractor by trade, but an avid local historian by inclination. In 2008 he published his first book, *Building Character*, a history of Orillia's fabled MCA. Recently, David published his second book, a biography of perhaps Orillia's greatest athlete, Walter Knox. Knox is largely forgotten today, but 100 years ago he was both famous and infamous. His life was remarkable, and David is here to give you a taste of his audacious and note-worthy exploits. Knox was a significant character in the history and development of athletics in Canada, and deserves to be far better known than he is today.

Currently David is hard at work on two more local history books, both due out in 2017. David was born and raised in Orillia and a graduate of the U of T. When he is not in the office or writing, he is volunteering at the Y, training for his next masters swimming meet or planning his next canoe trip. He was a past member of Canada's National Swim Team, representing Canada internationally, and more recently, has set multiply world records in the master's swimming world. But, as you will hear, his real passion is Canadian history.



## **The history of the East York Historical Society - continued**

**By Margaret McRae (From the files of Past President John S. Ridout)**

In the March newsletter I started telling you about the first East York Historical Society which in 1963 decided to acquire the houses and mill at Todmorden Mills and make Todmorden Mills their centennial project.

Several meetings were held in 1964 by the East York Historical Committee. Plans were made for building restoration at Todmorden Mills with architect Peter Stokes in charge.

In 1965 meetings dealt with discussion of periods, their dress, utensils, decor etc. They hunted in the archives for information. Restoration of the houses began in May 1966. The date of furnishing of the Parshall Terry House would be 1837 and the Helliwell House would be 1850 to 1867. There was discussion of proper museum records and of plans for the 1967 opening.

In 1967 several meetings were held in conjunction with the Centennial Committee. All activities centered on the

historic site. Members painted walls, and cleaned to get the site ready for the opening on May 22nd. Many members in costume assisted in the houses and museum to bring visitors through. When it opened for the season, members became guides and all spare time was devoted to the site so research and meetings were suspended.

In 1968 a few meetings were held but May through October activities centered around Todmorden Mills. In 1969 a couple of meetings were held but they ceased in June because of the pressure of work called for at Todmorden Mills. No further meetings were held because interest was all concentrated on the one project, Todmorden Mills Historic Site.

In November I will write about the second attempt at a historical society in the 1970's.

### **BE PART OF OUR AFTERNOON MEETINGS – OUR NEXT MEETING IS AT 2:00 PM on OCTOBER 14th**

Join us at the S. Walter Stewart Library as we welcome our speaker Bill Lewis who grew up in East York in the 1930's and 40's. He will talk about his experiences here as a youth including East York history, swimming in the Don, the Brickyards and Rivercourt. He will also have photos and artifacts to show us. This is an event not to be missed. We welcome members to offer presentations on Wednesday afternoons about their experiences in East York. Please advise Alan Redway at 416-421-5328 or [alan.redway@gmail.com](mailto:alan.redway@gmail.com) if you would like to give a talk. The continuation of the program requires members to participate.

## HERITAGE TORONTO RELEASES HERITAGE TORONTO AWARDS ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY NOMINEES



*Category sees a whopping sixteen nominations submitted this year*

Heritage Toronto has released its *William Greer Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship category nominees* for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Heritage Toronto Awards. With sixteen nominations for projects ranging in scale and time period, the past year has been a big year for architectural conservation in Toronto.

This category honours owners who have undertaken projects to restore or adapt buildings or structures that have been in existence for 40 years or more or are included on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties. In addition to the quality of craftsmanship, appropriateness of materials, and the use of sound conservation principles, the jury considers how well the project meets current needs while maintaining the integrity of the original design vision.

The Heritage Toronto Awards celebrate outstanding contributions to the promotion and conservation of our city's heritage in five categories: Book, Short Publication, Media, William Greer Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship, and Community Heritage. **Tomorrow, Heritage Toronto will release nominees in all four remaining categories.**

The Heritage Toronto Awards and Kilbourn Lecture will be held at Koerner Hall on the evening of **October 13, 2015**. Tickets can be purchased online at [performance.rcmusic.ca](http://performance.rcmusic.ca), by phone at (416) 408-0208, or in person at the Royal Conservatory box office.

## JOIN THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON

**November 11, 2015 – 10:30am** at the East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Avenue, as the East York Historical Society will join many others by laying a wreath to honour those who served our country.



### Purchase your East York flags and Topham posters

The 15 large East York flags and Topham posters will be ready for purchase on September 29<sup>th</sup>. If you're unable to attend the meeting, but would like to purchase one, please contact Margaret McRae at 416-429-7821 or [marg.mcrae@gmail.com](mailto:marg.mcrae@gmail.com)



### Georgia Walsh remembered

Georgia Walsh will be remembered at the Georgia Walsh Memorial All-Star Baseball Game fundraiser will take place Aug. 29 at Trace Manes Park. The event will help raise funds for the park, which Georgia loved to go to. The Leaside girl died last July after being struck by a minivan at the corner of McRae Dr and Millwood Rd. East York and Leaside will be enforcing a 30 km/h speed limit on residential streets



*The East York Historical Society would like to wish our members and friends, and their family members a very Happy Thanksgiving.*

## Quick history of the first Thanksgiving in Canada

The first European Thanksgiving celebration in North America took place in Newfoundland when English explorer Martin Frobisher landed there in 1578 Hamilton Spectator. The first European Thanksgiving celebration in North America took place in Newfoundland when English explorer Martin Frobisher landed there in 1578 in his quest for the Northwest Passage.

He wanted to give thanks for his safe arrival in the New World. This was 42 years before the Pilgrims landed in what is now Plymouth, Mass. Although many Thanksgiving holidays were subsequently celebrated, it was not declared a national holiday until 1879.

From 1921 to 1931, Armistice Day (later renamed Remembrance Day) and Thanksgiving were marked on the same date. The two events were then separated, but the timing of Thanksgiving varied.

In 1957, the second Monday of October was set as the consistent date for Thanksgiving Day in Canada. In 2012, Canadians consumed 142 million kilograms (312.4 million pounds) of turkey or 4.1 kilograms (nine pounds) per capita. About 35 per cent of all whole turkeys purchased in Canada in 2012 were for Thanksgiving, but 44 per cent were bought at Christmas. Fossils indicate wild turkeys have roamed North American for more than 10 million years.

## WATCHDOG: East York could disappear with proposed ward boundary changes

*East York Mirror - By [Joe Cooper](#) -- Reprinted with permission*

In 1812, the governor of the state of Massachusetts had a bill passed under his direction that re-drew the state senate districts. The results, it was noted, were a bit unusual in both their shape and the effect it would have on the political landscape.

One of the newspapers of the time noted that when printed out it looked something like a salamander. The governor of the time was Elbridge Gerry, and the new animal shape was called a “Gerrymander.” It was obvious the new electoral boundaries would give the governor’s party an edge in the next election. Along with that, the term “Gerrymandering” became part of the political language of the United States.

The term is not as well known in Canada, though the practice of drawing political boundary lines to favour political parties is not unknown. However, through political reforms in 1985, this country has developed a system based upon representation by population. This leads us to what is currently happening in Toronto where a very significant ward boundary review is being undertaken. In 2014, a decision was made by the City of Toronto to undertake this review and create an independent body to do this. The reason given for the review was the fact that some wards in Toronto had up to 45 percent higher populations than average.

As a result, this review, called Draw the Lines, is attempting to rebalance the population distribution. The reason why it is important for people in East York to be aware of this is that our wards may have the most change. As has been pointed out, Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth, which represents the west side of East York, has the lowest population density in the city.

In the most recent report made by the Draw the Lines committee, the size and shape of that ward, and possibly Ward 31, Beaches-East York as well, have been changed. One possibility is that Ward 29 would be extended to include Leaside and Thorncliffe Park. The other possibility is that Ward 29 would be extended east to Woodbine Avenue and Ward 31 would be extended north to Lawrence Avenue and south to Kingston Road. A third proposal is that most of the boundaries for both wards stay the same, but the southern boundary for each would be extended south to Kingston Road. The bottom line is that the changes to the ward boundaries will no longer follow the old boundaries of East York. Despite claims of the changes being politically neutral it would alter the voting patterns of those wards and impact how our community would be represented. Starting on Sept. 16 the second round of public consultations on the ward boundaries begins. During the first round, participation by people in East York was poor, with roughly 30 people showing up. Unless a stronger showing of people is made during the next round, East York, as a distinct community, could disappear forever.

## President's Spotlight: Maureen Lindsay

Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the tragic passing of Maureen Lindsay on Sunday, March 28, 2010. Maureen was a proud East Yorker who dedicated her time and energy to improving the local community, supporting her neighbours, and keeping the spirit of East York alive.

Maureen was a long time East Yorker who loved her community and her City. She fought amalgamation and was a constant champion of East York. She attended every event in East York, most recently the Agnes Macphail Award Ceremony. Maureen was an active member of the East York Historical Society, serving as Treasurer for a period of time. She also served as Chair of the East York Property Standards. Maureen loved children.

She volunteered in the annual Christmas and Easter parades in the beach. She also cared deeply for our seniors and for a number of years she ran the Seniors Christmas Dinner in East York, helping coordinate and deliver a massive program so that no senior would have to spend the day alone. Maureen worked tirelessly to help improve nearby Dentonia Park. As a leader of the Friends of Dentonia Park, she was active in the transformation of the park over the last several years. Maureen could often be seen flooding the outdoor ice rink, participating in a local community clean-up, or helping out with programs at the Clubhouse.

Her efforts can be seen in every corner of the park. Maureen was also a tireless advocate for her neighbours, working to ensure that local issues and problems were fixed. From parking and traffic problems to property standards concerns, Maureen's care for her neighbours and the neighbourhood made a real difference. Maureen will be missed by many, and her contribution to our City and community will be long felt.



Maureen (Theresa) Lindsay  
“(c) August 1948 - March 28, 2010”

Miss Lindsay joined the EYHS in (c) 2002 and held the position as Treasurer until 2009. Our records shows that Ms. Lindsay was a dedicated, loyal, supporter & member of the EYHS.

The attached Honorary mention about her life of service with a human heart is more than I can say about Miss Lindsay.

The President along with the entire EYHS Board of Directors are in the process of memorializing Maureen Lindsay with a bench plaque from the Maureen Lindsay Memorial Fund.

Thanks Maureen for all you did for the East York Historical Society & leaving this world a better place in history. You will



City of Toronto Historic Sites in partnership with the Toronto Arts Council, the Tecumseh Collective and Red Pepper Spectacle Arts invite you to

The Official Unveiling of

### The Gathering of the Clans Mosaic

Sunday, September 27, 2 to 4 p.m.

Please join us for this special celebration of The Gathering of the Clans Mosaic honouring the rich history, contributions and worldview held by the Anishnaabe.

Light refreshments.

**Special Guests:**

Elder Dorothy Peters, Singer Marie Gaudet

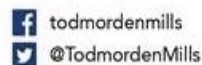
Todmorden Mills Heritage Site • 67 Pottery Road

Opening Remarks  
@2:30 p.m.

RSVP to 416-396-2819 or  
todmorden@toronto.ca



[toronto.ca/todmorden](http://toronto.ca/todmorden)



**THE EAST YORK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WELCOMES OUR  
NEW MEMBERS...**

**Steve Mastoras  
Sophie & George Starfas**

# SAVE THESE DATES

## THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLANNING AHEAD

**Our Tuesday evening Meetings start at 7pm.**  
**Refreshments are always served.**

November 24, 2015 – Annual General Meeting  
The Story of Woodbine Gardens  
Presented by Mike Dolbey

January 26, 2016  
Mr. Ron Manfield on piano "Tribute to Black History Month"  
& Liz (Elizabeth Gilan) Muir - Riverdale: east of the Don -

March 29, 2016  
Hon. Alan Redway's New Book "Governing Toronto"  
Bringing Back the City that Worked...

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

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

November 29, 2016 – Annual General Meeting  
TBA



**2015 CANADA DAY PARADE ENDS at Stan Wadlow Park: This year's turn out both in the parade of participants and on the parade route was a colourful and marvelous success...**

**Plan to join the EYHS in the East York Canada Day Parade.**

**Here the President of the EYHS with EYHS' banner & flag of Canada along with A. Milar treasurer of TEYCPP.**

**"CONGRATULATIONS from the EYHS to Mariko & Zahra on the grand opening of your store OLD's COOL GENERAL STORE @ 250 Westlake & Lumsden, Old East York ~ Saturday, 12th September, 2015**



## East York Archives – Can you help us?

We are looking to start our own East York Archives and need your help in finding a suitable place in East York. Margaret McRae, Pat Barnett and John Laraway are on our Archives Committee and we can add more people if anyone else is interested. Please contact Margaret McRae at 416-429-7821 or [marg.mcrae@gmail.com](mailto:marg.mcrae@gmail.com) if you can assist us.

**Friendly reminder that Election Day  
Is Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**



## 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:

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President, East York Historical Society

Phone: 416 801 6274

E-Mail: [eyhs@eastyork.org](mailto:eyhs@eastyork.org) - Web: [www.eastyork.org/eyhs.html](http://www.eastyork.org/eyhs.html)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pancheta Barnett, President

Justin Van Dette, Secretary

Kay Horiszny, Director

Alan Redway, Vice President

Margaret McRae, Past President

Christopher Salmond, Director

Val Dodge, Treasurer

Ron Chamberlain, Director

John Michailidis, Director

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!