

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Join us on March 16, 2004
LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7
PM. Our guest speaker will be
Laurie Caron, who will talk
about her website on New
Toronto History and the many
interviews she has done with
many long time residents.

Check it out at:

http://members.rogers.com/lcaron0822/history_of_fifth_street.htm

Meet Councillor Mark Grimes

Join us on May 3, 2004 and
hear our new Councillor Mark
Grimes. The meeting begins
as 7PM at the Assembly Hall,
on the former Lakeshore
Psychiatric Hospital Grounds at
the south east corner of Kipling
Avenue and Lake Shore Blvd
West. Bring your heritage
questions and a show and tell
item.

Offers Pour In to Six N. Toronto Firms Who Must Vacate By March

Swamped By Letters From All Over Ontario Offering Locations - New Owner Said To Be Allied War Supplies

Anxiously awaiting further word
from the Alliance Paper
Company, six New Toronto
firms who received notice to
vacate by March 1st, are
holding "tight" hoping for

favourable negotiations that will
eliminate the inconvenience of
moving from their present
location.

Ideal Can Company, George
C. Williams Company, Plibrico
Jointless Firebrick Limited,
Atlas Plywood Box Company,
Charis Limited and Garner
Coal Company, all occupants
of the former Ritchie-Ramsay
plant are the six firms
concerned. All six companies
have been located in New
Toronto from eight to ten years
and are well established in this
community.

According to the latest
information available, it would
appear that the purchaser of
this centrally located property
site, now housing six
companies; is the Allied War
Supplies Corporation. One
source states that Harold
Crabtree, president of Allied
War Supplies Corporation, is
also the president of Howard
Smith Paper Mills, which
company is thought to own
Alliance Paper Company.

When interviewed early this
week, managers of the six
firms who have received notice
to vacate by March 1st, stated
that they were being swamped
with offers to re-locate from
towns and villages all over
Ontario. Offers have been
received from Smith's Falls,
Owen Sound, Hamilton,
Sturgeon Falls, Kitchener,
Mitchell, Lindsay, Strathroy,
Oakville, Milton, Penetang,

Waterloo, Cambellford, Peterborough and also from many individuals.

All six firms are anxious to retain locations in New Toronto, if at all possible. The George C. William Company, manufacturer of shoes, employs approximately 120 persons, with the majority being residents of this district. In an effort to remain in New Toronto, Mr. Williams has inspected many town sites. At present they are considering a move to the Donnell & Mudge tannery, but it is explained that sufficient space may not be available.

Charis Limited have also been endeavoring to find a new location here. They require at least 6,000 square feet and are experiencing difficulty in finding a new location. Thirty employees are listed on the payroll of Charis Limited. Their busy season is the spring, although they operate all year round.

Mr. Wilson, manager of Plibrico Company, states that they have 32 employees, with approximately 50 per cent of the staff drawn from the Lakeshore. In addition, they have other employees in field work. "We have two acres of land in Etobicoke Township across from the Brick and Tile Company on Horner Ave. Part of our manufacturing facilities are there now," stated Mr. Wilson, "and we hope to move our whole factory to this site."

Although Mr. Wilson would not state definitely what length of time would be required for the actual re-location of his plant, it

is believed that less than a three-month period now remaining would not permit enough time. However, the six industries involved have made an application for at least a three months' extension of time, and it may be possible that such a plea would be granted under the circumstances.

Mr. Peacock, manager of Ideal Can Company, stated that they employed fifteen to twenty employees the year round. Located in this district for eight years, they are not anxious for a move. He said, however, that the company would be willing to erect a building on vacant land in New Toronto, but it might not be possible to obtain a permit during wartime. This also would take more than three months to erect, particularly in view of the old-fashioned "heavy" winter being experienced this year.

It was learned that sixteen employees were on the payroll of Atlas Plywood Company, with approximately 50 per cent local. This company is well-established in New Toronto, having located here in 1934. A railroad siding runs practically up to their factory door, thus providing admirable shipping facilities. Atlas Company is considered to be on 90 per cent war work.

A member of the Atlas Plywood staff stated their building was in very poor shape, the roof leaked in many places, the floor was very shaky, and in fact the building was "condemned". Mr. Peacock of the Ideal Can Company also

stated their building was not in good condition. In many places tar leaking through the roof was plainly visible. Even to the casual observer, the buildings would appear to be in exceedingly poor shape. Office of one of the companies concerned said that inspectors had just poked their noses inside the door of this plant and left without making a thorough inspection.

"It is doubtful if any war industry could take over the buildings as they stand," said one authority.

Lakeshore Advertiser, January 21, 1943

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.

Did you know ?

New Toronto's most dynamic period of population growth from 1923 to 1933, when a gain of 4,344 was recorded.

The post war period saw a fall off in growth trend. Only 1182 were added between 1943 and 1953.

Current trends indicate a growth of roughly 2000 during the 10 year period between 1953 and 1963 - not taking into account the growing number who come to New Toronto to work, but live elsewhere.

Celebrating Our Golden Jubilee, New Toronto, 1963.