

EAST YORK INKLINGS

Newsletter of the East York Historical Society

Volume 12 Issue 4 - September 2016

A Message from President Pat

Greetings to all our members and well wishers.

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under the heaven..." Eccl. 3:1...NIV. The heat wave we have all experienced this summer will soon pass and the autumn will bring cooler temperatures... I hope you have all come through this summer safe, healthy and sound.

Our May Speaker: Mr. Arthur Bousfield was our presenter on Catolouging Canada's Royal Heritage. **Special thanks** to Garry Toffoli of the Canadian Royal Heritage Trust for arranging the various flags at our meeting in May, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Canada Day July 1, 2016 parade went very well as expected, but the rains shortened the day for the exhibitors in Stan Wadlow Park. However, the annual Fire Works as usual, displayed...spectacular!!!

The Annual Harvest Festival at Todmorden Mills is scheduled from 12 pm - 4 pm on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

There will be extra copies of the May 2016 issue of the East York Inklings Newsletter. East York Historical Society when we resume at our September 27 evening meeting for some members who did not received their mailed copies. We apologize for any issues. I will be delighted to see all our members and other supporters in attendance!



REMEMBRANCE DAY: Please join the East York Historical Society on November 11, 2016 - 10:30 am at the East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Avenue. The East York Historical Society will join many others by laying a wreath to honour those who served our country. Thanks.

HERITAGE TORONTO AWARDS: 20th Kilbourn Lecture at the 42nd annual award on Monday, October 17, 2016 at the Isabel Bader Theatre. Reception in Victoria College...

The President's Member Spotlight for the month of September is: Mrs. Melanie Milanich article...page 5. The President's Special Feature: Gratitude to Jean Gertrude "True" Davidson (Friday, April 19, 1901- Monday, September 18, 1977) first Mayor of the Borough of East York...She was key and Instrumental in forming the East York Historical Society...

On behalf of the EYHS Executive Board of Directors and myself, Happy Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 10, 2016. Enjoy!!! Please keep the curbs & sidewalks clear for pedestrians use while riding your bikes. Thanks!!!

Sincerely,

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

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING...

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Refreshments at 7:00pm ~ Meeting Starts at 7:30pm John S. Ridout Auditorium at the S. Walter Stewart Library 170 Memorial Park Avenue

Presenter: Spider Jones

Topic: Spider Through The Years

Our Meetings are Co-sponsored By



http://www.eastyork.org/eyhs.html

WHO IS TRUE DAVIDSON...

Jean Gertrude "True" Davidson, CM(19 April 1901 – 18 September 1978),[1]was a Canadian politician, teacher, and writer. She was the first mayor of the Borough of East York, Ontario, and she was one of Metropolitan Toronto's most colourful politicians in a career spanning nearly 25 years. She spent 10 years on the East York school board and 11 years as alderwoman, reeve and mayor on East York Council. During her time in local politics she ran in 11 elections and never lost. She was also **KEY** instrumental in the early formation of the East York Historical Society.

She was born in Hudson, Quebec, the daughter of a Methodist minister. She was

educated at the University of Toronto and then worked as a teacher. She tried her hand as a writer before gaining work editing a 12-volume compendium of Canadiana by William Perkins Bull. After her parents died, she moved to East York where she quickly became embroiled in local politics. She became a school trustee in 1947 and later chair of the school

board. In 1958 she ran for local council and served one term before being elected as reeve in 1960. In 1967, East York merged with Leaside and Davidson emerged

as the winner in a runoff election for mayor against Leaside's reeve, Beth Nealson. Davidson stayed on as mayor for six years until she retired in 1972.

Davidson was inspired to join the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) in the 1930s after meeting J.S. Woodsworth. Although she ran twice as a candidate for the party, she was never very comfortable with their socialist ideals. She left the party after the CCF merged with the Canadian Labour

Congress to form the New Democratic Party of Canada. In 1971 she ran for the Liberals in the

1971 provincial election but lost to incumbent Arthur Meen. In the last six years of her life she concentrated on writing a twice weekly column for the Toronto Sun and also focused her efforts on environmental conservation. She died in 1978 at the age of 77.



Thursday, April 19, 1901 – Tuesday, September 18, 1978



WE REMEMBER 9/11

Moment of Silence and tribute to those who lost their lives on 9/11 – September 11, 2001 – fifteen years ago. @ 8:46:40 am...The Twin Towers in New York were hit because of a terrorist attack and 2,996 people lost their lives. Over 6,000 people were injured.

WARM WELCOME TO SANDRA McNAMARA AND GENYA KLEINER WHO RECENTLY JOINED THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The East York Historical Society welcomes any members who believes they can contribute to the board to volunteer as a member. Please talk to the President at the next EYHS meeting. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE

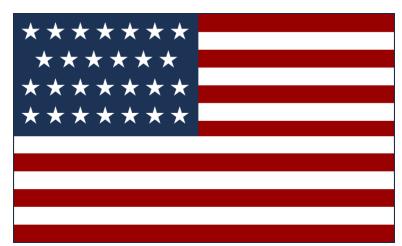
East York Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 7:00 PM S. Walter Stewart Library

John S. Ridout Auditorium







TRENDING NOW

First Presidential Debate Vice Presidential Debate Second Presidential Debate Third Presidential Debate ELECTION DAY Monday, September 26, 2016 Tuesday, October 4, 2016 Sunday, October 9, 2016 Wednesday, October 19, 2016 **Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

Presidential Candidate: Hilary Diane Rhodam Clinton born 26th October, 1947(age 68) in Chicago, ILL. 5'7" (1.69m) Democratic Nominee. Net worth \$45 Million...

Presidential Candidate: Donald John Trump born June 14, 1946 (age 70) Queens N.Y. 6'3" (1.91 m) Republican Nominee, Net worth \$45 Billion...



Congratulations to the East York Garden Club who are celebrating their 90th anniversary this year. A special event has been planned for Monday, September 26th at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse. For tickets, or more information, please contact Margaret McRae at 416-429-7821 or by e-mail at marg.mcrae@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO ARTHUR POTTS, MPP FOR BEACHES-EAST YORK FOR THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION, WHICH REPRESENTED FUNDS FROM THE SALES OF HIS EAST YORK T-SHIRT ON CANADA DAY 2016.



SAVE THESE DATES

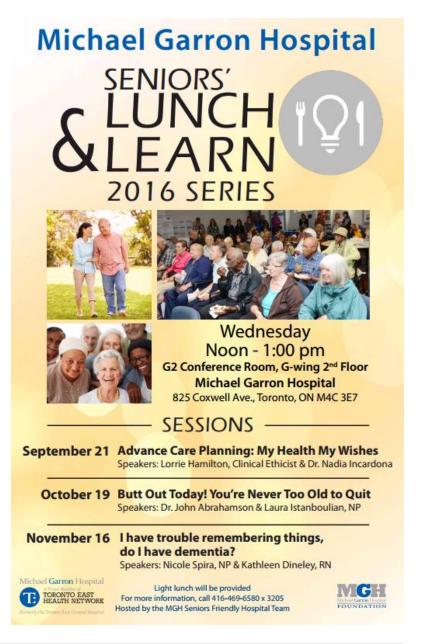
THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLANNING AHEAD REFRESHMENTS ARE ALWAYS SERVED

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 @ 7 PM
Annual General Meeting
Welcome Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling
Club... TBA
Barbara Dickson – "BOMB GIRLS...
Trading Aprons for Ammo"

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

Jan. 31-17 @ 7 PM

Black History Month... Professional performers Rick Pearson on guitar and accompanied by Mervin Charles on Pan player for 10 minutes. Our main speaker will be Mr. William Humber, Director of the Office of ECO-Seneca Initiative, Seneca College Toronto – Topic: Celebrating 3 Great Canadians



February 22, 2017 @ 2:00 PM -

Mini speaker Sandra Lewis "Just Where You Stand" and Main Presenter Colleen Peacock "The Story of the McKay Family in East York"

March 28/17 @ 7 pm

Storm Chaser. East York resident and producer of the TV show "Angry Planet" Mr. George Kourounis. Topic will be on climate change, "Exploring Earth's Extreme'.

May 30/17 @ 7 PM

Her Worship Marilyn Churley. Topic: "Shameless", her new book.

Sept. 28/17 @ 7 PM

Mr. Alexis Tourbetzkay, author. Topic: to be announced later.

Nov. 28/17 @ 7 PM Annual General Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Mrs. Melanie Milanich

Who was Clem Dawes? Early Development of the East End

By: Melanie Milanich

It was Edgar A. James, the first engineer of the Toronto and York Roads Commission, who suggested that Dawes Road got its name from Clem Dawes who kept a hotel at the northwest corner of Danforth and Dawes in the 1840s. Historians have repeated this with little actual data to accompany it.

In fact, according to Ancestry, an online genealogical source, Clem Dawes came here as an infant in 1833 from Micheldean, Gloucestershire County with his father William and mother Jane Lodge. It is unclear which of his five siblings would have come with them at that time; however Clem's older brother Thomas became a minister in London, Ontario.

The family had a long history of tavern keeping and farming. It would have been William who would have established the tavern in the 1830s and been running it in the 1840s. The intersection became known as Dawes Corners.

Lot 2, Concession 2 from the Bay, York Township where the Dawes Tavern was located was at that time King's College land (providing funds for the new university that became the University of Toronto). The family would have leased land for their hotel/tavern. Ownership of the land then came into the possession of Sarah Ann Boulton of the Grange, (the historic house now part of the Art Gallery of Ontario, where she was known for her grand parties).

It appears that Thomas Smith took possession of the land at the corners in 1852, then the land passed to William Smith in 1871. The Dawes family never owned land at the corner of Dawes and Danforth Avenue, according to land registration records in the Archives of Ontario.

To get some idea of land values and appreciation (or possibly corruption of the Family Compact) we can consider Sarah Ann and her husband D'Arcy's 100 acre park lot at the Grange that was purchased in 1808 for 350 pounds from the estate of the late Solicitor General Robert Gray who drowned on the

schooner the Speedy. In 1828 D'Arcy sold the north half of the lot, 50 acres, to Kings College for 1,250 pounds. About which Samuel Peter Jarvis who conducted the sale and also the equivalent sale of William Dummer Powell's land wrote, "I cannot suppose you will think the rear 50 acres of your lot badly sold"

D'Arcy Boulton, who was Auditor General of Land Patents, received the crown patent land grants for the adjacent lots north and east of the location of Dawes' hotel/tavern. According to records in the Boulton papers held in the AGO library, D'Arcy Boulton and Sarah Ann Boulton had acquired over 2,000 acres of land including lots in Whitchurch, Gore, King and Vaughan townships.

Then, as now, land was being held for speculation and causing social problems. Land held for crown and clergy lands was also a cause of strife among the early settlers as it affected roads, travel, access to water and settlement patterns. It was the policy that the first concession, from Queen to Danforth, and the broken front along the harbor would have no crown or clergy lands designated; thus the second concession would be given a double dose of these aggravating land holdings. This would have affected Clem in the second concession.

To put the area in the context of the 1830s, immigration was increasing rapidly from the British Isles, and farms, sawmills and roads in the greater Toronto area were growing by leaps and bounds. Although water transportation was still a critical means of transit, Kingston Road was being planked and by 1839 there were daily stage coaches all the way to Kingston, Ontario. Railways were being constructed in Quebec and in the Niagara area. Talk of a railway was in the air.

Dawes Road had been a native indigenous trail for hundreds of years and was used by early settlers from the north, using the boundary line of York and Scarboro Townships (the present Victoria Park Avenue) then turning down through Dawes Road as a route to the Market Square, what is now our St. Lawrence Market. Dawes Road connected at that time to Kingston Road.

Dawes and Danforth was a rural hinterland of the new city of Toronto, population just under 10,00, in 1834, with the radical reformer, William Lyon Mackenzie as the mayor. The town of Markham had been settled in 1794 and the village of L'Amoroux at Victoria Park and Finch was established in the first

decades of the 19th century. Norway, an unincorporated village just east of Kingston and Woodbine had a steam sawmill operating since 1835 at the intersection of the present Queen and Kingston Roads.

Further up the road at the five mile painted post just east of Victoria Park and Kingston Road was the Painted Post Inn, built

about 1835. It was a hangout for supporters of Mackenzie's Rebellion of 1837, and run by a character named Ballard.

By the 1840s the tension from the Rebellion and the economic downturn from the world-wide recession that lasted from 1837 into the 1840s was ebbing and new spurts of growth were taking place. The Guarantee Act of 1849 encouraged railway investment and speculation. The Baldwin-Lafontaine government achieved responsible government in 1849 in the province of the united Canadas and the Baldwin Act of 1850 established elected municipal government in the townships.

The Boyds, Martins, Chapmans and Moffats had settled in the area along the present Dawes Road by the late 1840s or early 1950s. The Boyds were farming, the Chapmans farmed, then ran brickyards, the Moffats ran a hotel, the Royal Oak Inn from 1845

one-quarter of a mile north of St. Clair. Wexford at Lawrence, with St. Jude's Church nearby, was being settled in the 1840s.

Clem Dawes would have seen Dawes Road road become an "official" highway through a by-law of the Home District in 1848. Victoria Park, the surveyed town line, the boundary between Scarborough Township and York Township, was not used between Kingston Road and St. Clair because of the deep ravine by Taylor Creek.



Mrs. Milanich – East Yorker and Life Member of the East York Historical Society

According to records in the Hope United Church Archives and a map in Barbara Mryvold's book, Dawes Road, itself, was called the "town line" through the 1870s. The highway from Kingston Road to Steeles Avenue (both the present day Dawes Road and Victoria Park Avenue) became known as (Old) Dawes Road in the 1880s at a time when more roads were being

built and named. The present Victoria Park Avenue assumed its name in the 1950s.

The 1848 by-law stated that the surveyed road began at the [four mile] painted post along the Kingston Road. The posts, painted red for visibility, designated the mileage from the Market Square. At the eastern end of the province red cedar posts were inserted every mile along the Kingston Road for the same purpose. Opening the road as an official highway was petitioned by the residents and involved some straightening and adjustments as well as widening the road to 40 feet throughout.

The opening of the road was not without its challenges, however. John Chapman who in 1847 bought 5 acres of land where he found clay on Lot 2, Concession 2 from the Bay, was compensated 35 pounds for damages to his land. He was also asked to convey part of it to the County which he refused to

do. The Committee of Roads and Bridges then recommended that he not be required to convey the land and recommended the Council provide "payment to Charles D. Maginn of the sum of 6 pounds 6 shillings, being the expenses incurred in the prosecution of the said John Chapman for stopping up the said road and for removing the nuisance therefrom as shewn by the vochers hereto annexed." Charles, it should be stated, was a justice of the peace near Wexford.

Would Clem or his father have had any concerns about the widening or adjustments to their intersection? How would it have affected the tavern or the volume of travelers

We find our Clem was assuming responsibility for the tavern early in his life as a young lad. When Clem was 19 and his father in his late 60s, Clem was listed as the head of the household on the 1850 List of Inhabitants of York County. Clem was also enumerated as the head of household in the 1851 Census. Could this mean his father had become disabled or ill or just that Clem became more outgoing in running the tavern?

The earliest map that clearly shows a tavern on the corner is J.O. Browne's map of 1851 (although the tavern appears on the northeast rather than the northwest corner).

It was at this time that Dawes Road, the "town line", attracted attention as an official public highway and major route taken by the farmers. Efforts were made to further improve it. The Church newspaper reported on a meeting held on April 4, 1851 at Smith's Inn on Kennedy Road to consider a proposed York and Scarboro' Plank Road.

"The road commences at the Four Mile Tie [post] on the Kingston Road, along the Town Line to the 1st Concession of Scarboro' near St. Jude's Church, thence along said 1st Concession to its junction with the Danforth Road."

Planking didn't last long and wasn't the solution to the bad roads. It was also quite expensive. While Danforth Avenue (then known as the Don and the Danforth) was planked in the 1850s from Broadview to Danforth Road, it's not clear that Dawes Road was planked.

Meanwhile, as Clem was growing up, within a mile down the road in Scarboro' lived Margaret Armstrong, born in 1835 on the Armstrong homestead Lot 35, Concession B Scarboro Township. Perhaps they went to school together at the Scarboro SS #10 where school teacher William Skelton taught from 1839. He tells us in his reminiscences it was " a log school house near where the old Danforth Road crossed the Kennedy Scarboro Road, within one and a half miles of the Painted Post and six miles from Toronto."

In any case, a romance between Clem and Margaret developed, probably with a courtship of sleigh rides, dances, picnics, barn raising "bees" and church functions. In 1854, the neighboring couple, Clem at age 22 and Margaret, age 19, were married. Would this have meant that Margaret brought in a dowry that could have assisted the couple financially? Also at this time, in 1854, Clem's father died at the age of 72, leaving Clem at an early age not only the head of the household but also a new husband.

At this point in our story the Grand Trunk Railway makes its entrance in 1856 just south of Danforth, with a flag stop named "York" (later to be called Little York). Rail traffic soon replaced much of the lake cargo transit and for Clem a trip to Whitby that had appeal for him, would have been much quicker. Although rail transportation would have also have lessened, to some extent, the need for road transportation, the exploding growth of Toronto would have provided a growing market for wheat and produce.

The first actual reference that I have found to "Dawes Tavern" was in an article in the Globe in 1857 where the "road to Dawes tavern" is given as a description of the road going from Kingston Road north. The year 1857 was also the beginning of a recessionary period after the financial crash in New York and London. It lasted until the American Civil War. This may have influenced Clem's life and decisions as well as a possible decrease in tavern and hotel customers.

Yet our ambitious Clem, still in his twenties, had been assuming other business operations (maybe going overboard financially). We next hear of this enterprising young man from an ad in the Globe, March 1859, when he, as the "occupant" or owner was involved with the power by sale of Norway House Hotel at the corner of Woodbine and Kingston Road. This was described as a "well known oldestablished tavern stand" with a stable, driving shed and other outhouses. Wragg and Company, ironmongers who built the steam sawmill, provided plans of the land involved and Wakefield and Coate were the auctioneers.

It also was during these years in the 1850s around Dawes Road that Margaret gave birth to three daughters and two sons.

Now, our story gets puzzling at this point. The 1861 Census finds Clem in Whitby, a thriving harbor town of 2,648 peopl. Here, Clem and Margaret's son William dies in 1862. When did they resettle here? And what attracted them? Clem is listed in Mitchell's Canada Gazetteer and Business Directory as the owner of Ontario House Hotel in Whitby in 1864.

In a map of 1868 prepared by U.S. military engineers, the corner of Dawes and Danforth is labeled "Smith's Corners". William Smith had a tavern on the south west corner. The northwest corner has the label "Victoria Inn" (this was the name of George Empringham's first hotel some twenty years later). The northeast corner is designated Rising Sun Inn. It appears that there is growing usage of this route. Then, in 1869, more puzzlingly, Clem is listed as "gentleman" in Dundas, Ontario. Did he purchase land here?

Back again on Dawes Road the County of York Directory in 1870 lists Clem as the owner of Dawes Hotel (listed under Norway as the closest post office). Did Clem Dawes have his hand in owning and juggling several properties? In Whitby, apparently their base now, tragedy strikes the family. Sadly, the move to Whitby was not so beneficial for Margaret. Three babies are born that die as infants in Whitby in the 1860s. Then on March 6, 1872, Clem's beloved Maggie dies. The Whitby Chronicle reported:

" the announcement of the unexpected event startled the entire community..Mr. Dawes and his young family are thrown into deepest grief by their loss. Mrs. Dawes' remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people, many of whom were from a distance". In her short life of 36 years Margaret had eight children four of whom died as infants or were stillborn.

Those who lived to adulthood were: Jennie who married Robert Fraser, Sarah who married J. W. Meharry, Mary who married R.J. Wright, and Thomas who married Minnie Wheeler.

Later that year, back at Dawes Road, the Markham Economist reported on December 5, 1872: As Mr. William Derry, farmer on the Kennedy Road, Scarboro' was returning from the city last week, he thought he could accomplish the crossing near Dawes Tavern before the approaching train could cross, but unfortunately the engine carried both him and the hay rack off and threw them on the cowcatchers. Medical assistance was immediately procured, Dr. Lizars being on the cars, but nothing could be done for him."Â Dawes Tavern was obviously still a well-known watering hole for the farm community.

In Whitby, Clem doesn't stay a widower for long. The next year, 1873, Clem, probably still handsome and dashing at 41, marries Euphemia Mill, 23, originally from Edinburgh, Scotland.

The marriage took place at the residence of the bride's father, William Mill by the Rev. Mr. Ballantyne on Saturday December 6, as the Whitby Chronicle tells us. Euphemia and Clem had three sons and a daughter, Charles, Frank, George and Lillie to add to the blended family. We next discover Clem in Port Perry in 1874. He has become "Captain" Clem Dawes of his steamship the "Ogemah" and is offering the Scugog

Presbyterian Church parishioners chartered cruises on Lake Scugog from Port Perry. Then again on Dominion Day 1875 Captain Dawes is offering cruises to 1,100 excursionists who are coming by train on the newly built railway connecting Whitby and Port Perry. In July 1876 the celebrations were more elaborate "A moonlight excursion on board the steamer Ogemah left Port Perry wharf Friday night with an excellent Quadrille band providing music for dancing".

Unfortunately, this was followed in November by a fire on the Ogmah, "quick work by Mr Legare, a night watchman ...resulted in saving the steamship Ogemah from destruction by fire. Captain Dawes offered a \$50 reward for conviction of the parties who set the fire." Our multitalented Clem takes on politics as well. In 1877 he has become a member of Port Perry's city council and in 1879 is recognized as "one of our most energetic and respected townsmen".

In 1879 Clem moves back to Whitby and is again (or continuing to be) proprietor of the Ontario Hotel on Brock Street, a photo of which is in the collection of the Whitby Library. Always taking on new

challenges, Clem is listed in the 1881 Census with the occupation of auctioneer. Most likely that would have suited him well.

After a full but relatively short life, Clem died in Reach, Ontario in 1886 and was buried at the Union Presbyterian Cemetery in Oshawa. He was 54. Eurphemia outlived Clem and is cited in her obituary in the Port Pery Star as "formerly of Whitby, and for many years a respected resident of Port Perry..a very active member of the Church of the Ascension of Port Perry."

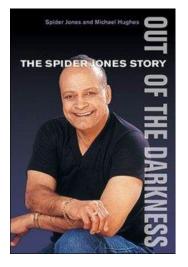
Who was Clem Dawes? A talented, energetic, entrepreneurial, and creative man who remade himself many times, but spent a good portion of his life at the tavern/hotel at Dawes and Danforth for which he (and his father) have rightly been recognized by the name of Dawes Road.

"Many thanks Mrs. Milanich for this amazing article on Clem Dawes. Great writing!!!" ... EYHS

SPEAKERS' PROFILE FOR OUR SEPTEMBER 27th MEETING SPIDER JONES

SPIDER JONES: is the first Afro-Canadian to go coast to coast with his nightly radio show at Fan 590 sports radio. He is an award winning radio broadcaster and a former three time golden glove Boxing Champ. His book "Out of the Darkness" is a best seller. SPIDER is also an award motivational speaker..."

Spider will have his books available for sale at the meeting.



THE EAST YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE MARKING IT'S 35th ANNIVERSARY WITH A SPECIAL DINNER, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY 2017. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DETAILS. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT HON. ALAN REDWAY AT alan.redway@gmail.com or 416-421-5328



Danforth looking west from Woodbine, 1915

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.

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

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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 Single - \$15 Family - \$20 Student - \$7	
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!	