

Upcoming Events

Feasting and Fasting: Canada's Heritage Celebrations

Join us on Tuesday **April 19, 2011** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM for a presentation by noted culinary historian Dorothy Duncan.

Dorothy's presentation will explore the history of food in Ontario. Feasting and Fasting is an introduction to the foods and beverages that were a central part of how our ancestors celebrated important events.

Samples of historical foods will be available for tasting.

Heritage Tree: Preserving Our Natural Roots.

Join us on Tuesday **May 17, 2011** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Edith George.

Edith's main focus is on how we can identify a tree's historical and cultural significance.

She uses one of her neighbourhood's special red oaks as the example tree in her presentation.

Products of New Toronto Industry Distributed Throughout the World Its 11,000 Citizens Enjoy Community Recreational Activities Too

Seven miles west of the city is New Toronto, centre of a group of three municipalities forming a community long known as the Lakeshore. Its easterly limits adjoin the town of Mimico, and it is bounded on the west by the village of Long Branch, on its north by the township of Etobicoke.

This small municipality (population 11,000) provides a home for a half-dozen large industries whose products are distributed around the world. Thus, most Canadians have developed a general interest in the town.

But New Toronto is also well known for the active interest its officials have taken in municipal associations and the active support given by its council to all matters pertaining to the general good of municipal institutions and activities.

During the last half -century, New Toronto developed from an insignificant little hamlet to a bustling, thriving town whose main problem is lack of space for expansion.

More than 30 percent of corporation land is used by governmental agencies. The Ontario Hospital south of Lake Shore Rd. occupies 127 acres, the Canadian National Railway 127 acres. Few building lots remain to be developed and unless the Ontario Hospital farm land is made available for building purposes, it is unlikely the population will exceed 15,000 including commuting workers.

New Toronto was originally part of Etobicoke township, its northern neighbour. With the exception of storm and blizzards, radial transportation to the city was fairly adequate. Opening of the Mimico CNR yards brought an influx of railway men with the resultant upswing in home construction. By 1913, population figures had reached 500 and New Toronto was incorporated as a village.

Installation of a waterworks system, application for distribution of electric power, to construction of the first concrete highway between Hamilton and Toronto – all were accomplished in the next few years.

As soon as large power demands could be met, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. built a tire factory in the village. Wartime greatly increased the demand for products turned out by Brown's Brass works, later purchased by Anaconda American Brass and an extensive building program

was under way.

Already New Toronto had established itself as an industrial centre and there was a ceaseless demand for housing and mercantile dealers to meet the need of a rapidly increasing population. In 1913, the village was incorporated as a town with Charles Lovejoy as its first mayor.

Not overlooked during this creative period were community activities. W.H. Mole, the town's first school principal introduced sports among his pupils and fostered a spirit which later provided a nucleus from which were built many fine teams representing New Toronto in baseball, lacrosse, football and hockey. A town band was organized and a public library commenced.

One feature of development still tried the patience of council and citizen – the need for highway improvement to the fine stretch of highway running through New Toronto was not always there. At one time, Lake Shore Rd. was a 66-foot wide artery with an 18-foot strip of concrete on the south side of the radial tracks at an elevation completed by a dirt road. However, by 1928, the long-awaited improvement was achieved. The highway was widened 20 feet and the tracks relocated to the centre and paved.

Then came the depression. New Toronto emerged healthier and stronger and

when World War II came, population and building figures were already soaring. War workers flooded the district and industries expanded. Headquarters of the Lakeshore Blood Donors Clinic was set up in the public library and operated from April 1942, to June 1945.

Phenomenal War Effort

The number of young men who joined the services was far above average, the industrial war effort phenomenal and every assistance required by the governments for the war was undertaken and speedily processed by the municipality.

After V-E Day, most veterans were rehabilitated in their old jobs and settled in new homes on sites acquired by the town for this purpose. A rehabilitation office was established to assist them and they returned to civilian life.

Vacant fields which previously fronted on Lake Shore Rd. have been filled in and replaced by a row of busy and prosperous stores, offices, auto sales rooms, theatres and gasoline stations, doing business with residents of the area.

Parks have been developed and an arena and swimming pool constructed. The new schools were erected with sufficient extra space allowed for any future expansion... (to be continued)

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