

Working together, bringing
Toronto's past into the future

P. O. Box 67, Toronto's First
Post Office, 260 Adelaide
Street East, Toronto M5A 1N1

www.torontohistory.net

January 2018



Toronto Historical Association

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

By the time you read this Walmart will have its St. Valentine's Day sales well underway. Would that we could be so organized! Perhaps that could be a 1st Resolution for the New Year – to be more efficient and well scheduled. The work to preserve and promote the history of our city doesn't stop. With the fast pace of life these days, getting people to stop and contemplate what came before them is a struggle in some areas. Big and Small, the history and heritage of Toronto is unique and important and worth preserving. Telling the story of our city, keeping the memories alive, alerting today to the past, good and ill, that shaped who we are and what we've become, is vital and an ongoing effort. I commend all who gave of themselves this past year to help tell the story and to save aspects of the legacy for future generations to ponder. Keep up the good work! It is eminently worthwhile and welcome by more than you may know.

Paul Federico



Membership time:

Time to consider renewing your THA membership. Group and Associate memberships are welcome. The power of networking, joint and group activities, lobbying and advocacy power, special event insurance and a host of other benefits await. \$15 for individuals, \$30 for small groups [1-99 members] and \$40 for large groups [100+] . A small amount that does great things for city history.

We remember:

2018 marks the final year in the 100th anniversary of World War 1 – there will be a number of significant memorials and events commemorating this world changing event across the country. Remembrance Day 2018 will be especially significant and poignant. If your group is planning or is involved in activities surrounding or related to the WWI remembrance [exhibits, displays, memorials, or other activities] let us know so that we can co-ordinate with military and civic associations in bringing this important milestone to the public attention. Send information to info@torontohistory.net

Update your app:

DRIFTSCAPE, the locative media app for smartphones is up and running. THA has a special section on this programme and member groups can access and upload information on locations, historic sites, events, meetings, special activities, etc. The process is easy and a great way to get the message of city history [and yours] out to the tech savvy new generations who live and breathe by their cell phones.

Check it out!

Party time!

2018 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Toronto Historical Association. We'd like to celebrate that milestone with an event to thank all the member groups and supporters over the years. To do that right, we need a committee to plan and prepare the party! Surely someone out there is just dying to make balloon animals to hang from the rafters or load confetti guns with multicoloured paper dots! We can't let this historical moment pass us by but we need help in all the planning. We know there are some of you just itching to decorate a cake, hang streamers, or just fold napkins into funny shapes. Now is your chance to help the THA. Contact President Paul Federico at: (905) 866-2835 to get started.

Congratulations!

Steve Otto, a great historian and fighter for the Olde Town , Fort York and Toronto history has been awarded the Order of Canada!.. What an honour! And well worth the commendation. A Great Round of Applause from the THA



ISSUES:

There are always issues regarding history of the city and heritage preservation matters before the public. The THA tracks as many matters as it can and offers advice, counsel or input on those that may negatively impact our natural, built and cultural heritage. Many evenings and days are spent attending city meetings, checking out stories and contacting stakeholders on matters of import. Some of these take more than a few years to come to fruition –good or bad – it is the way of things.

One bright light is the erection of the Sam the Record Man neon discs over Yonge Street. Not in the ideal location, but, at least shining down on the city close to Yonge and Dundas and their former location. Worth a look when next out at the square.

Ontario Place is being 'restored' for public use- plans are underway to recreate the original; aspects of the location

with displays and exhibits and the colourful restaurants and dining experiences that made it a hub of activity when it first opened. You can now enjoy the revitalized music venue that is the Bandshell and the magnificent Cinemax film experience.

We are waiting to see what will become of the 'cattle gates' at the Law Courts. These were removed for restoration, it was said, and presently black plywood panels fill the void.

After an brief announcement that a restaurant would grace the Stanley Barracks on the CNE grounds –we have heard nothing as to the proper use of the building, despite enquiries.

We are concerned that the magnificent quilt, painstakingly created by the THA's predecessor, the Metro Area Heritage Groups, no longer hangs in the lobby/foyer of Metro Hall. It was unveiled with great ceremony when the RT. Hon. Pauline McGibbon was Lieutenant Governor.

Website:

Work continues on the THA website revamp. Help is needed to clean up the files, sort through new stuff and make it all 'spiffy' for 2018. If you have any Nerd or Geek tendencies or know of a tech-savvy grandchild or two, get in touch!

Twitter:

Our THA Twitter account is quite a busy place and a great location to post information regarding your upcoming activities, events, meetings, special occasions, openings, or anything history related. We need info. Send your lists to info@torontohistory.net and we'll tweet it out. If you're on Twitter – follow us! [@torontohistory](https://twitter.com/torontohistory). Help boost the connections and get your story of Toronto's history out there

AGM:

Our Annual General Meeting will be coming up end of April/early May – not that far off! – to keep the Toronto Historical Association going and growing we need your support. Make sure your group has renewed its membership, appointed a delegate and seriously consider nominating one of your own to the THA Board of Directors. History is made every moment and we need your sage advice and input to keep it where it belongs –in the hearts and minds of the people!

Speakers/Lecturers:

From time to time we are contacted by authors, historians or other interesting people offering their services as speakers for groups, large and small. If your group would like to know who is available to speak OR has an 'expert' among your ranks willing to speak on Toronto history [or history in general] let us know and we'll make the information available. P.S. : THA President, Paul Federico is available to speak to your group on the THA and/or local Toronto History. Send request to info@torontohistory.net

To post an article, an activity or event in our newsletter please forward your activity or event to:

editor@torontohistory.net.



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EVERY DAY IN MAY:

Last year's effort worked very well [though we missed 4 days] – We'd like to go bigger and better for 2018. If your group is planning an event or activity in May, let us know so we can add it to the month long list and offer to the public something to do every day in May. This was a good promotion and attracted attention for Toronto history and local heritage. We will be promoting it further if we can gather a more impressive list of programmes. Let's help make this work!

THE HISTORY OF ORDINARY THINGS

We're hoping to launch a new programme across the GTA.. Small venues and guest speakers talking about and displaying/presenting seemingly ordinary items that have stories and history lessons to tell us. They may be personal/family histories or have had an impact on the city in larger ways. All of the items and tales will have a unique perspective and offer interesting and insightful moments. We hope to launch the 1st such event in February.. If you have an item that talks of a moment in time or a period of Toronto's history, let us know. We're scheduling the programme now. Contact us at info@torontohistory.net

