

Upcoming Events

Remembering 1812

Join us on Tuesday **September 25, 2012** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7PM. Our guest speaker will be Gary Miedema of Heritage Toronto. Gary's presentation will show how the war has been remembered between 1812 and the 150th anniversary in 1962.

Etobicoke and the War of 1812

Join us on Tuesday **October 30, 2012** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7PM. Our guest speaker Denise Harris will explore how the tumultuous period of the War of 1812 shaped the farming communities of Etobicoke Township, and changed the lives of its residents.

The Battle of York

Join us on Tuesday **April 23, 2013** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7PM. Our guest speaker will be Richard Gerrard of Fort York who will tell us about the events surrounding the invasion of Toronto by US forces 100 years ago.

Along The Shore

Join us on Tuesday **May 28, 2013** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7PM. Our guest speaker will be Jane Fairburn who will tell us about her new book – *Along The Shore*

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Righting The Wrong

That was the position when Mr. MacDonald took charge of the work for New Toronto, and in co-operation with the town officials and town solicitor he was enabled to have a petition to the minister of crown lands granted, and the firm of Speight & Van Nostrand were appointed as government surveyors to locate a street in the most convenient place and to report fully on the situation. This work went on all summer. The evidence of the old residents was taken, and finally the report of the surveyors, with proposed sketch of the street, was filed.

The Minister set November 14, 1929 as the date of the hearing at the parliament buildings when anyone objecting to the survey and the proposed location of the street would be heard. No objections were forthcoming, and the minister then announced his decision, and ordered that the survey of Speight & Van Nostrand and their notes should be registered in the registrar's office as his decision as to where the street was in the future to be located.

Titles Are Now Clear

The result of this decision has cleared the title of all

landowners on the street, and it will only be necessary for Etobicoke and New Toronto to acquire certain lands on the west side in order to create at 66 foot thoroughfare.

One amusing feature is that while no road actually existed, the county authorities two years ago took over what was thought to be a road as a county highway and the TTC even went so far as to establish a loop on the street.

Deputy Reeve MacDonald brought the matter up in county council, and explained that the mistake occurred so long ago that New Toronto should not be penalized the heavy cost of correcting a government error. He asked the county council to pay one-third of the cost of the survey and the solicitor's costs in establishing the street, inasmuch as the county had illegally taken it over as a county road.

At that session of county council, last June, he was defeated on his motion by a vote of 51 to 2. On Friday of last week at the fall session of county council, he again brought forward the same motion, to the effect that Etobicoke should pay one-third, New Toronto one-third, and the county of York one-third. The county's share not to exceed \$500. The county council reversed its previous decision and unanimously granted the sum of money asked.

So now there is a street which

did not exist until lately, except in the minds of some people, and the worry of the large number of landowners has been cleared away.

Toronto Star Nov 30, 1929

Fire Hall Opened

The opening of the new fire hall took place last night in the presence of a large number of citizens and representatives of the fire brigade from Mimico and New Toronto, Reeve W. Edwards Macdonald, chairman of the fire committee, presided and asked Engineer W.B. Redfern to turn over the building to Mayor W.G. Jackson on behalf of the town.

His worship spoke of the generosity of the manufacturers and public utilities commission who made the procession of such splendid equipment possible and said that the fire brigade, under Chief Alfred Taylor, was a great credit to the town. E.H. Hoken, general superintendent of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., and T.M. Staunton of the public utilities commission also spoke.

At the conclusion of the proceedings Fire Chief Hugh Dougherty of Mimico presented to Fire Chief Alfred Taylor on behalf of the New Toronto fire brigade an engraved shield as a token of good fellowship.

Toronto Star August 6, 1930

Seek Government Aid

A petition was received asking for a breakwater to be erected on the waterfront, but it was explained by Reeve Macdonald that this would cost \$100,000 and would require at least a three mill rate.

Engineer W.B. Redfern explained that a permanent concrete wall would be a very large undertaking and would cost between \$100 and \$200 a foot for 1,000 feet. From 1st Street to 12th Street, about 4,000 feet, it would cost over half a million to make a real permanent job. This would add eight or nine mills to the taxes.

"It is extremely costly work and a very heavy wall would have to be built", added Mr. Redfern, "and I think it is out of the question for the town to undertake itself."

After a very lengthy discussion the major appointed a committee consisting of himself, Reeve Macdonald, Councillor Greer, and Engineer W.B. Redfern, to proceed to Ottawa as soon as the new administration has taken office to deal with the government as to the water front.

Toronto Star August 6, 1930