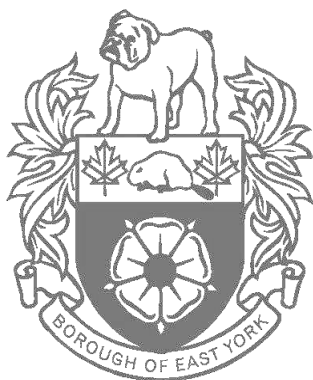


East York Tidbits

Stories About East York Presented by the East York Historical Society

EAST YORK STREET NAMES

Street names are the window to a municipality's past. The naming of streets is an effective way of commemorating local people and events. Street names are one or two words, but behind a name is a story. Here are brief descriptions of the origin of a few street names in the old Township of East York as documented by Percy Bustin, a Township Alderman in the 1950s and 60s and an avid supporter of heritage preservation. Percy was the original owner of the drug store at the southeast corner of Coxwell and Sammon. If a street name comes up in conversation with neighbours, pass on to them the origin of the name. It may spark their imagination and curiosity about East York's rich past.



Barbara Crescent: One of the first lots sold from the Taylor Estate was to a young man who was in love with a woman named Barbara. He asked the executors of the Estate to name the new road for his sweetheart. The executors agreed. The young man and woman never did marry.

Barker Avenue: Named after the Township's first Reeve; Robert Barker.

Bater Avenue: For one hundred years (1867 – 1967) the Bater family operated a general store on the road, near Broadview Avenue.

Bermondsey Road: One of the first firms in the O'Connor industrial park was Peek Frean's Biscuit Company. Named after the company's head office and plant in Bermondsey, a borough in London, England.

Chapman Avenue: The area was the location of a brick yard owned by Halsey Chapman, who also served on East York Council.

Cosburn Avenue: Originally named Bee Avenue. Changed to Cosburn in honour of a local market gardener.

Crewe Avenue; Gatwick Avenue; Doncaster Avenue; Goodwood Park; Epsom Avenue: All named after famous race tracks in England. The area in East York east of Woodbine, west of Main Street was the location of race horse stables and a race track owned by the Seagrams.

Curity Avenue: The Kendall Company was the first firm to establish on the road. Curity is a trade name of the Company.

Davies Crescent: Named after Robert Davies who owned much of the surrounding land and is one of East York's earliest settlers.

Dohme Avenue: Named after the pharmaceutical firm Sharp & Dohme, one of the first firms to locate in the industrial area.

Dunkirk Avenue: At one time the road was the extension of Lumsden Avenue, west of Woodbine Avenue. Renamed Dunkirk during the Second World War.

Dustan Crescent: Named after a local doctor; Gordon Dustan.

Four Oaks Gate: Formerly part of the Taylor farm. The address of the Taylor homestead was known as Four Oaks, Todmorden, named for the 4 large Oak trees that stood near the homestead. When the road was opened in 1936 the name Four Oaks was kept.

Hollinger Road: Named after John Hollinger owner of Hollinger Bus Line, serving East York from 1921 to 1954. John also published the East York Times, a weekly newspaper and he served on East York Council.

Lankin Boulevard; Westwood Avenue; Norlong Boulevard; Machockie Avenue: Named after local builders.

Memorial Park Avenue: Originally called McCosh Avenue. When the McKay lands were developed, McCosh was extended to Coxwell and renamed Memorial Park in honour of the men and woman of East York who made the supreme sacrifice in the First World War and later the Second World War.

O'Connor Drive: Named after Senator Frank O'Connor who owned Maryvale Farm located just outside the Township and established the Laura Secord Candy Shops.

Pepler Avenue: Named after a Mr. Pepler who operated a bus in the days before the incorporation of East York, along Broadview, from Danforth to the Village of Todmorden.

Pottery Road: Before the incorporation of East York, Pottery Road was called Todmorden Road, named after the town of Todmorden in Lancashire England, where many of the early East York settlers immigrated from.

**Prepared by John Michailidis
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The East York Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing information about East York's rich past. The Society meets 5 times a year usually on the last Tuesday in January, March, May, September and November.

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