

Upcoming Events

History of the Toronto Waterfront

Join us on September 22, 2004 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7 PM. Our guest speaker will be Ted Wickson, author of "Reflections of Toronto Harbour: 200 Years of Port Activity and Waterfront Development". Ted presentation will include an illustrated slide show of the 200-year history of the Toronto waterfront. Copies of Ted's book will be available for purchase for \$70 (including tax)

Meet author William Bell

Join us on November 11, 2004 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be William Bell, award winning author of young adult novels. Bill will talk about growing up in New Toronto and his novels. Check out his website at www.orillia.org/williambell

St. Agnes Church celebrates 85 Years in Long Branch

On September 10, 2004 St. Agnes Church will be celebrating its 85 years in Long Branch with a book launch from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. The book will detail the history of the church in the Lakeshore. Meet at the church at 69 Long Branch Avenue.

Poor Tom Is Cold, premieres Sept 12, 2004

The TV movie of Maureen Jennings' second book "Poor Tom Is Cold" will be presented on Bravo on September 12, 2004 beginning at 9:00 PM.

For those of you who missed "Except The Dying" earlier this year there will be an encore presentation on Bravo on September 19, 2004 at 9:00 PM.

He Saw New Toronto Born

When Bert Greer first arrived in New Toronto, it was a "police village". Population: approximately 300 people. Most of these people were summer cottagers, and summer campers, living south of the highway between 5th and 10th Streets.

Bert's first land purchase in New Toronto was two fifty foot lots, which were used as a summer camping site. Later, Bert built a small cottage at 35 Ninth Street, which is still standing. There were only three permanent families in that area.

By 1913 there were 500 people living in the area - mostly on 5th, 6th and 7th Streets, so the village of New Toronto was incorporated. The water supply came from outside wells and that year quarantine warning cards could be seen

on almost every home north of the highway. Measles, mumps, scarlet fever, diphtheria and several other diseases were rampant. Soon after, the village installed its first pumping station and citizens enjoyed pure filtered water for the first time. Sanitary sewers followed and soon the quarantine cards disappeared.

There were no sidewalks or roads - just mud, covered by two planks for side-walks ...except for the paved Toronto-Hamilton road. CIL and Goodyear moved in and their new employees bought twenty-five foot lots and built their own homes.

Volunteer fire brigade equipment consisted of two lengths of hose, a wheelbarrow and an axe, which were stationed at north 4th and 22nd Streets. You could count, on your fingers and toes, the number of street lights, which were placed at rare intervals, from Dwight on the east, to 22nd on the west.

In 1918, the Asian Flu struck New Toronto and took away over 100 of our people. Despite this, a year later total population was 2500, enough to enable Council to apply for status as a town. Incorporation was granted in 1920 and Charles Lovejoy became the first mayor. It was not easy to get sufficient men to run for council, because regulations required candidates to own a home entirely free from debt, have \$250.00 in the bank, and no tax arrears.

Because Bert Greer could qualify, the Mayor and several councillors, persuaded him to run for council. Little did he think then, that he would be returned to that position for 17 years, and also that he would, in this year of 1963, be a member of New Toronto Hydro Board.

Celebrating Our Golden Jubilee, New Toronto, 1963.

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.

Tremblay's Shoe Repair celebrates 75 Years in New Toronto

In June 2004 Tremblay's Shoe Repair on Fifth Street celebrated 75 years in business. Moving from Timmins in 1929, Wilfred Tremblay chose the southeast corner of the Lake Shore Road and Fifth Street as the place to open his first shop. In 1946 it moved to its current Fifth Street location. The shop contains many of the original fixtures - including the original cash register - and is a veritable museum!

The New Toronto Historical Society provided a donation to the summer festival at LAMP to commemorate Tremblay's 75 years in New Toronto. For more information check out our website at

www.newtorontohistorical.com

New Toronto

The Industrial Hub of the Progressive Lake Shore District

New Toronto is constantly referred to as the hub of the district in which it is situated. Its location is fortunate in more ways than one, as is evidenced by its rapid growth since its incorporation as a village in 1913 and as a town in 1920. It has become an industrial centre, and to-day stands out in this respect with a greater expansion of industries than any other town on its size in Ontario. So, too, it occupies the same position with regard to its financial condition, which is very satisfactory, to which the factories have contributed to a larger extent.

Among the larger industries located in New Toronto are the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. of Canada, Anaconda American Brass, Limited, Reg. N. Boxer Co., Ritchie & Ramsey Limited; Donnell, Carmen & Mudge, Limited; Ontario Wine Co., A.A. Scully, Limited; Ontario Lime Co.; Barnett Lumber Co., Taylor-Hayhurst Co.; Canadian National Railways round-house and yards.

Nine years ago the population of New Toronto was about 725, today it is 4500..... (to be continued in the next issue)

The Advertiser, October 14, 1926.