



THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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A Great Summer Ahead for 2018!

Launch of the 2018 York Pioneer magazine, with Guest Speaker (plus a very brief General Meeting)

Pick up your 2018 journal, visit with old friends and new, and enjoy a special presentation by author Angie Littlefield. We will begin with a very brief General Meeting of the membership to vote on a couple of items left over from our Annual General Meeting in January 2018.



Jubilee United Church sits on former Milne land, and one of the articles in the York Pioneer magazine is about the Milne family. A map of reasonably nearby sites of historical interest will be provided to all attendees, so you can do a short self guided tour if desired. (not in walking distance)

Date: Saturday June 2nd 2:00 to 4:00

Venue: Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive Toronto ON M3A 2J5

Directions: By car, Underhill is the first street north off Lawrence, just east of the Don Valley Parkway. By TTC, Woodbine 91 bus runs north from Woodbine station and stops right outside Jubilee.

RSVP: Please tell us if you are attending:
by email to yorkpioneers@gmail.com
or by phone to Cindy (416) 618-9084

Guest speaker: Author, educator and curator, Angie Littlefield, has written three books on Tom Thomson. She will feature the research behind her latest, *Tom Thomson's Fine Kettle of Friends*, with special emphasis on Tom's York Pioneer ancestors. Autographed copies of her books will be available (**cash only please**): *Tom Thomson's Fine Kettle of Friends* \$25; *The Thomsons of Durham: Tom Thomson's Family Heritage* \$10; *Tom Thomson's Toronto Neighbourhoods* \$10; or all three for \$40.

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Disappointing End for Two Whitchurch-Stouffville Heritage Homes

The Whitchurch-Stouffville heritage committee was met with disappointing news as the town's chief building official and town council both decided to continue with the tear down of the Lemonville Hotel and the Flint House. Unfortunately despite recommendations made by independent consultants hired by the city that the buildings be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, demolition will continue for the high density housing developments.

YPHS Vice President **Fred Robbins** worked diligently with fellow heritage committee members to have designation put in place for these two historic buildings, but ultimately Whitchurch-Stouffville council's plans to revitalize the main street and generate greater tax revenue prevailed. The Lemonville Hotel is a two-storey Georgian style former hotel, which features plank on plank construction and the Flint House is an orange brick two storey. Town staff indicated that due to the poor structural condition of the buildings they would be unable to relocate them.

This turn of events has proven to be a frustrating process for both Fred and the heritage committee as much of their work was ignored and the decision to tear down the two buildings seems as if it was a forgone conclusion – even before the recommendations were handed out. Fred stated that the scheduled demolition is a “blatant disregard” for heritage and history within York Region.



There is some hope that the developer will attempt to salvage some of the materials and utilize them within the new building development, however those who are interested in seeing these two beautiful buildings should make an attempt to get out to Stouffville's Main Street before they are gone for good.

Sharon Temple Celebrations

Despite the chilly spring conditions we are looking forward to warm summer days – even some warm spring days would be nice. On June 14th Sharon Temple will be having its annual Heritage Celebration and the evening looks to be one of its best yet. This will also celebrate 100 years since the York Pioneers saved the Sharon Temple and will be a great opportunity for members to show their support. The evening will feature delightful hors d'oeuvres, historic tours, wine and craft beer, and a musical performance by Jessica Mitchell.



Anyone interested can contact **Fred Robbins** and arrange any specialized seating if needed. The dress code is business casual for the evening. Also by purchasing your tickets before May 4th you will be automatically entered into the Sharon Temple draw and your seats will be guaranteed.

You can contact Fred at: fredrobbinsonline@gmail.com

Sharon Temple Celebrations

June 14th, 2018.

100 Years since YPHS saved the Sharon Temple.

18974 Leslie St, Sharon, ON L0G 1V0

Jane's Walk and Scadding Cabin

Jane's Walk will be taking place from May 4th to May 6th in Toronto and will offer some great opportunities to explore the city's history. A Ghost Walk will take place on Saturday May 5th and will start at the CNE's General Services Building at 7:00 PM and end at the Scadding Cabin at 9:00 PM. This will be a great first opportunity for all participants to visit the cabin for the 2018 season. **Fred Robbins** will also be leading two walks through downtown Stouffville on Saturday May 5th. For more info please visit <https://janeswalk.org/>



Pictured Above: **David Duncan** and **David Raymont**, along with other board members, worked to prepare Scadding Cabin for the season

Annual General Meeting Highlights

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on January 22nd, 2018 at the John Mackenzie House. **Jim Pearson** was the guest speaker and delivered another great speech. Highlights from a busy year include:

David Raymont and **William Kindree** attended meetings to help coordinate activities between Toronto's museums for Canada's 150th Birthday. The meetings were held by the Toronto Museum Network and organized by the city and Ontario's Museum Association.

The YPHS has greatly expanded its online presence with upgrades to its Facebook page, which can be seen at www.facebook.com/yorkpioneers. We have also increased our followers on Facebook to 200 people compared to 131 from last year. We have also greatly increased our presence and followers with both our Twitter feed: twitter.com/YorkPioneers at more than 1,000 followers and our Instagram page: [instagram.com/Yorkpioneers](https://www.instagram.com/Yorkpioneers) at 385 followers. We would like to thank **Liam Peppiatt**, **Olivia Zhou** and **Bob Georgiou** for their continuing hard work in growing the YPHS's social media presence. If you know of any great story ideas or events for the YPHS please email us at yorkpioneers@gmail.com.

We are also proud to have launched our new and improved version of the York Pioneer website at www.yorkpioneers.com. We would like to thank both Liam and **Benjamin Gorgan** for their hard work on the site. The website is easier to navigate and much more responsive providing a better experience for all visitors.

Report of the Archivist

In September, the YPHS's archives and book collections were moved to a climate-controlled space at Carnforth Self Storage as a result of the termination of the lease with the Trinity-St. Paul's Centre. Big thanks to **Cindy Ewins** for identifying the benefits of the new location and **David Duncan** taking the lead on packing the archives and library with help from **Audrey Fox**, **John Marshall** and **David Raymont**. Any member of the York Pioneers can request to access this collection by contacting David Duncan.

Upcoming Events!

Pigs n' Pints: Pig Roast and Live Entertainment

Watch history come to life at the Sharon Temple and enjoy a great dinner and night of entertainment. The evening will feature historical reenactors, dancing and a good ol' fashioned pig roast. The festivities begin on June 30th at 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For more info visit <http://sharontemple.ca/event/pigs-n-pints/>

Member News

Our condolences to long-time York Pioneer **Mariko Toda** on the death of her husband, Howie Hisao Toda, on December 16th, 2017. Their son, Brian, wrote a loving tribute to his father in "Lives Lived" published in the April 3 *Globe and Mail*. Brian noted Howie was an incredibly caring person who loved his career with Ontario Hydro. Howie and Mariko were married sixty-three years. They raised four children and enjoyed four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Former YPHS member **Stephen Otto** died April 22 in Toronto. A celebration of his life was held April 28 at the University of Toronto. Mr. Otto was a member of the Order of Canada, co-founder of the Friends of Fort York, the founding editor of "The Fife & Drum", and a tireless advocate of history and heritage. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

The YPHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.

2018 Board Members and Contact Information

Officers

Past President: David Raymont

President: VACANT

Vice President: Fred Robbins

Treasurer: Faryal Aslam

Recording Secretary: Adrian De Souza

Corresponding Secretary [Social media]: Olivia Zhou

Archivist: David Duncan

Committee Chairs

Editorial: Audrey Fox audrey.fox@mac.com or 416-656-0812

Membership: Cindy Ewins

Programme: VACANT

Publicity (newsletter): Greg Kuzmich

Scadding Cabin: Kayoko Smith

Representative on the Board of Sharon Temple: Fred Robbins

Members at Large

Michael Nettleton

Benyamin Gorgan

Anukul Sharma

Bob Georgiou