

NEWSLETTER

New Toronto Historical Society Volume 3 No. 1 March 2001

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Join us on March 19, 2001 at 7:30 pm at LAMP (185 Fifth Street) for a talk on Gilby's Distillery, one of the historic factories of New Toronto. The guest speaker will be Bruce Loveless, a Plant Engineer at Gilby's.

New Toronto Looks For Building Boom

That success follows progress is being proven in New Toronto. For years the residents of New Toronto have deplored the unsightly condition of its main street and no one was so deeply interested in the town to make them laud attractions of the Highway in New Toronto. More than one resident has had to hang his head when asked by some stranger to be directed to the business section.

Things are changing and changing fast these days. Mayor Warner and his council have started the ball rolling that is to roll until New Toronto can boast of as fine a business section as the best town in Canada. The work of widening which is going on at the present time is providing the main street with an honest-to-goodness two-sided street that several new stores are to be erected in the very near future.

One of the latest additions to the Highway business places is the fine new front on the Blyth Garage. Mr. George Blyth is to be commended on the splendid appearance of this building which is a decided improvement to the highway.

Hydes British Fruit Store have commended excavation at the rear of their building for an addition to their store.

There are several excellent business locations on the north side of the Highway and these will no doubt be taken up shortly by some progressive parties.

Ritchie and Ramsey this week took out a building permit to provide for the transfer of their shipping department from the south to the east side of their plant.

The Advertiser October 14, 1926

Join Us !

Join us to learn more about the history of the Town of New Toronto. New Members welcome ! Please phone Wendy Gamble at 251-1349 for more information.

Mrs. McCullum Celebrates 78th Birthday

Tells of Experiences When First Coming To New Toronto

On March 10, 1884, Mrs. McCullum of Seventh Street, came to New Toronto when the settlement was first opened up. That first year they kept a boarding house in the next year, 1885, started the first coal yard in a little lumber house which was located where Ritchie and Ramsey now stands. Mr. McCullum ran this coal business for a number of years and then sold out to Mr. Dunn, the present coal dealer.

Following this they started up in the real estate and insurance business. New Toronto was a place of six cottages then. The lumber business was operated by a man called Huff, and the McCullums bought him out. Mrs. McCullum and Mrs. Huff were friendly, and together they started the Sunday School and ladies aid. This was in 1898. There were 13

members present at that first meeting of the Ladies' Aid, which was held at Mrs. McCullum's home. Tea was served and a small charge was made. Whenever a new family arrived in town they were asked to join, until it was quite a large organization. To raise funds they held garden parties in the summer time and strawberry socials. Thus what we now know as Century United Church had its humble beginning.

In an interview with *The Advertiser* Mr. McCullum told the reporter the following facts of interest: "Because of ill health I have not been able to attend the meetings lately, but I am still an honorary member. Since coming to New Toronto I have lived on Seventh Street, and I believe I always shall. When we came here there were no churches, and we had to walk to Mimico for our mail which came only three times a week. Sometimes when walking for the mail, the mud was so deep that it would pull off our rubbers. I have seen a team of horses stuck on what they now call the Lake Shore Road."

"How old are you?" we asked.

"On the 21st of April, last Friday, I was 78 years old, and I am one of the oldest residents of New Toronto."

Then we asked about the mode of transportation in those days.

"I was here before there were any street cars, and horse cars were running in Toronto at that time. They made a trip from St. Lawrence Market to Sunnyside and back, and they changed horses at each trip. It took an hour and sometimes longer to make that trip. As years went on we got electric cars. They came to the Humber and we had to walk from there to New Toronto. Later they ran as far as Mimico, then New Toronto an finally to Long Branch. It has been interesting to watch Long Branch grow. At that time it was a private park, with a toll-gate where you paid five cents to get in. I have seen New Toronto grow from a place that consisted of six cottages to the fine industrial centre that it now is."

Mrs. McCullum has right to be proud to be one of the oldest residents of the town she helped to build.

The Advertiser, April 27, 1939

Big Building Boom Has Started In New Toronto

Old Landmark Disappears and New Stores Are to Be Built

The year 1928 looks good for the Town of New Toronto in regard to building construction. There are prospects of a number of new stores being constructed on the Lake Shore Road. A good number of dwellings are to be shortly commenced south of the Highway. An up-to-date garage and show rooms and probably a new Picture Show may be started as soon as spring is here. In addition to the large extension of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., plant, just completed, it is hinted that some other additions will be made to some of the other plants in Town. The Council of the municipality are in touch with two new industries and hope to be successful in bringing them to New Toronto.

With the completion of the double-tracking of the street railway this summer, linking same up with the City System, we expect one of the best building booms in the history of the Town. Toronto builders are becoming interested in the municipality and its possibilities and many inquiries are being made at the Town office re: building restrictions. Most of the industries in Town are going at full blast, some of them are unable to keep up with their orders despite the fact that they are working extra time.

Taking everything into consideration New Toronto can look forward the present year with great confidence. The importance of the Town as a manufacturing centre is shown from Government returns as New Toronto is placed thirteenth in the Province of Ontario in the production of manufacturing.

Number of houses in Town 1081; Number of people who own their own homes, 555; Number of people who rent their homes 526; Number of stores 57; Number of people who work in New Toronto and live in

Toronto and elsewhere 2287; Number of people who live in Town and work in Toronto (approx.) 250; Number of people who live in New Toronto and work in factories in Town 1220; Annual pay roll of factories (approx.) \$4,837,572; Total population of Town, 1927 5316.

The Advertiser February 9, 1928

New Toronto Parks Showing Improvement

Newest Park On Lake Shore Will Add To Beauty of Town

Steady work during the past weeks by the staff of the Works department has resulted in a wonderful improvement being noted in the parks in the town. At Rotary Park the baseball diamond has been put in fine shape. The grass and trees and shrubs have been well looked after and show the results now adding greatly to the appearance of the park. The section devoted to the children with the slides, swings and other amusements are readily being overhauled and placed in position for another summer.

The long talked about park at the foot of Fifth Street on the site of the old dump is readily becoming a reality with the entire area having been filled in and graded ready for the final touches. Trees, shrubs and flowers are being planted, and the sodding of the remainder of the area is now in progress. The beauty of this district will be greatly enhanced by the park and affords a pretty view of the lake from this point.

Prince of Wales Park has provided a certain amount of work in renovations and is already showing the results of the labor. A trip to this park on a warm summers evening provides a quiet restful spot which has already won the admiration of visitors who have watched the varied colored lights twinkling on Toronto's skyline or the lake streamers out in the lake with their decks ablaze with lights.