

Upcoming Events

150 Years of Transportation in Toronto

Join us on March 31, 2005 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7 PM for our Annual General Meeting. Our guest speaker will be Ted Wickson. Ted's presentation will include an illustrated slide show on the 150-year history of transportation in Toronto.

The Healing Power of Landscape: Mimico Asylum and the 19th Century Ideal

Join us on May 26, 2005 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Cecelia Paine, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph. Cecelia's presentation will include an illustrated slide show on design and evolution of the landscape of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Grounds.

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. Check out our website at:

www.newtorontohistorical.com

New Toronto

The Industrial Hub of the Progressive Lake Shore District

(continued from previous issue)

Nine years ago the population of New Toronto was about 725, today it is 4500. This remarkable growth in population has as its attendant features the increase in school, stores, churches, public buildings and offices, business houses, improvement of roads and streets and rapid growth in the construction of homes.

Facilities which have been in part responsible for New Toronto's progress are unexcelled transportation advantages. Situated on the Toronto-Hamilton Highway, it is within thirty minutes trucking distance from the heart of Toronto and ninety minutes from the city of Hamilton. The two largest railroads, the C.N.R. and the C.P.R. have distributing yards within the municipality, and the C.P.R. has switching and loading privileges. The C.N.R. yards extend for one and a quarter miles through the northern section of the town. Switching facilities are most efficient, and thus the manufacturers have exceptional freight service. Three points, Montreal, Buffalo and Detroit, can be reached to better advantage from New Toronto than from any other centre in the Province.

With this first class railway and highway transportation, there is no other municipality in the district where raw materials can be secured to such advantage, and it is these considerations that have been largely responsible for the location here of subsidiary plants of large American firms.

New Toronto has a self-supporting waterworks department, and offers water for manufacturing purposes at a more attractive price than the city of Toronto itself. According to the Government reports from the Department of Health, New Toronto pumps water of a degree of purity unexcelled by any other place in Ontario. New Toronto to-day is supplying water, under contract, to the neighbouring municipalities of Mimico and Long Branch.

The competent management of the Utilities Commission is due largely to the faithful services of its two commissioners, Thomas M. Staunton and George Ironside. The public of New Toronto owe much to these two men who have served this department constantly and well for many years, also to the present manager, H.R. Thomas, who has been associated with the Utilities Commission since its inception.

The assessed values available for taxation purposes this year is \$7,342,000. In 1920 it was \$4,270,260, representing an increase of over three millions in six years.

The municipal offices are now located within the Brown

Building, a dignified building on the corner of Eighth Street and the Highway. Within this building is contained the police offices, and courts and council meetings are held there. The 11th York County Division Court is also in here. Last year the Public Utilities Commission moved to their fine new building on the opposite corner of the Highway and 8th Street.

The demand for school accommodation has been great and it has been constant, and today there are three moderately equipped schools within the town, and this fall at the West End school a new wing was opened to accommodate the fifth classes, and which includes a large auditorium and a gymnasium. The general public may, or may not, be aware that much is due Principle W.H. Mole, who has guided the school activities in New Toronto for almost fifteen years. Mr. Mole has and is giving (and has much to give) the best years of this life to the New Toronto schools, and frequently during the past year work was carried on under difficulties and hampered by constant friction among those in charge of school administration.

New Toronto has three large churches all of them brick structures - St. Teresa's Roman Catholic, St. Margaret's Anglican, and the Century United Church. St. Teresa's and the United Church have congregations which during the last two years put forth tremendous efforts to raise funds for the building of new churches, and the success of

their efforts is to-day marked by the handsome edifices in which they worship. Both churches have resident pastors. St. Margaret's Church last year secured a site for a rectory, and this year is putting on a campaign for the building fund.

New Toronto has a public library, whose growth has been rapid, due in a large degree to the energetic library board under whose control it has developed. It is now located in temporary quarters on the Highway in the old public utilities' office, but a permanent building is the aspiration of those deeply interested in it. Ex-Mayor Tucker took the initial step in the start of the library here, and for almost a year a faithful band of volunteer workers carried on the library work. There are over three thousand volumes in the library to-day, and a wide variety of the best of current magazines and periodicals. The three women members of the board, Mrs. A.L. Watts, Mrs. T.M. Staunton, and the indefatigable secretary, Mr. F.P. Keesee, have been interested workers in the good cause since its start.

The phenomenal growth of the town crowded the Bell Telephone out of their temporary quarters so rapidly that the construction of a permanent exchange at the corner of Birmingham and 6th Streets was rushed..... (to be continued in the next issue)

The Advertiser, October 14, 1926.