

Working together, bringing  
Toronto's past into the future

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April 2017



Toronto Historical Association

Special Notice:

## **The Toronto Historical Association Annual General Meeting Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 2 p.m.**

at the Northern District Library  
40 Orchard View Boulevard, Yonge and Eglinton  
All THA Members and guests are invited to attend.

Doors open at 12:00 pm

Drift workshop from 12:30 to 1:30 (Details and registration TBA).

Meeting commences at 2:00

Routine business, Nominations and Elections, Awards and Guests,  
Guest Speakers and much more

Nominations for Board Positions now open-send names to [info@torontohistory.net](mailto:info@torontohistory.net)

Membership dues and Renewals now due - forms available on the THA website:  
[torontohistory.net](http://torontohistory.net) or request from [info@torontohistory.net](mailto:info@torontohistory.net)

Make sure your group information and delegate contacts are up to date.

Help us preserve Toronto's natural, built and cultural heritage  
by being active and involved. Preserving the past for the future.

**It would be helpful if those considering attending indicate their  
confirmation for the night by a quick note to [info@torontohistory.net](mailto:info@torontohistory.net)**

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Hearts and Flowers!.. By the time many of you read this, we will have moved well past Valentine's Day, half way through March and two and a half months into Canada's 150th Birthday Year. Already the hype has started and the many events and activities announced to commemorate and celebrate our nation's history over the last century and a half. As groups involved in preserving and promoting heritage on many levels, we are all well aware of the opportunity this presents to get our messages out to the public now primed to hear our stories and our concerns. It is up to us to make sure those messages reach as wide an audience as possible and pique more than the interest of the people. We need others to step forward to help us keep our legacy alive and to be involved in keeping our history, tangible or otherwise, always in our consciousness so that future generation will know where we have come from and, as this year shows us, give us something to celebrate, contemplate and perpetuate. This year gives us an added opportunity to reach out through events, activities, programmes and public interaction to bring to attention Toronto's diverse and unique history and the city's part in forging our great nation. Let us all make sure we do not miss many chances to be in the forefront of 2017 as we move forward through the rest of the year.

Paul Federico



## We'll All Get Together

The Toronto Historical Association's Annual General Meeting will be upon us soon enough! We are planning to hold it the weekend of April 29/30. Exact Date, Time, and Place will be announced in subsequent newsletters, online, through our E-mail, Website and Twitter media. Make sure that your group is prepared to send a delegate to the meeting to vote on new initiatives and, most importantly, to help elect members to the Board of Directors to help each of us meet our goals, improve our efforts and reach out to the public. It is not too early to nominate one of your members for the coming year [Board members serve a two year term].

In conjunction with the AGM we will hold a workshop to assist member groups in setting up and using the locative app for phones and related electronics: DRIFT, a new opportunity to promote groups and their work across the GTA. [Details to follow]

And that's not all. Each year at the AGM we acknowledge the good work over the past terms of individuals and THA groups through presentations of awards: The President's Award for an person who has done significant work on behalf of the THA and the Peggy Kurtin Memorial Award for the THA Group that provided a significant effort in the past term in reaching the public, increasing awareness or promoting the city history. Nominations are open. Send your choices to: [info@torontohistory.net](mailto:info@torontohistory.net).

## TV or Not TV

The THA has a YouTube Channel. Another opportunity to promote the great efforts of our groups and the organization. Naturally, like all media, we need content. Here's your chance to have 'broadcast' a video of your efforts, programmes or a 'commercial' on who you are and what you do. While there is no time limit on the length of the video, shorter is better. Contact the THA at [info@torontohistory.net](mailto:info@torontohistory.net) for parameters and formats for uploads and, if you have an idea and need resources to produce a audio/visual clip, we can arrange assistance as well to help groups make suitable visual presentations. Ready for my close up Mr. DeMille.

## Writer's Block

We are currently upgrading our Website, but that doesn't mean we're not in business. We need articles on Toronto history, stories from the files of our member groups about some aspect of your activities, special events, unique individuals, any topic related to the story of the city [minimum of 500 words, photos or other images a bonus]. People want stuff to read about, are interested in Toronto and we have the opportunity to provide great information on a multitude of topics related to the city. Here's your chance to exercise your literary skills, reportorial expertise or tale spinning for a good cause. Contact us – you know how.

## May Day!

May is traditionally Museums' Month and the Toronto portion of Doors Open... many of you will be involved in one or both. We'd like to make May a particularly special month this year in light of the 150 celebrations. We propose to hold an event, activity, programme or exhibit every day in May. In fact the title of the project is History Is Every Day. If your group already has an event or programme, lecture or exhibit planned that month, then we'll add it to the list and make it an 'official' part of the May Day programme. If you have speakers or exhibits available during May, we'd like to know. Perhaps we can schedule these at a venue and add to the daily tally. We want to fill the calendar in May, build critical mass and promote the Groups and the THA across the city in a big way through May with this programme. We need your support. Contact Paul Federico, THA President with details: [the3rdeastkent@hotmail.com](mailto:the3rdeastkent@hotmail.com) or 905 866 2835.

## We Have Issues

We always have activities popping up across Toronto that may adversely impact heritage. It seems to be a force of nature. Buildings come down for unexpected reasons, items get lost, issues get trampled. The THA tries to keep on top of all these as the public interacts with our group or member organizations give us a 'heads up' or the media reports on one more 'heritage disaster'. We try and track as many as we can, attend meetings, encourage developers and private owners to seek alternatives to demolition, lobby various levels of government, and alert the public to potential [and real] losses to our history.

There are good things we extol as well. The city moving forward on Heritage Conservation District designations and, with the recent Kensington Market matter, expanding the parameters as to what is heritage worth saving.

Some matters take a long time to resolve. One, we have been commenting on for a number of years, is the fate of Stanley Barracks on Exhibition Place. Recently, a spate of articles in the press have highlighted the bottleneck present with the 'boutique' Hotel X next to the barracks. This unique historic structure is under constraints as part of the Hotel, City, Ex Place agreements. We are hopeful that, as the legal matters around the hotel are resolved, a clear vision of what will happen to the buildings will emerge. The THA has been pushing for a resolution and requesting the report on future use that the city demanded from the hotel as part of the land lease agreement- nothing so far, but, with the hotel slated to open in the spring, maybe, [two years later than its original proposed start] we will finally see some good history appear.

The recent loss of the Dominion Bank building on Yonge near Eglinton focussed the city on what is happening with both similar structures and, again, the Press 'discovered' our built heritage and raised questions as to the fate of 205 Yonge Street. This bank, designed by E.J. Lennox of Old City Hall fame and other buildings, recently was obtained by a private Irish corporation which has not announced any plans to restore, or otherwise develop the building. As many long time THA members and history groups know, this building was home to Heritage Toronto at one point and the 'birthplace' of the THA, which held many a meeting on the premises. We are watching this closely.

Some good news. Local BIA groups are moving forward on creating a Neon Museum at or near Yonge and Dundas and are actively searching for old neon and illuminated signs from the past. If anyone knows where some of these went, let us know. In the meantime keep a weathered eye out for if and when the Sam the Record Man giant disks actually rise above Yonge Street to shine once more.

## Help Wanted

The THA is in need of some volunteers to assist in our Website, Twitter and other efforts. These are short term or limited hours efforts and can be done remotely. No need to get out of bed, brave the grid locked commute or the high price of coffee at the local bistro. If you want to help in a concrete way and have some spare time to give... Contact the THA through [info@torontohistory.net](mailto:info@torontohistory.net)

Home Wood: A researcher has turned to us for help in finding background on the Home Wood or Homewood estate. It was a private residence, later a hospital. Photos would be a great help. The house was built in 1846/47 and designed by Henry Bowyer Lane in the Gothic Revival style. It was located on the northwest corner of Wellesley and Sherbourne. The gate lodge guarded winding lane to the house was at Carlton Street. The owner, George William lived there with his wife, Louisa Robinson until 1852. Anyone got info?

## Help Us to Help You

As always, we need your support in keeping the THA on the top of 'search engines' world wide. This means we need content for our website [stories, articles, photos and illustrations on our city's history], information to Tweet [yes, we do that! Upcoming events, special notices, speakers, displays, exhibits or just what you did to help heritage in Toronto]. We need content. Let us know what you're up to and we'll let the public know through our social media. And don't forget, you can be in the movies or on V with content for our new YouTube Channel. Reach out to the public. It can only help our cause.

## EVENTS April - May 2017 and beyond

No one can say that the THA members are sitting back and not involved. The list below speaks to the great efforts and deep interests our member groups have in promoting history and heritage. Anyone who can get out to half of these exciting and interesting activities will do well for sure.

### July 15

Trethewey Airfield [Trethewey Model Farm] Plaque Unveiling. It will be placed at the west end of the "Wishbone" by the Canadian Aviation Historical Society [Toronto Chapter] . ALL WELCOME. This is a unique part of Toronto history unknown to many and well worth our support. Jane Street and Eglinton Avenue area was once home to one of the earliest airfields in Canada and the RCAF Squadron which served there was known as the "City of Toronto" Squadron [now the 400 Squadron].

### Jane's Walks

Here's the biggest and best of walking tours: The Annual Jane's Walk Festival is May 5, 6 and 7 all across the GTA. Your group's walk can be part of the official event. Go to Jane's Walk Toronto website and click 'join' to add to the list. Contact this year's organizer at [alia.scanlon@janeswalk.net](mailto:alia.scanlon@janeswalk.net)

### La Société d'histoire de Toronto

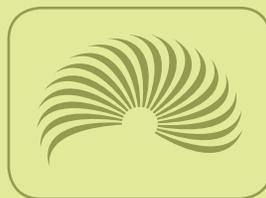
Is hosting a group of students from Champigny-Sur-Marne, Étienne Brûlé's birthplace. They will be performing Étienne Brûlé revient de France at Michael Powers at Alliance Française April 29 at 8:00 pm.

La Société d'histoire's walking tour season starts Sunday May 7 with a tour of Toronto's public sculptures. Check our website for details on our walking tour program and our conferences. [www.info@sht.ca](http://www.info@sht.ca)

### Tollkeeper's Cottage Museum

Opening hours for the **Tollkeeper's Cottage Museum**, starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.  
Website: [www.tollkeeperscottage.ca](http://www.tollkeeperscottage.ca).

Please forward your activity or event to: [editor@torontohistory.net](mailto:editor@torontohistory.net).



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