

# NEWSLETTER

## New Toronto Historical Society Volume 7 No. 2 September 2005

### *Upcoming Events*

#### **Arsenal Lands Park Concept**

Join us on October 13, 2005 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7 PM. Our guest speaker will be Laura Stephenson. Laura's presentation will outline the history and future plans for the Arsenal Lands.

#### **Simcoe and the Establishment of the Capital**

Join us on December 1, 2005 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Ken Purvis, of Fort York. Ken's presentation will be on the founding of the City of Toronto.

#### **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](http://www.newtorontohistorical.com)

#### **New Toronto**

#### **The Industrial Hub of the Progressive Lake Shore District**

(continued from previous issue)

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, and early in the spring of this year the building was formally opened, ready to serve 1500 subscribers in New Toronto, Mimico and Long Branch. It is so well built that as the demand for service increases it can be given at short notice.

The factories have attracted their workers to New Toronto, and the majority of them prefer to make their home right here in the town and thus escape the burden of city taxation and railway fares. Those who continue to live in Toronto or in the surrounding district are able to reach their work rapidly with good transportation service offered. Then again there are a large number of people who work in Toronto and prefer suburban life.

All of these people who have built their homes in New Toronto have been welded together in a town which is still growing rapidly and for whom the future looks bright.

The widening of the highway in New Toronto, for many years the objective of previous councils, has become a fact this year, due to the strenuous

efforts of the 1926 progressive council, and the preliminary work and arguments advanced by previous councils. The old municipal building has already been moved, and the sidewalk along the north half of the 20 ft. strip included in the widening has been laid in some places. The improvement noticeable already is marked, and should have a quickening effect in the building of business houses along the north side of the Highway.

Ex-Mayor Janes, who has thirteen years of municipal service in New Toronto to his credit, was an ardent advocate of this project, and with Mayor Jack Doherty, of Mimico, persistently interviewed, with their respective councils the Provincial Government for permission and contributions to do this work. Mayor Warner and his 1926 council took up this good work, and directed all their efforts in this widening proposition, with the result that permission to widen was given and the Provincial Government's assurance to pay 25 per cent of the cost of same. Other members of this year's council, who worked particularly hard to put the thing through were Councillors Hennessey, Barnett, Ridley and Greer.

New Toronto merchants are a progressive aggregation (witness their live Business Men's Association), and in striving to serve the public, we believe that in many instances, offer their wares at more attractive prices than the city of Toronto. Every year New Toronto has taken strides in

becoming a self-containing community and today almost every variety of need can be satisfied by purchases in the town. Buying in New Toronto keeps the money in the town and circulates to the benefit of all the residents. By purchasing all that is possible to purchase in your home town, you serve it better than you know. The local branches of the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Montreal and the Dominion Bank are all housed in substantial brick buildings on the south side of the Highway.

This year a new venture was made by a graduate nurse with considerable experience in hospital work, and Miss Hartman established the Hart Hospital, which is situated on Ninth Street, and has already proved an advantage to the district.

New Toronto has in Miss Reid, the community nurse, a real asset and since the establishment of her department there as been a marked increase in the good health of the school children, and much has been done to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. The work is carried out under the supervision of Dr. D. S. McLennan, the medical health officer. The weekly baby clinic held in the nurse's office where babies are examined and advice given to mothers free of charge, is filling a big need in the community life, and the patronage demonstrates the appreciation which it is regarded.

An institution of which New Toronto is justly proud and shows that pride by contributing generously to its upkeep, is the New Toronto Brass Band, for two successive years prize winners in Class C. at the Canadian National Exhibition. It is under the efficient leadership of Captain Hayward, R.M.S.M., and its business activities are in the hands of the energetic secretary, George Scott.

*The Advertiser, October 14, 1926.*

## Reg. N. Boxer in Wallpaper Merger

A merger of four wallpaper factories of the Dominion has just taken place. The Watson Foster Co., Inc., Ltd., of Montreal; Colin McArthur Co., Inc., of Montreal, the Reg. N. Boxer Co., of New Toronto, and Staunton's Limited, Toronto have been merged into the Canadian Wallpaper Manufacturers' Association, Limited, with headquarters in Toronto.

The Canadian merger was promoted by the combine in England of wallpaper manufacturers. T. Chasney, who is now in the city, is chairman of the executive. Each of the four former manufacturers have a representative on the new executive. The capitalization of the English combine is \$25,000,000.

As a result of the merger four old established business houses of Canada disappear as individual concerns, ranging in age from 17 to 50 years. It

is expected that the number of representatives and employers will be reduced. The Colin McArthur Company of Montreal have closed their factory and the machinery from it is being moved elsewhere.

*The Advertiser, July 14, 1927.*