

NEWSLETTER

New Toronto Historical Society Volume 9 No. 1 March 2007

Upcoming Events

Royal Spectacle: The 1860 Visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada

Join us on April 5, 2007 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Professor Ian Radforth of the University of Toronto who will tell us about the visit of the first member of the royal family to Canada in 1860. His book by the same name is available from the Toronto Public Library.

History of Oakville

Join us on May 10, 2007 at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Barbara Savage of the Oakville Historical Society who will tell us the fascinating history of this waterfront Town.

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.

New Toronto Laying Corner Stones of New Factories At Mimico

(continued from previous issue)
He dwelt on the duties and privileges of Canadians as citizens of the great British Empire, and extolled the

opportunities for industrial and general development presented by the Dominion. He reminded his hearers of the rapid growth of Toronto and predicted a great future for the town which was so happily inaugurated that day. Mr. Alex McRoberts, manager of the Mimico Land Company, talked, as he said, on business, calling upon those who were interested in the new town to work cordially together for the advancement of the place. He was followed by Mr. J.D. Evans, reeve of Etobicoke and warden of York County, who cordially wished the new town success and congratulated the promoters upon their good taste in choosing the site of their town in the Township of Etobicoke. At the close of the meeting lunch was served to all comers and, as walking about in the fresh air had proved hungry work, this part of the programme was duly appreciated.

The closing event of the day was the laying of the cornerstone of Mr. Joseph Barrett's proposed new sash and door factory, which will be a large industry and will be one of those most needed for the new town. The ceremony in this case was appropriately performed by Mr. Elliott. Sites for other factories have been chosen and building is expected to proceed at once.

Toronto Globe, June 30, 1890

Lake Shore Raid Leads To Demand For Police Board

New Toronto Property Owners Want Town Force Removed From Influence of Local Politics and Under Commission Again – Attorney-General Requested To Act

Demanding that the town police force be removed from the influence of local politics and placed under a Police Commission, members of the New Toronto Home and Property Owners, meeting in Seventh Street School, in a resolution urged that steps be taken at once to re-establish the Commission following its dissolution last year.

- Claims There Was "Tip-Off" –

Councillor J.V. Shelly, who was present, in endorsing the resolution, made reference to the raid on certain alleged gambling houses on the Lake Shore by Provincial Policy. "It is well known that our local force had already raided the premises, but found nothing", he declared, "and it is apparent that some one tipped those operating the place that they were due for a visit."

Another resolution will be sent to the Attorney-General asking him to take such action as would clear the local courts and the police from the stigma cast upon them.

Much excitement was caused by an article read from a local

publication, in which charges were levelled at the administration of justice, it being stated that, between the Humber and Long Branch, it was little more than a name. "The time is well ripe for an investigation.", it declared. Reference was made to rumours of illicit selling of liquor "under the eyes of the police" and "motorists driving under the influence of liquor, only being charges with reckless driving".

No One Knows Who

It was further alleged in the article "that men arrested for breach of the liquor acts were released under orders of "no one knows who", while many favours were shown here and there to lawbreakers.

While admitting that some of these charges might lack foundation, it was held that there were far too many rumours of a series character. A thorough inquiry into the matter of law enforcement and the application of justice in court, as well as the setting up of a Police Commission, was demanded.

"We cannot figure how many could stand the stock if a Commission, free from Magisterial and Council membership, were set up", concluded the article.

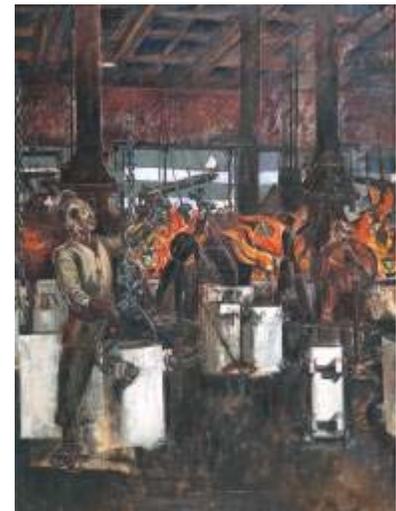
Toronto Globe March 1, 1934

Wyndham Lewis In New Toronto

It is a little know fact that the famous English painter and author Wyndham Lewis once painted the Anaconda American Brass Company factory in New Toronto in 1943.

Born in Nova Scotia in 1882, but raised in England, this famous artist and author lived in Toronto during the Second World War staying in a hotel on Sherbourne Street. He would later turn his experience as a war exile into the novel "Self Condemned" published in 1954. The devastating fire at the Sherbourne Street hotel figures prominently in the novel.

Commissioned by the Ministry of Information, Wyndham visited a number of factories doing war work before he settled on the Anaconda American Brass foundry in New Toronto.



His final work "A Canadian War Factory" hangs in the Tate Gallery in London, England. It can be viewed online at: <http://www.tate.org.uk/servlet/ViewWork?cgroupid=999999961&workid=8705>