

Upcoming Events

The Mimico Beach Estates

Join us on Tuesday **September 27, 2011** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM for our Annual General Meeting and a presentation on the Mimico Beach Estates by Michael Harrison.

The Story of Mr. Christie

Join us on Tuesday **October 25, 2011** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speakers will be Peggy and Brian Mooney who will give an illustrated talk on the history of the Christie Bakery from its origins in Toronto to its bakery in Etobicoke.

Phenomenal War Effort (continued from previous issue)

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.

On school property taken over by the corporation, a town hall has been erected. Included in the building are police, a health clinic and the Lakeshore Magistrates Court serving the other two area municipalities as well as New Toronto.

Landscaping of the grounds by the Parks Department

completed the picture of a modern, efficient municipal centre.

The Advertiser, Nov. 10, 1955

Make Way For Apartments New Toronto's Oldest Block Is No More

The oldest block of buildings in New Toronto (and probably the dirtiest and ugliest) has been completely cleared to make way for an apartment development of 300 suites.

The apartment block will take in all the land previously occupied by Reliable Furniture, the coal yard and the rail tracks. An underground parking lot will accommodate the cars of tenants who, it is claimed by developer Murray Aitken, will be paying rents as low as anywhere in Canada.

A novel and revolutionary part of the apartment development will be the inclusion in each of the apartment buildings of a nursery at which tenants children can be left in the care of qualified personnel. The charge for this baby-sitting service will be low enough for all to afford. Mr. Aitken promised.

Contrary to rumors, the apartment block will extend right to the street line on

Lakeshore Road. A new bowling alley, thought by many to be destined for that corner location, will be erected on Seventh Street just below Birmingham.

Work on the huge project has been proceeding several months now and construction of the actual buildings will begin as soon as the site has been fully excavated and cleared.

An eye-sore though it was, many long time residents of New Toronto were sorry to see the old Rich (sic) and Ramsay buildings torn down. It was part of the town's history and many events of local significance were concerned with it and its occupants.

The Advertiser April 10, 1958

Apartment Block Rises On First Factory Site Where 1912 Factory Girls Played Noon Tennis

Bulldozers are chewing up earth to excavate the foundation for a giant 300 unit apartment block on 8th St. and Lake Shore Rd. where one of the town's first industries sat in parkland when built in 1893.

Factory girls in long-skirts played tennis during noon lunch breaks in 1912 on a white picket fenced tennis court when old Robert's Furniture was a paper factory.

The old Robert's building believed to have been one of

the first factories in New Toronto had its birth in 1893 as a paper manufacturing firm. By 1900 the building was a two storey yellow brick structure employing 25 men.

Upstairs was a long coating and drying room for paper. A large water tower holding an emergency supply of water became a land mark that lasted until demolition crews ripped it down two weeks ago.

The tower was equipped with a fire siren for use when a fire broke out in the company. Its shrill wail also summoned volunteer firemen for large fires in the community.

An old-timer with the paper firm, Fred Campbell, 65, of 4th St. New Toronto started with the paper firm about 1912, as a guillotine man.

"The building was an ordinary two-storey factory, you went into it off 8th St., it had a water tank of top and water was supplied by a pump at the bottom of 5th St.," he said.

"As a young lad before world war one I worked on the cement foundation, filling it with dirt, using a horse and cart. You couldn't have a beam foundation because the weight of the heavy paper might break it."

"I remember Mr. Nathan Yerex, 86, of 5th St., was the first fireman."

"After the war I returned to Canada and became a partner

in Campbell Bros. Cartage, hauling paper from the company to as far as Bathurst and Spadina in Toronto."

"We carted the paper by horse and buggy in summer and by sleigh in winter along a dirt road that later became Lake Shore Rd. There was only three or four homes on the south side of the road between here and Toronto."

"We used to haul in paper and bring out groceries for all the grocery stores in the district. The trip would take us an entire day."

"In winter it used to drop as low as 20 below zero and we travelled the Lake Shore Rd. wrapped up in buffalo robes and carrying a flask of whiskey. The snow used to get very deep and we travelled very slowly."

"A highlight in the trip was a stop at the Humber River before you went over the bridge at a place where they served wonderful fish dinners."

"A man would come out and harness your horses under the shed and you would give him a tip, it was all part of the ceremony."

Mr. Campbell retired from the firm in 1930 and joined the fire brigade.

The Advertiser April 17, 1958